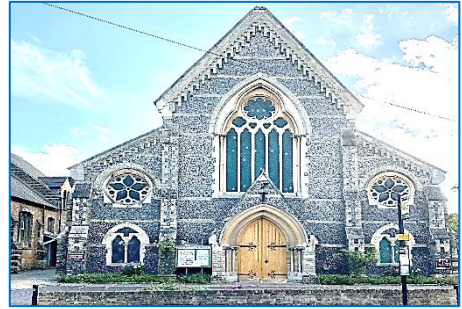




HERTFORD, Cowbridge, SG14 1PG



NOVEMBER 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,

November can feel solemn. Across our communities and in towns and cities, poppies bloom on coats and wreaths are laced on stone. There's a hush before the bugle sounds, a pause filled with remembrance and emotion. We remember.

Yet remembrance in faith is never only Looking backward. It is the heartbeat of relationship, the way God stays with us across time. Scripture speaks again and again of a God who remembers:

God remembers Noah and the flood begins to recede.

God remembers Sarah and new life begins.

God remembers the cry of an enslaved people and freedom rises through the sea.

To remember, in the way God remembers, is to keep love alive. It is to hold a promise until it becomes real. God's remembrance brings life, mercy, and restoration. Every act of remembrance in our worship, our silence, or our prayer joins that divine rhythm.

And yet, we give thanks for another kind of memory; the gracious forgetting that belongs to God alone. The psalmist sings of sins removed as far as east from west, of mercy that does not record the old ledger of wrongs. God's forgetting clears space for new beginnings. It opens the way for peace to grow again.

Remembrance Day invites both thankful memory and holy forgetting. We honour those whose courage and loss have shaped the world we inherit. We hold before God the pain that lingers in lands still torn by conflict. And we lean into the hope that grows when grace remembers love and releases shame. So as you wear your poppy, light your candle, or stand in silence this month, let that silence speak both ways: a remembering that heals and a forgetting that frees.

May the God who remembers in mercy and forgets in love breathe peace into every restless heart.

Grace and peace,
Mark

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Prayer Prompts – November

Week 1 – God Remembers in Mercy

Scripture: God remembered Noah... and the waters receded. (Genesis 8:1)

Prayer: God of mercy, thank You for remembering creation with love and holding us through every storm.

Action: Recall a time when God's care carried you through difficulty. Give thanks aloud or in silence.

Week 2 – God Remembers Promise

Scripture: Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. (Genesis 21:1)

God remembered Sarah and did as God had promised.

Prayer: Faithful God, renew Your promises in us. Let hope rise again in our hearts and in our world.

Action: Write one hope for the future of our church or community and place it somewhere you will see daily.

Week 3 – God Forgets in Grace

Scripture: I will remember their wrongdoing no more. (Jeremiah 31:34)

Prayer: God of grace, thank You for letting go of what harms and freeing us to begin again.

Action: Think of one burden or regret. Offer it in prayer, then release it; maybe by tearing a small piece of paper as a sign of release.

Week 4 – God's Remembering Brings Peace

Scripture: The steadfast love of God never ceases. (Lamentations 3:22)

Prayer: God of peace, remember our world with compassion. Let Your steadfast love mend what war and hatred break.

Action: Light a candle this week for all who long for peace; in homes, in nations, in hearts.

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A Measure of Breath – My New Book, Now Published

Some of you may remember I mentioned a book I had been working on for quite a while. I'm delighted to share that A Measure of Breath has now been published. It's been a long journey, shaped by faith, endurance, and reflection.

It's a contemplative novel that explores faith, silence, and healing, and it will soon be available through major booksellers.

Grace and breath,

Mark

PASTORATE UPDATE

Isaiah 54:10

*“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed,
yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,”*

says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

Dear all,

Sometimes it may feel like our lives are being shaken. How wonderful to know that our Father’s unfailing love and peace are steadfast!

From Stepanka: The business meetings that took place in the pastorate over the last month included Hertford URC Church and Annual General Meeting on Sunday 5th October and Broxbourne URC Extraordinary Church Meeting on Sunday 12th October. Mark’s update has more details.

