



June 2024

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun

Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

I recently heard about a very odd and interesting British tradition which takes place every Spring Bank Holiday. It's the Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling competition. This is an old tradition that dates back to around 600 years. From the top of the hill a round of Double Gloucester cheese is sent rolling down, then immediately participants of the race roll down the 180m long and extremely steep Cooper's Hill in Gloucester. The first person to reach the bottom wins the cheese.

It is a high-risk sport which poses severe safety concerns resulting in several injuries each year. Yet despite the risks and hazards, it continues and thousands flock from across the world to witness the mayhem. I reflected on why on earth people would want to do such a thing whilst putting risk to their bodies. Tradition? Thrill? To raise the village profile? To make a statement? To win and get some cheese?

I felt it came down to one thing. The desire to be noticed. Whether it is to uphold a tradition, to win, to become famous or to raise a profile, it is done to be noticed. Maybe the desire to be noticed is an innate and deep human need. The need to be noticed by another person may be a perennial need for us as human beings because when we are noticed we can feel a sense of belonging, love, care and importance.

Jesus noticed people throughout his ministry, particularly those who would otherwise go unnoticed by society. The woman who suffered from bleeding for twelve years in the Gospels (Mt 9:20-22; Mk 5:25-34 & Lk 8:43-49) comes to mind. Her constant bleeding would have labelled her ritually unclean therefore isolating her from the community. She

touched the edge of Jesus' cloak hoping to be healed, and Jesus noticed that touch. Even whilst surrounded by a large, noisy, bustling crowd pressing in on him, he still noticed her, spoke to her and made her feel valued.

Maybe our calling as a church this Pentecost season and beyond is to be mindful of the early Christians who shared God's love to people of all languages, races and backgrounds. Maybe this can begin by noticing. Noticing people. Noticing one another. Noticing those who come through our doors. Noticing those on the streets and noticing those who might be taking a risk to be noticed. Behind each person who needs to be noticed is a story waiting to be heard.

May our church continue to be a church for everyone where differences are celebrated in true Pentecost Spirit. Where people feel noticed and accepted. So, who might you be noticing today and why? May God give each of us the boldness to act upon our noticing.

And finally, cheese anyone?

God bless,

Hannah

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

At the time of writing this article, I am completely immersed in preparations for the display to commemorate our 120th Anniversary here at Wimpole Road.

As a relative newcomer (first attending with my mother at an evening service on 24 April 1966) I have always been fascinated by not only the history of the actual building but also the extended family of the church. We were immediately made to feel very welcome and soon became totally immersed in some of the many and varied activities.

We are indebted to Martin Broom (our Church Archivist) for highlighting this special date, and thanks to his extensive collection of documents, photographs etc. we have an interesting idea of how the church came to be built.

Joyce Burch (a dedicated and lifelong member) had compiled a scrapbook of the History of Wimpole Road from 1904 to 1994, and this was an excellent starting point. Several church members and friends have supplied more recent photographs and programmes etc. and so our display has been brought up to date.

Thanks to everyone for their input and hopefully the display will be enjoyed and evoke many happy memories.

Whilst the dedication of past members, and their heritage is the focus of our anniversary celebrations, we must not overlook the extensive work and mission currently being undertaken.

Several times a week a few individuals quietly and efficiently enter the church buildings and ensure that the needs of the congregation are met: (for example replacing toilet rolls, coffee, tea, biscuits, clean table cloths and tea towels etc). Also making sure that clocks are adjusted, light bulbs changed, flowers replenished, and books put back on their shelves.

Our equipment and safety needs are checked; technology issues resolved (where would we be without the PowerPoints?) and many other unseen tasks, which we all take for granted.

So as well as thanking all those (unnamed people) special thanks must also be extended to Andrew for liaising with Hannah and St. Stephen's to ensure that the United Service of Pentecost on the Recreation Ground was a success. (He even organised good weather!)

