



June 2026

**Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun**  
**Mob: 07935 612 414**

Dear Friends,

Recently, one morning, I woke up to the very strong fragrance of a certain plant outside our manse. We all wondered where this strong scent was coming from. After some searching around, we discovered that it was coming from the palm tree standing right outside the manse. It seemed that, in the blink of an eye, these enormous clusters of creamy-white flowers had emerged and blossomed, giving off a rather exquisite fragrance. With some further research, I discovered that it has a name other than 'palm tree.' It is called a *Cordyline*, also known as a cabbage palm.

Those Cordyline flowers, though tiny individually, when gathered and clustered together, were able to spread a fragrance that permeated our entire manse. It couldn't be ignored. These tiny flowers seemed to know how to make their presence known. It was as if they were saying, "*Look! We're here! We want to share our fragrance!*"

I thought about these flowers in light of the post-Pentecost season that we are currently in. We celebrated that special moment when the first followers of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit and then emerged into the streets to share the Good News of Jesus boldly with everyone they met, speaking in many languages. With the Holy Spirit within them, they were able to make people notice and hear their message of Good News and to encounter God's presence through them. It was as if they were spreading the sweet and powerful fragrance of Jesus Christ among the crowds on that day of Pentecost.

We are reminded that many followers were involved in this; it wasn't just one person. Scripture tells us that there was a gathering of believers numbering about 120 (Acts 1:15).

The number itself is not important. What is important is that there was a community of people experiencing the Holy Spirit together and supporting one another in their witness, much like those Cordyline flowers that spread their fragrance together.

We too, like those early believers, have Good News to share together. Our stories and lived experiences of faith are worth sharing, and we have already been given the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim them boldly. We may at times wonder whether what we have is worth sharing at all, or whether anyone will listen, but those early disciples at Pentecost showed us that it is a treasure to be shared. It is important that we live as visible signs of God's presence in our world, saying to all, "*We are here! We have an important 'fragrance' of Christ to share!*"

So, during these post-Pentecost days, weeks, and months, may we remember that what we have within us is truly worth sharing. You never know, your story of faith may be like a sweet fragrance to someone else, lifting their spirits and empowering their lives.

God bless,

***Hannah***

### **NEWS FROM THE VESTRY**

The early mini heatwave, which we experienced at the end of May, meant that the United Pentecost Service with St. Stephen's was able to held on the Recreation Ground, without any concerns about possible rain. However, the intense heat did mean that the congregation split into two halves, one in the shade and the other braving the sun, but it was well attended and a good spirit prevailed. The service was led by Jonathan and Rev. Anna, but special thanks to Andrew for his organisation and to Peter for playing. Grateful thanks also to everyone who took part, especially those who helped before, during and afterwards. The offertory was for Christian Aid, which amounted to £224, and £90 was raised from the Thursday Circle Quiz - a grand total of £314.

On Trinity Sunday, we were blessed to have John Annim lead our worship. John is a student minister in his first year of ministerial training and is here in the Colchester Circuit for about 3 months to do a placement. He and his wife Angela came to participate in a service with Hannah on 10 May, and we were delighted to have them back at Wimpole Road. We wish him well in his future ministry, wherever he will be assigned.

Sunday 7 June is our Church Anniversary and Hannah will lead this special service, which includes Holy Communion. Our church was built in 1903 and, as with any old building, there are often maintenance issues which arise. Along with our ongoing heating project, there is now some essential work to be carried out on the actual spire of the church. So please be aware of these concerns, and the resulting financial implications and any possible disruption.

Finally, if you would like to become a Sunday Steward or indeed consider being a Church Steward, please so speak to one of us and we will gladly give more information.

***Alison Ablewhite***

## PRAYER FOR THIS MONTH

**Merciful Father,  
in your Grace may we persevere with the challenges ahead.  
Grant us wisdom in difficulties,  
strength in trials and peace in the storms.  
Amen**

{Based on James 1:vs 2-3}

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### ALDERSGATE SUNDAY

**When? Sunday preceding 24 May (traditionally known as 'Wesley Day')**

**In 2026 Wesley Day and Aldersgate Sunday coincide.**

**It's not surprising that John Wesley's Aldersgate experience happened close to Pentecost**

After Jesus died and came back to life, he promised his followers that they would receive the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire them. Pentecost is the day when this happened (you can read about it in Acts 2). Many people and churches use it as an opportunity to ask God's Holy Spirit to fill them afresh, and to become more aware of God's presence in their lives.

