

COLCHESTER
Baptist Church



Focus

***on our church family and
friends***

November 2019

Regular Ministries and Activities
Please see our weekly sheet for times

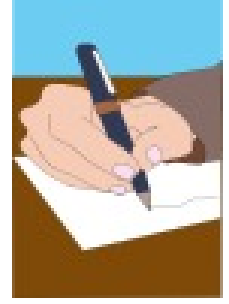
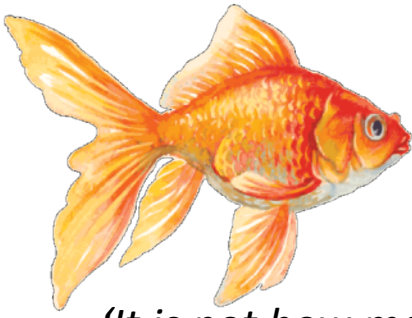
Sunday	Morning service and Powerhouse 10.30 Evening service 6.30 Nepali Church in the Warwick Room 10.00 Sunday@One Cornerstone 10.30
Monday	Bright Sparks (2-5 years) NHS Baby clinic Open Door Carpet Bowls Christian Bikers' Fellowship
Tuesday	Tuesday@12 Racquet sports meets 1st, 3rd and 5th weeks Badminton Choir Deacons' meeting – monthly Quiet prayer – monthly
Wednesday	Open Door ASK Friendship Group – fortnightly, term time only Play and Sing (0-5 years) New Mums' Fellowship Group Bible study fortnightly Arts and Crafts Retreads - Bi-monthly Sea Scout troop
Thursday	Prayer meeting – 1st week Lunch club – 1st week Bible Study/House group – 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

from our Minister Rev Cole Maynard



GOLDEN MOMENTS

'It is not how many years we live, but what we do with them.

It is not what we receive, but what we give to others.'

(Evangeline Booth)

I have a little kingdom I look after. It is around three foot deep and five feet in length, and I had got great pleasure over the summer in getting the water clear and stocking this little world with aquatic plants that both decorate the pond and oxygenate the water at the same time. In June I stocked this little world with twelve Goldfish: five orange Comets, five bespeckled Shubunkins and two larger common goldfish.

When working from home, I would take welcome breaks from emails or service preparation by gazing into this little world and watching the fish frolic in the clear water and dart around their little kingdom. They were well fed and I kept the surface water free of leaves, duckweed and the dreaded blanket-weed.

However, a couple of weeks ago it was a very windy and stormy day as we went out to church and when I returned that afternoon I discovered this little world had been ravaged! Plants were at the bottom of the water, including some rocks and the fish were nowhere to be seen. So I got changed and went into the pond to retrieve the plants and rocks and restore order to my little world. However, the fish were still nowhere to be seen the following day and then I realised that something worse than a storm had hit my pond! We are not sure whether it was a Heron, an otter or even a person who robbed us of our fish but only a little orange comet remains of this family, and they, too timid to feed, hid in the foliage out of sight.

I was really saddened by this event, as you begin to build a relationship with your fish, and they would come to the surface as soon as I began cleaning the pond surface and would happily feed very close to me. But my world was now barren, and not knowing what predator had visited my pond made it worse as I didn't know how to protect it?

Then on the Sunday of the Baptism in October, as I arrived I was called by someone as I entered the church and they gave me a tub of five goldfish! They had heard of the plight of my pond and had thoughtfully gone to their pond to help restock mine! This was a true '*golden*' moment! A generous thought that resulted in a thoughtful gift that has brought life back to my little world!

The joy I experienced as I released those five goldfish into their new world and watched them explore their new surrounds was lovely. Someone had heard about my situation and decided to give me a little gold! A small act of kindness that went a long way.

Is there someone you know of that would benefit from a little gold – a small act of kindness that says '*you matter*'? Thank you to the giver of my gold (fish) – her example of kindness has inspired me and hopefully you too, to give '*gold*' to others...

Cole

(Great Horkesley, Oct 19)



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#FirstThursdayPastor'sCoffee



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

#FirstThursdayPastor'sCoffee

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!

November

Thursday 7th - Church Prayer evening

Saturday 2nd - Amiable Amblers

Saturday 9th - Men's breakfast

Sunday 10th - Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 17th - Church Anniversary

Saturday 23rd - Fish and Chips and Quiz

Sunday 24th - Church meeting and deacons' elections

December

Sunday 22nd - Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 25th - Christmas Day service

Please note that all December morning services start at **10am!**



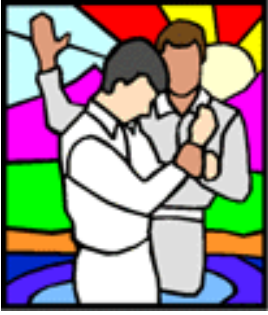
Deadline for the Christmas edition

Wednesday November 20th

This deadline is important so that I can have Focus ready for proof reading and Paul can print it ready for you on

Sunday 1st December.

I cannot guarantee to use anything sent to me after the deadline!



Baptism

On Sunday the 20th October at the 10.30am service Darren Greenfield told us that he had decided to follow Jesus.

He felt very strongly that as a profession of his new found faith he wanted to be baptised.

Rev Cole Maynard, assisted by Deacon John Pulford, performed the baptism.

Prior to this Rev Maynard explained to the children what the act of baptism was all about and the commitment it meant.

The baptism was not only witnessed by the church family but also Darren's family and his wife to be, Andrea.

He was welcomed into the family of God and we all wish him blessings on his walk with Jesus.

May God Bless you Darren and may our Lord and Saviour Guide you always.

Paul Clover





Darren's baptism.
Photos - Paul Clover





Paris in 4 days by bike



On Wednesday 25th September I set off with my son David and son-in-law Stuart from the outskirts of London with the aim of reaching Paris in four days. Susan drove in parallel and we met up with her at lunchtimes and each evening. She was able to take our things so that we could cycle without too much baggage.

The first day we encountered some hilly terrain in the north of Sussex, then we picked up a disused railway line known as the “Cuckoo Trail” – a lovely traffic-free route that I would recommend for family cycling. We finished the first day along a very windy seafront from Seaford to Newhaven, arriving in good time for the evening ferry crossing.

We spent the night in a rented apartment in Dieppe, from where we set out on another disused railway path and enjoyed a long stretch of off-road cycling, though Stuart had the first puncture of our trip and rain was a persistent companion on Day 2. Fortunately the heaviest downpour was right at the end of the day as we cycled into Gournay-en-Bray, so we were able to change out of our things and enjoy a relaxing evening.

Day 3 was the longest stretch – 99 kilometres. We went from Gournay through Gisors, Bray-et-Lu, through a national park area known as the Vexin to finish the day in Cergy-Pontoise.



David had three punctures, but apart from that we managed the distance OK and the weather was more favourable. Cergy-Pontoise is a new town on the outskirts of Paris, and our hotel was in a retail park which included a Decathlon sports shop where David could buy a couple of new tyres and inner tubes!

It was only about 50 kilometres to our destination at the Eiffel Tower, but the journey on Day 4 was complicated by some blocked roads and we were grateful to be able to use Google Maps to find a new route. Eventually we cycled into the middle of Paris, which had a variety of cycle lanes that we were able to use to arrive safely at the Trocadero (where the photo was taken) before crossing the river Seine to the Eiffel Tower. We didn't go up it as the queues were very long, but we enjoyed a relaxing river cruise in the late afternoon and finished our day in Montmartre.



We put the bikes on the back of the car to drive home. It was lovely to have time with the younger men, we were grateful to be safe and uninjured, and it was certainly a type of trip that I would like to repeat.

In addition, we were able to do some fundraising for deserving causes. Stuart raised some funds for Multiple Sclerosis research, David and I raised funds for the Rafiki Thabo Foundation (see last month's Focus). Thank you to those who have supported us.

