

Sept – Oct
2017

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

From the Minister

Glory to God alone

Now to God alone be glory,
praise the Father through the Son
in the power of the Spirit:
ever glorious Three-in-One.
Heav'n and earth cry 'Glory!' then
all God's people sing: 'Amen!'

A horse walks into a bar and the bartender asks: "What's with the long face?" This corny American joke may be an all too accurate reflection of the experience of visitors in the past to Reformed church services, observing row upon row of miserable-looking worshippers. The hard and uncomfortable pews didn't help; giving the physical sensation that one must suffer for one's faith. Then there were the interminable psalms sung at a dirge-like pace, and the long sermons whose prime purpose seemed to be to promote agonising over whether one was 'elect' or 'damned'. The Lord's Supper was administered only occasionally and was offered only to members as an add-on to the main service. Once you had endured this you may, in some parts of the UK, have walked past your local playground and found that the swings had been chained-up for the whole of Sunday! Not

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to worry, you could always return home and read the only permissible reading-material: the Bible. And if, in desperation, you had turned in the Bible to Psalm 150:4 "Praise God with tambourines and dancing...", you may have wondered to yourself why this Israelite expression of exuberant and joyful worship was so conspicuously lacking from your experience of worship.

This sketch of worship and practice is, admittedly, a composite picture; but it is drawn from actual accounts of worship and piety among Reformed Churches (Independent and Presbyterian; although much of Anglican worship pre-1850 would have been very similar).

No doubt there were exceptions to this gloomy picture, but they would have been the exceptions that proved the rule. As suggested above, what was conspicuous by its absence was 'joy'. Somehow reverence for God had become separated from the enjoyment of God.

This is all the more puzzling when we consider that the Westminster Shorter Catechism, which most Presbyterians would have learned by heart, affirms: "The chief purpose of humanity is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." This strong affirmation draws upon Augustine's distinction between created things, which humans may use (*uti*); and the Creator who cannot be used but only enjoyed (*frui*). God is not a means to an end; God is the End to which all means are directed. This distinction between use and enjoyment, and between means and ends, can transform the way we understand prayer and worship.

Because God is not available to be used as a means, a prayer request that expects God to do what I want – like a coin in a slot machine (or a bank card in a Fixed Odds Betting Terminal) – has misunderstood both the purpose of prayer and the nature of God. God is the End and Purpose to which all our wants and desires are to be directed. When Jesus said: "...your heavenly Father knows all your needs. Set your mind on God's kingdom and justice before everything else, and all the rest will come to you as well" (Matthew 6:32-33), he was encouraging his hearers first to align themselves with God's purpose and then what they wanted would also become aligned.

Because God cannot be used but only enjoyed, worship is the expression of our enjoyment of God. When we praise and give thanks to God we use our

minds and voices and bodies to join with the whole Creation in its wordless but eloquent glorifying of God by doing that for which God has created us. Christians from other cultures demonstrate that worship need not only be a matter of singing, speaking and listening, but may also include clapping and dancing. Messy Church demonstrates that worship can also include visual art, craft and having fun!

While a 'long face' is a natural reaction to suffering or loss, most of the time our faces in worship should be turned to reflect the glory of the Lord who makes "his face to shine upon" us; the same face that we recognise in Jesus as glorious and loving. The Reformed motto *Soli Deo Gloria*, Glory to God alone, expresses the belief that when we direct our attention and praise to 'the Father through the Son in the power of the Spirit' we join with a cascade of praise and meaning that overflows from God through us to others. A hymn by Alan Gaunt puts it this way:

Eternal God, your love's tremendous glory
cascades through life in overflowing grace,
to tell creation's meaning in the story
of love evolving love from time and space.

Julian Templeton

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 28 OCTOBER 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

Update On Church Extension



Work on the cantilevered extension to the church sanctuary has begun, and, as you will see from the photograph on the left taken on 31 August, the extension floor and framework is under construction. If all goes to plan we will have a fully disabled-accessible toilet and baby-changing facility and a new refreshment serving area by the beginning of December.

If you have not had an opportunity to make a donation towards the substantial cost of this work and would like to do so, please contact the Treasurer, Phyllis Brown, Tel. 020 8449 4449.

Since the end of July we have been worshipping in the Large Hall, which provided some with a conundrum: where should I sit and next to whom? Praise the Lord, some members of long-standing have sat next to one another for the first time and reported that they enjoyed the experience! In the photograph below, Julian explains to



his step-grandchildren why we worship and celebrate the Lord's Supper; the adults listen-in, some of whom later confided: "So that's why I come here!".

Julian Templeton

Winter Shelter News

Last year's shelter at St John's was run by an excellent committee and we hope to continue to draw on the talents and time of a team of people again to run the shelter this year. Of course we also need our usual volunteers for the weekly sessions. I do hope that many of you who have volunteered over the years will feel like getting involved again this year and we would also be delighted to welcome new recruits, so do ask your friends if you think they would enjoy joining our team.

As a reminder we need evening volunteers to welcome guests, serve the meal and tidy up, overnight volunteers who sleep alongside our guests, breakfast volunteers who

cook and serve breakfast and clean the premises. We also need cooks, people willing to transport the bedding to the next venue, people willing to receive the bedding bags on Saturday mornings, and people to wash the towels.

We will hold a refresher training meeting towards the end of September to pass on new ideas and concerns from TIBNS and also to train any new volunteers.

Lastly, I am aware that not everybody is able to partake in the running of the shelter as a volunteer, but we are very grateful for the support offered in so many other ways. Thank you.

Lesley Calder and Andrew Summers



News from the Justice and Peace Group

As the evenings draw in and become colder we think again about the plans for the next season of the Winter Shelter. St John's will work together with St Peter's again to offer shelter on Saturday nights from October to the end of December.

It is some while since I wrote of what the New Barnet Justice and Peace Group are up to, so I thought I thought I'd give a reminder of who we are and the projects we are currently involved with.

We are an ecumenical group with members from at least 6 different churches in New Barnet. We meet usually on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Memorial Room at St. John's where we discuss justice and peace issues that concern us and plan projects that we hope will benefit our local communities....the most prominent being the introduction of the Chipping Barnet Foodbank, which of course, is now a large and thriving organisation. Each meeting has a time of reflection where we take time to get to know our different congregations to consider how

our faith helps us in our lives and work, and each meeting always starts and finishes with prayer.

One of our current topics of consideration is the integration of recently arrived Syrian refugees here in Barnet. Some of our members attend a bi-monthly coffee morning, run at one of the Finchley Synagogues, for the refugees to enable them a chance to get together and to offer extra support in learning how to manage their affairs here in the UK. This is clearly a multi-faith concern, with Jews, Christians and Muslims all getting together over a cup of coffee.

Tolerance and understanding between the faiths has long been a concern of the J&P group and so in order to understand our Muslim neighbours better we have organised a trip to the Palmers Green Mosque on the afternoon of Sunday 15th October. All are welcome, so do get in touch if you would like to join us.

Lesley Calder

Calendar

September 2017

SEPTEMBER	Sunday 3rd	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	SEPTEMBER
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting, Memorial Room	
		11:00am	Worship with the Lord's Supper Led by Julian Templeton, Large Hall	
	Tuesday 5th	8:00pm	Junior Church Leaders' Meeting, 80 Manor Road	
	Sunday 10th	11:00am	Worship – Led by Julian Templeton, Large Hall	
	Tuesday 12th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting, Vestry	
	Wed 13th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Thursday 14th	2:30pm	Finance and Management Committee Meeting, Vestry	
	Sunday 17th	11:00am	Worship Led by Julian Templeton, Large Hall	
		12:30pm	Church Meeting	
	Tuesday 19th	8:30pm	Men's Group – Ye Olde Mitre Inne, High Barnet	
	Wed 20th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		8:00pm	St. John's Fellowship – Battle of Barnet – Project by Barnet Museum Speaker	
	Thursday 21st	10:00am	Pastoral Team Meeting, Memorial Room	
		7:00pm	Local Area Group of Churches Meeting at Totteridge	
	Sunday 24th	11:00am	Worship led David Paul and Richard Harvey, Large Hall	
		3:00pm	Causeway, Small Hall	
	Tuesday 26th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	
	Wed 27th	2:30pm	Short and Simple Worship, Memorial Room	
		4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
Friday 29th	4:00pm	Messy Church		

Gifts for the Choir Stall

The next coffee morning to be held in St. John's large hall will be on **Saturday 18th November**.

Patricia Picken runs the Choir stall there which sells a variety of small donated gifts that can be purchased as either birthday or Christmas presents, if you have any small items you could donate to the

Choir stall prior to the next coffee morning to help raise money for the North London Hospice and Church funds please bring them along on a Sunday morning and speak to either Pat or myself and we will store them ready for the coffee morning.

David Paul

Calendar

October 2017

	Sunday 1st	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting, Memorial Room	
		11:00am	Worship with the Lord's Supper Led by Julian Templeton, Large Hall	
	Wednesday 4th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Sunday 8th	11:00am	Harvest Festival Worship Led by Julian Templeton, Large Hall	
	Tuesday 10th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting	
	Wed 11th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Sunday 15th	11:00am	Worship led by Roz Douglas, Large Hall	
	Wed 18th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
OCTOBER		8:00pm	St. John's Fellowship – Five Hundred Years from the Reformation by Rev. Julian Templeton	OCTOBER
	Friday 20th		Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record	
	Sunday 22nd	11:00am	Worship Led by Paul Elsdon, Large Hall	
	Tuesday 24th	8:00pm	Justice and Peace Meeting, Memorial Room	
	Wed 25th	2:30pm	Short and Simple Worship, Memorial Room	
	Saturday 28th	2:30pm	St. John's Fellowship Tea Dance, Large Hall – All Welcome	
		6:00pm	Night Shelter	
	Sunday 29th	7:00am	Night Shelter - Breakfast	
		11:00am	Reformation Sunday Worship Led by Julian Templeton, Large Hall (BST ends, put clocks back 1 hour)	
		3:00pm	Causeway, Small Hall	
	Monday 30th	8:30pm	Men's Group- Ye Olde Mitre Inne, High Barnet	
	Tuesday 31st	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	
NOV	Wednesday 1st	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	NOV
	Saturday 4th	6:00pm	Night Shelter	
	Sunday 5th	7:00am	Night Shelter - Breakfast	
		10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting, Memorial Room	
		11:00am	Worship with the Lord's Supper Led by Julian Templeton	

St John's
United Reformed Church **Fellowship**

**In the Footsteps of the Famous
in Barnet and Monken Hadley**

Paul Baker, City of London Guide 19th July 2017



Lord Palmerston

We were reminded that Barnet used to be a coaching stop and also attracted people because of its clean air. Progressing up Barnet High Street we noted the Red Lion, Ye Olde Mitre inn (1636) associated with Pepys and Dickens. Pepys also mentioned Barnet Physic Well in his diary (which rivalled Epsom, Bath and Hampstead) but water tasted foul!

In the 19th century Victoria Bakery was a brewery and Dickens placed Oliver Twist on this step where he met the Artful Dodger. Dickens was great friends with the Beadle of Barnet workhouse (Wellhouse Lane by Barnet General Hospital) who gave him the idea for Oliver as a boy in the workhouse had had the audacity to ask for more (food!).

There were many pubs with stabling such as the Green Man at the beginning of St Alban's Road (stabling for 80 horses) and frequented by 3 19th century prime ministers- Lord Melbourne; Robert Peel and Lord Palmerston.

Barnet Baptist Church, near Hadley Green (1830s) and originally was Methodist but sold to Baptists in 1890s. In 1870/1880 John Wesley often came and preached.

Barnet is also known for the Battle of Barnet (War of the Roses) on April 14th 1471 where Henry VI (Lancaster) and Edward IV (York) as well as future Richard III fought. The actual battlefield has not been located but thought to be Hadley Green.

Monken Hadley is very Georgian (1750-1790 houses). They attracted folk because of the cleaner air than London.



Charles Wesley

William Makepeace Thackeray (Vanity Fayre, etc.) lived in Old Cottage. Robert Carr 1958-82 Minister of trade and unemployment in Ted Heath's government was bombed by the angry brigade in January of 1971. He later became Lord Carr

of Hadley. He lived in Monken Holt. Livingstone cottage was so named as David Livingstone resided there in 1857 for 9 months and wrote about his missionary travels in Africa (700 page bestseller).

Grandon has a Trollope blue plaque where Fanny (mother of Anthony Trollope, author of Barchester and Palliser novels) lived. Edward Bulwer-Lytton of Knebworth, had 2 roads named after him and stayed in the area. Beacon House by Monken Hadley Church was visited by Charles Wesley. The Munro family lived there and entertained Turner the artist. George Robey (comedian at beginning of 20th century) stayed there and so did John Galsworthy.



Charles Dickens

In modern times 1968-1976 Kingsley Amis and his second wife, Elizabeth Jane Howard lived in Gladsmuir and had many literary parties. Nearby is the 1890's built late Victorian gothic Monken Hurst, last home of Spike Milligan who had musicians including famous jazz musicians and also friends such as Prince Charles come to visit.

So much was mentioned that it was a very interesting evening. Thanks were given to the speaker.



Sir Robert Peel

Marjorie O'Connor



Rachel and her husband James Townsend would like to thank those at St John's for all the good wishes for their wedding

Ha Ha

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday Lunch at his Grandma's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Johnny received his plate he started eating right away.

"Johnny! Please wait until we've said our prayers," said his mum.

"I don't need to," the boy replied.

"Of course you do" his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at home."

"That's at our house," Johnny explained, "but this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook".

❁ COMMUNITY GARDEN ❁





Julian and I spent the Bank Holiday Saturday at this amazing annual gathering and had an absolutely wonderful time. There was a very full programme of events which made choosing what to do quite a challenge. However, we managed to pack loads of things in and still felt refreshed and inspired at the end of the very full day.

We listened to a very moving and informative talk by John Bell entitled 'Hetrosexualism', which ended in a standing ovation. I then went to a drawing workshop with Iain Campbell who is Artist in Residence in St George's Tron Church Glasgow, whilst Julian listened to music by a New Zealand duo (we must have been feeling homesick)!

'Encountering God in the Storm' was a very moving service led by Dr Winston Halapua, Bishop of Polynesia, where the liturgy was shaped by the sea and a people utterly dependent on it. We learnt that one third of his home island has disappeared under water, this all made more moving as the worship canopy looked out over the vast lake.

We of course visited the URC Tent which was a hive of activity as well as the dozens of other stalls offering help, advice and information. We bumped into old friends and got talking to many new folk. Music in the Big Top was constant and varied and we managed to see a variety of performers.

The food was fantastic too with stalls offering fare from all around the world. Believe it or not, we also managed time to sit and watch the multi-coloured world go by before joining a



View from the Worship Canopy with Broughton House in the distance



band and caller for a ceilidh in the Christian Aid tent. This was not for the faint-hearted. Dancing on sloping grass in a confined space in unsuitable footwear almost had me miss out a dance! Fortunately we ended the evening with the best pint of beer I've ever tasted (Bellowhead) in The Jesus Arms.

Our only regret was that we hadn't booked up for the whole weekend. We plan to do this next year and hope that some others from St John's might join us. Please look online at the photos to give you a better idea of what was happening and see that Christianity is definitely alive, creative and exciting.

Laura Templeton



John Bell

Harvest Festival, 8 Oct



This year our Harvest Festival will have a 'local' and 'sustainable' and 'partnership' emphasis.

Local: bring locally-grown food to decorate the Large Hall; bring non-perishable food to donate to local charities the Chipping Barnet foodbank and Homeless Action in Barnet; invite a local friend or neighbour to join you to celebrate this festival of thanksgiving.

Sustainable: in worship we will explore some of the challenges involved in making food-production sustainable in a changing climate with a likely changed relationship to the EU; weather-permitting we will celebrate our church's own modest attempt at sustainable gardening by going outside and singing 'We plough the fields and scatter' in front of our Community Garden as the conclusion of worship.

Partnership: the Community Garden is a partnership between St John's Church and Incredible Edible Barnet, and we hope to have a representative from Incredible Edible present to share their experience of this partnership; Church is, or should be, a partnership between young and old and everyone in-between, so we encourage parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, to come and share in our celebration.

Julian Templeton

Revised Common Lectionary

3 September	Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c or Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26:1-8, Romans 12:9 - 21, Matthew 16:21-28
10 September	Exodus 12:1-14, 4 and September 10 Psalm 149 or Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20
17 September	Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 or Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18 : 21-35
24 September	Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105 : 1-6, 37-45, or Jonah 3:10-4 : 11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16
1 October	Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 or Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32
8 October	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Psalm 19, or Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46
15 October	Exodus 32:1-14, Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23, or Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-4
22 October	Exodus 33:12-23, Psalm 99, or Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13), 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22
29 October	Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17, or Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18, Psalm 1, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46
5 November	Joshua 3:7-17, Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37, or Micah 3:5-12, Psalm 43, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12