



MARCH 2025

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.

Dear Friends,

As we enter the season of Lent, we are invited into a time of reflection, renewal and preparation. This is a season to draw nearer to God, to examine our hearts and to deepen our commitment to Christ's way of love and service. Lent is not only a personal journey but a shared one – an opportunity for us as a church community to walk together in faith and discipleship.

Just as Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness seeking God's will, we too, are called to this season with openness, seeking clarity and transformation. For some this may be a time of quiet prayer and contemplation; for others it may be a time of action – offering our time in gifts and service to one another.

As we journey through Lent, I encourage each of us to ask;
Where is God calling me to grow?
How can I serve my church family and community more fully?
What small acts of kindness and faithfulness might bring greater harmony to our shared life?

Our churches thrive when we come together in worship, welcome and care. There are many small but important ways we can support one another – helping to preserve our church's history, ensuring hospitality remains at the heart of our gatherings, assisting with pastoral care, or simply offering a helping hand where needed. If you see a need or feel called to serve in some way, please speak with me or one of the Elders.

At the heart of Lent is prayer – our time with God that sustains and shapes us. I encourage each of us to set aside moments of stillness each day, bringing before God our hopes, struggles and gratitude. As a church we will continue to pray together in our services and gatherings, seeking renewal in our lives, our community and the world.

May this season draw us closer to Christ and to one another, preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter.

With every blessing
Mark.

March Prayer Themes

As we journey through Lent, our prayers this month will focus on reflection, renewal and preparation for the joy of Easter. Each week invites us to draw closer to God, examine our hearts and seek transformation in our lives and communities.

Week 1: Seeking God's Guidance.

Scripture: "Show me your ways Lord, teach me your paths". (Psalms 25:4).

Focus: Pray for wisdom and discernment as we navigate our Lenten journey. Ask God to reveal areas in our lives where we need growth and renewal.

Week 2: Turning Back to God.

Scripture: "Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love." (Joel 2:13)

Focus: Lent calls us to realign our hearts with God's. This week pray for the courage to let go of anything that draws you away from God's love. Ask for a spirit of renewal and a deeper awareness of God's grace at work in your life.

Week 3: Compassion and Service.

Scripture: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Focus: Pray for a heart of compassion, looking for ways to serve others in small and meaningful ways. Ask God to show us where our help is needed in our church and community.

Week 4: Trusting in God's Promise.

Scripture: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." (John 11:25)

Focus: As we approach Holy Week, pray for renewed faith in God's promise. Ask for the grace to trust in God's love, even in times of uncertainty, and to live in the hope of the resurrection.

I pray that these prayer themes guide us as we journey towards Easter, seeking God's presence at every step.

PRAYERS

Continue to pray for Bob, Fran and their family.

Continue to pray for Jan Carter

Continue to pray for Shirley Sloan

Continue to pray for Phoebe and her family

Continue to pray for Mark as he continues his recovery from eye surgery.

Continue to 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

DROP IN ART GROUP

Tuesday 11th March: 2 – 3.30 pm

Broxbourne URC Lounge

Come along to spend time exploring a variety of creative art materials at your leisure

LUNCH TIME WORSHIP

Friday 14th March: 1 - 1.30 pm

Broxbourne URC Lounge

A time of worship including Celtic Liturgy, Readings and Prayers

**Hertford Methodist Church 'Lent Event' for Christian Aid
Piano Recital on Sunday 2nd March at 3 pm**

Berenger Morel is the youngest member of our team of musicians who accompany our services.

He is currently working towards his GCSEs at Haileybury. His 40 minute recital will include music by

Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Chopin, Ponce, Glinka, Balakirev and Brahms, and will be followed by tea and cakes.

Admission is free, but donations for Christian Aid will be very welcome as this is our Lent Event for this year – a few days early.

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be held on 7th March at All Saints Church.

The theme for the service has been prepared by the ladies in the Cook Islands and is entitled "I made you wonderful."

The service will be followed by refreshments.

COMMITMENT TO LIFE

Here are examples of the work being done by our Global partners around the world. This information has been sent to us by Jill Nugent. Thank you Jill. There is more information in the Church if needed.

