

May-June 2024

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

The founding of the TRUSSELL TRUST

The Trussell Trust was founded in 1997 by Carol and Paddy Henderson using a legacy left by Carol's mother, Betty Trussell, to provide support for a project to improve the conditions for the sixty children sleeping in a railway station in Bulgaria.

The focus moved to the UK in 2000 following a call received by Paddy from a mother in Salisbury who was struggling to afford food, and faced sending her children to bed hungry. Paddy investigated the data on poverty and deprivation in the UK and found that significant numbers of people faced going hungry due to a crisis in their lives. So, Paddy started Salisbury Foodbank in his garden shed and garage, providing three days' emergency food to local people in crisis. 🙌



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Trusting God by:

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

Contacts

Website: www.stjohnsnewbarnet.org.uk

Record Editors: Richard & Janet Harvey, email: churchrecord2023@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Alison Bond, Tel: 020 8440 1941 email: aegbond@hotmail.co.uk

Church Administrator: Alison Cousins, Tel: 07816 115 817 email: info.stjohnsurc@gmail.com

The food bank model spread rapidly through church networks, taking inspiration from the verse from Matthew's gospel: *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was in prison and you visited me."* (Matthew 25: 35-36)

The Christian values of the Trussell Trust are at the heart of everything they do, helping them and their network of food banks support communities and navigate tough decisions. These values have strong roots in Christian teaching and practice, but are also accessible and meaningful to people, whatever their background and provide a strong shared foundation for collaboration towards the trust's goal of ending the need for food banks in the UK.

Twenty-five years later, the Trussell Trust now supports, assisted by thousands of volunteers, a UK network of 1,200 food banks. Each provides emergency food to people in crisis, and additional support to help tackle the root causes that sweep people into poverty and build people's resilience, so they are less likely to need a food bank in the future!

But the organisation realises that it takes more than food to end hunger. So, it is bringing together the experiences of its network of food banks, and their communities, to challenge the structural economic issues that lock people into poverty, and campaign for the change to end hunger and poverty in the UK so that food banks can be consigned to the history books.

Helen Snider

(Talk given at the Sunday service on 14th April)

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/about/our-story/>

CHIPPING BARNET FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

OUR SHORTAGES



Interview with Bob Bevil

On Sunday 14th April during the service, Andrew Summers interviewed Bob Bevil, Advocacy and Campaign Lead at Chipping Barnet Foodbank. Bob spoke fluently and engagingly about the work of Chipping Barnet Foodbank, his role in it - which includes much more than providing food parcels for families in need - and answered many questions from members of the congregation. 🗨️



Bob Bevil & Andrew Summers

Bob said that the aim of the Trussell Trust is to create a future where no-one needs a food bank. "I've got a very bizarre job description", he said, "which is to make myself unemployed as quickly as possible!"



He showed the diagram, reproduced above, and explained it as follows: "The inner blue ring is really the construction of local society; you've got government, communities, businesses, individuals and families. In the outer ring are the values of the Trussell Trust - compassion, dignity, community and justice. So by integrating those values in the society we live in - in this case, Barnet - the idea is to create that future where no-one needs a food bank."

Click on this link to hear the full interview: [Andrew Summers interviews Bob Bevil](#)

Here is another link to an article that Bob produced for the Barnet Post, which touches upon emergency food uptake in the borough: [Up to 80,000 in Barnet estimate to have used food banks in 2022](#)

Editors

Christian Aid Week is coming: 12-18 May 2024



Every Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.

This year's appeal is focussing on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa, where more than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished. Christian Aid has been working in Burundi since 1995 when it first offered humanitarian assistance to people surviving the civil conflict. Now, alongside local partners, the organisation helps establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). These community-led groups mean people can save and borrow money, making small businesses possible, offering reliable and diverse incomes so families can eat regularly, get medicine when they need it, and build safer homes. Thirty-five-year-old Aline Nibogora is the chairperson of a VSLA which supports some 25 families in a remote village, in Makamba Province. Aline escaped an abusive marriage but her life changed when she went to a three-day, Christian Aid-funded community workshop. With a small start-up loan, Aline began trading avocados and peanuts locally. She is now a grocery wholesaler and living on her own plot of land where she is building a home for her family.



Aline transporting her goods with her bicycle



Aline and three of her sons

We are still finalising our plans for Christian Aid Week this year at St John's. Some of us will be doing the sponsored Christian Aid London Freedom Walk on Saturday 11 May which begins at 12.30pm at All Hallows by the Tower Church and calls in at several places along the route including Southwark Cathedral, The Salvation Army HQ, St Lawrence Jewry and Mercers' Hall. The walk finishes at St Paul's Cathedral in time for Evensong. Let me know if you would like to join us on this walk. Another option this year for the energetic ones amongst you, is to do 70K in May – either running, walking, cycling, swimming.... Let me know if you would like to take on this challenge!

Our Service on Sunday 12 May will focus on the work of Christian Aid in Burundi. After the service, we invite you to bring some finger-food dishes from elsewhere in our troubled world to share with everyone, so that we can think of those in need of our prayers. Please consider what you could bring and prepare a short label about the dish, where it is from and what is happening in that country. Maybe you could also do this with your friends and invite them to donate to our Christian Aid Appeal?

See next page for how to donate 📩

Donations for Christian Aid Week can be made:

- Using our Digital Church e-Envelope:
<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/st-johns-urc-newbarnet>
- Or by enclosing your donation in one of the Christian Aid Week envelopes which will be available at church.



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

What could your donations buy?

£5 could buy a savings book for a member of a VSLA, setting them up to start their own small business and become financially independent.

£30 would help a family buy two Jerrycans to collect water from the river to carry back to their farm. Jerrycans provide irrigation to crops, especially during the dry season, maintaining food production for the family.

£50 would mean a vulnerable family can purchase a water storage tank. Water can then be stored for a few days rather than travelling to the communal water point, allowing instant access to water for washing, cleaning and cooking.

£100 could help a woman set up her own small business with a starter kit; including money to purchase her first few items to sell.

£100 could also help buy a family a bicycle meaning easier transport to school, quicker access to medical treatment in emergencies or support carrying produce from farm to market.

Alison Bond



Community Garden - new wellbeing space

Saturday 22nd June, 2-4pm

Launch of the new wellbeing space which has been added to the Incredible Edible Barnet community garden.

On the day of the launch party we will be inviting a local councillor to officially open the new space.

There will be various growing and food related activities for all ages.

Refreshments will be available.

This event will also be included as part of the London Festival of Architecture's 'Reimagine' programme.



Fellowship: The City of London Churches

Speaker: Joe Studman



St Stephen Walbrook, 16th century

City Blue Badge Guide, Joe Studman, was the speaker for the February Fellowship meeting. He started by explaining that Wren's city churches were unique in three ways. They were the first churches to be built for Anglican worship; over fifty were built in the City, but that number has now reduced to twenty-three, and they were the first example of English Baroque.

Following the Great Fire in 1666, which destroyed eighty-seven City of London churches, an Act of Rebuilding the City of London was drawn up by Sir Matthew Hale from the Court of Fire Judges. Several proposals were made for change but finally, in 1670, Sir Christopher Wren, one of the Commissioners, was appointed to regulate the rebuilding work. Wren had previously designed buildings for Oxford and Cambridge Universities; now he was about to make architecture his life's work, his most famous building being St Pauls' Cathedral. He was also responsible for rebuilding fifty-one parish churches of which twenty-three remain fairly intact with ruins, and another six with only their towers remaining. The cost of all this reconstruction was met by a Coal Tax levied on the large amounts of coal shipped to London from Tyneside at that time.

Although several churches were destroyed by bombing in the Second World War many remain, are open for worship, and can be visited. Joe spoke enthusiastically and in great detail about twenty churches.

Just to detail a few:

- St Bride's, Fleet Street, houses the tallest of Wren's spires at 226ft and is tiered like a wedding cake.
- St Lawrence Jewry, the Corporation Church, the interior of which was completely destroyed by an incendiary bomb in 1940, was restored later by Cecil Brown; this restoration was said to be the best in the City.
- St Stephen Walbrook — named after the first Christian martyr. Walbrook refers to the stream which runs in a culvert nearby. Entrance is via twelve steps leading up from the Walbrook. Joe told us that nothing he could say or show us would do justice to that church, which he describes as a Wren masterpiece in symmetry and proportion. Although restored after the war, the church was found to be subsiding, so between 1978 and 1987 Lord Polumbo led the installation of steel rings and support for the dome. A few interesting facts about St Stephens: Chad Varah founded the Samaritans there in 1953; Henry Pembleton, Vicar of Bray, was rector in the sixteenth century; Princess Margaret's daughter, Sarah, was married there in 1964.

Joe could have spoken for a further hour about his interest and knowledge of the City of London churches. I hope he might be invited back again in the future.



Interior of St Stephen Walbrook

Jean Davies

Queen Elizabeth II: a Life in Flowers

Speaker: Nick Dobson

The Fellowship in March were treated to a lovely talk following the life of our late Queen, which was illustrated by flowers marking various stages of her life and reign.

Elizabeth was born on 21st April 1926, the first born to the then Duke and Duchess of York. Following the abdication of her uncle, David, in 1936 her father became King, and Elizabeth was then first in line to the throne; when her father died, in February 1952, she became Queen and reigned for over seventy years.

During her reign the Queen collected a whole garden of plants named to honour her; the first plant in her honour was a waterlily, named Princess Elizabeth, developed in France, which was to symbolise solidarity between France and Great Britain at the beginning of the war. Others included a Floribunda Rose, named 'Balmoral', and another named 'Sandringham Rose'. The Queen had a love of colour in her gardens; in 2002, to mark her Golden Jubilee, a new garden at Windsor was designed by Tom Stuart-Smith. When he received his plans back the Queen had written over them in large red letters **WE WANT COLOUR**. The Queen's love of colour was also shown in her choice of bright coloured outfits on official occasions — yellow and blue were often chosen. Over her long reign the Queen was presented with countless bouquets of varying sizes and colours, but for her more personal occasions, like her wedding in 1947, she included some of her favourite flowers: white lilies, 'London Pride' and a sprig of myrtle. It was noted that the inclusion of Lily of the Valley at her funeral could be interpreted as a message of good luck to her people.

Nick Dobson our speaker gave a very lengthy presentation of the Queens life in flowers. He very kindly sent me a copy of this; available to anyone who may wish to see further interesting details of her love of flowers.

Jean Davies



Calendar of Events

MAY

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|--|
| Sunday 5 | 11:00am | Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Sarah Beaumont |
| Thursday 9 | 9:30am | Mainly Music |
| Saturday 11 | 10:00am | Community Garden |
| | 12:30pm | Christian Aid Walk - starting at the church of <i>All Hallows by the Tower</i> (see p.4) |
| Sunday 12 | 11:00am | Christian Aid Week: Worship led by Alison Bond |
| Tuesday 14 | 7:45pm | Elders' Meeting |
| Wednesday 15 | 8:00pm | Fellowship: 'A Thousand miles up the Nile' - The story of Amelia Edwards. Speaker: Lorna Oakes. In sanctuary and via Zoom. |
| Thursday 16 | 9:30am | Mainly Music |
| Saturday 18 | 10:00am | Green Christian Barnet. Speaker: Andrew Summers (see announcement p.9) |
| Sunday 19 | 11:00am | Pentecost: Worship led by Roz Douglas, followed by a Church Meeting |
| Monday 20 | 11:00am | Women's Group: <i>Whetstone Café</i> , 1367 High Road. By the Haven, opp. Chandos Ave. |
| Thursday 23 | 9:30am | Mainly Music |
| Saturday 25 | 10:00am | Community Garden |
| Sunday 26 | 11:00am | Trinity Sunday: Worship led by David Paul & Richard Harvey |
| Wednesday 29 | from 8:30pm | Joint Men & Women's Group: <i>Ye Olde Mitre Inne</i> |

JUNE

| | | |
|--------------|----------|---|
| Sunday 2 | 11:00am | Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Rev'd Simon Aley |
| Thursday 6 | 9:30am | Mainly Music |
| Saturday 8 | 10:00am | Community Garden |
| | 10am-4pm | Thames North Synod - Eco Day: 'Our Shared Climate' . Vine Church, Ilford IG1 1JH (Click on link for more information) |
| Sunday 9 | 11:00am | Worship led by Paul and Heather Elsdon |
| Tuesday 11 | 7:45pm | Elders' Meeting |
| Thursday 13 | 9:30am | Mainly Music |
| Saturday 15 | 10:00am | Green Christian Barnet. Speaker: Sarah Edwards (see announcement p.9) |
| Sunday 16 | 11:00am | Worship led by Helen Snider with the URC Sermon |
| Wednesday 19 | 12:15pm | Fellowship Outing: River Lee Boat Trip with cream tea. Met coach on Station Road. Pay Marjorie by 15th May: ☎ 07515 910514 |
| Thursday 20 | 9:30am | Mainly Music |

JUNE contd.

