

WINCHESTER NEWS

OCTOBER 2023



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

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@winroadmeth



Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church

Services

Sun. 1st Oct: - Harvest Parade/All Age Worship
led by Rev. Stephanie Njeru
Harvest Donations for Whitechapel Mission

Sun. 8th Oct: - Led by Heather Hall

Sun. 15th Oct:- Led by Robert Hayward

Sun. 22nd Oct:- Led by Rev. Stephanie Njeru (Including commissioning
of Pastoral Visitors and Worship Leaders.)

Sun. 29th Oct:- Led by Kath Leckey

Sun. 5th Nov: - JMA & Shoeboxes Parade/All Age Worship
led by David Hobbs

Sun. 12th Nov:- Remembrance Service including communion
(To include a short act of Remembrance by the memorial
plaque in Wickham Road.)

Sun. 19th Nov: - 3Generate Feedback led by Rev. John Lampard

Church Flowers:

**Sunday 1st October - The flowers are in loving
memory of Mr & Mrs McSweeney**

**Sunday 15th October - The flowers are in loving
memory of Martin Dawe**

**Sunday 22nd October - The flowers are in
loving memory of Ken Seaman**



Membership Classes: These will be online from 18th September. Please
contact Stephanie if you would like to join.

Letter from Revd. Stephanie Njeru

Dear Friends,

October is Black History Month. It is where many of us will have the opportunity to attend events, art galleries, music festivals and more to listen and read stories about the history that we were never taught at school.

History that was taught when I was growing up was the Battle of Hastings, the Roman Empire, Saxons, Celts and Henry VIII. I'm not sure what you recollect. There was a huge portion of history which was only written by the victor, and we did not hear the stories of the oppressed or invaded.

We have the opportunity now, especially in the 75th anniversary of Windrush and 30th anniversary of Stephen Lawrence to listen and learn and to see things from a different perspective.

I would urge you, during October, to read just one or two things, watch one or two programmes, so that you can better understand the plight and struggle of others, and hold up to God those for whom it is happening.

Blessings Rev Stephanie

(See 'What's on – Libraries P.5 and Nigerian celebration P.6)

*Compassionate God, who sent Jesus Christ
to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions, to see the image of
God in every person irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.
May we be generous in our love of others
as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice; creating
communities of human flourishing, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you ,in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and for ever.*

Amen.



What's On

***** Christmas Bazaar:- 25th November 10.00 – 3.00 *****

(See inside back cover)

Care Lunches: These take place on the first Sunday of each month. Please ring 07546713843 for more information. The next Lunch will be on Sunday 1st October.

Christmas Inn: Preparations are in place to invite people, who may be alone, to share a meal and entertainment on Christmas Day.

N.B: Help is urgently needed for these events, including to cook, prepare and serve meals and provide transport. If you are able to help please speak to Mary French. (Care: 07546713843)

Saturday Café:- 16th December

9.00 – 4.00 sandwiches, hot lunches, cakes and refreshments.

Please speak to Janice if you can help.

All money raised for improvements to the church buildings.

Felicitas Concert: My Dancing Day

The Abbey Church Waltham Abbey Saturday 9th December at 7.30

Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk

Events in Local Libraries

In Green Libraries Week, "The HIVE" will host an animal outreach session. Meet and handle giant African snails, stick insects, giant millipedes, hissing cockroaches, fire salamanders and a corn snake and learn to care for and respect animals. This event is for all ages, and booking is essential.

Hale End Library, Wednesday 4 October, 11am to 11.45am

Have creative fun with Nature Decorate your own plant pot, plant a seed and watch it grow! Suitable for ages three+

Walthamstow Library, Wednesday 4 October, 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Hale End Library, Saturday 7 October, 11am to 12noon

We are celebrating Black History Month by creating amazing paper weaving patterns inspired by the Kente designs from Africa. Come along and create amazing and colourful paper weaving patterns. Suitable for children five+ but little-ones can access this craft with support from their adults.

Wood Street Library, Monday 16 October, 4pm to 5pm

Chingford Library, Tuesday 17 October, 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Walthamstow Library, Wednesday 18 October, 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Hale End Library, Saturday 21 October, 11am to 12noon

Thank You!

Olives School in Bombolulu Kenya (See back cover)

An enormous thank you to everyone for your support of this school in the slums of Kenya. Winchester Road church has supported it very generously since William did his three months voluntary work there over ten years ago. We have provided money for a corrugated iron roof so that all classrooms can be used



during the rainy season; we have paid for them to have a toilet block and we send an annual contribution for children's meals. 20p feeds a child for a day and the school began to introduce lunch because they realised that if a child went home for lunch they often didn't get fed and they rarely returned to school in the afternoon.