Ian Sydenham



Fish & Chip Supper and Quiz



23 November.

6.15pm for 6.45 pm



This is a ticket only event and tickets will be issued with payment.

The choices are:

Fish, Chips + Dessert	£7.00
Sausage, Chips. + Dessert	£5.50
Child's Sausage, Chips +. Dessert	£3.50
Veggie Sausage, Chips & Dessert	£5.50

*Tickets available from the Church Office
during the week
and from Carol Clubb or Pam Simpson on
Sundays*

The Bright Sparks team

are in the Hall on Monday mornings for
parents and carers of 2-5 year olds.





Christmas Tree Festival

The Festival will take place from
Saturday 7th - Saturday 14th December

*If you haven't decorated a tree before
do think about doing one this year
It is great fun and a family could do one together
All the activities in the church
are represented
Talk to **Pam Simpson or Carol Clubb**
if you are interested*





We are planning
Fun on the Forecourt
also



Saturday 7th - Saturday 14th December

There will be some attractions for the public to enjoy free of charge and encourage them to come into the Church to see the Trees.

Other features are currently being planned.

If you have ideas please let

Mike Baker know

It will be a great opportunity for all of us in our fellowship to come and show the Town that our Church is alive and enjoying the Good News of Jesus at Christmas time

Please make a date to spend some time with us



*Coming next month
A bumper edition for
December 2019 - January 2020
Please send me all your Christmas plans.
It would be good to have some from
Remix, After 8,
any of the Powerhouse groups
or weekly groups of all ages,
Open Door,
photos, pictures,
a sentence or two -
It's really hard work being an Editor.
Please help me,*





BMS Birthday Scheme November



*6th Mike Baker 8th Steve Crayston
11th Geoff Walker 23rd Ivan Brown
24th David Harper 25th Sheila Dyer*

Flowers in the Sanctuary

This month they have been donated by

*3rd - Pearl Tarbin
10th Tony and Barbara Horne
17th Ralph Goode
24th - Joyce Miller*



Susan Sydenham



*In September Susan retired from a number of years
working in Colchester primary Schools with CYO.
I hope to have something more in next month's Focus.
Ed.*



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

Retreads

For our next new venue we are off to a special outing

The Balkerne Suite, Colchester Institute,

Sheepen Road CO3 3LL.

Wednesday 27th November 12.15 for 12.30,

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME.



The cost is £16 for three courses, including welcome drink, and coffee/tea. This time it doesn't include the tip

This is more expensive than usual but special for Christmas.

The courses are not big but ample.

If you would like to come then add your name to the list on the notice board and your preference

Car parking is limited so we need to make sure we have full cars.

The closing date is Sunday 10th NOVEMBER

I would like all payment as soon as possible please as I have to pay a deposit for each person .

If I am not around please leave with Paul in the office

Yvonne Lee





Starters

Cream of Mushroom soup with breaded garlic mushrooms

Confit duck hash with Fried egg & watercress salad

Pan seared fillet of line caught smoked mackerel with
guacamole salsa with lime creme fraiche

Spiced pumpkin risotto with confit shallots & sage

Main

Garlic & rosemary scented pan fried plaice fillets, cauliflower puree & Parisian potatoes (potato balls in butter)

Mixed bean & seasonal vegetable tagine with cous cous

Pan fried guinea fowl supreme served with braised
Cabbage with red wine sauce

Sicilian oven baked lamb meatballs in Arrabbiata sauce

Desserts

Sticky toffee pudding with vanilla ice cream

Lime & mascarpone cheesecake

Bakewell tart

Chocolate mousse



Shoeboxes

Please note your completed Shoeboxes must be in church by Sunday 10th November

It's not too late to collect a box from me after the morning service

or call me at the Office 01206 571 879.

I can also supply ideas for your boxes if you like,

Paul Clover





*Please join us on the
Annual Fellowship Holiday at
Sizewell Hall*

*from
3rd - 8th April 2020*

*A chance to reflect, relax and refresh mind, body and
soul on the beautiful Suffolk Coast*

*For more details talk to Rebecca or John Pulford
01206 240283 or johnpulford65@icloud.com*

*Adults £160, Children at Secondary School £140,
Primary School £95, pre-school £25
(Includes accommodation costs of
£86 per person over 4 years old)*

For further details see this notice on the board

FOODBANK

Thank you for support of the Foodbank at Harvest Festival.

Almost 38 kg of non perishable food was donated in addition to a good amount which went to Open Door for their work.

On behalf of the Foodbank I pass on their thanks for your support of their work when sadly need is growing.

In the first nine months of this year you have given over 123 kg of food and other requisites to the Foodbank through the box in the church vestibule.

I am aware that some of you support the Foodbank through boxes in your supermarket. This is obviously a very convenient way to give and I would commend it to you all.

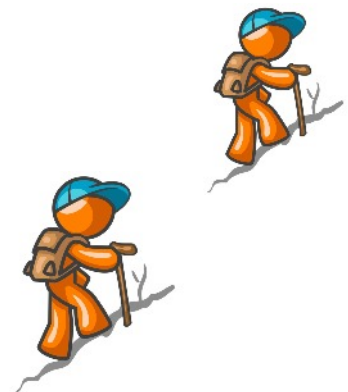
As gifts through the church have declined I have withdrawn the box. I am sure that the Foodbank will not suffer from this and thank those of you who have and will support the Foodbank by whatever means.

Henry Spyvee



Amiable Amblers

2nd November at 2pm
Heybridge Basin



Meet in car park off Basin Road
MR 870069/CM9 4RR.

Contact Malcolm & Sheila Dyer
01206 512430/07847 254757

Flowers in the Sanctuary

I am shortly producing the list of flower donors for 2020.

If you have donated flowers this year and do NOT wish to

do so again would you please speak to me

or put a note in my pigeonhole

Otherwise I will assume that you wish

to have that date again



Please note that this is subject to weddings and funerals

and if that particular date is special to someone else,

ie Silver Wedding, Golden Wedding,

Easter, Harvest Christmas etc

There are still a few free dates that will appear in

next month's Focus

Yvonne Lee

Soul Survivor

I had a wonderful 11 days at Soul Survivor Weeks B and C. Worshipped with over 18,000 young people, 2099 new Christians over the summer festivals and saw over 600 of them give their lives to Jesus. Served, cooked and washed up for over 600 members on team with a wonderful bunch of around 30 people on week C.

I took 12 young people to Soul Survivor week B with Work along with 4 other work colleagues. Had two amazing team leaders for catering team and all for one purpose! For Jesus!! Soul survivor it has been an incredible 9 years with you as a delegate and being on team! I have seen so many lives changed at Soul Survivor when they meet and encounter God! Including mine!



and update from Red Balloon

I have now been with Red Balloon over a year now! and I am fully settled into life working with Red Balloon, I got promoted just before the summer from being an assistant Families worker to Families Worker.

In the Summer Red balloon took a group of 12 young people along with 5 members of staff including myself to Soul Survivor Week B, It was an incredible week seeing the young people worship God, some gave their lives to God and saw them encounter God numerous times

Its all ready been a busy few weeks in September with starting up a new Ofsted run after school club at St Andrews primary school in North Weald which I am one of the co- leaders for, The children have been fantastic and have really been enjoying the activity's we have set up for them and its great to be able to build relationships with these children.

Other projects I am involved in this year are Little Angels, Little Church and Cherubs which are Toddler groups for parents/carers and their toddlers to come and hear about God through singing and dancing, through a bible story and a craft. I am involved in a lunch time prayer club and I am really excited to be launching Prayer spaces with Red Balloon, we have got are first one booked at the end of October.

