



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

Dear Friends,

Something I never imagined I would be doing before I came to ministry is to bless dogs during Holy Communion. I have had the joy and privilege of blessing several guide dogs now. One guide dog took part in the sharing of the bread when my son, Naythan dropped his piece of bread. I can tell you it was lapped up in seconds even before it touched the floor! If I told you that I have felt God's warmth and loving presence whilst blessing these dogs during Holy Communion would you say that I'm barking mad?

Advent is upon us. 'Advent' means coming, nearing, arriving, appearing. This is the season of Christ coming near to us to reveal himself to us. It is a time of waiting and watching to encounter Jesus' coming. It is a time of being more open and alert to God's presence being made known to us in those thin places.

Sharing in the bread and wine during Holy Communion may be one of those 'thin' places where Christ's presence may come to us. Whilst sharing around one table where we are reminded of our unity and oneness, we may sense God's nearness. Sharing in the ordinary things of this world, the bread and wine, reminds us that God's advent is in the day-to-day, ordinary things of our world.

So, how might God come to you during this season of Advent as we travel toward Christmas? God may not come to you with bright flashing lights, but God most certainly waits to come through the ordinary, the day-to-day things of your world. Where might those 'thin' places be where God is waiting to meet you? It may very well be in unexpected places and moments, such as through the warmth of a friend, neighbour, community or furry friend.

The run up to Christmas can be a busy time. There will always be more things to do on our 'to do list'. However, let's remember that amid the hustle and bustle Christ longs to break through, come to us and touch us. So let's take that moment to quieten the noise so we may hear, see, taste and touch God's gift of love, cradled in a manger, being made known to us. I leave you with these words from the hymn written by Fred Kaan to ponder:

*As at communion, shape your hands
Into a waiting cradle;
The gift of Christ receive, revere,
United round the table.
{Singing the Faith 712, 'Put peace into each other's hands'}*

Wishing you all a meaningful Advent and a blessed Christmas,

Hannah

ALPHA COURSE JANUARY 2025

Following the success of our last joint ALPHA course with St. Stephen's in the summer, we have plans to run a further course for 6 weeks starting on Tuesday 7 January. The ALPHA course is an opportunity to explore the basics of the Christian faith through discussion assisted by watching short videos. It is open to all people; regardless of where they might be on their faith journey to simply understand more about Christianity and what it might mean to us in the world today. During the course we will be exploring topics such as:

- Is there more to life than this?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- Why and how do I pray?
- How and why should I read the Bible?
- Who is the Holy Spirit and what does the Holy Spirit do?

If you think this would be helpful to you and you might be interested in coming along or you know anybody who you think would find this helpful please speak to me or one of our Church Stewards to get more information.

It is also wonderful that off the back of the last ALPHA course there will be a special Confirmation Service, conducted by Bishop Roger for those who have requested confirmation. This will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 28 November at St. Stephen's. A warm invitation is extended to everybody to attend this special service.

In the meantime, we ask that you offer prayer as we plan this next course and also for those being confirmed.

Rev. Hannah

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

As November drew to a close, we were delighted to ‘officially’ welcome Derrick as a new member and also Yoon who has transferred his membership to Wimpole Road. As Rev. Hannah mentioned at that service, there will be a series of Alpha courses running in January jointly with St. Stephen’s. If this is something you wish to find out more about, please do contact Rev. Hannah who will be happy to provide further details.

Advent is upon us once again and plans for Christmas are well underway. Our Christmas trees are in place and thanks as always to Chris and Alison for decorating these and the church in preparation for the festive season.

Details of all services and events are listed later in the Newsround, including the Crib Service (with Holy Communion) led by Rev. Hannah at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and, of course, our Three Together Family Carol Service (with the Boxted Methodist Silver Band) at Wimpole Road on Sunday 22nd December at 6.30 p.m.

Refreshments will be available after the Carol Service and we would be very grateful for any donations of mince pies (to be left in the kitchen that morning please).

In addition, if anyone is able to help out in the kitchen after the service with washing up etc. or with putting away the tables and chairs after refreshments, please let one of the stewards know. Any help will be greatly appreciated!

