



**Hertford**

Cowbridge SG14 1PG

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**



**NOVEMBER 2024**

## MISSION STATEMENT

**We aim to be an active Christian Church open to all, meeting together for worship, teaching and prayer and offering loving care and support to all. We work alongside other Christian Churches reaching out into the Community with love**

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Dear Friends,

As the season turns and we enter November, we find ourselves drawn into the act of remembrance, not merely as a ritual of the past but as a living engagement with our world, our faith and our future. In remembering, we are doing more than recalling names and events; we are entering into a theological reflection, an act of solidarity with those who came before and those who still suffer today.

We remember the victims of conflict, the fallen and the survivors, those who have borne the weight of war in body and soul. We remember the sacrifice of those who, driven by the hope of peace, fought and lost their lives so that others might live in freedom. Yet, even as we honour these sacrifices, we cannot turn away from the ongoing conflicts that continue to scar our world. Injustice, division and inequality are not relics of history but daily realities for millions. From the streets of Gaza to the plight of refugees fleeing war and poverty, the brokenness we remember is not far away – it is with us here and now.

In the midst of this brokenness, we turn to the God who remembers. Ours is a God who does not forget the oppressed, who hears the cries of the afflicted, and those in need of healing, who remembers us even when we feel abandoned. Yet this is also a God who forgets – not our worth or our struggles, but our wrong doings, our failures, and our mistakes. In God's great mercy, we find both remembrance and forgiveness, an invitation to be made whole, to be reconciled with God and one another.

The Bible calls us into this act of remembering not to remain in the past but to be propelled towards the future. We remember the stories of liberation – the exodus from Egypt, the return from exile, the resurrection of Christ – not just to honour history but to live into the reality of what God is doing now. God's realm is not a far-off dream but a present and urgent call. Jesus reminds us that the Spirit of the Lord is upon us "*proclaim good news to the poor, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.*" (Luke 4: 18-19). This call is as relevant today as it was two thousand years ago.

As we remember, we also confront the pressing issues of our day – poverty, systemic racism, climate injustice, gender inequality. The gospel calls us to see the inherent dignity and worth of every human being. Each person, made in the image of God, carries a divine imprint that no injustice can erase. When we see protests against police violence, unfair business practices or the outcry against environmental destruction, we are seeing a world that is crying out for justice, for righteousness, for the fullness of life that God desires for all creation.

Let us also remember the words of Jesus: *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”* (John 14: 27). This peace is not passive, it is the peace of active engagement, of standing up against injustice, of building a world where all can thrive.

In our remembering, may we look forward with hope. Not a passive hope that waits for things to change, that strives for a world where peace is not just the absence of conflict but the presence of justice. Let us remember that every act of love, every step towards reconciliation, every move towards justice is a participation in the very life of God.

Blessings.

Mark

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**DROP IN ART GROUP**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November, at Broxbourne URC

2 pm – 3.30 pm

Jill

## **MILL MEAD SCHOOL**

As mentioned last month, John Ellis and I had a meeting with Mill Mead School which was very productive. They have confirmed that they will be participating in the Christmas service on December 15<sup>th</sup> – more information to follow in next month's newsletter. They are keen to be involved with Hertford URC so we will be exploring more opportunities in the future.

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## **PRAYERS**

Continue to pray for Bob, Fran and their family.

Continue to pray for Jan Carter

Continue to pray for Pam Hollis in Westgate Nursing Home

Continue to pray for Shirley Sloan

Continue to pray for Phoebe and her family

Continue to pray for Ruth and Bernard

Pray for Mark as he goes into hospital for an operation on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Pray for Janet and Trevor Williams' daughter, Jo, as she continues her fight against cancer.

Pray for people known to you that they may know God's love and strength

### **Prayer request from Jill Nugent.**

My daughter Clare and family are part way through a trip to America. Our eldest grandson, Owen, has got appendicitis. He is having an operation on 28<sup>th</sup> October. His dad, Andrew, is with him, whilst Clare and Liam are with our friends. Thankfully they had not yet moved on from our friends in Washington so, although missing out on a much anticipated trip to New York, they can stay with our friends.

If you could help me out with prayers for them all, it would be great.

Thank you

Jill

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The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

**Broxbourne URC**

Mill Lane, EN10 7BQ

Charity No: 1152449



# Christmas Market

## Saturday 23 November

10.30am-2.00pm

Home baking & preserves,  
gorgeous gifts, plants, toys, £1 stall  
vintage and pre-loved treasures,  
glorious glass, china & jewellery.



## Many Guest craft stalls

Delicious refreshments & light lunches.

Free entry.

10% of proceeds to Young Life Hoddesdon

See website [HYPERLINK "https://nlvg.org.uk"](https://nlvg.org.uk) <https://nlvg.org.uk> for  
details and availability of tables

## Hertford & Ware Save the Children

*Once again, it is the time of year when we start to leave summer behind and think about the upcoming months!*

Jerry and I will be holding our annual Save the Children Christmas Sale at our house (151, Ware Road, Hertford). The dates of the sale are 1st and 2nd November; 10am - 4pm. We will be joined by other stalls, supporting other charities and there will be delicious home bakes and hot drinks on sale! Please support this event if you are able and bring a friend! We look forward to seeing you soon!

**Cathy & Jerry Forrester**  
**Hertford & Ware Save the Children**



**WINTER  
FUNDRAISER**

 Save the Children 147-151 Ware Road, Hertford  
Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd November  
10am - 4pm



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*Christmas Cards & Paper*  
*Hand Knitted and Felted Items*  
*Tom's Garden Furniture*

  


*Tea & Coffee*  
*Homebakes*  
*Books, Raffle & Tombola*

**Hertford Civic Society.** From time to time, Hertford Civic Society hold Lectures in our Church and we are always invited to hear their interesting and relevant talks about Hertford old and new. Unfortunately the next one does clash with something already booked in the church but whilst sorting this out, I wanted to pass on this lovely message from the Committee member organizing these lectures *“I’ve always felt that your church has a special atmosphere. So it wasn’t totally surprising when one of our members, who has quite a hard life caring for her disabled partner, said that at the last occasion she there for a Civic Society event, sitting quietly on her own, she felt a comforting hand on her shoulder, reassuring her. (Not a physical hand)”*

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**A recent Pastorate Wednesday evening prayer group gathering prepared by Jill Nugent started with this. What a good idea to have a prayer rope, three knots to say three prayers morning noon and night. I didn’t know the URC had these set ‘Office Prayers’ for times of the day**

#### Introduction

The early Christians who escaped the persecution of the church and went to live in the deserts became known as the Desert Fathers and Mothers. Their lives were centred on prayer. They used prayer ropes to help them pray regularly, long ropes with knots at regular intervals. You work your way along and stop at each knot to pray. If you want to pray through all the psalms, and psalms were very important to them, then you need 150 knots. However if you want to use the monastic prayers, and the desert fathers and mothers are recognised as setting the trend, as it were, for monasticism, then you need 8 knots. If you want to use today’s daily office prayers then you need 3 knots. I like the idea of a prayer rope to give you a regular prayer life and also help you focus. Maybe it’s something we should try! This evening we shall focus on using a variety of prayers from the URC website. For interest here are the URC daily office prayers

#### **Morning prayer**

First thing,  
my Lord and God,  
as day begins  
refresh in me  
Your presence and Your  
peace.  
First thing,  
my Lord and God,  
as day begins  
forgive in me  
unworthiness and sin.  
First thing,  
my Lord and God,  
as day begins  
restore in me  
Your purpose  
and Your will.  
Amen

#### **Midday prayer**

Lord Jesus,  
worker, healer and saviour,  
in the midst  
of this day’s activity,  
I pause and listen for  
Your voice.  
I offer up  
the business of today  
for You are a part of it.  
I ask you to bless my part in it.  
Through my work, my words,  
my thinking and my resting  
may Your kingdom come.  
Amen

#### **Evening prayer**

Last thing,  
Holy Spirit,  
mysterious yet intimate,  
before the day concludes  
I give to You  
the people, places and events  
of which my waking hours  
have been composed.  
Living God,  
Father, Son and Spirit,  
bless now my sleeping  
that tomorrow I shall wake  
refreshed and ready  
to know and love and serve  
You  
once again.  
Amen



## October Email Update from Stepanka and Mark

Galatians 6:9:

*Let us not become weary of doing good,  
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

Dear all,

There have been some lovely Harvest services taking place in the churches recently which, in a roundabout way, made me think of the above verse. May God bless you as you continue doing so much good in your communities!

### From Stepanka

The leadership teams across the pastorate have been looking at smarter working. It's been encouraging to see the openness of the Elders to doing things differently in order to work more effectively. We have agreed to reduce the number of meetings and focus on completing actions before the next meetings. We have also talked about teamwork and supporting each other.

Twenty-three people came together to enjoy a three-course Sunday roast lunch at the Highland Restaurant in Broxbourne on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October! It was a nice time of fellowship over some lovely food. We very much welcome your feedback, which will help us organise next year's Pastorate lunch.

Since the website has gone live, I have been receiving all kinds of interesting emails from the public. The secretary from the George Fuller Club for the Blind and Visually Impaired in the Borough of Broxbourne has recently contacted us to ask some questions about our groups and to say that their club meets on the third Monday of each month in the Bushby Hall, 8 Wharf Road in Wormley from 7 to 9pm with fantastic entertainment, refreshments, etc. and it's all FREE. I just wanted to share this information in case there is anyone you know who would find the club of interest.

