



March 2026

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun
Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

At a recent coffee morning, someone asked me whether I regretted becoming a minister. I replied, *“Why do you ask?”* And he said, *“Well, you must have to make lots of difficult decisions.”* My response was, *“No, I don’t regret it. And yes, sometimes there are difficult decisions, but I work as part of a team, and I never have to do it alone.”* That is so true. It is a real relief to know that I don’t work alone, and it is wonderful to serve alongside all of you. The journey is so much more enriching, strengthening, and life-giving when we share it with others, wouldn’t you agree?

I am reminded that even Jesus did not do ministry, or life, alone. At the very beginning of his ministry, he chose twelve disciples to walk with him. If Jesus did not choose to do it alone, neither can we. As he needed his disciples alongside him, we need one another.

Yet I sometimes wonder what it must have been like for those disciples. I would like to imagine they always got along well, but did they? Each one came with different personalities, opinions, and experiences. They must have had to learn, over time, how to live and work together. Perhaps they had to let go of some of their own assumptions in order to understand one another. Perhaps they had to surrender certain viewpoints for the sake of unity and the greater good. Letting go is rarely easy, whether it is opinions, long-held perspectives, habits, or even something more tangible. It requires humility. It requires trust.

Interestingly, from the very start, Jesus taught the disciples about letting go. When he first called them, they left everything behind to follow him. In his first great sermon, the Beatitudes, he challenged them to let go of established ideas that would have formed their world view up to that point. He invited them to see the world differently.

Lent is often seen as a season of giving things up and letting things go. But it is not about deprivation nor about creating emptiness. Rather, it is about creating space, space for God to work, space for grace to grow, space for new life to emerge. We let go not to lose, but to be filled. And perhaps that is how we are called to live together as followers of Jesus. To let go of whatever creates disunity and to make room for one another to grow and flourish. And to trust that when we walk together, even through difficult decisions or uncertain seasons, we do not walk alone.

As we journey through this season of Lent, may we have the courage to release what weighs us down, the grace to support one another, and the faith to trust that God is shaping us, not as individuals in isolation, but as a community growing together in love. And in that shared journey, may we discover again that we are stronger, richer, and more deeply blessed when we walk side by side.

Blessings on your Lenten journey,

Hannah

P.S. If you are feeling isolated and alone in your journey of faith, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or any one of us at church.

PRAYER FOR THIS MONTH

**Heavenly Father,
as we think of our ministry in this place, we pray;
'Let the favour of you,
our lord and God be upon us
and make the working of our hands strong'.
Amen.**

{Psalm 90: v 17}

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

For many years we held regular Prayer and Bible Study meetings in the home of one of our members. Those who attended enjoyed fellowship by sharing our views, asking questions and voicing our concerns for one another and ourselves in our prayers. And of course, we enjoyed the inevitable tea, coffee and biscuits!

For various reasons (Covid being one) these meetings have ceased and I have been asked to explore the possibility of another meeting starting and find out what might be the best way of approaching something new. For example, what time of day would suit most people, morning, afternoon or evening, and in church premises or a more casual setting of someone's home?

Please pray and let me have your ideas and opinions. Every blessing,

Christine F

NEWS FROM THE VESTRY

The Stewards continue to meet at least once a quarter with Rev. Hannah to support her in ministry here and prepare for the organisation of the following quarter.

At the last General Church Meeting, Stephen Tuthill was accepted as a prospective steward and agreed to shadow the Stewards to gain a greater understanding of the role.

However, Stephen, with Felicity will now be worshipping elsewhere for the foreseeable future, which means we are a Sunday Steward less and the vacancy for Church Steward is once again open.

We pray for a continued blessing for their faith journey and spiritual growth and wish them fulfillment in their chosen place of worship.

We continue to pray that someone from our membership will feel called to serve God in the important role of Church Steward for Wimpole Road.

As we embark on the season of Lent, we look forward to brighter weather and the hope that is in Christ's glorious resurrection.

We are blessed to have Rev. Hannah lead three services in Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday evening with Holy Communion, Good Friday morning and Easter Sunday, again with Holy Communion. All are welcome to worship with us.

Please put these dates in your diary and keep watching the rolling notices on Sunday mornings for details of other Lenten services here or in the local area.

We thank God for all that he has done for us and ask for wisdom and guidance to continue the work he has for us to do.

Every blessing,

Christine

LENT

Pause. Breathe. Make space for God

Lent is bigger than giving up chocolate. It's about letting go of what weighs us down and being open to what lifts us up. The benefits last longer than 40 days – it's a way of life, and we do it together.

Methodist Lent (lasting 40 days, starting Ash Wednesday) is not governed by strict, mandatory rules, but rather voluntary spiritual disciplines focused on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to prepare for Easter. It is a time for self-examination, repentance, and focusing on God.

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

It's always interesting to come across new nuggets of information. I was reading something a couple of weeks ago which included an explanation of the origins of the word focus. Focus is originally the Latin word for hearth, fireplace or, perhaps slightly more primitively, burning point. If we were to think about a room with an open fireplace, it does become a point to which our eyes are drawn. It is a place of movement, dynamism and energy.

Today, when we use the word focus it's not so much in the context of a hearth or fireplace directly. It is more about providing a moment of concentration on one particular area or creating a spotlight on something or making it the centre of attention for some reason. This may be physical, but it could also be about something in our lives. In the way we use the word most readily today, we can see how it has grown from the Latin root, as a fireplace would be the centre of attention in a room both physically and a place to bring people together relationally.

We might also think of times where things are out of focus for a particular reason. For those of us who wear glasses this might be something we can perhaps easily relate to. When something is unfocussed, it's probably a bit blurry and we long for some clarity.

We can relate all these aspects to our journey with God. During Lent, we are encouraged to place an emphasis on our discipleship. Where in our lives might something be a little out of focus? Maybe we would like to spend more time in prayer or reading our Bible, or appreciating all God has done for us in creation.

We may feel we need to place Jesus more at the centre of our thinking, praying and action. This time of Lent could be a time on which we consider new ways to encounter Jesus who is always ready to meet with us. Maybe the analogy of meeting Jesus by the fireplace for a chat is one which is helpful.

We often associate the Holy Spirit with wind, breath or fire. In this context, the metaphor of fire is the most appropriate. The dynamism and movement of the flames reminds us of how God the Holy Spirit moves. If we are open to the work of the Spirit, we are open to how God is seeking to shape and form us for good.

Lent is a time of preparation and a season of penitence. At the end of the month, we come to Holy Week where once again we think about Jesus' journey to the cross. As part of our preparation, we need to be focussed on our discipleship.

During this Lenten period let us focus, in all the meanings of the word, on God. If there is a part of our lives where things seem to be a little out of focus, it would be good to bring that before God. Let us concentrate on our relationship with Jesus, placing him at the centre, and allow the Holy Spirit to move within and between us.

God bless,

Chris

VESTRY CROSS

Following the transformation of the Vestry, toilet and corridor I noted that there was no cross on the wall of the vestry and felt that it would finish off the room.

There is an empty wall next to the door that would be perfect, especially as when preachers left the room it would be visible as they went into the main church.

Talking with Alison last Sunday morning we felt that a verse from the Bible positioned under the cross would complete the room - but ideally a verse chosen by the members from Wimpole Road.

The idea would be for everyone to send Alison their favourite verse and once done we could all vote on the most suitable.

Jonathan Sparkes

Here are a few suggestions already received:

Mark 16:15

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Luke 9:2

And he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God

Romans 5:1

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"

TWO LETTERS OF THANKS

Action for Children:

We were so grateful to receive your recent donation of £170, raised during the Three Together Carol Service in December.

Thanks to the generosity of amazing people like you, last year Action for Children supported 551,400 children, young people and families

Stand By Me:

Thank you very much for your kind donation towards the work of Stand by Me. Your gift of £100.07 from your harvest collections has been designated for Priority Projects.

We appreciate you partnering with us and your kindness is enabling us to care for thousands of children at risk around the world.

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Following a break for Christmas and the New Year, our first meeting on 5 February was a Beetle Drive. Val Pavitt won the prize (a packet of Penguins) for getting the highest score and Olwyn Powell got the booby prize (a Club biscuit) for the lowest one!

The next week was the Annual General Meeting, presided over by Rev. Hannah. The meeting decided to raise the subscription to £2 each week. After the meeting we played some pen and pencil games.

We then had a week when members were encouraged to bring a C.D. We had a relaxing afternoon listening to (amongst others) Michael Ball, Pavorotti, Roy Orbison, Abba and The Eagles.

Coming up:

- 5 March** Board and Card Games
- 12 March** Quiz Afternoon raising funds for East Anglian Children's Hospice.
- 19 March** 'Soil, Sweat and Tears' – a talk by Brian Carline. His talks are always interesting and witty.
- 26 March** 'The History of the Incas' – a talk by our good friend Graham Duthie.
- 29 March** We have responsibility for the Sunday morning service on Palm Sunday.

Do come and join us on **Thursday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.**

Joan Gomer (Secretary)

RAIN

Rain, rain, rain – when's it going to stop?

One sunny day on Wednesday, the rest was just a flop.

Drip, drip, drip – right over my back door.

My blocked gutter is the cause, never had so much rain before!

'Lovely weather for ducks', I suppose that saying is true!

That however doesn't help I'm sure, for me and also you.

Enough of all my moaning, I hope it soon will stop.

Then summer, when there is a drought, I'll moan some more, no doubt!!

Pat Farrow

17TH CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself
that I am growing older and will someday be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something
on every subject, and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody;
helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all,
but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details;
give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains.

They are increasing and love of rehearsing them
is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains,
but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory,
but for a growing humility
and a lessening cocksureness
when my memory seems to clash with others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet – I do not want to be a saint,
some of them are so hard to live with,
but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places,
and talents in unexpected people.

And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

1 March	Joe Navoka
8 March	Rev. Hannah Chun / Holy Communion
15 March	Local Arrangement
22 March	Ron Firmin
29 March	Local Arrangement – Palm Sunday

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS

*Join us after the service for coffee/tea and biscuits in the church
for a time of fellowship and refreshments.*

DIARY DATES

Saturday 14 March at The Ark 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

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 Jill
Fisher. Her funeral is Tuesday 10 March, 2.00pm at Wimpole Road Methodist
Church. Everyone invited to remain afterwards for refreshments.*

**If you would like to make a donation towards our work here at Wimpole Road,
and within our wider community, you can do so by using the QR code below:**



There is also a card reader situated at the back of the church.



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/2026/02/2026-03-March-2026-Newsletter-Compressed-V01.00.pdf>

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

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk

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