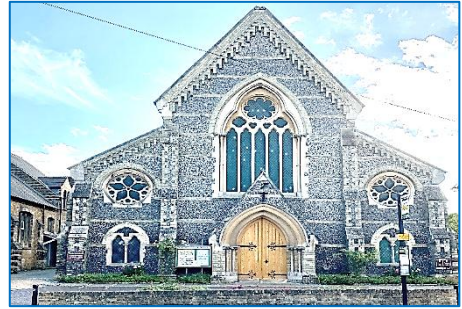




HERTFORD, Cowbridge, SG14 1PG



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,

October always brings change we can see and feel. The mornings are cooler now, evenings draw in more quickly, and the trees begin to turn and let go of their leaves. We notice it as we walk, as we drive, even as we look out of the window.

The writer of Ecclesiastes puts it simply: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Those words are a reminder that change is part of life; in nature, in our communities, and in our own journeys of faith. Some changes bring joy, others bring challenge, but God is present in them all.

For some of us, autumn is a favourite season; full of colour, freshness, and beauty. For others, the shortening days can feel heavy. And many of us carry our own changes in life just now: family milestones, health concerns, shifting routines. In all these seasons, God’s promise is steady; a presence that does not let us go.

As churches, we share this together. We celebrate harvest and give thanks. We pray for those who struggle. We look out for one another. We keep learning how to live as people of hope, trusting that God can bring fruit even in seasons that feel bare.

So as October unfolds, I encourage us all to notice the signs of God's presence around us; in the changing light, in worship that gathers us, in the kindness of a neighbour, in the quiet strength of prayer. Every season is held in God's hands, and so are we.

Blessings,

Mark

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Week 1 – Living Through Change

Theme: Trusting God in seasons of change.

Focus: Those beginning new stages in life, those facing uncertainty, and those seeking God's guidance.

Week 2 – God's Presence on Shorter Days

Theme: God's light in times that feel heavy or weary.

Focus: Those who struggle with health, loss, or the shortening of days, and all who long for renewal.

Week 3 – The Gift of Community

Theme: Walking together through all seasons.

Focus: Our churches, friendships, and families; giving thanks for the support and care we share.

Week 4 – Hope for the Future

Theme: Trusting God who holds every season in love.

Focus: Prayers for peace in the world, for creation's care, and for courage to sow seeds of hope

PASTORATE UPDATE

Matthew 6:33

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you."*

Dear all

We hope that you had some special time with friends and family over the summer and enjoyed some relaxing moments in the sunshine, which we have been very blessed with this year!

From Stepanka

The following **business meetings** took place over the last month: Joint Elders meeting; Broxbourne Elders meeting; Cheshunt Elders meeting; Hertford Elders meeting; and Cheshunt Church meeting. Preparation, taking part in, producing minutes and following up on actions from the meetings are currently taking up majority of my working time. The next business meeting will be the Hertford Annual General meeting on the 5th October.

Much work has also gone into the part-time **Children and Youth Worker recruitment** process. Mark, Dorothy, Rosemary and I are all part of the recruitment team. Three candidates have now been interviewed and one is coming back for the second part of the interview, which will involve interacting with children at Youth Church during the Broxbourne URC Harvest service on Sunday 28th September.

The pastorate now has a new **Safeguarding Policy**. It was endorsed by the Elders and signed by Revd Mark. It was also commended by the Synod Safeguarding Officer as an 'excellent Safeguarding Policy' - something I am very proud of! The next step is for the policy to be adopted by the church meetings, which will be done

over the next couple of months. It is attached to this email, available on our website and will shortly be on display in all the churches. Please take time to read through it.

You will also notice the **safeguarding posters** being on display at your churches. They are there to provide a quick reference on who to contact if you are worried about a child or adult at risk. A little clue - in most cases it would be your Church Safeguarding Coordinator = me 😊

The **URC Broxbourne Christmas Craft Market** will take place on Saturday 29th November from 10.30 am to 2 pm, see the attached flyer. Please save the date, spread the word and let Dorothy Blatcher know if you would be willing to volunteer. There are 12 guest craft stalls so far organised by Mary Bite and the Woodalls are again in charge of refreshments and lunches.

There will be changes happening for **Cheshunt Free Church** in the near future. Please pray for the Cheshunt fellowship as these changes unfold that they will know God's peace and strength and for Mark to know how to best guide the church in this season.

All Nations students will be starting their final academic year on Easneye grounds next week. Please pray for them and for the future of the college. If you would like to book an Afternoon Tea, please see the available dates under this link:
<https://www.allnations.ac.uk/events/afternoon-tea>

From Mark

This past month has been busy and carried moments of renewal, thanksgiving, and creativity across our pastorate.

At Broxbourne, we shared in a **service of commemoration and rededication**, reflecting on how God knows us through and through from an early age. The whole congregation took part; children and adults alike, with voices, prayers, and actions woven together in worship. It was a good reminder that the Spirit's call embraces all generations, and that each of us has a place in the life of God's people.

