

Cheshunt Free Church Newsletter June 2025

Services in June

- 1st Worship with Evodian Fonyonga
- 8th Worship with Sandra Rose
- 15th Worship with Mark Robinson
- 22nd Worship with Pearce Robinson
- 29th Worship with Kathleen Laing



Dear Friends

Pentecost always arrives as something of a surprise. We have walked through Lent, through Holy Week, through the silence of Holy Saturday and the wonder of Easter. We have stood in awe of the resurrection and its invitation to live with courage and hope. Then, on a day like any other, Pentecost comes. It meets a group of ordinary people who are gathered and waiting. They may still be uncertain, yet God chooses that moment to begin something new. Pentecost does more than honour what has come before, it opens the way into what is ahead. The Spirit comes like wind, like fire, like breath. The Spirit speaks in many tongues, gathers people who had been scattered, turns fear into witness and silence into singing. From that moment, the church begins to move. Its life is not built from structures alone, but from peoples' hearts made alive to God. Pentecost reveals a community awakened by grace, shaped by love, and drawn into a mission that crosses every border and barrier.

This is a story of trust. The Spirit fills the world from within, stirring courage, healing what is wounded, and creating space for what once seemed impossible. And the Spirit still moves. The Spirit gently unsettles what has grown too still, brings comfort that restores, and continues to call. This Pentecost, let us reflect on what it means to be God's people shaped by the Spirit. We begin with listening, with space to hear God's voice, and with a willingness to follow. The Spirit offers wisdom that steadies, deepens love, and draws us outward with compassion that takes action. May June be a month of openness for our hearts, our churches, and our prayers. Let us wait together and trust that God is already near, speaking and moving among us.

With blessing,

Mark

June Prayer Themes – Life in the Spirit

This month, our prayers follow Pentecost and the movement of the Spirit in our lives and in the world. They invite us to remain attentive, courageous, and open to the ways God is forming us as a community of love, peace, harmony and renewal.

Week 1: Waiting with Hope

Scripture: "They all joined together constantly in prayer..." (Acts 1:14)

Focus: Pray with confidence as you wait on God's guidance. Hold before God all who are seeking clarity, and give thanks that even in the waiting, God is present and preparing the way.

Week 2: Welcoming the Spirit

Scripture:“ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 2:4)

Focus: Ask for a renewed awareness of the Spirit’s presence in your life and in the life of our church. Pray for a readiness to embrace what God is offering and for joy in what is unfolding.

Week 3: Speaking with Grace, Listening with Love

Scripture:“ Each one heard them speaking in their own language.” (Acts 2:6)

Focus: Pray for conversations that bring understanding and connection. Ask for the Spirit’s guidance in listening deeply and speaking with kindness, especially in places where healing is needed.

Week 4: Living by the Spirit

Scripture:“ The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...” (Galatians 5:22–23)

Focus: Pray for your life to be shaped by the Spirit’s gifts. Lift up our church community, asking God to strengthen us in patience, generosity, and faithfulness as we serve and grow together.

Pastorate Update

Psalm 95:6-7

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Dear all,

This past month there were many moments of insight, connection, and joy across our churches. Each of these and other moments, large or small, should remind us of the rich life of our churches and the many ways we continue to be connected, encouraged, and renewed.

From Stepanka

After one year and two months in my role, I attended my URC induction day called ‘You’re Welcome!’ at the URC House in London. It was a very useful and informative day with four different sessions and lovely company of eight other participants. I took some helpful materials away to share with the churches. We have interviewed a couple of applicants for the part-time Children's and Youth Worker position, but sadly neither of them have been selected due to their lack of experience. We are currently seeking feedback and advice from people in the youth work field and will be re-advertising again soon. Please continue to pray for the right candidate.

The May Market was a great community event, well supported by the pastorate. People from all three churches came to enjoy it, and some to help too. The event was well attended with a good number of visitors not just enjoying the lovely food and pretty stalls, but also visiting the Church sanctuary. The total amount received from the event was ...drumroll, please... £2,436.71, which is a record! Many thanks to all who helped on the day. My focus from next week will be on supporting people whose Safeguarding Foundation training and DBS checks are still outstanding to complete them by the end of June. We are grateful to all those involved in this process for their help in keeping everyone safe.

From Mark

I attended the Ministers' Spring School, where ministers from our Synod of Thames North and from Eastern Synod gathered, along with two visiting ministers from the Czech Republic (Stepanka's home country). Our theme was Inter-related: Church as a Community of Difference. A highlight for me was the Bible Study where we focussed on finding what is hidden and bringing it to the centre. We explored the lives of those who worked with Paul particularly Phoebe, Priscilla and Aquila, Junia, and Tertius, and considered how their relationships, experiences, and contributions shaped Paul's letters and ministry. In addition to the rich Bible study, we looked at themes such as intergenerational worship, intercultural identity, and how our varied lives and perspectives intersect within the life of the church. These conversations, both formal and informal, were a reminder of the strength that comes from learning and sharing together as colleagues.

At Broxbourne May Market, I hosted a table promoting the life and activities of our churches. Though only a few visitors stopped by while I was there, some flyers were taken, and meaningful conversations were had. If we try this again, I hope to create more of a draw to encourage greater engagement. The sanctuary was kept open throughout, and many appreciated the chance to sit quietly or ask questions—something I believe was valued by those who came through.

Also at Broxbourne, I attended the Friday Celtic prayers led by Jill. This was a deeply meaningful time of prayer, shaped by thoughtful and contextually rich reflections. I would warmly encourage you to come along if you are able. It is a gentle and grounding way to close the week.

At Hertford, the annual Art Exhibition brought vibrant life to the church hall. It was a joy to see such creativity on display and to celebrate the gifts of artists within the community. Alongside this, the Hot Potato Lunch was very well attended. It is a warm and lively gathering, full of conversation and shared appreciation over a simple, delicious meal.

At Cheshunt, we shared a joyful afternoon of music, song, and dance as Yinka Williams performed. Her energy and talent created an uplifting atmosphere, and it was wonderful to gather together for such a life-affirming event. Looking ahead, Cheshunt will be opening its doors to the wider community for a free Coffee Morning on Saturday 24th at 10:00am (flyer attached). This is a lovely opportunity to meet new people, welcome neighbours, and simply be present in the heart of the community. All are warmly invited.

Bible Passage for Reflection

"So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another."
Romans 12:5

What gifts, stories, or perspectives do we bring to the body of Christ? How might we listen more deeply to those around us and find strength in our shared belonging?

Prayer

God of many voices and shared journeys,

Thank you for the gift of harmony, for the gifts of your people and the unity we find in you.

Help us to listen with care, to serve with joy, and to welcome with open hearts.

May we continue to grow as communities of grace, where all are valued and all are heard.

Guide us in your love, and lead us in the work of peace and connection ~ Amen.

Poem

Harmony in Colour

Out in the woods
It's sunny
And windy.
Cool air wooshes through tall trees,
Catches on fresh new leaves,
Casts dancing patterns,
Along winding paths.

Paths of dry earth
Where tiny stones scrunch underfoot
As they lead the wanderer
To carpets of bluebells,
A feast for the eye.
Though not to be outdone by
The resplendent white and yellow
Of daisies and dandelions.
A double dose of brilliance
To divert the gaze.

Paths leading through
Sparkling white May blossom,
That nods and waves
In the breeze,

To a mixed palette
Of herby undergrowth,
Violets, pinks, creams and blues
Where peacock butterflies
Flit amongst the flowers,
Flashing red spotty wings.

Paths running alongside
Fields of buttercups,
Dots of bright yellow poking out
Of long green grass.
Nearby, blackbirds sing their
Cheery tunes and
Robins show off red breasts,
As they zip speedily
From tree to grass
And from grass to tree.

A full wheel
Of colour harmony,
Gifted by God.
A gem of creativity
Enhancing the gift of nature
For us all.



Events

Drop-in art group

Broxbourne URC Lounge Tuesday 17 June 2.00-3.30 pm

Weekday worship

Broxbourne URC Lounge Friday 20 June 1.15-1.45 pm