



**November 2023**  
**Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun**  
**Mob: 07935 612 414**

Dear Friends,

It's November. Not quite December *yet*, but the Christmas season seems to come all too quickly for some. Each year it appears to arrive with greater haste. Well, at least the shop window displays in all its splendour seem to be sending out this message. It makes me wonder, why the rush to get to December so quickly? What of November?

Harvest is now behind us and Halloween went by possibly leaving far too many sweets for children (or adults) to consume. Don't get me wrong, I love sweets! However, now it feels like the world is already racing ahead to Christmas. November sometimes seems to get missed, and I feel like saying, 'Hang on, can we put on the brakes for a moment, please?'

I sense November to be an 'in-between' period. A period of liminality. A period of transition as we try to adjust to the longer and darker nights, the colder winter breeze waiting upon our doorsteps, and the changing colour of leaves that eventually fall away leaving branches bare and empty. It is a time of shifts, changes and even losses, but maybe also a time of reimagining, rebirth and recreations. Though we may not relish the longer nights, we can enjoy the longer summer days that follow. Plants need winter to store up energy for new growth and it is only after leaves have fallen away that they can give room for fresh shoots to spring forth.

Paul writes to the Roman community, '*We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of*

*our bodies.* (Romans 8:22-23). I believe this is Paul's way of saying that there may be painful groans now, but there is hope for growth and new birth.

Maybe November is that time of inward groaning as we adjust to the changing of the seasons and wait in hope for the birthing of new beginnings, new gifts and new chapters to take flight. Or might it be about slowing down and taking a step back to rediscover and unleash what we already have before us and within us?

November also observes All Saint's Day, All Soul's Day and Remembrance Day, which marks a time when we commemorate and bring to mind the faithful departed. There is so much grief in the world at present. Maybe you are grieving a loved one at this time or know those who are. The pain and suffering around us may seem hard to comprehend, and the inclination may be to rush over this period.

However, wherever you are in this 'in-between' month, may you give time for yourself to slow down, to be still, to grieve, to savour this time to discover 'you' and your gifts, and to simply be present in the present moment as you look forward in hope.

God bless,

***Hannah***

### **NOTES FROM THE VESTRY**

I was so pleased to see, and want to say how much I was drawn to, the extract of a poem in our latest Newsround, which was read at our dear friend David Ablewhite's funeral earlier this year. It brought back to me the well known poem by the famous Welsh poet, William Henry Davies. Just a couple of lines from this poem, entitled: 'What is this life if full of care'...

*'What is this life if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare -  
No time to stand beneath the boughs,  
and stare , as long as sheep and cows'*

*Final verse – 'A poor life this if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare' ...*

I think that many of us at some time have felt that we are always dominated by worldly concern, anxiety etc, caused by the challenges we come across in our daily lives. Perhaps particularly, this is relevant at the moment. So many problems and issues the world over, and so many stories of innocent folk being killed and whole families completely wiped out. Let us always remember these situations in our prayers.

We are so very blessed that we are a church that cares about so many things. May our church life long continue here in the New Town area. Let us not forget that whatever our age or circumstances, life can still be a time of making decisions, a time of exploration, a time to use any skills that we have, however basic we think those skills are; a time to share

with others our concerns and happiness; a time to work together for the coming of God's kingdom on earth. Recently we have welcomed our new minister Hannah Chun, her husband Yoon, and their children Reyna, the eldest, and the twins Laelle and Nathan. It is a real joy to see the family worshipping at our church. Let us continue to remember them in our prayers. They have come through so many changes in their life, recently and clearly have met many – (previously unknown) people to them thus far, whom they will come to know well. We welcome getting to know and working with Hannah, and getting to further continue and enhance all the project work that is taking place at Wimpole Road. The family of course are learning to live in a different house, in a different place, and to become used to finding their way to various previously unknown places - different schools for the children, and a different way of life in many ways. We are delighted to see that so far, the whole family have fitted in 'seamlessly' with all us 'Methodists' from the various churches, as well as anybody they meet up with - long may it continue.

We are all very pleased that we now have our toilets working again. Thank you so much Edward for all the work that you have put in facilitating the existing temporary portacabins whilst the work was going on. We were thankful that for the most part, the weather always stayed mostly dry, (but notably plenty of spiders!)

