



Minister: Revd. Mark Robinson 07510782031 revdmarkr@gmail.com

Treasurer: E-mail : harwoodamanda2@gmail.com

Pastorate Administrator: Stepanka Moysey Mob 07362592580 urcnlvg@gmail.com

November 2024

The New River - continued!.....the companies that used to supply water to Londoners were in trouble when Hugh Mydleton had his brilliant idea to carry out Colthurst's plan to bring fresh water to London. At an early stage money ran out and Hugh Mydleton boldly asked King James to buy shares. His decision to do so gave others confidence and ensured huge returns for the royal purse. In 1854, Dr John Snow, a pioneering anaesthetist, and epidemiologist, was able to pinpoint the origin of cholera to the handle of a water pump in Soho. After this date, companies taking their water from the Thames were forced to move their intakes upstream from the city and clean and purify the water. More

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 doing, 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 toward 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 *"to 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.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1....

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, but an active hope that works for 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 toward reconciliation, every move toward justice is a participation in the very life of God.

Blessings,
Mark

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.

A Time to Remember

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

This well attended and much appreciated service was held on Sunday October 13th at 3pm. It was followed by refreshments.



Dorothy B writes:

Christmas Market

Saturday 23 November 10.30-2.00.

Please note the later start and finish.



Wanted for our church stalls please:

home baking and preserves (please tell Diane what you are bringing by Sunday November 17th)

cakes for refreshments (please tell Wendy, Grace or Dorothy B by November 17th)

gifts, toys, collectibles, Christmas items, items for the £1 stall. No bric a brac or white elephant please.

All food must be labelled with ingredients. We still need more help with setting up, selling on the day and packing up, even an hour or so would be welcome – Dorothy B will be delighted to hear from you.

Please advertise our wonderful market and café to your friends, family and neighbours – posters and flyers will be available at church.

10% of proceeds to Young Life Hoddesdon

See website <https://nlvg.org.uk> for details and availability of tables

Alan Earl was kind enough recently to share his wonderful memoir with some of us at Comet. The Editor felt it should have a wider audience and prevailed on David to produce a summary.

The Evacuee was Father of the Man

Have you ever walked behind a train hoping that, if you waved to him hard enough, the fireman would throw you a scuttle full of his coal while you walked along the railway track with a bucket in your hand? Or hunted for newts by placing a brick or stone at the edge of a pool and waiting for them to gather underneath it? Or saved yourself from probable death by receiving a detention at school? Or produced an advertisement showing all the Decca pop stars' positions in the pop charts by 5 pm on a Tuesday, so that they could be produced in the *New Musical Express* (now the *NME*), and other pop music papers by the following morning?

Alan Earl has done all these things and, in his memoir *'The Evacuee was Father of the Man: A Life Forged in Time of War'* he has written about them and more in an entertaining and thoughtful way. Born in 1932 in Chadwell Heath, Alan had been staying at his aunt's home in Beccles in Suffolk when war broke out in 1939 and it was decided that he should stay there. This is how he came to be an evacuee during the most dangerous time in Britain's history.

Two days earlier, Alan's father had taken a picture of two paddle steamers, *The Royal Daffodil* and *The Golden Eagle*, that were dropping off evacuees at Lowestoft's Claremont Pier. Strangely enough, Alan discovered that his future wife, Pamela, had been on board one of those steamers.

Alan's childhood in Suffolk was idyllic in many ways, justifying the reference to Wordsworth in the book's title. Although times were hard and the family was poor like many others, there were a number of consolations. Boys built 'coasters', early versions of go-carts, and banged on the stink pipe, a sewage vent in the street, with a brick to make a terrible noise if they found any tin-can-copper.

Alan did not always behave impeccably - at one time he and his friends liked to play 'It' while running through Bodgers' Department Store in Ilford. This was after his father paid the then huge fee of seven guineas a term to send Alan to the fee-paying Clark's College in Ilford. One day Alan was kept back at school and, as result, he missed the start of a film at the Super Cinema in Ilford. A V2 rocket hit the cinema killing everyone inside.

In later life Alan attended the South East Essex Technical College and School of Art and won the competition to design Ilford's Festival of Britain poster. He was closely involved with the Scouts and developed a career in advertising. This was how he came to be involved in making posters to support Decca Records on a weekly basis. He later worked as Head of Graphics at Harlow College. Since taking early retirement, Alan has discovered a new life as an independent artist and a member of the Lea Valley Art Society. He married Pamela in 1955 and they enjoyed a very happy married life.

But he never forgot those happy, if poor, days in rural Suffolk during his childhood. If you have ever wanted to play hockey on a bicycle or build your own wireless, or wondered what the Suffolk phrase 'He fully got royal' meant, you will enjoy reading this interesting tale of a life well spent.

David Davies.

