



May 2026

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun
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Dear Friends,

Not many of us like change, and it may be fair to say that many of us do not handle it particularly well. For a number of years now, I have delayed getting reading glasses. I resisted the idea that I am getting older, convincing myself that I could manage just fine without them. And for a while, I did. But recently, I have found myself squinting more than actually seeing or reading. It seems I have reached the point where I must accept this natural bodily phenomenon and finally give in to wearing reading glasses.

It is a minor change to my lifestyle. Yet even this minor adjustment brings with it a sense of reluctance and discomfort. Change, whether small or significant, is rarely easy. It can stir feelings of loss, fear, and uncertainty. It requires adjustment, a willingness to do things differently, and the courage to step beyond what feels comfortable or familiar.

As I reflected on my own struggle with longsightedness, I began to think about God's vision. God is neither shortsighted nor longsighted. God sees both the vast, unfolding picture and the smallest, most intricate details all at once. Where our vision stumbles or blurs, God's remains crystal clear.

When we journey through seasons of change and find ourselves unsure of the way ahead, we can take comfort in that God holds the bigger and fuller picture. Even when we cannot see what lies before us, God sees both the details of the path before us and the destination, all the while promising to guide us through.

Are you experiencing unwelcome changes in your life? Do they leave you feeling anxious about what the future may hold? Are you carrying fear or a sense of loss? As a church, we too may be entering a time of change. How are we called to walk through such moments of

uncertainty together? How might God be inviting us to support one another, to help each other glimpse the bigger picture while attending to the details of care, compassion, and faithfulness in God and one another?

As we move towards Pentecost this month, we are reminded of the early Christians who, filled with the Holy Spirit, found the courage to rise above their fears. They stepped beyond their comfort zones and spoke with boldness, trusting in God's presence and bigger purpose. May we, too, be open to the Spirit's leading. May we trust in God's vision when our own feels limited. And may we find the courage to embrace change, not because it is easy, but because we do not face it alone. With God's guidance and one another's support, we can move forward in faith, hope, and love, confident that the God who sees all things so much more clearly is gently prompting, guiding and leading us on.

God bless,

Hannah

PRAYER FOR THIS MONTH

**Lord our God,
may we hear and say yes to your word
that we may be blessed and your will be done.
Amen**

{Based on Luke 11:28}

NEWS FROM THE VESTRY

*The Lord is risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!
He is risen indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

It feels like a long time ago now, but let's not forget what a wonderful Easter we had at Wimpole Road, with a range of services from Maundy Thursday through to the celebration of Easter Sunday Morning. A huge thank you to Hannah for her preparation of and leading these services.

With the spring-like weather upon us, let us now look forward to many forthcoming events: **Sunday 24 May** will see us joining with St. Stephen's for our annual open air Pentecost Service on the Recreation Ground. Further details will follow over the coming weeks. We are delighted that Jonathan and Rev. Anna from St. Stephen's & St. Margaret's will be jointly leading this service. We will also be looking for people to join a united choir to lead the singing and help setting up in the morning and clearing away afterwards - so please make a note in your diary about this.

The afternoon of **Sunday 5 July** will see the Church open once again for New Town Open Gardens. Please can you speak to Andrew if you are able to assist on the day welcoming guests to the Church and / or serving refreshments in the Parlour.

Later on in **July, on Sunday 26th**, we have our Pet Service which Jonathan will be leading. Further details will follow shortly but please start to share this date with friends and family who have pets (of any shape or size). Pets and other animals play a huge part in the lives of so many people, to say nothing for the likes of hearing and guide dogs who are an absolute lifeline to those with hearing and or sight impairment - so this will be a great opportunity to celebrate them in all their wondrous shapes, sizes and varieties!

The other thing, which is underway at present and requires lots of thought and prayer please, is the work going on with the Hall and Church heating. As you will no doubt be aware the heating has failed in the halls and consequently, we are now embarking on another major project to resolve this and most likely upgrade the halls. This will be a complex and costly project. In advance we thank all those involved with the sub-committee to progress this work and also Edward, who is chairing the committee and once again leading on this work. Further updates will follow as progress is made and conversations take place through the various Property and Finance and Church Council meetings.

A big part of this work will also be around the funding of the project, so as a Church we will need to be thinking about how we might raise money towards this work and invite people to make personal donations towards the costs of this. As said, please do keep this work in your prayers and speak to Edward or the other Stewards for further details.

Andrew Topple

‘A SNOW PLOUGH TALE’

*My letter to Steam World railway magazine was published in their May edition.
Some will remember Molly and Derek Pitcher and here is my letter in full.*

‘The article "Know Your Snow Ploughs’ in Steam World, February edition, brought back memories of my late friend Derek. I am not sure of the dates, but Derek would often tell me a story that involved a ‘snowplough’.

For a time, Derek travelled from Thorpe-le-Soken to his work in Chelmsford. On one occasion, Derek woke up to a heavy fall of overnight snow. When he arrived at the station the woman in the ticket office expressed an opinion that there would be no trains today. However, a few minutes later the sound of an approaching locomotive could be heard in the distance.

As it pulled into the station, the driver had negotiated the journey from Clacton by securing an old wooden door to the front of the engine to act as a makeshift snowplough. Needless to say, Derek made it to Chelmsford only to be told by his boss that he had done well to make the effort, but in view of the weather he was encouraged to start his return journey home immediately.

I cannot remember the times Derek related this story and when his late wife, Molly, was sitting listening she would say, "*Oh no Derek, I'm sure Graham has heard this story before*" - she was right.

But thank you for the story in your magazine and for bringing the memory of a dear friend back into my mind.

Graham Duthie

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

As I sit with a cup of coffee to begin the day, I often find myself looking out of the window. At this time of year, the tree I look at is changing on a daily basis. From bare branches, the leaf buds began to show and now each day the leaves are showing more and more. The branches are almost hidden. Of course, it's not just this one tree but all of them, as the Spring is most definitely here.

How often do we stop and contemplate on such things? As we're moving from one activity to another, we become so focused that we miss so much of what is going on directly in front of us. When we go out for a walk or as we go to get in the car, how often do we actually hear the birds sing?

When we are contemplating something, we are thinking deeply about it, giving it careful consideration or bringing our attention to something on which we need to place our focus. We may have something particularly on our mind which means our head space is taken up with it. This may be a time of joy, but sometimes of sadness.

We can also come to contemplate and give thanks to God for the beautiful world that has been created. We are fortunate to experience the Easter season in Spring when the leaves are unfurling and the spring flowers are brightening up our landscape. We are reminded that Jesus rose again to bring new life and we can see that in the world around us. But it is also easy to rush on by and ignore it. It is then that we miss out on all that God in Christ offers us. To stop and contemplate the beauty of God's world is to take an approach of simplicity. We don't have to strive or hunt something out. We don't need to go searching. There's a whole ecosystem literally on our doorsteps. We can contemplate in awe and wonder at all God has created just by standing at the door or looking out of the window.

Jesus rose again so that we may have true peace and to be whole. This is where we recognise Jesus walking alongside us in all the parts of our lives. Jesus will continue to be a quiet presence even when we don't notice him because we're too busy rushing on with our own concerns.

The encouragement for us all is to stop and to give thanks to God for the wonders of creation. In this simple act, we can contemplate all God has provided through the natural world, recognise the care Jesus offers us and the breath of the Holy Spirit gently reminding us of God's presence.

During this month Spring will edge towards Summer. The flowers in bloom will change as each takes its place but God's presence will remain constant in all things. Let's take the opportunity and invitation to contemplate and notice all that God has done for us in Jesus, and is doing, for us today and every day.

God bless,

Chris

MEDITATION OF PETER *by Nick Fawcett*

He was back!
Back in the land of the living,
just when we'd given up hope!
Three days it had been,
Three days of dark despair
as slowly the truth sank home -
our Lord, laid in a tomb,
dead and buried,
never to walk this earth again.

We couldn't believe it at first,
none of us,
even though we'd seen it for ourselves.
We expected to wake up any moment
to find it was all a dream,
a dreadful mistake
that had somehow taken us in.
But as the numbness passed,
so the reality hit us,
and the pain began in earnest.

It was an end to everything-
our plans, our hopes, our dreams.
There was nothing left to live for,
that's how we felt -
we'd pinned our hopes on him,
and he was gone.
Only he wasn't!

He was there,
Meeting Mary in the garden
as her heart broke beside the tomb.

He was there,
on the Emmaus road
as two followers trudged slowly home,
their world in tatters.

He was there,
speaking to Thomas,
breaking through his disbelief!

He was there,
standing among us in the upper room!

He was back in the land of the living,
and suddenly so were we -
faith rekindled, hope renewed, joy reborn,
life beginning again!

THURSDAY CIRCLE

There was a very good attendance for our meeting on 26 March, when Graham Duthie gave a most interesting talk on 'The History of the Incas'. This talk was inspired by his neighbour Ines, who is from Peru. A further talk on 'The Spanish Conquistadors' is planned for the autumn.

On 28 March (Palm Sunday) Thursday Circle had responsibility for the morning service. Thank you to those members who attended and took part by reading, doing the prayers or singing the introit with the choir.

Our first meeting in April was the Maundy Thursday Service, which was well attended.

The following week two of our members, Jan Read and Angie Pilkington, gave a witty talk about growing up in Old Heath. This was well received and enjoyed by all those present.

April is Thursday Circle's anniversary month; the Young Wives Group, a predecessor of Thursday Circle, having been founded in April 1948. So, we celebrated with a concert by the 'New Entertainers', followed by party food. Our raffle raised £30 for the Air Ambulance Charity. Thanks to all who contributed.

On 23 April Di Bignall, who is a Blue Badge Guide, gave an excellent talk about the 'Siege of Colchester'. This again was well attended.

Coming up:

- 7 May** In a change to the advertised programme, member Janet Rayner will read her poetry to us.
- 14 May** Quiz Afternoon to raise funds for Christian Aid.
- 21 May** A Cream Tea – venue and time to be arranged.
- 28 May** A return visit by Peter Jones for a talk on Martello Towers.

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

Joan Gomer (Secretary)

LET US PRAY

The season of spring brings thoughts of renewal.
Easter and the resurrection bring new hope, new life again.
As we think of church life – God wants renewal for us.
We have to be open to what God wants of us.
Although God stays the same
the Church has to change
as people change throughout the ages.
Lord, open our eyes to your presence,
open our ears to your call,
open our hearts to your love,
that we may give ourselves to you
and walk before you as children of light;
though him who is the Light of the World,
Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

3 May	Eddie Lansdown
10 May	Rev. Hannah Chun / Holy Communion
17 May	Local Arrangement
24 May	Jonathan Sparkes / United Pentecost Service with St. Stephen's on the Recreation Ground
31 May	John Annim / Student Presbyter

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 9 May at Wimpole Road 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.*

**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/2026/04/2026-05-May-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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