

Sept - Oct
2021

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

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

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Gifts and Generosity

On the Manse patio we are currently enjoying an unexpected gift: a Passionflower vine that the next-door neighbour planted is extending over our side of the fence. We get to enjoy its stunning flowers without having done any work to propagate it. It comes to us as a sheer gift, as a gratuity, and as grace. While there is a proper satisfaction to be gained from growing something yourself; something different is required when one enjoys something grown by someone else for free: gratitude.

While we may justly claim to have worked hard for what we've got; when we reflect further, we find that the greater part of what we enjoy comes to us as a gift. Consider the start in life given to us by our parents, as well as a great



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deal of support along the way. Consider the unbidden kindness of friends and neighbours, and, sometimes, complete strangers. Consider the happenstance of being born in a nation and at a time when corruption and war were not constant threats and hard work was rewarded. Consider living in a relatively mild climate with few extreme weather events. Consider being the citizen of a nation that has the wealth and infrastructure to vaccinate most of its population against Covid-19. These conditions are all unearned gifts.

These conditions are gifts to be treasured and not taken for granted; since most people in the past have not, and most people today do not, enjoy these conditions. It is for this reason that the gifts that we enjoy ought to bring forth generosity towards others. After all, we believe that they come from the good Giver. “Daily doth the almighty giver bounteous gifts on us bestow” reminds the hymnwriter. Our very existence is a gift that is contingent on God’s sustaining generosity in Creation. Our responsibility

with what we have been given is to treasure it in order that we, in turn, can be generous to others.

Some of us are at that stage in life when our thoughts naturally turn to the kind of world and the quality of life we hope to hand on to our children and grandchildren, or to future generations. But here—unless we have adopted the head-in-the-sand posture of the ostrich—there is urgency. There is incontrovertible evidence that the fossil-fuelled unrestrained economic growth lifestyle from which many of us have benefitted is exacting a terrible cost. A warming planet and changing climate are causing more extreme weather events. Regions that allowed a marginal existence are becoming unliveable for humans and animals. The most generous thing we can do is to exercise restraint. We each ought to do our bit in reducing CO₂ emissions and cultivating a greener environment. A less extreme climate would be a gift for which future generations would be thankful.

Julian Templeton

Annual and Study Leave

I am very grateful to the Elders who have granted me annual leave and study leave so that I can be relieved of my regular church commitments during October. This will give me the time I need to complete the final revisions of my PhD dissertation prior to submission by the end of October. During this time, please direct any enquiries to the Church Secretary or Elders.

Julian Templeton

Next Fellowship Talk

‘Desert Island Discs’

Wed. 20 October

Tony Alderman
compered by Alison Bond
in the Sanctuary and by Zoom.

The London True Life Church, whose services are conducted in Mandarin, are meeting in the large hall every Sunday. They will set up from 1.30pm with their service starting at 2:30pm. They are fortunate to have a number of children at different ages, so will use the memorial and small rooms. After church they will also make use of the kitchen for refreshments.

This letting will be reviewed after three months, and



伦敦生命教會
LONDON TRUE LIFE CHURCH

we hope this proves to be a compatible arrangement. They appreciate that if we are having a shared lunch, their service will have to be later, or hopefully we can invite them to join us.

More information can be found at <https://www.truelifechurch.org.uk>.

New Audio Visual Systems

It has taken a little while, but the St John's AV team are getting used to what the new system can do and how to operate it. Many of the "teething problems" have been with Zoom, as we are using the service in a slightly unusual way and it's taken a while to get the many settings exactly right for everything to work!

With six preset camera images, the screen pictures, two audiences - one on church and one sitting at home on Zoom - you will appreciate running everything takes planning and coordination, which is why we now need two operators.

At the moment we are training a few others to help out with AV operations, but we do need more volunteers. It's getting easier as we gain experience of everything, so knowledge of the technology is not

necessary. Please contact me if you feel you can help out - **your church needs you!**

However, we know all this will be worth it, as those in church and those at home will have a more fulfilling experience during services and with other events in the sanctuary. In addition through streaming, many other churches or worshipers may join us in worship from anywhere, or we will be able to join with them.

It is our ambition, through our ability to Zoom and stream functions and events from the sanctuary, to further encourage the community to be involved with St John's. For example, through increased access to St John's Fellowship, Weddings, Funerals, Concerts, Conferences & meetings.

Ron Mobbs

General Assembly resolutions

Commitment for Life is the United Reformed Church's global justice programme.

