

WINCHESTER NEWS

APRIL 2025



World Day of Prayer 7th March

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

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@winroadmeth



Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church

Services

Sun. 6th April: 10.30 Led by Kath Lecky

Sun. 13th April: 10.30 – Communion led by Rev. Stephanie Njeru

Maundy Thurs. 17th April: - 7.15 for 7.30– Love Feast, led by Rachel Lampard

Good Friday 18th March: 10.30 Led by Peter Dawe

Easter Sun. 20th April: - 9.00 Communion Led by Rev. Stephanie Njeru
(followed by a simple breakfast)

-10.30 Led by Janet Tweedale

Please bring flowers to decorate the cross and small, wrapped easter eggs which will be distributed to children in a local school after the holiday.

Sun. 27th April: - 10.30 Led by Rev. Armstrong Fumme

Sun. 4th May: - 10.30 Local Arrangement

Future Dates

Sun 11th May: 10.30 - Church Anniversary

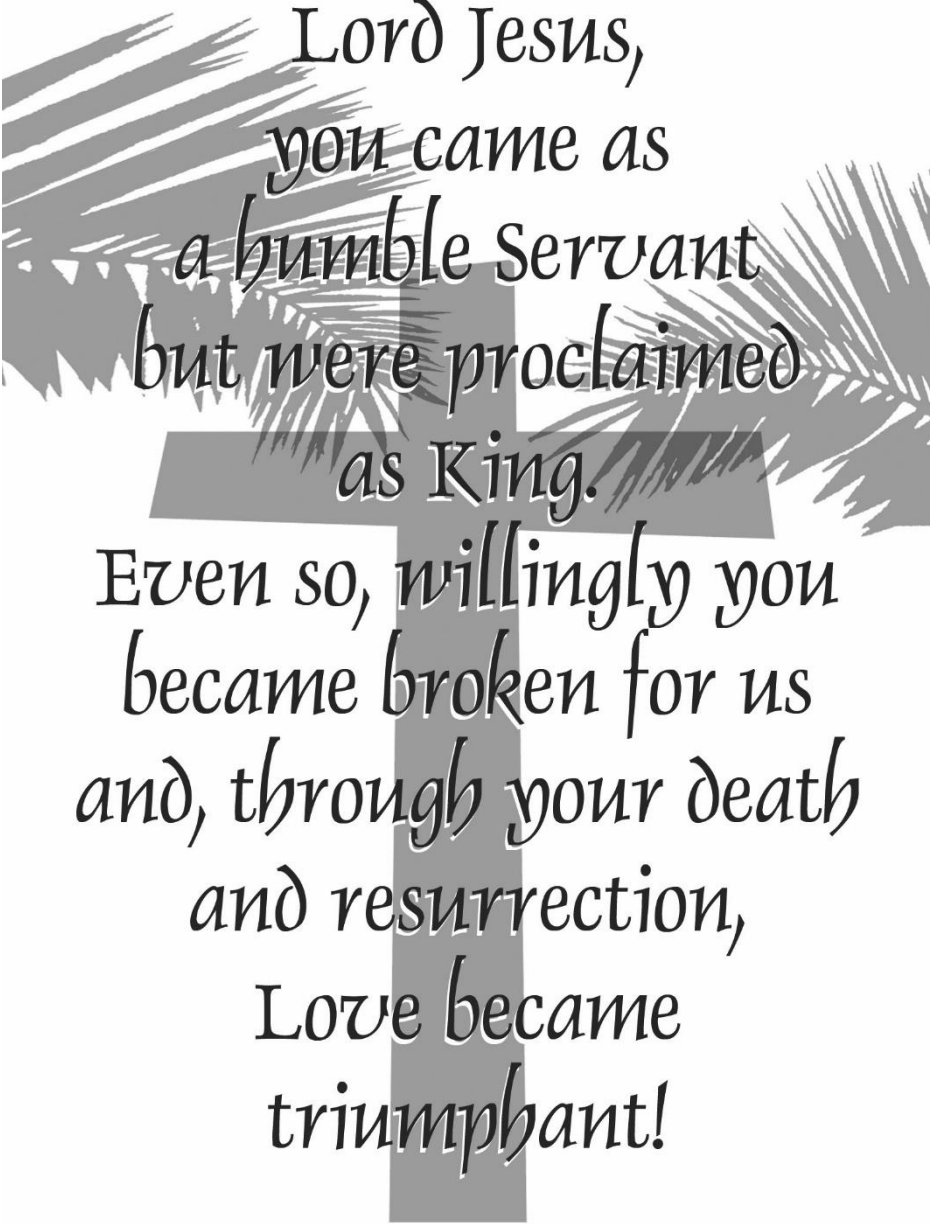
followed by the **Annual Church Meeting**

Church Flowers:

April 13th: in loving memory of Connie and Bill Booth

April 20th: in celebration of Audrey Payling's Birthday





Lord Jesus,
you came as
a humble servant
but were proclaimed
as King.

Even so, willingly you
became broken for us
and, through your death
and resurrection,
Love became
triumphant!

Our Church Family



Congratulations to Alex and Matt on the birth of Freya Hope Fletcher, born on 12th March. An early birthday present for brothers Eli and Isaac who celebrated their 5th birthdays a week later.

Emmett Henderson Crawford, son of Cation and Vincent, born on 11th September 2024 was christened on Mother's Day, 30th March.



Leo Cheng has been back on the Mercy Ship for two weeks. As well as coping with challenging medical operations he has been leading devotions, doing in service training and entertaining those on board with his magic, which we remember so well. Passing on the messages 'God is Light' and 'Jesus Champion of the world. (See back cover)

What's On !



Friday Coffee Mornings 10 – 12 am

Tea, coffee and biscuits in the Hub. (Term time only)
These coffee mornings raise money for various charities.

This term donations are for our local foodbank 'Eat or Heat' who are meeting the needs of over 100 individuals each week.



Saturday Lunches

The next will be on **Saturday 17th May** Money raised will support the Guides' trip to Paris.

Janice and Maureen would be pleased to hear from anyone who can help by making cakes or helping on the Day.

Many thanks to all who helped on 22nd March when over £600 was raised towards the building of a new Brownie House at Chigwell Campsite.



Future Cafés will be on: 21st June (for JMA)
19th July (for Church Funds)

N.B: Lighthouse Church Got Talent Show April 12th, 2025 - Postponed

London Community Gospel Choir – Youth Worship Choir

Out of Many One Voice

Hackney Empire 19th April at 7pm

Including the Youth Choir for ages 11-18

Waltham Forest Music Society

Tailleferre Ensemble Concert – Friday 25th April 7.30

All Saints Church, Church Avenue E4 9QZ -Tickets £15

Highams Park Art Trail and Culture Trail

Friday 2nd – Sunday 18th May

Easter

According to my dictionary the word ‘**Gospel**’ is derived from two old English words **God(good)** and **spel (news)**. The Bible’s New Testament begins with four Gospels, four versions of the good news about Jesus. The Gospel written by Mark opens with the words *That this is the ‘good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.* It began as the prophet Isaiah had written ‘*God said “I will send my messenger ahead of you to clear the way for you” Someone is shouting in the desert Get the road ready for the Lord”* (Mark Chapter 1 v1-3) Mark continues with a description of John the Baptist and his baptism of Jesus.

The rest of the first nine chapters read like a modern newspaper, telling the news of Jesus’ mission in Galilee where Jesus recruits the disciples Simon and Andrew, James and John. There is such news when Jesus cured numerous sick people, including a man suffering from the skin disease Leprosy, a paralysed man, and one suffering from mental problems. Like the media today Mark reports occasions when Jesus responded to questions from those who came to hear this wandering preacher. In the Good News Bible, the scholars who introduce Mark’s Gospel write that ‘Jesus is pictured as man of action and authority’. Mark presents the story of Jesus in a straightforward vigorous way with the emphasis on what Jesus did rather than on his words and teaching. From Chapter 11 to the end of the Gospel we can read about the final weeks of Jesus’ life; from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) when crowds spread their cloaks and branches on the road; his arrest; being taken before Pilate; the Roman Governor who handed him over to the authorities for his trial; crucifixion, death and burial.

