



February 2022

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams

THOUGHTS FROM THE VESTRY

Following the recent troubled year, it is so very refreshing to see some early signs of spring, when we see many of the spring flowers peeping out and blooming in our gardens and in our countryside.

We are also very encouraged to see that our congregation at Wimpole Road is gradually increasing, and we very much welcome the return of more of our regulars coming to worship with us again, - also it is a real pleasure to give a warm welcome to many people who came as very welcome visitors to our church to join in Sunday worship, - now all of these people are joining in the fellowship here, and have become part of our church family.

By the time we all read this, we will have had the very good news that Joe will be returning (albeit it gradually) within a short while. It will be great for us to have him in our midst once more and we pray that his progress of renewed health will continue. A really big and warm welcome back Joe!

Through the last few months, as is often the case, we have experienced great joys and some great sadness within our church, and often within our own personal lives. We know that there are church members who are no longer able to worship with us - this may be through illness or frailty and we continue to remember these people in our prayers. We have been delighted to be able to welcome back some members, who have not been able to come to church for a period of time, either through illness of themselves or a loved one. This year, as is the case each year at Christmas,

the Pastoral Visitors take a gift of a plant or similar to people who are unable to come to church, and we always get many letters of appreciation and thanks. This is one small way that we can remind these people that our thoughts and prayers are always with them. Also of course, our grateful thanks to the people who arrange all this, and take out the gifts.

We especially remember with sadness at this time, the loss of our friends Norman Peckston and also of Chris Topple, who both died recently.

We ask that we remember in our prayers the families of Norman and Chris, - and we pray that they will be given the strength to get through the difficult time of bereavement.

We also pray for others who are still grieving for a loved one, we ask that the Lord will stay by their side, and be with them throughout the difficult days and beyond.

Your Stewards team at Wimpole Road, have worked tirelessly throughout the very difficult times we have experienced. Our church has remained a stable and supportive part of the New Town area, and our very grateful and appreciative thanks must go to all who have and are contributing to 'Make Lunch' the return of the 'Coffee Morning', and other groups that are beginning to start up again.

At Wimpole Road church, wearing a mask is now a matter of personal choice, but we have some available if you feel that you wish to continue to do this where there are a lot of people. Sterilisation for hands is also available as before - please use as you wish.

It is good too to see that some of the groups are starting up again - the 'Thursday Circle' has started up again. This is now on a Thursday afternoon, and this is an ideal time to enjoy fellowship with other church members, and also perhaps make some new friends. There is an interesting programme that has been planned for the current session, which ends with tea/coffee/squash and biscuits.

Bless you all,

Margaret Clubb

PRAYER CORNER

Dear Heavenly Father

We pray for all who proclaim the Good News of Jesus in our town of Colchester, and we think of the agencies who work to help the troubled and the needy here in the town.

We pray for church friends who are unwell, sad or worried at this time and we think of friends who have passed away in recent times.

We pray, Lord, that you will shine in our hearts so that we are never alone if we walk with you.

Amen

A MEDITATION ON WHERE CAN WE ENCOUNTER GOD IN UNEXPECTED PLACES?



As we muse on this question, focus on the Methodist Orb.
Notice the empty cross.
Reminding us that Jesus lives
Jesus is everywhere in the world... in the universe and beyond.
So where can we have encountered God?
Look at the red background.
Why the colour red?
Red for Jesus' blood shed for us, our salvation.
Red is the liturgical colour of the Holy Spirit.

Try recalling that the Wesley brother's hearts were 'strangely warmed' by both
That may explain to us why red is important for Methodism
Do we feel confident of our faith and our domination and feel ready for a divine encounter?
Can we predict when and where this will occur?

Can we dare to constrain the power of the Almighty?
And expect it to happen at an allotted time and space?
Will it be when we attend church; surely this is a safe environment
to come into the Awesome one's presence.
Think deeper what is the Methodist way of life calling us to do?
Is it calling us to trust in our relationship with Jesus?
To act like Jesus?

Jesus encounters were inclusive
from different races, creed, colour, rich and poor, outcasts
Jesus did not discriminate, and God has not got favourites
Have we learnt not be judgemental or discriminate on someone's outward
appearance
Jesus could be a vagrant in disguise, a bisexual person, a woman, a child
We need to be open to encounter with him through our relationships with
others
Those in our worshipping community and beyond
To do this we must be inclusive of all traits
be them, race, age, sexual orientation
We should be ready to walk in someone else's shoes
To challenge injustices and be an activist.