As I have mentioned in Issue 2, I also work one day a week at All Nations Christian College. The college has been hit hard financially since Covid, but rather than just asking people to donate money, they (and that includes many of the current students) work hard to support the college in different ways. There is the All Nations' **Coffee and Book Shop**, open to all visitors, usually every Wednesday and Friday 2-5pm. Please see this facebook page for current information: <https://www.facebook.com/AllNationsCoffeeAndBookShop/>, and the attached leaflet. All Nations also offer **Afternoon Teas** and **Retreats**. If you are interested to find out more, please see these links: <https://www.allnations.ac.uk/events/afternoon-tea> or <https://www.allnations.ac.uk/events/retreats> or speak to me.

### From Mark

As part of the ongoing efforts at Hertford to promote faith within the community and those who use the church, we've had the privilege of enjoying a full year of the first pieces of art from our 'Art in Plain Sight' project. Each month, a new print has drawn our attention, inspiring reflection and deepening our connection with God through art. This initiative from the Synod Discipleship team has truly brought life and discussion to those who use our hall. We are excited for what the coming months will bring as we continue to explore this visual journey together. We plan to put on a full display of the artwork in the church sanctuary in the near future once we work out the logistics of how to easily and aesthetically display one year of artwork.

The monthly Hot Potato Lunch has quickly become a highlight for so many of us. Each gathering has been filled with warmth, not just from the jacket potatoes, but from the lively conversations and the sense of community that fills the room. Seeing familiar faces come together in such a simple yet meaningful way reminds us of the power of hospitality. It's been wonderful to witness people connecting over a meal, sharing stories, and deepening friendships. I am grateful for the support this outreach continues to receive from both the church family and the wider community. The Hot Potato Lunch takes place on the second



Thursday of each month at Hertford. Come along next month to experience the warmth of both the meal and the connection we share!

Our recent Coffee Morning at Cheshunt was a wonderful success. We were pleased to see a good turnout from the local community. There was a genuine sense of camaraderie, as people gathered not just to share coffee and cake, but also to talk, find out more about the church, strengthen bonds, and build new friendships. Thank you to everyone who has made the morning such a meaningful part of our church life.

The 'Time to Remember' service at Broxbourne was a deeply moving experience, filled with quiet reflection and heartfelt moments of remembrance. It has been humbling to hear the feedback of how this service has resonated with those who attended, offering a space where we can honour our loved ones and find comfort as we remember those who have passed on. Our time in contemplation was followed by warm conversations over refreshments. The support and understanding shared among us reminded us that even in loss, we are never alone. We are grateful for how this service continues to offer comfort and hope. We continue to offer this space for remembrance and support for anyone in need of comfort.

I wanted to inform you that I have two upcoming appointments at Moorfields Eye Hospital on the 28th of October and the 6th of November to address an issue with cataracts and potentially my retina and macula. While I hope for a smooth process, this may impact my availability over the coming weeks. I appreciate your understanding and will keep you updated as necessary.

#### **Bible Passage for Thought and Prayer**

In a world where harmony feels increasingly out of reach, especially as we consider the conflicts in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Sudan, we turn to scripture for guidance. What does it mean to be peacemakers in our time? How can we embody God's call to love and justice in such troubling circumstances? Reflect on this verse as we hold these questions in prayer:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

As we reflect on this verse, I pray we ask ourselves how we can be peacemakers in our communities and the world. In our prayers and our actions, may we strive to live in God's peace.

#### **Prayer**

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of community, creativity, and peace. As we reflect on your call to be peacemakers, guide our hearts and actions in the way of love and justice. Strengthen us in your grace as we seek to follow you ~ Amen.

Blessings,  
Stepanka and Mark

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## **FOR THE FALLEN**

**THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, AS WE WHO ARE LEFT GROW OLD.  
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**

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## NOVEMBER 2024

Sun	3	10.30 am	Morning Worship – led by Mark Johnson
Wed	6	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
Thurs	7	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning
<b>Sun</b>	10	10.30	Remembrance Sunday Morning Worship – led by our Minister, Mark Robinson
Wed	13	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
Thurs	14	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning – followed by Hot Potato lunch – all are welcome
<b>Sun</b>	17	10.30 am	Morning Worship – led by Chris Hall – to include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
Wed	20	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
Thurs	21	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning
<b>Sun</b>	24	10.30 am	Morning Worship – led by Jerry Forrester
Wed	27	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
Thurs	28	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning

***Foodbank opens on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 10 – 11 am and on Tuesday and Thursday mornings 10.30 – 11.30 am at the Priory, Ware.  
Enquiries 07851 708470***

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