

May-June  
2023

**St John's**  
United Reformed Church

# Record

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

## BACK TO THE FUTURE

WE HAVE JUST CELEBRATED the sixtieth anniversary of the uniting of St Augustine's Presbyterian Church with New Barnet Congregational Church in April 1963 to form St John's Church, named after the evangelist St John, in whose Gospel are the memorable words in which Jesus prayed that all his followers might be one. Six years later the newly formed congregation opened their new building - the one we worship in now - and three years after that most of the Presbyterian and Congregational churches in Britain united to become a new denomination - the United Reformed Church - with a vision for even greater unity among the Christian denominations.



"In my end is my beginning" is a quote from *Four Quartets* by T. S. Eliot. Rev. E. Philip Eastman (minister of St. John's from 1966-1986) used a version of it in his article 'The End is the Beginning' from the booklet *One Hundred Years 1870-1970*, the story and personal recollections of the two uniting churches. Here is a short quote from it:

"The words of Hebrew prophets were written from right to left and a printed book today starts at the end. So the end is the beginning! It is part of a minister's function to be a prophet, not in the sense of predicting the future, but foretelling the will of God. So the question is what is God's will for His people in relation to the community as a whole?"

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### Trusting God by:

Walking the way of Jesus  
Putting faith into practice  
Valuing all people equally

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Anniversaries are a time for reflection, but also for thinking of the future. The uniting Presbyterian and Congregational churches would have been looking forward with expectation - for one thing they had the building project to inspire them.

What is our vision? Are we daunted by thinking of the future?

Nietzsche wrote of his envy of animals, such as the cow, because they lived in the moment.:

"Consider the cattle, grazing as they pass you by. They do not know what is meant by yesterday or today, they leap about, eat, rest, digest, leap about again, and so from morn till night and from day to day, fettered to the moment and its pleasure or displeasure, and thus neither melancholy nor bored. [...] A human being may well ask an animal: 'Why do you not speak to me of your happiness but only stand and gaze at me?' The animal would like to answer, and say, 'The reason is I always forget what I was going to say' - but then he forgot this answer too, and stayed silent."

— Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, *Untimely Meditations*

Nietzsche paints a rather comical and droll picture of the difference between humans and animals, but when we get worried and concerned is it not more the past and future that trouble us rather than the present. Do we wish things were like they used to be; are we frightened of where things are going? The things we left said or unsaid and the things done or left undone. And how often do we worry about things that are yet to be but don't give our anxieties to the Lord in prayer? We can all too easily feel trapped and imprisoned by the past and the future. Jesus gives us a much more helpful way:

"Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." (Matthew 6: 27, 34)



Anniversaries - a time for reflection, or a time for looking forward?

If we look back we can easily become despondent that our congregation is not as large as it once was, that we are all getting older. But if we look to the future we are looking into the unknown. Is this what God wants us to do?

Jürgen Moltmann, an eminent German theologian, used 'In my end is my beginning' as the title for one of his books. In using this title he wanted to express the power of the Christian hope, for Christian hope is the power of resurrection from life's failures and defeats. It is the power of the rebirth of life out of the shadows of death. Jesus says: "Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." (John 12: 24) In its end is its beginning. Jesus was referring to his own imminent death. His death on the cross would have seemed to be the end, but it was only just the beginning; three days later he rose from the dead, appearing to his disciples and sending them on a mission to spread his gospel all over the earth.

Here at St John's we have come to the end of one chapter in our story and are at the beginning of a new chapter. What will it hold for us? How will we move forward in faith and in seeking God's kingdom? In the words of Rev. E. Philip Eastman, "what is God's will for His people in relation to the community as a whole?" We have just celebrated our 60th anniversary; our former churches were around since 1870; the Church of Christ on earth has been around since the first century A.D.! Let us take courage and inspiration from all the saints who have gone before us and celebrate, not only our 60th, but also our (almost!) 2000th anniversary!

Editors



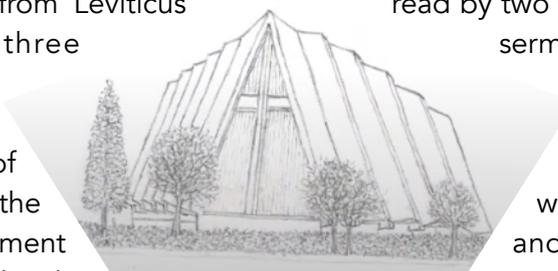
Link to 60th Anniversary Service: <https://youtu.be/kH1qploMFB0>

## The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the United Reformed Church Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration – Saturday 15th April 2023



PEOPLE HAD TRAVELLED from all over the country to the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, for this special event which was postponed last October. As we settled down the hall filled up and there was a buzz of expectation. On the big screen were a range of postcards, sent in to show why people belong to the URC: drawings, single words, paragraphs and among them a line drawing of the outside of St John's. That was a surprise! (A surprise to the artist too, David Paul, who was also in the congregation!)

