

July &
August
2014

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

Somerset & Mowbray Roads, New Barnet, Herts,

Believing in God...

Gideon and Joel have now finished their GCSE exams (hooray!), but I was intrigued to come across the word "numinous" in their Study Booklet for Religious Studies. The word numinous was one of the key words they needed to know, and came in the section on religious experiences Unit 1: Believing in God. The sub heading was how religious experiences, as seen in the numinous, conversion, miracles and prayer, may lead to a belief in God. I have to say numinous was not a word I had come across. The definition of numinous according to the booklet is "The feeling of the presence of something greater than you".

In doing my homework I discovered that the German Lutheran Theologian Rudolph Otto (1869 - 1937) uses the word 'numinous' to mean being in the presence of an awesome power in his 1936 book "The Idea of the Holy". He describes it as, an experience found in liturgies and religious buildings. Otto's book greatly influenced C. S. Lewis, I also discovered.

So when did you last have an experience which was amazing, astonishing, exciting, fascinating, uncanny, surprising, forceful, miraculous, awesome, powerful, or even mysterious? Could it have been a numinous experience?

(Paul Elsdon)

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Contacts

Website
Minister
Secretary
Administrator
Children's Worker

www.stjohnsnewbarnet.org.uk
Julian Templeton, Tel. 020 8441 0499, Email, julian@templeton.me.uk
Tony Alderman, Tel. 020 8441 4807, Email, aldermantony@aol.com
Alison Cousins, Tel. 07816 115 817, Email, acousins.sjnb@hotmail.co.uk
Eileen McCaffrey, Tel. 07816 854052, Email, eileen@mcaff.freereserve.co.uk





REPORT ON CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 11-17 May 2014

Thank You!

The total amount raised from the house-to-house collection this year was: **£1,816.53**. 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.

For those of you who are interested in facts and figures, we collected a total of 294 envelopes and Christian Aid will be able to reclaim an additional 25% on £852.49 of the above total (from those who completed the Gift Aid form) adding a further £213 to the total amount. We had 10 collectors plus a further 4 people helping to deliver envelopes, and a wonderful team of 8 people helped count all the money.

The following message is from the Christian Aid:

Christian Aid Week 2014: how you have given people a future without fear
Thank you so much for everything you did during Christian Aid Week.

We are again truly humbled by your efforts: your organising, collecting, abseiling, prayers, cake sales, worship, supermarket collections, flute recitals, concerts, ventriloquism and so much more. Words are inadequate to express our deepest gratitude for what you have done and the money you have raised.

But most importantly, thanks to you, many more people in Colombia, Iraq, South Sudan and elsewhere will be able to lead a life free from fear. When seven year old Sara's village in northern Iraq was flattened by bombs, during Saddam Hussein's regime, her father could not recognise where their house had once been. Now, with support from Christian Aid, Sara is growing up in a thriving and vibrant community. Where once lay only rubble, now there are greenhouses

bursting with vegetables, a reservoir teeming with fish, a house that Sara's family feels safe in; and soon there will be electricity in the power lines.

Sara's Dad, Wahid, sends this message: "Your footprint is here. As much as the world, the sky, I thank you so much. You are doing this in charity, out of love. All the hard work you are doing by your hand can be seen here. No one can pay you back - only God."

Thank you for showing your love for people like Sara and her family this Christian Aid Week. We know that taking part in Christian Aid Week takes hard work, perseverance and dedication, but thanks to your help we will be able to lift more communities out of the devastation of war - so they can thrive, free from fear.

Alison Bond





Church Growth - Area Forum Event Tuesday 20 May at Christ Church, New Southgate and Friern Barnet by Roz Douglas

Led by the Rev'd Kate Hackett from Tetherdown URC Church, Muswell Hill, this was an interesting evening of prayer, presentation and discussion about the essential ingredients for church growth. This is a really important issue for most URC churches and one which our church has been considering for the past year.

Worship was led by Rev'd Caroline Rogers who hosted the event in the church hall at her church - Christ Church New Southgate and Friern Barnet.

Kate Hackett stepped into the breach at the last minute as Tim Reith, Synod Mission Enabler, was unable to attend due to family reasons, and she did an excellent job, clearly setting out the 7 marks of a healthy church. These are:

1/ Energised by faith, a healthy church is fit for purpose and self aware.

2/ Outward looking focus - is your church working in partnership with other denominations and organisations to help local communities? This includes food banks and local charities. It also includes having an effective website and organising and publicising events.

3/ Seeking to find out what God wants your church to do. "How many of us" Kate asked" sit down in prayer groups in church meetings and

make space to listen to what God wants of us? Do we allow God room to speak to us?"

