



May 2022

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams

THOUGHTS FROM THE VESTRY

Dear All,

As a church community we have been busy over the Lenten period culminating in an uplifting service of praise and worship on Easter Day.

Our shared Lenten studies between St. Stephen's, St. Margaret's and Wimpole Road (Three Together), were enjoyed by those who attended. Looking at various aspects of the life and faith of Julian of Norwich it gave us much to think about in our preparations towards the message of Easter. During Holy Week we had three short evening meditations.

On Maundy Thursday the Thursday Circle had reflections and meditations in the afternoon and an evening 'Three Together' Holy Communion was shared at St. Stephen's. On Good Friday, a time of prayer and reflection led by Sally and Jonathan was followed by a 'Walk of Witness' stopping to pray for those in our community, on our way from Wimpole Road to St. Stephen's to share fellowship with one another.

What a joy to have the church buzzing on Easter Day with nearly 60 of us joining together to proclaim our shouts of 'Hallelujah' to the risen Christ our Saviour, joyful singing and sharing in Holy Communion. So good to have Joe there to lead our worship before embarking on his sabbatical the next day.

Please contact Alan or Ken, or one of the stewards if you need a minister during Joe's sabbatical. We will see him and Dave occasionally as they join

us as members of the congregation at Wimpole Road for worship (not to be confused though with being there as our minister!) Thanks in advance to all who will help us during this time with preaching appointments and pastoral care.

After his return, although he will be helping our new superintendent to settle in, Joe will share with us his experiences and learning from his time in rest and renewal. We look forward to that.

Equally we look forward to another exciting venture on 5th June, Pentecost!

Once again we are hoping to have an open air service on the Recreation Ground with St. Stephen's led by Rev. Paul Howes and Rev. Lorraine Badger-Watts. What a fitting way to celebrate the 'birthday' of the Christian Church. More details to follow.

There is much for us to pray about in world situations, not least the plight of refugees fleeing from war torn countries. The Circuit meeting has agreed in principle to use the Manse in New Town Road to house refugees who come to Colchester when it is vacated at the end of the summer. However, there will be lots of planning, 'red tape' and some essential maintenance needed before this can possibly be brought to fruition; prayers please for this project in our quest to reach out to our neighbours in need.

Please continue to pray for Church work in this community, that the love of Jesus will be shown and known as we continue to serve our Lord.

Many blessings to you all

Christine Firmin

May God shield me, may God fill me,
May God keep me, may God watch me.

May God bring me to the land of peace,
To the country of the King, to the peace of eternity.

Praise to the Father, praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, the Three in One.

Carmina Gadelica

THURSDAY CIRCLE

April began with a visit from 'The Hoolies', a group of eight from Wivenhoe who sing sea shanties. I was most disappointed not to be able to attend but I am told by those who were there that the group were in good form and it was a most enjoyable afternoon.

14th April being Maundy Thursday we held our own service in preparation for the other Easter services. Thank you to all who read or contributed to our collection to the relief of Ukraine.

21st April was a very relaxing afternoon when we listened to tracks from C.D's people had brought along. We heard from Mama Mia, Elvis, Cliff, Andy Williams, Johnny Nash, Peggy Lee, Louis Armstrong, Alfie Boe and Michael Ball, Pavarotti and others – so a good mixture of music.

Our last meeting of April was a talk by Sharon Mooney on the 'History of Colchester Cemetery'. Sharon's talks are always popular and you might like to book to go on one of her 'Cemetery Tours'.

Looking ahead:

- 5 May Presentation 'Lost Skills and Crafts' by Peter Mockford
- 12 May Quiz Afternoon for Christian Aid Week – do come and support us!
- 19 May Presentation on 'Water Aid'
- 26 May Change to the advertised programme – an opportunity to see Margaret Clubb and her friend in shows from the past. Don't miss seeing 'Coconuts' in action in her fish net tights!
- 2 June Queen's Platinum Anniversary Bank Holiday – we will be celebrating her life with her favourite music, a quiz, patriotic music and much more. Do come and join us, particularly if your will be spending the holiday alone.

Our meetings at 2.30 p.m. on Thursdays are open to all – male or female, young or old, churchgoers or non-attendeers. Come and join us!

