



Minister: Rev. Joe Adams

WIMPOLE ROAD WORSHIP

COVID and resultant restrictions have really helped us at Wimpole Road to explore new ways in which we can all worship and, even with restrictions easing and the hope of a 'return to normal' in the near future, there are many aspects of what we have been doing which we want to continue with whilst moving forward.

Sunday worship in Wimpole Road restarted in April, albeit with restrictions, and hopefully we will be able to return to how it was with singing and more scope for fellowship and meetings very soon.

However, with Wimpole Road and other Circuit churches re-opening we cannot continue with Facebook Live Worship at 11.00 a.m. on a Sunday morning - we simply do not have the people available to lead and run this.

However, off the back of the success of Facebook Live Worship, and the amazing number of people who engage with this both on Sundays and later in the week, we have a new and exciting plan for how we can use Facebook.

Beginning on **Sunday 4 July at 6.30 p.m.** we will be starting a new (routinely live) online service on Facebook. This will be called 'Three Together' and will reflect the ecumenical nature of this service.

As you will no doubt be aware, we at Wimpole Road have been working even more closely with St. Stephen's over the last 18 plus months, who in turn are also working alongside St. Margaret's, so the new Sunday evening Live Facebook Service will be led by and shared with all three churches.

The service will be live streamed into the Wimpole Road Facebook page (plus the other churches respective Facebook pages) so that you will be able to join it live at 6.30 p.m. or at a later time if more convenient.

This is a really exciting venture as it will enable us to share the good news with so many more people, in an easy accessible way for many, and also bring our three churches even closer together as we reach out to and work with our local communities.

Worship will be led by familiar faces to us all: Jonathan Sparkes; Joanne Eckersley with Rev. Lorraine Badger-Watts; Belinda and Naomi from St. Stephen's. We pray that upon his return Rev. Joe Adams will also be able to lead these, in addition to others, as this work develops and evolves.

The Sunday afternoon telephone service replay will continue at 2.30 p.m. as this is a really important way in which we can continue to share worship with those who cannot get to church and do not have on line access.

This is open to everyone, so if you are aware of anybody else who might like to join please do share details with them or ask them to contact Andrew Topple. As you will see from Debbie's note we are also asking for volunteers to help to lead this on Sunday afternoons on a rota basis.

As those folk who have been receiving a printed copy of services will already know, we have just stopped this service. This was only ever intended to be a short term arrangement, which we have continued for 15 plus months.

We believe that all recipients will have been offered and probably received both their COVID vaccinations and with things re-opening, and coupled with the not insignificant cost and environmental impacts of the printing etc, we feel that this should now cease. We are very grateful to all those who have provided these printed services and distributed them.

As we have progressed through COVID the Stewards and Church Council have tried to maintain the worshipping life of Wimpole Road, using all sorts of different techniques and when we look back over the last 18 months we can see how these have also evolved over this time.

We are now seeking to move forward, both returning to what we had pre-COVID but also building upon the new things and our ecumenical work. We are sure that these too will develop over time and please can we ask for your prayers and support as we take these next important steps forward.

Andrew Topple and the Stewards

THURSDAY CIRCLE UPDATE

Because of the Government's decision to postpone removal of the remaining COVID restrictions, the start up of the Thursday Circle meetings has been delayed until **Thursday 22 July**.

All meetings will start at 2.30 p.m.

The programme for the first three meetings is:

22 July	Countdown
29 July	Advert Trivia Quiz
5 August	Showbiz Quiz

In the meantime small groups (maximum six) will be meeting for a cream tea at 'Small Talk' tearooms in Eld Lane on three different Thursday afternoons in July.

Looking ahead to August, fourteen members and friends will be attending a matinee performance of 'Baskerville' at the Mercury Theatre on 12 August.

Joan Gomer (Secretary)

SUNDAY PLAYBACK

It has been my pleasure for some months to host the Sunday afternoon playback of the FaceBook Live Services. This happens at 2.30 p.m. on a Sunday, and enables folk without computer access to telephone in and hear the splendid morning services.