4/ A healthy church faces the costs of change and growth, and does not resist change e.g. organising Messy Church and different types of church services. "If we are to be led by the Spirit, surely we should be changing all the time? We should ask ourselves. Why do we just go on doing some things?"

5/ Operating as a community. A church is not a club for a bit of worship and coffee. It should be a family and we should recognise the gifts of leadership we have. Ordained Elders should have freedom to lead. "But we should recognise that some people are afraid to enter and be sucked into too many duties. Relationships are the core part of the church. When new people come in, ask them what they think of your church."

6/A healthy church is inclusive and makes room for all. As a Christian community, we should be like Jesus. He never excludes anyone and we have to offer the hand of hospitality, not be an exclusive club.

7/ All churches must do the basics well. A healthy church does a few things really well. "Ask yourselves - What are your church's strengths?" Recommended - 'The Healthy Church Handbook' by Robert Warren.

Junior Church News....



The next Messy Church event takes place on Sunday 20th July at 10:30 am

If your children or grandchildren are planning to come to worship during the school summer holidays, please contact Eileen McCaffrey, Email. eileen@mcaffreeserve.co.uk Tel. 020 8441 2590 in advance and she will arrange for a Junior Church activities to be organised for them.

Church Record

The September/October edition of the Church Record will be edited by Paul Elsdon, and the deadline for contributions to Alison Cousins (contact details on front page) is 29th August.



Friends of Khasdobir London Walk

This will take place on Saturday 6th September so do keep the date free if you would like to join us. More details about the route and starting place can be obtained from Valerie Mills.

St John's Fellowship

United Reformed Church

May Meeting

Sylvia & Philip Stewart

Remembering Times Past

This was the title of the Musical Evening given by Sylvia and Philip Stewart, when they looked back in a chronological order at musical events which had left good memories for both of them over many years.

We got off to a rousing start with a recording of part of the famous Toccata and Fugue by J.S. Bach played on the magnificent organ in the Royal Albert Hall by George Thalben-Ball as part of a Prom. Concert. This was followed by Smetana's tone poem Vltava, a beautiful flowing piece describing the river in the Czech Republic and through Prague. A number of those present were reminded of the Church holiday some years ago in Prague.

After an extract from Haydn's Variations on the St Anthony Chorale, we changed direction completely, and were taken back to the very well known pop group of the sixties, The Seekers, singing "Rocking, Rolling, Riding" and "Georgie's Girl." Both Philip and I, and I suspect other men present, admitted to having a bit of a

crush at the time on their lead vocalist, Judith Durham!!

Sylvia told us that when she was teaching at a School in St. Albans, the Head asked her to arrange "Georgie's Girl" as a



combined song and dance act for her class, and this was so successful that the girls kept asking, "When can we do it again?"

We had a change from music, for an interval, with the recording of Gerard Hoffnung at the Oxford Union, recounting the story of the spare bricks at the top of a building and the barrel at the bottom! I have no intention of trying to explain this, except to say that it was hilarious. The event is available on Google for those who have no idea what I am talking about. The London Welsh Male Voice Choir gave a wonderful

rendering of the Hymn, "When I survey the wondrous cross," which was followed by three Hymns chosen by Sylvia and Philip for their funerals, these were:- "O love that

will not let me go", "The day thou gavest Lord has ended", and "Thine be the glory." Both Adrian and Peter played the trumpet in their respective School Orchestra and Wind Band, etc. and Sylvia and Philip's love of brass band music was obvious from the John Philip Sousa march, "Washington Post" and

the Grand March from Verdi's Opera, Aida.

To round the evening off, Philip chose Dudley Moore in the revue, Beyond the Fringe, playing his own arrangement of some popular tunes of the day, but as a full blown Classical setting for the pianoforte!

We all thoroughly enjoyed the very varied and entertaining programme and our thanks were expressed in the usual way at the end.

Michael Peryer.

St John's Fellowship

United Reformed Church

Summer Outing Saturday 14th June 2104 Jordans Mill and Gardens



On a warm summer afternoon on the 14th June, fifteen members of St John's Fellowship met at Jordans Mill, in Broom, near Biggleswade. The 150 year old mill is on the river Ivel, where the river has powered the milling process, first through a traditional water wheel, and since the 1890's a horizontal turbine wheel.

Our members had an opportunity to wander

round their beautiful gardens, where we saw examples of the cereal crops, vegetables and flowers grown in the area. There was a nature trail running next to the river and through some woods.

