



MAY 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,

“Therefore we have been buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God, so we too might walk in newness of life.” — Romans 6:4

Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.

These ancient words were first spoken in awe and trembling by those who had walked with Jesus, had witnessed his death yet encountered life anew. In this season of Easter, we affirm a truth that does not deny sorrow or struggle, but meets us within it. Resurrection is not a promise that life will be easy. It is the assurance that even in the hardest places, God is not absent—and that nothing is beyond the reach of new life through God.

To live into resurrection is to trust that God is near in our questions, steady in our waiting, and tender in our weariness. The risen Christ still bears wounds—reminding us that healing does not erase what has been hurt, but transforms it.

We are Easter people. Not because we are without grief or fear, but because we know that love endures, mercy surprises, and life emerges where we least expect it.

As we journey through Eastertide, may this hope accompany us quietly, gently, joyfully. May we know that, in whatever season we find ourselves, God is near—and resurrection is still at work.

With peace and hope,
Mark

—————

May Prayer Themes

As we continue in the season of Easter, our prayers this month will reflect on the hope, presence, and renewal offered through the risen Christ. Each week, we are invited to hold both joy and struggle in prayer, trusting that resurrection is at work in our lives and world.

Week 1: Hope that Sustains

Scripture: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

Focus: Pray for those who are weary or waiting; for hope that is not shallow but rooted in God’s enduring presence. Ask for the grace to see signs of life, even in difficult places.

Week 2: God’s Nearness in All Things

Scripture: “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” (Psalm 34:18)

Focus: Pray for those carrying grief, pain, or uncertainty. Ask God to draw close to all who need comfort, and to help us be gentle companions to one another.

Week 3: Renewal of Strength and Spirit

Scripture: “But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.” (Isaiah 40:31a)

Focus: Pray for renewal—for energy, courage, and rest. Lift up all who feel stretched thin, asking that the Spirit would restore what feels worn down or lost.

Week 4: Life by the Spirit

Scripture: “If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25)

Focus: As Pentecost draws near, pray for guidance through the Spirit’s wisdom, creativity, and peace. Ask that we may be led into deeper love for God, and for one another.

PRAYERS

Continue to pray for Bob, Fran and their family.

Continue to pray for Jan Carter

Continue to pray for Shirley Sloan

Pray for Shirley’s grandson, Michael, during the uncertain situation with his work in Madagascar.

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

PASTORATE UPDATE

Romans 6: 8-9 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again.

Dear all,

We hope you have had a wonderful Easter. As we journey through this season together, we pray that the light and hope of the resurrection continues to fill our hearts with renewed life. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

From Stepanka

We had several important meetings over the last few weeks – the Joint Elders meeting on 27 March, Extraordinary Church meeting in Broxbourne on 15 April and Hertford Elders meeting on 17 April. All three meetings had positive outcomes. We are grateful to the elders and church members for their continued support of their churches and the pastorate!

Applications for Children's and Youth Worker closed on 23rd April. Please pray for the right person to be appointed.

The safeguarding training package has now been updated and everyone who chose to do the Safeguarding Foundation Level training online has now been emailed the link to complete the training. Thank you to those who have already finished their DBS applications. Please note that the safeguarding piece needs to be completed as much as possible before the end of June 2025 (when my 4 extra hours a week for safeguarding will cease). Your prompt responses to my emails are much appreciated.

Just a reminder that All Nations College is holding a 60th Celebration of Mission Training on 31 May, 13.17,30. Please go to <https://www.allnations.ac.uk/events/60-anniversary-event> or contact the college on 01920 443500 to find out more and to book your tickets.

From Mark

Throughout Holy Week, I shared daily reflections across our pastorate. My hope was that these simple moments of pause would offer space to draw closer to Christ in the journey towards the Cross. I hope they were a meaningful companion to you through the sacred days leading up to Easter.

Earlier this month, on Sunday 6th April, we were delighted to welcome two new members at Hertford. Their commitment to the life of the church is a sign of renewal and growth, and we give thanks for their presence among us.

