



October 2021

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

The last month has seen more signs of a return to normality.

We do not have to sign in on entry and we now have the joy of singing without wearing a mask or shield (unless by choice). The month included a celebration of Holy Communion – something we missed during after the lockdown.

It has been great to see ‘old’ friends returning to Sunday worship, including our minister Joe (and Dave). Joe is still on sick leave, so do please pray that he will be restored to full health and strength and able to take up his duties again – we have missed him! There are still others who, for whatever reasons, have not yet returned to Sunday worship and we hope that they will soon feel able to do so.

It would be helpful to have some more people available to read the Bible lessons on a Sunday morning, so if you are willing please tell a Steward or Peter Boston.

The Thursday Circle continues to meet every Thursday afternoon and, following a MacMillan Coffee Morning, each Wednesday from 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. there will now be a Coffee Morning where anyone from the church or community can drop in. Also Bible Study Discussion Group evenings at Peter Broom’s home are about to start again this month.

After a summer break, the 'Three Together' online Facebook service of ecumenical worship led and shared by our church, St. Stephen's and St. Margaret's churches, is now on every Sunday evening at 6.30 p.m. with a replay the following Sunday afternoon.

Rev. Lorraine of St. Stephen's and our minister, Joe, were instrumental in setting up joint Prayer Meetings and Bible Study sessions during the lockdown. These continue to take place via Zoom or telephone, despite the ill health of both Rev. Lorraine and Rev. Joe – please do pray for Rev. Lorraine.

There are still however things that have not yet resumed, for instance Sunday Coffee, Choir, Baby and Toddler Group, Flower Rota, and it would be good to see some progress on these. One day we will be back to normal!

With every blessing in Christ,

Joan Gomer

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our autumn programme began on 2 September with an afternoon of favourite hymns and Bible readings. Everyone sung lustily and thanks are due to Beryl Leech for her piano playing and to Chris Firmin for her solos - the 'Lord's Prayer' and 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'.

The following week I talked about what I did to achieve the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze and Silver Awards in the 1960's and the legacies it left on my life.

On 16 September Jean Quinn gave a most interesting talk on 'Forest Schools' and brought some activities for us to try out. Members were soon enthusiastically weaving fish out of willow branches or trying to get a spark to light some paper (I seemed to be the only person worried we might set off the fire alarm!). There was less enthusiasm for tying knots!

On 23 September unfortunately we were unable to hear about 'Recycling Bikes for Africa' – and this will now take place in the spring.

On 30 September at a Quiz afternoon for 'Stand by Me' (our harvest charity) we raised the sum of £76. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to this success.

The programme for the next few weeks is as follows:

14 October – talk by Sharon Mooney on ‘The History of Colchester Cemetery’. You may remember Sharon investigated local 1st World War servicemen and had a tent at the Community Day displaying her findings.

21 October – Sara Scott will talk about the Cannock Mill Co-Operative Housing in Old Heath Road.

28 October – a Musical Afternoon – please bring CD’s and or/ cassettes.

4 November – Peter Mockford, a retired magistrate, will talk about ‘The Fun Side of Being a Magistrate’.

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

CARPET BOWLS CLUB

We will be starting our new season on **Wednesday 13 October at our usual time of 1.45 - 2.00 p.m.**

It has been a long time since we last met and a lot has happened. It will be good to be with one another once again.

We do not intend to use the kitchen for the time being and are suggesting bringing along a drink and something to eat at half-time.

If you are comfortable with the wearing of a face covering please do so as we want everyone to feel as safe as possible.

Christine and Graham Duthie

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Rev. Paul Howes has agreed to incorporate this into the service on **Sunday 10 October**, which also includes Holy Communion.

There will be a box in the vestibule for donations (not for the Foodbank this year) but the Afghan refugee appeal. These will be forwarded via the GO4 café on the Recreation Ground.

Any monetary gifts will be sent to our nominated charity 'Stand by Me'.

TWO SHORT POEMS BY PAT FARROW

ONE DAY

Some people do not understand
why I have turned to God.
It was a purely selfish act
to seek a helping hand.

When I was at my lowest ebb –
that year, my darkest yet.
Losing my ill husband, such a loss –
I never will forget.

But, taking things in my own hands,
I ventured to our church.
There I felt the warmest touch.
One day – they'll understand.

SQUIRREL'S GIFT

I got a surprise today –
I think a squirrel passed my way!
(I'd been to the Mercury to see 'Baskerville',
the 'send-up' – so funny, performed with great skill).

When coming back home I found
a fresh green walnut left on the ground
on the top of the steps, near my door.
Squirrel hadn't ever done this before!

THE SECRET GARDEN

We all have a secret garden,
Where we ourselves can be,
A place of rest, a haven -
An inner sanctuary.

Growing in my garden,
Are an oak and a willow tree,
A bank of Scottish heather,
Forget - me - nots, sweet rosemary.

Sometimes when heavy laden,
A friend will walk with me,
I feel His love around me
But His face I never see.

His presence fills my garden,
With peace, rest, tranquillity,
And taking up my burden,
He shows the way to me.

To follow in His footsteps,
May not easy be,
For thorny is the pathway,
To faith, hope and charity.

Yet if we can but reach them,
They bring wondrous serenity,
Flowers from seeds sown long ago,
In the Garden of Gethsemane.

{This was written by a friend of Graham & Christine over 30 years ago.}

PRAYER CORNER

Spirit of God, you are the breath of creation, the wind of change that blows through our lives, opening us up to new dreams and new hopes, new life in Jesus.

Forgive us our closed minds, which barricade themselves against new ideas, preferring the past to what you might want to do through us tomorrow.

Forgive us our closed eyes which fail to see the needs of your world, blind to opportunities of service and love.

Forgive us our closed hands which clutch our gifts and our possessions, for our own use alone.

Forgive us for our closed hearts which limit our affections to ourselves and to our own.

Spirit of new life, forgive us and break down the prison walls of our selfishness that we might be open to your love and open for the service of your world.

Amen

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Margaret and Keith Clubb – Keith has many extremely serious health issues to contend with and is very poorly.

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

Ken Young – following the death of his wife Peggy on 18 September. Her funeral service will take place at Wimpole Road on **Wednesday 6 October at 2.45 p.m.** and will be led by Rev. John Allison.

All members and friends are welcome to attend. Ken wishes to thank everyone for their cards, kind thoughts and prayers.

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

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

- 3 October** **Mr Eddie Lansdowne**
- 10 October** **Rev. Paul Howes – Holy Communion and Harvest
Worship**
- 17 October** **Mrs Rachel Allen**
- 24 October** **Mrs Joanne Eckersley**

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}