

Nov –Dec
2018

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

Contents

What can I do to change anything?

I know that Christians are supposed to trust God both day-to-day and for the future, but lately I've been feeling rather despondent. When I try to reflect on why this might be, I think it's because I'm more and more aware of the likely effects of global challenges (climate change; political extremism) but feel powerless to do anything to change them. It is like I'm riding a huge juggernaut and can do nothing to change its direction. That probably sounds like a surprising lack of faith from someone who is supposed to have some! I realise this, but I'm trying to be honest.

The problem I'm struggling with is related to *agency*. Agency is about action; it is the ability to *do* things. I'm currently feeling that whatever I do will have little or no effect to change potentially destructive and divisive movements that seem to have an unstoppable momentum. I suppose one response to this feeling of lack of agency would be to adopt a pragmatic 'let's just make the best of it' attitude. Another response would be to take refuge in withdrawal and distraction: what the Americans call 'hunkering-down'. While both of these responses have their attractions, they are arguably also defeatist and selfish.

Perhaps I need to pay more attention to something that one of the speakers said at the 'Action for Climate Change' event that St John's hosted in September. Holly Petersen said that only 1% of the citizens of the USA took an active part in the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s. That surprised me, because, if that figure is accurate, 1% of Americans achieved a disproportionately large effect in changing legislation that outlawed black/white segregation.

One might say that that 1%, because of their passion and commitment and willingness to endure opposition and arrest, was like a small amount of

Continued on page 2

- 2 First World War Hero Commemorated
- 3 Dorothy Start's Memorial Service
- 4 Dorothy Start' Biography
- 5 Indonesia Earthquake & Tsunami Appeal
Prayer Handbook
Gala Concert
- 6 November Calendar
- 7 December Calendar
- 8 Helen Snider's Daughter Naomi
Letter from Malaysia
Christmas stamps
- 9 Fellowship Talk on Tai Chi
- 10 Action on Climate Change
- 11 Inaugural meeting of Green Christian Barnet Group
- 12 The Christmas Oratorio

Contacts

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

yeast that had a leavening effect on the whole batch of dough. Some of you will recognise this analogy: Jesus used it in a parable about the Kingdom of God. One of the main lessons I take from this and other similar parables that Jesus told (see Matthew 13) is this: Jesus announces that *God is doing* a new thing, and this 'doing'—this agency—is called the Kingdom of God/Heaven. However, Jesus also says that God is not doing this new thing alone; God is enacting the Kingdom in *partnership* with those who trust him.

Jesus was able to do what most considered impossible, but he never claimed to do anything on

his own but always did things in partnership with his Heavenly Father. Here, I think, is the hopeful and challenging message to those, like me, tempted to give up. When we trust in Jesus he enables us to do what we are often unable to do in our own strength or by our own resolve. Through the partnership of discipleship, with the encouragement of others in the Church, we find that the question 'What can I do to change anything?' becomes 'How can we best work in partnership with God to effect change?'

Julian Templeton

First World War Hero Commemorated

Memorial unveiled 100 years after receiving the Victoria Cross unveiled in New Barnet.

Captain Frisby was awarded the VC on 27 September 1918 for facing annihilating machine gun fire to capture a strategically important crossing over the Canal du Nord, northern France. The engraved memorial paver has been laid close to the place where Captain Frisby was born – outside of what is now Head Start Day Nursery in Station Road, New Barnet. It was unveiled on Saturday 29 September during a ceremony attended by the Worshipful Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Reuben Thompstone.

Refreshments were served to between 60 to 70 people including the Lord Mayor, a Bishop. Sea Cadets, Territorial Army recruits and many top dignitaries and officials from Barnet Council. I ended up greeting and welcoming them all to St John's - and I shook so many hands - I think I realised how the Queen feels!

Alison Cousins



Dorothy Hana Start B.E.M.

15th September 1916 - 22nd September 2018

Big Send-off for St John's Oldest Church Member

St John's United Reformed Church, Somerset Road, New Barnet was packed out on Friday 05 October 2018 when nearly 200 people attended the memorial service for Mrs Dorothy Start BEM, a much loved and distinguished member of our church's congregation, who died recently aged 102.

