

Sep–Oct
2025

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

Peace with Creation

The Season of Creation runs throughout September. It is an annual, ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for creation that Christians on six continents have commemorated for many years, a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.



St Francis of Assisi
at Trinity Heights, Sioux City, Iowa

Photo by Chris Light,
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The season starts on 1st September, the Day of Prayer for Creation - which Orthodox Christians have been recognising since 1989 - and ends on 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

For several years now we at St John's have been uniting with the congregations of Brookside Methodist Church and St Mary's Church, East Barnet for a Creation service. This year our church will be the hosts for a service on Sunday 21st September. 🙏

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Trusting God by:

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

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Every year, the Season of Creation ecumenical steering committee comes up with a theme to help churches around the world strengthen our united response during this shared season of reflection and action. The theme for the Season of Creation 2025 is *Peace with Creation*, based on Isaiah 32:14-18. The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between people and God. This description of devastated cities and wastelands reveals how human destructive behaviours have a negative impact on the Earth.

Our hope is that Creation will find peace when justice is restored. To hope does not mean to stand still and quiet, but to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, repentance and solidarity.

Editors

I HAVE A DREAM

I dream of a world
filled with peace and harmony
where humans and creation really live as one
where the sun of justice shines
on all the children of the Creator Father and Mother Earth.

I dream of a world
where there are no exploiters and exploited,
no slaves and masters,
no very rich and very poor,
no oppressors and oppressed.

I dream of a world
where governments are on the side of the poor, those without land,
the homeless and the unemployed;
those in society who are
not considered to be children of God and Mother Earth.

I dream of a world
where chemicals, herbicides, fungicides, pesticides
and other deathly substances
disappear from the earth forever.

I dream of a world
where the richness of forests,
the fresh air, fields and rivers
can, with humanity, live life to the full and praise God the creator.

I dream of a world
where the reign of God
would also be a reign of justice and peace
and love for the whole of creation.

If we all dream
The dream will become a reality...

Caritas El Salvador, Diocese of Zacatecoluca

**THE
CLIMATE
COALITION**

MASS LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT

On 9th July 2025, over 5,000 people came together at Westminster to call on MPs to act now for a healthier, fairer, safer future. It was one of the biggest moments for climate and nature this year, and the largest mass lobby of the decade.

Representatives of the URC and Thames North Synod took part in the Faith Photocall at The Climate Coalition Mass Lobby. Some of them were able to meet with their MP and were invited to ask them to back bold, practical action by committing to:



- 1. Deliver vital funding to communities hit hardest by climate change here and around the world.**
- 2. Cut bills, back UK jobs, and secure a greener fairer future for all.**
- 3. Restore nature to create a safer, healthier future.**

Those who met Dan Tomlinson, Labour MP for Chipping Barnet, were encouraged by his concern for the environment. On a national level the importance of a strong plan backed by the Climate Change Committee, to commit to reduction of emissions, the reduction/mitigation of global south debt and tackling energy poverty with a national insulation programme were highlighted and a levy on the greatest polluters such as frequent flyers. On a local level it was mentioned that he is working alongside Barnet Council to encourage schemes such as the provision of solar panels which are already planned for Barnet Hospital and Ark Pioneer. There are also plans to work with local schools supporting a pilot scheme to improve air quality with the involvement of students and staff.

As well as an opportunity to meet our local MP there were a number of organisations represented at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in Westminster including Friends of the Earth, Tearfund, Green Christian, WWF Fund for Nature, and RSPB. Talks had also been organised during the day about a number of issues such as the effects of climate change worldwide.



The Faith Space held a panel discussion between Canon Giles Goddard from Faith for the Climate, Amandeep Maur Khan from EcoSikhUK and Jonathan Wittenberg EcoJudaism considering biodiversity and other climate related issues worldwide.



Ultimately it was hoped that the unmissable message would be heard by MP's that **communities across the UK are ready for bold, practical action on climate and nature.**

There will be further opportunities for taking action from 13th-20th September 2025, when there will be a nationwide Lobby Week organized by the Climate Coalition as part of the annual Season of Creation which takes place this year from 1st September to 4th October 2025 when Christians come together for prayer and action.

The Joint Creation Service taking place at St John's URC on 21st September 2025 will highlight the importance of our responsibilities to care for our planet, as we all strive to reach Net-Zero by 2030.

Andrew Mills

Fellowship: A BEGINNING, A MUDDLE AND AN END: Where do novelists get their ideas?

St John's Fellowship is delighted to be welcoming Bobbie Darbyshire to give a talk on the above theme. Drawing on the experience of many well-known authors, in an entertaining, informative talk, Bobbie will explain how the complex fictional world arrives in a novelist's mind. Winner of the 2008 fiction prize at the National Academy of writing and the New Delta Review Creative Non-fiction Prize 2010, Bobbie is author of five novels, including "The Posthumous Adventures of Harry Whittaker" and "The Third Bus".

Wednesday 17th September 2025 at 7:30pm

**St John's United Reformed Church, Somerset Road entrance,
New Barnet, EN5 1RH**

Tickets £5 for non-members (£2 for members)
available on the door.

Light refreshments provided.



Fellowship:**BARNET DURING THE
CIVIL WAR 1642-1660**

St John's Fellowship welcomed local historian, Yasmine Webb, to their July meeting who gave a talk on 'How life was impacted for people in Barnet during the Civil War 1642-1660'. Yasmine has kindly sent through a short summary of her talk.



