

COLCHESTER
Baptist Church



Focus

*on our church family
and friends*

December 2019 - January 11th 2020



JESUS

is the reason for the season!

Merry Christmas!



Regular Ministries and Activities

Please see our weekly sheet for times

Sunday	Morning service and Powerhouse 10.30 Evening service 6.30 Nepali Church in the Warwick Room 10.00 Sunday@One Church meeting bi-monthly as advertised 12.30
Monday	Bright Sparks (2-5 years) NHS Baby clinic Open Door Carpet Bowls Christian Bikers' Fellowship
Tuesday	Tuesday@12 Racquet sports meets 1st, 3rd and 5th weeks Badminton Choir Deacons' meeting – 1 st week Quiet prayer – monthly
Wednesday	Open Door ASK Friendship Group – 3rd week Play and Sing (0-5 years) New Mums' Fellowship Group Arts and Crafts Bible study - 2 nd week 10.30 Retreads - lunch bi-monthly Sea Scout troop
Thursday	Prayer meeting – evening 1st week Lunch club – 1st week Bible Study/House group – evening fortnightly
Friday	Open Door Stay and Play (0-5 years) Remix – not school holidays Street Pastors
Saturday	Street Pastors



*At Colchester Baptist Church
our PURPOSE is to follow
Jesus Christ and
make Him known*

*Our VISION is to be a
growing, thriving,
nurturing family of God*

A message from our Minister Rev Cole Maynard



HAVE A VERY 'MESSY' CHRISTMAS!!!

Well it's here! The winter has arrived in force and if I needed any convincing alongside the dark and dank evenings, a ride on my motorbike to Central Baptist Church, in Chelmsford, today (late November) convinced me that the cruel cold fingers of winter were clawing at my motorcycle jacket and helmet seeking access to chill, freeze and overwhelm me with its icy temperament!

But the dark evenings have one benefit and that is as a gloomy canvas on which to paint the beautiful brightness of Christmas with its decorations, lights and myriad colour. I do love this season, and the colour that the lights and decorations bring to our otherwise drab streets. Yet, for so many people our Christmas is more decoration than messy reality!

I heard the true story of a young curate who was attempting to challenge his church to the true meaning of Christmas and so at their Christmas Day service gathered the children at the front of the sanctuary around the large nativity scene. So he encouraged them *'look at the scene and ask yourselves the question, 'what's missing?''*

The young observers were uncertain so remained silent.

'Look into the crib, is everything as it should be?'

So they peered into the wooden food trough and there was Jesus, so it all seemed OK.

'Look around the barn, are all the people here?'

The little ones counted Mary and Joseph, some shepherds and wise men from the East, a couple of heavenly angels so again the list seemed complete. *'Yes,'* they whispered, *'everyone is here.'*

'So look around the barn, is everything as it should be?'

So the children located the donkey, cow, goat, some straw bales and a few noisy sheep with their shepherd carers. *'Yes,'* they whispered, *'everything is here?'*

'So what's missing in this barn?' persisted the curate.

They shook their heads and looked at each other at a loss. So the smiling curate reached behind a screen and pulled out a large bucket and shouted *'this is what's missing'* and dumped a massive pile of smelly manure onto the church floor!

So much of Christmas is a sanitized Hollywood version of the messy reality of that stable in Nazareth, where God comes down, not to float above the chaos, smell and corruption of life, but to be immersed in it for us.

The joy of Christmas is found in its messiness – because life is messy and God came down into that canker for us. The creator of the universe and time itself was placed into an animal-feeding trough in an unheated animal barn, surrounded by the noise and smells of the farm.

He was totally dependant upon his teenage mother for feeding, and she got to wipe his bottom and change his own mess! Christmas is about **Emmanuel – God with us!** Jesus came into the reality and mess of our lives to bring his light and his presence.

He doesn't shy away from the muck and the chaos, hold his nose and tip toe through the excrement back to the heavenly city with its pavements of gold! God threw his lot in with human kind, his creation, because he is driven by love and not judgement. He wants us to know him and to experience his presence and power in our daily lives. Not in some ethereal religious sense, but in the reality of human life.

Jesus didn't come to a church or a cathedral; he was born in a barn, surrounded by common folk in the reality of their lives. So Jesus brings light into the darkness; peace into the chaos; beauty into the mess and hope into despair. Don't believe the Hollywood hype about Jesus! He came down because it was messy and is still coming into messy lives today.

He knows us already so completely and the fullness of our messy lives yet still comes down, still comes in and wants to be at the centre of our Christmas party...

'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.' (Revelation 3:20)

So have a very Messy Christmas, and have it with Jesus!

Your pastor, **Cole**



#FirstThursdayPastors' Coffee



Your lovable ministers are offering free coffee
& time for a chat on the first Thursday
of every month.

#FirstThursdayPastors' Coffee

Cole (Office) & Terry (Helwys/Prayer Room)

From **10.00–12:30** at least one pastor per
month!

No instant coffee or solutions!

***Come & Get Your
Caffeine & Pastor fix!
December and January***

December



Thursday 5th - Church prayer evening

First Thursday Pastors' coffee

Saturday 7th - Christmas Tree Festival for 1 week

Amiable Amblers

Tuesday 31st - Crossover Service 8pm till midnight



January

Thursday 2nd - First Thursday Pastors' coffee

Friday 17th - Remix go tobogganning

Wednesday 29th - Retreads



PLEASE NOTE:

All morning services in December start at 10am!



New Year's Day!



I really don't expect anyone to sit down on New Year's Day and send me articles for Focus!

Deadline Thursday 2nd January 2020 please

You can send news and photos of the Christmas Tree Festival, Christingle, Carols by Candlelight and all Christmas events at any time.



Christmas specials

Sunday 1st - Family Service Christmas Special 10am

Saturday 7th - Fun on the Forecourt

Saturday 7th - 14th - Christmas Tree Festival

Tuesday 10th - Open Door Christmas Lunch

Thursday 12th - Lunch Club Christmas Special

Friday 13th - Remix Christingle service 6.30pm

Sunday 22nd - Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm

Sunday 29th - Wise men come calling

Wednesday 25th - Family Service 10.00am



The Christmas Tree Festival

7th to 14th December



On 7th December from 10am to 3pm there will be various activities taking place for you all to enjoy

On the forecourt there will be the Snow Globe as last year and a Tea Cup ride



and delicious Bacon Butties (£1 each)

In the Hall drinks will be available and there will be Face Painting and some craft

In the Lounge you can be tempted by coffee/tea and cakes



Donations for this will go to support Remix in their fundraising for The Children's Society

The Church will be open for visitors to come and see
the Christmas trees

7th to 14th December from 11am to 2pm

Come and join us as we start to celebrate this special
time of the year



Bring your friends

Bring your family



Church meeting

A report of the Church Meeting will be in the next edition.



CBC Shed



Do you know the difference between a rawlplug and a toggle anchor, or a ring shank and a lost head?

If not why not come along to the Small Shed I am setting up in the church to explain the different uses, and practice some new skills.

The Shed will run from January to March 2020 on the 3rd Saturday of the month and the emphasis will be on practical knowledge and skills so there will be drills to try and holes in bricks to make etc.

Places are limited to 10 on a first-come-first-served basis – the number one slot has already been reserved by Hannah Harboard who encouraged me to do this, and advised me to set homework!

January - we will look at screws, nails and other fixings

February – locks and hinges

March – follow up on previous sessions and bring and share previous experiences

If you would like to join us, please let me know.

David Stockwell

Pastoral Assistants



Pastoral Assistants

For some years the Ministers' and Deacons have appointed Church members skilled and gifted who participate in the Pastoral Care of the Church alongside the Ministers.

In my first church, my colleague used to say to our large congregation about being aware of their spiritual and pastoral needs, "I'm telephonic, not telepathic". In other words, we are not mind readers, so if you are facing a difficult time, ill health and/or spiritual desert, and you wish for pastoral care, please contact one of the Pastoral Care Team.

The pastoral care team consists of the Ministers' Cole Maynard and Terry Tennens; the Pastoral Deacon, Brenda Reade; Care for Senior's Worker, Gill Chelski and the following Pastoral Assistants who cover locations across Colchester and offer pastoral oversight. This might be a visit, prayer, listening, telephoning and so forth.

Carol and John Clubb, Gill Chelski, Chris Ellis, Fiona Maynard

Christine Rudland, Pam Simpson, Paul Walder

All Church members at CBC are allocated a Pastoral Assistant according to their address in and around Colchester and we especially wanted newer members to be aware of this pastoral care model CBC operates.

Terry Tennens

terry@tennens.net

Carol and John Clubb

Carol. We got married in 1969 and always lived in Colchester. We came to Eld Lane in 1980 and were both baptised in March 1981. Eld Lane has been our spiritual home since then and we have served in various ways.



Carol. I was an officer in Girls' Brigade for 30 years and have been a Pastoral Assistant with John for many years. I get involved with the flower arranging for Sundays and special occasions such as Christmas and Easter. I currently help with the New Mums' Friendship group on Wednesday.

John. I am a Deacon as well as being involved in various roles such as Estates Committee, Health and Safety Advisor, doing the P A on Sunday and a Pastoral Assistant with Carol.



Gill Chelski

Gill has enjoyed a long connection with CBC since 1977, aged just 7. She left Colchester to study languages in Wales and in 1993 transferred membership to Albany Road Baptist Church in Cardiff. From there she was sent to take up a position at Gdansk Baptist church to teach English.

Alongside teaching she has worked many years as an artist, illustrating mainly for Scripture Union in many of their publications. She has also worked as an interpreter helping many individuals who have found themselves in challenging situations.

She took up the role as Care Worker for the Elderly in June 2017.

Gill lives with her 2 teenage sons Jared and Ben. She enjoys music and plays in the worship band at the Mariners Chapel in Rowhedge where she is also a church member. In her free time she enjoys playing fiddle music for anyone who fancies dancing.

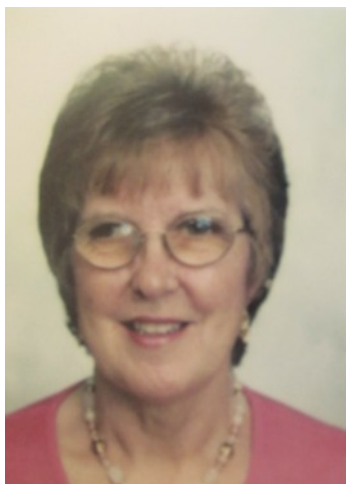


Chris Ellis

During the 50 years I have been attending Colchester Baptist Church I have been a catering leader, a house group leader and with my husband, Peter, organised the annual church caravan weekends, each for over 10 years. I thoroughly enjoyed doing each one.

Currently, since retirement, I am part of the Bright Sparks team working with pre-school children and have learnt to master the dishwasher at lunch club!

It would be a privilege to become a Pastoral Assistant and hopefully be able to offer support where needed.



Fiona Maynard

My name is Fiona Maynard and I have been part of Colchester Baptist Church for a year.



I was brought up in Glasgow in a loving Christian home and became a Christian when I was 18. God very clearly called me to Bible college in Glasgow quite soon after becoming a Christian and there I met Cole and we got married and went into ministry.

We have two boys who are both married and living further South. We are now settled here and I look forward to being able to get involved and be an integral part of the congregation.



Christine Rudland

Hello, Christine Rudland here!

I have been a Christian since my teens and have been a member of Colchester Baptist Church for ten years.

I have had numerous roles in my life to date which include being a daughter, sister, wife, mother, friend, headteacher and latterly a grandmother.

Hopefully the skills I have developed over the years will assist in a pastoral role in some small way.

Pam Simpson

I came to Colchester Baptist Church (Eld Lane) at the age of six and joined Girls' Life Brigade as it was then. I became an officer in the Girls' Brigade and then Captain for many years until I retired in 2012 when sadly the company closed.

I was baptised and became a member in 1961 and Keith and I were married here at the church in 1968.

I have served in various ways over the years and currently am the designated person for Safeguarding and DBS Checks. I am part of the flower arranging team, a deacon and have been a pastoral assistant for the past few years and continue to serve in any way I am able.



Paul Walder

I moved to Colchester and Colchester Baptist Church in April 1980 in readiness for my marriage to Lesley in August 1980.

In that time I have been involve with youth work, served as a deacon for 2 terms of 9 years each and been a pastoral assistant for probably 30 years.

The role has changed and evolved over that time. However, the importance of caring for one another doesn't change. I have always, and still, enjoy the interaction with members old and young.



Cards for Good Causes

has returned to Lion Walk Church this year. The shop opens on Wed 23rd October and closes on 18th December. Open 10:00 am until 4:00 pm.

Tradersfair World Shop

is open every Wednesday and Saturday between 10am – 4pm
at **Lion Walk United Reformed Church**,
from now until Christmas.

The shop has a good selection of fairly traded Christmas gifts and decorations as well as its usual supplies of ethical foods and household products.

Go to their web site tradecraftshop.co.uk to see the full range or order through **Tradersfair World Shop**



Re-Cycle Bikes to Africa

I am writing from the charity Re-Cycle Bikes to Africa, a small charity based on the outskirts of Colchester providing used bikes to rural communities in Africa. The bikes provide individuals with greater independence and a better quality of life, providing people with the opportunities to gain new skills and sustainable income.

The charity has been operating for over 20 years and to date has sent over 112,000 bikes out to Africa. This year we have sent 21 containers equating to 10,630 bikes.

We are keen to raise further awareness of our project and therefore would like to ask if you can support us by way of giving the charity a mention in the church magazine/notices.

Lindsay Hurrell - Re-Cycle lindsay.hurrell@re-cycle.org

www.re-cycle.org

DIDN'T WE DO WELL **COLCHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH!!**

I AM SO PLEASED TO ADVISE ALL THE PARTICIPANTS OF THIS YEARS SHOEBOX EVENT THAT THE FINAL COUNT WAS:

COLCHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH = 72 BOXES
ST MARGARET'S CHURCH = 30 BOXES
MARINERS CHAPEL CHURCH = 14 BOXES
TOTAL AMOUNT = 116 BOXES

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE AT CBC WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU TO BARBARA HORNE WHO SENT US BOXES ON BEHALF OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH.

THANK YOU TO REV. SIMON HEARD WHO SENT BOXES FROM MARINERS CHAPEL CHURCH, ROWHEDGE.

THE BOXES WERE COLLECTED BY SAMARITENS PURSE ON THURSDAY THE 21ST NOVEMBER 2019 AND ARE NOW ON THEIR WAY TO VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD TO HELP A CHILD HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR. THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

Paul Clover - Shoebox Co-Ordinator



*Cole and the children
praying for those who will
receive the gifts*

Flowers in the Sanctuary

1st - Brenda Stebbing

8th - John and June Burman

15th - Jean Peacock

22nd - Racheal Njuguna

29th - Church Flowers

1st January - Alex and Lizzie Chingati-Phiri



BMS Birthday Scheme

December

16th June Dawney

19th John Stedman

20th Shirley Drake

January

1st Margaret Sawtell,

3rd Paul Walder,

4th Roger Myers

10th Tom Crayston,



*The opinions and conclusions published in "Focus"
are those of the authors and
do not necessarily represent the views of the
Church or Church Leadership*



Amiable Amblers

7th December 2pm

Brightlingsea - B1029, Church Road.

Meet in Lay-By on left, just past the Church.

MR 077187/CO7 ORZ

Brian Smith 01206 303912/07709 927175



4th January 2020 2pm

Lt. Horkesley -

Meet in the Beehive Pub car park, School Road.

(On the Crossroads)

MR 962321/CO6 4DH

Contact John Davis 01206 752964/07887 357045



Spring is coming!

These snowdrops
were flowering in
Yvonne Lee's garden
at the end of October



Used stamps



Don't forget to keep any stamps from your post.

Even the ordinary second class ones are useful

In the year 2017-2018 BMS was given **£17,500** through this scheme



Remembrance Sunday 10th November



Members of Colchester Nepali Prashansa Church and Colchester Baptist Church joined for the morning service



*Rev Cole Maynard,
Corporal Tanka Rai and
trumpeter Toby Bull*

*All photos from the
Nepali Prashansa Church*



After the Christmas cards...

Of course Christmas cards have been in the shops since the summer, but now we are at the sharp end. Have we bought enough, found the list from last year, remembered everyone? Or perhaps you are ahead of the game and have already written, stamped and posted your cards!

Then there is the problem of how to display the cards you receive. (Don't forget to save the stamps). Place them on the mantelpiece and window sills? Festoon the room using those little pegs to hold them? Or perhaps you have one of those sophisticated purpose-built displays in the shape of a tree.

But I am thinking of what we do with our cards once January comes. Recycle them, for sure. Keep the best pictures for craft. Use the back of the cards for shopping lists. All good – but had you thought of keeping them a little longer, and taking one each day to enjoy again, and to pray for the person who sent it? Often our cards are from people that we don't meet regularly. What better way to connect them to God for his blessing.

Rosemary Boreham



Looking ahead!

Mens' Breakfasts

11th January,
4th July,

14th March,
12th September,

2nd May
14th November

Ladies' Continental Breakfast

Saturday 25th January

Retreads

Wednesday 29th January
See notice board for details



**Meet
for
Breakfast**



Alpha Invitation

to an introduction evening 8pm January 9th in the Church Lounge, with coffee and deserts.

Theme: “How to make the most of the rest of my life”.

Who is this for?

Friends, family, neighbours, and colleagues of Church members to invite.

The introduction evening is a chance for enquirers, spiritual seekers to discover more about Christianity in relaxed, open and informative manner of a 10 week course.

What is the time commitment?

Meet Thursday evenings at Cole and Fiona’s house in Great Horksley for 7.30pm watch a DVD on a theme to do with big questions about Jesus, the Bible, faith, forgiveness and knowing God. It’s a 10 week course, however, give it a taste and see over 3 weeks.

Will I be pressurised to accept Christianity?

Absolutely not. It will be a chance in a fun and friendly environment to ask questions, give and share views in an informed and educated manner to make your own mind up.

How do I sign up for the course?

Register with Paul at the Church Office, or speak to Cole or Fiona.



Open Door Retreat

At Open Door we recently had our annual retreat at Assington Hall with 18 of us getting away for the day.

Chris led us in reflecting on Rembrandt's 'Return of the Prodigal'. It was a great time to think about the love of God and hope. It was also great to have several new people with us who had recently joined the Open Door team.

Peter Dale



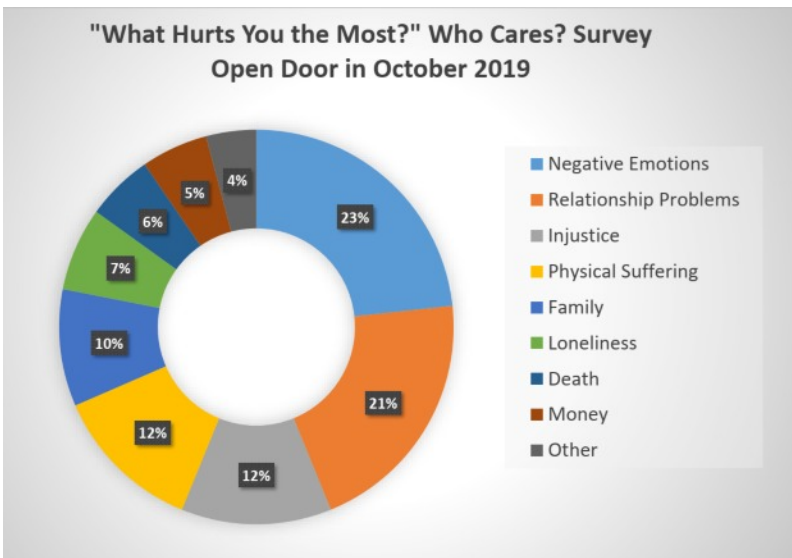
Who Cares?



Open Door has been taking part in the recent survey being done by several churches in Colchester. It is a very simple survey that simply involves asking people “what hurts you the most?” We have been really struck by people’s honesty but also the degree of hurt that people have been through.

The most common categories of answer are shown below. Negative emotions included lots of pain with mental health issues and worry. Relationship problems was often the result of the respondent’s having been badly treated or separated from family members. Interestingly money concerns or debt were not mentioned very often.

We will use this data and will respond to the key themes through our preaching at Sunday@One in the New Year. What do you think Jesus would say to each of these hurts?





Car park donations 2020

Donations for the use of the Church's parking facility in Vineyard Street in 2020 are now due. The amount payable for 2020 is £45, unchanged from 2019

I shall be pleased to receive your cash or cheque together with your up to date registration number of your car(s) as soon as possible. Please note that cheques received in December will not be banked until January.

Please continue to observe the following:

1. The use of the car park is limited to paid key holders who regularly attend Colchester Baptist Church. This facility should not be used by the key holders' children or their extended family.
2. Only one Authorisation card/ disc is issued to each household and it should be displayed in the car being used to identify the Authorised user. Two registration numbers can be put on the card where there are two cars in the household. This is so that their two cars are not occupying two spaces at the same time.
3. The car parking facility is intended for short stay parking and key holders actually working in the Church. It would be most helpful if key holders shopping in the town/or visiting banks, dentists, hairdressers, etc, could use the car park in the afternoons wherever possible to relieve the problems we have on the morning.

4. There is NO parking facility for long stay parking i.e. for those in employment in the town or attending colleges.

5. It is most important that all users to lock the barrier on entering and leaving the car park at all times. Although this is burdensome, it does limit its use by unauthorised persons who take advantages of free parking. If all keys holders display the issued parking card/disc in their car(s) we can more easily identify intruders.

6. The key to the barrier is for the use only of the paid up key holder, and must not loaned, copied or passed on to any other person.

7. No parking is allowed in any spaces marked LW. These are for Lion Walk church only. Please would every key holder co-operate for the benefit of us all.

And may I ask any present key holders not using the car parking facility to return their keys to me so that they can be used by new members and regular attenders of the Church.

Thank you



Paul Clover - Administrator



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