



May – June
2016

outlook

Newsletter of **Highgate United Reformed Church**

Catholicity and the United Kingdom

How will you vote in the referendum on whether the United Kingdom should remain in or leave the European Union? There is no shortage of advice from politicians both in the UK and abroad to which we might listen as we make up our minds. I wish to raise an issue that I have not, as yet, heard any politician raise, and that is the relationship between catholicity and the United Kingdom. Some will understandably ask: isn't catholicity something that only Roman Catholics are concerned with and has nothing to do with us? What I hope to convince you is that catholicity is especially relevant to the debate the UK is having about its relationship with Europe, and we ignore it at our peril.

I was taken by surprise when I recited the Apostles' Creed in the City Centre Protestant Cathedral in Berlin (*the Berliner Dom*) when I came to the line: "I believe in...the holy Christian Church" (in German, *die heilige christliche Kirche*). Even with my remedial Latin and German, I knew that the

continued on page 2

Pond Square Chapel,
South Grove, Highgate,
London N6 6BJ
www.highgateurc.co.uk

CONTENTS

- 2** Minister's letter:
- 3** The Secret of the Resurrection
- 4** Fair in the Square
Revised Common Lectionary
- 5** Liturgical Colours
You think English is easy?
- 6** Diary dates
- 7** Diary dates
- 8** Service on 29 May
- 9** Book Launch
- 10** Garden Party
How to Plant your Garden
- 11** Persecuted Christians
- 12** Toilet Signs

Minister: Rev'd Julian Templeton, Tel: 020 8441 0499 Email: julian@templeton.me.uk

Charity no: 1131691

Associate Minister: Rev'd Roger Orme Tel: 020 8458 2144

Administrator: Patricia Judd, Tel: 020 8341 5463 or 07772 220189 Email: admin@highgateurc.co.uk

Treasurer: Robert Gorrie, 10 Wood Lane, Highgate, N6 5UB. **Outlook Editor:** Laura Templeton

From the Minister continued

Latin *catholicam* is usually rendered *katholische* in German. My surprise was the affirmation of the holy Christian church and not the holy *catholic* Church. Although the terms 'Christian' and 'catholic' are synonymous, they are *not* the same. Christian is a term that was first applied to the followers of Jesus Christ in Antioch (see Acts 11:26), and is accurately applied to all those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord. The term 'catholic' comes from Greek via Latin and originally meant 'part of the whole', and is often taken to mean 'universal'.

What concerns me about the substitution of 'Christian' for 'catholic' in the Protestant German version of the Apostles' Creed is the suggestion that those who recite this version can somehow affirm that they are Christian *without* also affirming that they are *only one part* of the universal (catholic) Church. In other words, what bothers me is the possibility that one part of the Church can effectively say to the rest of the Church: "I have no need of you." (1 Cor. 12:21). The Presbyterian theologian, John Oman, published a book entitled *The War and its Issues* in 1915, and made the perceptive criticism that the warring death struggle of the nations was marked by the conspicuous absence of true catholicity that transcends national boundaries. In other words, Oman's criticism was that some of the European nations had succumbed to the dangerous illusion that instead of being 'part of the whole' each was itself 'the whole' and could do as it wished, regardless of its neighbours.

A local church, at its best, realises that it is but one small part of a much larger whole: the whole Church of Jesus Christ. Moreover, while it is rightly concerned with its own local life and witness, if it closes itself off from its ecumenical neighbours or denomination or the Church catholic, it risks becoming a sect. My concern is that the United Kingdom could become, unintentionally, a kind of national sect if it takes the attitude that instead of being 'part of the whole' it is itself 'the whole' and can do as it wishes, regardless of its neighbours. Indeed, one does not need to look far to see the rise of extremist political movements with sectarian policies that encourage the scapegoating of minorities and belligerence towards neighbouring nations. The conflicts of the 20th century should warn us where such scapegoating and belligerence can lead.

While I questioned the aforementioned church's creed, I could not

fault its *practice* of catholicity. For I was in Berlin as part of a group of 25 Christians from nations as far south as Romania, as far north as Latvia, and as far east as Russia, with two participants from Africa, and myself, originally from New Zealand: a fairly catholic gathering. We were all guests of the Protestant Church of Berlin's academy programme, and all our national identities contributed to a much richer understand of our Christian identity. I hope that the United Kingdom will continue to contribute its British identities to a much richer understanding of European identity.

Julian Templeton

The Secret of the Resurrection

On Easter Sunday the Rev. Roger Orme led the service at St John's and quoted from the late Charles 'Chuck' Colson, former hatchet man-in-chief for US President Richard Nixon during the Watergate years.

Colson was then known to his colleagues as the 'evil genius' reputed to have said that he would walk over his own grandmother to get Nixon re-elected. He spent several months in prison in 1974 after pleading guilty to obstruction of justice but became a born-again Christian after his release.

In 1976 he forged a new career as an evangelist, founding the Prison Fellowship Ministries, a \$50 million charitable organisation established to bring Christ to the inmates of the world's prisons.

Writing about the resurrection of Jesus, Colson pointed out that, in only a few weeks, the Watergate conspirators had gone back on their stories but, by contrast, throughout their lives and despite torture and deaths as martyrs, the disciples of Jesus never changed their story about finding his tomb empty, his visits to them after death and his resurrection.

He said: "I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Everyone was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible."

Colson died in 2012 aged 80, a Christian forgiven and redeemed by God, and mourned by many.

Roz Douglas



Fair in the Square

The Church will be open and busy at this annual event. As usual we will be having a Christian Aid stall organised by Iveta and Teas & Coffees organised by Patricia. Please get baking and cooking, cakes, biscuits and savoury snacks. A list will be available on the Noticeboard in the lounge, so please sign up! Anke and Kate will be bringing fun, colour and joy with their Face Painting stall.

Revised Common Lectionary

- 8 May **Sunday after Ascension** Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or 93; Ephesians 1:15-17, Luke 24:44-53
- 15 May **Pentecost** Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:24-35; Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17
- 22 May **Trinity** Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-8; John 16:12-15
- 29 May 1 Kings 18:20-39; Psalm 96; Galatians 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10
- 5 June 1 Kings 17:8-24; Psalm 146; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17
- 12 June 1 Kings 21:1-21 ; Psalm 5:1-8; Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36 – 8:3
- 19 June 1 Kings 19:1-15; Psalms 42 & 43; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39
- 26 June 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62
- 3 July 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
- 10 July Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
- 17 July Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

Liturgical Colours

A lady in the parish once decided to ensure
That the Church's ritual colours matched the underwear she wore.

And so for Christmas, Easter and the Saints' Days pure and bright
The priest and congregation knew her lingerie was white.
For all the holy Martyr band whose precious blood was shed,
And for the Feast of Pentecost she took the colour red.

In Advent and in Lent the lady competently strove
To chose the penitential shades of violet, purple and mauve.
Good Friday was a special day and so upon her back
she bore with pride – and some panache – a set of smalls in black.

At other times throughout the year her underwear was seen
To complement the natural world in various shades of green.
At last on Maundy Thursday (your indulgence I'll entreat)
they stripped the church of colours – so this line remains discreet!

Besotted by her underwear the rector always knew
the colour of the church's year – he'd seen them through and through!
They brought a sparkle to his eye, excitement to his life,
But judge him not too harshly friends, the lady was his wife!

You think English is Easy?

The bandage was **wound** round the **wound**.

The farm was used to **produce produce**.

The dump was so full it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.

We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture.

He could **lead** if he let the **lead** out.

The soldier decided to **desert** the **desert**.

As there is no time like the **present**, it was time to **present** the **present**.

A **bass** was painted on the **bass** drum.

••••• Diary Dates •••••

May

Sunday 8	10:30 am	First after Ascension, Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton, with Kidz Klub
	5:30 pm	United Evening Worship, Leader: Julian Templeton; Preacher: Rev'd Robert Willoughby, Pond Square Chapel
Wed 11	7:45 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG,
Friday 13	12:30 – 1 pm	Meditation
Sunday 15	10:30 am	Pentecost Worship led by Roger Orme, with Kidz Klub
Monday 16	2:00 pm	Open Door Gathering, Pond Square Chapel
Tuesday 17	7:45 pm	Elders' Meeting, 1 Brookfield Park
Wed 18	7:45 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Thursday 19	8:15 pm	Management Committee
Friday 20	12:30 – 1 pm	Meditation
Saturday 21	7:00 pm	Barn Dance (Templeton Farewell Part 1)
Sunday 22	10:30 am	Trinity Worship led by Julian Templeton
	10:30 am	Fun Sunday in Hall
	11:45 am	Church Annual General Meeting
Wed 25	7:45 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Friday 27	12:30 – 1 pm	Meditation
Sunday 29	10:30 am	Worship led by John Ellis, Moderator of the General Assembly , with Baptism of Evelyn Swer-Fox, and Kidz Klub

June

Wed 1	7:45 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Friday 3	12:30 – 1 pm	Meditation
Sunday 5	10:30 am	Worship led by Derek Lindfield, with Kidz Klub
Monday 6	2:00 pm	Open Door Gathering, Pond Square Chapel
Wed 8	7:45 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Friday 10	12:30 – 1 pm	Meditation

••••• Diary Dates •••••

Saturday 11	1 pm	Fair in the Square
Sun 12	10:30 am	Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton, with Kidz Klub
	6:00 pm	United Worship, All Saints' Church, Talbot Road, Leader: Bryce Wandrey; Preacher: Peter Vannozi
Wed 15	7:45 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Thursday 16	8:15 pm	Management Committee
Friday 17	12:30 – 1 pm	Meditation
Sunday 19	10:30 am	Worship led by Roger Orme, with Kidz Klub
Monday 20	2:00 pm	Open Door Gathering, Pond Square Chapel
Wed 22	7:45 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Friday 24	12:30 – 1 pm	Meditation
Saturday 25	1:00 pm	Manse Garden Party , 11 The Fairway, New Barnet, EN5 1HH
Sunday 26	10:30 am	Worship led by Julian Templeton
	10:30 am	Fun Sunday in Hall
Wed 29	7:45 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG

July

Friday 1	12:30 – 1 pm	Meditation
Sunday 3	10:30 am	Worship led by Derek Lindfield, with Kidz Klub
Monday 4	2:00 pm	Open Door Gathering, Pond Square Chapel
		Deadline for submissions to next Outlook
Wed 6	7:45 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Thursday 7	8:15 pm	Management Committee
Friday 8	12:30 – 1 pm	Meditation
Sunday 10	10:30 am	Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton, with Kidz Klub, followed by
		Farewell Lunch for Templetons

Service on 29 May

Visit by Moderator of General Assembly

John Ellis, the United Reformed Church Assembly Moderator is leading worship on 29 May. Other United Reformed Churches in the North London Group have been invited to send representatives. Julian will also be taking part in worship by baptising Evelyn Swer-Fox. John will be having lunch afterwards with the Elders at the manse.

John grew up in Devon Congregationalism. After reading Economics at King's College, Cambridge, he worked for the Bank of England for twenty years mainly on international debt questions. From 2000 until he was called to be Moderator he was employed by the Methodist Church on the Church's relationship with the worlds of business and economics and supported a network of over a hundred workplace chaplains. He was later involved in helping devise the Methodists' longer term strategic planning.

As an economist and the United Reformed Church's treasurer since 2007 he has a particular interest in how we view money, ethical investment campaigning and business ethics generally, on which he is an Adviser to the Governor of the Bank of England. In his three year term as the lay Assembly Moderator he has been mainly concerned with questions of ministerial deployment and the more fundamental question of what patterns of church life will sustain and deepen the discipleship of existing members while drawing new people towards vibrant Christian faith.

At local church level he has served as Elder, accredited lay preacher, organist and officer in the Boys' Brigade. In Kent he has led the URC in a rural local ecumenical partnership and helped plant an ecumenical church in a new housing development. He has also preached to the morning congregation at Canterbury Cathedral. So we shall welcome him to our humbler pulpit on 29 May.



John Thompson

Book Launch

Helen Roe has been very busy. Not only does she chair the Management Committee, is one of our Church Architects and runs her own successful practice, but she has written a chapter in this amazing book.

This pioneering new book is a direct response to the UK housing crisis that has seen citizens priced out of affordable homes, the collapse of social housing and a rise in homelessness. It reflects on the need for much more housing from a Christian point of view.

The book provides a brief history of British housing and asks why Christians should care

about housing issues. It considers the role of local authorities and housing associations in housing provision, reflects on changing cityscapes and the use of open space. There are essays on the needs of rural communities, a theology of housing, a future beyond welfare housing. The book concludes with a ten point action plan that lays out positive steps to improve housing in the UK.

