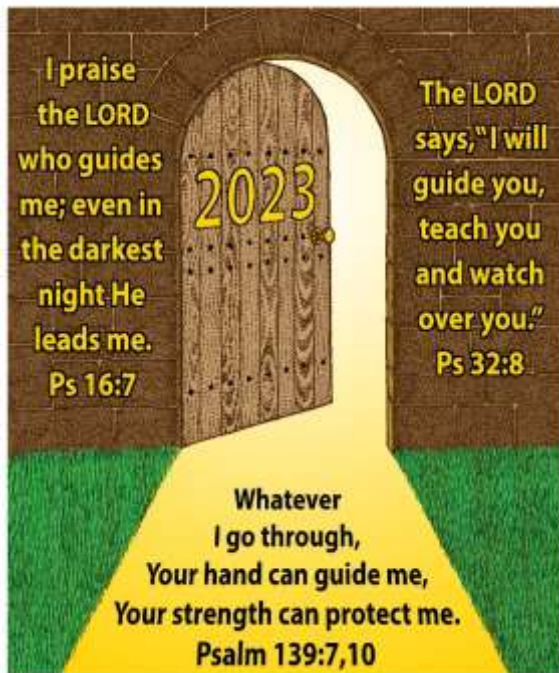


WINCHESTER NEWS

JANUARY 2023



Winchester Road Methodist Church
Winchester Road, Highams Park London, E4 9JP

Minister: Rev Stephanie Njeru

Tel: Church 020 8531 8663

www.winchesterroadchurch.org.uk



@winroadmeth



Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church

Services –January/February

Sun. 1st Jan: - led by Revd. Tony Malcolm

Sun. 8th Jan: - led by Millicent Acquah

Sun. 15th Jan: - led by Kath Leckey

Sun. 22nd Jan: - **Covenant Service and Communion**
led by Revd. Norman Grigg

Sun. 29th Jan: - led by Peter Dawe

Sun.5th Feb: –led by David Hobbs

Please note that Revd. Stephanie Njeru is on sabbatical until 13th March.

If you need to speak to a minister please contact one of the stewards who can advise as to who is covering for Stephanie .

The following letter was written by our circuit superintendent, Revd Tony Malcolm

Church Flowers:

**January 8th - in loving memory of
Ann Steiner**

**January 29th - in loving memory
of Lottie Purton (Jan's mum)**



Letter from Revd. Tony Malcolm

Covenant

For most churches January is a time of starting again, and resolutions to try to do better than the previous year. For us in the Methodist Church it is usually a time to renew our Covenant with God.

The Covenant Prayer contains some of the most challenging and soul-searching words in church liturgy:

Covenant Prayer (*John Wesley*)

“I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing, put me to suffering (allowing other to do for me); let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,

exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen”.

In the light of Christmas and Epiphany, Methodists will gather to share these words together. How do we prepare for such an awe-some moment? Do we go through the prayer and tick the parts we positively impacted, and put a cross against the parts we failed to live up to? How faithful have we been over the past year? How do we make sure we don't make the same mistakes in this coming year?

The truth is that the only way this Covenant will be a positive experience is if we treat ourselves with the same grace and love that the Father showers on us – the God who doesn't ask us to be successful, but faithful; the God who says 'I'm with you always'; and says 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'; who says 'you are my child I'm your Father'.

Take a moment or 2 to prepare for and renew your Covenant, and may God find you faithful to your calling.

Rev Tony (Circuit superintendent)

News from Our Church Family

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Laura Pease on Saturday 17th December. Although Laura had been recovering from recent treatment it was a shock when, after less than two weeks back in hospital, she passed away. Our thoughts are with her husband Richard and sons Jonathan and Simon at this time.

We are glad that, Margaret Chapman is home from hospital and being cared for by her family. She didn't send cards but wishes to be remembered by all those at Winchester.

We have been glad that we have been able to welcome some Ukrainians into our church family. Some are staying with members of our church. We have also been able to offer our church sanctuary for Ukrainian services as well as space in our halls for English classes. Several services have taken place for the wider community of Ukrainians living in the area.

We pray for all those in our church family who have been bereaved and those who are ill or undergoing hospital treatment. We pray also for those forced to live away from home and family at this time.

God of hope, heal me and restore me, that I might know your resurrection power in my life. Amen.



What's On?



Friday 3rd March – World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The service this year has been prepared by the women of Taiwan and will be celebrated on 3rd March in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer, in native languages, travels throughout the world... through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

The theme this year is **“I Have Heard About Your Faith”** and will be celebrated, locally, with members of other denominations at All Saints Church at 10.30 on Friday 3rd March.

Please speak to Mary Burgoine if you can help with the service or want more information.



Age UK Waltham Forest Waltham Forest Resource Hub (North) 58 Hall Lane, Chingford E4 8EU provide a wide range of resources and classes including: advice and information, help

with shopping and in the home, Book Club, Silver Surfers for help with IT, Friday Coffee mornings, Craft Club, Piano Club, Pilates, Yoga, Dance, Table Tennis, Tai chi and Zumba.

