

# WINCHESTER NEWS

JULY & AUGUST 2023



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

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**@winroadmeth**



**Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church**

# Services –June & July

**Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup> July:** - led by Audria White

**Sun. 9<sup>th</sup> July:** - Local Arrangement

**Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> July:** - led by Peter Dawe

**Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> July:** - **10.30** led by Rev. Stephanie Njeru (Communion)  
: - **6pm**. Farwell Gathering for Tony Malcolm at Leytonstone

**Sun.30<sup>th</sup> July:** - led by Kath Leckey

**Sun. 6<sup>th</sup> Aug:** - Local Arrangement

**Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> Aug:** - led by Glynis Barber

**Sun. 20<sup>th</sup> Aug:** - **10.30** led by Dallion Roye  
: - **4pm** Closing Service at North Chingford (p.7)

**Sun. 27<sup>th</sup> Aug:** - led by Millicent Acquah

**Fri. 1<sup>st</sup> Sept:** - **7.30** Welcome service for Rev. Mike Long (new Circuit Superintendent) at Woodford

## Church Flowers:

Sun. July 2nd: - in loving memory of Ron Taylor  
and Ena & Horace Hopkins

Sun. Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> : - in loving memory of  
Kath & Eric Warner

Sun. Aug. 20th: - in loving memory of  
Stan & Margaret Pettit



## Church Council – June 2023

**Pastoral Surgeries:** Rev. Stephanie Njeru and Zak Njeru (Pastoral Support) will be setting up monthly surgeries for each of Stephanie's three churches. It was suggested that these would be on the last Wednesday of the month at Winchester, when there is a coffee morning for the Gym parents. However, as the Gym group do not meet over the summer regular dates will be confirmed in September.

**Prayers in church:** There had been some confusion recently when only the person's Christian name was mentioned in the prayer. It was agreed that if permission had been given for prayers, then the full name could be used.

**Outreach:** Services had been discussed and put forward for the next plan. It was agreed that from January All Age Worship would take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month. This may also include other forms of worship. A group will also visit Wesley's Chapel to look at the possibility for planning Taizé worship.

The uniformed organisations continue to have good membership but leaders in all groups are needed.

**Resources:** It was agreed that motorised blinds would be fitted in the Memorial Hall and the cupboards and walls repainted.

There are plans to refurbish the toilets.

It was agreed that we should pay for a weekly clean of the premises on a Friday or Saturday.

**Finance:** Anniversary donations, to date, were £8371.

Funds are in place for the planned work in the Memorial Hall.

It was agreed that the basic rate for lettings would increase by 2% and premium rate by 4%.

A small group will meet to consider the current, and future, charity donations.

**Care Highams Park:** Sunday Lunches continue to be popular, and plans are in place for Christmas Inn.

**Young Church:** Numbers remain small.

**Circuit Matters:** A candidate is going through the 'Safer recruitment process' for the role of Property and Facilities Manager.

Three people had volunteered to become Circuit Stewards.

Management of Wanstead and North Chingford Churches will be handed over to the Circuit.

Next Meeting:- 17<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30

# News from Our Church Family

**Doris Weston:** We were pleased to hear from Doris, who moved into a home near her family. She is very happy there and is able to play the piano and sing regularly.

**Ellen** and her family moved to Newcastle about ten years ago, but she has kept in touch some members. It was great to see her recently, along with her youngest son, when she briefly visited London and was able to join in one of the group discussions for Bible Month.

**Brian Nicholas:** Although not a member at Winchester, Brian was an active member of the circuit and responsible for maintaining the archived information from all the churches. Sadly, he died on 24<sup>th</sup> April and a Thanksgiving Service was held at Shernhall Methodist Church in May. Our thoughts are with his wife Jean and the rest of the family.

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*Loving Father,*

*July brings long days and summer pleasures, for many, but not for all. Lord, we pray for those who are finding life to be a struggle; for families with no hope of a holiday this year; for parents who don't know how they will feed their children during the upcoming long school break; for those who are lonely, or discouraged, or isolated, or afraid. Lord, we pray for justice and compassion from those in positions of power and responsibility.*

*And please Lord, show us how to help, how to be part of the solution. May we, as your children, reflect your loving kindness wherever we can. May your Kingdom come on earth, through us. In Jesus' name. Amen*

# Methodist Prayer Handbook - 'Hidden Treasures'

2023 – 2024

Although we are only halfway through the year, the Methodist year begins in September. This handbook contains prayers for the Methodist Church to be the Church that God desires; and explore how we should live out Our Calling, as we respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ through discipleship, worship and mission.

This year's Prayer Handbook theme is 'Hidden Treasures', based on Isaiah 45:3, with further inspiration from Romans 8:22-29 and Psalm 139.

We talk easily about 'the light of Christ', yet truly God is at work in the darkness, and in the most difficult of times. It can feel challenging to follow God when the way ahead seems less clear. But we believe that God's hidden treasures are present, often in the most unexpected places and unexpected people. While the prevailing narrative is decline, there is hidden potential for new growth in the Church and continuing to see God at work, even in the most marginalised of communities.

The Prayer Handbook is £4.50 each, (£4.15 for 10 or more). There is also a 'large print' version. If you would like a copy, please speak to Mary Burgoine or Margretta Bowstead, who will be ordering copies, by 9<sup>th</sup> July.

*"Migrant God, free from borders, your presence spans all creation.*

*You take sanctuary in us, in you is our eternal sanctuary.*

*We behold you in community with those uprooted from their homes by war, poverty, persecution and extreme weather, especially those who make their way to these shores on small boats. Be the shelter of their lives. Bless their courage and resilience in seeking freedom and sanctuary. Bring us to build cultures of welcome, hospitality and sanctuary for all; Community where there is conflict; Compassion where there is cruelty; Humanity where there is hatred; Hospitality where there is hostility; And so, to practice and proclaim hope. In the Name of Christ. Amen"*

Collect for Refugee Week from Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal

# What's On

## Saturday Coffee/ Lunches

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



Please speak to Janice if you are able to help.



## A Big Thank You

The Saturday café on 17<sup>th</sup> June raised £935.65 for JMA (Junior Mission for All) which supports work with young people in Britain and across the world.

The bri-a brac stall raised a further £93.00 for Olives school in Kenya, which we have supported for many years.

Many thanks to all those who supported this event.

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The Bingo Night on 15<sup>th</sup> June raised £451.80 towards the Guides Camp in August. Many thanks to all those attending.

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Christian Aid raised £661.68. This was slightly down on last year, but still pretty good in the current financial climate. Many thanks to all those who, donated, collected door to door or helped with the Tesco 'bucket' collection.



**NORTH CHINGFORD METHODIST CHURCH  
LONDON (FOREST) CIRCUIT 35/33 Station Road,  
Chingford, London E4 7HJ**

Closing Service on Sunday 20th August at 4pm. If you will be coming, please let Debbie Freeland know by Monday 31st July,

dfreeland24@hotmail.com / 07963048167 / 0208 529 7397

**Age UK Waltham Forest Waltham Forest Resource Hub (North) 58  
Hall Lane, Chingford E4 8EU Tel: 020 8558 5512 email:  
info@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk [www.ageukwalthamforest.org.uk](http://www.ageukwalthamforest.org.uk)**

**Summer Garden Tea Party** fundraiser in The Hub Garden on Friday 11 August from 10.00am - 1.00pm. There will be fun for all the family as well as a baking competition. If you would like to join us for some summer fun, please contact us on 020 8558 5512 or [events@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk](mailto:events@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk)

**Tea and Cake Quiz** Join us for our fun monthly quiz at the Hub! 27 July, please arrive at 2pm for a 2:30pm start. Booking is required,

There are lots of other activities, and plenty of advice on their website.

## **The Hive (Formerly Suntrap)**

The Hive, Church Road, High Beach, Loughton, Essex, IG10 4AJ 020 8508 0611

Many of you may remember trips to Suntrap when you were at school. They now operate throughout the year and offer activities for families.

### **Family Forest Explorer Camps 21 22 August .**

Create some great family memories with an overnight stay in our heated camping pods. Our Forest Explorer Camps are a great opportunity for families to discover flora and fauna in the forest while learning new outdoor skills.

### **The Hive Open Day**

On Monday 28 August 2023, The Hive will be open for all and we're planning a range of activities the whole family can enjoy.

## The Lively Oracles of God

At his Coronation King Charles III was presented with a Bible by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland with these words, “Receive *this Book the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom; This is the Royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God*”. Before the Protestant Reformation, the Bible used in Churches was only available in Latin and ordinary people had to rely on the priest to translate it and interpret its meaning. All books were handwritten and only Royalty and the nobility could afford to own them, but the change came with the development of movable type printing. Initially the Church opposed translating the Latin Bible into everyday language, but William Tyndale believed that ordinary people should be able to hear, or read it, in English, the language they understood. His translation was illegal, and he was arrested and executed, and it was Miles Coverdale, using Tyndale’s translation, who published the first English Bible in 1535 which he dedicated to Henry VIII.

Since then, there have been several versions of the Bible and the New Testament published but I believe that the most influential was the Authorised Version, usually called the King James Bible, of 1611. There was a time when you could expect to find a Bible, or a New Testament, in every home which claimed to follow the Christian tradition. At one time the senior school day began with an assembly where a hymn was sung, and the Bible was read out. On holiday when you stayed in an hotel, a drawer in the bedside cabinet contained a copy of the Bible supplied free to the hotel by the Gideon Society. A large, expensively bound copy of the Bible is usually open on the Communion Table at the front of Methodist Churches. Many of these were gifts from church members or were given in memory of a member of the congregation and bear an inscription naming him or her. One such Bible in Winchester’s possession was given by Stanley Chambers in memory of his wife Edith.

In Winchester Road Church’s pews you will find copies of the **Good News Bible** (British Usage Edition of 1976) and this is what is usually read out in Sunday Services, though some of our readers may read from other versions. Printed on the inside of the front cover you will find the words, ‘*Dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory of Kitty Cole*’ Also there are copies of the new Methodist Hymn Book, **Singing the Faith**, which were given in loving memory



of Cyril Fitzpatrick by his family and friends.

Books became popular as birthday, or seasonal gifts. Our copy of the **Good News Bible** was a Christmas gift in 1977, inside the message reads 'To Allen and Christine and family with Seasonal greetings' and was signed by June a worshipper at the Handsworth Avenue church who died later in a road accident. Currently there are also two books on my shelf given and signed by the authors. '**All that Jesus began**' was written by our former minister Rev. Reginald Copestake and a book signed by the TV personality Dan Walker '**Standing on the Shoulders**'. Dan writes about some of the people he interviewed on BBC Good Morning Britain. Included in this book are his impressions of **Martin Hibbert** who, with his daughter Eve, was injured by the bomb detonated in Manchester as the audience left a concert by Ariana Grande on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017. Martin was hit by a bolt which severed his spine and Eve was knocked unconscious by a blow to her head. Martin felt his body



closing down but managed to fight it for an hour. He was taken to the nearest hospital by ambulance man, Paul, who realised he would not survive the proposed longer journey to a distant hospital. Martin was going in and out of consciousness and was convinced he was going to die. Paul kept talking with him to make sure that he arrived at the trauma unit alive. There he was under the care of Stuart, the consultant nurse who nursed him in Intensive Care. All three became friends from that evening. Dan Walker interviewed them on BBC Breakfast when Martin came to the studio to talk

about his plan to 'climb' Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro in his wheelchair.

I end this shortened version of the story in Martin's words as he contemplates the rest of his life spent in a wheelchair " *We could all sit in a corner cry and feel sorry for ourselves. I want to use my drive, my motivation, to live life to the full*" He was successful in reaching the summit and his efforts raised over £100,000. for the Spinal Injuries Association.

Books have become popular as prizes awarded to youngsters at school and elsewhere. We have a complete copy of the works of William Shakespeare which carries a label saying that it was awarded to my mother aged 12 in 1920 for her Proficiency in Needlework by Selwyn Avenue Girls School. Amongst the books donated to the Winchester Bookstall was a battered copy of ‘ **Dare to do Right**’ by Julia Matthews. It is formed of three biographies (fact or fiction ?) the first being called ‘Grandfather’s Faith’, the second ‘Our Four Boys’ and the third ‘Giuseppe’s Home’. It has a label stuck on the inside of the cover which says that it was given as a Sunday School prize to Albert Freeborn by Christchurch Poplar Sunday School in December 1899. I must confess that I have not dipped into it.

The church bookstall receives donations of mainly paperbacks for sale to support the work of the church and to help meet the cost of maintaining the buildings. We notice that the introduction of the Kindle device has reduced the supply. The most popular books sold through our bookstall are paperback novels and cookery books and **we thank all of you who buy and donate books** to the stall. Please do not give us battered old books, videotapes, or CDs or children’s books that have been torn or scribbled on, as we find that they do not sell.

If you are going on holiday, there are guidebooks on the bookstall (but take note of the publication date!). We suggest that you have a rummage through our books to find something to read and relax with, or if you are entertaining friends, try looking in the box below the main shelf of the stall where we place cookery/barbecue books.

Allen Steel July/August 2023

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*Alone with none but Thee, my God,  
I journey on my way.  
What need I fear, when Thou art near  
O King of night and day?  
More safe I am within Thy hand,  
Than if a host did round me stand.*

By St Columba

# Our Young Church

**The Biscuit Club (11+)** At the end of June the group enjoyed a social evening, with lots of pizza and a chance to chat! Some will be going to 3Generate in the Autumn. For those who are moving house or going to college in September, we wish them well in the future. The group normally meet twice a month. Dates of meetings will be confirmed in September.

**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. During August there will be activity packs for them to use in church.

**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.

**We are looking at ways we can support and expand our Young Church. If you would like to be part of the discussion, please speak to one of the Young Church leaders or Sarah Hayward.**

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*Dear God,  
Thank you for making our amazing earth.  
Thank you for all the birds and animals, for all the  
trees and plants.  
Thank you for all the colours and textures.  
For mountains and rivers and seas.  
We give you thanks today. 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 SEPTEMBER 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 21<sup>st</sup> August**

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