



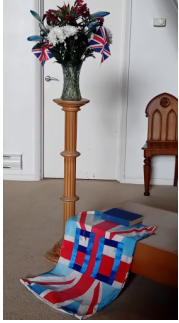
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June 2025

Heroic and brave



Mary writes:

"I arranged these flowers for the VEDAY 80 in memory of Jack, my Dad's navigator, who died when Dad's plane was shot down in the Mediterranean in 1944. He was just 21.

Here is Suzanne receiving a second MET police bravery award at Alexandra Palace in May. She chased a man



with a knife, after he had stabbed a person several times. She called for back up and she and they arrested the man. Her colleague also received an award for saving the victim's life."

Congratulations to Suzanne—we pray that you stay safe.

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

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.

Jill writes:

Drop in art group

Tuesday June 17th 2-3.30pm

Broxbourne URC lounge

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

Worship half hour

Friday 20th June 1.15 -1.45 pm

Broxbourne URC lounge

A time of worship including Celtic style liturgy, readings and prayers.

Worship this month



June 1st 10.30 am	Brox URC	Laurence Sinden
8th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Revd Mark Robinson Pentecost. Anniversary and gift day. Communion. Faith Lunch. All ages.
15th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Sandra Rose
22nd 10.30 am	Brox URC	To be confirmed
29th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Revd Mark Robinson

REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR DIARY

COMET Please come along if you enjoy togetherness - that is meeting friends over a cuppa in the church hall and having a chat and possibly a game of Rummikub. There are occasionally special sessions such as fish and chips. It is on Mondays, 2-4pm, in the church hall.

SHORT MAT BOWLS Every Thursday evening in the church hall. Please speak to Alan Earl if you would like to join.

AFTER EIGHTS is now open to gentlemen as well as ladies. A programme of interesting talks in the church hall on the first Tuesday of each month from 2pm-4pm. If you are interested in attending a meeting please speak to Brenda McAuliffe or Marion Hall - or just go along at 2.00pm.

PRAYER GATHERING every Wednesday at 8pm via Zoom for approximately 45 minutes. All are welcome to come and pray silently or aloud, or to be still and enjoy an oasis of peace - please contact Rosemary Woodall for further information email rosemary.woodall@ntlworld.com or to be included in the circulation list.

BIBLE STUDY Generally fortnightly in the Oasis Room at 2pm on Wednesdays: 4th June. Speak to Laurence Sinden. Tea/coffee and biscuits.



MAY MARKET

5TH May 2025

Team Woodall and Bite have this year been virtually blown away with the outcome of our Market.

We start early in February, sending out notices to previous stallholders and to online sites encouraging newbies to hire. We also advertise in local free magazines and of course the ubiquitous posters in shops etc as well as social media.

We decided to repeat last year's format with tea and cake, with fewer Church stalls and were told not to expect the profit we made from last year's Market.

Well how wrong was that statement! Despite a dismal day initially, God sent us the sunshine, albeit later, and folk flocked from near and far to sample delectable cream teas with Church-made fresh scones and a hot drink plus a slice of cake from the ladies in the kitchen. The community purchased crafts from the visiting stallholders, as well as from our usual stalls of Homemade produce, Vintage items, Last chance stall and thanks to Marion a new stall entitled Accessories, which did a roaring trade. But the icing on the cake, or garden, was the plant stall or mini garden centre on the front lawn, manned by Ian and Chris with plants (6 carloads) from our garden, and a van load from the local Nursery, as well as pots and garden ornaments, including a pig!

We had opened the Church Sanctuary and some well-

informed church members gave guided tours. Mark displayed notices regarding activities in our Church, which were taken, hopefully to peruse and turn up to one of these in the future.

Amanda was like the Nursery Rhyme King, up in the counting house (vestry) and a few days later we had the amazing, outstanding, record-breaking total of **£2436.71**, well up on last year's magnificent sum!!

However, it's not just down to The Team of 4 because without each and every one of you, we could not have staged this event, let alone made it this profitable.

So, all our love and thanks go to the folk who sorted, cooked, baked, grew, created, set up, attended the car park, guided, manned or womanned a stall, bought, packed away, tidied, cleaned, counted money and then rested!! (apologies if I've missed someone's title out)

A ginormous vote of thanks. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful support from you all, as without your help this year's May Market would have been similar to the weather, damp and just making a small puddle of money!

Thank you.

Mary, on behalf of the Team

Now see Page 6.....



May 5th 2025—a busy day in the kitchen,
Stalls did very well—especially Marion's vintage one. Good to see Jenny and Geraldine.



