



April 2022

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams

Dear Friends,

In John's Gospel stories around Easter time we find something incredible in John 15:12-17 NRSV

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

We too are friends of God if we well quite simply if God's love moves us to follow Jesus command and love one another.

Love is, you see, the deep burning passion at the heart of God, not just love for one tribe or people or nationality, not just our friends and family, but love for all and everyone and for the world. This love of God so obviously is for the natural world and all things for God made, loves and cares for all creation - what a spectacular mistake when we think God is only interested in humanity.

I love this outrageous notion that we are friends of Jesus, friends of God. Not servants or slaves. Not outsiders or people living in fear of God being angry with us and wielding in judgement an axe to cut us off from Him. No, we are friends of God because God's love has transformed us and now our passion is the same as God's, it is love.

Mr Putin in the last few weeks has misquoted this magnificent passage in a terrible way suggesting that Russian troops are laying down lives in the way Jesus says as they prosecute his war, his special operation, and kill innocents and soldiers as they do it. That is truly awful, a result of bad theological thought. Though we can lay down our lives for the Jesus message of love, we don't get to kill others and claim the power of the message; we can die for Christ but I don't think we can kill, because according John 3:16 NRSV in the most well-known of verses:

'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.'

God is my friend and yours and friendship is such a vital image for us as Christians. Friendship is one of the most important things on earth from infancy to the end of our days on earth, and here in John we find this doorway into true incredibly mature faith, God our closest strongest most loving dependable friend.

My prayer for each one of us is that faith in Christ our friend would deepen and grow as we walk through another Easter, Pentecost and on.
In Jesus name. Amen.

I offer you a prayer to close from Christian Aid who are calling us all to join a day of prayer for Ukraine on 3rd April.

Rev. Joe Adams

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children,
at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby, Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

THOUGHTS FROM THE VESTRY

Spring is upon us and we have enjoyed some beautiful sunshine in March, although at time of writing the temperature has dropped considerably! We have a busy month ahead in April as we prepare for Easter, including the final Lent Study Group which will be held at St. Margaret's on 7 April at 7:30 pm.

On Palm Sunday (10 April) Rev. David Chapman, the District Chair, will be leading our worship and it would be good to have as many people as possible attend this service.

There will be a Maundy Thursday service at Thursday Circle at 2:30 pm, and also a Communion service at 7:30 pm at St. Stephen's.

On Good Friday, there will be a Walk of Witness in New Town; beginning at 10:00 am with a time of pray and reflection at Wimpole Road Church, followed by the walk and concluding with hot cross buns and refreshments at St. Stephen's Church.

Our Easter Sunday Celebration with Holy Communion at Wimpole Road will be at 11:00 am led by Rev. Joe Adams. As in previous years, the congregation are asked to bring a flower to be placed on the Cross before the service. This will be Joe's last service before his Sabbatical.

Special thanks must go to Christine Duthie for providing her Lent Thoughts and also the roses for Mothering Sunday, which were handed out to the congregation.

Please remember in your prayers all those who are unwell or facing the prospect of financial hardship due to rising food and energy bills. We continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and all who are affected by the ongoing conflict.

God Bless

Juliet Balls

AN EASTER PRAYER

Almighty God, on this day you conquered death and opened to us the gate of eternal life through your only Son.

As you put good desires in our minds, help us to carry them out in our actions; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

THURSDAY CIRCLE

March began with a talk by Claire (Director) and Ian (Volunteer) from 'Recycling Bikes for Africa' – a local charity based in Wormingford. If you or your family have any bikes that are no longer needed, I suggest you arrange to have them picked up – congratulations to Debbie and family who have donated four!

A letter of thanks came from 'Recycle' for our donation of £60.61 (£30 Thursday Circle funds, £30.61 members). The letter (on our notice board) includes a photo of an African girl on her bike balancing a large basket of fish on her head!

On 10 March John McCabe gave a PowerPoint presentation on Colchester Churches. We all learned something, even those of us who have lived here all our lives!

