



July 2023

**Minister: Rev. Joe Adams**  
**Mob: 0798 541 7000**

It was the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination last Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Together with my year of students, from Queens College in Birmingham, we were received into Full Connexion at Southport Conference - when Ministers, both Deacons and Presbyters (Ministers of word and sacrament) enter ceremonially into covenant relationship with the Methodist Conference. At the heart of this mutual relationship, made possible through God's grace, both the Ministers and the Conference have privileges and responsibilities.

Later that day I was ordained at Birkenhead Methodist Church - for me the most special part of the day. During that service the congregation say on behalf of the whole Church as loudly as possible '*They are worthy*' and it meant so much.

Including my probation years, that means I have been honoured and blessed beyond my wildest dreams to serve as one of Mr Wesley's Preachers and Ministers for 26 years.

Those years training. and even more in these long years of serving the church. I have found that mission and church is really not that complicated as long as you work locally, listen and share hospitality with your community. Whenever Churches have embraced that ethos during my Ministry they have grown, but sadly in every area there have been some Churches and people who refused to embrace hospitality and all inclusive radical love, and they have dwindled and in quite a few cases closed. It has been a joy to watch Wimpole Road prosper; God has been good to us.

We can have our grand schemes and over arching big visions from Connexion, District or Circuit, but none of it is worth a 'hill of beans' if we don't do the basics right locally.

In Methodism the local Church Council is the primary director of mission and worship and we should never forget that, because the kingdom comes and the church does its loving missional job if we get the basics of welcome and love right locally.

On my recent retreat with the Northumbria Community back in May I met Isaac (not his real name) who is an Archdeacon in the Anglican Church and works ecumenically with the Methodist Church. He summed up powerfully in his context and for us too the church's problem with mission and ministry.

We stood on a Northumbrian beach looking around us and noticing where God had led us and where he was leading us, and noticing the things that anchored us and fed us, the things that drain and limit us. It was a wonderful morning.

We all could see in the distance the ruin of a large Anglican Church, but Isaac became fixed on it. He felt God speak into his situation and the plight of the wider Church.

He told us that too often we think the big Connexion, Synod, Diocesan, District and Circuit mission schemes are our priority, when all that really matters and can work is the life worship and mission of the local parish and Church.

He said, from even more experience of missional work than me, that when we take our eye off hospitality and local graceful loving kind welcome we lose and die.

He saw, and I see, in the relics of dead places Churches that stopped reaching out and just focused instead only on themselves, and inevitably their small rut became a grave. God carried on moving gracefully but not through them anymore.

If we want this local place to end up as a relic, a ruin of faith that points to a lost mission we will ignore the two Godly principles of hospitality and love.

Serving as your Minister these last four years has been a huge highlight of my life. It's been a joy to listen and learn from you, and join in the work God was already doing here. As we have concentrated on hospitality and all embracing inclusive radical love, we have deepened our discipleship and grown as a Church. I pray that growth continues.

We will watch from Stoke on Trent and pray for you and this wonderful Church. Keep on seeking the local and the demonstrating to New Town just how kind, friendly and loving God's people are.

*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your faces;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields  
and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand*

***God bless you. Joe and Dave xx***

- **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.

### **NOTES FROM THE VESTRY**

Normally when I settle down to write the 'From the Vestry' item, I scan through the last four weeks in my diary to remind myself of our recent events and activities. Following that a brief look at the upcoming dates to highlight and then get started.

This time, it's the last four years!

As we prepare to say au revoir to our now dear friends Joe and Dave, I'd like to say a huge thank you to them for all that has been accomplished since their arrival in September 2019. Joe for his enthusiastic and creative approach to ministry and Dave for supporting him throughout. There is much to remember and celebrate.

When some of us first met our prospective new minister we were introduced to the Rev. J. Neil Adams. During an informal chat he was asked what the 'J' stood for. "Joseph" came the reply. "I've wanted to be called by my first name for a long time, but it's difficult to know when to change when everyone knows you as Neil". "Well, it's a good time now as no one here knows you at all" - one cheekily responded and the rest as it's said... I'm guessing it took Dave a while to get used to it!

A promising start to ministry with inspirational preaching, leading our Bible fellowship meeting, a school assembly and Christmas, then six months in, lockdown!

However, we were supported and encouraged to start the FaceTime Sunday worship with regular preaching from Joe and our local preachers, which continued all through those most difficult of times. 'Three in One' followed with a weekly prayer meeting and an evening Bible study, still ongoing with the Bible study moving to a monthly house meeting; Joe still conducts some of the 6.30 p.m. Sunday facetime worship sessions.

