

July – Aug
2019

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

Are we at risk of idolising our particular point-of-view?

Sometimes someone will say or write something that causes me to re-think what I thought was true. This happened to me twice recently. The first time was when I turned on Radio 4 and caught the end of one of the Reith Lectures by Jonathan Sumption (recently-retired Justice of the Supreme Court). His comment was that until relatively recently the question of whether the UK ought to leave or remain a member of the European Union was not a question that most people were asking. When I heard this I thought: he's right, apart from a minority of people who expressed a strong view, most people I spoke to never raised the matter. It became a popular question only *after* David Cameron announced that there would be a referendum on the UK's membership of the EU in 2016. Ever since then one's point-of-view on this single issue has become a matter of dispute and division.

The second thing I encountered that

caused me to re-think was something I read in the United Reformed Church's Daily Devotion (available by free subscription via email and also on St John's Church Website) for the 1st of July. Commenting on the text: "Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21) Ron Reid wrote about both sides of the EU referendum debate:

Little charity has been displayed between the protagonists... Entrenched positions on all sides have been raised to the status of idols. John's charge to us as Christians is to use the freedom given to us in Christ to strive to keep ourselves and the world from idolatry. Have we so striven? Or have we just acquiesced?

When I read this, I thought: hold on, have I allowed my point-of-view about the EU referendum result to become an idol? An idol is not only an object that one worships; one can also idolise one's point-of-view or position on an issue by elevating it to

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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

be the 'be-all-and-end-all'. I'm not suggesting that EU membership is not an important issue; I'm suggesting that some of us may have inadvertently over-invested in it and in the process of doing so have made it a divisive issue. I'm suggesting that it is possible for one's point-of-view on a matter to become so important that it creates instability and disorder in one's thinking and relationships, and I may have fallen into this trap. In fairness, it is a trap that is difficult to avoid when news journalists compete to keep this one issue to the forefront of the news headlines.

How might we 'use the freedom given to us in Christ to strive to keep ourselves and the world' free from this particular form of idolatry? When we begin to trust God one thing that ought to make us re-think is learning God's point-of-view and attitude toward us. The Church makes the audacious claim that Jesus Christ *is* God's attitude toward us in person. For instance, when Jesus trusts in God, responds to

contentious questions with kindness, welcomes those whom others have cast out, gently corrects friends, forgives those whom others regard as unforgiveable, challenges those who are unjust and uncaring, and sacrifices his sinless life in place of the sinful; this *is* God's attitude toward us.

If we claim to be disciples or followers of Jesus—and our emphasis as a Church is that the *whole* of life is one of discipleship—then what ought to distinguish us is that our point-of-view is informed by God's point-of-view. To put this into practice, try to imagine someone whose point-of-view you strongly disagree with. Then ask yourself: If I were to have a conversation with that person, how might I build trust by responding to contentious questions with kindness, gentleness, forgiveness, and challenge; and what would I have to sacrifice in order to do so?

Julian Templeton

Manse Garden Party

We were blessed with another scorching hot day for this happy annual event. Luckily Julian and Laura had prepared much needed shade. After much puzzling and effort, a Gazebo appeared on the patio, a much appreciated gift from Anne Bannerman. The lovely old apple tree and a breeze from the lake provided another area of shade. As advertised, further cooling was available by running through the garden sprinkler. Alice utilised this the most, but so did a few spirited adults!

Another great success thanks to plenty of delicious food and drink provided by everyone, including Julian's famous Pimms. But, most importantly it was down to the great conversations and companionship.



New and East Barnet Churches Free Community Fun Day and Service

More than 120 people from 5 Church congregations in New and East Barnet in North London suspended their usual services on Sunday 2 June and came together for an ecumenical outdoor service in sunshine followed by a picnic lunch and a free Fun Day for their local community. Ministers from different churches took part in the service, including Julian.



Some of the 120 worshippers from 5 churches in New and East Barnet



Rev. Rupert Lazaar, Minister of East Barnet Baptist Church, preached the sermon with the main message "Encourage one another"

The band from St James's Anglican Church provided the music for worship.

"We are so pleased that more than a hundred more people, including many children, also came to the free Fun Day in the afternoon and had a really enjoyable time on bouncy castles, games, and other amusements" said Julian

"The free barbecue also went down well and the whole event, funded by local churches, was a practical expression of the churches wanting to bless the community."

Roz Douglas



Christian Aid Week 2019

THANK YOU!



Photo credit:
Christian Aid/Tom Pilston

We'll dance for three days when we have the health centre' Tenneh Bawoh

The total amount raised during the week this year was £2,205.60, which is not quite as much as last year but still a fantastic result, so a huge thank you to everyone for all your help and contributions. Just over £333 of that amount was raised at our Big Brekkie/Community Garden morning, which was well supported by people from many different churches. The rest came from the house-to-house collection and donations from within St John's. The following thank you comes from Christian Aid:

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in Christian Aid week this year, your life changing gifts are giving mums like Tenneh (pictured above) in Sierra Leone the chance of a better future and the hope for real change.

For those of you who are interested in facts and figures, we collected a total of 214 envelopes and



Christian Aid will be able to reclaim an additional 25% on £1193 of the above total from those who completed the Gift Aid form, adding a further £298 to the total amount. We had 8 collectors plus a further 5 people helping to deliver envelopes, and a very efficient team of 10 people helped count all the money.

Alison Bond



An Evening of Music for Classical Guitar

performed by Simon Watson
St John's URC

Please make a note in your diary to ensure that you will be free to attend this recital of music selected for performance by Simon Watson. Simon has kindly agreed to support our Organ Fund in addition to a charity of his own choice that supports Tai Chi education and facilities. Posters, leaflets and programmes will be available during July

Please contact Patricia Picken for further information patricia.picken@btinternet.com

Saturday 14 September 2019

at 7pm

... Craftman's art and music's measure ...

This summer our organ is being cleaned and overhauled – all made possible by generous donations from members and friends, together with two grants and a bequest. So, first of all, a huge thank you to everyone who has made this possible – all the generous donors and to Malcolm Bond and Andrew Mills for sourcing the grants and for their time spent in writing the applications.

This article is to inform you of both the work being undertaken and the craftsmanship involved in it.

The craft of organ building in Britain stretches back hundreds of years. The organ builder has to have a broad range of specialist skills in woodwork, metalwork and leatherwork, tuning and voicing. Voicing is a meticulous task. Each pipe must be made to play with the proper onset of sound, sustained tone, and volume. When the voicing process is complete each individual pipe in the organ forms a beautiful musical instrument. When played as an individual rank or in chorus, their collective voices create the beauty and majesty of sound that can only be produced by the pipe organ.

Bishop and Son

Our organ has been tuned and maintained by Bishop and Son (Organ Builders, Ipswich) for many years. The firm was started in Marylebone in 1795. James Chapman Bishop quickly built a good reputation and became widely known as a master organ builder whose attention to detail and expert knowledge, combined with ingenuity and craftsmanship, produced some of the finest English organs of the nineteenth century.

James's son, Charles, followed in his father's



footsteps and took responsibility for the firm, following his father's death in 1854; but, owing to Charles's ill health, the firm was bought by Edward Hadlow Suggate and, with Suggate as principal of the firm, Bishop and Son saw some of the most dramatic changes in organ building. Suggate was anxious to keep alive the traditions of the Bishop family but was not afraid to embrace new ideas and established at Ipswich a well equipped factory, that included, by repute, the largest pipe metal casting bench in the trade. Each generation of craftsmen apprenticed or employed with Bishop and Son has been responsible for the refinement of the company's skills and the individual approach used in its work today.

The Cleaning and Overhaul of the organ in St John's Church.

We have a provisional starting date for work on the organ of the week beginning 29th July. This work is estimated to take about six weeks. Disruption to the sanctuary itself will be at the very start of this period when the whole organ will be dismantled. We will still use the sanctuary for services, but will be restricted to the right side of the church (furthest from the organ) as a huge amount of space will be needed for laying out the pipes. We will still be able to use the kitchen area and accessible toilet. Direct access from sanctuary to the stairs going down to the halls will be through the Vestry; the main door at the top of the stairs will be locked. Once the pipes are reinstalled – although work will still continue on the organ – the whole sanctuary will be available for Sunday services.



I was hoping to précis the specification of the work that will be carried out on the organ this summer in layman's terms. This has proved difficult with three pages of itemised work (!) but – for anyone interested – here it is:

- All the pipework from within the chamber will be removed to allow all the pipes to be thoroughly cleaned both inside and out. Any damaged metal pipes will be expertly dealt with in the metal shop. The wooden pipes will be checked for splits and any unsound pipes will be repaired and any perished leather will be replaced with new.
- A whole rank of pipes is to be replaced to create more space for tuning and maintenance.
- All the mechanical parts will be inspected for wear and tear and be cleaned, oiled, repaired or replaced as necessary.
- The cumbersome and, currently, unreliable drawstop machines will be replaced with new solenoid movements.
- The keyboards are to be sent to the makers for resurfacing and matching.
- Finally, the organ will be finely tuned and regulated.



Let me finish by quoting the full verse from the hymn by Francis Pott, *Angel voices, ever singing*, from which I took the title for this article:

*Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
 o'er each work of thine;
 thou didst ears and hands and voices
 for thy praise combine;
 craftsman's art and music's measure
 for thy pleasure
 all combine.*

Richard Harvey

Induction of four Elders to serve further terms

On Sunday 16 June, Julian and the congregation were delighted that four of our Elders were inducted to serve for another term of four years.

They were, from left Paul Elsdon, Helen Snider, Valerie Mills and Alison Bond.



50th Anniversary Celebrations



St John's Church managed to have two anniversary celebrations on succeeding Sundays. The first on 28th April was led by former minister, Michael Diffey, accompanied by Pamela, and included a lunch. The second, on 5th May was led by Julian Templeton, celebrating 50 years of the current church building, and included a celebratory cake.

Greetings from Uganda



Thank you so much for the link to *St John's Record* on the website. The professional photography was also excellent. Thank you very much.

We did arrive safely in Uganda. We actually live at the lakeside town of Entebbe and about five minutes drive from the airport. So although we arrived late it was not a hustle to get home.

Again we take this opportunity

to thank the church community who welcomed us well and made our stay most rewarding. "We shall report you to our pastor at St. Johns Entebbe". I don't mean a bad report of course.

We hope to return next year all variables remaining constant.

Best wishes and may the Lord continue to bless you.

Stephen and Gertrude.

Calendar

July & August 2019

JULY	Sunday 7th	11:00am	Worship and the Lord's Supper led Julian Templeton	JULY
	Wed 10th	4:00pm	Weds 4 Kids Club	
	Thursday 11th	9:30am	Mainly Music, Sanctuary	
	Saturday 13th	9:45am	Green Christian -Barnet	
	Sunday 14th	11:00am	Worship – led by Valerie and Andrew Mills	
	Tuesday 16th	8:00pm	Prayer & Discussion Group at 37 Greenhill Park	
	Wed 17th	8:00pm	St. John's Fellowship - Underground Tour of Literary London by Nick Dobson in Sanctuary.	
	Thursday 18	7:30pm	North London Local Area Group, St John's Church	
	Friday 19	2:30pm	Community Café and 3:30 pm Short Service	
	Sunday 21st	11:00am	Worship led by Julian Templeton	
	Tuesday 23rd	8:00pm	Justice & Peace Group	
	Thursday 25th	8:00pm	Men's Group – Curry Evening at The Railway Bell, East Barnet	
	Friday 26th	2:30pm	World Day of Prayer Summer Tea Party in Large Hall - ALL WELCOME	
	Sunday 28th	11:00am	Worship led by Paul Elsdon	
		3:00pm	Causeway- Party in the Park, 3:00pm – 4:30pm in Greenhill Park Gardens. In church hall if wet.	
	Tuesday 30th	2:00pm	Dementia Club	
AUGUST	Sunday 4th	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	AUGUST
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting, Vestry	
		11:00am	Worship and Lord's Supper led by Tony Alderman	
	Sunday 11th	11:00am	Worship led by Sarah Beaumont	
	Saturday 17th	5:30pm	Fellowship Summer Garden Party at 67 Belmont Ave, Cockfosters	
	Sunday 18th	11:00am	Worship led by Tony Alderman	
	Monday 19th	8:30pm	Men's Group – Ye Olde Mitre Inne, High Barnet	
	Friday 23rd		Copy Deadline for next edition of Church Record	
	Sunday 25th	11:00am	Worship led by Tony Alderman	
	Tuesday 27th	2:00pm	Dementia Club	
		8:00pm	Justice & Peace Group	
	Wed 28th	10:00am	Pastoral Team Meeting, Vestry	
SEPT	Sunday 1st	10:00am	Informal Prayer in Memorial Room	SEPT
		10:30am	Elders' Meeting, Vestry	
		11:00am	Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton	
	Saturday 7th		Friends of Khasdobir London Walk	

St John's Fellowship Visit to Fenton House

United Reformed Church

A collection of St John's Fellowship members and their friends gathered at High Barnet station on Wednesday 12th June for the annual Fellowship outing, which this year went to Fenton House in Hampstead. Our group of twelve used the Northern Line to make the short trip to Hampstead station where we strolled up Holly Hill, passed the historic Holly Bush pub to Fenton House and Garden, perched on one of the highest parts of Hampstead.

PI Fenton was a wealthy merchant who had the house built around 1686 by the architect William Eades. At the time, the land around Hampstead was being developed with individual large houses being built for the aspiring professional classes who wanted a house close to London but away from the congestion and pollution of central London. Our little group wandered from room to room at our own leisurely pace, admiring the collection of early keyboard instruments, some of which are often played for visitors and collections of paintings, porcelain, 17th century needlework pictures and Georgian furniture. The more agile among us scrambled on to a balcony at the top of the house to see the views around Hampstead and London.

However, for many in our group, the magnificent garden was a main attraction with the large walled garden, sunken garden, a kitchen garden and a three hundred year old orchard with over thirty varieties of traditional English apples. Unfortunately the apples were not in season for us to try.

By this time our group was getting hungry, so we



wandered down to Hampstead High Street and into "Le Pain Quotidien" a café near the station. Most of us managed to gather round a large wooded table for refreshments and a good gossip, it was a little like one of St John's "shared lunches", although somewhat more expensive!

Suitably refreshed we ventured out into the rain to visit Hampstead Parish Church, St John-at-Hampstead in Church Row. There has been a church on the site for over 1,000 years, with the present magnificent building being consecrated in 1747. The church is within the Diocese of London and the Province of Canterbury. It is part of the world-wide Anglican Communion.

The church is also the final resting place of many





famous people, including John Constable the painter, John Harrison, inventor of the marine chronometer, Peter Cook, writer and comedian, Eva Gore-Booth and Esther Roper, suffragists and social justice campaigners and many more. However, by now the rain had really set-in, we managed to find the graves of Constable and Harrison, but our enthusiasm for tramping round wet gravestones was declining rapidly, so our somewhat depleted gang wondered back to Hampstead station and home for a nice cup of tea!

Ron Mobbs



St John's Fellowship Garden Party 5.30pm Saturday 17th August

67, Belmont Avenue, Cockfosters, EN4 9JS
(home of Ron & Sue)
Tickets available soon.
Includes refreshments and soft drinks.
Feel free to bring your own bottle.

Support for our local businesses

For various reasons I feel it's important to shop locally if we can and I wondered if readers would like to offer up their own suggestions. I know how difficult it can be to run a small business so I'd like to support any whenever I can.

To start us off I would like to encourage anyone to have some food, a drink or a delicious cake in the **VIBE CAFE** on Greenhill Parade. Because our kitchen was being repainted, there was one day we couldn't access the fridge or kettle, so were forced to find somewhere else for lunch. This cafe was a wonderful discovery! The Tuna Salad I ordered is the best I've had and Julian's Avocado and Poached eggs were stupendous. Oh, and the cakes were amazing! The owners couldn't be nicer or more accommodating and



I have to say, I was thrilled to have found some a gem on our doorstep.

6 Greenhill Parade, EN5 1ES Tel: 07878359994

Laura Templeton

Not Barbados but Benalmadena

We have recently had a holiday in Spain, a return visit to Benalmadena near Malaga.

On a previous visit we attended a Sunday service organised by ex-pats held in the red Bil Bil Castle (picture above) that looks like a medieval Moorish fortress on the sea-front. This was originally built in the first half of the 20th century as a home for a family who were never able to live in it due to the outbreak of the Spanish Civil war. This building is much loved by the locals as an art gallery and public building. The service we attended was well put together but very casual with prompts such as "Will you do your bit now Brenda?" from one of the organisers !



This year we noticed that the Elim Family Fellowship (similar to the Barnet Christian Fellowship) had premises in the village, with a service at 11 a.m. We were very warmly welcomed to their bilingual service. There were approximately 70 in the congregation plus a number of children. Songs were put up on a screen with the Spanish translation following the English with many people singing both. Everything else was translated into Spanish and when it came to the sermon, the Spanish in the congregation donned headphones for the translation, provided by one of the congregation. We were told that the service was being broadcast on the internet throughout Spain.

Holy Communion was passed around with both elements contained in the same dish. The "bread" resembled cream crackers – certainly unleavened bread. I was interested to notice that when it was time for the Gospel reading, the gentleman next to me was following it on his phone! From the Notices we learned that there were many, many events and meetings throughout the week. Certainly a very lively church. We enjoyed the service and after such a warm and friendly welcome, we hope to return if we are fortunate enough to make another visit to Benalmadena.

Marion Hopwood

Friends of Khasdobir London Walk Palaces, Pop-Art and Peter Pan

This year's walk is on Saturday 7th September. We will be walking through Bayswater and Notting Hill and into Kensington Gardens.

The walk starts at 10.30am from the Unitarian Chapel in Palace Gardens Terrace, Kensington and the nearest tube is Notting Hill Gate. The entry fee is £8 and all money raised goes to the Friends of Khasdobir education and welfare projects in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

A group of us will be meeting at High Barnet tube station to travel together. More details from Valerie Mills nearer the time.

St John's
United Reformed Church

Fellowship

Wed 15 May

London's Air Ambulance Charity

talk by
Tim Beezley

Firstly, our speaker explained that he became a volunteer and fundraiser for the London's Air Ambulance Charity after witnessing a stabbing incident a few streets from his home, an incident attended by a London's Air Ambulance helicopter. However, he began his talk by clarifying some basic operational points regarding the present-day London's Air Ambulance missions, these being that:

- their helicopters are not used primarily as ambulances
- a majority of patients are not taken to hospital
- most of their missions use only cars.

The first civilian use of an air ambulance helicopter occurred in 1966 and twenty years later in 1986 Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was alerted by The Royal College of Surgeons to the need for quicker response to cases of trauma and other forms of critical injury resulting from accidents and other causes. Express Newspapers provided much publicity and encouraged fundraising, their name being prominently displayed on the first London's Air Ambulance helicopter when it entered service in 1989, this being the charity's 30th Anniversary year. During those years 39,500 critically injured patients have been treated, at the present time five people each day. Total callouts during 2000 amounted to 1656, of which 58 were in the London Borough of Barnet. Head and pelvic injuries resulting from car accidents form the largest proportion of casualties attended, of which the majority are male.

The first helicopter purchased was a white Aerospatiale Dauphin, manufactured in France, but the charity now uses the smaller and cheaper MD902 Explorer helicopter manufactured by McDonnell Douglas Helicopters. Whereas the Dauphine has a conventional anti-torque tail rotor



London Air Ambulance G-EHMS

positioned within its vertical tailfin, the MD902 uses air directed through slots on the tail boom, sometimes



disrespectfully referred to as the 'hair-dryer', to achieve directional control. The new helicopter cost £6,000,000 towards which the Freemasons donated £2,000,000, the remainder having had to be raised by the charity from other sources. Although the NHS pays for staff training and wages, helicopters and road vehicles must be separately provided for and maintained through fundraising. London's Air Ambulance now has two MD 902 helicopters, one based at RAF Northolt and the second on the fully-equipped roof-top helipad of the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, or tethered-down in a local park during particularly bad weather. An area the size of a tennis court is sufficient for landing and take-off.

Apart from the five pilots, the strength also includes twenty-one medical staff and a senior-grade surgeon working nine-month shifts. Head office staff includes those dealing with safety and legal issues and others sifting calls and assessing merit and need. A patient liaison nurse keeps in touch with patients who may suffer after effects, even over some years. Many patients will be taken to their home rather than to hospital if the progress of recovery can be expected to be improved. The Charity utilises three Skoda Octavia and two Skoda Kodia estate cars to ensure 24/7 coverage and physician response, each vehicle carrying the same advanced trauma team, equipment and drugs.

This most interesting talk was accompanied by some excellent illustrations of the helicopters and their staff, but we were assured that should we ever require their service it would probably be administered on land! Many attendees were moved to add an extra personal contribution to our speaker's fee towards this very deserving cause that could bring life-saving support to any one of us should some misfortune cross our path.

Patricia A Picken

A delightful exchange on the connecting train to Kalka

The following piece, written by David Porter, was submitted to the Daily Telegraph for a travel writing competition and published on 23 March 2019.

"Seeing my name in that Saturday's newspaper was a surprise. We had been out all day and it was only when we came home I went through the papers.

The feeling I had on that discovery was identical to my very first by-lined article in the local newspaper (Hemel Hempstead Gazette) when I was 14. Weird really as from that day onwards I vowed to become a journalist at some stage despite struggling with English 'O' level at the time. But what stimulus now from this recent success? More travelling and writing. Over 10k words get jotted down during each trip Agnes and I make."



David Porter gets a fascinating perspective on Indian food, culture and family while chatting to a fellow passenger.

We are told Indians are inquisitive. So, perhaps I should not have been surprised to be in conversation with a very sociable Indian woman. Navya was seated next to me on the train to Kalka from Delhi. She asked lots of questions – Was I married? Did I have children? What do I do for a living? What was I doing in her country? Where I was going next? Similar questions but not exactly those used by the aggressive ticket touts we met in Delhi.

Navya gave as much information as she asked of me. Married with a daughter of 10 she was an architect; her husband a corporate lawyer. She seemed very modern. Part of the aspiring middle classes who will

change the face of India.

When she married she did not move into her in-laws (the normal action of a Hindu) However her mother-in-law now lives with her and her husband since becoming widowed. "Difficult," I said "one is not designed to live with parents when one grows up." She said she listens a lot to her 75 mother-in-law to reduce tensions.

Navya's daughter is doing well at school but has given up classical dancing lessons. "She decided she did not want to do it. I could not force her to carry on." Navya's dances as it is good exercise.

I question her – does she like watching cricket?

"No I detest it. But my husband has a passion for it.

He watches all the matches. I know what is going on because of him."

What about films? "I have seen the Rocky movies 10 times." I looked surprised. "My husband likes American films so I watch with him. " She shakes her head when I ask whether she likes them.

She does not reveal whether she is a practising Hindu but volunteers her husband is an atheist.

Does she eat meat? "I am vegetarian and I have tasted meat. I did not like it. But my husband eats everything that walks."

Does this mean you have a cooking issue in your house? "No. I do all the cooking. Even his meat. There is a belief in India that men have no place in the kitchen."

Modern? In some ways yes but traditional family

values are still practiced in the household. Looking after the elderly, for instance, by accommodating her mother-in-law.

She said she only ever wanted one child and that child to be girl. When pregnant she never thought she would have a son, always a daughter. A strong-willed one at that. "She tells me off if I drop litter. They teach them in school not to drop it."

Complimentary food to eat; newspapers in abundance to read. Enough distractions, but my focus is on this delightful Indian lady. I doubt I would have such a wide-ranging chat on an English train with a stranger?

Daily Telegraph of 23 March 2019

New Barnet and East Barnet
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER led by Women
SUMMER TEA PARTY

Friday 26th July, 2019 (2.30pm start to 4.00pm)

**At St. John's United Reformed Church Large Hall,
Mowbray Road Entrance (/Somerset Road),
New Barnet, Herts. EN5 1RH-near Station Road, New Barnet**

Everybody Welcome, including Men.



A global ecumenical movement
of informed prayer
and prayerful action

**Refreshments provided. Bring and Buy Stall in aid of WDP Funds.
Raffle. Donations of gifts or money gratefully accepted.**

Enquiries & RSVP: Marjorie O'Connor (WDP. Sec.) Home-0208 445 6580 or
mobile 07515 910514. Email: marjorie.oconnor@btinternet.com

**Request from
the Editor**

As you can see from this colourful edition, I love having all your photographs to include in this newsletter.

Can I please ask that they are not submitted within a word document, but sent separately at the highest resolution possible? The quality is much better and would save me a lot of work. If you have any questions about how to do this, please just ask, and I'm more than happy to help.

Many thanks.

Laura Templeton

CLIMATE CHANGE LOBBY – “THE TIME IS NOW” Event

A number of folk from St John's URC and others in the Barnet area joined about 12,000 people gathered in Westminster on Wednesday 26th June 2019 to meet their Members of Parliament. Organised by the UK's Climate Coalition and supported by a large number of charities, the aim was to raise awareness about the effects of climate change on planet Earth and other environment issues. There is a growing concern about the challenges of e.g. plastic pollution, reliance of fossil fuels with the need for a greater emphasis on renewable energy and reducing our carbon footprint. Our MP, Theresa Villiers, was sympathetic to our concerns and she said that



The speakers praised the excellent encyclical by Pope Francis, "Laudato Si," on "Care for our Common Home" with its strongly worded message and calling all people of the World to take swift and unified global action.

Action by Church and faith leaders was also prominent with Rowan Williams leading the 'Walk of Witness'. This was well attended and involved walking from the National Gallery along Whitehall to attend a faith-speakers event at noon, held in Church House.

In the afternoon, the Thames-side areas were packed with people of all ages who were ready to lobby their MP's. One of the highlights took place at 2pm when the thousands of people present rang their alarm clocks, mobile phones and sirens and cheered loudly to symbolise 'The Time is Now'. It was quite a noise!

she had already indicated her rejection of the proposed third runway at Heathrow Airport. The 20% VAT rate just announced for solar and battery storage she told us was due to EU law. This was announced on 25th June which was the same day as the UK House of Commons passed legislation to commit the UK to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050!

Andrew Mills attended one of the workshops in the morning at St Martin's in the Fields regarding 'the way to engage Faith leaders on climate change' with a Muslim speaker based in Birmingham from the Bahu Trust and a lady from Islamic Relief UK. Although climate change issues are not generally high on the agenda for the Imams it was encouraging that 23 Imams from the Birmingham area had recently attended a seminar on global climate issues.



It is very clear that there is a need for urgent action to reduce the effects of climate change which is already affecting millions of people around the World. Global temperatures are rising due to human activity leading to the melting of the polar ice resulting in rising sea water levels This for example has led to the contamination of drinking water in Bangladesh over a huge coastal area.

We will continue to follow-up the issues and correspond with Theresa Villiers to ensure that the Climate Crisis issues remain high on her agenda for action.

**Please come to our next Green Christian–Barnet group event on Saturday 13th July from 9.45am to 12noon at St John’s URC New Barnet. Further details are noted below.

Tony Shepherd and Andrew Mills



Green Christian Barnet Group

Next Event: Saturday morning 13th. JULY, 2019

At: St. John’s Church, Somerset Rd, EN5 1RH

TIME: 9.45am for Refreshments + starting @ 10.00 to 12.00

MAIN TOPIC

“A Rubbish Problem: Plastic Waste — Harming Creation and People in Poverty: — What Can We Do?”

Sarah Edwards from Tearfund will be leading on this.

ALSO: news, information, support and ideas for activities to deal with our climate crisis.

**We welcome everyone to this free event.
(It is not just for “Church People!”)**

More details from:-

Email: ants8424@gmil.com Mobile: 07990 793 0460 Facebook: “Climate Concern”