I still go to All saint's church in Woodford and very involved with their young adult group. I to a young adults home group on a Wednesday and there is various events that happen during the year like walks, games night and BBQs.

Sarah Twitchett





Eastern Baptist Association

from Revd Graeme Ross Regional Minister, Eastern Baptist Association

So, when was the last time that you realized that you were wrong about something to do with following Jesus?

If your answer is 'I don't know' and you're not Jesus then I would suggest that you have a problem.

The Bible is full of language about growth, change and journeying, some examples are:

- *Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us* (Hebrews 12.1)
- *Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.*
(Philippians 3.12)
- *Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* (Romans 12.2)
- *And we all, who with unveiled faces reflect] the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory* (2 Corinthians 3.18)

We are supposed to follow Jesus as his disciples, devoted to life long learning. Obviously we can pass on the things we have learnt to others but in doing so we must never lose sight of the reality that we too are disciples who should be trying to continually learn from and to become more like our master.

In Acts we read about Saul who lived his life fanatically trying to serve and to please God but then he had an encounter with God on the road to Damascus, he realized how wrong he had been and his life was never the same.

Once upon a time I believed that the Bible taught that women couldn't be called by God to be Ministers and I was puzzled by the Christians who weren't seeing what appeared to be clear in scripture. While I was studying theology I wrote a paper to show that my understanding of the Bible was right but as I engaged with the various passages at a deeper level I was shocked to realize how wrong I had been.

Once upon a time I believed that Ministers are called to primarily to build churches up but then I realized a few years ago that Jesus is building his church and that our part of this work is to make disciples. This changed the way I engaged in ministry as I started to consider how to make disciples who can then in turn make disciples rather than just trying to keep the church functioning whilst doing a bit of evangelism on the side. The realization that Sunday services shouldn't be the only gateway to discipleship and church came as quite a shock to me but as a result of embracing this, people have come to faith and been discipled who otherwise wouldn't have been.

Once upon a time I believed that the point of church was to primarily to equip people to live out their faith in church life but then I encountered the concept of whole life discipleship which made sense of the scriptures in a whole new way. (If you are interested in learning about whole life discipleship and applying it to your church then you may be interested in joining an learning hub: <https://www.licc.org.uk/resources/learninghubs/>. There are some taster sessions to find out more about the hubs in November details and dates are on our website <https://www.licc.org.uk/resources/learninghubs/>)

Cleopas and his friend met Jesus on the road to Emmaus and when reflecting on their journey with him they said '*Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?*'

I hope and pray that our hearts desire is that Jesus would open the scriptures to us and that our hearts would burn within us as he leads us through change as we grow in our faith, becoming more like him.

Graeme

Reproduced with permission from Rev Graeme Ross

MINISTER

REV COLE MAYNARD padrecole@yahoo.co.uk

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

REV TERRY TENNENS terry@tennens.net

SECRETARY

MIKE BAKER mike.baker118@btinternet.com

TREASURER

CHRIS CHAPMAN janechris86chapman@hotmail.com

NEPALI CHURCH

DEACON TANKA RAI tankarai44@yahoo.com

REMIX CO-ORDINATOR

ROBIN HARBORD robin.harbord@essex.gov.uk

POWERHOUSE CO-ORDINATOR

LESLEY WALDER lesleywalder185@gmail.com

OPEN DOOR DIRECTOR

PETER DALE director@opendoorcolchester.co.uk

CARE OF THE ELDERLY WORKER

GILL CHELSKI gillchelski@live.co.uk

PRAYER MINISTRY CO-ORDINATOR

TONY HORNE the.hornet@ntlworld.com

FOCUS EDITOR

SHIRLEY DRAKE shirleydrake33@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

PAUL CLOVER

All correspondence through church office

Open Monday-Friday 9.30am-1.30pm Tel: 571879



Colchester Baptist Church, Eld Lane,
Colchester CO1 1LS
Email: office@colchesterbaptistchurch.org.uk
www.colchesterbaptistchurch.org.uk
Charity no. 1127024