The service included verses from Leviticus Jubilee, Bible readings, three traditional and contemporary, (including Julian, Dominic and the organ. The Sharing of prayers for the church and the Eleison, an Act of Recommitment encourage you to watch the



read by two young people on the theme of sermons, and uplifting music, both led by a choir of fifty and Miriam), a small band Communion was followed by world, the Ukrainian Kyrie and a final blessing. I would [recording of the whole service](#).

Fifty years ago, my parents attended the first service of the United Reformed Church. My father had been involved in the conversations between the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches leading to the formation of the URC as a new church. I began my nurse training as a Presbyterian minister's daughter with another girl who was a Congregational minister's daughter. When we qualified, we were both URC ministers' daughters!



The service was a wonderful celebration of the United Reformed Church: "Faith, Hope and Love since 1972". Of course, St John's could be said to have led the way some ten years before ...

Meg Hardie



## Christian Aid Week 2023 is coming: 14-20 May

### Jen, a loving mum in Malawi, dreams of her children being able to have the education they deserve

Jen works hard to provide for her children, but she can barely scratch a living from the soil. Soaring costs of food, fuel, fertiliser, school uniforms and school fees are crushing dreams and keeping her family in poverty. The erratic weather is affecting Jen's profits. But Jen remains resilient and hopeful.

### Crops with amazing potential

Jen and her husband have two acres of pigeon peas, but they are struggling with the effects of the climate crisis. The rainfall is unreliable, and there are more storms, flooding and stronger winds such as the devastating Cyclone Freddy which recently washed away crops, displaced over 500,000 people and led to hundreds of people in Malawi losing their lives. The pigeon pea is a tough plant, able to withstand a lot – just like Jen. Your gift this Christian Aid Week could help farmers like Jen plant better quality seeds, secure a fairer price for their crops by selling through a local farming organisation, and build happier futures for their children.



Jen and her son Chimwemwe



Jen holding pigeon peas

We are still finalising our plans for Christian Aid Week this year at St John's. Some of us are hoping to do the sponsored 10km **Christian Aid London Freedom Walk on Saturday 13 May** which begins at St James Piccadilly and calls in at a number of churches along the route including St Martin-in-the-Fields, St Bride's and St Bartholomew's. The walk finishes at St Paul's Cathedral in time for Evensong.

Our **service on Sunday 14 May** led by Paul & Heather Elsdon will focus on Christian Aid when we will hear more stories from Malawi. After the service, we hope to have some dishes for you to sample made with pigeon peas. Please let me know if you could try and help cook one of these dishes; guidance and recipes will be provided.

Donations for Christian Aid Week can be made:

- Using our Digital Church Envelope: <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/st-johns-urc-new-barnet>
- Or by enclosing your donation in one of the Christian Aid Week envelopes which will be available at church.

Please pray for the work of Christian Aid and all their partner organisations around the world.

Alison Bond



# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023 ANNUAL SERVICE New and East Barnet Branch

Thank you all for supporting me by attending the WDP Annual Service on Saturday afternoon on 4<sup>th</sup> March at St James Church with over sixty in the congregation. The service was prepared by the Christian women of Taiwan but led by Carol Connah, secretary of New and East Barnet WDP Branch with various readers.

The collection for WDP came to £342.48 including £83.50 gift-aided and will go to the WDP HQ and be distributed to various charities. The service took about forty-five minutes and was followed by a welcome cup of tea or coffee and cakes.

The WDP is a worldwide ecumenical organisation led by women and the next annual service will be held on the first Saturday in March next year and may be at Holy Trinity, Lyonsdown, prepared by the Christian women of Palestine.



Marjorie I. O'Connor and Patricia Picken (WDP Reps.)

**Thank you all so much for collecting used UK and Foreign stamps for the Leprosy Mission.**

Sadly The Leprosy Mission have confirmed will cease accepting used stamps from March 2023.

However, another charity continues to accept all used UK and Foreign stamps - SPANA - so our stamps will, in future, be forwarded to SPANA!

