



September 2026

Minister: Rev. Hannah Chun
Mob: 07935 612 414

Dear Friends,

It's amazing how disruptive roadworks can be. I was stuck heading towards the St. Botolph's Circus Roundabout one evening, and the journey took much, much longer than it usually would. This roundabout has become one of those places where the ordinary rhythm of life has been interrupted. Roads are narrowed, journeys take longer, familiar routes are changed, and there are moments when it can feel as though we are stuck forever. The promise, of course, is that eventually things will be better. The work will be finished, the traffic will flow again, and we will wonder why we ever complained as we navigated around cones and temporary signs. This major project, although disruptive now, will hopefully bring about safer and smoother journeys for pedestrians, cyclists and all road users.

However, there is a strange truth about roadworks. Sometimes things get worse before they get better. The old road has to be disturbed before the new one can be laid. What was familiar has to be dismantled. For a while, we live with inconvenience, uncertainty and the unsettling feeling that we are not quite sure where everything is going.

Perhaps that is a useful image for life. There are seasons when things seem to be under construction within us and around us. A relationship changes. A job becomes uncertain. Someone we love becomes ill. We can no longer do the things we once did. A church community finds itself in a period of change. And often, the hardest part is living with uncertainty. We are much better at living with change or disruption when we know how long it will last. A road closure is easier to tolerate when the sign tells us exactly when the work will be finished! Uncertainty is harder. Faith does not necessarily remove that uncertainty, but it does promise that we do not travel through it alone.

What disruptions or interruptions are you facing in your life? And what about in our church and congregation?

God may seem absent at times, but that does not mean that he is. We may not always see what God is doing, but he is guiding us with signs along the way, much like the signs we follow around St. Botolph's roundabout to help us get safely to our destination.

As we enter another new Methodist year, we are faced with many uncertainties. We do not necessarily know what is around the corner. But may God give us patience when the journey is slow, courage when the way is uncertain, compassion for those travelling alongside us, and hope for the road ahead. And may we discover, even in the places where life feels most under construction, that we are held by a God who is quietly and patiently making all things new.

God bless,

Hannah

I just wanted to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all who volunteered and took part in this year's Holiday Club at Wimpole Road.

I cannot mention everyone's names here as there were so many, but thank you to all who organised, cooked, washed up, served, cleaned, supported, did crafts, sang, led, taught, worked on the tech, played games and danced! Everyone worked so hard together to offer the children a spiritually enriching and fun-filled time. It certainly was spectacular.

Thank you all, and let us continue to pray for the seeds that have been sown, trusting that the children will encounter God's love and presence in their lives.

Many thanks,

Hannah

PRAYER FOR THIS MONTH

As it is the season of creation tide in September, we will be asking each church whether they could use this prayer as an opening prayer for each Sunday in September. I wonder whether I can pre-empt this by asking to use this prayer at Wimpole Road. ***Sally Crafer***

**Creator God,
we gather today mindful of your creation,
where every breath of wind and every living being
remind us of your compassion and presence.
Creating, Redeeming and Sustaining Lord,
prompt us to care for your world
as you care for all you have created.
Fill our hearts with joy and awe
for the life you have made around us every day. Amen**

NEWS FROM THE VESTRY

As I put pen to paper my head is full of the plans and excitement of Holiday Club at the end of August. Once again Matthew and I had the huge pleasure and privilege of supporting Sue, Julie and Sarah run Holiday Club at Wesley Chapel, Eaton Road, Swansea, where we are so warmly welcomed. So, in many ways, next week with Holiday Club is really 'Act 2' for some of us! This year we will be exploring the well-known account of Joseph and thinking about the behaviours of Joseph and his brothers and how we might sometime mirror some of these behavioural traits and how we should be acting. Maybe in Joseph's younger years a little more humility and less arrogance might have helped the relationship between him and his brothers! Whilst in no way condoning the actions of his brothers thinking about why they might have felt somewhat aggrieved and like 'second class citizens'. How often do we act in way which might not really align to Jesus' teaching...? What could we do better and how...? Like the brothers we have to recognise our failings or mistakes and ask for forgiveness, often from others; our families and friends and of course God. The good news for us is that God our Father forgives us when we come to him and in the account of Joseph's life, we see him forgive the brothers and be reunited with his father.

The other good news for our Holiday Club is that once again we are fully booked with children and we have a good number of adult leaders with five of them having 'come up through the ranks' having been Holiday Club attendees since their early childhood. We are so blessed at Wimpole Road to have a good number of people willing to support this important missional work. I know that we now only run this once a year and for just three days, but it is still massively important and valued by so many in our local community. Thank you to all who support us in so many ways and that includes prayer. Looking forward we need to remember that Sue, Julie and I are no longer the 20 or 30 years old which we used to be when we started leading this 30 plus years ago. Picking up on Christine's update last month seeking new people to consider roles as Stewards, we do also need to encourage some new people into supporting with the leadership of Holiday Club, if it is to continue into the future.

Whilst talking about the need for help, we are also looking for some additional help with the Coffee Morning on Wednesdays during October please? Due to holiday and other commitments, we are short staffed for this and regrettably if we can't secure some additional help, it is possible we might have to close for a few weeks. This would be such a shame as this has become both another important part of our on-going missional work and supports so many people in the local community. If you might be able to offer some time to help during October, please speak to Edward, Christine or me. No 'formal' training is required to provide the help we need!

Finally, on a personal note – Matthew, who is at Essex University studying History and Literature, undertook a piece of research work last year to explore the history of growth of Methodism in Ghana; encouraged in no small part by the number of people who we are delighted now worship with us who either come from or originate from Ghana. If you would be interested in reading this please speak to either myself or Matthew and we can arrange to get a copy to you.

Andrew Topple

LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Last week I had the joy of going to see the film ‘The Essex Ways.’ It was a real pleasure to be with people and then for there to be a Q&A session afterwards with James, the star of the film, and Tom (our own Circuit Steward, Judith’s son) who directed and edited the film. The film is about walking the Essex Ways over 21 days and 400km. It began with the ‘official’ Essex Way walk from Epping to Harwich and then continued down the coastline to Tilbury and included a trip to Mersea Island along the way too. The diversity of landscape, geography and sense of place was a main feature in a film that was trying to show there are many facets and dimensions to the county.

What became clear through the film and subsequent conversation was the importance of identity. James is a storyteller and he had been collecting many stories of local people along the way and thereby collecting the local history. This has left me pondering how our identity is shaped by the people and place in which we are.

As James travelled through the different parts of Essex, from the deep rural to towns and villages, and everything in between, he met people who had a strong sense of being rooted in the place in which they were living. Sometimes this was linked to family roots and many generations having lived there before. For some, living in Colchester will have been the place called ‘home’ for most, if not all, of life. For others of us, it is a place we call home in this season.

Wherever we are, God in Jesus is with us. Jesus is the person in whom we can rest and through whom we will always find our home and identity. The more time we spend with Jesus the more like him we will become. We will be shaped by the goodness, care and compassion which comes only from him. We will experience once again what it means for all who turn to him to experience the eternal life which comes through his death and resurrection. This then shines through to others.

To find our identity in Christ, is to know that our security, worth and purpose come through God’s grace and compassion. It is to know that we are children of God, loved and cared for. We then work out this sense of identity in the place in which we live, whether that be urban, suburban, rural or island. The physical landscape may change, but our identity in Christ doesn’t, as we have the stability which comes only through God.

As we move into a new Connexional and academic year, and from summer to autumn, it can be a period of marking the passing of one time to another which can include different changes along the way. Let’s remember the stability that comes through being close to Jesus and in knowing that our identity in him will remain forever constant, whatever the changes of life and place may put before us.

God bless,

Chris

THURSDAY CIRCLE

There was no formal programme for the weeks in August, but a few people met each Thursday afternoon at the usual time for a chat, tea, coffee, cake and quizzes.

Coming up:

- 3 September** In a change to the advertised programme, Rev. Tim Flowers will talk about his work as an army padre based at the M.C.T.C. in Colchester.
- 10 September** In the final talk of his series, Graham Duthie will tell us about the Spanish Conquistadors.
- 17 September** A visit by 'The Hoolies', a group from Wivenhoe specialising in singing sea shanties. They are usually very good, so do please come along and join in.
- 24 September** I will be giving a talk about four very different individuals, who I became interested in.

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)

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.

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.

Ahmad Ayoubi, the Executive Director, is a good friend and has been to Wimpole Road on several occasions to take part in a Sunday Service and to tell us more about how Stand By Me seeks to provide educational needs for children in Myanmar, Ethiopia, Kenya and Colombia and how the charity has been part of his life since childhood.

Their latest magazine focuses on the work of Stand By Me and all the stories reflect on giving every child in their care - safety, stability, love and the opportunity to thrive.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Myanmar where the staff continue to serve children and families displaced by conflict with extraordinary courage and in this far from stable country the classrooms are used as a shelter by night for families with nowhere else to go.

When two children Bonsitu and Bontu walked into their kindergarten classroom at the Abdi Academy in Ethiopia they stopped in amazement. Before them were toys, puzzles, books and colourful pens and pencils.

As pupils at the academy, they now receive nutritious meals, healthcare, school uniforms and the chance to learn through play in a safe, loving environment.

But Bonsitu and Bontu were among the fortunate few as every year Stand by Me receive more than 450 applications for just 40 kindergarten places.

That is why 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.

And finally in the words of a student from Colombia:

"Stand By Me has meant a great deal to me. Thanks to its support throughout my childhood, I was able to enter university and pursue one of my greatest dreams in obtaining a professional degree.

I am deeply grateful for everything they have done for me and for helping me move closer to achieving my life's goals."

WIMPOLE ROAD HALL HEATING - UPDATE

Dear Friends

As you are all probably aware our hall boiler broke down during last winter and over the last few months, we formed a heating committee to sort the best solution to heat our halls, to save energy and become more energy efficient.

We employed the services of a heating consultant who came up with a report on several ways that this could be achieved - some far too extravagant, some more modest.

What he did recommend for us were modern High Retention Electric Night Storage Heaters, that could be controlled electronically by our phones, thereby stopping people from altering the controls and leaving the heat on when not required. Along with this would be new modern electric radiators in all the toilets, classroom/choir room and vestry.

Together with this, to help save money and energy further, we had thought about installing a suspended ceiling in the halls; insulating the inside of all the external walls, (to save us losing so much heat), together with new modern PVCU double glazed windows - again helping us save more energy.

After obtaining quotations we realised that to get all this done together was extremely expensive and would make us take a considerable amount from our reserves, so we have decided to get it done in phases.

At a Church Council meeting last week, we decided to go ahead with a quotation we received from Cook & Long (the people who did the alterations in the church last year), for just under £60,000.00 for **Phase 1** - to supply new windows and insulate the inside of all the external walls in both halls as well as fitting 6 Heaters in the Hall and 4 in the Parlour.

We are currently filling in application forms for grants from the Colchester Methodist Circuit and also the Beds, Herts, & Essex Methodist District of which we are part of, where we are hoping to receive a third from each, with us making up the other third, of just under £20,000.00 each.

If all goes well in obtaining the grants, we are hoping to get the hall heating in place around the end of October this year, just before the cold weather starts.

Phase 2, (again if grants obtained), will consist of the toilet heating and lighting that will come on and off as people go in and out of the toilets - again enabling us to save more energy, as the toilet lights are often left on. We would also hope to get the suspended ceilings in the halls fitted at the same time, but that might be wishful thinking. Phase 2 probably will not go ahead until next summer when the halls are not in use as much.

Our halls are very highly used by the local community during the main school terms, with nearly 20 different organisations, numbering over 300 children and adults using our halls each week (not including Sunday services). All these people are mainly from our church or the local community. Without these lettings and the extra finance, they bring in, our church would not be around today, so it's right that we try to look after them and keep them warm.

All these plans sound very good and will bring our halls more up to the 21st century - however in total we are probably thinking of a cost of just over £100,000.00 which, without the grants, we would not be able to think about. The legacies we received some years ago have served us well for some years, unfortunately, once these works are completed, we will be getting very low on our reserves and using £10,000.00 every year from them to help our finances is not good or helping the situation.

In 2 to 3 years, we will be thinking about a better heating system in our church - and so it goes on. Always something to repair or have done, costing money - money which we will run out of in 3 to 4 years, if we are not able to do something about it soon.

Our funding (apart from what we receive from the lettings) is all from our congregation and church friends, who come to church each week to worship the God we adore.

I find this very hard, but if there is anyone who feels they can help Wimpole Road Church by putting just a little more into the collection bag each week or speak to me about starting a new Standing Order payment each month, I would be very grateful - just speak to me or a Steward.

This is so that we can keep on helping our New Town community and also look after our lovely church and all the people that use it, in whatever capacity.

Thank you

Edward Pentney Church Treasurer

SEPTEMBER

The Methodist connexional year is the annual administrative and spiritual cycle of the Methodist Church, which begins each September.

It runs from 1 September to 31 August of the following year.

It aligns the church's leadership terms, stationing of ministers, membership tickets, and annual planning with the rhythm of the academic and pastoral year, rather than the traditional calendar year.

September symbolizes divine completeness, finality, and a season of spiritual harvest or new beginnings in biblical numerology and tradition.

Because the modern calendar marks September as the ninth month, its biblical significance is tied closely to the meaning of the number nine:

The number nine represents the finality of God's work and spiritual fruit.

Galatians 5:22–23 lists nine fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).

WIMPOLE ROAD CHURCH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m.

6 September	Rev. Hannah Chun
13 September	Rev. Dr. David Chapman / Holy Communion
20 September	Local Arrangement / Anna Chaplain
27 September	Jonathan Sparkes

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 19 September at The Ark 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.*

**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

<https://ststephens-colchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026-09-September-2026-Newsletter-Compressed-V01.00.pdf>

LINK TO ST. LEONARD'S NEWSLETTER

<http://ststephens-colchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/FoSL-Newsletter-Issue-9.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.}