

July August
2015

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

From the Minister

Life in the Vocative

Paul writes that Christians call out to God as "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6). 'Abba' is the title that an Aramaic-speaker would use to refer to his or her own father. When we call each other by name or title we are using the vocative case. When Jesus's disciples asked him to teach them to pray, the prayer that Jesus taught them began in the plural vocative "Our Father..." Karl Barth, probably the most influential theologian of the 20th century, argued that God is first of all someone we call out to:

If it is a matter of God, then seriously, properly, and strictly Christians cannot speak *about* the Father but only *to* him...Father as a vocative, whether expressed or not, is the primal form of the thinking, the primal sound of the speaking, and the primal act of the obedience demanded of Christians. (Barth, *The Christian Life*, 51)

For Christians, God is not primarily talked about but called to. We are to think of God primarily as one to whom we call and who is responsive to our calling. This is what we do whenever we pray to God. It is also what we do in worship, where the vocative is often indicated by the particle "O", such as in the hymn by Philip Doddridge: "O God of Bethel, by whose hand thy children still are fed." The vocative is the case used by persons who address one another. Jesus taught his followers

Continued on page 2

Contents

- 2** Reflections on Churches & the General Election
Junior Church Summer
- 3** Obituaries
 - * Jean Allen
 - * Marjorie Culverwell
- 4** Calendar – July
Lectionary
- 5** Calendar – August
Khasdobir Walk
- 6** Laura's in Business
- 7** Lavender Farm & "British School" Museum
- 8** Christian Aid
Garden Parties

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by example to regard God personally. Christians are those who, by trusting Jesus, are adopted as God's daughters or sons and thus have the right to call to God "Father". The reverse is also true: God regards us personally, calls each of us by name to follow Jesus (our vocation), and tells each of us by name that we are loved.

God's invitation: 'Call upon me' (Psalm 50:15), is the basic meaning of every divine command, and when we call

upon God we are given grace and help to respond to God's commands. Some replace calling upon God with wishing for desirable things. Instead of calling upon God to help, self-help is taken to be the only viable philosophy for living. By contrast, life in the vocative is the life of divine and human persons who call to one another. It is a personal and responsive life of love and mutual responsibility.

Julian Templeton

Reflections on Churches & the General Election

We have just had a general election and have chosen a new government, so what has that got to do with the church you ask! I have heard it said many times that the church should keep out of politics, but clearly the church doesn't seem to think so because I have been more conscious this year of various Christian agencies giving advice about what we as Christians should be considering before we vote.

The Church of England has published a 50 page document giving Christians advice on how they should vote in the election, "Who is my neighbour?" covers a number of issues: Political culture, parties and democracy, Role of the state, Society, Economy, Poverty and Inequality, Welfare, Health, Immigration, Education, Environment and Defence.

The April edition of Reform magazine carried 2 articles on election issues, one was called "How to Vote" where Nick Spencer (Research Director of Theos) argues that we should not expect too much from our politicians or collective government. He says we should become active in local or national issues that we care about and we should pray for the candidates and wish them well.

The other article by Andy Flannigan (Director of Christians on the left) talks about the 'Show up' campaign calling for Christians to be more politically active in the general election and beyond, getting involved in Local Residents meetings, Parents Associations, Safer Neighbourhood groups, Town Council meetings and political party branch meetings etc.

Since the election one URC minister has gone viral with an open letter to the Prime Minister, which has been shared more than 100,000 times on Facebook.

In his letter to the Prime Minister the Revd Mike Walsh, URC minister for Chariton and Whalley Range areas of Manchester, called on David Cameron, to try to understand how life looks and how it is lived in places where people are scared - "Scared of what your policies will do to our communities and families. Scared of what will happen to our health service and our schools. Scared of losing our family homes for a few quid saving from the bedroom tax, or not being able to heat our home and having enough left to buy food". I have copy of the letter if anyone wishes to read it.

Another open letter to David Cameron was published on 13th May and signed on behalf of the Joint Public Issues Team, which represents the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland the Methodist Conference and the URC.

The letter congratulated him on his election victory and encouraged him to hold 'truth, justice, peace and wellbeing' at the heart of the government. Again I have a copy of this letter if you wish to read it.

Before the election the Joint Public Issues Team had produced a helpful guide on what factors we should consider when choosing an MP, a local councillor, an MEP or any other holder of an elected office. We are invited to challenge any political message that asks "What's in it for me" by asking instead "What is in the interests of the common good."

David Paul

JUNIOR CHURCH SUMMER

During the school holidays the Junior Church staff will be taking a break. To ensure any children worshipping with us during the summer still feel welcome, and enjoy their time in church, we have prepared a special

box containing books, puzzles, colouring sheets and so on, to keep them entertained. The box will be stored near the church book stall and will be clearly labelled; please encourage any visiting children to explore its contents!



Jean Barr Allen

4 August 1929 - 7 June 2015

Jean's Funeral Service and Committal was held at St John's Church on 26 June, attended by over 80 friends. Jean was born and raised in Muswell Hill with three brothers, and attended the Presbyterian Church there. Educated at Hornsey High School and North London Polytechnic, she pursued a career in catering, first at a London County Council school in the East End and later at St Alban's Technical College. As a supervisor her staff said she was 'strict but fair'. She married in 1953 and divorced in 1962. When her parents became unwell she cared first for her father and, after his death, also her mother who became both blind and wheelchair-bound. For four years Jean would get her mother ready, prepare food and drink for her, and arrange for a nurse to call in while Jean went to work. Just as Jean was about to retire she developed breast cancer. She underwent treatment, and was able to enjoy 25 years of retirement.

Jean joined St John's Church in 1978 and was very close to the Goodmans. She helped with the refreshments at the Women's Fellowship, ran the stall for the Ladies Working Party, served on the committee of the St John's Fellowship, and for 15 years was Letting Officer for the Church. She was



involved in many community groups including: Barnet and District Cancer-Link; Hadley Women's Institute; Pensioners' Voice; Oddfellows; and was a weekly volunteer at the Barnet General Hospital Shop.

Jean had strong principles and would never be swayed to change them. She was generous and supported a number of charities financially. She would help people in need and was a good friend. In later years she became friends with Winn Harris. They enjoyed a close friendship and a number of holidays together. Jean had been estranged from her twin brother, Ron, for a number of years, but latterly they were reconciled.

Marjorie Culverwell

3 Feb 1929 - 20 April 2015

Marjorie's Committal was held at the Southgate Crematorium followed by a Memorial Service at St John's Church on 7 May 2015, with a good attendance by both family and friends. Marj became part of the life of St John's Church only 5 years ago after moving to New Barnet with her son and family. However, in a short time Marj made friends and an impression. She was born and raised and lived most of her life in South Africa. Her husband, Jimmy, was a Congregational Minister, and Marj played a very active supporting role in Church life. Her contribution and character is given especial mention in the history of the Pietermaritzburg Congregational Church.

Marj and Jimmy had two children, Ian and Leanne. Marj was a wonderful mother, always there to support her children, and later played a considerable role in the care also of her grandchildren, as Ian's tribute acknowledged. After Jimmy died, Marj was a widow for 25 years but marked their wedding anniversary every year. She was physically active late into life, occasionally trampolining and running with



her grandchildren!

Marj was a quiet and assured presence in the life of St John's Church, taking every opportunity to attend Bible Study and Discussion groups. Her strong faith in God shone through her contributions to those groups. Her decline was rapid but she faced death with resolute trust in God. Her ashes were scattered in a Garden of Remembrance at the Church where she and Jimmy served, where the family erected a memorial plaque to her alongside their father's memorial plaque (pictured).



Calendar

July 2015

Wednesday 1st	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Sunday 5th		Church Record Published
	11:00am	Worship - Led by Rev'd Julian Templeton
	12:15pm	Special Church Meeting to consider proposed alterations to the
Wednesday 8th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Thursday 9th	12:00	Prayer at noon
Sunday 12th	11:00am	Worship - Led by Sarah Beaumont & Roz Douglas
Thursday 16th	12:00	Prayer at noon
Wednesday 15th	8:00pm	Fellowship - A glimpse of the 1950's by Terence
Sunday 19th	10:30am	Messy Church
	11:00am	Worship - Led by Tony Alderman & David Paul
Tuesday 21st	8:00pm	Elders Meeting
Friday 24th		1st Day of School Holidays [LBB]
Sunday 26th	11:00am	Worship - Led by Alison Bond
	3:00pm	Causeway - Party in the Park
Tuesday 28th	8:00pm	Justice & Peace Group
	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park
Thursday 30th	8:00pm	Men's Group - Curry Evening at Railway Bell

JULY

JULY

5 July	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
12 July	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
19 July	2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
26 July	2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21
2 August	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35
9 August	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51
16 August	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
23 August	1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69
30 August	Song of Songs 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23; James 1:17-27
6 Sept	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10; Mark 7:24-37
13 Sept	Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

Revised Common Lectionary

Revised Common Lectionary

Calendar

August – September 2015

AUGUST	Saturday 1st	9:30am	Working Party [TBC]	AUGUST
		5:00pm	Fellowship Garden Party at the Home of Ron and Sue	
	Sunday 2nd	11:00am	Worship - Led by Rev'd Julian Templeton	
	Sunday 9th	11:00am	Worship - Led by Andrew & Valerie Mills	
	Sunday 16th	11:00am	Worship - Led by Rev'd Julian Templeton	
	Wed 19th	8:00pm	Fellowship - Bob Dylan's Gospel Music - Rev'd Julian Templeton	
	Saturday 22nd	12:00	Manse Garden Party, 11 The Fairway	
	Sunday 23rd	11:00am	Worship - Led by Tony Alderman	
	Tuesday 25th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	
	Wed 26th	8:30pm	Men' Group at Railway Bell	
	Friday 28th	11:55pm	Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record	
	Sunday 30th	11:00am	Worship - Led by Richard Harvey & Brenda Sandford	
	Monday 31st		Last Day of School Holidays	
	SEPTEMBER	Saturday 5th		
Sunday 6th			Church Record Published	
		11:00am	Worship - Led by Rev'd Julian Templeton	
Saturday 12th		10:00am	Elders' Retreat	
Sunday 13th			Racial Justice Sunday	
		11:00am	Worship - Led by Helen Snider & Andrew Summers	
Wed 16th		4:00pm	Wednesday 4 Kids Club	

2015 Khasdobir Walk

Mayors, Marx and Mummies

A trail through the City and Clerkenwell on Saturday 5th September 2015. From 10.15 am

This year's sponsored walk in aid of Friends of Khasdobir will start and finish at All Hallows church on Tower Hill. The full route is 5 miles but a shorter, 3.75 miles,

route is also available.

As usual walkers will be supplied with a booklet with fascinating comments on the places of interest that you pass. You can either get sponsored for Friends of Khasdobir in which case you walk for free, or you can simply walk for fun in which case you pay £6. After meeting costs all proceeds will be donated to Friends of Khasdobir.

If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please have a word with **Valerie Mills**.

Laura's in Business!

Many will be aware that I have been working for a number of years on a tool to help people living with dementia. Well, I finally managed to get this produced and launched in Edinburgh on 29th April at the Scottish Caring and Dementia Congress.

"Call to mind... is a tool that helps get to know and understand the thinking, likes and dislikes of someone with dementia. This specially designed board game also stimulates memories and encourages conversations, both as the game is played and in everyday interactions. It can be played at home with friends and family or in the professional setting of a care home, day care centre, hospital or memory café".

My sister Angela realised over 25 years ago that the provision for the elderly in care, with dementia, was totally inadequate. She was determined to improve communication, and to stimulate and maintain as long as possible the parts of the brain that were still functioning. Angela designed a board game as an assessment to do this. It was extremely well received, but she was badly injured when a patient fell on her damaging her spine. I was involved at the outset because of my experience in graphics.

Six years ago, we decided to look again at this tool and conducted trials in various North London Care Homes and Day Care Centres. The resulting modified and simplified game was entered into two competitions where we won prizes. It was taken to the National Dementia Congress where it got very positive feedback and we were invited to go onto Dragon's Den. Unfortunately, ill-health intervened and further development was put on hold.

A few years after this and with interest from a publishing company, I decided to look again at this project I believed so passionately in. I contacted a number of doctors, occupational therapist and care centre managers, to get their professional opinion on the need for such a tool. They all agreed that it would be extremely useful when working for people with dementia.

I then contacted the NHS Research Design Service for advice in getting this to market. They thought it



was a great concept so introduced me to Professor Gill Livingstone, Head of research department of psychiatry of older people at University College London. Gill loved the concept of using a board game and agreed that her team would work with me on more development and trialling.

Having now been thoroughly tested, the next step was to manufacture the game. Determined to ensure the highest quality, a specialist games company in Germany was commissioned and the result is the beautiful, high quality product we now have!

I must give thanks to many in the church who have helped in various ways. I've had advice on writing my business plan, I've had help in testing earlier versions, help in producing a small video, which is yet to be completed and I've had financial help. Most of all I've had encouragement and belief in me which has meant more than I can say.

It has been an interesting journey so far – I have encountered very kind and generous people and learnt an awful lot about all sorts of things. I have been amazed that so many entrepreneurs and people who run small businesses are keen to help in any way they can – certainly not the ruthlessness I thought I might find.

I now just need to get on and sell, so any help in spreading the word will be gratefully received. Thank you so much if you have read thus far and forgive me using this space for a blatant plug!
www.call-to-mind.com

Laura Templeton

St John's Fellowship United Reformed Church



Lavender Farm & "British School" Museum

The Fellowship outing took place on Wednesday 17th June, with two visits packed into a busy day. Fourteen members gathered initially at the "Lavender Farm", just outside Hitchin in Hertfordshire, where we had a fascinating talk on lavender from the son of the farm owner. I realise that "fascinating" and "lavender" are not two words you expect to see together, but – it really was interesting. There are many varieties of lavender, but it also attracts many animals, insects and pests. We heard about the farmer's constant battle to stop his crop being eaten or damaged.

We were fortunate in having a lovely spring day to wander through the knee high plants, savouring the smells, sights and sounds of the English countryside at its best. Harvesting the crop is a very specialised business, in fact the farm has had a machine developed by Cranfield University which ensures they gather only the parts of the plant they need, whilst maintaining the special scent we all know and enjoy.

After complimentary refreshments the group dispersed for lunch. There were many attractive places in that part of Hertfordshire at which to enjoy a light lunch.

We all met again at the "British School"

museum, this time in the centre of Hitchin, for an "18th Century School Experience". We were led into the original classroom, where we had to sit, in silence (of course) and to do as we were told. Anyone misbehaving had to wear a notice round their neck for the day so all knew what misdemeanour they had committed! The system of learning was known as the "Monitorial Method" – the teacher taught the brighter pupils, or monitors, who then by rote, taught others – and so on down the school. I suspect Michael Gove may have approved.

We also had a guided tour of the Head Teachers house and experienced a little of what life would have been like in Hitchin in the mid 1800's.

Overall, an enjoyable, if somewhat tiring day was experienced by all our members.



Ron Mobbs





REPORT ON CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

10 – 16 May 2015

Thank You!



The total amount raised from the house-to-house collection this year was: **£1,893.45**. 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.

We collected a total of 310 envelopes and Christian Aid will be able to reclaim an additional 25% on £946.52 of the above total (from those who completed the Gift Aid form) adding a further £237 to the total amount. We had 10 collectors plus a further 4 people helping to deliver envelopes, and a small but very efficient team of 6 people helped count all the money.

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE DISASTER APPEAL

Thank You!

A very big thank you to everyone who supported the recent Christian Aid/DEC earthquake disaster appeal, especially since this came so close to the annual Christian Aid Week collection. A total of £515 was raised; £465 of this was Gift Aided adding a further £116.25 to this amount. The following is taken from the Christian Aid website:

Alison Bond



Causeway - Party in the Park

Sunday 26th July

3pm

Picnic in Greenhill Park

Please join us, you are all most welcome

Manse

Garden Party

Saturday 22nd August

12.00 noon

Bring & Share Lunch

you are all most welcome

11 The Fairway

“Fellowship Garden Party”

Saturday 1st August

Entrance is £10.00 per head (children free)
includes an extensive summer spread for supper.

Bring your own drinks

Location - Home of Ron & Sue at 67 Belmont Ave, Cockfosters EN4 9JS.

You are welcome from 5.00 pm onwards,
until we all get too tired and want you all to go home.

Church Members, friends and children (of all ages) welcome.

Tickets - just let Ron or Sue (02084414333)
know if you plan to come and join us for the evening.