



July 2025

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun

Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

What do you do when you are roughly 200 miles from home and your car's engine warning light comes on? Would you panic? Yoon and I certainly did. My family came to join me in Telford for the ordination service, and as they arrived, the engine warning light came on. We've had problems with the engine in the past, so we naturally became worried. If it had been close to home, we might not have panicked as much, but being so far from home got us into a bit of a frenzy, and our stress levels went up.

When we are far from home and something unexpected happens, knocking us off balance, it may unsettle us. Warning lights inside us may flash, indicating that something is wrong and that the heart of the issue needs to be addressed.

I spent some time before ordination at Cliff College for an ordinand's retreat. One of the sessions was about being in the Word. When we are far from the Word, we are far from God, and I sense that is similar to being far from home and feeling anxious when unexpected hiccups come our way. It is God's Word that roots, nourishes, nurtures, navigates and feeds us. If we are far from it, we could find that we lose our bearings and sense of peace within.

Let me ask you a strange question. When did you last brush your teeth? I imagine sometime within the last 24 hours at least. We need to brush our teeth at least twice daily to maintain good dental health and hygiene.

Now, let me ask you, how often do you read your Bible? It is a harder question to answer. I know this because *I* find reading the Bible more of a challenge than brushing my teeth.

So, let me ask us (me included) a few questions to get us thinking. What does being in the Word mean to you? When did you last find yourself feeling enriched by God's Word? When you feel distant from God's Word, do you feel distant from God? What warning signs might you recognise in yourself when you feel far from God? What might you do to draw nearer to God's Word?

Summer is finally upon us, and it is usually a time when there might be a 'lull' in church activities (if there ever is such a time). I hope you can spend this time resting, recharging, connecting with the people you love and also reconnecting with yourself and with God through God's Word.

It is through the Word of God that we can sustain ourselves, find nourishment for life's journeys and walk together with others. The Word of God, which pierces our souls, can help recognise those 'warning lights' in our inmost beings and give us the strength and wisdom to face and address them.

For 'the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of the soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.' (Heb. 4:12)

God bless,
Hannah

To all my friends at Wimpole Road,

Thank you for hosting the live-stream of the ordination services and for being with me in Spirit. Your support, cards, messages and gifts are very much appreciated.

I have been overwhelmed by your spirit of kindness, love and generosity.

Thank you, and I look forward to our continuing journey together.

God bless,

Hannah

MONTHLY PRAYER

We pray as a community of your Church,
we will hold steadfastly to the truth
and remain confident in the power of your word.

Ephesians 4:14

NEWS FROM THE VESTRY

Our monthly prayer for June has been asking that the Holy Spirit inspires us and fills our hearts with love and what a great way to celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost as we joined together with St. Stephen's to worship and share the good news and praise in the open air on the Recreation Ground. Once again, even though there was a bit of a nip in the air, the weather was kind to us and thank you to everybody who helped to make this day possible.

By the time you read this we will have also celebrated Rev. Hannah's ordination, which I am sure will have been a wonderful experience and we pray God's blessing on Hannah, Yoon and the rest of the family and on Hannah's ministry both with us here now and into the future. We are so truly blessed to have Hannah amongst us and by her ministry.

Just because the school summer holidays are looming does not mean that we are going to be any less busy over the coming months as the vast majority of our activities continue through the holiday and our work does not stop! As you will probably be aware our kitchenette and accessibility toilet project in the Church is now underway and we are grateful to both the Circuit and District for the grant funding which they have agreed to commit to this work, and which we pray will enhance our worship, fellowship and the practical use of the space we have at Church. No doubt, like any building work, there will be some mess and muddle while it is underway, but all being well this will be short lived and the long-term benefits will hugely outweigh any short-term inconvenience.

Other things to look forward to are New Town Open Gardens on Sunday 6 July in the afternoon, when we will be open for refreshments and to welcome visitors and then the Community Day on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 30 August. If you are able to help with either of these events, please do speak to one of the Stewards.

We also have our annual BBQ at Peter's house on Thursday 24 June. All are invited to join for this, and to assist with catering if you think you will be joining us, please can you let Christine or Peter know.

And, to draw the summer holidays to a close, we have Holiday Club running from 26 – 28 August. We already have a good number of children booked in for this. Please see Andrew or email the Church email account (wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com) if you would like to book a place. As normal we are after some help from you for items for our crafts. If you use and have any of the following, please can you bring them to Church to be used during the week: plastic drinks bottles (both the large 2 litre ones and also smaller ones), egg boxes and cereal boxes.

As we continue to plan for these events, please can we ask for your continued prayer.

Andrew Topple

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

One of the many joys in ministry is to write this monthly letter. As I come to write this letter after a period of sabbatical that joy is threefold! Looking back over these past three months, I have learnt a lot and been on many train journeys. Grantham to visit family, Salisbury for a week's study at Sarum College, London for a retreat and a visit to Kew Gardens (as well as singing in the Royal Albert Hall via a coach journey). On the final weekend I went to Shrewsbury to be present at Hannah's ordination and what a huge joy it was! I have stopped at and passed through many stations and connected via Tube, DLR and London Overground trains at various points as well. As you look back over the past few weeks, I wonder to which places you have travelled?