On Maundy Thursday we came together at Broxbourne for a reflective communion service. Thank you to all who attended, participated and helped create spaces of welcome, togetherness and helped create spaces of welcome, togetherness and shared faith.

Looking ahead, don't miss the upcoming Craft and Plant Market at Broxbourne on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May, from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. With plants, crafts, cream teas, and more. It promises to be a wonderful community event. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

As part of our ongoing harmony theme, we're excited to host a Live Music Event at Cheshunt on Saturday 10th May at 2.00pm. Yinka Williams, a celebrated professional singer and daughter of Cheshunt elder Leah, will be performing a Motown collection. The event is free and open to all – please do bring friends and family and join us in this joyful celebration of music, community, and light refreshments.

May the message of resurrection continue to stir hope within us throughout this Easter season.

Bible Passage for Reflection.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” – Colossians 3:16.

How might we allow Christ's word to dwell deeply within us – not only during Holy Week and Easter, but in our daily living?

Prayer

Loving and faithful God

Thank you for the journey through Holy Week and for the light of Easter that calls us into renewed life.

As we continue forward may our lives speak of your love.

Help us to listen well, to serve with joy, and to live in harmony with one another.

May our gatherings, reflections, and celebrations be shaped by your presence among us, and may we carry your peace into the season ahead.

Amen.



URC Broxbourne
Mill Lane EN10 7BQ



May CRAFT & PLANT Market

Monday 5th May 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Plants



Cream Teas



Crafts



and much more ...

Free Admission

DROP IN ART GROUP

Tuesday 13th May, 2 – 3.30pm

Broxbourne URC Lounge.

Come and explore creatively in a relaxed atmosphere
using a collection of art materials

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Friday 16th May 1.30 – 2 pm

Broxbourne URC Lounge

An opportunity for a short time of worship
See the article on Celtic Christianity

Celtic Christianity

Jill Nugent

Celtic Christianity is the name given to the way that, originally, the Celts in Britain kept their Christian faith. Nowadays, however, many Christians make use of the Celtic ways in their walk with Christ. The Celts recognised God in every aspect of their lives so, for them, the sacred and the secular were one. They bred saints, took missions and founded monasteries, which often became important centres of learning. The islands of Iona and Lindisfarne became special holy places and are popular now as places of retreat.

The Celts were in tune with the Holy Spirit, which was associated with the wild goose, a bird that moves freely at the call of nature as the Holy Spirit moves freely amongst God's created world. Celtic Christianity finds God in all of creation so encourages a great respect for nature. It also promotes a prayer filled life. As God is with us wherever we are it is easy to join with God in prayer, talking or listening, or just enjoying God. There are many written prayers in the Celtic tradition that link to all aspects of life and some beautiful prayers of blessing. You might recognise this, taken from St Patrick's breastplate.

Christ within me, Christ beside me
Christ above me, Christ beneath me
Christ to right of me, Christ to left of me
Christ in the eye of all who see me
Christ in the ear of all who hear me

Celtic Christianity encourages people to fight for God, to be energetic in living the way of Christ, yet also advocating peace. The Celts were naturally friendly and hospitable, forging connections in community and supporting the poor, sick and lonely. They looked for Christ in everyone they met and made sure everyone saw Christ in them too.

Once a month I lead a short time of worship, at Broxbourne, which includes Celtic prayers, a scripture reading and a point of learning from Celtic literature. There is also an opportunity to link creatively to nature. Check the magazine for the date each month, usually a Friday at 1.30 pm, and join me if you are interested.

CHURCHES TOGETHER – QUIZ FOR CHRISTIAN AID.

Saturday 10th May, 6.30 for 7 pm. Cost £12.50 per person including a ploughman's supper. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

St Andrew's Church Centre (Hall)
All profits to Christian Aid

We are entering a team from the Church.

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.

