



March 2023

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams

Mob: 0798 541 7000

March is another busy month for us here at Wimpole Road as we travel through Lent.

Lent is such an important season in the Christian life. It used to be a time of fasting and self discipline as Christians prepared their hearts and minds for Easter and a recalling of their own baptism.

In the very early Church those yet to be baptised received serious instruction, and prepared sometimes for up to two years, during which their faith and commitment was proved by life. The final part of that journey was always through Lent before they were a part of a big baptism celebration at Easter.

These days our Lent experience is different. We tend to use Lent each year to build up the journey of Jesus as he sets his face towards Jerusalem. Sometimes reflecting on that journey we give up something like chocolate or take on something like committing to read a book or attend a study group.

This year at Wimpole Road we are journeying back to linking Lent with Baptism. We have great joy as a congregation around the forthcoming baptism and confirmation on Sunday 19th of March, as Sonia and Dave are welcomed. Sonia's baptism will be followed by confirmation for her and Dave and then they will be welcomed into the local church. Can I encourage you to pray for Sonia and Dave as they prepare for what is a huge step in their faith journey and join in welcoming them both on the 19th March.

We have two young boys being baptised the first week after Easter. It will be another great joy to welcome Katie and Joshua and their sons Henry and Edward as they come forward to be baptised. I know you will pray for the family too as we approach that wonderful joyous day for them and be there to celebrate with them on the 16th April. It is always one of the real highlights of ministry for any Church to have people choose to join our Church family.

There are others reading this Newsletter today who we would love to have opted in and be received into membership. Membership of the Methodist Church is important; it has been for those of us who are members - a big part of our discipleship and journey with Jesus through the ups and downs of life. This Lent as you reflect on Jesus setting his face towards Jerusalem perhaps, following Sonia and Dave, you might be challenged to hear this call to membership for yourself.

May God bless you with a good Lent in which your faith deepens.

Rev'd Joe

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

Spring has arrived and it is so lovely to see the flowers and blossoms starting to bloom. We are now in the period of Lent and the six week Lent Study course has begun on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. hosted by our Three Together Churches at the home of Rev. Jackie Sams and Wimpole Road (further details are in this Newsround).

We are also grateful to our Worship Leaders who will share their Lent thoughts at each Sunday service during this time.

Looking ahead, our Church General Meeting will be held on Sunday 11 June when all offices held within the Church are re-elected and we are looking for Stewards to join our team! As a relative newcomer to the role of Steward, I would encourage any of our congregation to consider this as you will be part of a very welcoming and supportive team. If anyone would like to know more, please ask any member of the Stewards team who will be happy to answer any questions.

Just a reminder that offertory bags are no longer being circulated during the service and will instead be at the back of the church for donations to be placed there before the service begins. These will then be brought forward to be blessed during the course of the service. Thank you to Anthony Gutteridge for making the wooden stands.

Please remember in your prayers all those who are struggling in these difficult times, including those with concerns about their health or facing financial difficulties.

God Bless

Juliet Balls

THURSDAY CIRCLE

We returned from our break on 2 February, when our minister Joe came and told us the background to several well-known hymns, and we then sang a verse from each.

The following week Brian Carline, author, broadcaster and after-dinner speaker, gave us a very witty talk entitled, 'Soil, Sweat and Tears' – about gardening. We all laughed a lot and had a most enjoyable afternoon. I am hoping to book him for another talk in the autumn.

Thursday 16 February was our AGM, presided over by Rev. Joe. It was good to look back at what we had achieved during the year and also to look forward. Afterwards we sang a few favourite hymns.

Our final meeting for February was a Beetle Drive. It is some years since we had one at Thursday Circle and it proved to be good fun! There was a lot of noise from the dice being rattled and shouts of laughter or despondency. Several times the dice ended up on the floor, once even under the piano! Debbie was the winner of the prize for best overall score and the 'booby' prize was won by Ann.

Coming up:

9 March No afternoon meeting, instead we meet at **7.00 p.m.** when Gunni Graygoose will put us through a fun evening of seated activities.

16 March Quiz afternoon in aid of East Anglian Children's Hospice. A very worthwhile cause, so please come and support us if you can. Maximum of 6 per team, entrance £2 and small prizes for the winners.

23 March Another chance to hear Pat Farrow reading her poetry.

30 March A return visit by Roy Waters giving a further instalment in his life growing up in the Dutch Quarter.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us on **Thursday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.**

Joan Gomer – Secretary

A THOUGHT FOR LENT

As we travel along the Lenten road we remember how Jesus set his face towards Jerusalem and followed the path to the cross.

We think of the many people who Jesus met, people just like us - people who try their best but sometimes do foolish things; people who can be thoughtless; people with faults and failings.

We remember that Jesus gave his very self for us and for our forgiveness.

We pray that we will become the people Jesus wants us to be and that we can share ourselves and our love with him always.

AND DEATH IS ONLY AN HORIZON...

We seem to give them back to you O God,
Who gave them to us;
Yet as you did not lose them in giving,
So do we not lose them by their return.
You do not give as the world gives;
What you give, you do not take away – for
What is yours is ours, if we are yours.

