



**October 2023**

**Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun**

**Mob: 07935 612 414**

Dear Friends,

I have been thinking a lot about what it means to 'let go' lately. Twenty days into my first ministry appointment I tested positive for Covid. A very 'positive' start shall we say (please excuse the pun)! It caught me off-guard and I don't think I was prepared for the emotional roller coaster that ensued. I thought I was doing quite well with things lined up in my diary, with all my ducks in a row (to a certain degree) with places to go, people to visit and meetings to attend. Then all of a sudden when I could no longer meet with people and it was sensible not to, I felt I had lost control and I was back to square one.

As people, we like to have a sense of control. We want to know what is around the corner. We want to be prepared so we know how to react in the moment. Some or most of us like to have our lives planned out and hope they stay that way. Many of us may not handle surprises very well. There may be a sense of loss mixed in with the emotions of guilt when we can't do the things we had planned or be the person we had hoped to be for others.

Jesus seems to give us a lesson in letting go in one of his obscure statements: *'Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven'* (Matthew 18:18). I feel Jesus is telling us to think about what we choose to bind or loose and what we hold onto tightly or let go, and why. Whatever we choose to hold onto or let go will echo and resonate deeply in God's heart also, because God cares for our wellbeing. What are the things you are holding onto tightly for fear that if you let go the world may crumble to pieces? What is it you may need to let go of to allow God's peace to wash over you?

During the season of harvest, we stop and take time to reflect on God's generosity and how we can show generosity to those around us. Maybe this harvest, amid the hustle and bustle of trying to get all the harvest 'ducks in a row', why not take time to be generous to yourself too? I pray that wherever you feel you are in life at the moment, that you may allow yourself the generosity to slow down, to give yourself up to God's generosity of love and care and generously let go of the things that are beyond your control. I don't know about you, but as the saying goes, *'My ducks are certainly not in a row, I don't even know where some of them are and I'm pretty sure one of them is a pigeon'*.

May the God of harvest be with you all.

***Hannah***

### **NOTES FROM THE VESTRY**

As I write this we are in the season our American friends call 'The Fall', which obviously refers to the leaves falling from the trees and carpeting the ground. I was fortunate to have been in New England during that beautiful season several years ago and the colours were breathtaking, but that glorious spectacle only lasts for a few weeks.

However it serves to remind us that we must make the most of the present and enjoy it for what it represents as, whilst planning for the future is commendable and very necessary in most cases, it must not detract from the 'here and now'.

Make moments count.  
Make priorities.  
Make the time.  
Make your gifts known.

This is an extract from a poem read at my brother's funeral earlier this year, and it is very pertinent as time really does fly, and as a church we have had a very eventful year.

Obviously we have always to look ahead and make plans to enable our church life to operate as expected, but do we make enough time to 'Be Still?'

This lovely hymn (StF 20) 'Be still, for the presence of the Lord' isn't just about being overawed by God, it is also about making space for God in our lives so there is the chance of us seeing God at work. It is in the stillness, the quietness, in gentleness, that God speaks.

We are blessed to have Hannah and her family with us, so let us make the most of the time we have together and 'make moments count'.

***Alison Ablewhite***

## LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

The changing of the seasons can evoke a range of feelings and emotions. Shorter evenings and days bring longer nights. For some, this brings a sense of well-being of being 'cosy' whilst for others it is less positive. The falling leaves can bring a sense of loss, as can the shorter days, which is perhaps emphasised as we head towards November and Remembrance Day. Yet here we are in October and this year I've been reflecting in a different way and thinking about the generosity that comes with Autumn.

Late September and early October are often associated with Harvest Festivals. This is a time where we celebrate the goodness and generosity of God. The growth cycle means that we see the fruit of the labours literally come to fruition. The harvest is gathered, fruits and berries collected and, where there is an abundance, conserved in various ways either through freezing or the making of jams and preserves.

Throughout the Bible we see the abundance and generosity of God. In the creation of the world, we see God's grace at work. The perfection described in the early chapters of Genesis shows us the world as it is intended to be. We see the life of God revealed in Jesus Christ who lived amongst the whole of humanity sharing the compassion and grace of God with everyone. His dying and rising again to bring new life to all who turn to him is an act of such huge generosity that it is almost incomprehensible. Through the Holy Spirit, we see God's love and grace active in the world today as we seek to live out the values of the Kingdom.

As Christians we often talk about how we can serve or give to others. Creation has undoubtedly provided something of a model for this in the giving of the fruits and crops that we share in. Autumn is a blaze of colour which brightens up the shortening days. At the same time, the falling leaves give back to God's creation nutrients to the soil, the trees produce berries which provide food for wildlife, and the basis of pollination by insects for the future. The generosity shown in the life of God is in both giving and receiving.

We are sustained by Jesus and receive from him the grace and compassion we need so that we can share it with others through the Spirit. As we give to others we need to receive from God. The invitation to come to God is personal and most definitely for everyone. It is offered through the free flow of grace so that abundant life can be experienced by all.

As we travel through the next few days and weeks, let's reflect on the giving and receiving as a cycle of life where we receive from God and give to others out of our love for God.

*God bless,  
Rev. Chris Preece*

## THURSDAY CIRCLE

After our summer break it was good for us to meet up again and hear what others have been doing.

Our first meeting in September saw a return visit by Peter Jones – this time to talk about ‘The Taylor Maids’ of ‘Twinkle, Twinkle Star’ fame. It was surprising how much there was to learn about these two talented ladies.

