

November
December
2013

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

Christmas Services



Advent 4 Sunday 22nd December

11:00 am Worship led by Alison Bond and Alison Cousins

6:30 pm Carol Service led by Choir and Julian Templeton

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December

11:30 pm Christmas Eve Carol & Communion Service led by Julian Templeton

Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December

10:30 am All Age Carol Service led by Meg Hardie and Paul Elsdon



Together in Barnet Night Winter Shelter

St. John's Church, with the help of St. Peter's Church, will again be hosting the Saturday nights / Sunday mornings starting with 2 nights before Christmas, 14th and 21st Dec, then 8 nights after Christmas, 4th Jan - 22nd Feb

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to set up, cook dinner, wash up, chat with the guests, stay overnight, prepare breakfast, clear up, and transport the bedding and bags to the next venue. Please pray for our guests and volunteers as they give and receive Christian hospitality. Contact Lesley Calder with any queries. Tel: 020 8440 5073 Email: lesleycalder@googlemail.com

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From the Minister...

The Centripetal Force of God's Love

Our lives are comprised of overlapping loyalties. We can sometimes feel that our loyalties compete and conflict, pulling us in different directions. We need something that can integrate and prioritise our various loyalties. For Paul, there is something that can achieve this: God's love. He writes: "Over all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together perfectly." (Colossians 3:14)

All energy, including energy to love, ultimately comes from God. But love is the most important energy, for love, along with praise and prayer, is ultimately directed back to its source: to God. St Augustine believed that all our desires, all our wants and needs, our desire for security, friendship, happiness, and intimacy—whether we recognise them as such or not—are earthly expressions of our ultimate desire for God and desire to be loved by God.

Without God's love our lives can become centrifugal. A centrifuge spins at high speed and forces things out from the centre to the extremity. Chemists and medical researchers use a centrifuge to separate and distinguish compounds: such as the elements in blood. From experience, we know how loyalties can have this effect: the demands of family, friends, and work can spin us centrifugally so that we lose a sense of connection with our centre in God. I've observed this in church life, where responding to increased demands from family or work or other interests results in some people worshipping less and less, and some of these

stop worshipping altogether. The worship of God ceases to be the centre of their life; something else has become central, or perhaps there is no fixed centre and life becomes a perpetual race round the periphery.

But Paul believes that such a process is not inevitable, and, indeed, that there is a countervailing force. Paul writes that love can "bind everything together perfectly." Paul writes about love as a centripetal force. A centripetal force is a force by which bodies are drawn or impelled towards a point at a centre. A satellite in orbit around a planet or star is an example of a centripetal force, such as the Earth exerts on the Moon, and the Sun exerts on the Earth and other the planets of our solar system.

At Christmas we celebrate that God's love for the world found its supreme expression in the infant Jesus. Jesus had the effect of drawing the characters in the nativity story towards him with a centripetal force. The amazing thing about the celebration of Christmas is that it has the power to draw people still today: at this one time in the year people are drawn toward the 'child in the manger'. The pull Christ exerts is the power of God's holy love, even if not everyone recognises it. When Christ becomes the centre of one's existence, he fills the void within us and enables us to respond to God and to other people with reprioritised loyalties: God first; others second; self third.

Julian Templeton

St John's Fellowship Programme

2013/2014

As the Fellowship completes its 30th Year, we have another of the speakers who have informed, educated and amused us many times over the last thirty years. This time it is Diane Nightingale who on 20th Nov. is coming to talk to us about her "Cuban Adventure." We look forward to welcoming Diane, and hearing about another of her "jaunts" which, as usual, will be accompanied by many slides.

Then on 18th December we will be ar-

ranging a Dinner for members followed by a brief Quiz which as last year will be expertly arranged by Ron and Sue. Tickets for this evening will cost £12 and will be available first to Fellowship Members and then to all other St John's people. We hope that you will join us for this evening.

Our 2014 programme starts on 15th Jan. with a return visit of Robin Webb who this time is coming to talk to us about "Cromer – Last of the Hertfordshire Windmills."

Ray Hopwood



STAMPS & SPECS

This is just my annual reminder that I hope you will continue to let me have your used stamps, particularly any foreign ones and the special Christmas issues. You may recall these are now sold in aid of two charities – the RSPB and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

Also I thank those who put old spectacles in my pigeonhole or in the box in the church porch. These go to Vision Aid Overseas, and St. Johns has sent over 4,500 pairs since I started collecting in aid of this charity in 1995, so I hope to reach 5,000 pairs before too long!

