



May 2023

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams

Mob: 0798 541 7000

EASTER AND THE SCARS

I find it encouraging that in the stories of Jesus appearing to his disciples at Easter he is recognisable.

Jesus came and stood among his disciples and said, "*Peace be with you*" - then he didn't try and hide the mark from the spear on his side. He didn't wear gloves or try to conceal anything.

Instead Jesus came and stood among his friends and said, "*Peace be with you*" - then he showed them his hands and his side.

He knew that he would be known by his wounds, which was clearly a choice.

He could have had a perfect glorious body after his terrible death but chose a new body with the scars that had tormented him and still told the story of the past.

Scars that shouted loudly of the state sanctioned violence and murder, scars that displayed the worst hate could do. Resurrection did not erase those marks of life and death but they did not define him either.

The scars tell the story that he overcame and is victorious, that God refused and will always refuse to be defined by violence.

I am convinced that the best way to know about the love of God is to look for those scars, those wounds of the violence and hate of the power crazed state, and the amazing response of grace in Jesus.

In Jesus scarred and yet risen we see a God who would rather die than be in the sin accounting business anymore.

How I wish we too would give up that pointless oppressive business of sin accounting in favour of the Jesus centred business of grace.

In Jesus the 'Scarred One' we see a God who did not lift a finger to condemn those who crucified him, and endured the hell of death rather than be separated even from his betrayers.

The God who will always refuse redemptive violence in favour of love, even for those who reject and crucify him over and over again.

We are strongest and most relevant as Christians and Church when we remember our wounded and victorious Jesus and point only to him.

The scarred God doesn't end there though.

The ridiculous truth about the resurrection story is that God chose another wounded scarred person, a woman with a past called Mary, to tell the resurrection story and be the first apostle.

When we don't hide our scars or our pain like Mary we too can find our lives and ministries most blessed and most powerful, because though we were and are broken and wounded we are more than that in God.

We are a people loved with a love stronger than death.

Our scars will always be part of our story and we shouldn't be ashamed of them because we know that they are signposts of Gods hope and love most easily recognisable and authentic to our community.

We know that our scars will never be the final chapter because of resurrection hope.

Which means that even when you feel trapped in your pain or fear the scars of your past are all there is to say about you, we can all know it's not the final word because there is no stone that God cannot roll away.

God bless you,

Rev'd Joe

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

Easter was at the beginning of April this year with a full programme of services up to and including Easter Day itself.

My mind went back to three years ago when we were in lockdown and the Easter celebrations were very much muted. Sometimes it is only when we are deprived of things that we realise how much we really value them. Following the end of restrictions it has been good to gradually get back to normal and yet to move on with new ways of working.

So this year it was great to see a good attendance of people celebrating the joy of the Resurrection, enthusiastically replying to the words, 'Christ is Risen', and singing the well known Easter hymns. The church had been stripped bare on Maundy Thursday but, due to the efforts of various people, by the Easter Day service on Sunday it was looking particularly beautiful.

We associate spring with new life and it has been good in recent weeks to welcome Sonia and Dave into church membership. If you regularly attend worship but are not a member, maybe it's time for you to think about taking that step. If so, do speak to our Minister or a Steward.

Another sign of new life was the baptism of Henry and Edward, two delightful little boys. Do keep this young family in your prayers in the days that lie ahead for them.

Spring also brings the hope of warmer weather as we look ahead to all that the coming months may promise.

In May we can look forward to Pentecost, when we unite with St. Stephen's for a service on the Recreation Ground. Perhaps the weather will be better than last year!

In July there will be the Church BBQ at Peter Broom's bungalow and also the Holiday Club, (a little earlier than usual).

On a personal note, in June I am due to be formally commissioned as a Worship Leader at Wimpole Road, and I thank everyone for the support I have received so far.

On a sad note, on Sunday 16 July we will say goodbye to Rev. Joe Adams and Dave. We will miss them but wish them well in their new stationing in the Midlands, closer to their families.

Do hold in your prayers our incoming Minister, Rev. Hannah Chun. This will be a new role for her and in the meantime she and her family will have lots of arrangements to make prior to her taking up duty in September.