The following week former missionary Eileen Warner, an excellent speaker, gave a most informative and amusing talk about Japan.

We had two tables at the Community Day on the Recreation Ground and raised £30. Thanks to Pat, Ann and Jean who manned the stall.

On 21 September we held our Autumn and Harvest Festival and enjoyed singing the usual harvest hymns. Thanks to all who read so ably.

The month ended with a Quiz afternoon to raise money for ‘Twinning a Toilet’. £60 enables this charity to get local people (in Africa) to construct a latrine, provide a water tap and hygiene education for those who have no toilet facilities.

Coming up:

**5 October** A Musical afternoon, where everyone is invited to bring a CD.

**12 October** A second chance to hear the talk I gave some years ago on the ‘Young Wives Group’.

**19 October** Still to be arranged.

**26 October** A return visit by Brian Carline, a most entertaining speaker, to give an amusing account of life in our schools.

Everyone is welcome at our meetings, which are on Thursday afternoons at **2.30 p.m.**

*Joan Gomer - Secretary*

### A HARVEST PRAYER

Eternal God, You crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being.

Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever, Amen.

## NEW TOWN COMMUNITY DAY

What a wonderful day! Thank you so much to everybody who took part; the stall holders, the amusements and entertainments, the displays, the refreshments and food, the rides - the list goes on. Thank you to all the people who helps us organise the event with the planning, setting up and clearing away. We were quite overwhelmed by the number of people who came and that everybody seemed to be having such a great time.

The purpose of the day is to bring the local community together for a great day that does not cost a fortune, especially as so many of us as struggling at present with the cost of living etc. It is such a delight that we at Wimpole Road, supported by St. Stephen's and the local community can organise this event. And, whilst it is not about the money, it is always a pleasure to have a small surplus at the end of the day and this year the committee agreed that any 'profit' be split equally between Stepping Stones and Wimpole Road, with each of us getting £315 to support our respective activities.

Thank you to everybody involved in the event and also all of those who came along.

*Juliet and Andrew*

N.B. Please note we have a provisional date for 2024 of **Saturday 21 September** - save the date!!

## THANK YOU

A big thank you to Edward Pentney who oversaw the repairs to the flooring in the toilets and adjoining corridor.

There were many frustrating and logistical problems to overcome and Edward managed this along with all my moaning and a few health issues of his own. This was over a period of several weeks, which included a fairly busy time in our Church calendar.

We sometimes fail to appreciate what goes on behind the scenes, so thank you Edward for your dedication and hard work.

*Christine Firmin*

## OVER 60'S LUNCH CLUB AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

**Monday 9 October from midday for 12:30 lunch**

If you are interested in coming along please give Jill a ring on (01206) **572605**. Booking is essential for catering purposes.

Two courses will be served with tea or coffee to follow for a charge of **£5**.

Dietary needs can be catered for if known in advance.

*Many thanks from The Lunch Club Team*

## OUR WORLD

Our world is angry,  
our world is sad.  
It thinks it's not loved any more  
and that is really bad.

What can we do to calm it;  
make it happy once again?  
We cannot keep polluting it  
and giving so much pain.

The oceans are over-heating;  
the ice-floes melting fast.  
The coral reefs are turning white –  
how long is this going to last?

Serious floods are happening  
all around the world.  
Lives being lost – oh, what a cost –  
as it's anger is unfurled!

Forest fires and earthquakes,  
fields and timber burn.  
We must act now – we cannot wait.  
When will we ever learn?

## MY FURRY VISITOR

I have a naughty squirrel, which scampers all about.  
He nibbles round my apples and spits the peelings out!  
He buries walnuts in my garden pots, scooping out the dirt.  
He pulls out my sweet corn shoots, but not too much to hurt.

With beady eyes and bushy tail he searches here and there.  
He is so quick and nimble as he flies through the air.  
He scratches at my rubbish bag, 'til I shoo him away.  
I'll be waiting for him when he visits me today.

*Thanks to Pat Farrow for these two poems*

## CHRISTIAN THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Kind words are short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.

*Mother Teresa*

## WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

1 October	Rev. Hannah Chun- Holy Communion/Harvest Festival
8 October	Rev. Dr. David Chapman
15 October	Jonathan Sparkes
22 October	Ron Firmin
29 October	Local Arrangement

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**

**Wednesday 4 October 7.30 p.m. Wimpole Road Church Council.** Open to all church members – do come along.

**Saturday 14 October 9 a.m. Circuit Prayer Meeting** at Castle led by Rev. Paul Howes

**Tuesday 24 October 7.30 p.m. Bible Study House Group** at Peter Broom's. We will be looking at prayer. All are welcome.

**Thursday 26 October 7.30 p.m. Three Together Housegroup at Jackie Sam's.**

We are starting a study on the film 'The Shack', watching sections of it together before a discussion. This is based on the book by Wm Paul Young and is a novel about The Holy Spirit. All are welcome (see Andrew or Christine for directions).

**Sunday 29 October 6.30 p.m. A Circuit Service for Evening Worship and Holy Communion at Wimpole Road.** Led by Rev. Paul Howes. Please see posters for details.

**Saturday 11 November 9 a.m. Circuit Prayer Meeting at Wimpole Road,** led by Rev. Chris Preece.

**Sunday 12 November Remembrance Sunday.** The service starts at 10.45 a.m.



## WORKING TOGETHER



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

Meeting number: 195 594 506 password 011904

**THREE TOGETHER HOUSEGROUP– Thursday 26 October 7.30 p.m. at Jackie Sam's.**

**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)

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