

Jul-Aug 2024

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

Choices!

The nineteenth-century Rothschild family kept great state in, among other places, their home in Waddesdon, where Alfred Rothschild lived. One day Prime Minister Asquith, who was staying from Friday till Monday, was waited on at teatime by the butler. The following conversation ensued: "Tea, coffee or a peach off the wall, sir?" "Tea, please." "China, Indian or Ceylon, sir?" "China, please." "Lemon, milk or cream, sir?" "Milk, please." "Jersey, Hereford or Shorthorn, sir? ..."



Choices! Paul Elsdon used the above anecdote when leading worship on June 9th and posed some questions about choices. He said:

'Sometimes it seems that we have plenty of choices to make each and every day. Are you good at making choices and do you always find it easy to make choices? Do you use your instinct, your experience of previous choices you have made, or do you seek advice from friends or family?

How do you decide if you've made the right choice?'



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Trusting God by:

Walking the way of Jesus

Putting faith into practice

Valuing all people equally

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We have all recently had a choice to make in choosing our MP for Chipping Barnet. The people of France have also voted, and the election for US President is constantly making the news. Are we all choosing wisely?

Paul's talk in June was based on the events, described in the book of Samuel, when the leaders of Israel decided they wanted a king like other nations, going against Samuel's advice given to him by God. Paul said:

'The problem the Israelites had was two-fold: wanting to be like other nations and forgetting about God. They forgot, as we sometimes do, that God must be first and foremost in our lives.'

'God allowed them to have a king. This was a compromise in which God retained the right to choose, but gave the people what they wanted. Where do the boundaries lie for us? What part does God play in the choices we make? One aspect that could be drawn from this episode is that the people who wished for a king did not recognise the Lord God as king. I suppose, also, another aspect is that you should be careful what you wish for. We can at times be quite sceptical and disillusioned about anyone who wants to lead us. But, at the same time, we want a leader to make all the decisions, to make the choices and, therefore, free ourselves from any responsibility.'

'What influences and what contributes to the choices that we make? Are we aware what the consequences will be or might be? And where is God in the decisions that we make?'

Paul finished his talk by quoting from the prophet Micah:

*What does the Lord require of you?
But to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God.*

Paul Elsdon/Editors

A date for your diary ...

FILM NIGHT
Friday 27th September



The true story of a young girl from the streets of rural Uganda whose world rapidly changes when she is introduced to the game of chess.

In aid of The Good Samaritan School for the Deaf, Uganda

More details to follow ...



Christian Aid Week 12-18 May 2024

Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who supported Christian Aid Week so generously again this year. We heard in our service at the start of the week about the inspiring story of Aline Nibogora, from the Makamba Province in Burundi, and how with the help of Christian Aid, she overcame adversity, so that she could support both her family and others in the community by setting up a Village Savings and Loans Association. After the service there was an opportunity to try a selection of food from troubled regions around the world – thanks to all those who made these dishes, so that we could think of those in need of our prayers. Six of us from St John's joined over 100 Christian Aid supporters on the London Freedom Walk on 11 May, visiting eleven churches, beginning at All Hallows by the Tower, and finishing just in time for Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral. Guides were on hand to tell us about all the interesting features in each church and to help direct us to find the answer to the quiz questions. All of this inspired you to give very generously to this year's appeal.

- Our digital church e-Envelope, raised £1,893.75.
- Some preferred to give in other ways including using the traditional Christian Aid envelopes and this raised £662.23.
- So, the Total raised by St John's this year was £2,555.98. All figures quoted include Gift Aid.

This message from Christian Aid reminds us why our support is still so desperately needed:

Aline felt the full force of extreme poverty when an early marriage ended in abuse and violence. She had no home, no healthcare, no security. But Aline was determined to push back against the inhumanity of poverty, driven by hope, faith and the love of her children. She transformed her life with a little help from Christian Aid and says this: "When we see Christian Aid, we feel comforted; we feel we are not alone. You helped us to change our poor living conditions. I really thank you from the very bottom of my heart."

You can see a video message of thanks by clicking on this link: https://youtu.be/gXbDNZc_AQM

So, thank you to everyone for your support which will make a huge difference to many lives.

