



October 2025

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun
Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

In my last pastoral letter, I shared a story about a pair of pigeons nesting in our garden. If you've been wondering what happened next, here's part two of that tale. The parent pigeons gave birth to two baby pigeons (or squabs), and they nested in our manse tree for quite some time. One day, I spotted one of the parent pigeons perched between the two squabs, feeding each of them from its beak. I found great joy in watching them, checking on them each day. Then, one day, they were gone. It seemed the young pigeons had finally flown the nest and set off on their journey into the big wide world.

You may find it odd, but I felt a surprising sense of loss. Something that had been present day after day had suddenly disappeared, leaving an unexpected emptiness. Loss, takes many forms, large and small, deep and shallow. Whenever someone or something has held a place in our lives and is no longer there, we experience a form of grief. And that grief, like loss itself, comes in many different ways.

As the days grow colder and the nights longer, we may find ourselves facing another kind of loss. This may be the fading of warm, bright days, and the withdrawal of green and colourful gardens as trees begin to shed their leaves. Yet the season of Harvest invites us to reflect that even in times of barrenness, God can bring fruitfulness. Even in seasons of loss, new life and purpose can emerge.

This leads me to wonder, how can we, as a Church, continue to remain fruitful and hopeful in times that may feel unfruitful or uncertain? There's no denying that churches are not what they once were. The future may not resemble the past. Many of us may not be able to do what we once did. Congregations may shrink, and we might question whether our efforts make any difference.

But let's remember that God is not dead. God does not sleep. God is continually at work, unfolding his purposes through what we do. Where we may see loss, God sees hope of a plentiful harvest. It may not look like it once did, nor arrive in the shape we expect, but it will surely come. And perhaps, it is already quietly taking root among us.

Interestingly, pigeons are known to return to the same nesting spot year after year. So perhaps, one day, the pigeons will return to our manse garden, bringing with them signs of new life once again, just as life has a way of returning, even after seeming absence.

The hope of new life continues with pigeons, and with the Church. Seasons of change, loss, and uncertainty are not the end of the story. God's work is ongoing. The promise of new life hasn't left us. It simply asks us to watch, to wait, and to trust that in God's time, and in God's way, life and fruitfulness will come again, perhaps differently, but just as surely.

Every blessing,

Hannah

HARVEST - A SHORT HISTORY

Harvest is from the Anglo-Saxon word *hærfest*, 'Autumn'. It then came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering grain and other grown products. The full moon nearest the autumnal equinox is called the Harvest Moon. So, in ancient traditions Harvest Festivals were traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. This moon is the full moon which falls in the month of September.

An early Harvest Festival used to be celebrated at the beginning of the Harvest season on 1 August and was called *Lammas*, meaning 'loaf Mass'. Farmers made loaves of bread from the fresh wheat crop. These were given to the local church as the Communion bread during a special service thanking God for the harvest.

Nowadays the festival is held at the end of harvest, which varies in different parts of Britain.

Farmers celebrated the end of the harvest with a big meal called a harvest supper. Some churches and villages still have a Harvest Supper.

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as 'We plough the fields and scatter', 'Come ye thankful people, come' and 'All things bright and beautiful' helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.

NEWS FROM THE VESTRY

The last few weeks of summer seem to have passed very quickly. We now wake up to crisper mornings and need some warmth in the evening.

However, much has happened during that short time as you will see as you look around the inside of the church building. Progress has been made and we are beginning to get a feeling of what the result of the work will be in physical terms.

My anticipation and excitement is growing in what God has planned for us in the future.

We start October with our Harvest Festival on the 5th October - a time to celebrate all the blessings God has given us as well as reflecting on our responsibilities of how to use and share his provision.

We pray for guidance and wisdom in our **Church Council on Thursday 16th October at 7.00 p.m.** This is essentially a 'business meeting' but also contains a section for discussion on worship and mission - so please, if you have any questions, thoughts and ideas of how we can move forward as a worshipping community speak to a C.C. Representative or come along and join in.

Anyone can attend these meetings; may I remind you that it is the elected Church Council who will be asked to vote.

On wider circuit issues, you will be aware that there are difficulties in filling weekly preaching appointments. Please do read the circuit information about it and continue to pray about how these issues may be overcome. As you will read, changes will need to be made, so we pray for tolerance and understanding.

Not an instant fix I know, but if you feel called to be a Worship Leader or a Local Preacher there will be great rejoicing.

After the General Church Meeting on 28th September, I reiterate our thanks to Debbie for all her work as a steward and to welcome back Alison, (who almost never left), onto the stewards' team.

So many of our faithful folk here work hard, often without being noticed, to ensure this church is supported and able to continue. Thank you to you all.

Every blessing

Christine Firmin

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

I was looking through a drawer a couple of weeks ago and came across a set of postcards I'd bought last year. They were of lines from songs and the one which caught my eye was of a line from the song Moon River which was written for the film 'Breakfast at Tiffany's.' The song was an instant hit, winning various awards and has become a classic in its own way for many people since.

Johnny Mercer, who wrote the lyrics, used the river he knew from his childhood in Savannah, Georgia as the inspiration. The message of the song is not just about dreaming of the future but acting to make the dream a reality. One particular line in it, the line on the postcard, is 'Wherever you're going, I'm going your way.'

There is such a sense of togetherness and companionship here. here is also a sense of anticipation and adventure which can be seen in some of the lyrics and a momentum in 'Wherever you're going, I'm going your way.' We maybe don't use these exact words to other people, but we seek to walk alongside others.

If you were to think that Jesus was saying to you 'Wherever you're going, I'm going your way,' I wonder how that would make you feel? There are so many examples of the times where Jesus' presence is there to help and guide us through the Holy Spirit, wherever we are on the journey of life. If we are facing a difficult time, Jesus says 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' In the Great Commission at the end of Matthew's gospel, when Jesus sends the disciples out to go and make disciples of all nations, he reminds them that he is always with them until the very end of the age. If we are faithful in our journey with God, we will know that Jesus is going our way.

The title of the song, 'Moon River,' could be a reminder that the nights are drawing in and, for some, this can be a difficult time. It could also be a reminder that wherever we are, whether it is night or day, Jesus is with us. Whether it is an actual or a metaphorical journey, Jesus is with us.

It is important to remember that God will continue to lead us through the Holy Spirit on our own personal journeys of discipleship and together as churches. Jesus will always be with us as a constant and reassuring presence. We need to make sure we turn to Jesus so that he can lead us in his ways. That way, we can be sure that we will be walking in the ways of Jesus today and every day.

On our journey of life, Jesus will be alongside us. Jesus will bring us the comfort we need and will lead us in his ways. Let us rejoice in this once again as we remember that Jesus' presence is assured today and every day until the end of the age.

God bless,

Chris

MONTHLY PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
when we are downcast and troubled
help us to put our hope and trust in you.
Amen

Why are you downcast, o my soul?
Why are you so disturbed within me.
Put your hope in God
For I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.
{Psalm 42:11}

THURSDAY CIRCLE

We began the month with a Gentle Keep Fit session. This was achieved by watching and following a CD provided to me by the Keep Fit Association during the pandemic. All present enjoyed it and we will include this again in future programmes.

The following week was a Beetle Drive, with myself winning the prize and Sheila Mac taking the 'booby' prize.

That was followed by our autumn Harvest Festival. Thanks to Beryl for coming to play the piano and thank you to all our readers.

The month concluded with a Quiz Afternoon, whereby we raised £67 for Tearfund's Toilet Twinning. Thank you to all who contributed in any way.

Coming up:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 2 October | In a change to the advertised programme, I will talk on my research of a Boer War Soldier. |
| 9 October | A return visit by Peter Jones to talk about Essex Lighthouses. |
| 16 October | Brian Carline will talk on 'Days of Dolly Blue and Izal'. He is an excellent speaker, very witty and informative. |
| 23 October | A Concert by the Concorde Singers, usually very enjoyable. |
| 30 October | A talk by Liz White, Secretary of Lexden History Society, on 'Colchester Convicts Transported'. |

**Everyone, male or female, young or old,
is welcome to join us on Thursday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.**

*Joan Gomer
Secretary*

THIS SEPTEMBER

This September, harvest time –
abundant fruit on trees like mine.
Mornings arrive, with a nip in the air,
then, out comes the sun, bringing warmth everywhere.

The squirrel scampers about, with a nut in his mouth.
Spiders spin cobwebs – north and south –
on windows and railings, they don't seem to care -
and if we're not careful, they catch in our hair!

Some days we've had thunder, then torrents of rain,
and just as quickly, there's sunshine again -
followed by rainbows arcing across the skies.
Yet one more of God's wonders to bring to our eyes.

This afternoon, the sky turned an ominous black –
followed by lightning and loud thunderclaps.
Moss washed out of gutters, flower tubs sodden through.
Afterwards, stillness – the sky back to blue!

Recently we've had winds so strong –
I think our weather's going wrong!
No rain today – clouds racing by –
but on the plus side, the washing's got dry.

Our harvest bounty – here for all.
Spring and Summer's gone, now into Fall.
Blackberries on brambles, cobnuts on trees,
ripe apples, pears and plums – pollinated by busy bees.

Pat Farrow

**It's the root that is the strength of any plant or flower or tree:
the root that feeds the fruiting bough, the secret part that none can see.**

**We, too, must have roots in life, and when the storms blow wild and cold –
we shall not break, but stand up straight ... because the hidden roots will hold.**

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

5 October	Rev. Hannah Chun Harvest Festival / Holy Communion
12 October	Local Arrangement
19 October	Jonathan Sparkes
26 October	Joanne Eckersley

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 11 October at The Ark 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.
‘Serving the Present Age?’ - Circuit Prayer Group, led by Chris Firmin.

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

Thursday 16 October 7.00 p.m. Church Council. Everyone 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,
especially the family and friends of Val Potter.*

*Her funeral is 1.00 p.m. Tuesday 14 October at Colchester Crematorium,
followed by the wake at Colchester Golf Club.*

NEW TOWN COMMUNITY DAY - FINAL TOTALS

The final totals are in! Special thanks to Kayleigh Rippingale who has covered the cost of the Mobile Skate Park from the locality budget. Most of our other expenses this year were covered by a grant from Colchester Borough Homes and also Sodexo who once again provided all the food for the BBQ!

We are delighted that, as a result of these generous contributions, our chosen charities for this year (St. Stephen's Church and Mid and North East Essex Mind) will receive £640 each.

Once again, many thanks for all your help and support,

Juliet Balls



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/2025/09/2025-10-October-2025-Newsletter-Comp-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

.....

**Nature does not rush from summer blue to winter grey.
We are given time to watch the glory fade away.
Time to see the changing colours of the countryside
As we stroll along the golden lanes of autumntide.**