



**October 2024**

**Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun**

**Mob: 07935 612 414**

Dear Friends,

I was driving home on the A12 (as you do), and as I drove past a new housing estate in the process of being built, there was a large sign beside it that said 'YOU'RE ALMOST HOME'. My thought was, 'I'm really glad I'm almost home and isn't it nice I have a home to go to'. I don't always remember to give thanks for the home I have or all the other things I have been blessed with in my life. Many times I do take it for granted. However, the words on that large billboard made me reflect on the concept of home and what it means to have a home to go to, where I can feel at 'home'.

We are well and truly into the season of harvest, and it is that time of the year we can intentionally take a step back and reflect on all we are thankful for. It is also a time we may undoubtedly think and pray for those who do not have enough.

Many do not have homes at this time, particularly with all that is happening in war-torn countries. We are continually hearing of those who are losing their homes, displaced and far away from a physical home but also a homely environment. Then nearer to home we hear of those evicted from their homes, those living in temporary accommodation or those who may not feel at 'home' in their own homes. Then recently we heard of the extremely sad incident where a 13-year-old boy did not make it home after a family birthday on Mersea Road.

It may not be in our position as a church to provide a physical home for people, but we can certainly provide a spiritual home. The type of home where all can feel at 'home' and at peace with God, at peace with themselves and peace with one another. Our church worship,

gatherings, fellowship and the building itself can be a spiritual home where people feel safe, protected and loved with a warmth beyond measure.

Jesus looked at the crowd sitting around him and said, *'Who are my mother and my brothers? Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.'* (Mark 3:31-34). The message Jesus may have desired to share is that his love and acceptance for people transcends that of traditional family ties. He sees all as belonging to his family. That is how our church can offer a spiritual home to all who come through our doors. To ensure that the message 'You are welcome here, you belong and you are family' reaches the hearts and minds of all who need to hear it.

Therefore, 'Wherever you've come from, whatever your age, whoever you are, wherever you've been or whatever you've done' may you know that you are welcome, you belong and God calls you family. So, next time you are on your way to church may you know that 'You're almost home'.

God bless,

*Hannah*

### NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

It's been a busy time over the past few weeks for many of our church members, and we need to acknowledge their hours of dedication and hard work.

Firstly the Community Day was a great success, and the extensive planning ensured that it was enjoyed by everyone who attended. It was co-ordinated mainly by Andrew and Juliet, along with many willing volunteers from St. Stephen's Church as well as the New Town area.

Secondly our Worship Leaders have been brilliant in putting together the increasing number of Local Arrangement Services, necessitated by gaps in the Circuit Plan. We are indebted to them for enabling our morning services to take place, and for the variety of topics as well as hymns chosen by them. So Christine, Graham and Joan – thank you so much and also Debbie, for her expertise with the PowerPoints.

Sadly we have recently lost a few dear church friends, Shirley Frewer, Lionel Bryant and Jane Clubb - their funerals were all sensitively conducted by Hannah.

However a baptism service at the end of August, proved a happier occasion, but highlighted that we still need a Cradle Roll Secretary, to assist in making sure the parents and Godparents of children get their baptismal cards and candles on the day.

As a church we acknowledge the ongoing work of every one of our church family, in whatever context whether at the lectern or behind the scenes, but if you feel that you would like to become more actively involved, please speak to one of the Stewards or Hannah, and you will be warmly welcomed.

*Alison Ablewhite*

## LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

A few days before I wrote this, I managed a walk by the sea. On such occasions, I often find myself looking at the names of the beach huts and this day was no exception. There was one particular beach hut called 'Special Sparkles.' On a day where the weather was quite cloudy this was a welcome thing to see. As I continued to walk, the sun appeared from behind a cloud and shone on the sea making it glisten and sparkle. It was a lovely view of something new and bright shining out from a dull background.

By the time we reach October, the seasons have changed. The leaves have largely (but not completely) fallen, and the initial bright colours tend to be replaced by the brown leaves underfoot. It isn't always the time of year where the landscape is at its brightest. The sun glistening on the sea was a sign of illumination and a sparkle of hope. We need signs of hope at all times, but it can be when things feel more like wet, brown leaves underfoot, that we really need to see it. God is the bringer of hope today and it is to God we turn on the days where things are more difficult.

Our sense of hope comes from our faith in what we believe. So often, we reduce hope to wishful thinking but our hope in Christ through the Holy Spirit is so much more. It comes from our belief in God and is something we have within us that means we want to share all that Jesus has done for us through the cross and resurrection with others.

Just as the sun acted as the sign of sparkling hope on the sea, as disciples we are called to be the special sparkle of hope in God's world today. This comes from our faith in Jesus, and we know that the Holy Spirit is active in the world and who will lead and guide us in God's Kingdom today.

God has chosen to partner with human beings and so we ask, how can we be a sparkle of hope to a world in need and how can we partner with God to share Jesus' message of hope to others? As I thought about this, I was drawn to Bernadette Farrell's hymn, '*Longing for light.*' We remember those who are longing for light, peace, food and shelter, knowing that many are struggling, are thirsty and cold. Seeking the Holy Spirit, this is an opportunity to help others to see the light of Christ and to see a sparkle of hope. Sometimes, we may be the ones needing that hope ourselves. May we turn to God in prayer and each other, as we seek the peace of the Holy Spirit.

As we come to the season of longer nights and shorter days, may we find the sparkles of light and hope within the world and our own lives. As Bernadette Farrell writes, may 'Christ be our light, shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness. Christ be our light, shine in your Church gathered today.'

God bless,

*Chris*

## THURSDAY CIRCLE

We began our autumn programme on 5 September, with a Quiz Afternoon, which raised £52 for Water Aid. Thank you to all who contributed.

The following week saw a return visit by Peter Jones, who gave a most interesting talk entitled 'On the Bottle', about the history of Codd bottles and fizzy drinks.

On 19 September Rev. Hannah provided us with some autumn activities. We were given clay and little rolling pins to roll it out like pastry. Then we impressed leaves, stalks of lavender and other natural things into the clay. We were able to take the result home to paint. Everyone had a go but some were quite clearly more talented than others. Thank you Hannah for an enjoyable afternoon.

We ended the month with our Autumn/Harvest Festival and enjoyed singing the well-known harvest hymns. Thank you to Beryl for playing the piano.

Coming up:

- 10 October**            A return visit by Brian Carline, an excellent and very witty speaker. This time his subject is 'Tripe and Trotters'.
- 17 October**            Nick Wickenden talking about the history of Wilkins Jam Factory. Nick is the curator of their museum.
- 24 October**            I will be talking about 'Crime in my Family History!'
- 31 October**            A return visit by Peter Mockford to tell us the truth about Bonnie Prince Charlie and Flora MacDonald.

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*

## BIBLE VERSES FOR HARVEST

### **Matthew 9: 37-38**

"He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.'"

### **Isaiah 40: 8**

The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God endures forever.

### **3 SHORT POEMS BY PAT FARROW**

#### **ELEGY FOR ISAAC (my young nephew)**

Where there is happiness, there is despair.  
Where there is laughter – there will be tears.

I picture a little running boy doing his ‘Olympic’ race,  
and in his granddad’s motor boat – with his happy face.

Taken too soon from us, we pray for his family now.  
God give them peace at this sad time, as they learn to cope somehow.

#### **AUGUST SUNSETS (in Norfolk)**

I’ve taken lots of photos  
of glorious sunset skies.  
So brilliant, so luminous –  
a sight for my sore eyes!

In reds, yellows, oranges at night –  
at the end of summers’ sunny days;  
The sun slowly sinking out of sight,  
over land and sea – I gazed.

#### **A SEPTEMBER DAY**

A slug is slivering on the path – a snail is up the wall.  
A spider’s swaying in his web. No flies about at all.

