



September 2022

**Minister: Rev. Joe Adams**  
**Mob: 0798 541 7000**

Dear Friends,

I read this passage in my Northumbria Community Daily devotions today and I think it's worth sharing with you now:

‘There has probably never been a time in history when the majority of people were seriously seeking God.

Our Bible sets before us the idea that God may use a minority to serve the majority. Church history says the same. It is because of the faithfulness of the few, not the many, that the Christian faith has come down the ages to us and we have the chance to know God in this way. It has always been so.

If God has called us and we want to respond to Him, then we must be faithful to our own vision, whatever the many think. But we must do it with open hearts and open arms, not safeguarding our fewness, our special-ness. And we must do it in healthy laughter directed at ourselves, because really it is so ridiculous to think that God has chosen us for anything at all, even though it is true.’

***Kate Tristram***

I pray we may continue to be true to the gospel of grace and love we have received but that our arms and hearts would continue even more to open wide in welcome to all people.

I pray too that we would not take ourselves or our chosen-ness in Christ too seriously; instead may what Kate Tristram calls ‘healthy laughter directed at ourselves’ be the shining witness of who we are and the kind of Church we strive to be.

*Rev'd Joe*

### **NOTES FROM THE VESTRY**

Earlier this year when responsible for writing these notes I commented on how far we had progressed since re-opening after the lockdown. Since then it has been great to witness other things gradually opening up again. In August it was the return of the Holiday Club (last held in 2019) and in September the Community Day.

A new venture is an ‘Open Manse’ with afternoon tea on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Joe and Dave had wanted to hold this before but COVID (and no doubt Joe’s period of illness) have caused it to be delayed. I understand further ‘Open Manses’ are planned, so do support these opportunities for deepening our bonds of Christian friendship and fellowship.

Getting back to normal is all very well but we do need to move forward, yet prayerfully, so it is in the direction that the Lord wants. With that in mind we recently held an open meeting ‘Dreaming about the Future’, when we had a wide ranging discussion on a number of topics. As a start, individuals were tasked with preparing a report (a) on how we could help those who are lonely and (b) on how we could adopt a greener approach in church life. There will be further discussions at a follow up meeting. Do take an interest! Either by attending meetings or asking those who were there, but above all by praying.

The beginning of September is a time of change throughout the Methodist Church as ministers’ move to different circuits or roles. We have recently said “Goodbye” to Rev. Alan Jenkins and Rev. Ken Chalmers, and wish them both a long and healthy retirement. Incoming is the Rev. Chris Preece as Superintendent and we look forward to getting to know her and experiencing her ministry and leadership of the circuit as we move forward.

On a more personal note, both myself and Stephen have been accepted to train as Worship Leaders for Wimpole Road. The training programme has been a bit slow to get off the ground, to say the least, but please pray for us and give us every encouragement as we seek to develop into this new role.

Thank you to everyone for their contribution, either great or small, to the work at Wimpole Road and keep up the good work!

With every blessing in Christ,

*Joan Gomer*

## A LETTER FROM YOUR TREASURER

Dear Friends,

The 31<sup>st</sup> August sees the end of another Church Year, so the end of another financial year. You're all thinking here we go again, he's asking for more money. Well, I am not - I am simply going to show you where we are financially and leave it up to you to decide.

Covid and the Lockdown was a very bad time for our Church we still had to pay our assessment, our Minister had to be paid, our insurance had to be paid, so as you will see below our income was not good.

