

May June
2015

St John's Record

United Reformed Church

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

From the Minister

The transition from a settled Church to a missionary Church

A review came out recently of *Reforming Worship*, a book of essays about worship that I co-edited, written mainly by Ministers of the United Reformed Church. The reviewer made a very interesting general point about the book that has got me thinking:

This volume reflects concerns that seem to be more those of a settled church than a missionary church. I would very much like to have heard from leaders of mission-shaped congregations and church plants in this communion. Are they finding that the resources of the tradition—Reformed and catholic—are gifts for evangelism and formation for new Christians?

The reviewer is implicitly challenging the United Reformed Church, with its contracting membership surrounded by a post-Christian population, to make the transition from a settled Church to a missionary Church and suggests that we may find resources in our own tradition to help us to make this transition.

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The Reformed tradition places emphasis upon the ability of individuals and congregations to discern what God is saying to them through the Bible and in prayer. The centrality of the Bible's message, and the confidence of Christians to interpret it, is a feature of missionary churches. The Reformed tradition also believes that a group of Christians is capable of discerning from the Bible's message and its own situation how the Spirit wishes to direct its common life. This is what we attempt to do in Church Meeting, and this consultative decision-making should be promoted as a missionary advantage in working and educational culture where people often expect to be told what to think and what to do.

The catholic (that is, universal and ancient) tradition emphasises that the gospel message is for *all people*. All people are loved by God and can receive God's saving

grace when they place their trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. This emphasis on the universality of the gospel is another feature of missionary churches. It is not difficult to identify missionary churches in the UK today: they are the *growing* churches. We may not agree with their theology, we may not like their worship, but what they have is a vitality and attractive energy that settled churches often lack; their vitality stems from having many new Christians. If we are to make the transition from a settled church to a missionary church, we need to rediscover the vitality of reading the Bible, discerning God's message, praying expectantly, and witnessing to others about the good news of Jesus Christ.

Julian Templeton

Big Barnet Sleepout

The Hive, 18 – 19 April



Thank you to those who sponsored me for the sleepout at 'The Hive' Barnet Football Club Stadium. 50 people slept overnight in the stands of the stadium. The Mill Hill Brass Band entertained us early in the evening. Hot drinks and biscuits were available. There was a great atmosphere as we bedded down. It was a cool but clear night and I could make out the Plough star formation very clearly. Despite the noise of the extroverts and snorers and trains, I managed to get 4 – 5 hours sleep!

In the morning we were provided with fresh bagels for breakfast. The main after-effect of sleep deprivation on my leading of Sunday morning worship was mixing up the hymns, a small price to pay for raising £470! The Together in Barnet Night Shelter intends that the money raised will go towards employing a support worker to help the guests and

liaise with the shelters. Although we slept in the stands rather than on the pitch, I think that some positive vibrations penetrated onto the pitch, as later I was delighted to read that Barnet FC were victorious over Gateshead FC, making Barnet Vanarama Conference Premier Division champions, sealing their return to the Football League!

Julian Templeton

Causeway Services

Once a month we have a service with adults who have learning difficulties. We meet at 3pm on Sunday afternoons, usually the last Sunday in the month. We begin with refreshments, then after a time of sharing news, we sing together and have a story from the bible or a story with a Christian message. This is followed by an opportunity for everyone to do some colouring or a craft activity and we conclude by writing and sharing together our prayers for others. For all of us who are involved, it is a very enriching and rewarding time, as we grow in our faith together



7th New Barnet Brownies

Recently we found out we are celebrating 10 years this year of Liz, Karan and their brownies joining Maureen and St Johns Brownies. It has been such fun and may it continue for many years more.

We start this term concentrating on Pack Holiday in May. 16 Children and 6 Adults will be spending a weekend away at Thriftwood Scout Activity Centre in Essex. Our theme is Superheroes.

We are also starting the Teddy Bear Challenge Badge, over the next three weeks we are doing all things teddy bears. At the end of this term (July) we are holding an activity day for our Brownies, hoping the weather will be lovely so we can enjoy the great outdoors.

BrownOwl (Karan) and TawnyOwl (Liz) have an exciting time ahead, On the weekend of the 13th June they are taking part in Walk the Walk Moon walk Marathon in Edinburgh, power walking 26.3 miles starting at midnight.

This year will be their 11th Marathon. Mainly done in London, then last year Liz went Iceland to take part in the Moonwalk Marathon. Now back together off to Scotland. All money raised goes towards Breast cancer research, funding to units, rest bite centres, specialised equipment, and to promote breast cancer awareness.

If you would like to donate to this event and support the girls please either email Karan: luna35@hotmail.co.uk or come and see them at brownies.

We look forward to our Harvest sleepover and parade in the new autumn term.

We would like to thank the Church and parents for the continuing support.

From all the Leaders at 7th NBB





Christian Aid Week

10 - 16 May 2015



Afraid, alone, in pain

Be the answer to Loko's prayer this Christian Aid Week.

This year, you can help transform the lives of women like Loko. From 10-16 May, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people like Loko. Every year, 100,000 volunteers demonstrate God's love for the poor by taking part in house-to-house collections for Christian Aid. This fantastic witness is a chance to take the mission of the church into your community. Loko's choice in life is simple: 'If I can't collect firewood, my children will die.'

Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve. She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says. Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family.

In 2014, the volunteers from St. John's helped raise £1,817 from the house-to-house collection along local roads. This wonderful result, was only made possible through the willingness of a large number of people to give some of their time to support Christian Aid. We have several loyal supporters who help every year, but we are always ready to welcome new people to ensure that we can still cover all our allocated roads.

So, if you can spare just a little time to help with any (or even all!) of the following, do please speak to me as soon as possible:

- Delivering envelopes between Friday, 8 May & Sunday, 10 May
- Collecting envelopes between Monday 11 May & Saturday 16 May
- Being part of the 'Counting Team' on Sunday evening, 17 May.

Those are the practical ways you can become involved with Christian Aid Week, but don't forget that it is also an opportunity to give and to pray.

Christian Aid Week is a real opportunity to go out and put our faith into action. House-to-house collections raise almost £9m across the UK every year. Asking people to deliver and collect Christian Aid Week envelopes is the perfect opportunity to get the people from St John's out into your community while demonstrating God's heart for the poor. For every pound we raise, Christian Aid puts 86p directly into fighting poverty. Another 13p goes back into fundraising, to raise the next pound. The last penny pays for governance costs, associated with the general running of the charity, ensuring that the charity can keep going to help more people out of poverty for good.

For more information, have a look at: www.caweek.org

Alison Bond

New Barnet Justice and Peace Group

Just in case you have been living on an uninhabited island, or hiding in a cupboard for the past few weeks:

7th May 2015 is the General Election.

The J&P group have put together some brief points to consider before you vote:

"The Churches have the right and the duty to advocate a social order in which the human dignity of all is fostered, and to protest when it is threatened in any way. They do not present a political programme, still less a party political one, but realise that every public policy should be judged on the effect it has on human dignity and the common good." (abridged from The Common Good, 1996)

- Think about the poor who are affected by poverty. The poor are not a burden; they are our brothers and sisters, wherever they live in the world.
- Is it right that in our country 20% of the population lives below the poverty line?
- Do we feel more secure knowing that billions could be spent on replacing Trident in 2016?

- How does our arms industry impact on world security?
- What would be the likely effects of changes to the immigration policy?
- Care of the environment is part of the care for the Common Good. Each generation takes the natural environment on loan and must return it in as good condition.
- A General Election must not be confused with a single-issue referendum.

The J&P group have no wish to influence your choice of party to vote for, for we know that you will vote after reflection and prayer.