The black circumference line all around the orb shape reminds us of
connections.
The connexional structure of The Methodist Church in Britain which
embraces diversity
We are connected to the World Methodist Council,
Collectively we are all called to encourage more people to hear of and
become followers of Jesus Christ

Where and when have we encountered God?
Listening to other Christian traditions and to people with other faiths or
no faith helps.
We are aware that the Holy Spirit can fill any nook or cranny in the entire
world
It is possible to see the work of the Holy Spirit in any situation thus
making encounters with God universally available to all.

Take a moment and look at the whole Methodist Orb and cross, not just it
is components.
The emblem of the Methodist Organization is like the Trinity,
no one part can function on its own

A moment silence
Realise something else.

Where have we encountered God was it today, tomorrow, did it happen yesterday?

Encounters with God can occur at any time, any place, and through anybody (even us!).

Was it in the ordinary or extraordinary?

Can we think of an extraordinary encounter, one of my own was through the words of a young child, sitting as a passenger in the back of the car, simply he said "*be kind*", and he could have been Jesus speaking.

Maybe the best encounter we can have with God is through Jesus when we ask him to forgive our sins and followed him This reconciled us with God

What an extraordinary encounter to have.

Amen

{Forwarded by Sally Crafer}

**FROM 'THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS'
by Ralph Vaughan Williams**

Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit, into thy hands, O Lord.

Except the Lord keep the house, the watchmen waketh but in vain.
The Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep peace.
The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet.

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit, into Thy hands, O Lord.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord, who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold He that keepeth thee shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is thy keeper, he shall preserve thee from all evil:
It is even he that shall keep thy soul, from this time forth for ever more.

Into thy hands I commend my spirit, into thy hands, O Lord.

FEBRUARY THOUGHT

"A loving heart is the truest wisdom" - Charles Dickens

THURSDAY CIRCLE

After a break for Christmas and New Year, we started up again on 27 January. The talk was suggested by Jean Quinn, and it being Holocaust Day, she spoke most appropriately on 'Harwich and the Kinder Transport'. It was an eye opener for some of the audience who had been unaware of Harwich's role in this scheme. Money is being raised to provide a suitable memorial at Harwich and thank you to all members who gave a contribution.

This will be followed on 3 February by watching a DVD drama documentary, 'The People's Preacher', about the life of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the famous Victorian Baptist Minister. In view of his connection with Colchester, this DVD was premiered at the Mercury Theatre some years ago.

Coming up:

10 February – annual General Meeting – volunteers required for several posts – followed by a quiz on 'The Bizarre Bookshop'!

17 February – we will be reading a selection of well known poetry and listening to monologues.

24 February – Local man Peter Jones has written a book on Colchester Trams and will give a presentation on the subject.

3 March – Lindsay Hurrell will talk about 'Recycling Bikes for Africa'.

As before our meetings at **2.30 p.m. on Thursdays** are open to all – male or female, young or old, churchgoers or non-attendees. Come and join us!

Joan Gomer (Secretary)

CHRIS TOPPLE

It is with great sadness that we share with you that Chris Topple, died peacefully on Friday 14 January 2022.

Her funeral took place on Tuesday 1 February at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Little Horkeley, where both Mum and Dad served and worshipped for many years.

Andrew Topple and family

50 YEARS OF BEING A VOLUNTEER ADVISER FOR THE COLCHESTER CITIZENS ADVICE

I received a phone call about one month ago, expressing disappointment that the Colchester Citizens Advice were not able to give me the big celebration that they had hoped, on the occasion of a forthcoming celebration to celebrate my 50 years as a volunteer, due to the COVID situation.

I stressed that I would not have wanted that anyway, and I would have turned it down, and agreed that if they wanted to do anything I would be more than happy with a small celebration. So it was just me and our two daughters that went along to the office on 28 January. It was held in our new office which is now at the bottom of North Hill, in Middleborough, in the LEPR building.

Our new CEO was there, and selected members of staff, advisers, VIP's and Trustee members. We were made so very welcome, and the atmosphere was amazing. By the time the day came, I really didn't want to go, I really didn't know what to expect, who I was going to see, and I had so many qualms!

After the initial supply of some refreshment, the Chairman of the Trustee Board began the proceedings, and this is what was said:-

“We are here today to mark and celebrate an awesome milestone achieved by an amazing person. Margaret, you have devoted 50 years to Citizens Advice.

You started your journey with CAB in January 1972, and since then you have been a stalwart member, as both a volunteer and as a member of staff.