Income	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Collections	19,000.00	15,000.00	13,000.00	14,000.00
Donations	6,000.00	6,000.00	7,000.00	2,000.00
Lettings	10,000.00	6,000.00	300.00	3,500.00
Gift Aid	4,000.00	8,000.00	2,500.00	2,700.00
Bank interest	2,000.00	2,000.00	700.00	30.00
Totals	41,000.00	37,000.00	23,500.00	22,230.00
Savings at Methodist H/Q TMCP	222,000.00	200,000.00	185,000.00	159,000.00

We have 2 accounts at the TMCP our normal savings account and what is known as our Reserve Account, we have £35,000.00 in our reserve account included above. This will keep us going with collections etc. for hopefully 2 years. Once we go into our reserve we are classed by the Methodist Church as not 'Financially Viable'. Compare the above with our main outgoings below and you will see our problem

Outgoings	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Assessment	£32,000.00	£33,600.00	£32,008.00	£29,736.00
Gas/Electric	£5,500.00	£3,500.00	£1,250.00	£5,500.00
Water	£448.00	£559.00	£153.00	£262.00
Maintenance	£12,015.00	£7,173.00	£1,212.00	£5,400.00
Insurance	£3,026.00	£3,113.00	£3,124.00	£3,300.00
Totals	£52,989.00	£47,945.00	£37,747.00	£44,198.00

Our Circuit is helping all Churches with the Assessment as much as they can; we will be paying £28,248 next year, this is helped by us only having 2 Ministers.

I have not completed all the yearly accounts yet as I am making this report before the 31<sup>st</sup> August but I expect to transfer another £20,000.00 - £25,000.00 from the TMCP Account in September/October to keep us going through next year again, bringing our main TMCP account to around £98,000.00.

I realise times are hard for all of us, but if we continue with our collections and lettings as they are, I feel certain that within the next 5 years we will have to reconsider our finances very carefully.

Finally, as the HSBC Bank has now started charging Charity and Community accounts, which would be costing us around £150-200 per year, the Church Council has agreed for us to change to the Cooperative Bank who do not make any charges for these accounts at all, and I am pleased to say that I have just had confirmation that our new account will be open shortly. I am hoping that everything can be changed automatically so no-one will have to change anything, but if the members that pay by Standing Order can bear this in mind that they might see a payment to a different bank in the future I would be grateful. If needed I will be in touch with each of you personally.

Thank you all for taking the time to read and consider this.

*Edward Pentney*

## **PRAYER CORNER**

Lord of all seasons.  
Everything changes, nothing stays the same,

Teach me to accept this, and learn from it.  
As the year changes, so, too, our lives must change.

Let me keep in my heart the hope of spring,  
And the glory of autumn.

In this ever-changing world  
Lord, let me always be aware of your love

For this alone is everlasting, unfailing,  
And unchangeable.

Amen

## THURSDAY CIRCLE

There were no Thursday Circle meetings in August. Whilst we had enjoyed the break it was good to meet up again on 1<sup>st</sup> September, when Rev. Joe Adams opened our autumn programme.

### Coming up:

**8 September** No afternoon meeting, instead an evening meeting starting at **7.00 p.m.** Gunni Graygoose (what a wonderful name!) will lead us in seated activities. These are always good fun and within everyone's ability, so do come and join us.

**15 September** A return visit by John McCabe for a 'Virtual Tour of Colchester'.

**22 September** Join us for our Autumn Festival including poems written and read by our very own talented poets, Bible readings, Harvest hymns and, of course, a Quiz.

**29 September** Quiz Afternoon in aid of 'Stand by Me', our harvest charity. Entrance £2. Come and have fun whilst contributing to this worthwhile charity. Maybe you will get a small prize for being part of the winning team!

**6 October** In a change to the advertised programme, a chance to meet the new Superintendent, Rev. Chris Preece, and find out all about her!

Our meetings, usually on Thursday afternoons at **2.30 p.m.** are open to anyone who wants to come – new members are particularly welcome. Looking forward to seeing you!

*Joan Gomer - Secretary*

## WORLD CHURCH AND HOME MISSION

If you have a collecting box which you would like opening please let me have it.

*Christine Duthie*

## THOUGHT FOR SEPTEMBER

*"And all the lives we ever lived and all the lives to be are full of trees and changing leaves"*

*Virginia Woolf*

**NEW TOWN COMMUNITY DAY**  
**Saturday 17 September 2022**

This popular event, mainly organised by Wimpole Road together with members of the local community and St. Stephen's, will once again be held on the Recreation Ground from **12:00 to 3:30 p.m.** There will be entertainment from Boxted Methodist Silver Band, Colchester People's Choir, Victoria Eldon, two local Dance Groups and a Tug of War competition. We need **YOU** to help to make this a successful event, in any of the following ways:

- Volunteers to help set up and move tables and chairs from the Church
- Volunteers to help clear away and return tables and chairs to the Church
- Any help to man the Refreshment Tent, serving tea, coffee and cold drinks over the course of the day
- Come along and join us for the afternoon, enjoy the entertainment and stalls
- Spread the word! Please let friends and family know and take a flyer to display in your window.

If you can help in any way, please let Andrew or myself know.  
Thank you

**Juliet Balls**            **07913 403 471**            **[Julietcb69@gmail.com](mailto:Julietcb69@gmail.com)**

P.S. Our final planning meeting is **Tuesday 6 September at 7:30 p.m** in the Parlour

**DAVID HECKER**

David's sister came to the Coffee Morning recently to let us know that he had died after a period of illness. For me this prompted a memory of an interesting conversation that David had with me over Sunday Coffee and which I should like to share with you.

In David's part of London some premises had become vacant and there was speculation as to what might open there.

Someone said, *"I expect it will be another bloomin mosque!"*

To which David enquired, *"Have you ever been to a service in a mosque?"*

The answer was *"No"*. But neither had David so he decided to do something about it.

They were rather surprised to see David at the mosque but after he explained he was made welcome. He joined in the service as he felt able and did not do anything that was against his conscience. He was particularly impressed by the moderate Imam who gave a sermon that would not have been out of place in a Christian church.

Afterwards he enquired of the Moslems whether they had ever been to a service in a Christian church. Answer, *"No"*. This resulted in due course by a row of Moslems attending a Sunday morning service in the local church.

Rest in Peace!

**Joan Gomer**

## TOOLS WITH A MISSION - TWAM

We are a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation.

We send around 16 containers filled with a total of around 225 tonnes of tools every year.

We are based in Ipswich, Suffolk, with centres across the country. We have a mission to empower people in Africa living in extreme poverty to create their own livelihoods. We do this by sending trade kits full of tools that are used in skills training centres, offering the trainees a way to put poverty in the past for good and begin their own sustainable careers.

### **Yes please:**

**Agricultural tools:** Fork, spade, hoe, garden rake, hand fork and trowel, lopper, secateurs and hand shears

**Builders' tools:** Spade, shovel, 3ft spirit level, axe, crowbar, fork, sledgehammer, bow saw, bolsters, chisels, all types of hammers and trowels, pin and lines, tape measures, hacksaws and Stanley and hacksaw blades

**Carpenters' tools:** Bevel, braces, clamps, hand drills and bits, all types of files and hammers, Stanley knife, all types of planes and saws, pliers, rules, all types of saws and screwdrivers, squares plus screws, nails and bolts

**Electricians' tools:** Allen keys, hand drills and bits, all types of pliers and hacksaws, screwdrivers, spanners, soldering iron, voltmeter

**Motor mechanics' tools:** Allen keys, cold chisels, breast drill and bits, all types of hammers and pliers, punches, metric socket sets, spanners, adjustable spanners, cantilever toolboxes, tyre pressure gauge

**Plumbers' tools:** Basin or tap wrench, wire brush, breast drill and bits, various grips and saws, screwdriver, oil can etc

**Garage workshop:** Hydraulic jack, axle stands, battery charger, ramps and large engineers vice

**Power tools:** Hand and bench drills, sander, planer, jigsaw, circular, band and chop saws, lathe, cultivator, rotavator, welding machine and generator

**Sewing machines:** manual, electric, treadle and industrial

**Knitting machines:** machine and hand wool, needles and patterns

**Haberdashery:** needles, cottons, large material pieces/rolls, buttons, zips, tapes

**Fully working IT equipment:** Desktop computers and laptops running a minimum of Microsoft Windows 7, tablets, networking switch routers and cables

**Bibles:** in modern English

If you wish to donate please call us on 01473 210220 or email [post@twam.uk](mailto:post@twam.uk)

We have a national network of over 200 volunteer tool collectors who will either pick tools up from you or act as a drop off point.

