



August 2024

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun

Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I am aware of some devastating and heartbreaking incidents that have permeated our news. The Southport knife attack has taken the precious and innocent lives of three girls, Elsie, Alice and Bebe. Words cannot describe the loss and pain the families and friends must be feeling at this moment in time. Then to exacerbate the pain further, communities have been ripped apart and divided by violent riots and protests. My heart weeps for the families and for the ways hatred has spread like wildfire following this attack.

We might often look at the news and think, 'There's never any good news', 'It's all bleak, miserable and depressing', 'What's the point in turning the news on?'. However, we have had some good and fun news recently. The Olympics! The Olympics have added some light to my newsfeed, but when, such news of celebration and joy is juxtaposed alongside news that is deeply painful and sad, I question how as a disciple of Jesus I ought to or can hold the joy and sadness together. How do you hold news of sadness and joy together? Can they be held together? Or is there guilt in feeling joy in the midst of sorrow and turmoil?

I have conducted several funerals recently and have been reminded repeatedly of the hope of life and light in Christ even in the presence of utter sadness and loss. There is immeasurable agony in losing a loved one but there is also the celebration of a life lived well and one that brought joy to others (though this of course does not take away the pain). As disciples of Jesus, we have this treasure and gift within our faith, of the hope that

flickers in the darkest of times. Are you facing or have you encountered difficulties in life and find joy or laughter a luxury in such times?

I would like to share a poem with you that I came across recently by Laurence Housman an English playwright, writer and illustrator. Housman's life wasn't without its trials. He lost his mother at the age of 6 and his father succumbed to drinking and illness. Amid life's troubles, such words of hope were penned. May these words offer you hope when you feel surrounded by a world in despair and may the God of all hopefulness fill you with peace.

*Light looked down and beheld Darkness,
Thither will I go, said Light
Peace looked down and beheld War,
Thither will I go, said Peace
Love looked down and beheld Hatred,
Thither will I go, said Love
So Light came and shone,
So Peace came and gave rest,
So came Love and brought life.
And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.
(Laurence Housman 1865-1959)*

**God bless,
Hannah**

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

As July draws to a close, the schools have broken up for the summer holidays and the sun is shining!

Fortunately the weather stayed dry for the Church barbecue on 25 July, once again a wonderful time of fellowship. We are so very grateful to Peter and Christine for their hospitality and all the fabulous food!

From Wednesday 31 July, the Holiday Club returns for 3 days and we will discover how the various donations of tights, milk bottle lids, toilet rolls etc. will be transformed in the children's craft activities! Thanks once again to Andrew, Sue and Julie for all their hard work in preparing and organising this.

This year's Community Day is fast approaching on Saturday 31 August 2024 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. We will have the usual stalls, refreshments and entertainment, including a Fun Dog Show. As always, if anyone is able to spare an hour or so to help with setting up beforehand or clearing away or in the Tea Tent, we would really appreciate it. Please speak to myself or Andrew if you can.

God bless
Juliet Balls

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

During a time of some annual leave in the past few weeks, I stayed with a friend in Yorkshire. On one of the days, we went to visit Fountains Abbey in North Yorkshire, near Ripon. The Abbey had been founded in the early 1100s and the monks who established it became part of the Cistercian order within a few years. There were some lay brothers as part of the community who helped Fountains to become particularly wealthy although this changed during the Middle Ages in a period of economic challenge. The Abbey was a victim of the Dissolution of the Monasteries and now stands as a ruin.

The Abbey is largely hidden from view and approached by foot. To see the previously huge building hidden in a 'valley' was quite something. There is definitely a sense that you are in a holy place of peace as you walk around it. Yet it is undoubtedly a ruin and a place which has seen better days. Whilst standing there, I thought of the passage in Exodus where Moses is standing at the burning bush. He had led his flock beyond the wilderness to the mountain and the bush would not burn up. Whilst we had most definitely gone downhill, rather than up a mountain, there was a strong sense of standing on holy ground and being in the unending presence of God. A ruin can remind us of what has gone before, of a time where better things have taken place, where beauty has passed away, and it can be a place of desolation. Yet there was also a sense of hope, new life and new beginnings found in the growing grass and in the celebration of God's creation through the wildflowers and wasps or bees which were making a nest at the top of one of the walls. God's presence was tangible, and ever present.

During the summer months there is often a sense of reviewing and reflecting on what has been and where the signs might be for the future. We may feel that there are parts of our lives which were more beautiful than they are now, or that we are longing for a time past which cannot be recovered. We are reminded that God's presence is always there, in all things and at all times. God's presence, like the burning bush, can never be extinguished. This should bring us a sense of peace, hope and comfort.

As we approach this month why not think through the signs of new hope that can be seen in the world around? It may be in the most unusual of places, the broken pot or in seeing a building that is not quite what it used to be. It may be that new signs of God's presence are seen in the lives of those around you and that new beginnings come as the transforming love of Christ is seen in a fresh way. Whatever the situation or circumstance, whether life is easy or more difficult, God's presence through the Holy Spirit is always there, finding new ways of expressing hope, peace and comfort and we know that it is there forever. Let us rejoice in that!

God bless,
Chris

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our first meeting in July was not well attended but those present did enjoy exercising their brains as we played 'Countdown'.

The following week we listened to some of the long playing records we have discovered in our cupboard and Debbie kindly brought along something to play them on. We listened to Perry Como, Andy Williams, Jim Reeves and Harry Secombe. Some of the records were of better quality than others and 'the winner' was very definitely Harry Secombe for the quality of the recording and his powerful voice!

Our final meeting this month was on 18 July, when we played the 'Sock Game' and taxed our brains with cryptic clues on fish/marine life and old money!

We do not normally meet in August. This year (however) other than 1 August (Holiday Club) we will be opening up each Thursday afternoon at 2.30 p.m. for those who wish to meet informally for tea/coffee and a chat.

As there have been several changes to our autumn session - a revised programme is available. Our first meeting in September is now a Quiz Afternoon to raise money for WaterAid, and not a concert by the Concorde Singers.

Having been urged to reduce the stock in our cupboard, from September to July we have raised £135.28. We now need more things to sell on our weekly stall so if you have anything suitable please let Joan or Pat now before putting it in our cupboard. And please, nothing broken or with parts missing!

Joan Gomer
Secretary

LETTER OF THANKS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your incredible support, prayers and generosity this Christian Aid Week. Your gift of £286.50 on behalf of Colchester Wimpole Road Methodist Church will help families around the world to transform their own lives.

{Thursday Circle held a Quiz Afternoon and together with donations from those unable to attend raised £100. £186.50 was from the offertory at the Pentecost Service with St. Stephen's on the Recreation Ground}.

Thank you Colchester Wimpole Road Methodist Church for your life changing gift.

Christian Aid Week Team

DAY LILY (Hemerocallis)

Day lilies beside the pond - radiant in the sun.
Lovely trumpet heads, but they fall – just when they've begun!

They are so gay and bright – frilly, yellow blooms,
nodding in the breeze, playing silent tunes.

White butterflies flutter over them, in pairs.
The little fish swim about completely unawares.

What a shame they only last one day –
just as their name implies, but I do love them anyway.

Pat Farrow

{**Ed:** A daylily, day lily or ditch-lily is a flowering plant in the genus *Hemerocallis*, a member of the family *Asphodelaceae*, subfamily *Hemerocallidoideae*, native to Asia.

Despite the common name, it is not, in fact, a lily, nor does it specifically grow in ditches.}

OUR ICONIC POST BOXES

In Queen Victoria's reign the first post boxes were painted green.
Later the colour was changed to red, so they could be plainly seen.

Today, the first post box for our King Charles the Third,
was ceremoniously unveiled (by schoolchildren)
in North Cambridge (his monogram painted gold).
On our television screen this was interestingly detailed.

P.S.

How lovely it is to receive a hand written letter or card.
Please try and keep this tradition up, it's really not very hard.

I know postage is expensive and our money is tight –
so don't expect a quick reply but it will come, alright.

I regularly write to my granddaughter as she lives so far away.
It's lovely to hear from each other and read what we have to say!

Pat Farrow

ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

On watching the film 'Chariots of Fire', telling the true story of Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams, runners going for gold in the 1924 Olympics in Paris, I was inspired to write about our human spirit and Christian soul.

Now our own athletes will be competing in Paris this July and August.

We all have God-given gifts (even if we don't realise it).

I firmly believe we must use them to the very best of our abilities and for the greater good. Whether it be in leadership or other lesser attributes.

When in my first class infants at St. Ann's School in Colchester – I was 'spotted'! Us little ones had an easel with paper and paints to brush on what we liked. Most just did smudges of colours, but I did a very crude painting of my mum wearing her pearl necklace. My form teacher (Mrs Lupton) noticed and took me to show it to the headmaster. I remember feeling afraid, thinking I was in some sort of trouble, but instead she wanted to show him my first school painting! I progressed in all my art classes afterwards.

I've always enjoyed drawing and painting – however my parents couldn't afford to send me to any art school. I think being an 'only child' for my first eleven years (until my sister Janet was born) I had time and space to do it. My granddad (on father's side) was Japanese and also my father could draw well. He married an English lady (Agnes) – she wrote poetry - so I've inherited them both in my genes!

Keep pursuing your talents, whatever they are and whatever your age! Good luck but most of all enjoy using your gift.

Pat Farrow

PRAYER CORNER

Loving and Gracious Lord,

We praise you for the beauty of the world and we thank you for summer days and happy times spent together with those we care about.

We pray Lord, for family and friends who have worries and concerns and for church friends who are unwell or unable to worship with us.

Loving God, you come to us in Jesus, who joins us together in one family.

Amen

A NEW HYMN

On Sunday 4 August the Choir will be singing a new hymn as an Introit.

The tune Pantyfedwen (a well-known Welsh hymn tune written by Maurice Eddie Evans) was sourced by our organist, Peter Boston.

However the original words seemed a little old fashioned, so Douglas Broom (one of our Choir members) has cleverly written a more up to date version.

O Lord, Creator of the Universe,
Our Lord, who guides our path through all our days,
Your Holy Spirit watches and inspires,
We can but sing with heartfelt love and praise.
Today we worship You our wondrous God,
We feel and know Your presence with us here.
Our hallelujahs rise from grateful hearts,
Your love and majesty remove all fear.

You are the sunshine of our day, O Christ,
The shadows of the night have turned to dawn.
You brighten every aspect of our life,
And darkness disappears in glorious morn.
Your light shines brightly, bringing joy and peace,
Your love dispels our sadness, wipes each tear.
Our hallelujahs rise from grateful hearts,
Your wondrous love has conquered death and fear.

All praise be yours, our holy, heavenly Lord,
Forgive our weakness, faithlessness and sin.
You came in love to rescue us from death,
Inspire us now to know your peace within.
Our songs of praise we dedicate to You.
Your love we gladly own and now profess.
Our hallelujahs rise from grateful hearts;
Our lives, we humbly pray You, use and bless.



For God, summer is for showing his glory, whom we know to be Jesus Christ,
by whom all things were made, and through whom all things hold together,
and for whom all things exist.

(Colossians 1:16–17).

REFUGEES

by Brian Bilston 2016

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

(Now read from bottom to top)

{submitted by Martin Broom}

**{This hymn was a favourite of Kathleen Broom, sister of Douglas
and aunt to Martin, Norman and Peter}**

v 1 Summer suns are glowing
Over land and sea;
Happy light is flowing,
Bountiful and free;
Everything rejoices
In the mellow rays;
Earth's ten thousand voices
Swell the psalm of praise.

v 4 We will never doubt Thee
Though Thou veil Thy light;
Life is dark without Thee,
Death with Thee is bright;
Light of light, shine o'er us
On our pilgrim way;
Go Thou still before us
To the endless day.

Author: William Walsham How

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

4 August	Joe Navoka
11 August	Rev. Dr Marion Cole
18 July	Local Arrangement
25 August	Rev. Hannah Chun – Holy Communion

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 10 August at The Well 9 a.m. – 10. a.m.

‘Serving the Present Age?’ - Circuit Prayer Group, led by Christine Firmin.

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

NEW TOWN COMMUNITY DAY on the Recreation Ground

Saturday 31 August 11.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Numerous stalls, various amusements, a variety of entertainment, refreshments and a BBQ

Do come along and support this community event, jointly organised by Wimpole Road and St. Stephen’s Churches, along with many from the New Town area.

Nominated charities are St. Helena Hospice and Autism Anglia.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

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

MISSION STATEMENT

“We are here to worship God

and to spread the message of His love for all,

expressed in Jesus Christ”



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/2024/07/2024-08-August-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

A Christian is: a mind through which Christ thinks;
a heart through which Christ loves;
a voice through which Christ speaks,
and a hand through which Christ helps.

Saint Augustine