Just a reminder that now at Wimpole Road, we have 'Sunday Stewards', who will assist the steward(s) on duty. We also now have a 'post box' outside the church, where anyone at all, can pop in a request for a prayer to be said for themselves or a loved one. As far as I can remember, this has never happened before, and this will be a further sign that all are welcome at our church.

Wimpole Road has recently held the annual Harvest Festival. As always lots of hard work by various people - it was colourful and inspirational and a high point in the church calendar. As always, the church was beautifully decorated, and warm thanks must go to the very skilful 'ladies' who contributed to the very tasteful flower decorations! We were very pleased the day after our Harvest Festival to have over 400 children in the church, when Paul Howes led the 3 services. Very many thanks to Christine, Andrew and anyone else who was able to be part of this. This has become a regular 'event' at the end of the Harvest weekend.

We held our Community Day in September, where again so many people work so very hard for it to be the huge success that it was. The money made was divided between the charity 'Stepping Stones', and also our church. The amount that was received by both was the grand total of £315.

Phil Bingham, a much loved and long time local preacher in the circuit celebrated his 50 years as a local preacher, at a service recently. It took place at St. Mary's Church in Wivenhoe. Phil belongs to Wivenhoe Methodist Church, and also has links with the Boxted Band, who played throughout the service. Phil has always taken an active part in life in Wivenhoe, not just ecumenically. He had regularly been invited to preach at the monthly Boxted Band Service, and the band were a big part of this celebration. Therefore I think I am right in saying that every church in the circuit was represented. This service can

still be seen on line if anyone would like to see it - I found it very moving. Phil had always had the intention of celebrating this major 50 year milestone, with as many family and friends as possible, and this he certainly did.

I was pleased to see that alongside our copies of Wimpole Road Newsround, appeared the Colchester Methodist Circuit Newsletter. This always contains interesting reading about all the 7 churches that are in the Colchester Circuit. It is good to remember that Wimpole Road is part of our circuit, and I would urge you too to try and read this, as you will be able to know all that is going on in all the circuit churches, and will be able to take the opportunity to go to any of the occasions that are of interest to you.

On 10 December there is to be a service at Castle Church at 3.00 p.m. This is to be an admission service for Sally Crafer and Joe Novoka, who have both completed their local preacher training.

We are also very pleased to welcome our own Joan Gomer as a fully fledged Worship Leader, here at Wimpole Road. Joan's appointment has been confirmed by our Church Council. She has worked very hard, and can rightly be very proud that she has passed all her exams and I'm sure all the congregation here wish her the very best in the future, and we will all hold Joan in our prayers.

Kindest Regards and Blessings

***Margaret Clubb***

### **LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT**

Dear Friends,

The changing of the clocks always seems to bring a sense of finality. The chapter of 'summer' has passed, and 'winter' has come. The leaves are blowing down the road and the nights are longer. The shops have been full of their 'cosy' ranges for weeks but with the unseasonably warmer weather this year, it's seemed to be something for the future than the present. Until today. The clocks go back. Now, it's as if the longer nights cannot be avoided any more.

The Bible has many references to darkness, and it is often associated with negative connotations. Yet there are many seeds found in the Bible, all of which are planted into the dark ground where they are cultivated by God. Psalm 139 recognises that the night is as bright as the day to God. As a psalm which has such a nurturing character it is helpful to see this and to be reminded that God knows everything about us. In John's gospel, we are reminded that '*The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.*' (John 1:5). This shows us that the light and the dark live well alongside one another and that even when there is light, there is also darkness alongside it.

At the time of year where firework displays start to be seen and heard, there is light in the darkness, but the darkness is not overcome. Without the darkness, the fireworks cannot be

seen. There is the candle which is lit, to make a room seem cosier, and provide a sense of warmth. It shines in the darkness but the darkness is not overcome. Maybe there is a way after all, of holding together light and darkness.

We have a stereotypical view of darkness equating to things which are 'bad' and light which is 'good.' Maybe this might be an opportunity for us to consider how God encourages us to see the darkness as a place of nurture and presence. This won't work for everyone and that, of course, is fine. There are times where the darkness can provide a place to take stock, quietly grow in the background or practice new skills. God is present, Jesus is walking alongside, and the Holy Spirit is empowering. Maybe once new things have been worked through, they may be shared with others, and brought into the light so to speak. However, the darkness was needed to enable new things to then be seen.

