



August 2025

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun

Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

You've no doubt heard about our guinea pigs, Pepper and Pumpkin. We've now had them for over a year. In that time, the children have worked hard to tame them so that they become less skittish and more accustomed to human contact. At first, it seemed they would only approach us for food, but nowadays they'll come up on the odd occasion just for a stroke or a chin rub. When one of them gets a stroke, the other will come up as if to say, "*Can I have some too?*" Or, when one is stroked, the other will bob its head. This mutual relationship we are beginning to have with our guinea pigs is just so delightful. It seems they are not only seeing us as those who give *food*, but also as companions or friends. Or am I reading too much into this?

These guinea pigs have been teaching me about God's relational nature. God longs to be in relationship with all of us and is thrilled when we reach out to Him with the desires of our hearts or simply for some attention. However, not only does God delight in having a relationship with us - he is also joyful when we have good relationships with one another and work together harmoniously.

It gives me great joy when I see our guinea pigs playing with one another and having a jolly good time 'popcorning'. (Guinea pigs 'pop' or jump in the air like popcorn when they are happy.) Might God watch us with a similar heart of joy when we love one another and work together?

Our journey as followers of Jesus revolves around our relationship with God, with one another, and with ourselves. There is a part in the ordination service called *The Examination*, where the ordinands make promises with “*I do.*” The phrase that will stick with me forever is: “*Let no one suffer hurt through your neglect.*” The ‘neglect’ mentioned here not only refers to the neglect of others, but also to the neglect of God and ourselves. I believe this phrase applies to everyone - not just ordinands.

When we neglect God, others, and ourselves in our relationships, there will be those who suffer hurt - and that includes us. What aspect of our relationship with God might cause God to feel neglected or hurt? How might our relationships with others cause hurt or neglect? How might we be neglecting ourselves in ways that cause us to suffer?

God yearns for a wholesome relationship with us, but also that we have wholesome and healthy relationships with one another and, importantly, with ourselves. I stress this because we often forget ourselves when we are busy ministering to others. So, I pray that this period of August, before the supposed ‘rush’ of the new church year in September, will offer you some space to *be*, to *mend*, and to *heal*—so you find wholeness in your relationships with God, others, and yourself.

God bless,

Hannah

NEWS FROM THE VESTRY

Hello and blessings to all. Here we are at the beginning of August - I find this almost impossible to believe. Just where has the time gone?

So much has, and is happening at (and in) our lovely church at this time. In the last Newsround we were reminded that we at Wimpole Road had the privilege recently of being able to witness the livestream of the ordination service of Hannah. A most memorable and overwhelming occasion for Hannah, who was joined by her lovely family, and it was also a quite remarkable opportunity and privilege for us to be able to virtually 'see what was going on'. This was due to our skilled IT specialists Andrew and Edward. Congratulations and best wishes to Hannah on now becoming a fully ordained presbyter in the Methodist Church.

I found it overwhelming and emotional and felt very proud that we could be part of her journey on that occasion. Like many of our regular congregation I went to the service in the morning and also the one in the afternoon - I'm so very glad I made the decision to go.

We are of course aware that we are very privileged to be part of the Methodist Circuit in Colchester. Hannah has pastoral responsibility for 4 churches, Wivenhoe, West Mersea, Lexden and Wimpole Road. Every month there is a Circuit News, which we can read and therefore know what is going on in the circuit.

One very important piece of news I think is that an 'Anna Chaplain' has now been appointed. His name is Jastine Diaz, and he is due to start at the beginning of September this year. Please keep him in our prayers, and I'm sure that we will all be looking forward to see how things work out.

Anna Chaplaincy is a ministry aimed at equipping churches to pastorally and spiritually support their older church members and communities. The name is called after the faithful older woman Anna, who appears with Simeon in Luke's gospel.

I have discovered that there exists an 'Anna Chaplain' prayer, which I thought I would share with you:

***Faithful God, you have promised in Christ to be with us till the end of time
Come close to those who have lived long, and have experienced much -
Help them to continue to be faithful, and within the all-age kingdom of God -
To find ways to go on giving, and receiving your grace, day by day.***

The New Town Open Gardens held recently was a good success, and a big thank you to everyone who helped in any way. It was an extremely wet rainy day, but thankfully this did not deter many of those in the community who opened their gardens and those that visited them. There were around 40 visitors to some of the gardens, and we had people stop by for refreshments and to dry off at the churches too - so it was still a good day in the community. We also raised £141.16 from selling the programmes and donations for refreshments on the day, which has been split between Kendall Primary and St. Georges Infant and Junior Schools. Special thanks to a little girl who set up a lucky dip box in her garden and raised £30.31 to go towards the amount raised! Thank you for those who helped with the programmes, refreshments on the day or providing entertainment. We are also thankful for Tesco's and the Co-Op who offered donations for the event, as well as staff from Sodexo for helping also.

