



November 2025

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun
Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoyed the extra hour of rest when the clocks went back recently. As we return from Daylight Saving Time to Greenwich Mean Time, I'm reminded that, in a way, we're returning to how things were before.

November is often a time of remembrance and reflection. It gives us space to remember, reminisce and reflect back to how things were before. We begin the month with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, two occasions that invite us to remember those who have gone before us. On All Saints' Day, we give thanks for all whose lives have been examples of extraordinary faith. It reminds us that, no matter how ordinary our own lives may seem, each of us can live out our faith in ways that are extraordinary in God's eyes.

On All Souls' Day, we may find ourselves remembering loved ones who have passed away and who have touched our lives in special ways. This can be a tender and difficult time for many. If you find yourself grieving, I pray that you will reach out for support, prayer, and comfort in whatever way feels right for you.

On Remembrance Day, we come together to honour those who served and sacrificed in times of conflict. For some, it is also a call to pray for those who continue to suffer in wars and unrest around the world. Then, as November progresses, we move towards Advent, a season of waiting, preparation, longing, and hope.

This month, our calendars seem to guide us through a journey of life, loss, memory, and catharsis. It invites us to grieve if we need to, and to find healing where we can.

Who or what are you remembering at this time? Are you struggling to let go of someone or something from the past? Is there something you long to be released from, forgiven for, or freed of? Reflecting on the past can be healthy, but when the past begins to shape our present or limit our future, it becomes a burden. Let us remember that God holds our past, present, and future in his hands.

So yes, November is a month of remembrance, but it is also a month of hope. As we honour those who have exemplified great faith, remember our loved ones, and reflect on the sacrifices of others, we do so in the light of God's promise that Jesus comes to us to walk alongside us. And as we look forward to Advent, we are reminded that even in times of waiting and uncertainty, God is with us, and hope lives on.

May this season draw us closer to one another and to the God who is present in all the changing seasons of life. May we find comfort in remembering, strength in hope, and joy in anticipating the birth of our Saviour.

With every blessing,

Hannah

NEWS FROM THE VESTRY

Where has the year gone?! Autumn has crept in so quickly. While I love the colours of the leaves, you can definitely feel that chill in the air now. Summer clothes and sandals are back in the wardrobe, and it's time to dust off those cosy jumpers.

This is the time of year when our thoughts start turning towards Advent and the busy Christmas season – although it feels like the supermarkets have had their festive shelves stocked for months already! Details of all our forthcoming services will be included in next month's Newsround.

Before then, we'll be holding our big church clean on the morning of **Saturday 8 November from 9.00 a.m.** Please do come along if you are able – there'll be plenty of cleaning, dusting, polishing, sweeping and vacuuming to get through! The more volunteers we have - the quicker the work will be done.

A reminder that our service on **Sunday 9 November** will begin at the earlier time of **10.45 a.m.** so we can observe the two-minute silence for Remembrance Sunday at 11 o'clock. The service will also include the dedication of the new kitchenette, toilet and vestry.

At the time of writing, all the building work has now been completed and work is underway on the floors in the vestibule and vestry, to be followed by final painting and decoration.

A huge thank you to Edward for overseeing all the improvements, and to Chris for all her support and input throughout. It will be wonderful to have everything up and running and to be able to share tea/coffee and fellowship together in the Church.

Juliet Balls

KITCHENETTE and TOILET PROJECT

Christine Firmin has been keeping you well updated with the combined project of our new kitchenette and toilet. I have been involved in the day-to-day process of looking after the builders and we feel that a big thank you should be given to the family of Jean and David Ablewhite for giving a lovely donation, enabling us to carry out this work and remember all the work they did for our church. A plaque will be placed on the wall in the kitchenette as a tribute to them. A very big thank you to Juliet Balls, Jonathan Ablewhite and Susan Williams.

The main aim of the project was to get the kitchenette at the back of the church and I am pleased to say that the main building work on this, the toilet, vestry and the new audio-visual system is now complete. There is still decorating and some flooring to be completed but by the time you read this, most will be finished.

It is lovely to have all the cabinets and the new bookcases made from the timber of the pews we removed from the church - this has made such a difference and seems that they have been there for years. It is good that there are still skilled craftsmen around to do this work, and we were fortunate to have found some.

As the Church Treasurer I feel that I should say that overall, the whole project has not cost the church too much. The total project is costing in the region of £60,000.00. We received grants from the Colchester Circuit and the District of the Methodist Church of £20,000.00, plus just over £20,000.00 from the Ablewhite Family and £10,000.00 from the late Shirley Frewer and her husband Walter (who were members here for years). We are hoping to get a plaque made and put up near the new toilet in recognition of this donation. The remainder of approximately £10,000.00 has come from our own church funds.

