



August 2022

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams

Mob: 0798 541 7000

KNOW YOUR PLACE

A phrase I heard quite a lot growing up was '*Know your place*'. It was used to keep children and young people in the place the grown ups thought they belonged. The seen and not heard, sit on your hands advice that contributed towards so many children and young people not feeling welcome and voting with their feet to leave as they grew up.

'*Know your place*' was used when I was growing up about women too. Know your place in the home, at the kitchen sink, looking after the children, staying at home. It was used about working class people, Black and Asian people, that they should know their place and not tread on the toes of their betters. Absolutely dreadful anti-Christian sentiments that existed in Church communities, none the less.

The BBC twisted that well know awful phrase so that it became the tag on all their sports coverage this summer '*We know our place*'. Sportswomen from the England and Northern Ireland football teams, weightlifters like Emily Campbell, and athletes in the Commonwealth games were featured strongly alongside young girls who are playing cricket and other sports. It was a powerful and I think important campaign.

They do know their place and it's playing their part in sports and life not being spectators while men are out at the front, God forbid. They know their place and it is not just operating in the feminine spheres men sometimes like to say they belong.

I told my daughters when they were growing up that they should dream as big as they wanted and no doors should ever be shut in their face because they were girls.

Sadly not everyone has caught up with God's progressive leading and there are still those who think girls should be kept out of football cricket rugby or other sports. Still some still think there are some jobs that should be out of reach to women.

In the life of the church through the years there have always been men who want to control the role and scope of woman's ministry and work in the church. This has always amazed me because Jesus clearly has women who financially support his ministry (Luke 8) and many like me think they were disciples as much as the men.

Even more startlingly God chose women to be the first witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus. Which is obviously such a powerful counter cultural message because it wasn't credible to have women witnesses; the famous Jewish historian Josephus wrote that even the witness of multiple women was not acceptable "*Because of the levity and boldness of their sex.*"

And yet the resurrection begins with Mary and then at least 5 other women before or alongside the male disciples. Those five are Johanna and Mary Magdalene, the other three Mary's - Mary mother of Jesus and Mary mother of James, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Salome mother of James and John.

Paul the apostle and the other Church leaders in that age clearly appointed women as leaders of the early church communities. Philip's daughters (Acts 21:9), Priscilla (Acts 18:26; Rom. 16:3-5, etc.), Phoebe (Rom. 16:1-2), Junia (Rom. 16:7), possibly Chloe (1 Cor. 1:11), Euodia and Syntyche (Phil. 4:2-3), Nympha (Col. 4:15), Apphia (Phlm. 2), "the chosen lady" (2 John 1), "the chosen sister" (2 John 13), and probably Lydia (Acts 16:40).

Yes women know their place and it is to lead just like the men!

It says a lot about the men in charge who, threatened by women perhaps, removed their stories and names from the scriptures and histories.

I've enjoyed this summer of sporting triumph and especially seeing so many wonderful talented and courageous women who have triumphed but it's important to note that this came in spite of the opposition of the men governing our sports. Infamously the FA effectively banned women's football in England in 1921 and it took more than 70 years for the governing body to embrace the women's game again.

It was wonderful on the back of the '*Know your place*' message to see the resounding success of the England Football team playing not woman's football but football. The millions of people watching as they thrilled and entertained, in a way the men certainly haven't in the majority of tournaments in my lifetime, has been wonderful to see.

Thank heavens this generation of young women didn't take that girls don't play football nonsense seriously and their families and friends continued to encourage them. Thank heavens the same is true for generations of women in the life of our churches, who have led and preached and served just as well and often better than the men.

This matters - women must be seen and treated as good enough - not second class. Here in our Circuit it matters as we have a chance to show how much we believe this to be true with the arrival of our new Superintendent Minister. Chris Preece I pray will be welcomed and respected, and receive the honour she deserves. She will exercise her ministry amongst us and I am sure will be a huge blessing to our Churches and Circuit. She comes knowing her place, following in the long line of women whom Jesus has called to be witnesses to the love and life of God and we are blessed that she has been sent to us.

Rev'd Joe

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

Firstly WELCOME BACK Joe – we have missed you and sincerely hope that you now have continued and improving good health.

As a church family we were able to meet together at the home of Peter Broom for the Church BBQ (the first time for 2 years!). Despite the early heavy and unexpected shower of rain, (which caused our host some concern) the afternoon was a great success and our gratitude and thanks to Peter and Christine for their hospitality and excellent food.

