



September 2023
Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun
Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

As I write this my family and I are preparing for our big move to Colchester! Boxes are accumulating, stuff is everywhere and in the midst of it all, I am trying to complete my MA dissertation which is due in August. It is all very chaotic as you might imagine, but beneath all the 'mess' there is a real buzz and excitement. We are all so very excited to be joining you in Colchester! Transitions are exciting as well as daunting. I feel joyful to be stationed as a probationer minister to the Colchester Circuit but at the same time, I must confess that I do have my anxieties, simply because I have never done this before.

You must feel you are in some transition too as you welcome a newbie probationer minister and her family to your circuit. However, Chris has assured me over and over again that it will all be fine because we are in this together. So, I rest assured in her words and God of course that we are in this together. I so much look forward to journeying alongside you, getting to know you, listening to your stories and learning from you.

So, a little bit about myself. In fact, my life has revolved around transitions and changes. I was born in Seoul, South Korea and came to live in the UK with my family when I was 5 years old. Since then, I have had my share of moving around, moving schools, homes and country of residence. Much of it had to do with my father being a minister and a missionary at one stage. Before exploring my sense of call to presbyteral ministry, I studied ceramics at university and then spent some years working with and supporting adults and children with special needs in schools and homes. I had hoped to explore art therapy with this experience but landed on a Theology and Counselling course which felt

right at the time. The course ignited a desire to study Theology further, become a preacher then delve into ministry.

I met my husband, Yoon in a Korean Church in Ealing. When I moved to San Francisco (a story for another time) to study Theology, Yoon asked me out over the phone. We dated long-distance for about a year, got married in a Methodist Church in Redbridge, Essex (Essex was my home for several years), and lived in Turkey whilst Yoon worked on a research project on Black Holes (please ask him about this and not me!). He is now a secondary school Maths teacher. We have three children, Reyna our eldest and Laelle and Naythan who are twins. They do keep us on our toes!

I enjoy Theology, pottering around in the garden, visiting garden centres and art galleries. As a family, we love exploring historical places in Britain, especially cathedrals, quaint villages and seaside towns. Colchester is next on our list. I really look forward to witnessing the ways God will bring us together in all our uniqueness and differences, make use of all our diverse gifts and work within and through us. I pray that together we may catch glimpses of God's marvellous love for all God's people and that we may grow, flourish and be encouraged in our faith journey together.

Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. God bless,

Hannah

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

As I sit down to write this, we are at the start of a busy week, which includes Make Lunch, a Stewards Meeting, Wednesday Coffee Morning, Rev. Hannah's Welcome Service at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 1 September, a wedding on Saturday at 3.00 p.m. and culminates with Hannah's first service with us on Sunday 3 September at 11.00 a.m.

We all look forward with excitement to Rev. Hannah joining us. We pray God's blessing on Hannah and her family for her time and ministry with us at Wimpole Road, along with the other Churches under her pastoral care, the Colchester Circuit and the wider New Town Community as we invite her join us as we continue our ecumenical work locally with St. Stephen's and St. Margaret's C of E. Churches.

At the beginning of each new Church year we have so much to plan and look forward to. Much of that which is in plan will be events and activities, which we have run for many years. With each of these we are blessed with the opportunity to do things differently and reach out to and touch more and new people. Plans for the Community Day on 16 September continue and if you are able to assist in anyway with this please speak to me or Juliet. Our Harvest Festival Service, led by Rev. Hannah, is scheduled for Sunday 1 October and once again we are inviting the local schools to join us to celebrate Harvest during the following week.

Please can I also invite you to join with me in wishing Rev. Lorraine all the best as she leaves St. Stephen's and St. Margaret's to take up a post as an Army Padre. We have

enjoyed working with Lorraine for the last 4 years and we have been blessed by her ministry. Her final service will be on Sunday 3 September at 6.30 p.m. at St. Stephen's (with refreshments from 5.00 p.m.) and everybody is invited to join this service.

Finally, please can I ask that we continue to hold Rev. Joe & Dave in our prayers as they continue to settle into their new Circuit and community.

Andrew Topple

THURSDAY CIRCLE

After a break for August, Thursday Circle restarts on **7 September**, when Peter Jones will talk about 'The Taylor Maids' of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Star' fame.