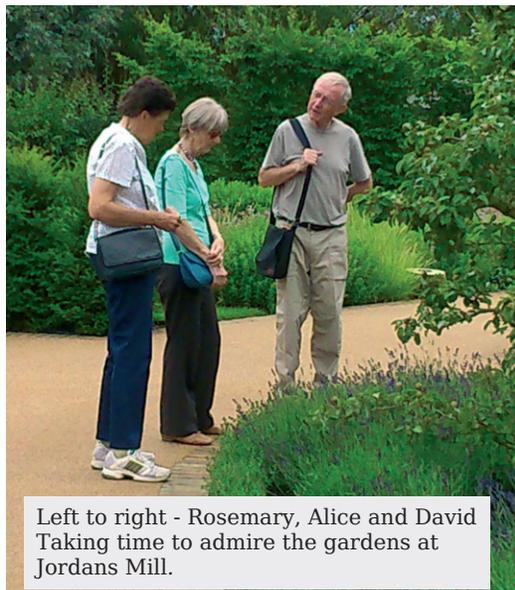
After exploring all that, many had worked up a thirst, so they headed off to the cafe overlooking the river to enjoy a cup of tea and the slice of cake.

Then at three o'clock we all assembled for our private guided tour of the mill. Our guide kept us interested and amused with tales of the Jordan family. We heard how "William 3rd" was the nasty William, how "William 4th" was nice, but got into many scrapes flying. We even met briefly "William 7th" - the present owner.

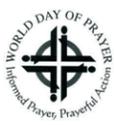
The mill is no longer used to grind flour, but we saw all the machinery being powered by a labyrinth of wheels, belts, pulleys, cogs and levers,

stretching up four floors from the river below. Heath Robinson would have been proud! We had the whole process of milling, along with its history explained; everyone was enthralled that something we take for granted should have such a history.

Overall, a most enjoyable outing, particularly as the staff made us very welcome. If you want to find out more about the St John's Fellowship - contact Ron Mobbs or Ray Hopwood.



Left to right - Rosemary, Alice and David
Taking time to admire the gardens at Jordans Mill.



**New Barnet and East Barnet
WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF
PRAYER
Summer Tea Party**



Dear All,
You are invited to a Summer Tea Party to be held on Friday 25th July, 2014 (2pm start to 3.30pm) At St. John's U.R.C. Large Hall, Mowbray Road Entrance/(Somerset Road),

Donations of savouries and cakes for the tea and items for the WWDP Bring and Buy Stall are welcome. (Also offers of help in the kitchen welcome!)

Hope to see you.

Yours sincerely
Marjorie I. O'Connor (Secretary) and Gwen Williams

R.S.V.P. Please phone : Marjorie-0208 445 6580 or mobile 07515 910514

Calendar

July

July

Sunday 6th	11:00pm	Worship led by Tony Alderman and David Paul
Tuesday 8th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting
Wednesday 9th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Thursday 10th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Sunday 13th	11:00am	Worship led by Revd Roger Orme
	8:00pm	Soul Food
Wednesday 16th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club - Last before Summer Break
Thursday 17th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Sunday 20th	10:30am	Messy Church
	11:00am	Worship led by Revd Filip Keller
Wednesday 23th	8:00pm	"The Ministry of St John's & The Ministry of Svitavy ECCB - What can we learn from one another." by Filip Keller
Thursday 24th		School Holidays - Start
	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Friday 25th	2:00pm	New Barnet and East Barnet WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Summer Tea Party (see item above for details)

Calendar July-September

July

Sunday 27th	11:00am	Worship led by Revd Carla Maurer
	3:00pm	Causeway - at Greenhill Park- If wet, at St. John's
Tuesday 29th	8:00pm	Prayer and Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park
Thursday 31st	11:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
	8:00pm	Men's Group - Curry Evening

August

Sunday 3rd	11:00am	Worship led by Tony Alderman and David Paul
Wednesday 6th	7:00pm	Nosh & Natter at 10 Leicester Road
Thursday 7th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Sunday 10th	11:00am	Worship led by Sarah Beaumont and Roz Douglas
	8:00pm	Soul Food
Tuesday 12th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting
Thursday 14th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Sunday 17th	11:00am	Worship led by Andrew and Valerie Mills
Monday 18th	8:30pm	Men's Group
Wednesday 20th	8:00pm	Fellowship - Mull & Iona by Frank Bayford
Thursday 21st	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Sunday 24th	11:00am	Worship led by Meg Hardie and Paul Elsdon
Thursday 28th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Friday 29th		Copy deadline for next edition of Church Record
Sunday 30th	5:00pm	Fellowship Garden Party
Sunday 31st	11:00am	Worship led by Richard Harvey and Brenda Sandford

September

Tuesday 2nd		School Holidays end
Wednesday 3rd	7:00pm	Nosh & Natter at 10 Leicester Road
Thursday 4th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry
Saturday 6th		Friends of Khasdobir Walk
Sunday 7th	11:00am	Worship led by Revd Julian Templeton