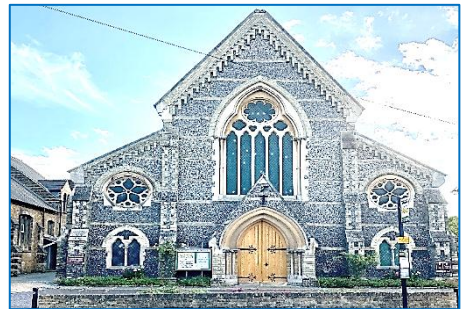
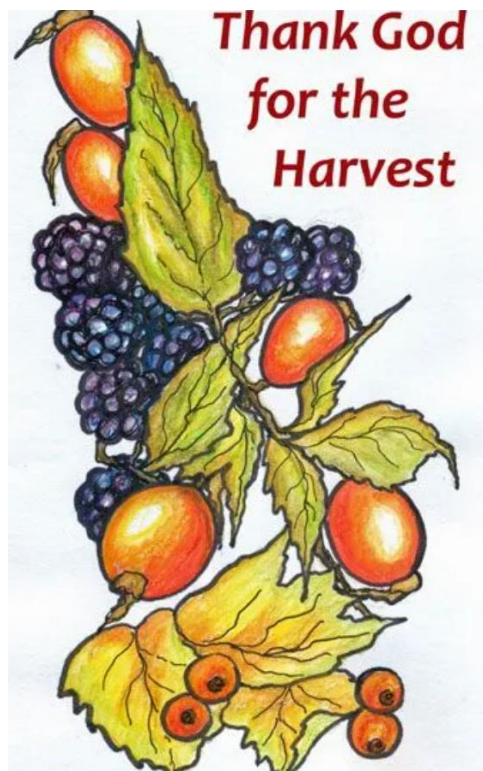




*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**



HERTFORD, Cowbridge, SG14 1PG



**SEPTEMBER 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**

September draws us into harvest season. At Broxbourne and Hertford we will soon gather for our harvest services, and at Cheshunt we will celebrate in October. These moments matter. They remind us that every loaf of bread and every piece of fruit is a gift from God; seed given, soil nurtured, harvest gathered. As Paul writes, “God supplies seed to the sower and bread for food ... and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness” (2 Corinthians 9:10–11).

That is a wonderful promise. It tells us that harvest is never just about what we eat, but also about what we share. God grows in us a harvest of justice, kindness, and generosity. The apples and wheat on the harvest table point us to something larger; a vision where no one goes hungry, where food is valued, and where creation is treated with care.

As we celebrate in our different churches, let us give thanks for what we have received. And let us carry that thanksgiving into action: by sharing with those in need, by wasting less, by noticing the earth’s beauty, and by living generously with one another.

My prayer is that this harvest season will feed us in more ways than one: nourishing our bodies, yes, but also nourishing our hearts with gratitude, hope, and care for our neighbours.

Blessings,  
Mark

.....

## Prayer Themes for September 2025

### Week 1 – Thanksgiving for God's Gifts

Gratitude for the earth's abundance — seed, soil, rain, and sun.

Focus: Farmers, growers, and those who bring food from field to table.

### Week 2 – Justice in the Harvest

God's call to share fairly.

Focus: Those who hunger, those displaced from their land, and campaigns for food justice.

### Week 3 – Creation's Care

Cherishing the earth as sacred gift.

Focus: Climate justice, sustainable living, and those working to protect land, air, and water.

### Week 4 – Generosity as a Way of Life

The "harvest of righteousness" in our lives.

Focus: That our churches embody generosity, mercy, and hope in our communities.

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

Drop in Art Group - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2 – 3.30 pm  
Broxbourne URC Lounge

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### **FROM BROXBOURNE URC**



Our harvest service will be led by Mark Robinson on Sunday 28 September. Please bring tinned or dried goods for the Food Bank. If you are able to bring vegetables for decorating the church, please let an Elder know.

Followed by a faith bring and share lunch- all are welcome.

### **Letter from Gordon Kelso**

My family and I would like to thank everyone who sent good wishes to Dorothy whilst she went through the journey of her illness. All the cards, letters, phone calls, text messages and visits meant a lot to Dorothy and she appreciated everyone. I cannot name everyone in case I missed someone out but I have to say a big thank you to Mark for his steadfast and constant visits and phone calls to hear and see how Dorothy was, right up to the day she passed away when he arrived only minutes after she had passed.

On the day of the Celebration of her Life I was overwhelmed by the number of people who wished to come and be with us as we said our last goodbyes to Dorothy. I would also wish to thank Mark in the way that the Service was carried out and also those who spoke the kind words about Dorothy. I do appreciate that it was a longer than usual Service but I knew that was what was required and I hope that everyone understands why.