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE Jill Nugent

When Commitment for Life went to Zimbabwe recently, we met up with Sostina Takure, who co-ordinates the Zimbabwe ACT Alliance Forum.

Sostina told us about just how much she loves working with the ACT Alliance. ACT Alliance is faith based, and as a pastor's wife, Sostina feels right at home. She co-ordinates the efforts to assist people who are most at risk in Zimbabwe.

When Hurricane Idai struck Zimbabwe several years ago, Christian Aid in collaboration with the ACT Alliance was one of the first to have 'boots on the ground.' They helped people to safety, rescued personal property and livestock, and helped people re-build over 500 houses.

Sostina told us that she is passionate about empowering women, whether this is in relation to economics or to family life. Sostina helps women set up markets that empower them to get good prices for their produce. Sometimes, women need assistance to get out of abusive situations. Sostina is there to help with the assistance of the church. You can watch our interview with Sostina in this [video](#). As a bonus, you get to see Wilbert throw a drone into the African sky!

With your continued support for *Commitment for Life*, Incredible people like Sostina can function and do what they do best – care for people. Please continue in your prayers for Zimbabwe, especially given how attention is being diverted by local and global crises.



WALK OF WITNESS – Hazel Ottley

I would like to comment on the Walk of Witness on Good Friday. It was a wonderful morning, lovely atmosphere, well organised (if a little o.t.t.), friendly pilgrims giving out hot cross buns and sweets. I'm sure the people of Hertford found us cheerful and chatty. The service at Hartman was excellent, well organised and inspiring. I feel sure people walking past to the park, could feel our warmth and enthusiasm to sing and pray to our Lord. Well done all concerned.



A few more dates.

There is a LAG meeting on Tuesday 6th May at Broxbourne URC at 7.30pm

The Hertford Art Society will be using the Hall exclusively from Saturday 3rd May to Sunday 11th May for the Selling Exhibition starting on 4th May.

Mimram Choir will use the Church on Sunday evening 18th May 7 – 9.30

UPDATE ON ORGAN – from Mike Excell

In case any of you are wondering what all the fuss is about, here's some info on our organ (courtesy of David Emsley). It was built in 1911 by T C Lewis (Thomas Lewis) and underwent a major restoration by Brian Bunting in 1983. Based in South London – Clapham and then Brixton - Lewis's firm had a formidable reputation for workmanship and tonal quality and there are many examples of his work around the country, but his most celebrated works are the cathedral organ in Southwark and Melbourne, (Australia). The URC organ is worth preserving in working order for as long as possible – and playing!

SERVICE ON SUNDAY 25th MAY

We are having a special Service on Sunday 25th May to celebrate the Organ being back in use after all the necessary renovations and of course the money to pay for it with Vera's legacy. John Ellis is taking the Service and has suggested this and asked for it to be advertised.

Following John's request for our favourite hymns to play at this Service. So far 5 hymns have been suggested:

Love Divine all Loves Excelling
Lord Make Me an Instrument
Lord the Light of your Love is Shining
Jerusalem
Guide Me Oh Thou Great Jehovah

John is happy for a further 3 hymns to be included so if anyone has any further requests, please let him know.

Hertford United Reformed Church

Cowbridge Hertford SG14 1PG

**Service to celebrate
The restoration of the
Church Organ**

**SUNDAY 25 MAY
10.30 am**

All Welcome

MAY 2025

1 May	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning
4 May	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd Martin Legg to include the of Holy Communion.
7 May	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
8 May	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning – followed by Hot Potato Lunch – all are welcome
10May	7.00 pm	Quiz in aid of Christian Aid, St Andrews Church Hall
11May	10.30 am	Morning Worship - led by our Minister Revd Mark Robinson
14May	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
15May	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning
18May	10.30 am	Morning Worship – led by
21May	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
22May	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning, including Pause for Thought, led by Mark Robinson.
25May	10.30 am	Morning Worship – led by John Ellis – celebrating restoration of the Church organ.
28May	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
29May	10.00	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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