There was much fun and merriment at our Quiz afternoon on 17 March, when we raised the wonderful sum of £100 for the East Anglian Children's Hospice – thank you to all who contributed.

On 24 March, Carol Jacobs and her partner Martin talked about the Greenland Grove Animal Sanctuary at St. Osyth. Amongst the animals they care for are: 35 horses; llamas; 6 cows; ducks; geese; sheep; hens etc., etc. Some Open Days are planned (see Facebook for details) and some members are already hoping to go along. There is also a fund-raising shop in the village.

An update from Jean Quinn – she was delighted that at her talk in January we collected £65 towards a memorial commemorating the arrival of the Kinder transport at Harwich and asked me to pass on her thanks.

The more observant may have noticed that our poster on the external notice board was looking rather tired. Do take a look at our new poster, painted by the very talented Pat Farrow, who was inspired by Ukrainian colours and its national flower – the sunflower.

Coming up:

- 7 April – 'The Hoolies' a large group from Wivenhoe, will come for an afternoon of Sea Shanties. I cannot emphasise enough how good they are. They take part in festivals and competitions both here and abroad and make no charge, just a donation to Emmaus. It will be held in the church – please come!
- 14 April – Maundy Thursday Service followed by a hot cross bun.

- 21 April – a Musical Afternoon – please bring a CD
- 28 April – a talk on the History of Colchester Cemetery by Sharon Mooney.
- 5 May – a presentation ‘Lost Skills and Crafts’ by Peter Mockford.

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

‘THE HANDS OF CHRIST’ – PART 2

A Thought for Lent by Christine Duthie

Many times in the Gospels we read of Jesus spending time in praying to his Father.

In Mark's Gospel we find these words, ‘Very early in the morning while it was still dark Jesus went to a solitary place to pray.’

And the times when he healed people are often accompanied by prayer.

And Jesus' instructions on how to approach God in prayer are what we know as the Lord's Prayer.

During the end of his life and during that final week Jesus goes by himself to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray to his Father about what is to come and in his final hours Jesus prays for those who have crucified him.

As the disciples shared in their final Passover meal Christ's hands reached out to bless and break and share the bread and wine at this final supper.

So Christ gives of himself and the disciples received the symbols of his brokenness from his own hands.

And in the same way Christ does this for us. He reaches out to each one of us and as we come to the Communion Table we become one with him.

And finally Christ's hands are nailed to the cross. The crucified hands of Christ hang limp, torn and twisted.

Jesus holds the hurt and pain of the world; he takes our sins to the cross and accepts the punishment for them on our behalf.

EASTER AT WIMPOLE ROAD

Every year at this time my mind goes back to Easter Sunday 1979. That was the year we reopened the Church after carrying out ‘the 75th Anniversary improvements’.

We had closed the church towards the end of January that year and just under 3 months later the ‘new’ church was revealed. I was Secretary of the Property Committee and a member of a building committee and had the advantage – or disadvantage - of experiencing the dismal dark days of the early closure, the work proceeding, problems arising and being overcome with all the arrangements for services in the hall (which we well-filled) until we re-opened.

From the mid 1970s it was clear that we had to do something. Very little had been done since the church opened in 1904. Originally there was a dark screen at the back of the church with side doors leading to a narrow dark vestibule. So in 1979 some pews at the back were taken out and a new glass screen was installed under the front line of the gallery with central doors. The gallery was screened off.

The communion rail (previously close to the eastern end of the church) was moved forward to its present position. A new communion table was made from old pews.

New lighting (badly needed) was fitted. The walls of the church were cleaned as was the lovely roof (by hand!) and the remaining pews. Carpet was laid.

On that Easter Sunday morning I stood in the new vestibule and watched and listened as the congregation came in. Most had not seen the church for three months. The sun shone on the beautiful flower displays and it was generally agreed that the work was a success and the church was a delight.

The work was finished on time and we kept to our budget. I well remember when in the early committee days we realized that we could – just - commit to spending £20000 - a large sum in those days. We secured £8000 in grants and raised £12000. Much of this was covered by loans at first but we paid all the bills and repaid the loans within a year.

