



September 2024
Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun
Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, I will have completed a whole year of my first appointment in Circuit ministry. I can't believe how quickly it has flown by and I have honestly enjoyed it so much. There have been aspects of it that have proved to be a steep learning curve and continue to be, but most of all, I have cherished getting to know you and discovering what makes you who you are as a church and a community.

My thanks goes to you, the church, and the circuit as a whole for your positive support, acceptance and encouragement. I have made it through this year because of the ways you have journeyed alongside me. My family and I feel we have found a sense of belonging here in Colchester, and my heart feels overwhelmed with joy and gratitude to think that over a year ago we had no idea where we would be going next.

September marks a new Methodist Church Year. We Methodists get to have two Church New Years. We have the one that begins in Advent and this one starting in September echoing the educational year. We've completed a round of church celebrations and events and the cycle begins again. Although we may have been through the cycle, with any new beginning comes a sense of bubbling hope and anticipation but together with not knowing what's around the corner.

Not knowing what's to come can be an unsettling place to be. I certainly felt it when I began ministry. However, each time I encountered something 'new' in ministry I had the much-needed support from all of you to navigate its winding path.

Recently, on a drive back home from Sudbury after a family day out, I noticed a field of sunflowers. It was absolutely stunning and the image has stayed with me. You may know that a sunflower has the remarkable ability to follow the sun as it moves across the sky. It always looks to the sun for its source of light and life. Sunflowers are also known to help one another below the surface. Their roots are aware of each other and work together to share nutrients. How endearing.

I sense there is something to be learned from sunflowers particularly when we face new beginnings and an uncertain future. Let's take a leaf out of a sunflower's book and continually remind ourselves who we need to look to for light and life. God is our source of light and life and God will be always there.

May we also be reminded that we have one another, the body and church of Christ, to work together and help each another just as sunflowers help and share with one another.

Happy Methodist New Year to you all.

God bless,

Hannah

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

Oh my word, the school summer holidays are drawing to an end already and I hope that all those who have been able to take some time off over the last few weeks have had a happy and relaxing time. Even though a number of our regular activities close during the school holidays Wimpole Road has continued to buzz with activity as we constantly welcome growing numbers of people, both new and returning, week by week to our Sunday morning worship and our mid-week Warm Welcome Warm Space Coffee Morning. It is so lovely to meet with new people and we pray that we are able to share something of our faith and God's love with them.

It was also wonderful to be fully booked for Holiday Club once again and for this to be supported by so many Junior Leaders, many of whom return to help year after year; to say nothing for our adult helpers, many of whom have also been coming to Holiday Club since they were 4 or 5 years old and were born after we started Holiday Clubs! Our theme this year was based around the Olympics and Christians Olympic Team members and being part of a team; thinking about the part we can all play as part of God's Team. We looked at how Jesus called his disciples and how he continues to call each and every one of us to follow him. We also thought about faith, considering the importance of having faith linked to the account of Bartimaeus and also the parable of farmer sowing seeds.

My prayer, and I am sure that of the entire Church, is that through Holiday Club and our many other activities we are able to share the good news and plant those seeds, exploring what it is to be part of God's Team and follow Jesus. Let us be the 'good soil' that nurtures those seeds! And more good news - plans are already well progressed for Holiday Club 2025!

We are also excited as we draw our planning to a conclusion for the Community Day on the Recreation Ground. We pray that the day will not just be blessed with good weather, but also an opportunity to draw the entire community together for a day of fun and enjoyment as we seek to serve our community.

Clearly, the above are some of the big things which we as the Church organise, but as referenced above there is so much more. Reading something only earlier today reminded me of how much, and more specifically, how many people it takes to keep all of these things going. We are all part of God's team, seeking to do the work that Jesus instructed us to do. He places us in our respective roles in our respective Churches to do his work. So a huge thank you to everybody who responds day to day to this call and do so much, very often behind the scenes, and frequently unnoticed!

Finally, please can I remind you of the invitation extended to everybody to attend the licensing and welcome service of Rev. Anna Davis, who will be the new vicar of St. Stephen's and St. Margaret's, on Monday evening 2 September, at St. Margaret's Church, Berechurch. The service starts at 7:30 pm with refreshments being served beforehand.