Finally as we re-dedicate our Church on the 9th June, we must all play our part in the ongoing life and mission to fulfil the legacy left by those faithful Methodists in New Town, Colchester - 120 years ago.

Alison Ablewhite

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday 9 June 2024 will be our 120th Church Anniversary, so to mark this special event we are planning the following:

- There will be a display of photographs and various interesting documents and items in the church and vestibule for 2 weeks from **9 June**.
- **Sunday 9 June at 11.00 a.m. will be the Anniversary Service**, led by our minister Rev. Hannah Chun. A short summary will be provided by Martin and Hannah will then invite the congregation to participate in a re-dedication of the church.
- **Sunday 9 June – the church will be open from midday – 4.00 p.m.**
- There will be video footage in both the parlour and church, on these occasions.

We need people to come along to help to host this special day by welcoming any visitors, show them round the church and invite them for refreshments in the Parlour.

You are warmly invited to help us celebrate 120 years of worship here at the 'Church on the 'Rec' by attending the service, the talk or to view the display. It would be fantastic to have a full church for the re-dedication service but if unable to attend please remember us in your thoughts and prayers.

Church Stewards

{Ed}: NEWSROUND EXTRA

The main focus of this issue is to commemorate our church's 120th Anniversary. There will be an additional Newsround Extra to follow in 2 weeks.

THIS CHURCH

**Written by Norma Peckston,
for our Centenary Service in 2004**

This church was built with God.
He stood beside each artisan,
Each carpenter and labouring man,
Encouraged every one.

He chose where it should be.
Watched them lay each brick and tile,
Walked through the doors and down each aisle,
Until the work was done.

This church was built with faith.
A faith that's been here from the start,
Strong and true in every heart,
A firm foundation stone.

And still it is today.
We keep faith here below,
With those whose vision made it so,
And still work to make it grow.

This church was built with love.
You feel it when you come inside,
The outstretched hand, the friendly smile
Say 'You are welcome here.'

It is a happy place.
As it was planned so long ago,
Each generation's kept it so,
A happiness we share.

With God in faith and love.
We join with all who've worshipped here,
All through the last one hundred years,
In song, and praise, and word.

Let us look outward now,
And reach beyond these walls to share
Our Father's love, and show we are,
One family of the Lord.

A MEDITATION FOR WIMPOLE ROAD

Gracious God,
in this special year
we want to celebrate your faithfulness,
and the good news of the Christian message.

we praise you, our Creator,
for your constant love;
for the gift of Jesus, your son, our Saviour;
for His compassionate life and profound ministry;
for signs, wonders and words of wisdom;
for His obedient death upon the Cross for us;
and the glorious resurrection that was to follow.

We worship you, Father,
because through Jesus we find forgiveness,
and a new relationship with you is possible.
We can discover meaning to life;
acceptance and healing;
inner joy and hope.

Lord God, the depth of your love,
moves us to respond;
to live for you
and serve you through good times and bad!

And so, in this Church Anniversary,
we want to thank you for all that is past;
for 120 years of work, worship and witness
in the name of our Lord Jesus.

We thank you
for the Methodist tradition in which we stand;
for the lives of all your faithful servants in every age;
for congregation members;
for those who have held positions of responsibility;
for local preachers
and ministers of this church and circuit.

We thank you
for the caring nature of Wimpole Road;
that it has been a family and neighbourhood church.
We thank you for all its activities, organisations and groups;
for that its fellowship has meant to so many;
and yes, for treasured memories.

But, Lord God,
may we **not** live in the past,
or be content with the way things are at present.

Challenge us as we look and move to the future!

Forgive us those times when we have been a disobedient people;
times when we have not been in tune with your will;
when we have been short-sighted,
or inward-looking, or backward-looking.

Help us to look forward and follow our Lord!

Father, broaden our horizons!
May we have a vision of all that you call us to do, and to be.

Bless the worship and work of this church, we pray.
Empower us by your Holy Spirit
that we may share in your mission to the world.
May we be responsive to the needs of the community
of which we are a part;
may we be aware of the issues in our society,
and struggle for compassions, justice and peace, with your help.