Coming up soon of course is the Holiday Club in August. Huge thanks to Andrew, Sue and Julie and others who work so very hard most of the year to come up with what is a very welcome time for children in New Town and around, to experience days of fun and laughter and explore the message of Christ.

Sadly, we recently had the funeral of Connie Howard, who was a regular loving member of our congregation. She was a very faithful member of the Thursday Circle and she will be greatly missed. Several of us were able to attend her funeral - please remember Connie and all her family and friends in our prayers.

Please remember others in our church who have had difficult health problems recently, and Val Potter who is currently in a care home in Dedham.

Next is the very up to date information and future plans that are going on in our church, contributed by Christine, our Senior Steward.

Margaret Clubb

By the time you read this I hope you have experienced the new audio-visual system and that it is working well! At the time of writing, the control system at the back of the church still needs re-siting to its new place under the tech desk, but this should not prevent us from using the system fully in the meantime.

Having wandered around the church looking at the screens, it is possible to see at least one monitor from wherever you may be situated, which is a great improvement! The preacher and the choir have sight of the smaller monitor, and the organist has his own, attached to the organ surround. Progress indeed!

New bookcases have been crafted from the redundant pews, and will be placed on one side of the glass screen at the back. Please do not put anything in them at the moment, as they are heavy, and not secured (we don't want any injuries caused by toppling furniture.)

It is anticipated that work on the kitchenette and accessible toilet will start in August, with a break for the Holiday Club week. There will probably be a little disruption in the church whilst the work is ongoing, but we will do our best to tidy up before Sunday worship.

Please bear with us during this time, and continue to pray for the work of this church in bringing the Good News of Jesus to all who enter here.

Christine Firmin

YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE FOR A REASON

You are who you are for a reason.
You're part of an intricate plan.
You're a precious and perfect unique design,
Called 'God's special woman or man'.

You look like you look for a reason.
Our God made no mistake.
He knit you together within the womb,
You're just what He wanted to make!

The parents you had were the ones He chose,
And no matter how you may feel,
They were custom-designed with God's plan in mind,
And they bear the Master's seal.

No, that trauma you faced was not easy;
And God wept that it hurt you so.
But it was allowed to shape your heart
So that into His likeness you'd grow.

You are who you are for a reason.
You've been formed by the Master's rod.
You are who you are, Beloved,
Because there is a GOD.

Russell Kelfer

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome! Bienvenue, Croeso, Willkommen, Welkom. These are just a few languages (French, Welsh, German and Dutch) of saying welcome. We all like to feel a sense of welcome either in a country when we visit or to specific locations.

I saw a 'welcome' sign above a door and wondered where the origins of the word came from. So, with the internet to the rescue, I found that the word welcome is an Old English word *wilcuma* which means 'a person whose coming is pleasing.'

Isn't that lovely? We all know how uncomfortable it is if we don't feel welcome and so, to feel welcome is to be valued and to know our company is sought after. It is a place to feel comfortable, settled and at peace. To be welcomed is to go way beyond being tolerated to something deeper.

We worship God who welcomes everyone. God the Creator made our beautiful world as a place of welcome for humanity. Jesus came to the world as a human being, living alongside others, so we might know what it means for God to be in the world, and how to respond to others who don't recognise God for themselves. Jesus died and rose again demonstrating his love for all people and to enable all who respond to this love to be welcomed into the life of God. The Holy Spirit prompts and guides us, encouraging us to respond to God's great and welcoming love, so that others may come to know God for themselves.

God welcomes all people as those 'whose coming is pleasing.' God showed us this through Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. Thinking about this leads me to ask how do we welcome God into our lives? God in Christ longs to be part of our lives, not just on a Sunday, but in every part of every day. God longs to be 'a person 'whose coming is pleasing' to us.

God welcomes us as we are and then, through Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit, as we respond to that welcome we are transformed more and more into the likeness of him. As we do this, we can more easily reflect the love of God to others. The invitation here then is to think how we can welcome others, and encourage them towards Jesus, as those 'whose coming is pleasing to us,' so they can experience the love and grace of God for themselves. There is much here on which we can ponder and reflect.