Joan Gomer – Secretary

GOD'S LOVE

I feel very blessed to be able to rejoin the fellowship at Wimpole Road after several years at other churches in Colchester and thank you all for the welcome you have given me.

I was brought up and worshipped at the Hythe Chapel and learned to love the previous Methodist Hymn Book, which was published about the time I was born.

Recently I was looking through it when I found a hymn I do not recall ever having read or sung. It struck a chord with me and I felt I would like to share it with you. Despite all we do and the various things that happen to us, God's love is always there. I have slightly modernised some words, but the message is clear, and I hope helpful.

I dared not hope that You would deign to come
And make this lowly heart of mine Your home.
That you would stoop, O King of kings, to be
For e'en one hour a sojourner in me;
Yet You are always here to help and bless,
And lift the load of my great sinfulness.

I dared not ever hope for such a Guide
To walk with me my faltering steps beside,
To help me when I fall, and, when I stray,
Constrain me gently to the better way;
Yet You are always at my side to be
A Counsellor and Comforter to me.

I do not always go where You may lead,
I do not always Your soft whispers heed,
I follow other paths and, in my sin,
I vex with many a slight my Friend within.
Yet You do not, though grieved, from me depart,
But stay and guard Your place within my heart.

This was written by Edwin Hatch, a Doctor of Divinity, and first published about 125 years ago.

God bless you all,

Douglas Broom

COMMUNITY LISTENING INTO COMMUNITY ACTION

Our last Church Council Meeting agreed that we would next meet as a church on **Tuesday 23 August** to discuss our Vision for the Church here at Wimpole Road and the wider community moving forward. One of the things we felt that would help to inform this discussion might well be another community survey, similar to the one done by us some years ago, shortly after the fire.

Now, I don't believe that it was by chance that at the very same time Rev. Dan Cant the Curate at St. Stephen's, who a number of you know, was also starting out on a piece of work that involved a community survey. Consequently, with our close working relationship with St. Stephen's and as our two Churches are working so closely together in the New Town area we have agreed that we would also work jointly on this and plan to share the findings and use these to inform some of our planning for the future.

Below you will see a slightly abridged note that Rev. Dan has written about this work and the survey itself. Please can I invite you to both read what Rev. Dan has said and also complete the survey and share it widely with friends and neighbours in the hope that we can get the best possible response rate to this. And as said, the plan is that we will use the responses to this to assist and inform our planning going forward.

The note from Rev. Dan Cant:

As we transition from one challenging season into another, I am acutely aware of the many demands placed upon each of us and those of the community. A growing number of conversations have been focussed around local and financial concerns. I'm sure many will share my concerns for the poorest and marginalised within the community and the impact of another challenging season will have and is already having.

As you all well know, the Three Together - *St. Stephen's Church, Wimpole Road Methodist Church and St. Margaret's Church*, are three churches that focus lots of energy towards community. This focus fits in well with a current project I'm working on '*Community Listening.*' However, this project aims to go further than just listening, it will hopefully be the platform that delivers solutions to local concerns, developing positive change to the community. However, I do need a little help!

If you are reading this then the thought of helping hasn't terrified you. Great! All I'm asking for at this stage is for you to complete a very short questionnaire. The answers to this questionnaire will dictate the greatest local needs and highlight the pressures people are experiencing.

Once the data has been collected and analysed the top concern(s) will be the focus of action to deliver solution(s) and positive change.

The first stage is to fill out the short questionnaire, the link is below. Please complete the questionnaire as soon as possible. Paper copies should be returned to Andrew Topple. If you have any questions, please call me on (01206) 515533 or email me on bionic.revd.dan@gmail.com.

[Click here](#) to access the Online Questionnaire or on the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesg16wk2xmZEXCeqE8-ewuy6Os8qL2YdhuQ7buAxT_zu9CQQ/viewform?usp=pp_url

We are planning to share the findings over the coming weeks.

In Christ, Rev. Dan - St. Stephen's Church

Please do feel free to talk to me about this if you would like any more information about it or would like a paper based copy of the questionnaire.

Andrew Topple 0780 394 3019

THE DAY

The cross stands empty
Where he hung and died.
The crown of thorns trodden
Into the ground.

The nails lay scattered
Amongst his mother's tears,
And blood stains the place where
They laid him down.

The crowds, some angry, some afraid,
Go quietly from the place,
Back to their homes
To think about this day.

The day they gave
The Son of God away.

Norma Peckston

SAD NEWS

We heard that one of our good friends, Keith Barford, died recently. He and his wife Ann, were loyal supporters of our Strawberry Fayres, and later Community Days, when they brought along a gazebo filled with gifts to raise funds for the charity 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf'.

Initially their hearing dog 'Jinty' accompanied them, who was one of just 25 dogs short-listed for the 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People Hero Hound' award. Jinty alerted the Barfords when their elderly neighbour collapsed in her garden. 'Jinty' also fetched Keith on another occasion when Ann fell ill.

So in 2007 we chose their charity to receive a share of the profits from the Strawberry Fayre. This is their letter of thanks:

Dear Christine and Graham and everyone at Wimpole Road Methodist Church and St. Stephen's Anglican Church.

Thank you for the fantastic cheque for £475.00, which I have today forwarded to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

You all did very well considering the weather. We raised £150.96 on our stall, which was good.

You are all such a friendly bunch of people. See you soon. Thank you.

Best wishes and love from Ann, Keith and Jinty.

P.S. Jinty has received a framed certificate to say that she was a finalist in the 'Hero Hounds' award.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Although our number of collectors for Action for Children is now down to 4, I am pleased to say that they have collected £44.80 this year to help continue the good work that this organisation does to help children and families.

Thank You

Beryl Pentney

'FINDING THE LIGHT'

What a lovely sermon we had today from Joanne Eckersley about finding the light.

It brought to mind a song I learnt at my Sunday School at Parson's Heath Chapel when I was young. I can't remember the title, but it goes like this:

Jesus makes us shine
With a pure clear light
Like a little candle
Burning in the night.

In this world of darkness
You will see us shine.
You in your small corner
And I in mine.

Pat Farrow

P.S. Please excuse me if I haven't remembered the words correctly!

{Ed: Here is the complete hymn, written by Susan B. Warner}

Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light,
Like a little candle burning in the night;
In this world of darkness, we must shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, first of all for Him;
Well He sees and knows it if our light is dim;
He looks down from heaven, sees us shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around
Many kinds of darkness in this world abound:
Sin, and want, and sorrow - we must shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, as we work for Him,
Bringing those that wander from the paths of sin;
He will ever help us, if we shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

THE ROLLING COIN

A wise old man once owned a precious golden coin. One day, as he sat gazing at this precious coin and rejoicing in its beauty, a thought occurred to him: *"It isn't right that I should be the only person to have the pleasure of possessing this golden coin. What use is it if no one shares it?"* And he went out and gave the coin to a passing child.

The child couldn't believe her luck. She couldn't take her eyes off this shining coin. Then she had a sudden idea: *"I'll give this coin to Mum. She needs so many things. This coin will make her very happy."*

Of course, the child's mother was delighted with the coin - such an unexpected solution to many of her problems. She pondered in her mind as to how to spend it and what to buy first.

As she was thinking about this there was a knock at the door, and there stood a street beggar. *"Poor soul"* she thought. *"He has nothing and we are just getting by."* And she gave the gold coin to the beggar.

The beggar was speechless. This coin could be turned into food for a month. He made his way back to the subway where he slept, and there he noticed a new resident, just arrived. The poor guy was blind and disabled. No chance of him getting anywhere near to the folks who might have spared him a coin or two.

"I guess he needs it more than I do," he thought to himself. And he pressed the gold coin into the blind man's thin, cold fingers.

That evening, a wise old man walked through the dark subway. He noticed the blind, disabled beggar and stopped to speak to him. The beggar couldn't remember the last time anyone had bothered to speak to him.

After a while, the wise old man put his arm round the beggar's shoulder. *"I've nothing left to give you, except my friendship,"* he murmured.

A tear rolled across the cheek of the blind beggar. How could he ever repay this gift of human kindness that had changed a dark night into a new dawn? With his shaking, aching hands, he reached into his pocket, brought out the golden coin and gave it to his new found friend.

"Thank you for loving me," he said.

Source unknown - from 'One hundred Wisdom Stories' - Margaret Silf

EASTER GLORY

Easter is the season of the soul's eternal Spring.
The blossom in the orchard and the bird upon the wing
Give again their ancient message, old but ever new:
The story of the Resurrection - fresh as April dew.

A pledge of immortality to all who will believe.
To the souls who walk in darkness and the hearts that grieve,
Comes this light at Eastertide: this radiance in the gloom
Streaming through the open portal of the empty tomb.

Christ is risen! He is here, a presence and a power
Breathing through the lilac and the sunshine and the shower
Moving in our midst, a living Lord, the Saviour King
Mantled in the glory of an everlasting Spring.

Patience Strong

A WHISPER OF SPRING

We went for a walk in a wild wind,
Clouds were like smoke in the sky,
Trees made a sound like the ocean
As the wind went travelling by.

The last leaves of winter were airborne,
There were very few birds on the wing,
But earth's air held a beautiful promise,
For the wind brought a whisper of spring.

Our God has brought us the wild wind
To blow all of winter away;
He calls each new bud to flourish,
And in gladness each one will obey.

Regal crocuses shine with glory
To brighten the dark winter earth;
All of nature is changing,
To the time of the Easter rebirth.

by Enid Pearson

CHURCH FAMILY BBQ.
Advance notice - Thursday 28th July from 3.30 p.m.

After 2 years, during which circumstances prevented us from all getting together, we are hoping to resurrect the annual BBQ. Please make a note in your diaries.

It is an open invitation to anybody connected to the Church, particularly those who for various reasons have not been able to worship with us recently. As usual there will be no charge.

It will be held at the home of Peter Broom, 'Somerville', The Folley, Layer de la Haye. Some limited parking in the driveway, but parking is freely available in the road.

Please come along if you are able and renew friendships, which perhaps have drifted over the last two years. Those reading this that have moved away from the circuit are particularly welcome to join us.

Peter Broom

HERE I AM

Here I am, ready to go
Excitement spreading from head to toe,
God has said He's found a way
For me to live my life each day.

I could choose the way that is easiest
But I know that His way is the best.
Like a treasure map of old
The Bible shows the path to follow.

Jesus said he is the way,
Sometimes it's a road that's narrow,
But the Spirit of Jesus is here deep inside
A friend always with me, my helper and guide.

Alan Price

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

Lord we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring. Lord may your Kingdom come, and Your will be done. Amen

GHOST TREE

In my garden, years ago,
Stood a lovely weeping Birch.
Its branches were all wiggly –
Where pigeons used to perch.

The bark was white and silvery
Its leaves a shade of green.
The branches hung like fingers dangling
A strange sight to be seen.

The tree stood beside a greenhouse.
Inside a grape vine grew.
One windy day a glass pane split.
The grape vine threaded through.

It grew and grew right o'er the tree
And silently took over!
The smothered Birch began to die,
Its life was sadly over.

Too late! We tried to rescue it –
But the grape vines were too strong.
The poor tree lost all its greenery
For it had suffered long!

I couldn't bear to lose it.
I couldn't chop it down.
So there and to this day it stands –
A 'jewel' in my garden's crown.

It gives me shade in Summer.
A big umbrella in the rain.
I love my dear old 'Ghost Tree',
The birds still rest in it again.

Pat Farrow

THOUGHT FOR MAY

'I love those who yearn for the impossible.'

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

The family and friends of *Keith Barford and David Price*, who both died recently.

Rachel Allen, Edith Plane and all those who are in poor health.

Any ministerial concerns during Joe's sabbatical please contact Rev. Alan Jenkins, Rev. Ken Chalmers or a Steward.

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1 May | Rev. Alan Jenkins |
| 8 May | Brian Clow |
| 15 May | Alan Beesley |
| 22 May | Rev. Martin Camroux
Holy Communion. |
| 29 May | Local Arrangement |

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.

NEW TOWN COMMUNITY DAY

Saturday 17 September 2022

Date of next planning meeting: Tuesday 17 May 7.30 p.m. in the Church Parlour.

Look forward to seeing you then - in the meantime, if you have any queries or comments, please just let me know.

Juliet Balls - Church & Community Committee
Mob: 0791 340 3471



Baby & Toddler Group coffee morning

Returns

Monday 9 May

at the new time of

9 – 11 am

Toys, singing, fun &
refreshments



Contact us at: wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com /
Facebook message / 07847 846292