



March 2024

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun

Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

I wonder how your Lenten journey is progressing for you. I am writing from the peaceful and tranquil countryside of Launde Abbey in Leicester. I am on a Regional Probationers Retreat and it's interesting to be surrounded by more sheep than people here. This retreat has in numerous ways forced me to stop, be still, become aware of my surroundings and simply be. It is beckoning me to slow down. I say it 'forced' me because I find stopping and being still very hard. My mind is always working and I'm constantly thinking about what I ought to be doing next. One of the key themes for this retreat is about taking our sabbath, and how we might tarry on our life and ministry's journey.

Lent is a time of journeying to the cross with Jesus to meet him at his resurrection. However, it is not defined by a journey we make with haste. It is a journey that can hopefully encourage us to slow down, be still and tarry. Jesus also took his time to walk to the cross. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus asks his friends to '*Stay here and keep watch with me...keep watch and pray.*' (Matthew 26:38, 41). He encourages them to stop, notice, rest, pray and be still a while with him. In our Lenten and life's journey, there are times we may need to stop and tarry in solitude, but as Jesus spent a moment of stillness with his friends, we too need our church and community to be alongside us as we rest, reflect and recharge.

- Are you one of those who find it hard to stop and be still?
- Are you giving too much that you feel you have nothing to give at times?
- How do you take your sabbath? How might you stop and tarry with Jesus?

- What might you notice about yourself and those around you?
- How might it feel to rest and give all our anxious productivity to God?
- Can we have the confidence that God will hold things together when we take the time we need to recharge?

There is the Three Together Lent course continuing on Thursday evenings at Wimpole Road and other services leading up to Easter to help us as a community to reflect, stop and be still together. Please do come along if you can. All are welcome. I feel it is a wonderful reminder that we are not alone on this path and even the stillness can be shared with others.

As you continue this Lenten walk to the Easter resurrection, may you find rest when needed, find stillness and find your sabbath, for, even God rested on the seventh day, *'rested from all his work'*. (Genesis 2:2-3).

God bless, and may the joy of Easter be with you,

Hannah

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

Yesterday I was able to get out into my garden (making the most of a very short break in the wet weather we've been experiencing recently) and was delighted to find evidence of some long forgotten plants, producing some lovely green shoots. As I cleared away the accumulated mixture of dead leaves, weeds and unwanted foliage to make room for these new shoots to grow unhindered, I reflected that this analogy should happen in our own lives. We all have far too much dead and unwanted material, which hinders us from making room for new and worthwhile experiences.

Spring is the season for hope and new life, and I hope that we can all put aside the sadness and darkness and begin to look forward to happier times and sharing the joy of Easter. In June we will celebrate the 120th anniversary of our church being built, and (obviously) we will reflect on the past and be thankful, but equally we must look ahead to ensure that the legacy is fulfilled and that (although the building is old) our faith is new and must be allowed to grow.

Recently we were thrilled for Hannah to be able to conduct a baptism service for 3 little girls, and it highlighted the fact that we need a Cradle Roll Secretary, not only to assist on these special occasions but also to maintain contact with the families by sending birthday cards etc. This is a lovely, rewarding role and does not involve attending any meetings, or other responsibilities, so if you would like to know more please see Hannah, Chris or myself.

Another new venture has been the introduction of Sunday Stewards, who assist the Church Steward on duty by helping out at the back of the church with various small tasks before and after the service. This is proving to be very helpful and we are indebted to them but mainly to Beryl Pentney for her willing and cheerful leadership.

Also we are delighted that there are some new faces at the lectern, and taking an active part in our services, by occasionally reading a Bible passage. This is fantastic and very encouraging – but there is always room for more! So if you would like to participate please see me and I will gladly add your name to the list of readers.

A church is not the building but the people within, so if you would like to become more involved - **‘Your Church Needs You!’**

Alison Ablewhite

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

As we walk along the street, we will often see clothing that has slogans on it. Sometimes it's to do with the brand name of the manufacturer or, at other times, the 'saying' that is on it. Usually, it is on the front so that it's more obvious.

However, I was introduced by someone to a wonderful slogan on the back of a T-shirt or sweatshirt which simply said, 'You are enough.'