Christine is mainly responsible for the Coffee Mornings and Make Lunch, which (during the school holidays) is a much needed resource. Her hard work and dedication is exemplary and her team of helpers also do a fantastic job of providing this community outreach.

Our morning worship is enriched by the lovely PowerPoints, which are provided by Debbie. A lot of thought and time goes into preparing these and we are very grateful. Debbie is also instrumental in setting up the kitchen and Parlour for Sunday Coffee.

We offer warm congratulations to Jeanette and Anthony, who became grandparents again, when their daughter Rosie and husband Isaiah (who live in Texas) became proud parents to a baby girl, Ivy Elizabeth, in July.

SOME DIARY DATES:

Dreaming About the Future. An OPEN MEETING for everyone
(page 5). **Tuesday 23 August 7.00 p.m. in the Church**

Holiday Club -22 – 26 August (page 4). Helpers needed

Circuit Welcome Service for Rev. Chris Preece. Thursday 1 September 7.30 p.m. at Castle Methodist Church. All welcome. (page 9).

Open Manse. Friday 2 September 2 p.m. -5 p.m. (page 9).

Church Council – Tuesday 13 September 7.00 p.m.

What's missing from **CH..CH?** Answer = **UR!** A warm welcome awaits.

Alison Ablewhite

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our final talk for the month of June was a very witty talk by Roy Waters on 'Growing Up in the Dutch Quarter in the 1940's and 1950's'. Almost everyone could identify with the things Roy reminded us of and there was much laughter. We are looking forward to the next talk from Roy, probably in spring 2023.

July began with 14 members enjoying a Cream Tea at the Mercury Theatre. Most had not been to the theatre since it re-opened and were interested to see how things had changed.

The following week I gave a short talk on Donald McGill and the saucy seaside postcard. I then handed out some examples, which caused laughter and amusement. We then had a quiz on 'Music from the Movies'.

Our summer programme ended on 21 July with a quiz based on film posters and then one on fruit and veg.

We will not be meeting again until **1 September** when Rev. Joe Adams will open our autumn programme. Do come and join us!

Joan Gomer – Secretary

'GOD'S WONDERFUL WORLD' HOLIDAY CLUB 22 – 26 AUGUST

We are almost fully booked for this year's Holiday Club, which is wonderful, especially as this is the first one since 2019. We have a good number of Junior Leaders, which is also great, but we do also need more adults both to work with the children and also for kitchen duties please.

If you can help in anyway, please speak to me and I will get you booked in!

Thanks. *Andrew Topple Mob: 0780 394 3019*

DREAMING ABOUT THE FUTURE - an OPEN MEETING for EVERYONE

Tuesday 23 August 7.00 p.m. in the Church

At our last Church Council we agreed that we would gather on the 23rd August and spend a little time starting to think about what our future might look like here at Wimpole Road. There is so much that we do that is wonderful and impacts our community and lifts our spirits. The Church Council were challenged to think not negatively about what we do, but to dream about what might be possible to build on that good work. This discussion starter is not meant to be exhaustive but hopefully will stimulate our ongoing conversations. It is definitely not in order of importance.

Marriage Equality This is only first because we met in April and voted as a Church to register for same sex marriages, which seems like a positive step forward. Many Methodist Churches around the Connexion have already done this - 2 in our District at Harpenden and Pirton, and to date 54 are on a register of inclusive Methodist Churches who are able to do same sex marriages. A local couple have booked their wedding at our church in September 2023.

What do we do with this now?

Options - Inclusive Church Network? The Inclusive Church Network mission statement here shows that this inclusivity is not in any way just about LGBTQ+ people. *"We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."*

If we join we would go on their online register of truly Inclusive Churches, which is how many people now search for a Church to belong to?

Options - Rainbow badge? If we are inclusive of people with differing abilities and same sex couples we must display that. What should we put on our notice board and notices? What about inside the Church?

Options - Study about welcome - not just about LGBTQ+. In my experience differently able people and their family and friends can find Church difficult. One of the things LGBTQ+ people often find is that when they arrive at Church people talk differently to them, use the wrong pronouns or don't talk about their partner. I heard one couple say they tried many churches and each time their thought they were in a safe place they realised they weren't from the way people talked about them, and in several places refusing to call the woman's wife her wife. They left each one feeling more disillusioned. Many in my research said that they had no idea if Churches were welcoming and were afraid to keep trying and being hurt by rejection, hence the need

to display our inclusivity in a way outside our building that is relatable to LGBTQ+ people.