Before all Covid restrictions were over, Joe became sick and reluctantly took time away from ministry to repair and recover. Following that was his much needed sabbatical (postponed at least twice) before he was able to return to us. What a joy to have him back at the helm.

His Sunday preaching still inspires us, 'Dreaming of the Future' meetings give us a vision of how we can continue to bring Christ's abundant love into our community. Joe and Dave are regular attendees at the Coffee Mornings, sharing the joy of the Gospel with all who are there.

As a result of 'Dreaming' we have a same sex marriage license, invited our neighbours to take a friend to coffee at the GO4 cafe and continued to work ecumenically with our friends from St. Stephen's and St. Margaret's. We've visited St. George's School, hosted their pupils in the Church, received an eco friendly award and are about to set up a Community Prayer Box outside our Church. Home communions have been shared, pastoral visits made, celebrations of baptisms (infant and adult) and confirmations enjoyed and we have been sensitively supported in saying goodbye to some of our nearest and dearest.

So thank you, we hope your time with us has been a blessing to you both too. We will be sad to say farewell but are eager to carry on with God's work prayerfully and enthusiastically with our new Minister Rev. Hannah Chun.

On behalf of us all,

**May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
the Lord make his face to shine upon and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance to you and give you peace (and Joy!)**

With love and prayers,

*Christine Firmin*

**StF 67 {believed to be Joe's favourite hymn}**

This, this is the God we adore,  
Our faithful, unchangeable friend,  
Whose love is as great as his power,  
And neither knows measure nor end:

'Tis Jesus, the first and the last,  
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;  
We'll praise him for all that is past,  
And trust him for all that's to come.

**Joseph Hart (1712-1767)**

## THURSDAY CIRCLE

We began June with a return visit from John McCabe, who talked about transport through the ages in Colchester and stimulated memories of how things used to be in our city.

The following week was an evening meeting of seated activities with Gunni Graygoose. Although not well attended those present found it to be good fun. Due to a change in circumstances, in future Gunni will be able to come to us in the afternoon.

On 15<sup>th</sup> June we had a party (which was well attended!) to celebrate that five of our ladies are having special birthdays in 2023. The 'New Entertainers' from the Clacton area gave us a wonderful programme of well known songs, which we all enjoyed. Everyone had brought a contribution of food, so we had a good spread, which we then tucked into. Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a successful afternoon.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June we had a visit from two guide dogs. Fiona brought her dog, Thor, and Marjorie, who is a trainer, brought her latest dog, Kenny – a large, energetic and exuberant puppy. It was a great afternoon for dog lovers!

### **Coming up:**

6 July Beetle Drive in aid of 'Action for Children' charity.

13 July Church Barbecue at Peter Broom's home at Layer de la Haye, starting at 4.p.m.

20 July Pen and Pencil Games, including 'Whacky Races'.

After this we will be having a break and there will be no Thursday Circle Meetings until **7 September**.

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

*Joan Gomer – Secretary*

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

**Monday 10 July 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*

**MERSEA ISLAND METHODIST CHURCH ANNIVERSARY  
CONCERT AND SOCIAL EVENING  
Friday 21 July 2023 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

We are pleased to have 'SERENDIPITY', a Jazz trio from Mersea, to entertain us as part of our Church Anniversary celebrations.

The concert will start at 7 p.m. and finish at 9 p.m. with a break part way through for refreshments.

Donations welcomed and money raised will go towards our church funds. Parking will be available at the Free Church on Mersea. It is situated on the left-hand side of Mill Road as you come from Colchester. This is a short distance from our Methodist Church which is lower down on the right.

As numbers are limited could you please let John or Ann Brook know by Monday 17 July, if you will be coming and how many people.

Telephone (01206) 386841 or email [brook877@btinternet.com](mailto:brook877@btinternet.com).

**NEW TOWN OPEN GARDENS**

Thank you so much for either kindly opening your garden this year or being involved in another capacity. 'Gardeners' have commented on having a great atmosphere this year with lovely visitors. The sunny weather on the day, enabled lots of people to enjoy the event. We are delighted to have received lots of compliments regarding the gardens, live music, refreshments that many of you provided and of course the ever faithful (they danced at our very first event way back in 2001?), colourful and energising Anniemation Clog Dancers. The choir, music and amazing Plant Stall at Wimpole Road Methodist Church was particularly well received. We thank them too for selling programmes on the day. Once again, we are indebted to St. Stephen's Church for not only providing teas and refreshments, but also allowing us to use their premises for the sale of programmes on the day as well as hosting the talk on Rowhedge Owl Rescue.

