

Jan – Feb
2016

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

From the Minister

Appreciation

Who does not need to feel appreciated? There may be some so confident of their worth and with such high self-esteem that they feel no need, but I imagine that they are relatively rare. Most of us tend to thrive when others express their appreciation by saying: 'Well done'. How many people have become either workaholics or dropouts because they never heard the words that really mattered: 'I'm proud of you'?

One of the original meanings of the Greek word for 'glory' (*doxa*) is the 'opinion' the others have of you. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, and in the New Testament, this 'opinion' meaning of glory takes a back seat to other meanings such as 'splendour', 'power' and 'radiance'. In my preaching on the stories of Christ's birth over Christmas I encountered again the references to splendour, power and radiance, such as when the shepherds are encountered by the angel and see "the glory of God shining around them" and when the mysterious star guides the magi to the infant Jesus. But what I also noticed this time was the second part of the angels' message: "...and peace on earth to those in whom he delights!" I began to

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wonder if the reference to 'delight' was reaching back to the older meaning of glory as 'opinion'.

We can probably all recall the beaming smiles on the faces of parents and grandparents when a newborn child/grandchild is held. The baby is the object of undiluted delight and appreciation! What if the glory of God that was proclaimed by the angels and beheld by the shepherds and magi was more than an overwhelming divine radiance? What if it was also a manifestation of God's opinion of the infant Jesus, and God's opinion of those for whom Jesus was born, of delight and appreciation?

The Christmas story is good news because the infant Jesus communicates God's delight and appreciation to us and to the whole creation. This is the same Jesus who as an adult at his baptism receives the divine validation: "This is my son, the beloved, with him I am well pleased." Jesus receives these words

of appreciation representatively: he receives them *on behalf of us*. Not even our rejection of God and our rejection of one another can invalidate the essential truth of God's action: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..."

Just as a newborn infant does not have to earn the appreciation of its parents but has it as a gift, so we find in Jesus the most precious gift of all: God's appreciation of us and our appreciation of God. This is a cycle of glory in which God's appreciation of us in Christ overcomes our rejection and we express our appreciation of God and of one another: "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to those in whom he delights!" One of the gospel gifts the Church has to offer to the world is that of showing to others the appreciation that God has shown to us.

Julian Templeton

Peggy Land

7.12.21 – 19.11.15

We give thanks to God for the life of the late Peggy Land and offer our condolences to her family. Family and friends gathered for a Memorial and Thanksgiving service at St John's Church on the 4th of December. The following is extracted from the tribute that was read at the service.

Peggy was the youngest of four daughters. When her Aunt Hettie first saw Peggy, she told her sister, "Don't get attached to this child, it won't survive", but Peggy's long and fruitful life of 93 years well and truly proved her wrong! In 1943 Peggy married Charles Worts at the East Finchley Congregational Church. Peggy and Charles had four children: Ruth, Carol, Jane and Richard.

Once the children were all at school, Peggy assisted the family's finances by teaching part time in a small private school, and in 1958 Peggy and Charles bought a house in East Finchley, where they lived until 1971. When the youngest two children reached their teens, at age 40, Peggy studied for a formal Teacher's qualification at All Saints College. She went on to teach at Moss Hall Junior School for the next 17 years. Peggy & Charles moved to Woodfall Avenue, Barnet, in 1971. Charles died in 1978.

Peggy joined St John's Church, New Barnet, becoming involved in 'Bring and Buy' sales, taking on various voluntary positions at the church, and visiting the sick



and elderly, including offering to do their shopping and washing. She made some firm friends there and met Walter Land, who was to become her second husband. Sadly, he died eighteen months after their wedding. Peggy had a stroke in 2000, which had a traumatic effect on her life – she lost her driving licence and needed carers to assist her at home. She

managed well despite her limitations, with her family, friends and Church friends supporting her admirably in so many ways.

Peggy was a warm, loving and charitable woman, who would do anything for her family and friends. Over latter years, Peggy bore her declining health with stoicism and cheerfulness. She leaves 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Among her possessions at the Carlton Care Nursing Home was the following, written on the back of an unused envelope, from which Peggy drew strength:

One day at a time – this is enough.

