



November 2022

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams
Mob: 0798 541 7000

Dear Friends,

Remembering is a word that sums up the month of November.

All Saints Day is celebrated at the start of November in the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches and I wish it was as important for us Non Conformists too. It certainly was for John Wesley. It is always good and important to pause in the midst of our lives to remember those who have gone before us, special people who we have loved and see no more.

For those of us who have lost grandparents and parents, perhaps in an even more powerful way those of us who have lost partners or children there is a real sense in which we constantly live with the pain of loss and grief. Yet there is something quite powerful about stopping and doing nothing but remembering and giving thanks at All Saints Day.

We have many dozens of candles in our home, and this year as in years before I will light a few candles and dig out some photographs to remember those friends and family who have gone but are certainly not forgotten. We will do this at Church too at the very end of October, making some time to pray for strength and give thanks of course, but mostly to just be still, to remember and celebrate.

For me that remembering makes November a sad and yet warm time. As always I will remember my friend Paul who I trained for the Methodist Ministry with and who died so young 10 years ago. I will remember so many people I have ministered to. I

will think back on the funerals I did for my Dad and Mom, my Aunt and Uncle, all of whom I loved so much.

Remembering is so important. We must never forget those who have gone before us and have to keep talking about them.

I would encourage you to do this too, if you read this after All Saints Day and didn't do, make some time to do it another day.

Just a few days later we will of course pause again to remember those who laid down their lives defending our way of life. **Remembrance Sunday** has been part of life since I was 5 or 6 marching with the BB and sitting in a cold, cold church. Back then I had no idea what I was really doing I guess but it's become such an important time. It's always been a huge part of our lives hasn't it, pausing wherever we are on the 11th at 11.00 a.m. and being part of the many community services at Cenotaphs up and down our land.

As Christians it is important that we are part of this corporate remembrance but it is important too that we do not lose sight of the gospel imperative to seek justice, peace and hope at all times, to offer a counter cultural message of love for all, even our enemies. As Christians that is non-negotiable.

So this month remember and of course shed a tear or two, remember and thank God for all that He has given us in the past. Pray and be still remembering not just those who have gone before us, but those who laid down their lives that we might be free. And in all of it never lose sight of the hope that holds us fast, that nothing can ever separate us from God.

Rev' d Joe

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

Like Joe - I too think that the Harvest Festival service is one of my favourite dates in our church calendar. This year was no exception. As always the flowers looked absolutely beautiful, and the ladies that spent so much time on putting these together, and decorating our church, must take the credit for the final result, that contributed to how really lovely the church looked. In the week coming up to that Sunday, I was talking to a friend, who worships at another church, and she was very upset and disappointed because in her view there were no harvest hymns that she knew - the hymns were all very dull, and certainly nothing that reflected the joy and pleasure of harvest festivals. Well certainly Wimpole Road came up trumps as usual! We sang all our favourite hymns with absolute gusto, and Peter clapped louder than ever, after the choir had sung the introit. Any cash collections that day were donated to our Make Lunch project, which is so well used, and also to the Community Pantry, which again is within our church, and seeks to provide items for people in need within New Town.

I was very interested to know that Joe, Andrew and Christine, went into St. George's School on 17th October Monday morning, to take the harvest assemblies. They took 3 in all, 1 at the infants and 2 at the juniors. I am told that all went really well and the 600 children in total were well behaved and attentive, lots of hands up to answer the questions and give their ideas of who or what we should be thankful for. Food and mums seemed to be the 2 most popular answers! I am told that Andrew and Chris played the parts of the 'glamorous assistants' and Joe did all the hard work, (but I am sure Joe would be the first to say how blessed he felt to have their presence there to assist.) The theme was The Harvest of Love, and it was explored that, if you are kind to others, even those you don't know well or like very much, how much more love and kindness we actually end up with ourselves. That's what God made us for and there is more than enough of his love to go round for everyone.