SPANAs help to look after, and care for, working animals in poorer countries. This year SPANA will be celebrating 100 years of helping working animals throughout the world. SPANA treats more than 291,000 animals every year, and provides free treatment from over 50 Veterinary facilities worldwide.



Supporters of SPANA include John Craven, Jim Broadbent, Brian Blessed, Dame Twiggy Lawson, Peter Egan and others. The current Chair of Trustees is Dr Mary-Lorraine Hughes.

If you do know of anyone else, perhaps friends, neighbours or relatives, who can also collect any used UK and Foreign stamps and maybe pass them to you, please ask them!

Thank you so much for all your support, for a worthwhile cause.

Malcolm Bond

## Fellowship meeting: A week in the Dolomites

### Bruce Bennett (RSPB) - 15th March

IN MARCH MEMBERS of the Fellowship enjoyed a really interesting presentation by Bruce Bennett recounting his walking holiday looking at the flora and fauna to be found in the World Heritage site of the Dolomite Range in Northern Italy. Bruce was based in Treviso close to Venice from where his guide led his party of four to different areas of the Dolomites each day, where they would find most interesting and sometimes rare alpine flowers. He gave a very detailed day by day account of the flowers, birds and animals spotted too numerous to record all, and below is a brief summary.

Day 1 a tricky walk on screed up Mount Elmo rewarded them by finding 5 different orchids, the Fragrant, Common Spotted, Slipper, Gentiella, and rare Bog Orchids. Also six different species of butterflies including the Mazarine Blue, Large Wall Brown, Almond-eyed ringlet and Mountain Green Veined White in addition to 15 varieties of wild flowers.

Day 2 a cable car ride gave a good view of the impressive peak of Marmolada. Two more orchids, including the Black Vanilla. Fifteen further wild flowers including the very local rare King of the Alps ( see photo ) and the Yellow Gentian notable for its missing top nibbled away by the local Marmot.



The Marbled White and Apollo butterflies were spotted as well as the yellow billed Alpine Chough. ( see photo )

Day 3 the group walked up 2,500 metres and were able to have a good view of Mount Nibolar. Further orchids, Frog, Small White and Alpine Marsh were found along with nine more wild flowers including the Bavarian Gentian, Edelweiss and the target plant Potentilla Nitida Rubra. ( see photo )

Days 4 & 5 further discoveries of over 16 different wild flowers including Alpine Poppy and amongst the several butterflies spotted was the Pearl Bordered Fritillary. They also found a huge toad, a slow worm and 7 birds including the Black Red which is like a Robin only black.

On the final two days he was further rewarded by finding 8 more wild flowers including the Ostrich Fern, a Tiger Beetle and six further butterflies.



Jean Davies and Michèle Bubb

# Visit to Buckingham Palace for the Presentation of Loyal Addresses



I WAS PART of the Free Churches Group, which is the successor to the Dissenting Ministers and Deputies (Presbyterian, Independent, Baptist) who, upon pledging loyalty to the Monarch, were admitted as a Privileged Body with access to the Monarch in the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century. There are twenty-seven such Bodies who today gathered to present their Loyal Addresses to King Charles III on the occasion of his Accession.

As our group arrived in good time, I had a front row seat in the Ballroom, and a small orchestra played from the gallery. Once the King arrived, I found I was only about six metres from where he was seated. Each Body's representative came, in turn, to present a short Loyal Address. The order was:

The General Synod of the Church of England (Archbishop Justin Welby).

The University of Oxford (Chris Patten).

The University of Cambridge.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Free Churches Group!

The Rev'd Helen Cameron, a Methodist Minister, gave the Loyal Address on behalf of the Free Churches Group. The King received a copy of each address, and personally thanked each person who presented an address.

Some of the Bodies who came after us were: The Universities of Edinburgh, London, St Andrews, Glasgow, and Aberdeen; the Greater London Authority (Saddiq Khan), the Royal Academy of Arts, the Bank of England (Andrew Bailey), Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, and the Roman Catholic Church (Cardinal Vincent Nicholls).

I felt very privileged to be part of this company. At the conclusion of the Loyal Addresses, the King addressed us. I found the whole occasion very moving!

At the conclusion, there was a reception and the King mingled.

Buckingham Palace is very impressive and the walls are covered with beautiful paintings.

An occasion to remember and to treasure!