At Hertford, we gathered for our Harvest Festival. The harvest table was beautifully adorned as a rich sign of God's abundance. During the service, gifts were joyfully brought forward and placed on a second table, a living act of thanksgiving, generosity, and hope. We reflected on the way God uses small, ordinary things to do the extraordinary. That is what the kin'dom of God is made of. We now look ahead to our **Harvest celebrations** at Broxbourne and Cheshunt, where we will once again bring our gratitude into worship.

I look forward to seeing Jill Nugent's [Summer Harmony Project display](#), a creative expression of our pastorate's theme of harmony, in which some of us took part. It is always encouraging to see the gifts of art and imagination used to draw us into reflection and shared life together.

I also want to share something more personal with you. In 2021, during my sabbatical and just before my induction as minister in our pastorate, I began a theological project exploring people's perceptions of God and church in suffering and trauma. What started as a short dissertation gradually grew into something larger: [a theological novel](#). I am happy to tell you that a publisher has now agreed to publish it later this year. My hope is that this book will speak into our shared human experience with honesty and with faith. And perhaps . . . just perhaps, it might even make its way as a Christmas gift, something that holds together story, theology, and hope.

Bible Passage for Reflection

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." – Lamentations 3:22–23

Where in our lives do we see God's mercies made new? How can we open ourselves more fully to the daily gift of God's faithfulness?

Prayer

Faithful God,

We give thanks for the renewal of our commitments, for harvest gifts freely offered, and for the creativity that brings fresh witness to your love.

Bless our congregations as we worship and serve together.

Renew our trust in your mercies, morning by morning,

and guide us to walk in hope, generosity, and love ~ Amen.

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

DROP IN ART GROUP **WEEKDAY WORSHIP**

Drop in Art Group - Tuesday 14th October 2 – 3.30 pm
Broxbourne URC Lounge

Thank you to those who contributed to the Summer Harmony project. Altogether there are 20 'pages' which are now displayed in the Lounge at Broxbourne. Hopefully they will go to Hertford at some point.

Jill Nugent.

SAFEGUARDING DOCUMENT

This document is available in our Church and on the website. There are also safeguarding posters giving information on who to contact if you have any problems or concerns on Safeguarding

The URC Autumn Fair to be held on 4th October at Roydon URC

The URC

Autumn

Fair

at
Roydon URC Church, Harlow Road, Roydon CM19 5HF

Saturday 4th October

10.00-13.00

Stalls & Refreshments

Free Entry





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.

HERTFORD CHURCHES TOGETHER

6th October – 7.15 pm - Hertford and District Churches Together – meeting All Saints Church

15th October – LAG Meeting

18th October – North Thames Synod meeting at Lumin Centre

22nd October – Hertford Civic Society meeting in the Church – speaker from 'Mudlarks'

30th October – 2nd November – Hertford Art Society Selling Exhibition in Church Hall.

2nd November – Christening of Edward Lewis in Church.

Short Mat Bowls sessions start on Monday 6th October

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.

HERTFORD HARVEST FESTIVAL TABLE SEPTEMBER 2025





You are invited to Hertford URC's

SHORT-MAT BOWLS

Beginners and Players all welcome

A small selection of bowls is available and you
are welcome to bring your own - safe storage
during the week for your equipment.

MONDAY 10.15-12.15	:	HERTFORD UNITED
THURSDAY 2-4 PM	:	REFORMED CHURCH
AND 7:30-9.30 PM	:	COWBRIDGE HALL
	:	HERTFORD SG14 1PG

Contact Fran Spence on franjspence@gmail.com

DIARY OCTOBER 2025

1 Oct	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
2 Oct	10.00 am	Open House Coffee morning
5 Oct	10.30 am	Morning Service – led by Revd Mark Robinson, including the Sacrament of Holy Communion , followed by the Church AGM.
6 Oct	10.15-12.15	Short Mat Bowls
8 Oct	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
9 Oct	10.00 am 2-4 pm 7.30-9.30	Open House Coffee Morning, followed by Hot Potato Lunch Short Mat Bowls Short Mat Bowls
12 Oct	10.30 pm	Morning Service – Led by Janet Bird, All Saints Church
13 Oct	10.15-12.15	Short Mat Bowls
15 Oct	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt Churches
16 Oct	10.00 am 2-4 pm 7.30-9.30	Open House Coffee Meeting Short Mat Bowls Short Mat Bowls
19 Oct	10.30 am	Morning Service – led by David Ronco, Hertford Baptist Church
20 Oct	10.15-12.15	Short Mat Bowls
22 Oct	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches
23 Oct	10.00 am 2-4 pm 7.30-9.30	Open House Coffee Meeting Short Mat Bowls Short Mat Bowls
26 Oct	10.30 am	Morning Service – Led by Chris Hall, Ponders End URC
27 Oct	10.15-12.15	Short Mat Bowls
29 Oct	8.00 pm	On-line prayer meeting with Broxbourne and Cheshunt churches

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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