

Feb - Mar
2022

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

Personal words of encouragement

When I was an Interim Moderator, an Elder once led a devotion that consisted mainly of a selection of encouraging words from the Bible. What distinguishes the following selected verses is that in them the Lord God and Jesus spoke *personally* to the biblical authors and through them to the people of God. The Lord God still speaks to us today. Do we listen? As Reformed Christians, one of our emphases is: God's Word in the Bible is alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit. Receive the following words as personal encouragement to you today. You may also wish to look up these verses in your own Bible to see their original contexts.

The Lord himself accompanies you; he will not let you down or forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Do not be fearful or discouraged, for wherever you go the Lord your God is with you.

Joshua 1:9

Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations.

Psalms 46:10

I alone know my purpose for you, say the Lord: wellbeing and not misfortune.

Jeremiah 29:11

Set your mind on God's kingdom and his justice before everything else, and all the rest will come to you as well. So do not be anxious about tomorrow; tomorrow will look after itself.

Matthew 6:33-34

You did not choose me: I chose you. I appointed you to go on and bear fruit, fruit that will last; so that the Father may give whatever you ask in my name. This is my commandment to you: love one another.

John 15:16-17

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9

I have set before you an open door which no one can shut.

Revelation 3:8

Julian Templeton

What we believe

What do we believe about ...
God?



The United Reformed Church has produced a series of 10 short accessible studies exploring the basics of Christian belief. The studies can be viewed or downloaded from the URC website for free. I will facilitate a monthly discussion based on each study on the first Tuesday evening of the month. The first two discussions will take place via Zoom, and an invitation will be emailed the preceding week.

Here are the dates, time, and subjects with hyperlinks to each study in February and March:

1 February, 8:00–9:00 pm

- [What do we believe about God?](#)

1 March, 8:00–9:00 pm

- [What do we believe about Jesus?](#)

Julian Templeton

Stamps and Inkjet recycling

If you have kindly been saving used inkjets and/or stamps, when convenient, please pass them to me, or put them in my pigeonhole, or in the boxes provided upstairs and downstairs.

All money raised for inkjets goes to the RSPB, whilst used stamps, and old or foreign coins, are forwarded to The Leprosy Mission.

Thank you for your support.



Malcolm Bond

£445 was raised for Together in Barnet Night Shelter for the Christmas Appeal. so thank you to everyone for their generous contributions.



Together in Barnet
SHELTER FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Alison Bond



✠ WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022 ✠

Saturday 5th March 2022

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE

Now Saturday 5th March 2022

2pm, St James Church

71 East Barnet Road,

New Barnet, EN4 8RN

And hopefully on Zoom

I know the plans I have for you

365 days a year · Informed Prayer · Prayerful Action · 24-7 · Prayer Movement · Ecumenical · Global · Women-led · 365 days a year · Informed Prayer · 24-7 · Prayerful Action · Prayer Movement · Ecumenical · Global · Women-led · Women-led · 365 days a year · Women-led · Prayerful Action · 24-7 · www.wwdp.org.uk · Prayer Movement · Ecumenical · Global · Informed Prayer · Registered Charity Number 2332425

Chipping Barnet Foodbank Update

Jan 2022

Many of you reading this are active supporters of Chipping Barnet foodbank. On behalf of the CFB's trustees may I say a big thank you.

Anyone who has been to a shop lately or settled a utilities bill will be all too aware of rising prices. Cost of living is up by 5.4% and some predictions say it will reach 7%. Inflation is at the highest level for almost 30 years. By any reliable measure the gap between the haves and have-nots in the UK has been rising. Levels of poverty are increasing and the trend is very likely to continue. The £20 per week uplift in Universal Credit was withdrawn last October negatively affecting 6m people. National Insurance contributions to cover the costs of planned health and social care measures will increase in April. So many observers are predicting a perfect storm for the UK's poorest.

Since the Chipping Barnet foodbank first opened eight years ago it has fed over 20000 local people. However, demand for the foodbank over the pandemic period has been unprecedented. Over 5500 were fed in the past 12 months and we expect demand to continue to rise.