We are usually a group of maybe 5 or 6, and it is really lovely to be able to say hello, and catch up briefly with dear friends whom we can't see face to face in church (there's time for a chat before and afterwards).

It has been suggested that we invite anyone else, who feels able, to share this task with me. The process is relatively simple - I open up a Zoom meeting from the church Zoom calendar and then, once the callers are dialled in, play back the recording of the live service direct from the church FaceBook page. Full instructions will be given either by Andrew Topples or myself.

If you are interested, please contact me or Andrew via email - deborah.grant342@btinternet.com or as.topples@virgin.net

Debbie Floy

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

Looking ahead (hopefully) to the not too distant future when we will be able to resume normal worship and church activities, there is a need for extra help to maintain and support our church life.

- Church Stewards - Alison has resigned as Senior Steward, and Christine Firmin is taking over from July. However the team would appreciate an extra member (or two) to help with the smooth running of the church, especially on a Sunday morning. We would love to have you on board, and you would be warmly welcomed.

Other ways you can help are:

- Projectionist - to operate the computer on a Sunday morning
- PowerPoint compiler (training provided if necessary) - to help create power point presentations for church services
- Communion Steward - Communion Services are normally only once a month
- Door and Pew steward – to welcome and greet worshippers and distribute books as required – approx. once a month.
- Sunday Coffee - this is a really important job which is greatly appreciated by all who participate. Involves setting up, serving coffee, refreshments and clearing away with another person.
- Church Cleaning – vital in these current times – but can be done mid-week, with a key holder.

If you would like to know more about any of these vacancies, please speak to myself or a Steward. Any contribution will be most gratefully received and valued by the other people already carrying out these various roles. Thank you.

Alison Ablewhite

A PRAYER TAKEN FROM THE METHODIST PRAYER HANDBOOK

Heavenly Father,

To share the good news, your son, Jesus, climbed mountains, wandered through fields and crossed over waters.

Help us to remember today, as we travel down different roads, that this earth remains precious, created in love and graced by your presence; so we may tread lightly and discover afresh the way of your kingdom. Amen

THE COMFORT OF OUR CHURCH (written in June 2020)

When 'lockdown' came,
we all agreed that life seemed very strange.
No Sunday church to go to;
no rotas to arrange.

No friendly handshakes at the door;
no waves and smiling faces.
No laughs; no tea and biscuits;
no 'God Bless You' or fond embraces.

No singing choir; no Peter playing hymns;
no Mum and Toddlers Mondays,
or dads and grannies chatting.
It's the same dull thing each day.

No Wednesday morning gatherings;
no Bowls in the afternoon.
No 'away' fixtures with other clubs –
it's all ended so soon.

We are all trying to do good
and stay connected on our phones.
Our lovely church has been so kind,
so we don't feel alone.

No 'Book Club'; no 'Thursday Circle',
where we meet and socialise.
No Community Days on the Rec.
No parties (now would be unwise).

No Craft Fairs; no Charity Nights,
where we raise money for good causes.
Now we must keep our distance –
our lives have many pauses.

But pause we must to keep us safe –
'til this pandemic's over.
It's for our good, we know we should
count our blessings – we're in clover!

Pat Farrow

STEP OUT FOR CHILDREN

As last year, there is no 'Step Out for Children' Circuit Sponsored Walk this year for Action for Children but again we feel we should do all we can to encourage the Circuit to raise money for Action for Children. Rev. Ron and Jenny Smith have agreed to do a token walk on behalf of the Social Issues Working Group on 10th July to give us encouragement and we thank them for this.

Also, Action for Children Sunday is on 11th July and this will be reflected in the Circuit You Tube service on that day (and hopefully in our church services throughout the Circuit) and there will be information in the Notices on how we can give a donation.