Grant us faith, imagination and courage
that we may make your love known to all.
Help us to be welcoming and all-embracing;
to develop ministries to those we are not reaching;
and to be pastorally sensitive and caring.

Equip us that we may use our varied gifts and callings,
to further your kingdom.
And may we always build upon the rock of Jesus
and the truth of Holy Scripture;
that we may grow spiritually, and in number.

May we be open to the work of your Holy Spirit,
and so be a church that is 'On Fire' for you.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our living Lord.
Amen

Rev. Tony Miles

HYMN WRITING COMPETITION

*As part of our Centenary celebrations a hymn writing competition
was organised and open to the whole Colchester Circuit.*

*The winning hymn by Jane Dansie was sung on our Church Anniversary
at the evening Sector Service on 13th June.*

Tune: Ar hyd y nos Hymns and Psalms 342, 641

1) In the vision of our founders
Whose zeal had grown
In this place to preach God's glory,
His love make known.
Still today by honest preachers,
Still today by faithful teachers,
Still today by daring leaders,
God's love is shown.

2) To the children who have come here,
Welcomed, God's own.
As they were baptised with water,
God's love was shown.
In their playing, grace discerning,
In the teaching and the learning,
In the nurture, care and sharing,
God's love is shown.

3) To the couples who have come here
When love had grown.
As they joined their lives together,
God's love was shown.
In the widening joy of living,
In mistakes and their forgiving,
In the growth of understanding,
God's love is shown.

4) To the ones who came here grieving
For sorrow known,
In a word and touch of comfort,
God's love was shown.
In the fellowship of sharing,
In the depth of trouble bearing,
In the healing and restoring,
God's love is shown.

5) Now to us the charge is given,
God's love make known!
Through this church and by our witness
May it be shown!
And to all who need redeeming,
All who heed the Spirit's leading,
God's eternal love and healing,
We will make known!

Hymn written by Christine Duthie

Tune: 'I the Lord of sea and sky' Songs of Fellowship 830

1) One hundred years our church has stood
Seen us through the bad and good.
Built by people long ago
Our church still stands.

Faithful servants have passed through
People just like me and you
Came to worship through the years
And joined in praise.

CHORUS

*Praise to Jesus, Lord of all Lords
Father, Son, Holy Spirit – three in one.
We will worship, we will praise you
As one body faithfully we come.*

2) Years have gone and times have changed
Now we're in a different age.
We remember friends who've passed
Along the way

Servants of the mighty King
They came to bring their offering.
Through their lives they worshipped Him
And joined in praise.

CHORUS

3) So the church will still go on
Evermore in praise and song.
People with one heart and voice
Will praise the King.

Through the years their love will show
That God's kingdom it will grow
For the church will never fail
As we join in praise.

CHORUS

PRAYER CORNER

Dear Heavenly Father,

We give you thanks for the light that is revealed to us in the face of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We remember all who led us to you, from those first apostles who received the Holy Spirit and spread the good news of the risen Christ.

For the men and women who down the centuries shared their insight and knowledge, and who in times of persecution and difficulties kept the lamp of faith burning.

We think especially of the people of faith who over one hundred and twenty years have passed through our church in Wimpole Road.

Ordinary men and women whose Christian love shone strongly, and was passed to succeeding generations.

We pray for a continuance of that spiritual renewal and for an increase in vision and hope.

Loving Father, sustain all whom the world has hurt.

We remember all friends and loved ones who at this time suffer the pain of illness or loneliness, or whose lives are beset with problems and difficulties, and we pray for loved ones departed – now at peace in your eternal presence.

The Lord is our hope. God is our joy and strength.

Father, out of two thousand years of Christian history we celebrate this small part to which our own church belongs.

Thank you for those through whose vision and industry our church was founded in this place.

Thank you for the generations that have gone before us, ensuring that there has been no moment when Christ has been without his witnesses.