Until the start of the pandemic the foodbank mainly concentrated on handing out parcels with basic non-perishable food and essential toiletries. Chipping Barnet foodbank now also provides:

- Perishable food, thanks to an arrangement with the Hub based at the old East Barnet Library.
- Supermarket vouchers, which enable those in need to buy what is appropriate for their circumstances.
- Some vouchers have been donated to other local organisations to distribute eg to New Citizens Gateway (formally Barnet Refugee Council) to enable refugees to buy school uniforms for instance
- Fuel vouchers (following referrals)
- Devices to enable children who otherwise would not have been able to, to access on-line learning
- A Citizens advice service at foodbank funded by a Trussell Trust grant

- December provided an opportunity to deliver Christmas cards to identified families together with gifts of supermarket vouchers, children's books and festive goodies.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, about £20,000 was spent last year on vouchers of various sorts. (*Items such as alcohol, cigarettes and lottery tickets are specifically excluded.*) There are now 500+ followers on our Instagram account, which is leading to a good response to our shortages list.

Further developments are in the pipeline. The foodbank umbrella organisation the Trussell Trust has developed a strategy with the ambitious aim of eliminating poverty. All foodbanks are encouraged to develop local strategies to this end and Chipping Barnet intends to be one of them.

CBFB has so far been run entirely by volunteers but there will be an exciting new development in 2022. For 20 hours a week it will have its first paid manager. Half the manager's time will be spent on developing the strategy in collaboration with other local organisations and for this element a (second) Trussell Trust grant has been offered. The manager will then lead on the strategy's implementation.

One element of the embryonic strategy is already in place and ready to roll when Covid restrictions permit. This is a partnership with CARITAS to provide digital skills to clients to enable them, for instance, to maximise income and benefit payments.

There will be other initiatives—so watch this space.

So please continue to pray for the foodbank's work and support its efforts. Thank you.

Andrew Summers

*Trustees' Board Chair, Chipping Barnet foodbank
Elder, St John's Church*



Calendar of Events

January		
Sunday 30	11:00 am	Worship led by David Skitt
February		
Tuesday 1	8–9 pm	What do we believe about God? Discussion via Zoom led by Julian Templeton
Thursday 3	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Sunday 6	11:00 am	Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton
Thursday 10	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Sunday 13	11:00 am	Worship led by Valerie and Andrew Mills
Tuesday 15	7:45 pm	Elders' Meeting via Zoom
Wed 16	8:00 pm	Fellowship: Jubilee Sailing Trust, Julia Ladds
Sunday 20	11:00 am	Worship led by Sarah Beaumont
Wed 23	8-9 pm	Bible Discussion, Philippians 2: It's all in the mind? via Zoom led by Tony Shepherd
Thursday 24	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Friday 25	4:00 pm	Messy Church, Large Hall
Sunday 27	11:00 am	Worship led by Julian Templeton, followed by cake and refreshments
March		
Tuesday 1	8–9 pm	What do we believe about Jesus? Discussion via Zoom led by Julian Templeton
Thursday 3	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Saturday 5	2:00 pm	World Day of Prayer Service, St James' Church, 71 East Barnet Road
Sunday 6	11:00 am	Lent 1 , Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton
Sunday 6	2–4 pm	Seed Swap (exchange of surplus garden seeds)
Tuesday 8	7:45 pm	Elders' Meeting
Thursday 10	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Thursday 10	1:30 pm 8:00 pm	Lent Discussion, Julian Templeton, Brookside Methodist Church Lent Discussion, Julian Templeton via Zoom
Sunday 13	11:00 am	Lent 2 , Worship led by Julian Templeton followed by Church Annual General Meeting

Update on St John's Church's health measures

The public health situation in the UK seems to be moving into a transition from Covid-19 being a pandemic to Covid-19 becoming endemic. This may mean that Covid-19, like the cold and the flu, becomes a viral infection that we learn to live with. If it does, then Covid-19 becomes a risk—for some, a serious risk; for others, a mild risk—that we need to learn to manage. In England, the government has adopted a mostly light touch and voluntary approach to public health and vaccination during the pandemic. But in so doing it has effectively put the onus on individual organisations and

businesses to put in place whatever restrictions they deem necessary to protect the health of their members or customers. Please be patient as the Elders and I try to decide what restrictions will be necessary to protect the health of *all* members and friends. Also, give us your views and pray for us as we review our current restrictions in the light of the latest evidence.

"Let us never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." (Corrie Ten Boom) **Julian Templeton**