Alison Bond



London Freedom Walk
Outside All Hallows by the Tower



London Freedom Walk
On the steps of St Paul's Cathedral

Report on the URC Thames North Ecoday 2024

'Praise God, O my soul, the wonder of all creation calls forth praise.' Psalm 104

On Saturday 8th June Valerie, Alison and Andrew attended the URC Thames North Synod EcoDay at Vine Church Ilford with the theme 'Our Shared Planet: Celebration and action for justice.' About seventy people came. Not just URC folk from all over the Synod but also others from local Churches and from the local community. Psalm 104 was read by Valerie and we enjoyed a time of worship together with devotions led by George Watt. Worship songs included a hymn by Fred Pratt Green 'God in His love for us' and a South African setting of 'Amen si aku dumisa – Praise the name of the Lord' (Xhosa language).

The key note speaker in the morning was Jeremy Williams who talked about exploring the justice issues bound up with the environment crisis we are facing, based on his book 'Climate Change is Racist'. Then a presentation about progress with our buildings towards 'net zero' led by Sacha McArdle and a dialogue with Sacha and Andrew about St John's URC's journey, talking about the extension to the Sanctuary and our consideration of the



environment and climate issues leading to the Eco Church Silver Award. An excellent lunch was provided: pasta bake or pasta curry - both based on LOAF principles (local, organic, animal friendly and fair trade). In the afternoon there was a choice of seven small group workshops in two sessions which we could sign up to. There was also the labyrinth laid out in the Sanctuary to help us on our journey to think about the 'Cycle of Goodness and Diversity'.

One of the afternoon workshops was led by Jessica from Christian Aid considering ways we can talk to others about climate issues, poverty and the General Election and how we need to build on our relationships such as within our families, with members and friends at Church and those in our community. We discussed how to form and build relationships, the importance of listening quietly and responding with mutual respect. Conversations can be challenging but often can find common ground. We may occasionally have to disagree agreeably. We considered examples of how Jesus initiated conversations which helped to develop meaningful conversations and deepen relationships. Jesus did not always conform to the expectations of the crowd and often went against the prejudices which were prevalent at the time. Speaking to the woman at the well, or going for a meal with Zacchaeus, a tax collector - someone who was considered a cheat and beyond redemption. These interactions with Jesus brought transformation to the lives of those Jesus met.

Andrew went to a workshop led by Melanie Nazaretti from 'Christian Climate Action' about how to 'speak up for the planet'. She is a really passionate lady who reminded us that we all have a part to play in raising awareness of the climate issues facing the world, and how as Christians we can make a difference, based on our Bible mandate, to work and to show God's love in practical ways.

Other workshops were about EcoChurch; how to apply for the Synod EcoGrants; the ABC of carbon literacy; practical green activities using urban church land; and one about the Ilford Energy café. All well worthwhile and plenty to think about.



Some of us had a time of reflection by walking the labyrinth. There were different coloured discs along the labyrinth with a leaflet with verses from the creation story and a comment by Rev David Coleman the EcoChaplain for EcoCongregation Scotland. I liked the idea of 'Creative Community' reminding us that teamwork is what God chooses. David Coleman refers to the importance of biodiversity which is the will of God.

There are abundant resources in our world and everything is interdependent, but the human race needs to be ready to share and interact in a way which benefits all of God's creation. The disc for the fifth day of creation reminded us that: 'On the fifth day God created creatures of the sea and every living thing with which water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds'. David Coleman comments on the beautiful phrase 'according to their kind' which helps us to respect difference whilst cherishing common ground of feeling, of language, and of need between diverse creatures and peoples.

We are all special and loved by God and we can bring a Christian perspective to the way we live our lives both as individuals and as a church community.

Psalm 104 reminds us to look to God for life and for the goodness in our souls. May we be renewed to wonder, to lift our eyes to marvel again at all that God has made. May we be raised up to what we can be, a friend of blessing to all the earth, friends of creation and bearers of hope.

The words of the hymn by Fred Pratt Green had a special relevance to us all.

God in his love for us lent us this planet,
gave it a purpose in time and in space:
small as a spark from the fire of creation,
cradle of life and the home of our race.

Long have our human wars ruined its harvest;
long has earth bowed to the terror of force;
long have we wasted what others have need of,
poisoned the fountain of life at its source.

Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty,
life that sustains us in body and mind:
plenty for all, if we learn how to share it,
riches undreamed of to fathom and find.

