

April -
May 2022

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

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Tony Alderman's Barnet Civic Award

*In Recognition of his
Lifetime achievement*

The Elders at St John's were delighted when we heard that Tony Alderman had been accepted to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award by the London Borough of Barnet, having submitted his nomination statement last December. A few of us had the privilege of joining Tony and his family at the Awards Ceremony, held at Hendon Town Hall on the evening of 6 April.



Tony with daughter, Rachel, and wife, Myra



Tony with Laura and Julian

The whole evening was a celebration of volunteers from all sectors and faiths, who dedicate their lives to making other people's lives better. Some received their award for 'Outstanding Service to the Community' while others like Tony, received theirs for 'Lifetime Achievement'.

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Contacts

Website: www.stjohnsnewbarnet.org.uk **Record Editor:** Laura Templeton, lauratempleton@icloud.com

Minister: Julian Templeton, Tel: 020 8441 0499 Email: juliantempleton@btinternet.com

Secretary: Alison Bond, Tel: 020 8440 1941 Email: aegbond@hotmail.co.uk

Administrator: Alison Cousins, Tel: 07816 115 817 Email: info.stjohnsurc@gmail.com

It was truly inspiring to hear the nomination statements of all 13 groups or individuals being read out by the Mayor, Councillor Alison Cornelius, or her assistant.

Such are Tony's many achievements, that the Mayor admitted that she had had to précis much of his nomination statement. However, she still managed to include all the key elements, which conveyed Tony's exceptional dedication to voluntary work in Barnet over the past forty years. These included further education, local civic amenities, charities (including Eleanor Palmer Trust, Valentine Poole and the Insurance Charities) and the United Reformed Church.

The statement concluded with the following paragraph:

Inspired by his Christian faith, his motivation to become involved with so many charitable trusts and institutions has been to help and support those in

greatest need. Tony has always been willing to assist any organisation in which he felt he could contribute and make a difference. When he was recently invited to share his choice of 'Desert Island Discs' at a church event, he admitted that he would hate to be on his own on the island. Throughout his life, he has been a team player; engaging, guiding and motivating others around him. All of the organisations mentioned have benefitted from his undoubted skills and sound judgement. We feel that his exceptional dedication to voluntary work and ongoing commitment to all the people who reside in the Borough is truly worthy of recognition by the Borough of Barnet.

Tony's Lifetime Achievement Award was richly deserved and his presentation really was a fitting conclusion to a very special evening.

Alison Bond

Christian Aid Week 2022 is coming: 15-21 May

In Zimbabwe, the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for families like Jessica's.



The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict, and drought have robbed her of the power to provide for her children. And 7,000 miles away, the war in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe and around the globe. Without the fertiliser and food - like wheat and cooking oil - that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger.



But hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you.

Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help Jessica set up water taps on her farm, learn to grow food, and provide seeds that thrive in drought – giving her all she

needs to turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope. Join us this Christian Aid Week, and help turn hunger into hope. With every gift, every action, every prayer, we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe.

We are still finalising our plans for Christian Aid Week this year at St John's, but as well as doing some house-to-house collecting, we also hope to have a simple shared lunch in the sanctuary, after the service on Sunday 15 May, followed by a short but powerful film about Global Poverty made by the United Nations.

Challenges, Serving, and Thanks

It is a difficult time to be optimistic about life. The climate crisis, Covid-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine, and recent cost-of-living increase are affecting all of us. Professor Michael Marmot predicts that a combination of higher prices and income-fall will cause a [social and health crisis](#). If people don't have enough money to buy food and pay for heating and rent, life becomes a desperate struggle to survive. It is because God has taken the initiative to reconcile a fractured world in the broken body of Jesus Christ that we can acknowledge the brokenness of human existence. We can also dare to believe and trust that out of brokenness the Holy Spirit can bring reconciliation, new life, and flourishing. This, I believe, is the good news we have to offer as a church. This good news, in turn, gives us energy to pray and to serve.

But it is also clear to me that the ways we have used to use to communicate this good news to others are becoming less effective. For instance, apart from the occasional person who responds to an invitation, we very rarely see new people who are looking for a church give our worship a try. Therefore, our change in recent years to make more use of the Internet has become all-the-more necessary. Because of the innovation and patience of the Audio-Visual team we have transformed ourselves into reasonably competent Zoom broadcasters. This has enabled two-way communication with those at home and with those who live at a distance. In addition, we are investigating the use of web-streaming and social media in outreach.

I thank our Elders for their worship-leading and all-round-dedication. I also thank the leaders and volunteers for Mainly Music, Messy Church, and the Fellowship. When we add to these activities the partnerships we have with Incredible Edible in the Community Garden, with Green Christian Barnet, with the Chipping Barnet Foodbank, with the Together in Barnet Night shelter, and with other local churches; we find that through these activities and partnerships St John's Church is making an important contribution to social cohesion in New Barnet. In an increasingly polarised world and unequal society, enabling social cohesion is vital. Having said all that, I am as aware as you are that we face a significant challenge to sustain church life in the future unless new people can be found who are willing to serve.

Finally, I would like to say a heart-felt thank you to St John's Church members and friends for your support over the past year. First, for supporting Laura and me during and since Laura's hospitalisation late last year: we have greatly appreciated your concern. Second, for supporting me not only in my part-time ministry but also in my part-time study. That I was able, after many years, to achieve my doctorate was in no small part due to your respect of the time I needed to devote to my research and writing. And what has made the achievement even more joyful is to realise that this has been a cause for celebration not only for me but also for you!

Julian Templeton

(adapted from report to March AGM)

2022 marks fifty years since the United Reformed Church was formed by the union of the Congregational Church in England and Wales with the Presbyterian Church of England. The first General Assembly of the united Church was held on 5 October 1972 in Methodist Central Hall Westminster, and on the same day a Service of Thanksgiving was held in Westminster Abbey.

To mark this anniversary, a [series of national events are planned](#). For those willing and able to travel into central London, two events may be of interest, both on Saturday 1 October. From 10am to 1pm URC Church House, 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT will be open to visitors. From 2:30 pm, a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration will be held at Methodist Central Hall, Storey's Gate, SW1H 9NH.



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

Free tickets to the Service can be obtained through [Eventbrite](#)

Obituary: May Masters

06 November 1928 – 22 January 2022

With sadness we report the death of May Masters, church member, whose funeral was held at Golders Green Crematorium Chapel on 16th February. May was born in Stepps, Lanarkshire. The whole family moved to the south side of Glasgow in 1938. She had an older brother, Ian, who became a medical doctor; and a younger brother, Robin, who became a philosopher and ethicist. She completed her secondary education at Hutchesons' Grammar School, after which she read French, German, and Mathematics at the University of Glasgow. Upon graduating, she got a job at ICI, Millbank, London, working in Human Resources.

She married Henry and together they had two daughters: Susan and Laura. The family began worshipping at St John's Church during the ministry of Philip Eastman. May and Henry later separated, but St John's Church continued to be an important part of May's life. I came to know May about 10 years ago. She lived at Woodside Park and was a regular worshipper. Latterly, when her mobility was limited, Helen Snider and I visited her at home, and then at her nursing home, or telephoned. I was always impressed with how well-informed she was about the church. I learned that she was a proficient user of her iPad, Kindle, and mobile phone.

May's brother, Robin, recalls that she got on well with her carers. One carer was having boyfriend problems and wondered whether she should stop seeing him. The carer told May that she had prayed to

the Virgin Mary for advice and the Virgin Mary had told her to stick it out. May had then said: 'Just you tell the Virgin Mary from me that she should get out a bit more!'

May's daughter, Susan, recalls that her mother had strong likes and dislikes. She nurtured a burning dislike for the Reverend Kate Bottley – a kindly vicar some might have seen on 'Gogglebox'. Apparently, it was her fringe mum took against, to the extent that 'Songs of Praise' was nearly given its marching orders!

It was evident to me at the funeral that May was treasured not only by her daughters Susan and Laura, granddaughter Lucy, and brother Robin, but also by

her nieces and nephews, some of whom came down from Scotland to take part in the funeral service. We offer our condolences to them, but we also give thanks for May's long life. May's Christian faith was represented in the funeral service by her choice of the 23rd Psalm, and a hymn, whose first verse is worth citing:

*To God be the glory,
great things he has done!*

*So loved he the world
that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life, an
atonement for sin,
and opened the life-
gate that all may go in.*

We pray that May will have gone through that life-gate, and that we, when our time comes, will also go in.

Julian Templeton

(with contributions also from
Susan Masters and Robin Downie)



Personal words Good News and Future Challenges
– the Good Samaritan School in Uganda.

An update from this special residential school for deaf children and teens in Kitengeesa.

Rosemary is the School's New Director

Rosemary is taking-over as the new Director of the School. The previous Directors, Scovia and Edward, have retired and are living nearby so will be available with advice - if it is needed.

Rosemary says *"I am really thrilled to be taking over but there is much to be done. We know that God is involved with the School and we want to do the right thing because of this. The children deserve the best possible education that we can provide."*

A 'Go fund Me' appeal has been launched and some donations have already been received so that some outstanding debts can be covered, including paying the teachers' back-pay! COVID reduced their donations so other items still need to be paid. It will be good to 'clear the decks' soon, so that Rosemary has a fresh start in her new role.



Daniella enjoying her meal



Top class. The teacher has to translate from English to Sign Language

WHY THE DEAF?

In Uganda, Deaf people are among the most stigmatized people who often live in isolation and are excluded from their communities, from the education system, healthcare, employment and other vital services. Most times they are hidden away by their families as they consider this as a bad omen!

The most pressing need now is to buy food such as maize and rice for the children to cover the next two months. The money from St. Johns' Annual Donation is helping towards these costs now. The school is so very grateful for this commitment from the church which has already made a big difference to the children's lives.

About thirty more children have to be collected from their homes and this is happening as we write. This was delayed because the school's old mini-bus had no petrol. (St John's donation helped to fill it up!) This will bring the total number of children being taught and cared for 24/7, to 75. We know that other children should be at the school and we hope to recruit these soon. Few Ugandan families

Seeds for growing a variety of items including spinach, beetroot, and onions need to be purchased along with tools for the children and teens to use. A revised curriculum will be agreed to include practical activities as well as academic subjects. A training scheme for the teens covering practical skills like tailoring, hairdressing and gardening will be available.

Funding is needed as well for repairs and maintenance work which is becoming more urgent, including replacing windows. Longer term plans propose sinking a bore hole to provide fresh water for the school and local community and this is being considered by two Rotary Clubs in Uganda and Barnet.

We are hoping and praying that the new 'Go Fund Me' appeal will help to raise money as well as interest in the School. This is essential for GSSD's survival so that it can continue this vital work for these special children. They are completely dependent upon the school for their future lives which is a serious thought relating to practicalities as well as faith and hope for the future.

If you have a couple of spare pounds please donate via the Go Fund Me site at:

<https://gofund.me/655a66b9>

Thank you for any help. For further information about the GSSD, please visit:

<https://>

goodsamaritanschoolfortheblind.com

or ask us at any time if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you again most sincerely for your interest and support.

Rosemary Nakasiita and Tony Shepherd



After church

can afford to pay any school fees so the GSSD is very much dependant on donors' contributions.

Rosemary is already in discussions about cultivating some land to be used as a market garden - both as a learning resource for the children and to supply food for the school. Here is a resource also for training deaf teenagers to become skilled in horticulture - thus offering them future employment opportunities.

Incredible Edible Barnet



Regular sessions at the
Community Garden,
Mowbray Road

2nd & 4th Saturdays of
the month,

usually from 10 am to 12
noon



If you don't have seeds. Fear not. We have free seeds to give away too! Come and say Hi and pick some up at our plot sessions on 9 April 10 am till 12 and 23 April 2 till 4pm.



In the lead up to 5 May Local Elections, come and hear what the main local political parties will do in Barnet to protect the environment. Barnet Climate Action Group, Barnet Friends of the Earth, Barnet Green Spaces Network and Better Streets for Barnet are holding an environment hustings for Barnet residents and businesses prior to the Local Government Elections on 5 May.

This is an online event and you can register for free to attend, or to submit a question, on [Eventbrite](#)

Saturday 23 April 2pm

The community garden session at our plot on Sat 23 April is a little different, as we're talking part in Capital Growth Good To Grow day.

Come down between 2 and 4pm when we will be 🌱🌻 sowing seeds for you to take and grow at home (as well as some for the plot) plus 🎨🍪 painting signs so we can let people know what we're growing at the garden. Or just come for a chat about what you're growing, or want to grow, at home.

Last but definitely not least is the deadline to enter the [#BarnetBasilChallenge](#).

We've sown our seeds, and they are starting to pop out to say hello. Have you sown yours yet (it's not too late if you've not)?

It's simple to take part:

- 🌱 Sow some basil seeds (we've done sweet basil, lemon, Thai, lettuce and Greek, but any type of basil goes)
- 📷 Post pics on social media, or email them to us and we'll post them for you, by 30 Sep using [#BarnetBasilChallenge](#)
- 🏆 A judge will pick their faves and award prizes in these three categories:

- 🌿 best-looking plant
- 🍽️ dish made with your pickings
- 😊 most fun photo

p.s. Friends of Barnet welcome to enter,

you don't have to live here!

Calendar of Events

April

Thursday 14	8:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton and Dominic Grant, at St John's Church with St Andrew's Chesterfield Road and Wood Street Barnet URCS
Friday 15	2:00 pm	Good Friday Worship led by Julian Templeton
Sunday 17	11:00 am	Easter Day Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton
Tuesday 19	12 noon	Funeral Service for Sheila Robins led by Julian Templeton
Wed 20th	8pm	Fellowship-William Booth (Salvation Army) and local links by speaker John Hall
Thursday 21	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Friday 22	4:00 pm	Messy Church
Saturday 23	2-4 pm	Community Garden Session, Mowbray Road
Sunday 24	11:00 am	Worship led by Roz Douglas
Thursday 28	9:30 am	Mainly Music
	7:30 pm	North London Local Area Group (URCs) Meeting

May

Sunday 1	11:00 am	Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton
Tuesday 3	8:00 pm	What do we believe about Creation? Discussion via Zoom
Thursday 5	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Saturday 7	2:30 pm	Memorial Service for Jon Finlayson
Sunday 8	11:00 am	Worship led by Valerie and Andrew Mills
Thursday 12	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Saturday 14	10am-12	Community Garden Session, Mowbray Road
Sunday 15	11:00 am	Worship led by Paul Elsdon; Christian Aid Week begins Short but powerful film about Global Poverty made by the United Nations
Monday 16	10:00 am	Pastoral Team via Zoom
Tuesday 17	7:45 pm	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday 18	8:00 pm	Fellowship: Richard Harvey's Desert Island Discs
Thursday 19	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Saturday 21	7:00 pm	Fellowship: Art Deco Jazz Orchestra Concert and Refreshments
Sunday 22	11:00 am	Worship led by Julian Templeton, followed by Church Meeting
Thursday 26	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Saturday 28	10am-12	Community Garden Session, Mowbray Road
Sunday 29	11:00 am	Worship led by Alison Bond

June

Saturday 4	10am-3pm	HM's Platinum Jubilee Celebration, Holy Trinity Church Lyonsdown
Sunday 5	11:00 am	Pentecost Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton