

May &  
June  
2014

# St John's Record

United Reformed Church

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

## Do you recognise this man?

**R**ob Mills was a great assistant to the all age address on Easter Day. Julian had been wondering why Mary did not recognise Jesus after he had risen from the tomb. He was aware that after he had shed the cloths his body had been wrapped in, there would be no clothing available for Jesus to wear – except perhaps the gardener's! So, Rob was duly disguised as a gardener and of course, no-one recognised him until he called out Julian's name. Aha, the voice was familiar, and so a mystery was solved! Thank you for bringing this story to life.



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**Website** [www.stjohnsnewbarnet.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsnewbarnet.org.uk)  
**Minister** Julian Templeton, on Sabbatical and Holiday until September  
**Secretary** Tony Alderman, Tel. 020 8441 4807, Email. [aldermantony@aol.com](mailto:aldermantony@aol.com)  
**Administrator** Alison Cousins, Tel. 07816 115 817, Email. [acousins.sjnb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:acousins.sjnb@hotmail.co.uk)



# What is the Spirit saying to the Church?

“ Jesus said, ‘Whoever drinks the water that I will give will never be thirsty again . . . [it] will be a spring of water within, welling up and bringing eternal life.’ ”

John 4:14

In the interaction that Jesus has with the Samaritan woman at the well, cited above, Jesus moves the conversation from physical to spiritual thirst. Using water as a metaphor for the Holy Spirit, he acknowledges that one's physical thirst, like other physical needs and appetites, requires regular quenching and satisfying. But if we wish to satisfy our spiritual thirst, we need to go to Jesus who gives 'living water', by which is meant: 'God's Spirit'. We can survive on the physical and material level of life; but if we want really to 'live'—if we want more than merely to survive the relentless demands and pace of contemporary life—we must open ourselves to be indwelt by God's Spirit, which, in turn, opens us outward to others.

Much contemporary 'spirituality' seems to pursue either 'self fulfillment' or 'finding happiness by being good'. The problem with these approaches is that fulfillment and happiness are very elusive when pursued directly; they tend to come to us unbidden when we pursue worthwhile activities. Jesus responds to the Samaritan woman's request for fulfillment through obtaining 'living water' by first asking about her significant relationships ('Go and fetch your husband' 4:16) and second by challenging her practice of worship: "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth" (4:24). I know from personal experience that my significant relationships can help, or hinder, my pursuit of faith. I know that when I have experienced worship as more than merely 'going through the motions' it is because I have been expectant and open to meeting God.

The General Assembly of the United Reformed

Church—which is a meeting of representatives from local churches throughout England, Scotland, and Wales—will meet in Cardiff in early July. All the reports are already available online (see [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)). The Faith and Order Committee has produced a report entitled: *What is the Spirit saying to the Churches? Affirming the United Reformed Church's future*. In it the authors acknowledge the "gradual decline and contraction" that has been an undeniable feature of the United Reformed Church's life, and the "sense of despair and negativity that afflicts organizations which feel they are in decline, leading to helplessness and hopelessness." This can inadvertently become a downward spiral and self-fulfilling prophecy. In response to this, the authors issue the challenge to find a "focus on the joy of life in Christ, the energy the Holy Spirit offers, and the vision of what God holds in front of us."

Nearly all voluntary organizations have experienced a falling-off of interest and membership. This does not surprise me at all. Those who are in work have to work twice as hard. Those out of work or retired from work can easily while away the hours mesmerized by the glow of an electronic screen. If a church is to attract some of the limited time that people are willing to give, it has to have a vision from God for its locality that excites people, energy from the Spirit that inspires people, and a joy in Christ that attracts people. When I return from my sabbatical in September, I look forward to working with you to articulate that vision, to find that energy, and to release that joy.

Julian Templeton

## Sabbatical

Laura and Julian will be taking a sabbatical and holiday from the beginning of May to the end of August. During this period, for pastoral matters, contact your Elder or the Church Secretary, Tony Alderman, email: [aldermantony@aol.com](mailto:aldermantony@aol.com) Tel: 020 8441 4807. For Administrative matters, contact the Administrator, Alison Cousins, email: [acousins.sjnb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:acousins.sjnb@hotmail.co.uk) Tel: 0781 611 5817.

## Church Record

The July/August edition of the Church Record will be edited by Paul Elsdon, and the deadline for contributions to Alison Cousins (contact details on front page) is 27th June.

# St John's Quiz

## 26 April

**60** people gathered in St John's Large Hall for an 8-round quiz, entertainingly quizzed by David Porter. The variety of rounds and questions kept us all engaged or guessing or stumped. One round was about Barnet, where the long-term locals and amateur historians shone. Another round on entertainment allowed the young people to show their superior knowledge of up-to-the-minute popular music. Another round on things 'fourth or 4th' landed the Minister in the embarrassing position of forgetting the 4th Commandment! (I thought it was 'Do not take the Lord's name in vain'; in fact it was 'Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy'). There was only one slightly awkward moment—seamlessly finessed by the Quizmaster—when the Fish and Chips seemed like they would never arrive. We discovered that the deliveryman from Popeye's was trying to deliver them to St Peter's Church! Fortunately Malcolm and Sue Bye re-directed him to the right place and we tucked into them with relish. There was another round on 'Marys', after which the running total of scores was still very close. The decider turned out to be the 'Marathon Round' in which each table had a go at recognising the three-letter vehicle number-plate code for each country in Europe. There were obviously some very well travelled people present, or some assiduous number-plate spotters, since most of the codes were correctly identified. The results? Well, the Snider/Ridley/East Finchley table won—again—but not by very much; and at least one table hopes we will hold another Quiz in order to play their 'Joker' to better effect! £250 was raised for Church funds. Thank you to all who put your time and energy into making this a very enjoyable evening.

Julian Templeton



**You are invited to a coffee morning on**

**Saturday 21st June**

**10.30am – 12 noon Free admission**



There will be no admission charge on this occasion, but a donation plate for the North London Hospice & church funds will be left by the entrance door. Table stalls around the hall will give the opportunity to purchase items to support both national & local charities.

**Please tell your friends and come and support this event.**

David Paul

# Give People a Future without Fear 11-17 May 2014



**War tears lives apart. Love can help piece them back together. For a growing number of people across the world, the horror of war is part of daily life.**

**R**ight now, fuelled by the devastating violence in both Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the numbers of people driven from their homes by war is on the rise. It stands at 42 million people – an appalling statistic and a stain on the conscience of humanity. The good news is that we can make a real difference.

Last year, a magnificent 20,000 churches across the country helped raise over £12m for Christian Aid Week. This year we want to go even further by encouraging every church in Britain and Ireland to get involved – whether by giving, acting or praying. Together we can send people living in fear this message: you are not alone. We're with you, helping you to rebuild your lives, and working for peace. Imagine what such an expression of love would mean to people searching for the strength to cope with the devastation of war, and how it could help to drive out their fear.

In 2013, the volunteers from St. John's helped raise £1,621 from the house-to-house collection along local roads. This wonderful result, was only made possible through the willingness of a large number of people to give some of their time to support Christian Aid. We have several loyal supporters who help every year, but we are always ready to welcome new people to ensure that we can still cover all our allocated roads.

So, if you can spare just a little time to help with any (or even all!) of the following, do please speak to me as soon as possible:

- Delivering envelopes between Friday, 9 May & Sunday, 11 May;
- Collecting envelopes between Monday 12 May & Saturday 17 May;
- Being part of the 'Counting Team' on Sunday evening, 18 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.

Christian Aid Week is a real opportunity to go out and put our faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. Being part of Britain's largest house-to-house collection is an extraordinary act of witness, demonstrating to our communities that we care about poverty and justice. For more information, have a look at: [www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org).

**Could you provide the gift of hope? Be an instrument of God's peace. Give, act and pray this Christian Aid Week.**



Alison Bond (020 8440 1941)

## Audrey Bond R.I.P

Malcolm and Graham and their family would like to thank everyone at St John's most sincerely for the expressions of sympathy received in the past few weeks. The support and kindness shown at this time has been a source of great comfort and is very much appreciated. We were also very grateful to Julian who was able to lead the service at Chilterns Crematorium.

# Revised Common Lectionary **May – June 2014**

- 4 May – Easter 3** Acts 2:14a, 36-41 and Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 *or* Isaiah 51:1-6 and Psalm 34:1-10;  
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
- 11 May – Easter 4** Acts 2:42-47 and Psalm 23 *or* Ezekiel 34:7-15 and Psalm 100; 1 Peter 2:19-25;  
John 10:1-10
- 18 May – Easter 5** Acts 7:55-60 and Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 *or* Proverbs 4:10-18 and Psalm 119:9-32;  
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- 25 May – Easter 6** Acts 17:22-31 and Psalm 66:8-20 *or* Ezekiel 43:1-7a and Psalm 115; 1 Peter 3:13-22;  
John 14:15-21
- 1 June – Easter 7** Acts 1:6-14 and Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 *or* Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalm 21:1-7;  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
- 8 June – Pentecost** Acts 1:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23
- 15 June – Trinity** Genesis 1:1-2, 4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
- 22 June – Proper 7** Genesis 21:8-21 and Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 *or* Jeremiah 20:7-13 and Psalm 69:7-18;  
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39
- 29 June – Proper 8** Genesis 22:1-14 and Psalm 13 *or* Jeremiah 28:5-9 and Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;  
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42
- 6 July – Proper 9** Genesis 24:34-38, 24-29, 58-67 and Psalm 45:10-17 *or* Zechariah 9:9-12 and  
Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Thanks go to all the ladies who, on Easter Day, provided the most amazing flower arrangements I have ever seen. Here are photos of just a few of them.



# Calendar

## May 2014

<b>May</b>	Thursday 1st	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry	<b>May</b>
	Sunday 4th	11:00am	Worship - Led by Tony Alderman & David Paul	
	Monday 5th		Early May Bank Holiday	
			Minister on Sabbatical Leave until 31st Aug	
	Wednesday 7th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		7:00pm	Nosh & Natter at 10 Leicester Road	
	Thursday 8th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry	
	Sunday 11th		Christian Aid Week - STARTS	
		10:30am	Messy Church	
		11:00am	Worship - Led by Rev. Roger Orme	
		8:00pm	Soul Food	
	Monday 12th		Christian Aid Week - 11th - 17th	
	Tuesday 13th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting	
	Wednesday 14th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Thursday 15th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry	
	Sunday 18th	11:00am	Worship - Led by Helen Snider & Andrew Summers	
	Tuesday 20th	7:30pm	Area Forum, Christ Church, New Southgate and Friern Barnet	
	Wednesday 21st	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		8:00pm	Fellowship - Musical Evening with Sylvia & Philip Stewart	
	Thursday 22nd	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry	
	Sunday 25th	11:00am	Worship - Led by Richard Harvey & Brenda Sandford	
		3:00pm	Causeway	
	Monday 26th		Spring Bank Holiday	
	Tuesday 27th		Half Term Holiday LBB Schools - This Week	
	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park		
	8:30pm	Men's Group		
Thursday 29th		Ascension Day		
	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon - Vestry		
Saturday 31st		Working Party - TBC		

# Calendar

## June – July 2014

June	Sunday 1st	11:00am	Worship – Led by Revd Dr Keith Riglin	June
	Wednesday 4th	7:00pm	Nosh & Natter at 10 Leicester Road	
	Thursday 5th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon – Vestry	
	Sunday 8th		Pentecost Sunday	
		11:00am	Worship – Led by Allan Down	
		8:00pm	Soul Food	
	Tuesday 10th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting	
	Thursday 12th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon – Vestry	
	Saturday 14th	1:00pm	Fellowship Outing to Jordan's Mill	
	Sunday 15th		Trinity Sunday & Fathers Day	
		10:30am	Messy Church	
		11:00am	Worship – Led by Revd Derek Lindfield	
	Wednesday 18th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		8:00pm	No Fellowship – See 14 June	
	Thursday 19th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon – Vestry	
	Saturday 21st	10:30am	Coffee Morning – Large Hall	
	Sunday 22nd	11:00am	Worship – Led by Revd Roger Orme	
	Tuesday 24th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	
	Wednesday 25th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Thursday 26th	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon – Vestry	
Friday 27th	11:55pm	Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record		
July	Sunday 29th	11:00am	Worship – Led by Alison Bond	July
		3:00pm	Causeway	
	Monday 30th	8:30pm	Men's Group	
	Wednesday 2nd	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		7:00pm	Nosh & Natter at 10 Leicester Road	
	Thursday 3rd	12:00pm	Prayer at Noon – TBC	
	Sunday 6th	11:00am	Worship	
Tuesday 8th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting		

# New Church Signage

The Church Meeting in March was shown mock-up images of some new signs that could give passers by a better impression of our building and congregation. This is part of the ongoing 'Fit for Purpose' discussions we've been having. Below are three proposed signs that use our new logo and that gained the support of those present at the meeting. Some suggestions were noted about

lightening the colour in the logo triangle and putting an additional "Church and Hall" sign with arrows on the Mowbray Road sign. Before ordering these proposed signs, it was suggested that we should include them here so that members who were not present at the church meeting

could express their views. Please let Andrew Mills have your comments by 18 May, email: [andrewmills134@gmail.com](mailto:andrewmills134@gmail.com) tel: 020 8449 5018.





# St John's member Dorothy Start leads latest Age UK campaign 'Love later life'

**H**ow many of us will have a new starring role at the age of nearly a hundred? Dorothy Start, 97, a member of St John's is doing just that as part of the latest Age UK national fundraising campaign called 'Love Later Life'.

Dorothy's photos and interviews are featured on the Age UK website and she also appears in Age UK's TV adverts and poster campaigns. Dorothy was asked to take part in the campaign by a friend and commenting on her late 'stardom' as a poster girl for Age UK, Dorothy says: "My advice to everyone is 'Seize the day'. I don't mind being an advert for somebody who gets on with their life."

This is something which, even at 97 years old, Dorothy definitely still does. Recent trips abroad even as far as the United States, and the trip from her home in North London across the capital to a photographic studio in East London, where the Age UK photos were taken, hold no fears for her.

So what are Dorothy's secrets for a long and happy life? She recommends joining organisations and keeping active. She says: "I've always belonged to a lot of organisations. My husband was a Rotarian and I've been in Inner Wheel for 50 years. As well as going to church all my life, I've run Girl Guides, and I've done Scottish dancing for the past 60 years. I would recommend this to anyone who can do it. It's good for your head. I think that's why I've got a good memory. It's also good for your bones."

"I think you have to accept what you have and keep cheerful. The people who are the loneliest are the people who are always moaning and groaning about things and they don't join any groups. As for young people, I think so long as you keep cheerful, they don't mind. I've never felt any handicap being old and being with younger people and I'm with younger people all the time."

Dorothy is the oldest member of the congregation of St John's United Reformed Church, Somerset Road, New Barnet. The Rev. Julian Templeton, minister of St John's New Barnet says: "Dorothy is a remarkable person, an inspiration to us all. We are so glad that her vitality and zest for life has been recognised as part of the Age UK Campaign."

In the next column we have Dorothy's own account of her day at the studio and how she first saw herself on ITV as part of Age UK's latest advertising campaign.

**Roz Douglas**



## My day at the Photographic studio

Because I had been in contact with Age Concern, Barnet, through their Befriending Service, I was asked if I would take part in a survey of older people. Thus I found myself one Thursday on the way to Hackney Studios,

Firstly we went into the make-up room where several people were waiting including a lady of 100. As everyone had to look alike, we were asked to change into a very old grey T-shirt.

Then we went into a series of rooms. The first was a studio with a raised platform with a camera. I was hoisted onto two wooden boxes! (Very glamorous) I was told not to move my head, but to follow the camera with my eyes and told to gradually smile.

In the next two rooms with toe cameras I was told to watch an episode of a play. I chose 'As Time Goes By' with Judi Dench and Geoffrey Palmer. In the next room I was asked to follow a girl's facial expressions. Finally in another room I was interviewed by a gentleman who must have been recording my replies.

At the end of the morning I was offered tea or coffee but nothing to eat and I arrived home at about 3 o'clock not knowing what the outcome of the day would be.

A few weeks later I was phoned and told to watch 'Mr Selfridge' on ITV at 9.25 pm that evening and the rest is history!

**Dorothy Start**

# Fellowship

March Meeting  
**Roz Douglas**

## Can a Free Press Survive in a Digital Age?

**R**oz Morris (Douglas), Elder, Journalist, and Managing Director of TV News London, began her talk by arguing that we are experiencing a digital revolution in news broadcasting and publishing. Whereas we previously accessed news and information and entertainment in the formats that media agencies dictated (print, radio, television); now, via our mobile telephone, electronic tablet, and computer we can both access and publish a huge range of news and information and entertainment.

Whilst this democratising of the media creates many possibilities for consumers, it has thrown up challenges for those who publish news and produce entertainment. Why would we want to buy a newspaper when we can access the same information online for free? *The Times* has gone down the paid subscription route to access its news content; *The Mail* provides it all online and able to be accessed for free by anyone with an Internet device. The Mail Online is apparently one of the most popular news websites in the world; Roz attributes much of this popularity to the amount of celebrity news that it makes available. But if fewer people are paying for news, then how do the people that report and produce the news, journalists and media workers, make a living?

China has for a long time had state media censorship, including the attempt to limit its citizens' access to parts of the Internet, but this is becoming less and less achievable.

In fact, many nations are investing substantially in international news broadcasting. I was astonished to learn that Iran broadcasts worldwide in 30 languages, which rivals the BBC World Service.