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to everyone for the welcome I've received since returning from sabbatical. I have genuinely felt very welcomed. It's been really lovely to see everyone and it's great to be back! There is much for us to do as we continue to work together, and I look forward to all that is to come.

God bless,

Chris

THURSDAY CIRCLE

We began July with a talk about Peru, given by Graham Duthie, inspired by conversations with his neighbour Ines, who is from that country. The talk covered a wide range of subjects, history, geography, potatoes, football, cricket – even a Peruvian joke! You may like to know that Graham is already booked to talk to us about ‘The History of the Incas’ in March 2026.

The following week we spent a relaxing afternoon listening to some of the L. P’s we have in the Thursday Circle cupboard. Pat brought along some of her photos of our group’s activities and these are now on the notice board – so do look at them.

The next week was a talk by Vija Randall on ‘What People should know about Dementia’. Unfortunately, this was not well attended, perhaps because the subject is one which we don’t want to think about as we get older!

On Thursday 24 July there was the opportunity to attend the annual barbecue at Peter Broom’s bungalow. Thanks, in particular to Peter and Chris for hosting this event.

There is no formal programme for August, just informal meetings to chat, play cards, Scrabble, etc. at the usual time of Thursday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. Do come and join us!

Joan Gomer
Secretary

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## FLAMING JUNE

Flaming June has lived up to its name!  
Plenty of heat and BBQ’s flame.  
Over 30 degrees! Too hot for some to sit out,  
though lots of the young ones enjoyed it – no doubt.

Going down to the sea, where the salty winds blow.  
I remember those days – long, long ago.  
Walking barefoot with my dad.  
Happy memories – though also sad.

My parents long gone, but they gave to me a great zest of life,  
going down by the sea.  
Memories of Lee-over-Sands, St. Osyth

*Pat Farrow*

## PRAYERS

Why?

I need them, my connection to God,  
my phone call, my Zoom.  
But I need them.

I may ramble  
I may beg,  
I may have that little niggle  
that tells me it's all for no use.  
He's not going to listen to me,  
but I need them -

I need to speak to God.

I'd like to say I listen,  
I'd like to tell you how I  
patiently remain silent,  
emptying my mind of the day's noise.

But I don't.

That last email pops up in my mind.  
I re-work the phrasing of my response,  
again,  
and again, and again

Oh yes, I was meant to be listening.

Best go back to my rambling list of wants,  
at least - my mind is focused on God.

I need that prayer.

*Jonathan Sparkes*

## MONTHLY PRAYER

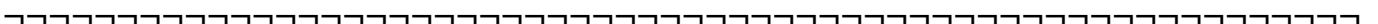
Lord, inspire my actions towards others to be acts of kindness,  
words of encouragement and forgiveness in my heart.

### **Ephesians 4:32**

'Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other,  
just as God in Christ has also forgiven you'.

### **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

**Saturday 9 August at The Well 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.**

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

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.**

## WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

|                  |                                           |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>3 August</b>  | <b>Local Arrangement</b>                  |
| <b>10 August</b> | <b>Phil Bingham</b>                       |
| <b>17 August</b> | <b>Local Arrangement</b>                  |
| <b>24 August</b> | <b>Jonathan Sparkes</b>                   |
| <b>31 August</b> | <b>Rev. Chris Preece - Holy Communion</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.*

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## A DAY IN JULY

Fluffy white clouds in a powder blue sky.  
My first red hot pokers, with bees buzzing by.

Tall, slender grasses swaying in the summer breeze.  
Noisy, cooing pigeons perching in the trees.

Fragile butterflies fluttering – now of every hue.  
Wood, white ones, red admirals – a small red one and a common blue.

Yellow day lilies, growing by the pond. White, creamy water lilies floating on the top,  
with green, crescent pads - beneath them, the fish swim and plop.

What a tranquil day this is, me resting in my deck chair,  
making the most of this month, in the balmy July air.

*Pat Farrow*





## WORKING TOGETHER



**PRAYER MEETING Tuesday 10.00 - 10.30 a.m.**

Please email: [wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com](mailto:wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com) for access details.

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### LINK TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

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

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### LINK TO ST. STEPHEN'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

<http://ststephens-colchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/2025-08-August-2025-Newsletter-Compressed-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 e-mail:

[alison.ablewhite@btinternet.com](mailto:alison.ablewhite@btinternet.com)

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### KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

[www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk](http://www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk)

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*"I believe in [Christianity](#) as I believe that the sun has risen:  
not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."*

*C.S. Lewis*