

Nov-Dec  
2022

**St John's**  
United Reformed Church

# Record

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

## Farewell, Partners!

**T**his will be my final letter as Minister, as I have been appointed Training and Development Officer for the Thames North Synod area of the United Reformed Church. The Synod is made up of 118 Churches, of which St John's Church is one, in an area extending from the Thames north to northern Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, east to Upminster in Essex, and west to Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire. I was inducted as part-time Training and Development Officer at the meeting of Synod



held at Upper Clapton United Reformed Church on 22 October. The brief of the post is to provide training and development to Ministers, Local Church Leaders, Lay Preachers, Church-Related Community Workers, Elders, and Congregations, which will equip them with the skills necessary to deliver Synod and local mission objectives. That probably sounds like an impossible task, even with the help of God's grace! Thankfully, I will not be expected to deliver this on my own but in partnership with a team of educators and mentors. All the same, the administration and communication involved will take some getting-to-grips with. I will go full-time as Training and Development Officer in early 2023, which means I must step down as Minister of St John's Church, and my final Sunday will be 1 January 2023.

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### Trusting God by:

- Walking the way of Jesus
- Putting faith into practice
- Valuing all people equally

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This, I believe, is what we are called to be: God's *partners*. Jesus once said to his disciples: "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:15) This is a very significant statement, because Jesus is deliberately rejecting hierarchy and embracing equality with his disciples: henceforth they are to be partners in God's mission. This partnership is not only on the human level; it is also partnership with God. "It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose." (Philippians 2:13) The astonishing truth that the Apostle Paul affirms here is that God—in all his almightiness—chooses to work in and with us as partners to fulfil his good purpose for Creation.

In the first instance, God does not need people who are especially capable or confident; he needs people who are *willing*: willing to work with him. Whenever we pray, worship, serve or witness, we show our willingness to work with God. In the ministerial vacancy that lies ahead of St John's Church, the Elders will need your willingness to work with them in partnership. Through their appeals for help, you may sense that God is calling you to take on a task or role for which you feel ill-equipped. If so, remember the Angel Gabriel's reassurance to Mary: "nothing is impossible for God!" (Luke 1:37) What is required is not faith in oneself but faith in God. If you have learned anything from me, I hope you have learned that when we look first to God, all things necessary will be supplied.

Thank you for making these past 12-13 years some of the happiest of my ministry, and for supporting Laura and me during some recent challenges.

Julian Templeton

It has been a privilege to have served as part-time Interim Minister since 2009, and half-time Minister since 2010. Early on I realised that Elders who knew each other well enough to tease one another during Elders' Meetings indicated a Church deeply rooted in Christian friendship, in which humour and genuine caring co-exist harmoniously. Serving half-time, latterly alongside my part-time PhD study, has meant that I have had to work in partnership with Elders and Members to deliver worship and ministry. Both I and the Church are blessed to have so many of you who willingly give your time and talents to serve as God's partners.

Please join us as we bid farewell to  
**Julian and Laura**  
**Sunday 1 January 2023**

Julian will lead worship for the last time as our minister at St John's at 11am, and this will include the sacrament of Holy Communion. After this, lunch will be provided from 12.30pm in the Large Hall.

We shall then thank them for their Ministry at St John's, for Julian's contribution to the North London Local Area Group, and wish them well for the next chapter in their lives.

Please let Marjorie O'Connor know if you are able to join us for this special occasion.

[marjorie.oconnor@btinternet.com](mailto:marjorie.oconnor@btinternet.com) or 020 8445 6580



# The Wonderful 'Creative Creation' weekend

## 24 and 25 September

It was very good to meet our friends from two other churches and from a number of other local community groups. The theme was the 'Seven Days of Creation' being based on 'Genesis', the first book in the Bible which starts with the words: *'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.'* This means that the creation was not an accident and was created for a purpose. This includes everything within its remit, including flowers, fruit and vegetables as well as animals and humans. This diversity was reflected within the exhibits on show during the weekend and photos of some are recorded here.

Many visitors to the exhibits commented that the displays were: *'Artistic', 'imaginative' and 'inspiring.'* I am not an expert on anything, but to me it is clear that flower arranging is now definitely an art form as revealed in the wide range of interpretations of the theme.



The groups that provided the displays included four churches:-

St John the Baptist, High Barnet

St Mary's, East Barnet

Brookside Methodist Church, East Barnet  
and friends here at St Johns.

In addition, there were exhibits from:-

New Barnet Floral Art Society

The Flower Bank

Age UK

Incredible Edible and  
The Community Garden



A steady stream of visitors came into the church to view the displays, with most attending on Saturday. We were entertained on both afternoons with music performed by Richard Harvey (organ) on Saturday and Kathy Gilbert (piano) and her friend Jane (violin) on the Sunday. The atmosphere during the musical performances was rather like a Paris Salon in the 19th Century – quiet, with people listening attentively to a variety of beautiful live music. Thank you to the performers.

Many St. John's people contributed to the refreshments available throughout the afternoons. There were delicious home-made cakes, scones and biscuits as well as teas and fresh coffee, served with welcoming smiles, all of which added to the enjoyment of the days. Thank you to all volunteers involved

On Sunday, for the morning service, we were joined by friends from Brookside Methodists and St. Mary's C of E churches – both located in East Barnet. We had the privilege of having a combined choir, formed by these churches, who led the singing and performed an anthem: 'Look at the World' by John Rutter. They were conducted by Alan Danson from St. Mary's, with accompaniment by Richard Harvey. The singing was beautiful and uplifting which left many of us hoping that this enhanced choir will sing again for us in the near future. Thank you for the music.

Rosemary joined us live from the Good Samaritan School for Deaf Children in Kampala (GSS) and spoke about the need for rain on the School's crops which they grow and depend upon within their diet. The school has to buy additional food, the price of which is increasing with weekly inflation. This costs them about £750 each month as the school provides the children's food since they live at the school during term time. (For some, the school is their permanent home.)

Some of the children performed perfectly the Genesis Creation account using signing, with a 'voice over', which elicited spontaneous applause when they finished. We were very pleased to send to the School a donation of



£665 towards their food, which visitors contributed during the two days. (The appeal for money to provide their food is still open - See \* below.) Thanks to all who donated and to GSS for sharing in the service – your pupils are brilliant!

The talk was delivered by Sarah Edwards who is a member of Green Christian Barnet as well as being the Director of the charity the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility. (Their website is: [www.eccr.org](http://www.eccr.org)) Sarah's talk was on the theme 'The Hope of Creation'. She said that God's ultimate restoration of all things is our eternal hope, but in the mean-time we are called to live lives of hope, including taking action, which includes-

- praying
- taking action in our lives - including with our finances,
- with our voices - including holding to account the government, companies, banks etc.
- This is a challenging message for all of us and we are aware of a number of Christians supporting quiet action such as those organised by the Green Christian group. Others take direct action, e.g. Christian Climate Action which is supported by people of all ages. Thank you, Sarah for your talk.

The technology worked smoothly and thanks to the team in charge of it, the congregation was treated to a live conversation with Rosemary in Kitengesa and to the recording of the children signing the Genesis text. And all with hardly a break between the items! Thanks to Ron, Paul and the rest of the team.

The service was led by Julian and prayers were offered by David Paul and Alec Corio, the Rector of St. Marys Church. The service was planned by members of the Green Christian Barnet group. Afterwards, during the refreshment time, it was good to meet-up with old friends. A number of people commented that they enjoyed this ecumenical service and that they hope that similar ones will take place in the future - to which this reporter says 'Amen'.

We give thanks to the Lord for the creation and for the opportunity to realise the magnitude of this gift to humanity.

\* The School relies on donations for 99.99% of its funding to survive and there is no spare cash to buy the rest of the food that the children need. Please see their website for further details:

[www.goodsamaritanschoolforthedeaf.com](http://www.goodsamaritanschoolforthedeaf.com).

Written by Tony Shepherd.  
Photos by Roz Douglas.

## Pressing matters for the Mayor of Barnet



**B**arnet Mayor, Councillor Alison Moore joined in and helped to press surplus apples at an event outside St Johns United Reformed Church in Mowbray Road, New Barnet. Organised by the church and by Incredible Edible Barnet the free apple pressing event attracted more than 50 people who brought their apples to be juiced. The pulp will be used for compost.

Pictures show the Mayor assisted by Thomas aged 7 and by the Reverend Julian Templeton. The event took



place on Saturday morning 01 October and was printed in the *Barnet Borough Times*.

Roz Douglas

## Green Christian Barnet

**S**arah says: 'If anyone would like more details for the JustMoney conference on Sat 19th Nov, these are all here:

[JustMoney Conference Tickets, Sat 19 Nov 2022 at 11:00 | Eventbrite](#) – we have a few places left and it would be great to see some of you there – plus please do keep us in your prayers!

Because of other competing events between now and Christmas, we are not able to have a Green Christian Barnet event yet. We will have to wait until early 2023, which will give us more time to plan our programme.

In the meantime, we hope to see you at one or more of the other activities which were listed for you on the mail sent yesterday.

And best wishes to Sarah as she plans the JustMoney conference on the 19th, noted above.