The J&P group is an ecumenical group with representatives from 5 of our local churches. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month (excluding August and December) in the Memorial Room here at St. John's at 8pm. All newcomers or occasional visitors are most welcome.

Lesley Calder

Men's Group

St John's Men's Group meets at 8:30pm once a month, either at The Railway Bell in East Barnet Road, or at The Black Horse in Wood Street, High Barnet.

It is very informal, and gives a chance to catch up, after a busy day or week, on anything topical, whether to do with St Johns or not. Discussions and topics vary widely!

When the weekday falls on a Thursday, we usually enjoy a curry at The Railway Bell starting at 8pm sharp. Those not eating, usually join us at the normal time of 8.30pm.

Our next dates are: –

| | | |
|------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 27 May | 8.30pm | The Railway Bell |
| Tuesday 23 June | 8.30pm | The Black Horse |
| Thursday 30 July | 8.00pm | The Railway Bell (Curry Evening) |

If you know of anyone who might wish to come along too, please let them or me know – we'd be delighted to see them.

Malcolm Bond

Glasses & Stamps

This is just a reminder that I hope you will continue to let me have your used stamps, particularly any foreign ones and special issues. You may recall these are now sold in aid of two charities – the RSPB and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Surplus spectacles may be put in my pigeonhole or in the box in the church porch. These go to Vision Aid Overseas, and St. Johns has sent over 4,600 pairs since I started collecting in aid of this charity in 1995, so I hope to reach 5,000 pairs before too long!

Such donations are an easy way of helping three very worth-while charities, and on their behalf I thank all those who donate stamps or spectacles.

Hugh Martin

Calendar

May 2015

May

May

| | | |
|---------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 3rd | 10:00am | Informal prayer in Memorial Room |
| | 11:00am | Worship with Holy Communion - Led by Revd Julian Templeton |
| Wednesday 6th | 4:00pm | Weds 4 Kids Club |
| | 7.15pm | Foodbank Meeting - Vestry |
| Thursday 7th | 11:30am | Memorial and Thanksgiving Service for Marjorie Culverwell |
| Sunday 11th | | Christian Aid Week |
| | 10:30am | Messy Church |
| | 11:00am | Worship - Led by Sarah Beaumont |
| Tuesday 12th | 8:00pm | Elders Meeting |
| Wednesday | 4:00pm | Weds 4 Kids Club |
| Thursday 14th | | Ascension Day |
| | 12:00pm | Prayer at Noon - Vestry |
| Saturday 16th | | Concert by Barnet Band (See page 9 for details) |
| Sunday 17th | 11:00am | Sunday after Ascension, Worship - Led by Tony Alderman |
| Wednesday | 4:00pm | Weds 4 Kids Club |
| | 8:00pm | Fellowship: The Life & Times of Octavia Hill by Pamela Wright |
| Thursday 21st | 12:00pm | Prayer at Noon - Vestry |
| Saturday 23rd | | Working Party [TBC] |
| Sunday 24th | 11:00am | Pentecost, Worship - Led by Sarah Beaumont |
| Monday 25th | | Spring Bank Holiday 1/2 Term Holiday [LBB] - One Week |
| Tuesday 26th | 8:00pm | Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park |
| | 8:00pm | Justice & Peace Group |
| Wednesday | 8:30pm | Men' Group at Railway Bell, East Barnet Road, New Barnet |
| Thursday 28th | 12:00pm | Prayer at Noon - Vestry |

