



May 2021

**Minister: Rev. Joe Adams
Tel: 07985 417000.**

STEWARDS UPDATE

“Tomorrow will be a good day” – heartening words from the late Captain Sir Thomas Moore and ones which we should heed.

It is looking likely that in June the Government will announce that restrictions can be lifted; i.e social distancing etc. and we look forward to being able to resume full worship, sharing fellowship in person and hopefully singing!

Technology has played a vital role over the past year in enabling us to keep in touch, and ‘online’ worship has been beneficial and inspiring, but obviously not everyone has access to the internet. We have made every effort to ensure that a printed version of the weekly service has been forwarded to those who wished to participate, and services have been circulated by email to other members and church friends.

I wish to record our grateful thanks to Andrew Topples, who along with Joe has provided technical expertise in making this possible. His loyal dedication, vision, liaison and numerous hours ‘behind the scenes’ in compiling and distributing all the forms of worship, as well as maintaining the website, are admirable and we are indebted to him.

Another huge success (again largely due to Andrew and Joe) is the increased ecumenical link between Wimpole Road and St. Stephen’s, which is greater now than ever, and will continue to the benefit of the New Town community.

A new circuit Plan is being compiled and should be in place by the beginning of June, as other churches gradually resume opening for public worship.

Whilst Joe is currently on sick leave, please pass any requests of ministerial concern to the Stewards and we will ensure that they are forwarded to the Superintendent.

On behalf of the Stewards team we look forward to seeing you once again in our church buildings and even if you feel unable to attend in person, please support us (and Joe) by your prayers.

Alison Ablewhite

THURSDAY CIRCLE

On 21st June the Government is lifting the legal restrictions in connection with the pandemic. Permission has been given for the Thursday Circle to start meeting on 24th June, but this date, of course, is subject to any slippage in the road map. Hopefully by then we will all have been vaccinated and protected from the virus.

It has been suggested that members would prefer to meet on Thursday afternoons rather than coming out in the evening and I think this is what we should do, so meetings will start at 2.30 p.m.

As we have been on a break for many months, I think that we should forget about the usual summer break. The June, July and August meetings will tend to be DIY as numbers attending may be low as members take holidays or have outings. If the hospitality rules are relaxed perhaps we could have a cream tea or lunch out, if so desired.

Joan Gomer (Secretary)

Dear Heavenly Father

We give you thanks for your love for us.

We look in on our world with its worries and concerns.

We think of the people in India struggling to cope with the Covid 19 pandemic.

We give thanks for the doctors and nurses who work tirelessly to help their neighbour in distress.

As the situation eases in our country we think of all who have helped in working on the vaccines.

Although life has changed we see, as we do each year, the signs of spring coming and we remember that the earth was completed in all its vast array.

So we look to you Lord for our guidance and strength and we bring our prayers in the name of Jesus.

Amen

Christine Duthie

MISSING OCCASIONS

There have been two occasions I have missed during lockdown, 'The Women's World Day of Prayer' and 'Daffodil Day' both of which take place in March every year.

A few years ago the 'Women's World Day of Prayer' was always held in one of the larger town churches- Eld Lane Baptist, Castle Methodist, Salvation Army etc. and attracted people both local as well as from the Tendring circuit. I used to think it was good to sit next to someone you didn't know and maybe get chatting to them.

The services are now held at smaller local churches and each year the service is prepared by people from a different country. Last year we went to Wivenhoe Methodist Church and the service had been prepared by the people of Zimbabwe. It is interesting to hear about different customs.

You may remember Gladys Cubberley who comes from Zimbabwe and last year we forwarded the details of the service on to her. In fact we now send the Newsround to her and she is very pleased to read about all that is happening at Wimpole Road..

'Daffodil Day' is held at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster and for several years a number of us from Wimpole Road have gone on the circuit coach. This is again a time when you can meet up with strangers and find out about what goes on at other churches around the country.

To be able to share in a large service is always a special time and sometimes we need to know that in our own smaller churches we are a part of a large movement of Christian people who worship together in the name of Jesus Christ.

Christine Duthie

GOD ON TRIAL

My favourite Christmas film is 'Miracle on 34th Street', where Father Christmas is put on trial to establish whether he is real, without spoiling the plot good triumphs over evil! Good people suffer and we do not know why God lets this happen, but does this mean that our God is unjust, uncaring, or powerless? If you read the book of Job, it explores suffering and faith and above all the power of God. If God were on trial today, how would he fare and how would we as church and community defend him?

The charge is that you are a tyrannical, malicious, malevolent, and evil God,

It is with anger, sadness, and lament that people believe you are oppressive. Look at your images in the Old Testament where you directly send, pain, death, suffering and disease!

Even if we ignore the mixtures of your images in the Old Testament, I do feel that you have broken the new Covenant you made with humans in the New Testament.

How can a God of goodness still allow suffering and evil to manifest in this world today if Jesus Christ died for us to take our sins away? Evil like famine, war,

refugees, greed, murder, children dying of cancer, adults suffering with dementia, tales of Priests abusing children and trying convert Gay people.

But still, you allow suffering in our world.

Do you give us suffering so that we become stronger in our faith?

God you must accept that we humans do not have all the answers and cannot possibly comprehend the infinite facets of God.

The charge stands that you are an Evil God who allows your people to suffer.

GOD'S DEFENCE

No, that is bad theology you describe!

The world I created is now less than perfect, suffering, disease, and pain are a reality. Some of these problems are made by humankind and yet you blame me.

Suffering is a universal part of human life. I never send pain, suffering and disease directly.

I do not will earthquakes, floods, droughts, and pandemics such as Covid.

You say that the Old Testament shows me in a bad light however the bible is a long and complex love story about salvation.

Surely the New Testament teaching about life, teaching and healing and cruel death and then resurrection of my beloved son Jesus Christ demonstrates how much I love humankind.

I do not provide a solution or explanation for suffering.

However, amid suffering, know I am your God, and I am with you and will never let you go.

I never said it would be easy to follow me.

I never promised you a smooth ride, a trouble-free passage, a free-flowing stream without boulders thrown in.

I rest my defence I am a loving, caring God and am worthy of your faith and worship.

Amen.

In terms of Preaching, I will testify that our Creative God is also loving and kind who neither death or life or any suffering or angels nor demons nor any power is able to separate us from the fact that our God loves us, and Jesus Christ is our Lord.

I will defend bad theology that says otherwise, and I hope you will to!

We are people full of Christian hope that trust that God is at work right now in the world redeeming and bringing new life and furthermore have faith that resurrection and a new earth are promised for believers.

{Forwarded by Sally Crafer}

THE DONKEY WHO COMES AT CHRISTMAS AND AT EASTER

During Advent and Lent you may have seen the donkey on the vestibule table. At Christmas he (the donkey) reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and at Easter time we think of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Many years ago when Jonathan Sparkes' twin sons Ben and Jack were young they would go to give the donkey a pat when they came into church on a Sunday morning.

One year the 'Advent Thought' was aimed more at the children and I asked the boys to take the donkey around the church as I read the story.

When I looked up the boys had disappeared. They had gone through the vestibule doors and taken the donkey around the hall as well! Someone was sent out to make sure they returned OK - which they did in time.

So that year when we thought of Mary and Joseph's story we had to imagine that it was a particularly long time before they reached Bethlehem!

Christine Duthie

CAPTAIN SIR THOMAS MOORE

30 April 1920 - 2 February 2021

Captain Sir Thomas Moore, more popularly known as Captain Tom, was a British Army officer who raised money for charity in the run-up to his 100th birthday during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He served in India and the Burma campaign during the Second World War, and later became an instructor in armoured warfare.

His fundraising walk in his garden in Marston Moretaine captured the hearts of the nation, and generated nearly £39m after Gift Aid.

He died with coronavirus at Bedford Hospital.

{This poem was written last year to celebrate his 100th birthday}

CAPTAIN TOM

100 years old today.
Oh what a shining light!
He walked to raise one thousand pounds –
now, thirty million is in sight.

He's touched our hearts –
he's touched our soul.
Whilst with his stroller
now has reached his goal.

On his 100th birthday
in his garden (on T.V.)
He had a 'royal' flypast,
circling round – one, two and three.

Two RAF planes, a Spitfire and a Hurricane,
flew in honour of this man.
We watched him wave as they flew by –
it was a lovely plan.

The church bells rang out
at Marston Moretaine proud.
Michael Ball sang to him
'Happy Birthday' – very loud.