Julian Templeton



## King Charles, defender of faith: what the monarchy's long relationship with religion may look like under the new sovereign

WHEN QUEEN ELIZABETH II ascended the throne in 1953, she took on the role of "defender of the faith" (Fidei Defensor in the original Latin) – a title first granted to Henry VIII by the Pope in 1521. He subsequently broke with Rome and became the first head of the Church of England.

In the past seventy years, the role of religion in British public life has evolved significantly. As King Charles III assumes the role of monarch, his relationship with faith will also come into focus, and may look different from his mother's.

At a memorial service for the Queen in Belfast cathedral, the new king took care on his arrival to meet representatives of all religious groups in the province. It is expected that there will be a full, similar presence of religious representatives at his forthcoming coronation. Although the Archbishop of Canterbury and Anglican clergy will remain the principal celebrants, other Christian denominations and non-Christian religions are expected to have a place in the ceremony.

Since 1945, two concurrent social processes have changed Britain's relationship with religion. Increased secularisation, meaning that just over 50% of the population now have no religious affiliation. And increased pluralisation, meaning the number of non-Christian religions has grown – their followers amount to about 9% of the population.

The monarchy has responded to these changes in two ways. First, as Prince of Wales in the 1990s, the now-King mused aloud whether the monarchical title defender of the faith should not be reinterpreted as "defender of faith". This is understood to have been his reaction to the growing presence of non-Christian religions in the UK, as well as signalling a more relaxed and inclusive attitude towards non-Anglican Christians.

Second, at a Lambeth Palace ecumenical meeting hosted by the Archbishop of Canterbury in February 2012, the Queen, speaking as supreme governor of the Church of England in her diamond jubilee year, said:

*The concept of our established Church is occasionally misunderstood and, I believe, commonly under-appreciated. Its role is not to defend Anglicanism to the exclusion of other religions. Instead, the Church has a duty to protect the free practice of all faiths in this country.*

In practice, this was thought to confer a role on the Church of England distinct from its previous concern to defend its exclusivity. At the same time, it was welcome to many of the members of non-Christian religions whose presence had grown in the post-war period, and also accepted by the Anglican hierarchy, which seems to have encouraged the Queen to take the initiative.

And at a recent meeting with faith leaders, the King remarked that, as monarch, he intends to protect the diversity of religion in Britain, and to "respect those who follow other spiritual paths, as well as those who seek to live their lives in accordance with secular ideals".



Photo credit: Getty

### The monarchy and religion

The King's constitutional links with the Christian churches derive from the 16th century Protestant reformations, which took different forms in England and Scotland (then separate countries). Towards the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when threatened by Catholic states, legislation banned Roman Catholics, or (until 2013) anyone married to one, from succeeding to the throne.

Roman Catholics and all Protestant groups not belonging to the Anglican Church of England or the Church of Scotland were deprived of most of their civic freedoms. These were finally restored, after some earlier relaxations, in the late 1820s – and last of all for the Roman Catholics in 1829.

The present position is that a British king cannot be a Roman Catholic, must be "in communion with" the Church of England, and swear that he is a faithful Protestant. Following the 1707 Act of Union between Scotland and England, he must, after accession, swear to "inviolably maintain and preserve" the Presbyterian form of church government established in the more autonomous Church of Scotland. This was one of Charles III's first acts as king.

The King's coronation consists of a service of Holy Communion, and a rite during which he is anointed and crowned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, primate of the Church of England. In coronation oaths prescribed by parliament in 1689, the King will swear, among other things, to "maintain and preserve inviolately" the establishment of the Church of England and the rights and privileges of its clergy.

The monarch has been supreme head of the Church of England since 1558. The monarch appoints all the senior clergy in England on the advice of the UK prime minister, after a selection process run by the Church of England.

In Scotland, the greater autonomy of the Church of Scotland means the King has no similar relationship. However, he will appoint a Lord High Commissioner every year to attend and observe the proceedings of the Church's annual General Assembly, and will occasionally attend himself in the same capacity. At the coronation in 1953, that year's moderator (clerical chairman) of the Church of Scotland was the sole non-Anglican present among the officiating clergy.

### King Charles and the faith

The new King's coronation is still some months' away, but the changing face of religion in the United Kingdom, combined with his and his mother's past comments, suggest that the title Fidei Defensor will be interpreted in more inclusive and positive ways.