Committed to supporting our Global Partners - Bangladesh



Christian Aid reports that there are around 6.5 million Dalits in Bangladesh. Many are descendants of migrant labourers from India under colonial rule. This history, their caste, and their ethnicity are all causes of discrimination. Little is known about these Dalits, who have come to be known as the 'missing poor'.

Women and girls among ethnic minorities in Bangladesh face intersecting challenges. These include restricted access to decent work opportunities. Older women and women with disabilities are especially denied access to public services. Christian Aid works to promote inclusive societies in Bangladesh and India.

Usha (pictured) was born into a family of Dalit farm labourers in Uttar Pradesh. She gradually emerged as a leader within her community. She organised Dalit agricultural labourers to oppose caste domination and negotiate for better wages. Some in her family and community rejected her new-found voice. This led to family violence and Usha was forced to leave her marital home. But the backlash has not dampened her resolve to fight for oppressed communities and Dalit women, and she now leads the women's collective supported by Dynamic Action Group.

Committed to Support our Global Partners – ZIMBABWE



The BBC reports that the worst drought in living memory is devastating southern Africa, leaving close to 70 million people without sufficient food and water.

People living in the Mudzi district of northern Zimbabwe dig down into the bone-dry riverbed of the normally flowing Vombozi river. Using shovels and buckets, they desperately trying to extract the last drops of water.

Along the riverbed there are a number of dug up holes, large enough to fit a single bucket. The water is used to bathe children, do laundry, and give cattle a drink.

Gracious Phiri, a 43-year-old mother of five, says that she now must walk up to three hours every day to fetch water. "I have never seen anything like this."

Food is also in short supply in Zimbabwe, where 7.7 million people face hunger. Children have been badly impacted, with hospital admissions for moderate to severe malnutrition increasing. Often, ground baobab fruit is stirred into a porridge for extra nutrients.

Your donations to *Commitment for Life* are helping our local partners install boreholes with solar power. This is one way to help people deepen their resilience in the face of climate change. See this

Facing the Conflict in Ukraine

Commitment for Life is pleased to be supporting the work of our URC partner churches in Hungary and in Transcarpathia, Western Ukraine.

NATO expansion into Ukraine has been met by a devastatingly bloody Russian special military operation. The conflict has led to the mass dislocation of ordinary Ukrainians. People have fled to the safer, western parts of Ukraine and into neighbouring countries like Hungary.

Our partner churches are doing brilliant work supporting these refugees.

5th March – Ash Wednesday – Service at Broxbourne Church on Wednesday 5th March, at 8 pm led by Mark. All welcome.

15th March – Thames North Synod meeting at the Lumin Centre from 10 am – 3.30 pm

20th March – Hertford Civic Society meets in the Church at 7 pm, when the local MP, Josh Dean, is to speak.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS – If you have any used postage stamps, could you please put them in the container at the side of the Church. Shirley is collecting these for the Isobel Hospice.

MARCH 2025

Mar 2	10.30 am	Morning Worship, led by our Minister, Mark Robinson, including the Sacrament of Holy Communion
Mar 3	10.00 am	Short mat Bowls
Mar 5	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
Mar 6	10.00 am 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Open House Coffee morning Short mat Bowls Short mat Bowls
Mar 7	2.00 pm	World Day of Prayer – All Saints Church
Mar 9	10.30 am	Morning Worship – led by David Ronco, Baptist Church
Mar 10	10.00 am	Short mat Bowls
Mar 12	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
Mar 13	10.00 am 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Open House Coffee morning – followed by Hot Potato Lunch – all are welcome Short mat Bowls Short mat Bowls
Mar 16	10.30 am	Morning Service – led by Ian Matthews
Mar 17	10.00 am	Short mat Bowls
Mar 19	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
Mar 20	10.00 am 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Open House Coffee morning Short mat Bowls Short mat Bowls
Mar 23	10.30 am	Morning Worship – led by TBA
Mar 24	10.00 am	Short mat Bowls
Mar 26	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
Mar 27	10.00 am 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Open House Coffee morning Short mat Bowls Short mat Bowls
Mar 30	10.30 am	Mothers Day Morning Worship – led by TBA

***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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