Do pray for all our mid-week activities, that they will be times of fellowship, friendship and fun and ultimately bring people to know the Risen Christ.

With every blessing in Christ,

Joan Gomer

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our first meeting in April was a service for Maundy Thursday, when we sang, read and thought about the events of that first Maundy Thursday. We held a retiring collection for Save the Children, (specially chosen as it was one which meant a great deal to David Ablewhite), and raised £40. Thanks to all who contributed in any way.

The following Thursday was very different. There was a good attendance when Peter Jones gave us the background to the making of the documentary, 'Night Mail', about the Postal Sorting Train and he followed this by showing the film. This was our first use of the new screen and facilities in the Parlour and I am pleased to say it was most satisfactory.

On Sunday 16 April we had responsibility for the morning service. Members took part by singing with the Choir, leading the prayers, reading poems and from the Bible. Rev. Christine Shillaker, our guest speaker, gave an excellent talk. Thank you to everyone for making this such a memorable service.

On 20 April it was time for 16 members to enjoy a relaxing afternoon partaking of a Cream Tea in the Mercury Theatre restaurant.

For our final afternoon of the month we played 'Give Us a Clue'. Some members were initially rather wary about taking their turn to pass on a clue, but everyone had two turns and we had a lot of fun.

Coming up:

11 May Our Minister, Rev. Joe Adams, leaves the circuit in the summer and, sadly, this will be his last visit to our group.

18 May Quiz Afternoon to raise money for Christian Aid. Admission £2, maximum of 6 per table. Do come and join us if you are free.

25 May Jean Quinn will be telling us about her cycling adventures.

1 June John McCabe will talk to us about transport.

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

Joan Gomer – Secretary

SPRING IS HERE

It's time for the weeding,
then the hoeing and hoeing.
When our overgrown lawns
need the mowing and mowing.

The early spring flowers
are now growing and growing.
The soil's warming up,
it's time for the sowing and sowing.

Chilly, shrill winds
keep blowing and blowing.
The trees are all swaying
toing and froing.

So their blossoms
are falling and falling.
Soon summer will be
calling and calling.

Birds are busy nesting and nesting.
Animal Rights people are at horse racing,
protesting, protesting.
Police are out arresting, arresting.

Our world is still spinning and spinning.
Hopefully nature is winning, winning?

Pat Farrow

PAT FARROW - PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Following another enjoyable season of carpet bowls our friend Pat Farrow was voted as the Player of the Year.

Pat has turned in some match winning performances and has played many remarkable shots during the course of the season. Well done Pat! A well deserved winner.

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

Monday 15 May 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

A CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to church!
This is a happy place
- though we never forget that some among us may be sad.
This is a time to be serious
- though we're not afraid to laugh.
This is where we seek comfort
- though we expect sometimes to go home disturbed.
This is a human place
- though we often sense the presence of God.
This is a time to seek perfection in praise
- though we often fall short of our aim
This God's time and God's place
And God has called us here.

{From 'Called to Praise'}

RESTORATION STATION HOLIDAY CLUB 24 – 28 JULY

This is earlier than normal and we are we have already had a great response from people booking their children in; and in fact are already fully booked and I am now running a reserve list.

If your children would like to come along please email me at:
wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com with your child / children's names and I will add you to a reserve list and will be in touch with you if places become available.

If you are able to help during the week please can you let me know as soon as possible.

We are also after your help with collecting plastic bottles needed for the crafts. If you are able please can you collect and bring in used empty and washed out 2 and 4 pint plastic milk containers with their lids and also fizzy drinks and water bottles (again washed out with their lids please). Thank You.

Andrew Topple

TICKETS FOR CAR PARKING AT CASTLE

As you probably know, at Castle we offer tickets to park in our City Centre car park to church members around the Circuit. Those tickets are now up for renewal. Tickets are for occasional use only and not for all day parking. We don't have that many spaces! We have had to put up our charges slightly this year to £60, which still represents, to our mind, good value against the costs of parking elsewhere in the City.

If you require a ticket please see Norman Broom for details.

STAND BY ME IS HIRING!