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|---|
| Saturday 22 | 2:00pm | Community Garden - launch of the new wellbeing space |
| Sunday 23 | 11:00am | Worship led by Tony Shepherd |
| Wednesday 26 | from 8:30pm | Men's Group: <i>Ye Olde Mitre Inne</i> |
| Thursday 27 | 9:30am | Mainly Music |
| Friday 28 | 11:00am | Women's Group: <i>Noel Café</i> , East Barnet Road, opp. Sainsbury, by Lord Kitchener |
| Sunday 30 | 11:00am | Worship led by Rev'd Roger Orme |

JULY

| | | |
|-------------|---------|--|
| Thursday 4 | 9:30am | Mainly Music |
| Saturday 6 | 10:00am | Community Garden |
| Sunday 7 | 11:00am | Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Andrew & Valerie Mills |
| Thursday 11 | 9:30am | Mainly Music |
| Sunday 14 | 11:00am | Worship with led by Alison Bond |
| Thursday 4 | 9:30am | Mainly Music |

Copy for the July/August edition of Church Record to be with the editors
by Friday 5th July.

churchrecord2023@gmail.com

Thanks for Sunday flower arrangements:

*March 10th - Gill Hailey
March 17th - Tony Shepherd*

*March 31st (Easter) - The Flower Committee,
Marjorie O'Connor and Barbara Campbell*

April 28th - Valerie Mills



The Green Christian Barnet group is open to anyone
- whatever their religious background or none!

We have some important and interesting events coming up to be held at St Johns.

Saturday 18th May: Andrew Summers will be introducing the topic: '*Global Heating means the UK Heating?*'
This will be recorded as well as live to anyone, anywhere who wishes to join us via Zoom online.

On **Saturday 15th June** we are pleased that Sarah Edwards, who is the Director of the JustMoney charity, will be talking on '*Faith and Finance for a Global World*'.

We will record this as well as using Zoom to send it around the world.



We enjoy free succulent refreshments from 10:30am, the sessions start at 11am and end at noon.
Please contact Tony in advance on 0208 440 6040 to join by Zoom or to get more information.

Tell your friends — remember the environment depends upon us!



Green Christians Sharpen Up!

On Saturday 20th April a number of people gathered in the large hall to get their garden tools sharpened. The guy (as he likes to be known) arrived rather late because his van broke down. Fortunately, his friend Russell got him and his sharpening kit to us via his open-top sports car, which added to the interest of some of us there.

Working on a table outside the hall, the guy proceeded to sharpen over thirty garden tools, only stopping to sip a coffee. This systematic line-up of garden 'weaponry' was brilliantly organised by Sonal. This resulted in an increase in gardeners' happiness in the area since they had their implements all prepared 'almost like new' according to one visitor.



In addition, we had the pleasure of having an exhibition on 'Environmental Issues' arranged by Rachel Johnson, the Environment Officer at the St Albans diocese. Also available was information from the U.K. Green Christian network and the International charity, Tearfund, who have just started a new campaign concerning plastics: see: <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/rubbish-campaign>



We also had a questionnaire running concerning 'Climate Change' issues. (The findings of which will be published soon.)

The donations which our visitors made were very generous and £115 has been sent to the Good Samaritan School for the Deaf in Uganda. Rosemary, the school's director, says, "This is another wonderful gift for the children. Thank you all."

Many sincere thanks for the donations and also to the team who helped, plus to all who attended — not forgetting the two guys who provided the service. It was a very worthwhile occasion!

The sharpening company is: My Mobile Sharpening Guy
Telephone: 0800 634 8577.



Tony Shepherd