Isn't it wonderful to be told 'You are enough.' It's not about what you've done, or not done, but that you as a person are enough. The person you are, your character, your nature and who are you are as made in the image of God is enough.

There's no need for perfectionism or striving because you are enough. You don't need to feel you must prove yourself or justify your actions or be defensive in any way, because you are enough. To have that written on your back is to say someone else who can't see you, someone you may not even know, that you are enough.

Whether you're being told 'You are enough' by a close friend, a spouse or partner, a member of your family or a complete stranger, what a fantastic thing to be told.

In Lent, the focus is on our discipleship with God. It is about deepening our understanding and relationship with Jesus. It can be a time where we focus on identifying more closely with Christ. When we turn to Jesus and receive his grace for the first time, we are being told that we are enough.

We can find a real sense of freedom in those words. The more we learn of Jesus, the more we realise that this is the foundation from which we build.

We are all made in the image of God and, as disciples, we are called to reflect something of the nature of Christ, to others. This tells others, they are enough.

Lent is also a penitential season and a time to reflect on the times where our words and actions haven't perhaps said to others that they are enough. We can bring that before God in prayer remembering Jesus will forgive all who truly turn to him in confession.

At the very end of this month, we travel through Holy Week and on to Easter Day. As we celebrate the resurrection, the joy of the disciples in meeting the risen Christ, they experience the change the resurrection brings. Through the culmination of the salvation

story, they hear again, and in a new and transformed way, that they are enough. They then go to share with others the joy of Easter inviting others into a relationship with Jesus for themselves so they can experience the depth of joy that is received by knowing Jesus for themselves.

At this moment, if you are feeling you are striving for something which feels unattainable, please remember, you are enough. If you are feeling that nothing you do is quite good enough, remember, you are enough. If you are feeling at peace with the world and a sense of real, deep joy, know that you are enough.

As we continue to share life together let us all remember that in Christ we are all enough and let's continue to encourage one another in this through our words and actions.

God bless,

Rev. Chris Preece

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our first meeting for 2024 was on 1 February, when Rev. Hannah gave us some thoughts for the year ahead and challenged us to identify negative ideas we have of ourselves and to turn them into something positive.

The following Thursday, being a rainy day, just a few of us met for a relaxing afternoon playing Scrabble, dominoes or cards.

15 February was our Annual General Meeting. This was followed by singing some favourite hymns.

22 February was yet another rainy day. Members proved to very good at playing 'Catchphrase', where you have to "*Say what you see*".

Coming up:

7 March Brian Carline, an excellent and very witty speaker, on things they did on 'Our Street'.

14 March Quiz afternoon in aid of East Anglian Children's Hospice - £2 entry. Come along and bring your friends to support this worthwhile charity.

21 March Beetle Drive

28 March Come and join us for our Maundy Thursday Service in preparation for Good Friday.

Our meetings are at **2.30 p.m.** and everyone is welcome to attend.

Joan Gomer - Secretary

E-SCOOTERS

E-scooters – the scourge of our town,
around every corner they lie.
So, you must beware if you see one there –
Don't touch it, 'cos it could fall down.

That's what happened on Monday –
one was straddled across my front drive.
I attempted to shift it. It fell down (me with it).
I'm lucky I've survived!

A young man came to my rescue
and pulled me up onto my feet.
I went inside feeling hot -
my left arm hurting a lot.
I slumped wearily into my seat.

My daughter drove me to A & E.
In hospital we waited and waited.
After x-rays and scans
we got home to bed
the next morning – just after three!

So now I'm wearing a sling,
my left shoulder badly broken.
For the next seven weeks (my life is on hold)
because of that horrid 'E' thing!

Pat Farrow



My 80 year old friend found an E-scooter in her private drive. Expecting visitors she tried to move the scooter. This fell on her, breaking her arm and bruising her jaw. How soon before an elderly person dies from an encounter with one of these contraptions?

They are frequently to be found abandoned on narrow pathways. Silently they whoosh past always on the pavement. Are pedestrians expected to wear side mirrors in an attempt to avoid them? Scooters do not appear to possess any form of warning signal.

