



May 2024

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun

Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

Recently, my family and I went to watch the Colchester vs Crewe football match at the Colchester stadium. I'm afraid I am not a football fan. Since moving here, Yoon and Naythan have become quite the football fans and well, they twisted mine, Reyna and Laelle's arm to come along and join the 'fun'. I haven't fully grasped the game but there is something to be said about being immersed in that crowd amid all the chants, singing and cheers. I found it captivating in a strange way. The strong sense of unity, as people chanted and cheered (or booed) together felt infectious and drew me to be a part of it. However, I did not understand the words they chanted nor did I know when to sit, stand, boo, shout or sing. Much of it felt quite alien to me and at times, I wished someone would simply explain it to me.

This led me to reflect upon how those who are unfamiliar with the Church might find stepping through the doors and sitting through our services. Will it feel alien? Will the words we speak make sense? Will the music mean anything? Will people wonder what we are doing when we share in Holy Communion? Will people wish that someone would explain it to them?

I have been deeply struck by a recent lectionary Bible passage from Acts. It is about Philip who encounters an Ethiopian eunuch on the wilderness road. Philip hears him reading a scripture passage from Isaiah aloud and asks whether he understands what he is reading. The eunuch responds, "*How can I unless someone explains it to me?*" (Acts 8:31). That response has stayed with me and continues to pose a challenge for me. How will people

understand unless we explain it to them? Do *we* understand or question what, how and why we do things the way we do? When asked about our faith, discipleship and worship will we be able to explain in plain, simple and accessible language?

May celebrates Pentecost, which recalls the coming of the Holy Spirit in power to the disciples, transforming them from people who were afraid to those who were empowered to speak the word of God beyond human fears and barriers. We too are riding that Pentecost wave with our fellow early church sisters and brothers. Though we may not always feel it, Christ has breathed the Holy Spirit into each one of us. We have the Spirit in us therefore, we needn't fear and can speak with boldness about who we are and what we're about. It is a challenge, but may you remember that the love of God within you is infectious and therefore cannot be contained. It will and does shine through.

May the outpouring and anointing Spirit of Pentecost be with you all.

God bless,

Hannah

*Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all:
He will in grace respond to all who call.
How shall they call if they have never heard
The gracious invitation of his word?*

Hymns & Psalms 770. James E. Seddon, British hymn writer and Anglican minister whose last appointment was in the Colchester borough of Essex (Just thought I would add that bit of information!)

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

For Mother's Day this year one of my daughters gave me some freesia corms, they are my favourite flower. "*I've chosen the corms mum*" she giggled, "*Because you'll get more for my money! But more importantly they will last much longer than cut ones and hopefully come up every year*".

I was really pleased and planned where in the garden I would plant them to get the most from the colour and scent when I'm lazing in my garden chair. I dutifully read the planting instructions and made sure I followed them correctly. I am excited waiting for them to start growing and check every morning on progress, which I might add is very slow! I will water, feed and dead-head them as necessary - hopefully all will go well.

In a way, being a Steward is similar - planning, preparing and making sure as a team we do all we can to ensure the smooth running of our church.

Part of our responsibility is to keep you informed of what is happening, so that you too may plan and prepare.

We move towards the end of the Easter season when on **19 May at 11.00 a.m.** we will celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church by sharing a Pentecost service of worship on the Recreation Ground with our friends from St. Stephen's. (There will be children's craft available from **10.30 a.m.**) Last year we were doubly blessed by very good weather and having to add additional seating, both of which brought us joy.

Like every home our church has accumulated a 'few' cobwebs during the winter and as such there will be Church Spring Clean on **Saturday 1 June**. Everyone is invited to don your rubber gloves, shake off your feather duster and come and give a hand to brighten up our building ready for the 120th Anniversary celebrations the following week, **9 June**. As the supermarket chain says, 'Every little helps' - so if you can only do half an hour dusting a chair or two that will be two chairs dusted, which might remain dusty without your help. Other items are also available for cleaning! Please help if you can.

Please see all the information about the Church Anniversary to avoid repeating everything here. Please encourage family and friends to come with you on the **9th June** - we have much to praise God for in our faith and fellowship here at Wimpole Road and we want to pass the legacy on. This place has been so important to so many as the love of God fills us with purpose and hope - too special and important to let drift into yet another statistic. So let's fill the space, pray with joyful vigour and be at the beginning of another fruitful and blessed 120 years.

