

July – August
2016

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

From the Minister

Difference need not divide

In the previous edition of this newsletter I wrote: "I hope that the United Kingdom will continue to contribute its British identities to a much richer understanding of European identity". I believe that 'British identity' was one of the central matters being contested in the referendum debate. What I had not reckoned with is how many people believed that being part of the European Union was incompatible with being British. I concede I lost the argument.

The referendum campaign and its result—a 1.9% majority in favour of the UK leaving the EU—have arguably brought pre-existing differences between Britons to the surface. What we can now see might make uncomfortable viewing, but seeing and acknowledging our differences will, in the long run, be better than ignoring them.

There were notable regional differences: 62% of Scotland, 60% of London, and 56% of Northern Ireland voted to remain. 56% of England (minus London) and 52.5% of Wales voted to leave. It remains to be seen whether the difference in Scotland's case will trigger a second referendum on independence from the UK in order to remain in the EU.

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Those who conducted polls of representative samples of referendum voters revealed some differences between various categories of people. There was a marked generational difference: 73% of 18-24 year olds voted to remain; 60% of over 65s voted to leave. Graduates tended to vote remain; non-graduates tended to vote leave. Perhaps most telling was the level of support for Brexit in areas of economic stagnation with higher levels of immigration.

The latter phenomenon led the leader-writers of *The Observer* to ask whether the referendum result was more "about the north-south divide, about the gulf between the well-off and the poor, about austerity cuts and welfare policies that destroy hope and break families, about a long history of societal disintegration and decay." Whatever we think of that analysis, we might concede that when people feel beleaguered and under strain they are more likely to 'rub each other up the wrong way' than 'rub along together'. That concession, however, can never excuse the racism and hate attacks that have increased in the aftermath of the referendum result.

The oldest account of the Lord's Supper is found in the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. It was written because the new and diverse church at Corinth was at risk of letting its differences divide it. The rich and leisured arrived at the communal meal first, ate most of the

food, and some became drunk. Others who arrived later (probably slaves or manual workers) found there was no food left. Paul writes that this disorderly meal "is *not* the Lord's Supper" and goes on to record the tradition of the Lord's Supper that we recall and observe to this day.

Paul's main charge against some in the Corinthian church was that they were eating and drinking judgment on themselves because they were failing to discern the body (see 1 Cor. 11:29). They were letting the differences that existed between them divide the body of the Church. In response, Paul offers pragmatic advice: "When you meet for this meal, wait for one another." (1 Cor. 11:33) The practice of thoughtful and generous hospitality, then and now, can acknowledge difference without letting it become a source of division.

In the current post-referendum atmosphere—a volatile mix of celebration, commiseration, uncertainty and leadership-change – I think local churches can usefully do three things. 1. *Extend hospitality and friendship to all people*, especially those who feel marginalised in our local community. 2. Initiate (or strengthen) a *twinning relationship* with a Continental church. 3. Demonstrate that even though within the church there are different views on important matters, 'in Christ' *difference need not divide*.

Julian Templeton



During worship on 19 June, Julian explored various aspects that make up a person's identity. He asked volunteers to hold up signs indicating some of these, such as: family, place, education, marriage/singleness, parenthood, work, ethnicity, and nationality. These volunteers were then replaced by others (pictured) who showed Paul's view of Christian identity: whether one is Jew or Gentile, male or female, slave or free, "in Christ" these are *non-dividing differences*.

Report on Christian Aid Week Thank You!



God promises a kingdom where the poor are blessed and the hungry are satisfied. This inspired us to achieve amazing things for our neighbours like Morsheda and Feroza in Bangladesh this Christian Aid Week. The total amount raised from the house-to-house collection this year was: £1,777, plus a further £75.50 was collected at the joint service hosted by St John's at the beginning of the week, so we were able to bank £1,852.50. Although this is slightly down from last year, it is still a fantastic total, so on behalf of Christian Aid, a huge thank you to everyone for all your generous support.