Dorothy received the BEM (British Empire Medal) in 1989 for her many years of voluntary work with the Girl Guides, the Women's Institute and the Inner Wheel in Barnet.

She was also featured on the Age UK website and on posters in 2014 as part of their nationwide campaign called 'Love Later Life'. 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 said: "My advice to everyone is 'Seize the day'. I don't mind being an advert for somebody who gets on with life."

When asked about her secrets for a long and happy life, she recommended joining organisations and keeping active. She said: "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 was the oldest member of the congregation of St John's United Reformed Church, Somerset Road, New Barnet. Her memorial service was led by the Rev. Julian Templeton, the Minister of St John's, and he paid tribute to Dorothy's remarkable character and her ability to be positive and cheer people up. He said: "Dorothy was a remarkable person, an inspiration to us all."

As a tribute to her, Dorothy's fellow Scottish Country Dancers performed her favourite dance, a Strathspey, to the tune 'Dreamcatcher', accompanied by her daughter, son-in-law and friends as part of the service.

Dorothy never let her great age stop her from travelling the world. Until very recently she visited Hawaii every year to see relatives. She was half Japanese as her father was from Japan and her mother was English and they met in Hawaii.

Mark Treasure, her son-in-law, told the congregation at the memorial service that border computers



Dorothy aged 16 years



Packed church for the Memorial Service



Strathspey being danced during the service

not cope with Dorothy's passport information once she reached the age of 100 as they only flag up the last two numbers. "When we went through Eurotunnel with Dorothy as a centenarian, the official looked puzzled and then told her 'According to the information on my screen you haven't been born yet!'"

Dorothy's Biography

Dorothy was born in Kimpton and moved to St Albans when she was about 4 or 5. She was the eldest of 3 children and survived the longest. Her father was Japanese and Dorothy and her siblings were considered very strange.

She moved to Barnet before the second world war as she taught in St Margaret's Primary School. When war broke out, she volunteered in the evenings in the central office where information about fires etc were coordinated. It was there that she met Ted, her husband, who got stuck in England when the 1st world war broke out, he died in 1992.

Dorothy and Ted had 3 children and lived in the same house for the past 68 years. Ted sadly died 26 years ago and since his death Dorothy had made it her job to do all she could in the community.

For all this charitable work Dorothy was awarded a B.E.M when she was 99 years old. Typical of Dorothy's work was her 40 year commitment to the Friern Barnet Day Centre which she attended weekly until it was closed down. Previously, together with her late husband they had provided transport to the Day centre as well as car trips into the Hertfordshire country side.

Dorothy was also well known for opening her garden in aid of charities and for her work in the local Women's Institute and New Barnet gardening club where she was a frequent exhibitor.

She was always interested in helping the young and was a Guide Captain and Quartermaster for local handicapped

Dorothy was a devout Christian all her life and she visited the Holy Land more than a dozen times. A former teacher and a great grandmother, she was a widow for 26 years after the death of her husband Ted in 1976. She died at her home in Somerset Road, New Barnet.

An article about Dorothy appeared in the Barnet Borough Times.

Roz Douglas



Dorothy at her 100th birthday party

Girl Guides. In the latter role she took guides on holiday in the UK and overseas ensuring their disabilities should not deprive them of a holiday to remember.

She was a founder member of the Inner Wheel Club of Friern Barnet and Whetstone and, through Rotary, participated in hosting young people from overseas on Group study Exchange programmes for many years. Dorothy held practically every post in her Inner Wheel club and was President no less than 5 times. She was viewed as the 'engine room' of the club with a particular penchant for recruiting new members.

As a long standing member of her local church, for many years she helped to cook the Christian Aid lunches. She could always be found visiting the sick and infirm even after having attended an Inner Wheel function in town.

Dorothy was a wonderful example to all in her enactment of the Inner Wheel motto 'Friendship and Service' and of the Rotary motto 'Service above Self'.

She was also keen on adventures and went on many trips and adventures around the world, including having a go on a Camel and flying over an erupting volcano in a helicopter. She was travelling up until this year, having had last Christmas in San Francisco and new year in Hawaii.

Dorothy will be sadly missed by many people but also around the world; the Mayor of Kauai being one of her admirers.

Kate Start, Dorothy's daughter



Indonesia Earthquake and Tsunami Appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christian Aid emergency appeal in support of those affected by the recent earthquake and tsunami. £708 pounds was raised by St John's and a further £55 can be added to that figure because of donations that were gift aided.

More than 1.5 million people have been affected by the double natural disaster in Indonesia, which has killed at least 2,000 people and left nearly 70,000 displaced. A powerful earthquake struck Central

Sulawesi, before waves up to six metres high hit the cities of Palu and Mamuju and the district of Donggala at hundreds of miles an hour.

Vital supplies are arriving, and the partners of Christian Aid are reaching more remote areas with the delivery of food, shelter, clean water, sanitation, medication and other relief supplies to these inaccessible districts as well as to Palu and Donggala. Please continue to remember all those affected by this tragedy in your prayers.

Alison Bond

Prayer Handbook 2019 Season of the Spirit

Each year the United Reformed Church publishes a Prayer Handbook which contains material from a range of URC people – many of whom also write for the Daily Devotions project. It gives two prayers for each Sunday of the year,

based on the Revised Common Lectionary readings, which can be used either in private devotion or in public worship. A copy costs just £6.50 – please let me know by as soon as possible if you would like me to order one for you.

Alison Bond



Gala Concert

On Saturday 6 October, a Gala Concert was held in St John's Church. The Harvey family featured, with Richard playing organ and compering, Chris played organ, and Sarah the flute. In addition, Drew Sellis played organ and saxophone, Andrew Adams played 'cello, and



Kathy Gilbert, piano. The repertoire included music by Bach, Buxtehude, Gonoud, and Delibes. Julian sang some folksongs arranged by Benjamin Britten and finished the concert by singing the Judge's Song from Gilbert & Sullivan's *Trial by Jury* accompanied by instrumentalists, chorus, and the 90-strong audience, invited to join in the refrains! Over £1000 was raised for the Organ Fund.

Calendar

November 2018

NOVEMBER	Sunday 4th	7:00am	Winter Shelter - Breakfast
		10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting, Vestry
		11:00 am	Worship with the Lord's Supper Led by Julian Templeton
	Tuesday 6th	8:00pm	Foodbank AGM, St. Peter's Parish Centre, Somerset Road
	Wednesday 7th	10:00am	Pastoral Team Meeting, Vestry
		4:00 pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	Thursday 8th	9:30am	Mainly Music, Sanctuary
	Friday 9th	4:00pm	Messy Church, Large Hall
	Saturday 10-11	pm - am	Night Shelter + Breakfast (St.Peter's)
	Sunday 11th	10:00am	Short Act of Remembrance at New Barnet War Memorial, Station Road
		10:45 am	Remembrance Sunday led by Julian Templeton
	Tuesday 13th	7:45pm	Elders' Meeting - Vestry
	Wednesday 14th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
	Thursday 15th	9:30am	Mainly Music, Sanctuary
	Sat-Sun 10-11	pm - am	Night Shelter + Breakfast (St. John's)
	Sunday 18th	11:00am	Worship - led by Julian Templeton
		12:30pm	Church Meeting
	Tuesday 20th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park
	Wednesday 21st	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club
		8:00pm	Fellowship-Noah's Ark Children's Hospice by Becca Lowe, Sanctuary
		8:00pm	Junior Church Teachers 'Meeting
	Thursday 22nd	9:30am	Mainly Music, Sanctuary
	Friday 23rd	2:30pm	Community Cafe
		3:30pm	Short Service
	Saturday 24th	10:45am	Green Christian Barnet meeting at St. John's - All welcome
	Sat-Sun 24-25	pm - am	Night Shelter + Breakfast (St. John's)
	Sunday 25th	10:00am	Singing Practice
		11:00am	Worship led by Alison Bond
		3:00pm	Causeway, Small Hall
	Tuesday 27th	2:00pm	Dementia Club
	8:00pm	Justice and Peace Group	
Wednesday 28th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	8:30pm	Men's Group -at Ye Olde Mitre, High Barnet	
Thursday 29th	9:30am	Mainly Music, Sanctuary	