*{Ed: The website has lots more information and well worth a read}*

## CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid is a partnership of people, churches and local organisations committed to ending poverty worldwide. With your support we are working to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

**Your gift of £139.67 on behalf of Wimpole Road Methodist Church, Colchester, is helping this work to continue – thank you.**

One of the countries we work in is Nigeria, where we have been able to help Baba Alhaji, a wheat farmer in the north-easterly state of Gombe. Baba faced many obstacles to growing his crops such as low plant population, disease and inadequate crop nutrition. This meant Baba was losing money and felt extreme stress to provide for his family.

With your support, Christian Aid has been able to sponsor farmers such as Baba to learn and utilise science for soil testing, disease control and crop spacing. The crops now grow greener, bigger and healthier and the increased yields mean that profitable wheat farming is now a reality for farmers in Gombe state.

Christian Aid believed the current economic system exacerbates inequality, and on top of this shock and disasters hit the poorest communities hardest. As a result of your love and support, we are able to develop approaches that empower marginalised producers like Baba to make their livelihoods more resilient and make the markets they operate within more inclusive.

*{Letter received in July}*



## **FLOWER FESTIVAL**

There are some local events which significantly mark the calendar, and the annual Flower Festival at St. Peter ad Vincula in Coggeshall once again hosted a celebration of floral displays and imaginative creativity as well as a highlight of community activity and togetherness.

This year the theme was 'Women of the Bible'.

Many were depicted in the floral arrangements, portraying a mixture of the power of life-giving love and the desperate loss experienced in betrayal and death.

In the words of the Reverend Heike Prentice, "*May you find in their story a reflection of your own, may these women encourage and inspire you to find the Holy Spirit who caused their stories to be written for our sake, so that we too, may find the way of life*".

As the theme changes every year, perhaps next year we could get together with a couple of cars and make a group outing from Wimpole Road with a stop - off at Poplar Nurseries for refreshments.

***Graham Duthie***

## **A HARVEST STORY**

It was Harvest festival time and a teacher had taken her class to the church next door which had been decorated for the annual service.

Back in the classroom they discussed what the children had seen that wasn't usually found in church, and hands shot up as they mentioned runner beans, peas, turnips, carrots, potatoes and so on –

*"And can anyone think of one word to cover all these things?"* asked the teacher.

*"Yes, Miss",* said an eager young lad, *"Gravy!"*

## **CHANGE TO THE PLAN**

Our Harvest Festival Service will be moved from **18 September to 9 October**, to alleviate workload on a busy weekend.

## **ORDINATION SERVICE FOR BELINDA AND SAMUEL**

**Sunday 11 September 1.00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Church**

Followed by tea and cakes. All welcome

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS:**

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

*Friends and family of David Hecker, who died recently.*

**WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER**

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

<b>4 September</b>	<b>Michael Topple</b>
<b>11 September</b>	<b>Alan Beeseley</b>
<b>18 September</b>	<b>Rev. Joe Adams</b> <b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>25 September</b>	<b>Jonathan Sparkes</b>

**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](http://www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk)**

---

Dear mother earth, who day by day  
Unfoldest blessings on our way.  
O praise him, alleluia!  
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow  
Let them his glory also show.  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*St. Francis of Assisi*



**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](mailto:alison.ablewhite@btinternet.com)

\*\*\*\*\*