

Lion Talk

April 2018

*Newsletter of
Lion Walk United Reformed Church*



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Hard copy version printed and assembled at church by Val Pluck*



LION TALK issue no 376

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Please **submit** news, views and ideas for each *Lion Talk* newsletter by the middle of the month preceding — articles should be e-mailed to editor@lionwalkchurch.org.

Subscribe to Lion Walk Church's email list by contacting Angie Roberts on 01206 396610 or churchmail@angelika.co.uk

Join us for *Morning Worship* at 10am on Sundays. Activities and facilities for young children are available when required. Communion is usually on the first Sunday morning and third evening. See the Calendar (towards the back of *Lion Talk*) for details of other services and activities.

Hire Lion Walk's centrally-located meeting rooms, hall and kitchens for regular or one-off gatherings. Contact Anne Tomkinson on 01206 826892.

Cover image: Easter – The Empty Tomb © Susan Boddy

From The Study



At Easter we celebrate the resurrection to new life. Our worship is of course centred on the raising of Jesus, but not only that, because Easter is not just the resurrection of one person, but the resurrection of the whole human race. Maybe this is what the gospel writers intended when they used the expression 'son of man': Jesus is the first, but we who come after are called to share in his new life, and by proclaiming new life now (not for some end-time in the future), we are inviting people everywhere to join him in newness of life.

We are saying, 'You don't have to wait for some distant future to start practising kindness, nonviolence, reconciliation, reverence, joy, hope, neighborliness, and peace. You can leave the old life behind and start living the new life now.'

What is the old life like? Paul lists its characteristics: immorality, impurity, doing whatever feels good, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like (Gal 5:19-20). In this list, he echoes a similar list by Jesus: evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual sin, theft, false testimony, insults (Mt. 15:19). Taken together, these lists provide a summary of many of the ills of our world; they describe the destructive characteristics of a self-centred system.

What is the new life like? Again, Paul lists its characteristics: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control (Gal 5:22-23). And again, he echoes a list from Jesus: poor in spirit, remorseful, humble, hungry and thirsty for justice, merciful, pure in heart, peaceable, willing to suffer for what is right (Mt 5:1-10).

It is good and right to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning, but even better and greater to choose to become part of it . . . to identify with it, to join it and to share it, so that resurrection – new life – keeps spreading until everything is healed and everything is new and God's kingdom is made manifest.

– Ken

Walk Talk



Mike Pluck writes:

Thanks to the “Beast from the East”, February's planned walk from the Dog and Pheasant at East Mersea just didn't happen so I don't have much to write about this month! With our members coming from far and wide it would have been foolhardy to even attempt to get there, which in any case we couldn't as the Island was well and truly cut off. So the intended walk was rescheduled for March and I'll write about that next month.

Next month's walk is still only a thought in my mind but we shall definitely be walking on Wednesday 25th April, so look out for further details soon.

Property Panorama

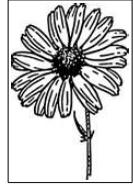
The long-awaited new CCTV screens and door porter station are still awaited but hopefully for not much longer! The door check on one of the sanctuary doors has been replaced and we have invested in a couple of spare units as there is a strong possibility that further failures will occur before too long.

5-yearly statutory electrical inspections are not normally sufficiently interesting or significant to warrant a mention in these notes. However, the 2017 inspection threw up several significant items, not least of which was that the Tower had lost its protective earth conductor, thus creating a potentially dangerous situation if faulty equipment was in use there. Investigation by our Electrical Contractor led to the one possible conclusion that the steel conduit carrying the tower supply under the precinct pavement and providing the earth connection had corroded away. The only solution was to run a new supply from the incoming switchboard in the toilet corridor to the Tower, a long and difficult task involving at one point five electricians to install the 1" diameter steel-wire-armoured cable. Such are the delights of property maintenance!

Mike Pluck, Property Secretary

Flowers

by **Helen Bird**, 01206 211247 helenbird20@gmail.com



Flowers in Memory

Our weekly flowers in memory for April are as follows,

- Sunday 15th April In memory of Elsie Jane Strowger and
Jane Harrison, Robin Strowger's mother and sister.
- Sunday 29th April In memory of Margaret O'Brien.

Flower Workshops

The 'Inspired by Ikebana' workshop in March was very well attended and was very much enjoyed. Most people managed two arrangements and when they were all put on display they made a beautiful show that would have graced any show bench or Flower Festival.

The next workshop is on Saturday 21st April at 10am and we are practising triangular designs. I have challenged the more adventurous to try creating the design without using any floral foam to hold the stems in place. I do hope some of them rise to this challenge.

NEWS from CHAPPEL

Sunday worship in April at 6.30pm

- 1st April Brian Clow **Easter Day**
- 8th April Dr Richard Jurd (Holy Communion)
- 15th April Maggie Cogan (Anglican)
- 22nd April William Glasse
- 29th April Rev'd Anthony Bushell (Anglican)

Informal Coffee & Chat - First Wednesday each month 10.30am to 11.30am. Just drop in. No charge.

Monthly Bible Study - Fourth Wednesday each month 10am. All welcome.

Tony Percival. Tel: 01206 240442 arpchapel@btinternet.com

Concert in Lion Walk Church

CO1 1LX

Sunday, 18th March 2.45pm

Berkeley Elegy & Toccata op.33 nos. 2 & 3

Elgar Violin Sonata in E minor op.82

Vaughan Williams The Lark Ascending

Brahms Violin Sonata in D minor no.3 op.108

with Beth Spendlove Violin & Nigel Clayton Piano

Admission by programme at the door



The Lion Walk Social Scene

The annual St. George's Day Quiz is planned for the evening of Saturday 21st April and thanks again to Anne Tomkinson for organising it. First begun 12 years ago in memory of dear friend Brian Eley, the profits will go to St. Helena Hospice, who cared for Brian in his final days. The evening will include a pizza supper following the closure of our usual fish and chicken supplier. There is a sign-up sheet on the corridor notice board so get busy with organising your teams

— Mike Pluck.

Outreach News, February 2018

Commitment for Life

You have donated a total of £9,202 to Christian Aid work in Bangladesh via Commitment for Life. Thank you to all who helped.

Christmas Collections

We raised £643 for each of the two charities we support, Colchester Night Shelter and Colchester and Tendring Women's Refuge. Not us much as last year, but you can blame the weather for that!

Colchester Samaritans – our Focus Charity

Church Meeting heard an interesting and informative talk from two representatives of the Samaritans at the February meeting.

Christian Aid Week: 13th - 19th May

Advance notice of this: Anne Tomkinson would welcome all offers of help, and we are all invited to Christ Church's Big Breakfast on 19th May.

Outreach Fund Donations, December 2017

One of the Outreach Committee's aims is to distribute its available funding to predominantly smaller charities which are primarily locally based but with a local, national or international remit; also to donate to emergency relief appeals. Roughly half its income goes to the 'Focus Charity' which changes every year and is approved by Church Meeting; other donations are smaller.

These are the charities that it is supporting this quarter. The Committee would very much welcome suggestions from members for further charities it might support that fit these criteria. Please talk to Alan Bullard.

Samaritans of Colchester, Tendring and Suffolk Borders (Lion Walk Focus Charity) <https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help-you>

Donation £500

Based in Walsingham Road, the Samaritans offer a safe place for you to talk any time you like, in your own way – about whatever’s getting to you. You don’t have to be suicidal. You can hear from others about how they have been helped. Please don’t suffer alone.

Praxis Community Projects www.praxis.org.uk

Donation £200

Based in London, Praxis Community Projects is committed to working with vulnerable migrants. We are deeply concerned for the safety and well being of refugees, asylum seekers, refused asylum seekers, people with limited or no recourse to public funds as a result of their immigration status, young unaccompanied asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking, foreign national offenders and others who find it difficult to settle in the UK.

Praxis operates a walk in advice service and operates projects which seek to address the fundamental human rights of new migrants.

Emmaus UK – Colchester branch www.emmaus.org.uk/colchester Donation £200

Emmaus Colchester provides a home and meaningful work for up to 34 formerly homeless people. Our purpose built community offers a comfortable home, while our two shops and two warehouses, open to the public, provide work and generate the funding to keep our community going. Additionally, we now have an online store with eBay, selling home, garden and garage products alongside restored and upcycled furniture.

Iceni Ipswich www.iceniipswich.org

Donation £200

In a perfect world, every child in Suffolk would be nurtured by a loving family, achieve great things at school and live in a supportive community. But sadly, not every child has these opportunities.

Iceni supports families in Ipswich and Suffolk to give all our children the opportunity to have a safe, healthy and happy start in life. We believe that tackling the causes of addiction, poverty and other inequalities lies in effective targeted early intervention and addressing the unmet and inter-generational problems that are entrenched in deprived neighbourhoods in Suffolk.

Our work is designed to help those who will raise the next generation of children, rather than applying sticking plasters to today's problems. All aspects of a family's development is addressed through a host of services to parents, including addiction assistance, domestic abuse and improving parent child relationships.

The Haven Project <http://thehavenproject.org.uk>

Donation £300

Based in Colchester, The Haven is 'a place of hope and inspiration, positive about personality disorder'. Our Recovery Programme is facilitated by group work but individual one to one appointments are also available. There are regular Life Skills and Emotional Resilience programmes, Wellbeing programmes and Crafts and Skills sessions. We accept calls, as well as face to face contact. We provide outreach on the basis of a needs assessment.

The Haven is a community, and clients are engaged in all aspects of the project from recruitment to service design. This is part of their recovery pathway. This is important, because people with Personality Disorder have typically been deprived of any control over their life especially where - as is most often the case - childhood and growing up has been marred by abuse and neglect. Referrals to the Haven can come from organisations and individuals including the person themselves.

Farewell

In this season of light and new life, it is not inappropriate that we remember with thanksgiving the lives of three faithful members of Lion Walk Church who have recently died. We remember them not with sadness but with gratitude for the unique and enriching contribution each of them made to the life of the church community: **(Revd Ken Forbes)**

Betty Bookless

Betty was born in Tandragee, County Armagh on 11th February 1928. Following her primary education in the local school, she attended Portadown College, where she became friends with a girl of the same age called Marion Bookless. Marion suggested that Betty might like to write to her brother Jackie, who was overseas on service with the RAF. Betty and Jackie (who we now know as Jack) were married in December 1950. Jack's work took them

to Bradford, Newcastle (where daughter Janet was born), Birmingham, (where daughter Helen was born), and finally to Colchester in 1970, when Betty taught at Littlegarth School in Dedham.

Betty and Jack became members of Lion Walk Church in 1971 and were loyal and regular worshippers until a few years ago when declining health caused increasing difficulties. Betty began to suffer from dementia and Jack was her loving carer for several years before she died peacefully on 2nd Feb.

Maurice Turner

Maurice passed away on 26th February, and a service of celebration of his life and achievements was held at Colchester crematorium on 23rd March. His Christian faith was an important part of his life and he attended worship at Lion Walk for many years. Many fellow worshippers may have taken him to be a rather quiet man, but his family report that his voice could be heard very loud and clear from the stands of Layer Road and the Weston Homes Community Stadium!

Maurice's career was in education. He and his family moved to Colchester when he became head teacher of Kendall School, where he sought not just to teach, but to inspire and encourage the children's achievement. He was an inspiration, too, to his own four children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, who remember him for his sense of adventure and sense of fun. We remember his wife Olive and all the family in our prayers at this time.

Peter Rawlings

Peter was from Halstead. Born, educated and married there, he also attended Halstead Congregational Church – becoming a lifelong congregationalist. He and Mary became members of Lion Walk Church in 1972, and it was not long before both were putting their respective talents to good use on the church's behalf. As well as his skills in joinery and carpentry, Peter was adept at offering a warm welcome and engaging in friendly conversation. Everybody knew Peter! And everybody respected his wisdom. In recent years, when Peter's health was not at its best and his attendance at church was therefore less frequent, it was always a pleasure to see him trudging doggedly up the stairs to greet his friends on the landing. The church will always be indebted to Peter for his faith and his service, and will remember him with fondness. Peter passed away on 13th March and his life was celebrated with real thanksgiving at a service in church on 27th.

Notes on latest Church Meeting

Monday, 12th February 2018 at 7.30.pm. Based on minutes taken by Janet Smith, Church Secretary.

Talk by Carolyn Almond and colleague from the Local Branch of the Samaritans

Carol and her colleague Jean gave a talk aided by slides on the origins of the Samaritans, how it is set up, with a network of phone lines nationally. There is a place where people can meet locally face to face in Colchester. They also outlined the training volunteers receive and spoke about their work with rail staff in training them to identify 'at risk' people on station platforms and then talking to them to avoid attempted suicides.

Meetings of Christ Church and Lion Walk Elders

Ken reminded members that the Elders of both churches met on 16th January '18. It was agreed that it would be advisable for the two churches congregations to get to know one another better before proceeding with any more detailed talks. There was a suggestion that Lion Walk would invite Christ Church members to hear a speaker at a Lion Walk Church Meeting. This would go to the next Elders Meeting. A social event is being planned for May organised by Christ Church members with the venue being Lion Walk. It was thought the minister's sabbatical will create an opportunity to have some joint services.

Vision Group

This group met on 30th January. There is the intention that some points discussed will go to the next Elders' meeting on 27th March, then when discussed come to Church Meeting. There was discussion about being better at welcoming visitors: people could be escorted upstairs by the lower porch elder. It was felt coffee time after the service was not well enough publicised and there was a suggestion to get a coffee machine. Also it is not made clear that people can leave before the organ music at the end of the service. On the publicity front, there is a new sign by the side entrance and calling cards available around the church, thanks to Alan Macnaught.

Tower display

It was agreed that a display is needed in the tower in between special displays eg. For Christmas and Easter, Linda Hudson had brought this to our attention as the tower is currently empty. There had been discussion about using photos taken by Bola for a display but this is not yet ready to go.

Nigel, who does our tower displays would like to proceed with this. Anne Tomkinson suggested using our mission statement for display. Nigel Hughes suggested that in the short term we should display the beautifully crafted kneelers in the chapel on a metal free standing shelf stack, he could get this done by next Sunday, Ken offered to help if required. All agreed this would be a good display and John England thanked Nigel Hughes and Elizabeth Hornung for all they do in providing displays.

Recommendation by the Finance Committee

that 50% of the interest on our investments which currently go into the PMF should be switched to the Main fund.

Agreed unanimously.

New Area Partnership Advocate(s)

Ken outlined that the last meeting had been on Thursday 1st February at Plume Avenue URC with the moderator Paul Whittle in attendance. Paul said that up to now how the Area Partnership worked with speakers was good. There had been no volunteers thus far to take on the role of the Area Partnership Advocate. At the meeting two volunteers came forward to share the job: Kate Collins volunteered as the administrator, Hazel Mc-Cloughlin of Dovercourt URC to go to the meetings at Synod Office. Planning for meetings would be done by the host church. Norman Hart asked if we could publicise the meetings. Ken said he would put something in *Lion Talk*.

New Lion Talk Editor needed

Stephen will continue up until April to do the editing. A volunteer new editor is needed. Tentative enquiries are being made.

Defibrillator

Ken gave a brief explanation of where the defibrillator is sited and how it is intended to be used.

Dates of meetings

It was agreed that the new date of the August Church Meeting 20th August would be changed on the Google calendar. It was agreed by all present that the December Church Meeting be cancelled for 2018. This would mean that the next 2019 meeting would not be a talk by speakers but reserved for church business.

CALENDAR — APRIL

Sun 01

Easter Sunday



8.00 Sunrise service – Dr Nigel Hughes

10.00 Family Service with Communion
led by the Revd Ken Forbes



18.30 Evening service led by the Revd Ken Forbes

Mon 02 11.45 Meditation Group in the chapel. Ends 12.30pm

Thu 05 19.30 House group for all-comers at
Alan and Janet Bullard's,
11 Christ Church Court CO3 3AU, Tel: 562607



Thu 08 10.00 Toddlers' Group. Ends 11.30am. Free.

Sun 08

First Sunday after Easter

10.00 Morning worship led by the Revd Ken Forbes

18.30 Evening Service led by the Revd Ken Forbes

Mon 12 11.45 Meditation Group in the chapel. Ends 12.30pm

Thu 15 10.00 Toddlers' Group. Ends 11.30am. Free.

Sun 15

Second Sunday after Easter

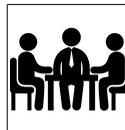
10.00 Morning worship led by the Revd Ken Forbes

18.30 Evening service with Communion
led by the Revd Ken Forbes



Mon 16 11.45 Meditation Group in the chapel. Ends 12.30pm

Mon 16 19.30 Annual Church Meeting



Thu 19 10.00 Toddlers' Group. Ends 11.30am. Free.

CALENDAR — APRIL

Sat 21 9.00 Flower workshop



Sun 22 *Third Sunday after Easter*

10.00 Morning worship led by the Revd Ken Forbes

18.30 Evening Service led by the Revd Ken Forbes

Mon 23 11.45 Meditation Group in the chapel. Ends 12.30pm

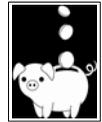
Tue 24 19.30 Lion Walk Vision Group

Wed 25 09.45 Walk with Pluck, see p. 4



Thu 26 10.00 Toddlers' Group. Ends 11.30am. Free.

Thu 26 19.30 Finance Committee



Sat 31 09.00 Floral arranging.



Sun 29 *Fourth Sunday after Easter*

10.00 Family Service led by Mr Trevor Andrews

18.30 Evening service led by Mr Alan Macnaught

19.30 Cheviot Discussion Group on “*Night Comes*”

Family News

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers those members and friends of the church who are coping currently with health problems. Colin Roxby was scheduled to have a heart operation on 28th March at Papworth Hospital and will be recovering at home

RIP Maurice Turner. Maurice was a faithful and regular worshipper at Lion Walk until his failing health prevented his attendance. He was 84. The funeral has already taken place.

RIP Peter Rawlings. He had been in Colchester General Hospital with severe cardiac and respiratory problems, for which there was no effective treatment. His family were with him when he passed away on 13th March. Please remember Mary and all the family in your prayers.

Raymond Royston Bishop former Minister of Lion Walk celebrated his 90th birthday mid-March. Congratulations from all at Lion Walk. A card from all his friends at Lion Walk has been sent.

Other News

- CHRIST CHURCH URC, Ireton Road, Colchester. Invitation for Saturday 19th May 2018 – Christian Aid **BIG BREKKIE**, 9am to Noon. Further details to come.
- **Christian Meditation meetings** take place Mondays 11.45am – 12.30pm. in LWURC chapel. – Peggy Smith ☎ 01206 512485.
- The next **Cheviot discussion group** will meet at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 30th April, Subject: “*Night Comes*” by Dale Allison. This deals with the ‘last things’, death, hell, judgment, heaven and examines the way in which they have been understood throughout the ages. Venue to be announced. New members always welcome. – Marian Tomlinson ☎ 549921
- Please note that **lettings** are now handled by Anne Tomkinson ☎ 826892.
- **House Group** continues on the first Thursday of each month.

Please send any material for the May issue of *Lion Talk*, due out on 29th April, to editor@lionwalkchurch.org by Sunday 22nd April.

Here at Lion Walk Church

We believe in justice, hope, acceptance and love

We welcome you

whatever your situation, status and beliefs

We do not judge others

but celebrate the variety of God's creation

Together

we can learn about Jesus and our place in the world

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