Over the coming months, in the longer and darker evenings, maybe this is a time where we can focus on nurturing our God-given skills and talents in new ways. It could be an opportunity to share with others some new ideas and see how they develop. It could be a time to reflect on the presence of Jesus in our own lives, in the lives of those about whom we care and the wider world. From the nurture of God in Christ in the darkness, new things may come to fruition. I encourage us all to use the coming season as a time to reflect and nurture one another following the ways of Jesus.

God bless,

*Rev. Chris Preece*

### **PRAYER CORNER**

Father, we rejoice in the living world:  
We are surprised every day by its beauty,  
It's complexity, it's mystery.  
May we respect the world of nature,  
Knowing that it is your good creation.

Lift up our hearts as we lift up our eyes  
To clouds, stars, rain, leaves, birds,  
And let us live in thankfulness.

Amen

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

**Monday 13 November 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*

## THURSDAY CIRCLE

September ended with a quiz afternoon, where we raised £68 to twin our church toilet with one in Africa. In due course we will receive a picture of the one in Africa to put up in our toilet! Thank you to all who contributed.

Our first meeting in October was a musical afternoon, where everyone was invited to bring a CD and we then enjoyed listening to different tracks. A relaxing afternoon!

The following week was a second chance to hear the talk I gave some years ago on the Young Wives Group. It was a good chance to talk about the old days and to reminisce about how things used to be.

19 October was a first visit by Rev. Hannah, who brought some wonderful examples of pottery produced by her during her university years - she is clearly very talented!

October ended with a return visit by Brian Carline, who had us laughing about anecdotes from his time as a teacher.

Coming up:

- 9 November** 'The Avenue of Remembrance' – a talk by Liz White from the Lexden Historical Society, who has written a book on the subject.
- 16 November** 'Seated Activities' with Gunni Graygoose - do support this. Gunni has kindly altered her childcare arrangements so that she can come to us in the afternoon, whereas previously it had to be in the evening.
- 23 November** 'China' – a talk by Jie Zeng, who has recently started attending morning worship and lectures in Company Law at Essex University.
- 30 November** A return visit by the 'Concorde Singers'

Our new programme covering November to April is now available.  
Please see me if you want a copy.

Everyone, old or young, male or female, is welcome at our meetings, which are on **Thursday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.**

*Joan Gomer - Secretary*

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Today, as we should every day, we remember those who volunteered, sacrificed, served, fought, and died, for our freedom.

We thank you, and we salute you as we salute those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

We will never forget.

We will remember you.

## WHAT DO YOU SEE?

A crowd of us lads walking through our town  
passed by a memorial and there, with head bowed down  
on his own, stood an old man, cap in hand,  
looking at the red wreaths displayed on a stand.

He got out his handkerchief and dabbed his eyes,  
My mates ran off giggling to see a man cry.  
“Go join them boy” he said “don’t pretend that you care.  
*Look in my eyes boy, what do you see?*

*A silly old man a looking at thee?  
look at me hard boy and tell me true,  
who is this old fool a looking at you?  
how old are you boy – fifteen - sixteen ?*

*I wasn’t much older then that is seems  
when I got my papers and joined a war,  
at times I wonder what it was all for.*

*And do you think I was scared when the shells rained down  
that left mates dying or dead on the ground.  
I remember the cries and the blood and the fear,  
that’s why I come back to remember each year.*

*My best friend Jim died in my arms  
all he ever knew was his life on the farm,  
the peace of the country, the chiming church bell  
and he had to die in that living hell.*

*Ever since there’s been trouble galore  
but never one like that terrible war.  
And I pray that never again will there be  
a war like that one that killed Jim and me.*

*Don’t forget me lad, remember this day”.*  
Then as I watched he just faded away.  
Disappeared without trace in front of my eyes  
then I realised he said he had died.

So on Remembrance Day every year since then  
I lay down a poppy and remember them,  
And I remember the old man who stood and cried  
when he thought of the thousands who fought and died.

## A MOTHER'S LOVE

In the baker's shop where I once worked  
came customers of every kind,  
but still one sweet old lady  
has stayed in my mind.

She came into the shop each week.  
I never knew her name  
*"I'll have a box of fancy cakes  
Please make them really nice,*

*Put in that lovely custard tart  
and the one with the soft pink ice,  
and two of those round nut things  
and the little one with cream.*

*Make it up with a currant bun,  
you know the sort I mean."*  
*"They're for my son in hospital"*  
One day to me she said.