The Gospel writers concentrate on Jesus’ resurrection from the point of view of the women who discovered the empty tomb on Easter morning. Paul in his first letter to the church at Corinth (Chapter 15) writes ‘*Now I want to remind you, my brothers , of the Good News which I preached to you, which you received, and that is the Gospel on which your faith stands firm*’. He went on to assert ‘*I passed on to you what I received, which is of the greatest importance; that Christ died for your sins that he was buried and that he ,was raised to life three days later, as written in the Scriptures*’, (Good News Bible I Corinthians Ch 15 from verses 1-4)

Gospel Music has become a genre and a cornerstone of Christian worship and media. Such hymns/songs have a personal response to the Good News, a dominant Christian vocal, a strong beat and harmony. To many writers English Gospel hymns/songs arose in this country during the religious revivals of the 18th century and they cite John Newton's response to his response to the 'good news.' as evidence

*Amazing grace --- how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me !
I once was lost , but now am found,
was blind and now I see. (StF 440)*

Among the other listed gospel hymn writers who placed Jesus at the forefront of their output is the American author Fanny Crosby (Also known by her married name Frances Jane Van Alstyne) whose best known hymn is

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine; (StF 548)...

which has the well known chorus

*This is my story, this is my song
Praising my saviour all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my saviour all the day long*

Others give credit to the emergence of Gospel worship in the African/American churches during the Slavery period and its later acceptance by mainstream denominations. One of the key figures in Black Gospel was **Thomas A. Dorsey** a prolific composer of Jazz and Blues, as well as gospel, who for fifty years was the Director of Music of a leading Baptist Church in Chicago. Among his three thousand songs is a gospel song, which like hymns/songs of this genre has a strong personal link'. It was a favourite of Martin Luther King.....' *Take my hand precious Lord'*. When singing this hymn/song Dorsey encouraged hand clapping and stamping of feet by the singer to support the tune.

*Precious Lord take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on into the light.*

Gospel became widespread and popular due to the growth of the recording industry during the 1930s, and the talent of such singers as Mahalia Jackson, Ella Fitzgerald and even Elvis Presley all of whom recorded Gospel. Some lists of Gospel songs online surprisingly include a familiar hymn by Charles Wesley which I suspect many of you will know.

*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! (StF298)*

Allen Steel April 2025

(London Community Gospel Choir is performing at Hackney Empire
on 19th April -see p.5)

Nigerian Health Care Project

Following the service in October, celebrating Mary Burgoine's long support of the Nigerian Healthcare project, money raised from donations in lieu of postage for Christmas cards was donated to the charity.

Mary received a call from the treasurer, Rev. Mike Meachin, who wanted to thank everyone for the £223.45 sent to support the various projects run by NHCP.

Call for Volunteers for Ainslie and Larks Woods

The Friends Group that looks after Ainslie and Larks Woods (FOAL) was formed in December 2004 and they have been looking after our lovely woods ever since. However, they are now very short of volunteers and they aren't as young as they used to be 20 years ago, so they are seeking new volunteers to help them. They have regular work sessions in the woods and the next session is on Sunday 13th April. If you would like more details and are willing to assist at these or other future sessions please email Alan Butterworth
Email: alanbutterworth123@btinternet.com

World Day of Prayer 2025



This year the service, 'I Made You Wonderful', was held at Cavendish Road Baptist Church.

The day welcomed us with 'spring like weather' and plenty of sunshine.

28 people attended the service from all the local churches as well as some from South Chingford who were not able to hold a service this year.

During this special service, which was celebrated across the world, we were

able to learn about the lives of some of the people living in the Cook Islands.

As people came into the service, they were given a small shell to hold and feel the intricate designs, as well as a friendship bracelet to take home with them. Participants in the service wore a garland of flowers. The table was decorated with shells, flowers and other items including some brought by someone who had visited the Cook Islands. (See front cover)

After the service refreshments were served in the hall giving everyone a chance to chat and reflect on the service.

The offertory raised £259.40 (gift aid to be added) towards the continuing work of the 'World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Island', to support their many projects run by Christian charities around the world.

Next years' service: 'Come I Will Give You Rest, Come.' is being prepared by women in Nigeria and will take place on Friday 6th March.