He's received thousands of cards
delivered in truckloads
to a local school for display,
and I'm sure we all wish him
a very happy day.

Now made an Honorary Colonel
for the efforts he has made –
to raise money for the N.H.S.
It's quite an accolade.

What an inspiration to us all -
a rainbow in our darkest hour.
"Tomorrow will be a good day" –
his words will now endure.

Pat Farrow

A WORD ON OUR CHURCH FINANCES

To ensure that Wimpole Road is here to serve this neighbourhood after the Pandemic we have still had to keep paying our bills. This has meant that during this last year we have had to call upon our reserves, and get £25,000.00 down from Manchester to cover this. Our very grateful thanks to those who have continued their regular giving by Standing Order or who have forwarded their accumulated collection to our treasurer.

If you have carefully set aside your weekly collection but still have this at home why not contact Edward on 01206 845659 or email e.pentney@btopenworld.com and arrange for this money to be paid to the Church.

From a Gift Aid point of view it would help us if payment could be made before **5th April** next and then we can claim back tax for this current year.

If you haven't signed up for Gift Aid then one of the following alternatives may apply to you.

Please consider if you could sign up. You qualify if you pay tax and this may be by deduction from a pension. If in doubt please contact our Gift Aid Secretary Martin on (01206) 322578 or email him at mandp1967@btinternet.com when you can speak in confidence.

If you definitely don't pay tax then Martin can still claim on the total amount of cash paid to the Church during the year. There is however a potential problem in that if an individual gift is more than £30 then this must be disregarded – if someone gives £5 a week and saves up 10 envelopes and puts £50 in an envelope then this doesn't count.

Therefore if your accumulated amount is more than £30 please include a note 'Please treat this gift as representing separate donations'. If we have the envelope number there is no need to sign or give your name.

Other potential problems can arise where any accumulated monies are paid to the Church either by bank transfer or cheque (i.e. not by cash) by a non- taxpayer as again these cannot be included in any tax repayment claim.

Again, if you usually put whatever amount you choose in the collection in cash and now feel that you could give a lump sum to cover this your gift may be worth more to the Church if we consider the best way to do this.

All a little complicated and if you are not sure or wish to talk over the best way forward please speak with Martin or Edward.

Last year we received almost £4000 in tax recovered. Please help us to get close to that figure this year. Thank you.

Edward Pentney Church Treasurer

Martin Broom Gift Aid Secretary

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Margaret and Keith Clubb – their son, *Stephen*, bravely fighting cancer.

Rev. Joe Adams – on sick leave.

Family of Barbara Byrne – who died a few weeks ago. Barbara was a loyal member of the Thursday Circle and came on many church outings.

THANKS

Jeanette, Anthony, Graham and family would like to express their grateful thanks for the kind thoughts and messages following the death of their mother, *Ann Chapman*.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Michael Topple and Jacqueline Newman, who became engaged at Easter.

Please don't forget, if you have stories or items that you would like to contribute to a future monthly Newsround please contact me by phone, e-mail or post.

Tel: (01206) 869505 or e-mail: alison.ablewhite@btinternet.com



WORKING TOGETHER



PRAYER MEETING Tuesday 10.00 - 10.30 a.m.

Meeting number: **195 594 506** password **011904**

Using the Northumbria Community Morning Prayer

BIBLE STUDY Thursday 7.30 - 8.30 p.m.

Meeting number: **780 700 295** password **011904**

Join on line via Zoom or

Dial in from your phone on:

0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240 or 0131 460 1196

FACEBOOK LIVE SUNDAY SERVICE

EVERY SUNDAY at 11.00 a.m.

Expertly led by either Rev. Joe Adams; Jonathan Sparkes, Joanne Eckersley or Rev. Lorraine Badger Watts.

SUNDAY SERVICE REPLAY

This is available for anyone unable to access the weekly Live Facebook service via the internet or web-site.

This is hosted via Zoom and allows people to simply dial into the call from their telephones.

We run this at **2.30 p.m.** every Sunday afternoon, normally hosted by Debbie.

Dial in details are set out below:

Phone numbers to use to dial in:

0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240

or 0131 460 1196

Meeting ID: 458 171 4255 {Password if needed is **011904**}

{Our weekly Bible study meetings and Prayer meetings have resumed as normal}