We had a bright clean and beautiful church ready for the future.

I hope these memories will stir the folk whose memories also go back to those days and will be of interest to our present congregation.

Martin Broom

AN IMPORTANT LADY

Mary Magdalene mourned for Jesus,
She felt so alone, tears filled her eyes.
She gathered some flowers and sweet smelling spices
To lay by his tomb, and then say her goodbyes.

She thought back to the days when Jesus would visit,
And bring his disciples for food and rest.
After the meal she would sit and listen
To the stories told, by her honoured guest.

But only last week some Roman soldiers
Took him to trial - this innocent man.
And he was accused, and whipped and beaten,
And nailed to a cross through his feet and his hands.

Now Mary walked in the bright sunny garden,
With no wind in the trees – everything was still.
Just ahead was the borrowed tomb,
Where they'd carried Jesus, from his death on the hill.

But she saw that a rock had been moved from the entrance,
And looking inside found his body had gone.
The tomb was empty, just the burial clothes laid there.
She turned from the tomb and stood in the sun.

Frightened and angry she knelt on the damp grass,
Buried her face in the flowers she saved,
Cried because twice she had lost her master,
Once on the cross, and now from his grave.

She was sure it was the tomb where they had laid him.
She'd watched as they'd carried him, and laid him down.
Yet it was empty – just the burial clothes laid there.
Where was the master?

She felt so alone.
Who could she ask?
His friends were in hiding,
Frightened they might be the next ones to die.

Then through the tears she saw a man walking,
Perhaps he might know who had moved him away.
Thinking he may be the gardener she asked him,
*“Who has taken my Lord?
Do you know?
If you do, sir, please can you tell me?
I must lay down these gifts before I go”.*

*“Mary”, he said, “It is me.
Don’t you know me?”*

*She looked up and saw it was Jesus, her Lord.
“Just as I promised, death cannot hold me.
Remember my teachings, remember my words.*

*Soon I will go to my father in heaven,
But first I must see my disciples once more.
Please go and tell them I will soon be with them,
And there will be no need to unlock the door.”*

*So Mary ran off to see the disciples.
An important lady, whom Jesus chose
To deliver the message, ‘Our Lord is living’.
The greatest message the world had ever known.*

Norma Peckston

Dear Heavenly Father

We pray for your Church in the world and for all Christians who celebrate this Easter time.

We think of the first Apostles who took the good news of Jesus to many places.

We pray for a troubled world- a world in need of the Easter story; for places where people are oppressed and we think especially of the suffering of the people of Ukraine.

As we journey through Holy Week we meet with many people who made this final story and we pray for all who find themselves in difficult situations.

We bring our prayers in the name of our Risen Lord Jesus who first appeared to Mary in the garden and gives us the Hope and Promise of life eternal.

Amen.

THOUGHT FOR APRIL

"Joy is not in things, it is in us."

Richard Wagner

COVID GUIDANCE

We respect one another by holding personal responsibility for our safety and that of our friends and visitors so,

- We continue with requiring people maintain personal space and keep a good 2 metre distance from each other if possible, unless in close family groups.
- We invite people who feel they need to wear masks to do so and seating only for those wearing masks is provided; but people do not need to wear a mask in order to attend our worship or meetings.
- We urge the use of hand sanitiser frequently.
- We will keep the front door and the vestry door ajar to encourage a breeze in the church.

Rev. Joe Adams

STAND BY ME

I want to thank everyone at Wimpole Road for their prayers and support for the work of Stand by Me and particularly for the people of Myanmar, our children and our staff.

It is just over one year since the military coup spiralled the country into unrest. We've created a video update sharing the latest about the situation in Myanmar and what our staff has been able to achieve in delivering emergency aid and sharing God's love thanks to your support and prayers.

The update also shares how the church can continue to pray for the situation in Myanmar and for our work.

We hope that you may be able to share this as part of one of your services. You can download the video here: <https://we.tl/t-JV7KhXdKci>

I'd be delighted to share more about Stand by Me's work so please do get in contact if you would like to discuss this further.

