

Sept – Oct
2016

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

From the Minister

Acceptance, Simplicity, Equality, Practicality

An accepting and thoughtful approach to faith
A simple pattern of worship
Valuing women's and men's leadership equally
All ages putting faith into practice

Some of you may have seen our new leaflet providing information about St John's Church and its associated activities. Its aim is to give visitors and enquirers a sense of the ethos of St John's Church. The leaflet features the four short statements above. The short statements are my attempt to condense what is distinctive about the United Reformed Church generally and St John's Church in particular. They have gradually formed in my thinking arising out of Elders' Meetings and Church Meetings as we've discussed how, with God's help, we might make St John's Church 'Fit for Purpose' in a much-changed social landscape.

An accepting and thoughtful approach to faith
"Accept one another as Christ accepted us." (Romans 15:7) God accepts us in Jesus Christ not because we are good enough but because he is loving and gracious. Christ alone is 'good above all others' and by God's acceptance of us as good in Christ

Continued on page 2

Contents

- 2 What Could You Do for the Winter Shelter?
- 3 Flower Festival
Foodbank
Church Meeting
- 4 Calendar – September
- 5 Calendar – October
- 6 Fellowship Talk –
Watch out for Scams
- 7 Church Membership
Preparation
General Assembly News
Thank you from Tony
Tea Dance
- 8 Open Church Consultation
Extension Plan

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we are freed from the exhausting need to justify ourselves to others. That acceptance is 'radical' in that the 'root' of our identity as Christians is found 'in Christ alone'. Whether we are straight, gay, married, single, widowed, partnered, disabled, homeless, clear or confused: Christ accepts us, so we accept one another on the same basis. The mention of 'confused' brings us to why we adopt a thoughtful approach to faith. Living in a world and time of unparalleled complexity calls for both humility and thoughtfulness. While some Christians, for very understandable reasons, take refuge in what they take to be 'simple truths', honesty compels us to admit that life is complex, and that this complexity is part of life's frustration and its glory. Thoughtfulness requires us to think hard about how we believe God sustains life in all its complexity, and how we best relate to God who sustains us as part of a delicately balanced ecology.

A simple pattern of worship

The pattern I've adopted in leading public worship is, I hope, simple: we approach God with praise; we hear God's Word; we respond to God's Word. Within this pattern there is scope for a variety of styles of praising, praying, preaching, and responding to God. Messy Church and Causeway have their own simple patterns of learning and worshipping. Each has its merits and limitations and appeal.

Valuing women's and men's leadership equally

"...there is neither male nor female...you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28) When the London Congregational

Union ordained Constance Coltman as a Minister of Word and Sacraments in 1917, it became one of the first mainline denominations to recognize the full equality of women's leadership in the Church. The United Reformed Church has, since its formation in 1972, upheld and furthered this recognition, and women have held the church's highest offices. While there is always room for improvement, our long experience of valuing women's and men's leadership equally is a gift we can offer the wider church and society.

All ages putting faith into practice

In 1990 the United Reformed Church General Assembly commended a 'Children's Charter' that was and still the envy of other churches in its strong affirmations of the full part that children play alongside adults in the life of the church. Children are not merely 'the church of tomorrow'; they are the church of *today!* Our challenge is to reach parents and children with the expressions of church that they find attractive in the midst of so many other options. All of us, of whatever age, try to put our Christian faith into practice by offering hospitality and help to others. The Weds 4 Kids Club, Causeway Group, Chipping Barnet foodbank, and Together in Barnet Night Shelter are organized examples of our attempt to put our faith into practice, but there are many others. I believe that if St John's Church prayerfully demonstrates acceptance, simplicity, equality and practicality, God will draw people seeking these qualities.

Julian Templeton

What Could You Do for the Night Shelter?

Many St John's folk have already said "Count me in for my usual stint". So many thanks to those of you who have signalled their willingness again to be part of this terrific witness. We still need more volunteers though so please consider how you might help (or how you could persuade someone else you know to play a part!)

We work on a rota and the jobs, which are needed are:

- Cooking a hearty meal for up to 15 guests and delivering it to St John's by 7.30 pm on the Saturday
- Similarly preparing an appetising pud (The Great Night Shelter Bake Off!)
- Saturday evening meal servers who chat and sometimes join our guests in board games or the like.
- Overnights, sleeping on a mattress somewhere handy on the premises to deal with any issues which might arise (in practice, they very rarely do). This is often a fairly easy task!
- Breakfast cooks (in St John's kitchen), servers and shelter clearer-uppers.
- Transporting bedding to the next venue. (A large car is handy!)
- Towel washing ready for the next week.

You can claim any expenses of course. If you would be new to the shelter, we would make sure you were well briefed and that you would work alongside a seasoned volunteer. There will be a training session for everyone involved on 28 September, 7.30pm in the small hall at St John's. So please put this in your diary. As well as being a rewarding experience it is a great opportunity to get to know better our friends from St Peter's with whom we share out the tasks. The Saturday nights this year we are hosting the Together in Barnet Night Shelter are from 8 October till 11 December (venue for 15/16 Oct TBC).

So, on behalf of the management group (who have taken on the "Lesley role") may I urge you to consider how you might best contribute this coming winter to make the St John's shelter as welcoming and as pleasant for our guests as it always has been. Please let me know. We will be putting the rota together on 14 September.

andrewjsummers@btinternet.com

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Andrew Summers

Flower Festival

**St John the Baptist Church
Chipping Barnet**

16th – 18th September 2016

Please come along to see an array of flower arrangements reflecting West End Musicals, including one from our own Flower Committee members on the 'Lion King'. Refreshments will be served and there will be live music from local bands and choirs. **The Unlimited Choir** will be singing songs from the musicals at 3pm on Saturday 17th September.



The Flower Festival will be open at the following times.

Friday 16th from 10am to 5pm and 7pm to 9pm

Saturday 17th from 10am to 5pm

Sunday 18th from 11am to 4pm



Entrance by donation, programmes £3.00

All profits will be divided between Barnet Church and the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

We do hope that you will be able to support this event.

News from Chipping Barnet Foodbank

For the past few years since the Foodbank started in this area it has operated from the Salvation Army centre in Albert Road, New Barnet, but in July it moved all its stored equipment and food to a new home in St. Peters Parish Centre next to St. Peters Church in Somerset Road. The facilities at the new centre are more welcoming for clients than previously and the food storage area is more convenient for the volunteers who run it. The opening times for the Foodbank are 12 noon to 2.00pm on Tuesdays and 10.00am to 12 noon on Saturdays.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that boxes to collect non-perishable food and other essential items are located at the Church and Mowbray Road entrances, so please remember those in need.

David Paul

Church Meeting Sunday 11 September, 12:15 pm

I urge members and worshippers to attend the upcoming Church Meeting. I aim to set before you a vision of St John's Church's identity and mission as an accepting, hospitable and accessible church. It is in the light of this vision that we will consider the proposed extension to our building. We hope finally to have costed estimates for the fully accessible toilet/baby-changing facility and tea point. We should thereafter to be in a position to decide whether or not to go ahead with the work. If you cannot be present at the meeting, please convey your apology for absence to Marjorie O'Connor.

Julian Templeton

Calendar

September 2016

SEPTEMBER	Sunday 4th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	SEPTEMBER
		11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
	Monday 5th	8:00pm	Junior Church Teachers Meeting at the Manse	
	Tuesday 6th	10:30am	Pastoral Team Meeting, Vestry	
		8:00pm	Elders Meeting, Vestry	
	Thursday 8th	8:00pm	Finance and Management, Vestry	
	Saturday 10th	2:30pm	Open Church Consultation	
	Sunday 11th	11:00am	Worship – Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
		12:15pm	Church Meeting	
	Wed 14th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Fri 16th – Sun 18th	Times vary	Flower Festival at St John the Baptist Church, Chipping Barnet See Page 3 for details	
	Sunday 18th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		10:30am	Messy Church	
		11:00am	Worship Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
	Tuesday 20th	2:30pm	Short and Simple Worship led by Revd Julian Templeton	
	Wed 21st	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		8:00pm	St. John's Fellowship – Remap: A Charity which Engineers to make Simple Tools to aid people with disabilities – David Martin	
	Friday 23rd	8:30pm	Men's Group – The Railway Bell, East Barnet Road	
	Sunday 25th	11:00am	Worship Led by Helen Snider & Andrew Summers	
		3:00pm	Causeway	
	Tuesday 27th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	
		8:00pm	Justice & Peace Group	
	Wed 28th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		7:30pm	North London Area Group Meeting: The Hyde, Colindale	
	7:30pm	Night Shelter: Training and information meeting – Small Hall		

Calendar

October 2016

OCTOBER	Sunday 2nd	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	OCTOBER		
		11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton			
	Wed 5th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club			
	Saturday 8th	6:00pm	Night Shelter			
	Sunday 9th	7:00am	Shelter - Breakfast			
		11:00am	Worship Led by Revd Julian Templeton			
	Tuesday 11th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting			
	Wed 12th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club			
	Saturday 15th	6:00pm	Night Shelter. Venue TBC			
	Sunday 16th	7:00am	Shelter - Breakfast. Venue TBC			
		11:00am	Harvest and Brownie Church Parade, Worship Led by Revd Julian Templeton			
	Wed 19th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club			
		8:00pm	St. John's Fellowship - A wedding in the Land of the Golden Fleece - Jean Cardy			
	Friday 21st		Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record			
	Saturday 22nd	2.30pm - 4.30pm	St John's Fellowship Tea Dance in Large Hall. All welcome. (Doors open 2pm)			
		6:00pm	Night Shelter			
	Sunday 23rd	7:00am	Shelter - Breakfast			
		11:00am	Worship Led by Richard Harvey & David Paul			
	Tuesday 25th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park			
		8:00pm	Justice & Peace Group			
	Thursday 27th	8:00pm	Men's Group - Curry Evening at The Railway Bell			
	Saturday 29th	6:00pm	Night Shelter			
	Sunday 30th	7:00am	Shelter - Breakfast			
		11:00am	Worship Led by Paul Elsdon			
		3:00pm	Causeway			
	NOV	Saturday 5th	6:00pm		Night Shelter	NOV
		Sunday 6th	7:00am		Shelter - Breakfast	
			10:00am		Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton			
Tuesday 8th		8:00pm	Elders Meeting			
Wed 9th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club				

St John's Fellowship

United Reformed Church

Watch out for Scams

talk by Dale Bevington

Our speaker at July's Fellowship works in the care industry and noticed a disturbing number of his clients were getting into financial trouble. He discovered this was due to some falling prey to various scams, the more he looked into this, the more concerned he got. Now he spends a large proportion of his time talking to groups like the Fellowship, to warn people and to try to keep them safe.

The impact on those that fall victim to scams can be devastating, even the loss of a small amount of money can cause very great distress and a huge loss of confidence. We all need to be vigilant for both ourselves but also those around us, particularly as we get older and the scammers become ever more inventive.

Dale described many scams from fictitious churches asking for funds to send a dying man to Lourdes to a parcel deliver scam where a "We could not deliver your parcel" card is put through your door, with a number to ring. The number will be a premium rate number costing £5.00 + a minute, then they keep you hanging on!

Dale set out some basics for staying safe:

1. Join the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) to reduce unwanted phone calls and the Mail Preference Service (MPS) – it's free (do not be scammed by web-sites that charge)
2. Do not answer the phone with your name, just say "hello" or similar
3. Remember Banks, the Police, Insurance Companies etc will NEVER call and ask for your bank details and PIN numbers. If a caller asks for these – just put the phone down
4. If Microsoft or a "Technical Expert" calls about a problem with your computer – it's a scam
5. If you get an email from someone or a company you do not recognise – Never open attachments – they can contain software to give scammers access to your computer files and records



6. If you get a letter or an email telling you that a big prize awaits you – all you have to do is send them some money first to get the prize – It's a scam. Just bin it!
7. When on-line, watch out for web-sites that look just like official government sites – the real site will have a www.gov.uk or a www.-----.org.uk web address. Others ending in "gov.co.uk" or "org.co.uk" or "gov.uk.com" – are fake and will charge to access a government services that should be free
8. Check your bank and credit card statements regularly – report any transaction you do not recognise immediately and shut down direct debits or accounts
9. If an unsolicited caller suggests that you call back to a number to verify who they are – remember, when you put the phone down the line remains connected to the caller for several minutes – it's a scam!
10. Remember, if someone makes you an offer that sounds too good to be true – it probably is!

If you want to know more, Citizens Advise (<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>) has good information and all Banks and the Police will have free information on what to look out for and how to protect those around you.

Ron Mobbs

Church Membership Preparation

I've been approached by Chesterfield Road URC to prepare a worshipper for Church Membership. I have agreed to do this and am taking the opportunity to make an appeal also to any worshippers at St John's and Wood Street URC's who have not yet taken the step of Church Membership to consider doing so. The preparation would involve participating in three group sessions (dates and times to be confirmed, but probably on Sunday afternoons at the Manse): 1. What is a Christian? 2. What is the Church? 3. What does it mean to be a Member of the Church?

All of those I have prepared for membership in the past tell me that the experience of being prepared strengthened their faith, and becoming a member has made a difference to their experience of church life. This opportunity for preparation has the potential to be special as people share their experiences of different churches. Please prayerfully consider whether the Lord may be nudging you to take this step.

Julian Templeton

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General Assembly News

United Reformed Church joins the Churches' Mutual Credit Union

General Assembly enthusiastically agreed to join the Churches' Mutual Credit Union (CMCU), enabling ministers, elders and congregations to invest savings in it, funding affordable loans to people who might otherwise have to use payday lenders.

Founded in February 2015, the CMCU grew out of the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby's determination to compete out of existence high-interest payday lenders such as Wonga. The URC joins existing members including the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Methodist Church of Britain. Mr John Ellis, Treasurer, said: 'I am delighted at the enthusiasm which the General Assembly has embraced this opportunity, and I urge local churches to spread the word, join this movement and do something practical in the interests of economic justice.'

Resolution on Same Sex Marriage

In keeping with the 2007 commitment on Human Sexuality, General Assembly does not consider it appropriate to express a single view on behalf of the whole United Reformed Church on the matter of Same-Sex Marriage.

General Assembly declares that the Church Meeting of each Local Church of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales is the relevant governing authority for the purpose of giving consent for the trustees of its building to seek the registration of that building for religious marriage ceremonies of same sex couples, in accordance with the provisions of Section 26A(1) of the Marriage Act 1949 as amended by the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013.

There is more to a toe than meets the eye!

"A massive thank you to you all for your prayers thoughts and visits during my recent illness. One lesson to learn, four years ago when my left big toe was amputated I lost three stone, this year with the 2nd toe removed I lost two stone, who knew toes are such weighty parts".

Tony Alderman

St John's URC Fellowship invite You to a

TEA DANCE

At St John's United Reformed Church in Large Hall, Mowbray Road entrance/Somerset Road, New Barnet, Herts. EN5 1RH.



SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER 2016

2.30pm – 4.30pm (doors open 2.00pm)

Entrance £5 (entertainment, refreshments & raffle)

With popular, local musician, Chris Sausman on keyboards/vocal. Come enjoy music, don't have to dance. Have a cup of tea/coffee and cake.

ALL WELCOME

Proceeds: For St John's URC Building Funds

Open Church Consultation

Flyer: We will send this out to local churches and to neighbours surrounding our church.

You are invited to view our extension plans

St John's
United Reformed Church

Somerset & Mowbray Roads, New Barnet, EN5 1RH



Open Church Consultation
Saturday 10 September
Drop-in between
2:30 and 4:30 pm

St John's Church is proposing to build a small extension to the upper level of its worship space to create a fully accessible toilet and baby-changing facility plus a suitable space from which to serve refreshments. Our purpose is to make our church building a better-equipped and fully accessible space for both the church and the wider community.

We invite you to drop in, view our plans and look around our current building, and be part of a consultation. We would like to hear your views.

Plan: the 6901 x 1751 area shows the proposed extension

