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October 2024

A number of brand new copies of a book about the New River have been given to our local history society. Volume 1 is in 2 parts and includes an incredible number of references and illustrations from the first moment of the New River's birth. Chirk Castle has an item on display which they say is part of a 61km pipe taking water from Chadwell Springs to Sadlers Wells. Underground? Why? I am also looking at a book by Nick Hyams who reveals how the companies that used to supply water to Londoners were in trouble when Hugh Mydleton had his brilliant idea to carry out Coulsdon's plan to bring fresh water to London. More soon!

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 His healing grace.

In Christ's love,
Mark

Died: Sept. 30, 1897
Feast Day: Oct. 1

Symbol: roses; discalced Carmelite nun holding roses; Carmelite nun with roses at her feet; Carmelite nun holding images of the Child Jesus and Holy Face of Jesus; Carmelite nun holding a crucifix, roses, and book



"Take me resemble you, Jesus!" (prayer that St. Therese wrote and wore over her heart)

"The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love."

A Carmelite nun, St. Therese is known for teaching "the Little Way" to Jesus—small acts of great love.

Above: St Therese of Lisieux

Below: Martin Luther



Rosemary's Page

Fay the Hairo (or hero...!) has done something amazing for charity!

Fay (aged just 8) is the elder daughter of Joanna and Melroy - Rosemary and Ian's younger daughter and her husband. Joanna grew up as part of our church family and many of you will remember her.

Rosemary and Ian can say - without grand-parental bias (!) - that Fay is a considerate and generous child as the following will testify.

Until recently Fay had beautiful, slightly curly, long, black locks that, when wet, reached almost to her backside! She had been keeping them long so that a child less fortunate than herself could one day wear it with pride. She was desperate to have her hair cut, but has been sooooo patient so that she would be able to give even more! Making a wig from donated hair costs money (£700), so to complete her gift *any* donation/sponsorship towards that cost would be greatly appreciated.

The Little Princess Trust provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatments or to other conditions such as Alopecia. The charity is also one of the largest funders of research into childhood cancer in the UK. The Little Princess Trust relies solely on the generosity of its wonderful supporters who help the charity to give Hair and Hope to so many children and young people with cancer each year. If you would like to celebrate Fay's generosity by donating to this worthwhile cause you can do so by going to <https://gofund.me/f174d89f>.

Thank you



£600 raised so far—just £100 to go!

Photos: Fay before and after the hair cut



Christmas Choir

Calling all those that love to sing! We want to create some part of our theme of Harmony for 2024-5.



harmony as

We are gathering a small group to sing an item or two at our Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 15th December.

Our choices will not be too ambitious or too serious but will be enjoyable! We have already got a few people interested to be part of the group along with Debi to support and lead us and would love a few more to join us.

We intend to have one practice for about an hour after the service on the morning of the 8th December and another practice sometime during the following week –at a time by mutual agreement. We would give you the music in advance.

The only criterion for joining the group is that you enjoy singing!

Is this you? Hope so. If so, please speak to

Rosemary – 07740 460118

or Dorothy B. – 07582 159294

You, your family and friends are warmly invited to...



A Time to Remember

A Service of Thanksgiving
to remember those we have loved and lost
led by Revd. Mark Robinson

Sunday 13th October 2024 at 3pm
United Reformed Church, Broxbourne
followed by refreshments
All are welcome



We welcomed Laurence and Liz, Wendy and James into membership at our membership and commissioning service led by our Minister, Mark, on 8th September. Awards were given to members of our Junior Church. The children played musical instruments with harmony and joy.

Harvest Festival, September 29th

Preacher, Michaela Lawrence, asked us to think about sharing—not only our produce but also our skills.



Harvest Festival pictures.

The church had been beautifully decorated by Diane and Helen.

We heard of the Food Bank being evidence of Christ working in the community and to think of how many people had been visiting their local church and had benefitted in many ways.



Worship this month



Oct 6th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Mark Johnson Service followed by Pastorate lunch at the Highland Restaurant, Broxbouene—please book your place.
13th 10.30 am 3.00pm	Brox URC “	Ian Matthews Theme of harmony Communion Revd Mark Robertson A Time to Remember
20th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Tony Davies Theme of Harmony
27th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Revd Mark Robinson Theme of Harmony

REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR DIARY

COMET Please come along if you enjoy togetherness - that is meeting friends over a cuppa in the church hall and having a chat and possibly a game of Rummikub. There are occasionally special sessions such as fish and chips. It is on Mondays, 2-4pm, in the church hall. Next meeting is on September 9th.

SHORT MAT BOWLS Every Thursday evening in the church hall. Please speak to Alan Earl if you would like to join.

AFTER EIGHTS is now open to gentlemen as well as ladies. A programme of interesting talks in the church hall on the first Tuesday of each month from 2pm-4pm. If you are interested in attending a meeting please speak to Brenda McAuliffe or Marion Hall - or just go along at 2.00pm.

REGENT REGALE an informal get-together for gentlemen on the last Wednesday of the month.

PRAYER GATHERING every Wednesday at 8pm via Zoom for approximately 45 minutes. All are welcome to come and pray silently or aloud, or to be still and enjoy an oasis of peace - please contact Rosemary Woodall for further information rosemary.woodall@ntlworld.com or to be included in the circulation list.

ADVANCE NOTICES

OCTOBER

13th Communion
3.00pm A Time to Remember
Revd Mark Robinson—this will be similar to the quiet and reverent service held last year. Anyone who has been bereaved recently or in the past is invited.

NOVEMBER

10th Remembrance Sunday

23rd Christmas Market 10.30-2.00

DECEMBER

15th 6pm Carols by Candlelight with handbells

22nd Christingle



REMINDER

Dorothy B is in charge of running the Christmas Market again—thank you Dorothy! - and she is requesting that you contact her if you could help in any way. If you would like to book a stall please would you do so through Helen Knight. Tables are £12.00 and £15.00 by the window in the hall. There will be lunches, refreshments and church stalls.

Dorothy B writes:

COMET is holding the ever-popular fish and chip lunch on Monday 28th October, 1 for 1.15 pm. Please put this date in your diary. All our fellowship are welcome. You just need to order your lunch from Diane or Dorothy B.

Broxbourne Food Bank

Please remember to bring donations to the foodbank as our communion offering.

IN OUR CHURCH HALL— OCTOBER

1st	2.00pm	After 8s	History of Copped Hall	Philip McKinder
15th	7.45 pm	Friends of Lowewood	Hoddesdon Then and Now	Phil Janes
19th	7.30 pm	Hoddesdon Music Club	Morassi String Quartet	Mozart, Janacek and Mendelssohn
29th	8.00pm	SE Herts RSPB	Looking After the RSPB's Images	



Amanda's Eco-Message of the Month : October

With potential frosts in the weather forecast and temperatures dropping, suggest that you: gather in any fruit, such as melons for storage, as frost will make them go mushy, make sure you have coverings (eg old curtains/sheets) to protect vulnerable plants, check doors and windows for draughts, and fix draught stoppers to prevent heat loss.

If you have birds' nest boxes, now is the time to clean them out and disinfect them by pouring boiling water into them, so that birds can safely roost in them overwinter.

Stepanka's Page

Pastorate Update 5, 18 September 2024

Psalm 37:23-24:

The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.

Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand.

Dear all,

Welcome to the 5th issue of the Pastorate Update. We hope you have all enjoyed some nice sunny days over the summer.

From Stepanka

The website went live in August and is working well. The website address is www.nlv.org.uk We hope that you will be able to promote it within your communities and encourage people to join in the great activities each church is running (showing under the Diary and Groups sections of the website).

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Highland Restaurant in Broxbourne on Sunday 6th October at 1pm! The sign-up sheets are available at your churches. Please add your names by Sunday 29th September so that we can get the money envelopes ready on time. The Sunday menu is attached to this email. If you need help with transport, please make a note next to your name or email me.

My 6 months probation period is now over. Where has the time gone?! My 16 hour week has been full since I first started and I have thoroughly enjoyed supporting Mark and the pastorate. However, I had to make Mark aware that I am unable to fit in all that is being asked of me to do, especially the roles that are not included on my Job Description. This is no one's fault as we are all learning to understand the priorities required of the new admin role. Please pray as we meet jointly with the Elders to discuss this and other important items on Thursday 3rd October.

From Mark

Over the past two weeks, we held our annual Commissioning Service at Broxbourne, a cherished event where we formally recognize those entrusted with new and those continuing with responsibilities following our Annual General Meeting. This tradition is not only a significant start to the church year but also a reflection of biblical commissioning practices. It was

a joyful occasion as we launched our pastorate theme of Harmony and also welcomed four new members into our congregation, marking their formal inclusion in our church community.

At Cheshunt, we have launched a clean-up and clear-out campaign, beginning with painting the church's external border and preparing the planter. The effort has already borne fruit, as community members have noticed our work and generously offered support. One individual contributed financially, and another donated a variety of plants and shrubs. Next month, we are looking forward to holding a church-wide clear-out day as part of this ongoing initiative. In addition, our Harmony-themed outreach continues with an open house and coffee morning planned for Saturday, 5th October, offering a free and welcoming space for the wider community. Please see the attached poster. We hope that many of you can also come and support the event.

Finally, as this is my final year serving as convenor of the business committee, we are making plans for the appointment of a new convenor. I attended a 24 hour residential where we made plans for the General Assembly in July 2025, when I will step down from the role, and for the Extraordinary General Assembly in November 2025, which will focus on the Church Life Review. We discussed vital topics, including church structure, ministerial posts, resourcing local churches, funding for the URC colleges in Scotland, Manchester, and Cambridge.

Prayer -

Loving God,

We give thanks for the gift of community and the many hands and hearts that work together in harmony to build up your church. As we reach out to our wider community, may our efforts be marked by unity and grace, drawing us closer to one another and to you. Help us to see each task, no matter how small, as part of your greater plan for peace and wholeness in this world.

May your Spirit guide our hearts and minds, that we may live and work together as one body, reflecting your love in all we do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Blessings,

Stepanka and Mark

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Dorothy writes:

Our Christmas Market will be on Saturday 23rd November at the new time of 10.30 to 2pm.

Helen is organising the guest craft stalls – please contact her if you or someone you know would like a table. £12 and £15. There will be the usual stalls: home baking and preserves, plants, gifts, toys, collectibles, china and glass etc. Volunteers are needed please to run our stalls and especially to run the refreshments. The Woodalls and Helen will be providing lunches again – yum! Please contact Dorothy B if you can help in any way – setting up, on the day, packing up.

Jill writes:

The next **drop in art afternoon: please note slight change in times.**

Tuesday 29 October

@ Broxbourne

2 pm - 3.30 pm



A poster for a play titled 'CUPS ON A STRING' by the Riding Lights Theatre Company. The title is written in large, colorful, stylized letters. A red string is threaded through the letters. There are two white envelopes, one of which has the handwritten text 'Can anyone hear me?'. The poster includes the text 'IN ASSOCIATION WITH TRANSFORMING LIVES FOR GOOD', a quote 'CHALLENGING, QUESTIONING, THOUGHT PROVOKING' with a 4-star rating, and the venue 'ST ANDREW'S CHURCH STANSTEAD ABBOTTS SG12 8BU' with the date 'WED 16TH OCT. 7:30 PM'. It also lists 'TICKETS: £15. CONCESSIONS £10' and the box office 'BOX OFFICE: RIDINGLIGHTS.ORG/CUPSONASTRING'. There are logos for 'Sustainable for 14 Years+', 'Riding Lights Theatre Company', and 'TLC'.

A poster for a 'Worship and Word' event. The title is written in large, black, hand-drawn letters on a piece of white paper that looks like it's been torn from a notebook. The paper is pinned to a dark background with a starry, bokeh effect. The text on the paper includes 'CHURCHES TOGETHER' with a logo, 'A Gathering for Churches Together in Hoddesdon, Broxbourne and Wormley', and the date and time 'Thursday 17th October, 7pm St. Augustine's Church, Broxbourne'.