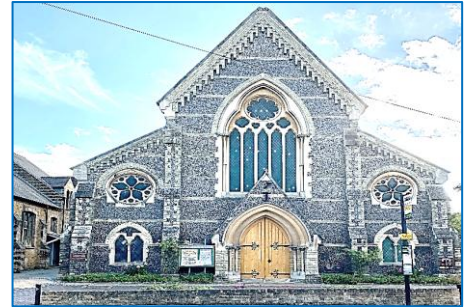




*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**



**JULY/AUGUST 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,**

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

.....

### **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.

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## **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 Bernard Ward

Pray for people known to you that they may know God's love and strength

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## **PASTORATE UPDATE**

### **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

Copies of a letter from All Nations are on the back table for anyone who would like to read it.

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# 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](mailto:urcnlvg@gmail.com)  
For informal inquiries, please contact our Minister, the Revd. Mark Robinson [revdmarkr@gmail.com](mailto:revdmarkr@gmail.com).

Visit our website: [www.nlvg.org.uk](http://www.nlvg.org.uk)

The closing date for applications is noon on **Monday 18 August**.

Interviews will be held after Monday 25 August.

***DROP IN ART GROUP***  
**WEEKDAY WORSHIP**

Drop in Art Group - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2 – 3.30 pm

Broxbourne URC Lounge

Worship Half-Hour – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July – 1.15-1.45

Broxbourne URC Lounge

**PLEASE NOTE, THERE WILL BE NO GROUPS IN AUGUST.**

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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.

# Moving Stories

## Commitment for Life

Committed to supporting our global partners **ZIMBABWE**

### Action for Fairer Tea – Brew it Fair

Do you enjoy a cuppa? How do you like it – with sugar? Strong? With milk?

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.



FAIRTRADE  
FOUNDATION

Fairtrade

**Do it Fair.** Campaigning for Change in the Tea Industry are asking the UK government to Brew it Fair. Act by signing their petition [Sign | Fairtrade Foundation](#) and calling on the government to take stronger action in the tea industry. In addition, why not purchase Fairtrade Tea?

**W**hen the 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 BRACT, 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



Blessings and her sister processing sunflower oil using the group oil press.

Photo credit: © Christian Aid

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 BRACT through *Commitment for Life*. People all across Zimbabwe, like Blessings and her family, have had their lives transformed.

Dorothy's Funeral:

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 that knew and loved her are able to be present, to celebrate her life, to pay their respects and to support those that 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. There will also be a live stream of the funeral service available online at the following link: <https://dorothykelso.muchloved.com> 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. There will be a collection basket at the Crematorium as well as details of how to donate on the Order of Service.

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 choose, please just be present and be comfortable.

After the service everyone is welcome at The College Arms (London Road, Hertford Heath SG13 7PW) for lunchtime refreshments, to share so many memories and to enjoy each other's company.

Any further questions, please feel free to ask.

Rosemary

(07740 460118)

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Please join us for the Baptism of Kaleb Marcus Francis Thorne – born on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2024.



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**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.

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## A FUTUREhope Summer

Hello all!

Time for a little update from the team here at FUTUREhope!

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## Summer 2025

2025 at FUTUREhope has brought so many opportunities to speak into the lives of young people. Through our mentoring programme and Friday night bus sessions, we have seen God moving within the many struggles young people are facing. We are so thankful for our team of volunteers who give up their time to make this possible. From our fundraising, to our detached work in Ware and Hertford, they are the beating heart of the charity who constantly turn up for the young people we serve. Check out the Volunteer Corner further down to get an insight into what it's like to serve on a team!



## Drop In Update

This term we took the decision for the Drop In Café to take a break. Drop In has been rich in our interactions with young people on their way home, but when we were alerted to the need for increased provision around Hartham, we saw this as an opportunity to redirect our energy by taking the Bus there. We have already had great sessions handing out hot chocolate at this new time, as well as parking up alongside the Community Police during their project around knife crime awareness. So despite Drop In being on pause for now, we have been able to continue to meet with young people on Wednesdays, allowing us to check in with a wider range of youth outside of our usual Friday night slot.

## Wider Connections

Being a local charity enables us to get involved with local events in the area, as well as going further afield to connect with like-minded people. Here are some highlights from the past couple months...

### **Healthy Relationship Programme in Sele**

Thanks to a recent grant from SNG, Owen and Jane have been able to deliver a Healthy Relationship Programme to selected students at Sele School. In these sessions we explore relational skills such as how to build healthy, balanced friendships, dealing with toxic behaviour and growing our positive mindset. We look forward to delivering the rest of the programme in

coming weeks, as well as to more young people in Sele and elsewhere.

### **National Youth Strategy**

In May we were happy to host an event led by the Hertford and Stortford MP Josh Dean talking to local young people about their issues, concerns and hopes for the future. This consultation was part of an initiative that will feed in to the government's proposed new Youth Strategy. It was good to see young people engaging in this opportunity to help shape the provision for them in the local area.

### **Annual Mayor Making at County Hall**

In a rare visit to County Hall that didn't involve picking up the Bus, the team were invited to the Annual Mayor Making in the Council Chambers. We observed Rachel Carter stepping down after a fantastic year of service and support to Hertford as well as FUTUREhope, and we welcomed in Steven Watson as the new Mayor for 2025/26

### **St Mellitus/Youthscape Annual Lecture**

Owen and Dave attended the Annual Lecture at St Mellitus College, Earl's Court. It was given by writer and theologian Dr Andrew Root who spoke on the subject of "Anxious for a Generation - Exploring a Theology of Well-Being for Young People".

It was a fascinating and inspiring talk that looked into how society and technology have led young people to retreat into themselves and the importance of youth work in creating an "inter-space" where we and God meet them. It was also good for Owen to revisit his old college and catch up with people he knew there

### **Faith and Fundraising Conference**

Led by Stewardship and held in the Royal Geographical Society, South Kensington, this conference aimed to encourage and equip those working for charities and churches in dealing with and raising money for all areas of ministry. Owen and Jon were able to connect with various organisations offering advice and insights into the world of financial giving, and came away inspired to implement these into the work of FUTUREhope.

### **A few more diary dates**

1 <sup>st</sup> July	Elders meeting at 1.30 pm
15 <sup>th</sup> July	LAG Meeting at Palmers Green at 7.30 pm
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Infant Baptism as part of Sunday Service, 10.30 am
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Joint Service at Broxbourne Church, 10.30 am

21<sup>st</sup> August                      Joint Elders Meeting at Broxbourne URC

5<sup>th</sup> October                        Church Meeting with AGM

PLEASE NOTE: Mark will be on holiday from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

Max Asiedu was recently voted in as an Elder at Cheshunt Church and was ordained on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Diane Price was recently voted in as an Elder at Broxbourne Church and will be ordained in September.

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### JULY 2025

2 Jul	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
3 Jul	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning
6 Jul	10.30 am	Morning Service – led by Martin Bird, All Saints Church
9 Jul	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
10 Jul	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning – followed by Hot Potato Lunch
13 Jul	10.30 am	Morning worship – led by John Ellis, to include the Sacrament of Holy Communion
16 Jul	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt Churches
17 Jul	10.00 am	Open House Coffee Meeting
20 Jul	10.30 am	Morning Service – led by Martin Bird, All Saints Church
23 Jul	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
24 Jul	10.00 am	Open House Coffee Meeting
27 Jul	10.30 am	Morning Service – led by John Ellis, to include the Baptism of Kaleb Thorne
30 Jul	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
31 July	10.0 am	Open House Coffee Meeting

## AUGUST 2025

3 Aug	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by our Minister Mark Robinson, to include the Sacrament of Holy Communion
6 Aug	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
7 Aug	10.00 am	Open House Coffee Meet
10 Aug	10.30	Morning Worship – led by Janet Bird, All Saints Church
13 Aug	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
14 Aug	10.00 am	Open House Coffee Meeting – followed by Hot Potato Lunch
17 Aug	10.30 am	Morning Worship- Joint Service at Broxbourne URC
20 Aug	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
21 Aug	10.00 am	Open House Coffee Meeting
24 Aug	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by our Minister Mark Robinson
27 Aug	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
28 Aug	10.00 am	Open House Coffee Meeting
31 Aug	10.30 am	Morning Worship – led by Martin Bird, All Saints Church

***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 70847***

**MINISTER: REVD. MARK ROBINSON, 6 Tudor Rise, Broxbourne, EN10 7HB**

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