The wake was also very well attended and much enjoyed by everyone, and I hope that they all had enough to eat and drink.

I have had so many comments from people saying that they thought the time at the Crematorium and at the College Arms was a fitting tribute to Dorothy's Life.

Dorothy had a Tribute page where all the monies donated on line together with the money donated on the day is going to Isabel Hospice. I can tell you at the moment the amount collected so far is £2936.75 which the Isabel Hospice is so grateful to receive and I thank everybody for their generosity.

### ***Gordon & Family***

From                    Natasha                    and                    Iona                    Sure'e  
'Iona-Sure'e is 10 years old and celebrated her 10th birthday on the 3rd of August, with lots of God's love, lots of presents from friends, the church family (URC Broxbourne), and her family with smiles. Wow my daughter is a double digit now, where did the time go? I feel very honoured. Thanks to God for all your prayers and support, when I need it most. God bless all her health team around her.

A very thank you to everyone who made it possible to achieve Iona-Sure'e's special 10th birthday. Especially, Dorothy Kelso, thank you for everything. Even though you are no more with us, you did find a way to be part of this 10th birthday celebration. May your soul rest in peace in the hands of the Lord.

God richly bless you all. With much love from Iona-Sure'e & Natasha

### **Don Wratten's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday**



On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July we wished Don a very happy birthday.

**From Julia Davies**

**'I'm back at home after 5 weeks at Danesbury, hoping for more physio soon and improved mobility and a more usable left hand/arm. I'm really grateful to everyone for their cards, messages visits and prayers - all have really helped'.**

**Report from Dorothy Blatcher, Broxbourne URC**

**The "harvest of righteousness" in our lives.**

**Focus: That our churches embody generosity, mercy, and hope in our communities.**



**The Reverends George Watt (Moderator of the URC's Thames North Synod) and Mark Robinson led our Pastorate service on 17 August on the theme of 'Running to Jesus'. Thanks too to Debbie Pilgrim, our organist, for the wonderful music.**

**Readings: John 21 and Hebrews 12:1-2.**

**Our services in September:**

<b>7 Sept</b>	<b>Commissioning service with communion</b>  <b>Please bring a donation to the food bank</b>  <b>PCSO Nick Platt hopes to visit during coffee and would be happy to advise anyone on personal and home safety.</b>	<b>Mark Robinson</b>
<b>14 Sept</b>		<b>John Ellis</b>
<b>21 Sept</b>		<b>Sandra Rose</b>
<b>28 Sept</b>	<b>Harvest Service</b> <b>Please bring tinned or dried goods for the Food Bank.</b> <b>If you are able to bring vegetables and/or would like to help decorating the church, please let an Elder know.</b>	<b>Mark Robinson</b>

	<b>Followed by faith bring and share lunch- all welcome</b>	
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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.**

**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.'**

**Some lovely artwork has been created over the Summer. Jill will be in touch about an end date and possible exhibition.**

### **REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**COMET Mondays 2-4pm 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.**

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

**AFTER EIGHTS A programme of interesting talks in the church hall on the first Tuesday of the month 2-4pm. If you are interested in attending a meeting please speak to Brenda McAuliffe or Marion Hall - or just go along**

**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](mailto:rosemary.woodall@ntlworld.com) or to be included in the circulation list.**

**BIBLE STUDY and refreshments. Generally fortnightly in the Oasis Room at 2pm on Wednesdays. Next date: 3 September. Contact: Laurence Sinden.**

## **ADVANCE NOTICE OF EVENTS**

### **SEPTEMBER**

**Wednesday 3rd 2-4 Bible study group**

**Also Elders' meeting  
Tuesday 16 September 2-3.30 Art drop in in the lounge  
Sunday 28th Harvest service and faith lunch**

### **NOVEMBER 9th Remembrance Sunday**

**Sunday 23rd, Church meeting following the service**

### **DECEMBER**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Toy Service**

**14th 6pm Carols by Candlelight with the Broxbourne Handbell Ringers**

**21st Christingle service**

**Christmas Market Saturday 29 November 10.30-2.00**

**Please let me know if you can help in any way, setting up, running a stall, packing away, standing in while a stall holder grabs a break etc. If you would like to book a stall please would you do so through Mary Bite [hallletssec@hotmail.com](mailto:hallletssec@hotmail.com) (many thanks Mary) Tables are £12.00.**

**There will be many craft stalls, light lunches, refreshments and favourite church stalls.**

**Dorothy Blatcher**



## **EVENTS IN OUR CHURCH HALL—September**

**Tuesday 2nd 2.00pm After 8s 'Bringing up baby- a man's story of bringing up a child'.**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 7.30 for 8pm Friends of Lowewood Museum 'Serious crime in the Borough of Broxbourne 1570-1870' Ken Griffith.**

**Saturday 27th 7.30pm Hoddesdon Music Club The English Piano Trio – works by Haydn, Schubert, Rachmaninov and Schumann.**

**Tuesday 30th 8.00pm SE Herts RSPB Claire Robinson, Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust. 'Animal senses – sight, smell, hearing, touch and taste across the animal kingdom and who has the best sense'. Open to all.**

## **Young Life Camp Highlights**

**Hi everyone.**

**We had a great time at camp this year, many big steps in faith made from our time at camp and some amazing memories made. Thank you all for helping make this possible.**

**May God bless you all for your continued support in this ministry.**

**James Blunderfield**

**Poster found on a church in France (from Mary)**

***"When you enter this Church, it may be possible that you hear the call of God. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see him, send him a text whilst driving!"***

## **Amanda's Eco-Hint for September 2025**

**There are lots of berries on the bushes and trees. Does that mean an early Autumn? If so, the birds will have a feast, then not much – a long winter ahead. They will need our help with food and water. Check bushes before trimming them, in case of any late nestlings.**

**If you come across any sheets of bubblewrap, hold on to them. They cost a lot to buy, but are invaluable during cold weather. Use them to wrap pots to prevent frost damage, or use them to cover plants as frost protection. Large sheets**

could be used to line greenhouse windows, or even house windows in cold rooms.

Lift pots, raise them by putting large stones, bricks or pieces of polystyrene underneath them. To prevent slugs, insects etc from over-wintering in them, and to aid drainage for plants.

If you have a nesting box, which is not being used, now is a good time to empty it of old nesting materials, and sterilise it by pouring boiling water in it, so that it can be used as a winter shelter or roost by birds, small mammals or dormant butterflies.

Now is also the time to trim wildlife gardens, to remove cut grass and sow flower seeds for next year.

**Wildlife Monitoring at St Augustine's and St Laurence graveyards.**

We continue to monitor wildlife at the two Parish graveyards as part of their Eco status, and give advice. On 25 July we spotted: butterflies - Speckled Wood, Red Admiral, Gatekeeper, large and small white, Comma, Jersey Tiger; dragonflies - Brown Hawker and Southern Hawker; and many types of bee. There was plenty of food - apples, acorns, berries etc. Birds included Blackcaps, Goldcrests, Goldfinches and Great, Blue and Long-tailed Tits. Let me know if you would like to join a half hour survey at either graveyard.

**Dorothy Blatcher (Secretary, SE Herts RSPB Local Group)**

Recycling rubbish – from Mary Bite  
Mary has advised hirers that "We do not have facilities to recycle and therefore please ensure all your members are aware to take their rubbish home please.

Our poor cleaner is now fed up of separating items from the bins and having to take these items home with him to recycle. These include plastic items, especially bottles, cardboard/paper and some tins. There should be minimal items in the bins ie tea bags, as sadly some are not able to be put in any food bin, sweet wrappers etc

I have asked him to make me aware of days when bins have recyclable items in them.

Thank you for your understanding."

Update: Rubbish from Church folk can be collected free but not from hirers. Broxbourne Council will not issue recycling boxes or collect recycling from Churches. How much recycling do we generate? Do we need boxes? When we

**have Markets etc we take the rubbish home with us and we expect that all those who lead groups in the Church ensure that this is done too. Please!**

**Distribution: Debbie Boskovic:**

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## **HERTFORDCHURCHESTOGETHER**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September – Herts and Beds Cycle Ride

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Elders Meeting at 2 pm in the Church Vestry.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Mimram Singers and SAVoce Concert at 3 pm in the Church. This concert was cancelled at short notice on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

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# The Irish Wake

*How the Irish teach us  
to live, love and die*



A talk by Rev. Alan Stewart

An exploration of Irish customs around death  
and dying, and a reflection on a good death.

St Andrew's Church, St Andrew St Hertford

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.30pm

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## **BEDS AND HERTS CYCLE RIDE**

Cheryl is looking for sponsors for her “sit in” when she welcomes cyclists and walkers who visit our Church on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, for the Herts and Beds Bike ‘n’ Hike Event. Half the money raised goes to Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust which supports Churches in need of repair and half the money comes back to us. If anyone wants to take part by cycling or walking around the 9 Churches in Hertford please contact Cheryl.

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The Mimram Singers & SAVoce  
present



# I Praise the Tender Flower

*A concert of songs and poetry  
to celebrate mid summer*

**Sunday, September 21st  
3.00pm at the  
United Reformed Church,  
Cowbridge, Hertford**

**Refreshments provided  
(Retiring Charity collection)**



**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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## **Thank you letter from URC Finance Team**

A Letter of gratitude and hope

To all members and adherents of United Reformed Church and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

Grace and peace to you all.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the faithfulness and generosity you have shown to God's work through your local Churches. Your contribution – whether through time, talents, or treasure – have been a beautiful expression of discipleship and community.

### **Celebrating Faithful Stewardship**

In these challenging times, when many families have faced difficult decisions about household budgets, rising energy costs and the ongoing cost of living pressures, your continued commitment to supporting God's work has been truly remarkable. We have witnessed the Church at its best, caring for one another, maintaining ministry and mission and trusting in God's provision. Your financial contributions through the Ministry and Mission fund have enabled us to continue our shared calling across England, Scotland and Wales. Through this Fund we support ministers' stipends, theological training, Assembly gatherings and the vital central services that strengthen our witness and ministry in every community we serve.

### **God's Provision in Action**

We rejoice that in 2024, despite significant economic challenges, your collective giving to the M&M Fund reached £16.2m, slightly behind our budget, but late contributions in early 2025 would have taken us over our budget, had the auditors allowed us to bring them in. This achievement reflects not just financial commitment, but spiritual resilience and trust in God's faithfulness.

We are particularly grateful to the additional support from our Synods, who contributed approx.. £2m of the amount noted above, demonstrating the interconnectedness of our church family. Total income for 2024, including investment income and grants etc., was £18.5m.

While our expenditure of £20m resulted in a deficit of £1.5m for 2024, we remain committed to balancing our budget over the next 4-6 years through difficult, but necessary reductions in central costs and continued partnership between local churches and Synods.

### **Looking Forward with Hope**

As we move through 2025, we recognise that challenges remain. Economic pressures continue to affect both individuals and churches. Yet we face the future with confidence, knowing that God's call to faithful stewardship remains a constant and that together we can continue to serve Christ's mission in our communities

We have a clear plan: Synods have committed to maintaining their enhanced support, and we are implementing careful budget reductions of an average of 3-5% annually in our central costs. This balanced approach ensures we remain good stewards while maintaining our essential ministries.

### **A Call to Continued Faithfulness**

In the spirit of 2 Corinthians 9:7 your giving has been a source of joy and strength to the whole Church. As we move forward, we invite you to continue this journey of faithful stewardship, giving “as the spirit directs and as our means allow.” We understand that every church’s situation is unique and we celebrate with those who have been able to fully meet their full commitments, while also deeply appreciating those who, facing their own challenges, have continued to prioritise the M&M Fund within their means.

### **Partnership in Ministry**

As officers of our denomination, we treasure our roots in local URC congregations and LEPs. We understand firsthand the joys and challenges of local church life, including the financial pressures you face. This shared experience strengthens our commitment to wise stewardship of the resources you entrust to us. Your local church Treasurer has received detailed financial information and can answer specific questions about our accounts. If further assistance is needed, our finance team at Church House stands ready to help.

### **Our Deepest Thanks**

To every member who has contributed to their local church, to every congregation that has supported the M&M Fund, and to all who have made this work a priority even in difficult times – thank you. Your faithfulness enables ministry to continue, training to be provided, and the gospel to be proclaimed across our three nations.

May God bless you abundantly as you continue to be faithful stewards of all that He has entrusted to you. Together, we participate in God’s wonderful work of transformation, both in our own lives and in the world around us.

In Christ’s service.

Alan Yates, Treasurer

Vaughan Griffiths, Deputy Treasurer

***“Each of you should give what you have decided in your hearts to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”***



A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT  
OUR

# HARVEST CELEBRATION

SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 10.30am

Join us in celebrating  
Harvest

HERTFORD UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH



## DIARY SEPTEMBER 2025

3 Sep	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
4 Sep	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning
7 Sep	10.30	Morning Service – led by Ian Matthews
10 Sep	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
11 Sep	10.00 am	Open House Coffee Morning, followed by Hot Potato Lunch
13 Sep		Herts & Beds Bicycle Ride
14 Sep	10.30 am	Morning worship – led by Revd Mark Robinson, including the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
17 Sep	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt Churches
18 Sep	10.00 am 2.00 pm	Open House Coffee Meeting Elders meeting in the Vestry
21 Sep	10.30 am 3.00 pm	Morning Service – led by Jerry Forrester Mimram Singers and SAVoce Concert in the Church
24 Sep	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
25 Sep	10.00 am	Open House Coffee Meeting
28 Sep	10.30 am	Morning Service – led by Chris Hall

***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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