To help take us forward in our mission we still require someone to help in the position of Cradle Roll Secretary. Now this is a title that may seem a bit daunting and perhaps old fashioned, but it is simply to assist in making sure parents and Godparents of children baptised at Wimpole Road get their baptismal cards and candles on the day. The role could be developed as you wish. Please consider this - it will make a difference.

Thank you to all the team and to our Sunday Stewards. For differing reasons Norman and Zoe will not be continuing in this role, and a special thank you to both of them for all of their efforts.

It will be more than helpful if we can have some more volunteers please. It is not an onerous task, no preparation needed - just a helpful hand on a Sunday. The more there are, the less there is to do.

Paul says, *'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's Grace in its various forms'*. 1 Peter 4:10

Every blessing,

Christine

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

There are times when some short quotes can really get you thinking. A. A. Milne is famous for writing the Winnie-the-Pooh books and 'The Little Book of Wisdom' contains some 'Wise Words from the Best Bear in All the World.' Winnie the Pooh is sat alongside Christopher Robin and says *"It isn't much good having anything exciting, if you can't share it with somebody. It's so much more friendly with two."*

There are many thoughts which could be offered around this quote. I'm writing this on the day of the London Marathon where professional and amateur runners all participate in the same race. One picture I saw was of two people running together as a camel. Now that is companionship! Not only do they need to last the course but do it completely together and alongside each other. There are many running the London Marathon as something which is an adventure, as well as those who are trying to raise money for charities because of times of adversity in the lives of family and friends.

In this Easter season, many of the readings we have at this time of year focus on the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to the disciples. He is reminding them that he is their companion and will always be alongside them. The risen Jesus may not always be immediately known by those he appears to but the joy that is there when he is recognised is wonderful. The disciples can relate to their closest friend in a new way.

Companionship is so important. We need people to be alongside us when we have things to celebrate and be thankful for as well as the times which are real struggles for one reason or another. We need to share the ups and downs of life with others because *"It is so much more friendly with two,"* as Winnie the Pooh would say. A companion is someone with whom we share the details of our lives, someone we can turn to with anything and everything. Jesus is the closest companion we can have. Equally, God works through others and reminds us that we should love others as God has loved us by being there for one another. As the garden grows, the seasons change, and the days lengthen, there is much for which we can be thankful. We might find the changes we see in the natural world around us as being just this time of year. However, it is also exciting to see things burst into new life, flowers bloom and plants grow rapidly. We may see other things which we can share with others and it's important we do so.

We need to remember that the companionship of Jesus is there for all. Whether things are exciting or changing or difficult at this moment, we can turn to Jesus who will share with us the words of wisdom we need to hear. We are fortunate to have the companionship of Jesus who is present to us through the Holy Spirit, as well as God who works through the lives of others. Let's seek to be companions to one another through the whole of life, to hear the wisdom of God through others and to know the presence of Jesus in all we do.

God bless,

Rev. Chris Preece

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday 9 June is our 120th Church Anniversary, when we will be having a special anniversary service at 11.00 a.m. led by Rev. Hannah, when Martin Broom will be giving a short 'potted' history.

His extensive research and collection of programmes, articles as well as photographs has enabled us to put on a large display, which will be in the church for 2 weeks.

He will also be doing a longer talk and presentation on **30 May** at Thursday Circle, to which everyone is invited (see page 6).

The date 9 June is also that of New Town Open Gardens, so as well as being open for our display we will be open for refreshments etc. from **midday to 4 p.m.**

We will need lots of people to come along to help to host this special day and speak to the visitors we have, so please keep this date free.

More details to follow in next month's Newsround.

In the meantime I am collating photographs etc, of various events and church memories to be incorporated into the display, so if anyone has any which they would like to share, please let me have them. I will scan them and return the originals as required.

Many thanks,

Alison Ablewhite

WIMPOLE ROAD CARPET BOWLS CLUB

On the final playing Wednesday afternoon of the Bowls Club's season it was also the occasion of the Annual Awards Ceremony.

Following the voting by club members it was Ann Finch who was awarded the 'Player of the Season' cup.