Are they encouraged, not just for fun and for being environmentally friendly, but to exterminate the elderly??

Ann Finch {Published in the Essex County Standard}

PART OF ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE PRAYER

I bind unto myself today
the virtues of the star-lit heaven,
the glorious sun's life-giving ray,
the whiteness of the moon at even;
the flashing of the lightning free,
the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
the stable Earth, the deep salt sea
around the old eternal rocks.

{From 'Wicked Weather for Walking' by Stephen Platten}

'PAWS – DUTHIES DOGGY DEEDS'

Graham is a very kind man.
He helps anyone if he can.
He leaves water for dogs by his gate –
that the dog-walkers appreciate.

On Tuesday he got a surprise - some Maltesers
and a kind note with a paw print
from his grateful dog-friends.
(Brought a lump to his throat)
It cheered him no end
and he'll always get my vote!

Pat Farrow

Dear Loving Lord,

During these weeks of Lent we think of your dear Son who journeyed to Jerusalem, and who suffered and died for our sake.

We remember the pain and the sadness of those days and of the joy of Easter Sunday when Jesus rose from the grave.

Dear Lord, we pray for those who grieve for the loss of a loved one, that they may know the promise of life eternal, through your dear Son, who lives and reigns for ever in Your Kingdom.

Amen

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

*All those known to us who have ongoing health problems
and any who are in need of support at this time.*

HE MUST DIE

The Pharisees were meeting
to discuss this Jesus man,
upsetting all their teaching
with his 'Love Thy Neighbour' plan.

Some mumbled, and some shouted,
*"He says he is God's Son.
Some say that he's the Messiah;
come to save us every one.*

*It was a king that we were promised
by the prophets long ago,
who'd come with sword and shield
and force the enemy to go.*

*A warrior we were expecting,
who'd rule this land for evermore.
Not someone born in a stable,
lying on a bed of straw.*

*Someone in silks and satins,
wearing his own crown of gold;
someone that we could follow,
like the warrior king of old."*

So they came to a decision –
they must stop him and his lies.
He had caused too many problems;
he was trouble; he must die.

So they nailed him like a convict
to a cross, made from a tree.
And as he died, he cried out, *"Father,
forgive them all and set them free"*.

Norma Peckston

"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live.
And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die".

John 11.v's 25- 26

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

3 March	Rev. Paul Howes / Holy Communion
10 March	Rev. Hannah Chun / Mothering Sunday
17 March	Ron Firmin
24 March	Alan Beesley
31 March	Rev. Hannah Chun/ Easter Day/ 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.

DIARY DATES & EASTER SERVICES

Saturday 9 March at Wivenhoe 9 a.m. – 10. a.m.

‘Serving the Present Age?’ - Circuit Prayer Group, led by Rev. Chris Preece

To support God’s mission for our churches in Colchester. All welcome

Lent Course ‘Come & See’ weekly on Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. hosted at Wimpole Road. No requirement to attend all the sessions.

Maundy Thursday 7.30 p.m. A service of **Holy Communion** led by Rev. Paul and Rev. Dan, which will also be drawing our Lent Course to a conclusion. Everybody is invited to attend regardless of whether they have been able to attend the Lent Course.

Good Friday Walk of Witness starting with a short time of reflection led by Rev. Hannah at **10.00 a.m. at Wimpole Road** and ending with refreshments at St. Stephen’s.

Good Friday ‘Last hour at the Cross’ meditation service at **St. Margaret’s at 2.00 p.m.** led by Rev. Jackie.

Easter Vigil with Holy Communion at **St. Stephen’s at 6.30 p.m.**

Easter Sunday Celebration with Holy Communion at 11.00 a.m. led by Rev. Hannah.

Easter Sunday - Evening Prayer at St. Leonard’s at the Hythe at 4.00 p.m.



WORKING TOGETHER



PRAYER MEETING Tuesday 10.00 - 10.30 a.m.
Meeting number: 195 594 506 password 011904

**'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.

LINK TO ST. STEPHEN'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

<http://ststephens-colchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-03-March-2024-Newsletter-V01.00.pdf>

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

The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope,
which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph,
and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.

Cardinal Basil Hume