St. John's Church Record March - April 2013

Life itself was in him, and this life gives light to everyone. The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. John 1:4-5

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Patience and Passion

From the Minister....

There's a tongue-in-cheek prayer that goes, "God, grant me patience...and I want it NOW!" I expect many of us who have experienced frustration can relate to this. Something I find that tests my patience is when a password or access code required and I can't remember it nor can I find where I've written it down! Others tell me of their frustration when the mind or fingers or eyes are not clear or nimble or focussed enough for a task. We marvel, and often rely on, those who have learned to be patient: the engineer or mechanic who patiently investigates and repairs the faulty machine; the teacher who patiently explains to the puzzled student all over again; the gardener who patiently plants, feeds and tends the plant, and starts all over again when the slugs devour it. On the other hand, there are some things of which we are right to be impatient: waffle, injustice, and abuse.

There are some people whose patience is probably tested more than most: the frail and long-term ill able to do little for themselves; the unemployed whose search for work yields nothing, not even the courtesy of a reply to their inquiry. Those treated in a medical practice or hospital are called 'patients'. There is good reason for this. A patient has to wait on the expertise of another and often her or his treatment will require patience! In the synoptic Gospels there is a striking example of waiting and patience that occurs from the point at which Jesus is handed over to his accusers in the Garden of Gethsemane. Prior to this event, Jesus has been making the running: he teaches, heals, comforts, and challenges people wherever he goes. "My Father is working and I must work too" says Jesus. But from the point of his handing-over to the religious authorities, he is almost completely passive. Others do things to Jesus, yet he puts up little or no resistance. This is sometimes known as Jesus' passion or suffering.



St. John's Church (United Reformed) Somerset and Mowbray Roads , New Barnet, EN5 1RH

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As WH Vanstone notes in his book *The Stature of Waiting*; passion originally meant 'to have things done to one'; and those things may be bad, indifferent or good.

We tend to think of passion, in the everyday sense of the word, as emotionally-charged activity. That is one side of passion. But in Jesus' arrest, humiliation, trial and crucifixion we see another: passion as the love that waits. Vanstone sees in Jesus' passion a surprising insight into the nature of God. The God who is always 'working', who is 'pure activity', reveals in Jesus' actions, from his arrest to the cross, that there is another side to his nature: he waits. This suggests that those who wait patiently may be more closely aligned to God's way of being than those who are constantly busy.

Julian Templeton

50th Anniversary

Premiere of the cantata

The Bridge

Friday 26th April 8:00pm

Music

by Richard Harvey

Libretto

by Julian Templeton

Anniversary Dinner

Saturday 27th, 7:00pm

£10 per person,

BYO drink and glasses

Service of Worship

Led by Julian Templeton and

Former Ministers of

St. John's Church

Sunday 28th April, 11:00am

There will be a temporary exhibition of the past and present life of St. John's Church in the Small Hall, curated by David Paul

Members and Friends should have received an invitation to the 50th Anniversary. Please can you return your invitation as soon as possible indicating which events you wish to attend. If you have not received an invitation and would like to attend please contact Tony Alderman or Alison Cousins.

The Bridge

On Friday 26 April, 8:00 pm, at St John's Church, a new Cantata will be premiered. Entry is free; a retiring collection will be taken. Julian Templeton has written the libretto based on a poem, drawing also from the Bible and spirituals. Richard Harvey has composed, and will lead, the music. It will feature choir, soprano and baritone soloists, and a chamber ensemble of instrumentalists. Actor, Rachel Snider, is the Producer, and plans to project images to complement the themes. It explores and celebrates Jesus Christ as "the bridge between despair and hope." *The Bridge* will launch the anniversary weekend of celebrations marking 50 years since Presbyterians and Congregationalists in New Barnet united to become St John's Church.

ST JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP - JANUARY

My Childhood in Zeglingen (Switzerland)

Alice Mujtaba gave us a fascinating talk about growing up in a Swiss village. Zeglingen was established a few thousand years before the birth of Christ. From 1372 Zeglingen and neighbouring villages were governed

from Basel. It became part of the Swiss Confederation and in 1951 the village celebrated 450 years of entering the Confederation. Alice was proud to be one of the two children chosen to represent the village. The village had a population of approximately 500 made

up of farmers, business people and tradesmen. Alice's grandfather started a carpentry business in 1905 and it stayed in the family for over 100 years. There was no train service but it had an excellent coach service. There was a quarry and Alice was one of the children who carried the mid-day meal for the workers. She did this for 2 or 3 years come rain or shine 5 days a week. In those days



there were no fridges, freezers or electric cookers. The woman's place was definitely in the home. They were kept busy preparing and cooking food and looking after the

ST JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP - FEBRUARY



Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

At the Fellowship meeting on Wednesday 20th Feb an audience of 30 members and friends were entertained by a very informative and picturesque slide show of the North American Wild West. Iconic views of the Western Bad Lands, the Rockies and the spectacular carvings of the faces of USA presidents at Mount Rushmore. The presentation was made by Pam Wright (a regular speaker at the Fellowship) whose commentary greatly enhanced the pictures.

Ken Sutherland-Thomas

animals. The children did not have much time to play but were happy.

Christmas celebrations started on St. Nicholas Day (6th December) and there was a nativity play in the church on Christmas Eve. Alice was pleased to be asked to sing a solo one year. She attended playgroup from

the age of 5 until 7 when she started primary school. Her family spoke Swiss German at home but at school she had to speak German.

When Alice came to England in 1959 she could not speak English. She worked as an au pair to a German Jewish family who were very good to her and helped her with her English. She later married and

had two sons one of whom now works in Switzerland.

Anne Bannerman

St John's Fellowship Programme : March -July

20 March	Aubrey Rose
	Jewish Humour
17 April	Jean & Colin Hedges
	On Being a Games
	Maker
15 May	Simon Brown
	A Rocha (A Christian
	Conservation Charity)
22 June	Outing?
	To Be Confirmed
17 July	Nigel Picken
	Wrotham Park: The
	Georgian Creation &
	Growth of a Byng
	Estate



Julian recently received an email form Peter Sutton, Project Leader of The Transition Project based at St. Barnabas Church in Woodside Park, Finchley.

Peter writes.....

I would like to introduce the Transition Project which we are running at St. Barnabas Church. This project aims to help people who are out of work write CV's, job search and become more aware of their transferable skills, so improving their chances of employment. We have to-date helped nearly 60 people who have visited our project.

We need more volunteers and wonder if any of your congregation would be interested in helping us with this. We are looking for people who have previous or present experience of working in Business, Human Resources or the City and who would be available on a Monday morning from 10.30am – 12.30pm (obviously we would not expect a commitment for every Monday). Churches in this area have worked so well together in providing night shelters for the homeless and it would be wonderful if we could work together in helping those in our community who are out of work, which can be so devastating.

We provide a free, open door, welcoming and encouraging service to those who are facing unemployment/redundancy or are out of work and are looking to get back into employment. It is staffed by a group of experienced volunteers and we are keen to expand this number and ideally attract input from other churches and synagogues. Our free weekly drop in clinics provide practical support and guidance to make the next step back into the workplace including:

Help with identifying your transferable skills

Preparing an effective CV

How and where to find jobs internet job searching, online networks, recruitment agencies Interview skills and techniques Help with applications/forms

Potential volunteers would need to have experience in the above areas. Our essential ingredient is that we are able to give our clients time which is not always available elsewhere. If you know of anyone who could be part of Transition it would be great to hear from them. More information is available on our website

(www.stbarnabas.co.uk/transition).

There is a time for words, and a time for silence. A time to reflect, to dissect and understand, and

there is a time to just stand and look.

Later comes the thankfulness, the future and the promise.

Thankfulness for this bruised reed not broken, this smouldering wick not snuffed out; that our fragile hopes have not been crushed, and we are still standing when the lights come back on.

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Reflections for Easter

The following reflection for Easter Sunday is taken from SGM Lifewords' Holy Week reflections for Easter 2008. If you would like to follow each day of the eight day reflections then go to the following link..... www.sgmlifewords.com/easter

The Resurrection

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They stood there puzzled about this, when suddenly two men in bright shining clothes stood by them. Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them, "Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: Luke 24:1-6

CHARITIES UPDATE

MiriamDeanFund 🏵

For many years, part of our regular giving has helped support the Miriam Dean Fund charity. The following is taken from their website:

"We are a small registered charity funding projects for the poorest of the poor. Our work is mostly, at present, in South India, in close partnership with established local groups and charitable organisations. Children are one major focus – orphan children, handicapped children, children at risk, children affected by AIDS. And we know many of them and their carers as friends because we visit them regularly.

Our little Fund is personal – something akin to a family – both here among our contributing supporters and abroad among those we serve. It is also voluntary – no-one is paid – so every penny given goes abroad. That has added up to over a million pounds in the last seven years alone.

It all started some sixty years ago. But it's the present and the future that most excites us. The needs, whether for the care of children, or for health, housing or water, keep growing. So much can be achieved by quite small amounts of money.

The Fund has always been quietly Christian by inspiration, though many of the friends with whom we work abroad are of other faiths. We believe that the poor, of whatever race or creed, are the special concern of the Love at the heart of everything. Consequently they are our special concern too. That is our motivation."

Miriam Dean's relief work grew out of the supply of food and clothing to refugees after the 1939/45 war. It was inspired by her Christian faith and shaped by her conviction that before needs could be met they had to be understood at first hand. That conviction took her to refugee camps and other areas of deprivation; it led to links with African villages, Indian leprosy communities, the Tibetans in exile and many special homes and hospitals.

The work has continued with the same aims since Miriam died in 1980. It was taken forward by Trevor and Val Dorey, who were Miriam's co-workers, and who have visited St John's on more than one occasion. The fund concentrates exclusively on grant-aid to the Third World. Help is given for example to fund hospital extensions, low-cost community projects, water supplies and leprosy rehabilitation, either through personal friends abroad with whom links have been built up over many years, or in partnership with other charities so that access to block governmental grants can be secured.



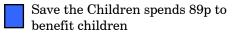
Following the closure of the local branch of Save the Children, I heard that the total amount raised by them over 43 years was just over $\pounds402,000$. As it costs $\pounds3$ to treat 8 children with life-threatening diarrhoea, this means that the lives of over a million children have been saved by these local efforts. St. Johns made a significant contribution to this by supporting Grace Kirby's stall at Coffee Mornings and by giving me used postage stamps to be

sold in aid of this charity. So, once again on behalf of over a million children, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

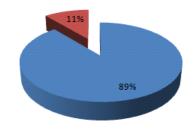
Hugh Martin.

Where your money goes

From every £1 that is given...



the remaining sum is used to raise the next £1





CHRISTIAN AID WEEK <u>"Bite Back at Hunger"</u> <u>12 - 18 May 2013</u>

Whatever you do and however you do it, by being part of Christian Aid Week you can help people in poverty out of poverty. You will join 200,000 others to raise more than £13 million for poor communities around the world to help them find ways to improve their lives and have a brighter future. No matter how much you raise, your contribution will help make a big difference. Today around 870 million people are desperate for food. One in eight people will go to bed hungry tonight. But IF we bite back at hunger this Christian Aid Week we can help communities find ways to not only survive but to thrive, with enough food to eat not just today but tomorrow.

Last year, the volunteers from St. John's helped raise £1,573 from the house-to-house collection along local roads. This wonderful result, was only made possible through the willingness of a large number of people to give some of their time to support Christian Aid. We have several loyal supporters who help every year, but inevitably, we are always welcome new people to ensure that we can still cover all our allocated roads. So, if you can spare just a little time to help with any (or even all!) of the following, do please speak to me as soon as possible:

Delivering envelopes between Friday, 10 May & Sunday, 12 May; Collecting envelopes between Monday 13 May & Saturday 18 May;

Being part of the 'Counting Team' on Sunday evening, 19 May.



Those are the practical ways you can become involved with Christian Aid Week, but don't forget that it is also an opportunity to give and to pray.

Christian Aid currently works with 507 partner organisations in 47 countries around the world, helping

communities to make their voices heard and look towards a brighter future. St John's will be just one of the thousands of churches that will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. It is a real opportunity to go out and put our faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. This includes Britain's largest house-tohouse collection - an extraordinary act of witness, demonstrating to our communities that we care about poverty and justice. For more information, have a look at: www.caweek.org.

> Alison Bond (020 8440 1941)

COFFEE MORNING & SPECIAL CREAM TEA

Our first Coffee Morning this year will be on Saturday 20th April opening at 10.30 until 12 noon. We have held the admission price at a very reasonable 80p for adults and 50p for children for another year, with money raised by church run stalls and admission going to the North London Hospice and church funds.

Please make a note in your diaries that there will be an afternoon Cream Tea on Saturday 15th June between 3.00 and 5.00pm. This will be a bit special as it will be the 50th fundraising social event Rosemary and I have helped organise since we took on the challenge 13 years ago. David Paul

Upcoming Church Meetings AGM and 'Fit for Purpose?'

I hope as many as possible will come to the Church Annual General Meeting on Sunday 17 March starting at 2:30 pm to hear and respond to reports given on all aspects of the church's life. It will be preceded by a Ploughman's Lunch with Soup in the Large Hall.

On Sunday 21 April there will be a 30-minute service followed by a Church Meeting at which the Elders will present some of the points they have discussed, with the expectation of further discussion and development by those present at the meeting. In order that you can begin thinking about your contribution to the discussion, I include below some of the provisional thinking of the Elders, which came out of a recent meeting devoted to discussing 'How can St John's Church be fit for purpose?'

The following points came out of discussion:

United Reformed Church

A lot of people do not know or understand what the United Reformed Church is. Should we include the words 'Congregational' & 'Presbyterian', which are more widely known, on the notice board? For others, especially younger people, denominational labels have little or no meaning. Should we be promoting more widely the tolerant and thinking approach of the URC?

Encouraging others

New visitors to the church are most likely to come from personal invitation by existing members and friends rather than by leaflet drops etc. What kind of events might members and friends feel able to invite others to?

Age Profile

The average age of the St John's congregation has been increasing in recent years with fewer young families attending regularly. This presents many challenges, especially to our future viability. The recent appointment of Georgie Wilson as Children's Worker attempts to address this through deploying paid leadership resource. How else might we appeal to a wider age-range of people?

Sermons

Are our sermons/addresses 'Fit for Purpose'? Should technology be used more to enhance the message? It was recognised that this should be an aid and not a distraction to the message. A sermon is 'God speaking through the preacher'; God may prompt us by just one aspect or phrase. In what other ways might God speak to us?

Opportunities for Christian Service

The church can offer people the opportunity of being involved in practical expressions of their faith, for example, helping out at the Winter Shelter and the foodbank. Several people outside of the regular church-goers have asked to play a part in these ventures. Do we use this opportunity to explain that as Christians, this is our response to the gospel message? Do we know what we would say?

Sin & Guilt

Are many put off by the church because it makes them feel guilty? Some outside the church mistakenly believe that church-goers are free from sin. How do we explain to those outside the church that we come to seek forgiveness?

Services

Do newcomers feel comfortable with our service format? Are we open to making changes? Are we mindful not to dilute the message when trying to broaden the appeal of worship?

Christian Ambassadors

We can influence others and hopefully encourage them to come to church, by the example we set and the way we live our lives. St Francis of Assisi quote: "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary."

Church Building

Many have admired the St John's church building and halls – what does it say about what we believe? Should we reflect the influence of Calvin by having the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and The Creed on display?

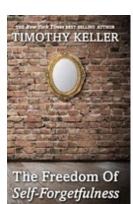
Summary

We are aiming to enable people to meet God and God to meet people We recognise the importance of the need to 'Listen to Jesus' to understand God We also need to listen to others The church can help you to make a difference \rightarrow 'Come and Help!'



I would add one thing that did not form part of our discussion that evening: stipendiary Ministry in the United Reformed Church is increasingly spread across multiple congregations, which means that cooperating, resource sharing, and grouping is becoming the norm. How might 5 URC congregations in Barnet, Whetstone and Totteridge begin to develop a shared vision that could mean that rather than five dwindling congregations inhabiting separate buildings, we could combine our resources to create something that will flourish?

Please think and pray about these things, and come to our meeting on 21 April ready to share your ideas.



Lent Discussion Group The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness Led by Julian Templeton.

March 7: Introduction and Chapter 1 March 14: Chapter 2 March 21: Chapter 3

TH TO TRUE CHRISTIAN JOY *Either*: Thursday Afternoons in Memorial Room, 2:30 – 4:00 pm Or: Thursday Evenings in Vestry, 8:00 – 9:30 pm

Free copies of book available on table in back of Sanctuary with sign-up sheet.

Julian Templeton

ntroducing.... Georgie Wilson

Georgie Wilson is St. John's new Children's Worker. She started here in January and will be with us on two Sundays a month - 1st and 4th. She will also be involved in an exciting new venture, 4WEDS-4KIDS, an after school activity every 4th Wednesday in the month from 4 -5pm. Please pray for Georgie and all the Junior Church Leaders.



Last year after much prayer my family relocated to the Watford area. Our middle daughter Amy-Jane had just commenced

studying for a degree in Music, Worship and Theology at the London School Of Theology in Northwood. She is a harpist and we have always known that part of our service for the Lord is being available to transport the harp around! The Lord led me to a part time Children's and Youth Worker position at St Luke's Church in Bricket Wood. I also provide peripatetic and an after school club 1 day a week at a school in Waltham Abbey. However, I felt that there was more the Lord wanted me to explore and do in His service. So I applied for the position at St John's. I started working at St John's in January 2013.

My children have always shaped my career. We have five LucyKate, Hannah, Amy-Jane, and twins Bethlynn & Jonathan. Only Beth & Jon are living at home now as they are in 6th form.

As a family we have lead youth groups and we also serve as worship band once a month at St Luke's. We are really enjoying worshiping and serving at St John's. Thank you for such a warm welcome.

COME AND

JOIN THE FUN

NEXT EVENT : 27th March, 4-5pm **4WEDS 4KIDS**

Games/Quizzes/Music/Craft/Activities

All ages welcome, Parent/Carer must stay on premises

Revised Common Lectionary

3 March	Luke 13:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8
10 March	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32
17 March	John 12:1-8; Philippians 3:4b-14; Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126
24 March	<i>Palm</i> : Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
	<i>Passion</i> : Luke 22:14 – 23:56; Philippians 2:5-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
29 March	<i>Good Friday</i> : John 18:1 – 19:42; Hebrews 10:16-25; Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12; Psalm 22
31 March	<i>Easter Day</i> : Luke 24:1-12; Acts 10:34-43; Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
7 April	John 20:19-31; Acts 5:27-32; Revelation 1:4-8; Psalm 118:14-29 or 150
14 April	John 21:1-19; Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Revelation 5:11-14; Psalm 30
21 April	John 10:22-30; Acts 9:36-43; Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 23
28 April	John 13:31-35; Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6; Psalm 148
5 May	John 14:23-29; Acts: 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5; Psalm 67
12 May	John 17:20-26; Acts 16:16-34; Revelation 22:12-14; Psalm 97

'The Bridge' - Rehearsal Schedule

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Friday 15 March 8:00 - 9:30pm Choir
Friday 22 March 8:00pm Soloists only
Saturday 23 March 2:00 - 5:00pm Choir & soloists
Good Friday 29 March No rehearsal
Friday 5 April 8:00 - 9:30pm Choir (soloists)
Friday 12 April 8:00 - 9:30pm Choir (soloists)
Friday 19 April 8:00 - 9:30pm Choir (soloists)
Thursday 25 April 7:00 - 10:00pm Choir, soloists & orchestra
Friday 26 April 8:00pm (Warm up at 7:00pm) Performance
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Calendar of Church Events

