

Cheshunt Free Church Newsletter July & August 2025

Services in July & August

6th Worship with Elders
13th Worship with Jackie Hall
20th Worship with Elders
27th Worship with Kathleen Laing
3rd Worship with Kathleen Laing
10th Worship with Mark Robinson
17th Worship joint at Broxbourne
24th Worship with Elders
31st Worship with John Ellis



Dear Friends,

Summer is here, and with it comes a change of pace. For many of us, this season brings a little more space - time to rest, to travel, to slow down. But even as life shifts gears, our calling as followers of Jesus remains the same.

We are now in a season the Church calls Ordinary Time. That name can sound like nothing special; but it's exactly the opposite. This is the time when faith is lived out in daily life. Not in big celebrations or dramatic moments, but in simple acts of love, truth, and service.

God is present not just on the mountaintop, but in the everyday: in shared meals, quiet prayers, honest conversations, and small decisions that shape who we are.

So as we move through these summer months, let's not treat this time as a break from faith. Let's see it as a chance to grow. To reset. To pay attention to what matters. To ask: Who are we becoming as a church? As people? Are we living like Jesus : with courage, compassion, and love?

The world doesn't need a church that's just keeping busy. It needs a church that looks like Christ - steady, hopeful, and ready to serve.

So rest well. Listen deeply. Love generously. And stay awake to what God is doing - even now, even here.

With every blessing,

Mark

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July Prayer Themes – Faith in the Everyday

This month, we pray through the steady days of Ordinary Time - not to escape the world, but to engage it with eyes open to God's presence. These prayers help us live faithfully in the small things, where God's love is just as powerful.

Week 1: Everyday Faithfulness

Scripture: "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much..." (Luke 16:10)

Focus: Pray for grace to be faithful in the small tasks. Ask God to shape your heart through daily routines, simple kindness, and quiet service.

Week 2: Rest and Renewal

Scripture: "Come to me, all you who are weary... and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Focus: Offer thanks for the gift of rest. Pray for those who carry heavy burdens and need space to breathe, heal, and be renewed in body, mind, and spirit.

Week 3: Paying Attention to God

Scripture: "Surely the Lord is in this place - and I did not know it." (Genesis 28:16)

Focus: Pray for an awareness of God's presence in your everyday surroundings. Ask for a heart that notices beauty, need, and opportunity to love.

Week 4: Becoming Like Christ

Scripture: "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:5)

Focus: Pray for the Spirit to shape us in humility, compassion, and courage. Lift up our church community as we seek to reflect Jesus in all we do.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Dear all,

Welcome to the latest issue of the Pastorate Update. This past month has brought moments of celebration, service, decision-making, and connection across the pastorate.

From Stepanka

Over the last month, there have been several **business meetings** taking place – Cheshunt Elders, Broxbourne Elders and Broxbourne Church meeting with AGM. We will be meeting with Hertford Elders on 1st July.

I have done a lot of research to help with successful recruitment process of the **part-time Children's and Youth Worker**. A fine-tuned advertisement and job description are almost ready to go public in the hope of attracting suitable candidates and appointing at the end of August. Your prayers are urgently needed.

I held a **group safeguarding training session** at Broxbourne last week. It went well despite the very warm weather - all participants achieved their Foundation Level certificate. Thank you to all who attended and James and Mark for helping to set up. I am happy to report that across the pastorate

70% of people have now completed their DBS checks and 80% their Safeguarding Foundation Level Training.

My working hours will go back to 4 hours per day Monday to Friday from next month. The safeguarding project has been very time consuming, encroaching on my admin work. It is still not finished. All safeguarding work will be absorbed into my admin hours going forward as I do not wish to extend my hours any further. Thank you for your patience and continued cooperation.

Please note that there will be **no pastorate updates** over the next 2 months due to holidays. Mark will be away from 10th to 22nd July and I will be visiting my family in Czechia from 23rd July to 6th August. We will both need time to catch up after our holidays. We hope you will all have a lovely, relaxing summer!

Finally, you may have heard the **All Nations' announcement** which came out at the end of last month. The college is preparing to leave Easneye by autumn 2026. This doesn't mean that All Nations are closing, only that, with God's help, they will be operating differently in the future to better fulfil their mission. Please see the full announcement attached.

From Mark

At **Hertford**, we marked a joyful occasion with a **special birthday tea for Fran** in celebration of a significant birthday. It was a warm and thoughtful gathering, full of appreciation and good cheer.

I also helped Fran prepare the church sanctuary for the visit of the **Mill Mead School Choir**, who took part in the Sunday service on 22nd June. The church members were looking forward to welcoming them and sharing in a service enriched by music and young voices.

Our weekly **Open House** continues to be well attended, with the hot potato lunch on the second Thursday bringing people together for conversation, warmth, and a shared meal. Our most recent Pause for Thought on the third Thursday was a welcomed space for stillness and reflection — an opportunity to breathe, think, and pray in the middle of the week.

At **Broxbourne**, we held our **church AGM**, where good decisions were made and progress mapped out. It was a productive meeting, and we look forward to the months ahead with a clearer sense of direction and renewed purpose.

On **Pentecost Sunday** (8th June), we celebrated with an enjoyable all-age service that also marked our church anniversary and gift day. Everyone took part (young and the not-so-young) and it was a joyful expression of the Spirit's movement among us.

At **Cheshunt**, we welcomed two **new members** during the service on Sunday 15th, a reminder of the ongoing life within our congregation. On Sunday 22nd, we also ordained and inducted **Max as a new elder** into our leadership team. We give thanks for his willingness to serve and for the shared calling we hold together.

In practical news, the **roof repairs** at Cheshunt are now complete - thanks especially to Jenny's efforts - a significant and necessary improvement to the life of the building.

Looking beyond the pastorate, I will be attending the **URC General Assembly 4-7th July**, where I serve as Convenor of the Business Committee. This is my final year in the role, which in part, involves preparing the agenda, which includes papers to be discussed, worship, Bible study, and presentations, and ensuring that the business runs smoothly and on time throughout the four days. The Assembly will be streamed live daily from 4th July via the URC website and YouTube channel, so if you're interested, do tune in and follow along.

Bible Passage for Reflection

"There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord." – 1 Corinthians 12:4–5

How are we using our gifts, our time, and our presence to build up the body of Christ? In what ways are we contributing to the life and witness of our churches?

Prayer

Faithful God,

We give thanks for the life of our churches, for the moments of celebration, the work of leadership, the joy of music, and the gift of new beginnings.

May your Spirit continue to guide us in all we do.

Help us to listen well, to serve generously, and to build strong communities of care and love.

Bless the work of the General Assembly and all who gather there. May wisdom, grace, and discernment guide every conversation.

Keep us rooted in your Word and open to your Spirit ~ Amen.

Dear Friends,

As you must be aware, our much-loved friend, Dorothy Kelso passed away on Friday 6th June, her 80th birthday.

Gordon and his family have received so many, many messages of condolence, love and support – a real outpouring of love for such a special lady and for her devoted husband and family in their time of grief.

Gordon has asked me to put the details of Dorothy's funeral and wake in our magazine so that as many of those who knew and loved her are able to be present, to celebrate her life, to pay their respects, and to support those who mourn - and each other.

So here are the details:

The funeral will take place on Tuesday 8th July at 12 noon at Wollensbrook Crematorium, Hertford Road, EN11 9BN. It was Dorothy's wish that the service should be held there.

The service will also be live-streamed. You can watch it live or on demand at

<https://watch.obitus.com> using the following login details:

Username: zuku9559

Password: 910557

In addition, a tribute and donation page has been created in Dorothy's memory at

<https://dorothykelso.muchloved.com>. You may also access this page using the QR code below:



Mark will lead the service.

There will be family flowers only; however, donations to support the work of the Isabel Hospice in Dorothy's memory are warmly encouraged. A collection basket will be available at the Crematorium, and donation details are also provided above.

Gordon says that there is no expectation of a particular dress code. Whether you choose to dress traditionally, or perhaps in Dorothy's favourite colour of green, or indeed in whatever way you feel comfortable - please just be present and at ease.

After the service, everyone is welcome at The College Arms (London Road, Hertford Heath SG13 7PW) for lunchtime refreshments, to share memories and enjoy each other's company. If you need any more information please ask an elder.

PART-TIME CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORKER Broxbourne

URC ABOUT US We are a United Reformed Church in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. We are a friendly, inclusive and welcoming church, proud of our heritage, but forward looking and innovative.

Everyone is welcome in our church. As a church family we are offering a flexible opportunity for someone with a love of God, children and church.

THE APPLICANT We seek a motivated and enthusiastic Children's and Youth Worker who can help us nurture and grow the existing work with our young people, working with our children's team volunteers. A committed Christian with a passion and ability to share the gospel with children and young people. This post may suit someone seeking flexible, part-time hours, wishing to develop their skills or changing career.

EXPERIENCE We are looking for someone who has experience in working with children and young people in a church or community setting. The age group is currently 9-15. Location Broxbourne United Reformed Church, Mill Lane, Broxbourne EN10 7BQ

THE POSITION This position is important for the spiritual development of children and youth, supporting their faith journeys and fostering a welcoming, inclusive environment for all families. The postholder will focus on carrying out their role at Broxbourne URC, while gradually developing a model that the other two churches in our pastorate could adapt in their future work with children and youth. We'd love to chat with you about creating a bespoke role that draws on your gifts. Hours 16 hours a week - flexible, including some Sunday mornings and mid-week and evening events. Contract and salary Three-year fixed term. £16 per hour. 20 days paid leave and 8 days paid statutory holidays per year pro rata. Workplace pension scheme offered. Responsible to the Minister and supported by him and volunteer members.

HOW TO APPLY Please apply for an application pack to our Pastorate Administrator, Mrs. Stepanka Moysey at urcnlvg@gmail.com For informal inquiries, please contact our Minister, the Revd. Mark Robinson revdmarkr@gmail.com. Visit our website: www.nlv.org.uk The closing date for applications is noon on Monday 18 August. Interviews will be held after Monday 25 August.

Commitment for Life

Update from Zimbabwe

When her family farm began struggling, Blessings' husband moved to the city to find work.

"Things were hard," remembers Blessings. "We were living hand-to-mouth and had to wait for provisions to be sent from my husband. I found life really tough – doing everything on my own, trying to get something out of the land in drought. When I managed to harvest something, I couldn't get decent prices."

Blessings tells how things changed for herself and the wider community with the coming of BRAC, a *Commitment for Life* sponsored project in Zimbabwe. "The project taught us about disaster risk management, and this helped us plan what we need to do in case of droughts and even price fluctuations. The 'climate smart' agriculture training made us realise we can use less fertilisers, farm without cattle to help us plough and still get a harvest even when the rainfall is low. We can also grow feed for our livestock in our fields and make hay for the cattle and goats. This was all completely new to us."

Thank you to you for your wonderful support for BRAC through *Commitment for Life*. People all across Zimbabwe, like Blessings and her family, have had their lives transformed.

Fairtrade Note

Action for Fairer Tea - Brew it Fair

Apart from water, tea is the world's most popular drink. However, it is more than a drink, it's a daily ritual, a comfort, enjoyed during a break or while catching up with loved ones. In Britain we drink over 100 million cups of tea every day! However, behind every cuppa lies an untold story – the people who carefully pick the tea leaves and carry up to 30 kilograms on their backs at a time. They face poverty, unsafe working conditions and climate change, leaving them unable to plan for their future.

Do it Fair: Campaigning for Change in the Tea Industry are asking the UK government to Brew it Fair. Act by signing their petition at [Sign | Fairtrade Foundation](https://www.doitfair.org.uk/sign) and calling on the government to take stronger action in the tea industry. In addition, they encourage us to purchase Fairtrade Tea.

A summer 'harmony project' invitation from Jill Nugent

I invite you to take part in a little project with me over the summer - writing and illustrating scriptures from Mark's Gospel. The idea is, for each of us that would like to be involved, to write out some verses of scripture from Mark's gospel on an A4 piece of paper, then illustrate it in whatever way we want, so that together we can create a display of the chosen scriptures

in the autumn. The idea is taken from my admiration for illuminated gospel manuscripts such as the Lindisfarne Gospels.

I shall arrange for each of our three churches to have an A4 sketch pad and a collection of coloured pencils so that you can take some paper and borrow some pencils, unless of course you have your own at home. You may prefer to use pastels or paints, it's up to you. I am not expecting any particular standard of illustration and am hoping children might like to have a go too. It's merely an opportunity to enjoy being creative.

If you'd like to be involved, please contact me via email or message

jillnug@hotmail.com 07757811050 or via one of your church elders

so that I can either allocate you some verses, or you can tell me which you'd like to do. That way we can make sure we have no duplicates. Thank you. I look forward to seeing what we can produce together.

A poem

A Picnic in the Garden

I do like to picnic in the garden
I'm never alone

There's a pigeon at my feet
And wasps around my head

There's a robin peeking at me
And ladybirds in the veg

There's a bee in the lavender
And a squirrel dashing through

There's a magpie chatting to me
And a worm slinking by

There's a slug in my lettuce
And a snail in my sandwich

So I'm never alone
And I even get to share my lunch

Thanks to God
Surrounding me with wonderful wildlife

Enjoy your summer 😊