Ann has been a very consistent and popular player throughout the season and thoroughly deserves the accolade of 'Player of the Year'.

Well done Ann.

A special presentation was made to Sandy French who was instrumental in obtaining the grant that enabled the club to purchase a new bowls carpet and which has given members a much better surface to bowl on - thank you Sandy.

Christine and myself would like to thank everyone for their company and help and we all look forward to getting together again at the beginning of the new season in October.

THURSDAY CIRCLE

April began with a very informative talk by Peter Jones on that well-known Colchester landmark 'Jumbo'.

The following week we held a party to celebrate Thursday Circle's 76th birthday and to congratulate those members having a special birthday in 2024. Music was provided by 'The Performers'. An excellent group of singers, whose lead singer delighted us by appearing in a yellow polka dot bikini as Dolly Parton, and also later as Elvis. Thank you to all our members for providing such a good spread of food.

On 14 April we had responsibility for the Sunday morning service. Our guest speaker was Sally Crafer and thank you to her and everyone who took part in the service. The sketch by Christine and Graham Duthie on the 'Good Samaritan' was particularly enjoyable. More please!

On 18 April my talk about my mother's life growing up in London 1907 – 1926, was well received.

Our last talk for April was to have been 'Ghosts' by Sharon Mooney. Unfortunately she was not able to attend but arranged for a friend, Di Bignall, to do the talk for her.

Coming up for May:

2 May Talk by Liz White, Secretary of the Lexden History Group, on 'The History of Love Tokens'.

9 May Gunni Graygoose will give a programme of seated activities.
Do come and join us for an afternoon of fun.

16 May Quiz Afternoon to raise money for 'Christian Aid'.
Please support this and invite along anyone you know who enjoys a quiz.

23 May A talk by Ann Finch, one of our members, entitled 'Bits and Pieces'.
Do come along and support Ann.

30 May **An illustrated talk by Martin Broom (our Church Archivist) on the story of the building of Wimpole Road in 1904 - concentrating on why, when, where, who and what. This talk will be held in the church itself and everyone is invited.**

Our meetings are at **2.30 p.m.** and everyone, young or old, male or female, is welcome to attend.

Joan Gomer - Secretary

2024 - CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

Our aim this year is to have a clean, dust-free church before our 120th Church Anniversary on 9 June.

We need the support of yourself and other people to blitz the church cleaning, as that with Anthony and Andrew's help they can use ladders and the long handled dusters to free the windows from cobwebs, and also to dust the uppermost areas, normally out of reach.

The plan is to have enough people to make a complete spring clean possible - so that pews can be polished; floors swept; carpets vacuumed; glass cleaned; brass polished; tiled floors washed, and shelves polished with hymn books replaced etc.

So there is a job for everyone – whether sat down polishing or wielding a feather duster! Every offer of help will be gratefully accepted, also any donations of cleaning materials.

We have chosen Saturday morning, 1 June starting at 09.00 a.m. to finish by 11.00 a.m.

So there is plenty of work for everyone and we need lots of people to make it a profitable and pleasurable experience.

Refreshments will be provided and there is a small supply of cleaning materials, but obviously it would be helpful if you could bring along your own polish, cloths, brushes, buckets, mops or even a vacuum cleaner!

Please do try to come along and help, even if only for an hour. The church will look so much better, and you and the entire congregation will be able to worship in a sparkling, cobweb free area!

If you are able to assist in any way, please let me know a.s.a.p. and thank you in anticipation. The more people we have the quicker it will get done!!

Alison Ablewhite

‘ON YOUR MARKS’ HOLIDAY CLUB Wednesday 31 July – Friday 2 August (inclusive).

Booking will be via an online link, please watch out for posts on Facebook and web-site pages. Please book your places early as spaces are limited and last year we were oversubscribed. If you are able to help in any way please speak to me.

We are also collecting:

Old tights, Pringles (or similar) tub with their lids, 500g margarine tubs and their lids. Toilet roll tubes, Net bags that oranges come in, and white plastic milk container lids.

Thank you, Andrew Topple (mob: 0780 394 3019)

FOODBANK – KING’S AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERS

Many of you will probably have seen that the Colchester Foodbank was awarded a King’s Award for Volunteers, and all the volunteers have been recognised for their significant contribution towards this award. They were invited to a ceremony a few weeks ago, where the Lord Lieutenant of Essex presented these awards.