We collect 20ps in a basket in the hub (and of course any other value of coinage!) and on occasions the cakes in the hub contribute. We raised the most ever this year - *a fantastic total of £230*. A big thank you for your continued support from me, the school's Head, Michael and all of the children who benefit from your 20ps - as you know what they say 'every little helps'!

Maureen

**Nigeria celebrates 63rd Independence Day on Sunday 1st October
Independence Community Hymn Singing
Methodist Central Hall at 3pm**



Waltham Forest Resource Hub North 58 Hall Lane, Chingford, E4 8EU Tel: 020 8558 5512 M: 07519376981 www.ageuk.org.uk/walthamforest

Help and Support:-Information and Advice team can help with benefits advice, benefit calculations, form filling, as well as advice on housing issues, energy saving, care and support, social prescribing, health and wellbeing. Call us on 020 8558 3404 or email contact@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk

Information and Advice Drop-in service at Priory Court, Walthamstow Wednesday from 9:30am-12:30pm

Changes to Landline Phones

The UK analogue network is being replaced by digital technology. If your home does not have broadband, the telephone provider will need to supply a system to support the new telephone system.

BT, who has the majority of 'landline only' customers, will start to contact a limited number of its customers about the change. However, they are not currently switching certain groups, including people aged 70 and over, and other groups with additional needs. Age UK National is monitoring the changes and part of a group of representative organisations advising BT on the switchover.

For more information visit: ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/consumer-issues/changes-to-landline-telephones/

Winchester Road supports 'Eat or Heat'

(Based in Walthamstow with branches in Chingford and Wanstead.)

'Eat or Heat, Quaker House, 1A Jewel Road, E17 4QU /0800 772 0212.'

We value the donation of food and other items which are on the list in the Hub. As Christmas approaches we will also be grateful for items such as presents and Christmas food and treats.

Memories!!

In the years after the war, things started to pick up at Winchester, and four socials were arranged to be organised by people with surnames grouped according to the 'phone directories. We came into the second book – L for Lankshear and Mum and Dad were among the leaders of that group and arranged all the games. We all had to dress up in wellies and 'farm clothes'. Dad wrote a song which was performed by the group responsible for that particular social. It gives all the names of the people who were responsible for everything that happened at Winchester then, including Rev. Corner, and the various activities that happened during the week, and shows how the old Memorial Hall was used. In the song Mrs. Dankworth is mentioned, and musically she was a great influence on the Sunday School children. She, together with Mrs. Tysoe as accompanist, always formed a choir for the Sunday School Anniversary each year and produced several children's operettas. Joan Dunseath

A Harvest Footnote.

Last month David Watson shared his memories of harvest time in his East Yorkshire village prompting me to remember brief harvesting memories from my early teenage years. After the war my father bought his first car, a second-hand prewar Morris Eight and our family holidays began. He chose places to stay from a list of farms published by the AA. One of these was near Liskeard in Cornwall where I was encouraged by the farmer to join with the team who were going into the fields to collect up the bound sheaves of wheat which they had stacked in the fields. Armed with a pitchfork we tossed the sheaves onto a cart which followed us, but as the pile grew higher my sheaves didn't reach the top. Another day I joined a team picking up the potatoes which the harvesting machine had thrown out of the soil and putting them into a sack. This introduced me to hard work and the pain of back ache! On the plus side it was a tasty holiday, as, after the years of wartime rationing I enjoyed generous portions of roast chicken, and a rabbit casserole which has never been equalled, plus the luxury of fresh clotted cream, all these made by the farmer's wife. Allen Steel, October 2023

Olney Harvest Hymn

Last month I wrote about Harvest and researching the topic I was led to look again at the Olney hymns. These were a joint enterprise by John Newton and the poet William Cowper (pronounced Cooper). **John Newton** was born in 1725 and went to sea with his father at the age of 11. In the years that followed he served on both naval ships and vessels participating in the slave trade operating from Sierra Leone. His conversion during a storm in 1748 turned him into an evangelical Christian and in 1757 he gave up the sea as he felt he had a call to become a Christian minister. After a period of study he became an Anglican Curate in Olney in Buckinghamshire and for the last 28 years of his life he was the Rector of St Mary Woolnoth, in the city of London. His fame rests on his preaching and the hymns he wrote including *Amazing grace--how sweet the sound-- that saved a wretch like me* (StF 440) which he wrote to illustrate his sermon for New Year's Day 1773.

Throughout his life **William Cowper** (1731 -1800) suffered poor health and periods of severe mental illness which led to his confinement in an asylum for eighteen months. It was during his recovery period that he experienced a religious conversion and leaving the asylum he went to live with the family of Revd. Morely Unwin in Huntingdon. Later they all moved to Olney, where Cowper became a close friend of the curate John Newton, who encouraged him to write poetry and hymns. He was also active in the anti-slavery movement and wrote poetry on the subject. In 1779 when Newton moved to London the deep friendship continued through the exchange of letters and occasional visits. Finally, a collection of hymns by Newton and Cowper was published in 1779 with the title **Olney Hymns**. Cowper was plagued by hallucinations and periods of severe depression. For support he moved to Norfolk to be near a cousin, taking the widowed Mary Unwin with him. He died and was buried in the parish church of East Dereham aged 69.

When speaking to crowds during his ministry Jesus frequently spoke in parables, stories or illustrations from everyday life. **The Parable of the Sower** occurs in all three of the synoptic gospels (Matt 13 v 3-9, Mark 4 v19 and Luke 8 v4-8). In the parable Jesus outlines the fate of seed sowed by broadcast sowing. He was challenged by his disciples who asked why he used parables when preaching. He replied, 'The reason *why I use parables in talking to them*

is that they look but do not see, and they listen but do not hear or understand' (GNB Mt 13 v 13). Jesus went on to explain the meaning of the Parable of the Sower in verses Matt 18-23. The Sower throws the seed, some falling on the path, or was eaten by birds, some falling on rocky ground where there was little soil for the seed to grow. Some was lost due to drought and some seeds were strangled by weeds though some seed landed in good soil and yielded an abundant harvest. The subject of the parable was aimed at his hearers, illustrating the response of people to the message he was preaching. Jesus was telling his disciples that some of his hearers have closed minds, others only have a superficial understanding or allow other ideas, or the desire for wealth, to block out the message. The seed sown in good soil stands for those who hear the message and understand it. (Matt 13 v 23).

The Sower was written by Cowper.

*Ye sons of earth prepare the plough, Break up your fallow ground!
The Sower is gone forth to sow, And scatter blessings round.*

*The seed that finds a stony soil, Shoots forth a hasty blade;
But ill repays the sower's toil, Soon withered, scorched, and dead.*

*The thorny ground is sure to balk, All hopes of harvest there;
We find a tall and sickly stalk, But not the fruitful ear.*

*The beaten path and highway side, Receive the trust in vain
The watchful birds the spoil divide, And pick up all the grain.*

*But where the Lord of grace and power, Has blessed the happy field;
How plenteous is the golden store, The deep-wrought furrows yield!*

*Father of mercies we have need, Of thy preparing grace;
Let the same hand that gives the seed, Provide a fruitful place.*

This hymn is not included in many hymn books and I find the tune to which it is set is unfamiliar, but easy to follow, but I doubt that many of you have ever sung it.

Wesley's Chapel in City Road London is unusual among Methodist Churches in having a number of stained or etched glass windows which were mainly installed in memory of former ministers or members of the church. The simplest of these, installed around 1903, depicts the Sower sowing the seeds of the gospel. (See front cover) Allen Steel October 2023

From The Methodist News

"Isaiah 58: "to loose the chains of injustice, untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free...and share our food with the hungry."

'We believe famine has no place in the 21st century and is entirely preventable.'

The world faces an unprecedented hunger crisis. The storm of conflict, COVID-19, climate change and rising costs are driving children, families into extremely vulnerable situations. The number of people affected by acute food insecurity has nearly doubled over the past three years, from 135 million people across 55 countries in 2019 to a record **258 million** in 58 countries in 2022.

Churches worldwide are joining together for the third annual **Weekend of Prayer and Action Against Hunger on 14-16 October 2023**, coinciding with World Food Day.

"God of abundance all good things come from you. The world, full of life, reflects your glory and sings your praise.

You call us all to share fairly the bounty of your creation, and the gifts you give us.

But so many people in this world of plenty do not have enough to eat.

And so we ask you, God of all, to create in us a desire to make all things new. So that through your goodness all those in need may eat and be satisfied.



We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen." Catherine Gorman (CAFOD)

Christmas Puds



How can it be getting to that time of year again? I do not know! I will be making home-made Christmas puds in October should anyone wish to put in an order in advance - profits going to church funds. The prices start from £1.30 and it is likely they will need to be a little more

expensive than last year due to the rising costs of products. If you want to pre order just let me know the size you would like either by text 07590574801, email maureenduncan@mac.com, or at church on a Sunday morning. Maureen

A prayer from Christian Aid, for the nation of Libya and its people, for the thousands of lives lost to the flooding, for those left grieving and those trying to survive in devastating circumstances.

“Lord Jesus, you’re familiar with grief, you know what it is to weep with those who are suffering. You’re close to the broken-hearted and those who mourn. Devastating flooding has led to losses beyond measure for the people of Libya. With so many thousands affected, help us to see beyond the numbers to real communities and families whose lives have been upturned.

We pray that you would strengthen those who are still fighting to survive, and the rescue workers trying to save them.

We pray that you would console those who fear the worst as they wait for news.

We pray that you would be with all who are traumatised and deeply grieving.

Show us, Lord, how to serve you by helping our neighbours in Libya.

When we are daunted by the scale of the disaster, inspire us with your Spirit that we may know how to make a difference.

We thank you for the work of aid agencies on the ground and for all who give what they can to help save lives and support survivors.

Lord, Be close to the people of Libya, we pray. Amen



Our Young Church

Following concerns about the new arrangements we will continue to provide weekly sessions in Room 2 for Cookie Club (3-11 years)

Biscuit Club (11+) will start in church on 2nd and 4th Sundays and then go out for their individual sessions.

Cookie Club (3-11) will start in church at 10.30 each Sunday (except All Age Worship services) and then go out for their own session in Room 2.

All Age Worship services.

1st October: Harvest All Age Worship

5th November: All Age Worship including Shoe Boxes and JMA.

19th November: 3Generate feedback 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.

3 Generate:

7 young people and 3 adults will be attending the 3Generate weekend in Birmingham, 6th – 8th October.

We know they will enjoy the weekend and look forward to hearing all about it in November.



“We pray for all our Young people, especially those who are moving on to new schools, university and work.”

The Good Samaritan

JERICO

ONCE, A LAWYER TRIED TO TRICK JESUS WITH A CLEVER QUESTION.

...WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

JESUS REPLIED BY TELLING THE LAWYER A STORY.

HE WAS ATTACKED BY ROBBERS!!



A MAN WENT FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICO. ON THE WAY...

HELP!



THEY TOOK EVERYTHING HE HAD AND LEFT HIM FOR DEAD!



LATER A PRIEST PASSED BY, BUT DID NOTHING TO HELP - NOR DID THE RELIGIOUS MAN FROM A TEMPLE!

BUT A MAN FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY STOPPED TO HELP THE INJURED MAN. HE DRESSED THE MAN'S WOUNDS AND EVEN PAID FOR HIM TO STAY AT AN INN.



JESUS THEN ASKED "WHO WAS THE NEIGHBOUR?"

- PRIEST
- TEMPLE MAN
- FOREIGN MAN

WHICH DO YOU THINK WAS THE ONE THE LAWYER CHOSE?

Thomas Hart has been formally welcomed as the new Methodist Youth President following an induction service in Grimsby.

Winchester Road Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 25th November 2023

Now that it feels like Autumn, it's a good time to start preparing for this year's Christmas Bazaar which is on Saturday 25th November. As always, I have a list of the items that we are starting to collect.

The offers of help with the preparation (and clear up) are just as important as the physical donations of items. I have included the dates and times that we would love some extra people to be able to help with, even if you can just give us an hour of your time.

If you have items to donate then I can collect them at church on Sundays, or come to see me at Brownies on Mondays (6.00 - 7.30).

| Donations Needed | |
|--------------------------|--|
| New and Nearly New Items | We will be running our popular 'Christmas Gifts' stall again this year. Please bring any items to the church (toiletries, unwanted gifts, games etc) |
| Second Hand Toys | Please bring items to the church |
| Desserts & Cakes | Please see Mary French or Sarah Hayward with details of anything you are prepared to make or donate for the refreshments or cake stalls. |
| Jewellery | Please give any second hand jewellery to Alex Fletcher - the sooner the better please as it takes a while to prepare. |
| Books | If you have books to donate then we would appreciate these coming down to the church in the weeks ahead of the bazaar to allow time for sorting. |

| Volunteers for help | |
|---|--|
| Saturday 28 th October at 10am | Please see Sarah if you are able to help with the sorting of the items that have been donated and are stored in various places around the building. The decorations will also go up on this day. |
| Friday 24 th November 9.00am till 11am | We need 2-3 able bodied people to help move all of the items downstairs to the stalls. |
| Saturday 25 th November (9.30 till 4pm) | Volunteers to help serve on the stalls, or with teas and coffees, selling raffle tickets, washing up. There are plenty of jobs to go around! |
| Saturday 25 th November at 3.15pm | Help to take down tables, move items upstairs and generally clearing up for approximately 2 hours. |

No bric-a-brac again this year, but we may be doing something in the New Year, watch this space ...

Sarah Hayward

(sarahhayward78@hotmail.co.uk)





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 NOVEMBER 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

Please submit items by: **Monday 23rd October**

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