Earth is the Lord's: it is ours to enjoy it,
ours, as his stewards, to farm and defend.
From its pollution, misuse, and destruction,
good Lord, deliver us, world without end.

Words: Fred Pratt Green © 1973 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company) (1903-2000)

Andrew Mills

New Barnet's innovative green space now features a well-being garden and a wildflower meadow

Wendy Alcock, founder of a local initiative to encourage home cultivation in gardens and on unused land, was delighted by the support and interest which all the efforts of the campaign's volunteers are attracting.

These three strips of land outside the church now provide a structured garden and wildlife habitat that supports a total of eighty five plants which have edible leaves, flowers or fruit.



An extension to a community garden and green space which is now along three sides of a New Barnet church was officially opened at a garden party to celebrate the success of Barnet's Incredible Edible campaign.

Barnet Vale councillor Richard Barnes (see above) cut a ribbon of twigs across an arch of branches at the entrance to the enlarged garden outside St John's United Reformed Church, New Barnet.

Wendy thanked councillor Barnes for the help he had given in securing a grant of £9,300 from Barnet Council's infra structure levy fund to meet the cost of providing direct access via a ramp at the rear of the church and the expense of clearing and preparing land which used to be a rubber floored nursery.



from left to right, Heather Elsdon, Wendy Alcock, Sue Taylor, Councillor Richard Barnes and Micheline Regnard

The scale of the transformation achieved by Wendy and her Incredible Edible team of volunteers amazed Councillor Barnes and other guests.



Councillor Barnes acknowledged the importance of Wendy's campaign. She had to be congratulated for her inspiration and all she was doing to promote healthy eating and the home cultivation of fruit and vegetables.

Wendy – seen here at a new seed and plant exchange table – said this was their eighth growing season in the Mowbray Road community garden.

The extension to their plot provided room for a well-being garden and a quiet space beside the church where people could sit and enjoy looking at the plants.

On one side of the church the Incredible Edible team have been creating a wildflower meadow. Lis Rolls (right), an organic gardener, has been giving advice and tips on planting and mowing to help make the grassy area more diverse and sustainable. She recommended that to help build up the diversity and range of plants and flowers it was best to mow the area in the late summer after natural seeding. Lis pointed out yellow rattle, a wildflower which had a root system which restricts the growth of grasses and enables other flowers to establish themselves. Already, after just three years, the wild meadow now includes a wide range of plants and flowers – not just yellow rattle, but Ox-eye daisies, Hawkbit, alkanet, buttercups, dandelions, daisies, clover, ragwort and teasle.



Nick Jones

(from Barnet Society Newsletter and used by permission)

 A large, vibrant field of flowers in various colors including purple, pink, orange, and red. The flowers are in full bloom and set against a green background of foliage.

St John's Fellowship Garden Party

Saturday 17th August 2024 at 1:30pm
 in the Community Garden and hall of
 St John's United Reformed Church, Mowbray Road entrance,
 New Barnet, Herts. EN5 1RH

Tickets £10 each, which includes a light lunch,
 Soft drinks and live musical entertainment.
 Feel free to bring your own wine or beer.

Tickets from Marjorie O'Connor (07515 910514 or email: marjorie.oconnor@btinternet.com)

Fellowship:

An Active Response to Climate Change

In April St John's Fellowship welcomed Terry Over, to give a talk entitled 'An Active Response to Climate Change'. Terry is a past member and Elder of St John's. He spoke very passionately about our need to look at all areas of our lives which will be affected by climate change.

He started by giving a whistle stop tour of his own home, where he had conducted an audit, looking at every aspect including fuel, energy, insulation and food costs. He urged us to be aware of all our energy costs the key point was to have good insulation (at least 300mm deep) in the loft, have solar panels, use LED bulbs, and have A+ rated appliances.

He continued to talk about other areas of concern particularly the food industry, where the dominance of supermarkets and industrial farming is leading to over-production and waste. His talk contained so much for us to consider about how we live our lives today and how we will need to adapt as the effects of climate change increase. When asked for the one most important area to actively respond to, Terry said **Water** - the world's most precious resource. We should endeavour to limit our own use of water, even to limiting how often we shower. Terry gave us much to think about and to try to act on.



A Thousand Miles up the Nile

Our May meeting welcomed Lorna Oakes, a well-known lecturer in Egyptology, who gave a very full presentation of 'A Thousand Miles up the Nile' a book written by Amelia Edwards, a Victorian lady who lived from 1831-1892 and was a contemporary of Florence Nightingale.