Hugh Martin



Keith and James Peryer's Charity Run raised £1,740 for BLISS

Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored my son James and me for taking part in the Great North Run, a Half Marathon held in Newcastle. As you may or may not be aware, my Grandson Harry, was born very prematurely, weighing just 2lbs 12ozs. Thanks to the amazing work at The Royal Derby Neonatal Intensive Care Unit he is now a very healthy 15 month old baby boy.

We decided we wanted to take on the challenge of the Great North Run to raise money for BLISS, the UK charity for premature babies. They offer guidance and support at a critical time in families lives. They also fund ground-breaking research and campaign for babies to receive the best possible level of care.

We joined 56,000 other runners on the 15th September 2013 for this amazing race. We didn't quite beat Mo Farah!! But we did finish the race in 1 hour 56 minutes....a tremendous experience and a great day.

So, on behalf of BLISS and the Peryer clan, thank you very much for your support.

Keith Peryer



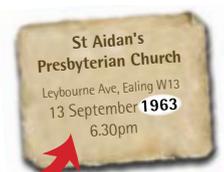
2 WEEKS OLD!



1 YEAR OLD!

Tony's 50th Anniversary Service

Friends of Tony Alderman gathered at St John's to celebrate his 50 years of preaching, since leading his first service at St Aidan's Presbyterian Church in Ealing in 1963. It was attended by friends from many of the churches where he has preached regularly over the past fifty years. A retiring collection raised £334.30 for the Christian Aid Syria Crisis Appeal, £194 of which was Gift Aided adding a further £48.50 to the total. Thank you to everyone for your generous support.



50 years of Preaching

Respite Circumspice Prospice

The next 50 years

St John's URC

Freedom of the City of London

One of our Elders, Roz Douglas has received the Freedom of the City of London. Roz was awarded the honour in October 2013 by Murray Craig, Clerk of the Chamberlain's Court in a ceremony at the Court in the Guildhall, the headquarters of the City of London Corporation.

Roz is pictured after she had made the Declaration of a Freeman in front of an audience of her family and friends, proudly displaying her framed copy of her freedom certificate. Her husband Malcolm is on her left with their granddaughter Sarah and son Stephen standing behind him. Their grandson Terry is to the right of Roz and he is holding the red book, 'The Rules of the Conduct of Life' which every freeman also receives. This is a Christian guide to living a good life and is 'for the use of such freemen of London as take apprentices'. The book has 36 rules and many Biblical quotations, for instance, Rule VII instructs that 'To live well is to be constantly obedient to God's commands, and never willing to do or desire that which is contrary to any of them.'

The Freedom of the City is one of the oldest surviving traditional English ceremonies and is believed to date back to 1237 when the term 'freeman' denoted someone who was not the property of a feudal lord. From the Middle Ages onwards the Freedom was the right to trade enabling members of a Guild or Livery Company to carry out their trade or craft in the Square Mile of the City of London.

In 1835 the Freedom was widened to include not just members of Livery Companies but also people living or working in the City or with a strong London connection. Roz is a freeman (a member) of the livery company, the Worshipful Company of Marketors, <http://www.marketors.org/> and therefore eligible to apply for the Freedom of the City. The award of the Freedom to her was approved by the Court of Aldermen of the City of London Corporation.

Each freedom ceremony is tailored to the professional interests of the recipient and, since Roz's work is in journalism, broadcasting, marketing and public relations, the Clerk, Murray Craig gave a very interesting talk about media luminaries who have received the Freedom. These included Sir Terry Wogan, Sir Bob Geldof, Sir Nicholas Parsons and Sir Henry Morton Stanley, the journalist who made his name in 1871 by finding the missionary David Livingstone in 1871 in what is now called Tanzania and was then known as 'Darkest Africa'.

He also highlighted other famous people who have received the Freedom of the City including politicians Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela and Helmut Kohl among many others. Before 1996, the Freedom was only available to British and Commonwealth citizens but it is now open to people of any nationality.

Roz and her audience then left for lunch at nearby Davys at Woolgate Brasserie where Sally Muggeridge, the Master of the Worshipful Company of Marketors, led the event with the traditional toast to Roz as the youngest (i.e. the newest) Freeman of the City of London.

