

St John's Church Record

Somerset and Mowbray Roads, New Barnet, EN5 1RH



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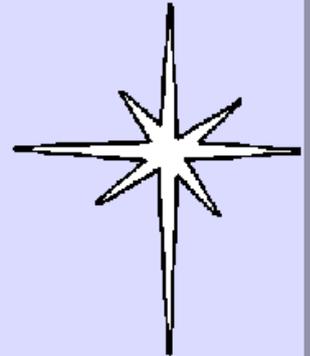
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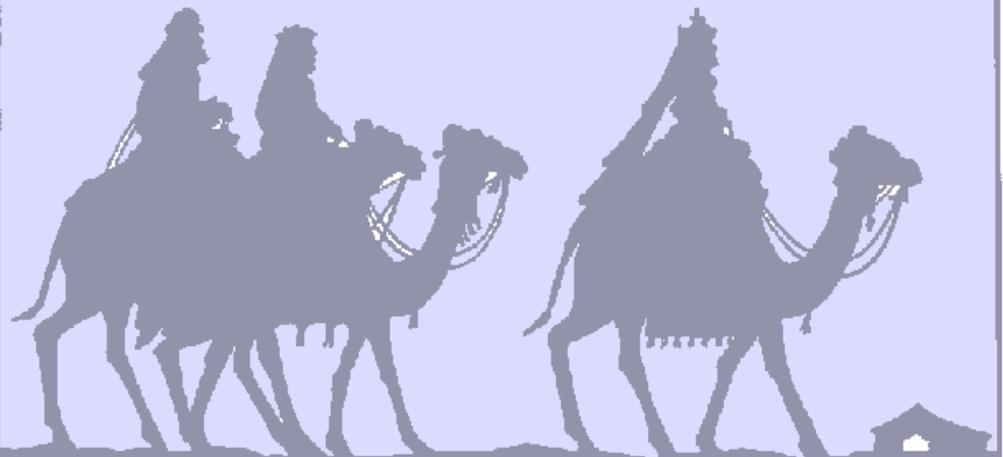
for information on groups
and activities at St John's

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*...the star they had seen when it rose in the
east went ahead of them until it stopped
over the place where the child was.*

Matthew 2:9



JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2013

Church Calendar

January 2013

February 2013

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---|-----------------------------|--------|---|
| Sunday 6th | 11am | Epiphany, Worship with Holy-Communion led by Julian Templeton | Friday 1st | 8pm | Choir Practice |
| Monday 7th | 1.30pm | Little John's Toddler Group | Saturday and Sunday 2nd-3rd | pm/am | Winter Shelter |
| Friday 11th | 8pm | Choir Practice | Sunday 3rd | 11am | Worship with Holy Communion led by Tony Alderman and David Paul |
| Sunday 13th | 11am | Worship led by Sarah Beaumont and Roz Douglas | Monday 4th | 1.30pm | Little John's Toddler Group |
| Monday 14th | 1.30pm | Little John's Toddler Group | Weds 6th | 7pm | Nosh & Natter, 10 Leicester Road |
| Tuesday 15th | 8pm | Elders' Meeting in the Vestry | Friday 8th | 8pm | Choir Practice |
| Wednesday 16th | 8pm | St John's Fellowship (see page 5) | Saturday and Sunday 9-10th | pm/am | Winter Shelter |
| Friday 18th | 8pm | Choir Practice | Sunday 10th | 11am | Worship led by Andrew Summers and Helen Snider |
| Saturday and Sunday 19-20th | pm/am | Winter Shelter | | 7pm | Soul Food led by Sarah Beaumont and Julian Templeton |
| Sunday 20th | 11am | Worship led by Andrew and Valerie Mills | Monday 11th | 1.30pm | Little John's Toddler Group |
| Monday 21st | 1.30pm | Little John's Toddler Group | Tuesday 12th | 8pm | Elders Meeting in the Vestry |
| | 8.30pm | Men's Group at the Railway Bell | Wednesday 13th | | ASH WEDNESDAY, beginning of Lent |
| Thursday 24th | 8pm | Finance and Management Meeting | Friday 15th | 8pm | Choir Practice |
| Friday 25th | 8pm | Choir Practice | Saturday and Sunday 16-17th | pm/am | Winter Shelter |
| Saturday and Sunday 26-27th | pm/am | Winter Shelter | Sunday 17th | 11am | Lent 1, Worship led by Julian Templeton |
| Sunday 27th | 11am | Worship led by Tony Alderman and David Paul | Monday 18th | 8.30pm | Men's Group at the Railway Bell |
| | 3pm | Causeway | Wednesday 20th | 8.30pm | St John's Fellowship (see page 5) |
| Monday 28th | 1.30pm | Little John's Toddler Group | Saturday and Sunday 23-24th | pm/am | Winter Shelter |
| Tuesday 29th | 8pm | Prayer and Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park | Sunday 24th | 11am | Lent 2, Worship led by Paul Elsdon and Meg Hardie |
| | | | | 3pm | Causeway |
| | | | Monday 25th | 1.30pm | Little John's Toddler Group |
| | | | | 3.30pm | Pastoral Team, Vestry |
| | | | Tuesday 26th | 8pm | Prayer and Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park |
| | | | Thursday 28th | 8pm | Men's Group Curry Evening at the Railway Bell |
| | | | March | | |
| | | | Friday 1st | 8pm | Choir Practice |
| | | | Saturday and Sunday 2-3rd | pm/am | Winter Shelter |
| | | | Sunday 3rd | 11am | Lent 3, Worship with Holy Communion led by Julian Templeton |

Please note that Julian and Laura Templeton will be in New Zealand from 7 January to 7 February.

Advance Notice

There will be a three-week Lent Course on *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness* by Timothy Keller (10 Publishing, Chorley, 2012), led by Julian Templeton on Thursdays 7, 14, 21 March, afternoons and evenings in the Memorial Room

The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Elders of St John's Church or of the United Reformed Church.

Enjoyment of God

Enjoyment is not a word normally associated with religion. Religion is often associated with restriction and guilt. This is a pity, since the real purpose of religion is the enjoyment of God. One of the most influential theologians and philosophers, Thomas Aquinas, wrote that the goal of the religious life is the full enjoyment of God. Even the dour Presbyterians and severe Puritans, who occupied Westminster Abbey from 1643 – 1653 and banned the celebration of Christmas, when asked the question: ‘What is the purpose of human life?’ came up with the answer: ‘To enjoy God.’

The possible reason why this theme has been neglected is that life is often difficult. There are many things that spoil our enjoyment of life and of God, such as strain, illness, and loss. What is remarkable about the biblical writers is that they are often very realistic about these spoilers of enjoyment. Indeed, they protest to God about them: “Lord, heal me, for my body is racked with pain; I am utterly distraught. When will you act, Lord?” (Psalm 6:2-3)

At the same time, they believe that when humans open themselves to God’s presence, a measure of joy can be experienced. The author of Psalm 100 writes, “Be joyful in the Lord all peoples!” The Nativity Story is packed with outbursts of joy, such as when an angel announces to the shepherds: “Do not be afraid; I bring you good news of great joy for the whole nation. Today there has been born in the city of David, a deliverer—the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11) This Messiah, or Christ, is the source of joy because he is believed to be Emmanuel: God with us.

The Christian tradition believes that God is the ultimate source of joy. This is because Christians understand the one God to be a Holy Trinity of love and joy. The Father loves and delights in the Son, who loves and delights in the Holy Spirit, who loves and delights in the Father, and so on. When we humans love and delight in one another and in God, we become images of God. Christmas is an opportunity to celebrate that which brings joy—not lots more new stuff—but life-giving relationships.

Jesus told his would-be followers not to worry about material things—for life is about more than food and clothes—but to seek first God’s Kingdom (Matthew 6:25-34). God’s Kingdom or Reign is evident wherever those held captive are released, wherever the broken-hearted are comforted, and wherever the poor are empowered. It is actions such as these that can bring joy both to the receiver and the giver because God is at work in them.

Julian Templeton

Prayer Points

- St John’s Church, with the help of volunteers from St Peter’s Church, is again participating in the Winter Shelter scheme on Saturday nights/Sunday mornings from 19 January to 3 March, in partnership with Homeless Action Barnet. Please pray for the guests and the volunteers.
- Pray for the work of the Chipping Barnet foodbank, which on the Saturday before Christmas gave out emergency food packages to 12 people in the space of 2 hours.
- Pray for those in our fellowship with ill health.
- Pray for our new Children’s Worker, Georgie Wilson, as she begins work part-time with the children and families associated with Little Johns, Junior Church, and helps us to reach out to new children and families.
- Pray for Richard Harvey and the Choir as they begin to rehearse ‘The Bridge’, a new work to be premiered at our Anniversary Celebrations at the end of April.
- Pray for the Elders and Minister in their service of worship-leading, pastoral care, and leadership.

The Ministry of Women

In the wake of the General Synod of the Church of England's House of Laity narrowly failing to gain the required two-thirds majority in favour of allowing women ministers to become bishops, readers of the *Church Record* may be interested to learn about the pivotal role played by a Congregationalist in the first woman to be ordained as a Christian Minister in Britain.

William Selbie was Minister of the Pond Square Chapel, Highgate, from 1890–1902. He later became Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford. It was whilst Principal that Selbie was approached by Constance Todd, a Presbyterian who had read History at Somerville College, Oxford, about the possibility of entering Mansfield College as a ministerial student. Selbie recognised her calling as genuine and saw no reason to reject her application solely on the grounds that she was a woman. His confidence was well founded. Constance Todd excelled academically and vocationally. She completed her ministerial course of study, received a call to the Darby Street Mission of the King's Weigh House Church, London, and gained recognition from the London Congregational Union as a fully accredited Congregational Minister in 1917. She married a fellow ministerial student Claud Coltman on the day after their ordinations and they went on to exercise a joint ministry in Kilburn, Oxford, Wolverton and Haverhill.



Constance Coltman (nee Todd)

A life-long pacifist, Constance was a founder member of the Society for the Ministry of Women, and at an advanced age learned Swedish in order to support women seeking ordination in the Church of Sweden! At her funeral in 1969, Lady Stansgate (Tony Benn's mother) gave one of the Tributes. There is a 'Coltman Room' named after her in URC Church House.

Selbie supported a number of other women with ministerial vocations, one of whom later wrote how 'wise, fair, and kind' he had been, 'never hiding from them the fact that

life for a woman minister is as yet bound to be difficult, but also making clear that God can speak through a woman as well as through a man, that she, too, may be called to His service in the ministry and can then do nothing but answer the call.'

In the United Reformed Church today, three out of thirteen Synod Moderators (who exercise an episcopal ministry) are women. A woman, Val Morrison, is Co-Moderator of the General Assembly (the highest council of the church). Roberta Rominger (formerly Moderator of Thames North Synod) is General Secretary, the highest office in the church's Secretariat. Susan Durber and Rosalind Selby are Principals of two of our three Colleges (now called Resource Centres for Learning). And the church is served well by many women Ministers and Elders. All this is not to suggest that prejudice against women's leadership in the United Reformed Church does not exist (the church is the society of sinners); but it is to acknowledge that the United Reformed Church has been, and continues to be, immeasurably enriched by the ministry and leadership of women (indeed, would probably collapse without it!). Please pray for our fellow Christians in the Church of England as they continue to wrestle with their recognition of women's leadership.

Julian Templeton

Fellowship Meeting - Wednesday 21 November

Fellowship had a full house for Andrew Poulter's presentation on Church Music - *Making a Joyful Noise*. Andrew has for many years been Organist at Gospel Oak Methodist Church, where for over three generations his family has contributed to the musical life of that church.

Firstly, Andrew took us back almost two hundred years with two recordings of 'West Gallery Music'. The term derives from choirs in the galleries typical of Congregational churches, many of which had no organ, then found only in those Anglican churches that had survived the destruction of almost all organs by Oliver Cromwell's Puritans.

We stayed in the 19th century, exploring the choral phenomenon which swept the country. Andrew showed us his grandfather's copy of a collection of choral anthems bound locally for use by the choir of the Wesleyan Chapel in Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town, where he was choirmaster. The book comprises 28 anthems, mainly by Victorian composers including Stainer and Sullivan, plus choruses from oratorios by Mendelssohn and Handel.

We were treated to a recording of a chorus from Handel's oratorio, *Messiah*. Andrew explained how Alfred Novello initiated an important phenomenon by publishing music at a cost of 1½d, stimulating enthusiasm for choral singing among the aspiring lower middle and working classes through a policy of producing cheap editions for a mass market.

The Wesley brothers had a lasting impact on church music and attendance following a decline: in the early 18th century John and Charles Wesley published three volumes of *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, largely composed by Charles who left around 9,000 hymns. Many reflect his personal beliefs, central to the evangelical nature of Methodist preaching.

Various recordings demonstrated the influence of John Taverner, Master of the Choristers at the new Cardinal College Oxford Chapel (1526 to 1530). The complex polyphonic scores of choir music of Taverner's time illustrated the change in writing.

Modern composers of church music include Gabriel Jackson, a Chorister at Canterbury Cathedral whose liturgical pieces are in the repertoires of many of Britain's leading cathedral and collegiate choirs. Local composer Benjamin Till wrote a piece for a

North London community choir, which was recently

performed at the Royal Festival Hall.

Andrew's finalé was from the London Requiem *In Paradisum* - 'May angles lead you into paradise; upon your arrival, may the martyrs receive you and lead you to the holy city of Jerusalem. May the ranks of angels receive you, and with Lazarus, once a poor man, may you have eternal rest'.

Ron Mobbs

Thirtieth Anniversary Dinner on 19 December

Thirty-six members and friends of the Fellowship gathered at St John's to enjoy Dinner together. December marked 30 years of the Fellowship in its present format and the Dinner was our way to mark the Anniversary. The meal was provided by an outside caterer although the Committee, as in previous years, set up the room and served, the meal and company being enjoyed as much as ever.

The Dinner was followed by our Annual General Meeting which proceeded much as usual. Of note was the retirement of our Treasurer Rosemary Paul and the voting in of Ken Sutherland-Thomas as our New Treasurer. Sue Taylor was nominated to join the Committee and duly voted in.

Julian thanked Rosemary for her work on the Committee and presented her with a small gift on behalf of members. Julian then announced the Committee's decision to mark the outstanding service of three members, Hugh Martin, Jean Allen and David Paul, by making them Life Members.

Our brains were then tested by a short quiz, devised and presented by our Chairman Ron Mobbs, ably assisted by Sue Taylor. Ron's questions were obviously well chosen because as well as producing some scratching of heads, they evoked a good deal of amusement.

The evening was rounded by Julian, who gave short address and then led us in prayer.

Ray Hopwood

Meetings are held in the small hall on the third Wednesday of the month. All are welcome.

January 16 *My Early Life in Switzerland*
(Speaker: Alice Mujtaba)

February 20 *The American Rockies and National Parks*
(Speaker: Pamela Wright)

St Johns Men's Group meetings in 2013

St John's Men's Group meet at once a month in The Railway Bell, East Barnet Road, New Barnet
The group provides an opportunity for all men with a St John's connection to meet informally and in relaxing surroundings to discuss anything topical, whether it be to do with St John's or not.

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Thursday 28 February | From 8.00pm Curry Evening |
| Wednesday 27 March | From 8.30pm |
| Tuesday 23 April | From 8.30pm |
| Thursday 23 May | From 8.00pm Curry Evening |
| Monday 24 June | From 8.30pm |
| Tuesday 23 July | From 8.30pm |
| Thursday 29 August | From 8.00pm Curry Evening |
| Wednesday 25 September | From 8.30pm |
| Monday 21 October | From 8.30pm |
| Thursday 28 November | From 8.00pm Curry Evening |
| Wednesday 11 December | From 8.30pm |

We meet on different weekdays each month to give everyone the chance to come along, just in case one particular weekday is inconvenient due to other engagements. When the weekday falls on a Thursday, those who wish to can join us for a Curry Meal. On Curry Evenings we meet at 8pm. Those not wishing to eat are welcome to join us at the normal time of 8.30pm.

The first meeting in 2013 will be on Monday 21 January from 8.30pm at

The Railway Bell, and I look forward to seeing all those who can make it on that evening. Other dates for meetings during 2013 are listed in the table.

Please note your diaries, and if you know of any anyone else who might be interested in coming along, please invite them, or let me know so that I can invite them.

With Best Wishes to everyone,

Malcolm Bond

Congratulations!

On Thursday 27 December Tony and Myra Alderman announced the arrival of granddaughter Grace Evelyn May, born to their daughter Rachel and husband Andrew. Ave's new sister weighed 8 lbs and 9 ozs upon arrival at Barnet General Hospital, where mother and baby received excellent treatment.

