

Jan – Feb
2018

St John's United Reformed Church

Record

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

From the Minister

You will be my witnesses

In one of the last encounters that Jesus has with his disciples, he tells them: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8). The small band of disciples did precisely this, as did those who came after them. They told other people about their experience of "...the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit..." (2 Corinthians 13:14). From that small beginning the Church grew. It is estimated to number 2 billion people today.

Although most of us have only ever experienced the church getting smaller, globally the Church continues to grow. In Africa and China and elsewhere the Church is growing rapidly. Many of these churches have only a fraction of the leadership and material resources that we have. But what they all seem to have in abundance is the willingness of their members to witness to others about their faith. Many of us fear that were we to pluck up the courage to witness to others about our faith, we would encounter

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resistance and rejection from those suspicious of a dogmatic approach that attempts to provide simplistic answers to complex questions.

Jesus's approach seemed to consist mainly of telling parables about the kingdom of God, asking questions, interpreting the Scriptures, and warning of a great reversal to come in which the last shall be first. But perhaps what struck people most about Jesus was his strong sense of being God's beloved Son with a mission to fulfil; a mission in which his death and his followers' despair were transformed by resurrection life and renewed hope. This is what we call 'good news', and witnessing occurs when we can no longer

keep this good news to ourselves but feel impelled to share it with others.

Whenever we respond honestly to an enquiry by an intrigued sceptic about why we practise our faith, we are witnessing. Whenever we talk about the strength and guidance we've received from God in prayer, we are witnessing. Whenever we 'go the extra mile', 'turn the other cheek', 'love our enemies' and 'pray for our persecutors', we are witnessing. Someone once wrote: 'we are not witnesses because we are Christians; we are Christians because we are witnesses'. Witnessing to the good news of Jesus Christ is the purpose and the life-blood of the Church.

Julian Templeton

Winter Shelter News

This year we finished hosting the Winter Shelter on Sunday 14th January and we wish the guests well as they move to the 2nd set of venues. East Barnet Baptist Church will now be hosting the Saturday nights till the end of March.

St Peter's Church Hall has been the venue for 2 of our 12 evenings which has really helped their congregation engage with the winter shelter and some of our St. John's volunteers, including Julian and Laura, have enjoyed going to St Peter's to help there.

As in previous years Finchley Reform Synagogue looked after the guests for 5 days over Christmas to give the usual venues a break and to provide a stable environment where the guests could stay during the day so they too could enjoy some Christmas cheer.

Since 28th October we have given shelter to at least 29 different people many of whom have been with us for all 12 weeks with usually 15 guests each Saturday night. Despite one or two challenges the guests have been a pleasure to be with, and always appreciative.

The volunteers have included a very loyal crew from both St John's and St. Peter's and this year we have welcomed some new recruits via the Foodbank to ease the burden.

I would like to thank everyone for all their support: the loyal volunteers, those that keep the halls clean, safe and warm, the many who contribute financially and all of you who pray for the shelter. It's a whole congregation effort!

Lesley Calder

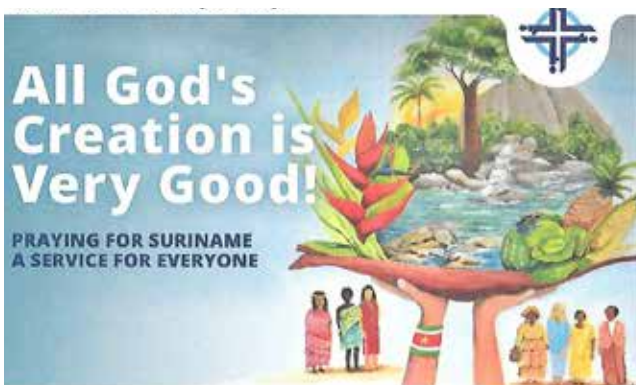
Women's World Day of Prayer Annual Service

Friday 2nd March

East Barnet Baptist Church,
Crescent Rd/ East Barnet Rd.
New Barnet, Herts.EN4 8PS

2.30pm

Refreshments after. All Welcome



Hidden gem of London

On a trip to Japan in summer 2014 I observed a team of very elderly women tackling the cleaning of a statue in the Nagasaki Peace Park. However it is not just in Japan where the elderly get stuck in.

