



August 2023

Dear Friends,

When we talk about stepping out with courage, it is often to attempt something new. Whilst I'm sure that there are those who have been parachuting, on a zip wire or abseiling these are things which would take a huge amount of courage for others. At the same time, preparing to move to a new school, or to take on a new experience in some way also takes courage.

We often use the word in a different context when we talk of encouraging. The word encourage comes from the old French word *encoragier* which means to strengthen or hearten. We can see the links with courage here very easily. We don't need to look far to find Bible passages which are encouraging. For example, in 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 we read, '*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*' There are many other passages that can strengthen or hearten us in some way.

Jesus built up his disciples by coming alongside them, in the conversations they had and the actions they took. He built community and fellowship with others through his encouragement of them. Today, we are encouraged by God working through the Holy Spirit and we can find peace, hope and joy in ways that come only from God. At the same time, God works through others and the Holy Spirit prompts us in this.

I have been greatly encouraged during this year in the way that people have come together, supporting, and caring for one another in a variety of circumstances. I have also felt it personally at various points during the year and offer you my heartfelt thanks. It has been a time where we have navigated the changes that we have faced

and been strengthened through this. We are called to love God and to love each other. This is the outworking of our love for God in the way we respond to the love shown to us by God, who first loved us.

The Holy Spirit acts as a great encourager by prompting us into something new, equipping us with the skills and the people that are needed. We continue to discern how God is calling us as individuals and churches to be at the heart of the communities we serve. As we do this, we should continue to come before God in prayer and share with one another where we believe God is leading. We will be encouraged by one another as we share, and we will see God at work in a way that shares the love of Christ through the Holy Spirit, and it will undoubtedly lead to some exciting places. We may need courage to take the step out that is needed but we do it alongside one another.

During August, when maybe the ‘normal’ routines are not quite as ‘normal,’ we can perhaps take some time to look back over the last year and reflect on where we have seen God at work. What are the little signs that come together to paint a new picture? How might these encourage us, and others, as we look ahead? Be encouraged in all we have done, and all that God is, and will do, in the future.

God bless,

*Rev. Chris Preece*

### **NOTES FROM THE VESTRY**

As August arrives, we look back on a very busy month in July.

On 13 July, we once again gathered together at Peter Broom's for the Church BBQ. As always, our grateful thanks go to Peter and Christine for their hospitality and delicious food.

Just a few days later, on 16 July, we said goodbye to Joe and Dave with Joe's final service at Wimpole Road in the morning and the Circuit Farewell Service in the evening, which also included recognition of Phil Bingham's 50 years as a Local Preacher! It was lovely to see so many at the evening service, including friends from all round the Circuit and the Boxted Methodist Silver Band. We wish Joe and Dave every happiness for the future and are so grateful for their time with us over the last 4 years.

Holiday Club ran from 24-28 July and the theme this year was ‘Restoration Station’. This was once again a great success and the children learned about Jesus through crafts, stories, dancing and singing. I've had the songs in my head ever since!

Please note the forthcoming dates for your diary:

We look forward to welcoming our new minister Rev. Hannah Chun, her husband Yoon and their children. The Circuit Welcome Service will be at Wimpole Road on **Friday 1 September at 7.30 pm** and we do hope you will all be able to attend.

Plans are progressing well for the Community Day on **Saturday 16 September 11:00 am - 3:00pm**. We will be joined once again by Boxted Band and there are lots of activities/attractions for all ages. As always, all offers of help would be gratefully received, especially in the Tea Tent! Please speak to myself, Andrew or Edward if you are free and can spare some time to help in any way.

### *Juliet Balls*

#### **THURSDAY CIRCLE**

Pat has brought in her photos of our Pre-Coronation Celebration and our party. They are on the Thursday Circle notice board - do take a look at them.

We began July with a Beetle Drive, raising money for Action for Children charity. Olwyn Powell won the prize for the highest score and Pauline Murray the booby prize!

The following week instead of the Thursday Circle meeting, there was the opportunity to attend the annual Church Barbecue at Peter Broom's home in Layer-de-la-Haye. Thank you to Peter, Christine and their helpers for making this such an enjoyable event.

A meeting on 20 July was the last before our summer break. We laughed as we raced clockwork mice, which was followed by games about children's literature and wildlife.

The next meeting of Thursday Circle will not be until **7 September**, when Peter Jones will talk about the Taylor Maids of 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Star' fame.

*Joan Gomer – Secretary*

#### **BOOK STALL APPEAL**

I am hoping to have a **Book Stall at the Community Day on Saturday 16 September**, mainly to try and sell some of the books being stored in the gallery.

However if anyone has any books in good condition, which I could sell I would be very grateful to receive them.

They can be left in a box in the vestibule from **Sunday 27 August**.

Many thanks,

*Beryl Pentney*

## HOLIDAY CLUB THANKS

During the service on Sunday 30 July, Andrew spent a long time thanking people for the hard work they had given to this year's Holiday Club.

I would, on behalf of all at Wimpole Road, like to say a huge thank you to him, Sue and Julie for the colossal amount of work they do in planning and preparation and ensuring the smooth running of the week itself, without which the event would not happen.

There is no doubt their commitment and perseverance is second to none and the children who attend love every minute.

So WELL DONE once again and THANK YOU.

*Christine Firmin*

### 'SOMERVILLE'

It started over fifteen years ago,  
and still goes on today.  
Peter opens his lovely home  
at Layer-de-la-Haye.

Our church's yearly Barbecue  
invites friends and families.  
Former members and clergy attend,  
to socialise amongst the trees.