Calendar

May – July 2015

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| May | Saturday 30th | | Working Party [TBC] | May |
| | Sunday 31st | 11:00am | Trinity Sunday Worship - Led by Tony Alderman & David Paul | |
| | | 3:00pm | Causeway Service (see page 3 for details) | |
| | Thursday 5th | 12:00pm | Prayer at Noon - Vestry | |
| | Sunday 7th | 10:00am | Informal prayer in Memorial Room | |
| | | 11:00am | Worship with Holy Communion - Led by Revd Julian Templeton | |
| | | 12.30pm | Church Meeting | |
| | Tuesday 9th | 8:00pm | Elders Meeting | |
| | Wed 10th | 4:00pm | Weds 4 Kids Club | |
| | Thursday 11th | 12:00pm | Prayer at Noon - Vestry | |
| | Sunday 14th | 11:00am | Worship - Led by Andrew & Valerie Mills | |
| June | Wed 17th | | Fellowship Outing to Hitchin (see page 11 for details) | June |
| | | 4:00pm | Weds 4 Kids Club | |
| | Saturday 20th | 4:00pm | Summer Coffee Morning | |
| | Sunday 21st | 10:30am | Messy Church | |
| | | 11:00am | Worship - Led by Rev'd Julian Templeton Father's Day | |
| | Tuesday 23rd | 8:00pm | Justice & Peace Group | |
| | Wednesday | 4:00pm | Weds 4 Kids Club | |
| | | 8:30pm | Men' Group at The Black Horse, Wood St, Barnet | |
| | Friday 26th | | Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record | |
| | Sunday 28th | 11:00am | Worship - Led by Paul Elsdon & Meg Hardie | |
| | 3:00pm | Causeway Service (see page 3 for details) | | |
| | Tuesday 30th | 8:00pm | Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park | |
| July | Wednesday 1st | 4:00pm | Weds 4 Kids Club | July |
| | | | Church Record Published | |
| | Sunday 5th | 11:00am | Worship with Holy Communion - Led by Revd Julian Templeton | |

Volunteering at St. Georges

In October 2012 I was at a talk in St. George's German Lutheran Church in Aldgate when I noticed a request in the Newsletter of the Historic Chapels Trust (HCT), who now own the church. They were appealing for volunteer help in their office, located in the church vestry, and I thought this might be something within my capabilities. Since then I have been helping one day a week with tasks such as photocopying, filing, putting Newsletters into envelopes, etc, thus enabling the 2.5 staff to concentrate on matters requiring greater expertise.

St George's is the oldest surviving German church in Britain. It was opened in 1763 – I came on the scene just in time to participate in the 250th anniversary celebrations – being built to meet the spiritual needs of the German Lutheran sugar boilers who were in the area because of their skill in processing the sugar cane imported into London. Church life did not always run smoothly in the early days as there were disputes over the extent to which English should be used in services, and what kind of music was appropriate. At one point two opposing factions came to blows during a service, and some years later the Minister was accused of "violently assaulting the bellows blower".

With the passage of time the sugar refining industry declined locally and the congregation suffered severely in World War I when many of the men were interned. By way of contrast, during World War II St. George's continued as a German church throughout the war without problems, probably because it was known that many of the congregation were refugees from Nazi Germany who had come to London in the 1930s. The theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was Pastor at the nearby St. Paul's Church from 1933–35 and was a close friend of the then Pastor of St. George's, Julius Rieger.

Membership declined after the war and in 1996 the congregation merged with another German-speaking church in Kings Cross. Because of its architectural merit. (Grade II* listed) St. George's was acquired by HCT in 1999



and extensive repairs (funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, and several foundations, as HCT itself has no significant resources) were carried out in 2003/4.

Fortunately the church had not been altered significantly over the years, and on entering I am always impressed by the original box pews shown in the illustration, together with the beautifully painted boards showing the 10 Commandments in German. Above the pulpit and its sounding board appear the Royal Arms of George III. I wonder if this was to assert their loyalty, or because he was also Elector of Hanover, or both?

HCT and its local committees try to ensure that the 20 places of worship in their care continue to perform a useful function, and at St. George's, as well as the possibility of getting married (in English, German, or Latin!) there are regular talks, concerts, exhibitions, organ recitals, etc, as well as occasional services. I particularly enjoy the days when the church is open to the public and I can tell visitors something of its fascinating history, and anyone interested can get details of future events from me or the website (www.hct.org.uk)

Hugh Martin.

Concert in aid of
Friend in Need
given by

The Barnet Band

Saturday, 16th May at 7.30



at
St. John's Church
Mowbray Road, New Barnet, Herts EN5 1RH

TICKETS: £10.00

[including interval refreshments]

From Marion Hopwood Em: r.hopwood.01@gmail.com

Tel: 020 8440 6404
Or

From FIN Office
East Barnet Baptist Church
Tel: 020 8449 8225



Registered Charity No. 1090701

You are invited to a Coffee Morning

Saturday 20th June

10.30am – 12 noon Free admission



There will be no admission charge but a donation plate for the North London Hospice & church funds will be left by the entrance. Table stalls around the hall will give the opportunity to purchase small gifts & cards to support both national & local charities.

Please tell your friends and come and support this event.

David Paul

Alexandra Palace Prisoner of War Camp Dr Maggie Butt

Our speaker, Dr Maggie Butt, was born locally in Southgate and following an early career in the BBC is now a lecturer at Middlesex University. Maggie started her talk, by asking us to try to imagine how we may feel if we had undertaken a journey. Starting in Austria in around 1905, where you escaped an oppressive regime, arriving in London, full of hope for the future. You marry, have children, you build a career and business – life was good.

Then a terrorist shoots an Arch Duke in the middle of Europe somewhere and suddenly, in 1914, the German Empire is at war with the rest of the world. The reaction of the British Government is to say "anyone with a German heritage – must be a potential spy and enemy". Then you – along with 42,000 others with a German background, were rounded up and shipped off to Prisoner of War camps around the UK. Well how would you feel!?

From 1914 to 1919 (and again for 1939 to 1945) the Ally Pally was home to 3000 prisoners of war. They were organised into three Battalions, which of course reflected the British class system. Officer Class Battalion, an NCO group and the largest working "soldier" group. Officers were housed in the Palaces towers, with some comfort, a degree of privacy and an area for recreation. But – the workers were all crammed into the Main Hall, with over a thousand beds so close together a prisoner could just lie in bed and touch the people on either side.

The mental health of prisoners became a problem as many succumbed to depression and other mental problems, due to the constant noise, lack of privacy, combined with being separated from wives and children. The "officers" were allowed visits from family lasting two hours, once a

week, along with limitless opportunities to write, or receive parcels from home. But – for the working prisoners, they were limited to one letter, a ten minute meeting and a small parcel only.

At the start of the war the food was acceptable, but as the war continued the quality and quantity of rations deteriorated. For example by 1917, there were no potatoes, just rice infested with worms; this led to conflict among prisoners, particularly during the particularly cold winter. Again, we were asked to imagine what it was like to have thousands of men coughing and sneezing all night in the Main Hall?!

Rations were supplemented through the four hundred allotments created and tended by the prisoners; some of our fellowship members remember seeing the remnants for the allotments on the hill leading up to the Palace.

Much of the story was told through the pictures, letters and poems from the prisoners themselves, read by Maggie and her husband Tim. A number of prisoners were talented artists and poets, many were very moving.

On 11th November 1918 the armistice was signed and the war ended, but that was not the end for the prisoners. For a further year each prisoner had to be interrogated to see if they were a fit and proper person to remain in Britain. Of the 42,000 men interned at the start of the war, only four thousand were allowed to stay! Some returned to an unknown fate in the counties they had fled just a few years earlier, others went to America. But their letters, poems and paintings revealed a phase of British justice of which today we should feel somewhat ashamed.

Ron Mobbs

Marjorie Culverwell RIP

Marjorie Culverwell died on Wednesday 29 April. She was 86. A private committal will be held at New Southgate Crematorium at 10:30 am on Thursday 7th May followed by a Memorial and Thanksgiving Service at St John's Church at 11:30 am.

Please remember Marjorie's son Ian and family, and daughter Leanne and family, in your prayers. We hope to include an obituary for Marjorie in the next Church Record.



St John's
United Reformed Church

Fellowship

April Meeting



Change a family's future in Africa Ann Rattue

Our speaker, an ambassador of the charity, has visited Africa several times at her own expense and has seen for herself the difficulties facing many families and the improvements that help from the organisation has achieved.

'Send a Cow' was started 27 years ago by a group of UK dairy farmers as an alternative to slaughtering healthy dairy cows – a result of changes in EU milk quotas – and in response to an appeal from Uganda for milk. They met with Ugandan farmers, a livestock expert and the Bishop of Mukono, Uganda, seeing for themselves how smallholder dairy farming in Africa could be made to work. Seven farmers sent cows in calf to areas in need having fertile land, where the milk and manure could best be used. Also, Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia and other regions were to benefit, where manure and urine were collected to grow elephant grass to feed the animals.

A development was the passing on of the first calf to a family who have enough land to help them gain full advantage of the scheme and 8,090 subsistence farmers have benefited in a region where it rains only twice each year. Although many of the crops grown go to feed the livestock, the farmers can produce three or four times more in crops on fertilised land. Many disabled people have no work, but if they are given an animal they gain both work and self esteem in their community.

Ann spoke with passion and great concern and reminded us that this charity started up before support from Christian Aid was available. She also brought along some lovely greetings cards which she makes for sale in support of the charity and we hope that our own small contribution helps 'Send a Cow'!

Patricia Picken

St John's Fellowship Outing

Wed 17th June 2015

Lavender Farm (10.30 to 12.30)

Hitchin Lavender farm is an attraction close to London with miles of lavender you are able to visit and walk through. Our lavender products are 100% lavender essential oil from our lavender fields.

Lavender Farm, Cadwell Farm, Ickleford, Hitchin SG5 3UA

All visitors are encouraged to walk through the miles of rows that make up our two fields of lavender. The fields are a great spot for photographers, artists or those just wanting to take life a little slower. The lavender field is blessed with sweeping views from the footpaths that surround it and from the top of the hill you can see not only the beauty of the field in full but also local countryside stretching in all directions.



Hitchin School Museum (2.30 to 4.30)

There is literally no other museum like the British Schools Museum in Hitchin. The 1837 Monitorial Schoolroom is the only one of its kind left in the world! Then there are our 3 other historic classrooms, the Headmaster's House and our wonderful displays and exhibitions based upon the extraordinary collection of 47,000 objects! In our truly interactive museum you can be sure that 200 years of heritage will add up to hours of fun for all!

Museum School, 41/42 Queen St, Hitchin SG4 9TS

Costs: Lavender Fields £4.50 School Museum Tour £8.50 (Inc Refreshments)

Lunch is available at the Farm or by arrangement at the school. Pay on the day.

Transport: If you require transport, please let Sue or Ron know when you book.





Revised Common Lectionary

10 May Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

17 May **Sunday after Ascension** Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or 93; Ephesians 1:15-17, Luke 24:44-53

24 May **Pentecost** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-35; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

31 May **Trinity** Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

7 June Genesis 3:8-15 or 1 Sam. 8:4-20; Psalm 130 or 138; 2 Cor. 4:13 – 5:1; Mark 3:20-35

14 June Ez. 17:22-24 or 1 Sam. 15:34 – 16:13; Ps. 92:1-4, 12-15 or Ps 20; 2 Cor. 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34

21 June Job 38:1-11 or 1 Sam. 17:32-49 ; Ps. 107:1-3, 23-32 or Ps. 9:9-20; 2 Cor 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

28 June Lam. 3:22-33 or 2 Sam. 1:1, 17-27; Ps. 130 or 30; 2 Cor 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

5 July Ezekiel 2:1-5 or 2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10; Ps. 123 or 48; 2 Cor. 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

12 July Amos 7:7-15 or 2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19; Ps. 85:8-13 or Ps. 24; Eph. 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

