

St. John's Church Record

July - August 2013



CONTENTS

- 1 From the Minister
- 2 Leading Prayers
- 3 Charities Update
- 4 A Rainbow of Spiritualities
FoodBank
- 5 The Paper Trail
Manse Housewarming
- 6 4WEDS4KIDS
Friends of Khasdobir Walk
The Development of Western Music
- 7 Saltaire
- 8 Calendar

Prayer at 12 Noon

From the Minister....

No one that I know finds prayer easy. Those who give the impression that prayer is not a struggle are either are not applying themselves to its demands or else think that prayer is a matter of telling God what to do. However, there are others who find prayer less of a struggle because they live in a religious community in which prayer is woven into the texture daily life. Monks and Nuns and others in religious communities have set times of prayer. I have occasionally visited such communities and, for these, prayer is mostly a matter of 'turning up'. And this is not difficult because everyone turns up: that is what being part of a religious community is about. When I was a part-time Tutor at Mansfield College, Oxford, we had a pattern of morning and evening prayer and

worship that was led in rotation by students and tutors. Corporate prayer was part of the pattern of our day. Prayer was, if not always easy, perfectly natural.

The Reformers attempted to break down the traditional barrier between the cloister and the world; the distinction between 'those who prayed' and 'those who worked'. They did not so much abolish the monastery as much as they extended walls of the monastery to include the whole world. They expected that everyone would both pray and work. They were realistic enough to realise praying would need to be compatible with the demands of work and family, and so specified that Grace should be said before and after each meal, and that a simple form of daily family prayers be said in the home. Hardly anyone I know today has family prayers; and fewer and fewer seems to say Grace before meals: most of us →.....

are far more individualistic and secularised than were previous generations of Christians. What this means, in practice, is that the Church expects each individual Christian to establish her or his own personal discipline of prayer and bible reading. In my pastoral experience, most Christians struggle to establish any such regular discipline. The reasons for this are not difficult to discern: the demands of work and/or family life militate against those things that don't shout loud. In my experience, God seldom shouts loud; God most often speaks through the Scriptures and in a 'still small voice'. This is easily drowned and crowded out by the noise and activity of modern life.

Jesus' response to the disciples' request: "teach us to pray" was to give them what we know as the Lord's Prayer. It is the prayer that is included in most acts of worship in every Christian tradition. The version of the Lord's Prayer in Luke's Gospel is very short. In Matthew's Gospel it is a little longer, but still not long. Protestants add to Matthew's version "... for thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen" (which first appeared at the end of the Lord's Prayer in the *Didache*, an early Christian writing) while Catholics traditionally pray Matthew's version.

I think that Jesus gave his disciples this prayer not expecting that they would necessarily repeat it verbatim every time, but as a framework for praying. I think Jesus envisaged that we pray by calling upon God as our heavenly Father, and express our desire that God's

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name, or nature, will be hallowed and honoured. We go on to ask for God's Kingdom, or rule, to come, and for God's will to be done. We ask God for what we need: enough food for the day; to be forgiven of our sins; and to forgive others. The final request (in Matthew's version) is not to be put to hard testing but to be delivered from evil. What I think praying like this achieves, at its best, is to align us with the nature and purpose of God as expressed in his Kingdom. The Church exists not for its own sake but to serve and extend God's Kingdom rule in the world.

In monasteries and convents there are seven canonical hours of prayer (also known as the Divine Office): Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sext,

None, Vespers, and Compline. Our English word 'Noon' is partly derived from the office of 'None' (from which, incidentally, our English word 'nine' is derived: it is the 'ninth' hour of prayer). The ecumenical initiative *Hope* is encouraging members of churches and Christian organisations to set their alarms and stop wherever they are to pray the Lord's Prayer at Noon. The Elders have agreed that St John's Church will try, from September, opening our

Sanctuary on Thursdays at 12 Noon for prayer. We will begin by praying the Lord's Prayer and then use a short order for Daily Worship, such as the one produced by the United Reformed Church based upon the Lord's Prayer. We'll start this on September 5. If you are free at midday on Thursdays, I invite you to join us for about 20 minutes of prayer and worship. If you are otherwise engaged, or it is impractical for you to come and join us, I invite you to set your alarm for 12 Noon and pray the Lord's Prayer at work or at home.