"This was a terrific day and I feel really privileged to have the Freedom of the City of London," Roz says. "I joined the Marketors as a Freeman 2007 and I wish I had applied sooner for the Freedom. I kept putting it off because of pressures of work, and difficulties with many of my family living outside London. However this year I was determined to do it and I am so glad that I did."

"It was an amazing and unforgettable day for me with my own special individual ceremony at the Guildhall witnessed by my family and friends, followed by a splendid celebratory lunch nearby."

For more information see the City of London Corporation website. <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-the-city/history-and-heritage/Pages/freedom-of-the-city.aspx>



Messy Church

On Sunday 13th October we had our first Sunday morning Messy Church starting at 10.30am and finishing at 12 noon. The theme was 'Jesus the Vine' and a number of activities on this theme were set up in the large hall for the children to choose to do. After drinks and biscuits the children enjoyed sowing seeds, colouring pictures and playing games. Later we all went to the small hall and sang 'Our God is a Great Big God' and watched a DVD. Then there were more refreshments, including grapes, before everyone went home. Although there were only three children they all enjoyed themselves and we hope that they will tell their friends and bring them along for the next Messy Church which is on December 8th and will have a Christmas theme.

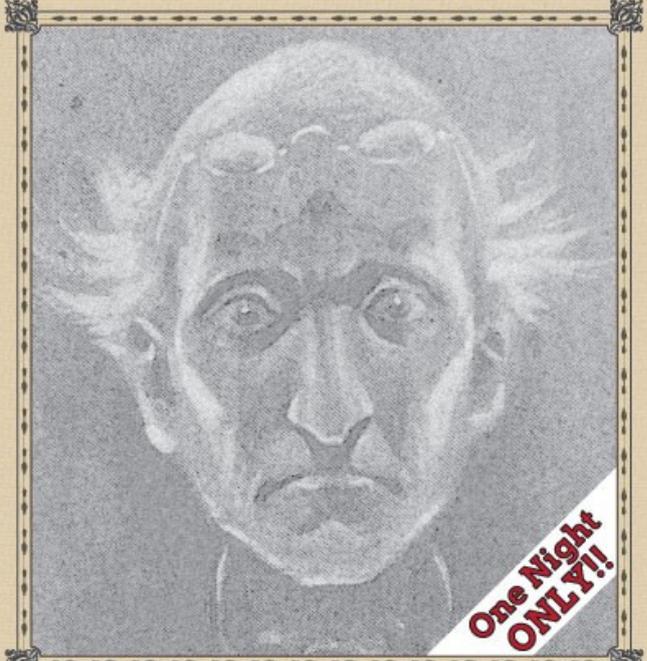
WEDS 4 KIDS CLUB

Each Wednesday between 4 and 5 pm there are about fifteen children in the small hall busy doing activities such as colouring pictures, making collages and playing games. They all enjoy themselves and we are getting to know the children and learning all their names.

If anyone is available between 4 and 5pm to help with refreshments and join in the activities with the children we will be very pleased to see you.

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St John's Fellowship

United Reformed Church

On 18th September the Fellowship speaker was our minister, the Reverend Julian Templeton, his subject The Cultural Perspective of National Anthems around the world. Although the title sounded a little daunting, his talk was most interesting and provided opportunity for an unusually good sing-along!

National anthems are relatively modern phenomena. Following a succession of wars, treaties were made and national states recognised, but the Pope objected to national anthems because many were rallying cries encouraging war and supremacy rather than peace.

We began by singing the two verses of our United Kingdom national anthem, omitting its 'politically incorrect second verse', after which Julian sang the New Zealand anthem in Maori.

We were indeed fortunate to have Richard Harvey playing piano accompaniment and the hearty rendition of the 'La Marseillaise' was voted the winner, especially when rallying the French fans at the rugby field. We next sang 'Flower of Scotland', another lovely old anthem, followed by America's 'Star Spangled Banner'.

A Methodist schoolteacher wrote the South African anthem in defiance of apartheid; various lines incorporate the languages of the various races that live there. The German national anthem is another good sport-rallying cry, also with a rather politically incorrect middle verse that is no longer included.

Finally, after Dorothy Peryer had

National Anthems of the World



recited in Welsh 'The Land of my

Fathers', the anthem of Wales, we joined her in singing its verses and rousing chorus - some in Welsh! We all felt we should join in with gusto during any event ending or opening with our own national anthem, especially at sporting events to spur on our teams to glory! Our thanks were expressed to Julian for an enlightening and enjoyable evening.