Another facet of the digital revolution is the advent of so-called 'social media'. Facebook, Twitter and YouTube—which began as digital conduits by which 'ordinary' people could share news and stories—have quickly become colonised by those attempting to sell things. Producers and retailers are investing huge amounts of money in social media. Twitter has been a boon for celebrities, who use it for self-publicity. However, Roz argued that many of these celebrities are far too busy personally to write the 'tweets' that adoring fans receive on their 'phones and tablets, but get their minions to write the tweets for them.

Roz concluded by issuing a warning about the UK government's attempt to 'regulate' the news media in the wake of the Leveson Inquiry. Roz argued that if journalists are not allowed to report news unhindered, we risk facing a Fascist future. As it happened, a few days after Roz's talk, Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey attempted to switch off Twitter because he did not like some of the comments that were being posted about him. Fortunately, the users of Twitter found a way round this that enabled them to continue posting comments; unfortunately, despite this blatant act of censorship, he was re-elected.

Julian Templeton

## Victim Support Stephen Honeyball

April Meeting

**O**ur Fellowship talk was given by Stephen Honeyball, who spoke about his involvement with Victim Support and how the charity can provide help to people affected by crime either as a victim or as a witness.

The police will refer you to Victim Support if you wish, though you can make contact to obtain confidential support and information by using the Victim SupportLine **0845 30 30 900**, or Text Relay by inserting 18001 before any Victim Support telephone number, or by using the secure website [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk).

Trained staff can provide a listening ear and information to help deal with the criminal justice system, housing department, police or insurance company. Professional advice on crime protection and practical help when fitting

new locks or replacing a window can be provided.

Victim Support is an independent charity that helps over one million victims and witnesses of crime each year across England and Wales. Support is provided for all communities irrespective of the crime they have suffered and regardless of whether the police are involved. Thousands of volunteers give their time to Victim Support – around four volunteers to each paid member of staff.

Following his talk Stephen was thanked for his visit to us, with an apology for the reluctant IT equipment which prevented projection of some of his excellent presentation.

Patricia Picken



**victim support**  
find the strength

# St John's United Reformed Church

## St John's URC Fellowship

Summer Outing  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2104



## Jordans Mill and Gardens

Join us to take a step into history at Jordans Mill, owned by the milling family with a fascinating and surprising history!

Go on a journey back through time in an exciting and engaging way at the visitor attraction where Grand Designs truly meets the Domesday Book!

Tucked away on the banks of the River Ivel near Biggleswade, Jordans Mill is in the heart of rural Bedfordshire, just minutes from the A1.



Address: Holme Mills Langford Road, Broom, Nr Biggleswade, Beds, SG18 9JY

This year's Fellowship outing is to Jordans Mill where we will enjoy a tour of the Mill, and explore the gardens. If that's not enough, you can indulge in afternoon tea in the canal side cafe, whilst watching the wildlife on the water. For the more energetic, there are the Kingfisher walks along the riverside to Biggleswade weir.

**Getting There:** Jordans Mill is 30 miles (approx 45 min) by car from Barnet. There is a free car park along with parking for the disabled (Request when booking)

**Access:** There is good access for wheelchairs to most areas, with a lift between floors when attending the mill tour.

**Starting Time:** We will meet at the Mill at around 1.45 pm, where we have arranged a tour of the mill at 2.00 pm. The tour will last around 50 min. After the tour you will be free to explore the gardens, shop and restaurant.

**Cost:** The cost for the tour is £5.00 (tbc), along with any transport costs you may have. We will collect payments at Jordan's Mill.

**Transport:** When registering for the visit, please indicate if you need transport and we will arrange for a car share.

"Our next meeting will be on 21st May when Sylvia and Philip Stewart are to put on "A Musical Evening" for us. Some of you will remember that Philip was our Church Secretary, before going into the Ministry.

There will be no Evening Meeting in June but our Annual Outing is to Jordan's Mill near Biggleswade. Please let Sue Taylor (old.friend1962@gmail.com) know if you plan to attend so we can let the Mill know the numbers to expect."



# Church growth

where the riches of our traditions meet the mission opportunities of the 21st century

Speaker: **Tim Reith** Synod Mission Enabler

Worship led by **Rev'd Caroline Rogers**

**Tuesday 20 May**  
**7:30 pm**

**Christ Church**  
New Southgate and Friern Barnet  
Friern Barnet Road  
London  
N11 3EP

Car Parking available in church car park and surrounding roads

Buses: 34, 43, 382

Train to New Southgate Station