Amelia became interested in Egypt quite by chance; she and a friend had gone to France on a sketching holiday, but they experienced very heavy rainfall and decided to seek a drier country, so they travelled on as far as Egypt where they stopped.



Amelia records in her book that 'they drifted by accident and took refuge in Egypt'; it resulted in her falling in love with the land and her subsequent exploration of this ancient country. Amelia's travels on the Nile are recorded in her best-selling book, 'A Thousand Miles up the Nile,' published in 1876. She describes in great detail the journey and the sights she witnessed on that journey, starting in Cairo with all the activity of the bazaar and the donkey boy, 🐴

and then passing The Great Pyramids, Luxor and on to Abu Simbel, where she went ashore with others in her party to help excavations near to a tomb where they uncovered a small chapel with a wonderful colourful frieze running round just under the ceiling.

On her return to England. she worked on the book. She had great concerns at the state of the many ancient monuments in Egypt and she started the 'Egypt Exploration Fund' she became friends with Sir Erasmus Wilson, an eminent surgeon, who also had great interest in Egypt and had spent £10,000 transporting Cleopatra's Needle to England. Lecture tours to raise money for the Fund were arranged all over the country and Amelia went to America, giving over 100 lectures to aid the Fund.

In October 1891 she caught a lung infection, possibly brought on following her exhausting tour of America . Despite this she felt it was her duty to go to Millwall to supervise the arrival and distribution of antiquities: she should never have gone to Millwall and her health never recovered. She died the following Spring. In her will she left money to found the first Chair of Egyptology in the country at University College, London. At the end of her talk, our speaker Lorna expressed her grateful thanks to Amelia Edwards for all her pioneering work in establishing the Egyptology Department Library which is now part of the Institute of Archaeology at University College London.

Jean Davies

Fellowship Outing: Boat trip with cream tea

On Wednesday 19th June, St John's URC Fellowship had their annual outing in the afternoon, picking up a coach in Station Road, New Barnet and travelling to Broxbourne for the two-hour boat trip along the River Lea accompanied by a generous cream tea with lovely huge hot scones, strawberry jam and clotted cream and tea or coffee.



We had good weather and a splendid view from the boat. The atmosphere was friendly and church members mixed with non-church fellowship members and friends, a total of thirty-four. All in all it was very enjoyable and a success mainly due to Jean Davies' arrangement of the bookings of coach, boat and cream teas and myself for filling the coach (a trip subsidised by fellowship funds).

We had a great time and welcome ideas for next year!

Marjorie O'Connor (Fellowship Chair)



Global Heating – Britain Freezing?

When people talk of Global Heating are you quietly looking forward to milder UK winters? Well you are probably glad you missed my talk to the Green Christian Group on 18 May! I relayed how scientists believe that the British winters could become significantly colder and snowier. How can that be if the earth is warming? Well it is all down to our good friend the Gulf Stream – herein called by its catchy scientific name the “Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation”, or AMOC.

The AMOC is a massive current of water that brings us mild weather and is the reason why UK winters are so much warmer than places on the same latitude away from the AMOC. For those of you who like figures it's 50-100 kilometres wide and brings 15 million cubic metres of warm water from the tropics our way every second - at about jogging speed. When the water reaches the north east Atlantic it cools and therefore sinks. It then heads back south westwards at a great depth. It is sometimes referred to as the “Atlantic Conveyor” as it operates like a giant conveyor belt.

I confessed to not having spent much time in the north Atlantic with a bucket but I have done some desk research as to the effect on the AMOC of global heating. I looked at 5 key questions about a possible AMOC collapse. Will it matter? Has it happened before? How likely is it that it will again? What might be the effects on UK weather? When could this happen?

So will a collapse matter? According to a Met Office Fact Sheet in 2019 a collapse would cause:

- A cooling of the northern hemisphere
- Sea level rise in the Atlantic (with the east coast of the US especially vulnerable to flooding).
- An overall decrease in precipitation over Europe
- More winter storms in Northern Europe.

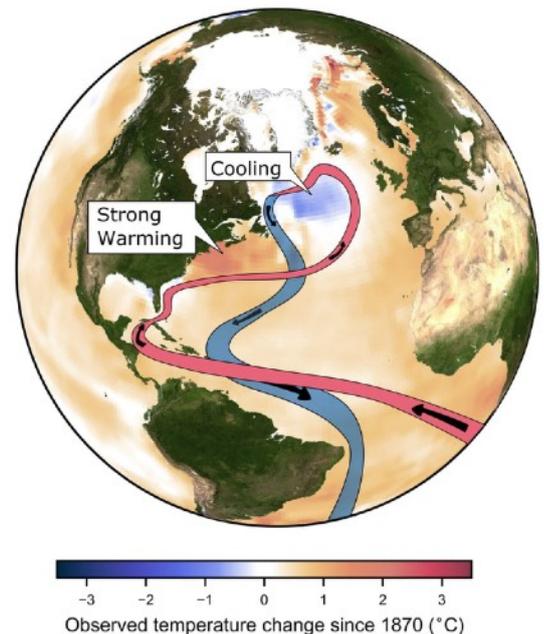
Also predicted are changes to the Amazon rain forest, possibly with the loss of the largest terrestrial carbon sink. Hence drastic consequences for the global climate. So one climate “trigger” (an AMOC collapse) could lead in turn to another “trigger” (loss of our largest carbon sink). Not good news at all.

Has it happened before? Remember the scary images of the fairs on the frozen Thames? Researchers at the University of Massachusetts have concluded that the Great Frosts of the 17th and 18th centuries were due to a weakening of the AMOC. Before that, the AMOC has stopped and started again many times throughout history.

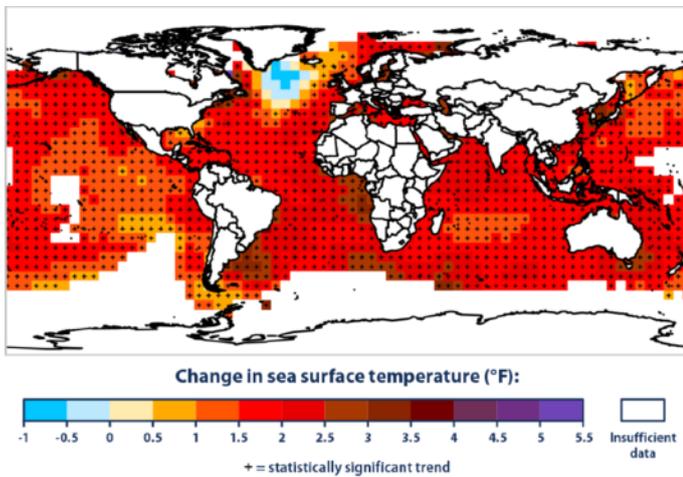
How likely that it will again? The warmer and less salty the water, the less it sinks, hence the more likely the “conveyor” will cease to overturn and collapse. So it all depends on:

- How much the earth heats up - affecting the Atlantic Ocean temperature
- How much of the Greenland ice cap melts - leading to a less-salty Atlantic.

So how much is the earth heating up? Of the 380 IPCC climate scientists contacted by Guardian (9 May 2024):



- 6% think the earth will warm by only 1.5C by the end of the century (in line with the Paris Accord)
- 77% think 2.5C+ (that would have very serious consequences)
- 42% think 3C+ (that would have extremely serious consequences)



Scientists are most concerned however about the seas which are warming faster than land. 2023 saw the warmest oceans on record – by far.

How fast is the Greenland ice cap melting? According to the scientists- much faster than expected. Overall then the evidence suggests a collapse at some point, worryingly, looks pretty likely!

What might be the effects on UK weather?

Research shows UK temperatures would drop by an average of 3.4°C; (or 3°C-8°C by one reckoning). Winter storms blowing across the Atlantic would not pick up the usual warm moisture from the AMOC

and would bring much harsher, wintry conditions, particularly in northern areas. Snow could lie for months at a time and accumulate to levels that the country is currently not equipped to deal with. Reduced rainfall during summer, leading to widespread loss of arable land. The impacts on wildlife, habitats and our way of life would be severe.

London has a daily mean average temperature in January of +5.5°C. St John's (the city that is not the URC) in Newfoundland on the eastern Canadian coast is slightly further south than London but without the AMOC influence. It's daily mean average temperature in January is -4.5; hence 10°C colder.

