

Sept – Oct
2015

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

From the Minister

Prayer as Sunbathing

Those of you who came to the Church Garden Party at the Manse will know that, by pure happenstance, we chose the warmest and sunniest day in what was otherwise a rather cloudy and damp August! Perhaps it was this unexpectedly warm weather that brought so many of you out to enjoy the sun and the company. It was interesting to watch the effect of the sunshine on various people. Some revelled in its heat and light; others sought refuge from it under the shade of the apple tree and elsewhere!

Recently on the 'Thought for the Day' slot on Radio 4, Giles Fraser referred to Rowan Williams's idea that prayer is like sunbathing. The point of sunbathing is to expose your skin to the sun's rays. In order to do this, you have to take off your clothing. In other words, if you are to get the benefit of the sun's heat and light, you need to expose your body to it. Once you've exposed your body, that's all there is to it. You're not going to get a better tan by screwing up your eyes and concentrating. You give it time, and that's it.

In similar way, prayer is not so much about how we affect God but about how God affects us. It's not, for instance, just another way of imposing our will on the world. The Lord's Prayer says: "Thy will be done" not 'my will be done'. Prayer is not a matter of presenting God with a shopping list of my demands; prayer is a matter of exposing my needs and demands to the light of God's truth. The real discipline

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Website: www.stjohnsnewbarnet.org.uk **Record Editor:** Laura Templeton
Minister: Julian Templeton, Tel: 020 8441 0499. Email: julian@templeton.me.uk
Secretary: Tony Alderman, Tel: 020 8441 4807. Email: aldermantony@aol.com
Administrator: Alison Cousins, Tel: 07816 115 817. Email: acousins.sjnb@hotmail.co.uk



of prayer, like the whole challenge of the sunbathing metaphor, is how long can we sit exposed to the truth, to the light? Unfortunately, for most of us, the answer to that is probably: not very long at all. While the truth may set us free, the truth can also be profoundly disconcerting.

The truth is often disconcerting and disturbing before it is liberating. For example, once one has accepted that a medical condition is not going to get 'better'; one can then set about deciding how to live with the condition.

A further example, once one has accepted that the hundreds of thousands of African migrants to Europe are not going to be deterred by razor wire; one can begin to plan a constructive pan-European response. Neither of these examples are 'solutions' in any straightforward sense; rather, they are examples of how prayerful exposure to truth can, with time, bring acceptance and a constructive response.

Julian Templeton

Liturgical Colours

A lady in the parish once decided to ensure
That the Church's ritual colours matched the underwear she wore.

And so for Christmas, Easter and the Saints' Days pure and bright
The priest and congregation knew her lingerie was white.
For all the holy Martyr band whose precious blood was shed,
And for the Feast of Pentecost she took the colour red.

In Advent and in Lent the lady competantly strove
To chose the penitential shades of violet, purple and mauve.
Good Friday was a special day and so upon her back
she bore with pride – and some panache – a set of smalls in black.

At other times throughout the year her underwear was seen
To complement the natural world in various shades of green.
At last on Maundy Thursday (your indulgence I'll entreat)
they stripped the church of colours – so this line remains discreet!

Besotted by her underwear the rector always knew
the colour of the church's year – he'd seen them through and through!
They brought a sparkle to his eye, excitement to his life,
But judge him not too harshly friends, the lady was his wife!

A true story?

Two nuns were driving through the countryside when they ran out of petrol. They walked to a nearby farmhouse for help and the kindly farmer said they could syphon some of the petrol from his tractor. However, they could not find anything in which to carry the petrol, until a farmer produced an old chamber pot. The nuns filled the pot with petrol, walked back to the car and began pouring it in. A passing motorist, hardly believing what he saw, stopped and said: "I don't share your religion, but I admire your faith!"