The next venture is the 5th December when the children will come to Wimpole Road for an Advent assembly - I am sure we will be looking forward to it.

Since a recent talk, I have been asking myself, what do I do, or what have any of us done about Climate Change, which is happening as we speak, and having very serious impact and devastation upon our world? (Having spoken to some in our area, I know that there are many people out there who **are** making a pledge to change their current lifestyle to a simpler one). Sally Crafer - one of our newly appointed local preachers was the leader at our service recently, and she delivered thought provoking, informative short talks on Climate Change, which certainly made me, sit up and think 'Are you doing anything about Climate Change and the prevention of?' I have, since that days service thought much about what was said, and I certainly admit I am guilty of not doing my bit as much as I can, and as often as I can. She certainly gave us food for thought. Two of the hymns chosen on that day were 727 and 729, and I would commend you to look at the sentiments within those hymns.

Below, are some of the suggestions how we can do our bit and perhaps be prepared to commit to add our efforts to try and halt the current damage that's being done to Gods creation.

I refer to the words of William Wilberforce, who wrote about the wonderful creation that was made for us by God.

"In the beginning there was nothing, and out of nothing you fashioned a universe, so vast, so unimaginable that we can only sigh with amazement and wonder, when we stare upwards on a starlit night. And within this place of beauty that you created, you positioned the earth, you populated it, provided for it, and designed for it to be a place of beauty. Creator God, we thank you."

We know that we have badly damaged this creation that was created by the Lord. We are very aware that we are now running out of time. Let us in our prayers ask for help and guidance in doing all we can to make our church at Wimpole Road, a beacon of hope, to change our life style, and encourage others to do the same. Let us make this a safe place to live, for those who are climate refugees, for those in extreme poverty,

we know that very often these unhappy and dire circumstances can be caused by climate change, in different parts of the world in which we live.

Let us:

- Respect and protect green spaces
- Encourage the use of alternatives to plastic
- Cut consumption of waste
- Plant something
- Reduce energy use and bills
- Turn off some lights
- Turn off some taps
- Make our voice heard by the people who have the power to make public the terrible devastation and the damaging results of climate change to the masses.

There are many, many more ways of course that we are able to do; these things are in the power of most of us. Let us not forget:

The earth is the Lord's, and it is ours to enjoy.

Then our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and our future generations yet to come will be able to inherit the beautiful creation that started it all off.

The Stewards are now beginning to make preparation for the Christmas period in our church, when we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. As always it has been a busy time in our church year, with many events and occasions that we remember with joy, and some with sadness.

It has been a delight to see how 'networking' has flourished in our church at Wimpole Road; the Make Lunch Club, the Coffee Morning, the Uniform Exchange and other ventures. We give huge thanks to the group of church members and others who are, or have been part of this, and all others who have contributed in any way. We couldn't do this without you. We rejoice that our congregation continues to increase, and that we have welcomed friends who have recently come to join us for worship.

As always we remember people who are on our prayer list, or ones we know who are in need of prayers at this time; those who no longer are able to come to our church services, because of health or other reasons; for those who have been bereaved, and are still coping with the loss of a loved one.

Blessings to all
Margaret Clubb

CHRISTIAN THOUGHT OF THE DAY

If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, 'Thank you,' that would suffice.
Meister Eckhart

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our last meeting in September was a Quiz Afternoon. It was well attended and everyone worked hard trying to answer the questions! We were able to raise £65.10 for 'Stand by Me'. Thank you to everyone who participated.

October began with a chance to meet the new Superintendent, Rev. Chris Preece. Again there was a good attendance and we appreciated hearing about her Christian journey so far. It was very moving to hear her sing two hymns, (accompanying herself very ably on the piano) that had been influential in her journey.

The following week saw a return visit by Peter Jones – this time to talk about the very interesting subject of 'The Great Essex Earthquake'. Peter will be back again in April to tell the background of the making of the classic 1938 documentary 'Night Mail', including a screening of the film.