There’s been rain, weather’s changed. Now we’re into autumn.  
I’ve seen a squirrel, nut in mouth. It’s dull –there is no sun.

Even the birds are quiet today. The wind is blowing stronger.  
The butterflies have vanished, the bees about no longer.

Each month brings a different feel – not always bright and gay.  
I can’t go out to mow the lawn, so I’ll keep in today!

## APPEAL FOR MEN'S CLOTHING

This is an appeal for men's clothing for the asylum seekers from Wethersfield, who visit Bridgeway's Hub in Long Wyre Street.

We know that there were around 1000 men at Wethersfield last month. Probably the number is similar now, although we understand some have been moved on and new men have arrived. The camp provides buses for the men to visit Braintree, Colchester and Chelmsford. They come to Colchester on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. At the hub we provide snack and drinks, the opportunity to watch films, play darts, pool and table tennis, and generally relax.

Most items of men's clothing will be needed as autumn arrives, particularly:  
**coats, jackets and anoraks, T-shirts and trousers and socks.**

All donations can be delivered to the Bridgeway shop in Priory Walk, next door but one to Sainsbury's; the shop is usually open 10 until 2 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Many thanks,

*Sue Wood*

## MY VISION OF OUR WINDOWS

I thought that I would describe my own interpretation of how I see the message behind the design of the windows situated at the far end of our Church.

Looking at the three main windows from my pew I see the central window as that of God the Father.

To His right (my left) is Jesus Christ, Son of God, sitting at the right hand of His Father.

On God's left hand (my right) the window represents the Holy Spirit.

In the centre of each window I see the narrow strip as my passage through life with the glass in the centre as my direction indicator to keep me heading in the right way of God's path.

The shapes of the glass along each side remind me of a shepherd's crook and for me this represents Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd.

The window at the top I see as our world supported by the three windows below - The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*Graham Duthie*

## PRAYER BOX & CARDS

As part of the New Town community, Wimpole Road Methodist Church is here to serve you. If you need us to pray for you or a member of your family, friends, or even if the events around the world seem sometimes too much, write your thoughts and concerns on the back of the card and post it in the Prayer Box at the front of the church.

Please feel free to post any requests in there, either using the printed prayer request cards or simply on a slip of paper.

We welcome requests for prayer from everybody about anything or anybody.

Your request might be relating to you personally, a family member, a friend or relative or perhaps a troubling situation in our community or the wider world.

It might be an opportunity to offer thanks and gratitude for times of joy, happiness and celebration in your life.

We will use all prayer requests throughout the coming weeks.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. {Philippians 4:6-7}*

May God bless you.

## WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

**Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.**

<b>6 October</b>	<b>Ron Firmin</b>
<b>13 October</b>	<b>Rev. Hannah Chun</b> <b>Harvest Festival / Holy Communion</b>
<b>20 October</b>	<b>Local Arrangement</b>
<b>27 October</b>	<b>Jonathan Sparkes</b>

**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

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.*

*In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake.*

*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.*

## DIARY DATES

**Thursday 10 October 7.00 p.m. Wimpole Road Church Council – all welcome.**

**Saturday 12 October at The Ark 9 a.m. – 10. a.m.**

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

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

## TIME FOR REFLECTION

It isn't the things you do, it's the things you leave undone  
Which give you an little heartache at the setting of the sun.

The gentle word forgotten, the letter you didn't write,  
The flowers you might have sent, are your haunting ghosts tonight.

The stone you might have lifted out of your brother's way;  
The little heart-felt counsel you were hurried too much to say.

The tender touch of the hand, the gentle and kindly tone:  
Which we have no time or thought for, with troubles enough of our own.

*{Anon}*





## 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/2024/09/2024-10-October-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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## A CHRISTIAN WATCHWORD

There are so many things wrong and difficult in this world, that no man can be great –  
he can hardly keep himself from wickedness –  
unless he gives up thinking much about pleasures or rewards,  
and gets strength to endure what is hard and painful.

*George Eliot*