



January 2022

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams

THOUGHTS FROM THE VESTRY

December - there can be no other month in the year filled with such excitement and anticipation? And what a difference to last year? We were truly hoping to be able to celebrate the Birth of Christ in a way impossible in 2020. We have been safely worshipping in church for much of the year, and although numbers are still only around 30 each week, we do feel safe, and so glad to be back praying and singing together, hearing the organ, back in the building we love so much.

We were fortunate in December to have Ron Firmin and Joanne Eckersley lead us for two weeks, but the 'Man of The Month' has undoubtedly been Paul Howes, who began the month with Holy Communion (we have gloves, we have masks, we have hand gel – we can DO THIS!) and he later led the fantastic Carol Service with the longed-for return of the Boxted Silver Band; along with beautiful readings from a combined team of readers from St. Stephen's, St. Margaret's and Wimpole Road. There were lots of our most favourite carols, and a very funny sketch (provided by Paul Howes) starring our own Jonathan Sparkes as the 'Duke of Medici', and Graham Duthie as the artist 'Signor Ravioli'.

This was closely followed by Paul Howes leading a Christmas Eve Communion Service with the congregation playing all the parts in The Nativity. The church looked splendid, decked with flowers, bathed in candle light, with glorious Christmas trees – indoors and out. We must

thank Peter Broom and Christine Firmin for their vision and expertise in organising all this.

I probably shouldn't mention it – because it comes under January – but Paul and Jonathan Sparkes saved the day on January 2nd – leading our Communion and Covenant Service at the last minute after Rev. Alan Jenkins was stranded on Mersea. A service that one minute seemed doomed, became a beacon of hope and joy as Paul, and Jonathan, Stephen and Zoe all gave wonderful testimonies. A great start to the New Year.

So on we go – vaccinated, boosted, but still cautious, and if you haven't been back to church yet – do come. We are still being very, very careful, and given the space and all our precautions – it's probably a lot safer than the local supermarket?

Debbie Floy

NEW YEAR PRAYER CORNER

Dear Heavenly Father

We have worshipped with Mary and Joseph
And the Christ child in the Bethlehem stable.

We have knelt with shepherds and kings
And the light of Christ has shone in our hearts again.

As the New Year begins
We pray for the hope that our world may be healed

Of its problems and divisions
Where people struggle to survive.

We pray for Church friends who at this time are unwell
Or feel sad and lonely.

We remember we are all one body in you
And we encircle them in your love.

We bring these our prayers in the name of our Lord Jesus
Who lives for always in our hearts.

Amen

LETTER FROM OUR CHURCH TREASURER

Dear Friends

I don't often write to you all as Treasurer, but being a new year, and having just renewed our covenant with our Lord on Sunday, I thought what better time, for me to ask you all to rethink your giving to our Church and try to put just a little more in the collection each week. As the supermarket says 'Every Little Helps'.

Let me explain why I am asking: as you can imagine while the Church was not used during Covid we still had to pay for Insurance, our Minister and a little on maintenance. Although unfortunately Joe being off sick, he still has to be paid, which means we still have to pay our assessment of £7500 every 3 months making £30,000.00 per year.

Yes, the few people that pay by Standing Order is a great help, and again I thank them for keeping up with their payments, but please see below how our collections and income has gone down over the last 3 years. If it were not for us having the legacy that our dear friend Joyce Burch left us, I fear that we would have been closed by now.

	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Collections Loose Cash,			
£1,340		£2,971	£3,611
Collection Envelopes,			
£3,264		£4,424	£8,625
Standing Orders,			
£8,523		£6,750	£5,940
Lettings			
£ 300		£5,545	£9,345
Other donations			
£ 95		£ 291	£ 397
Totals:			
£13,522		£19,981	£27,918

As you can see if it was not for the Standing Orders, it could have been far worse. Where we can normally rely on help from lettings, last year these went to virtually nothing compared to other years.

Our Legacy money is what is keeping us going at present, but this will not last for ever. Our building is lovely, but nearly 118 years old so maintenance is always on the agenda. I have just paid a bill for £2,300 for roof repairs, (you might have seen the scaffolding up in 3 different places around the property).