Both these submitted by
Mary Michael

Revised Common Lectionary

- **Sept 6** Mark 7:24-37; James 2:1-17; Psalm 125; Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
- **Sept 13** Mark 8:27-38; James 3:1-12; Ps. 116:1-9 or Ps. 19; Isaiah 50:4-9a or Proverbs 1:1-20
- **Sept 20** Mark 9:30-37; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Ps 54 or Ps 1; Jer. 11:18-20 or Prov. 31:10-31
- **Sept 27** Mark 9:38-50; James 5:13-20; Ps. 19:7-14 or Ps. 124; Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 or Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
- **Oct 4** Mark 10:2-16; Heb. 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Ps. 26 or Ps. 8; Job 1:1, 2:1-10 or Gen. 2:18-24
- **Oct 11** Mark 10:17-31; Heb. 4:12-16; Ps. 22:1-15 or Ps. 90:12-17; Job 23:1-9, 16-17 or Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
- **Oct 18** Mark 10:35-45; Heb. 5:1-10; Ps. 104:1-9, 24, 35c or Ps. 91:9-16; Job 38:1-7 (34-41) or Isaiah 53:4-12;
- **Oct 25** Mark 10:46-52; Heb. 7:23-28; Ps. 34:1-8 or Ps. 126; Job 42:1-6, 10-17 or Jer. 31:7-9
- **Nov 1** (All Saints) John 11:32-44; Revelation 21:1-6a; Psalm 24; Isaiah 25:6-9
- **Nov 8** Mk 12:38-44; Heb. 9:24-28; Ps. 127 or Ps. 146; Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 or 1 Kg. 17:8-16

Revised Common Lectionary

The Horse

Forty years ago today
I had my hour of glory,
and then I went and ruined it,
and this is my sad story.

I once appeared in pantomime,
you may think this is daring,
but I spent my time bent double,
which is extremely wearing.

I was the back legs of a horse,
and though I bore the brunt
I never got promoted to
the half that goes in front.

We both appeared at Christmas,
our dancing did appeal,
but one half did a strathspey
and one half did a reel.

I will not mention who did what,
or who was in the wrong,
but I tried hard to cover up
by bursting into song.

I gave them "Annie Laurie",
and "Auld Lang Syne" of course,
you did not often hear it
from the rear end of a horse.

And then the audience joined in,
they could not stay aloof,
and we all sang "Rule Britannia"
and nearly raised the roof!

The cheers and shouts were
deafening—
it really couldn't fail,
and I bowed modestly behind
and gently swished my tail.

And then I spoiled my triumph,
you'll see just what I mean,
for the horse became a camel
when I stood up for the Queen!

Pat Batt 1921 – 2006
(All Pat's Party Pieces, Vol's 1-5)



Sunday 18 October

5:00 pm

A Participative Celebration of Creation in Psalm 104, led by
Rev'ds Julian Templeton and Ewan King and Musicians



Great is the Lord what tongue can frame
An equal honour to his name?

The Explanation

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much.

People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe. Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full, so also humans take longer to access information when their brains are full. Researchers say this slowing down process is not the same as cognitive decline.

The human brain works slower in old age, says Dr Michael Ramscar, but only because they have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem; it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE!!

submitted by **Gordon Bannerman**

SEPTEMBER	Saturday 5th	10:15 pm	Khasdobir Walk (details below)	SEPTEMBER
	Sunday 6th		Church Record Published	
		11:00 am	Worship - Led by Rev'd Julian Templeton	
	Monday 7th		Nursery School - 1st Day of Term	
	Sunday 13th	11:00 am	Worship - Led by Helen Snider & Andrew Summers	
	Monday 14th	10:30 am	Pastoral Group - Vestry	
	Tuesday 15th	8:00 pm	Elders Meeting	
	Wednesday 16th	4:00 pm	Weds 4 Kids Club - Start of New Sessions	
		8:00 pm	Fellowship - Bees & the Hobby of Beekeeping (details below)	
	Sunday 20th	10:30 am	Messy Church	
		11:00 am	Worship - Led by Rev'd Julian Templeton	
		12.30 pm	Church Meeting	
	Wednesday 23rd	4:00 pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Sunday 27th	11:00 am	Worship - Led by Alison Bond	
		3:00 pm	Causeway Service (details below)	
	Monday 28th	8:30 pm	Men's Group at the Black Horse, Wood Street	
Tuesday 29th	8:00 pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park		
Wednesday 30th	4:00 pm	Weds 4 Kids Club		
OCT	Sunday 4th	11:00 am	HARVEST Communion Service - Led by Rev'd Julian Templeton Followed by shared lunch	OCT
	Monday 5th	2.30 pm	Lord's Prayer Discussion Group - 11 The Fairway	
	Wednesday 7th	4:00 pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	

2015 Khasdobir Walk

Khasdobir Walk. Walk with Quiz in Central London. 3 miles or 5 miles. Bring Packed Lunch. Be sponsored or make a donation towards the Khasdobir Charity. For further details please contact Valerie Mills. **Valerie Mills.**

Fellowship Talks

September Wednesday 16th Bees & the Hobby of Beekeeping. Speaker - Roger Hedgecoe
Barnet & District Beekeeping Society

October Wednesday 16th

Contemporaries of Sherlock Holmes.
Speaker: Gwen Williams

Harvest

Please bring along your donations of tinned and packeted food for Homeless Action in Barnet and the Foodbank

Causeway

Once a month we have a service with adults who have learning difficulties meeting at 3pm on Sundays, usually the last in the month. We begin with refreshments, have time of sharing news, sing together and have a story from the bible or a story with a Christian message. This is followed by colouring or a craft activity and concludes by writing and sharing our prayers for others. For all of us involved, it is a very enriching and rewarding time, as we grow in our faith together.

Calendar October – November 2015

OCTOBER	Friday 9th	8.00 pm	Lord's Prayer Discussion Group – 11 The Fairway	OCTOBER
	Sunday 11th	11:00 am	Worship – Led by Paul Elsdon & Meg Hardie	
	Monday 12th		Winter Shelter – Start of Together in Barnet Night Shelter	
		2.30 pm	Lord's Prayer Discussion Group – 11 The Fairway	
	Tuesday 13th	8:00 pm	Elders Meeting	
	Wednesday 14th	4:00 pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Friday 23th	8.00 pm	Lord's Prayer Discussion Group – 11 The Fairway	
	Saturday 17th		Winter Shelter – St John's	
	Sunday 18th		Winter Shelter – St John's	
		10:30 am	Messy Church	
		11:00 am	Worship – Led by Rev'd Julian Templeton	
		5:00 pm	All Age Celebration of Creation in Psalm 104	
	Wednesday 21st	4:00 pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
		8:00 pm	Fellowship – Contemporaries of Sherlock Holmes (see page 4)	
	Friday 23rd	11:55 pm	Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record	
	Saturday 24th		Working Party [TBC]	
			Winter Shelter – St John's	
	Sunday 25th		Winter Shelter – St John's	
		11:00 am	Worship – Led by Richard Harvey & Brenda Sandford	
	Monday 26th		Nursery School – 1/2 Term Hols	
	Tuesday 27th	8:00 pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	
	8:00 pm	Justice & Peace Group		
	8:30 pm	Men's Group at Ye Old Mitre Inn, 58 High Street		
Saturday 31st		Working Party [TBC]		
		Winter Shelter – St John's		
NOVEMBER	Sunday 1st		All Saints Day. New Church Record. Winter Shelter – St John's	NOVEMBER
		11:00 am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Rev'd Julian & Tony Aldeman	
		3:00 pm	Causeway	
	Wednesday 4th	4:00 pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Saturday 7th		Winter Shelter – St John's	
Sunday 8th	10:45 am	Remembrance Sunday led by Andrew & Valerie Mills		



Manse Garden Party 2015

St John's
United Reformed Church

Fellowship

Wednesday 19 August

The Gospel Music of Bob Dylan

by the Reverend Julian Templeton

A large number of members and friends came along to hear Julian's talk. We socialised for longer than usual due to technical problems, but Julian began without the aid of his visual presentation and we were soon enjoying an interesting talk and a few 'sing-alongs'.

Julian became interested after Ewan King, Baptist Minister, led a Bob Dylan Gospel service at Heath Street Baptist Church, Hampstead, which was repeated at the Pond Square Chapel, Highgate. Ewan and Julian had shared the singing when the regular singer could not attend.

Dylan sang American 'white folk songs'. He then joined Joan Baez in the era of protest songs such as *Times, they are a changing* and *Blowing in the Wind* – the latter we sang together accompanied by Andrew Mills on guitar. *The Times* were those of the Civil Rights and Freedom Marches, of Dr Martin Luther King and also the Woodstock Festivals of the 1960s. Although Jewish by birth, Dylan became a Christian following an event during which someone threw a crucifix onto the stage at a concert, triggering this turning point in his life.

