



December 2022

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams
Mob: 0798 541 7000

I'm writing this newsletter piece just a couple of days after the death of our much loved friend David Ablewhite.

David, like many of you, gathered at the Crematorium to stand with Doug Broom as he said goodbye to his wife Paul. It was there that he fell ill and despite the best efforts of paramedics and the hospital medical staff he died later that day.

I am like you I guess full of emotions that range from anger to sad to glad.

I'm angry that even though we know the love of God - this evil that is death breaks in and rips so much pain into our hearts.

I'm so sad that David has left us but I am not sad for him; he has gone home to heaven, the embrace of his Saviour and to his beloved Jean.

I am glad that this all happened with David comforted by so many of his good friends sitting with him in worship. That he knew the deep love of his family and his friends to the end.

I'm desperately sad for Alison and Terry, for Juliet, Jon, Susan and their families. David was such a good friend to us, a beloved member of our congregation, but for them he was the living beating heart of their families, a Brother, a Dad and Grandpa they adored.

We will continue to pray for them and the families of others who have died this year including dear Pauline Broom, whose husband Doug who has settled so well back into the life of our church these last few years.

All of this sorrow is difficult, especially as the nights draw in on us, and that makes me gladder for the Christmas Trees and lights that adorn our homes, churches and towns. Those little lights calling us to remember the hope of eternity breaking through on us just like the Advent candles in church, flickering light in the midst of sorrow and the dark.

Jesus came when the world was dark and difficult, into a country occupied by the Romans.

God breathing hope once again into people overwhelmed by deepest sorrow just as God always does even if we sometimes cannot sense that loving presence.

God revealing grace and peace enough for all creation for all eternity in the most unlikely and ridiculous way, in the life of a child born to poor parents soon to be refugees.

This wintertime, this Christmas, it is the light of that God I long for. The God whose love and light shone through our friends Pauline Broom and David and countless others who have graced our lives and who we miss every day.

I long for the light to break through for those trapped in long days of grief and those trapped in homes that are cold. I long for the light and hope of God and his people and I feel privileged to be here at Wimpole Road longing for that because I know I will meet our God in your faces and lives.

May God grant peace and hope to us, and may the light of all heaven shine brightly in us as surely as it did in David, and most definitely does right now in the bright vastness of joyful heaven.

I wish you a peaceful Christmas.

Rev'd Joe



NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

Advent is here - how quickly the year seems to pass! Our plans for this Christmas season are coming together; the Christmas trees have been delivered from our good friend Tim Smith at Boxted; we can confirm that Boxted Band will once again delight us with their music for the Carol Service on Sunday 18th December at 6.30 p.m. We have also invited the St. George's School to attend for an Advent Assembly on Monday 5th December. It's always such a joy to see the church full of young faces and hearing their enthusiastic responses to our questions. This year we are looking forward to Paul leading this exciting experience, not just once, but three times one after the other!

Paul will also be leading our Christmas Day Service at 10.30 a.m. He invites anyone who will be at the Christmas Day service to bring with them one of their unopened Christmas presents. He assures them that it is not to be given away! There will be a Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion at 4 p.m. which will be led by Joe.

We continue to maintain our working links with St. Stephen's Church with our weekly Three Together Facebook worship on Sundays at 6.30 p.m. and they are coming to Wimpole Road to share and participate in the Carol Service.

The Coffee Mornings on Wednesdays are usually well attended and we are extending the hours to provide a 'Warm Space' for anyone to come and use our facilities and share in fellowship. If we were able we would like to start another opportunity for 'Warm Space' on a Tuesday but are struggling for volunteers. If anyone would like to help, please let us know - you will be very welcome.

Thursday Circle meets on Thursdays at 2.30 p.m. with a varied programme of speakers and activities. January is their quiet month as the weather is often unfriendly, so they kick off the New Year on Feb 2nd with Rev. Joe.

All are welcome to join with us for any of the above (except 5th December for obvious reasons) along with our usual Sunday morning worship at 11 a.m.

Peace and Joy to you this season,

Chris tine Firmin

CHRISTIAN THOUGHT OF THE DAY FOR CHRISTMAS

"All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ."

2022 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Once again we have produced a Christmas card for distribution around the community which, as well as wishing everybody a happy Christmas, also lists our various Christmas services.

We should have cards in the vestibule from Sunday 4 December, bundled into roads ready for distribution between this date and Friday 16 December ahead of the carol singing that evening and other services (including the joint Carol Service at Wimpole Road) from Sunday 18 December.

Your support in delivering these locally would be greatly appreciated.

This is a wonderful way that we are able to wish all our neighbours across the community a Happy Christmas, whilst also providing them with details of our Christmas services.

CAROL SINGING FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER

Once again we will be carol singing around the local streets in New Town and you are invited to join with the merry band of singers! This is becoming something of a tradition now and is always well received. Don't worry if you aren't 'pitch perfect' - you are still very welcome. Please come along and enjoy an evening of sharing the good news in song.

We meet at **St. Stephen's Church at 5:45 p.m. to start at about 6.p.m.**

OVER 60'S LUNCH CLUB AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

**Monday 12 December
from midday for 12:30 lunch**

A special Christmas Treat!

If you are interested in coming along please give Jill a ring on (01206) **572605**.
Booking is essential for catering purposes.

Two courses will be served with tea or coffee to follow for a charge of **£5**.
Dietary needs can be catered for if known in advance.

Many thanks from The Lunch Club Team

THURSDAY CIRCLE

November began with Margaret Clubb showing some more of her skills and talents, this time as interviewer and commentator when Princess Diana opened the Day Centre at the St. Helena Hospice. Thanks to Edward and Andrew for their help with the 'technology'.

The next week in preparation for the season of Remembrance, Peter Mockford talked about 'Women in War'. It reminded us of the many roles women fulfilled in the two World Wars; some like munitions work affecting their health and sometimes costing their lives in huge explosions.

On 17 November there was a very good attendance when the 'Concorde Singers' gave us a pleasant afternoon of a variety of songs. There were nine in the choir, plus the musical director and accompanist. We were able to give a donation of £73 (Thursday Circle funds enhanced by contributions). Thanks to all who contributed and to Rev. Christine Shillaker for arranging the concert.

For our final week in November Carol Ann Harvey read her poetry to us. It was on a variety of styles and subjects, some unimportant – (like the fate of the last banana at the bottom of the fruit bowl) and some very serious (women's abuse and child trafficking for instance). Carol Ann and Frankie (her ever-hopeful dog) are regulars at the Coffee Mornings and she regularly listens to 'Three Together' on Facebook.

Coming up for December:

8 December Our Carol Service – everyone welcome!

15 December Our Christmas Meal at the 'Gardener's Retreat' in Stanway.

We will then be taking a break until 2 February!

Joan Gomer - Secretary

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Douglas Broom following the recent death of his wife, Pauline.

The families and friends of David Ablewhite, who died suddenly on 28 November.

All those known to us who have ongoing health problems.

{Ed: Alison and family wish to extend their grateful thanks to David's church friends for all the messages of support and prayers they have received.}

PEACE CHILD

Peace child
In the sleep of the night
In the dark before light
You come,
In the silence of the stars
In the violence of the wars -
Saviour, your name.

Peace child,
To the road and the storm
To the gun and the bomb
You come,
Through the hate and the hurt,
Through the hunger and the dirt -
Bearing a dream.

Peace child,
To our dark and our sleep
In the conflict we reap
Now come -
Be your dream born alive,
Held in hope, wrapped in love:
God's true shalom.

{Taken from the 'Magnet' magazine}

A PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father

As the days of Advent draw us on towards Christmas
we wait for the coming of the Christ child
who brings light to our darkened world and love into our hearts again.

