



September 2021

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams

FROM THE VESTRY

As summer draws to a close, we all continue to adapt to the new 'normal'. The numbers at our Sunday morning services have remained static and it would be lovely to see more attending. The Stewards team are endeavouring to take additional steps to reassure those who may be nervous about returning to 'in person worship' (please see further details from Christine).

Whilst the congregation numbers remain low, our Treasurer has advised the weekly collections are significantly down on previous years. If you are unable to attend but would be interested in paying by an alternative method, such as a Standing Order, please contact Edward Pentney who will be happy to discuss the options.

Reflecting on last month, we celebrated with Michael and Jacqueline Topple at their wedding, as the church and hall were bedecked with flamingos and VW campervans! Congratulations to the happy couple and we wish them all the best for their future together.

We continue to pray for Joe as he remains on sick leave and also Margaret and Keith Clubb and the family.

Take care and God bless

Juliet Balls

VESTRY NOTES - UPDATE

- **Social Distancing and Track and Trace**

As from **Sunday 5th September**, unless you personally prefer otherwise, it will no longer be necessary to 'sign in' for Sunday morning worship. **The wearing of face coverings will continue to be recommended, but is also a matter of personal responsibility.** We will designate the left hand side aisle as an area for a 'Face Covering Only Section' for those who will feel more comfortable with that arrangement. However, we do respectfully ask that anyone not wearing a mask is mindful of those who prefer to do so and continue to observe social distancing, thereby ensuring that everyone feels safe in church.

- **Sunday Morning Coffee**

Many of us feel this is a valuable part of our fellowship and pastoral support. As highlighted in the last Newround we have a shortage of coffee volunteers - in fact, probably down to about 6. This means that we will be unable, with this number, to provide weekly Sunday morning refreshments, possibly returning to a once a month system.

Can you help? Would you miss the opportunity for a drink and chat after the service? Do you have any other ideas of how we can meet together after worship?

If the answer to any of the above is 'Yes', or you would like more details of what exactly is involved please contact myself or Alison. Thank you.

- **Postponed Easter Offering Service**

We have been asked by the circuit to belatedly include the work of the 'Methodist Women in Britain' on behalf of the 'World Mission Fund' in one of our services. For obvious reasons it could not happen in collective worship during Easter this year. The 26th September has been planned for Wimpole Road to do this. As yet I am not certain what form this service of worship will take, but suffice to say there will be an offering for this work, which we are invited to contribute to.

If you would like to know more about the work of 'Methodist Women in Britain', their website www.mwib.org.uk is full of interesting information.

Please continue to pray for the work of our church and how we can make a difference together.

***God Bless,
Christine Firmin***

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING
Wednesday 22 September from 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.**

Any contributions will be very gratefully received. Do come along and bring a friend!

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our programme for September to December is under preparation and will soon be available.

The programme for the next few weeks is as follows:

9 September When Prince Philip died earlier this year his legacy was discussed. This talk will be how I achieved the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the 1960's and the legacies it has left in my life!

16 September A talk on 'Forest School' by Jean Quinn

23 September Lindsay Hurrell talking about local charity 'Recycle Bikes to Africa'.

30 September Quiz Afternoon to raise money for 'Stand By Me' charity. £2 per person, teams of four. Raffle and light refreshments. Please come and support this worthwhile charity.

7 October talk by Frances Collins about Homeopathy.

All events start at **2.30 p.m.** and are open to all.

Please support us as we seek to re-establish this group. Thank you.

***Joan Gomer
Secretary***

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE DISTRICT CHAIR

Dear Friends,

The start of the Methodist Church year on 1st September provides a natural opportunity for circuits and churches to plan for the year ahead, as we look to the future with a mixture of hope and concern at what the autumn and winter may bring. Although the national vaccination programme has been a great success, it is unclear whether and to what extent future restrictions may still be necessary.

However, one of the most encouraging developments during the past eighteen months has been the way in which circuits and churches in the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District have responded to the situation posed by lockdown and the need for social distancing.

Detailed risk assessments have been carried out efficiently and effectively. Sunday services have continued by electronic means whenever restrictions have prevented congregations from meeting in person. At other times, church premises have been suitably adapted to allow safe access. I am immensely grateful to all those who have worked so hard to ensure that worship, fellowship, and mission can continue.

Already there has been much theological, political, and social commentary on the present and future implications of the pandemic for corporate and individual human life on a fragile planet. Clearly, far-reaching changes are presently underway and will likely continue apace. Yet the people of God are well placed to adapt and respond to changing circumstances.

Our identity in Jesus Christ gives us an overarching story and a fixed reference point in which to assess and prioritise change. Holding fast to him means we need not be anxious when familiar and apparently stable patterns of living, working, and worshipping must be reassessed in the light of changing circumstances.

After all, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13.8).

Grace and Peace

David Chapman

THE BEGGAR-KING

There was once a king who had no son, and longed for an heir who would succeed him to the throne. So he posted a notice, inviting young men to apply to be considered for adoption into his family, and to become his heir. All that he asked of the applicants was that they should love God, and love their neighbour.