Jill writes:

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

Wednesday November 27th

@ Broxbourne

2 pm - 3.30 pm



Worship this month



Nov 3rd 10.30 am	Brox URC	David Ronco
10th 10.15am Parade 11.45	Brox URC Parade to the War Memorial or remain for a service in the church. Refreshments at the Parish Church.	Dorothy Blatcher Rosemary Woodall
17th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Charles Bancroft Communion
24th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Preacher from All Nations College
Dec 1st 10.30 am	Brox URC	Toy service. 1st Sunday in Advent Jackie Hall

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

NOVEMBER

10th Remembrance Sunday

23rd Christmas Market 10.30-2.00

DECEMBER

15th 6pm Carols by Candlelight with handbells

22nd Christingle



Message from Churches Together:

Dear All,

The Delta Hotel has had quite an influx of new families recently. We have very few winter coats left, or toys/stationary for the children. Each time I bring in umbrellas, they are all taken within 2 hours. Please share this with your congregations. Donations are greatly valued.

With best wishes

Diana

Diana Forrest

Pastoral Enabler

Broxbourne Food Bank

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



IN OUR CHURCH HALL— **NOVEMBER**

- 5th 2.00pm After 8s Doctors and Policemen look younger—Keith Baldwin
- 19th 7.45 pm Friends of Lowewood Christmas How our ancestors celebrated Ian Waller. All welcome £5.00
- 23rd 4.30 pm Hoddesdon Music Club Harriet Adie. Harp = music by Hasselmans, Britten, Scarlatti and seasonal music
- 26th 8.00pm SE Herts RSPB Denis Bohm 'Spring bird migration in Herzegovina All welcome. You don't need to be a member of the RSPB. Further information from Dorothy Blatcher

Amanda's Eco-Message of the Month : November

Remember some bees hibernate, but will wake up in warm spells, looking for food. There is still time to plant bee-friendly plants, while the soil is still warm, but protect the new plants from frost. Bee food plants include heathers and pansies.

If you have a large plastic bottle (eg juice or milk), you can cut the bottom off and use the top as a mini-cloche to cover plants when frost is threatening.

Squirrels will often raid bird tables and feeders and steal food intended for birds. However, sprinkle chilli powder around the food. Squirrels can't stand chilli, but the birds don't notice it.

Raise pots off the ground, to aid drainage and avoid slugs/snails. Terracotta pot-feet are expensive, but rough stones and polystyrene will do the job and deter slugs.

Wrap clay/china pots in bubblewrap if you can't bring them under cover, to protect them from cracking in icy weather.

If you are buying Christmas wrapping paper, please remember that foil wrappings and glittery paper cannot be recycled. To keep young children occupied, collect card, ribbons, bows, stars, coloured cellophane, Christmas pictures, anything that children might like to use to decorate a card or present for Mum, Dad, Grandparents.

Stepanka's Page 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 6th 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>

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.

Blessings,

Stepanka and Mark



Jill reminds us about the URC 's ongoing support for the charity 'Commitment for Life'

Zimbabwe continues to battle a climate crisis, with drought causing emergency food insecurity for thousands of citizens this year.

The Christian Aid team has worked with communities to build capacity and enhance resilience methods for planting to ensure a good crop yield. There has been an emphasis on advocating for debt relief as Zimbabwe faces international financial pressure. Additionally, efforts to promote gender inclusion and advocate for good governance have continued.....

Keep watch for Vhaina's story, a single mother of six who has been trained as a sesame seed farmer by our partners, Sustainable Agriculture Technology (SAT). Zimbabwe has been facing a severe drought, and SAT has been working with over 3,800 farmers to develop weather-resilient crops and create infrastructure to support e-commerce, enabling financial freedom and improving livelihoods. Thanks to this support, Vhaina now has more opportunities and can better provide for her family.



Christmas Choir Calling all those that love to sing! We want to create some harmony as part of our theme of Harmony for 2024-5. We are gathering a small group to sing at our Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 15th December. 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. We would give you the music in advance. The only criterion for joining the group is that you enjoy singing! See Rosemary.....



A new community resource for Hoddesdon based at the Quaker Meeting House on Lord Street

Winter Community Events

A programme of events co-curated with our resident theatre company Mangled Yarn. All welcome!

Friday 1st November 2024, 11am-1pm
Half-term family craft and coffee morning.

Sunday 17th November 2024, 2pm-4pm
Festive craft and chat for all ages.

Wednesday 20th November 2024, 5pm-7pm
Campfire singalong in the garden.
Please wear weather appropriate clothing and footwear! We will move indoors if the weather is very bad.

Sunday 1st December 2024, 11am-3pm
Festive celebration starting at 11am with half an hour of simple silence for all ages – a chance for quiet reflection, prayer or meditation in our beautiful historic Quaker meeting house. Family activities, refreshments and fundraising market stall from 12 noon to 3pm.

Find us at 55 Lord Street, Hoddesdon, EN11 8NA.
Questions? Please email: peacecottagehub@gmail.com
Find Mangled Yarn on Facebook: [@mangledyarntheatre](https://www.facebook.com/mangledyarntheatre)
Web: mangledyarn.com Email: info@mangledyarn.com

