



**July/August
2025**

BROXBORNE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MAGAZINE

Minister: Revd. Mark Robinson 07510782031 revdmarkr@gmail.com

Treasurer: Amanda Harwood E-mail : harwoodamanda2@gmail.com

Pastorate Administrator: Stepanka Moysey Mob 07362592580 urcnlv@gmail.com

What sweltering weather it has been for us recently. How glad I am not to be setting up a tent at a major pop festival—but what fun for those who are young enough and wealthy enough to go along unphased by heat or wet mud. Apparently the difficulty lies in being spoiled for choice once the programme gets going and each of the stages has a well-loved performer. The sad part is learning of the way camping gear is left abandoned at the end of the 5 days. The budgets of the jolly festival-goers cannot be so tight if their accommodation means so little.

And what of their consciences about waste? Let's hope the tents may be recycled and possibly some of those who have so recently been forced to seek refuge away from home may benefit.

Enjoy your holidays.



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?

Please remember to visit the Commitment for Life web-page to see who we can be supporting and praying for—at the moment people in Zimbabwe. Remember to drink Fair Trade tea!

Jill writes:

Drop in art group
Wednesday 2nd July 2-3.30pm
Broxbourne URC lounge
Come along to spend time exploring a variety of creative art materials at your leisure.

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

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.

Worship half hour

Friday 11th July 1.15 -1.45 pm

Broxbourne URC lounge

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

Dorothy Kelso 1945-2025

Very sadly, Dorothy died on her recent 80th birthday.



Dorothy said of the church that it was like her second home—she had been devoted to her job at the Pre-school and when she retired she threw herself into many aspects of church life. Just as she showed such love and care for others they remember her with real affection. Telling Comet members that Dorothy had died was to see real sorrow in the faces of people who had received much kindness from her. ‘Oh she was so kind, she brought me a wheelchair from the church when I couldn’t walk’. Dorothy and Gordon spent much of their time visiting those in the church who needed an extra bit of care and company and that was really appreciated. She led the Junior Church at a time when there were record numbers of children - many of whom are still in touch with each other. She was always cheerfully doing things for the church—the windows, baking, tidying and sorting, café church, endlessly doing refreshments etcetera etcetera, and much of the time she was content to conscientiously get on and not worry about being thanked. I hope she felt the gratitude that we all know we owe her.

Thank you, Dorothy, may you rest in peace.

Rosemary writes:

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. 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. Mark will lead the service.

There will also be a live stream of the funeral service available online at the following link:
<https://dorothykelso.muchloved.com>

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.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to ask.

Rosemary



By scanning this QR code or following this link

[Tribute to Dorothy Kelso, 1945 - 2025](#) you can go to a web-page and write some thoughts about Dorothy and make a donation to the Isabel Hospice in her name.

Worship this month



July 6th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Jackie Hall
13th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Martin Wells
20th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Natasha Appiah Julian Templeton attending
27th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Revd Mark Robinson
Aug 3rd 10.30 am	Brox URC	Elders

Please turn over for the complete August programme.

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 and continuing during the summer.

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: 9th July. Speak to Laurence Sinden. Tea/coffee and biscuits.



Worship in August

Aug 3rd 10.30 am	Brox URC	All age service Elders
10th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Tony Davis
17 th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Revd George Watt Communion Joint service with Hertford and Cheshunt
24th 10.30 am	Brox URC	Evodian Fonyonga
31st 10.30 am	Brox URC	Anne Pulford

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.



HARMONY

The project of writing, planning and creating
scripture art is a truly spiritual journey
which brings us closer to God and ourselves
and the community of believers.
Use in harmony with the mission. Do not be proud!
Instead, accept with the mission. Do not be afraid!
Love and peace. (John 13:1)

Dorothy writes:

Brief highlights from the Church Meeting and AGM on 16 June

Eldership Diane Price was unanimously elected to the Eldership to join Rosemary, Natasha and Amanda. Thank you Diane!