Through *Commitment for Life* local congregations can participate in actions for justice around the world. *Commitment for Life* belongs to every congregation. Many choose to support one or more region through prayer, learning, advocacy, and action for justice. Our partners are *Christian Aid* and *Global Justice Now*. Our four partner regions are Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Central America (Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala). This General Assembly July 9-12 2021, passed ten resolutions dealing with the situation in Israel and Palestine. More details can be found at <https://urc.org.uk/general-assembly-2021.htm>

One of the things it mentions as a way of supporting the Palestinian community is to buy their products and the Zaytoun Olive Oil is mentioned. In the past, when Ann & Meg ran the Traidcraft stall, we did sell some of this and we hope to have some available to purchase once again at the **Harvest Service on 10 October** when Richard & David will speak about the Palestinian olive growers. You do pay a bit more but the oil is a very good organic product and it would be a positive act in support of the olive growers: <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/food/store-cupboard/cooking-oils/olive-oil>. I was thinking that we might get enough interest to qualify for Free Delivery which comes with orders over £50? <https://zaytoun.uk/news/vote-for-your-favourite-organic-olive-oil/>

Commitment for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love



VOTED NATION'S FAVOURITE ORGANIC PRODUCT!

July 9, 2021

Celebration at the Good Samaritan School for Deaf Children, Uganda

Grand Opening attended by Gertrude and Stephen

By Rosemary Nakasiita and Tony Shepherd

We are happy to report that last month on 21st August we officially opened the new Girls Washroom and Toilet Block. The opening was officially performed by Mr. Steophen Magezi, (a Joint Noble Peace Winner,) and Gertrude, his wife who represented St. Johns Church and Green Christian Group Barnet group. They travelled over 180+ miles from their home to attend at the school in Masaka. Some members of the Green Christian Group and St. Johns Church joined in live via a zoom link. A video recording was made of the scene at the Block and from around the School's grounds. It is available via YouTube and the church website now.

The celebration began at 12pm (UK time) with a service-mass that was prepared by the School's Directors and two priests from the Local Catholic Parish who led the prayers of thanks in

celebration. (This was not recorded.) Rosemary and Infinity Ideas Network prepared a special meal for the children and adults there. We had to wait for over 42 days of lock down in the country to have the celebration!



Stephen cutting the ribbon.

The priest anointing blessings to officially open the facility.

Despite the challenges we faced along the way, i.e. heavy rains during the early time of the construction and scarcity of water during July, we managed to build a well-furnished construction to a modern Ugandan standard. It includes hand and standing supports for Deaf children with further physical impairment, and an exterior water sink connected to the water tanks, plus soap! This is to enable all the children to further develop the discipline of hand washing - especially in this time of pandemic.

We hope that in the near future when funding is donated, a borehole for water will be sunk at the school, and water pipes will be extended into the washroom so that children do not have to carry water to the washroom from the outside rainwater tanks.

The Directors are very pleased with the new block! It looks great and local community people are 'wowed' by the structure as it is the only one like it in the whole of the village of Kitengeesa. We hope that by the time school resumes and all children come back, we will make another visit and



Meals cooked with firewood.



Children enjoying the special meal that was prepared.

celebration, with a live Zoom call and meet the children. They will be so excited to see and use the new facility.

We are grateful for all your support since the inception of the project idea, During the fundraising time, you shared with us all you had and continued supporting us throughout the whole period. Our full project report will be out soon, and copies will be shared via email. More updates are available on our social media platforms and soon on the website.

Thank you so much to all who donated. For more information please contact Rosemary in Kampala on email: rosemary.nakasiita2@gmail.com or Tony Shepherd via: tonios2@binternet.com . Thank you all for your wonderful support and prayers.



Materials to help the children to clean, donated by Rosemary and Infinity Ideas.

Looking Forward to the COP26 Conference? Challenging the World

The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), published in August, makes devastating reading. 1.5C temperature rise will be reached by 2040 – or even sooner. And that will lead to more dramatic weather patterns and even faster global biodiversity loss – and with that, huge disruption to human life. In light of that, what does this mean for the commitments that must be made at COP26 in little over two months time?

Clearly governments must make determined, decisive and life-changing decisions in light of these hard-hitting scientific findings. The cuts required to slow and eventually reverse climate change (and subsequent biodiversity loss) will mean a total change of economic systems from the fossil fuel industry. COP, therefore, must agree to much faster and steeper greenhouse gas emission cuts than the targets most countries currently have. Even if current targets are delivered – and the UK is off track for its own – it would still leave the world heading for a totally catastrophic 3-4 degree rise in temperature above the pre-industrial average.

According to the [Make COP Count Coalition](#) of which A Rocha UK is a member, and [The Time is Now Declaration](#) to which A Rocha UK is a signatory, the only way to achieve much steeper cuts is to end investments in fossil fuel energy. This means ending everything from exploration and extraction, to the construction of power stations and vehicles running off fossil fuels. Logically, this also means ending all use of public money to subsidise fossil fuels.

A rapid global shift from fossil fuels will also require global cooperation on new 'green' technology, including large financial support packages to developing nations to enable them to install green energy as well as to adapt, where possible, to the impacts of climate change. So, COP26 must finally deliver on the long-promised \$100billion a year climate finance for developing countries.



Obviously, out of fairness and for its own credibility as the host of COP26, the UK must get its own climate policies in order. It must then join with the global community to call out those nations dragging their heels. Currently that includes Australia, India, Canada and Brazil. There needs to be clear sanction options on doing business with nations not willing to play their part.

Given how close we are to tipping past 1.5C, there can be no place at the global table for countries unwilling to change, who prioritise national vested interests over the common good of others in their country and the wider global community.

More than ever, as Christians we need to redouble our efforts (and prayer) to make sure the UK government takes an uncompromising stance at COP26. Strong minds and steady hands will be required and just possibly the autumn summit will mark the start of real global change.

This article was written Andy Lester, Head of Conservation for A Rocha UK's September 2021 eNews' arocha.org.uk

The IPCC's latest report can be found at: www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/



Story of the Seaton Tramway

Barnet to Seaton via Eastbourne

'Fellowship Zoom' presentation on 21 April 2021 by Patricia Picken

Totteridge-born Claude Wilmington Lane was founder of the Colyton to Seaton tramway. He was born in 1908, and when three years old, his family moved to Finchley. This new home was within walking distance of the Metropolitan Electric Tramways Finchley depot. Claude was fascinated by the trams. So much so that the highlight of his boyhood was a tour around making trams his lifelong interest. This led him to an apprenticeship in both electrical and mechanical engineering.



Born in Barnet in April 1937, Alan Gardner had an introduction to trams similar to Claude. They met when he was 12 years old and Claude saw that Alan was as keenly interested in trams as he had been years earlier.

Claude built a portable tramway to appear on 2 July 1949 at the Hadley House Conservative Fête. This drew attention worldwide giving him the idea of running his own tramway at a permanent site. Alan Gardner, now 15 years old, had been

commissioned to construct the tramway and depot at Rhyl, which was prefabricated at the Barnet works. At the end of the 1953 season, Claude was dissatisfied with the tramway at Rhyl, and following discussions and a demonstration, Modern Electric Tramways were awarded a five-year concession by Eastbourne Council. On the 15 August opening, the mayor drove a tramcar which was filmed by the BBC.

New and larger trams were built at Barnet in 1955 and in December 1956 track laying was in progress on an extension. However, on 18 January 1957

In his early twenties he started 'The Lancaster Electrical Company' named after the road he lived in. It specialised in lead-acid batteries for radios which led him to the design and manufacture of battery-driven vehicles. In 1938 to renew his keen interest in trams he joined the Llandudno and Colwyn Bay Electric Railway becoming a part-time tram driver during the summer.

He was pronounced unfit for military service in 1939 due to deafness, so Claude was able to continue managing his expanding business building many electric vehicles, called 'Lecar'.



the Council announced that a new road would cross the tramway twice. The company agreed to relay track and requested permission for a new and larger depot which were built and on 24 May 1958. The Mayor of Eastbourne opened the line from the new depot to the terminus. This was the narrowest gauge passenger-carrying tramway in the world running double-decked trams and was filmed by BBC TV.



Once the new headquarters in Eastbourne was completed the Barnet works was sold. In October 1962 extensions doubled the length of the line to nearly two miles. About 175,000 passengers had been carried in 1961 and 100,000 in the summer of 1962. However, from 1958 annual receipts were less than £2000 so proposed extensions to take the tramway nearer the town centre and to Pevensey Bay would seriously affect the Corporation's bus operations, The development of new roads meant that the last tram to run in Eastbourne was on 14 September 1969

The Seaton branch was closed in 1966. Claude was determined get a new site so visited the Seaton

station. He took an option on the three miles of track bed from Seaton station approach up to and including Colyton Station. The line at Seaton would be much longer than Eastbourne's, and increased track gauge to 2 feet 9 inches and plans were made to build another tramcar, numbered 8, the last to be built at Eastbourne. It was three feet longer and four inches wider and ready for use at Seaton. Early in 1971 track laying to Colyford began, but Claude died after a heart attack on 2 April that year. Claude was unmarried and had no immediate descendants, but a nephew Roger joined Alan Gardner as Director. Funded by Claude's estate and very little income, work on the tramway continued under a new name, 'Seaton and District Tramway Company'.

The Ministry of Transport approved the final extension of the line to Colyton on 3 March 1980 and the first public service along the finally completed route started on 8 March 1980. Many improvements to stations and other features have been made since, including the recently completed terminus and tram-shed at Seaton. Alan Gardner MBE retired as Managing Director in 2002 on his sixty-fifth birthday, but remained an active director until his retirement in 2008.

A selection of slides illustrated aspects of the talk, but nothing can replace a gently-paced journey down the Axe Estuary Nature Reserve on the open top deck of a Colyton to Seaton tram and an evening return journey – or stay on the tram all day for the same price!



INVITATION

- TO:** You
- FROM:** The Green Christian Barnet Group.
- EVENT:** Please come to our next event . It is on Saturday 2nd. October from 11.00 a.m. to Noon.
- LOCATION:** Definitely on line via Zoom. Link to follow.
- PLUS:** Depending on the 'Rules;' on that day, plus the technology being in place, we will also offer you the chance to meet in the Church.
- N.B:** We will confirm the exact arrangements a week prior to this date and publicise the details to everyone.
- TOPICS:** **Rosemary will join us live from Kampala and will report on the "Drought Situation across Africa"**

Terry will lead us into the topic of "Our Money and Sustaining the Planet."

We will, also do a very brief update on the COP26 conference!

Because of the COP26 Conference coming up, these are significant subjects to think about.

A lot of work is going on to prepare these items for us, so please join us if you are able.

AFTERWARDS: we will have an informal 'News exchange.' All finished by 12.15 p.m.

Please ask your family and friends to join us as well...all are welcome!

This is just one hour to help us understand the World we live in!

FROM: The G C B team.

For more information, e.g. about a new 'link,'

contact Tony via: tonios2@btinternet.com or ph: 0208 440 6040)

East Barnet Anglican-Methodist Learning in partnership

St Mary's, East Barnet, and Barnet Brookside Methodist Church often offer a learning course in October. This year we will be gathering for 4 sessions titled Exploring the Bible: Different Ways of Reading on Wednesdays, alternating between sessions at 2 and 7:30pm. To make the sessions as inclusive as possible we've chosen these different times, and **all the sessions will be on zoom.**

The course will explore the traditionally different ways of reading - literal, tropological, moral, and anagogical - 4 fascinating texts, in order to build

confidence exploring different ways of encountering different genres of scripture. The order may vary, but the sessions will focus on:

The Revelation of St John
led by Rev Shaun Sanders

The Gospel of John
led by Francesco Aresco

The book of the prophet Isaiah
led by a guest teacher

The book of Daniel
led by Alec Corio



St John's Fellowship talk

The London of Charles Dickens

armchair tour

With Diane Burstein

Wednesday 15th September 2021

Diane Burstein, a Blue City Guide, gave us a very interesting, informative and well-illustrated talk about Charles Dickens' life in London.

There was hardly any place in London that Dickens was not associated with because he liked walking, especially at night. As some areas were dangerous he was often accompanied by a policeman. He was concerned about poverty and humble conditions. He died when 58 years old, which was young in Victorian times. Dickens was born in Portsmouth but brought up in Rochester, Kent. He moved to London aged 10 when father, got job in Navy Pay Office at Somerset House. During this time railways above and below ground were developing and Georgian London was disappearing, being replaced by Victorian buildings. The population was increasing rapidly as more came to London to work.

When Dickens was 12 years old, his father and all the family, except Dickens ended up in a Debtor's Prison. Forced to stop schooling he went to work at Warrens Blacking Factory (blacking was used for fire-grates and railings) and lived in Camden Town. Every day after a long day's work, he would walk to visit his family in Marshalsea Prison. He then got lodgings nearby in what was not very good area. The story of *Little Dorrit* was based on her being refused entry for returning to the prison after 9pm. She had to sleep on the steps of St George the Martyr in Borough until invited inside. Later she got married there and is remembered by a figure in stained glass. Dickens typically used real names of friends and places in his books, such a Bob Fagin in *A Christmas Carol*. George Inn, Southwark was referred to in *Pickwick Papers*, Nancy's steps, London Bridge is mentioned in *Oliver Twist*, and St Dunstan's clock, Fleet Street appeared in *David Copperfield*.

After paying their debts, the family left prison, though his mother did not allow Dickens to leave the factory. However he later spent about two years at the Wellington House Academy in Camden.