Yesterday a silver topped lady was pruning the vegetation in St Paul's church's garden in Covent Garden. She must have been close to 80 if not above it.

I was sitting watching her clipping the bushes. "Good work done," I commented.

"Yes," she said. "I was quite cold before lunch. I thought I would sweep the leaves to warm up before tackling this," she added pointing at the stems.

There was a complex net structure on the grass. I asked what its purpose was.

"They should come off now. The seed has taken. Before that went down it was quite bare."

The grass looked well developed and would last till Spring at least.

I noticed a flickering flame on top of a lamppost – I counted at least six in the garden. It was daylight so presumably the light should be off. The other gaslights were off.

The elderly gardener told me the gas man had been the previous day to maintain the lights. According to him, she said, there are 5,000 gas powered street lights in central London. I had noticed some around the core of the Westminster area in the past.

I asked her about the service of "professors" . "Did it still take place annually?" She looked confused by my term "professor" until I explained it as reference to the Punch and Judy operators.

"Oh yes," she said. "The annual service for them is on the second Sunday in May."



This statue is within the grounds of St Paul's Church, Covent Garden. The rider – Saul of Tarsus – is blinded by the presence of God on the road to Damascus, falls to the ground, and is commissioned by the voice of Jesus.

"Last Sunday I counted 52 in the congregation – three or four actors, probably five who live close to the church."

The elderly lady, a member, said she did not live in the parish. "I came here originally because friends worshipped here," she said.

It is high church – bells but no incense. Every Sunday the sung Eucharist starts at 11.

"If you are in the area at that time, join us," she said. I told her of my "low church" credentials. A United Reformist, I said. "You can still come."

My Wikipedia research revealed the Church construction was completed in 1633 and it was the first entirely new church to be built in London since the Reformation. It was designed by Inigo Jones.

David Porter



St Paul's is the Actors' church.

Calendar

January & February 2018

JANUARY	Sunday 21st	5:00pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service, St Mary's Church	JANUARY
	Monday 22nd	8:30pm	Men's Group – The Railway Bell, New Barnet	
	Tuesday 23rd	8:00pm	Justice & Peace Meeting	
	Wednesday 24th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Saturday 27th	10:00am	Elders' "Away Day" – Union Church, Totteridge	
	Sunday 28th	11:00am	Worship – Led by Tony Shepherd	
		3:00pm	Causeway, Small Hall	
	Tuesday 30th	2:00pm	Dementia Club	
		8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	
	Wednesday 31st	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
FEBRUARY	Sunday 4th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	FEBRUARY
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting	
		11:00am	Worship with the Lord's Supper Led by Revd Julian Templeton followed immediately by brief Special Church Meeting	
	Wednesday 7th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Sunday 11th	11:00am	Worship Led by Sarah Beaumont	
	Tuesday 13th	8:00pm	Elders' Meeting	
	Friday 16th	2:30 pm	Community Café	
	Saturday 17th	2:30pm	Tea Dance – Large Hall – All Welcome	
	Sunday 18th	10:00am	Singing Practice	
		11:00am	Lent 1 Worship Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
	Monday 19th	8:30pm	Men's Group – Ye Olde Mitre Inne – High Barnet	
	Wed 21st	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		8:00pm	St. John's Fellowship – Desert Island Discs with Laura Templeton	
	Thursday 22nd	10:00am	Pastoral Team Meeting	
		7:30pm	North London Local Area Group, Union Church, Totteridge	
	Friday 23rd		Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record	
		4 – 6pm	Messy Church	
	Sunday 25th	11:00am	Lent 2 Worship led by Revd Julian Templeton	
		3:00pm	Causeway, Small Hall	
	Tuesday 27th	2:00pm	Dementia Club	
	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park		
	8:00pm	Justice & Peace Meeting		
Wed 28th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club		

