

March – April  
2016

**St John's**  
United Reformed Church

# Record

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

*From the Minister*

## From addiction to reconciliation

**T**he *Big Issue* often includes articles about its sellers. I was inspired by the story of Larry Knowles in a recent edition. Larry was an RAF technician who was involved in organising aircraft crash recovery. Dealing with the victims of crashes affected him badly, and he developed post-traumatic stress disorder and began drinking heavily. Upon leaving the RAF he became an alcoholic, his marriage broke-up, and he became homeless. Eventually he started selling *The Big Issue*, he was found a small flat to live in, and with help from a local church he was able to furnish it. He started attending the church, but he was still drinking. One day, in desperation, Larry got down on his knees and pleaded with God to help him to be rid of his terrible affliction. As soon as he had done so he felt a weight lift from his shoulders. Since then he has not touched alcohol, and he attributes his recovery to his Christian belief. What happened to Larry? I think God helped Larry to live no longer for himself but to live for Christ.

*Continued on page 2*

## Contents

- 2 Church AGM 20 March
- 3 TLS update  
Women's World Day of Prayer History
- 4 Calendar - March
- 5 Calendar - March – April
- 6 St John's Fellowship  
St John's Grand Quiz
- 7 Chillin' in Barbados
- 8 Holy Week & Easter Day  
Bible in 50 Words  
Coffee Morning

**Website:** [www.stjohnsnewbarnet.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsnewbarnet.org.uk) **Record Editor:** Laura Templeton, [laura@templeton.me.uk](mailto:laura@templeton.me.uk)  
**Minister:** Julian Templeton, Tel: 020 8441 0499. Email: [julian@templeton.me.uk](mailto:julian@templeton.me.uk)  
**Secretary:** Tony Alderman, Tel: 020 8441 4807. Email: [aldermantony@aol.com](mailto:aldermantony@aol.com)  
**Administrator:** Alison Cousins, Tel: 07816 115 817. Email: [acousins.sjnb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:acousins.sjnb@hotmail.co.uk)



The Apostle Paul writes:

The love of Christ compels us to reach this conclusion: One died for all, therefore all died. He died for all so that those who live may no longer live for themselves but live for him who died and was raised to life for them. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

The 'One' referred to is Jesus Christ. As an expression of his love, Jesus Christ died for *all*. Not 'all those who believe' or 'all the saints' or 'all the deserving' but *all*, without exception.

Paul believes that Christ's death 'for all' has a purpose: *reorientation*. "He died for all so that those who live may no longer live for themselves but live for him who died and was raised to life for them." Christ lived and died and was resurrected in order that we would no longer live a life turned-in-on-ourselves but live for Christ. Christ is the man-for-others who reorientates us to God, to our neighbour in need, and to all that is good and life-giving.

We are reorientated for the purpose of *reconciliation*. "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, no longer reckoning people's wrongdoing against them, and has entrusted us with the message of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:19). By means of Christ's death, in a way that is as mysterious as it is universally momentous, God has transformed the vicious cycle of accusation and enmity caused by human wrongdoing by forgiving and reconciling *all*. This is the supreme expression of God's grace. Yet grace is a gift that needs to be asked for and received with empty hands.

Larry Knowles had to let go of the vodka bottle before he could receive God's gift of liberation. That letting-go was his act of repentance. God honoured this act not only by liberating him from his addiction but also by reconciling him in ways he could not have foreseen; for Larry's story has a postscript. At church he met a woman called Carol who became a great support to Larry and "saw something in me that I didn't see". 18 months ago they married.

Julian Templeton

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# Church Annual General Meeting

## 20 March

### Decision on Building Extension and Elder Elections

**O**n Sunday 20th March, following worship and a soup and bread lunch, the Church Annual General Meeting will be held. As well as receiving reports on all the important aspects of our church's life, we will also be informed of the total amount of money that has been pledged towards the proposed cantilevered extension to provide an extended kitchenette and disabled accessible toilet on the upstairs level. On the basis of this total the Church Meeting will, it is hoped, be in a position to discern

whether it believes it is God's will to proceed with the proposed alteration and to make a decision. We also hope to re-elect and elect elders to new terms of service.

I urge you to attend this meeting, if at all possible, in order that you can be part of the church's decision-making. If you cannot attend, please convey your apology for absence to the Minute Secretary, Marjorie O'Connor, Tel. 020 8445 6580.

Julian Templeton

# Training for Learning and Serving



**A** new and exciting opportunity to learn and grow in Christian discipleship is to be launched throughout the United Reformed Church in 2018. In preparation there will be a phase by phase process in which TLS winds down some of what it offers and new transitional opportunities will come into place. The first stage in this process will be that this year (i.e. for the academic year beginning in September 2016) TLS will not enrol any new course members on the Foundation Course.

