


Colchester Baptist Church



May 2024

**FOCUS
ON OUR
FAMILY
AND
FRIENDS**





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

Sunday	10:00 Nepali Church in Warwick Room 10:30 Morning Service Powerhouse and Connect 13:00 The Circle 18:30 Evening Service (check news-sheet for details)
Monday	Bright Sparks (2-5 years) Open Door Monthly Deacons' Meeting
Tuesday	Tuesday@12 Racquet sports (weeks 1, 3 and 5) Badminton Monthly Quiet Prayer
Wednesday	Open Door ASK Friendship group (fortnightly termtime) Baby and Tots Funtime (termtime) 14:00 fFAFF (1st & 3rd) Sea Scout group
Thursday	Tea and Coffee prior to Lunch Club (1st week) Lunch Club (1st week) Bible Study Housegroups (2nd and 4th weeks) Prayer Meeting (3rd week)
Friday	Open Door Remix (not school holidays) Street Pastors
Saturday	Street Pastors

CALENDAR OF SERVICES/EVENTS

MAY

5th 10:30 Family Service

Rev Terry Tennens

JESUS TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN:

ACTS 1.1-11

18:30 NO SERVICE

12th 10:30 Morning Service

Communion

Rev John Pulford

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES:

ACTS 1.12-26

18:30 Kept in our Hearts Service

Rosemary and Rev Terry Tennens

These details can change please check the weekly news sheet for information.

19th 0930 Prayer Meeting
10:30 Pentecost Service
Lee McDade
PENTECOST:
ACTS 2v1-47

18:30 United Pentecost Service
Kingsland Church
Lexden

26th 10:30 Morning Service
GROWING WITNESS &
OPPOSITION:
ACTS 3v1-5v42

18:30 Evening Communion
Lee McDade
with Tunde Ikueson

Improvise adapt and overcome.

I was reading a devotional the other day on what we do, or how we react when life presents us with unexpected situations, or sudden disruptions.

We can become anxious or irritable or maybe panic sets in and we can react in unexpected ways.

Jesus was someone who was definitely used to being interrupted or disrupted. We could see a disruption as an opportunity to reflect on how we, as Christians, can respond with grace and patience.

In my life, I appear to have had an extraordinary number of opportunities to learn these lessons. The more the complexities and demands of these 'learning opportunities' the more I feel the need to look at the example of Jesus.

The ministry of Jesus and the experiences of His disciples offer profound lessons on handling the complexities and demands of daily life.

One of the most direct lessons comes from Jesus Himself, who exemplified a life of service and adaptability, he had the ability as we say in the Army to improvise, adapt and overcome.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus encountered interruptions that became opportunities to teach, heal and comfort.

Consider the time Jesus was teaching and a paralysed man was lowered through the roof by his friends so he could be healed (Mark 2:1-12). Jesus did not react with frustration to this interruption; instead, He used it as a moment to demonstrate His power and compassion.

This teaches us that disruptions can be divine appointments, offering us unique opportunities to serve others in love.

Jesus also taught the importance of rest amidst the busyness of life. After periods of intense ministry, He would retreat to pray and recharge, showing the need for balance between work and rest (Mark 6:31).

As Christians facing unexpected demands, we should remember to find moments for rest and connection with God, ensuring we don't run ourselves ragged but maintain our spiritual health and well-being.

Easter was a busy but a wonderful time of both opportunities and some time to rest and reflect, it was nice to see folk at Sizewell spending time with each other in the presence of the living God.

As our church grows, we may encounter some unexpected demands but let's be Christ focused and deal with what ever comes our way in Love and obedience.

Be blessed everyone.

Lee

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(Thu-Sun)

Tel.: via Office/Directory



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Associate Minister

lee@colchesterbaptistchurch.org.uk

(Mon-Wed, Fri, Sun)

Tel.: via Office/Directory

TEA WITH LEE



On Monday afternoons between 1 and 3:30 Lee McDade will be at the church to see any visitors who'd like to drop in for a cup of tea and a chat.