Do not look back and grieve over the past, for it is gone; and do not be troubled about the future, for it has not yet come.

Live in the present, and make it so beautiful that it will be worth remembering.

5-session Discussion Series for LENT 2016

The ancient poems we call Psalms are over 2000 years old. They were written in very different times from our own when humans could travel at the speed of a camel – not at the speed of sound. But these songs have stood the test of time for they address many of the

problems we still face: violence, injustice, anger – and bewilderment. Why do the wicked prosper? Where is God when we suffer? In this 5-session course, **Bishop Stephen Cottrell** reflects on the psalms in general (and five psalms in particular).

Five Parallel Sessions on Mondays 2:30 pm and Thursdays 8:00 pm

Session One Know that the Lord is God
Feb 15/18 (Psalm 100)

Session Two Out of the depths have I cried
Feb 22/25 (Psalm 130)

Session Three How long, O Lord?
Feb 29/March 3 (Psalm 13)

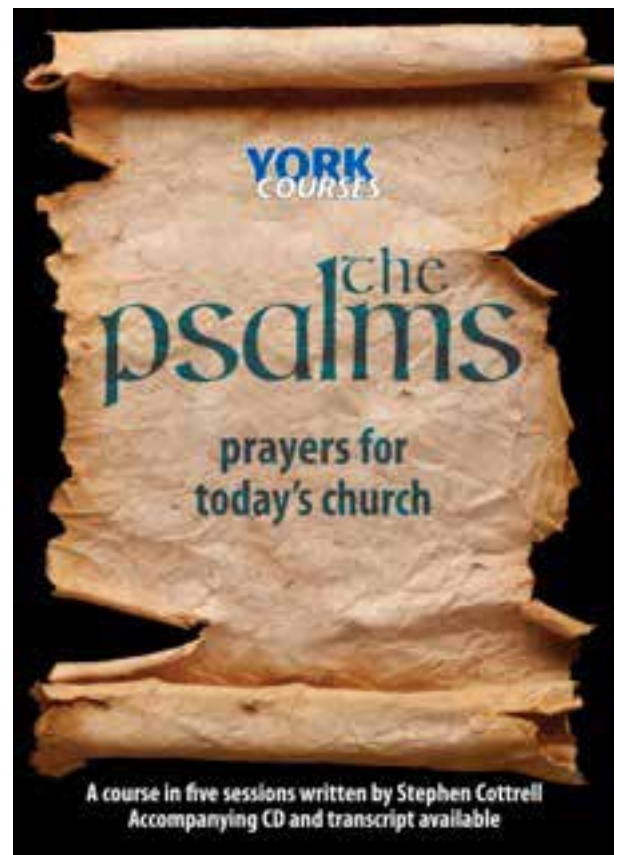
Session Four You spread a table before me
Mar 7/10 (Psalm 23)

Session Five Unless the Lord builds the house ...
Mar 14/17 (Psalm 127)

Venue: The Manse,
11 The Fairway, EN5 1HH
Leader: Julian Templeton

You will be provided with a course booklet. Each session begins by listening to recorded interviews with the following:

- **Revd John Bell**, Iona Community Member, Hymn-writer and Broadcaster
- **Fr Timothy Radcliffe**, Director, Las Casas Institute, Blackfriars, Oxford
- **Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin**, Anglican Priest, Hackney
- **Revd Dr Jane Leach**, Principal of Wesley House, Cambridge, provides the closing reflection.