As a child Dickens got lost in London and uses this memory in *Martin Chuzzlewick*. In *Our Mutual Friend*, Limehouse in Docklands is mentioned which was a dangerous area in 19th century. Apart from clothes washing by the Chinese, the restaurants were notorious for gambling and opium dens.

Dickens worked as a junior lawyer's clerk in Holborn, where he got a bad impression of law as shown in *Bleak House*. He wanted to be a court reporter, then reporter for newspaper and finally a writer. John Forster's residence in Lincolns Inn Fields had a good library where Dickens gave his first public readings to support charities like Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Dickens' first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*, was published in weekly parts from April 1836. He married Catherine, the daughter of one of his editors at St Lukes, Chelsea and together went on to have 10 children.

They had a succession of lodgings, Furnivall's Inn being referred to in *Mystery of Edwin Drood*. In 1837 he moved to Doughty Street which is now a museum. Close by is Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital for abandoned and destitute children. Dickens was so moved by the children's stories, that he raised funds and awareness for it through his work.



Oliver Twist was written after regular walks through the grounds, and in *Little Dorrit*, the character Tattycoram grew up in the Foundling Hospital.



Dickens' last London house was the British Medical Association in Tavistock Square. This large house had a theatre in it. Dickens was a frustrated actor and here had an unsuccessful amateur show, *Frozen Deep* with the family acting in it. However Dickens acquired a mistress, Ellen Ternan, a 19 year old professional actress when he was about 47. He went on to an affair with her for 10 years. Until a jeweller delivered a bracelet engraved 'to my darling Nellie' to his wife Catherine. She confronted Dickens and demanded a separation, which she got.

Dickens took all the children except the eldest, Charlie who stayed with his mother in Gloucester Crescent, Camden Town. She was reunited with her children after Dickens died from a stroke on 9 June 1870. He was laid to rest in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey, despite wanting to be buried in Rochester Cathedral.



There were many other places mentioned and referenced, some local. Barnet General Hospital, the workhouse in *Oliver Twist*, Oliver on a step of a Bakery, once Victoria Bakery and The Mitre Public House in Barnet which he visited

Marjorie O'Connor

Apple pressing and compost making day

 Make your own apple juice 
(bring apples or use some of ours)

 Wormery workshop 

 Composting activities 

When: Saturday 25 September
10am to noon

Where: Outside St John's church,
Mowbray Road, EN5 1RH

Cost: Free

Help Stop Food Waste!



Calendar of Events

September		
Sunday 19	11:00 am	Worship led by Julian Templeton, followed by Church Meeting
Thursday 23	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Friday 24	4:00 pm	Messy Church, Large Hall
Saturday 25	10:00 am	Apple-juicing, Community Garden
Sunday 26	11:00 am	Worship led by Roz Douglas
Thursday 30	9:30 am	Mainly Music
October		
Saturday 2	11:00 am	Green Christian-Barnet
Sunday 3	11:00 am	Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Andrew and Valerie Mills
Thursday 7	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Sunday 10	11:00 am	Harvest Thanksgiving Worship led by David Paul and Richard Harvey
Tuesday 12	7:45 am	Elders' Meeting
Thursday 14	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Sunday 17	11:00 am	Worship led by Roz Douglas
Wednesday 20	8:00 pm	Fellowship, Tony Alderman's Desert Island Discs
Thursday 21	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Sunday 24	11:00 am	Worship led by Alison Bond
Sunday 31	11:00 am	Worship led by Laura Templeton, <i>BST ends, clocks back 1 hour</i>
November		
Thursday 4	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Sunday 7	11:00 am	Memorial Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Tony Alderman
Tuesday 9	7:45 pm	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday 10	10:00 am	Pastoral Team
Thursday 11	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Sunday 14	10:45 am	Remembrance Sunday Worship led by Julian Templeton followed by Church Meeting

Current Arrangements for Worship

In view of the increasing infection rates in Barnet, the Elders' Meeting, as the Trustee Body, has decided that in order to protect all those attending worship in-person, unless you have a medical exemption the wearing of a face covering inside the sanctuary will continue to be required, as will the use of hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the building, and social-distancing. Quiet singing for everyone will be permitted behind face coverings, and fellowship outside the church building will be encouraged

when appropriate at the end of the service, where face coverings can be removed. There will be no resumption of refreshments after the service in the immediate future and the October Communion will be conducted in the same way as previous recent communion services. All these measures will continue to be monitored and will be reviewed by Elders on 12 October. It is intended to continue to provide access to worship in hybrid mode, both in-person and via Zoom, but this depends upon having sufficient AV operators to enable the hybrid mode, and those with the appropriate skills are encouraged to offer to undergo training in order to assist.