

COLCHESTER
Baptist Church



FOCUS

on our church family and friends

September 2019

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

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
- 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
Arts and Crafts
Retreads - Bi-monthly
Sea Scout troop
- Thursday Prayer meeting – 1st week
Lunch club – 1st week
Bible Study/House group – fortnightly
Church Meeting – 3rd week
- Friday Open Door
Stay and Play (0-5 years)
Remix – not school holidays
Street Pastors
- Saturday Street Pastors



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'TAKE COURAGE! IT IS I'

Mathew records for us that beautiful but equally terrifying story of Jesus' first followers out on a boat late into the night trying to make their way over the volatile waters of Lake Galilee. This small sea is the second lowest body of water in the world, at between 209 and 215 metres beneath sea level and situated at the foot of the Golan Heights cold air can come off the hills and collide with the warm air hovering over this deep body of water and a storm would cook from this mixing of opposites, with high winds and correspondingly high waves!

A glassine lake surface can rapidly morph into a ferment, with white crested waves rising to several feet, seeking to overwhelm any small vessel that dares to skim its surface. Such was the wind and the waves on that particular night that these men made little progress across the lake and like a watery M25 remained static, gripped at its centre.

Unable to make any forward progress tiredness began to drain the energy out of youthful muscles and with fatigue came fear as their fate slowly started to take traction in their minds! The wind drowned all noise other than its howl, and the relentless spray dampened clothes and courage, as these men, many brought up on the shores of this sea, begin to sink into despair. This is where it all ends, a terrible and ignoble death in the icy waters of this lake.

Then when the situation seems beyond all hope, their fears are given fresh fuel as some ghostly apparition walked towards them out of the dark. Surely this is some disfigured creature from the deep, come to drag them beneath the angry surface of the sea to the calm and terrible depths below. So Matthew recalls,

'they were terrified. "It's a ghost, they said, and cried out in fear.'
(Matthew 14:26)

Matthew could personally taste the dryness of the mouth that comes with fear, as he too was aboard that boat! Yet amidst their screams another voice could be heard above the wail as this spectre called out:

‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’ (Matthew 14:27)

Perhaps some who read this letter are currently like these early disciples, fearful that your new pastor is making waves! Visions can be hard to grasp and to grapple with particularly if you have been rowing upon CBC’s waters for many years. You know the waters of this particular body far better than me; you are familiar with the contours of the area, its width and its length, and can recall many journeys made across its surface. But you called a leader to bring fresh eyes to the fellowship, an experienced minister of some thirty-one years, and I have walked with you these past twelve months so, hopefully, you will understand a little of my heart and love for you all as your pastor. Change is a dynamic of life, and from the cradle to the grave we all experience change and part of the skill of living is learning to adapt to these new challenges as we travel through the seasons. The famous American bible scholar and author, Warren Wiersbe wrote:

‘We can benefit from change. Anyone who has ever really lived knows that there is no life without growth. When we stop growing, we stop living and start existing. But there is no growth without challenge, and there is no challenge without change. Life is a series of changes that create challenges and if we are going to make it we have to grow.’

As your pastor I am seeking to hear God speak and to lead you where I believe He wants us to be, which is closer to Him and His blessing. I will make mistakes, and at times get things wrong, because you have called a human and not a character from Marvel comics, so I hope you will forgive me, but I have no desire but to hear God speak and for us as a church to follow our Shepherd who is Good and leads us beside quiet waters!

During World War One a rather diffident Anglican clergyman answered the call to serve his country and joined the Army Chaplain's Department (we didn't get the 'Royal' cipher until the end of WW1). This aged gentleman came from the peaceful parish of Hutton Roof, in the Lake District, to the horrors and torment of the Western Front. During his time as a Chaplain he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.), the Military Cross (M.C.) and the Victoria Cross (V.C.), which was personally presented to him in France by his majesty George the Fifth.