Do you have a heart to see kids rescued from poverty and become everything they were created to be?

We are expanding our Romford office team and are excited to be looking for a **Finance Manager** and a **Communications Co-ordinator**. These full-time vacancies provide exciting opportunities for individuals to utilise their knowledge and skills to impact the lives of thousands of children worldwide.

For more information on these posts, including the full job descriptions and how to apply, please visit www.standby.me/jobs

THREE TOGETHER BIBLE STUDY

The next meeting of the Three Together Bible Study will be on **Thursday 25 May at 7:30 p.m. at Rev. Jackie Sam's home**. At this meeting we will be thinking about Pentecost (which is the following Sunday) and this will be led by Rev. Lorraine.

For the 4 months following this, Rev Jackie has agreed to lead a study on the book of Ruth, where we will read just one chapter each month and explore this in different ways.

It would be really lovely if you were able to come along and join this group and if you want any more information please speak to me.
Thank you.

Andrew Topple (Mob: 0780 394 3019)

A CORONATION PRAYER

Lord God, in your power you provide for your people
and rule over them in love:

Grant to your servant Charles, our King
the spirit of wisdom and government,
that being devoted to you with his whole heart,
he may so wisely govern,
that during his reign your church may be protected,
and Christian devotion may continue in peace;

that so persevering in good works to the end,
he may by your mercy enter your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.

CORONATION DAY 1953

I was too young to have any memories of Coronation day 1953, but my sister tells me that for her it was just a normal day at school, nothing out of the ordinary. At a later date the school took the pupils to the cinema to see a film of the Coronation.

As Thursday Circle Secretary I inherited an archive of papers from the early days of our predecessors, the Young Wives Group. As it was founded in 1948 I wondered recently what the archive revealed of how they celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation. Here's what I discovered:

There was a Coronation Supper on 28 May 1953. It was a fish supper.

On 14 May, two weeks earlier, a Beetle Drive was held with 73 tickets sold @ 1s.6d and 35 people paying 3d each towards the prizes purchased from Winsley Stores. This was a shop at the entrance to Winsley Square and long since demolished. It was run by the Simon family - Mrs Simon being one of the Young Wives. The prizes were a tin of chocolate toffees, a box of chocolates, two Mars bars and two lollies. It must have been rather noisy with so many people enthusiastically shaking dice and exclaiming in joy or disgust at the result, but a profit of £3.9s.9½d went towards the costs of the Coronation Supper.

For the Supper itself 75 tickets were sold @ 3/- each. So a lot of people to cater for and it must have been challenging keeping everyone's meal hot. Records don't say where the fish and chips were purchased but the total cost was £5.6s.3d, averaging out @ 1/5d per person, which fits with my memory of a bag of chips costing 6d in the 1960's. Some left over fish and chips were sold for £1.0s.3d.

Other expenses: fairly predictably tea, margarine, sugar but 11 tins of gooseberries @ 1/6½ each. Sweets, serviettes, 10 pints of milk (all these from Winsley Stores), 19 dozen bridge rolls from the Scotch Bakery (around 3 per person), ice cream, and caretaker (10/-). For prizes a pencil sharpener and a packet of pencils, both from Boots.

Afterwards £8 profit was given for church funds. Alf Farrow acknowledging receipt congratulated the members on how successful the Supper had been.

Joan Gomer

NAN HYMAS

Nan Hymas died at the end of March, a long time church member of Wimpole Road.

She recently celebrated her 100th birthday, which she enjoyed and her son thanks all those people at Wimpole Road who remembered her and signed her birthday card.

She also received a special card from King Charles III and the Queen Consort.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

All those known to us who have ongoing health problems.

It is with deep regret to share with you the sad news that Andrew King passed away peacefully in the early hours of Easter Sunday morning.