Invitation to Womens' World Day of Prayer 2013 Annual Service

**On Friday 1st March 2013 at 2pm at St John's United Reformed Church
Somerset and Mowbray Roads, New Barnet, EN5 1RH**

The speaker will be Sally Bateman, Lay Preacher of Muswell Hill URC

**The service has been arranged by Christian Women of France on the theme of
*I was a Stranger and You welcomed Me***

All are welcome, including men. There will be an opportunity after the service to socialise over refreshments. Offers of help and donations of cakes will be received gratefully. We hope to see you there.

Please do tell your friends.

Your St John's URC WWDP Representatives are Brenda Sandford and Marjorie O'Connor
(020 8445 6590 or 07515 910514)

Results of Christmas Charitable Collections

A very big thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Charitable donations. Collections made at the Carol Service and the Christmas Eve service raised £286.13 for Barnet Winter Shelter and donations made for the Christmas card and from the retiring collection on Christmas Day raised £308.25 for CRISIS.

Alison Bond

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Have you ever wondered about the origins of the words of this Christmas Carol? This explanation was found in the magazine of the Welwyn Garden City Free Church.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. During that period of time someone wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning, the surface meaning and also a hidden meaning known only to members of their faith. Each part of the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ
2. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments
3. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
5. The five golden rings recall the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament
6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Showing Mercy
8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control
10. The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments
11. The eleven pipers piping were the eleven faithful disciples
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolised the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed

Valerie Mills

A Prayer

**Submitted by Hugh Martin, these verses appeared in a Whitsable URC newsletter.
It struck a chord with him, as we are sure it will with others.**

Dear Lord,
Every single evening as I'm lying in my bed,
This tiny little prayer keeps running through my head.
God bless all my family, wherever they may be,
Keep them warm and safe from harm, for they're so close to me.
And God there is one more thing I wish that you could do;
Hope you don't mind me asking - please bless my computer too.
Now I know that its unusual to bless a motherboard,
But listen just a second while I explain it to you Lord.
You see, that little metal box holds more than odds and ends,
Inside those small compartments rest so many of my friends.

I know so much about them by the kindness they give,
And this scrap of metal takes me to where they live.
By faith is how I know them, much the same as you,
We share in what life brings us and from that our friendships grew.
Please take an extra minute from your duties up above
To bless those in my address book that's filled with so much love.
Wherever else this prayer may reach, to each and every friend,
Bless each e-mail inbox and each person who hits 'send'.
When you update your heavenly list on your own great CD-ROM,
Bless everyone who says this prayer sent up to GOD.com.

CHARITIES UPDATE

At the November Church Meeting, the following resolution was passed regarding charitable giving for 2013:

“That 5% of the church’s regular giving in 2013 should continue to be shared amongst the following four charities:

- *Homeless Action in Barnet*
- *Noah’s Ark Children’s Hospice*
- *Miriam Dean Trust*
- *Commitment for Life (URC’s link to Christian Aid partners).”*

As we are about to begin hosting the Barnet Winter Shelter for the second year, I thought it might be interesting to remind ourselves about the work of **Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB)**, as it is HAB who provide us with all the names of the guests. Their services continue to be in great demand throughout the whole year.

HAB's aim is to help a variety of clients whose circumstances might include any of the following:

- Rough sleepers;
- Those in insecure accommodation, where the tenancy is under threat;
- Those in temporary accommodation;
- Those in permanent accommodation but in need of support to maintain their tenancy.

To all its clients HAB offers a place to rest as well as meals, hot drinks, showers, laundry, clean clothes, resettlement support, medical, social and psychiatric services, drug and alcohol support, referrals to winter shelter, referrals to tenancy support, counselling, group work and other activities.

The following statistics are quoted on their website:

- We are currently helping over 250 people.
- Nearly half are men aged 40-60 years.
- We have about 450 visits to the centre per week.
- Nearly half of our visitors use the GP service.
- One quarter visit our dentist.
- Nearly half of our clients are disabled.
- There are about 50 visits made to the medical services each week.
- 36% of our clients consider themselves to have a drugs or alcohol problem.
- 36 machine loads of washing are done each week.

A dynamic team of about 30 volunteers help with the running of the Day Centre in Woodhouse Road, North Finchley and donations of good quality men’s clothing, non-perishable food items and small household items for those setting up home are always welcomed.

Alison Bond

St John’s United Reformed Church, New Barnet

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
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