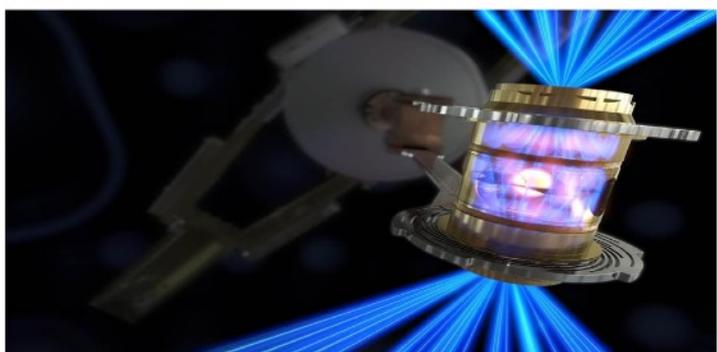
In short, a collapsed AMOC means British weather, dare I say, running amok.

When could this happen? Scientists say the AMOC is at its weakest for 1000 years. Somewhat reassuringly though, a 2019 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded a full collapse would be unlikely this century. But a new study from University of Copenhagen challenges that (Ditlevsen and Ditlevsen 2023). They say *"Using ocean temperature data from the last 150 years ...with 95% certainty, that the AMOC will collapse between 2025 and 2095". "...the collapse is most likely to happen in 2057"*.

Scientists seem to be agreed that with the current rate of global heating, then the AMOC will collapse at some point causing the devastating effects discussed here. What they do not agree on is when. But to be safe, let's not be ditching our thermals just yet!

I finished on a more optimistic note.

Tests in California and in Oxford separately have proven something vitally important, that it is possible to create a laboratory process where more energy is produced than is put in. We are a long way from having a scaled-up industrial version but they have achieved "proof of concept". Do a search on "nuclear fusion ignition".



So maybe our grandchildren could have unlimited, cheap and green energy. And Global Heating could be reversed? Wahey!

A letter from Rosemary Nakasiita, Director of Good Samaritan Primary School for the Deaf, Uganda, on the occasion of St John's 61st anniversary

Esteemed members of St. John's Church, on behalf of the entire student body, staff, and school administration in Uganda, I extend our warmest congratulations on your 61st anniversary. It is with profound gratitude that I acknowledge the unwavering support and generosity that you have extended to our school over the past two years.

Your prayers, financial contributions, and kind gestures have not only touched the lives of our students but have also served as hope for our community. Your dedication to making a difference has transformed countless lives, enabling us to continue our mission of providing quality education and support to deaf children in Uganda.

Your partnership with us goes beyond mere charity; it is a testament to the power of compassion and unity in creating meaningful change. Through your continued support, you have become integral members of our school family, standing alongside us as we strive to empower deaf children and nurture their talents and potential.

Immaculate Nasaazi is one of the three newly enrolled students at the school this year. She is in Primary Two; she is very grateful to study at a school with children of her kind. She says;

“My parents had taken me to a hearing children’s school where I had my nursery class. It was difficult for me to study seeing everyone can hear and I do not. My teachers gave me a front seat. I did not have friends but now I have many. My best friend is Maria Peace Nakimu. She is also in primary two. I am happy and I love my new school Good Samaritan School for the Deaf.”

As we celebrate this milestone in your church's journey, we also celebrate the profound impact that your generosity has had on our school community. Your commitment to making a difference serves as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the importance of reaching out to those in need and extending a helping hand wherever possible (Matthew 25:35-40).

Dennis Ssebuwufu is one of the students who started his nursery at the school. He is now in Primary Six waiting to sit for his national exams next year. He was also elected as a school prefect leading the boys. Over the years, Dennis has seen the mercy of God upon his family and himself while at the school. His mother suffered from Pressure and other diseases and was bedridden for over a year. While the Good Samaritan School agreed to continue teaching and taking care of Dennis, his two sisters and two brothers (all hearing) continued to nurse their mother and visited him at school on most of the visiting days in the two years. Dennis is hardworking, loves football, and is a very good leader. We hope to reward him someday. Dennis had this to say;

“When am here at school, sometimes I forget that this is not my home and my mother and siblings are not here. I feel much loved. When my mother was sick, I had to stay at school during the holiday times. My family did not know how best they would take care of me if I returned. I stayed back with other students and we had a happy time together. I learned how to do home chores; clean utensils, do laundry and I even helped to prepare meals. I remember Ms. Rosemary usually connects us to church some Sundays online with many people in the United Kingdom. It is good to have new friends in other countries. I am very happy that these friends give us gifts, food, books to read, clothes and others. I thank them. I hope one day they will come and visit us.”

