

Services in January

5th Worship with John Ellis

12th Worship with Kathleen Laing

19th Worship with Mark Robinson

26th Worship with Elders



Dear Friends

As we welcome the start of a new year, I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, who calls us into community and renews our purpose as God's people. Together we enter 2025 – a year brimming with possibilities to deepen our faith, strengthen our relationships and live out our shared mission of love and service.

The Call of Harmony

This year our guiding theme is harmony living in unity with God, one another, and all creation. Harmony is a calling found throughout Scripture, where the Psalmist celebrates the joy of unity and Paul exhorts the early church to “live in harmony with one another” (Romans 12:16). It reflects the heart of God's work, bringing reconciliation, peace and shared purpose.

Harmony does not mean uniformity or the absence of disagreement. Rather it is the Spirit at work among us. It seeks to repair what is broken, transform conflict into peace and replace injustice with equality. Harmony is not merely a human ideal but a vision of flourishing grounded in God's design for creation.

As a Church pastorate we are called to embody this harmony. Let us work to deepen bonds of compassion and understanding within our congregations. Let us stand in solidarity with those who are excluded or marginalised, and let us care for the earth, honouring its sacredness as part of God's abundant gifts.

A Year of Prayer

At the heart of our journey is prayer, which roots us in God's presence and aligns us with God's purposes. Prayer connects us more deeply to God and one another. This year I invite us all to adopt a shared rhythm of prayer as a way of nurturing harmony across our three congregations.

Each Sunday I invite us to pray together the **Growth Prayer** seeking the **Spirit's** guidance as we grow in faith, service and community.

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.

To help integrate this prayer into each service, I suggest we will provide in church, bookmarks or cards with the prayer printed on them so that each member has access to the prayer.

I also encourage us all to pause at mid-day every day to reflect on God's presence and the life and love we have received through Christ. Let this moment of stillness become a practice that unites us in prayer and purpose.

A Year of Action

While prayer sustains us, harmony must also be expressed in our words and actions. This year, let us actively seek ways to grow in harmony through worship, learning, service and outreach. Together let us strengthen relationships, serve our communities with compassion and care for creation in meaningful ways.

As we step into this year, let us do so with hope and confidence. The God who calls us into harmony is faithful and steadfast, continually drawing us into deeper love and service.

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind towards each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 15:5-6).

May 2025 be a year of renewal and growth as we live out our faith in unity with God, one another and all creation.

With prayers and blessings

Mark

Lunchtime Weekday Half Hour Service

Friday 17th January

1-1.30 pm Broxbourne URC Lounge

This is a new monthly opportunity to join in a short worship service during the week, led by Jill Nugent.

The plan is to offer time for prayer, scripture, reflection and a little creativity, using a Celtic style liturgy.

Drop in Art Group

Tuesday 21st January

2-3.30 pm Broxbourne URC Lounge

Pop in to have a go at being creative, in your own way, with a selection of art materials.

No experience required, purely for your own enjoyment.

Eco Tip

Go for a winter walk. Look and listen. Marvel at the beauty of trees. Rejoice at signs of new growth. Enjoy fresh air. Thank God for an opportunity for rejuvenation in nature.