His funeral, celebrating his life, will take place on **Friday 26 May at 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Church.**

DIARY DATES

- Our next meeting to discuss '**Dreaming About the Future**', will be held at **Wimpole Road on Wednesday 24 May at 7.00 p.m.**
Please come along if possible - we look forward to seeing you there, as your input is needed. *The Church Stewards and Joe.*
- **Sunday 26 May 11.00 a.m. Pentecost Service with St. Stephen's on the Recreation Ground**
- **Saturday 3 June 11.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. Arts and Crafts Fayre at St. Stephen's Church Centre.** Free entry
- **New Town Open Gardens - Sunday 11 June.** St. Stephen's will open their Church to support this community event and serve refreshments etc. during the afternoon. There will be a talk during the afternoon in the Worship Area by Rowhedge Owl Rescue and hopefully live music. All welcome
- **Sunday 18th June - General Church Meeting** – this will follow the shorter morning service, and will be led and chaired by Rev. Joe Adams. Please remain for this important meeting – refreshments afterwards as usual.
- **Circuit Farewell Service for Rev. Joe Adams. Sunday 16 July from 6 p.m.** (Light refreshments served from 5 p.m.) Boxted Band will be taking part at Joe's request. It will be fantastic to have a full church to say farewell to Joe and Dave – we look forward to a special service.
- **Church BBQ** at Peter Broom's house **Thursday 20 July from 4 p.m.** (further information nearer the date)
- **Restoration Station Holiday Club 24 – 28 July** (see page 6 for details)
- **Welcome Service for Rev. Hannah Chun, her husband Yoon and family. Friday 1 September at 7.30 p.m. at Wimpole Road.**
This is a Circuit Service and light refreshments will be served after the service.

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

7 May	Local Arrangement / Easter Offering
14 May	Rev. Paul Howes / Holy Communion
21 May	Local Arrangement
28 May	Rev. Joe Adams – Pentecost Service with St. Stephen's on the Recreation Ground

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.

A SEASONAL RECIPE

What's second to a good old brew?
I'll tell you, it's a warming stew.
During winter months and early spring
when little robin redbreasts sing,
on goes the saucepan, on the hob,
diced meat and veggies does the job!

You can throw almost anything in a stew –
it's kind of like a witches brew
(not eye of toad or tail of newt!)
But carrots, swede, dumplings made with suet.
Beef or lamb or chicken diced,
mixed herbs and peppers to get it spiced.

Parsnips, onions (of course) frozen peas as well –
chick peas and lentils to make it swell.
A good stock cube – give it a stir,
then leave to simmer for over half an hour.
You'll then walk outside with a rosy glow,
your body warmed from head to toe!

Pat Farrow

THE HEALING MAN

Where is the healing man?
The last time that I passed this way
a thousand people stood to pray.
Gave thanks for fish and bread.
We listened to him by the sea,
to stories meant for you and me –
they had the common touch.

Where is the healing man?
I saw him cure a limping man,
gave sight by laying on his hands,
the children touched his heart,
“*Be like these*”, I heard him say,
so as I passed through here today
I thought I’d look for him.

You want the healing man?
My friend the healing man is dead.
They whipped him, jammed thorns upon his head,
to mock him as a king.
They nailed him to a cross,
just like a murderer, or a common thief.
While at his feet, torn by grief,
his mother watched him die.

But he cheated death.
Walked from his tomb and found his friends.
Told them, “*Your lives will never end. You’ll be with me in heaven*”.
And so my friend, we’re strong.
We’ll tell these stories, spread the word,
‘til everyone on earth has heard
about our healing man.

Norma Peckston

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

As the sun rises, Lord, Let your light shine on me. Destroy the darkness about me,
Scatter the darkness before me, Disperse the darkness behind me, Dispel the darkness
within me. Let your light shine on me. As the sun rises, Lord, Let your light shine on
me. The warmth of your Presence, The brightness of your love, The radiance of your
joy, The shining of your hope. Let your light shine on me. As the sun rises, Lord, Let
your light shine on me. Your light to guide, Your light to lead, Your light to direct,
Your light to brighten. Let your light shine on me.

{Found on: Power Lines: Celtic Prayers About Work by David Adam}



WORKING TOGETHER



PRAYER MEETING Tuesday 10.00 - 10.30 a.m.

Meeting number: 195 594 506 password 011904

JOINT BIBLE STUDY GROUP – (see page 7 or speak to Andrew Topple)

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