Finally, a reminder of the Circuit Christmas Celebration to be held on Friday 3rd January 2025 at the Ark, Highwoods between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., including carols, sketches, music and a quiz. All are welcome to attend.

Wishing you peace and joy this season.

Juliet Balls

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

The Northern Lights or Auroras are certainly a sight to behold. According to the Met. Office website, here in the UK we are generally further south than the aurora belt occurs, which is normally in Norway, Iceland or Greenland. This is probably why there are various tours which allow people to see them when they visit these places. Due to various weather conditions, they have been witnessed in this country, and also here in Colchester, in recent weeks and months.

As we approach December, the longest night and shortest day, I found myself thinking about some of the characteristics of the Northern Lights. They are bright, distinctive, highly anticipated and not always seen, depending on the weather. December is where we

look ahead through Advent to Christmas and celebrate Jesus' birth who God sends to earth in human form to be Emmanuel – God with us.

I found there may be some things we can learn for our Christian journey through the Auroras. Advent is a season of expectancy, preparation and waiting. It is a season we are often keen to rush through as we look ahead to Christmas. Yet, it is also a time to savour. We can get so lost in rushing ahead to the 'big day' that we don't take proper notice of the present moment. A time of anticipation enables us to reflect both on the present and the time to come, to bring the two together and to find the richness that comes from this. The Northern Lights are always expectantly anticipated but, for some who have travelled for many miles, that period of waiting isn't always filled with the sightings of the Northern Lights they hope. We are assured and promised of coming to Christmas Day, that we will be able to celebrate Jesus' birth once again and so we can rest in the anticipation without it becoming an anticlimax.

The Northern Lights are very distinctive. We only have to look at the photos people took and shared of the skies to see the glorious array of colours there were. It was newsworthy because it was different. Today, as Christ's disciples, we are called to offer something distinctive to the world. We should show others through our actions and attitude what it means to us to know the grace and love of God in our lives. In a country where people are less likely to profess a faith than in previous decades and centuries, we should not be afraid to be distinctive and to show others the difference Jesus makes in our lives.

Sometimes the Northern Lights are not always seen. Sadly, this can maybe be said about some Christians as well. It's not always easy to speak of our faith, but Advent and Christmas are some of the times where it is easier to do so. It is the time where the real message of Christmas can be shared with others, through social afternoons, in schools, care homes or any number of other settings.

During this season of Advent and Christmas, whatever the weather may be like, let's take the opportunity to wait for Jesus' birth with expectancy and anticipation. Let's shine the message of light into a world in need and let the bright light of Christ shine in the world around us in a distinctive way once again.

Advent and Christmas blessings to you all,

Chris

May the love of God ever with you stay. Whoever you are, whatever you do,

May the blessing of God ever rest on you. And in the years that are still to come

May the peace of God be in your home. At Christmastide and in New Year too

May God's great love abide with you.

PRAYING TOGETHER

We have much to thank God for, freedom to worship and a beautiful building in which to come together to do so.

We also have much to ask God for and praying together is a powerful way to make our requests known.

Speaking to Christians from other churches about prayer, one comment has remained in my mind particularly,

‘The churches that are growing are the churches that pray together’.

We have ample opportunity on a Sunday during our worship to pray together as a faithful community, but for various reasons we don’t come together during the rest of the week.

Corporate prayer is valuable in so many ways:

- It encourages
- It helps the weak become strong
- An act of confession.
- It builds unity
- It invests in evangelism

Praying with others invests in God’s work to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:47 reads ***‘...as we pray, the Lord works to draw others to himself’.***

All seven churches in the circuit have been charged with looking at their mission statements and work on a mission plan to ensure we are looking forwards to continue God’s work in a meaningful way.

At Wimpole Road, as part of our mission plan we are praying about and working towards changing the way we extend our worship into fellowship on Sundays.

The aim:

- to grow disciples for Christ in this troubled world in which we live
- to share his love and Grace and work together to bring more into his kingdom.

With this in mind, there will be a short prayer in the Newsround every month.

If you are able, please pray that prayer each day.

We will then as a community be sharing with each other in spirit if not in body to pray together that God will uphold us, strengthen us and draw others to Him.