Christine is our 'chef' on the barbeque,  
aromas wafting in the smoky air.  
Soon helpers in the kitchen  
serve the fine food for all to share.

There's always lots of people,  
perhaps sixty odd or more.  
The children love to run around,  
so many places to explore.

So, thank you Peter very much  
for opening up your bungalow  
and beautiful garden too.  
Yes! You're worthy of a halo!

*Pat Farrow*

## WIMPOLE ROAD TOILETS

As from Monday 31 July our main toilets will be closed for the month of August.

This is because the floor in the corridor, to the Ladies and Disabled toilet has become soft resulting from water seepage from the main Hall when we had the fire in 2018, which has gradually crept through into the toilet area.

Contractors will be taken the floor up and letting the concrete dry out, before replacing it.

There will be Portable toilets and a Disabled Toilet outside in the area near the Recreation Ground, and the Fire Exit will be open when we have any meetings and services.

It is hoped that the toilets will be back to normal for the welcome service of our new Minister, Rev. Hannah Chun on the 1 September.

If anyone has any questions please speak to me.

***Edward Pentney***

## STAND BY ME APPEAL

Our good friend Ahmad Ayoubi has written to us to ask for donations.

One of the current projects being undertaken by this charity is to equip a High School Centre for 160 Students in Ethiopia, as soon as possible once the building work is completed. They need money for desks, chairs, books and computers as well as to fund the teaching by tutors.

*Ahmed says, 'It is thanks to your generosity and God's faithfulness that we have come this far, and this is another significant moment in our journey in Ethiopia. A donation of £48 will cover the costs of a student attending the High School Centre for a month.'*

*Any donation you can make would be greatly appreciated.'*

Yours sincerely,

***Ahmad Ayoubi Executive Director***

**To donate please visit [www.standbyme/hsc](http://www.standbyme/hsc).**

*{The letter, leaflet and other information are on the table in the vestibule}*

## OUR CHURCH

'Our Church', we call this place  
but we are wrong.  
The Church belongs to God  
who loved it into existence,  
watched over it from the beginning,  
and is already forming  
its future.

And yet, because of all we give,  
of love and loyalty,  
faith and work,  
time, money, prayers,  
is it not also 'ours',  
this Church?

Not so.  
These also  
are God's gifts to us.

*Taken from 'Called to Praise' by Donald Heaton*

## WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

<b>6 August</b>	<b>Rev. Paul Howes / Holy Communion</b>
<b>13 August</b>	<b>Eddie Lansdown</b>
<b>20 August</b>	<b>Jonathan Sparkes</b>
<b>27 August</b>	<b>Own Arrangement</b>

**A WARM WELCOME AWAITS**

*Join us after the service for coffee/tea and biscuits in the church parlour for a time of fellowship and refreshments.*

### **FOR YOUR PRAYERS:**

*All those known to us who have ongoing health problems,  
and any who are in need of support at this time.*

## DIARY DATES

I thought it might be useful to have a few of the upcoming services and events in and around the Circuit to look at and plan for, so I have made a list of the main ones for reference. I may well have missed some and some may be arranged after this Newsround has been printed, so please keep an eye on the notice board in the parlour for any updates.

**Saturday 12 August at 9 a.m. Circuit Prayer Meeting**, all invited to join with us at the Ark, Highwoods.

(These prayer meeting are every second Saturday of the month and dates and Venues for the rest of this year are as follows and all at 9.00 a.m:

September 9 at The Well Mile End .

October 14 at Castle.

November 11 at Wimpole Road.

December 9 at Wivenhoe.

**Friday 1 September, 7.30 p.m. at Wimpole Road, the Welcome Service** for the new minister **Rev. Hannah Chun** and her family.

**Saturday 2 September at 3 p.m. at Wimpole Road** - wedding .

**Thursday 7 September 7.30 p.m. Three Together Housegroup at Jackie Sams.** Please ask Christine Firmin or Andrew for details and address.

**Wednesday 13 September at 7 p.m. Bible Study Housegroup at Peter's**, led by Joanne Eckersley.

**Saturday 16 September. Community Day on the Recreation Ground** organised by Wimpole Road. Please see the notice board for times and details.

**Saturday 23 September from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Family Fun Festival in Lower Castle Park.** Organised by the Churches in Colchester and our Circuit is hosting a station. Fun for All, do come along!

*Christine Firmin*

Take time to claim your strength; they are gifts of God.

Take time to have fun; it's God's way of teaching you your strengths.

Take time to grow yourself; only you can grow you.

Take time to trust yourself; God trusts you.

Take time to be self-reliant; it is better than being dependent.

Take time to share with others; they will bless you, and you will bless them.

Take time to have hope, you are a child of God.



## WORKING TOGETHER



**PRAYER MEETING Tuesday 10.00 - 10.30 a.m.**

Meeting number: 195 594 506 password 011904

**JOINT BIBLE STUDY GROUP – (speak to Andrew Topple)**

**Join online via Zoom or Dial in from your phone on:**

0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240 or 0131 460 1196

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**‘THREE TOGETHER’  
ONLINE FACEBOOK SERVICE  
EVERY SUNDAY at 6.30 p.m.**

Ecumenical worship led by and shared with all three churches, Wimpole Road, St. Stephen's and St. Margaret's.

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## FUTURE NEWSROUNDS

Please don't forget, if you have stories, items or prayer requests that you would like to contribute to a future monthly Newsround - please contact me by telephone, e-mail or post.

Tel: (01206) 869505 or e-mail: [alison.ablewhite@btinternet.com](mailto:alison.ablewhite@btinternet.com)

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**KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:**

**[www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk](http://www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk)**