On this special occasion, we offer our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your invaluable support and we invite you to visit us physically someday to see firsthand the wonderful work you are doing in us. As we prepare to close off for holiday term one, we invite you every Friday and Saturday to join a live link with us over Zoom, for a chat and to see what is happening here.

May your dedication and compassion continue to shine brightly, illuminating the path for countless others in need.

Happy 61st anniversary, St John's Church! May your legacy of kindness and generosity endure for generations to come.

Thank you and God Bless you.



Calendar of Events

JULY

Sunday 14	11:00am	Worship led by Alison Bond
Tuesday 16	7:45pm	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday 17	8:00pm	Fellowship: Desert Island Discs with Roz Douglas – hosted by David Porter (in sanctuary & via Zoom)
Saturday 20	10:00am	Community Garden
Sunday 21	11:00am	Worship led by Tony Alderman
Monday 22	8:30pm	Joint Men/Women Evening at <i>The Railway Bell</i>
Sunday 28	11:00am	Worship led by Elders, with URC Sermon video
Wednesday 31	11:00am	Women's Group for coffee/lunch at <i>Huddles Caffe</i> , 224 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SZ (Please note change of venue)

AUGUST

Saturday 3	10:00am	Community Garden
Sunday 4	11:00am	Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Sarah Beaumont
Sunday 11	11:00am	Worship led by Rev'd Malcolm Drummond
Wednesday 14	8:30pm	Men's Group at <i>The Railway Bell</i>
Saturday 17	10:00am 1:30pm	Community Garden Fellowship Garden Party in St John's Community Garden/large hall
Sunday 18	11:00am	Worship led by David Paul and Richard Harvey
Sunday 25	11:00am	Worship led by Rev'd Simon Aley
Tuesday 27	11:00am	Women's Group for coffee/lunch at <i>Whetstone Coffee</i> (formerly Agust Café), 1289 High Road, N20 9HS
Saturday 31	10:00am	Community Garden

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1	11:00am	Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Tony Alderman
Sunday 8	11:00am	Worship led by Paul Elsdon

Mainly Music begins again on Thursday 12 September at 9:30am



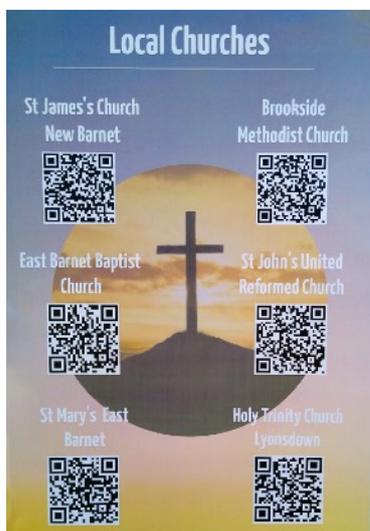
Thanks for flowers:
Pauline Wishart 19th May
Hugh Martin 2nd June
Jean Davies 23rd June



Local churches at East Barnet Festival

On Saturday 29 June, volunteers from St John's joined our friends from other local churches in New and East Barnet to have a presence at the East Barnet Festival, at one end of the Tea Tent.

As well as offering a soft play area for young children, there were a range of free craft activities available which the children seemed to really enjoy, including biscuit decorating, making origami hearts, butterfly crowns and colouring and sticking options.



There was also an opportunity for anyone to share their concerns in a designated prayer corner. The event was well supported by all the clergy and volunteers who came to help and was a very visible Christian presence, to demonstrate to the community how the local churches could happily work together. Thank you to all the volunteers from St John's who came to support this outreach to the community.

Alison Bond & Valerie Mills

This is Maude!

Many of you have seen her around the church premises, she particularly enjoys coming into the church or the church hall when it's cold or wet outside. She is such a friendly animal, and has many admirers at St John's. She wears a collar tag with her owner's number on it, it also has the message "Not lost. I like exploring. Mum knows." So please don't worry that she is lost, but if she has been around and you are tidying up, make sure she doesn't get locked in. Please don't feed her, she has the right things to eat at home (a drink of water would be fine).

Editors

