



November 2021

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

November – a time for reflection and preparation and (after the clocks went back) a reminder that winter is not too far away. However it is not all doom and gloom. It has been good to see some ‘old’ friends returning to worship and also to be able to welcome some ‘new’ ones.

Also the Choir have regained their seats and hope to be able to lead the singing in our services and to support our organist. Thanks must be given to Peter for his playing and also to Debbie, who provides the splendid PowerPoints which enhance our worship every week. We are dependant upon the words (as still not using hymn books) but the carefully chosen pictures and images are a welcome bonus, and much appreciated. It is easy to take your efforts for granted but we are indebted to both of you.

Whilst on the subject of thanks, our Harvest celebrations had to be scaled down from previous years but Christine’s floral arrangements ensured that we were able to have visual reminders of some of God’s beauty and to give thanks for his goodness.

Although Sunday Coffee has not resumed, you can still meet for a coffee and chat and share fellowship in our weekly Wednesday Coffee Mornings, from 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. It would be good to show support and meet some new friends. {There will not be one on 17th November due to Keith’s funeral.}

We were saddened by the recent death of two of our dear church friends, Keith Clubb, (Margaret’s husband) and also a past minister, Rev. Robert

Bean. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to both families but especially to Margaret who is an integral part of our church here at Wimpole Road.

Our Pastoral Visitors continue to provide a vital contact with church members unable to attend worship in person, and we are grateful to them. Our minister, Joe, is always delighted to receive phone calls or cards whilst he remains on sick leave. We pray for some improvement and for his return to our pulpit.

Looking ahead to Christmas we hope to be able to welcome Boxted Band for our traditional **Family Carol Service on Sunday 19 December at 6.30 p.m.** We will ensure that as many precautions as possible are in place with further details yet to be confirmed. However, on that theme of safety, we have decided NOT to have the post boxes in the Vestibule for Christmas Cards, as this will be an extra unnecessary risk for upholding social distancing. If anyone wishes to send Christmas greetings to church friends, in lieu of cards, we will include these in the next Newsround.

If you have an Action for Children box please hand it in during the next few weeks. If you wish to make a donation or are interested in having a box, please see Beryl Pentney.

Finally sincere congratulations to Jeanette and Anthony who are now proud grandparents. Lucas Henry Ladbrook was born on 31 October, a beautiful son for Grace and Rob.

Alison Ablewhite

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our October programme began with a most interesting talk by Frances Collins on Homeopathy and helpful advice was given to several members.

The next week, in a change to the advertised programme, Sharon Moody spoke about her research of the history of several houses in New Town, including 'Scarletts', 'The Limes' in Gladstone Road and two in Wimpole Road. Her talk on 'The History of Colchester Cemetery' has been deferred until 28 April.

On 21 October Sarah Scott spoke with great enthusiasm about the Cannock Mill Co-operative Housing - this has been developed in Old Heath Road.

Our final meeting in October was a very relaxing musical afternoon where members brought CD's for us to listen to. This ranged from Glenn Miller to Daniel O'Donnell and James Last to a Welsh Male Voice Choir.

The programme for the next few weeks is as follows:

4 November – a talk by Peter Mockford on ‘The Fun Side of Being a Magistrate’.

11 November – this being Remembrance Day we will read 1st World War poetry followed by considering what humorous cartoons available as postcards to be sent from the Front tell us about the soldier’s everyday life.

18 November – Sue Howlett will talk about the ‘History of Mersea’. Regulars may remember that Sue gave a lovely PowerPoint presentation on Colchester’s medieval buildings.

25 November – Mark Wood will talk about the ‘Korban Project’, a local charity with a house in St. Anne’s parish, which provides homeless youngsters with both accommodation and the opportunity to sort themselves out.

2 December – in a change to the advertised programme, ‘A Christmas Anthology’ looks at the non-religious aspect of Christmas in literature and music.

Our meetings begin at **2.30 p.m.** and are open to all – male or female, young or old, churchgoers or non-attendees.

Joan Gomer
Secretary

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

We were finally able to meet on 12 October when Rev. Alan Jenkins kindly took the chair in the place of Rev. Joe Adams. While we acknowledged the difficulty of many Pastoral visits under the Covid pandemic we seem to have managed to keep in some form of contact with our church members.

Sadly we learnt of the death of Ken Young's wife Peggy and Margaret's husband Keith Clubb. While we have still not been able to formerly welcome Sally Crafer, Peter Studd, Joanne Eckersley and Stephen Tuthill into Church membership during a service we are delighted to welcome them at a more personal level.

We had hoped to have membership classes for several supporters on our community roll who regularly attended worship but the Covid pandemic and the illness of our minister has obviously delayed this as well.

Norman Broom

THE SENSE OF A GOOSE

When you see geese on their migration flying in a 'V' formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way. As each flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a 'V' formation the whole flock adds at least 71 per cent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily, because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have the sense of a goose we will stay in formation with those people who are heading the same way as we are.

When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.

It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs, whether with people or with geese flying south.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

What message do we give when we honk from behind?

Finally, when a goose gets sick or injured and falls out of the formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it recovers or dies and only then do they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their own group.

If we have the sense of a goose we will stand by each other like that.

Author unknown

CONCERT

Boxted Methodist Silver Band is supporting Lexden Choral Society for this year's Remembrance and Thanksgiving concert at St. Botolph's Church on **Saturday 13th November at 7.30 p.m.** After the Fauré Requiem they are playing the second half, with popular marches, British sea songs and Last Night of the Proms Tickets are available at Mann's Music shop, priced £15.

NOVEMBER APPEAL

BEH Methodist Women in Britain has chosen 'Queen Victoria's Seamen's Rest' as its fundraising project for 2021-22. This is the Seaman's Mission linked with the Methodist Church.

We want to help with the Christmas 'parcels' which are given to all seamen visiting the centres. Could your church help to contribute to this in November?

Items needed: knitted hats and gloves and fingerless mitts; men's toiletries – including anti-dandruff shampoo; soap or shower gel; toothbrushes; toothpaste; E45 cream; hand cream for extra dry skin, as well as sweets, chocolate or Haribos.

We will collect any donations from churches once contacted, by phone (01206) 545083 or email g.wilcox588@btinternet.com

Many thanks, Geoff and Viv Wilcox

I was delighted to read that Methodist Women in Britain are supporting the Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest this year. Not only was I pleased because of the splendid work they do, but also for a more personal reason.

Charles Alexander Duthie, my great-great-grandfather (grandfather to Chris Topple, known to many of you) was born in County Kilkenny in 1863, taking an apprenticeship as a seed trader and attending First Ballymacarrett Presbyterian Church, before entering the Wesleyan Ministry in 1890. Serving in a variety of stations/circuits, including Wolverhampton, Blackheath and Darlington. In the latter years of his ministry, before his unexpected death in a railway carriage in his native Northern Ireland.

Charles served with the 'Seamen's Mission of the Methodist Church', now known as the Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest. Unusually for a Wesleyan Minister, Charles served there between 1913 and 1921, longer than the standard five years, and was clearly well respected in the area, with a small street named after him.

Sadly information about Charles is a little sketchy, but I am glad to have a link with a minister who served (it seems) in every constituent country of the United Kingdom, and was at home with both the poor and rich alike, I pray that MWiB's appeal will be successful.

Michael Topple

JESUS CHRIST THE APPLE TREE

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green,
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but never can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
Is found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

From Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs

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}