Tony Shepherd

## Free online courses from the Field Studies Council Barnet Society

Identifying distinctive butterflies and moths (online) - until 30 November

This free online courses from the Field Studies Council could be just the ticket to fill your upcoming rainy days learning more about the most distinctive and commonly seen butterflies and moths in our gardens.

You even get an e-certificate when you complete each course.

Book for [butterflies](#), [moths](#), (or both).

## Winter Shelter News November 2022

**A**fter a hiatus of 2 years the peripatetic Winter Night Shelter is back and St John's and St. Peter's are again working together to host the Saturday nights during November and December.

Together In Barnet, who organise and coordinate the venues, and Homeless Action in Barnet, who vet and refer the guests, recognise that this feels like a backwards step after the previous 2 winters during which guests were housed in basic hotel accommodation, and communities such as ours provided meals. The local council funded this venture as everyone, including the homeless, had to stay indoors. Unfortunately, there are no grants for this to continue this year and TIB have been unable to find a single venue so that the guests and all their bedding did not have to be moved every day.

After a break of 2 years we were not sure how many

volunteers would still be able to offer their services so we only agreed to host 6 weeks rather than the 12 weeks we have offered in the past. Thankfully we have been able to fill all the rota positions with the help of a few new friends to work along with our loyal volunteer band. The guest numbers are quite low to start with but HAB is sure they will increase as the winter progresses. East Barnet Baptist Church will work with St Mary's in East Barnet to host the Saturday nights following our 6 weeks.

We'd like to thank the whole congregation at St John's and St Peter's for your continuing support of this venture. Although you may no longer be able to offer your services directly your prayers and support are equally valuable and so much appreciated by our guests.

Lesley Calder and Eileen Brandrick

### Gift Service Sunday 11 December 2022

Gifts will be received at the service for the New Citizens Gateway. Newly arrived refugee families are staying in four hotels in Barnet and they would be grateful for the following items which should be unwrapped: -

- Toys for children
- Notebooks and pencils for adults and children
- Gloves, hats, scarves, socks and underwear for adults and children

### Why go to Church?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

I've gone for 30 years and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. For the life of me, I cannot remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the ministers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.

This started a lively exchange in the 'Letters to the Editor' column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this letter:

I've been married for 30 years. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. For the life of me, I cannot remember an entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to work. If my wife had not provided these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today.

Thank God for our physical and spiritual nourishment!

By Lawther Murchison, submitted by Hugh Martin

# News from the Good Samaritan School for the Deaf Kitengesa, Uganda

## Learning while having fun

**T**here was a very busy day ahead and an early start was essential. It was the 22 July, 2022, and getting up early at 3-00 a.m. on this Friday, was the order of the day. The children were off to Kampala which involved a 140 km drive from the School, which would take three hours. It was at the end of term and they were going to make the most of this 'educational visit, looking for some fun - as well as a positive learning experience,' - to quote Rosemary, the School's Director.

The aim was to squeeze-in visits to the Uganda National Museum, Entebbe International Airport and Entebbe Zoo – otherwise known as the 'Uganda Wildlife Education Centre'. The children also had time to enjoy the rides and fun facilities at the zoo which included a dip in the swimming pool.

The teachers and other staff all joined-in the visits and could have time out of the classroom relaxing a little as they kept an eye on the children. Some of the older students from the Vocational Group, also took part, together with Scovia, the founder of the school.

The children learnt and experienced a lot on these visits and their two busses got back to the school by 8-00 pm after a long and enjoyable day. Later,



### Children teaching parents some sign language skills

during their English classes, the pupils wrote stories based upon their visits.

The school depends upon donations to survive and we need just over £8,000 to meet our target for this term. Please see the note below this article.

About 24 parents visited the school, on 22<sup>nd</sup> October to see the children at work and play and enjoyed drama presentations which were about both the Creation story (Gen. 1), the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38) and Moses (Exod. 2) They also had prayers, remembering especially the Year Six group who are taking the National Exams on the 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> of November.

Some of the older children spent time teaching the parents some sign language skills which they hope will be useful in the future. The visitors saw how the children are fully involved in growing vegetables, helping to clean the building and supporting each other – For example, Justine in year 6, is physically disabled as well as deaf but, although remarkably independent, she still gets support from the others. We hope to raise money to buy a wheelchair to assist Justine in getting around.

This school has the feel of 'a family' which is



**Drama presentation about the Creation story**



especially important for those children for whom it is their only home. The parents saw this community at work and play and were impressed with what they witnessed. Rosemary told them about your past support which has enabled the school to survive. Your help for these children is still needed please and one way is through the current appeal

which aims to raise a further £8,000 towards their running costs. Every pound counts. We would be happy to give you further details about supporting them, e.g. if you do not use a computer. Please contact us with questions and suggestions and do look at [www.goodsamaritanschoolforthe deaf.com](http://www.goodsamaritanschoolforthe deaf.com)

Please pray for the School – for its survival and blessing from the Lord as it seeks to help these children and teens. Your prayers and support are vital and much appreciated. Thank you.

Rosemary Nakasiita ([rosemary.nakasiita2@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.nakasiita2@gmail.com)) and  
Tony Shepherd (Phone: 07901 757 960).



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## Memorial Sunday, 6 November 2022

With sadness and fondness, those who gathered in person and online for worship on 6 November remembered Members and Friends who have died in the year past, observed a minute silence, and commended to God in prayer:

### **Members**

May Masters  
Sheila Robins  
Joan Coombes  
Malcolm Bye (whose funeral will take place on 23 November, 11am)

### **Friends and former Members**

Jon Finlayson  
Derrick Southall  
Maureen Murphy

### **Friends**

Tony Mulchansingh  
Roy Sandford

### **Friends from the Goodwin Court and HFT communities who attended Causeway**

Sheila Richardson  
Matthew Faherty  
Billy Christie  
**Betty Fanning's brother**

Bill Roberts, whose funeral took place in Cumbria

# **St John's Church celebrates the United Reformed Church's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



On Sunday 2 October those who gathered for worship were given the opportunity to give thanks to God for the vision and commitment of the Congregational Church in England and Wales, and the Presbyterian Church of England, who came together to become the United Reformed Church on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1972. Subsequently, the Re-formed Association of the Churches of Christ in 1981, and the Congregational Union of Scotland in 2000, also united with the URC. It was important that we were able to celebrate on 2 October, because the national celebration of the anniversary that was to take place the day before at Methodist Central Hall Westminster had to be postponed due to a train drivers' strike.



**St John's**  
United Reformed Church

## **Messiah & Carols**

**St John's URC Fellowship are Proud to Present**

### **A Christmas Concert with The Fleet Singers**

**Including soloists and organ accompaniment**  
Conductor: Phil Wilcox    Accompanist: Philip Godfrey

**This joyful programme includes movements from Handel's Messiah, interspersed with traditional carols.**

The Fleet Singers are a community choir based in Hampstead, with a history of performances, including Handel's Messiah at St Pancras Church, the Chorus festival at the Southbank and numerous local community events.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7.30    Tickets £10.00 inc refreshments  
St John's URC Church - Mowbray Rd, New Barnet EN5 1RH

Tickets = Marjorie O'Connor 07515910514 or Sue Taylor 07551405465

## Calendar of Events

<b>Nov</b>		
Sunday 13	10:00am	Civic Act of Remembrance, War Memorial, junction of Station & Lyonsdown Rds
	<b>10:45am</b>	Remembrance Sunday Worship led by Alison Bond
Tuesday 15	8:00pm	Chipping Barnet foodbank AGM
Wed 16	8:00pm	Fellowship: Humour in Literature by Nick Dobson
Thurs 17	9:30am	Mainly Music
Friday 18	4:00pm	Messy Church, Large Hall
Sunday 20	11:00am	Shorter Worship led by Julian Templeton followed by <b>Church Meeting</b>
Wed 23	11:00am	Malcolm Bye's Funeral Service
Thurs 24	9:30am	Mainly Music
Sunday 27	11:00am	<b>Advent 1</b> Worship led by Valerie and Andrew Mills
<b>Dec</b>		
Thursday 1	9:30am	Mainly Music
Sunday 4	11:00am	Advent 2 Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton What do we believe about the future?' discussion via Zoom led by Julian.
Tuesday 6	8:00pm	Templeton
Thursday 8	9:30am	Mainly Music
Sunday 11	11:00am	<b>Advent 3</b> Gift Sunday Worship led by Roz Douglas
Tuesday 13	7:45pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs 15	9:30am	Mainly Music
Friday 16	7:30pm	Fellowship Christmas Concert with The Fleet Singers
Sunday 18	11:00am	<b>Advent 4</b> Worship led by Julian Templeton
	6:00pm	<b>Carol Service with Choir</b> , led by Julian Templeton
Sunday 25	10:30am	<b>Christmas Day Carol Service</b> led by Julian Templeton
<b>Jan</b>		
Sunday 1	11:00am	Christmas 2 Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton
	<b>12:30pm</b>	<b>Farewell Lunch for Julian and Laura</b>
Sunday 8	11:00am	Epiphany 1 Worship led by Paul Elsdon
Tuesday 10	7:45pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs 12	9:30am	Mainly Music
Sunday 15	11:00am	Worship led by Helen Snider and Andrew Summers

*The Together in Barnet Night Shelter is being hosted on Saturday evenings through to Sunday mornings in St John's halls up to 10-11 December.*