We pray for dear Church friends, those in hospital or in care homes,
some being looked after by carers at home
and we pray for those who miss or mourn for a loved one at this time.

So as we pray for the Christ child to come, we say:
Come Lord Jesus
Come into our homes
Come into our lives
Come and stay. Amen

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT
by **REV. DAN** at **ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH**

‘God gives us His All, so can we, offer Our All this Christmas?’

‘For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace’. Isaiah 9: 6

Autumn with all its beauty and colour is passing; winter will soon be upon us. The Advent season has begun signalling a fresh journey to Bethlehem. Are you prepared for the journey? Advent celebrates the approaching light, Jesus, the light of the world coming among us. It is a time of preparation and a time of reflection, a time that is both disturbing, as it is thrilling. During this time, we are drawn into making a new personal and corporate journey coming together with our King Jesus in Worship.

Are you currently prevented from being fully invested in these precious days of Advent? We may feel overwhelmed by financial pressure, time stretched and stressed with multiple tasks to complete. This can be a time of great pressure, normal life plus gift buying the ‘to do lists’ can be many and there is only a few days before the Christmas celebrations begin.

Perhaps there is a greater emphasis on celebrating this year – after all the last two Christmases have been overshadowed by Covid - and who knows what state the economy will be in next year.

Well, I think that is the story of Christmas. God gives ‘His all’ trusting a handful of risk takers to give ‘their all,’ - the risk takers were people who were open enough to let God distract, challenge, and ultimately change them forever.

Mary, a young teenage girl who receives an unexpected visitor bearing news that was at the same time disturbing and thrilling - *‘me the bearer of the Saviour: How can this be? Why me? I am not worthy...’* Then that same news shared with Joseph; a disturbing secret, shattering moment of great fear and concern that could destroy Mary and the child, causing too a great humiliation for Joseph.

The rough and tough shepherds disturbed by an angel in their fear and trembling found courage to ask, *“How could it be? Whose child, is he?”* Even in the business of tending their flocks they were willing to respond.

The Magi, (astrologers) discover a new star, disturbing and thrilling news indeed. A new star was a sign of a major event or new authority coming upon the world.

Ultimately the news of Jesus’ coming sent a shock through the political and religious authorities of the day. An anxious Herod knew that a new challenger King had been born. The religious leaders of the time understood well the scriptures and the prophetic nature of this event. They too, would have exhibited the sweat of concern. *“What will it mean for us today? What of our religious leaders and governmental authorities?”*

History proves that disturbing news is never welcome but always brings with it the possibility of a greater hope and light:

- Mary, young and favoured, was totally obedient even in fear. *“Here I am the servant of the Lord; let it be according to your word.”*
- Joseph, righteous before God ‘awoke from sleep, and did all the Angel of the Lord commanded.’
- The Shepherds leave all they have to be the first to see and tell of this wonder – Jesus the Christ child - God born into the world.
- The Magi from the East came asking, *‘Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews?’* They were obedient and travelled far to worship the new born King Jesus.

Herod and the authorities both had the freedom and opportunity to worship Jesus, but they chose darkness instead of light, seeking to kill him as a child and failing. But their ultimate greed and lust for power and control lead them to achieve their goal some thirty years later.

What for us today? Two thousand years ago, God called a few ordinary people to give ‘their all,’ so that ‘His all’ may be given, and once received used willing to transform a broken world. This is the story we know well and are called to live out each day of our lives, and more so as we celebrate Christmas this year.

Let us be willing in the business to give ‘our all’ this Christmas time, and to be a Christ light to our world and each other. May the peace and grace that we have each received, be part of our giving to others.

May God’s peace and blessings be with you and among you always.

Rev’d. Dan

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

Pauline and Martin wish all friends a Happy Christmas and healthy New Year. They will not however be sending individual cards but will make a donation to charity.