He'll be free to say hi if you're going past, to meet you if you've not met yet, to chat for a while about anything and to pray with you or for you.

He will also be in the building from 9:30 but as he will be working at Open Door, he may not have as much time to make the tea.

He hasn't mentioned biscuits or cakes but I'm sure they'd be welcome if you arrive with some.



Let us know his
favourites

RWANDA 24 Pilot Expedition



In May I'm travelling to Rwanda with AmorEurope (www.amoreurope.org/pure) as part of a 5 strong team to discover if the opportunity is right to partner with Azizi Life (www.azizilife.com) and take the PURE WaSH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) programme into Rwanda.

There is much need to be alleviated in Rwanda but there is a second reason. We can't take teams to Gambia in our summer holidays as it's the wet season, but it's the dry season in Rwanda - so we may be taking groups of younger people on mission there in future.

Phil Savage will be leading the team but the other 4 team members - Jane, Sarah, Janet and Phil G, will all be taking responsibility as Team Leader for a day (and leading daily devotions, and running an evening entertainment) as part of our training as potential leaders for future expeditions.

We'll be staying at the rather nice purpose built centre (www.azizilife.com/events-meeting-and-training/) and walking to the next village, which we're told is even more

needy than those we encountered in Gambia, to deliver 50 Water filters and WaSH Interventions and 50 PAD packs (which some of you have helped to make).

We would really value your daily prayer support in the lead up and during the time we are in Rwanda.

PRAYER POINTS

The AMOR Team - Phil S, Jane, Janet, Sarah, Phil G Azizi Life, Tom and his team

Final plans & preparations

No distractions before we leave, e.g., sickness, problems, work, family issues.

That we all lean into God, operate in the strength of the Holy Spirit, prayerfully consider our

Outbound

Phil Jane, Phil: Manchester - Brussels

SN2184 6th May 0605-0830

Janet, Sarah: Heathrow - Brussels

SN2104 6th May 0650-0850

All: Brussels to Kigali

SN467 6th May 1025-1855

Inbound

Kigali - Kampala (Uganda) - Brussels

SN467 13th May 2010-14th May 0645

Phil, Jane, Phil: Brussels - Manchester

SN2173 14th May 1000 - 1020

Janet, Sarah: Brussels - Heathrow

SN2093 14th May 0950-1015

actions, & walk humbly with our God in all things

For our friends & family while we are away, for protection for them, & peace

Flights for timely, safe arrival

All cases to arrive on time and intact & no Customs issues

Internal travel for timely journeys & safety

The village & the people we will meet there. That they will be engaged & passionate for the intervention. That their health, & so wealth, & education will be transformed. That they will experience God & receive His eternal Living Waters

Great relationships & friendships with each other & with Azizi Life partners

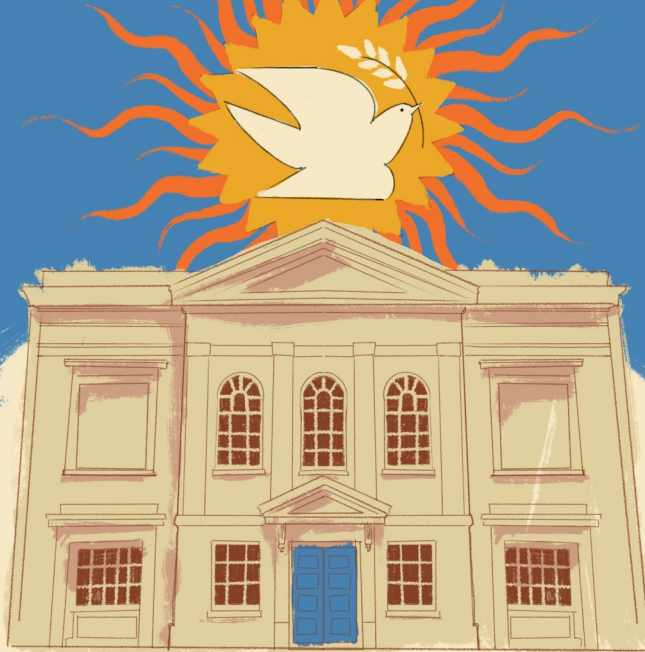
Health, no sickness

That our eyes, ears, hearts & minds will be open to God's leading.

It really makes a massive difference knowing the we are supported in prayer throughout. Will you join the team please?

Sarah Twitchett

Music of Hope



**A Medaille Trust charity fundraising concert
hosted by Colchester Baptist Church**

**featuring the East of England Coop Band and
Chelmsford Salvation Army songsters**

Saturday 11th May 2024 | 19:30 | Free Admission



**Donations in aid of the work of Medaille Trust
Colchester Baptist Church, Eld Lane,
Colchester, Essex, CO1 1LS**



MEDAILLE TRUST
REFUGEE AND FREEDOM FROM MODERN SLAVERY

HOUSING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

As a couple where one partner was less well while the other remained in comparatively good health, Vivien and I were not exceptional. Fortunately for us, we made the decision to downsize our housing and to move nearer our son and his family when we were both well enough to do it. Others may not have to move far but perhaps should consider downsizing before it becomes a burden.

The complex where we live has 26 bungalows and flats. Currently four are vacant. Talking to others suggests this may be typical. In other words this is an area where shortage of housing is less pressing.

More people moving from large houses will not solve the housing crisis but it will reduce slightly the pressure to build more houses.

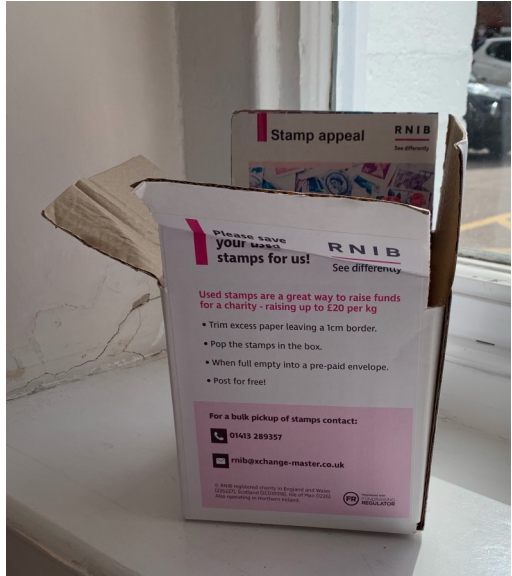
Henry Spyvee

DEADLINE for the June magazine will be:

Friday 17th May 2024.

Please send all contributions to:-
paulene.brooks@gmail.com

Dear All,
Thank you for the wonderful response to the appeal for used postage stamps for the RNIB. I was sent two A4 envelopes with the box in order to send the stamps to



them and you will be pleased to know that I have sent both off full, and I am awaiting a further supply.

Please keep saving your postage stamps and putting them in the box which is on the window sill in the vestibule just inside the main doors.

Many thanks and well done one and all,
Christine Frost

Photos From The Church Holiday At Sizewell Hall





Photos by Rosie

FREE EVENT



Lost In His Presence

Worship Time Events

WORSHIP TIME EVENTS
(WORSHIPTIMEEVENTS.ORG)



Birmingham Community Gospel Choir

London International Gospel Choir



ELLE LIMBEAR



DAYO BELLO

KINGSLAND CHURCH
86 LONDON ROAD, LEXDEN
COLCHESTER. CO3 9DW

SATURDAY

11
MAY
2024

TIME:

4PM - 8.30PM

GUEST ARTISTES

- + CHELMSFORD COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR
- + KINGSLAND COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR
- + BASILDON COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR
- + FLOWING RIVERS CHOIR, LONDON
- + SUCCESS ODIASE AND OTHERS



FOR MORE INFO: +44 7800 752219



Sharing 6 Tearfund Bible Studies with you, one a month.

Tearfund is a Christian international development and humanitarian organisation with more than 50 years' experience. They work in over 50 countries worldwide, in partnership with communities, churches and local organisations. They seek to tackle the complex challenges of poverty and injustice, and they have a heart for looking after the environment- God's wonderful creation, ensuring it works for us all.

Introduction to the 3rd Study

The Japanese word *komorebi* captures the joy of dappled sunlight through leaves and small glimmers of light or hope. Are you finding it hard to catch such glimmers right now?

The Bible has good news for you – the true light of the world comes to us through the Son of God. And it's not filtered and dimmed by the uncertainty and brokenness of the world. You can catch the unfiltered brilliance of Jesus in the way he moves through his church, bringing joy and healing even in places where extreme poverty threatens to rob people of hope.

Thanks to the compassion of Christians who care, we can come alongside our global neighbours as they lift themselves out of poverty and fulfil their God-given potential. Because it's not hard to see the light of Jesus in the world when you look.

Tearfund Bible Study 3

Why are we here? Written by Carmia Margaret

Carmia is Associate Pastor of Immanuel Christian Church, Bandung, and Faculty Member of Biblical Seminary for Rural Development Ministry, Cianjur, West Java, Indonesia.

'To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.'"

Genesis 3:17–19 (NIV)

'What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.'

'Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.' 'The poison of vipers is on their lips.'

'Their mouths are full of cursing and

bitterness.’ ‘Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know.’ ‘There is no fear of God before their eyes.’

Romans 3:9–18 (NIV)

Reflection

Arimbi, a registrar at the district court, was imprisoned on bribery charges after being caught with a large amount of cash that did not belong to her. The money was not actually stolen but a bribe she received to hide a larger corruption case. The case did come to court but ironically the person on trial was easily acquitted because he was able to pay bribes to various legal parties. Meanwhile, Arimbi was imprisoned for a long time because she could not afford a lawyer or other court bureaucracy costs. This story is told in a novel entitled 86 by a local female writer, Okky Madasari.

Arimbi's story is not unique. Many similar phenomena occur in Indonesia. All too often, the poor are disadvantaged and powerless, while the rich gain benefits and become more powerful. Fast medication and excellent health services can only be enjoyed by well paid

people who can afford premium insurance. High-quality education is also more available in expensive private schools. Even discounted shopping, food, entertainment and leisure can only be enjoyed by those rich enough to get a credit card.

As a result, there is economic inequality everywhere, accompanied by higher levels of unemployment, debt and crime. All of these are landscapes of poverty that sometimes can only be understood through the language of tears. The question is: Why does this happen? What caused this systemic phenomenon?

The multi-faceted causes of poverty

In his book *Old Testament ethics for the people of God*, Christopher Wright points out three causes of poverty revealed in the Bible.

¹ Firstly, poverty occurs as a result of disasters or natural events. This occurs in cases such as pest infestation of crops, the prolonged famine that eventually led Jacob's family to flee to Egypt (Genesis 42:1–2) or Elimelech's family to flee from Bethlehem to Moab (Ruth 1:1), as well as Job's calamity and sickness (Job 1:1–21). In Indonesia, examples include the massive tsunami in Aceh in 2004, earthquakes and volcanic

eruptions mainly in Java, and several landslides. Unfortunately, many 'natural disasters' are in fact made much worse because of the reality of poverty and a lack of disaster preparedness in vulnerable communities.

Secondly, according to Wright, some cases of poverty can occur due to 'laziness'. This is particularly shown in Proverbs (12:11, 14:23, 20:13, 21:17 etc). For formerly colonised countries such as Indonesia, enslavement has left a legacy of dependency in some. It's expressed in the mindset that, as long as there is food for today, there's no need to think further about becoming more economically established or improving life for the next generation.

However, by far the most common cause of poverty in the Bible and today is the third one: oppression. Oppression occurs when individuals or groups that are more numerous or stronger, driven by selfishness and greed, seek advantage by exploiting, harming or ignoring weaker people. The Old Testament shows that oppression has many faces: exploitation of the socially and economically marginalised, royal excess, abusive power,

judicial corruption or false accusation.

In addition to what Wright has said, some causes of poverty are linked to the church community. The unbiblical 'prosperity theology' narrowly equates the gospel promises with material riches, physical health and individual wealth. This kind of theology unconsciously promotes self-seeking rather than self-renouncing, increasing consumerism and bypassing the reality of structural sins and poverty. Some Christians also oversimplify the biblical idea of salvation as merely being moved into heaven: they seem to neglect their calling to seek to renew this material, earthly world.

Other unhealthy cultures such as celebrity pastors, social favouritism or discrimination can also contribute to the church's failure to fully follow Jesus' call and example to bring justice and shalom to the whole creation.

Of course, we know that this was not God's plan. God designed everything to be harmoniously organised, resulting in peace and prosperity for all creatures, and ultimately glorifying his name. Humans are supposed to submit to God, co-exist peacefully with one another, and faithfully steward creation. The

needs of all people can be met and the earth well cared for. There does not have to be economic inequality, injustice, poverty, famine or disaster. But all this was disrupted after sin entered. Sin broke the relationship we have with God, with ourselves, with our neighbours, and even with the land where we are living. Everyone lived with fear, shame and guilt. Everyone wanted to protect themselves and unknowingly oppressed others. Everyone thought that they would be safe if they had certain powers and enough material possessions. People's hearts drifted away from God and became greedy, hate-filled and envious. When everyone thinks this way, it is inevitable that injustice and oppression will eventually become the structural norm.

This is the sad reality we face in today's world. Do we realise this? Can we hear the cries of the world, especially those who are oppressed and living in poverty? Do we realise that we too may have been part of it? May God help us to listen to the language of tears, so that we too can begin to yearn for a better narrative as offered in scripture.

Reflection questions

1. What type of poverty is happening in your

neighbourhood? What causes and effects can you observe? What do you feel about all this?

2. What efforts have churches and Christian communities made to try to address the problem? To what extent does the Christian community exacerbate it?

3. How do these phenomena reflect the fractures in humanity's relationship with God, ourselves, our neighbour and the land?

Prayer

Loving and gracious God, grant us the discernment to see the suffering of the world around us and hear its cries, that we may be moved to participate in your work for its renewal. Let your kingdom be established on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.

1 Wright, Christopher (2004) Old Testament ethics for the people of God, Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 169–171. Cf Barnard, Phillip Alan (2016) 'The causes of poverty: Is a biblical understanding reflected in the experiences of today's poor?', *Missiology: An International Review* vol 44 (4), pp 448–65.

Amiable Amblers

May 2024

Start Time 2.30 pm

4th May

**Weeley Heath - Church Lane,
Park in the Essex Wildlife
Trust car park - just past St. Andrews
Church.**

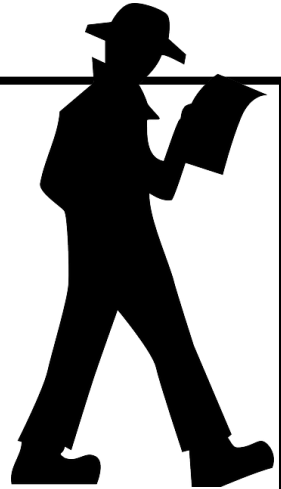
MR 155 214/CO16 9AT

Contact Roger Robson 07710 960376

**For more details of each walk please
contact the walk leader.**

Additional copies of this programme are
available from: Paul Walder on 01206
212759/07885 489000 or

info@lapwingmarketing.co.uk



CHURCH FLOWERS ROTA 2024

May

- 5th Jean Peacock in memory of Ray
12th David & Fiona Prentice Golden
Wedding Anniversary
19th Linda Hartnoll in memory of John
26th Thida & John McDermott Wedding
Anniversary



May

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8 th Janet Tyler | 8 th Chris Chapman |
| 22 nd John Davis | 28 th Terry Eccles |
| 30 th Lesley Walder | |

The Bible At A Glance

From

Our Daily Bread

Habakkuk

How do you cope with doubts? What do you do when God doesn't answer your prayers and questions?

Habakkuk didn't get it: God had promised to bring judgement on His rebellious people through Babylon— an enemy nation who were even worse! How could a good, holy God allow this? It didn't fit with Habakkuk's understanding of Him.

The book is a conversation between Habakkuk and God.

Habakkuk brings all of his doubts honestly to God, and confidently waits for His answers. Habakkuk is certain that God does hear and answer every prayer—even if it's not how or when we would choose for ourselves.

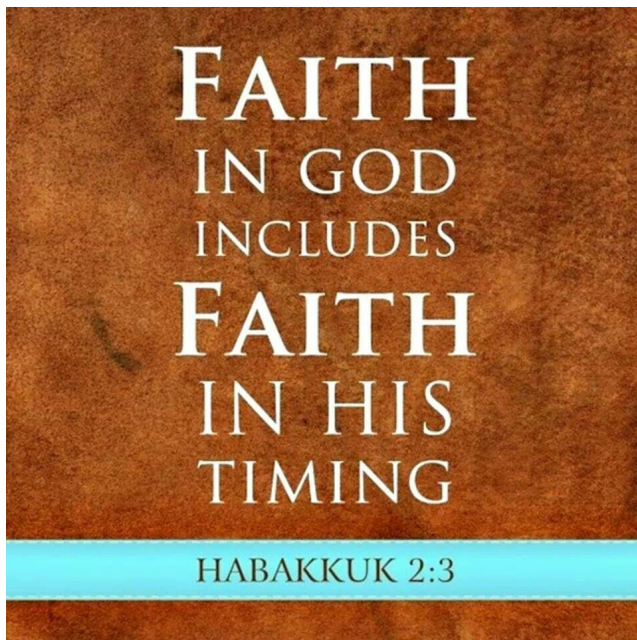
Do you want to know what it really means to live by trusting in God? Do you want to be

confident in God even in your pain and confusion? Let Habakkuk show you what it means to be a 'watcher' on the wall, training your eyes to see God and your ears to hear Him as you pray and study the Bible.

Taken from (The Bible At A Glance), © (2021) by Our Daily Bread Ministries.

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Many thanks to Paul Clover for recommending this series.



REMIX

Remix is a Youth Club that meets at the Church on a Friday evening. The young people that join us come from church families and from those who have had a link through Bright Sparks and Mothers and Toddlers, and their own friends from school. Currently we run two groups;

Primary school children from 6:30p.m. to 8p.m. and those who are 11 and over from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The evening involves crafts, sports, cooking, quizzes and in the summer, trips to the park, weather permitting. Over the lockdown months we maintained links by meeting on line, and since September 2021 a group of around 20 have been meeting at Church.

We would love to see the numbers grow both from children from our fellowship and those from the local communities, giving us the opportunity to build relationships with families in the town. We would also love to welcome

some adult leaders to join the dedicated team who enjoy the privilege of working alongside these young people.

'Board on a Friday'

Is a new group for fun and fellowship being run by Robin Harbord and Jon Hills on the **first Friday of each month** in the **Church lounge 7-9 pm** starting on **Friday 5th May** (ready for the coronation). We will be playing a variety of resource management and strategy type board games suitable for ages 14-99.

Please let Jon or Robin know if you are interested, or just join us on a first Friday for some fun

SOUND SYSTEM & AUDIO VISUAL

The Technical Team are in need of several more helpers to assist Tunde and the Church use our new Sound, Visual and Streaming systems on Sunday mornings and evenings.

Please let Tunde Ikuesan or David Gubernu know if you may be able to help.

Church Livestream Services:

Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/ColchesterBaptistChurch.Eld.Lane/live_videos/

YouTube - <https://youtube.com/channel/UCvaybQcC96YYxVkNvAUgkFg>



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

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