We ask, Father, that we may be no less faithful than were they.

As we have given thanks for past witness so may those who follow have cause for gratitude to us.

Amen

ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Living God, we thank you for your constant love in a changing world.

We thank you for your trust in us and attention to us.

We thank you for all our history and traditions.

We thank you for this church building and for all that it is used for.

We thank you for our Church family and all we mean to each other, and all we can mean to others.

We thank you too, for our own gifts and graces.

We commit ourselves to using them imaginatively and creatively.

We commit ourselves to breaking out in new ventures in mission and ministry together.

And we commit ourselves to follow Jesus, in whose name we bring our prayers and our gifts.

Amen.

THE CHURCH IN WIMPOLE ROAD

One hundred and twenty years ago this piece of land,
was cleared, to build a church as planned.

Soon the red walls upwards raced
as brick on brick was put in place.

The people stood and watched so proud
of their growing church in Wimpole Road.

One day in June through its doors they came
to hear God's word and speak his name.

To start their church, to be thought of
a place of fellowship and love.

And today it still is so
in the church they built in Wimpole Road.

Norma Peckston

THOUGHTS FROM THE PAST

by a Church Member

As the Church prepares to celebrate 120 years of worship this brings to mind a period in the mid 1990's and beyond when we embarked on a fundraising journey spread over several years to raise money for improvements to the hall and, in particular, the kitchen and the toilets.

There were a number of fundraising concerts which included Lynn Creasey, a classical harpist and Annie Mawson who we met at the Bradwell Pilgrimage and who came down from Northumbria with her music and her beautiful Celtic harp.

One of our major events was an extended Craft Fayre and during the spring and summer a Saturday Trading Post selling plants.

Then there were the Christmas Bazaars and the summer Strawberry Fayres.

And also during this time the banners were made for special occasions, guided and inspired by June Howard.

As we continue to move forward we may have to change and possibly take a different direction.

We don't know where that path will take us but we go in faith and with prayer, the two things which have sustained and encouraged the worship here from the very beginning in 1904 and which will continue to hold us together through the times ahead.

Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, the future to His providence.

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On **Thursday 30 May at 2.30 p.m.** Martin Broom gave an illustrated talk on the story of the building of Wimpole Road in 1904 - concentrating on why, when, where, who and what. This talk was held in the church itself.

***{Ed: if you wish to see and hear Martin's talk here is the link:}***

**<https://youtu.be/vmQRniKrEGI>**

## THURSDAY CIRCLE

May began with a talk by Liz White on 'The Surprising History of Love Tokens'. It was amazing how much material she had amassed on this subject.

The following week Gunni Graygoose gave us a most enjoyable programme of seated activities. We sang, exercised with scarves, shook percussion instruments and swatted away bubbles!

16 May, being part of Christian Aid Week, we held a Quiz Afternoon and together with donations from those unable to attend raised £100. Thank you to all who contributed in any way.

The following Thursday the speaker was one of our members, Ann Finch. We enjoyed hearing the story of her life, into which she had packed so many different experiences. She also gave us tips for a happy life and some exercises to help us get out of bed and moving in the mornings! Thank you Ann!

### Coming up for June:

**6 June** We will be thinking about the D Day Landings on the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the event.

**9 June (Sunday)** As part of the Church's 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, Thursday Circle will have a table display in the vestibule, about our history. Do come and support us!

**13 June** A presentation by Karl Lumbers, a Trinity House Ambassador.

**20 June** Jie was due to tell us more about China, but that may not now be possible. If that is the case, her boyfriend Matthew will tell us about calligraphy. Please ask me nearer the time which of the two it will be.

**27 June** We have a Cream Tea booked at the Mercury Theatre for 3.00 p.m.

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

*Joan Gomer - Secretary*

## WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR JUNE

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

|         |                                               |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 2 June  | Local Arrangement                             |
| 9 June  | Church Anniversary Service - Rev. Hannah Chun |
| 16 June | Rev. Paul Howes – Holy Communion              |
| 23 June | Jonathan Sparkes                              |
| 30 June | Rev. Chris Preece                             |

### 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 8 June at The Ark 9 a.m. – 10. a.m.**

**‘Serving the Present Age?’ - Circuit Prayer Group, led by Sally Crafer.**

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

**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.

There is also a large display to mark exactly 120 years since our church first opened.

The church will be open from **midday to 4.00 p.m.** for visitors to view the display and have refreshments in the Parlour.

### **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 your own picnic and chair/umbrella or rug. Hot drinks will be made available.

**Worship 5.45 for 6.00 p.m. led by Rev. Paul Howes.**

### 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

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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://drive.google.com/file/d/1n3WRy7PjOIFSR2oXyEI2QCn4xrohDddT/view?usp=sharing>**

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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)**

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

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

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**On this anniversary day we thank you, Lord, for our church here in Wimpole Road.  
We praise you for all the joy we have known in this fellowship,  
and we pray for all those who together make up this community of your people,  
so that our church may be a real home for all who share its life.**

# NEWSROUND EXTRA

## LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Recently I was outside doing some work on the edge of the lawn which, on the face of it, is not the most exciting of jobs. I was pulling out the stray bits of grass which had got stuck in the path. They had gradually grown around and were in danger of obscuring it. In undertaking this routine maintenance there was a sense of order and well-being of the part I'd done.

As I looked at it afterwards, I found myself reflecting on how this interacted in our life as disciples. There are times where we need to be purposeful in bringing our lives before God and being honest about where we are. There is a sense of the act of edging the lawn which represents an increased sense of order at the end of it. God brought order when the world was created. Jesus was sent to the world and taught using many parables and metaphors linked to creation. The sending of the Holy Spirit is the action of God in the world today, sweeping through places and bringing a new beginning from where we are. All these may be relevant in their differing ways to where we are as followers of Christ.

As the grass was stripped away from between the parts of the path, I was reminded of a song, 'When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come.' This song, written by Matt Redman, had many resonances in differing ways with the garden, although it was not written with that in mind! When the grass is stripped away, the whole of the original path is seen once again. We can simply come before Jesus with no barriers in the way. We can be at one with God, in the world God created and recognise the significance of the Holy Spirit in shaping something new once again.

The chorus is 'I'm coming back to the heart of worship and it's all about you, Jesus.' When we strip everything away, we come back to God who is at the heart of our worship. We worship Jesus who died and rose again for all people to bring new life. The heart of our worship is to be at one with God through Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We will all find our place of being at one with God in different ways. It may be in the place we'd expect, or it may be in the times of edging the lawn! Jesus will meet us where we are, whatever we are doing in the world, whether it's in the big things or in the things that seem very functional and mundane. We need to be open to the Holy Spirit doing something new, even if it is when we are going about the routine everyday tasks. God will be revealed as something is stripped away, and we will be at one with God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit once again.

As we go about our daily lives in the coming days, let's be open to finding God in the everyday parts of life. As the complexities of life are stripped away, and we simply come to God, we may be surprised where we find God in Jesus but in being open to the Holy Spirit new things may emerge.

God bless,

*Rev. Chris Preece*

**‘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)*

### STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

During the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, stained glass developed as a medium to translate ideas on a larger scale and to a wider audience, which were formerly conceived and executed in the form of manuscript illustrations, church shrines and jewellery.

Its impact was phenomenal and, over a period of time, churches and cathedrals across Europe were furnished with glass, much of which was created by master artists.

This transformed the whole experience of worship and reinforced the message of Christianity, which had hitherto reached the masses only through preaching and biblical story-telling.

Figures and scenes depicted in the windows added a visual dimension to familiar stories, and became a powerful reminder of spiritual truths.

Sunlight filtering through the glass produced kaleidoscopic effects of colour, and induced a mood of contemplation and wonder.

There are several pieces of coloured glass set into the windows of our own church at Wimpole Road.