What you may be less well aware of is that we have seven people from this church who volunteer to support this work, through the new Town satellite at St. Stephen’s Church. We would like to recognise the contributions made by our members who are Christine, Graham, Sally, Juliet, Anna, Andrew and Peter Studd.

LETTER OF THANKS FROM EACH (East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices)

Dear Wimpole Road Methodist Church,

Let me say just how incredibly grateful we are that you have chosen to support East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices (EACH), having raised £68 by the ladies Thursday Circle Club. 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 our support makes, please contact us (Tel: 01473 917965).

Yours sincerely,

Gail Johnson Fundraising Volunteer

NATURE’S CYCLE

The March wind blows, Wake Up! Wake Up!
Primroses, Daisies and Buttercups.
But the Magnolia cries, “*Oh No! Oh No!*”
Away all my blossoms you will blow!”

The Clematis says
“*Don’t worry, you’ve had your go –
now it’s time for mine to show*”.

And so the cycle carries on,
through all the seasons of the year,
from gentle Spring to Summer sun,
the annual course has now begun.

Pat Farrow

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH

Across the green and pleasant lane,
We call the Recreation Ground,
Above the roofs extends a spire,
Where God moves in all His power.

And underneath that spire tall,
There is a church that welcomes all.
A church that smiles and says, "*Come In*".
A place for happy gathering.

From the time you step inside,
Your hand is held, you see a smile.
You know this is the place to be,
Where love shines through so tenderly.

And whether you're in 'Sunday Best',
With squeaky shoes, all smartly dressed,
Or in jeans and 'T' shirt bright,
Our Lord will say that it's alright.

For we meet together in harmony,
"*And that*" says God,
"*Is how it should be*".

Norma Peckston

'THE SUNSET POEM' - Eli Jenkins' Prayer from 'Under Milk Wood' by Dylan Thomas

Every morning when I wake
Dear Lord - a little prayer I make
Oh please do keep thy loving eye
On all poor creatures born to die.

And every evening at sundown
I ask a blessing on the town,
For whether we last the night or no
I'm sure is always - touch and go.

We are not wholly bad or good
Who live our lives under Milk Wood,
And Thou, I know, wilt be the first
To see our best side, not our worst.

O let us see another day!
Bless us all this night, I pray,
And to the sun we all will bow
And say, goodbye - but just for now!

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

5 May	Rev. David Moody / Holy Communion
12 May	Eddie Lansdown
19 May	Joint Pentecost Service with Rev. Hannah Chun and St. Stephen's on the Recreation Ground
26 May	Rev. Dr. Marion Cole

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.

DIARY DATES

Saturday 11 May at Castle 9 a.m. – 10. a.m.

'Serving the Present Age?' - Circuit Prayer Group, led by Rev. Hannah Chun.

To support God's mission for our churches in Colchester. All welcome

Saturday 1 June 9.00 a.m. onwards. Church Spring Clean

To prepare our church for it's 120th Church Anniversary. Please do come along and lend a hand to blitz the dust, cobwebs and make the brass and glass sparkle again! **Save the date!**

Sunday 9 June is our Church Anniversary, when we will be having a special anniversary service at **11.00 a.m.** led by Rev. Hannah.

We are also planning a display to mark exactly 120 years since our church first opened here and it is also the date for the New Town Gardens event (see page 5).

Circuit Summer Celebration

Everyone is welcome to join together at a 'Circuit Summer Celebration' on **Sunday 30 June from 4 p.m. till 7 p.m.**

The venue, by kind invitation, is the home of Peter Broom in Layer-de-la-Haye. The event will include crafts, games, entertainment and a closing service.

Please bring a picnic/chair/umbrella etc. More information will follow in due course.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

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



WORKING TOGETHER



PRAYER MEETING Tuesday 10.00 - 10.30 a.m.
Meeting number: 195 594 506 password 011904

**'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.

LINK TO ST. STEPHEN'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

<http://ststephens-colchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-05-May-2024-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

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk

“The Spirit, the living memory of the church, reminds us that we are born from a gift and that we grow by giving, not by holding on, but by giving of ourselves.”

Pope Francis - 2020