Finances

While the balance at the end of May this year is minus £2,310.20, there is good news. The May Market made £2,436.71, with a further £233.50 from sales at our charity market stall and an additional £200 from after sales. Gift Day giving is £2,502.50 so far. The draft financial report for 2024 has been circulated.

Safeguarding is everyone's business. Stepanka asked the congregation to watch a video about the Ethos of Safeguarding in the URC: <https://youtu.be/LcC-XqapZtM> (This was shown at the start of the service on 22 June) See also Pastoral Update issue 13.

Congregation safety and security

After discussion about an intruder, it was agreed to leave the church door open before, during and after the service, as we are a welcoming church. -The welcomer will ensure that the lounge and hall doors are locked and close the door from the stairs into the Upper Room. -At the end of the service the Upper Room doors will be locked. -The bell which sounds upstairs will be mended and a notice will point to the bells. If anyone absolutely needs to be in church alone, they must tell someone. It was agreed that these safety and security decisions would be publicised in our magazine

Christmas Market 29 November 10.30-2.00. Volunteers please!

Helen Knight can no longer organise the craft stalls. Dorothy B

warned that unless someone volunteers to organise the craft stalls and unless 2 or 3 people volunteer to manage the refreshments, the Christmas Market would not happen this year. All offers of help to Dorothy Blatcher please. Charities for Christmas giving. It was agreed that Mark would consult Gordon on the charity to be chosen for the Christmas market tithe in memory of Dorothy- Gordon has chosen the Isabel Hospice.

Appointments

Representatives were appointed to other bodies and within the Church by election and to other functions recognized and ratified by AGM.

There are still vacancies for a representative on Thames North Synod, for a church secretary and for a Kitchen Steward.

Please ask Mark for information if you are interested.

David Davies was appointed as archivist. Julia Davies agreed to be appointed as Health and Safety Co-ordinator, subject to receiving a copy of our third-party insurance

Reports from the Minister, Elders and from those representing us and leading various groups will be collated into the Church Life report for 2024-25.

Many thanks to everyone!

Church Meeting has decided that late Autumn/Winter meetings be held following Sunday services because of dark and cold)

Looking ahead:

Christmas Market Saturday 29 November 10.30-2 pm

Carols by Candlelight Sunday 14 December 6pm

Christingle Service Sunday 21 December 10.30am

GRAPEVINE

Alan Earl writes:

I am constantly reminded of the strength of support and Fellowship within our church family. In particular that shown to me and the family over the recent weeks after Graham's passing to a better world.

It is at times like these that I am so proud and thankful for your great outpouring of love including the many cards of condolence sent to me and the family.

I would also like to thank Mark, our minister, who took care of the funeral arrangements so well.

*

We send our sympathy and condolences to Dorothy Kelso's family and friends as they grieve. Please keep them in your prayers and especially remember them on July 8th, the day of her funeral.

Please also remember Marcelle Tilley, Marion Hall and Betty Wratten who are all under the weather at the moment,

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

David Davies writes:

B3 Living are having a Community Day

We would like to invite Churches Together to our Community Day on Thursday 14th August 25, if you were able to host a stall this would enable you to have interactions with local residents in Hoddesdon and Broxbourne,

The event would run from 11.30-2.30pm with set up from 10.30am.

We are holding it on the [Pound Close Recreation Ground or Rye Park , Parks Herts,](#)

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.

Dorothy writes: **Dates for your diary**

Dorothy's Kelso's funeral Tuesday 8th July at 12 noon at Woollensbrook Crematorium

1st July After Eights Speaker is cancelled but all are welcome to come for a cuppa.

17 August Pastorate service with Hertford and Cheshunt

7 September Commissioning service and communion

28 September Harvest Sunday and bring and share faith lunch

Sunday 23 November the next Church Meeting will follow the church service led by Mark (not Monday 3 November as originally planned).

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

PART-TIME CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH-WORKER VACANCY

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.

Website <https://nlvg.org.uk/>

If you would be interested in acquiring a desk, please speak to James Smith who has one he doesn't need.