Coming up:

14 September In a change to the advertised programme, retired missionary Eileen Warner will talk to us about Japan.

21 September Our Autumn/Harvest Festival

28 September A Quiz Afternoon to raise money for 'Twinning a Toilet'. £60 enables this charity, a subsidiary of 'Tearfund', to get local people (in Africa) to construct a latrine, provide a water tap and hygiene education for those who have no toilet facilities. Whilst the afternoon (hopefully) will raise £60, it would be good to pay for two toilets (£120), which may be more challenging. Please see me if you would like to make a donation and do come along and support us on the day!

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

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

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

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

The best laid plans... Sometimes, however well something is thought through, something changes at the last minute and things don't happen. The train is delayed, roadworks hold us up, the flight for going on holiday gets cancelled or any number of things can get in the way. The anticipation that was felt gets somewhat reduced when things need to be altered.

As we enter a new Methodist year, many plans have been made. Some activities which took a summer break now start up again and new ideas, which were brought forward, begin to come together. For some of the churches in the Circuit and for Hannah, it is a time of new beginnings and the plans that have been put into place to support her and the churches begin to come to fruition.

When plans come together there can be a good feeling, but when things have to be changed, especially at the last minute, a real sense of disappointment. Our emotions can then affect the way we respond to things. We know that we are assured of Jesus' presence with us in all that we face, whether it is good or difficult. At the same time, we know that we worship God who has assured us of the 'new heaven and new earth' where all things will be made new and perfect as we find in the book of Revelation.

This is the hope into which we are invited by Jesus. It is an assurance that the world will be as it should be. The world of frustration, disappointment, grief, fear, and mourning will be past. We will live in eternity with God where all things are right, and we can live lives that are totally fulfilled. This is an assurance and a certainty. So often, we make plans in the 'hopes' that they will be lived out in the way we think or want. Hope in this sense is not the certainty we have from God. It is something much more transient. To live in the hope of God, as promised by Jesus is so much more than that. It is total certainty.

We know that there is much in the world that is not right and we long for it to be better. We should continue to bring the needs of the world and others before God in prayer. We also need to be alive to the work of the Holy Spirit and look for the opportunities to share in God's work in building God's kingdom right here and now. And we must look ahead to the hope of all that we are promised with faith.

Whether plans have worked or been changed, we should continue to walk on together in, and with, faith. God's plans are bigger than ours, but each small plan in the meantime becomes part of the whole. As we enter a new season, we do so with faith and in the hope of Christ for today and for eternity.

*God bless,
Rev. Chris Preece*

PHIL BINGHAM INVITATION

Advance Notice Phil Bingham and his Methodist friends invite you to share in an act of celebration and thanksgiving. This will be held at St. Mary's Anglican Church, Wivenhoe on **Sunday October 1st at 3 p.m.**

Music will be provided by Boxted Methodist Silver Band. Phil was accredited as a Methodist Local Preacher 50 years ago and has preached in and around the Colchester area since then - please book the date.

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

Monday 11 September 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

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

3 September	Rev. Hannah Chun
10 September	Rev. Chris Preece - Holy Communion
17 September	Rev. David Moody
24 September	Sally Crafer

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

Circuit Prayer Meeting, all invited to join with us at these short sessions.

(These prayer meetings 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

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!

Wednesday 4 October 7.00 p.m. Wimpole Road Church Council

OCCASIONS FOR ALLELUIA

It was just like yesterday,
same as the day before,
the cat curled upon the mat,
the milk bottle at the door,

the robin comes for bread,
I'd dropped upon the floor,
then in a glimpsed moment
it was all glory that I saw.

I perceived it as it always is
and evermore shall be,
we are in the presence of God
and live in eternity.

{From the book by Rev'd Canon David Adam 'Occasions for Alleluia'}

A HYMN WRITTEN FOR OUR CENTENARY
by NORMA PECKSTON

Tune: 'Bind us together, Lord'
Songs of Fellowship 43

Let's build a church,
And make it strong,
Not with bricks, but people.
All held together
With our Father's love –
Our faith will make it grow.

God gave us the plan,
Laid the foundation with love.
Now is the time to go out
And share this new church with the world.

His love will shine,
Straight from our hearts
Like a thousand jewelled windows.
And there will be
No doors to close
For His love is meant for all.

Everyday of our lives,
Let's spread the news Jesus gave,
If we want peace on this earth,
We must love God and each other.

Let's build a church,
And make it strong,
Not with bricks, but with people.
All held together
With our Father's love –
Our faith will make it grow.

CHRISTIAN THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The gospel is less about how to get into the Kingdom of Heaven after you die,
and more about how to live in the Kingdom of Heaven before you die.

Dallas Willard



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

‘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.

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

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KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk
