



May – June  
2015

# outlook

Newsletter of **Highgate United Reformed Church**



Portrait of Julian by Elise Böhme

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# A missionary Church?

A review came out recently of *Reforming Worship*, a book of essays about worship that I co-edited, written mainly by Ministers of the United Reformed Church. The reviewer made a very interesting general point about the book that has got me thinking:

This volume reflects concerns that seem to be more those of a settled church than a missionary church. I would very much like to have heard from leaders of mission-shaped congregations and church plants in this communion. Are they finding that the resources of the tradition—Reformed and catholic—are gifts for evangelism and formation for new Christians?

The reviewer issues a challenge to United Reformed Churches: are we so settled in outlook that we have ceased to be missionary? If so, how might we become more missionary? Are there resources in our own tradition—Reformed and catholic—to help us to make the necessary transition?

The *Reformed* tradition places God first. What is most important in the Christian life is trusting in God's saving purpose rather than in our variable abilities. In Jesus Christ, God has revealed himself to be a heavenly Father, saving friend, and energising Spirit. A person's acknowledgement of God's fathering, saving, and energising claim on her or his life calls for a response of trust and commitment. Trust is expressed by becoming a Christian, which is a spiritual union with Christ. Commitment is expressed by becoming member of Christ's body of people, the Church. The Church is necessarily local, it meets and serves in particular localities, but it is also *catholic*, that is: its mission is to witness to God's saving purpose in Jesus Christ for the *whole world*.

Our congregation is currently experiencing some growth. If that growth is to be more than merely the attraction of the similar, we need to rediscover two things: trust in God and witness to God's universal saving purpose. In rediscovering these Reformed and catholic gifts, we will also become more missionary.

**Julian Templeton**

# Ministerial Deployment

The policy was born from a sense of numerical fairness and equality. But, as in similar political endeavours, this has often resulted in a general levelling down. In most cases it has not produced effective stimulus for struggling causes, but rather artificial groupings of Churches, unrelated socially, and lacking effective leadership. The aim has appeared to be the securing of an occasional ministerial presence, rather than securing effective pastoral leadership. Not only has it too often proved that tying two or three stones together doesn't make them float; but some of the stones have been little more than millstones round a harassed minister's neck.

Not only has this well nigh destroyed our belief in a genuine call by the Holy Spirit, discerned by a local congregation and by the minister. resulting in a strong Pastoral relationship; it has substituted fractional arithmetic. This is entirely to disregard what we learn from both Old and New Testaments about the way God has worked in history with his people.

The entire Old Testament rests in a belief that God chose Abraham, a single man and his family, to be a blessing to the whole world. This promise was secured and transmitted even through an objectionable crook like Jacob, and bore fruit when a small and despised slave people were liberated from slavery and were taught by Moses to regard themselves as a Chosen People. Moses himself in Deuteronomy 7 finds the choice inexplicable except in terms of God's free love for them. He asserts that arithmetic has nothing to do with it!

This assurance persists through the prophets. Even when Israel as a whole is unfaithful, God will work through a small remnant. Finally God works through the Incarnation, a single human life, rather than through a shared multiple revelation.

Jesus' parables are as explicit as parables can be. Life with God is not a matter of equal distribution, but a responsibility to use gifts and seize on opportunities. Do you use your Talents ? Do you turn up to the Feast? Do you sell up and secure the Treasure or the Pearl ? More alarmingly: do you keep your Lamps Burning? And look what happens to the Barren Fig tree. If you are intent on "fair distribution", talk to the Labourers in the Vineyard

or the Disinherited Brother in Luke 12 . Read the Nazareth Manifesto!

With few exceptions the most productive Churches are those with strong lay leadership, and a desire to grow, who are blessed with a good minister. Churches need both. Where they have the one we should give them the other. Better to establish a strong, growing Church, with influence and eventual resources to reach out and encourage its neighbours, than to sprinkle ministry in short supply where the will or ability to change and grow is lacking.

**Robert Courtney**

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## Ministry and Church Meeting 14th June

I am grateful to Robert Courtney for reminding us how God often chooses individuals and groups to further his work not because of their inherent qualities but because of their willingness to respond to his call and put their resources to work for his cause. At the next Church Meeting after worship on Sunday 14 June we will have further opportunity to discuss how we aim to put the resources God has given us to work. The Elders and Steering Group are in the process of communicating with all the churches in our Synod to ask them if they would support our resolution (to be put to the September Synod) for a complete review of the way the United Reformed Church's deploys its stipendiary ministers. To concentrate our minds on the effects of the current national deployment policy on churches, the Synod has supplied more detail about how it suggests we spread stipendiary ministry across a group of churches as part of ministry teams. I urge you to attend the Church Meeting so we can discern together what God is calling us to do.

**Julian Templeton**

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### 13th June



The Church will be open and busy at this annual event. As usual we will be having a Christian Aid stall, so please get baking and cooking savoury snacks. We will also be serving teas inside and where Face Painting is, will depend on the weather!



# Whitsuntide at my “home chapel”

I grew up in Whitfield Tabernacle; NOT the one in Tottenham Court Road, but the one in Kingswood (Bristol). It was founded in 1739 when John Wesley brought George Whitfield to the area to evangelise the open-cast miners and country folk in that part of south Gloucestershire. A congregation grew rapidly, work started on the first chapel building in 1741, followed a century later in 1851 by a much larger edifice, claimed to seat 1000! By the time I remember (post WW2), both buildings stood on a large plot of land surrounded by

sweeping lawns and a vast graveyard. Sunday worship was held in the “new” chapel and the older building was used for afternoon Sunday School and an abundance of weeknight organisations for children and young people.

But of all these activities the most eagerly anticipated and enjoyed by the children was Whitsuntide (never known as Pentecost). In theory all little girls had new white dresses for the occasion, but clothing coupons put an end to that! Whit Sunday afternoon was reserved for a special Sunday School Anniversary service in the “big church”; “Prizes” were distributed and somehow there was one for each child (about 150)... but the great day was Whit Monday and “The Processions”!

From early Monday morning the whole church was bustling. A large open-backed lorry was driven carefully into the church drive; it had been scrubbed clean and was soon decorated with crepe paper and balloons and filled with little chairs for the primary class, and a few strategically placed uprights for the adult teachers. Guides, Brownies, Lifeboys – the group for younger boys; and Boys Brigade, the older boys, were marshalled by their leaders and the two big banners were carefully manoeuvred out of the church by the four strong men who had agreed to carry them, together with their eight helpers

holding the long ribbon chains to stabilize the banners front and back. The Minister, Deacons, Church members and congregation were all ready and in their places.

The Processions were a big annual event in the district and the route was officially closed by the police for the morning. A high street about a mile long ran between two parish churches, and seven non-conformist chapels were strung out along its length. By the appointed time each church had assembled on its own grounds and at the signal the first church procession set out along the route and the others fell in one by one in the agreed order. There were three bands to keep us all marching, the Salvation Army band and two Boys Brigade bands. When it was our turn to join in, our own BB band led the way, then



came the great red banner with portraits of Whitfield and of the buildings and the Minister and Deacons walked just behind. The lorry followed on, bearing the smallest children waving their balloons, then came the other uniformed organisations, adult church members and finally the brilliant gold banner. Cheerful clapping crowds four to five deep lined the pavements on both sides of the high street, with a sprinkling of police here and there, while the windows on the first and second floors of the shops gave a grand stand view to their inhabitants. The route was designed so that each church section could finally return to its own site but I suspect that some people with aching feet slipped out of the ranks without going the whole way!

These "processions of witness" were a big feature of Kingswood but for the children they were only part of the day's excitement, for the afternoon was filled with races on the church lawns and (despite rationing) a big tea served outdoors at long trestle tables.

Two years ago at a 90th birthday party in Sussex I was chatting casually over drinks to another guest who I had never met. We discovered we were both Bristolians and when I said I came from Kingswood, the reply was immediate---- " Kingswood! The processions; we never missed going to see!"

**Molly Scopes**

# CSW's Pursue Justice Day

**M**arion Uglow regularly writes a piece on persecuted Christians for Outlook. The Church already supports The Barnabas Fund, as do several individual church members. This time I am writing about Christian Solidarity Worldwide, which exists to speak up for those of any faith who are persecuted for their faith. On April 25 I went to a CSW day on PURSUE JUSTICE. We heard from representatives of many countries affected by religious persecution, and I would like to pass on to you a few snippets.

**Nigeria.** The newly-elected President was once a military dictator and an extreme Islamist, but now claims to be a converted democrat, welcoming diversity, and promising to crush Boko Haram. A representative from Nigeria said that violence against Christians has been going on for a long time (he experienced it as a student on 1975), and still continues. The new president must be held to account for his promises.

A representative of the Bible Society made some striking observations. The poor are always the victims of injustice. All governments exist for justice, or else are illegitimate. The gospel is a virus against injustice.

**North Korea** violates every article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. CSW has helped to secure an International report on human rights in North Korea, and this could be referred to the International Criminal Court, but Russia and China will have to be persuaded!

**Eritrea**, with a population the size of London, produces more refugees than any other country (7,000 are fleeing the country every month).

**Pakistan.** Hatred of Christians is cultivated by schools, mosques and social media in particular, and perpetrators of violence against Christians go unpunished. This problem has become a priority for those working for religious tolerance. A representative of Pakistan's National Commission for Justice and Peace said, "By faith I am a Christian; my religion is humanity!"

**Roger Scopes**

# ••••• **Diary Dates** •••••

## **May**

- Sunday 10 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev'd Julian Templeton, with Kidz Klub
- Wed 13 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Thursday 14 9:30 am Making Melodies Children's Music Group
- Friday 15 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 17 10:30 am **Sunday after Ascension**, Worship led by Rev'd Roger Orme, with Kidz Klub
- Monday 18 2:00 pm Open Door Gathering, Pond Square Chapel
- Wed 20 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Thursday 21 9:30 am Making Melodies Children's Music Group
- Friday 22 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 24 10:30 am **Pentecost**, Worship led by Rev'd Julian Templeton  
10:30 am Fun Sunday in Hall
- Tuesday 26 8:00 pm Elders' Meeting
- Wed 27 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Friday 29 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 31 10:30 am **Trinity**, Worship led by Maggie Hindley, with Kidz Klub

## **June**

- Monday 1 2:00 pm Open Door Gathering, Trees, 2-4 Broadlands Road, N6 4AN
- Wednesday 3 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Thursday 4 9:30 am Making Melodies Children's Music Group  
8:00 pm Management Committee
- Friday 5 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation
- Saturday 6 1:00 pm Marriage of Alessia Horwich to Christopher Brown
- Sunday 7 10:30 am Worship led by Rev'd Dr Peter Jupp, with Kidz Klub
- Wed 10 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Thursday 11 9:30 am Making Melodies Children's Music Group
- Friday 12 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation

Saturday 13 12:30 – 5 pm Fair in the Square

Sun 14 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev'd Julian Templeton, with Kidz Klub, followed by **Church Meeting**

Monday 15 2:00 pm Open Door Gathering, Pond Square Chapel

Wed 17 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG

Thursday 18 9:30 am Making Melodies Children's Music Group

Friday 19 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation

Sunday 21 10:30 am Worship led by Rev'd Dr Roger Scopes, with Kidz Klub

Wed 24 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG

Thursday 25 9:30 am Making Melodies Children's Music Group

Friday 26 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation

Sunday 28 10:30 am Worship with **Baptisms** of Zoe and Lorenz Meyer led by Rev'd Julian Templeton

10:30 am Fun Sunday in Hall

Monday 29 **Deadline for submissions to next Outlook**

## July

Wed 1 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG

Thursday 2 9:30 am Making Melodies Children's Music Group

Friday 3 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation

Sunday 5 10:30 am Worship led by Penny Wood, with Kidz Klub

Monday 6 2:00 pm Open Door Gathering, Trees Broadlands Road, N6 4AN

Wednesday 8 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG

Thursday 9 9:30 am Making Melodies Children's Music Group

8:00 pm Management Committee

Friday 10 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation

Sunday 12 10:30 am Worship with **Baptism** of Nina Chaudhary and Holy Communion led by Rev'd Julian Templeton, with Kidz Klub

# Baptism of Cicely Rose Thompson



On Palm Sunday, 29 March, Cicely Thompson, sister of Miles, daughter of Mark and Jennifer, granddaughter of John, was baptised. Her grandparents from Canada were also present, and her uncle, Nicholas, preached the sermon.

# Visiting Ministers

**T**hey are all in the Diary of course but I know people like an introduction or reintroduction to our visitors.

On 31st May we have a second visit from Rev Maggie Hindley of St Anne and St Andrew, West Kilburn, and the London Interfaith Centre, dare I say one of our livelier younger URC ministers. And it is more than a second visit as I recall her preaching here before she was ordained. On 7th June we shall again welcome Rev Dr Peter Jupp, formerly of St Andrew's URC, Frognaal, and afterwards briefly a church member here. He is currently a member of the Department of Theology and Religion at the University of Durham, a Research Fellow at Golders Green and a well-established authority on the history of cremation. On 5th July, Penny Wood, an Anglican Reader from Fringford, makes her annual pilgrimage to Highgate. She is a member of a team ministry serving six rural parishes in North Oxfordshire and is a retired civil servant.

I can't claim Rev Roger Scopes as a visitor as he is one of our fellow members. He will preach to us on 21st June in place of John Stibbs who has had to retire from leading worship through ill health. Our Associate Minister, Rev Roger Orme will take the service on 17th May and again needs no introduction. This will be one of nine services he will take for us this year.

**John Thompson**

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## Revised Common Lectionary

- 10 May Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17  
17 May **Sunday after Ascension** Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or 93; Ephesians 1:15-17, Luke 24:44-53  
24 May **Pentecost** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-35; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15  
31 May **Trinity** Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17  
7 June Genesis 3:8-15 or 1 Sam. 8:4-20; Psalm 130 or 138; 2 Cor. 4:13 – 5:1; Mark 3:20-35  
14 June Ez. 17:22-24 or 1 Sam. 15:34 - 16:13; Ps. 92:1-4, 12-15 or Ps 20; 2 Cor. 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34  
21 June Job 38:1-11 or 1 Sam. 17:32-49; Ps. 107:1-3, 23-32 or Ps. 9:9-20; 2 Cor 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41  
28 June Lam. 3:22-33 or 2 Sam. 1:1, 17-27; Ps. 130 or 30; 2 Cor 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43  
5 July Ezekiel 2:1-5 or 2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10; Ps. 123 or 48; 2 Cor. 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13  
12 July Amos 7:7-15 or 2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19; Ps. 85:8-13 or Ps. 24; Eph. 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

# Laura's in Business!

**M**any will be aware that I have been working for a number of years on a tool to help people living with dementia. Well, I finally managed to get this produced and launched in Edinburgh on 29th April at the Scottish Caring and Dementia Congress.

**"Call to mind... is a tool that helps get to know and understand the thinking, likes and dislikes of someone with dementia. This specially designed board game also stimulates memories and encourages conversations, both as the game is played and in everyday interactions. It can be played at home with friends and family or in the professional setting of a care home, day care centre, hospital or memory café"**.

My sister Angela realised over 25 years ago that the provision for the elderly in care, with dementia, was totally inadequate. She was determined to improve communication, and to stimulate and maintain as long as possible the parts of the brain that were still functioning. Angela designed a board game as an assessment to do this. It was extremely well received, but she was badly injured when a patient fell on her damaging her spine. I was involved at the outset because of my experience in graphics.

Six years ago, we decided to look again at this tool and conducted trials in various North London Care Homes and Day Care Centres. The resulting modified and simplified game was entered into two competitions where



we won prizes. It was taken to the National Dementia Congress where it got very positive feedback and we were invited to go onto Dragon's Den. Unfortunately, ill-health intervened and further development was put on hold.

A few years after this and with interest from a publishing company, I decided to look again at this project I believed so passionately in. I contacted a number of doctors, occupational therapist and care centre managers, to get their professional opinion on the need for such a tool. They all agreed that it would be extremely useful when working for people with dementia.

I then contacted the NHS Research Design Service for advice in getting this to market. They thought it was a great concept so introduced me to Professor Gill Livingstone, Head of research department of psychiatry of older people at University College London. Gill loved the concept of using a board game and agreed that her team would work with me on more development and trialling.

Having now been thoroughly tested, the next step was to manufacture the games. Determined to ensure the highest quality, a specialist games company in Germany was commissioned and the result is the beautiful, high quality product we now have!

I must give my thanks to a number of people in the church who have helped in various ways. I've had advice on writing my business plan, I've had help in testing earlier versions, help in producing a small video, which is yet to be completed and I've had financial help. Most of all I've had encouragement and belief in me which has meant more than I can say.

It has been an interesting journey so far – I have encountered very kind and generous people and learnt an awful lot about all sorts of things. I have been amazed that so many entrepreneurs and people who run small businesses are keen to help in any way they can – certainly not the ruthlessness I thought I might find.

I now just need to get on and sell, so any help in spreading the word will be gratefully received. Thank you so much if you have read thus far and forgive me using this space for a blatant plug!  
**[www.call-to-mind.com](http://www.call-to-mind.com)**

**Laura Templeton**

# Persecuted Christians

Since the last report the news unfortunately has become more horrifying and upsetting. In early April a Somali terror group directly linked to al-Qaeda threw grenades at the gates of Garissa University (N.E. Kenya) and stormed student dormitories. They separated Muslim students from the Christian students, let the Muslims go, and began shooting the Christians. The 15-hour terrorist siege left at least 147 dead and a number injured.

In N.E. Nigeria, where Muslims and Christians have long lived side-by-side, Boko Haram continue their savagery against Christians. In the villages houses, shops, churches have been burned. Nigerian armed forces have recently had some victories, retaking ground from Boko Haram after years of routs and humiliating inertia. But many Muslims who were displaced by the fighting are afraid to return home for fear of brutal harassment from the military or reprisals from their Christian neighbours. Nigeria's Christian community has borne the brunt of Boko Haram's six-year terrorism, and some seek revenge.

In India and Pakistan there were reports in March of growing hostilities towards Christians. At a convent school near Calcutta a 71 year-old nun was attacked and raped, and the school's chapel desecrated. In Lahore, Pakistan, two churches were bombed and 2 officers on guard duty at the Catholic churches were killed trying to prevent the bombing. In India about 80 per cent of the 1.26 billion inhabitants are Hindus, 15 per cent are Muslims, 2.5 per cent are Christians. Hindu nationalist organisations have been linked to the murder of Christian missionaries, attacks on churches and mosques, and the 'reconversion' of Indian minorities to Hinduism.

In April the Pope described the murder 100 years ago of 1.5 million Christian Armenians by Ottoman Turks as genocide. This sparked a diplomatic crisis with Turkey which always denies that it took place.

In the Middle East the reports of ISIS (Islamic State) attacks continue to horrify. In the suburbs of Damascus, in Yarmouk, there has been a Palestinian refugee camp of about 18,000 civilians for more than 2 years, entirely dependent on UN aid convoys. IS have occupied the camp, Syrian government forces launch missiles at it, many rebel groups try to fight IS militants, and a big humanitarian tragedy is feared.

In Iraq the city of Tikrit was liberated by Iraqi forces, but they were faced with horrendous evidence of atrocious massacre by ISIS of nearly 1,700 Shi'ite soldiers. Details of appalling atrocities by ISIS cannot here be described; please read newspaper reports.

Ethiopia has a large Christian population. Mid-April ISIS issued a 29-minute video, showing jihadists vandalising Christian churches and holding 2 groups of prisoners described as members of "enemy Ethiopian church"; 12 are shown being beheaded on a beach, 16 more are shot in the head – the murders thought to have been in Libya. A large proportion of the migrants crowding north Libyan ports (hoping to find work in Europe) comes from Christian Ethiopian towns and villages. People-traffickers exploit the migrants, pack them into unstable boats and dinghies; one dinghy began to deflate and an African Christian started praying for his life. The Muslims on board ordered him to stop; he refused, and Muslim fellow refugees threw him and 11 other Christians overboard. Hundreds of migrants drown. The UN says that this year 23,500 had sailed to Italy, 12,000 to Greece. Italy cannot afford to carry on with this burden and has appealed for international help.

Please read the Barnabas magazines to be found on the table in the Lounge, and please read a good newspaper, as I will not be writing again until August.

**Marion Uglow**

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## News of Former Member

Ben Crane and his parents Elisabeth and Paul were prominent members of the church in the 1980s and early 1990s, until they left for Germany in 1994. Some who remember him will be pleased to know that Ben is engaged to Heike.

**Robert Manning**





**Sundays**

**10:30 –**

**11:30 am**

Join us for fun games, songs and  
bible stories every Sunday

we're learning about  
what God has made

**God Made....**

May

3rd Plants + Trees



10th Stars + Moon



17th Birds + Fishes

24th Animals + Humans