A poor peasant boy saw the notice, but he thought that he would have no chance of becoming adopted because of the ragged clothes he wore. So he worked very hard, until he had just enough money to buy a new set of clothes. Wearing his new clothes, he then set off to the royal palace, to apply for the position of the king's adopted son.

Now, as he was journeying towards the palace, the boy met a poor beggar on the road. The old man was shivering with cold, and the boy felt sorry for him, and exchanged clothes with him.

As he was now back to wearing beggar's clothes it seemed hardly worth going on towards the king's palace. However, having come so far already, the boy decided to keep going, and at least see the king's palace from the outside.

When he arrived, he was greeted by scornful laughter and sneering remarks by the king's courtiers. Nevertheless, he was finally admitted into the presence of the king.

There was something strangely familiar about the king. At first, the boy couldn't work out what it was, and why he felt so at home in his presence. Then he realised that the king himself was wearing the clothes that he had given to the old beggar just a few hours ago along the road.

The king came down from his throne and embraced the boy, holding him close in his arms.

"Welcome, my son," he said.

Taken from One Hundred Wisdom Stories from around the world

AFGHAN REFUGEES AID

If folk wish to help the Afghan refugees who are arriving in Colchester, the GO4 café (Pepe) are providing them with parcels of hygiene and sanitary products. Donations of bath and dental products, hair care and sanitary towels will be gratefully received. Café is open Tuesday - Sunday 10-5.

THE SHAPE OF A DAY

Each and every day has
A beginning
A middle and an end.

As Christians the Church
Invites us to sanctify the day.

What better way to begin each day
Than to place ourselves
In God's presence.

During the day
Many things happen to us.

And when the day ends
We may want to give thanks,
To grumble, to rejoice or to repent.

STEP BY STEP

He does not lead me year by year,
Nor even day by day;
But step by step my path unfolds,
My Lord directs my way.

Tomorrow's plans I do not know,
I only know this minute,
But He will say, "*This is the way,
By faith – now walk ye in it*".

And I am glad that it is so,
Today's enough to bear;
And when tomorrow comes,
His Grace shall far exceed its care.

What need to worry then, or fret?
The God who gave His Son,
Holds all my moments in His hand,
And gives them one by one.

Barbara C. Ryberg

HANDY LITTLE CHART

GOD HAS A POSITIVE ANSWER

YOU SAY	GOD SAYS	BIBLE VERSES
It's impossible	All things are possible	Luke 18 v 27
I'm too tired	I will give you rest	Matthew 11 v 28 – 30
Nobody really loves me	I love you	John 3 v 1-6 & John 3 v 34
I can't go on	My grace is sufficient	2 Corinthians 12 v 9 & Psalm 91 v 15
I can't figure things out	I will direct your steps	Proverbs 3 v 5-6
I can't do it	You can do all things	Philippians 4 v 13
I'm not able	I am able	2 Corinthians 9 v 8
It's not worth it	It will be worth it	Romans 8 v 28
I can't forgive myself	I forgive you	1 John 1 v 9 & Romans 8 v 1
I can't manage	I will supply all your needs	Philippians 4 v 19
I'm afraid	I have not given you a spirit of fear	2 Timothy 1 v 7
I'm always worried and frustrated	Cast all your cares on me	1 Peter 5 v 7
I'm not smart enough	I give you wisdom	1 Corinthians 1 v 30
I feel all alone	I will never leave you or forsake you	Hebrews 13 v 5

A PRAYER FROM ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,

Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort me and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

PRAYER CORNER

Come Lord, come down, come in, come among us
Enter into our darkness with your light.

Come fill our emptiness with your presence.
Dispel the clouds and reveal your glory.

Come refresh, renew, restore us,
Come Lord, come down, come in, come among us.

Come Lord to all who are unable to cope at this time.
We pray for friends and loved ones departed.

Lord, stir up your strength and come among us.

Amen

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Margaret and Keith Clubb – grieving for the loss of their son, ***Stephen***.
Also ***Keith*** – who is receiving treatment for many serious, ongoing conditions

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

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

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

As we gradually return to something like normal at church, may I remind everybody of the Book of Remembrance and Brass Plaques in the Prayer Corner?

I have now found an excellent lady calligrapher living in Colchester, offering cheaper rates than any since we started it in 2000. For 2 lines it is £15, + £5 for any extra lines. For the brass plaques, it is only £12-60 each.

Hardly anything has been added in the last two years, so maybe now people may wish to 'catch up' a little?

Please see me if you wish to inspect the Book or seek further details. I hope to commission some new entries later in October, subject to demand.

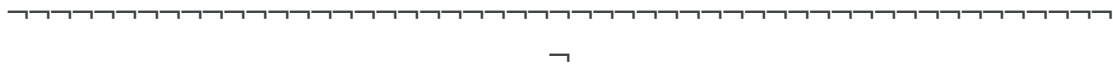
David Ablewhite

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

5 September	Mr Brian Dack
12 September	Rev. Ken Chalmers – Holy Communion
19 September	Mr Jonathan Sparkes
26 September	Local Arrangement (Easter Offering)

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS



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}