



July 2016

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun
Mob: 07985612414

Dear Friends,

I am not much of a football fan, but I must admit that there is something about the game that certainly brings people together. The FIFA World Cup is currently capturing the attention of millions across the globe. Families gather in living rooms, friends meet in pubs and cafés, neighbours strike up conversations with people they have never met before, and strangers cheer side by side. It is a celebration of nations, languages, and cultures. For a few precious moments, barriers seem to fall away, and our diversity becomes something to celebrate rather than fear.

There is something deeply human about this, and I find it heartwarming because it reminds us that we were created for connection and unity. As the psalmist writes, "*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!*" (Psalm 133:1).

What is interesting to note is that many of England's major football clubs have their roots in churches. During the nineteenth century, the movement known as *Muscular Christianity* encouraged churches to improve people's living conditions and health through sport and physical exercise. It recognised that caring for people involved more than their physical wellbeing; it also nurtured their moral and spiritual lives (Peter Lupson, *Thank God for Football!*).

In many ways, then, football was born out of a desire to care for the whole person, body, mind, and spirit. At a time when our world continues to struggle emotionally, physically, and spiritually, while longing for divisions to be overcome, perhaps football still has something to teach us. Football cannot solve the world's problems, nor can it erase the divisions that exist between people. Yet it offers a glimpse of what is possible when people gather with joy, hope,

and a shared purpose. We cheer together, laugh together, and sometimes even cry together. Moments like these remind us that community matters and that God's desire is for people to love one another and to live in unity.

This raises an important question for us as a church. How might we more fully reflect God's vision of welcome, belonging, and fellowship, rather than isolation or exclusion?

In a world where loneliness and poor mental health are increasingly common, our presence and hospitality may be among the greatest gifts we can offer. Our churches, rooted in Christ's love and in a tradition that seeks the flourishing of the whole person, have something unique to share.

So, may we continue to be communities where everyone is known, everyone is valued, and everyone is invited to journey together in faith. May God bless you and your loved ones throughout this season, and may we continue to build communities that reflect the generous and welcoming love of Christ.

God bless,

Hannah

PRAYER FOR THIS MONTH

**Lord, fill us with your love
that we may love others as You love us
Give us grace to follow your example
with commitment and joy.
Amen**

{Based on John 13:34-35}

NEWS FROM THE VESTRY

I really cannot believe that we are now half way through the year already! The current boiling hot weather I'm afraid is not pleasing for me, and I would guess lots of folk feel the same. However, there are some people who absolutely revel in it - so climate change will have its followers and also those who are not so keen.

Following on from the latest Property and Finance meeting, we are investigating how best to retain heating in the church halls, as well as the most effective form of heating to choose. We are therefore looking at insulation for the walls and ceilings, and new double or secondary glazing on the window in both halls. Electric heating seems the most likely at the moment, but we are still looking at the merits of the various forms available.

As the gas boiler servicing the church is still in working order, changes to the church heating will be phase two of this project. Our aim is to reduce the carbon footprint as much as possible, with responsible choices that consider the costs of purchase, installation, maintenance and running! Please pray that we make the best choices we can ecologically and economically.

As always, we remain a very busy and welcoming church for all - this means anybody who would like to join us on a Sunday morning, and then hopefully sit with us at the back of the church, have a chat and enjoy the refreshments that are provided for us, by the cheerful, hardworking people who are there week after week to serve us – for that we thank them.

Here at Wimpole Road, we have had some exciting years, and we are still in a period of growth and change, and (of course like all who read this Newsround) the Stewards are a part of it.

One of my happy memories from recent Sundays was the United Service that we held on the Recreation Ground. What an inspiring day that was - with a good number of people present from both churches, with participants from our own church and St. Stephen's. It threatened to be very hot, but this didn't turn out to be the case. Several people moved their chairs to be under the trees, where a gentle breeze made itself felt throughout the service. Many people came in for refreshments, and there was certainly enough to go round. I spoke to many people and there were so many lovely comments about the service.