"There was a conflict of religious ideas, where Parliament feared papal influence had embarked on ousting ministers and accruing information regarding church assets and property. The parishes of Barnet, Hadley, and South Mimms all had ministers sequestered in the 1640s. A time of dissent between King and Parliament led to Civil War. The war increased the movement of Parliamentary troops through Barnet who were garrisoned on the Common, impacting on demands for local provisions but increasing trade at the inns. The town strategically positioned was clustered by a number of inns accommodating travellers to and from London. General Monke stayed at The Mitre Inn in the High Street when bringing troops to London to re-instate Charles II to the throne in 1660, highlighting the importance of the town in this chapter of history".

A good number of the Fellowship attended this meeting and following her talk Yasmine answered some further questions on this important period in Barnet's history. Yasmine later wrote back saying how much she had enjoyed the evening.

Jean Davies

I and My Rose

There is a world of wonder in this rose;
God made it,
and His whole creation grows
To a point of perfect beauty
In this garden plot. He knows
The poet's thrill
On this June morning, as He sees
His Will
To beauty taking form, His word
Made flesh, and dwelling among men.
All mysteries
In this one flower meet
And intertwine,
The universal is concrete
The human and divine,
In one unique and perfect thing,
are fused
Into a unity of Love,
This rose as I behold it;
For all things gave it me,
The stars have helped to mould it,
The air, soft moonshine, and the rain,
The meekness of old mother earth,
The many-billowed sea.
The evolution of ten million years,
And all the pain
Of ages, brought it to its birth
And gave it me.
The tears
Of Christ are in it,
And His Blood
Has dyed it red,
I could not see it but for Him
Because He led
Me to the Love of God,
From which all Beauty springs.
I and my rose
Are one.

The Unutterable Beauty
G.A. Studdert-Kennedy, 1883-1929



Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 7	11:00am	Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Rev'd Derek Lindfield
Tuesday 9	7:30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thursday 11	9:30am	Mainly Music
Saturday 13	10:00am	Community Garden
Sunday 14	11:00am	Worship led by Tony Alderman, followed by a Church Meeting
Wednesday 17	7:30pm	Fellowship: Where do novelists get their ideas from? Speaker: Bobby Darbyshire
Thursday 18	9:30am	Mainly Music
Sunday 21	11:00am	Joint Creation Service led by Alison Bond
Tuesday 23	7:30pm	Joint Men/Women Meeting at The Railway Bell, New Barnet
Thursday 25	9:30am	Mainly Music
Saturday 27	10:00am	Community Garden
Sunday 28	11:00am	Worship for Harvest led by Rev'd Roger Orme
Monday 29	11:00am	Women's Group at Honey & Cream, 1367 High Rd., Whetstone

OCTOBER

Thursday 2	9:30am	Mainly Music
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
Sunday 12	11:00am	Worship led by Paul Elsdon
Tuesday 14	7:30pm	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday 15	7:30pm	Fellowship: Aspects of being a Solicitor. Speaker: Jenny Israel
Thursday 16	9:30am	Mainly Music
Saturday 18	10:00am	Community Garden
Sunday 19	11:00am	Worship led by Tony Alderman
Thursday 23	7:30pm	Men's Group at Ye Olde Mitre Inne, High Barnet
Saturday 25	10:00am	Community Garden

OCTOBER contd.

Sunday 26	11:00am	Worship led by David Paul and Richard Harvey
Tuesday 28	11:00am	Women's Group at Noel Cafe, 51/53 East Barnet Rd., Opp Sainsbury's

NOVEMBER

Saturday 1	10:00am	Community Garden
Sunday 2	11:00am	Memorial Sunday Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Valerie & Andrew Mills

Thanks for flowers on Sunday 13th July
donated and arranged by Roz Douglas

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churchrecord2023@gmail.com

'Not a lot of people know that...'

You may not know that the Bechstein piano in the church — loaned by the Mills family — is over one hundred years old. But you are even less likely to know that it had been played by an internationally renowned classical pianist. That pianist was Alfred Brendel who died in June this year at the age of ninety four. Unlike many successful musicians, none of his family were musical and he had no particular talent for the art when he was a child. He had a long performing career – giving his first recital in Graz, Austria, when he was 17 and his last concert sixty years later, in Vienna in December 2008. He was the first pianist to record all of Beethoven's piano compositions.



So how did he come to be playing the Bechstein piano which now sits in the church? Alfred Brendel performed concerts on behalf of the Toc H Music Club in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Cyril Mills, father of Andrew Mills, was a member of Mill Hill Toc H and was on the committee of the Music Club. On one occasion Brendel was giving an evening recital at a venue in Borehamwood; he was not able to practise at the venue in the afternoon and Cyril offered the use of the Mills family Bechstein piano at their house in Deacons Hill Road which Alfred Brendel gladly accepted.

Andrew Mills/Editors

BARNET BROOKSIDE METHODIST CHURCH
ST JOHN'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
ST MARY'S, EAST BARNET



PEACE WITH CREATION

Sunday 21 September
11 am

St John's
United Reformed Church
New Barnet, EN5 1 RH

A shared service rejoicing in God's love for his world
and repenting of human destruction of its goodness

OUR HARVEST CELEBRATION will be on Sunday 28th September when the service will be led by Rev'd Roger Orme. We hope to have another jacket potato lunch as we did at the Christian Aid service in May. Food and other items may be donated for the Chipping Barnet Foodbank. At the time of writing this is the list of food and essentials most needed:

Tinned Meat
Pasta Sauces
Tinned fish
Coffee
Toilet rolls

You can check the latest list by going to:

<https://chippingbarnet.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

