



May 2025

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun

Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

One of the joys of ministry is celebrating and leading the key seasons in the Church's liturgical calendar, such as Christmas and Easter. Alongside this comes the privilege of journeying with the church through the aftermath of these celebrations, which have brought a heightened sense of excitement and joy. I find the energy levels after these big celebrations tend to drop. Or maybe it's just me. Easter has gone by like a flash, and now we find ourselves back to reality, going through the humdrum tasks of everyday living. However, these ordinary periods sandwiched between those big celebrations are just as important, if not more.

Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian wrote this piece titled, 'The Work of Christmas':

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others, to make music in the heart.

Although this was written about Christmas, it rings true for Easter and other key seasons. With Easter, the tomb is empty, Christ has risen, death has been defeated, the Easter hymns have been sung, alleluias have been said, Easter eggs have been eaten, and the chicks and rabbits are back in their respective places, so now what? As in Thurman's words, the work of Easter begins now. And we are being called to do this from where we are and who we are, each in our own way. In some ways, these periods between the key

seasons can feel mundane, but maybe these hold the moments we can witness God breaking through the ordinary.

The first Sunday in May marks Vocations Sunday, encouraging us to reflect on our individual and collective callings before God. How might God be calling you? To what and to where is God calling you? How is God calling us to use this period after Easter to live each day, no matter how uneventful? When we speak about ‘calling’, we are not necessarily talking about doing extraordinary things, although some are called to such things. However, most often it is through tending to the ordinary that the extraordinary can come about. The words of Claire Stainsby’s hymn ‘As the dawn awakes another day’ are so down-to-earth:

‘You challenge some to leave their nets and follow unfamiliar ways, but most are called to live their faith in humdrum tasks of working days.’

May you experience God’s living presence anew these weeks after Easter, and may you know that no work or calling is too ordinary or mundane when God calls you.

God bless,

Hannah

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

It’s always a delight to have something to celebrate. What better time than Easter to join together in the hope of the risen Christ and share the joy this season brings. Our thanks go especially to Rev. Hannah, Jonathan and the Worship Leaders for the extra services they undertook to make this Easter a meaningful and relevant time of worship for us all.

Easter of course is about ‘Good News’ and I have more to share. I’m sure you’d all like to join me in congratulating Andrew Tople on becoming a Compassionate Community Champion - an award given by Essex County Council. Andrew was nominated by Rachel Litwin for all the hard work and the over and above effort he gives to help people both at Wimpole Road and St. Stephen’s Churches, who need assistance with all kinds of struggles.

I was pleased to accompany Andrew with Louise Brown to see him and other worthy nominees, presented with this award by the Mayor at the Town Hall a couple of weeks ago. Well done Andrew and may God continue to bless the work you do.

We have at least three important and exciting events to celebrate during the next quarter - the first being **Rev. Hannah’s Testimonial Service on Sunday 11 May in Wimpole Road Church at 6.30 p.m.**

Please put this date in your diary, it is a real milestone for Hannah as she prepares for her ordination next month. There will be an opportunity to meet and chat after the service for tea and coffee in the parlour. All are welcome.

Second on my list is our **Church Anniversary on 8 June**. There could not be a more appropriate day for this occasion as it is **Pentecost Sunday**, the day on which the Christian Church celebrates its 'birthday' after the coming of the Holy Spirit following the ascension of Jesus. As usual on Pentecost Sunday (weather permitting) we will be on the Recreation Ground sharing our worship with St. Stephen's and Rev. Hannah will be leading the service. All are welcome.

Last but not least is **Rev. Hannah's Ordination on Sunday 29 June**. As the services of ordination are in Telford and Shrewsbury, we are hoping to receive a live stream in the church so we can share in the worship, pray for and support Hannah in this way. Look out for details of timings later. All are welcome.

Many will be aware that this last quarter saw Debbie's final weeks as a Church Steward. She has given tremendous service over many years to work for God's church community here at Wimpole Road as a valued member of the team.

This is not the only task Debbie does - her beautiful and thoughtful PowerPoint presentations grace our screen (tech. permitting) to enhance our worship for the vast majority of our services. So, work life balance means something has to go.

Debbie we cannot thank you enough for your steadfast work and faithful service as a Steward. Make sure you don't fill that time space with anything other than R & R for you! God bless you and thank you.

That means friends, we really need more Stewards!

It leaves four in the team who all have other major responsibilities in the church. Four you say, (I count five) but... dear Alison is not officially a Steward. She expertly tackles all the admin. and puts herself on duty at times to help with our workload.

Please, please pray about whether this is a calling for you to undertake or someone you could encourage to do so.

While I am in 'position vacant' mode, we also require more **Communion Stewards** to swell the number from one at the moment.

Please speak with me or any of the Stewards for information about roles of either Church or Communion Stewards. You may be pleasantly surprised about your ability to offer your services.

Please continue to pray for all those who work to ensure this place, this Holy place, is kept open and vibrant for the Glory of God.

God bless

Christine Firmin

PRAYER FOR THIS MONTH

Heavenly Father,
Show us the path you wish us to take
and equip us with all we will need to follow your path.

Amen

‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.’

Proverbs 3:5-6

THURSDAY CIRCLE

We began April with a talk by Peter Mockford on ‘Rationing and War Time Recipes’. This was the first occasion on which he had delivered this talk and it was well received, with people reminiscing about food from that time.

On Sunday 6 April we had responsibility for the Sunday morning service and were assisted in this by the Worship Leaders. Thank you to everyone who took part.

The speaker (Peter Jones) for the following week was unwell and unable to attend, so we held a Beetle Drive instead.

As usual we held a service on Maundy Thursday afternoon. Thank you to everyone who took part with the readings and, of course, to Beryl Leech for playing the piano.

The Young Wives Group, one of the forerunners of the Thursday Circle, was founded in April 1948, so April is our birthday month, Thus our final meeting for the month was a party, with ‘The New Performers’ entertaining us with their lovely singing.

Coming up:

1 May A visit by story teller Jan Williams about ‘Essex Folk Tales’.

8 May This is the 80th Anniversary of V. E. Day.

15 May A Quiz Afternoon to raise money for Christian Aid Week.

22 May Liz White, Secretary of the Lexden History Society, will talk on ‘Life in Victorian Colchester’.

29 May We will listen to some of the L.P. records we found in the Thursday Circle cupboard.

If you are free, do come along and join us on **Thursday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.**

We would love to see you!

Joan Gomer Secretary

THANK YOU

A very heartfelt thank you to Peter Studd for all the diligence and hard work given as Safeguarding Officer, which was very much appreciated. On behalf of us all we wish you a happy and peaceful 'retirement'.

We welcome Sally Crafer as Peter's replacement and extend our thanks to Sally for taking on this task. God bless you both. Any safeguarding concerns please refer directly to Sally.

Anything relating to Health and Safety of the premises, please speak to Jeanette Gutteridge, Edward Pentney or anyone on the Property and Finance Committee.

Thank you

Christine Firmin

WIMPOLE ROAD BOWLS CLUB

The 2024/2025 season has now come to a close and we can look back on a time of friendship and fellowship as well as many games of competitive bowls over the season which began way back in October.

On the final Wednesday afternoon we enjoyed an afternoon tea together and presented the 'Player of the Year' award.

This year the trophy was won by Rob Anderson, who has been very consistent throughout a long season and is now regarded as one of the best players on the bowls circuit.

He joins the illustrious list of past winners - Pat Farrow and Anne Finch.

It hardly seems possible that the club started twelve years ago, following a suggestion by Sarah Topple, and hopefully we can look forward to enjoying many more years of playing together.

Graham Duthie

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

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

*We especially think of the family and friends of our dear friend
Rev. John Robinson who died on 16 April, at the age of 86.*

Also those who knew Chris Caven, who died recently.

COLCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT - INVITING WORDS
EXPLORING SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH SHARING

on Zoom Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m. led by Rev. Paul Howes

Session 1 on 27 April. God's Invitation - Reading: Matthew 11 vs 25 -30

Invitations come to us in the form of words, and God's written word echoes with invitations to enter a working relationship with him. God invites Adam & Eve to represent him on earth. An invitation is at the heart of the covenants made with Noah, Abraham, Moses & David. God's invitation finds focus in the teachings and actions of Jesus. The invitation offers rest, forgiveness, a relationship with God, and a place in His family.

It is open to all and expresses God's desire for humanity to come to Him, trust in Him, and experience His love and grace. To make the invitation known Jesus began his public ministry with an invitation to a few fishermen 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. Mark 1:17

Some three years later, Jesus finished his ministry with an appeal to eleven disciples to extend his original invitation to all peoples everywhere. He said to them 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19

Further sessions: 6 May 13 May, 20 May, 3 June, 10 June, 24 June

THE DAY

The cross stands empty
where he hung and died.
The crown of thorns trodden
into the ground.

The nails lay scattered
amongst his mother's tears,
And blood stains the place where
they laid him down.

The crowds, some angry, some afraid,
go quietly from the place,
Back to their homes
to think about this day.

The day they gave
the Son of God away.

by Norma Peckston

ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS - A LAST BEATITUDE

And blessed are the ones we overlook;
The faithful servers on the coffee rota,

The ones who hold no candle, bell or book
But keep the books and tally up the quota,

The gentle souls who come to "do the flowers",
The quiet ones who organise the fete,

Church sitters who give up their weekday hours,
Doorkeepers who may open heaven's gate.

God knows the depths that often go unspoken
Amongst the shy, the quiet, and the kind,

Or the slow healing of a heart long broken
Placing each flower so for a year's mind.

Invisible on earth, without a voice,
In heaven their angels glory and rejoice.

{Taken from an edition of the Magnet magazine}

EASTER GLORY

Easter is the season of the soul's eternal Spring.
The blossom in the orchard and the bird upon the wing –
give again their ancient message, old but ever new:
the story of the Resurrection fresh as April dew.

A pledge of immortality to all who will believe.
To the souls who walk in darkness and the hearts that grieve –
comes this light at Eastertide:
this radiance in the gloom –
streaming through the open portal of the empty tomb.

Christ is risen!
He is here, a presence and a power –
breathing through the lilac and the sunshine and the shower –
moving in our midst, a living Lord, the Saviour-King –
mantled in the glory of an everlasting Spring.

Patience Strong

DIARY DATES

Saturday 17 May at The Well 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 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

Sunday 25 May. Our CHURCH GENERAL MEETING and discussion on VISION FOR THE FUTURE will follow after the morning service.

Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch. All welcome.

HANNAH’S TESTIMONY SERVICE

As part of our probationer journey, all probationers are to hold a testimony service within their circuits.

Mine will take place on Sunday 11th May at Wimpole Road Methodist 6.30pm.

We are planning to live stream the service if possible.

Rev. Dr David Chapman will open the service and Rev. Chris Preece will be preaching.

Although, Chris will be on sabbatical, she will be at the testimony service and also my ordination. Everyone is welcome to come.

Thank you all for your support in my journey so far and for what is to come!

God bless, *Hannah*

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

4 May Joanne Eckersley

11 May Sally Crafer

18 May Local Arrangement

25 May 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.



WORKING TOGETHER



PRAYER MEETING Tuesday 10.00 - 10.30 a.m.

Please email: wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com for access details.

'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/2025/04/2025-05-May-2025-Newsletter-Compressed-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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Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light.

Helen Keller