Along the way you have been presented with a Colchester Community Award, and over 20 years ago you received the first ever Citizens Advice Lifetime Achievement award, which was presented to you by HRH Princess Anne, in recognition, - of way back then, being the longest serving CAB volunteer in the country of the entire UK. Then in the year 2000, you topped all that with a presentation from HM Queen Elizabeth 2nd. Amazing!

You have been a manager, and a deputy manager here in Colchester; you were a supervisor at Tendring /Clacton for 14 years; a manager at Harwich; you did work for the National Association of Citizens Advice, and still managed to be an adviser here at Colchester. You then took on the post as a trainer for all newcomers, and you did this for 9 years.

Throughout the whole time, you always did a few hours on one day each week as a volunteer worker (unpaid)

It has been calculated that you personally have helped/advised many, many thousands of clients in the last 50 years.

I think I can say without fear of contradiction that you are the longest serving member/volunteer in the world. And from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for all you have contributed.”

What a memorable couple of hours!

I was then presented with some lovely gifts, and short speeches were made, and I was quite overwhelmed with the kind remarks that were said. Our current CEO, BEV, whom I had only met once said a few words, as did four of the others.

I was given a lovely cake, flowers, and photos were all around of myself with HM Queen Elizabeth and also when I was with HRH Princess Anne.

I was thrilled, delighted and overwhelmed with everything, this was all so unexpected, and such a wonderful surprise, but the final item I was given was incredible! It was a 'This is Your Life - 50 years at Citizens Advice' this was just amazing! Our very hard working PA in the office, had created this, and there were 49 different people who had written personal messages to me, and recalling our time together. Some of these were people I had worked with in the past, trainees I had trained, managers I had worked with, VIP's, top people from Citizens Advice. I will treasure this forever, and thank very sincerely anyone who had contributed in any way.

I have to admit, that afternoon, at home, I was alone, and I read every one of them, and I had a few tears!

I am so very fortunate to work for a charity, which is an organisation that is so caring , which has a first class information system, triggers fantastic resources, accurate information for their staff and advisers, - and to be part of a wonderful team of people who really care!

Margaret Clubb

{Ed. Many congratulations Margaret and so well deserved. Thank you for sharing this with your church friends, many of whom you have also helped in many various ways.}

THE LAMB

Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Gave thee life, and bid thee feed,
By the stream and o'er the mead:
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright:
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vale rejoice?

Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Little lamb, I'll tell thee,
Little lamb, I'll tell thee.

He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a lamb.
He is meek and he is mild;
He became a little child.
I a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.

Little lamb, God bless thee!
Little lamb, God bless thee!

by William Blake

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

May I remind everybody of the Book of Remembrance and Brass Plaques in the Prayer Corner.

If you wish to have a dedication inserted, for 2 lines it is £15, + £5 for any extra lines. For the brass plaques, it is only £12.60 each.

Please see me if you wish to inspect the Book or need further details. I hope to commission some new entries subject to demand.

David Ablewhite

ONLY LEAVES

The Master came to the fig tree,
And saw the foliage there
Of thick and shady branches,
To hungry eyes so fair.

But He found that it was barren,
And bore no luscious fruit,
For life was gone, and even
'Twas withered from its root.

The Master came to the Temple,
And saw the worship there,
The ritual and the customs,
To Jewish eyes so fair;

But to Him 'twas all corruption,
His house a den of thieves,
And all its boasted glory,
Was fruitless, only leaves.

The Master comes to the churches,
And sees our service here,
The busy nightly meetings -
To worldly hearts so dear.

And still He probes the motive,
And still His Spirit grieves,
To find our modern methods
So fruitless – mostly leaves.

Lord Jesus, quicken our vision,
That we may see our stage;
Show us where we are guilty
Of doing what Thou dost hate.

Help us to bring true worship,
And give thy Word its place;
And henceforth live to witness
To Thine unbounded grace.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Norma Peckston and family – following the death of her husband Norman. His funeral is **Wednesday 9 February at 2.45 p.m.** at Wimpole Road Church.

Andrew Topple and family – after the recent death of Chris Topple.

Rachel Allen – recovering from a spell in hospital and still very poorly.

Any ministerial concerns please contact Rev. Joe Adams or a Steward.

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

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| 6 February | Local Arrangement |
| 13 February | Rev. Joe Adams |
| 20 February | Brian Dack |
| 27 February | Rev. Alan Jenkins – Holy Communion |

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk

FUTURE NEWSROUNDS

Please don't forget, if you have stories, items or prayer requests 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}