Light shining through these windows also produces a magical effect.

George Hill (a former church member) made a drawing of one of the windows with details of the number of separate pieces of glass that have been used. The figure of 6652 pieces of glass seems extraordinary, and this does not include the windows up in the gallery.

Imagine the pieces of glass used to create the magnificent stained glass windows that can be seen in our great cathedrals.



## SAFEGUARDING AND WIMPOLE ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

In 2017 the Methodist Church (along with other Christian denominations) published its report on abuse within and without the church and took action to **SAFEGUARD** its members and those who attend our activities/premises.

Since then the scope has continued to grow into an ever-increasing number of areas as experience and the law changes, due to events that have occurred/new thinking.

At Wimpole Road - all church officers and officials are police checked when appointed and subsequently every five years. All checks are complete and up to date. Each of these people has to receive appropriate Safeguarding training at either Foundation or Advanced level - depending on their role within the church.

This training has to be up dated every four years and all of our officers are up to date with their training.

**Food preparation** - anyone preparing food (over and above making tea and coffee and opening a packet) has to hold a Food Preparation certificate and this has to be renewed every three years. We have renewed four certificates within the last year as we had discovered that each certificate only had a limited life.

**Risk Assessments** - the church now requires us to create, maintain and assess risk when doing anything above our normal worship activities. Thus, a Risk Assessment has to be created for the Holiday Club and the Community Day. The former took three months to put together last year.

Other activities and users of the church are expected to have their own Risk Assessments in place.

**First Aiders** - are required for some activities and we have two who are permitted to carry out this work, as well as bringing in extra resources to the Community Day-for example.

Perhaps the biggest area of work/change has been an increased need to ensure that our premises are safe and that our safety is maintained at all times. Thus, there is now an Annual Safeguarding Inspection of the church (we normally do ours in March) which often leads to reflection and change in processes that have existed (in some cases) for decades.

Thus, in the last 15 months:

- A substantial amount of stored craft materials has been removed from the church- thus reducing the fire risk.
- A freezer has now been re-sited near the kitchen and no longer has flammable materials piled on top of it.
- The Fire Alarm system has been up dated so that it is audible during church services and a practice evacuation took place. This year's practice evacuation will occur

shortly- when different exits will be used to last year and the exit procedure adjusted in the light of experience.

- The correct number of Fire Exits are now accessible, unlocked and properly signed allowing easy departure from the building should we ever have to leave the building in a real emergency.

As stated above, change is a constant, and the latest item to hit my desk has been the On-Line Safety Bill - which is aimed at protecting children from on-line abuse (in its many forms).

In response the church has issued an eight page document - which reminds us all that without the explicit permission of a parent or guardian it is illegal to contact anyone who is under the age of 18 using a platform like WhatsApp or Tik Tok.

This does not apply to close relatives like our own children, grandchildren or great grandchildren!

At Wimpole Road we maintain an informed vigilance around our activities and act when a challenge appears, to reduce the risk of harm to all parties, whilst attempting to maintain the dignity of all.

*Peter Studd*  
*Safeguarding Officer*

## CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

On the morning of Saturday 1 June the church was a hive of activity.

There were vacuum cleaners; very tall ladders and long handled brushes; numerous cans of polish and dusters; mops, buckets; brushes, dustpans and glass cleaning cloths. All these being willingly wielded by a dozen able bodied men and women and after a couple of hours of hard intensive but cheerful labour – the many years of dust and cobwebs (normally out of reach) were banished; the pew cushions were flipped over and cleaned, revealing an assortment of glitter, pine needles and even a 2p coin!

The floor and corridors and adjoining areas were either mopped or vacuumed; the wooden pews received polish in their many crevices and the vestry and vestibule both had a complete make over!

Whilst all this was happening inside, outside the front garden area was being refreshed and weeded.

All this activity was to ensure that the church (inside and out) looked its best for our 120<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary, and to enhance the worship.