From Churches Together:

Dear All

Some new families have recently come into the Delta Hotel, and we are in need of the following:

- Scooters for primary age children to help them get to school; Summer clothes for teenage boys; Summer clothes for women

Any donations can be brought to the office at St Catherine and St Pauls Church, during weekday mornings. Tel 01992 462127

With best wishes

Diana

Diana Forrest

07768 782389

From Dorothy B:

Young Life are running our yearly Car wash to raise funds to help kids to go to camp and hear about and encounter Jesus. We would love to see you there and please spread the word so we can send as many as possible.



IN OUR CHURCH HALL — JUNE

3rd 2.00pm After Eight's The Lord Mayor's Show Dave Willetts

24th 7.45 for 8 pm SE Herts RSPB Local Group: Roy Woodward—Herts Natural History Society recorder—
'Dragonflies of Hertfordshire and the UK.

Very Quick Recipe for Microwave Choc Chip Cookies

Cooking brings Faith (Made on 4th May by Junior Church)

Ingredients

1. 90g (about 4oz) butter/margarine
 2. 2 tablespoons brown sugar
 3. 4.5 tablespoons S.R. flour
 4. 1 tablespoon chocolate drops + 3 extra per cookie to decorate
- In addition 2 dinner plates lined with greaseproof paper

Recipe

Cream butter and sugar.
Gently stir in flour and chocolate drops (if too

dry add a drop of milk or water)
Bind together with hands and make a thick sausage shape.
Cut into 12 pieces, roll each piece into a ball and flatten.
Place around the outside edge of each dinner plate- 6 on each.
Decorate each with 3 chocolate drops.
Bake each plate in Microwave 800 for 1.5 minutes (adjust times for 900/650)
Cool and enjoy !!

Broxbourne Food Bank Please remember to bring donations to the foodbank as our communion offering.

*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?

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.



May Market - the Sequel - Wednesday 21st May at Hoddesdon Market

Amanda planned and organised a free stall for our church under the clock tower. The team of Amanda, Rosemary, Mary and Dorothy sorted items from the stock in the creche room, including those which had been out at our sale events on repeat occasions. We set up 3 tables with last chance, glass and make an offer goods. Passers by were interested immediately. All the glass sold!

Amanda writes: 'Thanks to the selling skills of our two leading sales ladies, Rosemary and Dorothy. Thanks also to Mark for all his help as well, in so many ways. Thanks too to Alan L, who joined the sales team. Huge thank you to Chris for stepping in at the last minute and driving/carting all the tables, steps, and boxes of goods to Hoddesdon. With overwhelming thanks to our Heavenly Father, for answering our prayers, and once again sending the right weather.'

The overall total was £223.50, which includes a magnificent £25 of donations to the Church. The team had some good conversations with those interested in our stall and there were many happy customers. The creche room is much tidier too.

Dorothy B

United Reformed Church Broxbourne

You are warmly invited to be part of our Anniversary and Gift Day Service on Sunday 8th June at 10:30am.

This is a significant moment in the life of our church family. A time to give thanks for all that God has done and continues to do through the life we share. It's a celebration of faith, community, and the journey we're on together. The service will include Holy Communion, and afterwards, everyone will share in a Faith Lunch. A joyful time around the table.

Gift Day is also a meaningful opportunity to respond with generosity and gratitude. Special envelopes are available at the back of the church. For those unable to be present, gifts can be passed on to an Elder in any envelope. If you give through Gift Aid, please include your name or Gift Aid number. Donations can also be made online:

Sort Code: 20-20-37
Account Number: 20207263
Reference: Gift Day

This day is rooted in thanksgiving, belonging, and hope for the future. It will be good to be together.

With every blessing,
Mark





Mark writes:

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.



Amanda’s Eco-hint for June

June already!

It's been a dry Spring. Reservoirs will be getting low. So save water every way you can. Put a Water Hippo in your toilet tank to reduce the flush.

Try 'if it's yellow, let it mellow.

If it's brown, flush it down.'

Save bath/shower water and use it to flush the toilet.

Simple, but just don't leave the tap running. Turn it off, eg whilst cleaning your teeth.

Don't wash the car. Or the patio.

Save rainwater every way you can.

Prioritise acid-loving plants and plants such as astilbes which

needs damp soil.

Use a bowl when using the tap. Use washing up water to water plants. Soapy water actually deters plant pests.

Remember birds and wildlife generally may be struggling to find drinking water. They can't drink soapy water, so would appreciate a bowl of fresh drinking water. And a container of sand to have a dust bath and clean their feathers.

Look out for migrants birds arriving. Especially swifts and swallows. Hopefully some will use the nesting boxes put up at the Church.

Avoid cutting back hedges or ivy, as there could be nesting birds or young ones hidden in there, and you could frighten the parents away.