



JUNE 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,

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.

PRAYERS

Continue to pray for Bob, Fran and their family.

Continue to pray for Jan Carter

Continue to pray for Phoebe

Continue to 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

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.

MILLMEAD SCHOOL CHOIR
Sunday 22nd June at 10.30 am

We look forward to the return of the Millmead School Choir on 22nd June, they will be taking part in our morning service. We always enjoy their visit so pop the date in your diary and invite a friend to come and hear them. We have been delighted to be able to take the School's Christmas and Easter Assemblies



**MILL MEAD
SCHOOL
CHOIR**

**SUNDAY 22ND JUNE
10.30AM**

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN
US FOR OUR MORNING
SERVICE TO HEAR THE
MILL MEAD SCHOOL
CHOIR

EVERYONE WELCOME

HERTFORD UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
COWBRIDGE SG14 1PG

DROP IN ART GROUP

Tuesday 17th June, 2 – 3.30pm

Broxbourne URC Lounge.

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

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Friday 20th June, 1.15 – 1.45 pm

Broxbourne URC Lounge

An opportunity for a short time of worship

FAITH by Colin Hammacott

When your prayers at times appear to go unanswered,
And the words of your worst doubters seem so true,
When it seems the whole wide world is all against you,
Just put your faith in God and you'll pull through.

When your life is like a maze with no known exit,
And your future appears to be as black as night.
When it seems that all your efforts end in failure,
Just put your faith in God, he'll see you right.

For those who put their faith in God have reason,
For confidence to face each trial and test,
And know better times are just around the corner,
For faith is the soft pillow that gives rest.

Thames North Synod
Eco Day 2025
Indoor and Outdoor
Speaker: David Britton
Operation Noah

*Using our Buildings and Land
for Climate Justice*

7th June 10:30am—4pm

St Albans United Reformed Church
Watford Road, St Albans, AL2 3HG

For more information and to book, email Colleen-
modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

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.

UPDATE ON ORGAN

David Emsley kindly gave Mike some information on T. C. Lewis, the owner of the Company that built our organ. However, as I was unable to scan this document, I have printed a few copies and put them on the back table.

A few more diary dates

Saturday 7th June – URC Eco Green Day at St Albans URC, Watford Road, St Albans AL2 3HG

Sunday 8th June – 7.30 pm, Mimram rehearsals in Church.

Monday 9th June – 7.30 pm, H & DCT Forum Meeting at Methodist Church.

Sunday 22nd June – Millmead School Choir join out Sunday morning Worship
7.30 pm, Mimrams rehearse in Church.

READING has been on my mind a lot recently.

I was listening to a Desert Island Discs podcast. At the end of a fun interview, the singer and actor Cher was asked which book she would take with her to a desert island.

Without hesitation, she said, "The Saracen Blade" by Frank Yerby".

It is a historical romance, published in 1952. But its importance to Cher is that it's the first book she ever read, given to her by then-boyfriend Sonny Bono.

Being a late starter meant she could remember and appreciate her introduction into the wonderful world of books.

As a bibliophile from "Janet And John" days, I could not possibly identify the first "proper" book I read. I envied her that.

My grandson, Oran, is learning to read. He knows his letters and delights in stringing sounds together.

There's a children's poetry book we read.

Oran was entertained when, reading about a horseman stopping in snowy woods, he worked out that the poet's name was Frost.

I'm excited for the lifelong journey of learning and entertainment he is embarking on.

All my children are readers. That might be my proudest achievement!

Recently, someone told me I was reading too much into something they said.

My response, unspoken, was that they probably hadn't read enough into it.

As a child, I spent years trying to read people.

I learned most people think very little about why they do what they do. But the story is always there.

It will inevitably be a story of love – or lack of it.

The poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote, "If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility."

That history is visible in how they treat others and themselves.

Imagine if we could read that language as adults – if we could recognise and turn for help to the loved, recognise and help the unloved.

Reading is a progression. We begin by sounding out letters. I moved on to "Sparky", "Beano", Enid Blyton books, science fiction, fantasy, history, science...

I occasionally revisit old favourites, but the trend is onwards and upwards.

So, what do we read after we learn to read ourselves and each other?

In the letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul wrote, "For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made."

Another secret history, perhaps? But a story that is there for anyone to read, a story that will captivate and inspire for a lifetime.

That would be a reading group worth joining! 📖

JUNE 2025

1 Jun	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by our Minister Revd Mark Robinson, to include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
4 Jun	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
5 Jun	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning
8 Jun	10.30 am	Morning Worship - led by Rev David Bradburn
11 Jun	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
12 Jun	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning – followed by Hot Potato Lunch
15 Jun	10.30 am	Morning Worship – led by Chris Hall
18 Jun	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
19 Jun	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning, including Pause for Thought, led by Mark Robinson.
22 Jun	10.30 am	Morning Worship – led by John Ellis, including the Millmead School Choir.
25 Jun	8.00 pm	On-line Prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
26 Jun	10.00	Open House Coffee Morning
29 Jun	10.30	Morning Worship – led by Janet Bird

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.

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