We are also wondering if your church has the means to put out an appeal either by email to your congregation but also, if possible, to reach people who are not on email and whether anyone is willing to take on the responsibility of collecting money and, if necessary, sending it to me to forward to Action for Children. Donations (cheques payable to Action for Children) can be sent to Keith Thompson – telephone (01206) 844252 or email keithdi.thompson@btinternet.com for more information.

Alternatively, people can go online and give directly on the Action for Children website. If they so wished they could say that they are giving on behalf of Colchester Methodist Circuit as, for a single donation, there is a drop down for 'Donation Type' which makes this possible if, 'I am giving on behalf of a church/ school' is used. Many thanks.

Keith Thompson (Co-ordinator of Social Issues Working Group)

A SPECIAL PLACE

During May the swifts and swallows arrive and we know that summer is returning as these amazing birds, who have flown thousands of miles, return again to the areas they know.

The swifts circle the rooftops in their screeching parties, the swallows swoop low over the fields and soon the house martins will start to twitter ready to line up on the telegraph wires.

They have returned to areas they know and aren't we like that as we return to the places we know where we feel safe and at home.

In the Bible we know Jesus often returned to the village of Bethany - somewhere he felt at home - his friends Martha and Mary lived there and this is where Jesus raised their brother Lazarus from the dead and it was in this special place that Jesus finally ascended into Heaven.

So we all have a special place to return to although we may not have to travel so far as the birds to find it.

Christine Duthie

GOOD NEWS

As you may know, Michael Topple proposed to his girlfriend, Jackie, on Easter Day. They are delighted to announce that they are getting married at Wimpole Road on August 14th this year and would be pleased to see church members and friends at the service. The service begins at 2.00 p.m. and will be followed by light refreshments in the halls.

In other news, Michael has been accepted to study for a Bachelor of Divinity degree with the URC's Scottish College. Jackie and Michael will be moving to Glasgow in the New Year to begin the next stage of their life and ministry together.

Ed: Michael - on behalf of Wimpole Road Church – we wish to record our grateful thanks for all your work in supporting us with Facebook services, live worship and sharing your own services via Zoom. Your expertise and willingness to help at short notice will be greatly missed!

We extend heartfelt congratulations and wish you and Jackie every happiness and success.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Margaret and Keith Clubb – whose son, *Stephen*, died on 7 June - his funeral is Monday 5 July. Also *Keith* – who is receiving treatment for many serious, ongoing conditions

Jackie Anderson – who sadly died on 5 June.

Rev. Joe Adams – Joe is grateful for prayers and support during this period while he remains on sick leave.

Any ministerial concerns please contact Rev. Alan Jenkins or a Steward.

THAT'S WHERE I'D LIKE TO BE

We used to go camping, down by the sea,
My husband, the dog, my children and me.

With the car loaded up, with all it would take,
We'd head for a campsite, with a reasonable rate.

We hadn't much money to take with us then,
We didn't need much, we had the sea and the sand.

We took tins and packets that we'd saved for weeks
And just enough cash for an ice-cream or sweets.

I cooked all our meals on a tiny camp stove,
We ate in the fresh air, much nicer than home.

We spent time exploring the rock pools for crabs,
Made giant sandcastles and topped them with flags.

We climbed up the rocks, and walked over the hills,
And forgot about work and paying the bills.

There was so much to do and to see every day -
We always looked forward to those holidays.

Relaxing together, that's where I'd like to be,
Just my husband, the dog and the children and me.

Norma Peckston

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk

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 telephone, 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

BIBLE STUDY Thursday 7.30 - 8.30 p.m.

Meeting number: 780 700 295 password 011904

Join online via Zoom or Dial in from your phone on:

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

**'THREE TOGETHER'
ONLINE FACEBOOK SERVICE
EVERY SUNDAY
at 6.30 p.m.**

Ecumenical worship led by and shared with all three churches, Wimpole Road, St. Stephen's and St. Margaret's.

SUNDAY SERVICE REPLAY

This is available for anyone and it would be lovely if you were able to join us.

It 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.

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}