Thank you for your continued support for Stand by Me, enabling us to bring life-changing care and the love of Jesus to over 4,300 children worldwide.

God bless, Ahmad Ayoubi
Executive Director
Stand by Me

LENT and EASTER

Please see below for a summary of services and other activities planned for this special season:

- **Lent Quiet Day on Saturday 2 April**, at 17 Chestnut Avenue, Colchester CO2 OAL, led by Jackie Sams. **10am to 3pm** (Refreshments from 9.45am) Please bring a packed lunch, Bible and notebook. Drinks and cakes provided. Please let Jackie know if you can come (01206) 530586
- **Maundy Thursday Communion Service 7:30 pm** at St. Stephen's Church
- **Good Friday Walk of Witness in New Town.** Beginning at 10:00 am with a time of prayer and reflection at Wimpole Road Church, followed by the walk. Concluding with Hot Cross Buns and refreshments at St. Stephen's Church
- **Easter Vigil** on Saturday at 7:30 pm at St. Stephen's Church
- **Easter Sunday Celebration with Holy Communion** at 11:00 am led by Rev. Joe Adams at Wimpole Road

THE YMCA EASTER HOLIDAY CLUBS

At St. Stephen's (and other locations in the town).
Please click on links below for more information:

<https://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate/>
(select Clubs in North Essex for places in Colchester)

and to book your places: <https://ymca-essex-holidayclubs.pembee.app/activity/62307bc3db52190009b24677>

SPRING ARTS AND CRAFTS FAYRE

Saturday 9 April 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. At St. Stephen's Church.
Free to enter.

Plans are now under way for the New Town Community Day on Saturday 17 September. For more information, please speak to Andrew or Juliet

Andrew Topple

WONDER ZONE HOLIDAY CLUB 22 - 26 AUGUST 2022 AT WIMPOLE ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

We are now starting to plan for Holiday Club 2022, after a couple of years of not being able to run this. As part of our planning, we are keen to get an idea of how many children would like to come along for the week.

If your child / children would like to join us for Holiday Club, please can you click on the link below to complete the short form?

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9VeTgkfMLZdSwZOpAZV1UIG6uk3_VeDPEIkJrf_rncZB4tw/viewform?fbclid=IwAR1Qw1wlzZUX9BrzIU_1Qx9ssObSXkRtnGWgvUsiT5Md5sHwIkDlR_Tjpnw

Once we know numbers, we will then complete the full booking form.

The Club is aimed at children in (or about to start in) Reception, KS1 or 2. We also welcome Junior Leaders who are now in Secondary School, who have attended in the past.

Andrew Topple

IS IT POSSIBLE?

Is it possible for a man to speak to another man's heart?

For a man on a cross 2,000 years upon a hill to speak today to a man's own heart?

Is it possible for one man's death to be another man's life when that man's death 2,000 years upon a hill said death to his friends and desolation to his mother?

Is it possible for one man's shadow to throw light and love 2,000 years?

IS IT?

From "Flowing Streams" compiled by Donald Hilton

EASTER JOY

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the Cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Saviour; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs

A BLACKBIRD SANG...

The evening was dark, cold and damp. The day had been dark, cold and wet. I went to the front door to put the milk bottle on the doorstep. I heard what sounded like a blackbird singing, not far away. Impossible I thought. Not on a dark evening like this, so cold and wet.

The next evening, still cold, nearly dark, I heard the song again. Without a doubt it was 'my' blackbird, filling the air with the most beautiful song. It was a moment of glory – a memory to treasure!

Written by Margaret Fisher in 2004

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Rachel Allen – recovering from a serious operation and still very poorly.

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

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

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|-----------------|---|
| 3 April | Jonathan Sparkes |
| 10 April | Palm Sunday.
Rev. David Chapman - The District Chair |
| 17 April | Easter Day Holy Communion.
Rev. Joe Adams |
| 24 April | Joanne Eckersley |

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}