

Lancaster Road
United Reformed Church



February 2026
Newsletter

www.lrurc.org.uk

Hello,

Well, we are well into 2026 now. I do like to see which events are celebrated each month and this February I thought I'd share about Candlemas. The 2nd of February will be Candlemas, when Christians in some denominations celebrate the time when Jesus was presented in the temple and Mary's purification. It is 40 days since Christmas Day - my how time flies. This account can be found in the book of Luke chapter 2 verses 22-40 when we also learn about Simeon and Anna.

Simeon, who was a devout and righteous man, was prompted by the Spirit to go to the temple and as soon as held Jesus he knew how special Jesus was and prophesied about what



would happen in the future. Then in the same passage we learn about Anna, a prophetess. She never left the temple and fasted and prayed and, 'she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem' (Luke 2: 37).

How amazing that Simeon saw the Messiah as promised by God and Anna also realised the enormity of this child's purpose in life. Can you imagine their deep, deep, joy? They had both been faithful over many years and were rewarded with this special experience. We live in an age where people want instant answers to everything. God does not work according to the beat of our drum; He has his own beat. However, we are called to be persistent in our prayers, 'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you' (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

We have planned to be persistent in our prayers at the start of each service and our meetings, praying specifically for growth in our numbers, in our

spiritual commitment to God and service to our local community. This is going to be a marathon rather than a sprint as they say. God will answer our genuine prayers as and when he sees fit – whenever the answers come, we know it will be at the right time. We are already seeing new people joining each of the churches which is wonderful and it is so lovely when they want to join our church families isn't it?

Looking forward to the rest of February, we will be starting our pastorate Lent course which will last over 6 weeks on a Tuesday morning and a Thursday evening (details later in the magazine). We will also be having a visit from the Moderator of the General Assembly, Catriona Wheeler (again the details will appear later in the magazine). These are opportunities for us to come together as a pastorate to get to know one another better and show our unity in Christ.

May God bless you throughout February, as we look forward to the springtime, warmer weather.

Ruth

LyCiG Prayer

God of Mission Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Our Church Mission Statement.

"As a Church our desire is to worship God and grow as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. To show and nurture love, joy, peace and justice in our fellowship, community and to all people through the power of the Holy Spirit."

Church Anniversary Coffee Morning and Gift Day



Saturday 7th March 10 – 12 noon

In Lancaster Road Church

Please come along and join us for coffee, cakes and conversation.....

There will be books for sale, a raffle and tombola

All money raised will go to the Building Mission Fund

If you would be able to make some cakes, please let Beryl know

Boys Brigade News

Boys Brigade National are raising money to support Young Minds. Young Minds is a charity who support young people and their families struggling with mental health. As a Company we are holding a tea evening on Monday 23rd February. The Anchors have made bunting and Juniors are going to ice some cakes to sell.

We invite you to come and join us from 7pm until 7.30pm for a cup of tea and cake and to raise some money for the charity. We look forward to seeing you.

Vivienne

February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
26th January Toddlers 9.30-11.30 Small Hall	27 Bible Study Church Lounge 8.15pm	28 Food Hub 10.00-12pm Prayer at Home 9.30pm	29
2 Toddlers 9.30-11.30 Small Hall	3	4 Bible Study 9.45 Food Hub 10.00-12pm Prayer at Home 9.30pm	5
9 Toddlers 9.30-11.30 Small Hall	10 Bible Study Church Lounge 8.15pm	11 Food Hub 10.00-12pm Prayer at Home 9.30pm	12
16 Toddlers 9.30-11.30 Small Hall	17 Lent Course Church Lounge 10.30—12.30	18 Bible Study 9.45 Food Hub 10.00-12pm Prayer at Home 9.30pm	19
23 Toddlers 9.30-11.30 Small Hall	24 Lent Course Church Lounge 10.30—12.30 Bible Study Church Lounge 8.15pm	25 Food Hub 10.00-12pm Prayer at Home 9.30pm	26

2026

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	30 Shoppers Coffee in the church 10-12	31	1st Morning Communion 11.15am Revd Martin Legg
	6 Shoppers Coffee in the church With lunch 10-2pm	7	8 Morning service 11.15am Revd Ruth Dewis
	13 Shoppers Coffee in the church 10-12	14	15 Morning service 11.15am Mr Jeevan Rajkiran Evening Communion 6.30pm @ LR Revd Martin Legg
	20 Shoppers Coffee in the church With lunch 10-2pm	21	22 Morning Service @ Trinity 10.30am Catriona Wheeler Moderator of General Assembly
	27 Shoppers Coffee in the church 10-12	28	1st March Morning Communion 11.15am Revd Martin Legg

Notes from ‘Up North’ (and ‘Down South’) Sporting Moments

Cyclist – Chris Hoy – one of Britain’s most successful Olympians.

Hearing about Chris Hoy’s planned charity cycle ride, ‘Tour de 40’, to take place in September 2025, starting and finishing in Glasgow, I immediately decided to attend if I possibly could. He has always been an inspirational cyclist and personality in my eyes and when he was diagnosed with stage 4 terminal cancer, and shortly afterwards his wife was also diagnosed with a debilitating condition, I could not help feeling a certain definite, although somewhat removed, affinity with them.

Hence, on 4th September, Emma and I set off towards Scotland, stopping overnight in the Peak District. The following day we visited Blackpool, with its acclaimed Tower Ballroom as seen on ‘Strictly Come Dancing’ (on my ‘bucket list’) and the trams running along the seafront, passing the Victorian pier (one of two piers). Then followed two nights in Arnside, where Fred and I had enjoyed a stay for one night, promising to return. However, sadly Fred’s failing health had prevented that happening (so another item on my ‘bucket list’). This visit I was able to explore ‘The Knot’ well known to walkers, further explore the area, and see again the ‘iconic’ trains heading over the estuary between Arnside and Grange-Over-Sands. A tidal, dangerous strip of water where the tide is known to come in rapidly ‘like a galloping horse’! as I was informed by a local. Happy memories ‘flooded’ back (sorry, no pun intended!) before we ventured into Glasgow to cheer on the charity cyclists. It was also good to share these memories with Emma.

Glasgow did not disappoint. Despite not knowing the area, the precise route, or the expected times for cyclists to both start and finish, we were there to see Chris Hoy and other celebs, i.e. Andy Murray, Louise Minchin and many others, complete this powerful and emotional event. Meanwhile, families and their children, and participants with limited





mobility were able to contribute on static bikes and in events in the velodrome. An all inclusive event! The day overwhelmingly showing that even with limiting earthly time left, every possible available moment is to be made the most of.

The sight of Chris Hoy cycling towards us, waving to us, looking so jubilant, happy and victorious, literally brought tears to my eyes! I felt the entire occasion, including the bagpipes, and musicians in their kilts, and of course Chris Hoy himself, was a truly inspirational event.

Returning via Suffolk a week later, after a wonderful time mainly walking and exploring lesser known areas of Scotland, including Coastal Kippford, Rockcliffe, Horse Isles Bay, Kirkudbright, Lochfoot and Wigtown (with its sixteen bookshops!), we were then witnessing another sporting event. This time a coastal Ultra Marathon 50k, starting at Lowestoft and finishing at Aldeburgh. We stood just before the finish line, applauding and cheering the runners as they approached. Our loudest being for Sam, Emma's husband, as he saw us, so surprised and delighted to see Emma, as he assumed we were still nearly 400 miles away up north! Another inspiring and emotional event showing what determination, endurance and 'true grit' can achieve.

My days of sport may well be over, but I still have my memories, and I thank God for having been able to enjoy being part of an active sporting fraternity. Far from elite, but that does not matter at all. It's the enjoyment that counts. I have been very privileged. Now I thank God for every new day and for still being able to get out and about walking and enjoying God's wonderful, natural world. Whatever I can still manage to do, I will, whilst focusing on the good and the present.

Marion Burdett

Suppers for those in Need

Saturday 3rd January saw the end of an era for the United Reformed Church at Lancaster Road when the final Supper for Those in Need was held. These suppers have been held 6 or 7 times a year on Saturday evenings for 30 years. They were inspired by a young boy, Ben, who wanted the church to help those less fortunate; his parents Sue and Ken Hardy brought the idea to Church Meeting and after prayer and planning the project was born. At the time this was a big step for the church as we were doing very little in a practical way in the community; the project gave us confidence to follow God's guidance and was the forerunner of other community projects which the church has become involved in locally including the Winter Night Shelter, Enfield Holiday Bible Week, the Food Hub, Alpha Courses, and the relaunching of the Friday Coffee Mornings/Lunches.

For the final meal on a very cold evening, there were 44 guests (the most in a long while) who enjoyed a full Christmas meal, live music and friendships which have been built up over the years, both guests with other guests and guests with our volunteers. We know from past conversations that the guests have valued friendship and a safe space every bit as much as the food.

The suppers could not have continued for so long without our dedicated volunteers for which we owe a huge debt of gratitude; those in the kitchen cooking the food and washing up, those setting up and clearing away, those waiting at table, those chatting to our guests, the live band playing at our Christmas meals each year, and most importantly the prayers of many in our church fellowship. A big thank you to everyone who has helped and supported over the years. Over the years we have held over 200 suppers, served around 6000 three or four course meals, and it's likely that well over 175 individual guests have enjoyed food and friendship.

From the comments of our guests especially over the last few suppers, it has been evident that they have been grateful for the opportunity to attend and they are aware that they can continue to have links with the church as they will be welcome to attend the Food Hub and Coffee Mornings/Lunches, or indeed join us in Sunday worship.

Graham

The Friday Coffee Morning (Tea and other beverages are available)

Our Friday gatherings have been increasing in size. We are now providing a light lunch alternate weeks. The lounge is warm and welcoming. The Community Carol service, part of our Friday Coffee Morning, was well attended with some parents from our toddler group attending. Mince pies and mulled wine, low alcohol, were served, with many people staying to enjoy the fellowship. Graham has arranged some quizzes and we have enjoyed a few games of bingo, with Marilyn calling the numbers, (no prizes!), just fun.



We encouraged some who came to the Christmas supper, to come on a Friday morning. We have also had a few people who use the food hub venture in on a Friday morning. We are blessed with several volunteers who serve and support us each Friday. Is this something you could help with for a couple of hours on a Friday. Please speak to Graham, Terry or Martin if you are able to join the rota of volunteers. We work in pairs, so there is always support. You won't be asked to prepare a lunch or organise a game. This is covered, separately. Why not just pop in and enjoy the fellowship.

ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

At the Church Annual General Meeting on Sunday 1st March we shall be voting to elect Church Officers.

Nominations are required for up to 7 Elders. Elders that are still serving are Graham Carlisle, Clare Locke, Chris Marlow, Janice Luckett and Beryl Woolley.

Please give prayerful consideration to whether you feel God is calling you to serve as an Elder in our Church here at Lancaster Road, or if there is somebody else you could nominate. Their consent must be received before their name is put forward.

Anyone who is interested in becoming an Elder can speak to Rev. Ruth Dewis, Rev. Martin Legg or any serving Elder and there is also a booklet published by the URC on 'Becoming an Elder' available in the lounge.

The post of Secretary will also become vacant as Clare Locke will be standing down after a term of 7 years. The post of Treasurer also remains vacant.

Nomination forms will be available in the Church Lounge from 1st February and should be handed in to the Secretary by Sunday 22nd February (please note that Lancaster Road Church will not be open as we are worshipping at Trinity Church).

Clare (Church Secretary)

The Bible over lunch at BHPURC from 14th April 2026

We will be starting a new group to discuss the Bible, over a light lunch of soup and a roll on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. This will start from 14th April 2026 at 12.30pm and finish no later than 2pm. **Everyone is welcome.** *We can cater for any dietary requirements if we are notified of your intention to come a couple of days beforehand - please contact Ruth (minister@bhp.org.uk or 07592 125027).*

BB Build Trip to Mexico

In July 2026, Max, an NCO in the 1st Enfield Company, will be joining young people and leaders from the 3rd Enfield to take part in a 10-day build trip to Mexico, along with other BB members from across the country. Working alongside our build partner, Amor Europe, the young people will help construct a home for a family living in poverty. This isn't just about building a house; it's about providing hope and a new beginning for a family in need.

Each day as part of the build the young people will be hands on building a home from the ground up, under the supervision and instruction of an experienced foreman onsite. During each day they will also meet with the local community including children and young people.

As well as making a lasting difference for the family in a local community in Tijuana, Mexico, this experience will have a profound impact on the young people themselves. Through the trip, they will have a wide range of opportunities, including experiencing new culture and community, developing confidence and independence, and gaining valuable life skills. They will also explore issues such as poverty and social injustice, broadening their understanding of the world and their role within it.

Importantly, this project is not just about the trip itself - it includes months of preparation and planning, with the young people actively involved in fundraising too.



How can you help?

The cost of the trip is over £2,000 per person, which means there is a lot of work to do in raising the funds to cover the costs for travel, accommodation, food and of course the build costs.

If you feel able to contribute towards Max's fundraising efforts, you can donate online via his JustGiving page at [justgiving.com/page/max-raghip-2009](https://www.justgiving.com/page/max-raghip-2009) or by scanning the QR code. Alternatively, if you would prefer to donate offline please speak to Viv. Donations can be Gift Aided if you are a UK taxpayer. Whether or not you can contribute financially, your prayers are also appreciated.



As part of the overall fundraising efforts for the trip, an Afternoon Tea is being held at the Christ Church hall on Sunday 29th March from 3:00pm. The cost will be £10 per person. Everyone is very welcome to join us for a time of fellowship together, to enjoy some refreshments and sweet treats, and to hear more about the Build Trip from those taking part. If you would like to come along, please contact Tom Boorman on tom@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk or 07903 605545.

Service on Sunday 22nd February 2026

The churches in Enfield will be joining together to worship at Trinity Church, Enfield as we will be visited by this year's Moderator of the General Assembly, Catriona Wheeler. Trinity Church is kindly hosting this very special service and it will be a wonderful opportunity for Bush Hill Park, Christ Church, Lancaster Road, Palmers Green, Ponders End, Winchmore Hill URC's and Trinity LEP to come together. The service will be on Sunday 22nd February 2026 at 10.30am followed by tea/coffee and cake.



Nominated by East Midlands Synod, Catriona will chair the General Assembly's November 2025 and July 2026 meetings.

Catriona was educated at Teesdale School, Barnard Castle, and read law at Birmingham University. An Elder and Church Secretary of Trinity United Reformed Church, Lincoln, Catriona has been the Legal Advisor to the East Midlands Synod of the URC since 1997, works as solicitor practising in the areas of commercial property, corporate

law and charity law, and is a Notary Public. Her late grandfather and late mother were both URC Elders, as are both of her brothers.

Catriona conducts acts of worship and is authorised to preside at the Sacraments and is a Stepwise student (the URC's discipleship development programme).

Catriona has held membership in churches across three synods, Northern, Yorkshire and East Midlands and serves as a director of East Midlands Synod Trust and Chair of the United Reformed Church Trust.

Her hobbies include gentle cycling, with the objective of seeing places, choral singing with the Lincoln Choral society; K-dramas (Korean dramas), BTS (a South Korean band), knitting and crochet.

In its nomination, East Midlands Synod said that it was delighted to make this nomination, "having benefitted from Catriona's wisdom and clarity of thought in meetings and discussions on many occasions and in different situations. Her ability to crystallise the thinking of the room and her pastoral sensitivity to all aspects of an issue are among her great strengths."

Catriona practises as a solicitor and Notary Public. Her areas of law cover commercial property and corporate law, but her particular interest is charity law.

[Catriona Wheeler, General Assembly Moderator 2025-2026 - United Reformed Church](#)

Lent Courses 2026.

This year we will be holding our pastorate Lent Group on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings.

The Lent groups will start on **Tuesday 17th February** in the mornings at **10.30am** for 6 weeks at **Lancaster Road URC Church Lounge** and Thursday evenings at 7.30pm from the **19th February** for 6 weeks at **Christ Church URC Church Hall**.

We will follow a book entitled *Discipleship* written by a United Reformed Church minister, the Rev'd. Alex Jacob. Each book will cost £5.

Please let me know (minister@ccurc.org.uk) if you would like to attend so I have an idea of numbers and so that I can order the correct number of books. Please can you let me know by the **7th February** at the latest to give time for book delivery. Many thanks. Ruth

Stage and Screen

Presented by

Enfield Concert Band

In aid of

Dementia UK

Suggested donation £10

Saturday 14th March 2026

7pm

Lancaster Road URC

Lancaster Road

Enfield

EN2 0BS

In aid of



Duty Elders for February 2026

Date	11.15 a.m.	Notes	6:00 p.m.	Notes
1 st 8 th 15 th 22 nd	Chris/Clare Beryl Clare Joint Service @	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>All Age Service</i> Trinity Meth/URC Lancaster Road Closed	Chris	Holy Communion <i>With Clay Hill Parish</i>

Duty Elders for March 2026

Date	11.15 a.m.	Notes	6:00 p.m.	Notes
1 st	Graham/Clare	<i>Holy Communion & Church AGM</i>		
8 th	Beryl	<i>Church Anniversary & All Age/Parade Serv.</i>		
15 th	Chris	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Graham	<i>with Clay Hill Parish</i>
22 nd 29 th	Beryl Pastorate Service Palm Sunday	@ BHP 10.30am LR. Closed		

Elders marked in **BOLD** are responsible for reading notices at that service. Please let them have any notices 10 minutes before the start of the service.

Elders on duty at a **Communion Service** must ensure that the person presiding at Communion informs the congregation of the Charity/Organisation receiving the Communion Offertory and that the collection plate is on the Communion Table.

Thank you

Friday Coffee Morning Rota:

Friday	
January 2 nd	Terry
January 9 th	Graham and Marilyn
January 16 th	Shivane
January 23 rd	Sue and Brenda
January 30 th	Viv and Martin Legg
February 6 th	Terry
February 13 th	Shivane
February 20 th	Graham and Marilyn
February 27 th	Sue and Brenda
March 6 th	Viv and Martin
March 13 th	Terry
March 20 th	Shivane
March 27 th	Graham and Marilyn
April 3rd. GOOD FRIDAY	No Coffee Morning
April 10 th	Sue and Brenda
April 17 th	Viv and Martin
April 24 th	Terry

We will be providing light lunches on the 1st and 3rd Fridays until the end of March. We would also welcome some volunteers to partner with another person on the rota.

There is no flower rota this month. If you are able to provide flowers for the communion table this month, please contact Marilyn. Thank you

**Youth & Childrens work Activities
In the Church Hall Armfield Road.**

Toddler group – 0-4 yrs

Monday morning 9.30 – 11.30am. Just come along, refreshments provided.

Boys Brigade and Girls Association (boys and girls) – 5 – 11 yrs.

Monday 6.15 – 7.30 pm.

Contact Vivienne Legg 1stenfieldbb@gmail.com

5th Enfield Rainbows - Girls 4-7y rs -

Thursday 5.30pm - 6.30pm :

Contact Sumita Biswas 5thenfieldrainbows@gmail.com

5th Enfield Brownies - Girls 7-10 yrs -

Thursday 6.15pm - 7.45pm

Contact Mary Dawson 5enfieldbrownies@googlemail.com

5th Enfield Guides - Girls 10-14 yrs

Thursday 7pm—8.30pm

Contact Allison Duggal guides5thenfield@hotmail.co.uk

5th Enfield Rangers - Girls 14-18 yrs

Thursday 7pm—8.30pm

Contact Nansi Ellis guides5thenfield@hotmail.co.uk

YPCF – 5 -11 yrs **Sunday 11.15 – 12.15 (in the church).**

Contact Chris Marlow ypcf@lrurc.org.uk

Who to Contact

Revd Ruth Dewis : minister@lrurc.org.uk

Phone: 0759 2125027

Revd Martin Legg: martin@lrurc.org.uk

Phone 07711 955985

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