

May – June  
2017

St John's  
United Reformed Church

# Record

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

From the Minister

## Grace Alone

'Grace alone' is loving-kindness  
of the Father, Spirit, Son,  
lavished on the undeserving,  
pardoning and making one.  
God of grace, grant us your light,  
seeing all with gracious sight.

Grace is God's loving-kindness toward us. Grace is God's action in Jesus Christ in coming alongside us to give us what we most need *in advance* of our recognition that we need it. God comes to those who feel worthless and declares: 'You are of great worth!' God comes to those who feel judged as failures and declares: 'Jesus has made you right!' God comes to those who feel guilty and declares: 'Jesus has taken your guilt and burden, be free!' (See Romans 5:8).

Jesus Christ is God's grace in person. Jesus lives out God's strong loving-kindness by treating all graciously, especially those who feel humiliated and excluded. Jesus pardons and forgives those whose sin or status has led others to regard them as unforgiveable. Jesus reconciles the proud and the humble, the strong and the weak, the insider and the outsider by demonstrating that all are equally dependent upon God's active loving-kindness and sustaining grace.

Arguably one of the primary catalysts for Martin Luther's protest that set the Reformation in motion was a widespread misunderstanding of God's grace as

*Continued on page 2*

## Contents

- 2 TIB Sponsored Walk
- 3 Alleluia. Jesus Christ is Risen
- 4 Celebrating Richard Harvey's 40 Years at St John's
- 6 Love Story: Memories of Kathleen
- 7 Revd. Norma Leveridge RIP Fellowship Tea Dance
- 8 Calendar - May Manse Garden Party
- 9 Calendar - June
- 10 100 years of Women's Ordination
- 11 Fellowship Talk, Macular Society Fellowship Outing
- 12 Fellowship Talk, Trent Park
- 13 Community Garden
- 14 Hall Users Revised Common Lectionary
- 16 Christian Aid Week

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



a commodity that could be controlled, restricted, earned or bought. The Church had instilled a vivid imaginative terror of Purgatory. People were duped into believing that payment and prayer would increase their store of grace, thus lessening the length of one's time in Purgatory after death. The source of this misunderstanding was the belief that grace could be separated from God's redeeming action in Jesus Christ and managed by humans. It cannot.

On the other hand, generosity and graciousness can be abused and taken advantage of. Imagine the son who takes and takes from his parents, ignores them except when he wants something from them, and after a long period of non-communication breezes into the family home and expects to be waited on hand and foot. The fact that some offspring do something rather like this, and the fact that some parents indulge them, does not alter the fact that this is an abuse of grace and gives the mistaken impression that grace can be had cheaply. It cannot. All giving costs the giver.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer warns: "Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate." Is the Church

reaping the consequences of giving the false impression that grace can be had cheaply? Bonhoeffer argues that the solution is the rediscovery of 'costly grace', which is "... the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a person must knock." The fact that we say that Church Membership comes with responsibilities is an indication that while we recognise that God's grace is a free gift; it is costly in the demands that it makes upon us.

One of those demands is to express the grace we have received in gracious attitudes and actions. Because God has accorded us the dignity of adopting us as his children through Jesus Christ (see Ephesians 1:5), we are called to be witnesses of grace by recognising the dignity of others. This means, for example, that when we encounter those who express political or other views we disagree with, we try to disagree well. To disagree well means trying to understand issues from the other person's point-of-view; and even if we cannot agree, respecting the person with whom we disagree as being a fellow-traveller in continual need of God's grace.

Julian Templeton



## Together in Barnet

invites you to

### *Walk in their Shoes*

Sunday 11 June 2017



#### HOW TO REGISTER

To register please email [holly@togetherinbarnet.org](mailto:holly@togetherinbarnet.org) to receive your information pack and pay your registration fee either by bank transfer or by cheque (details below).

The cost for registration on the walk is £25, and we hope that each volunteer will raise an additional £25 (or more) in sponsorship.

\* Please let us know if you are a UK taxpayer so we can claim 25% extra in Gift Aid from the government. Charity registration number: 1157192

#### HOW TO PAY FOR REGISTRATION/DONATE

Bank transfer: Together in Barnet

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account no: 00025332

CAF Bank

ref: WALK-YOUR LAST NAME

Online: [www.togetherinbarnet.org/donate](http://www.togetherinbarnet.org/donate)

Cheques (payable to 'Together in Barnet') to: Together in Barnet, 31 Orchard Avenue, London N3 3NL

For donations only (not to register) you can text message: just text 'TIBS11 £5' to 70070 to donate £5 (The service we provide costs £5.04 per guest per night for dinner, bed and breakfast).

Please note that Julian will try to finish the morning service at 11:45 am on 11 June so that any walkers present can have a cuppa, walk along Station Road, and rendezvous with the group of sponsored walkers walking south on the A1000 (estimated about 12:10 if walkers leave St John the Baptist Church Barnet at 12:00 on-the-dot).

# Alleluia. Jesus Christ is risen!



Roman with eggs painted in Junior Church

**O**n Easter Day St John's Church welcomed about 80 people, including 6 children, to the festival worship of Jesus's Resurrection. This included the HFT Unlimited Choir, whose members sang with infectious enthusiasm and joy! Straight after worship we had an Easter Egg Hunt in the church garden.

37 people stayed for the delicious hot lunch that Marion Hopwood organised.



HFT Unlimited Choir

After lunch some joined in a circle dance to 'The Lord of the Dance', after that others joined in a competitive game of 'musical chairs' followed by 'pass-the-parcel'! In the Large Hall Patricia Picken recited a Joyce Grenfell poem, and Gwen Williams held us spellbound by the surprisingly redemptive story of the Witch's Cat! In the Small Hall some played table tennis.

**Julian Templeton**

Beautiful festive Easter flowers



# Richard Harvey's 40 Years

## Song of Praise Service 2 April 2017



### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession by Andrew Summers

### The benefit to us of his vast talent has been immense

**D**ear Father God, we are gathered here this evening to mark 40 years of wonderful music here at St John's New Barnet under the leadership of our gifted and loyal Director of Music, Richard Harvey. We thank you for the many blessings Richard has brought during this long period which have enhanced our worship experiences and our enjoyment.

We thank you for Richard's role as Choir Master, enhancing our regular Sunday morning worship and for the many special occasions such as this evening when Richard has used his network of friends to boost our own choir with voices from elsewhere.

We think of the many former choir members who have served under Richard who are no longer with us. In particular, perhaps, Mandy Jones, whose melodic soprano voice we miss so much. We thank you too for the education Richard has provided to the wider congregation, teaching us new hymns and songs with which to worship you: a service to us in which he has been ably supported by our baritone minister, Julian.

We thank you for Richard's talent as organist and pianist, His accompanying of our hymn singing each week over 40 years, has never become something we as the congregation have taken for granted. His contribution is a fresh joy each Sunday, often enhanced further by Andrew Mills on guitar.

We are grateful too for Richard's 'going out' organ playing which frequently provides us with a heartening mini concert to lift the soul before we return to our weekly routines.

We offer thanks for his choice of music and the brilliance of his playing during contemplative and reflective moments which have deepened our spiritual life. For this we thank you Lord.

We give thanks that Richard has enabled his son Chris to follow in his footsteps. We have benefited greatly from his beautiful organ playing.

Lord, Chris is not the only member of Richard's family to enhance the musical side of our worship. His daughter, Sarah, is a talented flautist and she has contributed



wonderfully to services and concerts over many years.

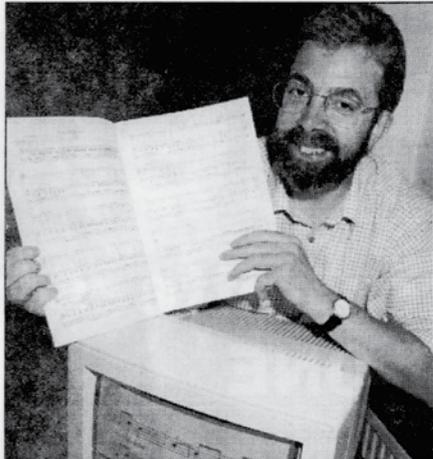
We thank you for both Sarah and Chris and for Janet too, whose unflagging support for her family and indeed to St John's Church, over the past 40 years has been an exemplary service of love and dedication.

We thank you for the reminder this evening of one of Richard's gifted compositions 'Crosswords' so beautifully sung by the choir. Lord it is difficult for us to over-estimate the contribution made to the life of St John's church by the musical productions Richard has either composed or produced or both.

The benefit to us of his vast talent has been immense. We thank you for his work with Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, The Witness, Crosswords, Tower of

**PRESSnews**

# Story of King David gets the techno touch



ALL the modern technology at a computer buff's fingertips is being used to bring the biblical story of King David to musical life.

"A Tale of Three Kings", by Richard Harvey of Lancaster Road, will be sung next weekend by members of St John's Church in New Barnet in the traditional manner.

But the innovative way in which the composer programmed the music into his computer and recorded it onto a CD is far from traditional.

The tunes were composed using pen and paper, then entered onto a computer using the Sibelius 7 programme before being transposed onto a Yamaha TG100 tone generator, a machine which produces musical sound.

This was then recorded onto the compact disc which will be played at the performance and over which soloists and chorus will sing.

The musical, which Richard started work on over two years ago, is based on the story of King David in the book of Samuel.

"Its main themes are David's relationship with God and how God expects a leader to exercise power and authority though he has used some of the pieces attributed to David – including the 23, "The Lord is my Shepherd."

"A Tale of Three Kings" is his debut work. His first musical, "C words", which covers the whole of the Bible, was published in 1996.

All his musicals have been formed at St John's Church – including "Babylon Tower" which was about 1960s high-rise building projects and "Martin the Cobbler", a tall tale.

Last year he won a worldwide petition to write a piece of music to celebrate the golden jubilee of the wood Choral Society. The piece, on Siegfried Sassoon's war poem "Everyone Sang" was performed at National Music Day last year.

A Tale of Three Kings will be performed at St John's Church, Son and Mowbray Roads, New Barnet Friday and Saturday September 22-26 at 7.30pm.



Babel, Saints Alive, Hosea, and more recently, The Bridge (jointly written with Julian).

They have enhanced the worship, enabled fellowship building and brought in new members who otherwise may never have heard of St John's URC or of Your gracious

love to us all. We give thanks too Lord for the bands of young instrumentalists who often accompanied these moving productions which will be long and fondly remembered by many of us.



We offer our thanks for the musical instruments available to this fortunate congregation. The magnificent Pipe Organ, the Klavinova, and the truly grand - Grand Piano. The latter thanks to the generosity of the Mills family.

We mark Richard's 40 years at a time of change and challenge here at St John's. We pray that the work on the church extension will proceed smoothly to enable a more effective use of this marvellous space for worship, music, and for wider community benefit.

We ask that the work on enhancing our audio-visual equipment will be effective in enabling this vision to be achieved and to allow other congregations, via video links, to share with us in the teaching, worship and music.

We will also need shortly to carry out maintenance work on the pipe organ. May we find the necessary wherewithal to enable this to proceed efficiently and effectively.

We are also in a time of change and challenge in the country and the wider world. As we continue our collection for those affected by the East African famine, we pray for everyone involved in this unfolding tragedy.

We ask this in Jesus name – Amen.



## Kathleen Shepherd 23 July 1948 – 10 December 2016 Obituary

### LOVE STORY: MEMORIES OF KATHLEEN

Kathy Shepherd is remembered by her husband, Tony.

**IT ALL STARTED** at 7.30 pm on Friday, November 4th, 1966. I was a youth leader at Oakleigh Chapel, Whetstone. I first saw Kathy at this time when she visited and I was completely bowled over...and fell in love straight away. She was just beautiful with a Mona Lisa-type smile and from then on both our lives completely changed.

When Kathy was born, her brother, John, writes: "I was 4 years old and I visited the hospital in Muswell Hill to see my new sister and I was only allowed to see her through an open window. My mother was sitting up in bed holding Kathleen and in those days I would have been considered far too young to have actually gone into the building. Later, we lived in a house in Highgate which had an outside wall that had been badly damaged by a nearby bomb explosion during the war. Our parents found us somewhere to sleep that meant we didn't risk a fall out of the gaping hole!"

Kathy went to the local St Michael's Primary school where she quietly worked hard (a trait which she had throughout her life.) Later she went to Clarks College in Finchley to study GCSEs and secretarial training. Kathy enjoyed most of her school days including sports. Undoubtedly the highlight of her childhood years was the annual holiday in Newquay, Cornwall, where many happy hours were spent on the beach. Pictures exist of John in uncomfortable woollen trunks and Kathleen in a crinkly elasticated swimsuit.

She grew close to her Granma Hughes, who often acted as a child-minder and who eventually moved in with the family so they became closer. Kathy attended a local Sunday school and church giving plenty of opportunity to learn about God and thus laying down a foundation for her quiet faith. Later, at St. John's, Kathy found a real "home" and enjoyed the chance to grow in her faith which was also, being Kathy, quiet and personal.

After school, Kathy went to Guys Dental School in London where she studied to become a qualified dental nurse and it was at this time that we met. Kathy was eighteen years old. I proposed to Kathy within a month but, being very sensible, she more or less ignored it, saying something like "We Will See"—a phrase which she often used over the coming years when discussing my grand plans!

In order to marry in the 1960s, since she was only 18, she needed written parental permission in order to proceed. A meeting was arranged with her father to discuss this. We felt much trepidation since he was rather "Victorian" in a very "caring/loving fatherly" way. (The fact that we got this far showed that Kathy was serious - which was reassuring

for me!) We were both students with no money and jobs were a way off. Amazingly, agreement was given, showing that prayer does work! It was around this time that Kathy proclaimed her faith by being baptised by immersion at Oakleigh Chapel and joined the very friendly Christian fellowship there. We married on 28th July 1968 at the Methodist Church in Manor Drive Whetstone, a day which for both of us was the happiest day of our lives. You can tell this from the wedding photos.

Our first daughter, Deborah, was born within the first two years and three years later our second daughter, Anna, arrived and our family was complete. Kathy enjoyed being a mum and both of us learnt new skills including how to get-by with less sleep. The children were a real joy to us as well as to the grandparents and also to their "Greatgran" who lived to see them grow beyond the toddler stage.

As the children were getting older so Kathy was able to work a few hours a week, with the help of her mother with child-minding. Kathy started as an Assistant in a college library. Later, she worked longer hours as a Welfare/Classroom Assistant and secretary at Northside Primary School in North Finchley. It was hard work with a mix of tasks which Kathy enjoyed, providing a practical outlet for her social concerns. Many of the children and their families struggled with life and staff were very often the first resource that families would turn to for help. A large number of people today would agree that Kathy's patience and encouragement helped them build up their self-confidence through her help with reading and writing.

About 15 years ago, Kathy began to feel unwell and developed some unpleasant symptoms which didn't go away. She was diagnosed with Progressive Multiple Sclerosis. Kathy continued at work, but, despite her determined efforts, she eventually had to give up work, aged 53. There followed a period of adjustment which was difficult at times. In order to make the best of it, having accepted her situation, Kathy joined the local MS support groups, which, relying on volunteers, provided valuable support.

Kathy tried hard to be positive and took a continuing interest in the family and their needs. It was with great



regret that she could only have limited direct contact with our daughters and grandchildren. One area which was not affected by MS was her mental abilities e.g. when recalling past events and people as well as having great interest in current affairs and politics. She enjoyed the radio programme "Any Questions" and this continued right up to the end. She was also an avid "Archers" listener and this saga could lead to interesting discussions within the Shepherd fold.

In May 2016, Kathy was admitted to hospital where she was told that she had an advanced form of ovarian cancer. She realised that, given her MS and physical weakness, any further treatment would be too much for her; Kathy was, as always, realistic about her future care. For the next 6 months Kathy's health remained fairly steady and it was only in the last 2 weeks or so that her condition seriously deteriorated. NHS professionals from the Hospice Community team plus a Carers team, as well as GPs, the District nurses and the local pharmacy, all worked extremely hard at trying to make Kathy's last days as comfortable as possible. Such excellent NHS palliative care! In the end, Kathy stayed at home for this care and

our daughters, Deborah and Anna were also very involved in spite of their own families' needs.

Within the last few days of her life Kath was still involved at times with the details of everyday life e.g. checking that the dustbins were "brought in" and reminding me of my hospital appointment the following day. Kathleen died at home having had a tremendous lot of loving care from her family and the NHS professionals. Whilst our great loss is profound, Kathy is now "At home with the Lord". (2 Cor. 5:8)

Someone writing to the family about Kath wrote: "There was always about Kath a depth and constancy that I found most impressive. Before she made any comment about any issue I knew that it had been thoroughly mulled over in her mind. This thoughtfulness in every sense of the word, plus her profound love she had for her family, made Kath a very special person."

I can only add I was so very privileged to have also been her husband, best friend and mate for over 50 years. Thanks be to God for allowing it to happen - so we praise His name for Kathy's life.

Tony Shepherd



## Revd. Norma Leveridge RIP

**R**evd. Norma Leveridge died peacefully in her sleep Friday 21 April 2017 at a care home in Australia. She had been suffering from a form of Dementia that affected her sight and memory.

I first got to know her well in the 1980s when we were members at Holy Trinity, Lyonsdown. We were both very much involved with Christian Aid and we both served on the C.A. committee in Barnet. I remember travelling to Coventry with her for a C.A. weekend which culminated in a service at Coventry Cathedral. She was ordained in the Church of England at around that time and initially served at Holy Trinity.

After her husband died, she became more involved with the U.R C. and became the minister at Nether Street for several years. When she retired she decided to return to her native Australia. She became very much involved with the Anglican Church in Australia until she started to get problems with her eyesight. Her son Andrew lives in East Barnet and always visited her each year and was due to go out at the beginning of May. He managed to change his flight and went out to Australia last Sunday.

Norma's funeral was expected to take place on Friday 28th. April.

Please remember her in your prayers

Brenda Sandford

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 27 MAY 2017  
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

# Calendar

May 2017

Tuesday 2nd	8:00pm	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday 3rd	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	8:00pm	Junior Church Leaders' Meeting
Sunday 7th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room
	10:30am	Elders' Meeting
	11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Julian Templeton
Wednesday 10th	4:00 pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Sunday 14th		Start of Christian Aid Week
	11:00am	Worship - Led by Richard Harvey and David Paul
	6:30pm	Christian Aid Service, St John's Parish Church, Friern Barnet Road
Wed 17th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	8:00pm	Fellowship – Beatrix Potter-Artist, Farmer and Conservationist by Pam Wright
Friday 19th	4:00pm	Messy Church
Saturday 20th		URC Big Day Out, Warwick Castle
Sunday 21st	11:00am	Worship - Led by Julian Templeton
	12:30pm	<b>Church Meeting</b>
Wed 24th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
Saturday 27th	2:30pm	Fellowship Tea Dance in Large Hall
Sunday 28th	11:00am	Worship – led by Paul Elsdon
	3:00pm	Causeway
Tuesday 30th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park
	8:00pm	Justice & Peace Meeting
Wed 31st	8:30pm	Men's Group –at the Ye Olde Mitre Inne, High Barnet

MAY

MAY



# Calendar

June 2017

JUNE	Sunday 4th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	JUNE
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting	
		11:00am	Pentecost- Worship + Holy Communion Led by Julian Templeton	
	Wednesday 7th		Fellowship Outing-Hatfield House	
		4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Sunday 11th	11:00am	<b>Trinity Sunday Shorter Service</b> led by Julian Templeton	
		12-5:00pm	Together in Barnet Night Shelter Sponsored Walk	
		6:30pm	Evening Worship celebrating <b>100 years of Women's Ordination</b> , Preacher: Rev'd Elizabeth Welch	
	Tuesday 13th	8:00pm	Elders' Meeting	
	Wednesday 14th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Thursday 15th	10:00am	Pastoral Team Meeting, Vestry	
	Friday 16th	4:00pm	Messy Church	
	Saturday 17th	1:00pm	Manse Garden Party	
	Sunday 18th	11:00am	Worship led by Julian Templeton	
	Tuesday 20th	8:30pm	Men's Group – at the Black Horse, High Barnet	
	Wednesday 21st	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Thursday 22nd	7:30pm	North London Area Group Meeting, Tetherdown	
	Friday 23rd		Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record	
	Sunday 25th	11:00am	Worship – Led by Sarah Beaumont	
		3:00pm	Causeway	
Tuesday 27th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park		
	8:00pm	Justice and Peace Meeting		
JULY	Sunday 2nd	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	JULY
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting	
		11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Julian Templeton	

## Evening Service of Worship

Celebrating 100 years of Women's Ordination  
in the Congregational Church  
and in the United Reformed Church

Sunday 11 June, 6:30 pm

Preacher: The Reverend Elizabeth Welch

**St**John's United Reformed Church

Corner of Somerset and Mowbray Roads

New Barnet

EN5 1RH

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

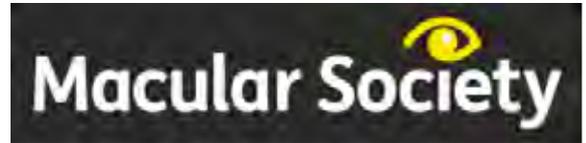


The Reverend Constance Coltman  
Minister of the Congregational Union, Ordained 1917

# St John's Fellowship

United Reformed Church

## Age-related Macular Jean Hewitt 19th April 2017



Jean Hewitt, a Society volunteer whose husband suffers from AMD, told us how incapacitating this eye-sight condition can be. Her talk was illustrated by excellent slides, which she has very generously made available to our group for circulation to any who were unable to attend in person, or who would like them available to aid discussion with family members or friends.

The macula is part of the retina at the back of the eye. It is only the size of a grain of rice, but is responsible for our central vision – it does not affect our peripheral vision. Attending our eye-examination appointments is particularly important because the direct referral to

hospital is a matter of urgency should degeneration be found.

We received Society booklets that give general information, also some more detailed (in large print) and Jean also promised the slide presentation already referred to, available upon request.

We were pleased to welcome several visitors who were particularly interested in the subject as some were experiencing the start or progression of the disease. All present expressed gratitude to Jean for an enlightening talk.

Patricia Picken

## Fellowship Outing 7 June



Hatfield, Herts. AL9 5NQ. Sat. Nav. AL9 5HX  
Time: t.b.c. (probably afternoon)  
Transport: By car (say if need lift)-free parking.  
Hatfield House signed from A1 (M), A414 and A1000.  
: Or by train with pedestrian entrance opp. Hatfield Railway Station

Cost: Hope to get group rate (for group of 20+) @£15; otherwise Adult@£19; Senior@£18; Child @£9 for House, West Garden & Park.

The House & Garden is steeped in Elizabethan & Jacobean style, along-side Victorian political history. The Garden dates from early seventeenth century when Robert Cecil employed John Tradescant the Older to collect Plants for his new home.

There is the stable yard which is a popular shopping & dining destination in its own right. There is also Hatfield Park Farm (24 acres) on west side of home.



[visitors@hatfield-house.co.uk](mailto:visitors@hatfield-house.co.uk) 01707 287010  
[www.hatfield-house.co.uk](http://www.hatfield-house.co.uk)

For further details and booking contact:  
Marjorie O'Connor-0208 445 6580 or 07515 910514 (no voicemail) Email-marjorie.oconnor@btinternet.com  
Ron Mobbs (Chairperson)-0208 441 4333 or 07785 390166  
Email-mobbs.ron@gmail.com

St John's  
United Reformed Church

# Fellowship

## Trent Park– a fascinating Story

### Dr. Helen Fry 15th March 2017

**D**r. Helen Fry, an authoress of over 25 historical books on World War 2; espionage; Trent Park; consultant for films and videos on subject; trustee of planned Trent Park Museum gave an interesting, informative and entertaining talk about the history of Trent Park; the 2nd World war years and plans for the future Museum now Trent Park is being developed.



Bundesarchiv, MSc 2, Bild-14835-05  
Foto: o. Ang. | 1043/1044 ca.

Trent Park used to belong to the Sassoon family (Jewish) with Sassoon an MP. Their social life involved mixing people from politics and the arts—incl. having Charlie Chaplin, Lady Astor, Laurence of Arabia, George Bernard Shaw, Rex Whistler and Churchill. This was in the 20s and 30s.

At the end of the 30s through Joseph Kendrick of MI6-Ex spy master in Europe for UK moved from Vienna to London in March 1938. With preparation for war Bletchley Park was purchased. 1940, Trent Park was requisitioned with staff of six –2 army; 2 navy; 2 RAF which went to 500 including translators. By the end of 1939 60 German POW had been there. Also 2 extra sites—Latimer House and Wilton Park, Beaconsfield acquired but no longer exist today. Bovingdon Airfield was nearby.

From May 1942 to the end of the war (1945) Trent Park had 59 German generals staying there treated as military gentlemen. Some were pro Nazis –others were anti-Nazis. Dr Helen Fry had lots of stories including the Germans being taken to Simpsons for a meal. As well as German POW being interrogated at Trent Park the whole place was bugged to catch conversation between the prisoners as they relaxed.

Thus 11th March 1943 after the fall of Stalingrad as a direct result of intelligence and learning of the German secret weapon-V1, V2 and V3 Churchill had Operation Crossbow with August 1943 bombings which bought enough time to mount D Day landings. If this hadn't happened Britain could have fallen to Germans and it be a different world today. Ludgrove hall opposite Trent Park was used as a training college with this as an overflow particularly for air crew. Overheard was the atomic bomb programme.

After the war Trent Park became a teacher training College. It belonged to the Greater London Council then Enfield and the college became part of Middlesex University before in recent years being sold to overseas people. Now it has been bought by developers who are going to turn Trent Park building into apartments plus build a west wing of apartments. The grounds are going to be landscaped and kept available to the public. Trent Park is of local interest and also has national historic interest so there is going to be created in the basement and ground floor of Trent Park a state of the art Museum which hopes to open 2020. Dr Helen Fry is a trustee and has much input and the Lord Mayor of London is behind the project. It was an illuminating evening.

**Marjorie O'Connor**

## ❁ COMMUNITY GARDEN ❁

St John's Church has begun to create a Community Garden. Back in March some volunteers from St John's Church, led by Heather Elsdon, and some volunteers from Incredible Edible Barnet, led by Wendy Alcock, began to dig up some of the lawn at the lower end of the Mowbray Road side of St John's land. At the time of writing this, we've had 3 'digs' and have extended and tidied-up one existing bed, and have created another, in which we've planted berries and herbs. The idea to create edible gardens from under-utilised land was pioneered in Yorkshire, and now there are some in Barnet. See the Incredible Edible Barnet Facebook Page: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/IncredibleEdibleBarnet/>



Jenny, Janet and Julian weeding part of the plot. But don't worry, your name doesn't need to begin with "J" to join in!



## ROWENA'S FITNESS DANCE AEROBICS AND BODY CONDITIONING CLASSES

**New fitness and aerobics and dance classes in  
St John's Hall!**

**A fun and energising workout to great music  
Great for cardiovascular health, co-ordination and  
general well-being**

My class is a blend of 'retro style' aerobics, body conditioning and DDMIX dance fitness suitable for all ages and tailored to all abilities. DDMIX is a full body aerobic workout based on a wide range of different dance styles from around the world and eras with easy to follow steps created by Darcey Bussell CBE (Ballerina and Celebrity).

Join us here in the 'Small Hall'

**Saturdays at 10.45am to 11.45am**

£6 per class

For details please contact Rowena on  
[rowena.fabrizi@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rowena.fabrizi@hotmail.co.uk)

**Classes by Rowena**  
Certified Exercise to Music Instructor  
Qualified DDMIX teacher



**Let's get Fitter, Healthier and Happier together!**



**for 2-5 year olds**

**Monday – Friday, 9.15am – 12.15pm**

(term time only)

(looking to extend hours from September 2017)

**Bright Sparks Nursery will offer  
your child the best in both learning  
and play in an educational, friendly  
and stimulating environment.**

**St Johns Church, Mowbray Road  
New Barnet, Herts EN5 1RH**

**Contact: Marina Economides  
T: 020 8440 4740 M: 07956 354 221  
E: [brightsparksnursery@hotmail.com](mailto:brightsparksnursery@hotmail.com)**

## Revised Common Lectionary **May – June 2017**

- 7 May – Easter 4** Acts 2:42-47 and Psalm 23 *or* Ezekiel 34:7-15 and Psalm 100; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
- 14 May – Easter 5** Acts 7:55-60 and Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 *or* Proverbs 4:10-18 and Psalm 119:9-32; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- 21 May – Easter 6** Acts 17:22-31 and Psalm 66:8-20 *or* Ezekiel 43:1-7a and Psalm 115; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- 28 May – Easter 7** Ascension: Acts 1:1-11 and Psalm 47 *or* Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
- 4 June – Pentecost** Acts 1:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23
- 11 June – Trinity** Genesis 1:1-2, 4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
- 25 June – Proper 7** Genesis 21:8-21 and Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 *or* Psalm 69:7-18; 10:24-39; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39
- 2 July – Proper 8** Genesis 22:1-14 and Psalm 13 *or* Jeremiah 28:5-9 and Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42
- 9 July – Proper 9** Genesis 24:34-38, 24-29, 58-67 and Psalm 45:10-17 *or* Zechariah 9:9-12 and Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30



# Colin Beath Obituary

9 April 1943 – 12 March 2017

**W**ith sadness we record the death of Colin Beath, whose Funeral and Memorial Services took place on 31 March. The following is adapted from the tribute given by his widow, Ann Beath.

Colin was born in Chanctonbury Way to David and Marjorie

Beath, and soon afterwards he and his mother travelled to Scotland to live with relatives of his father in Dollar, Fife, far from the dangers of South East England during the remainder of the war. Colin always remembered the Scottish side of his ancestry and would always root for Scotland in of playing football or rugby.

He grew up in Woodside Park and made friends with another lad just down the road, Tony, and they have been the best of friends ever since. Colin went first to Holmwood Preparatory School, and then on the Highgate School, which he left at 17, having achieved the required O levels to pursue his chosen career of a life at sea.

Colin went to Plymouth to study for his first exams as an apprentice with Shell Tankers. There followed a period of about 6 years of study and amassing sea-time and experience, broken by just a couple of weeks leave each year. In 1966 he began studying at Sir John Cass College for his 1st Mate's Certificates. His family were members of St Margaret's Presbyterian Church, Finchley, and he reacquainted himself with friends from Sunday School days, now in the Fellowship Of Youth. Colin met Ann at the FOY, and they became engaged. How could Ann not fall for the sailor boy with a brand new Triumph Spitfire! They married on 1 March 1969 and had 48 wonderful years together.

After marriage, Colin's life comprised two distinct parts: sea or home, work or leisure. Ann made two trips that gave her an understanding of life on board. It was far from one's romanticised idea. Long working hours, seven days a week, every week, for 6-7 months. A navigating officer's days consisted to 2 four-hour watches (one day-time, one night-time) plus changeover time, standing on the bridge, keeping watch, keeping the ship on course. The phrase 'long, dark watches of the night' is true. Imagine the nightshift with one crewman at the wheel on the bridge of a super-tanker nearly a quarter of a mile long, and approximately 10 stories high standing in darkness except for the illumination from radar, steaming at about 15 knots, miles from land while everyone else slept. Plus, consider a dangerous and very valuable cargo. There were compensations: the beauty of sunrises and sunsets, watching flying fish and dolphins, the awe-inspiring spectacle of intense storms or complete calm.

Colin had to leave for one voyage when baby Margaret

was just 10 days old, and returned to a bouncing 7-month-old! Margaret remembers her father playing patiently on the floor with her play-people, racing matchbox cars on the coffee table, and placing miniature 'Men at Work' signs when working on the lighting system in her dolls house.

At the end of the 1970's Colin was appointed Marine Superintendent at Shellhaven, the refinery on the Thames in Essex. He enjoyed his time there, especially being able to establish working relationships with regular group of people instead of a constantly changing crew. Also, for the first time for nearly 20 years, he was able to have a proper family life and put down roots in New Barnet. When in the mid-1980's it was proposed that Colin return to sea, he took a land-based marine-side job with Tate & Lyle at Grays and remained there until early retirement in 1997.

Colin's faith was very private and important to him. He became a member of St Margaret's Church in 1960 just before starting his sea career. He and Ann transferred their membership to St John's before Margaret was born, but it wasn't until he came ashore that he was able to take a full part in church life. Over the years he undertook various duties within the church fellowship: Management Committee, Manse Steward, Free Will Offering Organiser, and most recently Authorised Person for marriages. In the mid-1980's he and Hugh Martin took over the organization of the coffee mornings, bazaar, and jumble sales from the redoubtable Rob and Bob team, working together for many years. Due to Ann being unwell, he baked his first and only cake for the Christmas Bazaar cake stall in the early 1970's! More recently Colin has been known as the 'welcoming face at the door' on such occasions, and by the women in the kitchen as "always after another biscuit."

Colin and Ann were introduced to the Barnet Philatelic Society, which became a big part of Colin's life. He collected stamps, competed, gave talks and served on the committee. The local branch of the Shell Pensioners Association gave a link with his working for the company, and he enjoyed the meals and outings with the pensioners from the many different departments. With several 'Colins' among the group, he was known affectionately as "Captain Colin", being the only ex-serving marine member of the branch.

Colin was always a very private man, enjoying above all the company of his family and close friends, and especially in recent years watching his two grandchildren, Natasha and Oliver, grow up. Although a fall four years ago restricted his activities, he was never happier than pottering in the garden, visiting Margaret and family and getting away from it all in the chalet in Cornwall with its lovely sea views and awe-inspiring sunsets. Colin is much loved and will be greatly missed. We give thanks to God for his life and commend him to God's safekeeping.



# Christian Aid Week

## 14-20 May 2017

**B**ritish churches founded Christian Aid in 1945 to support refugees who had lost their homes and possessions in the Second World War. Twelve years later, it launched Christian Aid Week to help fund this ongoing work, so this year marks the 60th anniversary of this fundraising week. The following story illustrates that the call for our help is as great as ever.

*Nejebbar fled Afghanistan with her family after the Taliban threatened to kill her husband, Noor, who was a teacher. It wasn't an idle threat - the Taliban first blinded, then murdered, another member of their family. 'The last days and weeks in Afghanistan were the hardest,' says Noor. 'When I went to work, I didn't know if my family were going to be alive when I got back.' When the family arrived at the refugee camp in Greece, they thought they would only stay for 10 days. But they've been there six months now and there's no end in sight. The only protection they have against the wind and rain is their tent. There's no school for their children. Five-year-old Sudai, their youngest, is ill, but Nejebbar and Noor don't know what's wrong with him because they can't communicate with the camp's doctor, who is Greek. Nejebbar is the rock at the centre of her family, holding them together throughout all this uncertainty. She has even welcomed Faraidoon and Farzad into the family, two brothers who don't know where their parents are, or if they're even alive. 'We still have some hope for our children's future,' says Nejebbar. 'We only want a peaceful life. We want our children to go to school. The most important thing is our children.'*

In 2016, the volunteers from St. John's helped raise £1,852 from the house-to-house collection along local roads. 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 most of 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, 12 May & Sunday, 14 May;
- Collecting envelopes between Monday 15 May & Saturday 20 May;
- Being part of the 'Counting Team' on Sunday evening, 21 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, the annual joint evening service to launch the start of Christian Aid Week, is on Sunday 14 May at 6.30pm at St John's Parish Church, Friern Barnet Road, when a representative from Christian Aid will speak about some aspect of their work.

**Alison Bond**



**For more information about Christian Aid Week, have a look at:  
[www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org)**