The book has been launched in Manchester, Oxford and London. More details can be found from:

www.ekklesia.co.uk



@Ekklesia_co_uk

02078363930

FOXES HAVE HOLES

CHRISTIAN
REFLECTIONS
ON BRITAIN'S
HOUSING NEED

EDITED
BY

ANDREW
FRANCIS



Manse Garden Party

25 June 1.00 – 4.00 pm

We hope that as many as possible can join us along with the congregation from St John's, to enjoy our spacious patio, garden, and hopefully fine weather! Julian will be encouraging us all to sample his special Pimms Cocktails and if past years are anything to go by, there will be lots of delicious food to enjoy as well. Please bring along a dish to share with others. If wet or cold it will become a House Party! **Plenty of free parking available. 11 The Fairway EN5 1HH**

How to Plant your Garden

For the garden of your daily living...

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind

Peace of heart

Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip

Squash indifference

Squash grumbling

Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Let us be faithful

Let us be kind

Let us be patient

Let us really love one another

No garden is without turnips:

Turn up for worship

Turn up for meetings

Turn up to help one another

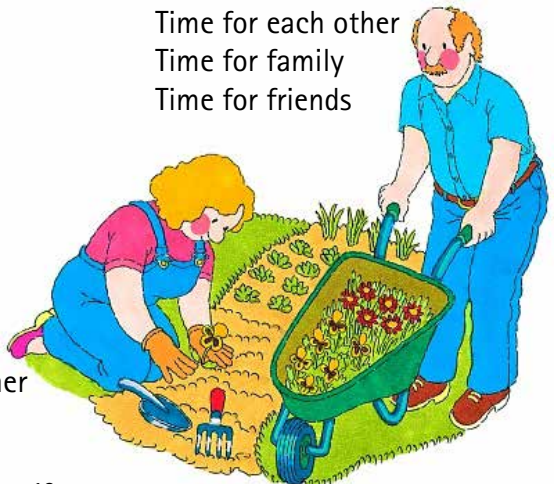
To conclude your garden, you must have thyme:

Time for God

Time for each other

Time for family

Time for friends



Persecuted Christians

Sadly it would not seem an exaggeration to say that Christianity is now the world's most persecuted religion. Muslim and Hindu extremists are leading the campaigns against Christians. Resentment of missionaries has often caused trouble in India; the RSS Hindu nationalist organisation is strongly opposed to missionaries whom they accuse of enticing Hindus to Christianity with education, money and health care.

On Easter Sunday, as our church and all other churches joyfully celebrated the Resurrection, a suicide bomber attacked a playground in Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan, killing more than 70 people, many of them children. The bomber's Taliban faction declared that it had deliberately targeted members of Pakistan's minority Christian community, though Muslim children were also killed. Islamist militants in Pakistan see Christians as allies of the West and opponents of their aim of turning Pakistan into a state ruled in accordance with Islamic law. Further carnage was promised. Terrorism has plagued Pakistan for almost 20 years. The government is trying to crack down on the extremists and promises no let-up in the fight against terrorists.

Please look at the copies of Barnabas magazine on the table in the lounge – pages 8–12 give good information on the sufferings of Christians in South-East Asia.

Meanwhile Christianity is facing Middle East wipeout – the Middle East formed the cradle of all three Abrahamic faiths. In Iraq the Christian population was once 1.5 million, now fewer than 500,000. Once Mosul in north Iraq had about 60,000 Christians, but as ISIS took over the city many were slaughtered, many fled, the churches destroyed and their property stolen.

Some time ago the Guardian reported on a big meeting in Syria of ISIS leaders who were planning their future; there was to be a new focus on exporting chaos to Europe. And recently in The Times a disturbing article commented on the number of jihadists leaving Trinidad to join ISIS, so even the Caribbean could become an area of cruel violence.

Above all, we must remain vigilant, and never forget to help in any way we can persecuted suffering Christians in the world.

Marion Uglow



Toilet Signs

It was some time ago that the church held a competition for the design of door signs for our wonderful new facilities downstairs. As not everyone from the church uses these, I thought I should take this opportunity to show them off and congratulate Gracie Bygrave on her expressive colourful artwork.

