



October 2022

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams

Mob: 0798 541 7000

Harvest for me has always been one of the most wonderful festivals in the Church Calendar. My thoughts in recent years have been shaped by the challenge God gives us all - to live lightly and become better at caring for this world. Those thoughts have been stirred again by Sally Crafer who challenged us in our most recent round of Church meetings to think about becoming an Eco Church. Look out for more on that in the coming months.

Harvest for me is about the harvest in our lives and hearts not just the natural world. A short meditation by John Philip Newell spoke to me on this theme these last few days in our daily round of Morning Prayer readings from the Northumbria Community Prayer Book that we use every week in our Tuesday morning prayers with St. Stephens. If you would like to join us on a Tuesday you would be very welcome.

Whichever way we turn, O God, there is Your face
in the light of the moon and the patterns of the stars,
in sacred mountain rifts and ancient groves,
in mighty seas and creatures of the deep.

Whichever way we turn, O God, there is Your face
in the light of eyes we love,
in the salt of tears we have tasted,
in weathered countenances east and west,
in the soft sin glow of the child everywhere.

Whichever way we turn, O God, there is Your face
there is Your face
among us.

This Autumn as we give thanks for the splendour of creation, and pray for those struggling most to make ends meet, it is important we remember that everywhere we turn God is there; in the good and the bad, the glorious and the sad. Wherever and whenever we should never lose sight that God is there in and through us longing to embrace us and bring us grace and peace. Why?

Because God has such a heart for our world and all in it, and especially for humanity. Not only do we see God around us and in each other, God promises that His presence is as close as our breath; Her embrace as near as our fingertips.

May the closeness and wonder of God's love for us all be our light and hope and greatest gift in this season and beyond.

Rev'd. Joe

REV. JOE ADAMS

It is with sadness that following a lot of thought and reflection, Rev. Joe Adams will, with effect from August 2023, be leaving Colchester Circuit. Joe is very anxious for everyone in the Circuit to know that this is no reflection whatsoever on the Circuit but is purely on the grounds of needing to be stationed closer to family which are based in the West Midlands. Joe is committed to his ministry in Colchester for the next 12 months and to working closely with the churches in his pastoral charge to further their work. The Circuit will be entering stationing for a minister to succeed Joe in September 2023. Please pray especially for Joe and Dave at this time as they enter stationing.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch with me if there's anything you would like to discuss further at this stage.

Take care and God bless,
Chris

Rev. Chris Preece

**Superintendent Minister
Colchester Methodist Circuit**

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

Our recent New Town Community Day was a great success, despite being held later in the year and following the death of our Queen, there were considerable doubts as to whether it should take place at all. The necessary adaptations all added to the considerable workload of the main organisers, chiefly Juliet and Andrew. Without their hard work and dedication this would not have been accomplished.

I know from being involved in organising Strawberry Fayres (since 2002) and then various New Town Celebrations (all fore runners to the current Community Day format) the enormous amount of time involved in the planning and liaison between the various involved agencies and individuals. The fact that Andrew and Juliet have been able to successfully recruit keen volunteers from the community to share in the planning and also to generate new ideas is well worth recording and we owe them both (and everyone who took part or helped in any way) an enormous debt of gratitude. Well done!

Just to let you know the final totals are in and, after deducting expenses, the donation to the chosen charity (DEC/Red Cross) will be £600.

Special thanks to Pam Cox for covering the Council's booking fee from her locality budget.

Once again many thanks for all your help and support, Juliet.

As a result of this event being held on 17 September, a decision was made to move our Harvest Festival back to Sunday 9 October. There will be an opportunity (as in previous years) for food donations to be brought to the service for onward distribution to the Food Bank and our own Community Pantry. So dry non-perishable goods and toiletries will be gratefully received, and will support these ongoing and much-needed community ventures. Our cash offertory will go to our own 'Make Lunch' venture, which also funds the Community Pantry.

We were deeply saddened to learn that our minister Joe will be leaving us (albeit reluctantly) next year but as a Stewards Team we fully understand, and continue to offer him (and Dave) our love and support. We thank him for his ministry and look forward to sharing our remaining time together.

Alison Ablewhite

THURSDAY CIRCLE

For a change on 8 September Thursday Circle was held in the evening, when Gunni Graygoose led us in seated activities. She worked us hard but it was good fun – we laughed a lot and sang along to the music.

The following week saw a return visit by John McCabe to give a ‘Virtual Tour of Colchester’. As is usual with this type of talk, there is always something new to learn about our local history.

