

May – June
2018

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

From the Minister

Being Intentional about Discipleship

When people join a church, they are allowing themselves to be formed as disciples of Jesus.

Iwonder if you agree or disagree with this statement? I would not be surprised if you disagree with it. People join churches for many reasons. Common among these are friendship, fellowship, worship, pastoral support and tradition. While there are other reasons, I suspect that allowing oneself to be formed as a disciple of Jesus would not be common among them.

And yet the church *does* form us. We are enriched by church friends; encouraged by fellowship; inspired by worship; supported pastorally in difficult times; and the Christian tradition can deeply shape our attitudes and practices. Equally, as the church knows to its cost, when someone perceives that a church is lacking in one or more of these areas it be the reason people to drift away from the church. But being 'formed as

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disciples of Jesus'—wasn't that what happened only to the original 'twelve disciples' and also to the early apostles like Paul?

The opening statement comes from Neil Hudson. I heard him recently at the national United Reformed Church Ministers' Gathering in Staffordshire. Neil is a pastor and the author of the book *Imagine Church. Releasing Whole-life Disciples*. This is the book that our Synod Discipleship Committee is encouraging its churches to read; and currently our Elders' Meeting is working through it chapter-by-chapter.

Neil shared that, as a Pastor, he sometimes had people, who were about to leave his church, give as the main reason for their leaving that the church in general, and he in particular, 'did not care enough for them'! Neil had the honesty to admit that in some cases the accusation was probably accurate. But he also remarked that in 25 years of ministry he has never had anyone give as their reason for leaving the church: 'You have not helped me to live well as a disciple of Jesus.'

Neil's church, and the churches that took part in the 'Imagine Pilot Project', have moved away from a pastoral care emphasis to a pastoral equipping emphasis. That is, they are no longer attempting to

be care-providers for people's spiritual and practical needs; they regard their main purpose as equipping people to live well as followers of Jesus. While it is right to expect support from the church during the stresses and strains of life, we do people no favours if we do not also direct them to go the fountainhead of all support: "...the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

When I'm out wearing my clerical collar, sometimes a person will say: "Say a prayer for me." What I ought to reply is: 'I will pray for you; but you need to pray too!' Because of the professionalisation and institutionalisation of our culture, the church is regarded as religious and social service-provider. The risk of going along with this way of thinking is that the church inadvertently fosters a culture of dependency. What the church ought to be about is equipping Christians to be confident, compassionate, creative and courageous disciples of Jesus who make a difference in their community. Each of us can be like this, not because we are exceptional, but because we are intentional about being formed by Jesus. Yet this does not just *happen*; Jesus forms us as we attend to those basic but demanding disciplines of prayer, worship, Bible-reading, service, and witnessing.

Julian Templeton



Time for Jesus



St John's Church hosted a lively and moving presentation of the Holy Week musical 'Time for Jesus' by the Life and Mission Choir on Saturday 17 March. The versatile choir (including Andrew Mills and Patricia Picken) played the parts of the crowd, the disciples and the soldiers;. The instrumentalists were led by the composer, Paul Wardrop-Day, on piano.

Mothers' Day Service at St John's

Mothers' Day was started in the USA just over a hundred years ago when President Woodrow Wilson signed a law making it a holiday throughout the country. In Britain and Europe the centuries old celebration of Mothering Sunday has been combined with Mother's Day and is celebrated in churches on the 4th Sunday of Lent.

Our Mothers' Day Service this year on March 11th was led by Elder Roz Douglas and, in her talk, she told the congregation about her work in the previous week helping the emotional health charity Family Links to look after the media at a visit by the Duchess of Cambridge to Pegasus Primary School in Oxford.

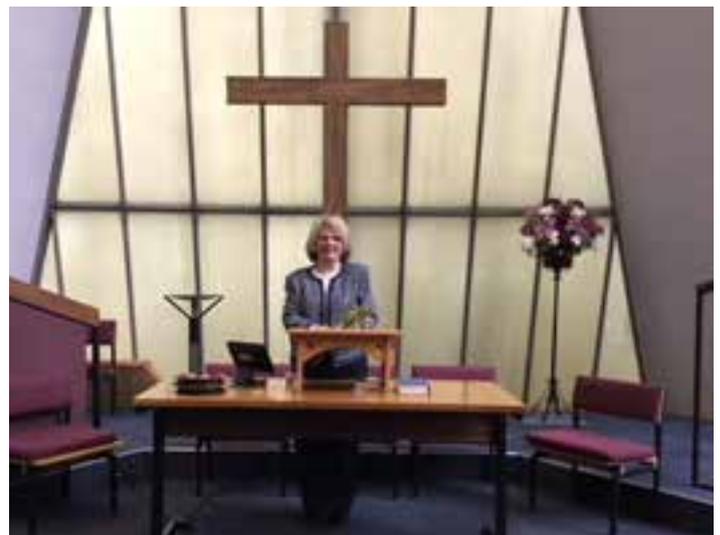
This is the only school in the country which uses a system of education in emotional health and well-being throughout the school, right the way through from the nursery up to Year 6. The aim is to build children's self-esteem and self-reliance and prevent emotional problems from holding them back from doing well at school and subsequently in their careers.

Roz works with Family Links, assisting them with their public relations. "And when there is a royal visit, there is a lot of work, not only managing the event, but also managing the media" Roz explained. The Duchess who was 8 months pregnant with her third child, met teachers, children and parents at the school and listened as they talked about the everyday challenges they face living and working in one of the most deprived areas of Oxford.

Roz emphasised that she chose to talk about the royal visit because it was completely appropriate for Mothers' Day.

"The Duchess has a life of great privilege and also great responsibility," she told the congregation. "She is a mother and she clearly loves children. She talks to them very easily at all ages and she and Prince William have made children's emotional health one of the causes they are most interested in. It was very cheering to see the Duchess and the mothers chatting and to see them all as mothers together trying to do their best for their children."

"I wasn't on the list of people to be introduced to the Duchess but, as she left I was standing near the door and she shook my hand as part of her round of goodbyes. This was a lovely surprise. I've had a long career as journalist but I've never shaken hands with a future Queen of England before, so this made the day even more memorable for me. I thought she was very impressive, both very glamorous and very intelligent."



Elder Roz Douglas led the service

Roz was assisted in running the Mothers' Day service by Elder Sarah Beaumont, Gwen Williams leading some of our prayers, Malcolm Bye reading the lessons, and Zoe and Nathan who gave out the flowers.



The Duchess of Cambridge visits Pegasus Primary School in Oxford

Refurbishing the 1971 Peter Collins organ for future generations

There was a renaissance in British organ building in the middle of the twentieth century as evidenced by Ralph Downes' organ for the Royal Festival Hall on the Southbank in London. The neo-classical style was a return to organ design that would have been familiar to J.S. Bach. The organ at St John's Church was designed to be an instrument suitable for recitals as well as for accompanying church services.

It is now 47 years old and needs major work in order to maintain it for another 40+ years. The congregation needs to raise approximately £36,000 in order to be able to refurbish the organ.

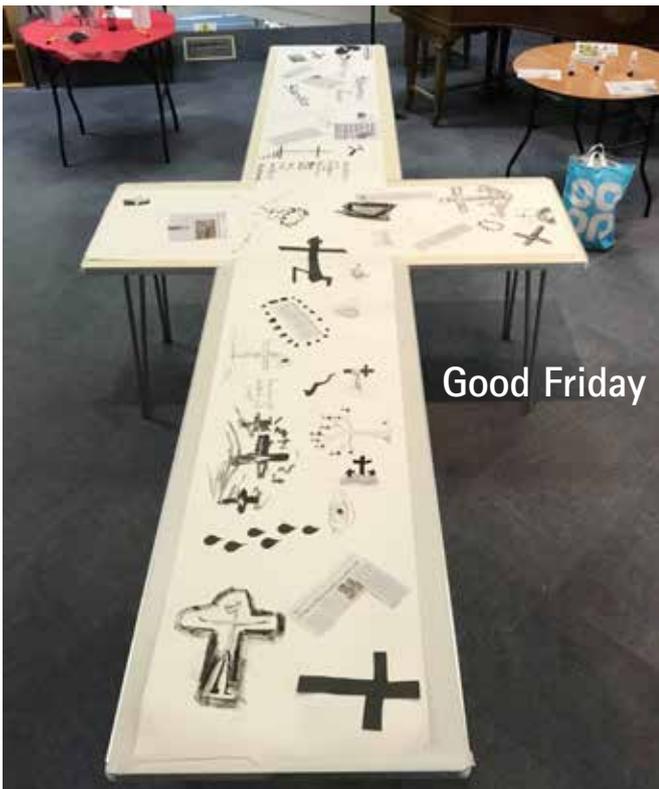
Sponsor a Pipe
 ST. JOHN'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
 ORGAN APPEAL

There is an opportunity to contribute to this fund by sponsoring a pipe or even rank of pipes. Prices start at £5 for the smallest pipes to £1,800 for a rank of all 16 feet pipes. Forms are now available from Richard Harvey or Miss P. Brown, St John's Church, Mowbray Road, Barnet, Herts. EN5 1RH.

Good Friday & Easter Artwork

As part of the Good Friday service, Julian invited the congregation to respond to the death of Jesus by creating an art cross, as

seen on the left, in subdued colours. The same cross was transformed by additional colour artwork on Easter Day to celebrate the Resurrection.



Christian Aid Week 13-19 May 2018



Vilia sheltered 50 of her neighbours during Hurricane Matthew

Vilia lost her mum and her home when the earthquake struck Port-au-Prince in 2010. Bereaved and homeless, she went back to her home town with her husband and children. But life was a struggle, and they had nowhere safe to live. Christian Aid partner KORAL built her a new home that was strong enough to stand up to natural disasters. On the terrifying night when Hurricane Matthew hit, Vilia's neighbours fled to shelter with her. As the storm raged, she shared her home with more than 50 of her neighbours for several days. Despite the ferocity of the hurricane, which swept away surrounding homes, her house was barely damaged. Vilia allowed her home to become an emergency shelter when Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti. She is incredibly grateful for the help she's received but worries about those without a secure home.

Christian Aid know how to make it happen – of the 700 houses we built after the 2010 earthquake, just one needed to be repaired after Hurricane Matthew. But we're relying on the kindness of people like you to be able to do more and reach more of our global neighbours in their hour of need.

The need for us to support the work of Christian Aid is still as great as ever, so we are doing something new this year! As well as continuing with the house-to-house collection, we are also holding a **Big Brekkie in the church on Saturday 12 May from 10am to 12 noon**. Please invite friends and neighbours to this as an opportunity to see our church building, see our community garden in action during one of their working parties while enjoying freshly brewed coffee, tea, bacon baps, vegetarian sausage baps and assorted pastries.

In 2017, the volunteers from St. John's helped raise an amazing £2,143 from the house-to-house collection along local roads and from individual donations. 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, 11 May & Sunday, 13 May;
- Collecting envelopes between Monday 14 May & Saturday 19 May;
- Being part of the 'Counting Team' on Sunday evening, 20 May;
- Helping with the Big Brekkie event on Saturday 12 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 13 May at 6.30pm, here at St John's, when Sophie Brightwell from Christian Aid will speak about the work of partner organisations around the world.

For more information about Christian Aid Week, have a look at: www.caweek.org.

Alison Bond



MAY	Sunday 13th		Start of Christian Aid Week	MAY
		11:00am	Worship - Led by Julian Templeton	
		6:30pm	Christian Aid Joint Service at St. John's	
	Tuesday 15th	7:45pm	Elders' Meeting, Vestry	
	Wednesday 16th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		8:00pm	Fellowship - Street Furniture in London - Rob Kayne	
	Friday 18th	4:00pm	Messy Church	
	Sunday 20th	10:00am	Singing Practice	
		11:00am	Pentecost -Worship - Led by Julian Templeton	
		12:30pm	Church Meeting	
	Monday 21st	8:30pm	Men's Group -at The Railway Bell, New Barnet	
	Tuesday 22nd	8:00pm	Justice and Peace Group Meeting	
	Wednesday 23rd	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Thursday 24th	10:00am	Pastoral Team Meeting	
		7:30pm	North London Local Area Group of Churches Meeting -Union Church, Totteridge	
	Friday 25th	2:30pm	Community Café	
	Sunday 27th	11:00am	Trinity Sunday - Worship led by Tony Alderman	
		3:00pm	Causeway	
Tuesday 29th	2:00pm	Dementia Club		
	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park		

London Marathon

Rachel would like to thank all of her friends at St John's who supported and followed her during the London Marathon.. she raised an amazing £2,500 for Leukaemia Care:

<https://2018-london-marathon.everydayhero.com/uk/rachel-is-running-the-london-marathon>



Eileen Osborn RIP

With sadness, but also with thanks for a long life, we report the death of Eileen Osborn at the age of 102. Julian and Meg attended her funeral in Dorset on 26 March. An obituary will follow in the next edition of the Church Record.

Calendar

June 2018

	Saturday 2nd		Working Party - to carry out some essential work around the church
	Sunday 3rd	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting
		11:00am	Worship + Lord's Supper Led by Julian Templeton
	Wednesday 6th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	Sunday 10th	11:00am	Worship led by Julian Templeton
	Tuesday 12th	7:45pm	Elders' Meeting, Vestry
	Wednesday 13th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	Friday 15th	4:00pm	Messy Church, Large Hall
	Sunday 17th	10:00am	Singing Practice
		11:00am	Worship led by Julian Templeton
	Tuesday 19th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park
	Wednesday 20th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
			Afternoon Fellowship Outing to William Morris Gallery & Museum, Walthamstow
	Friday 22nd	2:30pm	Community Café
			Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record
	Sunday 24th	11:00am	Worship - Led by Alison Bond
		3:00pm	Causeway
	Tuesday 26th	2:00pm	Dementia Club
		8:00pm	Justice and Peace Meeting
	Wednesday 27th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
		8:30pm	Men's Group - at Ye Olde Mitre Inne, High Barnet
	Sunday 1st	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting
		11:00am	Worship + Lord's Supper Led by Julian Templeton

JUNE

JUNE

JULY

JULY

Philip Stewart
RIP

With sadness we report the death of the Reverend Phillip Stewart, whose memorial service was held on the 1st of May at Union Church, Totteridge. Phillip was Church Secretary of St Johns after which he trained for the Non Stipendiary Ministry. He was ordained in 1986 and served as Minister of Cockfosters URC from 1986 to 2003 and Totteridge Union Church from 2003 to 2009. Please remember Sylvia & family in your prayers.

Ministers' Gathering

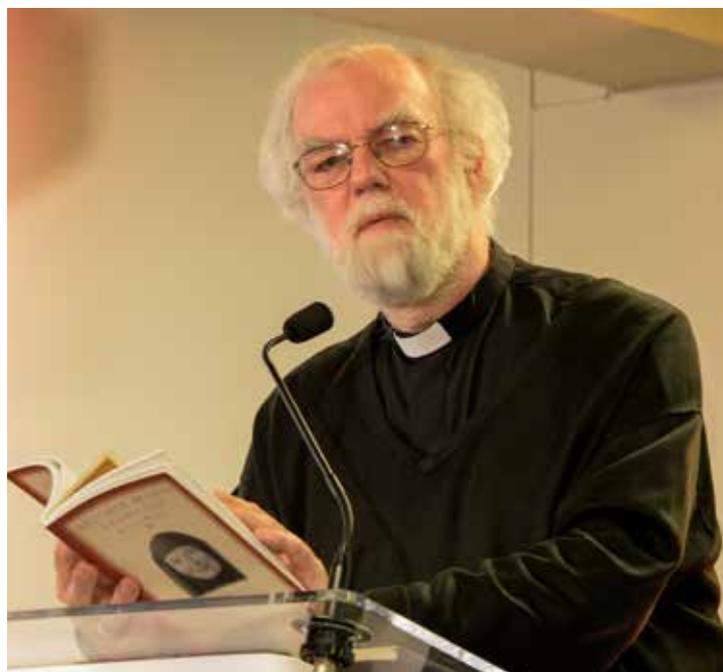
30 April to 3 May, Yarnfield Park

I would like to thank St John's Church for paying for me to go, and allowing me the time away, to attend the first ever national United Reformed Church Ministers' Gathering at Yarnfield Park near Stone in Staffordshire.

- Rowan Williams was superb, reflecting on the lives of three Christian women as examples of 'Disciples in the Modern City': **Maria Skobtsova, Dorothy Day** and **Madeleine Delbrel**. One quotation that struck me was: "The point of the ordained ministry is to draw the Church back to the centre of its faith; everything else is froth!"
- The bible studies led by Professor Loveday Alexander on discipleship in Mark were helpful. Take-away quote: "Discipleship is an instrument of the Kingdom of God."
- I was able to go to workshops led by the authors of 'Holy Habits' and 'Imagine Church'. The author of the latter, Neil Hudson was especially inspiring (see my article) and I feel even more convinced that encouraging an emphasis on whole-life discipleship is worth our trying

- The worship led by Doug Gay and Iain McLarty was a great blessing
- Best of all was the sense of collegiality and fellowship and unity with over 300 URC ministers, all gathered together in the same place for the first time ever!

Julian Templeton



Rowan Williams



Assembled ministers



Sheltered Housing

Some may have noticed the comfortable looking homes in Spring Close, adjacent to St Stephen's Church on Bells Hill. These have been established by Eleanor Palmer Trust, who provides almshouse accommodation, following a bequest by Eleanor Palmer to the people in need of Chipping Barnet and Kentish Town in 1558, over 460 years ago.

Eleanor Palmer was a wealthy Elizabethan lady who cared about the future of local people. She left two acres of meadow land and its income for the benefit of the poor in Chipping Barnet and Kentish Town.

The Trust has established 78 almshouse properties and a 33 bed care home, located across four sites in Chipping Barnet (EN5): Canteloves House (Spring Close), Byford House (Bells Hill), Wood Street and Eleanor/Palmer Gardens (off Chesterfield Road).

The almshouse properties are unfurnished and specially designed with the needs of older people in mind and some are adapted for disabled needs. The aim is to provide convenient and comfortable accommodation in a setting which allows residents to live independently with the support of Housing Support Officers when and if required. There is a call system in each home for use such as sudden illness or a fall so that residents can get help quickly.

Residents are encouraged to make friends and share a wider social life through use of the communal lounges, lunch club, Thai chi, yoga classes, bingo, fish & chip suppers, numerous activities and many organised outings. The Trust has been looked after for many years and our goal is to continue the legacy of Eleanor Palmer.

If you or someone you know is looking for Sheltered Housing accommodation and feel that you would benefit from the support service provided by the Trust, you are over the age of 60, have strong connections to the area and less than £50K in assets; please contact us for more details:-

- tel: 020 8441 3222
- email admin@eleanorpalmertrust.org.uk

For Care Home enquiries please contact us:-

- tel: 020 8364 8003
- email manager@canteloves.org.uk

Applicants receiving Housing Benefit or self-funders are considered at the care home.

If you wish to write to us:

Eleanor Palmer Trust, 106b Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BY.

Used Postage Stamps

Most of you will be aware that for many years we have collected used stamps for the benefit of charities, most recently the RSPB and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. We have now been told that Hearing Dogs are no longer collecting stamps, so unless anyone knows of another charity which does, in future all our stamps will go to the RSPB.

The money raised from the sale of stamps donated to the RSPB goes to the Albatross Task Force. These magnificent birds have been in serious decline for years, a prime cause being fishing lines, which can be up to 80 miles long. As these contain thousands of baited hooks the birds are attracted to the bait but become caught in the hooks and drown. Fortunately, simple measures such as attaching weights to the lines so they sink below the surface, or using

streamers to deter the birds, can be very effective and reduce deaths by up to 99%. Fishermen do not want to kill birds, but it costs money to make these improvements and provide people to explain the need for them, hence the support of the stamp money.

Finally, just a reminder that stamps (and ALL used postage stamps are useful, the standard UK issues as well as special issues and foreign stamps, although the latter are obviously more valuable) should be left on the paper, with a border of about 1/4inch (6mm). As Malcolm is a regular volunteer at the RSPB Rye Meads Reserve, it seems sensible to give stamps direct to him in future, although Hugh will happily take them if Malcolm is not around. Thank you for your continued support.

Malcolm Bond & Hugh Martin

St John's
United Reformed Church

Fellowship

Stained Glass Windows

21 March
Michael Peryer

On Wednesday 21st March St John's Fellowship group settled down in their new home in the church to a whistle stop tour of stained glass windows around the UK and Europe. Michael Peryer is both a very keen and competent photographer, but also fascinated by stained glass windows, evident from the fifty plus pictures he entertained us with.

Michael explained some of the common themes used when designing stained glass windows. For example pictures of the prophets, the saints from both the old and new testaments, along with kings and queens but some more modern windows even represent pictures of fighter planes from the second world war. However, in Michael's view it is the "Rose Window" that represents the height of the artists craft.

Our photographic tour started in Buckfast Abby in Devon where a window designed by the Monks was installed as recently as 2004, highlighting the fact that some wonderful windows are still being installed today. From there we went to St Mary's Priory, Abbergavenny, where we saw the "Jesse Window"

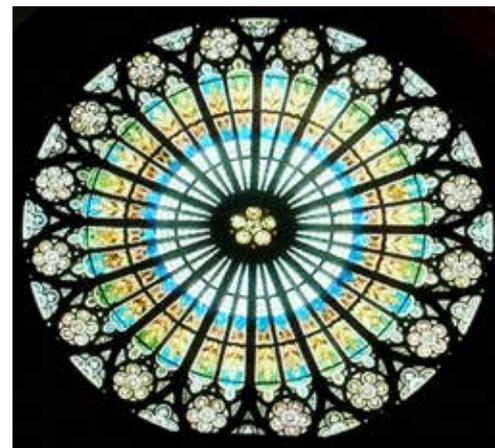
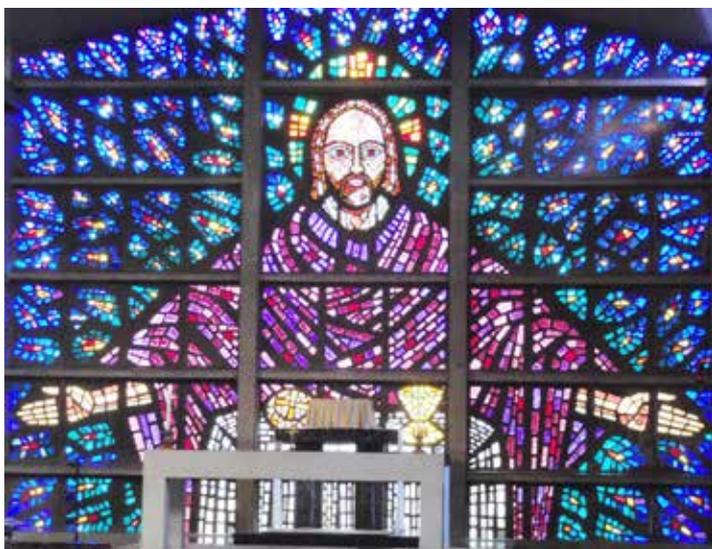
Not all pictures were from churches, one was from The Rothley Court Hotel, where Michael and Dorothy's granddaughter was married in 2016. This had a few beautiful windows depicting the Knights Templar and dated back to the 1250's when parts of the hotel had been an Abbey.

The Royal Garrison Church in Portsmouth was of particular interest because while the chapel dated back to 1212, it had suffered considerable damage during the second world war, but when restored with many windows depicted period scenes of search lights piercing the sky looking for bombers along with St Nicolas, the patron saint of sailors.

Michael is a member of the National Trust, so our picture tour included numerous Trust houses and castles, many of which have some magnificent windows. One, Cragside House & Gardens had windows depicting the four seasons, with images of spring bluebells, summer lilies, autumn fruit and a sprig of Holly for winter.

We now travelled closer to home, with a picture of All Hallows by the Tower, where the Toc-H walks started and finished. We saw pictures of the churches chequered history depicted in the windows, some showing the great fire of London, the coats of arms for the Port of London Authority, P&O, The Worshipful Company of Master Mariners and even scenes of WW2.

Michael showed us many pictures of some of his favourite Rose Windows, with prime examples from travels in Salzburg on the Rhine, Heidelberg



and Freiberg Castle, along with some home grown examples from Bamburgh Castle and the Abby at St Albans.

We ended our quick tour with some wonderful windows paying homage to the brave RAF pilots who are memorialised with wonderful glass images of

Spitfires and Hurricane fighters at Bentley Priory (HQ of Fighter Command). The last windows we saw were from St Clement Danes – The Royal Air Force Church, re-built in the 1950's, with windows to match any from around the world.

Ron Mobbs



Life and Music of Lionel Bart

18 April
Geoff Bowden

St John's URC Fellowship Talk on Wednesday 18th April, 2018 –Reviewing the Situation: Life and Music of Lionel Bart – with Geoff Bowden.

Lionel Begleiter was born 1st August, 1930, 7th and youngest child to a Jewish East End tailor and his wife. Famous for many hit songs and musicals yet at 13 he won a scholarship at St Martins School of Art and became a graphic designer in Hackney.

Through Unity Theatre he was friends with Alfie Bass and Bill Owen. He went there as set designer but Alfie persuaded him to write a song and in 1950s Lionel adopted his stage name of Lionel Bart. 'Oh for a cup of tea', his first song was sold to Billy Cotton for 20 guineas.

He became friends with Tony Steele and Lionel played washboard on his hit 'Rock with the Cavemen' which won Novello award for outstanding hit. This was followed by 'Little White Bull'; Cliff Richards 'Living Doll'; Anthony Newley 'Do You Mind'; Matt Monro – 'From Russia with Love', for example.

In 1959/60 Joan Littlewood and Gerry Raffles produced his musical 'Fings aint wot they used to be' – title hit sung by Max Bygraves. In 1960 Lionel had 4 hits in parade at same time. His 'Lock up your daughters' at Mermaid Theatre was a great success. Then Lionel wrote 'Oliver' which at first was rejected by many then Donald Aubrey agreed to stage it on the cheap with Ron Moody as Fagin and Georgia Brown as Nancy. Its first night didn't start off well but it ended with 23 curtain calls. It then went onto Broadway.

Lionel had many friends including Picasso; Cary Grant; Noel Coward; Judy Garland; Alma Cogan. At the height of his success he was earning £16 a minute. He couldn't read or write music but hummed into a tape recorder. He wrote a new musical 'Blitz' with Vera Lynn recording 'The day after tomorrow' for

musical. Then he did 'Maggie May'. He also did the music for various films.

He bought a house – St Dunstan's priory (Fun Palace) where there was much drinking, drugs and poker. Then he wrote 'Twang' a musical based on Robin Hood investing his own money in it. It was unsuccessful and closed in January 1966. Lionel sold the rights for 'Oliver' to Max Bygraves' company for £1000 who then sold them for a quarter of a million pounds. Lionel's reputation was in pieces and at the same time 2 friends died – Alma Cogan in 1966 aged 34 of cancer and Brian Epstein in 1967.

In 1968 the film 'Oliver' won 6 Oscars and Lionel won contract for 2 Hollywood films but his downward spiral continued. 'La Strada' closed and his 2 friends Judy Garland and Noel Coward died. He was no good with money and now bankrupt, also terrified he couldn't write new songs. Joan Littlewood came back into his life in 1980 at a time when he had cirrhosis of the liver and a growing weight problem.

His reputation began to improve and he got a new secretary – Brenda Evans, who still runs Lionel Bart's archives. In 1986 Cliff Richard again recorded 'Living Doll' for comic relief. In 1994 Cameron Mackintosh devised a scheme for giving back to Lionel part of rights of 'Oliver'. 'Blitz' and 'Maggie May' were performed in the 1990's.

Lionel died in Florida of liver cancer on 3rd April 1998, aged 68 years old. 'Happy Endings' (Abbey National Advert) was his last song success. He left a million pounds, the Lionel Bart Foundation and a life in theatre that was famous.

So much was mentioned, accompanied by music and pictures that it was a very interesting and entertaining evening. Thanks were given to the speaker.

Marjorie O'Connor



Svitavy Visit

Julian, Laura, Ron, Sue, Paul and Heather had an amazing trip to our twinned church where Filip Keller is the pastor. They were astonished by the very warm welcome, and generosity of the family and congregation. The visit was really well planned with trips to beautiful towns, great countryside, caves and a barbecue on an open fire. Evening meals were in different homes. They are looking forward to the new found friends visiting us in St John's, but it'll be a hard act to follow!