One year "Gateway" courses on worship, pastoral care, prayer, evangelism, and developing community experiences will continue and will start as usual in September 2016,

with a closing date for applications of 31 May. The Prospectus <http://www.urch.org.uk/discipleship/education-and-learning/training-for-learning-and-serving.html> provides information about these courses and how to go about enrolling on them. Please take a look and see if there is something there for you. TLS Local Introductory Training Experiences (LITE) offers short courses for local use at any time and can be purchased through United Reformed Church Publications <http://urchshop.co.uk/training/tls-lite-publications>.

Further information can be obtained from Andrew Mills.

## History of Women's World Day of Prayer in UK

**I**n 1928, at an international missionary conference in Jerusalem, Scotswoman Grace Forgan first learned of the world day of prayer and brought the news to the UK. The first services were held: 1930 in Scotland; 1932 in England; 1933 in Wales; 1934 in Ireland.

The Second World War was a time of great growth – drawing women together in prayer and fellowship. In 1941 the WWDP London office was bombed and all property and records destroyed. There was no loss of life and minutes recovered from members enabled the bare bones of the first 9 years to be preserved.

It was not until the reforms of the second Vatican Council that Roman Catholic women were able to take a full part in the day of prayer and in 1967 the day was

celebrated at a special service in Westminster Cathedral, by invitation of Cardinal Heenan.

In 1969 the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations encouraged Roman Catholic women worldwide to participate in WWDP so moved their own day of prayer from March to May.

In 1982 the service was prepared by the women of Ireland, both north and south. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are now over 3,000 branches holding 5,000 services every year. Last year 275,000 copies of the order of service were printed.

It is from such roots as these that WWDP has taken its present shape – a worldwide ecumenical movement of Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.

## Short and Simple Worship

**Tuesdays 15th March and 19th April, 2:30 pm**

**O**n 17th February ten people gathered for a 30 minute service that I held in response to a specific request. The request was for worship at a convenient time and in a simple format. We sang two familiar hymns, had two short bible readings, I gave a short talk, and I asked if there were matters for which people wanted prayer, and I then included these matters in prayers of thanksgiving and intercession. We concluded with a cup of tea that Dorothy Peryer served and enjoyed a time of fellowship together.

The feedback I received was very appreciative. Those who attended said they had found the experience supportive

and encouraging. On the strength of this feedback I am proposing to hold two further services with the same format. It was especially appreciated by carers and those being cared for, but the majority who attended were not in that category and appreciated it also. If you know of someone, especially someone for whom Sunday morning worship attendance is not feasible, please encourage them to give this new format of worship a try. If transport is the main barrier to attendance, please contact me and I will arrange this.

**Julian Templeton, 020 8441 0499**

# Calendar

March 2016

<b>FEB</b>	Sunday 28th	11:00am	Lent 3, Worship led by Richard Harvey and Brenda Sandford	<b>FEB</b>
		3:00pm	Causeway, Small Hall	
	Monday 29th	2:30pm	Lent Discussion Group at 11 The Fairway (3 of 5)	
		8:30pm	Men's Group, The Railway Bell, East Barnet Road	
<b>MARCH</b>	Wednesday 2nd	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	<b>MARCH</b>
	Thursday 3rd	8:00pm	Lent Discussion Group at 11 The Fairway (3 of 5)	
	Friday 4th	2.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service. Friends' Meeting House,	
	Saturday 5th	10:30am	Coffee Morning, Large Hall	
	Sunday 6th		Mothering Sunday	
		10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room, Brownie Church Parade	
		11:00am	Lent 4, Worship + Holy Communion Led by Julian Templeton	
	Monday 7th	2:30pm	Lent Discussion Group at 11 The Fairway (4 of 5)	
	Tuesday 8th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting	
	Wednesday 9th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Thursday 10th	8:00pm	Lent Discussion Group at 11 The Fairway (4 of 5)	
	Saturday 12th	7.30pm	St John's Grand Quiz in Large Hall	
	Sunday 13th	11:00am	Lent 5, Worship Led by Roz Douglas & Alison Bond	
	Monday 14th	2:30pm	Lent Discussion Group at 11 The Fairway (5 of 5)	
	Tuesday 15th	2:30pm	Short and Simple Worship led by Julian Templeton	
	Wednesday 16th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		8:00pm	St. John's Fellowship - Stephens Ink & Avenue House,	
	Thursday 17th	8:00pm	Lent Discussion Group at 11 The Fairway (5 of 5)	
	Sunday 20th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		10:30am	Messy Church	
	11:00am	Palm Sunday, Worship Led by Revd Julian Templeton		
	12:15pm	Soup Lunch followed by Church AGM		

# Calendar

## March – April 2016

<b>MARCH</b>	Tuesday 22nd	8:00pm	Justice & Peace Group	<b>MARCH</b>
	Wed 23rd	8:00pm	Guild Players - The Constable's Tale	
	Thursday 24th	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday Service at Chesterfield Road URC	
	Friday 25th	2:00pm	<b>Good Friday Worship – Led by Revd Julian Templeton</b>	
	Sunday 27th		<b>Easter Day</b>	
		11:00am	<b>Easter Day Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Roger Orme</b>	
	Tuesday 29th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	
	Thursday 31st	8:30pm	Men's Group – The Black Horse, Wood Street.	
<b>APRIL</b>	Sunday 3rd	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	<b>APRIL</b>
		11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Tony Alderman & David Paul	
	Sunday 10th	11:00am	Worship led by Helen Snider & Andrew Summers	
	Tuesday 12th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting	
	Sunday 17th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		10:30am	Messy Church	
		11:00am	Worship - Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
	Tuesday 19th	2:30pm	Short and Simple Worship led by Julian Templeton	
	Wed 20th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		8:00pm	Fellowship - Experiences as a VSO Volunteer - Jennifer Taylor	
	Friday 23rd		Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record	
	Sunday 24th		Church 53rd Anniversary	
		11:00am	Worship - Led by Paul Elsdon	
		3:00pm	Causeway, Small Hall	
	Tuesday 26th	8:00pm	Justice & Peace Group	
		8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	
Wed 27th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club		
Thursday 28th	8:00pm	Men's Group – Curry Evening at The Railway Bell, East Barnet		
<b>MAY</b>	Sunday 1st	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	<b>MAY</b>
		11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
	Wednesday 4th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	

## Vision Aid Overseas

### Wednesday 17th Feb 2016

**V**ision Aid Overseas (VAO) is a charity St John's has been supporting for over twenty years, we have collected 5000 sets of old spectacles to be re-used. At this month's Fellowship meeting Neil Cox from VAO set out the huge task facing anyone trying to help those with sight problems across the many countries of Africa.

Africa has a population of over one billion people, but with about ten percent (100M) of the population suffering with various forms of sight problems, the task facing VAO is enormous.

VAO's prime mission is to help those with "Uncorrected Refractive Error" – short or long sighted to you and I. These conditions can be easily corrected with a relatively simple set of standard lenses. VAO make a small charge for their glasses, typically an amount the locals can afford. Improving peoples vision enhances all aspects of their lives, education, ability to work, to bring up their children and lead normal lives, access to a simple set of specs that we take for granted, can literally transform lives.

While VAO has a small HQ staff, the vast majority of their work is undertaken by volunteers, many of whom are qualified optometrists or involved in eye care in some way. Volunteers will typically join a team of six to eight for a two to three week visit to an African country, where they

will hold drop in clinics, typically with support from a local hospital or health centre. Volunteers will carry our eye tests and will prescribe lenses and, most importantly, will train local people in eye testing and in the use of the lens grinding & fitting needed to produce the specs.

As examples of the benefits VAO bring to Africa, last year alone they :

- Set up 20 vision centres
- Trained 250 eye care staff
- Improved the sight and lives of 70,000 Africans'

Neil went on to explain what happens to the spectacles you donate. Up until a few years ago, your glasses would have been assessed, sent to a UK prison where the prescription would have been identified, any repairs undertaken and then sent out to Africa. Unfortunately, due to the optical industries power to lobby governments, the decision was made to stop second-hand specs being used.

The result is, now donated specs are just recycled for the metals and other valuable materials they contain, so they continue to raise funds for the charity. Today, most of the spectacles are donated by the industry, perhaps seconds or unsold stock.

So, please continue to donate any old spectacles to St John's and we will make sure VAO will continue to transform the lives of many poor villagers on Africa.

**Ron Mobbs**

## St John's Grand Quiz

Saturday 12th March  
7.30pm prompt

Tickets cost £10 incl. ploughman's supper.  
BYO drinks and glasses.

Book tickets by deadline of Sun 6th March with  
Marjorie O'Connor (0208 445 6580  
or email: marjorie.oconnor@btinternet.com ).



[www.guildplayers.org.uk](http://www.guildplayers.org.uk)

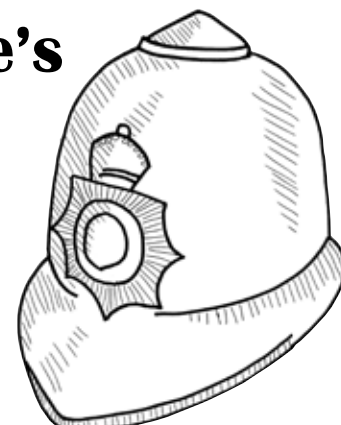
present...

**23 March 8pm**

## The Constable's Tale

a short anthology  
for holy week

by  
**Mike Sparks**





## “We’ve been chillin’ in Barbados man”

**R**ay and I have just returned from a lovely holiday in Barbados and have hopes of making a return visit. The weather was wonderful with sun always accompanied by a cooling breeze. We did have a day with some rain and over-cast skies but we are used to that. We chose that day to visit the excellent Barbados Museum in nearby Bridgetown.

I very much enjoyed being in a Christian country. There were many different denominations but the largest is the Anglican church. Of course, they must have some crime but we felt quite safe and found the Bejan people warm, polite, always helpful and very, very friendly. We hired a car for some of the time and noticed in particular the lack of aggression that is so common in the U.K. Cars routinely stopped to allow us to cross roads when we were waiting on the pavement, or to allow us to pull out of side turnings. It's common to hail the white licensed mini-buses with a maroon stripe, where it costs about 80p to travel any distance. We believe that they should seat 12 people but with a bit of juggling and swapping of seats, we were in one that had 18 passengers! No seat belts, of course, but lots of reggae music and happy laughter.

When on holiday, we often go to a church service as I am interested to see how other churches “do things”. The nearest church was at Oistins (famous for its fish market and Friday “Fish Fry”). It was a very basic hall with the main road in the front and the sea and beach at the back. We arrived just before the start time of 10 am and the rest of the congregation arrived about 10 minutes after! Everyone looked very smart – all the ladies wore hats or a few had black lace scarves, high heels and best dresses. It was too hot for jackets but the men wore immaculately ironed shirts with ties. The young girls looked wonderful with pretty dresses, stiff petticoats and looked ready to go dancing.

The hall had no flowers or pictures and no cross. It had two sections. A central aisle

with padded chairs facing across the aisle with a small table holding the Communion items under a cloth and wooden benches set across the hall, which was where we sat. In due course, a male member of the congregation stood up and said a prayer. After a short pause another announced a hymn number and we sang, unaccompanied by any music and nothing that we recognised. There were various bible readings and so the service continued, always led by a man. In due course, the communion loaf was broken and shared and two glasses of wine passed round but not to us! The same happened with the box for offerings. We were sitting with teenagers and one explained after the service, that we were sitting with young people who had not yet been baptised. A young girl in front of us was writing her diary and playing with her phone under the cover of her handbag so life is not so different there. The noise from the traffic and the waves caused a lot of disturbance because, of course, all the windows were open.

We know St John's is a very friendly church but it seemed as if every member of the congregation which was a similar size to ours, came over to speak to us. Apparently, following the service, there would be sandwiches (cutters) and cake served and then Sunday school would start, so the children would have a very long session.

As we enjoyed the sunshine and flowers, we did think of our friends at St John's and the rather protracted service in the Assembly Hall gave me plenty of time to pray about the decisions we will have to make for the future of St. John's.

We would recommend a holiday in Barbados although we were not too keen on the very peppery sauce on the fish and have to confess that we were not brave enough to try

jerk chicken or a dish called “pudding and souse” that is traditionally cooked on a Saturday and contained pigs head, feet and tails! Unlike other holidays we have taken in the sun, Barbados had lots of green areas and one was even called “little Scotland”. We thank God that we are fortunate to be able to take holidays and pray that Christianity may increase and be strengthened all over the world.

**Marion Hopwood**



# Holy Week and Easter Day



**Palm Sunday 20 March** 11:00 am, Worship led by Julian Templeton, followed by Soup and Bread Lunch and Church Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday 23 March** 8:00 pm, The Constable's Tale  
Play by Guild Players

**Maundy Thursday, 24 March** 7:30 pm, Reflective Service led by Ray Thomas,  
United Reformed Church, Chesterfield Road, EN5 2RE

**Good Friday, 25 March** 2:00 pm, Worship led by Julian Templeton

**Easter Day, 27 March** 11:00 am, Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Roger Orme

## The Bible in 50 Words

God Made  
Adam Bit  
Noah Arked  
Abraham Split  
Joseph Ruled  
Jacob Fooled  
Bush Talked  
Moses Balked  
Pharaoh Plagued  
People Walked  
Sea Divided  
Tablets Guided  
Promise Landed  
Saul Freaked  
David Peeked  
Prophets Warned  
Jesus Born  
God Walked  
Love Talked  
Anger Crucified  
Hope Died  
Love Rose  
Spirit Flamed  
Word Spread  
God Remained

Anon

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

You are invited to a Coffee Morning at St. John's Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet, on Saturday 5th March between 10.30 & 12 noon. 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 & come & support this fundraising event.