For those of you who are interested in facts and figures, we collected a total of 253 envelopes and Christian Aid will be able to reclaim an additional 25% on £965 of the above total (from those who completed the Gift Aid form) adding a further £241 to the total amount. We had 8 collectors plus a further 5 people helping to deliver envelopes, and a very efficient team of 10 people helped count all the money.

Alison Bond

Friends of Khasdobir London Walk

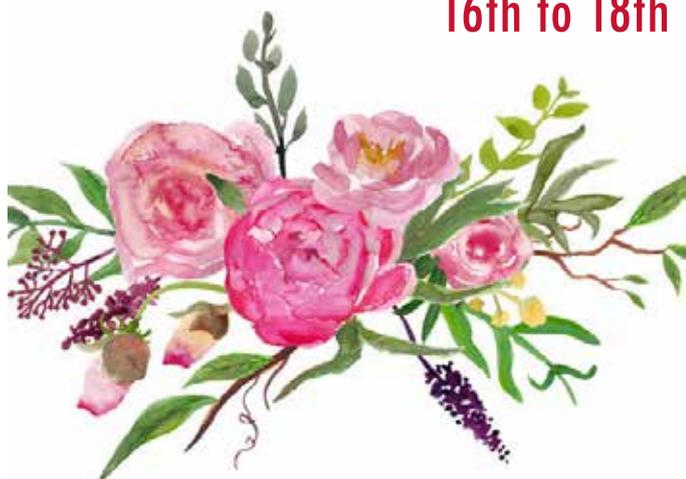
Saturday September 3rd 2016

This year's walk will be around the Angel and Finsbury area and part of the walk will be alongside the canal. As usual there will be many places of interest to see and twenty questions to answer.

If you are interested in joining us please see Valerie Mills. More information will follow in due course.

Flower Festival at St John the Baptist Church Chipping Barnet

16th to 18th September 2016



Our flower committee, together with other churches and floral art societies have been invited to take part in this flower festival. The theme is musicals and we have chosen 'The Lion King' for our floral display. During the weekend there will be musical performances by local musicians, choirs and bands, including Choir Unlimited and refreshments will be served.

We hope that you will be able to support this event



St John's Fellowship

United Reformed Church

"Chocks Away old bean, let's give Jerry a bloody nose"

When the St John's Fellowship members toured Bentley Priory they could almost hear the clipped English tones of the Spitfire pilots, who were given their flight instructions from this anonymous English mansion. On 15 June a group of twenty five Fellowship members gathered in the beautiful lobby of Bentley Priory in Stanmore, to have a guided tour of the Headquarters of Fighter Command, during the Battle of Britain.

Our tour started with a brief history of the building where we learned that in 1170 the site was originally an Augustinian Friars priory, but fell into disrepair following the dissolution of the church under Henry VIII. The current building dates back to 1755 when James Duberly had a private house built, but in 1788 a new owner, The Marquess of Abercorn, engaged the famous architect Sir John Soane to transform the house into the lavish building we saw during our visit. The house had various types of occupancy over the centuries, including a private home, a royal residence with the Dowager Queen Adelaide, a girl's boarding school and then in 1926 it became the headquarters of what became the RAF.

In 1936 Air Chief Marshal, Sir Hume Dowding was brought out of retirement to lead Fighter Command and to build up Great Britain's air defences in response to the increasing threats from Germany. He played a crucial role in our success during the Battle of Britain, by introducing a complex information gathering and filtering system covering



the whole of the country. Bentley Priory was the centre of a complex web of information being gathered from Radar towers, lookout stations and sound monitoring positions located around the East and South coast of the UK.

We learned that from this house in the suburbs of North London, all the intelligence on German attacks on England were monitored, assessed and instruction issued to the pilots waiting at airfields across Southern England. History now tells us that without Sir Hugh's innovative intelligence gathering we may not have won the war.

Our tour guide provided a wealth of anecdotes about what life was like in the RAF and the life of the pilots, many of who came from Poland, France, New Zealand, Australia and whose average age was just twenty two! We saw replicas of the control rooms with models of RAF staff tracking the locations on huge maps of incoming bombers and the position of our Spitfires and Hurricanes, as they went off to engage with the enemy. One anecdote was how all the RAF operatives were taught to speak "the Queen's English" to avoid any miss-communication due to regional accents!

We were fortunate that after the tour the sun came out and the Fellowship members enjoyed afternoon tea on the terrace of the house and enjoyed a stroll around the house gardens.



Fellowship Garden Party

Saturday 6th August from 5.30 pm
at the home of Alice Mujtaba
6 Highlands Road
Barnet EN5 5AB

Tickets are £10.00 each, which includes supper and soft drinks.

Feel free to bring your own drinks

Tickets are available from Sue Taylor or Marjorie O'Connor



MAYONNAISE JAR and 2 CUPS OF COFFEE

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.' The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor, as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things – God, family, children, health, friends, and favorite passions—things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, house, and car. The sand is everything else—the small stuff 'If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

So...

- Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness.
- Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups.
- Take your partner out to dinner.
- Play another 18.
- There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal.
- Take care of the golf balls first—the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.
- One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented.
- The professor smiled. 'I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.'

Roger Scopes

Manse Garden Party



A huge thank you to all who came along to this annual event, which will sadly be the last to involve Highgate URC. The food was stupendous, delicious and plentiful. The sun shone, the rain came, but nothing dampened the spirit. Our ninety-one year old ladies didn't see the need to decant indoors like most others, but were happy sitting under umbrellas, whilst another pair sheltered under the apple tree. Fortunately the sun shone again and we could enjoy the Pimms once more outside as we basked in the compliments of the garden improvements.

Laura Templeton

Plans for the 2016 Winter Shelter

St John's, along with our friends from St Peter's, will again be taking responsibility for the Churches Together Winter Shelter Saturday nights, this year running from early October till early January. As with previous years we will provide a tasty evening meal, overnight accommodation and a hearty breakfast for people who otherwise would be without a roof over their heads. We hope our regular volunteers are willing to do their bit again and maybe joined by some new folk too.

Unlike other years however, we unfortunately will be without the leadership of Lesley Calder who has significant work commitments during this period. Instead, we are forming a management group to take on Lesley's job, splitting her tasks between us. The management group will comprise David Paul, Helen Snider, Ray Hopwood, Ron Mobbs and me together, possibly, with one or two others. If you would like to join us, please let me know. There will of course be the usual jobs for volunteers on a rota such as; cooks, meal servers, overnighers, bedding transporters and towel washers. It is just that for this year we will also have a group of us doing the Lesley job! There may be a few extra jobs on the rota such as bedding receptionist (ie taking in the bedding from the previous venue's transporter

on the Saturday morning, something Lesley did herself). So please watch this space and consider volunteering for this valuable and rewarding service whether or not you have been a regular or would be a complete novice. If the latter, we would make sure you were well briefed and that you would work alongside a seasoned volunteer.

One idea which has emerged this year is certainly worth thinking about. In previous years we each typically are put on the rota a few times during our months with some free weeks in between our "shifts". The idea is that we might consider doing our shifts on say three consecutive weeks instead. This would mean we would get to know the guests better and provide more continuity. For some volunteers though this may prove impossible because of other commitments. But please give this some thought in advance if you would.

On behalf of the embryonic management group, may I invite you to consider how you might best contribute your time and skills this coming winter to make the St Johns shelter as welcoming and as pleasant for our guests as it always has been.

Andrew Summers

Miriam Dean News



It is almost two years since Andy and Sheila Moore came to St John's and spoke at our morning service about the work of the Miriam Dean Fund.

Since then they have visited projects in Tamil Nadu and Kerala in India. They made a six hour journey to visit some remote villages and grants have been made to help with schooling for the children and to improve the water supply which often dries up in Summer.