NOVEMBER

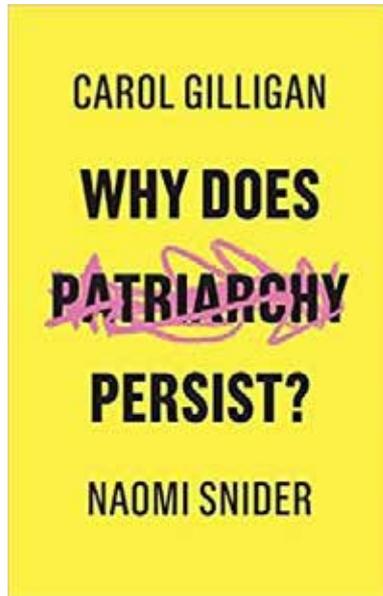
Calendar

December 2018

DECEMBER	Saturday 1-2	pm - am	Night Shelter + Breakfast (St.Peter's)	DECEMBER		
	Sunday 2nd	10:00am	Singing Practice			
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting, Vestry			
		11:00am	Advent 1 Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton			
	Wednesday 5th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club			
	Thursday 6th	9:30am	Mainly Music, Sanctuary			
	Friday 7th	4:00pm	Messy Church, Large Hall			
	Sat-Sun 8-9	pm - am	Night Shelter + Breakfast (St. John's)			
	Sunday 9th	11:00am	Advent 2 Worship and Gift Service – led by Julian Templeton			
	Tuesday 11th	8:00pm	Elders' Meeting, Vestry			
	Wednesday 12th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club			
	Thursday 13th	9:30am	Mainly Music, Sanctuary			
		8:30pm	Men's Group –at the Railway Bell, East Barnet			
	Friday 14th		Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record			
	Sat-Sun 15-16	pm - am	Night Shelter + Breakfast (St. John's)			
	Sunday 16th	11:00am	Advent 3 Worship – led by Tony Alderman			
		4:30pm	Carol Service – All Visitors Welcome			
	Tuesday 18th	2:00pm	Dementia Club			
	Wednesday 19th	6:30pm	St. John's Fellowship Meal/ AGM/Christmas Celebration			
	Thursday 20th	9:30am	Mainly Music, Sanctuary			
	Sunday 23rd	11:00am	Advent 4 Worship – led by Tony Alderman			
		11:30pm	CHRISTMAS EVE – Communion Service at St Stephen's Anglican Church in Bells Hill led by Julian Templeton			
	Tuesday 25th	10:30am	CHRISTMAS DAY – All Age Service led by Julian Templeton			
	Sunday 30th	11:00am	Christmas 1 Service led by Paul Elsdon			
	JAN					JAN
		Saturday 5th	4:00pm		The Christmas Story through Art and the music of Bach's Christmas Oratorio (cantatas 1, 2 & 6) see p. 12 for details	
		Sunday 6th	10:00am		Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	
			10:30am		Elders' Meeting	
		11:00am	EPIPHANY Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Tony Alderman			

Helen Snider's daughter Naomi

Alongside Carol Gilligan - one of the most influential feminist writers of all time - Naomi Snider has authored a book, **Why does patriarchy persist?** Spurred in part by the election of Donald Trump and a new wave of unabashedly patriarchal politics the book seeks to bring new understandings to an age old question: what is it about patriarchy that makes it so resilient and resistant to change? Beginning from the assumption that we are by nature co-operative beings - driven by the desire for relationships of mutuality rather than power and dominion - why is it that we come to sacrifice equality for hierarchy? It is Carol and Naomi's hope that by bringing greater awareness to the forces driving us toward a politics that ultimately harms us all - men and women alike and no matter where we sit on the patriarchal



hierarchy of things - we can open the door to alternative - more democratic and responsive - ways of being and living in community with others.

link:<http://politybooks.com/bookdetail/?isbn=9781509529124>
https://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/patriarchy-feminism-weinstein-metoo-trump-power-a8533851.html
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/kavanaugh-senate-hearing-fbi-american-patriarchy-everything-you-need-to-know-a8564781.html>

Letter from Malaysia

Dorothy and Mike Peryer, are fortunate in having a granddaughter who is not only doing exciting good works, but keeps them informed by hand-written letter.

Lauren is volunteering with 'Operation Raleigh' in Borneo. She has been working in the rainforest constructing a suspension bridge to make specific areas accessible to researchers and visitors as part of a bid for UNESCO world heritage status. This Danum Valley Conservation Area, is one of the most bio-diverse areas in the world, so it's wonderful these young people are doing all they can to protect it.

Lauren then moved out of the rainforest into a drier area to help the locals build three toilets for communal use. They had none in the area nor any access to safe water, which meant them having to buy it in. Not surprisingly the community was very grateful and friendly, bringing gifts of food and drinks whenever they could.

After all this hard but rewarding work, Lauren went on a trip to Australia for three weeks for a well earned rest. It's wonderful that youths get these amazing life-changing opportunities to see very different parts of the world but also to help as a neighbour would.

Laura Templeton

Christmas Stamps

A reminder that I look forward to receiving any used UK and foreign postage stamps, both the special Christmas issues and others, at a time of year when we all receive more post. The stamps are sold in aid of two charities, the RSPB and The MS Trust.

A reminder too that redundant spectacles are collected by Hugh Martin for Vision Aid Overseas, and I collect used inkjet cartridges for the RSPB, instead of these going to landfill. Collection boxes for stamps, spectacles, and inkjet cartridges are located by the entrance hall door at lower ground level. Alternatively, they can be left in the pigeonholes. Thanking you in anticipation.

Malcolm Bond

St John's **Fellowship** September Meeting
 United Reformed Church

A talk and demonstration by Simon Watson **Tai Chi**

In my experience, this was a first for St John's Fellowship – a live demonstration of a sword dance in a church. Simon Watson is a master of T'ai Chi and as part of his talk to the fellowship, he commandeered the back of the church to show us some mesmerising and beautiful T'ai Chi moves, including a ritual sword dance.

T'ai Chi started in a small remote village in China around four hundred years ago. The living conditions were difficult, the weather cold and the village needed protection from groups intent on taking crops and land. The village leader developed the T'ai Chi moves to encourage the villagers to get warm and to learn how to defend the village. It soon became very popular, particularly among the young men of the village, who also found the local girls rather admired the fighting fit young men!



The full name should be T'ai Chi Twon, where T'ai means "infinity", Chi means "the ultimate" and Twon "way of the fist". Simon showed us how the moves can be used to defend or attack an opponent and is just one of over two hundred and fifty martial arts practiced at one time in China.

The popularity of T'ai Chi blossomed during the nineteen fifty's when it was chosen by the Chinese leadership to encourage the huge population of China back to health following the deprivations of the very harsh regimes under Chairman Mao. Even today, tens of thousands of Chinese gather in large public places to practice the complex and beautiful movements, frequently to music.

Simon Watson is a local "Barnet Boy" who started learning at the age of six and went on to study the T'ai Chi philosophy in China. He also captained the England T'ai Chi team in a number of world championships and was one of the UK's representatives trying to persuade the Olympic Committee to allow T'ai Chi into the games. Unfortunately they have not yet been successful.

Those practising T'ai Chi are said to improve their balance, strength and overall fitness which has to lead to its popularity as a form of gentle, low impact exercise for all ages.

Simon teaches T'ai Chi in Barnet and many of this pupils joined the Fellowship members in a very different, fascinating and enjoyable evening.

Simon teaches T'ai Chi in Barnet and many of this pupils joined the Fellowship members in a very different, fascinating and enjoyable evening.

Ron Mobbs

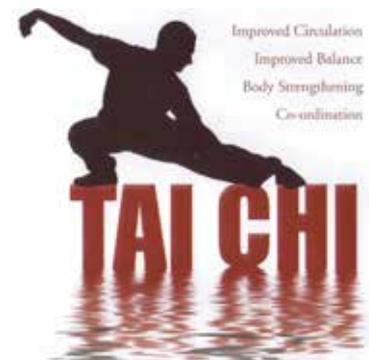
Simon Watson is my U3A group's Tai Chi guru, a professional instructor who introduces easy-to-learn routines for men and women of all ages. As a ten times Gold Medal winner, he recommends exercises for stress relief, flexibility and mobility. Improved blood circulation and balance, body strength and co-ordination are its major benefits. Originally an ancient martial art, Tai Chi has developed into a series of slow, smooth and flowing exercises to improve health, but reduction of stress is perhaps its greatest contribution to modern living.

Apart from amusing us with various anecdotes, Simon demonstrated many Tai Chi moves. Some included use of a fan; then also a sword, which entertained even the 'experts' in the room, a group of his students having joined us for the evening – it is always good to meet and greet new visitors at Fellowship meetings. With Julian's assistance Simon also demonstrated various Tai Chi moves that can

be used in self-defence. Having coached at national and international levels Simon, together with Professor Li De Yin of China, tried to get Tai Chi included in the Beijing Olympics, but failed due to insufficient funding.

The illustration is taken from the artwork on Simon's DVD, of which copies remain available should anyone wish to study at home! Simon very generously donated his fee for the talk to the Organ Fund, for which we thank him. Hopefully, we will meet Simon again next year, wearing his other hat as a classical guitarist.

Patricia Picken



“Action on Climate Change”

**St. John's
Sat. 8th. Sept**

The day dawned, grey, dry and warm. All was ready with the plans made (by five local churches) and the church rearranged plus lots of volunteers in their places. The big question on all of our minds was... would people turn up during this morning?

Yes, people started to arrive – actually before the official starting time and they kept coming! What was available for the visitors were a varied range of activities. Our event was part of a World-wide series on the theme **“Rise for Climate Change”** which originated in California, USA. There was one other London event which took the form of a march....the St. John's effort was going to be quite different.

We arranged for a number of national charities to come and exhibit the resources which they have produced on Climate Change (C. C.) Later, they were able to talk briefly during our “Any Questions” session about the main environmental focus of their work. The charities present were: A Rocha, Barnet Branches Out, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Friends of the Earth, Green Christian, the Green Party, GreenPeace, Operation Noah and TearFund. (Oxfam were going to attend but at the last minute were not able to do so.)

During the morning we had a series of speakers who spoke on different aspects. These talks were interspersed with the visitors able to visit the exhibits and talk to the volunteers from the charities. The speakers included: Philip Nalpanis from A Rocha, Poppy Pickard from Green Christian and Holly Petersen from Operation Noah. Also speaking were the local MP, Theresa Villiers, and a former Mayor of Barnet, Lisa Rutter. The visitors seemed to appreciate the contributions that these speakers made and their topics were all concerned with the challenges from C. C. It would have been useful if there had been time for questions after the speakers had spoken. But visitors were able to “post” their questions on a board and some of these were dealt with during the “Any Questions” panel at the end of the morning. The panel's discussions were useful and even when the event, was inevitably overrunning, the audience

stayed right to the end.

The fact that the audience did stay demonstrates their serious interest in this

topic. We estimate that over 100 visitors attended throughout the morning and the “feedback” which we have received shows that this event did meet a real need. The event provided information, positive encouragement and ideas concerning what we can do individually and as a community to try and mitigate the effects of climate disasters. Questionnaires were completed on peoples' attitudes to this topic. N. B. if you would like to complete one please do -- we need more replies --- it is not too late! Questionnaires can be found the “Display Table” at the back of the church and a box is there for when you have completed yours.

The Elders would like to say a huge “Thank You” to all who helped in any way to make this important event such a great success.

Tony Shepherd



Inaugural meeting of Green Christian Barnet Group

We were very pleased to welcome to this meeting on Saturday 13 October at St. John's twenty people from seven other local churches. The aim was to discuss if a new Green Christian activity should be started in our area and if so, how do we set about achieving this aim? After some prolonged discussion, the name noted above was finally agreed upon.

We noted that the earlier event: "Action on Climate Change" had been a great success when over 100 people had attended. This provided assurance that there was a need for a new group to "follow-up" that event. Also, the IPCC Report, noted above and published during the previous week, added to the sense of urgency that we should try and "do something" in response.

The *initial* broad aims of the group were discussed and we decided that these would be:-

1. To provide links between local churches and with the local communities.
2. To raise concerns about climate change especially;
3. To also focus, as time permits, on other environmental needs, e. g. on "plastics".
4. To take & encourage practical responses to local concerns relating to these topics.

Please continue to read this: it is important.

We talked about or mentioned, in a free-ranging discussion, a number of current issues which could form the bases for our future activities: included in this discussion were:-

Creation care

- the uses of renewable energy sources and reducing dependency on the use of fossil fuels;
- reduction in the use of plastics and the role of supermarkets/shops in the use of this stuff;
- recycling by individuals and communities...and the role of local and national governments, and
- responding to requests to sign petitions.

The list could go on for sometime!

It was agreed that we would use the new website: www.climateconcern.co.uk for sharing information. (This provides additional links to other sources of information.) This site is open to anyone and to any group in the community to use for the sharing of information, ideas and encouragement on climate change. We also have a Facebook site: "Climate

Concern" which can be used to share information and news of events. Other social media will also be used.

CURRENT CONCERNS FOR US ALL TO ACT UPON:-

- 1) The Climate Coalition has asked all MPs to sign a letter asking for the UK to campaign for a "Net Zero" carbon emissions policy to be introduced by 2050. Only 140 MPs have signed-up so far. Please see: www.theclimatecoalition.org, and take a minute to participate. (We are not cranks, honestly; just very concerned for our children and grandchildren's future. Thank you.)
- 2) On iPlayer or YouTube, look up BBC2 "Newsnight" 8 Oct. The last item "Can we stop Climate Change" has some vital graphics at the start. Later (8mins 58 secs) there is an interesting debate, short and sharp as usual, with Evan Davis chairing. Well worth a look.
- 3) Ask the local Borough if it can use the heat from the incinerated plastic to generate clean energy. Barnet incinerates 50% of our plastic.
- 4) Look out for future reports and news items to stay informed and up-to-date with these and new issues. (Reported by Andrew Mills and Tony Shepherd.)

Further help is needed urgently, please, in maintaining these activities. We need more support in a number of areas, including helping to maintain the website and Facebook - with Instagram a likely addition in the near future. **Contact us if you can help or know anyone who could assist.**

You do not need to be a church member—just to be concerned about these increasingly important issues. We would love some younger people to join us. (it would help your CV no end.)

Latest news: the first public meeting of **Green Christian Barnet** will take place in St John's Church on **Saturday 24 November, from 10:45 am** for coffee/tea etc, finishing by 1:00 pm. All are welcome. Please tell your friends and come. Details of our interesting programme will be out soon.

If you are at all interested in joining us at the start of an exciting new venture, or want more details, do not hesitate: contact: ants8424@gmail.com, or phone Tony on: 07990 793 046.

Tony Shepherd

The Christmas Story

as portrayed in Art by the Old Masters and

music by **J.S. Bach**



Played on
authentic instruments
by the
Netherlands Bach Society
on CD

Saturday 5th January 2019
at 4 o'clock

an Audio Visual Presentation

Cantatas 1, 2 & 6 from The Christmas Oratorio

St Johns Church

Corner of Somerset & Mowbray Roads, New Barnet, EN5 1RH

Refreshments in the Church during the interval.
Retiring collection for Chipping Barnet Foodbank & Night Shelter