And life is eternal,
And love is immortal,
And death is only an horizon,
And an horizon is nothing,
Save the limit of our sight.

Lift us up strong Son of God, that we may see further,
Cleanse our eyes that we may see you more clearly.
Draw us closer to yourself that we may know ourselves
Nearer to our loved ones, who are with you.

And, while you prepare a place for us,
Prepare us for that place;
That where you are,
We may be also for evermore.
Amen

Written by the famous English Benedictine priest, The Venerable Bede (673-735)

LETTER OF THANKS FROM ‘STAND BY ME’

Dear Friends at Wimpole Road Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation towards the work of Stand by Me, raised from your Harvest collections and the Quiz Night held by the Ladies Group. We greatly value your support and generosity.

This year we welcomed 82 new children into the Open Arms Academy; a school where children now receive food, healthcare, family support and a quality education, to hopefully change their futures.

It is thanks to your care and support that we can help every child to reach their potential. Thank you for helping our children know the transforming love of God in their lives.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Cope Office Manager

COLCHESTER SOUP RUN

The Churches across Colchester are once again united and coming together to resurrect this much needed community outreach. It will be based from Eld Lane Baptist Church and initially on a Saturday evening between 6:45 and 7:45 pm. The 4th Saturday of the month, is allocated for Wimpole Road and Lion Walk alternately to take responsibility. This will entail either making sandwiches or to actually go on the 'Soup Run' to serve them, along with hot drinks and soup.

So far Wimpole Road has 5 volunteers, so **more are urgently needed**. If you think you might be able to help with this, either making sandwiches and / or serving them please can you speak to me. We commence at the end of March.

Donations of soup, tea, coffee and hot chocolate as well as money to purchase said items, are also much appreciated. Thank you.

Edward Pentney

PORTABLE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE TEST

The Property and Finance Committee have arranged for a PAT (Portable Electrical Appliance Test) session to take place at the Church on **Friday 24 March from approx 12.00 noon**.

If anyone has any portable electrical appliances that are kept on the premises and used on the premises, please see **Edward Pentney** so that arrangements can be made for them to be tested for safety on **24 March**.

IT WILL BE ILLEGAL FOR ANY APPLIANCE TO BE USED ON THE PREMISES, UNLESS IT HAS A SAFETY STICKER AUTHORISING IT TO BE USED ON THE PROPERTY AFTER THIS DATE.

Edward Pentney - Property and Finance Committee

LETTER OF THANKS FROM 'ACTION FOR CHILDREN'

Thank you for your recent donation of £294.54 on the 24/01/2023.

In 2021-22 we helped over 671,000 children, young people and their families. Our frontline workers were on the ground helping children and families through 447 services in local communities across the UK, in schools and online. Your support means that we can continue to build on these results to help more children.

Yours sincerely,

Chantelle Wills
Supporter Services Officer

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

Monday 13 March from midday for 12:30 lunch

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

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Connie Mercer's funeral is Tuesday 7 March 12.30 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church, followed by burial at Colchester Cemetery at 1.30 p.m. Reunited with Tony.

Alan Harvey, Katherine Harvey's Dad and Grandad to Kieran and Bradley who many of us will remember well, has recently passed away. His funeral will be at the Colchester Crematorium on Tuesday 14 March at 12:30 p.m.

Katherine has said that anybody who would like to attend would be most welcome. Please can we invite you to hold Katherine, Kieran, Bradley and the wider family in our prayers over this difficult time.

All those known to us who have ongoing health problems.

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

5 March	Local Arrangement
12 March	Ron Firmin
19 March	Rev. Joe Adams – Mothering Sunday
26 March	Rev. Chris Preece – Holy Communion

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS

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

LENT and EASTER 2023

Lent Course

6 week study starting at 7:30 pm, based upon the BBC TV series 'Broken' and hosted by our Three Together Churches at the home of Rev. Jackie Sams and Wimpole Road

2 March – week 2 at Wimpole Road

9 March – week 3 at Wimpole Road

16 March – week 4 at Jackie Sams' house

23 March – week 5 at Wimpole Road

30 March week 6 at Wimpole Road

Also a Quiet Day of reflection and meditation led by Rev. Jackie Sams, at her home on Saturday 18 March 10:00 am to 3:00 pm titled 'You are the Potter, I am the Clay'.

Holy Week (from Monday 3 April)

Monday – Wednesday a short vigil at 7:30 pm

Hosted on Monday at St. Margaret's, Tuesday at St. Stephen's and Wednesday at Wimpole Road

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at 7:30 pm at Wimpole Road

Good Friday

New Town Walk of Witness, starting with prayer at St. Stephen's at 10:00 and ending with refreshments at Wimpole Road

Prayer & Meditation at 2:00 pm at St. Margaret's

Easter Saturday Vigil at St. Stephen's at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday Celebration:

St. Margaret's 9:30 am

St. Stephen's at 11:00 am

Wimpole Road at 11:00 am

CHRISTIAN THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Peace: It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.

Author unknown



WORKING TOGETHER



PRAYER MEETING Tuesday 10.00 - 10.30 a.m.

Meeting number: 195 594 506 password 011904

JOINT BIBLE STUDY GROUP – please speak to Andrew Topples for more details

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

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk