



**July 2024**

**Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun**

**Mob: 07935 612 414**

Dear Friends,

Our children have been asking for pets for a long time. We finally gave in and now have two additions to our family. Two guinea pigs named Pepper and Pumpkin. Although there seems to be hay everywhere and the manse is beginning to smell like a farm, we have fallen in love with them! They are so fun to watch and I am completely mesmerised by God's wonderful creation each time I watch them.

You may know that guinea pigs make lots of different sounds. The 'Wheek! Wheek!' sound is probably the most familiar to people. Apparently, this is the sound they use most to get the attention of their human friends. It usually means 'Feed me' or 'I'm happy to see you!'. If the 'wheek' is more shrieky it can mean they are in pain or fear. We have noticed that when they hear our footsteps they call to us with their 'Wheek! Wheek!' Then when they see us, they come rushing towards us hoping we will give them a tasty treat. It brings me great joy when they do this.

This made me reflect on our communication with God. How do we call out to God when we want God's attention? When we feel lost, not knowing where to go or the choices we need to make, do we call out to God for guidance and direction? When we are joyful, sad or in pain, do we call out to God? Is God our first point of call when we are in need or our last resort?

When the disciples faced a storm out at sea (Matthew 8:23-27), the first thing they did was to call to Jesus and seek his help. He calmed the raging chaos before their eyes and calmed their fears. How do we react to the little or big forms of chaos that sneak into our lives? Do we tend to panic like the disciples? Put up defences? Or make rash decisions?

I am finding that being in ministry requires me to make decisions daily about all manner of things. At times there is no manual to tell me what to do. When I am up against a situation that looks too big to handle I can sense the storm of confusion brewing in me.

Nevertheless, it is in those moments I can trust that God sees the bigger picture and when I call will gently calm my anxieties and show me the next steps.

God desires that we call to him and not keep things bottled up inside us. I like to think that God wants to feel needed by us too. God delights when we call and rush up to him a bit like how I feel when the guinea pigs run to me with their 'wheeks'. God is waiting to hear you call to him. God delights to hear the nitty-gritty details of your life.

However, whenever you feel you need a 'human friend' to talk to please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or any of us in your church family. You are not alone and we are on this journey together.

*God bless,*

*Hannah*

### **GIVING THANKS FOR SUMMER**

Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer!

Thank you for the warmth of the sun  
and the increased daylight.

Thank You for the beauty I see all around me  
and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.

Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family,  
and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me closer to You this summer.  
Teach me how I can pray  
no matter where I am or what I am doing.

Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence  
and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.

As I enjoy Your creation, create in me  
a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.

*Author Unknown*

## NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

This has been a very exciting month in the life of the church. The month in which we celebrated the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church building, and made exciting plans to carry the church forward into the next 100 years and beyond.

We began with another brilliant service organised by our Worship Leaders – primarily Joan Gomer – in which we learnt about the women writers of so many of our favourite hymns. Did you know that ‘There is a green hill far away’, ‘Just as I am without one plea’ and ‘Will your anchor hold...’ were written by ladies?

Three cheers for Joan and all her research, and for the inspiration with which she leads the Thursday Circle with an exciting and stimulating programme throughout the year.

Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> was the church’s actual birthday. The church was lined with displays of its history and huge thanks to Alison Ablewhite for the months and hours of work involved in organising this and putting it all together, and to all who contributed.

She also put together the splendid photographic footage televised both in the Church and the Parlour, with photographs spanning much of our history and past events. Often bringing tears to the eyes for dearly departed friends and family.

Special cheers for our historian Martin Broom, who gave a wonderful talk about the Anniversary at the Thursday Circle on the 30<sup>th</sup> May, and who was also an important part of the Birthday Service led by our dear Rev. Hannah Chun.

Thanks to Andrew for his expertise with the technology on both of these occasions.

While we remember the happy times of our past, we also look ahead. There are plans afoot to bring after church tea and coffee INTO church – which will hopefully encourage more people to stay and enjoy friendship and company, not to mention the actual warmth that builds up during the service. No more trips to the chilly parlour!

Whilst the Open Space Coffee Mornings are a huge outreach to the local community, we are also delighted to find that Jonathan Sparkes’ idea to have a Prayer Letter Box is working, and requests for prayers are coming in. It was so moving to have them read out in church at his service on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>, so that we could pray for our neighbours.

We have been grateful in the Choir to welcome back Margaret Clubb who continues to recuperate after her hip replacement. Well done Margaret!

Prayers continue for the war-torn areas of the world and thank you for that, and God bless you all.

*Debbie Floy*

## THANK YOU NOTE FROM REV. PAUL HOWES

My great thanks to you all for the most generous gift presented to me at the church on 16<sup>th</sup> June and for all the kind words written in your card. Mel already has ideas for our Ipswich garden so your gift is very appropriate.

When we move to Ipswich in the summer it will be a joy to purchase something for the garden. I won't say as a reminder of Wimpole Road, for I am certain that we will not forget the rich fellowship it has been a privilege to share with you.

My prayerful best wishes,

*Rev. Paul*

### **'ON YOUR MARKS' HOLIDAY CLUB Wednesday 31 July – Friday 2 August (inclusive)**

#### **CAN YOU HELP?**

We are collecting the following, but are in desperate need of more:

- Old tights – 3 have 3 pairs and need over 30. Stockings, pop socks and knee highs also acceptable
- Pringles (or similar) tub with their lids - we have 3 but need 30
- 500g margarine tubs and their lids
- Toilet roll tubes
- Net bags that oranges come in – we have 17 but need lots more
- White plastic milk carton lids – we have 39 and need 150!