Next Sharon Mooney returned with a talk on the 'Town Sergeants of Colchester'. She had been asked to research the identity of Colchester's only female Town Sergeant known only from a photograph. Sharon with her usual enthusiasm and tenacity had sussed out her story.

The month ended with me talking about my life growing up on Balkerne Hill in the 1950's and 60's. This was well received and there was much laughter. For anyone who wasn't able to be present, I would be prepared to loan you a copy of my script to read in the comfort of your own home.

Coming up:

- 10 November** For Remembrance time a visit by Peter Mockford to talk on 'Women in War'.
- 17 November** A Concert by the 'Concorde Singers', a choir with a very good reputation, so it should be a great afternoon. I understand there are 15 in the choir, so it would be good for the audience to outnumber them Please come if you can and bring a friend!
- 24 November** Carol Ann Harvey will read her poetry. She comes to the Coffee Morning and three volumes of her poetry can be purchased on Amazon – royalties go to the homeless. Please encourage her!
- 1 December** 'Christmas Fun' – the first of our Christmas events. This one deals with things associated with Christmas (e.g. Rudolph, cracker jokes, Santa) but which are not about the birth of Jesus.

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

Joan Gomer - Secretary

Spirit of God, you are the breath of creation,
The wind of change that blows through our lives,
Opening us up to new dreams and new hopes, new life in Jesus.

Forgive us our closed minds,
Which barricade themselves against new ideas,
Preferring the past to what you might want to do through us tomorrow.

Forgive us our closed eyes
Which fail to see the needs of your world,
Blind to opportunities of service and love.

Forgive us our closed hands
Which clutch our gifts and our possessions,
For our own use alone.

Forgive us for our closed hearts
Which limit our affections to ourselves and to our own.

Spirit of new life, forgive us
And break down the prison walls of our selfishness,
That we might be open to your love and open for the service of your world.

Amen

REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING CONCERT

Boxted Methodist Silver Band will be supporting the Remembrance and Thanksgiving Concert by Lexden Choral Society, at St. Botolph's Church on 12th November at 7.30 pm.

The first half will feature extracts from Handel's Messiah, Little Jazz Mass by Bob Chilcott and Requiem by Brahms plus Cantique de Jean Racine by Foure. The second half will feature some Boxted favourites and Hymn to the Fallen from 'Saving Private Ryan'. There will then be a 'Last Night of the Proms', with audience participation, and the Act of Remembrance.

Tickets £15 (£8 under 18/full-time student)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

All those known to us who are currently in hospital or a hospice; waiting for an operation or have ongoing health problems.

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

6 November	Ron Firmin
13 November 10.45 a.m.	Rev. Paul Howes - Remembrance Sunday
20 November	Joanne Eckersley
27 November	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

A HYMN FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Grant peace, O Lord, across our strife-torn world,
Where war divides and greed and dogma drive.
Help us to learn the lessons from the past,
That all are human and all pay the price.
All life is dear and should be treated so;
Joined, not divided, is the way to go.

Protect, dear Lord, all who, on our behalf,
Now take the steps that place them in harm's way.
May they find courage for each task they face
By knowing they are in our thoughts always.
Then, duty done and missions at an end,
Return them safe to family and friends.

Grant rest, O Lord, to those no longer with us;
Who died protecting us and this their land.
Bring healing, Lord, to those who, through their service,
Bear conflict's scars on body or in mind.
With those who mourn support and comfort share.

Give strength to those who for hurt loved-ones care.
And some there be who no memorial have;
Who perished are as though they'd never been.
For our tomorrows their today they gave,
And simply asked that in our hearts they'd live.
We heed their call and pledge ourselves again,
At dusk and dawn - we will remember them!



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.

Why not send a Christmas message to your church friends?

The post boxes will be in the Vestibule for Christmas cards, as in previous years.

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