I have attended a couple of very helpful URC safeguarding training sessions on Spiritual Abuse and Safeguarding Adults recently. The key message regarding safeguarding concerns: if something doesn’t feel right, if you are worried about someone, if a person is at risk of harm (abuse, neglect, discrimination or exploitation), if you are that person – talk to your Safeguarding Coordinator or your Synod Safeguarding Officer. We will listen, never judge you, treat your concern with respect and pass it onto the right people.

I have also found the online URC Safeguarding Symposium last week very helpful. It included a talk from [Restored UK](#) on domestic abuse which was insightful and thought provoking. A couple of takeaway notes I would like to share: 1. Did you know that studies show that the prevalence of domestic abuse is the same inside churches as it is in the general population outside of them? 2. Many victims make a disclosure to church leaders because they are often seen as trusted and authoritative sources of support within their community. This is why safeguarding training is crucial.

Just a reminder that URC Broxbourne Christmas Craft Market will take place on Saturday 29th November from 10.30 am to 2 pm. Please save the date, spread the word and let Dorothy Blatcher know if you would be willing to volunteer. It should be a very enjoyable and festive occasion!

All Nations Christian College are looking for some volunteers who may be able to help in the library with doing a stock take. Ideally, they would like a few volunteers who could come in

for half day/full day a week just for a few weeks between now and mid December. See the full information in the attached flyer. Please also save the date of Carols from Easneye, which will take place on Wednesday 3rd December at 7.30 pm - the last Carols from Easneye campus.

From Mark: This past month has been a time of discernment, remembrance, and faithful conversation across our pastorate.

At Cheshunt Free Church (URC), the congregation gathered for a significant Church Meeting on 21 September, where members prayerfully considered the way ahead and voted in favour of amalgamating with Broxbourne URC. This step was taken with deep reflection and with a sense of faith that God continues to move within endings and beginnings alike. The coming months will invite further listening, as we explore together how this new chapter will take shape; in worship, community, and shared ministry. The courage shown by the Cheshunt congregation is a witness to hope, even when the path ahead is still forming. At Broxbourne URC, an Extraordinary Church Meeting was held on 12 October following morning worship to respond to Cheshunt's resolution. Members agreed to support the spirit of unity expressed by Cheshunt and asked that more detailed work be done to clarify what amalgamation will mean in practice. The meeting reflected honesty, care, and a shared desire to discern God's will faithfully, ensuring that every decision rests on understanding and mutual respect.

At Hertford URC, we held our Annual General Meeting, where members reviewed the year's ministry, finances, and vision for the year ahead. It was an affirming moment; one that recognised the dedication of so many who quietly sustain the church's life through worship, pastoral care, property care, and community service. The conversation also looked forward, exploring ways to continue deepening engagement with the local community and strengthening our welcome and worshipping life.

Across the Pastorate, we give thanks for the appointment of a Children's and Youth Worker, subject to final references, the DBS and other checks. A start date will be agreed when all necessary checks and safeguarding training are in place. A milestone in our shared vision. This role will help us nurture faith among children and young people, strengthen intergenerational worship, and support the ongoing work already being done by volunteers and leaders in each congregation. It marks an important step in our commitment to growing a future rooted in faith, creativity, and care.

As November approaches, a season of Remembrance and Expectation, may we carry gratitude for the past and openness to The Spirit's guidance among us.

Bible Passage for Reflection

And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." (Isaiah 30:21)

As we take steps into new patterns of ministry and shared witness, may we remain attentive to the quiet voice that guides our path.

Prayer

Guiding God,

Thank you for the gift of conversation, courage, and hope across our churches.

Bless the work that has begun, and breathe life into the plans we carry forward.

May our gatherings reflect your wisdom and mercy, our decisions bear fruit in justice and love, and our journey together be marked by faith that endures and renews ~ Amen.

Volunteer Opportunity at All Nations Christian College Library

We're excited to invite you to be part of a meaningful chapter in the life of the All Nations Christian College Library—the largest cross cultural mission library in the UK, housing approx 67,000 volumes, some dating back to pre-1950s. This treasured collection has served generations of scholars, students, and local residents, enriching both academic pursuits and faith journeys.

As we prepare to relocate the library to a new home, we're looking for volunteers to help with the inventory process—an essential step to ensure every book is carefully recorded. Inventory involves ticking off each book on a printed list. **No prior experience is required—just a love for books and a willingness to help!**

Volunteer shifts are available on a half-day or full-day basis, allowing for flexible scheduling while ensuring smooth progress. We will provide lunch and we can contribute to your travel costs. In appreciation of your time, volunteers will be granted special access to borrow books, a privilege typically reserved for library members.