He has said as much himself in his recent comments to faith leaders after ascending the throne:

*The beliefs that flourish in, and contribute to, our richly diverse society differ. They, and our society, can only thrive through a clear collective commitment to those vital principles of freedom of conscience, generosity of spirit and care for others which are, to me, the essence of our nationhood. I am determined, as King, to preserve and promote those principles across all communities, and for all beliefs, with all my heart.*

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Author: **Bob Morris**, Honorary Senior Research Associate, Constitution Unit, University College London.  
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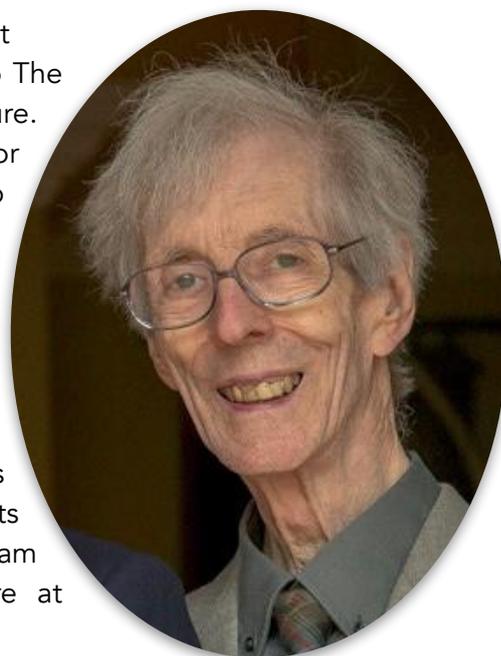
# PETER JON FINLAYSON

## 4<sup>th</sup> February 1933 - 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022

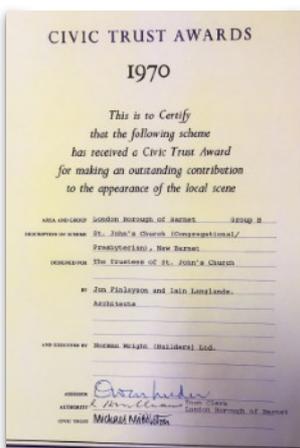
### Architect of St John's Church

JON WAS BORN IN BARNET to Ivy and Donald Finlayson. Right from the start he had links to St. Augustine's, as his mother was a Bearman, sister to Victor and Violet. Both were well known members of St Augustine's Presbyterian Church. His father, Donald, was the son of actors, and formed his own amateur dramatic group, The Finlayson Players, and produced a number of plays at St Augustine's during and after the war. Jon did not act but was in charge of the incidental music (anyone who knew Jon could not have failed to be aware of his love of music but more of that later.)

Jon was educated at The Hall School in Belsize Park where his Aunt Violet taught, and Mercer's in Holborn from where he went on to The Northern Polytechnic in Holloway Road to study architecture. Following qualifying with honours he received his call up papers for National Service. Jon was very opposed to war so he applied to be a conscientious objector and at his military tribunal offered to use his skills as an architect to go to the newly independent country of Ghana. He spent a very happy eighteen months in Kwaso, a small village near Kumasi in the north of the country, teaching building and construction. He also spent six months in France working for the charity Emmaus, converting buildings to house the homeless. On his return he found a job in an architect's office and then moved to work for Peter Moro, one of the architects of the Royal Festival Hall, where he worked on the Nottingham Playhouse and the original refurbishment of the amphitheatre at Covent Garden.



That was sixty years ago when St Augustine's and New Barnet Congregational church were deciding to join together and build a new church, St John's, on the St Augustine's site, and Jon was given the honour of designing it. In order to give him time for such a big project, he left Peter Moro and took a lecturing post at his Alma Mater the Northern Polytechnic, for in those days architects were encouraged to have their own practice in order to keep abreast of the latest practice and regulations. He also asked a colleague, Iain Langlands, to help him.



St John's Church was his Magnum Opus and he was proud to be awarded a Civic Trust Award in 1970. He continued to work locally, an L.A. style Villa in Hampstead and several churches where he redesigned the spaces to make them more suitable for the modern day.

After he retired, he was able to give his time to his love of music. As a teenager he played the piano and later listened to the early stereophonic broadcasts on the Third Programme, now Radio 3. Whilst designing the church he became interested in organs and contacted a young, enthusiastic organ builder, newly returned from the continent, to build the organ for St John's. 🎹



Jon designed the organ case and after the opening recital organised a number of recitals. He had always enjoyed making things and he set to work designing his own house organ and followed that with a harpsichord built from a Frank Hubbard kit. He developed an interest in early music and went to summer music schools and Morley College to improve his recorder playing.

Once a month he joined with friends to play music together. Whilst developing his interest in playing he was also listening to a lot of music and taught himself a lot about electronics so he could improve the sound. Gradually our sitting room and the rest of the house began to fill up with electronic equipment.

Jon retained a lifelong interest in St John's, always on hand to design improvements and give advice after all it was always his pride and joy.

Kathryn Finlayson

The following article has been passed on to us by Michael and Dorothy Peryer, whose granddaughter-in-law wrote it, following her trip to Pakistan. We have had to reduce it a little, so do ask them if you would like to read the entire report.

## Holly Peryer- A Speech & Language Therapist account of Cleft Camp, Gujrat, Pakistan, Spring 2023

WHEN I FIRST HEARD about the opportunity to travel to Pakistan and spend time at The Cleft Hospital in Gujrat I was intrigued. I have worked with children with cleft palate for fifteen years in the UK, but have never been on any overseas missions/ trips before, so I was quite nervous in the buildup to the camp.

Cleft palate affects one in every seven hundred babies in the UK. It is caused by a combination of environmental and genetic influences, and requires ongoing care to ensure good dental, hearing, aesthetic and speech outcomes. In Pakistan the incidence of cleft palate is higher, with one in every five hundred babies born being diagnosed with a cleft. In the UK my role as a Cleft Specialist Speech & Language Therapist is primarily assessing the children's speech following surgery to repair the cleft palate and delivering intervention to support the children's development of speech sounds. A group of five of us from Birmingham Children's Hospital travelled to Pakistan for this cleft camp.



I met with Amna Nazir, the resident Speech & Language Therapist. I am always so amazed at how similar our practice as Speech & Language Therapists are in quite different cultural and clinical circumstances. It is fascinating that there are 'universal characteristics' of cleft palate speech that present regardless of the country or language, making lots of transferrable skills possible.

Our primary role during this particular camp was to establish if the children would require further surgery to the palate to help the palate mechanism function better for speech, or further speech therapy, to help the children to use the correct articulation for specific speech sounds. Some children would require both.

What was excellent at the cleft Hospital was the multidisciplinary aspect of care. Children who needed further investigations to establish their potential for good palate function following speech assessment were either seen on the same day or provided a clinic date within two weeks. The Ear Nose & Throat (ENT) surgeon and cleft surgeons worked closely with Speech & Language Therapy to establish the best surgical option for each individual child.

It was wonderful to have some time to teach Amna about how we manage children in the UK with cleft palate and speech differences. Amna found lots of the therapy techniques (and games/ resources) very helpful. I was able to provide access to an on-line training resource to support her development further and we have remained in touch since my return to the UK.



**ST JOHN'S URC FELLOWSHIP OUTING**  
**SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023**  
**BENNINGTON LORDSHIP FLOWER FESTIVAL**



This years St John's Fellowship Outing is to the very popular Bennington Lordship Gardens Flower Festival. The festival includes Bennington Lordship House, the Parish Church and many local gardens. Refreshments in the Parish Hall. (<http://benningtonlordship.co.uk/>)

The Fellowship is providing a small coach to help those without transport – available on a first come, first served basis. The arrangements are as follows:

Entrance Fee £7.00 payable on arrival

**Traveling by coach:**

Cost: £10.00 each  
 Meeting: 10.45am At St John's Mowbray Rd  
 Returning: Depart the Festival at 3.30 pm

**Traveling by own transport:**

Meet at 12.00 pm  
 Parking: On the village green (free)  
 Address: Bennington Lordship Gardens  
 Bennington, Stevenage SG2 7BS

Tickets From: Marjorie O'Connor  
 Tel: 0208 445 6580/07515 910514  
 Email: marjorie.oconnor@btinternet.com

**BARNET BAND**  
**Barnet Band**  
 will take you to  
***Broadway and beyond...***  
 Music from the stage

Oklahoma  
 My Fair Lady  
 Magic Flute Overture  
 Peer Gynt Suite  
 Fiddler on the Roof

**Saturday May 20th 7.30pm**  
**St. John's United Reformed Church**  
 Corner of Somerset and Mowbray Roads  
 New Barnet, Barnet, Herts. EN5 1RH

**Tickets:**  
 £10 adult,  
 £6 under 16,  
 Under 12 free

Advance bookings: contact  
 barnetband123@gmail.com

further details  
 www.barnetband.org

**licc.**

**Whole-life Discipleship**

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June from 10am to 1pm Steve Rouse, from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, will be leading the second session of three Learning Hubs at St John's. This session is entitled Whole-life Worship. Four churches are taking part in this. It is open to anyone from the church to attend but will be particularly useful for anyone who is involved in leading worship. Please speak to an Elder for more information or to express an interest in attending.

**The United Reformed Church**  
 Thames North Synod

# Life and worship in the Reformed Church of the Czech Brethren, Svitavy.

*In July we will be welcoming our previous minister, Rev. Filip Keller, his wife Kveta, and members of their congregation on a trip to Barnet. St John's is twinned with their church in Svitavy, in the Czech Republic. As not many of us have visited their church we thought it would be interesting to learn about it in advance of their visit, and we are grateful to Kveta for the following information.*



REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES are attended by around forty to fifty people, sometimes less. About six to ten children attend Sunday school, depending on whether there are families with more children in the church on Sunday. Interestingly, in our congregation we currently have more girls under the age of ten. We have only three boys among the group of twelve children. In the past six months, however, two boys were born, so perhaps the situation will turn around soon!



We regularly meet for services at 9:30 am in Svitavy and once every two weeks there are also services in Radiměř from 8:00 am. Radiměř is a preaching station located about 10 km from Svitavy. We do not have evening services, regularly, on Sundays.

We have Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month, the first Sunday of Lent, always every Sunday of Advent and on important church occasions such as Pentecost and Thanksgiving Sunday, at baptism and at confirmation for example.

During church services, we are accompanied by organ music and the song before the children leave to Sunday School is accompanied by a guitar. Every third Sunday of the month we have so-called rhythmic services, when we are accompanied by a band with instruments such as keyboards, electric guitar, bass guitar, saxophone or clarinet. This accompaniment is appreciated mostly by younger church attendees, but seniors also like it.



Children go to Sunday school before the preaching. During their lessons, five teachers regularly alternate. Before the children leave the church, the Sunday school teacher has a "welcome time" for the children, which is a moment when the teacher talks to the children about the topic they are going to talk about in Sunday school and others can join the conversation. The youngest children with their parents can be in the playroom during sermons or during whole services, where the sound is transmitted from the prayer room.

During the week a group of adults meets regularly for Bible lessons, where we read, listen, and discuss Bible texts. Bible lessons are held every second Thursday in Radiměř too. Pastor Filip also has a weekly Bible meeting in a home for the elderly. Every Friday two groups of children meet for a religion lesson, followed by confirmands. We plan to celebrate confirmation in June this year. Four boys and one girl aged 14-16 will be confirmed.

# Flooding at the Good Samaritan School for deaf children

THE COOK AT the Good Samaritan School (GSS) woke up early, at about 5 o'clock as usual. It was 30th March and it had been raining during the night. This was not unusual since it was the rainy season still. What was different though was that when she arrived in the school kitchen she found it flooded. The heavy rain had flowed down and onto the floor through a hole in the roof.

Breakfast was delayed since the hole had to be stopped up and the floor swept and mopped up to empty it of water. The firewood needed to be dried out because it had got wet from the rain which had also been blown into the small kitchen area through the open 'ventilator' spaces. Any spare wood around the school grounds was also soaked. No other types of fuel are available at the school, which is situated in the Ugandan countryside in the village of Kitengeesa.



**The school kitchen at Good Samaritan School for the Deaf**

Lunch and dinner were also delayed resulting in class lessons being slower than usual because children and staff had difficulty studying or teaching on empty stomachs. There are sixty-five children living at the school during term-time and they could not 'go home for lunch'! There are also sixteen staff of all types at the school who also needed feeding. Thursday 30th March was not a good day for everyone at GSS!



The periods between March to June and September to December are rainy seasons in Uganda. This year the rain there has been heavy for prolonged periods, which at times slows down the growth of food crops. The school grows as much food as it is able and the price of food in Uganda is increasing steeply, partly due to the weather.

The school's kitchen roof has been on since around 2015 when the Neilson Organisation donated funds that enabled its construction. It has undergone renovations twice and although the roof can be replaced at a cost of £115, Rosemary, the School's Director, would prefer if possible to replace the whole kitchen. This would improve its efficiency as well as reduce the risk of future problems.

Rosemary says:

*"We would like to replace this roof and to construct another level of wall of bricks and pompee around the kitchen to increase its height. Also, we would like to create a more sustainable open-air ventilation for the cooking fumes from the firewood."*

A new wall would prevent the water from entering the kitchen on windy and rainy days. It will also be easy to clean and for the school cook to prepare the meals on time. Last year they built two new brick cooking stoves in this kitchen and would like to preserve this investment as well.