God Bless

Christine Firmin

PRAYER FOR THIS MONTH

Heavenly Father, provide for the needs of our church
as we seek to grow and expand your kingdom.
Bless us abundantly, oh Lord we pray.
Amen.

Philippians 4:19:
**‘ And my God will meet all your needs
according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus’**

THE SILVER THISTLE

As the Lord God was creating the flowers He asked each one what they wished to be like.
Some wanted to be big and strong; others wanted to give a particularly beautiful scent.
One wanted red petals, another blue, and yet another wanted to be white.

God gladly fulfilled all their wishes.

Then He asked a little flower:

*“Now, my dear little one, what do you long for from your deepest heart?
Do you want to be big or small; do you want to have yellow, red or blue petals?”*

The little plant replied:

*“I would be content with any of those things.
I would not mind if I clung to the ground and even had thorns, if you can only grant me
just one wish: that my blossoms shall last until the Jesus Child is born.”*

The Lord God smiled lovingly and gave the little flower its form.

It grows quite inconspicuously, close to the ground, and its leaves are covered with thorns.

But its blossom shines like a beautiful silver star, and even though it may blossom in
summer and be picked, it lasts right until Christmas comes, so that it is there to give joy to
the Jesus Child.

{From ‘The Light in the Lantern’ - stories for Advent}

REINDEER REPORT

Chimneys: colder. Flight paths: busier.
Driver: Christmas (F) - Still baffled by postcodes.

Children: more - And stay up later.
Presents: heavier. Pay: frozen.

Mission (in spite of all this) Accomplished -

MERRY CHRISTMAS

{From ‘Christmas Poems’ by U.A. Fanthorpe}

THURSDAY CIRCLE

October ended with an interesting talk by Peter Mockford on ‘The truth about Bonnie Prince Charlie and Flora MacDonald’. From his portraits, particularly when he was old, he was not really ‘Bonnie’ at all and much of what we think we know about him and Flora was a later fabrication by Sir Walter Scott and others.

We began November with a talk by Douglas Broom, a retired maths teacher, about the concept of ‘Nothing’. It was interesting to think about some of the ways that word and others like ‘Nil’, ‘Zero’, ‘Nought’ and ‘Love’ (tennis) are used.

The following week saw a return visit by Gunni Graygoose, who warmed us up with some seated activities using bubbles, hoops and tambourines.

Next we had a return visit from Di Bignell, a Blue Badge Guide, who stimulated many memories as she reminded us of the many pubs there used to be in Colchester.

Coming up:

5 December An Afternoon of Christmas Fun – all welcome.

12 December Our Christmas Party, including a concert by ‘The Performers’. If you want to attend please advise Debbie in advance and also what food contributions you would bring.

19 December Our Carol Service – do come along and sing along with us.

After this we are closed until 30 January, when we will play ‘HOY’.

For various reasons unfortunately there has been a drop in the numbers attending our meetings. This is a cause of concern and we would welcome some new people, so if you are free, do come along and join us on **Thursday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.**

Admission charge £1 but £2 for some afternoons.

Joan Gomer *Secretary*

STAND BY ME

Thank you very much for your kind donation of £155.35 from your Harvest Collections, towards the work of Stand by Me.

Your generosity is helping us to support our children by providing for their greatest needs and equipping them to break the cycle of poverty and thrive.

Thanks to generous supporters like you, we are able to provide our children with a quality education, healthcare, nutritious food and, when needed, a loving new home at our children’s villages.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support.

Ahmad Ayoubi
Executive Director

JOB VACANCIES

There are a couple of job vacancies at present for local charities who we work alongside - one being Autism Anglia for a Community Liaison Manager and the other being with the Colchester Debt Centre, which is looking for a Centre Manager and a Centre Administrator.

Full details can be found on the vacancies pages of their respective web sites: Autism Anglia Vacancies and Colchester Debt Centre Vacancies

Dear Wimpole Road Methodist Church

We thank you for your continued prayerful support for Colchester CMA Debt Centre. We're now hiring for two rewarding jobs in our small team - a chance to make a real difference to the lives of people in Colchester.

We'd be so grateful if you could share these details with your congregation and other contacts.

***The Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale**
Anglican Chaplain to the University of Essex*

HELP PEOPLE STRUGGLING WITH DEBT AND A LOW INCOME: JOIN THE TEAM AT COLCHESTER CMA DEBT CENTRE

Colchester CMA Debt Centre (CCDC) has helped 100s of people go debt-free and helped 1000s of people since it was founded over a decade ago. We're a small, Colchester-based charity, working in partnership with national charity Community Money Advice. Supported by churches across the city.

We are looking for a new Centre Manager and a new Centre Administrator to carry on this essential work.

The Manager oversees the day-to-day work of the centre including managing the small staff team, offers debt advice and budgeting support to clients and acts as the main link between CCDC and the central CMA hub. The role also involves maintaining links with churches and with statutory and voluntary agencies in Colchester.

The Administrator supports the team in their work with clients, liaises with clients where appropriate, and supports the Centre Manager in the smooth running of the centre.

Both these rewarding roles offer the chance to work with a small, friendly and supportive team of committed staff, volunteers and trustees to bring real change to people in Colchester.

FAREWELL TO THOR AND WELCOME TO YOYO

Fiona, our visually impaired friend from St. Stephen's unexpectedly lost her beautiful labrador guide dog Thor earlier this year. I have fond memories of him sitting on my feet in diverse locations and of him sitting up and yawning in a pew when he thought the service was dragging on a little!

Fortunately, (and much sooner than anticipated) Fiona has been given YoYo who is a pure breed Retriever, has a brown coat and cute, round brown eyes. They have now been together for a month and the relationship is working well for both parties, although YoYo keeps bringing unwanted gifts to Fiona at home! Whilst wearing the harness he is a working dog but will relax and accept praise when the harness is off.

Interestingly, both dogs had previously had different owners and had been returned to the Guide Dog Association but each has worked well and happily with Fiona. YoYo will work with Fiona for another seven years all being well.

Peter Studd

HELLO EVERYONE! MY NAME IS YOYO AND I'M A GUIDE DOG

My owner says I'm an excellent one! I will be 3 years old on the 9th January 2025 and I'm a red retriever. I am of course a dog at home - my owner says I'm a teenager? Whatever that means? I live with my owner, owner's daughter and her cat Mimi. Mimi is 14 years old but I think she would like a game of 'chase the cat' around the house - however I'm told "No"! But really she goes in my bed, on the furniture and WORSE gets to sleep on my owner's knees! It's just not fair!

I'm very happy to be joining your Church family! I'm still deciding which cave (Pew) I like best - or I might just try them all!

When I'm wearing in Guide Dog harness please don't even talk to me as I'm looking after my owner! When the harness is off I love to say "Hello". When I'm lying on my mat in my cave I'm supposed to be resting. I've worked hard to get my owner to Church and of course will work hard to get her home again.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all.

Lots of licks, YoYo *{Fiona Seager - Owner}*

ROBIN'S ROUND

I am the proper bird for this season-
Not blessed St. Turkey, born to be eaten.

I'm man's inedible permanent bird.
I dine in his garden, my spoon is his spade.

I'm the true token of Christ the Child-King:
I nest in man's stable; I eat at man's table,

Through all his dark winters I sing.

From 'Christmas Poems' by U.A. Fanthorpe

OFFERTORY OPTIONS

Dear Friends,

I'm sorry, I know what you are thinking, that it's our treasurer again, wanting more money from us - well in one way it's true. What I really want to ask is whether you have ever thought about setting up a Standing Order with your Bank for your donation each month to our Church.

It's quite easy - it means that if you are not able to get to Church for whatever reason - once a month we will still receive your donation, its up to you. You can make your donation for whatever amount you like, either go to your bank or on-line and give them our following account details:

**Bank name Cooperative Bank, Account Name, Wimpole Road Methodist Church,
Sort Code 08-92-99 Account No 67261044**

Let them know the amount and the date in the month you want us to receive your donation and that's it.

Currently we have just over 20 people that pay like this, but it's so much easier than trying to remember your collection each week,

If you would rather not make a donation like this, our offertory bags are now at the back of the Church. So instead of our stewards taking up the offertory during the service, when you come in, you can just pop your donation in the bag at the back, on either end of the back pew, or as you leave.

I feel that while I am talking to you, I must just say that it is purely your donations and our hall lettings that keep our Church going, and with our costs, (which like yours are forever rising), it is not getting any easier to keep our Church running.

Each year we are taking about £20,000 out of our reserves to keep our Church going, but we are on;y okay for about 3 more years before our funds run out. THEN WHAT? IT'S UP TO YOU, AND ME.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Edward Pentney, Church Treasurer

TO ALL OUR DEAR FRIENDS AT WIMPOLE ROAD

May Christ's spirit of love, joy, and peace be with you this Christmas.

Thank you for the love and welcome you show us.

We love being a part of the church family at Wimpole Road.

Merry Christmas!

Love, Hannah, Yoon, Reyna, Laelle & Naythan

THE TABLECLOTH

*‘The Gold and Ivory Tablecloth’ by Rev. Howard C. Schade
deals with a chance encounter that leads to a touching reunion –
a story first published in Reader’s Digest in 1954.*

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry to re-open a church in suburban Brooklyn, N.Y., arrived in early October, excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church building, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc. and on 18 December were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On 19 December a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster to fall off the front wall - just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high.

The pastor cleaned up the mess, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, he headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted large tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colours and a cross embroidered right in the centre. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus, but she missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus in 45 minutes.

She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry, to cover the damaged plaster. He could hardly believe how beautiful it looked, as it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the centre aisle, her face like a white sheet.

“Pastor”, she asked, “where did you get that tablecloth?”

The pastor explained its provenance.

The woman then asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, ‘EBG’, were crocheted onto it. They were! These were the initials of that woman, who had made the tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told her how he had just obtained her tablecloth. She explained that before the war she and her husband were prosperous people in Austria, but when the Nazis came (in 1938) she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. But he was arrested, sent to a prison, and she never saw her husband or home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth, but she made him keep it for the church. He insisted on driving her home, which was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for her housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. As it ended, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone, many saying that they would return.

One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighbourhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare at the tablecloth, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving.

The old man asked him where he had obtained the tablecloth on the front wall, because it was identical to one that his wife had made years before when they lived in Austria before the war, and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike?

He recounted how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and that he was supposed to follow her, but that he had been arrested and spent years in prison. He never saw his wife or his home again.

The pastor smiled through his tears, asking the old man if he would allow him to take him for a ride.

They drove to Staten Island, to the same building where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door, and then witnessed the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine!

{Forwarded by Douglas Broom}

The Church of England and Methodist Church Covenant turned 21 in November this year. I would like to share a short summary to enable us to be reminded of this wonderful milestone and celebrate together.

On 4th November 2024 the President of the Methodist Conference the Revd Helen Cameron and the Vice-President, Mrs Carolyn Godfrey joined the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell with representatives from the Methodist Church and The Church of England for a service celebrating the 21st anniversary of the Anglican – Methodist Covenant in Methodist Central Hall Westminster.

The Anglican-Methodist Covenant was signed by leaders of the Church of England and the Methodist Church in Great Britain in front of Queen Elizabeth II on 1 November, 2003.

The Covenant recognises how much the two churches - which separated in the 1790s, after the death of John Wesley - have in common and commits them to removing further obstacles towards unity.

It has opened the way to new partnerships on the ground between local Church of England and Methodist congregations, ranging from joint worship and sharing church buildings to shared community projects and staff such as youth and family workers.

Our Three Together work with our Church of England partners from St. Stephen's and St. Margaret's Churches is a fruit of this Covenant and believe it will continue to flourish and grow.

If you would like to discover the story of this historic milestone further please go to: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/church-of-england-and-methodist-church-covenant-turns-21/>

Sadly, such news of celebration have also come at a poignant moment in the church with the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

And so, I would like to share the following statement of response from the Methodist Church in light of the recent events:

A Statement in response to the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury from the Methodist Church in Britain (14 November 2024)

In light of the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury following the Makin Review into abuses by the late John Smyth QC, the Methodist Church in Britain joins others in praying for all those affected by abuse. Survivors have been courageous in speaking of their experience and in calling the Churches to account and we hope humbly to continue to learn from them.