There are materials we could use about Radical Welcome produced by the URC and by the Inclusive Church Network. Could such material be used by us? Possibly in a sermon series to address this within worship, not just meetings that most people don't attend.

Our worship. What could we do to improve our worship - and I'm not suggesting what we do isn't good. Is our worship accessible to those who are not steeped in Methodism / Wimpole Road? What about the mix of new and old in terms of songs and hymns? Do we have musicians who could form a simple Church orchestra? How do we use our Worship Leaders? Could we better use their gifts? We are an ageing congregation. How can we attract younger people? Is that even possible? If so would we be prepared to change our worship? We are an ageing congregation. Is that a bad thing? Could appealing to people over 50 be our God given calling? Could we make a virtue of being open to everyone but specialise especially in work with the over 50's?

Circuit. How can we support the work of the Circuit? Do we take up all our seats on Circuit meeting and participate? What would we like from the Circuit in the coming years?

St. Stephen's. Much of our life as a church is shared at present with St. Stephen's. How do we feel about that? Do we want more in terms of shared worship / pulpit swaps? Do we want to formalise our relationship so that it is difficult for it to be changed with the change of Minister or Priest? St. Botolph's and Castle Methodist Churches have a covenant they renew every year - could we do something similar? Do we want to think about working closer together and / even work towards becoming One Church? Could a link with St. Stephen's see us share our ministry by focusing on different things not competing with one another?

Community Worker. 3 Years ago when I arrived we talked informally at Leadership / Stewards meetings about trying to appoint a Community Worker funded 50/50 with St. Stephen's to work in a detached way from Church in New Town. Do we have an appetite for such a work still? Do we know what we need to focus on? Do we think it would produce positive fruit and how we judge its success?

Our Premises and Finances. What could we do with our premises to make them better for our use now and future proof them? We have some reserves, could we use some of that money for example to change our entrance so that there is one toilet there that can be used by anyone including the disabled? Equally I know that we are limited because of the listing of the building, but could the whole vestibule be modernised and refreshed? Do we need to do anything to modernise our hearing system? Can we commission new banners that are fresh and modern to rotate with what we have and change at little expense our sanctuary / worship space? Should we be training new people up to enable our Treasurer and Property work to be shared or even give current officers a break?

Our Website. This needs refreshing and perhaps updating so that it tells our story better. Can we do that?

Young People's Work. What is the future for us in terms of work with children and young people? Could a link with St. Stephen's see us share our ministry by focusing on different things not competing with one another? If we did seek a Children's Worker - is there anything they could do?

Prayer and Bible Study. The majority of our people do not attend our shared ecumenical Prayer meeting on Zoom; the same is true for Bible Study either ecumenically on Zoom or in person. Can that be addressed and if so how? Could we have more groups? What kind of Prayer or Bible Study do people want?

Our Pastoral Care. Is this working well? What could we do better? Pastoral Visitor training is going to be hopefully delivered this Autumn.

Men's Group. Could we run a Men's Group? Could that be something we do with St Stephens? With trips out and socials, speakers, conversation?

Our Community. How can we better reach out with the hope we have found into our community?

Rev. Joe Adams

OUR CHURCH

'Our church', we call this place
But we are wrong.
The church belongs to God
Who loved it into existence,
Watched over it from the beginning,
And is already forming
Its future.

And yet, because of all we give,
Of love and loyalty,
Faith and work,
Time, money, prayers,
Is it not also 'ours'
This church?

Not so.
These also
Are God's gifts to us.

{From 'Called to Praise' - an anthology based on Christian seasons and major themes compiled by Donald Hilton}

INTRODUCTION FROM REV. CHRIS PREECE

Dear Friends,

I thought it would be good to take this opportunity to introduce myself ahead of the new Connexional year. I'm delighted to have been stationed to Colchester and am keen to get to know you. A natural question to ask someone when you first meet them is "*Where do you come from?*" I confess to finding this quite a difficult question to answer! I lived in the Midlands before we moved as a family to Lincolnshire when I was 9. The rest of my family are still based there so I tend to think of that as 'home.' I've been the one to move, initially to Cardiff to study for my music degree after A levels.

Before offering for full-time ministry, I was a teacher. My main teaching subject was music and in the four secondary schools in which I worked in the Leeds and Manchester area I held a variety of roles. In my final school I was an Assistant Head teacher. It was a real privilege to work with the staff and students, and to see the youngsters grow as people and in their skills throughout their time in school.

My hobbies include playing the piano as well as crafts and cooking. I like reading and studying theology, and thoroughly enjoyed the MA I finished a couple of years ago. For the lighter moments, I often turn to historical fiction.

For the past five years I have been a minister in the Tendring Circuit – so not very far away! I had a great time there; loved getting to know people and seeing God at work in various ways. Equally, I'm delighted to be coming to Colchester. I look forward to hearing your stories as we walk alongside one another over the coming years. God uses these as we encourage each other in our journey of faith. As we begin a new chapter together in September, it will be a time of looking ahead together as we seek God in Christ through the Holy Spirit for the future. I'm excited to see where this leads us as a Circuit and churches as we work together. As we look to see where God is working and join in, I'm sure there will be some significant times ahead.

Jesus tells us to love God and to love each other. God sent Jesus to live and walk alongside us throughout the whole of life. Our Saviour, Jesus, loves us as we are and through his death and resurrection, we have new life and freedom in him. As we serve God, the witness of Christ's love is shown to others. The Holy Spirit leads, comforts, and guides on the journey of life. As we worship with one another, and put our discipleship into action, God's love is reflected into the community and world around us.

We are about to embark on our time together. We will come to know each other so much better as we share in the joys, laughter, tears, and sorrows that life brings to us all. As individuals, churches, and a Circuit we will walk alongside each other, work together, and seek God for the ways in which we share the gospel with others.

I am looking forward to meeting you and to get to know you better over the coming days and months. Please know that I am here for each of you and don't hesitate to be in touch at any time.

*God bless,
Chris*

PS. Confusing as it may initially seem, I much prefer Chris to Christine. There are reasons, but I'll leave that for another time!

My contact details from 1st September will be:

Manse phone: 01206 545253

Mobile phone: 0791 265 8236

Email: chris.preece@methodist.org.uk

Ed: Chris will have particular responsibility for Castle, The Ark and The Well.

WELCOME SERVICE Colchester Methodist Circuit

Please join us to welcome the arrival of our new Superintendent Minister, Rev. Chris Preece on **Thursday 1st September at Castle Methodist Church**. The service begins at **7.30 p.m.** followed by light refreshments. We are pleased to welcome as Preacher Rev. Dr David Chapman, Chair of Beds, Essex & Herts. Methodist District

Service to be live-streamed and recorded. Only limited pre-booked disabled parking available. For further information please contact **Colchestermethodist.office@gmail.com**. RSVP to the email address by 18 August.

AFTERNOON TEA AT THE MANSE

We are holding an 'Open Manse' with afternoon tea on **Friday 2 September between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.** The address is **78 Robin Crescent, Stanway CO3 8WL**.

We always intended doing this in my first year here but sadly Covid prevented that but this year we really hope you will be able to join us.

If you could let us know a rough estimate of those attending by the last Sunday in August it will help us arrange cakes and desserts.

See you all soon, **Joe Mob: 0798 541 7000**

CLIMATE CRISIS AND CREATION

If you are concerned about the climate crisis and its implications and are looking to develop your thinking and action in response, this could be a resource for you.

The recent severe heat wave underlines the need for Christians not to let up on our commitment to protect creation and seek social justice.

In this regard, St. Stephen's Church and Colchester Green Christian are hosting two talks by Rev. Kevin Durrant, minister of Keynsham Baptist Church near Bristol. Kevin, whose ministry began here in Colchester has thought deeply about the current crisis for God's creation of which we are a part. He is the author of two books on creation themes, has been a keynote speaker at Green Christian's national conference and has attended COPs at Paris and Glasgow. He brings biblical understanding to bear on the situation we face often illuminated by art works.

Both talks will take place at **St. Stephen's Church in Canterbury Road.**

At 11a.m. on Sunday 18 September, at a Creationtide service, his subject is: 'A Christian Response to the Climate Crisis: Reflection and Action.'

At 7.45 p.m. on Monday 19 September, at an open meeting of Colchester Green Christian his subject will be 'Navigating the Climate Crisis: Spiritual Resources for Green Living.'

