

Mar – Apr
2017

St John's United Reformed Church

Record

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

From the Minister

Faith Alone

'Faith alone', we trust you only
Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
One with us in our believing,
you who know our natures well.
When we're tested, when we fail,
by your faith we will prevail.

If people know only a little about the Reformation they may be familiar with the phrase: 'Justification by faith'. But what does it mean and why did it come to encapsulate the driving force of reform that convulsed Europe? The phrase is taken from the Letter to the Romans 1:17, in which the Apostle Paul writes: "The righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel, beginning and ending in faith, as the Scripture says: 'Whoever is justified through faith shall gain life.'" The latter is a quotation from the Prophet Habakkuk (2:4).

The Saxon Augustinian Monk and Doctor of Sacred Theology, Martin Luther, had in 1517 presented 95 Theses for debate and had, as a result, provoked a number of vigorous disputations about theology and the Church. In 1519 he continued to lecture on biblical books at the University of Wittenberg. When reflecting on the Letter to the Romans he was deeply troubled by one particular phrase: 'the justice/righteousness of God' (*Justitia Dei*). He writes:

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HOLY WEEK

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"I hated this term 'the justice of God', by which I understood the justice with which God is just and punishes sinners...For however irreproachably I lived as a monk, I felt myself before God to be a sinner with a most unquiet conscience...I did not love, nay, rather I hated this just God who punished sinners...I raged in this way with a fierce and disturbed conscience...At last, God being merciful...I began to understand that the sentence 'the justice of God is revealed in the gospel' to be that passive justice with which the merciful God justified us by faith... This straightaway made me feel as though reborn, and as though I had entered through open gates to paradise itself. From then on, the whole face of scripture appeared different. I ran through the scriptures, then, as memory served, and found the same analogy in other words: the Work of God as that which God works in us, the Power of God with which he makes us strong, Wisdom of God with which he makes us wise..."

Luther had rediscovered the heart of the gospel message: the good news that God makes us right through what Jesus Christ has done for us. Our acceptance of this is the personal trust called 'faith'. We can better appreciate why this was so revolutionary by contrasting it with the burdensome requirements of payments and prayers and

penance by which people hoped to pay off the ever-accumulating debit account of sin both for themselves and for family members who had died. Christianity had become a legalistic religion in which the Church profited from the ongoing anxiety of its members. The Church's shameless profiteering enraged Luther and galvanised him into reforming action.

John Calvin, the most influential Reformer of what would become the 'Reformed Church', reflects a very similar understanding of faith as Luther when he writes: "The merciful Father offers us his Son through the Word of the gospel. And it is by faith that we embrace him and acknowledge him as given to us." Faith is essentially our willing embrace of a gift. The gift is Jesus Christ, who, when we learn to trust him, opens up gracious and expansive understanding of God and self and others.

God does not measure us by our mistakes and failures, nor value us by our achievements and successes; rather, God 'justifies' us—places us in a right relationship—solely by what Jesus Christ has done for us. This liberates us from the mistaken view that the Christian life is about 'being a good person'. Jesus Christ alone has been completely good and faithful to God. 'Faith alone' is the personal trust we place in Jesus Christ.

Julian Templeton

Three New Church Members

Alan Pryor and Ken Sutherland-Thomas were received into the Membership of St John's Church by transfer on the 8th of January. They attended Membership Preparation Classes at the Manse, along with Clive Goodfellow.



Clive Goodfellow was Admitted as a Member of the United Reformed Church, Chesterfield Road, by Profession of Faith on the 12th of February. Julian has recently become Interim Moderator there.



Easter Festival

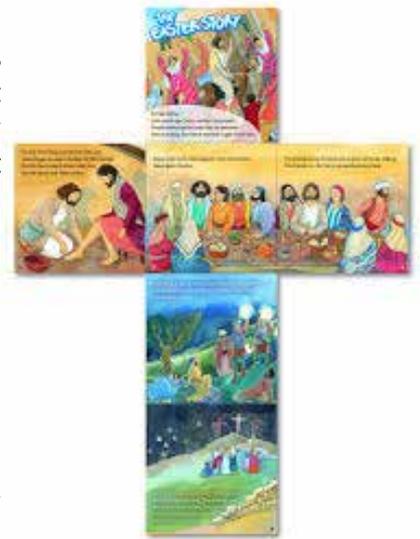
Easter Day 16 April 2017

I've long felt that the Church generally does not celebrate Easter Day as it deserves to be celebrated. I believe that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the event that changed the world! The resurrection is the defining event to which the New Testament writers testify. Celebrating the resurrection is the Church's oldest and most important festival. As a small step towards restoring Easter Day to its rightful place, I invite you to join me in making it a Festival to remember.

- 11:00 am Easter Day All Age Worship with Choir Unlimited
- Followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for 'Real Easter Eggs'
- Followed by a hot lunch in the Large Hall (free, voluntary donation)
- Followed by either entertainment in the Large Hall (a circle dance, music, artwork) or games in the Small Hall

There will be something for everyone, so I encourage you to invite friends and family to join us for all or part of the festivities. A list will be circulated to indicate numbers intending to dine. An invitation will also be extended to the homeless guests who will be having breakfast at St John's on Easter Day morning.

Julian Templeton



Revised Common Lectionary

- March 12** Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17
- March 19** Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42
- March 26** 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41
- April 2** Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45
- April 9** Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66
- April 16** Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18
- April 23** Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31
- April 30** Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35
- May 7** Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10
- May 14** *Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14
- May 21** *Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21
- May 28** *Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11, John 17:1-11
- June 4** *Acts 2:1-21, Numbers 11:24-30, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, Acts 2:1-21, John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
- June 11** Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

We've Again Been Chillin' in Barbados Man!

Ray and I have recently returned from our second holiday in Barbados. This time we spent a week at a resort on the West Coast, known as the Platinum Coast (just missing seeing Cliff Richard having a coffee)



before returning to Butterfly Beach in the south.

As last year, we wanted to attend church. We found a Methodist Church at nearby Hometown with a 9 a.m. service, which according to the notice board would be followed by Sunday School at 10 a.m. This sounded ideal. We were warmly greeted, given a book mark as a memento and shown to a rather narrow traditional pew. During the service "visitors" were passed a microphone and invited to introduce themselves and give the name of their own church. The church was traditional [UK] Methodist and pleasantly airy. The hymn singing, accompanied by an organ was enthusiastic and there were a number of hymns that we knew. At 11 a.m. and after 2 hours, I decided that I just could not sit any longer and we crept out! It was lovely to see everyone in their best clothes, many of the ladies wearing hats and to see a full church, but we did only notice two young people.

Last year we attended a Christian Assembly Hall near our hotel at Butterfly Beach but with the benefit of recently installed wi-fi in the bedrooms, and a new mobile phone, Ray was able to locate Christ Church Parish Church, some 30 minute walk away, up a very steep hill. We arrived, feeling very hot, as the third service of the day was due to start. Parish churches, unlike at home, cover very large areas and there were church mini-buses arriving and leaving. Again, there was a large congregation, there were smartly uniformed ushers and enough large hats for a society wedding! We were directed to a pew very near the front of this very large and very "high" church. Not a good place to sit as we were not familiar with the service and without a service sheet we were rather lost. There were 11, yes 11 hymns and only one was familiar to us. After the Eucharist, the children arrived for a blessing, beautifully dressed in their smartest Sunday clothes and

I counted about 60 as they passed down the central aisle towards the alter and Rector, out through a side door and then back down a side aisle. Again we were given a book mark as a memento of our 1¾ hour visit.

Ray did ask if I wanted to attend another Sunday service but we settled just for a visit to St Michael's Cathedral in Bridgetown [the capital] built 1628 and destroyed by a hurricane in 1780. It was rebuilt some years later using lottery money, ironically giving the church's blessing to gambling! It was rebuilt in the Greek Classical style and has a wonderful stained glass window. The cathedral is the local hurricane shelter so they must have confidence that it will survive another one.

While in Bridgetown we visited the Nidhe Israel Synagogue. This was our first ever visit to a synagogue. It claimed to be the oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere, first built in 1654. It had been destroyed by a hurricane in 1831, rebuilt in 1833, sold in 1925 by the last remaining Jew and subsequently fell into disrepair until its restoration from 1987 onward.

The first Jews arrived in Barbados in 1627 and as





has happened throughout their history, they suffered persecution despite using their skills in the sugar industry, commerce, as merchants and in their charitable support to the community. Currently there are 70 Jews in Barbados out of a population of approximately 300,000.

We had been asked by a friend, Aubrey Rose (who gave a couple of talks to the Fellowship some years ago) if, as we were going to Barbados, we would deliver a letter to a friend of his, [Sir] Paul Altman. Aubrey had worked for the Barbados Government when Barbados was granted its independence 51 years ago. We found that Sir Paul has a large and prestigious real-estate company and that his grandfather Moses was the first member of the current

synagogue congregation and Sir Paul was the Project Co-ordinator in charge of the restoration. We met him in the Limegrove Lifestyle Centre, (very upmarket designer shops without a JB Sports or Boots to be seen!) where he has an office. As we sat having coffee in a nearby pavement café, Aubrey's friend introduced us to various people who greeted him as they passed by. He also mentioned that he often plays golf with Garry Sobers who is now in his eighties. Garry Sobers has now for many years officially been "Sir Garfield Sobers" but Sir Paul says, seems entirely unaffected by his celebrity status following a very successful cricketing career. Sir Paul was delighted to have news and to hear that his old friend Aubrey was well and still very much enjoying life.

We didn't spend all our time in religious buildings! We spend most of the time on various beautiful beaches enjoying the sun. Ray went snorkelling from a boat and would have swum with turtles (young ones) but they didn't wait around very long. [I wonder why that was – R]

Barnet has an excellent transport system but not half the fun of the reggae vans or local buses with as many people standing as there are sitting. Actually, despite a good holiday, it is lovely to be back home.

Marion Hopwood

Fellowship Tea Dance 18th February Letting the Music Move You!

On Saturday 18th February the St John's Fellowship held the second of their popular "Tea Dances". The large hall was set out with tables and chairs, bright table cloths with organist playing music live from a variety of decades, classic dance melodies, pop from the 60's and "get everyone on the dance floor" music from today.

We had fifty attending, most of whom were not church or Fellowship members, some were keen dancers and a number just came for the companionship. One lady who lived locally and had never been to St John's before said at the end of the afternoon "very enjoyable, wonderful, pleasant afternoon. I only came because my husband fell asleep after lunch so I decided to come out alone and enjoy the afternoon despite him and did!. Want to come again. When's the next? Is it next month?"

An afternoon tea of sandwiches, snacks and cakes were served when everyone had danced up an appetite, at times our happy band of workers could barely keep up with the queue for cups of tea. At one point we gave the

dancers a rest, with an amusing reading from Pat Picken who performed Joyce Grenfell's 'Stately as a Galleon' and with a raffle, which raised a further £77.00 for St John's.

At the end of the afternoon, when all the tables had been put away, the washing up done and the floor swept, the Fellowship committee took a great deal of pleasure in knowing that they had made a total of £262 for the church, but perhaps more importantly, a lot of people had made new friends and had an enjoyable afternoon.

The next Tea Dance will be on Saturday 27th May at 2.30 to 4.30 in the Large Hall.

Marjorie O'Connor



Calendar

March 2017

Sunday 5th	7:00am	Spring Shelter – St. John's - Breakfast
	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room
	10:30am	Elders' Meeting
	11:00am	Lent 1 Worship + Holy Communion Led by Julian Templeton
Monday 6th	8:00pm	Junior Church Leaders' Meeting, 37 Greenhill Park
Wednesday 11th	4:00 pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Thursday 9th	3:00pm	Lent Discussion Group, 11 The Fairway
Saturday 11th	10:30am	Spring Coffee Morning
	6:00pm	Spring Shelter – St. Peter's
Sunday 12th	7:00am	Spring Shelter – Breakfast
	11:00am	Lent 2 Worship - Led by Julian Templeton
	12:30pm	Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 14th	8:00pm	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday 15th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	8:00pm	Fellowship –Trent Park – A Fascinating Past, Dr Helen Fry
Thursday 16th	3:00pm	Lent Discussion Group, 11 The Fairway
Friday 17th	2:30pm	Short and Simple Worship
Saturday 18th	6:00pm	Spring Shelter – St. John's
Sunday 19th	7:00am	Spring Shelter – Breakfast
	11:00am	Lent 3 Worship - Led by Julian Templeton including Thanksgiving for the late Kathleen Shepherd
Wednesday 22nd	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Thursday 23rd	3:00pm	Lent Discussion Group, 11 The Fairway
Friday 24th	4:00pm	Messy Church, Large Hall
Saturday 25th	6:00pm	Spring Shelter – St. John's
Sunday 26th	7:00am	Spring Shelter – Breakfast
	11:00am	Lent 4 Worship – led by Tony Alderman
Tuesday 28th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park
	8:00pm	Justice & Peace Meeting
Wednesday 29th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	8:30pm	Men's Group –at the Ye Olde Mitre Inne, High Barnet

MARCH

MARCH



6.30pm Saturday 8th April
St Andrews Church
Chase Side
Southgate N14

6.30pm Sunday 9th April
Muswell Hill Methodist
Church
Pages Lane
Muswell Hill N10

6.30pm Saturday 15th April
Christ Church
Little Heath Great North
Road Potters Bar

Calendar

April 2017

APRIL	Saturday 1st	6:00pm	Spring Shelter – St. John's	APRIL
	Sunday 2nd	7:00am	Spring Shelter – Breakfast	
		10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting	
		11:00am	Lent 5 Worship + Holy Communion Led by Julian Templeton	
		6:30pm	Songs of Praise Evening Worship celebrating Richard Harvey's 40th anniversary as Director of Music	
	Saturday 8th	9:00am	Working Party – to carry out works to the Church and halls.	
		6:00pm	Spring Shelter – St. John's	
	Sunday 9th	7:00am	Spring Shelter – Breakfast	
		11:00am	Palm Sunday Worship led by Julian Templeton	
		3:00pm	Causeway	
	Tuesday 11th	8:00pm	Elders' Meeting	
	Thursday 13th	8:00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service (joined by worshippers from Wood Street and Chesterfield Road URC's)	
	Friday 14th	2:00pm	Good Friday Service	
	Saturday 15th	6:00pm	Spring Shelter – St. John's	
	Sunday 16th	7:00am	Spring Shelter – Breakfast	
		11:00am	Easter Day All Age Service with Choir Unlimited followed by Festival hot lunch, Easter Egg Hunt, entertainment and games	
	Wednesday 19th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		8:00pm	Fellowship – The Macular Society-What to look for-Jean Hewitt	
	Thursday 20th	10:00am	Pastoral Team Meeting, Vestry	
		7:30pm	North London Area Group Meeting, venue tbc	
	Friday 21st		Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record	
	Saturday 22nd	6:00pm	Spring Shelter – St. Peter's	
	Sunday 23rd	7:00am	Spring Shelter – Breakfast	
		11:00am	Worship – Led by Valerie & Andrew Mills	
	Monday 24th	8:30pm	Men's Group – at the Railway Bell, New Barnet	
	Tuesday 25th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	
		8:00pm	Justice and Peace Meeting	
Saturday 29th	6:00pm	Spring Shelter – St. John's		
Sunday 30th	7:00am	Spring Shelter – Breakfast		
	11:00am	Church Anniversary Service led by Rev'd David Skitt		
Wednesday 3rd	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	MAY	
Sunday 7th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room		
	10:30am	Elders' Meeting		
	11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Julian Templeton	MAY	

St John's
United Reformed Church

Fellowship

Desert Island Discs – with Alison Bond

interviewed by Patricia Picken 18th January 2017



This was a very pleasant evening with Patricia Picken (Fellowship committee member) interviewing St John's URC Church elder and member, Alison Bond, about her choice of desert island discs.

We heard about Alison's interesting life and she told us of her love of music. We heard several snippets of recordings and Alison remarked how these drew on her memories or showed development in her taste of music. Some were classical (Tavener and Schubert, for example) while others showed an interest in the popular records of the day – as a student (Sam Cooke, etc.). She has not only appreciated music by listening but also by learning to play music and through singing. Music can help whilst doing work as with her university studies at Exeter University where she studied geography.

Patricia was good at interviewing Alison and encouraged responses. We had a good supportive crowd in the audience. Some of the items chosen we knew whilst

others may have been less familiar. However for some of us of a certain age, we recognized quite a lot of the tunes and enjoyed the selected recordings. We were pleased to hear that she and Malcom (her husband) have passed onto their children a love of music, certain musicians and in return willing to listen and appreciate some of the music their daughters have discovered.

The item Alison wanted to have with her if stranded on a desert island was a wind-up radio so she could listen to the cricket commentaries. I think several approved of her choice! And reason!

It was a very enjoyable evening. So thank you to Alison and Patricia and thank you to Ron Mobbs for playing the recordings without a hitch. We also had images/ photographs projected onto the back wall of the hall. The evening was a great success.

Marjorie O'Connor

Hospital Radio: past, present and future

A talk given by Barry Wheaton Mars 15th February 2017

Barry spoke amusingly about his wide experience of Hospital Radio, at Barnet General Hospital in particular.

Radio in hospitals began in the 1940s with the idea that bored patients made slower progress than those with distractions. In the nineteenth century there was a piano in most wards and people also brought in piano accordions and similar instruments to entertain patients. The comedian Max Wall loved to entertain patients and unless nurses were present there was little limitation to his material!

Val Doonican opened Barnet General's Hospital Radio during 1978 on an occasion that Barry recalls with great pleasure. Other famous visitors have included Petula Clark, Dale Winton, Emma Brunton and Derek Jameson.

There were also disasters of course, including lightning, which did strike twice. On the first occasion it caused untold damage to the radio station equipment; and to the record library, which had been built up over many

years and had been sorted and catalogued by a librarian from the BBC Record Library, who had volunteered to establish a library for Barnet Hospital Radio second only to the BBC's collection of that time.

Barry was a little despondent about the future of hospital radio, feeling that it will probably be relayed to all hospitals from a central station and will lose the local touch. Also, of course, it is less popular now because of universal use of ipads and such like.

However Radio Lollipop, devised for Great Ormond Street Hospital, is thriving with funding from the Friends, the families of patients and the rich and famous countrywide. Our contribution to Barry will be passed to the Friends of Barnet Hospital towards their support of Barnet Hospital Radio.

Patricia Picken



Betty McKie Obituary

25 October 1918 – 27th December 2016

Born in Manchester shortly before the signing of the Armistice to end the Great War, the youngest of the family of two brothers, Alec and Hector, and two sisters, Netta and Nancy, she embraced the changes of the 20th and 21st centuries, a second World War, and technological advance: not many 98 year olds take on the technology of a Kindle!

Betty took to teaching as her career. Those she taught English, and those she nurtured as Deputy Headmistress at Hornsey School for Girls, would have cause over the years to be grateful for the love of literature she inspired. On the occasion of her retirement the Headmistress wrote:

I know that your service in quality and continuity must be unique – thousands of girls, very many staff and three headmistresses were supremely fortunate in being the beneficiaries!

Not that Betty was a soft touch – she could bring to bear a steely glint to her gaze which would weaken the strongest insubordination – I think of a small boy guilty of planting a fairly realistic-looking rubber snake next to her hot water bottle in a decrepit old Scottish manse who can probably bear testimony to that!

Betty had many books but in her approach to people she never judged a book by its cover – equally at home whether on a picnic at Glyndebourne Opera, or politely but firmly declining a can of lager and a hand at poker from a bunch of Glaswegian engineers on the London to Glasgow train, but graciously accepting their offer of help with her luggage when she alighted at Carlisle station.

Knowing this was Betty's church, I looked up the website and was struck by the line on the homepage that referred to St John's as having "*an accepting and thoughtful approach to faith*". In a real sense that described Betty's approach to her faith and to life in general to a T. For her, faith played a major part – her church and her church friends were important. I would like to express sincere appreciation to St John's, Julian your minister, previous ministers, and the congregation for being so supportive of her over the years. She in turn did not forget you and spoke warmly of the church life and her involvement in it. She enjoyed attending services here and elsewhere when she could. If the church demonstrated its care for our aunt then so did Beaumont Southgate and its staff, in particular giving Betty the greatest of respect and dignity in her last few days. It was significant that towards the end it was at Beaumont she wanted to be.

Betty took a keen interest in current affairs and politics, and expressed some very forceful views on the Scottish Independence Referendum, the EU Referendum,

and the character of Donald Trump. If the latter had ever been foolish enough to include a visit to Beaumont Southgate on his President elect tour, he would have scarcely escaped the ground floor corridor without the full Betty 'glare' and with both barrels of Betty's metaphorical grapeshot whizzing past his ears, along with a perhaps not so inaudible "Dim Man" accompanying his departure!

Betty had a considerable sense of humour ranging from the sophisticated subtlety of Shakespeare comedy to the absurd of everyday life, often collapsing in fits of giggles at some observed event or situation. Far from being the archetypical prudish maiden aunt she could enjoy the ribald humour of Shakespeare to Pinter, Stoppard to Ayckbourn. One of my treasured memories is not long before she went to stay at Beaumont, she had taken delivery of a brand new electric oven and hob to replace the ancient gas cooker she had used up to then. Her eyesight had failed and it seemed that she used to determine whether she had switched on the gas or not by waving her hand into the flame – if hot it was on, no heat gas not on. Cooker duly delivered we resolved to have an 'electric teach in' when Betty would go through the process of switching on and cooking something 'simple'. There we were sitting in the kitchen as close to the cooker as failing eyesight and safety would allow, when Betty dissolved into uncontrollable giggles. When I asked what was funny she said: "*This is just so exciting – us both sitting in front of a cooker watching two eggs boiling!*"

Among Betty's great qualities was her ability to listen and to show interest. I valued her insight and her desire to ask – and seek incisively – detailed descriptions of everything and anything, and to make you feel that what you were recounting was valued. Aunt Betty was a remarkable human being – she was truly 'our aunt' in every sense of the word. We will all miss her in our different ways but what is clear is that she left us with a rich legacy of human experience, a sense of family, of duty, and of commitment. Whilst her passing has left us the poorer, her living has left us the richer.

Extracted & adapted from the Eulogy delivered by Betty's nephew, John Glover, at the Memorial and Thanksgiving Service, St John's Church, 17 January 2017. An interview with Betty appeared in the *Church Record* May 2005.



"Isle to Islands"

Phil Godfrey is the son in law of Arthur Ogden who was a member of the St. J's Fellowship with his hearing dog Naz. Arthur moved to Solihull to be with his daughter, Christine, who had M S and Hughes Syndrome. Unfortunately she died in Jan. 2015. This is a letter he wrote to me.

Christine and I enjoyed 42 happy years of marriage, and spent many holidays walking around the British Isles and Austria, including some fifteen Long Distance Footpaths.

Sadly, Christine passed away in January 2015 after suffering with Hughes syndrome for over forty years.

Starting in the spring of 2017, I will dedicate over five months to walking from the Scilly Isles to the Shetland Islands (a distance of some 1,300 miles) in aid of a tiny medical charity called the Hughes Syndrome Foundation.

Hughes Syndrome is an incurable life-threatening autoimmune condition that causes the blood to clot too quickly; clotting can affect any part of the body and can result in potentially fatal strokes, heart attacks, Infertility and DVTs. In pregnancy, Hughes syndrome is the leading treatable cause of recurrent miscarriage, and can increase the chance of stillbirth by five times.

The Hughes Syndrome Foundation is the only UK registered charity dedicated to supporting people affected by the condition (known medically as the antiphospholipid syndrome - APS). Its mission is to save and improve lives by achieving earlier diagnosis and the best possible treatment for patients.

This tiny medical charity punches well above its weight and has achieved much already, but they need help with funding for a new GP training project which has the potential to be reach up to 100,000 medical professionals.

I would appreciate your help in sponsorship in funding of this project. My Just Giving page is

Justgiving.com/Phil-Godfrey-trek All sponsorship will go directly to the Hughes Syndrome Foundation.

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| - Newquay | - Oswestry | - Sebergham |
| - Port Isaac | - (Llymynech) | - Chepstow |
| - Boscastle | - Mold | - Pandy |
| - Bude | - Preston | - Hay on Wye |
| - Westwood Ho! | - St Michael in Wyre | - Kington |
| - Instow | - Glasson | - Longtown |
| - Combe Martin | - Carnforth | - Montgomery |
| - Porlock | - Heversham | - Newcastle (Powys) |
| - Bridgwater | - Broughton in Furness | - Carlisle |
| - Weston super Mare | - Buttermere | |
| - Welshpool | - Keswick | |

CHARITY WALK 2017

Scilly Isles to the Shetland Islands



Thanks to the kindness of strangers, networks and friends, Phil has already managed to find free accommodation in 26 of the places where he is staying overnight, however, he still needs to find a bed for the night in the following towns. If you are able to help, please contact the charity and they can discuss dates with you.

kate@aps-support.org.uk

Tony Shepherd

The 2017 Reformation Ball

('Die Reformation tanzt') in Vienna

2017 is the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and this was commemorated by many of the Protestant Churches in Europe with an Anniversary Ball held in Vienna. Such an event attracted a large number of people from across Europe.

Julian, Laura, Andrew and Valerie attended the Ball which took place on 10th February 2017 in rooms within the Hofburg Palace, a complex of buildings, some of which date back to the 13th century although subject to modifications carried out in different styles in the 16th to 19th centuries during the period when the Palace was the official residence of the Hapsburg dynasty.

Following the initial speeches by dignitaries of the European Protestant and Lutheran Churches (all in German which taxed our limited German language skills) there was a demonstration by proficient dance couples to music by Strauss and a dance troupe dressed in 16th Century costumes dancing to folk tunes from the time.

The dance floor was then available for anyone who wished to show off their skills at the Viennese Waltz and other ballroom dances.

If the main Ballroom became overcrowded there was the opportunity to visit other rooms in the Palace with dancing to a Latin American band, a man playing piano and singing, and even a room with a disco.

The Quadrille (square dance) towards the end of the evening was very popular in the main Ballroom and with instructions in German we decided we would watch the proceedings. Overall a most enjoyable event.

Vienna in February is cold but the Austrians seem able to cope with the extreme cold and snow by comparison with England. There was a delay on our return journey as the aeroplane due from Heathrow Airport to Vienna was



Julian & Laura Templeton, Andrew & Valerie Mills

delayed because of 1mm of snow in London!

Vienna is an amazing City with its impressive architecture, the Spanish Riding School, State Opera House, Art galleries, museums and much more and is well worth a visit.

Andrew Mills

Diary Date

Songs of Praise Evening Service

Sunday 2 April, 6:30 pm

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Richard Harvey's service as Director of Music, Richard and I have planned a service with hymns that celebrate God's gift of music, with an invitation Choir that will sing a piece from two of Richard's musicals, *Crosswords* and *The Bridge*. Fellowship over tea, coffee and cake will follow.

Julian Templeton

40 Years

Diary Date



Thank You

Thank you to everyone at St John's who has so generously responded to recent charity appeals:

- £420, plus a further £41.25 under the Gift Aid Scheme, was raised for Christian Aid's Hurricane Matthew Emergency Appeal to bring relief to the people of Haiti. Local partner organisations have been assisting those affected with house reconstruction, and the distribution of seeds, livestock and fishing equipment to help rebuild livelihoods. This builds on the successful work carried out since the earthquake struck the island in 2010. 700 specially designed houses were built and all survived the hurricane with just one losing its roof.
- £539, plus a further £71.25 under the Gift Aid Scheme, was raised for Christian Aid's Yemen Crisis Appeal for those facing hunger in the war-torn country. Two years of conflict has pushed Yemen to breaking point with about 14 million people going hungry. Christian Aid is working with local partner, Action Against Hunger, treating malnourished children and improving access to food for vulnerable families.
- £398.74 was raised for CRISIS at the Christmas Day service and from donations towards the Christmas Card collection. CRISIS is active throughout the year but each Christmas, it helps provide companionship and support, to tackle loneliness and isolation, and help people take their first steps out of homelessness.
- £204.50 was raised at the Carol Service for Together in Barnet Night Shelter, specifically for start-up packs to assist those who are re-housed and no longer have to rely on the support of the night shelter.

Please continue to remember all those affected by these situations in your prayers.



Hurricane Matthew victims in Haiti



Child Malnutrition in Yemen



Supporting the work with the homeless

13 April, Maundy Thursday, 8:00 pm

A simple re-enactment of the Lord's Supper will conclude with the service of Tenebrae in which the Passion story is read in sections, with a candle extinguished after each section, ending in darkness. Wood Street and Chesterfield Road URC's have been invited to join us. Led by Julian Templeton.

14 April, Good Friday, 2:00 pm

A service reflecting on the redemption achieved by Jesus Christ's voluntary sacrifice of his life for us. Led by Julian Templeton.

Easter Festival • Easter Day 16 April

Details on Page 3



Holy Week