

# WINCHESTER NEWS

APRIL 2023



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

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@winroadmeth



Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church

## *Letter from Revd. Stephanie Njeru*

Dear Friends,

It is good to be back from Sabbatical and hearing about everything that has been happening in my absence. The Sabbatical is a 3-month period gifted to ministers where we are to spend time with family, travelling and studying or intentional reflection in equal amounts.

I spent time in Canada with family over Christmas and New Year, I have been able to spend intentional time with family here, going on day trips, helping with homework, playing board games and decorating a bedroom. I have spent time preparing my garden for spring and summer, planting seeds and bulbs in anticipation of a colourful place to reflect and write sermons in the warmer months. I spent time on two short retreats and managed to study.

It has been time well spent with family, friends and God.

As I write this, we are in Lent. Lent is not just a time to give up chocolate and splurge on Easter Sunday morning. During Lent we are encouraged to spend time with God, focussing on our relationship and our personal priorities as God's children. I hope you too have been able to find some time to do this.

Our focus though must be on the empty cross, the Risen Christ as we seek to understand what that means to us as individuals and communities. What does being a forgiven, loved and free follower of the Risen Christ mean? A question where the answer changes with our lived seasons, but hopefully one which brings us the same vibrance as a spring and summer garden, to our hearts, minds and spirits.

With Easter blessings

Rev Stephanie

# Services –April/May

**Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Palm Sunday:** - Led by Janet Tweedale  
(Palm Crosses will be distributed to the congregation.)

**Thurs. 6<sup>th</sup> April: Maundy Thursday Service: 7.15 for 7.30** this will be held in the Hodgson Hall – Led by Revd. Stephanie Njeru

**Fri. 7<sup>th</sup> Apr: Good Friday.** Services- Lighthouse 10.30-Leyton Trinity 3.00

**Sun. 9<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Sunday: 10.30** All Age Worship including communion, when we will dress the cross with flowers and collect small eggs for two local schools. Led by Revd. Stephanie Njeru.

**Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> April:** led by Revd. Oseias Da Silva

**Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> April:** led by Gillian Farnfield

**Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> April: Church Anniversary** led by Revd. Stephanie Njeru

**Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> May:** led by Dallion Roye

**Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> May: Church General Meeting** will follow this service.

## **Rev Stephanie Njeru**

With pastoral oversight of Leyton Trinity, Lighthouse and Winchester Road Methodist Churches Forest Circuit (35/33)

Normal rest day Friday

*Mobile: 07458 050833*

*Landline: 0208 279 2380*

Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting - Mondays 12:30pm

Weekly Zoom Bible Study - Wednesdays 7:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8345484534?pwd=UTBwdWFBaG1qK0k3Yys2a0xjUEY1QT09>

Both on: **Meeting ID: 834 548 4534 Passcode: 158039**

Landline: 0203 051 2874 United Kingdom

# News from Our Church Family



*Congratulations to Olive Wimble* who celebrated her 100th birthday on 5<sup>th</sup> March. She received a card from the King and Queen Consort as well as many cards and gifts from family and friends.

Olive had two birthday parties to accommodate both family and friends and enjoyed visits from other church friends as well. Olive's career spanned many years as a devoted Nurse, Midwife and Ward Sister both



in London and in India. She was also a local preacher in Forest Circuit for many years. Now living in a care home in Chingford, Olive is in general good health. She sends greeting, prayers and thanks to all her friends at Winchester. God Bless you Olive.

Lindy Richardson

## Joyce Forder

Thank you to everyone in our church family who played a part in, and attended Mum's funeral service, committal and reception. We really appreciate you taking the time to come and apologise if we didn't get a chance to speak to you personally at the church. Thank you also for the many messages of sympathy and support we have received, which have been a great source of consolation at this time. Finally, thank you for the generous donations made to Parkinson's UK. Nearly £600 has been raised in Mum's memory for a cause that is very important to our whole family. Mum would be so pleased to know that such a large sum will be going to continue the charity's important work and research.

Lynda, Derek, Emily and Louise Bygrave  
Nigel, Sophie and Rachel Forder

N.B: It was fantastic that two of Joyce's primary school friends were able to come along. It gave them a chance to chat and arrange a future meeting. It was also a chance for one of them to see familiar places and those that had changed. Jan Dent

### Church Flowers:

**Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup> April** in memory of Connie & Bill Booth (Lindy's Parents)



*Lord God, you know every thought of our heart, and every breath we take. You know when we truly see the light, the error of our ways. You know when we are just totally overwhelmed. You know all this, yet you still love us, and have the power to free us from our sins. We bow our heads and accept your loving forgiveness, Lord.  
Amen.*

# What's On

## **An Invitation to explore Revelation in Bible Month**

**What is Bible Month?**- Bible Month is an annual opportunity for the whole Methodist Church in Britain to feast on one particular book of the Bible together. The Bible is God's gift to everyone; Bible Month is about learning how to approach and appreciate different texts, and growing our faith, understanding and biblical literacy. This year's Bible Month, held in June, will focus on the book of Revelation.

