

May – June
2016

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

From the Minister

Catholicity and the United Kingdom

How will you vote in the referendum on whether the United Kingdom should remain in or leave the European Union? There is no shortage of advice from politicians both in the UK and abroad to which we might listen as we make up our minds. I wish to raise an issue that I have not, as yet, heard any politician raise, and that is the relationship between catholicity and the United Kingdom. Some will understandably ask: isn't catholicity something that only Roman Catholics are concerned with and has nothing to do with us? What I hope to convince you is that catholicity is especially relevant to the debate the UK is having about its relationship with Europe, and we ignore it at our peril.

I was taken by surprise when I recited the Apostles' Creed in the City Centre Protestant Cathedral in Berlin (*the Berliner Dom*) when I came to the line: "I believe in...the holy Christian Church" (in German, *die heilige christliche Kirche*). Even with my remedial Latin and German, I knew that the Latin *catholicam* is usually rendered *katholische* in German. My surprise was the affirmation of the holy Christian church and not the holy *catholic* Church. Although the terms 'Christian' and 'catholic' are synonymous, they are *not* the same. Christian is a term that was first applied to the

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followers of Jesus Christ in Antioch (see Acts 11:26), and is accurately applied to all those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord. The term 'catholic' comes from Greek via Latin and originally meant 'part of the whole', and is often taken to mean 'universal'.

What concerns me about the substitution of 'Christian' for 'catholic' in the Protestant German version of the Apostles' Creed is the suggestion that those who recite this version can somehow affirm that they are Christian *without* also affirming that they are *only one part* of the universal (catholic) Church. In other words, what bothers me is the possibility that one part of the Church can effectively say to the rest of the Church: "I have no need of you." (1 Cor. 12:21). The Presbyterian theologian, John Oman, published a book entitled *The War and its Issues* in 1915, and made the perceptive criticism that the warring death struggle of the nations was marked by the conspicuous absence of true catholicity that transcends national boundaries. In other words, Oman's criticism was that some of the European nations had succumbed to the dangerous illusion that instead of being 'part of the whole' each was itself 'the whole' and could do as it wished, regardless of its neighbours.

A local church, at its best, realises that that it is but one small part of a much larger whole: the whole Church of Jesus Christ. Moreover, while it is rightly concerned with its own local life and witness, if it closes itself off from

its ecumenical neighbours or denomination or the Church catholic, it risks becoming a sect. My concern is that the United Kingdom could become, unintentionally, a kind of national sect if it takes the attitude that instead of being 'part of the whole' it is itself 'the whole' and can do as it wishes, regardless of its neighbours. Indeed, one does not need to look far to see the rise of extremist political movements with sectarian policies that encourage the scapegoating of minorities and belligerence towards neighbouring nations. The conflicts of the 20th century should warn us where such scapegoating and belligerence can lead.

While I questioned the aforementioned church's creed, I could not fault its *practice* of catholicity. For I was in Berlin as part of a group of 25 Christians from nations as far south as Romania, as far north as Latvia, and as far east as Russia, with two participants from Africa, and myself, originally from New Zealand: a fairly catholic gathering. We were all guests of the Protestant Church of Berlin's academy programme, and all our national identities contributed to a much richer understanding of our Christian identity. I hope that the United Kingdom will continue to contribute its British identities to a much richer understanding of European identity.

Julian Templeton

How to Plant your Garden

For the garden of your daily living...

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

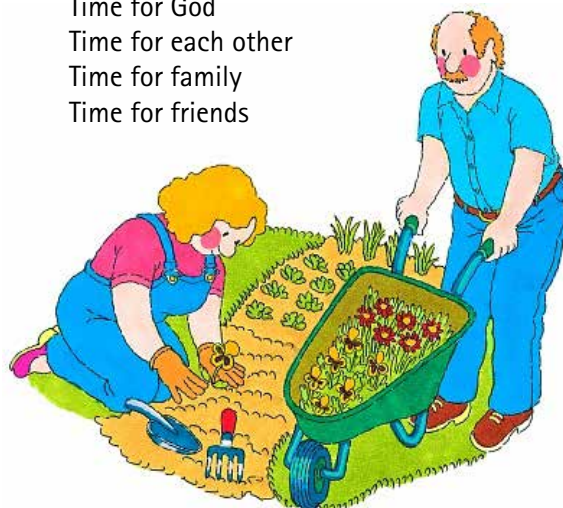
Let us be faithful
Let us be kind
Let us be patient
Let us really love one another

No garden is without turnips:

Turn up for worship
Turn up for meetings
Turn up to help one another

To conclude your garden, you must have thyme:

Time for God
Time for each other
Time for family
Time for friends



Cello and Organ

St Mary's Church, East Barnet

Sunday 19th June at 3pm

The Lancaster Duo, music for 'cello and organ, St Mary's Church, East Barnet, Sunday 19th June at 3pm. Lancaster Duo are Andrew Adams ('cello) and Richard Harvey (organ). There is not a huge amount of music written for the combination of 'cello and organ, but Andrew and Richard have found some real gems: a Bach Sonata which was originally written for viola da gamba and keyboard and some rarities by the Belgian composer, Jongen, who came to live in England during the First World War, the German composer, Rheinberger, and the French composer, Saint-Saens, including his ever popular 'The

Swan'. Andrew is no stranger to St John's having played in 'The Bridge' at the 50th Anniversary. Richard will also be playing one or two popular organ solos.

If you fancy hearing some organ music before then, Richard is giving the lunchtime organ recital at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans, on Tuesday 31st May at 12:30 when he will be playing a programme of organ music exclusively from the Low Countries, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The Secret of the Resurrection

On Easter Sunday the Rev. Roger Orme led our service and quoted from the late Charles 'Chuck' Colson, the former hatchet man-in-chief for US President Richard Nixon during the Watergate years.

Colson was then known to his colleagues as the "evil genius" who was reputed to have said that he would walk over his own grandmother to get Nixon re-elected. He spent several months in prison in 1974 after pleading guilty to obstruction of justice but became a born-again Christian after his release.

In 1976 he forged a new career as an evangelist, founding the Prison Fellowship Ministries, a \$50 million charitable organisation established to bring Christ to the inmates of the world's prisons.

Writing about the resurrection of Jesus, Colson pointed out that, in only a few weeks, the Watergate conspirators had gone back on their stories but, by contrast, throughout

their lives and despite torture and deaths as martyrs, the disciples of Jesus never changed their story about finding his tomb empty, his visits to them after death and his resurrection.

He said: "I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Everyone was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible."

Colson died in 2012 aged 80 and mourned by many as a Christian forgiven and redeemed by God.

Roz Douglas



If you have any used inkjet printer cartridges, and would like to recycle them whilst donating to a charity at the same time, I would be very grateful if you could continue

to put your empty inkjet or laser toner cartridges in the RSPB box in the entrance lobby of the church.

The RSPB prefers Canon or HP inkjet cartridges, but I can send others to additional charities, including The British Red Cross and NSPCC.

The RSPB is paid between £0.13p – £2.13p per cartridge, depending on the specific item being recycled.

Thank you for helping to recycle used cartridges, whilst at the same time, raising money for charity.



Malcolm Bond

Calendar

May 2016

MAY	Sunday 1st	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	MAY
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting	
		11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
	Wednesday 4th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Thursday 5th		Ascension Day	
	Friday 6th	1:00pm	Funeral of Andrew Thompson	
	Sunday 8th	11:00am	First Sunday after Ascension, Worship – Led by Sarah Beaumont	
	Monday 9th	10:30am	Pastoral Team Meeting	
		7:30pm	Local Area Group Meeting at St. John's (Arrive at 7:00pm for tea & coffee for a 7:30pm start)	
	Tuesday 10th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting	
	Wed 11th	2:30pm	Short and Simple Worship led by Julian Templeton	
		4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Thursday 12th	8:00pm	Finance and Management Committee	
	Sunday 15th		Pentecost	
			Start of Christian Aid Week	
		10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		10:30am	Messy Church	
		11:00am	Worship Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
		12:30pm	Church Meeting	
		6:30pm	United Service at St. John's URC for Christian Aid Week	
	Wed 18th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		8:00pm	St. John's Fellowship Battle of the Somme–First Day, Dennis Bird	
	Sunday 22nd		Trinity Sunday	
		11:00am	Worship Led by Richard Harvey & Sarah Beaumont	
	Tuesday 24th	8:00pm	Justice & Peace Group	
	Wed 25th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		8:30pm	Men's Group – The Railway Bell.	
		11:00am	Worship – Led by Sarah Beaumont	
		3:00pm	Causeway	
	Tuesday 31st	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	

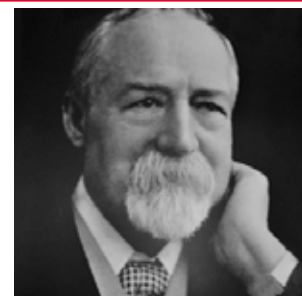
Calendar

June – July 2016

JUNE	Sunday 5th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	JUNE
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting	
		11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton featuring the Hymns of William Cowper	
	Monday 6th	8:00pm	Junior Church Teachers' Meeting at the Manse	
	Wednesday 8th	2:30pm	Short and Simple Worship led by Julian Templeton	
	Sunday 12th	11:00am	Worship Led by Alison Bond & Roz Douglas	
	Tuesday 14th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting	
	Wed 15th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		12.15pm 1.30pm	Fellowship Outing – Pick up from St John's Tour of Bentley Priory Museum	
	Sunday 19th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		10:30am	Messy Church	
		11:00am	Worship Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
	Tuesday 21st	8:30pm	Men's Group – The Black Horse, Wood Street	
	Wed 22nd	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Friday 24th		Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record	
	Saturday 25th	1:00pm	Manse Garden Party	
	Sunday 26th	11:00am	Worship Led by Andrew & Valerie Mills	
		3:00pm	Causeway	
	Tuesday 28th	8:00pm	Justice & Peace Group	
			Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	
Wed 29th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club		
JULY	Sunday 3rd	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	JULY
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting	
		11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
	Wednesday 6th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	

St John's
United Reformed Church

Fellowship



Discover the Home of Inky Stephens

Wednesday 16th March 2016

The Fellowship enjoyed a fascinating talk by Stewart Wild of the Stephens Museum Trust, on the history of the Stephens Ink Company and of Avenue House in Finchley Central. It was actually "Inky's" father Dr Henry Stephens who first developed what we know think of as Stephens Blue/Black Ink. Dr Stephens was born in 1796 and in addition to being a doctor in St Barts Hospital, also liked to dabble in other sciences, which is when he developed an ink which was a significant improvement on other inks available at the time.

Dr Stephens started making and selling ink in small quantities in 1832, with the company growing slowly until the "Great Exhibition" of 1851 when many people and companies became aware of the benefits of Stephens ink, and the company began to grow significantly. Henry Stephens (the one we know as Inky) was just twenty one when his father died in 1864, at which point Inky took over the running of the company. He brought a number of new ideas to the company and was one of the very first to develop a global "Brand" with many new ideas for advertising and publicity. The ink "Splash" with Stephens written through it, became known in almost every corner of the world.

In 1874 Inky Stephens bought Avenue House in Finchley, for just £1950. He spent a considerable amount doubling the size of the house and in restoring the gardens to the original landscaped designs. He was the local MP for a period and very involved as a benefactor to the local community.

During the late 1800s and into the twentieth century, the Stephens Ink company prospered, with new factories next to the railway at Arsenal, offices in the Barbican and

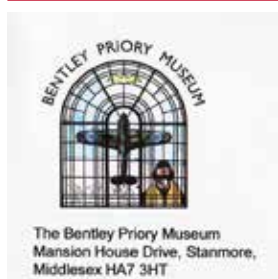
subsidiaries in Australia, New Zealand, France and several other countries. Inky continued to live in Avenue House, but in 1914 the house was requisitioned by the government for use as a convalescent home for the RAF.

Inky died in 1918, leaving Avenue House to the London Borough of Barnet "for the enjoyment and use of the people of Barnet". Since that time it has had a very chequered history: it has been a girls school, a library, magistrates court and was at one time the Chamber of the L.B of Barnet. Over the years the house fell into some disrepair, but following a fire in 1989, a trust was set up to restore the house and gardens (with help from the Lottery Fund) and now it is an interesting museum, café and with extensive gardens for all to enjoy.

Following Inky's death the company was managed by his son, another Henry Stephens, and continued to prosper until the mid 1940's when the ball point pen and the Bic Biro were introduced to the market. From that period, and in spite of the introduction of many new and innovative products the company began a slow decline. At one time Stephens products were used by governments and large organisations throughout the world: the Stephens name was synonymous with any form of ink or printing. But their market share declined as our writing and printing habits changed. The company ceased trading in 1993, but the name was purchased by a small design company and it is still possible to purchase Stephens products today, but I suspect Dr Henry and Inky would be spinning in the graves if they could see what has happened to their once famous name.



Ron Mobbs



St John's URC Fellowship – Members Outing Wednesday 1.30 pm 15th June

Bentley Priory Museum tells the fascinating story of the beautiful Grade II* listed country house, focusing on its role as Headquarters Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain.

Join the Fellowship on our guided tour to explore the important stories of 'The One' – Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, 'The Few' who took to the air to defend our skies and 'The Many' without whose tireless work on the ground victory would not have been possible and discover how technology, leadership and courage forged victory allowing Britain's darkest hour to also be her Finest Hour.

Getting There

Bentley Priory is 10 miles from St John's
Parking is free, disabled parking is available.

Costs

Adults £9, Seniors £7.
Mini-bus from St John's £5 return

Timings

12.15pm from St John's
1.30 pm Tour of Bentley Priory

Christian Aid Week

15-21 May 2016



This is the week we love every neighbour ...

Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street. Christian Aid Week unites over 20,000 churches to put this love in to action.

In 2015, the volunteers from St. John's helped raise £1,893 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, 13 May & Sunday, 15 May;
- Collecting envelopes between Monday 16 May & Saturday 21 May;
- Being part of the 'Counting Team' on Sunday evening, 22 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.

This year, St John's will be hosting the annual joint evening service to launch the start of Christian Aid Week, on Sunday 15 May at 6.30pm, when a representative from Christian Aid will speak about some aspect of their work.

For more information about Christian Aid Week, have a look at: www.caweek.org.

Alison Bond



Morsheda's story

'I feel very scared of the river. When I look at it I keep thinking "it is coming". In Bangladesh, Morsheda lives in fear of the river. No matter how hard she works, every year the floods damage her home, leaving her and her children struggling to cope. Please join us and together, we can lift our global neighbours like Morsheda to safety this Christian Aid Week.

Morsheda and her 4 children during seasonal flooding

You think English is Easy?

The bandage was **wound** round the **wound**.

The farm was used to **produce produce**.

The dump was so full it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.

We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture.

He could **lead** if he let the **lead** out.

The soldier decided to **desert** the **desert**.

As there is no time like the **present**, it was time to **present** the **present**.

A **bass** was painted on the **bass** drum.

I did not **object** to the **object**.

Peggy Crockett

14 August 1926 – 31 March 2016

A large congregation gathered for the Funeral and Committal of Peggy Crockett in St John's Church on 22 April. We extend our sympathy to her family and close friends.

Peggy (originally named Violet) grew up in Cleethorpes and later moved to London with her mother before the Second World War. She always said the War ruined her education. As for many people, moving around and being evacuated didn't make for a settled life or help continuity at school for children of her age.

She married in 1949 and Stephen was born a year later. The family lived in Islington in rooms on the second floor of a Victorian house. Hard work enabled Peggy and her husband to save for a move from London. Janice was born in 1955 and when she was 18 months old the family left Islington for their own house in Hertfordshire. Living in the country was definitely better for all, and it was at this point Peggy started working part time as an Auxiliary nurse.

When Peggy and her husband separated in the early 1970's, she moved into the Nurses' Home of Honey Lane Hospital in Waltham Abbey and started working full time. Peggy made many good friends there, and those friendships lasted to the end of her life. Peggy embraced life. She loved to travel, and had been right around the world, visiting New Zealand and America amongst many countries, and travelling extensively in United Kingdom.

She loved music and liked to sing – mostly off key but with great enthusiasm! – as I or anyone from St. John's would be too polite to mention. And she loved musical theatre. Stephen can remember being embarrassed on a regular basis when she insisted on singing along with songs she recognised – again mostly out of tune. She had a passion for jigsaw puzzles. Janice's partner David made her a huge board so she could complete jigsaws of 5000 or more pieces.

She was a good friend. She always tried to help and support the people she was close to. She moved to her cottage with the Jesus Hospital Trust 4 years ago and was

very happy there. Peggy and Stephen and Janice were close, and Peggy appreciated the fact that in her last years they all lived near to each other and could see each other regularly. Some years ago Peggy, Janice and David were talking about what they would like to come back as, if there was the opportunity to do that.

Peggy had a tendency towards malapropisms and intended to say she would like to come back as a CONDOR. You can guess what she actually said!

Peggy became a Church Member in 2009. Filip Keller was Interim Minister at the time, and had prepared a group of other people for Church Membership. Peggy was not part of this group but was present at the service when they made their confession of faith and was evidently moved by their commitment. After the service Peggy asked Filip if she too could become a Church Member. Filip arranged to meet with Peggy and they talked through what being a Church Member meant, and a few weeks later Peggy, although she had already been an adherent of St John's church for many years, made her confession of faith and became a Member.

Peggy loved children. Her eyes lit up whenever children were involved in worship. She frequently enquired about the families of others, showing a concern and interest in others before herself. When in later years her mobility meant she could not be as independent as she used to be, she was always very appreciative of any support and help that others offered her. Latterly she could only walk with the aid of crutches, yet showed determination not to let this limit her horizons. She gladly accepted lifts to church, to social gatherings and other events, and once she was there she was often the life and soul of the party. In the All Age Address when questions were asked of the congregation, Peggy was quick to volunteer her answers, even if these were not the answers the Minister expected! Peggy endured significant pain in her hands due to arthritis, sometimes likening the pain to needles. But she would often say: "It's no use complaining... you just have to get on with it." A large part of Peggy's ability to endure difficulties came from her trust in the "Good Lord", and it is to the Lord that we commend her.

Julian Templeton