*"At eighteen he went off to war,  
Just like his dear old dad.  
He was blown up almost at once  
my lovely happy son".*

*"You know my dear since that bad day  
he's never called me mum,  
he just does not know who I am".*

*"I never get a smile,  
but I go up every Tuesday  
and sit with him for a while".*

I thought as she went on her way,  
and a thousand times since then  
here was a love, a precious love,  
of a mother for her son.

*Thank you to Norma Peckston for these two poems on Remembrance.*

## CHRISTIAN THOUGHT OF THE DAY

'Service not self' is the motto of the Royal British Legion



## **BRIDGEWAY MISSION**

Thank you for your support for Bridgeway Mission; we feel that with your church's help we have been blessed greatly over the past year.

In spring we were offered a one year lease on a shop in Long Wyre Street and we now use this as a hub for the activities we are able to provide with funding from some generous donors. We continue to run a food pantry as well as the shop from the premises in Priory Walk.

I'm writing because Bridgeway is looking for a few volunteers and I hope that you may be able to spread the word about this in your church. We want to offer more opportunity to the refugees and asylum seekers to hear, speak and practise English language very informally. You probably know that in Middle Eastern culture men and women do not often mix outside their families, and we respect this practice as Bridgeway helps these refugees to integrate.

On Mondays, 10.30 to 12.30, some of the women come to a 'Stitch and Natter' activity. This offers both sewing (using sewing machines bought with funding) and knitting. Ideally we would like a couple of English women to be there at each session.

On Tuesdays between 11.30 and 2.30 the asylum seekers (all single men) meet at the Hub to socialise, take part in activities, and to eat, and we need male volunteers to chat during some of the time.

If you can pass this on to anyone in your church who may be interested, I'd be most grateful. You and others can speak with Souzan or me:

***Souzan: 07787 925227. Sue Woods: (01206) 212100, or 07504 156157***

### **THANK YOU LETTER FROM E.A.C.H.**

Dear Wimpole Road Methodist Church,

Let me say how incredibly grateful we are that you have chosen to support East Anglia's Children's Hospices, having raised £111.50 at Rev. Joe Adams leaving service.

Your generosity will enable us to continue to support families across East Anglia to access vital care and support when they need us the most.

We honestly cannot thank you enough for your kindness. If you would like any further information on the difference your support makes, please contact us.

***Gail Johnson Fundraising Volunteer***

***EACH Fundraising Team. Tel: 01473 917965***

## WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

5 November	Rev. Hannah Chun- Holy Communion
12 November 10.45 a.m.	Rev. Paul Howes – Remembrance Sunday
15 October	Jonathan Sparkes
19 November	Local Arrangement
26 November	Joanne Eckersley

### 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

**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.**

**Friday 17 November at The Ark 7.30 p.m. for 7.45 p.m.** Join us for a **Body Shop Pamper Party** with special Christmas offers and new products to sample. Refreshments provided in exchange for donations to Church funds. Product donations will be made to the Colchester Foodbank. Contact Gail Chapman for more details and to book a place: [gailsnail1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gailsnail1@hotmail.co.uk)

### THE SLUG

*I have a snake-like slimy slug. He comes into my house - at least he's not a mouse!  
Slug (I call him 'Glug'), leaves shiny silver tracks across my creamy Indian rug.*

*Last night he climbed into my chair. How dare he leave his trail in there!  
Once I found him on the floor. Wrapped in tissue, I placed him on the grass outdoors.*

*He is God's creature after all. Then, sluggishly he slugged and slid up the windowpane,  
Found his way inside again. A tiny miracle of life - is he looking for a wife?*

*Every morning I have to wipe away the trail, and yesterday he climbed my cactus plant.  
I bet that was painful!*

**Ann Finch**



## WORKING TOGETHER



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

Meeting number: 195 594 506 password 011904

**THREE TOGETHER BIBLE STUDY DISCUSSION GROUP– Thursday 23 November 7.30 p.m. at Jackie Sam's.**

We will also be meeting weekly on Thursday 30 November, 7 & 14 December and concluding on Wednesday 20 December for our Advent Study course.

Everybody is invited to join these meetings.

Please speak to Andrew or Christine for any further information.

**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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**LINK TO ST. STEPHEN'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**<https://ststephens-colchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023-11-November-2023-Newsletter-V01.00.pdf>**

**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)

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

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