Calendar

January 2016

	Saturday 2nd	6:00pm	Winter Shelter at St. Peters
	Sunday 3rd	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room
		11:00am	Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton
	Tuesday 5th	7:00pm	Area Committee Meeting at St. Margaret's, Finchley
	Wednesday 6th		Epiphany
		4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	Sunday 10th	11:00am	Worship – Led by Helen Snider & Andrew Summers
	Monday 11th	8:00pm	Junior church teachers meeting at Janet Harvey's
	Tuesday 12th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting
	Wednesday 13th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
JANUARY	Sunday 17th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room
		10:30am	Messy Church
		11:00am	Worship – Led by Revd Julian Templeton
			Shared Lunch after the service
	Wednesday 20th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
		8:00pm	Fellowship – An Amble through Albania – Diane Nightingale
	Thursday 21st	8:00pm	Finance/Managers meeting in the Vestry
	Sunday 24th	11:00am	Worship – Led by Tony Alderman & David Paul
	Tuesday 26th	8:00pm	Prayer and Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park
		8:00pm	Justice & Peace Meeting in the Vestry
	Wednesday 27th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	Thursday 28th	8:00pm	Men's Group at The Railway Bell – Curry Evening
	Sunday 31st	11:00am	Worship – Led by Paul Elsdon
		3:00pm	Causeway

Calendar

February – March 2016

February	Wednesday 3rd	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	February
	Sunday 7th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
			Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
	Monday 8th	10:30am	Pastoral Team Meeting	
	Tuesday 9th	8:00pm	Elders Meeting	
	Wed 10th		Ash Wednesday	
		4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Sunday 14th	11:00am	Lent 1 - Worship led by Andrew & Valerie Mills	
	Monday 15th	2:30pm	Lent Discussion Group at the Manse (1 of 5)	
	Wed 17th	8:00pm	Fellowship - Vision Aid Overseas	
	Thursday 18th	8:00pm	Lent Discussion Group at the Manse (1 of 5)	
	Friday 19th		Copy deadline for next edition of Church Record	
	Sunday 21st	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		10:30am	Messy Church	
		11:00am	Lent 2 - Worship Led by Revd Julian Templeton	
	Monday 22nd	2:30pm	Lent Discussion Group at the Manse (2 of 5)	
	Tuesday 23rd	8:00pm	Justice & Peace Meeting in the Vestry	
	Wed 24th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Thursday 25th	8:00pm	Lent Discussion Group at the Manse (2 of 5)	
	Sunday 28th	11:00am	Lent 3 - Worship led by Richard Harvey & Brenda Sandford	
	3:00pm	Causeway		
Monday 29th	2:30pm	Lent Discussion Group at the Manse (3 of 5)		
	8:30pm	Men's Group at The Railway Bell		
MARCH	Wednesday 2nd	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	MARCH
	Thursday 3rd	8:00pm	Lent Discussion Group at the Manse (3 of 5)	
	Friday 4th	2.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service. Friends' Meeting House, Leicester Road, New Barnet, EN5 5EL	
	Sunday 6th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
		11:00am	Lent 4 - Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton	

St John's Fellowship

United Reformed Church

The Fellowship New Year kicks off on **Wednesday 20th January** with a talk by Diane Nightingale about Albania. This is a country which Diane and her husband have visited in the last year or two and, as is their usual practice, kept a good photographic record. They travelled through the country from one end to the other, so were able to see most aspects of this little visited country. For those like me who struggle to remember exactly where Albania is, it is probably best remembered as "the country which is to the east of the Greek island of Corfu and is easily visible from Corfu's eastern coastline" !!!

On **Wednesday 17th February** we have a speaker from Vision Aid Overseas [VAO] coming to talk to us about that charity. VAO is an international NGO (non-government organisation) based in the UK. It works in countries across Africa to transform access to eye care services. VAO was founded in 1985 by a group of optometrists and dispensing opticians who were horrified by the plight of individuals in developing countries who were disabled or disadvantaged because of uncorrected refractive error. 640 million people worldwide (10% of the global population) suffer because they don't have the right spectacles to achieve good vision. St John's has supported VAO for many years thanks to the efforts of Hugh Martin who regularly reminds us that we can do some good in the world by donating our old spectacles to this organisation, and by dealing with the spectacles thereby donated.

I hope that you will agree that we have two most interesting talks with which to start 2016, and that you will feel like supporting the New Committee by coming as a member or guest to both these meetings!

Ray Hopwood

St John's Fellowship – Au Revoir but not Adieu

The Fellowship AGM on 16 Dec 2015 was the occasion of my retirement from the Committee of the Fellowship after a period of 14 years for 10 of which I was Secretary. As well as a gift of Goodies, the Fellowship honoured me by making me a Life Member.

I would like to take this opportunity of again saying thank you for these two gifts. I also wish to take this opportunity of thanking all the other people involved with running the Fellowship during my period of office.

First, I thank the current Committee led by our Chairman. It has been a pleasure to work with you and I wish you well in the future. I'm sure that the Fellowship is in good hands!

Next, I thank former Committee Members both those who continue to be members of the Fellowship [in alphabetical order - Ann Bannerman, Ann Beath, Rosemary Paul and Dorothy Peryer] and one who has moved away [Colin Jeffries].

The observant amongst you will notice two notable absentees in the previous paragraph – Hugh Martin and David Paul. I owe them, and our current Chairman Ron Mobbs a big "thank you !" As far as I was concerned both David and Ron were excellent Chairman: they were happy to let me get on with it when I was happy to get on with the job; whilst they were always there when I needed help and/or advice. As Assistant Secretary to Hugh, I could not have a better Secretary to learn from. When I became Secretary myself, Hugh was always ready with advice whilst not offering unsought suggestions. Thank you, Hugh!

Ray Hopwood

Congratulations Dorothy!

The following announcement was discovered in
The New Year Honours List:

**BEM, Medal of the Order of the British Empire,
Mrs Dorothy Hana START,
"For services to the community in Friern Barnet,
Hertfordshire and to charity."**



Family life in the Gambia

During our fellowship meeting on the 18th November we listened to a fascinating talk about the Gambia presented by Janet Daniels.

The Gambia is a tiny country nestled between Senegal and Guinea. The population is less than 1 million, the capital is called Banjul and its size is 4003 sq. miles. The two main languages are English and Dalasi. The religion is 95% Muslim and 5% Christian.

Janet first visited the Gambia 15 years ago. While she attended a church service she got talking to a priest who told her how difficult it was to keep going with very little help to buy books, hymn books and also to repair and improve the school buildings. When Janet returned home she started fundraising and was supported by her family and also generously donated from her own funds.

Ever since she first visited the Gambia she has been going back every year and now divides her time on a 6 months basis between England and the Gambia. She let us have an insight into the daily life of the people and how they do their very best to keep going. I think it is very testing, hard and time consuming work. We saw pictures of how building bricks were made in yards (not factories) and mattresses made from old sacks and filled with straw.



Each small community has small shops and stalls where they sell fruits (mainly mangoes) and vegetables. I had to close my eyes when there was a picture of a butcher's shop with all those flies flying about. It is expected that the women do hard work and carry heavy loads on their heads to the market.

The staple food seems to be rice and couscous but not many vegetables. It was fascinating to learn that when they buy food they also have to pay for the wood for cooking which they had to find. In town there is a Tesco and an M&S where foreigners are able to buy food.

Janet made the evening interesting and informative as she explained how a holiday can lead to such a life changing decision. She also brought a great variety of merchandise to buy. Fundraising continues for the schools to equip them with up-to-date teaching materials and equipment.

Alice Mujtaba

Winter Shelter News

We have now finished hosting the Winter Shelter for another season. Since 17th October we have given shelter to at least 28 different people, with usually 14 guests each Saturday night.

This year St Peter's Church Hall has been the venue for 3 of our 11 evenings which has really helped their congregation engage with the winter shelter and has encouraged more people to join our volunteers. Some of our St. John's volunteers have also enjoyed going to St Peter's to help there.

Over Christmas Finchley Reform Synagogue looked after the guests for 4 days to give the usual venues a break and to provide a stable environment where the guests could stay during the day so they too could enjoy some Christmas cheer.

The guests have been a pleasure to be with, and always appreciative. I think many of us have enjoyed the piano concerts, the chess games, the good conversations. We wish them all well as they move to the 2nd session of venues next week. East Barnet Baptist Church will be hosting the Saturday nights till the end of March.

I would like to thank everyone at St John's for all their support: the loyal volunteers, those that keep the halls clean, safe and warm, the many who contribute financially and all of you who pray for the shelter. It's a whole congregation effort!

Lesley Calder

In December Hugh Martin received this message from Eileen Osborn's daughter, Vicki:

Eileen's general health is good at the moment; mobility not good. Our daughter Laura, her granddaughter, was married last Saturday and with the aid of a wheelchair, taxi and carer Eileen was able to attend the ceremony. She is settling into life at Brook View. Please write, I know she would like that. It is possible to phone her on the office phone on 01202 891333. The best time would be early afternoon. She doesn't have her own phone at the moment.

Brook View Nursing Home
Riverside Road
West Moors
Dorset BH22 0LQ

Ju-Li Pryor

14.7.91 – 6.12.15

We offer our condolences to Alan, Su, and Ian Pryor for the death of their beloved daughter and sister, Ju-Li, who died of complications from kidney failure on 6 December in Grimsby. A large number of family and friends gathered for her funeral service at St John's Church on the 12th of December. The following is extracted from the tribute read at the service.

Ju-Li was born on 14th July 1991. She had Angelman Syndrome. Ju-Li joined the Sunday School at St John's and for many years attended the Easter Workshops. It was at St John's, before she started school, that she began to take an interest in what young people were getting up to around her, she loved being a people watcher. She also loved music from an early age, and in the church family services liked to join in during the hymns, admittedly often missing much of the first verse, but compensating by continuing after the final verse had finished, in competition to the prayer being spoken by the minister! She was baptised by the Rev'd David Skitt at his very last service as Minister on 10 September 1993.

Ju-Li began her schooling, first at Oakleigh School, and then finished at nineteen at Mapledown School. These sixteen years were years of tremendous happiness and – at her level – learning. The two schools were truly wonderful – excellent, loving staff; a splendid environment for her. During this time she occasionally went into respite care at the marvellous Jewish charity home Buckets and Spades Lodge. Marjorie and Joe, and Marion and Ray, from St John's Church, also kindly devoted many hours to providing respite, as did the lovely Halsey family. For many



years she enjoyed taking part in Chicken Shed's Christmas pantomime.

Ju-Li was offered a place at SCOPE's transition care home, Orchard Manor, near Royston, where she lived happily for three years, again with numerous loving and devoted

carers. She frequently returned home for breaks, or to enjoy the annual holiday with Mum, Dad and Ian. In 2013 Ju-Li moved into Vicarage Lodge, a palatial home in Stallingborough, near Grimsby, built by 'Home From Home Care' for just Ju-Li, another lovely young lady called Robyn, and a little later a young man, Danny. Then followed a rewarding and exciting time for Ju-Li, with so many activities and visits, and joyous social get-togethers with disabled young people from the other care homes in the organisation. Early on at Vicarage Lodge the staff began taking Ju-Li and Robyn to the local Salvation Army citadel in Grimsby, and the Major told Ju-Li's parents that she liked to sit in her wheelchair at the front of the congregation and got very excited when the band played, often conducting the band in her own way.

Sadly, on Tuesday 1st December, after an inspirational day in Vicarage Lodge, Ju-Li choked on some food and although they managed to clear it, something got into her lung. She was admitted to the Diana, Princess of Wales hospital in Grimsby. For many years Ju-Li had been suffering from ever deteriorating kidney disease, and she passed away peacefully. She was always a happy person and very affectionate, everyone who knew her seemed to love her. She loved to be cuddled, and thoroughly enjoyed music of all kinds. She will be deeply missed.



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Annual Service 2016

Friday 4th March 2.30pm

Friends' Meeting House, Leicester Road, New Barnet,
(Near corner of Plantagenet Road). Buses 184, 383

Service organised by Christian women of Cuba based on the text:
Receive children. Receive me.

All are welcome (including men) to the service and to socialise afterwards with refreshments.
Hope to see you there. Marjorie O'Connor and Patricia Picken (Your WWDP Reps.)