Andrew Topple

CRADLE ROLL SECRETARY

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.

As well as saying:

"{Child's name} – Receive this light, for you belong to Christ, the Light of the World"

This is a lovely, rewarding role and does not involve attending any meetings, or other responsibilities, so if you would like to know more please see **Hannah, Chris or Alison**.



If we are prepared to shine, God will find the candlestick;
if we are prepared to work, God will find us something to do.
Only be ready and willing for anything.

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

As we turn towards September, and a time of harvest festivals, it is the season for apples. We can get apples all year round in the supermarket but if there is an apple tree in the garden it is about this time of year that its fruit begins to ripen, and the apples are picked.

There is a song, not a modern one by any stretch of the imagination, but a song called 'Don't sit under the apple tree with anyone else but me.' This song began life as a 19th century English folk song called 'long, long ago,' before being updated by Sam Stept in its melody. Lew Brown and Charles Tobias wrote the lyrics for the song's introduction in the 1939 Broadway musical, *Yokel Boy*. There have been many versions of this song recorded since, and in the early 1970's it became one of the few songs that had three different versions in the hit parade at the same time.

We all have times where we want to be able to sit alongside someone else, whether under an apple tree or not. It could be outside enjoying each other's company or in companionable silence. It may be inside tucked up in front of an open fire watching TV with family or friends. We may have a sense of who we would want to be with in whatever setting – which could, of course, include an apple tree!

Imagine if it was Jesus who said to you, 'don't sit under the apple tree with anyone else but me.' How would that make you feel? There are plenty of examples in the Bible where we see Jesus come alongside others, not least on the walk to Emmaus with the two disciples.

Whilst there wasn't an apple tree in sight (or at least it's not mentioned), we know that Jesus is there longing to have a conversation with us and to be at the centre of all that we do and share with others. On that walk to Emmaus the disciples were downcast at all that had been happening. Jesus drew out of them the issues they faced and then came alongside them. By the end of the conversation their distress had turned to joy because their relationship with Jesus had deepened so much, and they recognised him as the Messiah. Jesus offers that same invitation to each of us today. At times they were walking and at other times they sat together and shared a meal. For Jesus, it doesn't matter whether we're sitting under an apple tree or not, he is there wherever we are.

Let us remember that Jesus is with us, a presence in our lives and the one to whom we can turn whatever our circumstances. The weather may, or may not, allow us to sit under an apple tree but we don't have to wait for the weather. We can turn to Jesus, sit, walk, run or travel in whatever way we like. In it all, Jesus longs to be the centre of our lives so that 'we don't sit under the apple tree with anyone else but him.'

God bless,

Chris

THURSDAY CIRCLE

We do not normally meet in August, but this year we opened up on four Thursday afternoons for those who wished to meet informally for tea/coffee, a chat and perhaps play some board games. This appears to have been appreciated.

Coming up for the next month:

- 5 September Quiz Afternoon for the charity Water Aid. Do come and support this worthwhile cause. (Please note, this is a change from the original programme.)
- 12 September 'On the Bottle' – a talk by Peter Jones on the history of Codd bottles and fizzy drinks.
- 19 September Rev. Hannah will be leading us in some Autumn activities.
- 26 September Our Autumn/Harvest Festival – amongst other things an opportunity to sing some well-known harvest hymns.

Our meetings are at 2.30 p.m. on Thursdays: admission charge £1 but £2 for some afternoons.

All are welcome – young or old, male or female, churchgoer or not.

Joan Gomer Secretary

JANE CLUBB

I was sad to hear of the recent death of Jane Clubb.

Jane regularly attended Thursday Circle from 1999 until the onset of her illness in 2021. She soon began assisting with the stall and was on the committee.

In 2011, (under the gentle encouragement and watchful eye of Betty Fothergill) Jane took on the role of Outings Secretary, organising coach trips, but mostly meals out.

She later became responsible for opening up the hall on Thursdays, putting out the chairs and crockery etc.

In 2018, when there was a need for a Registrar, she stepped up to the mark, also organising the raffle.

