

January
February
2015

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

Somerset & Mowbray Roads, New Barnet, Herts, EN5 1RH

From the Minister

A Spiritual Re-set

Those of us who use computers find that sometimes the computer will not perform a basic task; one that it had readily performed thousands of times previously by the press of a button. In such a situation, when one has exhausted all the alternative ways of getting the computer to perform the same task, I resort to turning the computer off, pausing, then turning it on again. Once I've done this, the computer seems to re-set itself and the problem is solved.

As complicated as computers are, they are not nearly as complicated as people. I'm writing this on New Year's Day when, almost certainly due to over-exuberance in celebrating the New Year last night, I find that I'm not performing some basic tasks very well today: like producing a scintillating article for the newsletter! Rather than fighting inertia, I took Laura's advice and had a rest. Basically, I prayed and then I slept. When I awoke I found I had something to write about.

What I think happened is that I experienced a small spiritual and physical re-set. My prayer was an acknowledgement to God that I cannot do everything. This, in turn, evoked relief and thankfulness, and out of this I then felt inspired to write something (although I'll leave you to judge the extent of the inspiration!). Some of you may recall when I first began asking questions about whether we as a church were 'fit for purpose' I asked the rather irreverent and risky question: "Do we believe God is fit for purpose?" I asked that question because my hunch was that due to mechanisation, technology, a relatively high standard of living, and

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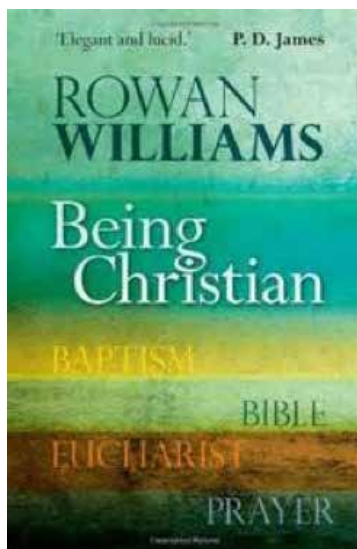
medicine, we think we don't need to rely on God any more. For most of our contemporaries, and even for some of us if we are absolutely honest, God seems superfluous.

Yet the reality that bears down upon us sooner or later is that despite all our technological and medical benefits, we humans in the developed world are still susceptible to disease, depression, economic crises, and relationship-breakdowns. Even more pressing is a nagging lack of purpose in life. Are we here merely to reproduce and then die? Most of the time we can ignore such questions; life is often a matter of going round our familiar well-worn grooves and taking refuge in distractions. However, when we find that we can no longer perform a basic task—a task as fundamental as forgiving or asking for forgiveness—we come to a crisis. What we need is a spiritual re-set. What we need is the help of One who can turn off the over-complicated rituals we have developed as coping or denial strategies, and re-set the basic functions involved in being a creature before God.

The gospel is the good news that God has provided us with

a re-set prototype creature—Jesus Christ, the new human—and by practicing the basic disciplines of the Christian life we can learn his settings. Of these disciplines the most basic is trust. Jesus trusted that God was his loving heavenly Father, and we are invited to share in his trust by becoming sons and daughters of God. The other basic Christian disciplines—worship, prayer, Bible-reading—are important, but they all flow from the basic willingness to trust Jesus Christ more than self. We will still have our malfunctions, since we will never be free from sin in this life, but by the discipline of spiritual re-setting we acknowledge that we are creatures who need God's transforming help, not just occasionally but continually. "Do not be anxious, but in everything make your requests known to God in prayer and petition with thanksgiving. Then the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

Julian Templeton



Lent Course 2015

Being Christian

by Rowan Williams

Mondays 2:30 pm Feb 23, March 2, 9, 16
The Manse, 11 The Fairway

Those who have heard Rowan Williams speak will know that he has a gift for expressing spiritual truths clearly. This small book (80 pages of medium-sized print) is a transcription of four talks he gave on Baptism, the Bible, the Eucharist, and Prayer. I invite you to join me at the Manse on four Monday afternoons to discuss each chapter in succession. Please email or telephone me by February 6 and I will order a copy for you. There is also the possibility, if there is demand, of another group discussing this book on another day or evening if enough people are available on the same day and time. If you're unavailable on a Monday afternoon but would still like to take part, please contact

me. To whet your appetite, I'll include a short quotation about prayer.

