



September 2025
Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun
Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a wonderful summer and were able to enjoy the glorious sunshine while it lasted. My family and I spent many long hours in the manse garden, catching up on nearly a year's worth of gardening! While we were out there, we spotted a nest high up in a tree — and who should be sitting in it but a pigeon.

Each day we went out to check whether the pigeon was still there, and every time, it was sitting in the same spot, as if it hadn't moved. It's now been over two weeks since we first noticed it, and we believe it may be incubating its eggs. At first, we were a bit concerned as we hadn't seen it move and wondered whether it was even eating. But after a bit of Googling, I discovered that pigeons take turns incubating their eggs for up to 19 days, with both the male and female sharing the responsibility. So, chances are, we weren't seeing the same pigeon each time after all!

Nature always has something to teach us. I was struck by the amount of time, sacrifice, care, and nurture these pigeons invested to bring forth new life. Can you imagine sitting in one spot for that long? Or devoting yourself so fully to the care of another? Perhaps you've experienced something similar and can empathise with these committed parent pigeons.

This reminded me of the passage where Jesus compares himself to a mother hen who longs to gather her chicks safely under her wings (**Luke 13:34**). Like a mother hen, Jesus longs to offer protection, shelter, and nurture both to the people of his time and to us today. Jesus lovingly sits beside us, ensuring we are cared for, protected, and nurtured so that the new life God has planted within us can flourish. God's desire is for this gift of new life to hatch, break free and spread to others.

September marks the beginning of a new Connexional or Methodist year. It can be an embryonic time of fresh beginnings, when new ventures can take root and grow. But at the heart of all we do as a church is the call to share God's love and bring about new life for all. We do this by reflecting God's nature that is always present, nurturing, protective, sheltering, and caring.

So, where, to what, and to whom might God be calling us to embody Jesus as the mother hen? Who are the people who need our care and attention? Whom are we being called to walk alongside, or simply sit with? How might we nurture one another in ways that allow us to encounter God anew?

As we step into this new year, I encourage us all to reflect on these questions. Let us be reminded, above all, of God's unfailing love. A love that never leaves our side, never forsakes us, and sits patiently with us until we are ready to step forward in faith, fully alive to the new life God is nurturing within us.

God bless,

Hannah

Dear all,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank everyone who was involved in the Holiday Club and the New Town Community Day. Both events were truly spectacular and provided wonderful opportunities to be witnesses of God's love to our community.

Your time, dedication, and commitment are deeply valued and sincerely appreciated. We can only hope and pray that the seeds of God's love have been sown and will continue to grow in the days to come.

With heartfelt thanks,

Hannah

SEPTEMBER

September is named after the Latin word 'septem', meaning 'seven, because it was the seventh month on the ancient Roman calendar before the addition of January and February at the beginning of the year.

Though it is now the ninth month, it kept its original name following calendar reforms.

The most common plant referred to as the 'September flower' is the Aster, which is the official birth flower for September.

Asters are hardy, perennial plants with star-shaped flowers, similar to daisies, that bloom in a variety of colours, including pink, purple, blue, and white, and are associated with symbolism like love, faith, elegance, and wisdom.

NEWS FROM THE VESTRY

September always heralds the start of the new Connexional year, but in layman's terms – normality resumes, starting with Harvest, planning for Christmas and Advent, even looking ahead to 2026!

So, as we enter this time (hopefully fully re-charged from a summer break) please may you consider supporting the various meetings and services and fully enter into the life of our church here at Wimpole Road.

Our Sunday worship will soon be enhanced by the completion of the long-awaited kitchenette and accessible toilet, and we ask for your patience whilst the work is in progress. This means that after the service the opportunity for fellowship and sharing in refreshments will not require re-locating to the Parlour, and will be therefore be more inclusive.

We hope to have good news soon about some of our vacancies being filled but there will be an opportunity for some extra technical, computer support. We always need a 'Plan B' and whilst Andrew, Edward and Matthew currently share the operation of the audio-visual system during the service, it would be good to have some extra help on a Sunday morning.

Equally sometimes extra items need to be imbedded into the system prior to the service. Training and guidance will be given, if you feel able to undertake this role occasionally.

Also, whilst Debbie does an excellent job in producing the PowerPoints, she would appreciate someone else to do them sometimes. This is an invaluable aid to our worship and we depend upon it, so if you have a computer and some spare time, please speak to Debbie, and she will gladly give you some expert tuition.

Another way to participate in our worship is to take a turn at reading from the lectern. Sadly, due to various reasons our numbers on the rota have dwindled but the current readers would welcome some new faces, to lessen their load. Sometimes in a service there can be three Bible readings, so the more people the better. Please speak to Alison if you would like to help.

We echo our grateful thanks to Andrew and the Coltman family for the Holiday Club, and especially to him and Juliet for undertaking the organisation of the New Town Community Day once again. It is a big commitment and involves lots of planning throughout the year, but both events provide outreach to our local community.

I would like to draw your attention to Sunday 28 September, when immediately after the morning service we will hold our General Church Meeting in the church. Hannah will be there and this will be an opportunity for EVERYONE to hear about what is planned and to have chance to participate in discussion. This meeting is mandatory to elect or re-elect the Stewards etc. but should be fairly short in duration. Please remain behind if you are able – everyone is welcome!

Alison Ablewhite

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Earlier this week my phone line was changed to a digital line, and the internet provision was altered. As far as these things go, I think everything was pretty much straightforward until it was left to me to sort out the Wi-Fi extender mesh system at which point things went less well. I was very grateful to be bailed out later in the week by a friend who knew about such things! My initial concern was whether I could still do the Zoom Bible Study. This wasn't a problem as I was so close to the router, but to lose the connection in something I was leading wouldn't have been good.

I realise there are those who manage without the internet and others who would prefer for it not to be part of their lives. However, I think we'd all agree that the internet is here to stay and our reliance on it is growing ever greater (whether we like it or not). To be connected to the internet is reliant on wireless technology and other people with appropriate knowledge and expertise. If the internet goes down, then the world would stop.

We can imagine what that might feel like from a practical point of view, but we also know that we will never be left completely alone. God, who draws close to us in Jesus through the Holy Spirit, will never be disconnected from us. He will always keep the channels of communication open. We don't need wires, or wireless technology to connect with God. We only need to come into God's presence, allow the Holy Spirit to work within us for us to be truly connected as Christ's disciples. This should bring us great comfort. We don't need to be reliant on anyone else. We are offered a 24/7 invitation to be connected to God.

We can draw close to God at any time in prayer. We may pray as we are sitting at home looking out of the window, as we go out for a walk, sit in church or wherever we find ourselves. We may choose to focus ourselves through the use of a candle or we might suddenly see something whilst we're out and pray a very quick 'arrow' prayer for a particular need. Wherever we find ourselves, or whatever we need to talk to God about, we can do so because the connection is always open. It is totally dependable and reliable. We can, and should, rejoice!

As we're going about our daily lives over the coming weeks and months, let's give thanks to God for all that Jesus has done for us and that the Holy Spirit enables us to talk to God about anything. Wherever we are and whatever we're facing the connection with God is there.

God bless,

Chris

MONTHLY PRAYER

Dear Lord,
Give me a heart that longs for You.
Help me to seek You with all my heart, mind and soul.
Amen

"You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart".
Jeremiah 29:13

THURSDAY CIRCLE

There was no formal programme for Thursday Circle in August, just informal meetings to chat, play cards, Scrabble etc. at the usual time on Thursday afternoons, but we will be back to normal from 4 September.

Coming up:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 4 September | Gentle Keep Fit from an exercise CD |
| 11 September | Beetle Drive – prize for the winner and a ‘booby’ one for the overall loser! |
| 18 September | Autumn/Harvest Festival – do come and sing with us. |
| 25 September | Quiz in aid of Toilet Twinning Charity. |

**Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings
on Thursday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.**

Joan Gomer
Secretary

LETTER from CHRISTIAN AID 8 August 2025

Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for your incredible support, prayers and generosity this Christian Aid Week. Your gift of £147.56 on behalf of Wimpole Road Methodist Church, Colchester will help families around the world to transform their own lives.

With heartfelt thanks,

Your Christian Aid Week Team

**{Money raised was £102.56 from Pentecost Service on the Recreation Ground £102.56
and Thursday Circle Quiz, £45.00}**

‘SONGS OF PRAISE’ SERVICE

We are planning a ‘Songs of Praise’ service for our next Local Arrangement
on **Sunday October 14.**

If you would like us to include a personal favourite hymn, please let us know
by **Sunday September 28.**

Thank you.

Worship Leaders: Joan, Christine and Graham

I ASKED GOD

I asked God to take away my pride,
And God said, "No."
He said it was not for Him to take it away,
But for me to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole,
And God said, "No."
He said her spirit already is,
While her body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience,
And God said, "No."
He said patience is a by-product of tribulation;
It isn't granted, it is earned.

I asked God to give me happiness,
And God said, "No."
He said *"I give blessings;
Happiness is up to you."*

I asked God to spare me pain,
And God said, "No."
He said, *"Suffering draws you apart from
Worldly cares and brings you closer to Me."*

I asked God to make my spirit grow,
And God said, "No."
He said I must grow on my own,
But He will prune me to make me fruitful.

I asked God if He loved me,
And God said, "Yes."
He gave me His only Son, who died for me.
And I will be in heaven someday.

I asked God to help me love others
As much as He loves me,
And God said,

"Ah, finally, you have the idea."

A poem by Claudia Minden Weisz

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

7 September	Rev. Hannah Chun - Holy Communion
114 September	Local Arrangement
21 September	Joe Navoka
28 September	Ron Firmin

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.*

DIARY DATES

Saturday 20 September at Castle 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.

‘Serving the Present Age?’ - Circuit Prayer Group, led by Rev/ Chris Preece.

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

Sunday 28 September. General Church Meeting – after the morning service.

Everyone welcome.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous God,

We thank You for Your patience when we are slow to understand.

We thank you for Your forgiveness when we make a mistake.

We thank You for the strength to carry on when we are exhausted.

We thank You for the joy of loving and being loved by You.

Help us to thank You in the way we live our lives to Your greater glory.

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,
especially Martin and Pauline, Sally, Joe and Dave.*



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/2025/08/2025-09-September-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

.....

When I was young, I used to admire intelligent people;
as I grow older, I admire kind people.

Abraham Joshua Heschel