Our stall at the Community Day raised £40 for disaster relief in Ukraine and Pakistan. Thanks to Pat Farrow, Ann Finch and Jean Howard, who manned our stall despite feeling rather cold! I was also able to hand over to Jean Quinn £40 from members and funds for her fund raising bike ride for the Catherine Bullen Foundation. This was gratefully received.

On 22 September we enjoyed our Autumn Festival. This included Norma Peckston, Pat Farrow and Ann Finch, plus Carol Ann Harvey (Coffee Morning) reading poems they had written about the autumn season. Others read poems and Bible readings. We had a quiz and sang the traditional harvest hymns with much enthusiasm. Peter Boston was our pianist, standing in for Beryl Leech. Thank you to all who participated.

Coming up:

- 6 October** In a change to the advertised programme, a chance to meet the new Superintendent, Rev. Chris Preece.
- 13 October** A return visit from Peter Jones, who will talk on ‘The Great Essex Earthquake’.
- 20 October** Sharon Mooney will talk on ‘Town Sergeants of Colchester’. Sharon is a popular local speaker – her talks are always interesting and well presented.
- 27 October** A talk by me on ‘Growing Up on Balkerne Hill in the 1950’s and 60’s.’ I have enjoyed putting this talk together and discussing with family members, so please do come and support me!

The new programme from November to April is now available, so please see me if you haven’t already got one!

Our meetings 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

WINTER WARMERS

St. Stephen's have agreed to host one of three Winter Warmer events this year. This will take place at St. Stephen's on **Thursday 20 October, between 9 am and 4 pm**. We will collect / have collected donations of warm winter clothing and other items that will then be available at this event for anybody struggling to keep warm this winter. There will also be other groups there specifically to provide support and advise to those attending as needed (the likes of Essex Free School Uniform, CAP etc).

This will be running alongside the Food Bank, as it is a Thursday, and the hope is that the Food Bank will also be able to run for the same, extended time, on this day.

This event has been run in other locations in the past, largely pre COVID, and was found to really help people with thousands of items collected in and given out.

So yes, you've got it! I am asking for your help please to assist on the day and also the evening before to set up. On the day we will be asking people to help oversee the items that have been donated, keeping these tidy and sorting any new donations received, helping those who come in and chatting to them and also assisting with refreshments that we would also like to serve during the day together with running the Food Bank for an extended session. At the end of the event we will need to clear everything away and any remaining stock will be transported to St. Margaret's where the same event will be run the following day.

This such a great opportunity to work together and to really help people locally as so many struggle with rising bills and the coming winter weather, to say nothing for sharing the love of God with our neighbours which we are called to do as Christians.

Please let me know if you are able to help for either part or all of the day.

Thank you. *Andrew Topple 0780 394 3019*

*An important article from Churches Action for Tax Justice
first published on Premier Christianity.
Please pray for those who lead us and a more Christian just approach
to tax and poverty. Rev'd. Joe.*

Last week, we saw newly appointed Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng unveil a 'mini-budget'.

For those of us of the Christian faith (and indeed, of many other faiths) it was deeply concerning – not only because of its financial impact on families, but also in terms of the moral path it sets our country on.

Given the depths of the cost-of-living crisis, and the prospects of worse to come, I confess to having been shocked to see tax handouts made to the rich. These seem

designed to increase the UK's already shameful wealth and income inequality, rather than help the wider society that this Government is supposed to be in service to.

It was timely, then, that the Gospel reading this past Sunday, for those of us who follow the Lectionary, was Luke 16:19-31. This is the story of the rich man and Lazarus, and of how the eventual fates of these two people are bound up with their experiences of wealth and poverty during their lifetimes. It's a very practical story, showing how our attitudes to wealth both exemplify and influence our spiritual and moral integrity.

In his lifetime, the rich man revels in displaying his wealth, while Lazarus goes hungry and is covered in sores. Lazarus longs for even the crumbs from the rich man's table – a metaphor for so-called 'trickle-down economics' if ever I heard one. Trickle-down economics is similarly a forlorn hope.

This is a timely story. And it reinforces a question that Jesus himself asked often: what are the wealthy doing with their riches and how are they helping the most vulnerable in society (Mark 10, Matthew 25)?

How do we respond to these biblical challenges today? Does the economic system within which we live nowadays reflect our Christian values? From this most recent budget, it would seem that many of our leaders favour the rich over the poor. They peddle the myth that tax cuts for the wealthy and for corporations increases growth, and that growth benefits us all. It absolutely doesn't.

The trickle-down approach that includes a raft of tax cuts will only increase the wealth of a very small minority. The Government is taking a huge gamble that this will lead to economic growth – and the fact that they have refused independent scrutiny of the numbers is concerning.

The emphasis of these cuts is not to put cash in the hands of poorer people, who tend to spend it, but instead to give more to the wealthiest, who tend to hold on to it. It is also not at all clear that such an approach will lead to more investment (for example UK corporation tax has been falling steadily for years but private investment here remains low compared to other countries).

The story of The Rich Man and Lazarus clearly shows that God cares deeply about how those of us with wealth use it, and how we treat the poorest. And like the rich man, we've no excuse for not knowing better.

As Christians, we cannot and should not stand by while these injustices take place. Calling for change is never comfortable – but then Christ didn't promise us a comfortable life. It is critical that we campaign for policies which work towards the common good and the fulfilment of all people, which Friday's mini-budget does not do.

This is why Church Action for Tax Justice continues to call for a wealth tax, levied on those richest among us who, in most cases, have already benefitted financially from the pandemic, so that the revenue raised can be used to help those scandalously struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

PRAYERS FOR THE QUEEN

Following the sad news of the death of Her Majesty the Queen, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have written a statement as a response to this announcement. They have also offered a prayer in which I invite you to join.

It was with profound sadness that we learned of the death of Her Majesty the Queen today. We join the nation in grief and thank God for her long and distinguished reign. The loyalty to, and love expressed, for Queen Elizabeth across the world is a testament to the life that she led, one marked by dedicated service to others. She provided encouragement and reassurance to a world living through uncertain times.

For people of all ages the Queen has provided constancy, a calm and wise influence at all levels of society. Our nation, the Commonwealth and the world have been greatly blessed by her life and work.

We give thanks to God that her duty as monarch was grounded in a deep faith in Jesus Christ, which has been an inspiration to countless people throughout her reign. Her dedication, commitment and service to her people will never be forgotten and will sustain all those who mourn in the coming weeks. Our prayers are for her family who have lost a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt and we pray that all may be inspired by her service and guided by her example.

The prayers of the Methodist people are also offered for His Majesty the King in his new role.

The Revd Graham Thompson and Anthony Boateng, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Creator God,

We give thanks for the life of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

We honour her life of service built on a firm foundation of faith and an exemplary commitment to duty.

Comfort those who mourn and bring peace to those in distress.

We offer our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

***Rev. Chris Preece
Superintendent Minister***

Methodist Central Hall Westminster

Loving God of all, we give thanks for the long life of Her Majesty The Queen; for her wisdom and dignity; for her faithfulness to her vows; for her dedication to public service; for her Christian faith and joyful witness.

May she rest in peace and enjoy the gift of everlasting life. We entrust Queen Elizabeth to your eternal love and pray for The King and all the Royal family at this sad time.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby

We will all face the merciful judgement of God: we can all share the Queen's hope which in life and death inspired her servant leadership.
Service in life, hope in death.

All who follow the Queen's example, and inspiration of trust and faith in God, can with her say:

"We will meet again."

SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES

Following recent incidents where church members have either been assaulted or have come into very close contact with individuals who could cause them serious harm, we ask that if you are having church meetings on church premises please lock yourself in once everyone has arrived.

I know this may sound as though we are trying to separate ourselves from the local community but that is not the intention, we want you all to be safe while you carry out your work in the name of the Methodist Church. So please don't visit church premises alone but if that cannot be avoided, let someone know where you are, carry your mobile phone with you and lock the door behind you when you enter the premises.

Pauline Jackson - District Safeguarding Officer

WE PRAISE YOUR NAME

Loving God, you hold your world
In the hollow of your hand,
From desert place to balmy coral island,
From majestic mountain to open plain,
May your name be praised.
From fathomless fjord to drought-parched billabong,
From polar ice-cap to humid rainforest,
May your name be praised.
From mighty river to burning sand dune,
From pine-strewn forest to swampy wetland,
May your name be praised.
Let everything that has breath
Praise the Lord.

Taken from Celtic Prayers and Reflections by Jenny Child

AUTUMN SPLENDOUR

Our autumn season has begun,
with misty morns – then welcome sun.
Now and again a blustery breeze –
shaking leaves off from the trees.
Nature's palette coats our land (a wondrous sight)
with coloured leaves and berries bright.
Fruit ripens in our orchards now
and farmers fields put to the plough.
Corn, wheat and barley gathered in –
before the winter storms begin.
We celebrate our 'Harvest' day
with thanksgiving in our special way.

Pat Farrow

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

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

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

2 October	Eddie Lansdown
9 October	Harvest Festival - Rev. Joe Adams
16 October	Sally Crafer
23 October	Local Arrangement
27 October	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 refreshments and fellowship.

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk



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