This brave little man was loved by the soldiers and remained in the front line for months refusing to take rest in the rear with the other soldiers on rotation. Thus battle fatigue and tiredness often meant he would forget the passwords ensuring safe passage between the lines, but being so well known he developed his own. When his muddy figure loomed out of the darkness before some trigger-happy sentry he would shout: *'It's only me! The Padre, it's only me!'* Thus fingers were removed from triggers and smiles replacing the grim face of fear!

So I call to all of you, not to be afraid of change! *'It's only me, your pastor!'*

I didn't respond to your call to serve within CBC to upturn the boat, but to lead you forward. We live as Christian's in very choppy and uncertain waters. The wind is getting up, the waves are rousing and the sun is setting beyond the horizon leaving us rowing in dark and murky waters.

So we need to ensure our vessel is up for the journey and we are spiritually strengthened for the task at hand. So we can respond to the call of God to be a lifeboat to many and to ensure we go in the direction He is calling us.

Your Pastor,

Cole

PASTORS' COFFEE AND CHAT



Your lovable ministers are offering both free
coffee & time for a chat on



Thursday 5th September 2019



Cole (Office) & Terry (Helwys/Prayer Room)
kettle boiling & conversations brewing from
09:30-12:30 and 14:00-15:00

No instant coffee or solutions!

Come & Get Your Caffeine & Pastor fix

Dates for your Diary

September

Sunday 1st - Church family photo

Thursday 5th - Pastors' coffee and chat p7
Church prayer evening

Saturday 7th - Mens' breakfast p20
Amiable Amblers p13

Wednesday 11th - new Bible Study group and 4th Wed. p20

Saturday 14th - Free Family Fun Festival p10

Sunday 15th - Newcomers' Reception - church lounge

Fri/Sat 20/21st - CBC Pastoral Care training

Wednesday 25th - Retreads p21

Sunday 29th - Church meeting and Open Door AGM 12.30

October

Sunday 6th - Harvest celebrations p15

November

Sunday 10th - Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 17th - Church Anniversary

December

7th - 14th - Christmas Tree Festival

An Editor's Lament

When I was about to prepare my first edition of Focus, in December 2010 the then Treasurer, David Prentice, said that the church would pay for a new edition of Page Plus for me.

My daughter Hilary set it up for me and helped me to get started. It has served us well for nearly nine years.

You will see from the few pictures here that I was able to proceed as normal and insert photos up to the time I went away at the beginning of the month. By the time I came back last Saturday, 11th August, after 6 days away I found problems and was unable to insert photos or clipart.

As my computer knowledge is really very limited I have to present, with many apologies, an edition almost devoid of photos and colour. I am now told that my edition of Page Plus has been withdrawn.

I wish I had had some warning.

I will now look for the best alternative that I can find and try to have a rather better Focus for next month.

Shirley Drake - Editor



Every September Colchester comes alive
with the

FREE FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL

Join us in Lower Castle Park on

Saturday 14 September

from 11am to 4pm

for a great day out.

There will be bouncy castles, live music, a
BBQ,

a Tiny Tea Tent, a dog show

and lots of free activities for all the family.

Hope to see you all there! Bring a friend!

Want to help at the Free family Fun Festival?



We'd love to have you.

Your festival needs you!

Saturday 14 September 2019



We're really excited by the response to this year's Free Family Fun Festival and if you would like to make a BIG difference to the families that join us on the day you can sign up to help right now!

There are three main roles we'd love you to fill. They are:

Set up team

We need a few strong people to help us move barriers, put marquees up, and unload and place chairs, tables, hay bales, and sound equipment. We also need a team of four people to help us with car parking. This is a job for the early birds as we'll need you from 07:00-10:00.

Stewarding

Stewards are the friendly face of the Free Family Fun Festival. You'll answer questions, direct people, and manage any queues. Most people serve all day from 10:00 to 16:30 but you can come for a shorter shift if that works with you. We need all day stewards from 10:00-16:30, morning stewards from 10:00-13:30, and afternoon stewards from 13:00-16:30.

Set down team

Again, you'll need to be able to lift and carry or direct traffic. This team will put everything back in place, check that any litter has been collected, direct traffic off site, and rake up straw. We'll need you from 16:00 to around 18:00.

ORDINATION AND INDUCTION AT MARINERS CHAPEL

It was a privilege and a pleasure to attend the ordination and induction of Simon Heard at Mariners Chapel on July 20th. Conducted by the Rev Graeme Ross, the area Superintendent, the service was the culmination of conversation and prayer.

Simon served for some years as the Director of Open Door and as a member of Colchester Baptist Church. He knew that this was not permanent for him and began to feel that God was calling him into full time ministry. In order to test this he began a part time course at Spurgeons College and it was during this time when, with the support of Colchester Baptist Church, he was called as a Student Minister to Mariners Chapel. It was at the successful conclusion of his studies that both he and the members of Mariners Chapel felt he should be inducted as their full time Minister.

On the day the chapel was packed with members of the church, friends and family and representatives of local churches all wanting to wish Simon well. The worship was led by members of Mariners after which Rev Graeme Ross led Simon through statements and promises for his Ordination during which a statement was made by one of the staff of Spurgeons College and she presented him with a Bible.

Following this Graeme then conducted the Induction during which two members of the church spoke about their call to Simon. The Headmistress of the local Primary School spoke of her pleasure at working with Simon when he goes to the school. The local councillor gave greetings and the Minister of the Anglican church in Rowhedge spoke of the joy of the two churches working together in the village.

Simon was then prayed for by all the Ministers present for God to bless his ministry in the future.

Simon thanked all who had supported and prayed for him throughout the previous years.

We at Colchester Baptist will continue to pray that he will continue to know Gods blessing and guidance in the future.

Gill Balfour

Amiable Amblers

7th September at 2pm

Polstead - Water Lane

Park in St Mary's Church car park

MR 989381. CO6 5BS.

Contact Paul Walder 01206 212759/07885 489000

Called to the Ministry

Simon Heard's Ordination and Induction at Mariners Chapel, Rowhedge on 20 July was a great day. A great day for Simon who is now a 'proper' minister. A great day for Mariners Chapel as they keep Simon's leadership. A great day for Eld Lane as the culmination of the support we have given him over the years.

Eld Lane has not had a great tradition in calling people into the minstry, although we have had our moments. In 1850 important support was given to Charles Spurgeon for which he retained gratitude throughout his life. Spurgeon famously did not go to College but founded his own when he was in his early '20's.

Soon afterwards we spotted the potential in Spurgeon's brother, James. We sent him to study at the then Stepney College, London, now Regents Park, Oxford.

In the last 75 years since the Second World War we have officially supported just three students, Peter King in the '50's, Malcolm Carroll in the '70's and now Simon. In addition we have helped to mould three others who went into the ministry through other sources. Stuart Olyott, Neil Turton and Jim Kilpin.

Maybe Simon's example may start a new trend!

Henry Spyvee -Church Historian

New projector operators are needed,
one for both morning and evening once a month.

Training is provided.

If you would like to be part of the team please see David Prentice

HARVEST CELEBRATION

6th October.

Does anyone have a garden trug that we could borrow
to decorate the church for Harvest please?

We would like as many as possible, wooden or wicker

If you can help please contact

Carol Clubb or Pam Simpson

Many thanks in anticipation!

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

7th to 14th December

It's not too early to be thinking about your
entry for this year

Thank you

*to those who have done my ironing,
changed the bed linen, provided meals and
been shopping.*

*For all the prayers, visits, cards,
phone calls and flowers.*

*I have so appreciated all the love and care
shown to me and Rod which has greatly
helped us during a very stressful time.*

Margaret Sawtell

Thank you

*for all the cards, messages, emails,
Church flowers and visits
which have helped me on my road to
recovery and coping with a new hip.*

*Also to Ted and our daughter Hilary
for their loving care*

Shirley Drake

*Congratulations
to
Geoff and Anne Walker
who celebrate their
Golden Wedding
this month*

BMS Birthday Scheme

21st - Thomas Driver 25th - Fiona Prentice

29th - David Prentice

Flowers in the Sanctuary

1st - Annette Elliott

8th - Chris and Jane Chapman

15th - Chris Ellis

22nd - Keith and Maria Browne

29th - Geoff and Anne Walker - Golden Wedding

Josh Crayston

will be starting at

Easton and Otley College

to study Agriculture

Joe Driver

I have just completed my A levels in law ,sociology, and religious Studies at Colchester 6th form.

I am currently working part time as a lifeguard/pool attendant at the "Lifehouse" spa and hotel in

Thorpe - le - Soken and shall be applying for the police force in the near future,

which has been my chosen career now for the past few years.

Remembering

Rory Anderson-Wai

who passed away in his sleep in August.

His Mum Sally is a friend of Gill Driver

and with her younger sons, Rory and David,

joined our church holiday at Sizewell a few years ago

Tom Hills

will be starting at

University of Kent, Canterbury

studying

Computer Science

Tom Crayston

will also be starting at

University of Kent, Canterbury

studying

Forensic Science

More of our young people will soon know their future plans or
will be starting new schools

Please let me know for the next Focus so that we can pray for
them as a church family.

Ed.

Mens' Breakfast

Calling all men

*To come for breakfast on
Saturday 7th September.*

The food will be cooked by the ever popular

Breakfast Boys

and the speaker will be

Rev Terry Tennens

*We hope to arrange a Ladies' Breakfast
in late September/ October.*

Bible Study

A new Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer group commences at the church on Wednesday 11th September in the Helwys Room from 10.30 - 12.00 led by Rev Clive Jones

The group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month

Further information from Rev Clive Jones or

Rev Terry Tennens

Retreads

Our next outing is a new place for us.

**Maria's Vintage Tea Room, Mersea Vineyard
East Mersea CO5 8SX.**

**The date is Wednesday 25th September
12.45 for 1pm.**

The cost is **£11** for **one** course, including the tip.

There is a list of sweets.

On the menu are the following:

Steak and Ale Pie with mashed potatoes and vegetables

Salmon Fillet with sweet chilli glaze new potatoes, coleslaw and salad
or vegetables

Homemade Quiche (feta cheese sun blush tomatoes and basil) with
new potatoes, coleslaw and salad

Fisherman's Pie with fresh vegetables

Lambs Liver and Bacon with mashed potatoes, vegetables and gravy

If you would like come then add your name to the list
and your preference.

The closing date is Sunday 15th September
and I would like all payment by then please

Yvonne Lee

James and Ali's wedding

Some will remember James Harrison who was a member of our church for several years. In 2016 he moved to Bristol to work at the Bristol Old Vic theatre, and met Ali Farquahar in a Christian group for young adults there. One year to the day after their first date they were married, on 13 July 2019, at Fishponds Baptist Church where he is now a member. Ali, a health visitor, had her dress specially made for the occasion and the reception on the pier at Weston-super-Mare provided a super backdrop for some photos! I was the only representative of our church to be able to attend the wedding, but I had a lovely day, and I think they did too!

Susan Sydenham



We're cycling to Paris!

Towards the end of September I will be cycling to Paris with my son, David, and son-in-law, Stuart. We've yet to define our starting point (depending on where we can leave a car) but we expect to cycle about 150 miles in 4 days, taking the ferry from Newhaven to Dieppe. Susan will drive over as our support vehicle and we will all return by car.

We're doing it partly for fun, but I also plan to raise some funds to help deserving children in three African countries to be able to go to school.

The Rafiki Thabo Foundation offers school fee payment for children who would not normally be able to afford it. Local committees in the three countries (Uganda, Kenya and Lesotho) try to identify deserving children and then pay for them to attend an appropriate school. Do look at the Rafiki Thabo Foundation website for more details. The chairman and founder of the organisation is the son-in-law of Mike and Marietta Woods.

If you would like to make a donation, the easiest way is electronically via this link:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/IanSydenham>

Ian Sydenham

*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*

LEST WE FORGET
RALPH GEORGE GUNN (1894-1918),
FREDERICK GEOGE HOOKER (1887-1916) AND
ARTHUR ALAN ROW (1891-1918)

Ralph Gunn was born in Colchester and in 1911 he was living in Magdalen Street with a Mrs Gowern, described as a wife and his two sisters. It is not clear if Mrs. Gowern was the children's mother. She is described as a General Shopkeeper and Ralph was a Baker's Journeyman.

Ralph enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment and then transferred to the East Surrey Regiment. He died of his wounds at home on 24 November, 1918, just over a fortnight after the Armistice and is buried in Colchester Cemetery.

Frederick Hooker was the son of Frederick and Emily Hooker who lived in Harwich Road. Intriguingly he was serving with the Canadian Infantry at the time of his death.

Arthur Row was born in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. At the time of the 1911 Census and of his death the family was living in Magdalen Street. In 1911 his father was a baker, working from home.

Arthur, his two older brothers and younger sister worked for him. He is described as a baker and pastry cook.

Arthur enlisted in the Bedfordshire Regiment. He was killed in action in the Somme area on 30 June, 1918.

He is buried in the Pozieres Cemetery in France.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Henry Spyvee – Church Historian

A SIMPLE GIFT WITH A LASTING IMPACT

(“We love because He first loved us” – 1 John 4:19)

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to show God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local churches worldwide, to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Since 1990, more than 156 million children in over 150 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child.

This is just a ‘heads up’ to say that I already have some Shoeboxes available for those of you loyal/new supporters who wish to take them early for the 2019 appeal. All you must do is call me at the Office (01206 571879) or see me on a Sunday morning and I’ll arrange to supply you with a box (or boxes).

The closing date for the 2019 appeal will be late October – early November. More details to follow.

Paul Clover

Electing Deacons

The Deacons have the oversight of the Church and are elected for periods of three years from 1 January.

This year, Gill Balfour has served the Church for 9 years (3 periods of three years) and must stand down for a year at least. Brenda Reade ends a three year period and is eligible for re-election.

There is one other vacancy making three vacancies in total.

The other deacons are William Butcher, John Clubb, Ted Drake, Kaoru Magee, Lawrence Narhkom, John Pulford, Tim Rose, Pam Simpson and Lesley Walder.

The Officers (currently Mike Baker, Church Secretary and Chris Chapman, Church Treasurer) are elected annually.

Be thinking and praying about who should be Deacons.

All Church Members accepted into membership before November 2017 are eligible for nomination and elections take place at the November Church Meeting.

Nomination forms will be available in October.

Ted Drake

FAITH DOESN'T MAKE SENSE IT MAKES MIRACLES

- One needs something to believe in, something for which one can have whole-hearted enthusiasm. One needs to feel that one's life has meaning, that one is needed in this world.

(Hannah Senesh)

- Faith is like radar that sees in the fog – the reality of things at a distance that the human eye cannot see.

(Corrie ten Boom)

- Obedience is the fruit of faith, patience is the bloom on the fruit.

(Christina Rossetti)

- Faith is not belief. Belief is passive. Faith is active.

(Edith Hamilton)

- Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service. Without it, nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible.

(Mary Mcleod Bethune)

- What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot see.

(The Bible - Hebrews 11:1)

- I believe in the light, even when the sun doesn't shine, I believe in love, even when it isn't given. I believe in God, even when His voice is silent.

(Found scratched on an air-raid shelter wall in Germany during World War II)

- Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable and receives the impossible.

(Corrie ten Boom)

Paul Clover

(Reproduced courtesy of the Clifton Light church magazine)

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