Those of you who remember the old minister's toilet (as it was known) will also remember we had a bad damp problem along the side wall. This has been sorted together with a major change to the fire door that leads out to Harsnett Road, which now opens outward. I am sure you will notice the new floor covering in the vestibule – where there was a major damp problem caused from a leaking pipe some time ago. All this additional work was not originally planned in the project, but by including these necessary issues we have been able to save some money overall.

Thinking of these members who worked so hard in the church, we feel it is fitting to have this project dedicated to them and also for our continuing work here at Wimpole Road. This will take place on Remembrance Sunday 9 November during the service, which will be led by our own Minister Rev. Hannah Chun. We will all then be able to continue our fellowship afterwards with a cup of tea or coffee from our new kitchenette in the church.

Edward Pentney - Church Treasurer & Property Steward

From Property and Finance Committee:

An update on the procedure should anyone have an accident on church premises.

Please complete an accident form, located in the top drawer in the kitchen in a black folder.

Once completed, replace in the folder and inform a Steward at your earliest convenience.

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

There are so many signs all around us of coming towards winter. The leaves are falling off the trees and blowing around the ground. The clocks have gone back, and the temperatures are dropping. The shops are full of things to make us feel cosy, with throws, blankets, candles or whatever it might be. We are all different and our reactions to the changes of seasons will vary.

There are many paradoxes at this time of year, it seems to me. November is a time where we begin the month by remembering people and historical events. In the church year, we are starting to look ahead with hope to the coming of Jesus. It is also a time of recognising that the seasons are slowing down, ready to go into hibernation. At the same time, for so many people beginning to think about preparing for Christmas, this is the opposite speed of that of creation. It is a time where we need to find a place of wholeness and comfort.

We don't have to look far to see that the recipes and food in the shops are all about comfort food. We will all have a different understanding of what we think comfort food is, but it is about eating and feeling a sense of contentment and wholeness. The best comfort food is that which gives us a balanced diet of many different nutrients.

When we think about contentment and wholeness in our spiritual lives, we may well find ourselves turning to prayer and our relationship with God. We seem to have been in an exceptionally busy season and maybe we don't feel the wholeness we would like to feel. If you were to think of your prayer life in relation to a balanced diet, where would you place yourself? Is it in the fast-food category or grab and run, a quick snack, or taking the time to go think about what you were going to have, buy the ingredients and then cook a wholesome meal?

In the paradox of the world which is slowing down and hibernating and the speed of life which seems to be particularly quick at the moment for so many, where are you and where would you like to be in relation to your prayer life? If there's a mismatch, how can you change this? To push the metaphor of the idea of comfort food, what does a wholesome prayer life look like for you?

Maybe it is a brisk walk out kicking up the leaves, or maybe it is to spend some time with Jesus sat cuddled under a blanket with a cup of hot chocolate. Whatever works for you, my prayer is that we will all find the time to stop and find comfort from Jesus, to have some quality time with God and to allow the Holy Spirit to refresh us.

God bless,

Chris

READ YOUR BIBLE!

Lord, let your word be the first voice I hear in the morning,
the last voice I hear at night,
and the guiding voice that leads me through every moment of my life.
Amen

{Extract from Joanne's sermon on 26 October}

MONTHLY PRAYER

‘Let the loveliness of our Lord, our God,
rest on us,
confirming all the work we do.
Oh, yes.
Affirm the work we do’
Amen

Psalm 91:17 {Taken from The Message}

THURSDAY CIRCLE

The month of October began with a talk by myself about my research into the life of my father’s cousin, Charles William Brett, who was a Boer War Volunteer with the Suffolk Regiment.

The following week we had a return visit from Peter Jones, who talked about the lighthouses, light and light ships around the Essex Coast. As usual this was very informative and interesting.

The next week we had another visit from Brian Carline, who is an excellent speaker and very witty. We were in fits of laughter throughout his talk on the ‘Days of Dolly Blue and Izal’. We have now heard all his talks but they are so good that I plan to gradually repeat them over the next few programmes.

The following week the ‘Concorde Singers’ gave us a most enjoyable concert of all sorts of music. They were dressed in their costumes, celebrating 50 years of the group and, although depleted in numbers, still gave us an excellent performance.

The month ended with a talk by Liz White on the convicts from Colchester who were transported.

Coming up:

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|--------------------|---|
| 6 November | Seated activities with Gunni Graygoose |
| 13 November | A visit from the Colchester Hand Bells Society |
| 20 November | A talk about the Essex and Herts, Air Ambulance |
| 27 November | Return visit from Di Bignell to talk about Christmas Traditions |

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings, which are every **Thursday at 2.30 p.m.** New members in particular are always welcome.

Joan Gomer - Secretary

APPEAL FOR SOUP RUN VOLUNTEERS

You may remember that Edward made an appeal last year for extra volunteers for the Soup Run, and I am delighted to say that we have welcomed some new members to the team. However, as a couple of volunteers are no longer able to help, we once again **urgently need male volunteers** to join our Soup Run team.

Our volunteers help to distribute food and drinks and provide support to some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Our Soup Run team is on the rota for the 4th Saturday every other month from 6.45 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. so we cover just six evenings a year. Ideally, we aim to have at least two male volunteers on the team each time, but at present we do not have enough regular male volunteers to provide cover in the event of sickness or unforeseen absence.

Unfortunately, if we are unable to find sufficient volunteers, we may have to consider withdrawing from the Soup Run rota.

Please note, while this appeal is primarily looking for men to join the team, it would also be good to have more sandwich makers and female volunteers!

If you are interested, willing to help, or would like to find out more, please do let me know. Even helping once or twice a year would make a big difference.

Thank you for considering this valued and rewarding outreach.

Juliet Balls

GNOMES

I've repainted my two garden gnomes,
as their colours had started to fade.
I've also decided to give them both names –
Percy Flower and Will Spade.

I wonder who first invented them?
How far back in history they go?
All I know is that children love them
and lots of people have them, I know.

Some people take them on holiday,
to faraway places they go!
Then they take photos of them in Norway,
India, China or Japan in Tokyo.

I collect quirky objects like 'face pots',
all lined up on my kitchen window sill.
Now as I gaze outside, I can see them –
my little gnomes - Percy and Will.

Pat Farrow

WESLEY'S RULE FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

*“Do All the Good You Can,
By All the Means You Can,
In All the Ways You Can,
In All the Places You Can,
At All the Times You Can,
To All the People You Can,
As long as EverYou Can!”*

John Wesley (1703 – 1791)

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***Rev. Anna Davis (St. Stephen's) is running a short Advent Course on Zoom***

### **A new course: 'SHAPE' (starting 13 November)**

On 13 November we will begin a new course called SHAPE — a journey of discovering God-given gifts, abilities, passions, and how to nurture and deploy them. The course is for everyone (whether long-standing or new in faith), because each one of us bears in our heart a unique calling. Sometimes that calling lies quiet, waiting for encouragement, space, and permission.

The course is 5 weeks long, starting on Thursday 13 November, meeting every week until 11 December. This course will be held online on this occasion, meeting 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. It is suitable for anyone aged 14 or over.

To sign up, please click the link below. If you are interested but this current format does not work for you, please still complete the form and share that response so that this can be considered in future planning.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdoS4jQ1nifRMu9MGc4BrjsmJyRvyJgljWBrDyWdzagZtdMLw/viewform>

SHAPE is about helping us see what God has already placed within us, freeing us from comparison or shame, and empowering us to serve in ways that bring purpose and joy. As Saint Paul encourages us: each of us has a gift, “one has this, another has that” Romans 12). As a church, when more of us step into our God-given shape, we become stronger — more diverse, more resilient, more loving.

### **INVITATION TO GROUP PRAYER SESSIONS**

As prayer is crucial in our lives as Christians, both personally on our walk with Jesus and for the health of our churches, I would like to invite you to something new I am setting up, as well as highlighting existing opportunities for regular prayer and worship midweek.

***Full details in the St. Stephen's Newsletter (link on back page)***

## WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

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|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 November                                  | Local Arrangement                 |
| 9 November 10.45 a.m.<br>Remembrance Sunday | Rev. Hannah Chun / Holy Communion |
| 16 November                                 | Sally Crafer                      |
| 23 November                                 | Rev. Robin Spittle                |
| 30 November                                 | Local Arrangement                 |

### 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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### DIARY DATES

**Saturday 8 November at Wivenhoe 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.**  
**‘Serving the Present Age?’ - Circuit Prayer Group, led by Rev. Hannah Chun.**  
To support God’s mission for our churches in Colchester. All welcome

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

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

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### PRAYER CORNER

Lord of all seasons.  
Everything changes, nothing stays the same,  
Teach me to accept this, and learn from it.  
As the year changes, so, too, our lives must change.

Let me keep in my heart the hope of spring,  
And the glory of autumn.

In this ever-changing world  
Lord, let me always be aware of your love  
For this alone is everlasting, unfailing,  
And unchangeable.  
Amen.





## 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/2025/10/2025-11-November-2025-Newsletter-Comp-V01.00.pdf>

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## FUTURE NEWSROUNDS

If you have any items 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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## REMEMBRANCE

"The life of the dead is placed in the memory of the living."

*Marcus Tullius Cicero*