For more information Tel: 020 8558 5512 email: info@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk. www.ageukwalthamforest.org.uk

Age UK Waltham Forest is a registered charity No: 1048212 and company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No: 2334459.

It's behind you !

Last month I wrote about Nativity Plays, which played an important part in fixing



the story of the birth of Jesus in the memories of children and adults. Like all the main Christian festivals commercial and other factors have become involved and tended to overshadow the real meaning of the celebration. Children look forward to Easter eggs and bunnies, to their Christmas presents, a turkey meal and possibly the chance to see a pantomime. Around Christmas during my teenage years with the children linked to Handsworth Avenue Methodist Church I went by coach to the London Palladium for the annual pantomime, and I still have a number of programmes from those visits.

I recall nervously climbing down the near vertical steps of the Upper Circle to my seat and then the house lights dimmed, the orchestra struck up the overture, the curtain rose, and the chorus launched into the opening number. Palladium pantos were lively, tuneful, colourful and spectacular shows usually featuring a star performer. In the shows above Norman Wisdom played Aladdin, and Tommy Cooper with Arthur Askey were in Robinson Crusoe.

The origins of the Pantomime can be traced back to '**Commedia dell arte**' in Italy, which had scenes of mimed drama with music and acrobatics peopled by stock characters. Harlequin and Colombine were the hero and heroine who, with the aid of a clown set about deceiving an old man named Pantaloon. From this performance came our word **Panto-mime**. Last month I wrote about the medieval mystery plays performed on carts which toured around the streets of some towns during the Middle Ages. I believe that the comedy which was included in them also contributed to the story of pantomime. The law forbade women appearing on the stage and female parts were played by boys but when the rule was relaxed after Restoration of 1660 women were reluctant to play garrulous old women leaving the roles for men in drag.

John Rich, a famed mime and dance performer, brought this type of entertainment to England from Italy to a theatre in Lincoln's Inn Fields, but his fame rests on his management of The **Theatre Royal Covent Garden** from 1732-1761 where he produced increasingly spectacular, and highly profitable

shows. His success was envied though his critics referred to him as "*vulgar, unlettered and illiterate!*" His main rival was the actor David Garrick at the Drury Lane Theatre who produced Shakespeare and other serious dramas. Public demand however caused Garrick to reluctantly introduce Pantomimes into his theatre, though he restricted them to the Christmas season forever tying Pantomime and Christmas together.

During the nineteenth century English folklore, history and foreign literature was culled for plots giving us such stories as Dick Whittington, Cinderella, Puss in Boots, Sleeping Beauty, Ali Barbar and the forty thieves, Aladdin etc. etc. The Victorian era also saw the rise of public house entertainment and the music hall both of which affected the style of the Pantomime, and their star performers took part in what became known as Panto. The audiences expected the star to sing their hit songs or perform the tricks and stunts which had made them popular. The mime artists of the Commedia in Italy used two thin wooden slats with a handle which made a loud noise when used to strike another character, this type of knockabout comedy known as '**slapstick**' became important in Panto. Female cross dressing, termed Principal Boy in Panto, came in from the Music Hall at the end of the 19th century, thanks to two noted female singing artists who strutted the stage as men.

In the recent past Winchester Road wrote and performed its own pantomime. I remember clearly that in our highly enjoyable **Jack and the Beanstalk** whenever someone used the word '*pail*' Maureen Duncan and John Henderson would rush onto the stage to sing the comic song *There's a hole in my bucket dear Liza...a hole!*

Though pantomimes have nothing to do with the real Christmas they do convey a moral message and show good triumphing over evil, audiences were encouraged to 'boo' the villain or shout out such warnings as "**He's behind you**".but in the end Abanaza is thwarted, King Rat is destroyed, Cinderella's life is romantically and happily changed, while Mother Goose is lifted from poverty to comfort and Dick Whittington becomes Lord Mayor of London.

Allen Steel January 2023

There is Room for the Homeless

“I was asked which had been the most inspirational place that I have visited during my time as President of the Conference. I paused just to be sure before replying that this would be the Whitechapel Mission in London. It isn't that the other places weren't inspirational; so many of them are. It is just that the Mission has - so far - been the most inspirational.

I was invited to preach at the Mission's 146th Anniversary but also invited to visit the Mission beforehand so as to better understand the context of the Anniversary service. My visit was hosted by the Director, Tony Miller, who has been leading the outreach at Whitechapel for over forty years. Like those who run foodbanks, the Staff at the Whitechapel Mission wish that it wasn't needed. But recent statistics indicate that it is needed more than ever as the number of Guests is rising each month as the cost-of-living crisis hits and hurts more and more people. This Methodist mission project has grown to become a 365 day a year operation, sometimes feeding up to 600 Guests a day and offering shower facilities and fresh clothes to any in need. The staff are also available to help their Guests make changes in their lives and move on from homelessness.

