

Cheshunt Free Church Newsletter October 2024

Services in October

6th Worship with Mark Robinson

13th Worship with Anna Erikson

20th Worship with Laura Marlow

27th Worship with Kathleen Laing



Dear Friends

As we enter the month of October, we are reminded that this time is marked by various Christian traditions observing important feast days. In other denominations, October includes celebrations of saints like St. Francis of Assisi, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and Our Lady of the Rosary. While we respect and acknowledge these traditions, our focus as Protestants is distinct, as we remember Reformation Day on October 31.

The Reformation was a pivotal event in our history, igniting a renewed emphasis on the authority of Scripture, the grace of God, and the priesthood of all believers. As we commemorate Martin Luther's bold stand, we are reminded of the transformative power of God's truth in shaping God's church. This is a time to reflect on our calling as a community that seeks to honour the gospel and uphold the values of the Reformation.

Yet, even as we celebrate this heritage, we must also acknowledge the divisions that have arisen in the history of the church. As followers of Christ, we are called to strive for unity and harmony. The same God who inspired the Reformation is the God who seeks to heal and restore. This October, let us embrace the theme of harmony, not only in our relationships with other Christian traditions but also within our own communities.

There are many among us who are hurting—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. As we reflect on the Reformation's message of renewal, let us also commit ourselves to being agents of God's healing power. Just as Jesus came to reconcile and restore, we too are called to bring comfort and healing to those who are in need.

May this month be a time of prayerful reflection, of seeking harmony in our relationships, and of allowing God to use us as instruments of God's healing grace.

In Christ's love, Mark

Prayer

Holy God, you are awesome and majestic, beyond our comprehension and imagination. You are the creator of all things, the ruler of all nations, the judge of all people. You are the source of all wisdom, the giver of all grace, the defender of all justice. You are faithful and compassionate, merciful and forgiving, loving and good. We praise you for who you are and what you have done for us in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Notices

A Time to Remember

A service of Thanksgiving to remember those we have loved and lost

Sunday 13th October 3.00pm at Broxbourne URC

Drop-in art afternoon

Tuesday 29th October 2-3.00pm at Broxbourne URC

Come along and explore creatively

Eco Tips

Autumn is here so it's time to plan for the next few months.

Firstly, if you can find a safe space, put up a bird feeder. If you know what kinds of birds you may attract in your area then you can use feed that is appropriate. Provide some water too so that birds can drink.

Secondly, plant some spring bulbs. If you don't have a garden space you can use a pot, or pots. Spring flowers are important for the first bees that emerge in the spring so choose a selection of bulbs to provide a variety of flowers.

Thirdly, create an indoor garden using house plants or flowers that overwinter such as pansies. Succulents are easy to look after and offer a beauty all of their own. Choose a light space in the building and encourage children to take care of it.

This year's season of creation is coming to an end but it's important that we continue the task of taking action for creation throughout every season.

Poem

Wind

Bending trees, turning leaves, snapping twigs,

Rejuvenating, renewing and refreshing,

Clearing the old and providing a harvest,

As trees prepare for rest and new growth.

And the harvest is good;

Spikey sweet chestnuts on spindly sticks,

Green acorns ageing to brown,

Conkers in spiky coats.

Pine cones open or closed,

Blackberries, hawberries, flowers on ivy.

All for the discerning bird, mouse and squirrel

To stock up on energy just when they need it.

There's a spirit in the wind,

Blowing its way through us too,

God's spirit, clearing out, preparing for new,

Rejuvenating us just when we need it.