Any contributions gratefully received – they can be left at church – please ask a Steward or Andrew.

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

#### **BRIDGEWAY MISSION**

We have been asked to share the update newsletter from Bridgeway, which is also available to view on our website.

**<https://wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Bridgeway-Mission-Newsletter-May-2024.pdf>**

## LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

I wonder when the last time was you experienced something so beautiful or overwhelming that you couldn't help but say 'Wow!' or let out a gasp as a response? Sometimes, maybe often, it's in relation to a new sight, experience or situation. It is something which has left its mark on us for all the right reasons, and which leaves us being aware that we have witnessed something which has made a positive impact on our lives.

By the time you read this, it will have been a couple of weeks since I visited Colchester Zoo with family. It was a great day and one where throughout the entire time we were there we heard lots of positive exclamations. Some were in relation to the 'cuteness' of certain animals, or the recognition of the size of some of the animals in real life as opposed to pictures. There was no doubt that a lasting impression had been made on many people.

This is a tangible sense of awe and wonder. It can come through new experiences or through looking at landscapes which take our breath away. As I reflected on this, I was drawn to a song in Singing the Faith called 'Jesus, lead us to the Father, by your Spirit.' The second verse talks of drawing near to God in awe and gladness. It is in these sorts of situations, where we experience something new and truly wonderful, that we see the imagination and creativity of God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of the world at work. It's difficult not to be thankful and to recognise God's presence in the world.

At the same time, are we attentive to the things which are more familiar, but which can still act as moments of awe and wonder? Or are we too busy to notice them because they're not different enough? God's presence is all around us, in the things we see, the people with whom we interact and in the whole of life. To see the wonder of God in everyday life is to recognise once again that we stand on holy ground. Jesus' presence is everywhere through the Holy Spirit and as we look around us there is always something to see that can inspire a sense of awe and wonder and help us to draw near to God.

Looking out of the window can be a moment to behold the different shades of green there are on the leaves, the varying colours of the flowers, the shapes of the clouds in the sky, or the celebration of technology in the cars, bicycles, scooters, buses and other vehicles that go past the end of the drive. These are all expressions of the gifts of creativity and imagination that are God-given. As we go through the next few days and weeks, why not consider where you are drawn to God in awe and wonder in the familiar parts of life as well as in the new and breathtaking experiences?

Why not then give thanks to God for the presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit in the whole of life?

God bless,  
Chris

## SEA SONGS

I was listening to the CD of Bryn Terfel singing a number of sea shanties.

One of the songs was 'The Unst Boat Song' sung in Norn and is a mariner's prayer for a safe passage.

Norn is an extinct language that was spoken in the Northern Isles (Orkney and Shetland) and in Caithness in the far north of the Scottish mainland.

The lyrics of the song reflect both the religious traditions in the islands and for the respect for the treacherous seas that surround them:

"Starka Virna Vestille/ Obadeeya Monye" (Strong westerly winds/ Trouble and hurt for men)

"Saina Papa Waara" (Bless us heavenly Father)

*Graham Duthie*

### THE ARM

I can't get about now  
the way that I should –  
but, the Arm's always there  
to help me walk good.

It's there in the sunshine,  
it's there in the rain –  
going up hills and  
then down again.

Sometimes it's painful  
to go down the stairs,  
so the Arm comes in handy.  
'The Arm' really cares.

It carries my shipping  
(I don't have a choice!).  
It just takes it away –  
I don't get a voice.

I wish to say thank you,  
so here now I can,  
'cause that dear Arm  
belongs to my friend Ann!

## THURSDAY CIRCLE

May ended with a talk by Martin Broom, our Church Archivist, about the beginnings of Wimpole Road Methodist Church. This was part of the church's 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and there was an excellent attendance. Thank you Martin for such an interesting talk and also the exhibition.

6 June was the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D Day Landings. We sang along with Dame Vera Lynn and listened to accounts of different people's experience of D Day itself.

As part of the celebrations on the actual anniversary date, 9 June, we had a table in the Vestibule exhibiting items from our 76 years of existence.

I was sad to miss the talk on 13 June by Karl Lumbers, who is a Trinity House Ambassador, but I was told it was very good.

The following week Dr Jie gave an excellent talk on the Religion and Mountains of China. This is the second talk she has given about China. Maybe we can get her to give us another one!

The month ended with 16 members having a Cream Tea at the Mercury Theatre. This is the third time we have been there and everyone appears to enjoy it.

### **Coming up:**

- 4 July**      A game of Countdown.
- 11 July**     Listening to old LP records found in our cupboard!
- 18 July**     Pen and Pencil Games
- 25 July**     Barbecue at Peter Broom's bungalow from 4 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 JULY

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

7 July	Rev. Hannah Chun – Holy Communion
14 July	Local Arrangement
21 July	Sally Crafer
28 July	Rev. David Moody

### 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 13 July 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

**Saturday 20 July 7 p.m. Mersea Methodist Church. A Concert by Jazz Group**

**‘Serendipity’ – to celebrate 163 years of Methodism in Mersea. All welcome**

**Thursday 25 July Church BBQ at Peter Broom’s home. 4.00 p.m. onwards.**

Please let Peter or Christine know if you are going, to help with catering plans.

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

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

*We remember the friends and family of Lionel Bryant and Shirley Frewer, who sadly both passed away recently.*





## 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

**<http://ststephens-colchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-07-July-2024-Newsletter-V01.00.pdf>**

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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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**This above all: to thine own self be true,  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man.**

*William Shakespeare*