Jeanette, Anthony and family would like to wish all our friends at Wimpole Road a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Graham Chapman sends his best wishes to his friends at Wimpole Road for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

‘BUT’

We have such a clever world -fantastic!
But, we have gone too far.
For instance – that great invention plastic,
now polluting seas, clogging earth – a scar!

Busy traffic, lorries with their heavy loads,
Skies filled with planes, rockets to the moon!
Marvellous! **But** toxic fumes up in the air, down on our roads,
our atmosphere is heating up too soon.

Yes ‘climate change’, ‘global warming’, floods and fires.
Homes destroyed, wild lives habitats lost.
Are our governments cross-wired?
But, at what a tragic cost?

World wars watched on the news every year.
Displaced people fleeing – refugees.
Tremendous numbers now we hear
risking their lives upon our seas.

Nuclear power, brings nuclear waste!
Fracking, drilling beneath the oceans,
mining – hollowing out the earth’s creations.
But, what change can we put in motion?

We can’t revert to ‘caveman’ style
But, our world is quickly dying.
Everyone must stop and think a while,
because, on us, our children are relying.

Pat Farrow

CHRISTMAS BIBLE VERSES

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." **John 3:16.**

“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him.” **John 1:9-10**

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” **Romans 15:13**

HALL AVAILABILITY FROM THE 1ST DECEMBER 2022

Just to let everyone know, in future when arranging meetings etc. in Wimpole Road Halls, do to us being fortunate to have agreed some extra lettings, **the following days and times are the only ones available:**

Mondays	Afternoons Only
Tuesdays	Mornings and up to 2.30 pm .only
Wednesdays	Evenings Only
Thursdays	Mornings and Evenings only
Fridays	Evenings Only after 7.30 p.m.
Saturdays	Other than Private Party Bookings these are available.

I'm sorry if this causes any problems, but we need the lettings to keep our finances in hand. We cannot afford as a Church to keep on taking £20,000.00 every year from our legacy fund to keep the Church running.

We want to use these funds for the upkeep of our Property, Worship, Mission and Community work.

Any questions, please see me. Thank you.

Edward Pentney

A FEW CHRISTMAS CRACKER JOKES

What lies at the bottom of the sea and shivers? - A nervous wreck.

What did the fish say when he swam into a wall? - Dam.

What do you call a crate of ducks? - A box of quackers.

What animals need oiling? - Mice, because they squeak.

Where do snowmen go to dance? - Snowballs.

Why can't the car play football? - Because it's only got one boot
"Waiter, what's this fly doing in my soup?" "The breast stroke, sir".

Why was the onion crying? - Because he accidentally cut himself.

Where does Tarzan buy his clothes from? - A jungle sale.

Who delivers presents to bay sharks at Christmas? - Santa Jaws.

{Forwarded by Joan Gomer}

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

4 December	Rev. Joe Adams
11 December	Rev. Dr. Marion Cole
18 December	Jonathan Sparkes
18 December 6.30 p.m.	Family Carol Service with Boxted Band
24 December 4.00 p.m.	Rev. Joe Adams - Holy Communion
25 December 10.30 a.m.	Rev. Paul Howes - Christmas Day 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.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR LOCAL CHURCHES

Please Feel Welcome to Join us at any of the Events

Friday 16 December - Community Carol Singing (meet at St Stephen's at 5:45 pm)

Sunday 18 December - Crib & Christmas Tree Service at St. Stephen's at 11:00 am

Sunday 18 December - Carol Service at Wimpole Road at 6:30 pm with
Boxted Methodist Silver Band

Thursday 22 December - Carol Service at St. Leonard's the Hythe at 7:00 pm

Saturday 24 December - Holy Communion at Wimpole Road at 4:00 pm

Saturday 24 December - Midnight Mass at St. Stephen's at 11:00 pm

Sunday 25 December - Christmas Day service at Wimpole Road at 10:30 am

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.

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

Tel: (01206) 869505 or e-mail: alison.ablewhite@btinternet.com
