



April 2026

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun
Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

We have a plant in our manse garden (please don't ask me what it is called!) that we were quite certain had died during the winter frost. To our amazement, it has recently begun to show green shoots. A plant we believed was dead had, in fact, been dormant and alive all along, waiting for the right moment to rise and sprout again.

I wonder if this has something to say to us about the nature of God. God has a way of bringing back to life what we may feel has died or ended. And God often does this in ways we do not expect.

Have there been moments or situations in your life when you thought something had come to an end? When everything felt hopeless or lifeless? Perhaps you felt that no new life could possibly come from it. We may see certain circumstances as finished, beyond hope or renewal, but God sees the possibility of green shoots.

I keep returning to our recent lectionary readings from Ezekiel and John, where God breathes life into dry bones and where Lazarus is raised from the dead. These passages may not make sense in human terms, yet they reveal God's power to bring life out of what we perceive as final and hopeless.

One message I often hear across our churches is that we are an aging congregation. This is true, and it is simply the reality of life, as none of us are getting any younger. Yet this does not mean that God is finished with us. God has worked through his people in every season of life and continues to do so. As God has been in the past, God is with us now and will be with us in the future. He is the Alpha and the Omega. He is the Resurrection and the Life.

As we journey toward Easter, what are your hopes and wishes? Where would you like to see new life emerging?

Perhaps we are more like that plant than we realise. What looks like an ending may, in God's hands, simply be a time of waiting. What appears lifeless may still hold the promise of renewal. The resurrection of Jesus reminds us that even the tomb is not the end, that God can bring new life out of the deepest darkness, and hope out of despair.

Just as those small green shoots have appeared where we least expected them, so too God is at work in us, in our churches, and in our communities. And also, in you and those you love. Easter proclaims that life will rise again. May we trust in that promise, look for the signs of new growth around us, and be open to the surprising ways God brings resurrection life into our lives, our church and our world.

May the joy of Easter be with you all.

God bless,

Hannah

PRAYER FOR THIS MONTH

Thank you, Jesus, that you have freed us from our sin
by your sacrifice on the cross.
To you be glory and power forever.
Amen

{Based on Revelation 1:5b-6}

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

{Ed: Please let Christine have your thoughts – she would appreciate some feedback}

NEWS FROM THE VESTRY

As mentioned in previous issues of the Newsround, Hannah has very kindly offered to put together occasional services, including a pre-recorded sermon, to help with covering Local Arrangements. The second of these took place on Mothering Sunday, and once again the Stewards were able to help in delivering the message. We are so very grateful to Hannah and hope that these services are proving meaningful and well received.

Spring has now truly arrived - a season full of hope and new life - and we look forward to sharing the joy of Easter together.

Please do join us during Holy Week here at Wimpole Road. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 6:30 p.m. on Maundy Thursday (2 April), a time for reflection at 10:00 a.m. on Good Friday (3 April), and our Easter Day worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday (5 April). There will also be additional services and events at St. Stephen's and St. Margaret's. If you would like further information about any of these services, please speak to a Steward.

Finally, a reminder that we would welcome another member to the Steward team, as well as a Sunday Steward. If you are interested or would like to know more, please speak to any of the Stewards – we would be happy to answer any questions.

God Bless

Juliet

VESTRY CROSS – UPDATE

Following on from the appeal for a verse to be inscribed on a plaque underneath a wooden cross, the following verse received the most votes:

Mark 16:15

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

The inscribed plaque with the cross mounted above it are both in situ, at eye level near to the door, so that preachers can see them as they leave the vestry to commence leading worship in the church. Thanks to Jonathan for his idea.

Ed: We are indebted to Anthony for his expertise, and indeed for everything which he does to keep our church functioning. I don't think there's many areas of the church (inside and out as well as above!) that haven't benefited from the 'Anthony touch'!

He's often found on top of a ladder (clearing gutters or removing cobwebs); wielding a hammer/crowbar to repair floors, remove pews etc. as well as being creative with a paintbrush and chisels - amongst many other roles.

So, Anthony, please accept the heartfelt thanks and gratitude from us all at Wimpole Road - we do appreciate your dedication, time and varied skills.

MANSE ON THE MOVE!

Away from my responsibilities at Wimpole Road Church as Treasurer and Property Steward, I am also a Circuit Steward in the Colchester Methodist Circuit, which Wimpole Road is a part of, with responsibility for Property, meaning if either of our ministers have any problems with their Manses (houses) they live in, it is my job (in conjunction with the Circuit Leadership Team) to organise and sort it.