In another area they are helping to fund an after school programme to help low-caste children maximise their chances in school. At another centre funding was provided to replace the roof of a clinic.

Funding was also given to a school for mentally challenged children to make the flat roof into a usable covered space.

In their recent newsletter Andy and Sheila commented that visiting the projects gives them a first hand opportunity to see the work being done and the need for funding. The Miriam Dean Fund work with partner organisations which are led by dedicated and inspiring people. Andy and Sheila found their trip demanding and challenging but also wonderfully rewarding.

Read more about the work of the Miriam Dean Fund in the latest newsletter on the board at the back of the Church.

Sunday 14th August

No Service at St. John's. As part of our support of neighbouring URC's Services beginning at 11:00 am will be held at both:

Chesterfield Road URC, EN5 2RE
led by Revd Julian Templeton
Buses 184, 384.

Wood Street URC, EN5 4BW
led by Sarah Beaumont
Buses 263, 184, 384, 107, 307, 383, 326

A lift will be provided to either church for those who require it: Contact Julian, Tel. 020 8441 0499

Calendar

July – August 2016

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|--------|
| JULY | Sunday 3 rd | 10:00am | Informal Prayer in Memorial Room. 10:30am Elders' Meeting in Vestry | JULY |
| | | 11:00am | Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton | |
| | Monday 4 th | 10:30am | Pastoral Team Meeting | |
| | Wednesday 6 th | 4:00pm | Weds 4 Kids Club | |
| | Sunday 10 th | 11:00am | Worship – Led by the Elders | |
| | Monday 11 th | 8:00pm | Elders Meeting | |
| | Tuesday 12 th | 2:30pm | Short and Simple Worship led by Revd Julian Templeton | |
| | Wednesday 13 th | 4:00pm | Weds 4 Kids Club | |
| | Sunday 17 th | 10:00am | Informal Prayer in Memorial Room | |
| | | 10:30am | Messy Church | |
| | | 11:00am | Worship Led by Roz Douglas and Filip Keller | |
| | Tuesday 19 th | 7:30pm | North London Local Area Group Meeting at Tetherdown, Muswell Hill | |
| | Wednesday 20 th | 8:00pm | St. John's Fellowship - Watch Out for scams!!! - Dale Bevington | |
| | Sunday 24 th | 11:00am | Worship Led by Revd Julian Templeton | |
| | Tuesday 26 th | 8:00pm | Justice & Peace Group | |
| | | 8:00pm | Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park | |
| | Thursday 28 th | 8:00pm | Men's Group – Curry Evening at The Railway Bell, East Barnet Rd | |
| Sunday 31 st | 11:00am | Worship – Led by Sarah Beaumont | | |
| | 3:00pm | Causeway- Party in the Park, 3:00pm – 4:30pm in Greenhill Park. In the Church Hall if wet. | | |
| AUGUST | Saturday 6 th | 5:30pm | Fellowship Summer Garden Party at Home of Alice Mujtaba – page 5 | AUGUST |
| | Sunday 7 th | 10:00am | Informal Prayer in Memorial Room | |
| | | 10:30am | Elders' Meeting in Vestry | |
| | | 11:00am | Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton | |
| | Sunday 14 th | | No Service at St. John's. See Page 7 for alternative Services | |
| | Wednesday 17 th | 8:00pm | St John's Fellowship. Gadgets & Gizmos – Gardening in the 3 rd Age – Anne Luder | |
| | Sunday 21 st | 11:00am | Worship Led by Revd Julian Templeton | |
| | Friday 26 th | | Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record | |
| Sunday 28 th | 11:00am | Worship led by Andrew and Valerie Mills | | |
| Wed 31 st | 8:30pm | Men's Group – The Black Horse – Wood Street | | |
| Sept | Sunday 4 th | 10:00am | Informal Prayer in Memorial Room | Sept |
| | | 10:30am | Elders' Meeting in Vestry | |
| | | 11:00am | Worship + Holy Communion Led by Revd Julian Templeton | |