Wesley Day on 24 May (and Aldersgate Sunday on the preceding Sunday) marks one of Methodism founder John Wesley's own transformative experiences, as he felt God's love in a most personal and life-giving way during a meeting with other Christians. Wesley described the experience as his heart feeling "strangely warmed" and afterwards his relationship with God became more real and heartfelt. His brother, hymn writer Charles Wesley, had a similar experience on Pentecost three days before. He experienced 'a strange palpitation of heart' which caused him to exclaim, "*I believe, I believe!*"

**What does this mean for us today?**

**A Methodist Way of Life** encourages us to develop 12 practices which help us encounter God. One of the practices is to notice God in Scripture and the world. On that Wednesday evening, Wesley met God in a new way as he listened to someone reading from a book about the biblical book of Romans.

God is there, ready and willing to meet you. It won't be exactly the same as the Wesleys' experiences, as God meets each of us differently, but who knows? You might have a feeling of God's presence and love like the Wesleys. You might see or hear something unbelievable, like the disciples in Acts 2. Or you might hear a call to plant a new faith community that will help other people have these kinds of encounters too.

*{Taken from the Methodist Church website}*

Look, I am making all things new. Revive us, Lord, in all we do.  
Reach into our hearts, through Spirit, wind and flame.

Renew us, Lord, in word and deed - in us build a new creation.  
May our hearts be strangely warmed, that we might grow and change together.

We pray your spirit come, that it might be on earth as in heaven; that we might be bold to speak  
and pray, that your church might grow again.

Father, revive your church. Help us share your love with others.  
Enable us to teach your word. May we be alive to you.

Help us be alert to each other's needs; disciplined in prayer and deed.  
Build in us a vision for your kingdom, received in grace, peace and wisdom.  
Amen.

*Rosie Bryant*

### **CHRISTIAN ALPHABET**

Although things are not perfect  
Because of trial or pain  
Continue in thanksgiving  
Do not begin to blame  
Even when the times are hard  
Fierce winds are bound to blow  
God is forever able  
Hold on to what you know  
Imagine life without his love  
Joy would cease to be  
Keep thanking him for all the things  
Love imparts to thee  
Move out of 'Camp Complaining'  
No weapon that is known  
On earth can yield the power  
Praise can do alone  
Quit looking at the future  
Redeem the time at hand  
Start every day with worship  
To 'thank' is a command  
Until we see him coming  
Victorious in the sky  
We'll run the race with gratitude  
'Xalting God most high  
Yes, there will be good times and yes some will be bad, but ...  
Zion waits in glory – where no-one is ever sad!

**HYMN: NEW SONG by Rev. Tony Miles**

*Suggested tune: 'Hyfrydol' - may also be sung to: 'Normandy'*

Lord, to you, we sing a new song;  
Age old faith has seen us through.  
As we gather now to worship,  
Let our minds explore anew –  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
This our God, the three in one.  
What a myst'ry! What a wonder!  
Blessed truth to us has come.

So, to God, as heav'nly Father,  
Thanks and praise we offer you.  
By your Word you have created,  
Given life, sustained it too.  
Through the good times, and the bad times,  
Never has your love grown cold.  
Help us see your plan and purpose,  
God of mercy, heal the world.

And, to God, in Saviour, Jesus,  
Thanks and praise we offer you.  
Born on earth, you dwelt among us,  
Showed us, taught us, loved by few.  
We rejected, crucified you,  
On the cross you died in pain.  
O forgive us! Grant your promise,  
Let us share new life again.

Now, to God, eternal Spirit,  
Thanks and praise we offer you.  
Breath of Life, come breathe upon us,  
Lead us in the work we do.  
Make us people who are holy,  
Help us bear your fruit of love.  
Take us, break us, and remake us.  
Come, descend now, like a dove.

Praise the Lord now, from the heavens,  
Praise Him from the heights above,  
Praise Him with His glorious angels,  
Praise with us the God of love.  
He is worthy of our worship,  
Lift our hearts to let Him reign.  
All the world, yes all creation,  
Raise and magnify His name!

*{Text © Anthony D. Miles July 1995}*

## HALL HEATING - PROGRESS REPORT

Back in the April Newsletter I reported on our Hall Heating, here's an update:

Our Heating subcommittee from the Church Council decided to approach a company called CLPM from Hertfordshire to come and give us professional advice on how we could help our Church with better heating and become more ECO Zero Carbon.

Tom came and spent a couple of hours looking round the whole building and measuring up everywhere, and a couple of weeks later we received a very comprehensive report on his findings. He writes paragraphs on a whole range of different things which could help, i.e.

- Heat Pumps, or a VRF Air conditioning system
- Underfloor Heating
- Double glazing or new PVC Windows especially in the Halls
- Insulating all outside walls and Suspended Ceilings with Insulation,
- A Bank of 3 small domestic Gas Boilers instead of 1 or 2 larger commercial ones as currently
- Electric High Retention Modern Night Storage Heaters or radiators and Panel Heaters
- Solar Panels with battery storage

Quite a varied range of options for us to think about and look into.

We are currently only thinking about our hall heating and have had one or two rather factious moments during our meetings (which is good) where people have had different ideas, but currently we are thinking down the lines of some kind of Electric Heating with possibly new windows, suspended Ceilings with Insulation and Insulated external walls.

Whatever we go for, we want a system where each area can work independently and can be operated electronically.

Before we can do too much with electricity, we have got to have enough power coming in, and a few months ago I found out that an inlet behind the organ was thought to be a 3 Phase system, this we have had checked and we are currently waiting for UK Power Networks to fit a new HEAD replacing the old one (which has Bitumen & Asbestos in it) before we get our Energy Supplier to fit a new 3 Phase meter.

We still have a very long way to go, but we will get there.

*Edward Pentney*

## LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been involved in several conversations linked to the changes which begin on 1<sup>st</sup> June to the rubbish and recycling collections in the city. This is involving many people altering their collection day. We're all having adjustments to what is being collected when and what container to put it out in. We're all being encouraged to recycle more and for less to go to landfill. God created the world in which we live and which was created for the delight of all people.

Sometimes our recycling takes the form of upcycling and seeking new transformative expressions of furniture, equipment or whatever it might be. By doing so, materials that might otherwise go to waste are turned into something new or which gives better value environmentally. It might be as simple as taking a pair of well-worn jeans and turning them into a handbag or an apron. Maybe a glass jar can be decorated so it becomes the new pen holder for the desk. Tennis rackets become mirrors or spanners become coat hooks or whatever it might be.

We know how important it is to care for God's creation. We also know we haven't lived up as a human race to all we should have done to do that. Maybe upcycling can become a metaphor for how God, through Christ, takes some of the things of our actions or character we would prefer to lose and helps us through the Holy Spirit to make something new. We are given a fresh beginning and for something new and beautiful to emerge.

God always seeks for something new and for us to be made whole in him. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, we read, 'so if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!' We can relate this to many things including the world or society as well as our own lives. It reminds us there is always something new to come which should bring us huge encouragement.

God's story is about restoration and redemption. It is not about replacing something with something else and potentially wasting it. It is about allowing transformation to take place. We see this in and through Christ. The cross and resurrection show us this most clearly. And there is more that is yet to come as we see in the book of Revelation.

Over the next few weeks, what might we want to bring before God to ask Jesus to upcycle and transform into something new and beautiful? It might be a prayer of longing for the world or it might be something very personal to us. Let us recognise all God longs to do through the restoration and redemption that only God can do through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us rejoice and give thanks to God who offers his love and grace so freely so that 'if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.'

God bless,

*Chris*

## THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our first meeting in May was led by one of our members, Janet Rayner, who read her own poetry to us and also poems which she liked and had collected over many years. This was instead of a concert by the Concorde Singers, that unfortunately had to be cancelled.

The following week we held a Quiz Afternoon, which was well attended and raised £90 for Christian Aid. Thank you to all who participated or contributed in any way.

The next week 16 members enjoyed an excellent Cream Tea at the Stanway Garden Centre. There was also the opportunity to browse the clothes in Bon Marche and Cotton Traders.

The final week of the month saw a return visit by Peter Jones - this time talking about the Martello Towers along the Essex Coast.

### **Coming up:**

**4 June** Rev. Hannah Chun

**11 June** Seated activities with Gunni Graygoose

**18 June** A change to the advertised programme. Jean Quinn and Ann Morris will talk on their 25 years of organising the New Town Open Gardens.

**25 June** A relaxing afternoon listening to our long-playing records.

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

Our new programme for July to December is now available.

*Joan Gomer (Secretary)*

### LETTER OF THANKS FROM THE AIR AMBULANCE

Dear members of Wimpole Road Methodist Church, your kind donation of £30 raised at your afternoon music concert, which was arranged by the ladies Thursday Circle, will directly help the people of Essex and Hertfordshire when they need it most.

On behalf of all the people who your support will assist, we would like to say a big and heartfelt thank you – your ongoing support is very much appreciated.

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, unlike NHS emergency services, is a charity providing a free life-saving Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) for the critically ill and injured of Essex, Hertfordshire and surrounding areas. Your generosity and goodwill save lives by helping us remain operational.

Once again, on behalf of us all, a very sincere thank you. We hope that you will continue to support us in the future.

# WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR JUNE

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

7 June	Rev. Hannah Chun / Holy Communion / Church Anniversary
14 June	Ron Firmin
21 June	Rev. Martin Camroux
28 June	Joe Navoka

## A WARM WELCOME AWAITS

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

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## DIARY DATES

**Saturday 13 June at The Well 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.**

**‘Serving the Present Age?’ - Circuit Prayer Group, led by Christine Firmin.**

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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**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.**

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## 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/2026/05/2026-06-June-2026-Newsletter-Compressed-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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