We are covenant partners with the Church of England, an anniversary we marked last week. Dr Welby has done much to strengthen the partnership between our denominations and we pray for the continuation of this work and for those who will discern who should be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. We are committed to developing our shared understanding and desire for good safeguarding practice at every level of our churches.

A PRAYER:

Loving God, we ask your forgiveness for the times when in your Church we have failed to protect the vulnerable; we pray for your healing for those who have been hurt and for those who live with guilt and regret; and we ask for your wisdom and direction as we seek to keep safe all your children, in the name of Christ. Amen.

Rev. Hannah Chun

TWO DAY TOUR OF THE BATTLEFIELD OF YPRES 29 and 30 MARCH 2025

An opportunity for St, Margaret's, St, Stephen's and Wimpole Methodist congregation members to join together for a two day trip around the battlefields of Belgium.

The itinerary includes a coach trip down to Dover for a ferry crossing. Arriving mid afternoon we will visit the second largest British military cemetery and have a tour around including individual stories of those buried there. We move onto a Museum involving a number of artefacts and recreated trenches from WW1. There will be an opportunity to visit the Menin Gate- the Memorial to the Missing in the Ypres Salient and be involved in the Menin Gate ceremony at 8 p.m. A meal at the excellent Captain Cook will follow the ceremony. Our Hotel Regina is in the beautiful Main Square of Ypres.

After breakfast on Day 2 we visit a German cemetery as a comparison to the numerous British cemeteries in the area. We move on to a preserved battlefield site of Hill 60 scene of major fighting throughout the war including gas and underground warfare. We then have the opportunity to visit Toc H famous as a house behind the lines run by Chaplains to provide rest and recuperation for weary soldiers, it houses an upper room where soldiers took communion and had services there. We plan to have our own service there as part of our tour. There will also be an opportunity after the service to visit the holding cell and firing post for those who were to be shot at dawn. Ironically this was close to Toc H.

We make our return mid afternoon for Calais for an early evening crossing with the intention of arriving back in Colchester at about 9 p.m. on the Sunday evening.

For further details of arrangements, costs, etc. (final payment is due by Friday 17 January, 2025. Please contact John Raynor 07948156837 or email: johnraynor860@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Pauline and Martin wish all friends at Wimpole Road a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. They will not be sending cards but will instead donate to Charities.

Jeanette and Anthony Gutteridge and Graham Chapman would like to wish all their friends at Wimpole Road a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

A Happy and Peaceful Christmas to all our church family. God Bless, with Love

Peter and Alison Boston xx

We would like to extend our love and best wishes to all our friends at Wimpole Road, hoping Christmas is a joyous time for the Church, families and individuals.

We will not be sending cards this year, and respectfully suggest that, rather than expending any postage to us, any friends may wish to support the Church or a charity.

We very much value the friendship of you all, and will continue to drop in when we can. Happy Christmas! ***Jon and Margaret Bloom***

DIARY DATES

**Wednesday 4 December 1.30 p.m. Carol Service for our friends at Woodlands
(after the Coffee Morning)**

**Tuesday 10 December morning – 3 School Christmas Services with St. George’s
School. Led by Rev. Hannah.**

{The Stewards would be grateful for any extra help with these two events.}

**Saturday 14 December at Wimpole Road 9 a.m. – 10. a.m.
‘Serving the Present Age?’ - Circuit Prayer Group, led by Andrew Topple.**

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

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

1 December	Eddie Lansdown
8 December	Rev. Martin Camroux
15 December	Joanne Eckersley
22 December	Rev. Hannah Chun / Holy Communion
22 December 6.30 p.m.	Carol Service with Boxted Methodist Silver Band Three Together United Service followed by refreshments in the Parlour
24 December 4.00 p.m.	Crib Service. Rev. Hannah Chun / Holy Communion
29 December 10.30 a.m.	Circuit Service at Castle NO SERVICE AT WIMPOLE ROAD

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.*

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

'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/2024/11/2024-12-December-2024-Newsletter-Comp-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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I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

{Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 1807 – 1882}