March

Sunday 3	11:00 am	Lent 3, Worship with Holy Communion led by Julian Templeton	
Monday 4	1.30-3.00pm	Little John's	
Wednesday 6	7:00pm	Nosh and Natter at 10 Leicester Road	
Thursday 7	2:30 pm	Lent Discussion Group, The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness, Memorial Room	
	8:00 pm	Lent Discussion Group, The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness, Vestry	
Sunday 10	11:00 am	Lent 4, Mothering Sunday, Worship led by Alison Bond and Alison Cousins	
		(note: no Soul Food due to key people being otherwise engaged)	
Monday 11	1.30-3.00pm	Little John's	
Tuesday 12	8:00 pm	Elders' Meeting	
Thursday 14	2:30 pm	Lent Discussion Group, The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness, Memorial Room	
	8:00 pm	Lent Discussion Group, The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness, Vestry	
Friday 15	8:00pm	Rehearsal for 'The Bridge', Small Hall	
Sunday 17	11:00 am	Lent 5, Worship led by Julian Templeton (Ploughmans and Soup Lunch)	
	2:30 pm	Church Annual General Meeting	

St. John's Church (United Reformed) Somerset and Mowbray Roads , New Barnet, EN5 1RH

Monday 17	1.30-3.00pm	Little John's
Thursday 21	2:30 pm	Lent Discussion Group, The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness, Memorial Room
	8:00 pm	Lent Discussion Group, The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness, Vestry
Saturday 23	2:00-5:00pm	Rehearsal for 'The Bridge', Sanctuary
Sunday 24	11:00 am	Palm Sunday Worship led by Paul Elsdon and Meg Hardie
Monday 25th	1.30-3.00pm	Little John's
Tuesday 26th	8.00pm	Prayer and Discussion Group
Wednesday 27	4.00-5.00pm	4Weds4Kids
m i i 00	8:00 pm	Judas's Tale by The Guild Players
Thursday 28	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday, at URC Chesterfield Road led by Allan Down.
Friday 29	2:00 pm	Good Friday, Worship led by Julian Templeton
Sunday 31	11:00 am	Easter Day, Worship with Holy Communion led by Roger Orme (British Summer Time begins)
April		(Diffusit Summer Time Segms)
Wednesday 3	7:00pm	Nosh and Natter at 10 Leicester Road
Friday 5	8:00pm	Rehearsal for 'The Bridge' Small Hall
Sunday 7	11:00 am	Worship led by Sarah Beaumont and Roz Douglas
	3:00pm	Causeway
Friday 12	8:00pm	Rehearsal for 'The Bridge' Small Hall
Sunday 14	11:00 am	Worship led by Andrew and Valerie Mills
	8:00 pm	Soul Food led by Julian Templeton
Monday 15	1.30-3.00pm	Little John's
Friday 19	8:00pm	Rehearsal for 'The Bridge', Sanctuary
Saturday 20	10:30am	Coffee Morning
Sunday 21	11:00 am	30-Minute Worship led by Julian Templeton followed by Church Meeting
		discussing 'Fit for Purpose?'
Monday 22	1.30-3.00pm	Little John's
Wednesday 24	4.00-5.00pm	4Weds4Kids
Thursday 25	7:00-10:00pm	Final Rehearsal for 'The Bridge', Sanctuary
Friday 26	8:00 pm	Anniversary Celebrations, 'The Bridge
Saturday 27	7:00 pm	Anniversary Celebrations, Anniversary Dinner
Sunday 28	11:00 am	Anniversary Celebrations, Service of Worship led by Julian Templeton and former Ministers
Monday 29	1.30-3.00pm	Little John's
Tuesday 30	8.00pm	Prayer and Discussion Group
May		
Wednesday 1	7:00pm	Nosh and Natter at 10 Leicester Road
Sunday 5	11:00 am	Worship led by Julian Templeton

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