



October 2026

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun
Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

For those of you who are curious or wondering, the subsidence works on the manse have started. It's interesting what you notice when watching different people work together on a building project. We have two companies responsible for the work: Cadman Group Ltd. and Purkelly Bros Ltd. Cadmans have been here for the past week or so, preparing the house and its foundations so that it is ready for Purkelly to come and carry out the necessary digging and underpinning work. In a sense, Cadmans have been preparing the way so that Purkelly can carry out the work that will ultimately bring security and stability.

I saw an image of discipleship in this. As followers of Jesus, we are called to prepare the ground. We cannot change people's hearts. We cannot make someone believe. We cannot produce spiritual growth through our own efforts. We cannot be the source of people's security and stability. But we can faithfully prepare the way for Jesus to do what only Jesus can do. Paul's words demonstrate this beautifully: *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."* (1 Corinthians 3:6).

We plant, and God brings the growth. We prepare the way, and Jesus brings transformation. We sow, and God brings the harvest. There is something wonderfully freeing about knowing that we cannot do it all, but that we do have a part to play in our discipleship with Jesus. We are in partnership with Christ, working together, a bit like Cadman and Purkelly!

Our calling is not to do God's work for him, but to participate faithfully in what he is already doing. Sometimes preparing the ground may look like a simple conversation over coffee. Sometimes it is listening to someone's story. Sometimes it is offering prayer, showing

kindness, welcoming someone into the church, sharing the good news of Jesus, or simply being present when someone is struggling. Nothing we do is too small, and each act can be part of preparing the way for Jesus to step in and meet with his people. We may never see what those small acts eventually produce, and that can sometimes cause us to despair. We may even wonder whether what we do matters. However, our responsibility is faithfulness in discipleship, not results. The growth and the end result belong to God. Therefore, even when we cannot see the outcome, let's continue to be faithful in doing what God has called each of us to do, using the gifts and talents he has given us.

As Jesus said, "*The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few*" (**Matthew 9:37**). There is always much work to be done in 'laying the ground', and Jesus is calling you, me, all of us, to be his disciples and partners in his 'building works'. Therefore, let's be faithful in laying the ground. Let's make space, let's plant, let's sow seeds, and let's allow God to do the rest.

God bless,

Hannah

NEWS FROM THE VESTRY

Looking back on the month of September, it was lovely to welcome the Anna Chaplain for the Circuit, Jastine Dias, who shared more about the Coffee Gatherings and Messy Vintage sessions he has been holding in a number of local care homes. He explained the importance of this work for the residents they meet and the opportunities these sessions provide for connection, conversation and fellowship. Please continue to pray for this ongoing mission.

As September draws to a close, it feels as though the commercial countdown to Christmas has begun in earnest (less than 100 days to go!). In the church, we look ahead to the season of Advent, when each Sunday we light a candle, symbolising Jesus as the light coming into the darkness of the world. This year, we are offering the opportunity to sponsor one of the candles used in the church's Advent Wreath in memory of a loved one. If you would like to make a donation in this way, or would like to know more about this, please do speak to one of the Stewards.

This month begins with our Church Council meeting on 1 October and then the Harvest Festival, with Holy Communion, on 4 October. Any donations of food (non-perishable) will be shared between the Foodbank and Community Pantry, with monetary donations passed to Stand by Me.

Both grant applications (Circuit and District) for Phase 1 of the Hall heating project have now been submitted, and the outcome should be confirmed in mid-October. Many thanks to Edward, Chris, Andrew and Hannah for all their work in getting these across the line. If successful, the aim is for the work to commence towards the end of the month.

With every blessing,

Juliet

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Over the past few weeks, I have found myself taking the train for several journeys. This means there's a different view of the world and more opportunity for seeing things that might otherwise be missed if sitting behind the steering wheel of the car. There is an advertising campaign currently being undertaken at the underground station at the Barbican. It is from Arizona State University who has a campus base at the Barbican Centre. The campaign is called 'Changing Futures.' The posters have the line 'This is our moment to change the future.'

When you read this what do you think of? The future that is being alluded to is that of increased education. But the future can take many different forms. For some, the moment to change the future comes with a new treatment plan, or the beginning of a new chapter or phase of life. What does the phrase mean to you? Is it about life or something to take at face value? Could it have a deeper meaning in some way? Maybe as a way of building community? Encouraging people in their faith? A life-changing encounter with God? As with many advertising campaigns, there is a play on words, meaning there is a more open-ended way of looking at it.

As soon as I saw it, my mind was drawn to God who, in Jesus, came to earth so that we might be transformed more and more into his likeness. Wherever we are in our faith journey, there is always more of God to know, and the Holy Spirit is always working for others to come to know Jesus, and for everyone to learn more of God in their lives and communities. To have a significant encounter with God always leads to something new and exciting emerging. This is the moment where the future starts.

When we place our hope in Christ a new adventure with God, or a new chapter in our story, begins. Christian hope is to look forward in the expectation knowing that Jesus will be with us in all things. We do not need to fear because we have hope. This doesn't mean that difficult times won't happen, because they will. But it does mean that we can face the future without fear and with confidence. Everyone who turns to Jesus has the assurance of eternal life and what greater hope is there than this?

We can take it that 'this is the moment to change our future' is a reminder of the future hope which is not just for individuals but also for society, churches and communities. It is a collective statement. We should rejoice that Christ came to the world for everyone, so that all people's future can be changed. Our role as churches and a Circuit, is to find the ways to encourage others so they might encounter Jesus for themselves. This is the moment to do that. As more people come to know Christ, the world and the future will be changed for the better.

The poster may have had one brand clearly in mind, but there is a much deeper message to it as well. Let's rejoice in the hope we have in Christ, and seek for others to come to know it for themselves.

God bless,

Chris

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our Autumn programme began on 3 September, when there was a very good attendance with Rev. Tim Flowers talking about his work as an army padre, based at M.C.T.C. Colchester.

There was also a very good attendance the following week, when Graham Duthie gave us his third and final talk about the Incas – this time on their encounter with the Spanish Conquistadors. Thank you to Graham and his neighbour Ines for these talks.

On 17 September the visit by ‘The Hoolies’ (a group from Wivenhoe specialising in singing sea shanties) had to be postponed and was replaced by a Quiz Afternoon, led by Margaret Clubb. Again, there was a very good attendance and £90 was raised for ‘Stand By Me’. Thank you to Margaret and all who contributed.

On 24 September I will be giving a talk about four very different individuals, who I became interested in.

Coming up:

1 October ‘The Hoolies’ singing sea shanties

8 October Jastine Diaz will talk on his work as an Anna Chaplain

15 October Return visit by Peter Jones, to talk about the Life and Times of the Eastern Counties Railway

22 October Visit by popular speaker and broadcaster Brian Carline, talking on ‘Soil, Sweat and Tears’

29 October Beetle Drive

No matter who you are, we would love to see you at our meetings on Thursday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.

Joan Gomer
Secretary

A HARVEST PRAYER

**God of the heavens and earth
we thank you for the richness of harvest time and for food.
May the fruitfulness of this time make us thankful
for your constant love and care for us.**

**We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever.**

Amen

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

As many of you are already aware we have a lovely leather-bound Book of Remembrance in the cabinet in the Prayer Corner at the back of the church.

The duty Steward always opens the book on a Sunday at the nearest completed entry to that day, but the book only displays 4 days. Therefore, often there are names which are not shown, so we decided to include all the names for the preceding week in the Prayers of Intercession.

These will be updated each week as necessary, so all the names in the Book of Remembrance will be mentioned during our morning worship at the relevant times of the year.

If you wish to include a dedication in the Book to commemorate a loved one, please see me if you wish to inspect the Book or need further details re. costs. I plan to send the book away for updating at the end of October.

Alison Ablewhite (on behalf of the Church Stewards)

**Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.**

STAND BY ME

We have been supporting the charity Stand By Me for a number of years and it now forms an important part of our annual outreach work here at Wimpole Road.

Several church members support the charity in different ways and at our forthcoming Harvest Festival Service (**on 4 October**) we will be donating all of the cash offering to the charity as they continue with God's work in some of the most dangerous places in the world.

The charity has embarked on a fund-raising programme and are stepping out in faith to build a dedicated Kindergarten Centre at Abdi Academy to offer two full years of kindergarten education.

Let us therefore try and help the charity Stand By Me achieve its objective with our Harvest cash offering and prayerful support.

PRAYER FOR THIS MONTH

**Heavenly Father, we thank you for the Harvest
and your generous provision.
Help us to be generous to others too.
Amen**

{Leviticus 19: 9-10}

MY BIBLE

My Bible to me is a treasure, I read it from day unto day,
and as I read those blest pages, I always remember to pray.

There are sixty-six books in the Bible, and promises for you and me,
promises to meet all the pressures, that life brings daily, you see.

It is said it's the world's best seller, for day by day many are sold,
and as we purchase a copy, we receive many blessings untold.

It begins with the Garden of Eden, and ends with the City of Gold,
for reading the stories contained there, is always a joy to behold.

There are texts to comfort in sorrow, and others of sheer pure delight,
which helps us as onward we travel, by day, and also by night.

As we read the Word of God daily, we learn of God's great heart of love,
who gave His only Son, Jesus, who came from the Father above.

We read then of Jesus our Saviour, who gave his life on the cross,
he died thus bringing Salvation, that we might not suffer loss.

So, friends, if you don't then already, start reading the Bible today,
and you will receive a real blessing, as you read it, and also you pray.

In reading the Word of God daily, there's a message for you and for me,
and meditating on those blest pages, find Jesus a living reality.

As we yield our all to the Saviour, he will cleanse our hearts from all sin,
and a 'NEW LIFE' will be our portion, and the Christian life will begin.

So as you pick up your Bible, and read a portion each day,
you will find the Saviour is speaking, just heed his words and obey.

Rev. Edwin J. Softley. M. A.

QUIET CORNER

We expect too much of life.

We grumble and complain when things don't go exactly as we planned.

We expect it's going to be all sunshine and no rain,

but the working of an unseen hand rearranges everything.

Perplexed, we cannot see how to make the pieces fit or why it had to be.

We could save a lot of worry if at every test we trusted in the Lord
and knew that all was for the best.

Patience Strong

**Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey {H & P 687}**

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

4 October	Rev. Hannah Chun Harvest Festival / Holy Communion
11 October	Sally Crafer
18 October	Joe Navoka
25 October	Rev. Robin Spittle

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 10 October 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/2026/09/2026-10-October-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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