We have 6 windows on the Recreation side of the Hall which badly need replacing, and we received a quotation to do this before Covid in 2019 at a cost of £7,200 but today this will probably cost nearer £10,000.00.

I don't like to say this, but at our current rate of using our Legacy, I imagine we can only keep going for about another 6-8 years, but that depends on how we can build up our collection giving again and stop us from drawing around £20-£25,000 per year from our Manchester Head Office Legacy to enable us to keep paying our demands.

In writing this letter I don't mean to offend anyone, and I realise some people are not able to attend church for various reasons, and the amount each person puts into the collection is entirely down to your own personal circumstances and thoughts, but as you can see from the figures above, we cannot afford to continue to keep raiding our reserves like this.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Edward Pentney, Church Treasurer

THANKS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Joy Smith would like to say a huge thank you for the gift she received at Christmas from Wimpole Road; she was very appreciative and wanted to be sure you were thanked.

Ken Young would like to thank members and friends at Wimpole Road for the gift of the lovely plant, kindly delivered by Norman.

CORNER FOR PRAYER

I look to Christ this day
for strength in my weakness,
or healing in my sickness.

I look to Christ this day
for hope in my despair,
for love in my hatred.

I look to Christ this day
for peace in my restlessness,
for forgiveness in my sin.

I look to Christ this day
for fullness in my emptiness,
for life in my death.

I look to Christ this day
and pray that Christ will look upon me.

{from the Methodist Prayer Handbook}

A SELECTION OF THOUGHTS
gathered by Graham Duthie

"Do what you can with all you have, wherever you are"

Theodore Roosevelt

CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO GOD:

Dear God
Count me in
Your friend
Herbie

Dear God
I love you because you are so good.
I try to be like you. I am good to all people.
My mother and father. And two sisters.
It must be fun to be God and have everyone love you.
Yours sincerely
Thomas

Dear God
Last week it rained three days.
We thought it would be like Noah's Ark but it wasn't.
I'm glad because you could only take two of things, remember,
And we have three cats.
Goodbye now,
Donna

This final phrase came from a truly excellent book I was reading on cricket entitled:

'That Will be England Gone' by Michael Henderson:

"We should be kind, while there is still time."

NORMAN PECKSTON

Norman died peacefully on the evening of Tuesday 4 January, after bravely managing renal failure for a few years. He was surrounded by his family.

A few days earlier he wanted to express his thanks to the congregation for their friendship and fellowship during his time at Wimpole Road.

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Christmas themes dominated the Thursday Circle meetings in December.

2nd December's was entitled 'A Christmas Anthology' and involved members reading literature and listening to music about the aspects of Christmas, which are not really part of the Bible story.

9th December was a more traditional Christmas Carol Service. Both events were enjoyed by members and thanks to all who read or participated in any way. Particular thanks to Beryl for her sterling work at the piano.

On 16th December 14 people sat down for a most enjoyable Christmas meal at the Birch Grove Golf Club.

Our programme for January to May is now available. Subject to any Covid restrictions the next meeting will be on **27th January** (Holocaust Day), when Jean Quinn will talk about Harwich and the Kindertransport, which should be most interesting.

This will be followed on 3rd February by watching a DVD drama documentary 'The People's Preacher', about the life of Charles Haddon Spurgeon (warning – approx. running time of 75 minutes).

When we opened up in July six people attended and by December this had increased to 20! Who knows what 2022 will bring but the meetings at 2.30 p.m. are open to all – male or female, young or old, churchgoers or non-attendees. Come and join us!

Joan Gomer (Secretary)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Norma Peckston and family – following the death of her husband Norman.

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.

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

9 January	Rev. Martin Camroux
16 January	Alan Beesley
23 January	Phil Bingham
30 January	Eddie Lansdown

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**

A BLESSING

We came in weakness; we go in strength.

We came alone; we go together.

We came in brokenness; we go in wholeness.

We came with our questions; we go knowing Christ is the answer.

We came for a Saviour; we go with a Lord.

We came empty-handed; we go with hearts filled.

We came defeated, lost and full of selfishness and sin;

We go forgiven, found and in the victory of Christ.

We go because he sends us.

We go because he fills us.

We go.....because he goes with us.



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}