**Why Revelation?** Revelation is one of those biblical books we can be tempted to avoid. It has a bit of a history and reputation for being misused, abused and misconstrued. Its odd and even disturbing imagery can make it quite an uncomfortable and perplexing read. But this pastoral letter, written by an elder sage to a diverse group of committed yet messy, tired, hurting and confused churches can actually offer us a lot of comfort and instruction about how to live hopefully, faithfully and lovingly as God's people today, however challenging a time and place we might find ourselves in.

**So how can I get involved?** There are two ways:-

1)The Methodist Church has produced a free, day-by-day guide to reading the whole of Revelation, with questions for reflection or discussion.

[www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/the-bible/bible-month/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/the-bible/bible-month/)

2)We have a WhatsApp group where we will share our thoughts and questions in response the daily reading. We plan to meet four times in June, hopefully over a meal at someone's house, to work through four themes.

Wed 7 June 6.30pm - The Church Then and Now (Chapters 1-3)

Mon 12 June 6.30pm - The Triumph of the Lamb (Chapters 4-5)

Sun 18 June 6.30pm - Witness, Worship and Waiting (Chapters 10-13)

Mon 26 June 6.30pm - Heading Home (Chapters 17-22)

(It doesn't matter if you can't attend all four evenings)

To find out more or join either the daily reading group or the weekly discussions, please contact Rachel Lampard on [racheljlampard@gmail.com](mailto:racheljlampard@gmail.com)

### **Saturday Coffee/ Lunches**

Proceeds will be for Guide activities and church funds as specified.

**17<sup>th</sup> June:** - JMA

**15<sup>th</sup> July:** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Guides Camp

Please speak to Janice if you are able to help.

### **'CARE'**

Although 'Care' is no longer providing regular help in the community, Sunday lunches for 'Care' guests are once again a regular feature at Winchester Road. They take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. If you know someone who may like to come along to lunch, please ring the 'Care' number, 07546713843.

'Care' was also able to host an event for guests on Christmas Day, for the first time in 3 years. (See report on page 8.)

### **Winchester Rangers Group**

As part of their service to the community, the Rangers enjoyed an evening preparing treats for CARE lunch guests. They created sunflowers with a Ferrero rocher inside and every guest had a small bag containing teabags and biscuits to take home. As you can see, they had great fun making the gifts and it was lovely to see the guests pleased to receive them.



## Christmas Inn 2022

After an absence of 3 years, it was good that we were able to hold Christmas Inn again. It is always difficult to know exactly how many people actually attend on the day because although we had received acceptances from over 70 guests, some decided not to come at the last minute, a few others rang up to say their transport hadn't yet arrived (but did so in time) and quite a number were ill (to six of whom we delivered a full meal). Several of our long-standing helpers were also ill but in the end we had enough help – though we can never have too many helpers!

Guests and helpers alike enjoyed a delicious meal, cooked by Pat and family, assisted by their Ukrainian refugee and many other helpers.

The raffle was much appreciated as was the entertainer who played and sang while we served high tea to everyone.

The Mayor of Waltham Forest did not attend this year although I sent his office the usual invitation. We were lucky to have the use of two Community Transport minibuses for most of the transports and also a minibus – plus driver – lent to us by a local synagogue. However, each year I write to volunteers who have driven for us in the past and each year there are fewer and fewer offers of transport, so transport overall was even more difficult.

Even though we arranged for each Community Transport minibus to do two return transports and tried to keep the numbers of passengers in each minibus as low as possible, it took up to two hours to do a transport. I suspect that in future years we will have even less car drivers prepared to turn out at 5.00 pm on Christmas day so we may have to hire a third Community Transport minibus, which will add to the cost.

My particular thanks go to Pat and family, and our volunteers, for providing the Christmas meal; Alan Polain, assisted by Alan Burgoine, for organising the transport; Anne, Gary and Nathan for providing numerous cups of tea and coffee throughout the day; Kevin for helping both on Christmas Day and Boxing Day; Caroline, our First Aider, who also provided extra transports, and everyone else who helped in any way, either beforehand or on the day. As always, if anyone would like to help with Christmas Inn, we are always glad to hear from them. We are also always happy to accommodate extra guests. While all offers of help, be it donations of money, home-made cakes, small boxes of chocolates, washing up crockery and cutlery for about 80 people at a time,



etc. are much appreciated, we would always be delighted to receive offers of transport particularly for the return transport at around 5.00 pm. Both Alan Burgoine and I are willing, and able, for the time being to continue to organise transport/organise the event, but neither of us can guarantee we will be able to do so indefinitely so, as a matter of urgency we would both like to identify successors.

Christmas Inn has been running for at least 25 years and it would be a great pity if it could continue to not take place.

If anyone has any questions about Christmas Inn, please do not hesitate to e-mail me ([maryrose.french@btinternet.com](mailto:maryrose.french@btinternet.com)), ring me on 020 8529 7406, text me on 07808 121347, or leave a message or text on the Care number (07546 713843).

Meanwhile I think I can speak for all involved in Christmas Inn, particularly on Christmas Day, when I say that however tired you are by the end of the day, you are more than rewarded by the thanks of our guests and the smiles on their faces as they await their transport home, which make it all worthwhile.

Mary Rose French





## Winchester Road Growth Group

In 2019 we started to look at ideas for the future of Winchester Road. In 2020 our first meeting of our Growth Group had to be cancelled (#Covid).

We surveyed our church congregation in 2021 and put forward some ideas to Circuit, and we said we saw ourselves as a growing church with different styles of worship enabling everyone in their own way to know, love and worship God and to know His will for their lives.

Would you like to be a part of our focus group that will help to shape some ideas for the future of Winchester Road?

Please see Sarah Hayward, or any of the stewards if you would like to be involved, or would like some more information.



### **Prayers for Peace in Ukraine**

The Methodist Peace Fellowship has partnered with the Fellowship of Reconciliation and others in praying weekly for peace.

They've been praying **every Friday at 7.30pm** since the war in Ukraine began. All are welcome to join these led sessions, regularly or occasionally.

[Sign up through the Zoom website.](#)

**Media Office** <info@methodist-news.org.uk

# Easter Hymns

Some of the best Christian Music was written in response to the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus. On Good Friday 1727 the St Matthew Passion, an oratorio by J.S. Bach based on the German Lutheran Bible, was performed for the first time. Since then alongside George Frederick Handel's Messiah, with words taken from the King James English Bible of 1611, it has been a feature of Easter concerts. In the Victorian period Sir John Stainer composed an oratorio which was specially written to be sung by the average church choir. It was a feature of Holy Week at many churches, including Winchester Road for many years. Our hymn book (Singing the Faith) includes hymns which follow the Easter events and I have selected hymns which many of you will know by heart and invite you to sing along with me.

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem and was met by enthusiastic crowds waving palm branches and shouting "Hosannah to the son of David. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord "(Matt 21 v9). The most familiar hymn is probably the sombre,

*'Ride on, ride on in majesty, Hark the tribes 'Hosannah! cry;*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty, in lowly pomp ride on to die.'* (StF 265)

it doesn't capture the enthusiasm of the crowd described in Matthew's gospel as being in uproar and shouting. To reflect this mood, you would have to join with the choir from Stainer's oratorio Crucifixion who shout '*Fling wide the gates, for the Saviour waits to tread on his royal way.*

Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander wrote a hymn (284) for children to mark Good Friday which has stayed with many of us from our time at Sunday School or Primary School. '*There is a green hill far away outside (without) a city wall.*

*Where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all.'*

A hymn which has grown in popularity is (StF 285)

*'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.'*

Which takes us on to the laying in the tomb and raising from the dead.

Singing the Faith describes this hymn as being an African American traditional song. It first appeared in a collection called 'Old Plantation Hymns' in 1899

and can now be found in many different denominational hymn collections. There is a strong link in this hymn between Jesus' agony, the suffering experienced by American slaves on the plantations, and humanities' responsibility for Jesus' death.

Isaac Watts is regarded by many as the poet who initiated the writing of congregational hymns for inclusion in worship including what I believe is the best-known hymn about the crucifixion.

*'When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died.'* ( 287)  
which includes these words in verse 3.

*'See from his head his hands, his feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down ;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?'*

The most numerous Easter hymns are those which take up the joyous theme of the resurrection, including number 298, one of Charles Wesley's three hymns on this event. *'Christ the Lord is risen today; Alleluia !*

*All creation joins to say Alleluia !*

*Raise your joys and triumphs high Alleluia !*

*Sing you heavens; let earth reply Alleluia !*

*Love's redeeming work is done Alleluia !*

*Fought the fight the battle won; Alleluia !'*

Alleluia/Hallelujah occurs in seven of the Easter hymns, including all three of Wesley's hymns and is a Hebrew liturgical expression used in the Bible and usually translated as 'Praise ye the Lord'. It is the opening word of several Psalms (e.g. Ps 146– 150) and in Revelation Ch. 19 v 6. *"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude.....as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, alleluia."*

Charles Jennings the compiler of the text of Messiah chose this verse and other texts from Revelation for the great and popular **Hallelujah Chorus** which Handel set to music. The Oratorio also includes a beautiful soprano aria using words from the Old Testament.

*" I know that my redeemer liveth. and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth." (Job 19 v 25)*

These words were also chosen for an Easter Sunday hymn by Samuel Medley (StF 303). Samuel was the son of a Cheshunt Schoolmaster who gave up a promising apprenticeship to join the navy and enjoy travel and a dissolute

life. He was seriously injured during a naval engagement and the ships surgeon proposed to amputate his leg the next day due to its worsening condition. Overnight Samuel prayed and read the Bible, two activities which he had previously ignored. In the morning the surgeon announced that a miracle had happened, and he did not need to amputate the leg. He left the navy and while living with his grandfather he joined the Baptist Church in Holborn London. Samuel's life changed, and in 1772 he was called to be the minister of a Liverpool Baptist church which counted many seafarers amongst its members. It has been suggested that Medley wrote this hymn inspired by the experience of the disciple 'doubting' Thomas who was convinced of Jesus resurrection only when he met Jesus after the resurrection. This story is only found in John's Gospel Ch 22 v 24-29 where in the final verse Jesus says to Thomas "*because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed*".

*'I know that my Redeemer lives, What joy the blest assurance gives!  
He lives, he lives who once was dead; He lives my everlasting head!  
He lives, to bless me with his love; He lives, to plead for me above.  
He lives, my hungry soul to feed; He lives, to help in times of need.'*

Verse from a hymn which Samuel Medley and many modern Christians can sing with meaning.

My last choice is one of the celebratory Easter hymns '*Thine be the glory risen conquering son.*' (StF 313) which was written in French in 1884 by a Swiss Protestant Minister Edmond Budry and was inspired by words from Paul's First letter to the Corinthians, "*O death where is thy victory ? O death where is thy sting?*" It was set to the tune for the victory march 'See the conquering hero come' taken from George Frederick Handel's oratorio about the Old Testament hero Judas Maccabaeus. In the 1920s it was translated into English and included in the 1933 Methodist Hymn Book and quickly became popular.

*'Thine be the glory, Risen conquering Son.  
Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won.'*

Allen Steel April 2023

# *Our Young Church*

Our Young church have been busy in recent weeks. On Mothering Sunday they prepared bunches of daffodils to distribute to the congregation. (See back cover,) Throughout Lent, along with their families, they have been presenting the Lent Liturgy at the beginning of each service and placing artefacts on the cross. On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (Palm Sunday) the Young Church will help to distribute palm crosses, and on Easter Day, 9<sup>th</sup> April, there will be All Age Worship when we remove the artefacts from Lent and decorate the cross with flowers.



**The Biscuit Club (11+)** normally meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 10.30 and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday from 5.30 – 7.00  
Their next meeting will be Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 5.30.

**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.

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Mt 21:1-11, Mk 11:1-11, Lk 19:28-38, Jn 12:12-19

Thousands of people went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast each year. This year Jesus and his friends went too.

Two miles outside Jerusalem Jesus said to two of his friends



Go into that village and bring back the donkey you find there.

If anyone asks, say 'The Lord needs it.'



So off they went...

and they found it as Jesus had said.



Why are you taking our donkey?

The Lord needs it.



That's alright then

They brought it back to Jesus, and made a saddle from a cloak.



They spread more cloaks on the road to make it a way fit for a king.



Others cut palm branches and waved them.

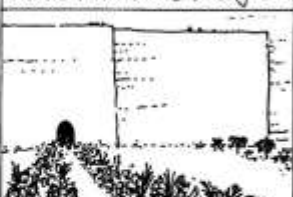


They shouted the traditional welcome to the Passover feast

God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!



As they got closer to Jerusalem the crowd grew!



Everyone shouted to welcome Jesus as king



The teachers of the laws were angry



Teacher, you should stop them calling you 'king'

But Jesus replied



What they say is so true that even if I made them stop, the stones would shout!



### **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 MAY NEWSLETTER**

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

**[jdent7@gmail.com](mailto:jdent7@gmail.com) or 07751603883**

Deadline to submit items: **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

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