We are delighted to inform you that **£470.60** was raised, which will be split evenly between Rowhedge Owl Rescue and OCHRE, a charity that promotes awareness of oesophageal cancer amongst the public, professionals, politicians and patients.

This will be the last New Town Open Gardens organised by us but if anyone else is interested in taking over we are more than happy to assist in sharing information etc.

Thank you again for contributing to such a wonderful afternoon and fund-raising effort.

Best wishes,

*Ann Morris and Jean Quinn*

## A FEW MORE DAYS

*by Pat Farrow (written before her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in June)*

This year I've had more aches and pains,  
but blood's still surging through my veins.  
Where once I'd toil outside all day –  
pulling up weeds (not anymore).

*"You're getting older",* they say.  
*"You mustn't do this, no don't do that!"*  
I take no heed - it's idle chat.  
The garden's what keeps me going.

Can't do so much, I know I'm slowing.  
I now do tasks at an easy pace,  
stop, relax, it's not a race!  
Go in for a cuppa, watch some TV,  
read more of my book,  
time's my own - you see.

Yes, we all get older every year;  
the old 'Grim Reaper' is getting near.  
He won't catch me yet – I'm persevering –  
my limbs aren't seized up – not hard of hearing.

Eyesight's ok - glasses just for reading.  
Still have my hair – not yet receding!  
A few grey wisps just here and there.  
I'll soldier on 'cause I don't care.

I take my pills first thing, slap on some cream.  
I'll soon be joining the octogenarian team.  
In a few more days – 80 another milestone.  
I can take comfort with my friends, I'm not alone!

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

*All those known to us who have ongoing health problems.*

### A SUMMER PRAYER

Long warm days...  
The pace of life slows...  
A time for picnics and rest in the shade...  
Lord, help me to rest awhile  
in the cooling shade of your presence.  
Slow down my restless heart and  
fill me with gentle compassion for all your people.

*{Author Unknown}*

**SOME PRAYERS USED BY THE COMMUNITY OF  
AIDAN AND HILDA**  
*(especially for Joe)*

Lord Jesus, simplicity and a deep love for people  
shone out of your apostle, Aidan,  
Grant that, like him, we may be gentle in our loving  
and bold in our speaking;  
that we might inspire others to learn your ways,  
and so pass on the fire of faith.

You made Hilda to shine like a jewel in the land.  
Help us, like her, to encourage others to their callings,  
to reconcile those who are divided,  
and to praise you with our whole being.

May your churches be true to their birthright.  
May they be places of prayer and eating,  
living and learning, work and celebration;  
the fire of Christ in their midst  
drawing people to you.

Kindle in us the adventure of obedience, the single eye,  
the humble and generous heart , which marked Aidan,  
Hilda and your Celtic saints.

**THE LAST BLOSSOMS**

Strong winds have blown away  
the pretty blossoms seen in May.  
Apple trees bear tiny fruits,  
springing forth from leafy shoots.

The avenues, which were a sight  
with trees festooned in pink and white,  
their blossoms now strewn upon the ground –  
gently fallen without a sound.

Children collected those flowery bouquets  
to give to mums to mark their day.  
The summer's heat soon comes sublime  
to ripen fruits for harvest time.

***Pat Farrow***



## RESTORATION STATION HOLIDAY CLUB 24 – 28 JULY

If your children would like to come along please email [wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com](mailto: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 asap.**

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*

## WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR JULY

**Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.**

<b>2 July</b>	<b>Rev. Chris Preece</b>
<b>9 July</b>	<b>Joanne Eckersley</b>
<b>16 July</b>	<b>Rev. Joe Adams / Holy Communion</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Circuit Farewell Service for Rev. Joe Adams. Sunday 16 July from 6 p.m.</b> (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.</li></ul>
<b>23 July</b>	<b>Own Arrangement</b>
<b>27 July</b>	<b>Local Arrangement/Holiday Club</b>

## 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.*

## DIARY DATES

- **Church BBQ** at Peter Broom's house **Thursday 13 July from 4 p.m.**
- **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.



## WORKING TOGETHER



**PRAYER MEETING Tuesday 10.00 - 10.30 a.m.**

Meeting number: 195 594 506 password 011904

**JOINT BIBLE STUDY GROUP** – (see page 8 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

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**‘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.

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## 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](mailto:alison.ablewhite@btinternet.com)

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**KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:**

**[www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk](http://www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk)**