On behalf of the members 'Thank you Jane' for all that you have contributed to Thursday Circle, and now 'Rest in Peace'.

*Joan Gomer
Secretary*

OUR CHOIR

Our Choir at Wimpole Road,
they make our church complete -
beginning with the introit,
with voices shrill and sweet.

Peter Boston on piano –
his fingers deftly play
the hymns we love to sing to
on each and every Sunday.

It makes us feel uplifted,
sometimes bringing tears of joy,
with such angelic voices
ringing in our ears.

Pat Farrow

DO YOU KNOW YOUR ANTIQUES?

I love watching 'Bargain Hunt' on the BBC in the morning. As a young child my dad used to take me round antique shops. I've also been a 'collector' (you might think 'hoarder') of a lot of things!

I collected foreign stamps, old coins, cigarette cards and anything that appealed or was unusual.

There used to be a shop in the old Colchester Arcade where I bought 'Classical Comics' of well-known stories by famous writers. I think that must be why I always do illustrations for the poetry I write.

I have recently published Volume 1 and now Volume 2 of my work, and am currently preparing for Volume 3!

I've been able to do this with the help of my daughter Marie, who's photographed it all on her Smart phone.

I'm using these as gifts for all my extended family and friends (I hope they like them!)

My late husband, Dennis, used to take me to car boot sales at Marks Tey or Weeley. He looked for plants, whilst I looked for Sylvac items to add to my collection, also miniature brass models. I once found one of Charlie Chaplin complete with violin, which I later sold myself at another car boot.

Hope this has been of interest.

Pat Farrow

‘THANK GOD FOR FOOTBALL’

This is the title of a book that tells the stories of how a number of football clubs owe their very existence to churches.

Among them are clubs that are now members of the FA Premier League but their humble origins started in local chapels and churches.

Take for example Aston Villa.

The church where it all began was known as the Aston Villa Wesleyan Church and the building was a significant landmark and gave its name to the immediate locality where it was situated.

The chapel attached great importance to its work with young people and 300 young people attended the Sunday School and one of the classes, the Young Men's Bible Class was the cradle of Aston Villa FC.

Two other clubs with Methodist connections are the two Merseyside clubs, Everton and Liverpool. Both can trace their roots to St. Domingo Methodist Chapel.

Again it started among the members of the Young Men's Bible Class in the Sunday School with a cricket team, but within a year a football club had been formed to keep themselves fit during the long winter months.

They decided to call themselves The St. Domingo Football Club and the first step had been taken on a road that would lead to fame and glory.

Other famous clubs with a church connection include Manchester City, Fulham, Bolton Wanderers and Tottenham Hotspur.

With ‘Match of the Day’ celebrating its 60th anniversary it seems appropriate to include Christine’s hymn sang to the tune of ‘Match of the Day’.

*‘Why don't you take Him as your Saviour
And let Him be your friend
Then love and trust Him for your lifetime
On Him you can depend*

*He'll hold you in His arms forever
He'll care right to the end
So just give your life to Jesus
And on Him you can depend’*

Graham Duthie

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

1 September	Sally Crafer
8 September	Local Arrangement
15 September	Local Arrangement
22 September	Rev. Hannah Chun – Holy Communion
29 September	Eddie Lansdown

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.

PRAYER CORNER

Loving and Gracious Lord,

We have had our times of sorrow and loss, and there are many we love for whom we have concerns.

But we have also been richly blessed as a church with the warm fellowship we share, both in our services and other activities.

Let us thank God for all his goodness and go forward in faith.

Amen

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

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

*The family and friends of Jane Clubb who died on 26 August.
Her funeral will take place at Wimpole Road on Friday 13 September at noon,
followed by the wake.
There will be no committal at the crematorium.*

DIARY DATES

Saturday 7 September at Wivenhoe 9 a.m. – 10. a.m.

‘Serving the Present Age?’ - Circuit Prayer Group, led by Rev. Chris Preece.

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



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/2024/08/2024-09-September-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

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Every day I will bless thee, and praise thy name for ever and ever.

Psalm 145 v.2