Julian Templeton

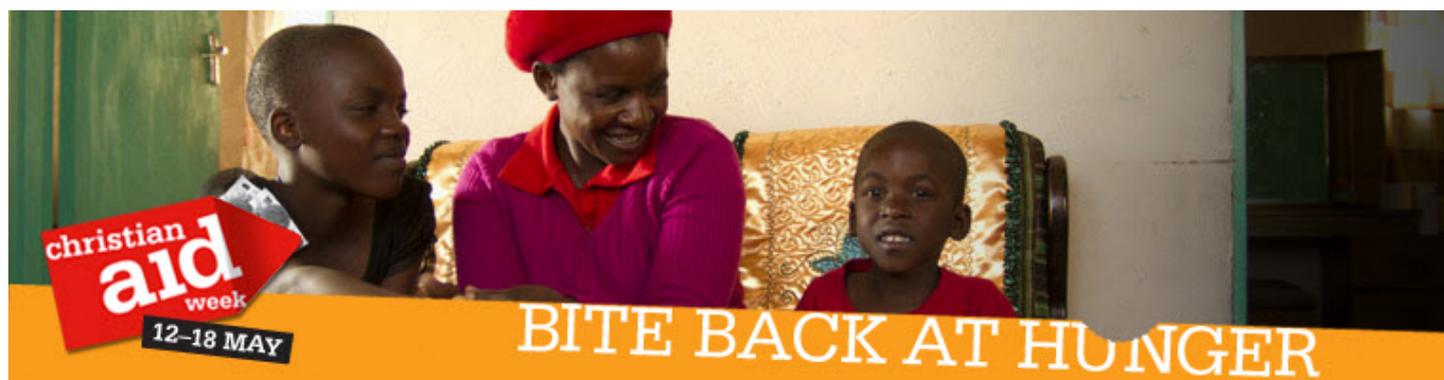
Leading Prayers of Thanksgiving and/or Intercession Tuesday 23 July, 8:00 pm

In many churches, the prayers of Intercession or 'Prayers of the People' are led by a variety of people; not necessarily the main leader of worship. At St John's we are blessed that our Elders, as part of their periodic leading of worship, lead these prayers, and lead them well. I

am providing an opportunity for Elders, and other people in the church who might be willing occasionally to lead prayers of thanksgiving/intercession, to come to a training session on Tuesday evening, 23rd July, 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary of St John's Church. We

will explore the purpose, the shape, and the elements of public thanksgiving and intercessory prayer; and look at some sample prayers.

Julian Templeton



Report on Christian Aid Week 12-18 May 2013 Thank You!

The total amount raised from the house-to-house collection this year was: £1,620.86. This is an increase

on last year's total and only made possible by the dedicated efforts of a few individuals, so on behalf of Christian Aid, a huge thank you to everyone for all your support. Together, we have helped to "Bite Back at Hunger" in the world.

For those of you who are interested in facts and figures, we collected a total of 281 envelopes and Christian Aid will be able to reclaim an

additional 25% on £881.28 of the above total (from those who completed the Gift Aid form) adding a further £220 to the total amount. We had 8 collectors plus a further 4 people helping to deliver envelopes, and a wonderful team of 8 people helped count all the money.

Alison Bond



Thank you as well to everyone who supported the emergency appeal for the refugee crisis in Syria. The church has received a letter from Christian Aid, who are part of the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee), thanking everyone for their support and acknowledging the donation of £663.60. It included the following message:

"As well as supporting the refugees who have fled Syria, we are also responding to the desperate humanitarian needs inside the country by sending funds to the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), a sister faith-based international organization. IOCC is

working with Syrian churches, Islamic, and secular organisations, to reach the widest number of people. With your support, our work is providing food rations, bedding and hygiene kits. They are also helping put roofs over heads of displaced families by providing rent subsidies and shelter improvements. Cash for work schemes simultaneously provide an income for families who have left jobs and support behind, while carrying out useful local work. To minimise disruption to education, IOCC is giving children and young people who have fled their homes, tuition and fees support to get them into school where possible, and

providing remedial classes where necessary.

"New mothers and young children are among the most vulnerable. IOCC is providing pre and post-natal care, as well as emergency nutrition and breastfeeding education through mother support groups. IOCC is also supporting community health workers, and psychosocial workshops to help people who have fled violence, especially children, cope with trauma. With Christian Aid's support, IOCC will be able to extend this crucial relief to more people in need."

A RAINBOW OF SPIRITUALITIES

The Southern and Thames North Synods of the URC (the Urban URC Network) organised this day conference which took place on Saturday 29th June 2013 at Kensington URC.

Over 50 people attended from many URC's in the London area as far afield as East Grinstead in the South and Hitchin in the North.

There is a wide diversity in the expressions of our Christian faith and in our worship and the day helped us to explore this rich diversity in our Churches.



Revd Dr

Michael Jagessar, General Assembly Moderator, who suggested the idea, provided the key Bible input based around the Pentecost story from the Book of Acts with new insights as to the power and all embracing presence of the Holy Spirit which came upon the early believers and is available to us as a community of Christ filled people in our Churches today.

We were reminded that the believers came together in one place and waited expectantly as the wind rush

of the Spirit came upon them as they experienced God's offer of full life in the Spirit and how they shared together, learning from the Apostles, taking part in the fellowship and sharing in the fellowship meals and the prayers.

The Bible passages were interspersed with music and singing from different traditions and countries with songs from Ghana, South Africa, Australia, Korea and elsewhere. We had the opportunity to attend a morning and afternoon workshop from a range of practical and spiritual workshops including making mosaics, dance, song writing, rainbow rhythms, story telling and different aspects of praying ranging from Catholic to Pentecostal.

There is such a rich diversity of accents and ethnicity which can enrich our lives in the URC. We are all connected through our love of Christ and we can develop our faith and learn from each other when we are open to the power of the Holy Spirit both in our own lives and in the life of our Churches today and take chances as we embrace our 'wind rush God' in Christ.

Andrew Mills



Urban URC network



Food Bank Collection Rota

- I have received an email from Kenneth Morgan who helps co-ordinate the food collections from various churches & other contributors to say that the Barnet Foodbank now

has a huge increase in demand for food so they have decided to collect from participating churches on a rota, covering each church about once a month. St John's Church collection will usually be during the 3rd week of each month on a Wednesday between 10.00 & 11.30am.

David Paul

The cream tea made a profit of £177-31p. Thank you to Rosemary and David for organising this event and thanks to all who came along.

ST JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP



Have you ever not been able to sleep, wondering what happens to all the elephant droppings at Whipsnade Zoo? Then you may be interested to know that the fifteen lucky fellowship members that joined us for the visit to "The Paper Trail" on 19th June, have the answer, it is used to make special paper! Our group had a most interesting time, we learned about the history of paper from its invention in 105 AD, by the Chinese, to the development of the first machine to mass produce paper

in 1803 to the impact paper has had on our education and UK history. The Frogmore Paper Mill has been at the forefront of paper production for over 200 years, when the first machine in the UK was installed and powered by the water mill. Many in the group had the opportunity to make some paper for themselves, in a process unchanged from the 1900 year old Chinese method, although not from elephant poo! The paper mill remains a working business, we toured the works, seeing specialist paper being made on an hundred year old machine which filled a large building. The machinery required

constant attention, belching steam and generating constant noise, but to see a strange water mix of fibrous goo being fed in at one end and clean, white paper appear on a huge roll, forty feet away was a wonder. I think everyone thought the "icing on the cake" during our afternoon, was the trip up the Grand Union Canal on a narrow boat. The weather was warm and sunny, to drift along the canal beside the brightly painted narrow boats, with ducks and herons paddling out of the way, with the branches of willow trees brushing the roof of our little boat, was just delightful. Everyone was disappointed when we had to climb out for tea!

Julian and Laura welcomed members and friends of Highgate and St. John's to a truly *warm* Housewarming at the Manse in The Fairway. On one of the few warm days in June we were able to relax outside in the garden. We wish Julian and Laura all the best in their new home.



**New Barnet
and East
Barnet**

**WOMEN'S
WORLD DAY OF
PRAYER**

Garden Party

Dear All(including Men),
You are invited to a Garden Party to be held on Friday 26th July, 2013 (2pm to 3.30pm) At St. John's U.R.C. Large Hall, Mowbray Road Entrance
Donations of savouries and cakes for the tea and items for the Bring and Buy Stall are welcome. There will also be a Fair-trade Stall. Please support us as this is an opportunity to socialise with folk from other local churches . Hope to see you.

Yours sincerely
Marjorie I. O'Connor (Secretary) and Brenda Sandford
(St John's URC WWDP Representatives)

*Please tell/phone or text for catering purposes
Marjorie-home-0208 445 6580 or mobile 07515 910514*

4 WEDS 4 KIDS

The 4Weds4Kids After School Club has been meeting on the 4th Wednesday in each month from 4pm to 5pm during the last term. There are usually about twelve children from pre-school age to ten year olds. We offer a range of craft activities to choose from as well as games to play, music and stories to listen to and juice and biscuits to enjoy. We try to have a different theme each time. In April the children helped to make the starfish for the Church Anniversary display. In May we had the story of Noah's Ark and in June we thought about colours, black for our sins, red for the blood of Jesus, white for being made clean, green for growing in our faith and yellow for heaven. The children enjoyed making bracelets and necklaces with coloured beads. We have been asked if we can hold the club every week in term time and we are thinking about starting this in September.



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Friends of Khasdobir London Walk Saturday 7th September 2013



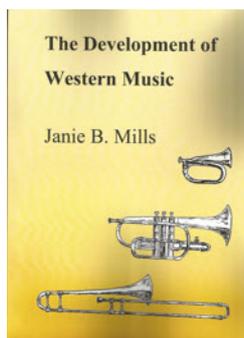
is £6 and funds raised go to the Friends of Khasdobir, a charity inspired by Toc H, which provides education and training for children and adults in Bangladesh. All walkers should sign in at the start after 10.30am and complete the course before 4.30pm. A group of us will be travelling from New

This year's walk is entitled 'Parsees, Pirates and St Pancras' and will be along the Regents Canal and around Regent's Park. It starts and finishes near Warren Street Tube Station at the Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre, 50-52 Hampstead Road. There are 22 sites on the course and 20 of these have to be visited and as usual there will be a question to answer about each site. The route is just over 5¼ miles long but there is a shorter route of 4¼ miles which omits 2 sites, if preferred. Entry fee



Barnet Station and will meet there at 9.30am. Bring a picnic lunch with you. For further information please speak to Valerie Mills.

'The Development of Western Music' by Janie Mills



Janie Mills has just had a book published entitled 'The Development of Western Music'. She started writing this when she was studying for a diploma from the London College of Music in the 1980's. When her studies were completed, she decided to put all the notes that she had made into a book which she hoped might be of use to other students. It is chronologically written with biographical notes on some 400 composers. It took a long time to put it together and she enlisted the help of Alan Pryor with the word processing and Anthony Mulchansingh with some of the drawings. The book

was almost finished when Janie became ill in 2002 and was left until her elder son Douglas recently took up the challenge to complete it. With the help of a publisher friend the book was published and officially launched on 16th May 2013 at Baxendale Care Home where Janie lives. Several of the students from The City Literary Institute who attended the same classes as Janie came along to the event and enjoyed tea and cake and a glass of wine to toast Janie's achievement.

SALTAIRE—A Short History and the U.R.C. Connection



Saltaire Mill

Saltaire takes its name from Sir Titus Salt (1803-1876), and the River Aire which runs through the village. Salt made his fortune in the Bradford textile industry making fine woollen fabrics, but was determined to escape the polluted and overcrowded town centre for greener pastures. He therefore employed two local Architects to plan a new community where his workforce would be healthier, happier and more productive! Work began in 1851 and continued until 1876, with Salts Mill being the first building to be completed in 1853. The entire village was designed in a classical style inspired by the Italian Renaissance, and the houses provided, compared favourably with a typical worker's cottage. Their finest work was Saltaire United Reformed Church, or



Saltaire URC

Congregational as it would have been when built. This is now a grade 1 listed building, which is the same category as York Minster and Hampton Court Palace! The ornate tower contains a peal of bells, there being only one other Congregational Church in the U.K. to have these. The original bells were removed in 1939 to help the war effort with scrap metal, but have since been replaced with new ones.

Salt was one of the greatest Victorian philanthropists, who donated to good causes both locally and nationally, and provided rent-free Almshouses for the elderly and sick in Saltaire. These came with a pension, forty years before the first state pensions in the U.K.

By the 1980's the British textile industry was in steep decline and production at the Salts Mill finally ceased in 1986. Another brilliant entrepreneur, Jonathan Silver, came to the rescue, bought the Mill and within months opened a gallery exhibiting the work of Bradford born artist David Hockney. During the 1990s more of the Mill was brought back into use and now houses business, shops and the famous Salts Diner.

Saltaire was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2001, it being recognised for its

international influence on town planning and as one of the earliest, largest and best preserved nineteenth century 'model villages' anywhere in the world. Roberts Park on the northern side of the River Aire was provided by Salt who

believed leisure was good for his worker's health, particularly as a distraction from the temptations of alcohol! This has recently had a major restoration with funds from both the Heritage Lottery Fund and

Bradford Council and now includes a bandstand and children's play area. For those readers that have got this far, we had better explain why the village of Saltaire is of such interest to us. Martin and Christine's eldest son Robert and his Partner Ellie lived in a flat in Leeds, but earlier this year bought one of the worker's terraced cottages within a five minute walk from Saltaire railway station, this being much nearer to both their work places, in Otley and Skipton respectively. This is a typical 2-up, 2-down Victorian house, but now includes indoor facilities!!

We went to see everything when on holiday at Grange-Over-Sands , Cumbria, in May and would suggest that it is well worth a visit if in the area on holiday. Try and make it a Sunday and go to Church in the impressive U.R.C. as we did.

Dorothy and Michael Peryer.



Interior of Saltaire URC

Calendar of Church Events

July		
Sunday 7th	11:00am	Worship with Holy Communion led by Julian Templeton
Monday 8th	1:30 -3:30pm	Little John's Toddler Group
Sunday 14th	11:00am	Worship led by Richard Harvey and Brenda Sandford
	8:00pm	Soul Food led by Julian Templeton
Monday 15th	1:30 -3:30pm	Little John's Toddler Group
Sunday 21st	11:00am	Worship led by Julian Templeton, followed by brief Church Meeting(to consider the results of the Elders Election) and Interment of the ashes of Hugo Bartrum and Dedication of Memorial Bench in Church Garden
Tuesday 23rd	8:30pm	Men's Group at The Black Horse, Wood Street.
Friday 26th	2:00pm	New and East Barnet Women's World Day of Prayer - Garden Party at St. John's
Sunday 28th	11:00am	Worship led by Sarah Beaumont and Roz Douglas
	3:00pm	Causeway Party in the Park. Picnic and games in Greenhill Park
Tuesday 30th	8:00pm	Prayer and Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park
August		
Sunday 4th	11:00am	Worship with Holy Communion led by Julian Templeton
Wednesday 7th	7:00pm	Nosh and Natter at 10 Leicester Road
Sunday 11th	11:00am	Worship led by Andrew Mills and Valerie Mills
Sunday 18th	11:00am	Worship led by Julian Templeton
Sunday 25th	11:00am	Worship led Tony Alderman and David Paul
September		
Sunday 1st	11:00am	Worship with Holy Communion led by Julian Templeton
Thursday 5th	12:00 am	Prayer at 12 Noon led by Julian Templeton
	8:00pm	Management and Finance Committee
Sunday 8th	11:00am	Worship led by Andrew Summers and Helen Snider
	8:00pm	Soul Food led by Julian Templeton

Minister: Julian Templeton
 Secretary: Tony Alderman
 Administrator: Alison Cousins
 Children's Worker
 Church Website

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