Julian argued that Dylan's so-called 'Gospel period' had some continuity with the prophetic nature of his earlier 'protest songs' and with the non-conforming nature of his later work.

In 2012 Dylan received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, usually given to novelists, astronauts and their like.



Julian thought *Slow Train Coming* his best album. Although Dylan did not have a particularly good voice, nor was he an accomplished guitarist, he certainly had a poetic gift and won a world-wide following.

Eventually we were able to view a photograph of Bob Dylan and Joan Baez on the screen, followed by the words of *Man Gave Name to All The Animals*, and later *Pressing On* which Julian played on the piano, as we joined in with these not so familiar songs.

Thank you Julian for another interesting talk – we shall look forward to hearing you speak again at Fellowship.

Patricia Picken

Fellowship Garden Party

On Saturday 1st August members and friends of St John's Fellowship gathered at the home of Sue and Ron Mobbs for the annual Fellowship Garden party. We were blessed with a lovely warm English summer evening.

Tables and chairs were borrowed from the church and the committee all mucked in to get everything set up and ready. The ladies of the committee supplied all the food, there was a great spread of dips and snacks, hot food, big bowls of

salad and many delicious puddings. Judging by how little food was left, everyone ate their fill!

We had over twenty members gathered, including most of our new members, some of whom were clearly having a great time entertaining the gathering with various tales of their past! After all the food had disappeared, everyone settled down to enjoy a relaxing evening among friends, sharing stories of family, holidays and generally reminiscing over a glass or two of Pimms.

As the sun went down, sweaters were needed, but the chatting continued into the evening. Eventually, members began to drift away, contentedly full and generally at peace with the world. All that was left was for the committee to help clear up and for Sue and I to load up the dish washer!!

Ron Mobbs

The Christian Life through the Lens of the Lord's Prayer

Mondays 5, 12, 19 October, 2:30 pm

Fridays 9, 16, 23 October: 8:00 pm

The Manse, 11 The Fairway, EN5 1HH

5 & 9 Oct

"Our Father"

12 & 16 Oct

"Hallowed be your name"

19 & 23 Oct

"Your kingdom come"

In three parallel sessions we will consider what the first three petitions of the Lord's Prayer mean for the Christian life. Drawing upon the thought of John Calvin, Karl Barth, Rowan Williams, and others, we will think about how calling upon God as personal heavenly Father, hallowing God's name, and praying for the coming of God's kingdom

generates a distinctive attitude to life. No advance reading is required. Material will be provided on the day as the basis for discussion. If you would like to come but require transport, please **telephone 020 8441 0499** or **email julian@templeton.me.uk**

Julian Templeton

Winter Shelter News

While not wanting to wish the summer away, my thoughts are turning to the winter and plans for the forthcoming season of the Winter Shelter. This year it will run from mid October through to the end of March, and St. John's and St Peter's has been asked to host Saturday nights from 17th October – 3rd January, a total of 12 nights. I do hope that those who volunteered last year will feel like getting involved again this coming winter and of course we would be delighted to welcome new recruits, so do ask your friends if you think they would enjoy being involved. Eileen Brandrick from St. Peter's and I will be gathering lists of volunteers very shortly as October will arrive all too soon. As a reminder we need evening volunteers to welcome guests, serve the meal and tidy up, overnight volunteers who sleep alongside our guests, breakfast volunteers who cook and serve breakfast and clean the premises. We also need cooks, people willing to transport the bedding to the next venue, people willing to receive the bedding bags on Saturday mornings, and people to wash the towels.

I have to confess that I will not be available for all 12

weekends, so I will also be asking for suggestions to improve the running of our weeks. Would you like to work with the same teams, and would you prefer to have your duties over consecutive weeks, or do you prefer them spread out? Do let me know your views.

Together In Barnet Night Shelter is now a registered charity and has been improving and standardising safety procedures and duties across the venues. This should make it easier for the guests as they move between the venues. There will be a training session run by TIBN for all new volunteers and for those who would like a refresher course. Eileen and I will also hold a meeting to explain the new changes. Both dates will follow.

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

Lesley Calder

Email: lesleycalder@googlemail.com

Phone: 0208 440 5073