So often, our travelling is about the destination rather than the journey. Where are we going and what are we doing when we get there are totally relevant questions. Yet the journey is also important as we know from the Bible. Abraham is told by God to leave his land and travel to the place God will show him; the story of Joseph in Genesis has many different journeys and locations within it; Ruth journeys to a new country with Naomi; the two disciples walking along the road to Emmaus find God and Paul has his conversion experience in Damascus. Journeys are important and times where we can find out much about God and how we experience Jesus in our lives through the Holy Spirit. We can see how God has worked with people differently according to their need and situation in life and this continues today for us as disciples as well.

Over the past three months we will all have been on our own journeys. These may have been literal journeys but may also be metaphorical. We will all have experienced things differently and we won't know everything that has happened. There will have been the ups and downs of life that inevitably happen during any period of time. In and through all things, God has walked alongside us in Jesus and will have had his hand in this time and as we look ahead.

I very much hope that over the next few weeks we will share all that has happened. I'm looking forward to hearing everyone's news. As we reconnect it will be a time where we listen to one another and discover how God has been working. We will then be able to discern together the next chapter of our time together and all the exciting things that God has in store for us as we continue our journey of life with one another.

I would like to extend my very grateful thanks to everyone who has supported this time of sabbatical in any way at all. I genuinely hope that it has been a time of blessing and discovery in your own journey of God. I look forward to sharing with you over the coming weeks and months the learning I have drawn from this time as well as the learning we discern together as churches and a Circuit.

See you again soon!
God bless,

Chris

THURSDAY CIRCLE

We began June with a most enjoyable session of seated activities with Gunni Graygoose. We waved feathers, shook percussion instruments and destroyed bubbles - all to music and all the time gently exercising our bodies.

The following week saw a return visit by Blue Badge Guide, Di Bignell, who talked to us about the History of New Town, which stirred up memories for those listening.

The next week I gave a talk about the life of my family from around 1927 to late 1940's, and this was well received.

The month ended with 12 members enjoying a cream tea at the Stanway Garden Centre. Thank you to Pauline and Jean for arranging it.

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

We would love to see you!

Coming up:

- 3 July** Graham and Christine Duthie's neighbour is from Peru, and Graham is going to pass on what he has learned from her!
- 10 July** Listening to some of the L. P's that we have in the Thursday Circle cupboard.
- 17 July** A talk by Vija Randall about Dementia – Vija is a counsellor.
- 24 July** The annual barbecue at Peter Broom's home in Layer de la Haye.
- 31 July** A game of HOY.

Joan Gomer
Secretary



On a sad note, we were sorry to hear of the death of **Connie Howard**.

Until her recent illness took hold, she had been a regular at Thursday Circle for many years.

Indeed, looking back in the records, I see that she first became a member of the committee in 1992, and thus would have been involved in many of the group's activities.

Rest in Peace, Connie.

A SUMMER BLESSING

May you walk with God
This summer
In whatever you do
Wherever you go

Walking with God means...
Walking with honesty
And with courage,
Walking with love
And respect
And concern for the feelings of others

May you talk to God
This summer
And every day and
In every situation

Talking with God means...
Praying words of praise
For the beauty of creation
Saying prayers of thanks
For friends and good times,

Asking God's help
In all your decisions
Expressing sorrow
When you have failed

May you talk with God
Every day. Amen.

{Author unknown}

THANK YOU

Beryl and Edward would like to say a very big 'Thank You', for all the cards, gifts, flowers, messages, phone calls, and most of all your thoughts and prayers, which we have received from our church family and friends during the last few weeks - due to Edward's sister Cynthia's sudden death and Beryl's stay in hospital suffering from pneumonia.

Your thoughts, prayers and support has been much appreciated and have greatly helped us through this very difficult time.
Thank you all once again.

Beryl and Edward Pentney

DIARY DATES

Saturday 12 July at Wimpole Road 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 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

Deep Sea Divers Holiday Club - 25 – 28 August 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

To book your place(s), please click on the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGWCKyCqYsNyYOrmra260d4XnTuIKN0EWTE27eX93vzmw6tg/viewform?usp=dialog>

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR JULY

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

6 July	Sally Crafer
13 July	Rev. David Moody
20 July	Rev. Martin Camroux
27 July	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.*

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 Connie Howard’s family and friends.
Connie’s funeral will take place on Wednesday, 16th July 1.00 p.m.
at Colchester Crematorium.*

Followed by the wake at the Officers Club, St. John’s Green.

*Derek Salmon died on 19 June.
His funeral is due to take place on Thursday 31 July at 11.30 a.m.
at Wimpole Road Methodist Church,
followed by the committal at Colchester Cemetery at 1.30 p.m.*

Thank you to everyone who donated with us on our open air joint Pentecost Sunday service with St. Stephen's Church, Colchester - we raised £120 for Christian Aid!



WORKING TOGETHER



PRAYER MEETING Tuesday 10.00 - 10.30 a.m.

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

LINK TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/WimpoleRoadMethodists>

LINK TO ST. STEPHEN'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

<http://ststephens-colchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/2025-07-July-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 e-mail:

alison.ablewhite@btinternet.com

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk

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"A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows."

St. Francis of Assisi