



Nov – Dec
2016

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

From the Minister

In the beginning was the commitment...

I've been reading a collection of essays called *The Givenness of Things* by Marilynne Robinson. She is better-known as a novelist (among whose novels is *Gilead*) but her essays are also well worth reading. Included in the collection is the transcript of a conversation between Robinson and President Obama. Obama comments: "We're going through a spasm of fear...this is not unique to the United States. You're seeing it elsewhere. You see [it] in the emergence of far-right parties in Europe." Obama attributes this fear to a perceived loss of control and feeling of insecurity.

We need only imagine being completely controlled by others and having no security to prove the point that most of us value exercising a degree of control and feeling secure. Obama's argument is that there are some in the USA who exploit—for political purposes—the fear brought about by a lack of control and insecurity. I leave you to draw your own parallels with recent political events and movements in the UK and Continental Europe.

Regardless of our political standpoints, we might be able to agree that having a degree of personal control and feeling secure are good things, even if we might

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disagree as to how these are best achieved. We might also be able to agree that having enough food and adequate clothing and shelter are basic to physical wellbeing, even if we might disagree about how much is 'enough' and what is 'adequate'.

Those who do not have the means to buy enough food or adequate clothing or shelter are *poor*. I believe that there is such a thing as relative poverty because I meet people at the Night Shelter and the foodbank who, because of the relatively high cost of living in proportion to their income, cannot afford the basics that many of us take for granted. Both the Night Shelter and foodbank attempt to relieve homelessness and food insecurity on a local basis. They do not address the underlying economic and political causes of poverty; what they do is make a personal commitment to help individual persons. In my experience, it is the *personal commitment* that others make to help that means most to those affected.

We can probably all remember times when we needed help, and how much we appreciated the person who made a commitment to help us (or felt the absence of help when it was not offered or we did not ask for it). As we approach the season of Advent and the festival of Christmas, it is worth reminding ourselves that the statements: "In the beginning

was the Word...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." (Jn. 1:1, 14) refer to God's commitment in the person of Jesus Christ to help us.

Jesus helps us by coming alongside us as one of us. Jesus trusts that God is his heavenly Father and regards himself as a son. Jesus finds his security in this relationship and finds his purpose by doing the will of his heavenly Father. That will is expressed in the Kingdom of God in which children and the poor are honoured as models of trust in God. Their childlikeness and humility are attitudes that adults and the wealthy are challenged to emulate. Marilynne Robinson writes: "To value one another is our greatest safety, and to indulge in fear and contempt is our greatest error."

For understandable reasons, many people are fearful about the political and economic future of the UK, and as a result may also be contemptuous of those who have promised a better future that they look unlikely to be able to deliver. The message of Christmas is that Jesus is God's personal commitment to help us. When we are secure in God's love and energised by his good purpose, as Jesus was, he helps us to resist contempt through understanding and overcome fear by trust.

Julian Templeton

Dorothy Start is filmed by Channel Four as she celebrates her 100th birthday

How many of us will have a new starring role at the age of a hundred? Great grandmother, Mrs Dorothy Start, 100, the oldest member of St John's United Reformed Church, New Barnet, is doing just that as her 100th birthday party celebrated in the church hall was filmed by Channel Four for a documentary on centenarians to be broadcast next year. (2017)

Reports about Dorothy's life and 100th birthday celebrations also appeared in two local newspapers. The Barnet Times and the Barnet Press.

Dorothy received the BEM the British Empire Medal for her services to voluntary work in Barnet and her birthday party on Saturday 17 September was attended not only by a Channel Four film crew, but also by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, Martin Russell Esq.

He is also the deputy lord lieutenant for Borough of Barnet and he presented a card from the Queen to Dorothy on behalf of Her Majesty. (Picture attached.) Her friends, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, some of whom had come from Australia also attended.



Deputy Lord Lieutenant presenting Dorothy's Birthday Card from the Queen

But Dorothy is no stranger to the limelight as two years ago she was featured in the Age UK national fundraising campaign called 'Love Later Life'. She featured on the Age UK website and also appeared in Age UK's TV adverts and poster campaigns. Dorothy was asked to take part in the campaign by a friend and, commenting on her late 'stardom' as a poster girl for Age UK and now soon to be on television on Channel Four, Dorothy says: "My advice to everyone is 'Seize the day'. I don't mind being an advert for somebody who gets on with life."

This is something which, even at 100 years old, Dorothy definitely still does. Recent trips abroad even as far as Hawaii with her family mean that she is still travelling the world.

So what are Dorothy's secrets for a long and happy life? She recommends joining organisations and keeping active. She says: "I've always belonged to a lot of organisations. My husband was a Rotarian and I've been in Inner Wheel for 50 years. As well as going to church all my life, I've run Girl Guides, and I've done Scottish dancing for the past 60 years. I would recommend this to anyone who can do it. It's good for your head. I think that's why I've got a good memory. It's also good for your bones."

"I think you have to accept what you have and keep cheerful. The people who are the loneliest are the people who are always moaning and groaning about things and they don't join any groups. As for young people, I think so long as you keep cheerful, they don't mind. I've never felt any handicap being old and being with younger people and I'm with younger people all the time."

Dorothy is the oldest member of the congregation of St John's United Reformed Church, Somerset Road, New Barnet. The Rev. Julian Templeton, minister of St John's New Barnet says: "Dorothy is a remarkable person, an inspiration to us all."

By Roz Douglas



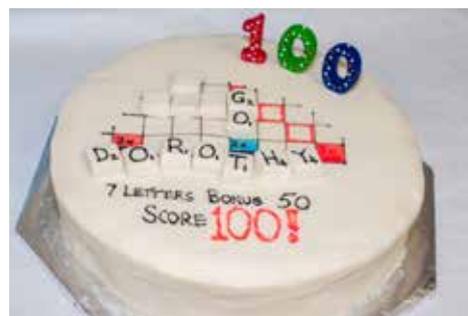
The band including Dorothy's daughter Kate playing sax and son-in law Mark playing bass



Cameraswoman from Channel Four recording the celebrations



Dorothy and friends dancing a Strathspey



Scrabble Birthday Cake



Dorothy's delighted with her card from the Queen

Calendar

November 2016

NOVEMBER	Sunday 6th	7:00am	Winter Shelter - St John's	NOVEMBER
		10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting	
		11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
	Monday 7th	8:00pm	Junior Church Teachers Meeting, 34 Lancaster Road	
	Tuesday 8th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting, Vestry	
	Wed 9th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Thursday 10th	8:00pm	Finance and Management, Vestry	
	Saturday 12th	6:00pm	Winter Shelter (St.Peter's)	
	Sunday 13th	7:00am	Winter Shelter – Breakfast	
		10:45am	Remembrance Sunday led by Julian Templeton	
	Monday 14th	8:00pm	Chipping Barnet foodbank AGM, at St. John's Church	
	Wed 16th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		8:00pm	Fellowship – My Spiritual Adventures in Laos – Rev. Sarah Hayes	
	Saturday 19th	10:30am	Christmas Coffee Morning	
		6:00pm	Winter Shelter (St.Peter's)	
	Sunday 20th	7:00am	Winter Shelter – Breakfast	
		10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		10:30am	Messy Church	
		11:00am	Worship Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
		12:30pm	Church Meeting	
	Wed 23rd	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Thursday 24th	10:30am	Pastoral Team Meeting	
	Friday 25th	2:30pm	Short and Simple Worship	
	Saturday 26th	6:00pm	Winter Shelter (St.Peter's)	
	Sunday 27th	7:00am	Winter Shelter – Breakfast	
		11:00am	Advent 1 Worship – led by Andrew and Valerie Mills	
	Tuesday 29th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	
Wed 30th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club		
	8:30pm	Men's Group –at the Black Horse, High Barnet		

Calendar

December 2016

DECEMBER	Saturday 3rd	6:00pm	Winter Shelter (St John's)	DECEMBER
	Sunday 4th	7:00am	Winter Shelter - Breakfast	
		10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting	
		11:00am	Advent 2 Worship + Holy Communion Led by Julian Templeton	
	Wed 7th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Saturday 10th	6:00pm	Winter Shelter (St John's)	
	Sunday 11th	7:00am	Winter Shelter - Breakfast	
		11:00am	Advent 3 Worship and Gift Service - led by Alison Bond	
		3:00pm	Causeway	
	Tuesday 13th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting, Vestry	
	Sunday 18th	11:00am	Advent 4 Worship - led by Julian Templeton	
		4:30pm	Carol Service - All Visitors Welcome. Led by Julian Templeton	
	Wed 21st	6:30pm	St. John's Fellowship AGM and Dinner	
	Saturday 24th	11:30pm	CHRISTMAS EVE - Carol & Communion Service at Chesterfield Road URC led by Julian Templeton (Note: no service at St John's)	
	Sunday 25th	10:30am	CHRISTMAS DAY - All Age Carol Service led by Julian Templeton	
	Wed 28th	8:30pm	Men's Group - at the Railway Bell, East Barnet	
JAN	Sunday 1st	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	JAN
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting	
		11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Tony Alderman	

In Sympathy: the deaths of two people with connections to St John's Church

We express our sympathy to Alan Doncaster, whose wife Mary died recently after a long decline. Mary was cared for latterly at the Eleanor Palmer Trust Care Home, Canteloves House. A large number of family, friends, and some St John's members attended Mary's Funeral Service at the New Southgate Crematorium Chapel on the 12th of October. The Minister who conducted the service, the Rev'd James Mustard, said that the large attendance reflected the high regard and affection that many had for Mary. Alan has recently moved to sheltered accommodation in Beaconsfield in order to be closer to his daughter.

We also express our sympathy to Sue George, whose husband Colin died recently and whose Memorial was held in St John's Church on the 29th of October following

the pattern of a Society of Friends (Quaker) Meeting. Colin George was an actor and director with a career in theatre, television, and film in the UK, Australia and Hong Kong. Sue and Colin were regulars at the Friends' Meeting House in Leicester Road until Colin's health deteriorated. Because Colin had a background in Congregationalism (his father was a Minister) Sue approached me to ask whether there was a short and simple service that would be suitable for Colin. In response I designed the monthly 'Short and Simple Worship' that both Colin and Sue seemed to appreciate, as well as the fellowship over a cup of tea that Dorothy and Michael Peryer provided. Colin and Michael found they had something in common: they overlapped as pupils of Caterham School in Surrey.

Julian Templeton

St John's Fellowship

United Reformed Church

Making things possible talk about the charity—Remap

by David Martin 21st September



Remap is concerned with promoting the independence, dignity and quality of life of disabled individuals. Providing be-spoke custom made equipment which is not available commercially. Remap makes the equipment; gets the finance and raises donations/keeps accounts; and publicizes the group through talks, literature, etc. It can help the disabled individual to achieve as with Abbie Honeysett in the para-Olympics. No one is excluded on basis of cost—all free. Individuals are referred by individuals; occupational therapists. Assessments made; equipment made and then tested.

Examples were shown of a one armed golfer helped; Wheelchair bound group who wanted to do archery in Cambridgeshire; a girl continuing art at university after dreadful road accident because she had a special easel with levers; woman who'd had a stroke helped to thread needles independently so could carry on with stitchery; device to throw ball to care dog. Sometimes remap approached more than once by same individual as with a growing child to replace e.g. bike or when there is a health deteriorating condition.

There are 900+ volunteers; 75 local groups (including one in Barnet meeting at St John's URC); over 3,000 projects completed in 2015 at an estimate of 62,000 hours (given

freely). The charity was founded in 1964. Ideas could be simple or complex-involving maybe adapting a piece of equipment (stairlift button control). Groups transfer ideas. (E.g. of camera stand; girl loved reading was able by adapting to read kindle herself by using her smile in her cheeks (only part not paralysed) to activate switch. Problem of wheelchair left on pavement when using car; problem of disabled hanging out the washing on the line aided by a double sided clothes peg.

Costs are covered by donations, national income from trusts and foundations. Main costs are travel and materials but rescued materials are used. For every £1 raised is generated the value of approximately £20. Remap has 3 paid people. New volunteers welcome to help with making; publicity; raising funds; administration; medical experts e.g. occupational therapists. David gave a good, well structured, interesting and informed talk with visual examples. He took questions from the floor and gives the websites www.remap.org.uk and for North London www.barnet.remap.org.uk and email is remapbarnet@gmail.com. If you think Remap can help you call Remap on 01732 760209. Thank you David (Hugh's son) for a worthwhile evening's talk.

Marjorie O'Connor

St. JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 19th November
10.30 – 12 noon

No admission charge but a donation for
the North London Hospice & church funds.

Table stalls around the hall enabling you to buy small
gifts & cards to support both national & local charities.

All Welcome

Please tell your friends & come & support
this fundraising event.

TEA DANCE

Thank you for all your support before and on Saturday 22nd October 2016 at the Tea Dance run by Fellowship.

We had about 33 people and several apologies. Grateful to have talented dancers including those through Sue. Great atmosphere!

Thrilled with our keyboard player, Chris Sausman, who is a professional musician and can charge £150-£200 for afternoon but only charged us £30. Pat's reading was excellent as was the serving of refreshments. Glad

A successful event that many want be repeated.

TOTAL INCOME	£208.56
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£62.55
GRAND TOTAL/BALANCE	£146.01

The Land of the Golden Fleece.

Fellowship Talk on Wednesday by Jean Cardy 19th October

Jean gave a very interesting and personal account of her two visits to Georgia (ex-Russian Georgia)—so called the Land of the Golden Fleece because some of its rivers are supposed to contain gold dust which can be extracted by putting a sheep's fleece in the water to collect the dust.

Her first visit to Georgia was in 2014 for the wedding of her son, Johnathan to Sophie a Georgian lady and the second visit was a holiday with her daughter in law and her mother in Georgia. Georgia has a sensitive relationship with Russia and only gained its freedom recently. Jean's son and daughter in law met through the internet and when Jean went to their wedding in Georgia she became aware of the huge extended families where cousins were important; also it's a patriarchal society and like Italy, old people matter.

It is a very religious country. The Georgian church is Georgian Orthodox. The wedding takes all day. There are various customs. Every meal, if formal has the toastmaster and you can't eat whilst he's talking. The meal is interspersed by entertainment with music, dancing and the cake! Jean witnessed all this. As it was at New Year she saw the celebration of New Year's Eve.

Georgia may become the next fashionable country to visit before too spoiled. It seems to have no old age pension. The Georgian language is not Indo European nor a Slav language but an indigenous one from that area. It has its own script (not same as Russian). Sophie is a university

teacher but had to learn English from books before meeting her husband. The language has not changed over centuries so folk can read and understand old texts. Georgia is rich in culture (dance; music; drama).

The second visit was in the summer of 2016 to the capital Tblisi with the Festival of Colours when the autumn comes. Quite often on the main road from Tblisi to Moscow you find animals wandering about. Post offices are different to England. Sophie has only been able to get a visa for 33 months and will have to reapply again. It has taken her 2 years to get this since the wedding and she has had to return to her country to see her sick mother and for her mother's funeral where every friend, neighbour, friends to support neighbours, schoolboys as well as family turn out to the funeral. The bereaved stay at home for 40 days after the death/ funeral; then have a wake before going back to work unlike our country where we rarely wear black armbands to denote a death, now.

Georgia is significant for its people, country and customs. Jean accompanied her talk with some magnificent pictures of architecture; scenery and photos taken at the wedding, etc. and she also let us see some memorabilia, e.g. a map and a card with handwritten script by her daughter in law. Questions revealed that it's not easy at present to travel to Georgia but this will no doubt change as it gets more popular. It was an informative and enjoyable speech.

Marjorie O'Connor

Julian and Laura received into membership

After six years Julian and Laura have finally become members of St John's Church! As some will know, Julian resigned as Minister, and Laura resigned as Elder, at the Pond Square Chapel, Highgate, after a long association, allowing them to transfer their membership to St John's Church. Alison Bond received them into membership at the Communion Service on the 2nd of October.



Advent 3 * Sunday 11 December

11:00 am Gift Service
(toys for children of Barnet Refugees)
led by Alison Bond

3:00 pm Causeway Lord's Supper
led by Julian Templeton in Small Hall



Advent 4 * Sunday 18 December

11:00 am Service led by Julian Templeton

4:30 pm Carol Service led by Julian Templeton



Christmas Eve * Saturday 24 December

11:30 pm United Carol Service with Lord's Supper
led by Julian Templeton

United Reformed Church,
Chesterfield Road, EN5 2RE (Note: no service at St John's)



Christmas Day * Sunday 25 December

10:30 am All Age Carol Service
led by Julian Templeton



St John's United Reformed Church