A fund has been started to support this new kitchen project. A total of £508 is required to complete this job. If you would like to contribute please, this would be most welcome - donations of all sizes would all help. Please contact Tony Shepherd who is arranging this response on behalf of St. John's.

Contact:

email: [tonios2btinternet.com](mailto:tonios2btinternet.com)

Phone: 07901 757 960 or 0208 440 6040)

Thank you for any support that you are able to give.



Rosemary Nakasiita (GSS) and Tony Shepherd (St John's Church)

# Calendar of Events

## MAY

Thursday 4	9:30am	Mainly Music
Saturday 6		Coronation of King Charles III
Sunday 7	11:00am	Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Rev. Simon Aley
Tuesday 9	7:45pm	Elders' Meeting
Thursday 11	9:30am	Mainly Music
Saturday 13	9:00am	Working Party
Sunday 14		Start of <b>Christian Aid Week</b> (see article on p.4)
	11:00am	Worship led by Paul Elsdon
Wednesday 17	8:00pm	Fellowship: Desert Island Discs with Hugh Martin. In Sanctuary and via Zoom.
Thursday 18	9:30am	Mainly Music
Saturday 20	11:00am	Green Christian Barnet: Responding to the degradation of the natural world - Terry Over
	7:30pm	Barnet Band Concert (tickets from Marjorie O'Connor - advertisement on p.12)
Sunday 21	11:00am	Worship led by Tony Shepherd, followed by a Church Meeting
Wednesday 24	8:30pm	Men's Group at The Railway Bell, Supper Evening (8pm if eating)
Thursday 25	9:30am	Mainly Music
Friday 26	7:30 for 8pm	Film Night at St John's: <b>Hidden Figures</b> (see p.18)
Sunday 28	11:00am	<b>Pentecost:</b> Worship led by Roz Douglas & Kevin Snyman (from <i>Commitment for Life</i> )

## JUNE

Sunday 4	11:00am	Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Tony Alderman
Thursday 8	9:30am	Mainly Music
Saturday 10	10:00am	LICC Learning Hub at St John's: 'Whole-life Worship' (see article on p.12)
Sunday 11	11:00am	Worship led by David Paul and Richard Harvey
Tuesday 13	7:45pm	Elders' Meeting
Thursday 15	9:30am	Mainly Music
Saturday 17	11:00am	Green Christian Barnet: Health Care and Sustainability - Sonal Lea
Sunday 18	11:00am	Worship led by Sarah Beaumont
Thursday 22	9:30am	Mainly Music
	8:30pm	Men's Group at Ye Olde Mitre Inn
Saturday 24	10:45am	Fellowship: Outing to Benington Lordship Flower Festival, near Stevenage

Sunday 25	11:00am	Worship led by Paul Elsdon
Thursday 29	9:30am	Mainly Music

## JULY

Saturday 1 to Thursday 6	Visit from members of Filip Keller's Church in Svitavy, Czechia (see p.13)	
Sunday 2	11:00am	Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Andrew & Valerie Mills and Filip Keller
Thursday 6	9:30am	Mainly Music
Sunday 9	11:00am	Worship led by Tony Alderman

Copy for the July/August edition of *Church Record* to be with the editors  
by Friday 30 June.

[churchrecord2023@gmail.com](mailto:churchrecord2023@gmail.com)

# *Easter Parade*



*Thanks to all our flower arrangers for the wonderful displays on Easter Sunday!*

*And thanks to Gill Hailey for giving and arranging flowers (March 25<sup>th</sup>), Rosemary Paul & Roz Douglas (60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary),  
and Jean Davies for the Mothers' Day posies (March 19<sup>th</sup>).*

In March 2020 we had intended to show this film to raise funds for the visit from our friends in Czechia. Well, here we go again ... Our friends from Svitavy will be here at St John's in July and we would like to invite you and your friends to the screening of this film.

# FILM NIGHT AT ST JOHN'S

Invite a friend or family member to this **free** screening

# HIDDEN FIGURES



## FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY

## 8:00PM

### REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE FROM 7:30PM

Donations welcomed to support the Twinning Visit from our friends in Czech Republic

TARAJI P. HENSON    OCTAVIA SPENCER    JANELLE MONAÉ    KEVIN COSTNER    KIRSTEN DUNST    JIM PARSONS

Three female African-American mathematicians play a pivotal role in astronaut John Glenn's launch into orbit. Meanwhile, they also have to deal with racial and gender discrimination at work.

Somerset & Mowbray Roads, New Barnet EN5 1RH