Tony Miller shared many stories of people who had been helped and of those who were not yet ready to be helped. And though the service is on offer from 6a.m. until 4p.m. each day, there is always someone to answer the door when the bell rings. Overnight bags are offered to those who call out of hours in order to provide them with all they need to manage until the Mission opens the next day. What is so inspirational about the Whitechapel Mission? Namely that a team of dedicated people are reaching out in the name of Christ to meet the needs of homeless people in London. Their dedication means that there is something on offer every day, and each day starts with a Full English Breakfast. The Staff and Trustees work with daily teams of volunteers and have to raise over £1.7M a year to keep the enterprise going. If you've never heard of the Whitechapel Mission, please find out more by starting here: whitechapel.org.uk The Mission is a shining star in the Methodist sky and deserves our prayers and support.

By the Revd Graham Thompson, President of the Conferenc

Christmas Bazaar 2022

It was good to invite people to a 'full' bazaar this year. Apart from Bric-a-brac, all the stalls were back, and we were able to serve hot lunches again. Over 700 adults came, and the halls were packed with visitors, children and helpers. Maureen and the Rangers made an excellent 'Elf' grotto, and you can see that, and two happy visitors, on the back page. Well done to all involved!

Stall	Pre-bazaar	Bazaar	Post Bazaar	Grand Total
Admissions		£ 723.25		£ 723.25
Books	£460.03	£ 114.45		£ 574.48
Cakes		£ 1,295.60		£ 1,295.60
Cards (Dorothy)	£ -	£ 111.00		£ 111.00
Christmas Gifts (Nearly New)	£ 50.00	£ 697.60	£ 3.00	£ 750.60
Christmas Jumpers		£ 118.50		£ 118.50
Donations		£ 15.63	£50.00	£ 65.63
DVDs		£ 39.40		£ 39.40
Jams & pickles		£ 1,000.00	-	£ 1,000.00
Jewellery		£ 281.55		£ 281.55
Keepfit		£ 145.60		£ 145.60
Raffle		£ 842.00		£ 842.00
Refreshments		£ 802.01		£ 927.06
Refreshments - Hub		£ 125.05		
Sharon	£261.25	£ 503.66		£ 64.91
Soft toys		£ 1,690.35		£ 1,690.35
Stationery		£ 905.40		£ 905.40
Sweets -UO		£ 484.37	£64.75	£ 549.12
Toys - New		£ 227.35		£ 227.35
Toys - Second Hand		£ 426.35		£ 426.35
Father Xmas - UO		£ 521.50		£ 521.50
Tombolas/Lucky Dip - UO		£ 425.11		£ 425.11
GRAND TOTAL	£771.28	£11,495.73	£117.75	£12,384.76

THE EVERLASTING TURKEY



On the first day of Christmas my true
love said to me
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a
proper Christmas tree
On the second day of Christmas much
laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey, a most
delicious bird.
On the third day of Christmas people
came from just next door
The turkey tasted just as good as it
had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.
On the fifth day of Christmas outside the snowflakes scurried
But we were nice and warm inside, with the turkey curried.
On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died
The children fought and bickered; we had the turkey fried.
On the seventh day of Christmas my love he did wince
We sat down at the table and were offered turkey mince
On the eighth day of Christmas the dog had run for shelter
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of Alka-Seltzer
On the ninth day of Christmas by lunchtime Dad was blotto
He knew the bird was back again, this time as a risotto
On the tenth day of Christmas, we were drinking homemade brew
Anything to help us to face that steaming turkey stew
On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce the turkey was revolting
On the twelfth day of Christmas, we had smiles back on our lips
The guests had gone, the turkey too. WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS!

Methodist Church House Move

From 1 January 2023, the Methodist Church will be saying goodbye to Methodist Church House in Marylebone.

Our new building is currently undergoing a complete renovation, which is due to last between 12-18 months. Whilst this work is being undertaken, we'll be sharing an office space with our ecumenical friends, the Church of England, at Church House Westminster.

Young Church

The Biscuit Club (11+) normally meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10.30 and on the 4th Sunday from 5.30 – 7.00
Their next meeting will be 8th January at 10.30.

Cookie Club (3-11) start in church every Sunday and then go out to room 2 for a session. The service starts at 10.30.

Creche (under 3) There are toys and books, in the church, near the Hub for families to sit and let the children play. This means that parents can stay and enjoy the service, although the Well Room is available for use with additional toys.

This Christmas may we remember
that Jesus came for all the world.
When we celebrate, may we know
that people all over the world are celebrating too.
As we hear the nativity story,
we pray for peace on earth
and goodwill to all.

Amen





OUR MISSION

We are a church at the heart of Highams Park which seeks to discern and follow God's direction. Our aim is to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour through the life of the church and outreach to the community. We promote worship and fellowship enabling us to grow towards God.

We are an inclusive church where all are welcome.

OUR STEWARDS: Senior Steward: Carole Merriman

Stewards: Carol & Dumisani Moyo, Pat Ovenden, Janet Dawe, Samuel Ebden

OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM: - led by Jean Norton

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

If you would like to submit an article, joke, photo, poem, prayer or item of interest, please contact Jan Dent -

jdent7@gmail.com or 07751603883

Deadline to submit items: **Monday 23rd January**

This newsletter is available to download as a PDF from our website.