Currently I look after the house where Rev. Chris Preece lives in Cambridge Road and where Rev. Hannah lives in Robin Crescent, Stanway.

Rev. Hannah has been in Colchester about 2 ½ years. A few months after she arrived, she said to me one day that some cracks had appeared in some of the rooms. After watching them and getting a surveyor to look as well, we decided to advise our Insurance Company, the Methodist Insurance Company. They sent their surveyor to look, and it was decided that the property had moved and it was suffering from subsidence.

Nearly 18 months later and after several different tests, we have now come to the time when work is about to start to minimise this problem.

This work is going to take at least 6 months, and Hannah, Yoon and the children have decided it would be better for them to move into temporary accommodation in Colchester (preferably in Stanway for the children's schooling) while this work is going on - currently we are working with an agent to find suitable accommodation. During the next month Hannah and the family will be packing part of their belongings, ready to move, so the contractors can start work in early May.

I would ask that you remember Hannah, Yoon and the children in your prayers and thoughts, while they are going through this very difficult time, and having to live in a different house, whilst this work is going on. Hannah is putting a very brave face on this situation, and taking it all in her stride - but please remember them all.

Edward Pentney

JILL FISHER

Nicola, Nick and Helena would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone at Wimpole Road who sent cards and messages or shared happy memories of their Mum and Nana recently.

We were touched by the number of people who came to her funeral service and especially to Rev. Hannah and the Stewards for their help and support.

Thank you also for the generous donations to Save The Children, in memory of Mum.

Nicola Cameron

HALL HEATING PROBLEM - UPDATE

Over the last 3 months or so anyone using the halls would have noticed that we are trying to heat them with small electric fires. The reason for this is we have problems with the gas supply to both our boilers and the boiler that is meant to heat the halls has broken down. Cadent the gas company has now turned off the gas supply to it, so we have no main heating in our halls.

After our Church Council meeting in February, it was agreed to form a sub-committee to look into a possible new heating system, possibly for the church and halls, in line with the Methodist Church pledge of becoming Net Zero Carbon Neutral by 2030, called Action for Hope.

Back towards the end of last year, we had an Energy Survey carried out, which was paid for by the District Methodist Church, giving us some ideas on how we could as a church become zero neutral. This is interesting, but does not give us many options or variations on what is available for the wellbeing of our very special building.

Our sub-committee have decided it will be good to have more professional advice on this, so currently we are looking into getting a Heating Consultant to look deeper into what is available in terms of zero carbon neutral ways of heating our lovely building.

Certainly, this is not going to happen this summer, but we are all working with the aim that we get something sorted in the halls, making sure that they have heating next winter.

Edward Pentney

A CORNER FOR PRAYER

In our prayers we think in particular of friends who are no longer able to worship with us.

Dear Loving Lord,

We thank you for the coming of springtime, for the new life which it brings and we thank you for Jesus, who came to love us and brings us the joy of Easter.

We pray for our dear friends who are no longer able to worship with us on Sundays, because of illness and age-related problems.

We also think of friends who have moved away from Colchester but who are still remembered often.

As part of your family Lord, near and far away, we bring our prayers in the name of Jesus, who suffered for our sakes and gives us the hope of resurrection at Easter.

Amen

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

I always get caught out at least once at this time of year. I look out of the window and think the sun is shining so I won't need a coat. I then find it's not quite as warm as it looks. The opposite is also true. I can be out and about and find I've got a coat which I then need to carry. The nights can be chilly and the days really warm, but sometimes not. There are many twists and turns along the way.

As we enter April, we will be towards the start of Holy Week which is so important in our lives of faith. The events of Holy Week may be familiar to many of us but if we were coming to it for the first time, there are many twists and turns we face. Palm Sunday begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. By Thursday, he is praying in the Garden of Gethsemane and from there he is betrayed by Judas, one of the disciples, and arrested.

Within the next 24 hours, Jesus is tried, condemned and crucified. Then, on Easter Day, we celebrate the resurrection and the move from sorrow, fear and despair to joy, hope and peace. Holy Saturday, the day between Good Friday and Easter Day, is a day which is often overlooked but which has great significance. It was the Jewish sabbath meaning the first disciples couldn't do anything practical in response to Jesus' death and it's a time to draw near to God. It is seemingly a day of silence. Holy Saturday is the day where we are processing the sorrow, fear and despair but have not yet experienced the joy, hope and peace which is to come. Holy Saturday is a day where we must exercise great faith and trust in God. It is a time of waiting.

We all go through different seasons in our lives where we experience new bursts of energy, frustrations, happiness, disappointments, or whatever it might be. To make sense of it, we might find it helpful to link it to the Christian seasons in some way. Where times are difficult and there is a sense of having to wait for something to unfold, maybe thinking about Holy Saturday is helpful.

In the silence, God is working. A time of seeming inactivity can be a time to process all that is going on. Resurrection is coming. Resurrection is a time of transformation, where things don't look as they did. But to rest in Holy Saturday is to trust in God. We know that Jesus showed us what it meant to trust. We see it throughout his life, and throughout Holy Week. We see it in Gethsemane and on the Cross. In the times of greatest difficulty Jesus trusted God. In the resurrection we see the fruit of that trust. Jesus' resurrection shows us how God's love for the world, changes the world and brings hope, joy and peace.

The Cross and resurrection are decisive moments in our faith and we can truly rejoice in the hope this brings. Let's take this time to consider which season of life we are in and think about how this relates to the Christian year. We can then reflect on how we can learn more of God through Jesus in our lives for this season and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us closer to God once again. Let's rest in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection knowing the joy and completeness, which comes from knowing our risen Lord and Saviour in whom we place our trust.

God's blessings for Easter,

Chris

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our first meeting in March was a talk by Joan Gomer entitled ‘Eight Colchester Men’, about people named on plaques in Colchester. This was well received.

The following week we had a Quiz Afternoon, which raised £69 for the East Anglian Children’s Hospice. Thank you to all who attended or contributed in any way.

There was a very good attendance for the third week, which was a talk by Brian Carline. He is a writer, broadcaster and after-dinner speaker, and is very witty. On this occasion he read some extracts from his latest book. One was about a time in hospital and the other about a lady’s experience of on-line dating!

Coming up:

- 2 April** Maundy Thursday Service – everyone welcome.
- 9 April** A talk by members Jan Read and Angie Pilkington, about growing up in Old Heath.
- 16 April** The ‘Young Wives Group’ (a predecessor of ‘Thursday Circle’) was founded in April 1948. So, we are celebrating our anniversary with a Concert by ‘The Performers’, followed by refreshments. Do come and enjoy the singing and celebrate with us.
- 23 April** A return visit by Di Bignall, this time to talk about ‘The Siege of Colchester’
- 30 April** A return visit by Liz White, to talk about ‘Coronations’.

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

Joan Gomer (Secretary)

SNOWDROPS

*“Let’s go and see the snowdrops in the park”, my friends said, the other day.
Clusters of tiny white bell-shaped heads in the gentle breeze they sway.*

*Their heads all bowed in reverence, so fragile, snowy white,
and yet surviving winter’s chill – I applaud their gritty fight!*

*Mascots designed by school children for the awards ceremony 2026,
given to the athletes in Milano, Italy at this year’s Winter Olympics.*

*I thought I’d paint these lovely flowers in a church yard in the country.
Their whiteness standing out so clear – a joy for all to see.*

Pat Farrow

WHAT IS EASTER?

What is Easter?
Chicks and bunnies,
Chocolate eggs with satin bows.
Simmel cake with marzipan on,

Going out in brand new clothes.
What is Easter? Seaside picnics,
Concerts in a sunny field,
Brightly coloured eggs for breakfast,
And jars of primroses are filled.

This was Easter.
Jesus dragging his cross,
Up the dying hill.
And he prays for all the world,
As laughing guards test out his will.

This was Easter.
Women weeping
By his empty grave,
And then there he stands,
Shining amongst them,
Giving strength to frightened men.

Both are Easter.
Eggs and crosses,
Show we can begin again.
Our lives start afresh with each Easter,
Stronger women, children, men.

Both are Easter.
Jesus taught us,
Loving, giving, enduring strife.
Being happy with each other,
Sharing gifts of love and life.

Norma Peckston

CONGRATULATIONS

Jonathan Sparkes has asked that we share in the good news that his son, Jack,
has recently got engaged to his girlfriend, Lily.

We extend our best wishes to them.

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

2 April 6.30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion / Rev. Hannah Chun
3 April 10.00 a.m.	Good Friday Service / Rev. Hannah Chun
5 April	Easter Sunday / Holy Communion / Rev. Hannah Chun
12 April	Sally Crafer
19 April	Joanne Eckersley
26 April	Rev. Martin Camroux

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 11 April at Wivenhoe 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.
‘Serving the Present Age?’ - Circuit Prayer Group, led by Phil Bingham.
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.*

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/2026/03/2026-04-April-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

DISCLAIMER:

{The views and opinions expressed in 'Newsround' are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the expressed views of the Church.}