

# Amalgamation of Cheshunt Free Church and Broxbourne United Reformed Church

## Thanksgiving Service for Cheshunt Free Church Sunday 22 March 2026 3pm

The last service before amalgamation with Broxbourne United Reformed Church



Here are the Moderator, Revd George Watt, The Mayor of Broxbourne, Councillor Patsy Spears and Revd Mark Robinson. The Thanksgiving Service was both positive and rather sad. The Litany of the Journey reminded us of the past worshippers but also carried us forward on a continuing journey. Thus, we welcome members and friends of Cheshunt Free Church to Broxbourne!

Mark Robinson wrote in our April Pastorate News



'At the centre of this month was the Thanksgiving Service at Cheshunt Free Church on Sunday 22 March. Many who attended spoke afterwards of how moving and lovely the service had been. People gathered from across our congregations and beyond, including the Mayor of Broxbourne, the Synod Moderator who presided, the Synod Clerk, a number of lay preachers who have led worship over the years, former ministers, friends from Broxbourne and Hertford, and churches from across the area. It was a touching occasion in which we gave thanks for the long and faithful life of Cheshunt Free Church. During the service, the Moderator reminded us that we are pilgrims on a journey and that God travels with us. Meaningful reflections were offered by three

members of the congregation — Colin, Emma, and Josh — representing an elder, a child, and a young adult, and reflecting the breadth of the church community across generations. Prayers of thanksgiving were led by Jill Nugent. The readers included Dr David Davies, and the Gospel was read by Martin Legg. We were also blessed by Debbie's wonderful piano playing, which supported the worship wonderfully throughout the service. A powerful symbolic act took place as the Bible and communion vessels were placed on the communion table by Nathan and Colin, expressing our continuing journey of faith and the assurance that God goes with us into the future. The service was followed by a warm reception in the hall, where conversation, memories, and mutual encouragement were shared. My sincere thanks go to everyone who contributed to this memorable day: those who decorated the church and prepared the displays, those who prepared and served refreshments, those who cleared up afterwards, and all who gave generously of their time and energy. Particular appreciation goes to the Amalgamation Delivery Team, whose work has been and continues to be essential, to

the Worship Team for their careful help in preparation, to Maggie for her floral arrangements, and to Diane, Eunice, and the refreshments team for their hospitality.

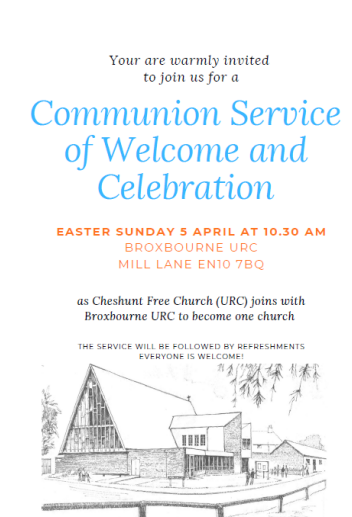
From Mark's letter published in the Church magazine April 20026:

'We gathered to give thanks for the long and faithful witness of Cheshunt Free Church, a place of prayer, service, memory, and belonging for generations. That thanksgiving was tender and yet carried weight. It was filled with gratitude for all that has been. At the same time, we now move forward as an enlarged community, as two congregations become one and three congregations become two. We yet reach out to thank God for new beginnings. Where there has been loss, there is also promise. Where doors have closed, others open. This is Easter work. Seeds fall into the ground

By the time you read this we may already have joined one another for our Welcome Service at Easter, when we formally celebrate Cheshunt's and Broxbourne's new shared life together. We do so as companions on a journey shaped by grace, and not as strangers brought together by circumstance. We carry forward the gifts, stories, and faith of all who have gone before us, trusting that God is already at work among us in ways we cannot yet fully see.

May this Easter fill you with courage.'

## Easter Sunday Amalgamation Service 5th April



Rosemary Woodall writes:

'Easter Sunday was a time of special celebration for our church. Not only were we celebrating with gusto that Christ is risen, for He is risen indeed, but we welcomed our brothers and sisters from Cheshunt Church as they all became one church, one fellowship and one family with Broxbourne at the start of a hope-filled time of new life together.

The service, led by our minister, Mark, was lively, thought-provoking, inclusive and encouraging with many special moments. 50-60 worshippers listened intently, contributed actively and sang enthusiastically. It was truly inter-generational with our young people *playing active roles - including a poignant moment when they processed thoughtfully down the centre of the church to the worship*

table carrying the elements for Holy Communion

Special video messages of blessings and good wishes were received from both the Moderator, George Watt and Martin Legg, the Convenor of our Local Area Group.



All members of the congregation were encouraged to add flowers to a cross made from the trunk of a previous Christmas tree to jointly create a thing of beauty and hope, appropriate for Easter. It formed the centerpiece of our worship and after the service was taken downstairs and placed in a front window facing onto the road to form a witness for passersby.

The young people excitedly told the congregation of their plans to form a new youth group to meet on Friday afternoons after school. Another Easter sign of encouragement and growth. After Communion, the congregation stood together for a celebration photograph – see above - before going to the hall to enjoy sharing a delicious simnel cake specially baked for the occasion. Many thanks to all who played a part in making this such a memorable occasion. Together we are an Easter People.'

A display of the history of Cheshunt Free Church, written by Dr David Davies, stands in the Upper Room at Broxbourne URC for all to view and reflect.