We aim to begin this project immediately and complete the inventory by mid-December 2025.

Ready to join us?

**Sign up today or reach out with any questions at
library@allnations.ac.uk**

We'd love to hear from you!



PRAYERS

Continue to pray for Bob, Fran and their family.

Continue to pray for Jan Carter

Continue to pray for Phoebe who is now in Addenbrookes Hospital with a damaged liver

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



Celebrate the work of the Hertford and Ware Foodbank

Sunday 23rd November

10.30am

Hertford United Reformed Church

Cowbridge Hertford

Everyone Welcome

DROP IN ART GROUP

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Drop in Art Group – Tuesday 11th November 2 – 3.30

9th December 2025, 2 – 3.30 pm

Broxbourne URC Lounge



URC Broxbourne
Mill Lane EN10 7BQ



Christmas Craft Market



Saturday 29th November

10.30am – 2.00pm



Many craft stalls as well as...

**+ home baking & preserves, plants, toys, gifts, & much more
+ refreshments & light lunches.**

Free Admission



Charity no. 1152449 10% donated to Isabel Hospice.

MILLMEAD SCHOOL

We are continuing to develop our partnership links with Millmead School. This Christmas the children will be making decorations to display in the Church and the year 6 children will be coming to the Church to help display them.

John will be going to the school to conduct a Christmas Assembly for key stage one.

We look forward to the school choir taking part in our Christmas Carol Service. Please invite your friends to join us on Sunday 13th December at 10.30 am to hear the Millmead School Choir.

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.

DIARY

Saturday 15th November – LAG Elders Away Day at Broxbourne URC

Tuesday 25th November – Joint Elders Meeting 7.30 pm

Date to be advised – Working party to do jobs in the Church.

FUTUREHOPE

COME AND SUPPORT US AT A FUNDRAISING OPEN HOUSE SALE WITH

HOME-MADE CAKES, CHRISTMAS AND OTHER STATIONERY AND CRAFTS

On Tuesday 18th November between 9am and 7pm, Carmen Hollis is holding an open house sale with her famous home-made cakes, a range of quality Flamingo stationery including Christmas cards, gift wrap, birthday and other greetings cards and some handmade crafts ideal for stocking fillers.

It will be held at 6 Glovers Close, Hertford, SG13 8DT.

Come along for a coffee or tea, a browse and a slice of delicious cake.

We're talking Coffee and Walnut, Victoria Sponge, Chocolate Fudge, Lemon Drizzle and more!

All profits will go to FUTUREhope Hertford and Ware to help fund our work with local young people aged 11-19

To avoid everyone arriving at once we're asking people to book a half-hour slot anytime on the 18th between 9am and 7pm.

Call or message Carmen on 07769680884 or email carmen@numero6.net to reserve a time.

DAIRY NOVEMBER 2025

2 Nov	10.30 am	Morning Service – led by Revd Mark Robinson, including the service of Baptism of Edward Lewis
3 Nov	10.15 – 12.15	Short Mat Bowls
5 Nov	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
6 Nov	10.00 am 2-4 pm 7.30-9.30	Open House Coffee Morning Short Mat Bowls Short Mat Bowls
9 Nov	10.30 am	Morning Service – led by John Ellis, including the Sacrament of Holy Communion
10 Nov	10.15 – 12.15	Short Mat Bowls
12 Nov	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
13 Nov	10.00 am 2-4 pm 7.30-9.30	Open House Coffee Meeting followed by Hot Potato lunch Short Mat Bowls Short Mat Bowls
16 Nov	10.30	Morning Service – led by Martin Bird, All Saints Church
17 Nov	10.15-12.15	Short Mat Bowls
19 Nov	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
20 Nov	10.00 am 2-4 pm 7.30-9.30	Open House Coffee Meeting Short Mat Bowls Short Mat Bowls
23 Nov	10.30 am	Morning Service – Led by John Ellis to include a celebration of the Foodbank
24 Nov	10.15-12.15	Short Mat Bowls
26 Nov	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
27 Nov	10.00 am 2-4 pm 7.30-9.30	Open House Coffee Meeting Short Mat Bowls Short Mat Bowls
30 Nov	10.30	Morning Service – led by Ian Matthews

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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