On behalf of the whole congregation grateful thanks to everyone who contributed in any way – the end result is fantastic.

*Last year all 7 churches in the circuit were asked to prayerfully revisit our Mission plans: to evaluate whether they were still effective and relevant; in need of updating or a complete revamp and renewal.*

*During our Anniversary Service, Christine outlined the following proposals, with practical benefits as well as showing photographs of similar projects in other churches, which were discreet and unobtrusive when not in use.*

*Hopefully to extend the gift of fellowship to all who worship, particularly those who step into our building for the first time, not knowing anyone.*

*The aim being to move forward in our Mission to share our faith, the love of Jesus and to keep this beautiful church alive, in which to share God's spirit and grace for future years.*

### **POSSIBLE FUTURE PROJECT**

For some time now, the Church Council and the Property Group of Wimpole Road Church have been considering ways of trying to make better use of our lovely church and encourage more of our congregation to stay and enjoy the fellowship and socialising, whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit after the morning service.

Having to move from the church into the parlour is not ideal, so we are thinking about the possibility of having a small kitchenette at the back of the church. This would enable us to make tea and coffee, not only after our services, but to have meetings etc. in the church; to enjoy further fellowship together, and would allow the halls to be hired out separately.

This would of course mean removing 2 or 3 of the large pews from the back across the middle of the church and also a couple from each side, to allow room to accommodate the kitchenette. Also we are thinking about having an accessible toilet near the current Vestry, which can be used by everyone.

At present we are merely asking for your thoughts and ideas on this project. As our congregation, it is important that you feel comfortable in your church. We would like to know your views and ideas, either for or against, equally if you have any other ideas relating to this proposal. There are 4 questions at the end of this article written by Rev. Hannah that might be helpful.

Your thoughts and ideas will be presented to our **General Church Meeting on Thursday 20 June at 7.00 p.m.** where we hope to discuss this in more detail. **This meeting is open to everyone**, but if you are unable to attend please speak to Rev. Hannah, myself or any of the Stewards with your thoughts. Another option is to email [wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com](mailto:wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com).

The proposed location is where the PA and projector controls are at present, as this would be easier for water and drainage, whilst moving those controls forward slightly.

As you are reading this, you are probably thinking only a couple of months ago you were asking us to reconsider our giving - now you are thinking of spending several thousands of pounds. Where is the money?

The family of the late Jean and David Ablewhite have kindly made a donation towards a project at Wimpole Road in memory of their parents, who worked tirelessly and lovingly for many years in a variety of roles. Their daughter Juliet is following in their footsteps. The family would like the church family (old and new) at Wimpole Road to benefit from the project.

Along with their generous donation, we hope to be able to apply for circuit, district and other possible grants, as we believe these alterations will be very much part of our mission.

With this in mind, it is of course understandable that we will need the permission of the family before any work commences.

Any alterations we decide on in the church will be completely up to us, the people of Wimpole Road. Although permission will have to be obtained from the circuit, and Manchester for the toilet, as well as getting building regulations authorised on any work proposed for the new toilet. With this in mind we have had some preliminary talks with an architect, who is putting together some ideas.

The questions from Rev. Hannah are:

- 1) What do you value about staying after the Sunday service for tea and coffee?
- 2) How and in what ways could this time be enhanced to be more accessible and open to all?
- 3) How might having tea and coffee available in the worship space right after the service help build fellowship and conversation?
- 4) If we did build a kitchenette at the back of the church, how might this offer a valuable space for mission and outreach?

**Please do get in touch, your opinion is important.**

*Rev. Hannah, Edward Pentney and the Stewards*

### **LINK TO OUR ANNIVERSARY SERVICE**

**<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FAXgXqDVVA06T6mRZW - GnWch0ZGvQF5/view?usp=sharing>**

### **DIARY DATE**

**GENERAL CHURCH MEETING – Thursday 20 June at 7.00 p.m.**

**This meeting is open to EVERYONE. Please come if you are able.**