Patricia Picken

A Brief History of Pantomime

Marlene McAndrew

At the October meeting of the Fellowship Marlene McAndrew gave us a very interesting talk on the history of pantomime and how it has become the form of entertainment it is to-day.

Pantomime is based on fairy tales and legends where good always triumphs over evil. It is a mixture of eccentricity, ambiguity and absurdity. For many families it is an essential part of Christmas.

It has its roots in Europe with the *comedia dell'arte*. These were performances which took place in Italian

streets and market places. In the 18th century thousands of people from all walks of life attended theatres. The story of Harlequin and Columbine was very popular.

Gradually changes were made and pantomime was born. Joseph Grimaldi changed the part of the clown. Out went the old costume and make-up and he invented many famous gags. He was a melancholy man and used to say "I am Grim all day, but I make you laugh at night". In the 19th century the centre of comedy moved away from the clown and focused on the eccentric dame. Dan Leno, a music hall performer created the character of a garrulous, working class woman and made it his own.

Today we still have a man playing the part of the dame but the principal boy is now sometimes played by a man. Pantomime's absurdity and pretence add to the enjoyment of the audience. Pantomime is still a very popular family entertainment.

Ann Bannerman

A walk in the park...

Andrew Summers very kindly offered to guide Julian and I around his much beloved Trent Country Park. Others were invited which resulted on 12 of us (plus dog) turning up on a sunny Saturday morning. Andrew's knowledge of the park was put to good use as we went through parts even regular visitors had yet to discover.

Hopefully this will be the first of many excursions as we explore our new home. Any other offers?

Laura Templeton



Making sure we knew where we were going

The views were amazing!



Our intrepid leader!



Lots of interesting autumn fungi



Peppa checking we were going to the cafe afterwards.

Calendar November–December 2013

November

Wednesday 20th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	8:00pm	St. John's Fellowship, Diane Nightingale, A Cuban Adventure
Thursday 21st	12 noon	Prayer at Noon
Sunday 23rd	11:00am	Worship led by Sarah Beaumont and Roz Douglas
Tuesday 22nd	8:00pm	Prayer and Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Road
Wednesday 27th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Thursday 28th	12 noon	Prayer at Noon
	8:00pm	Men's Group Curry Evening at The Railway Bell

December

Sunday 1st	11:00am	Advent 1, Worship with Holy Communion led by Julian Templeton
Wednesday 4th	7:00pm	Nosh and Natter at 10 Leicester Road
Thursday 5th	12 noon	Prayer at Noon, Vestry
Friday 6th	8:00pm	Choir Rehearsal for Carol Service
Sunday 8th	10:30am	Messy Church
	11:00am	Advent 2, Worship led by Helen Snider and Andrew Summers
	3:00pm	Causeway
Tuesday 10th	8:00pm	Elders' Meeting, Vestry
Wednesday 11th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	8:30pm	Men's Group at the Railway Bell
Thursday 12th	12 noon	Prayer at Noon, Vestry
Friday 13th	2:00pm	Lyonsdown School Carol Service
	8:00pm	Choir Rehearsal for Carol Service
Sat 14th/Sun 15th	pm/am	Winter Shelter
Sunday 15th	11:00am	Advent 3, Worship led by Julian Templeton
Wednesday 18th	6:30pm	St. John's Fellowship : AGM followed by Dinner and Quiz
Thursday 19th	12 noon	Prayer at Noon, Vestry
Friday 20th	8:00pm	Choir Rehearsal for Carol Service
Sat 21st/ Sun 22nd	pm/am	Winter Shelter
Sunday 22nd	11:00am	Advent 4, Worship led by Alison Bond and Alison Cousins
	6:30pm	Carol Service
Tuesday 24th	11:30pm	Christmas Eve Carol and Communion Service led by Julian Templeton
Wednesday 25th	10:30am	Christmas Day All Age Carol Service led by Meg Hardie and Paul Elsdon
Sunday 29th	11:00am	Worship led by Tony Alderman /David Paul
Sat 4th/Sun 5th	pm/am	Winter Shelter

January

Sunday 5th	11:00am	Epiphany Worship with Holy Communion led by Julian Templeton
Wednesday 8th	7:00pm	Nosh and Natter at 10 Leicester Road
Thursday 9th	12 noon	Prayer at Noon, Vestry
Sat 11th/Sun 12th	pm/am	Winter Shelter
Sunday 12th	11:00am	Worship led by Sarah Beaumont and Roz Douglas