For the Christian, to pray—before all else—is to *let Jesus' prayer happen in you*. And the prayer that Jesus himself taught his disciples expresses this very clearly: 'Our Father'. We begin by expressing the confidence that we stand where Jesus stands and we can say what Jesus says.

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Fellowship November Meeting

Cruising by Train by Michael Peryer

The title of Michael's talk had many of us intrigued, how could you cruise by train? The answer started to become clear when we were shown a picture of the iconic statue of Sir John Betjeman at St Pancras station, where Michael & Dorothy climbed aboard the Eurostar for Paris. On arrival they were whisked to the cruising part of the journey, a small 24 berth river boat, which was to be their home for a few days.

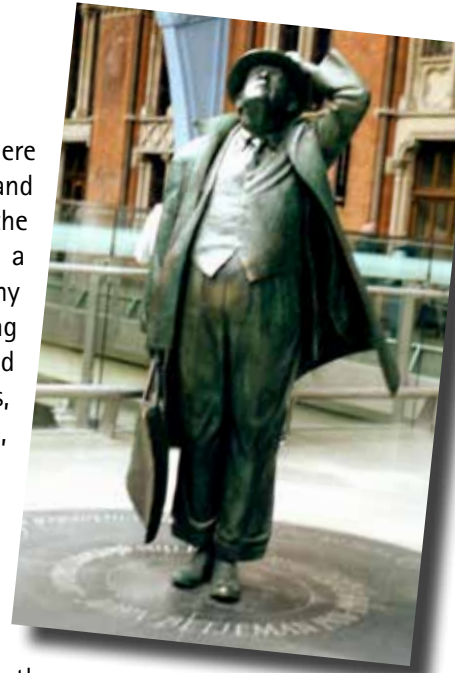
Full of enthusiasm for Paris they decided to walk from their boat, along the banks of the Seine to Notre Dame Cathedral, which did not look too far on the tourist map. Two long hot hours later they made it! Michael showed us some wonderful pictures of the Cathedral, particularly of the many stained glass windows. As adventurous tourists, and in keeping with the theme of the holiday, they got the Seine River Bus back to their floating hotel. Following the first, of what proved to be many lavish suppers, the following day they visited Giverny, the home of Monet. Clearly a favourite of Michael, he showed us a series of enchanting photographs of the home and gardens.

Following a cruise along the Seine and further visits to places like Versailles, they left the small boat and jumped on another train to

Freiburg in Germany, where they boarded a far larger and more luxurious boat on the Rhine. What followed was a whirlwind tour of Germany with many enchanting pictures of churches, stained glass windows, street scenes, statues, boats, the Rhine, from Freiburg, Heidelberg and after several days to Worms, the home of Martin Luther.

Their final cruising destination was further up the Rhine to Cologne, where they got on another train for the 300 Km trip to Amsterdam. Following yet another lavish supper, they staggered on to the train for the journey home to St Pancras. Michael left us with the impression that they spent most of the time eating and drinking fine food and wines. His audience realised that Michael was a fine photographer, with a good eye for a memorable picture, particularly of stained glass windows. I also suspect many will be looking for the holiday brochures on "cruising by train".

Ron Mobbs



Calendar

January 2015

January

January

Saturday 3rd	6:00pm	Winter Shelter
Sunday 4th	7:00am	Winter Shelter - Breakfast
	11:00am	Worship with Holy Communion - Led by Revd Julian Templeton
Monday 5th		School Term Starts [LBB]
Wednesday 7th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Thursday 8th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Saturday 10th	6:00pm	Winter Shelter
Sunday 11th	7:00am	Winter Shelter - Breakfast
	11:00am	Worship - Led by Paul Elsdon & Meg Hardie
Wednesday 14th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Thursday 15th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Sunday 18th	11:00am	Worship - Led by Revd Julian Templeton
	10:30am	Messy Church
Tuesday 20 th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting
Wednesday 21st	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	8:00pm	Fellowship - Dementia - Making a Positive Difference
Thursday 22nd	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Sunday 25th	11:00am	Worship - Led by Tony Alderman & David Paul
	3:00pm	Causeway
Tuesday 27th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park
	8:00pm	Justice & Peace Group
Wednesday 28th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	8:30pm	Men's Group at Railway Bell
Thursday 29th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry

Calendar

February – March 2015

February

February

Sunday 1st	11:00am	Worship with Holy Communion- Led by Revd Julian Templeton
Wednesday 4th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Thursday 5th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Sunday 8th	11:00am	Worship - Led by Roz Douglas & Alison Bond
Tuesday 10th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting
Wednesday 11th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Thursday 12th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Sunday 15th	10:30am	Messy Church
	11:00am	Worship - Led by Revd Julian Templeton
Monday 16th		1/2 Term Holiday this Week [LBB]
Tuesday 17th	3:30pm	Pastoral team Meeting - Vestry
Wednesday 18th		Ash Wednesday
	8:00pm	Fellowship
Thursday 19th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Friday 20th	11:55pm	Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record
Sunday 22nd	11:00am	Lent 1 Worship - Led by Richard Harvey & Brenda Sandford
	3:00pm	Causeway
Monday 23rd	2:30pm	Lent Group, 11 The Fairway
	8:30pm	Men's Group - Venue TBC
Tuesday 24th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park
Wednesday 25th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Thursday 26th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry

March

March

Sunday 1st		Church Record Published
	11:00am	Lent 2 Worship with Holy Communion - Led by Revd Julian Templeton
Monday 2nd	2:30pm	Lent Group, 11 The Fairway
Wednesday 4th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Thursday 5th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Sunday 8th	11:00am	Lent 3 Worship - Led by Andrew & Valerie Mills

21st January



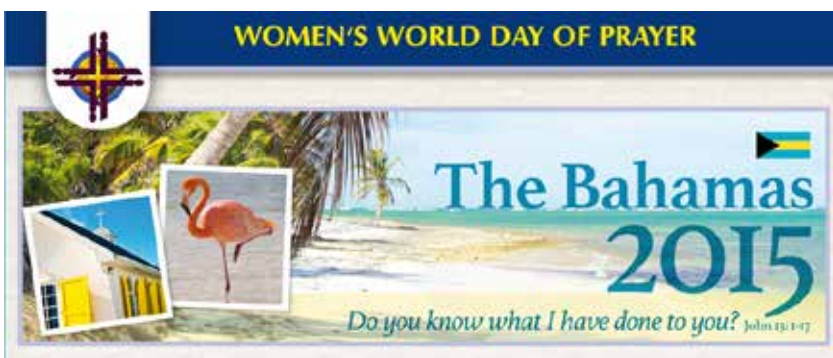
Next Fellowship Meeting

Some of you will know that I have been working for quite some time on a tool to help with communication for people living with dementia. As part of my work I have become a Dementia Champion. This means I am a volunteer and part of a national initiative to help people living with dementia feel included in their communities. I do this by giving an interactive talk about the personal impact of dementia, and what we can all do to help. At the end of the talk, over refreshments, anyone wishing to become a Dementia Friend can ask me about that.

I know that many find talking about this disease difficult but I hope to help remove the stigma attached to dementia. As the population ages, it is becoming increasingly common. There are over 40,000 people under 65 with dementia in the UK, 1 in 6 people over the age of 80 have dementia and 70 per cent of people in care homes have dementia or severe memory problems.

Please do come along to find out more about how we can help to live in a dementia-friendly environment – and please invite any friends and neighbours.

Laura Templeton



Service organised by
Christian women of Bahamas based on text:

*Jesus said to them:
Do you know what I have done to you?
(John 13.1-17).*

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2015 ANNUAL SERVICE

FRIDAY 6th MARCH at 2.30pm
at East Barnet Baptist Church

(corner of East Barnet Rd & Crescent Rd, East Barnet, Herts. EN4)

ALL are welcome (including men) to the service and also to socialise afterwards when there will be refreshments. Hope to see you there.

Marjorie O'Connor and Gwen Williams (*Your WWDP Reps.*)

World premiere

Congratulations to the winner of the Crouch End Festival Chorus carol competition: the composer Richard James Harvey, for his carol "Chanticleer"

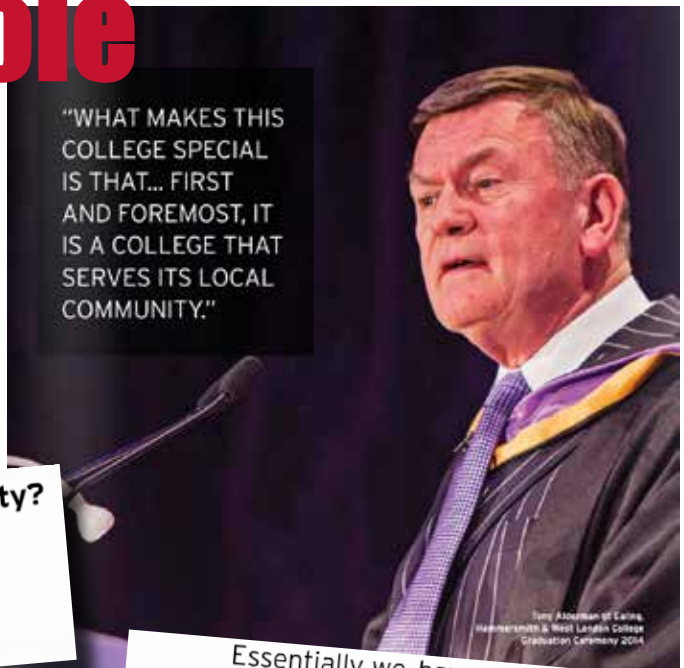


We are very fortunate to have such a talented director of music at St John's. Some of us were lucky enough to attend the concert at St Michael's in Highgate on 20 December where this amazing carol was first sung. The following is an excerpt from the programme.

With a very high standard of entries, the competition has been a great success, and has provided a fitting end to the choir's 30th anniversary year. Musical director David Temple said: "Richard's winning carol Chanticleer has a wonderfully festive feel and will prove popular with singers and audiences alike. I feel that we have uncovered a real gem!"

Tony's New Role

Our church secretary Tony Alderman, despite having retired from being a governor of Barnet College for 25 years – and a chair for 15, has taken on the role of Chair of Governors at Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College. He was interviewed and had an article published in *Personal Best*, the college magazine. In this he talks about the importance of serving the local community by supplying a suitably skilled and motivated workforce. The following are a few quotes from this interview.



"WHAT MAKES THIS COLLEGE SPECIAL IS THAT... FIRST AND FOREMOST, IT IS A COLLEGE THAT SERVES ITS LOCAL COMMUNITY."

Why is this college important for the community?

The College has a real part to play in ensuring London continues to build, whether it's construction, healthcare, general education.

Everyone's got talent; it's about maximising the talent that an individual has on a programme that's right for them.

Essentially we have products to sell and so we must carry out marketing research and find out what the customer wants.

What makes this college special?

What makes this college special is that it is here for anyone in the community, it provides education at a very basic and a very advanced level, so it is there for everybody. First and foremost, it is a college that serves its local community.

Apprenticeships are flavour of the month with both the current government and the opposition, so we should be looking to provide more apprenticeships.

Soul Food Suspended

Most of you will be aware, even if you have never attended it, that we have since September 2011 held an 8:00 pm 45-minute monthly Sunday evening service entitled 'Soul Food'. This has attracted an average of 6-8 people, and has consisted of Taizé Chants, prayers, Bible comment and discussion, and a simple

celebration of the Lord's Supper 'in the round'. Lately the numbers of attenders has been dropping, so I conducted a consultation of attenders by email, and have decided to suspend Soul Food in its monthly form. The fact that we were able to sustain a monthly evening service for over three years was an achievement, and was only possible because of loyal attenders as well as the cooperation of musicians and worship leaders. Moreover, we have established that there is a small demand for worship additional to Sunday mornings, and that is something we can build on. Instead of Soul Food, the Elders and I will be discussing some one-off evening services, perhaps featuring a particular musical style, or on a particular theme. If you have any ideas you wish to contribute, please contact me.

Julian Templeton

Revised Common Lectionary

- 11 January Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
- 18 January 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
- 25 January Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-20; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
- 1 February Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Cor 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28
- 8 February Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Cor 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
- 15 February 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Cor 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-6
- 22 February Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
- 1 March Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
- 8 March Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Cor 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
- 11 March Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Prayer Points

Pray for Margaret and Trevor Barrowcliffe and their daughter Jacqui, whose husband Franc died suddenly of a severe allergic reaction in Barcelona on the 23rd of December.

Pray for the newcomers who came along to one of our Christmas Services in response to receiving a card with publicity, and for the many others who were made aware of our church's existence.

Pray for the Chipping Barnet foodbank as demand for emergency food continues.

Pray for the Wednesday 4 Kids Club as its builds relationships with children and parents.

Pray for the Winter Shelter, its guests and volunteers, as it resumes on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings providing food, shelter, and friendship.

A suggested prayer:

God our heavenly Father, whose purpose for the world revealed in Jesus Christ is good, empower us by your grace-giving Spirit to comfort the grieving, console the lonely, and support the hungry. Help us to share with others, by action and word, what we have experienced of your grace and love through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**