If you have a query about the event, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Every blessing, John Clifton

Churchwarden St. Stephen's Church and Organising Group Member, Colchester Green Christian. Mobile: 0798 089 8469

HOW TO PRAY

The pattern for prayer Jesus taught his disciples has six separate parts and one way to remember them all is to think of the six letters in the name of the author – **CHRIST**, which may supply directions for our prayer life,

'C' is *concentrate*. Concentrate on the one you are praying to. Jesus says we can call God "Father" Jesus begins his entrusted prayer with a simple address "Our Father ...". And so as soon as we've said the first words 'Our Father' we've said: We've been given a share in Jesus' relationship with God. We've been invited into this family relationship and that's the gift that every prayer begins with.

'H' is for *Hallelujah*. Jesus says, Hallowed be thy name, meaning "Holy" be thy name. We ask that in the world people will understand the presence of God among them with awe and reverence and will not use the name or the idea of God in vain or to put other people down, or as a sort of magic to make themselves feel safe. But

rather approach the idea of God, the name of God, the word of God, with the veneration and humility that's demanded.

‘R’ is for *Ruler*. Jesus simply says, “Thy kingdom come”. The idea of the Kingdom coming was very near the centre of Jesus' teaching. The Kingdom is not a place or a system; it's a state of affairs when God is in charge. It's the kingship of God if you like. It's the state in which God really is acknowledged to be directing and giving meaning to everything.

‘T’ is for *I need, and I feed*. Jesus says, “Give us this day our daily bread The simple meaning of this is give us what we need to keep us going. And yet as soon as we start unpicking that, we ask: well, what do we really need?

We don't "live by bread alone" says Jesus himself, "but by every word coming from God's mouth".

We don't live just by having our material needs fulfilled, we need something more: and one of the things more that we need is hope, hope for tomorrow i.e. focus first where you want to be – the coming of the kingdom.

‘S’ the fifth letter, is for *Saviour*. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we affirm that God is our Saviour in Jesus Christ. He died for us and then rose again and ascended to heaven. Jesus says in the prayer he first taught his disciples that God will forgive our sins. "Forgive us our trespasses" is in a way the hardest bit of the Lord's Prayer to pray, because it tells us straight away that to pray is also to be willing to change.

‘T’ is for *triumph over temptation*. “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil” says Jesus. Let first look at this prayer in the context of Jesus' own day. His teaching includes the idea that a great time of trial is on the way. A time when you really must decide just how God matters to you; you really must put your life on the line.

As Rowan Williams says, “*Jesus says to us, don't assume you know the answer to that sort of question. Don't assume you know how much you're capable of. Pray that when the time of trial comes, when things get difficult, you will have the resource to meet it.*

So, it's worthwhile praying to God, to give us what we need to face crisis when it comes, and please, God, don't let us be precipitated into that too soon.

So again, it's connected with ‘deliver us from evil, set us free’.”

(BBC - Religions - Christianity: The Lord's Prayer)

Set us free from all those things, the fears, the sins, the selfish habits that keep us prisoner and that make us unable to face crisis.

Sally Crafer

THIS CHURCH

This church was built with God.
He stood beside each artisan,
Each carpenter and labouring man,
Encouraged every one.

He chose where it should be.
Watched them lay each brick and tile,
Walked through the doors and down each aisle,
Until the work was done.

This church was built with faith.
A faith that's been here from the start,
Strong and true in every heart,
A firm foundation stone.

And still it is today.
We keep faith here below,
With those whose vision made it so,
And still work to make it grow.

This church was built with love.
You feel it when you come inside,
The outstretched hand, the friendly smile
Say 'You are welcome here.'

It is a happy place.
As it was planned so long ago,
Each generation's kept it so,
A happiness we share.

With God in faith and love.
We join with all who've worshipped here,
All through the last one hundred years,
In song, and praise, and word.

Let us look outward now,
And reach beyond these walls to share
Our Father's love, and show we are,
One family of the Lord.

Written by Norma Peckston, for our Centenary Service in 2004

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

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

As the sun rises, Lord,
Let your light shine on me.
The warmth of your Presence,
The brightness of your love,
The radiance of your joy,
The shining of your hope.
Let your light shine on me.
As the sun rises, Lord,
Let your light shine on me.

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

7 August	Ron Firmin
14 August	Christine Shillaker
21 August	Phil Bingham
28 August	Rev. Joe Adams Holiday Club Service

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS

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

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk

THOUGHT FOR AUGUST

"If you are not too long, I will wait for you all my life"
Oscar Wilde



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