Young Church

There are activities for the under 3's in the church, by the Hub, so that parents can stay in for the service. Please do not worry if your child moves around or makes some noise.

Those over 3 go out for sessions in Room 2 and the Hub. Currently, the older group, Biscuit Club, only meet on 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, but weekly provision has been extended to provide for those aged 3-13.

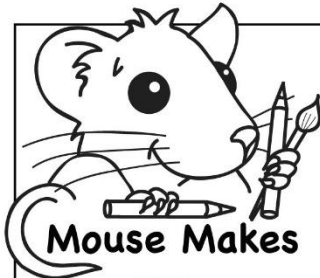
We were pleased that some of our new families have been able to take part in the Lent Liturgy at the beginning of each service.

Cookie Club have been following up the stories relating to the items placed on the cross during Lent. These have included searching for coins with magnets; choosing how to spend their money in the 'Cookie Club Shop'; learning about the temptations Jesus faced in the desert and linking this to decisions they make in every day life; as well as making unleavened bread; learning about the Last Supper and communion and sharing grapes and bread with the group. On Mothering Sunday, they were busy making bunches of daffodils to give to their own mothers and share with the congregation

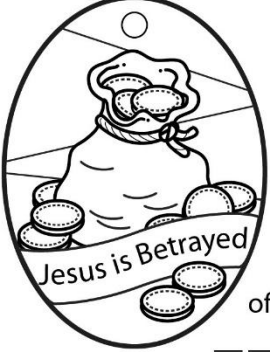
The service starts at 10.30 and there is a children's action song before the young people go to their groups. It is a video which children and those 'young at heart' can learn and join in with during the month. There are also instruments and ribbons for the children to use.



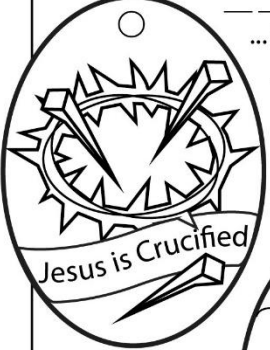
London Community Gospel Choir- Youth Choir Workshop. They meet at Brookdale House, 75 Brookdale Road Walthamstow E17 6QH and are currently rehearsing for the concert on 19th April (See P.5) If you are 11-18 and would be interested in this or future events, contact Jenny La Touche, Project Manager, jenny.latouche@lccg.org.uk or visit the website: www.lcccharity.org.uk



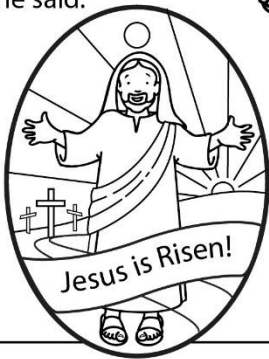
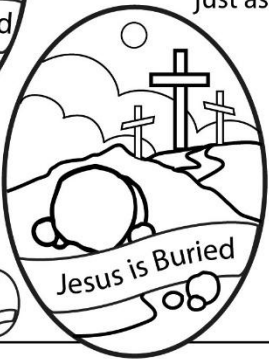
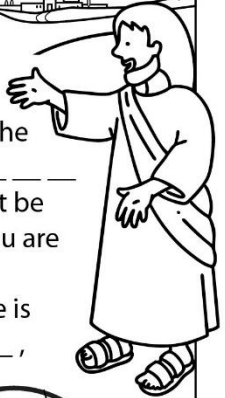
HE IS RISEN!
Read the story of
The Resurrection in
Matthew 28:1-20



How many other
words can you
make from
RESURRECTION



An _____
of the Lord came down from _____
and going to the _____
rolled back the _____
... the _____ said, "Do not be
_____, for I know you are
looking for Jesus who was
_____, He is
not here; he has _____,
just as he said."



Glue this page onto
card. Cut out the
ovals then colour in.
Punch a hole at the
top and hang up
for Easter

Leo Cheng, working his magic on board the Mercy Ship. We often enjoyed this when Hilary Cheng was our minister. All his magic supported an important Christian message.



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: Janet Dawe
Stewards: Pat Ovenden and Hazel Mathews

OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM: - led by Jean Norton

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER

by Monday 21st April - ident7@gmail.com or 07751603883

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