MARCH	Friday 2nd	2:30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Annual Service at East Barnet Baptist Church - Crescent Rd./East Barnet Rd	MARCH
	Sunday 4th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting	
		11:00am	Lent 3 Worship with the Lord's Supper Led by Revd Julian Templeton	

GIFT DAY

A few faithful determined folk managed to struggle along to church on Sunday 10th December to this special service.

Later that day the transfer of bedding from the Night Shelter was proving impossible, until the kind intervention of Ray Hopwood, Andrew Summers and Meg Hardy. It was impossible for a car to stop as usual on Mowbray Road, so these three kind folk carried the bags down onto Station Road when another volunteer delivered them onto to the next venue. We thank them all!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



TEA DANCE

Saturday 17th March
2.30 – 4.30 pm

Entrance £5 (entertainment, refreshments & raffle)
With popular, local musician, Chris Sausman on keyboards/vocal. Come enjoy music, don't have to dance. a cup of tea/coffee and cake.

ALL WELCOME

Proceeds: For St John's URC Building Funds

Please note the **first Coffee Morning** this year will be held at St. John's Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet on **Saturday 17th March** between **10.30 & 12 noon**.

There will be the usual variety of charity stalls to support and all donations given at the entrance will be split between the North London Hospice and Church funds.

David Paul

New Zealand Trip

Thank you all for so generously allowing Julian and I to spend five weeks visiting New Zealand. It meant a huge amount to both us and to all the family on the other side of the world. As you may know, the reason for the trip was to celebrate Julian's mum's 80th birthday on 16th December. The party was a huge success and included musical items from four generations of family members – they are a very talented bunch! It was a joy to see Julian sing with his daughter Ripeka, (who now lives in Auckland), as well as rocking it with his brothers and others in the fantastic family band. The following day we celebrated our grandson Roman's 4th birthday. Daughter Amy, partner Spencer and three children were also with us for some of the time, with other daughter Islean joining us for Christmas and beyond.

This really was a fantastic holiday, and although Julian's family is extensive, we managed to catch up with most of them during our stay. After a stopover in Singapore, we spent the first few weeks in Julian's home town of Riverton. Worshipping at his home church was particularly special. Having Christmas in the sun was strange for me, but I did love the relaxed buffet lunch, spending time with family and swimming in the sea later in the day. Not getting stressed about food, decorations, presents etc. and being aware of why we celebrate this day, is something I want to ensure happens here in future!

When not at the beach, we spent time on the family farms. The kids loving getting close to calves, sheep and seeing cows being milked. Riding on the various farm vehicles was also a great hit. Riverton is close to some native bush. We did two short walks through temperate rainforest and listened to the native birdsong and saw tree ferns over three metres in height. Islean was more ambitious: tackling the the Routeburn Track and sections of the Kepler and Mount Cook Tracks. These are walks of various lengths but all involving carrying all your own gear and an overnight stay in a hut or tent.

On Boxing Day we drove north to stay at a family holiday home in Arrowtown, which is a picturesque small town north of Queenstown. Throughout our holiday we were extremely lucky with the weather, which can be very unpredictable. The temperatures were unusually high, which meant that the sea, lakes and rivers were warmer than usual. Wetsuits are often needed at this time of year, but we all managed without, and swam most days. It was often the only way to cool down!

We were also fairly active! I took the grandchildren to the climbing centre in Invercargill for a very scary hour climbing to heights I never dreamt of. On Christmas Eve I joined my daughters and grandchildren of a surfing lesson, where much to our surprise, we all managed to successfully stand on our boards. Julian, Islean and I went



Looking over Queenstown & Lake Wakatipu



Riverton beach with Julian, Gracie & Roman



Resting during a walk through native bush

walking up in the ski fields above Queenstown and on New Year's Eve, spent the day rock climbing by Lake Wakatipu. I also achieved a lifetime dream of waterskiing!

A day in Christchurch riding a tram allowed us to see the city being re-built and visit The Cardboard Cathedral. New Zealand is thirteen hours ahead, so we have struggled with jet-lag, but it was definitely worth it.



St John's United Reformed Church

St John's URC Fellowship Programme for 2018

St John's URC Fellowship welcomes everyone, irrespective of faith or beliefs. Our purpose is to provide a friendly environment where people can meet, enjoy an interesting talk and to chat over a cup of tea and biscuits.

We run a series of talks each month on a wide variety of subjects, designed to cater for many interests, some are from charities, others inspirational personal stories.

Date 2018	Subject of Talk	Speaker
17 Jan	Experiences of Cycling	Paul Elsdon
21 Feb	Desert Island Discs with Laura Templeton	Pat Picken
21 Mar	Stained Glass Windows Old & New	Michael Peryer
18 Apr	Lionel Bart His Life & Music	Geoff Bowden
16 May	Community Garden & Question Time	Wendy Alcock
20 Jun	Fellowship Outing	TBC
18 July	Street Furniture in London	Rob Kayne
11 Aug	Fellowship Garden Party at the Manse	11 The Fairway
19 Sep	T'ai Chi	Simon Watson
17 Oct	London Fire Brigade	Steve Leader
21 Nov	Noah's Ark Childrens Hospice	Fathima Nafeel
19 Dec	Fellowship AGM - Christmas Celebration.	

Why not come and join us: Entrance for visitors £3.00. Full membership is just £6.00 per year and £2.00 (inc refreshments) to join us each month. Meetings start at 8.00 pm

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Mowbray/Somerset Road junction
New Barnet
EN5 1RH
<https://www.stjohnsnewbarnet.org.uk>

Rededication Service

More than 70 people including the Deputy Mayor of Barnet attended a special rededication service at St John's United Reformed Church, Somerset Road, New Barnet on the morning of Sunday 3rd December.

Julian led the Service with a contribution from the Deputy Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Val Duschinsky. The Moderator, Reverend Dr Andrew Prasad, presided at the Lord's Supper and commended the church for being "a strong and vibrant community, looking outwardly to serve God by serving the community, irrespective of faith or colour."

The sanctuary was closed for 4 months while the new refreshment-serving area, fully accessible toilet, audio-visual system, improved lighting and re-ordered seating were completed. During this time the congregation worshipped every Sunday in the Church Hall. Atkinson-Roe Architects designed and oversaw the cantilevered extension and improvements, carried out by Michael P Doyle Contractors and Creative Audio-Visual Solutions. The architect of the innovative 1969 building, Jon Finlayson, provided invaluable assistance.

A Dementia Club in partnership with Dementia Club UK and Rotary will take place in the sanctuary once-per-month. We also are planning a once-per-month Community Café open to all and ending with a short act of worship, and a 'Mainly Music' weekly singing group to reach out to pre-school children and parents or carers. The Minister and Elders are to meet for an away day during which they will plan how to implement a new emphasis on whole-life discipleship, something that the Synod is encouraging all its churches to engage with. A group from St John's Church is planning to travel to Svitavy in early May to meet the Czech congregation as the first exchange visit of a twinning relationship.

“ Due to the generosity, vision and expertise of many, we've succeeded in opening up our building as a community-wide resource and a hub of worship and fellowship.”



Refreshments being served



External view of the extension



The new cafe-style seating at the rear of the sanctuary



Julian Templeton, Val Duschinsky, Andrew Prasad



New refreshment-serving area, with hot water supply



Fully accessible toilet