



July 2022

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

June – the middle of the year. Is this year better than the last two? In some ways, yes - we have to praise the Lord that the fear and restrictions of Covid have subsided to such a degree, but the war in Ukraine, the earthquake in Afghanistan, and the cost of living here have raised huge concerns – and our prayers are needed more than ever.

How wonderful then that we are able to return to an open church with such freedom.

Sunday 5th July – the Jubilee Weekend – found us not just celebrating the glorious reign of our Sovereign Queen Elizabeth, but also welcoming the Holy Spirit, and St. Stephen's Church, into Wimpole Road. Since the weather had decided to return to winter, what was originally planned as a joint outdoor service on the Recreation Ground, became a jolly, candle-lit indoor affair led by Rev. Lorraine Badger-Watts, Rev. Paul Howes, Rev. Dan Cant, Rev. Christine Shillaker (on piano) and members and children (hooray) from St. Stephen's joining us.

The collection for the work of Christian Aid raised almost £140.

A large wooden cross, with fire-like bunting was the centre piece to the service, which was fabulously illustrated by Paul Howes' Powerpoint presentation. Soon-to-be-ordained Belinda Kerins led the prayers, and the children processed around the church with flags depicting the Pentecost flames, which they had made during the service. Refreshments in the Parlour afterwards, with Union Jacks and pictures of Her Majesty, felt like a party.

July 12th heralded a new form of ‘Local Arrangement’ in that it was led, virtually, by Michael Topple - filmed in our own pulpit during a recent visit back, but who is actually studying and living in Glasgow. A terrific service, well received and (as Alison Ablewhite says) “*a technology triumph*”.

June 20th saw the return of Rev. Paul Howes to lead our Communion Service – and yes – Communion is now taken at the altar rail as it was pre Covid. Another lovely PowerPoint – thank you Paul!

June 26th brought Joanne Eckersley back to us, and although there was a somewhat small congregation, it was a joyous and uplifting service for us all.

We pray that Rev. Joe Adams and Dave have enjoyed a glorious holiday in Italy, and that Joe will return to us in far better health than before.

God’s blessings to you all,

Deborah Floy

THURSDAY CIRCLE

June began with a Bank Holiday celebration for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The parlour looked lovely decorated with bunting and flags. We started by listening to or singing seven of the Queen’s ten favourite pieces of music and this included a very spirited and well-executed duet by Debbie and Bev (ably accompanied by Beryl) of ‘Anything You Can Do’ from ‘Annie Get Your Gun’. Pat read a specially written poem and we had a quiz about the Queen.

Then, with much enthusiasm and flag waving we sang patriotic songs including drinking a toast to the Queen and giving her three cheers. After this we quenched our thirst with Shloer and sausage rolls and cake – this went down a treat! Thank you to everyone who attended or contributed to the success of the afternoon.

The following Thursday afternoon was a very different type of occasion. Rebecca Taylor and Paula introduced us to the work of the local branch of ‘Christians Against Poverty’, which helps those in debt to become debt free.

On 16 June Jean Quinn, a good friend to Thursday Circle, talked about Mors Bags - none of us had heard of them. They are the brainchild of Clare Morsman who, concerned with the effect of plastics on the environment, came up with the idea of making bags of a simple design

from spare fabric. These are then given away to replace plastic bags in everyday life. We were all given one! A most interesting afternoon!
On 23 June Stewart Seymour from Braintree gave a presentation on 'The Civil War in Suffolk and Essex'.

Looking ahead:

7 July 15 members booked for a Cream Tea at the Mercury Theatre.

14 July a talk by myself on Donald McGill and the saucy seaside postcard. Possibly followed by a quiz.

21 July a Quiz based on film posters.

After this we do not meet until September.

Our meetings, usually 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

**CHURCH FAMILY BBQ.
Thursday 28th July from 3.30 p.m.**

A reminder of the annual BBQ. We plan to have food ready from around 5.00 p.m. but please come from 3.30/4.00 p.m. to chat with old friends you may not have seen for some time.

Everybody is welcome, particularly those, who for various reasons have not been with us over recent months.

Whilst there is no need to 'book', it would be helpful to have some idea of numbers for catering purposes, so if you are thinking of coming please let Christine or myself know - or any of the Church Stewards.

There is no charge; this is purely a social event to which everybody is warmly invited.

Look forward to seeing you.

Peter Broom

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age"

Aldous Huxley

OUR QUEEN

Elizabeth II, our Queen,
what a wonderful lady she's been.
As a child she was called Lilibet,
growing up with her sister Margaret.

When her father, King George 6th died early,
at 25, she succeeded the throne, concurrently -
with her husband Prince Philip, her consort -
to give his advice and support.

I remember watching her Coronation
on Nan's tiny black and white television.
That was on the 2nd June 1953 -
with my family and Nan's neighbours in Brightlingsea.

Seeing her travel through London, past waving crowds
in that golden horse-drawn carriage, hearing the cheers so loud!
From Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey
what a wonderful sight - everybody was so happy!

Holding the orb and sceptre, Elizabeth made her vows -
Then after many hours,
"Heavy is the head that wears the crown",
I thought, as the Archbishop placed it down.

Then with raised hats and bows
the trumpets were sounded, the silence broken,
"God Save The Queen",
was heartily spoken!

The Oath she signed, the promises she made then,
she has faithfully kept, every one.
A true Monarch of the Realm,
we are lucky to have her at the helm.

Through family crisis and loss,
through wars, the pandemic, she's still boss!
now aged 96, she's stayed stalwart and true o'er the nation,
reigning 70 years, so, let's join in her
'PLATINUM JUBILEE' Celebration!

Pat Farrow

NEW TOWN OPEN GARDENS

Thank you so much for either kindly opening your garden or being involved in New Town Open Gardens 2022 in either capacity. 'Gardeners' have commented on having a great atmosphere this year with lovely visitors. We are delighted to have received lots of compliments regarding the gardens, live music, historical talks, children's trail, Morris dancing, choir, scarecrows, Town Watch, refreshments and plant sales.

Once again, we are indebted to both St. Stephen's and Wimpole Road Methodist Churches for not only providing teas, refreshments and toilets, but also allowing us to use their premises for various additional items to our programme. Furthermore, we were very fortunate with the glorious weather, enabling lots of people to enjoy the event.

The money is still coming in, but at the time of writing we have raised £171.37 for the Red Cross Disaster Emergency Appeal (Ukrainian refugees) and £150 for Greenfingers Charity (funding gardens in children's hospices). The discrepancy between the two is because some donations were given to those specific charities.

Thank you again for contributing to such a wonderful afternoon and fund-raising effort.

Best wishes, *Ann Morris and Jean Quinn*

COLCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT Social Issues Working Group ACTION FOR CHILDREN – SPONSORED WALK Saturday 9 July at 10 a.m.

STEP OUT FOR CHILDREN – 3 miles circular walk, from The Well Methodist Church. Contact Keith Thompson (01206) 844252 for sponsor form or just turn up on the day.

CIRCUIT FAREWELL SERVICE Sunday 17 July at Castle Methodist Church

To celebrate the retirement of Superintendent Rev. Alan Jenkins and Rev. Ken Chalmers. Light refreshments from 5 p.m. – farewell service at **6.30 p.m.**

Preacher Rev. Tony Miles, Superintendent Minister of Westminster Central Hall, London. Service to be live-streamed and recorded.

IN GOD'S HAND

A hand can protect and give comfort. A hand can create and direct.

There is a sculpture made by the Swedish artist Carl Milles called, 'The Hand of God', and I think it gives a beautiful image of what it can be to be in God's hand. The sculpture is a big hand lifted up, toward the sky. In the palm of the hand, a man is standing on his two feet, and it looks like he is finding his balance in the hand while he is also, at the same time, stretching himself to see maybe the world, his surroundings, what the future holds. That is one way to be in God's hand: to stand up, meet life and the future, while finding balance and strength in the palm of God's hand.

God is near, to all of us. Sometimes we might sense it as a protective or comforting hand when we somehow feel that we are not alone. We might pray that God's loving hand will be there to direct us into a path that is right for us. We might every now and then see traces of God's creative hand when we discover grace in the nature around us. But we can also remind ourselves how the source for strength and balance can be in God's hand.

The sculpture of a big hand lifted up - I like to think of it as a hand opened up to bless us. God is near, and we can stand up in God's hand, open to God's blessings when we meet the world and our future.

God of life, be near with your loving hand. When we worry about what the future might hold, let us know that your hand is a source of strength to trust. **Amen**

{Taken from 'Fresh from the Word - the Bible for a Change'}

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

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

The families of Michael Goodey and Jean Baker, who both died recently.

Michael was Sarah Topples' father and a good friend to Wimpole Road and Jean was Christine Firmin's aunt and a former Local Preacher.

Jean's funeral is **Wednesday 13 July 9.30 a.m.** at Wimpole Road and Michael's is **Friday 15 July 11.00 a.m.** at Colchester Crematorium.

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

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR JULY

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

3 July	Local Arrangement – Mr Douglas Broom
10 July	Eddie Lansdown
17 July	Rev. Paul Howes
24 July	Alan Beesley
31 July	Rev. Joe Adams Holy Communion

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS

Join us after the service for coffee/tea and biscuits in the church parlour for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk

THE URBAN FOX

In our street there's an 'urban' fox – a sly and stealthy creature.
He sniffs out food with his pointy snout, and empties our waste caddies out!

He digs holes in my veggie patch, and rips up my rubbish bags.
With peels and egg shells everywhere that night-time bandit doesn't care.

Perhaps there's baby cubs to feed? I can't deny him food.
It's just the bloomin mess he leaves - I guess he is 'the King of thieves'.

I saw him today – in broad daylight – (he's getting to be quite bold).
With his reddish fur and bushy tail - he'll come tomorrow without fail.

Pat Farrow



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.

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