I am pleased to have had some comments about the mirror now installed in the toilet next to the vestry! Quite useful on a blustery windy, rainy day, to be able to 'put things right'!

Recently I have reflected on our 'Vision for the Future', and I believe that we are doing our best to meet the aims. These include a Pet Service, being led by Jonathan. This is fast approaching and we look forward to worshippers bringing their pets along to the service that day. It will be on Sunday 26 July and we believe that this will be the first pet service held here. There will be designated spaces for people with pets, which would allow for any possible allergies. Please either ask Jonathan or a steward, if you have any questions about this.

Also, I would remind you that the annual General Church Meeting will be held after the morning service on Sunday 19 July. Please do come if you can! This is for the election of officers and will also provide an update on the current heating situation. We want to encourage as many of you as possible to remain for this very important meeting.

Meanwhile, let us all go forward in faith and fellowship, pray for world peace and for all people that need help or guidance. My blessings to you all,

Margaret Clubb

JUST FOR TODAY by *Marjorie Holmes*

Oh, God, give me grace for this day.
Not for a lifetime, nor for next week, nor for tomorrow, just for this day.
Direct my thoughts and bless them,
Direct my work and bless it,
Direct the things I say and give them blessing too.
Direct and bless everything that I think and speak and do.
So that for this one day, just this one day,
I have the gift of grace that comes from your presence.

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Recently there have been a lot of utilities works going on which have led to diversions in the immediate area. As I was looking these up on the internet, there were gas works, water, telecommunications and also UK Power Network. In, and of itself, there is nothing unusual in this. We rely heavily on power for many things including preparing food and drink, the internet and we most definitely notice when it isn't there for some reason.

When we think of power networks, do we give it any further thought than the title of a company? The sovereignty of God reminds us that the powerful Creator of our world, also exercised care and nurture so that we can live in the world he created. The sea and mountains give us a visual impression of God's power in the natural world. Jesus showed the power he had through the cross. He overcame death and rose again so that we might experience salvation through him both for the present moment and for eternity. The Holy Spirit is the power who joins us with God and works through each of us, so that we can together discern God's will.

A network joins people together and the Holy Spirit acts as the connector. The Holy Spirit is promised to us as God's Helper and Guide. It is the Holy Spirit who draws us closer to God and more closely connected to him. We are disciples of Jesus and the closer we are to him, the better we can know the power of God in our lives. We all share the same common focus of being followers of Jesus and as we spend time with God, we will recognise the power of the Holy Spirit who reveals more of God's character and nature to us.

We also know that the Holy Spirit gives us all different skills, gifts and talents that we use as we live out our faith. As we come together as Christian communities, we discover more of how God brings us together and the purposes he has for us in each space. As Methodists, we are connected as disciples in each church and together as a Circuit where we work together here to discern God's leading for the city of Colchester.

Methodism is made up of a network of the Connexion, Districts, Circuits and local churches. We are all connected to one another and we believe that God is calling us *"to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission."*¹

God connects us to one another here locally and wherever we are. When we are received into membership, it is as part of the whole Methodist Church and the local church as well. Methodism grew from networks or connections of groups to one another and we should continue to live this out in the way we live today as disciples.

Over the next few weeks what does it mean for us to be connected to God? Where can we see the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our own lives and in the community as we seek to become more like Jesus?

God bless,

Chris

¹ The Methodist Church, "Our Calling" statement is the vision statement of the church.

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our first meeting in June was led by Rev. Hannah, who introduced us to the work of Elizabeth Wang, whose artwork she has found to be inspirational. We were then provided with paper and pastels for us to produce artwork about our recent journey with God. Some of this was very good! Thanks to Hannah for encouraging us to do this.

There was a good attendance the following week, despite the poor weather. To cheer us up Gunni Graygoose organised seated activities on the theme of a beach party! Everyone joined in and worked very hard and enthusiastically.

There was a very good turnout the following week when Jean Quinn, ably assisted by Ann Morris, talked about setting up and running the New Town Open Gardens for around 20 years.

The final meeting of the month was during the heatwave and so numbers attending were low, but we spent a pleasant afternoon listening to music.

Coming up

- 2 July** An update on the work of the Catherine Bullen Foundation
- 9 July** Quiz afternoon to raise money for the Catherine Bullen Foundation
- 16 July** We will be playing 'Countdown'.
- 23 July** We will be testing our knowledge of the English language, when we play 'Call My Bluff'.
- 30 July** We be joining others for Afternoon Tea at Peter Broom's bungalow in Layer de la Haye, from 4 p.m.

Do come and join us on **Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm**

Joan Gomer (Secretary)

LETTER OF THANKS FROM EAST ANGLIA'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICES

Dear Wimpole Road Methodist Church,

Let me say how incredibly grateful we are that you have chosen to support East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH), having raised £69 from your afternoon quiz. Your generosity will enable us to continue to support families across East Anglia to access vital care and support when they need us the most.

We honestly cannot thank you enough for your kindness.

Gail Johnson (Fundraising Volunteer)

2SHORT POEMS

by Pat Farrow

‘DEAR GUNNI’

Dear Gunni Graygoose,
we love it when you come to entertain us at our club,
it gives us such a ‘hum’.

The theme was sunny beach days (although it poured outside).
With silly hats and sunglasses, we exercised with pride.

We played along with tambourines – though old,
we did our best dancing to the jolly music we really were impressed.

You gave us floral garlands (to help us feel the part) -
you, swaying your grassy skirt, it got me in my heart.

Dear Gunni please come another day, we don’t mind what you do.
Forever fresh and joyful, just be yourself – just you!

{another enjoyable day at Thursday Circle}

‘FEELING BLUE’

It’s times when you’re not feeling right,
and not your proper self,
when tiredness strikes you every day –
it makes you feel uptight.

It’s then you may receive a card
or an unexpected call
that makes you feel much better,
for a while, not ill at all!

Of course, you still have symptoms
and the doctor’s on your case,
but when friends and family rally round –
you’re in a ‘better’ place.

STANDBY ME

There is a copy of the latest edition of the Life Magazine on the Prayer Table.

Ahmad thanks us for our faithful support,
which enables the charity to rescue children from poverty,
provide transformative care and equip them for life.

*Through all the changing scenes of life,
In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still
My heart and tongue employ.*

*Nahum Tate
{Hymns and Psalms No. 73
Based on Psalm 34}*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous God,

We thank You for Your patience when we are slow to understand.

We thank you for Your forgiveness when we make a mistake.

We thank You for the strength to carry on when we are exhausted.

We thank You for the joy of loving and being loved by You.

Help us to thank You in the way we live our lives to Your greater glory.

Amen

CORNER FOR PRAYER

I look to Christ this day
for strength in my weakness,
for healing in my sickness.

I look to Christ this day
for hope in my despair,
for love in my hatred.

I look to Christ this day
for peace in my restlessness,
for forgiveness in my sin.

I look to Christ this day
for fullness in my emptiness,
for life in my death.

I look to Christ this day
and pray that Christ will look upon me.

{from the Methodist Prayer Handbook}

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR JULY

Sunday mornings at 11.00am

5 July	Mrs Anne Scott
12 July	Rev. Tim Flowers / Holy Communion
19 July	Rev. Hannah Chun / GCM
26 July	Jonathan Sparkes / Pet Service

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 July at Castle 9.00am – 10.00am
‘Serving the Present Age?’ - Circuit Prayer Group led by Andrew Topple

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

Sunday 19 July (after the service) General Church Meeting – open to everyone

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 1000- 1030am

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://ststephensoldchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/201607July2016Newsletter-CompressedVOL00.pdf>

FUTURE NEWSROUNDS

If you have any items that you would like to contribute to a future monthly Newsround – please e-mail:

alisonablewhite@btinternet.com

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk

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