

WINCHESTER NEWS

JUNE 2025



Winchester Road Methodist Church
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Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church

Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

I have been wondering what events are happening during June. In the Methodist Church we highlight Refugee Week which concludes with Sanctuary Sunday, we also celebrate Methodist Homes, and this year Pentecost is in June.

But I wondered also about what other events and markers people think about in June, and I found a website; we can embrace a salad week or a candy month, take your dog to work or hug your cat, be thankful that we have older people and think of those families who have had to endure the pain and loss of still birth. We can pray for children in difficult situations, people who are celebrating their identity, and take part in various health related activities.

As I look at the many issues highlighted, it reminds me that we live in a complex world. A world where it is necessary and cathartic to remember and promote things which are important to us, or need to be brought to attention for reasons of social justice. Even the seemingly unimportant salad week and sweets month can have social implications, one implied ecological impact and the other can lead to chronic health conditions if not managed well.

As Christians, not only should we participate in events and rallies for social justice, but we should be leaders of such, and pray for them. With injustice comes degradation of lives lived peacefully and well: with disruption of life comes anger and frustration; with anger comes hatred, the objectification of the 'other' and ultimately lives lost physically or emotionally through abuse of power. Because of the implications of social injustice, we should lead and teach others in the ways of peace and mutual respect.

Because we follow Jesus, we should take up the way of life he lived. He started life as a refugee, he endured being outcast from religious leaders and society, and he died as though a criminal. All this and yet, he lived a life of peace, love and forgiveness. He included everybody for who they were, no

limits were put because of colour, creed, gender or age. Jesus listened, Jesus cried, Jesus prayed, and Jesus stood up against those who abused their powers.

As Christians we are called to do the same. Called to be prophets in our own time. Called to love, even if that means talking to those who don't look like us or have different lifestyles. To Christ it doesn't matter. To Christ, the important thing is that we know we are loved, cherished, and accepted for who we are, and that we believe.

We rejoice this month that we do not do all this alone, but that our Creator sent the Holy Spirit to help us, strengthen us and encourage us, and for that we are thankful. May God bless you as you continue to seek to love others in a Christ-like way this month, whatever that means for you. Rev Stephanie

Services

Sun. 1st June: 10.30 Led by Carole Merriman and Peter Richardson

Sun. 8th June: 10.30 Led by Carole Merriman and Peter Richardson
: **6pm** Circuit Evening Service to celebrate Pentecost at
Leytonstone Methodist-6pm supper, 7pm service-
featuring Shern Hall Steel Band

Sun. 15th June: - Led by Michael Hall

Sun. 22nd June: - **10.30 to include communion** Led by Rev. Stephanie Njeru

Sun. 29th June: led by Janet Tweedale

A farewell service will be held for Rev. Oseias da Silva at Woodford Methodist Church at 6pm on Sunday 6th July.

Revd Dr Jongi Zihle is leaving his role of London District Chair. A service will be held at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, 49 City Road, London, EC1Y 1AU on Sunday 06 July 2025 at 4pm, followed by refreshments.

VE DAY at Winchester Road

To mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the Thursday Fellowship began their gathering earlier, bringing food to share, war related items to display and their memories of the Second World War to talk about.

Decorated small tables were set round the room for the exhibits we had brought, which included Newspapers and magazines which families saved, giving news of the victory and peace, including a collection of pre-war German newspapers one member found under his water tank in the attic when it was replaced. Also displayed were the medals awarded to family members, chiefly the War Medal and the Defence Medal. Others recorded the area where the recipient had served, chiefly the France and German Star and a bravery Medal with the covering letter from the King. Also there were items which reflected the experience of those at home, a booklet published by the Walthamstow Local Authority with maps showing and naming the places where bombs fell and homes were destroyed or damaged, ration books, now devoid of the tokens taken out by shopkeepers when you claimed the food to which you were entitled, the Identity Card which the Law required you to carry. There was a gas mask which you were advised to wear when an air raid warning was sounded.

After looking at the displays we sat round a flag decorated table to enjoy our buffet feast and share our memories. I estimated that half the group present were old enough to remember the day and might have attended a VE Day street party. One member challenged us to pick her out in group photo taken at a street party held later. Another remembered the day when a bomb fell on a house in her street and showered glass over an apple tart cooked for lunch which had to be thrown away. Another recalled sitting with a friend on top of a neighbour's Anderson shelter listening to a doodlebug (a forerunner of the missiles which have been flying over Ukraine, and Russia and Gaza and Israel today). You were listening to the drone of the missile knowing that if the noise stopped it meant that the engine had cut out and the bomb was falling down and would explode! Several people recalled the dampness of the outdoor corrugated Anderson shelter built in their garden and remembered having to pump out the water that seeped into it. Others described sheltering

in the claustrophobic, iron, table indoor Morrison Shelter, when the siren alarm sounded. We were told about an uncle who went down onto an Underground Railway platform for safety but refused to come up when the 'all-clear' sounded. Those who had started school recalled being taken to the school's shelter when the air raid warning sounded and lessons continued.

Closing prayers remembered those who died due to the war and those of our congregation currently in hospital or receiving treatment as outpatients.

Our thanks to Hazel, Jan and Pat for organising our VE Day Commemoration



Church Flowers:

June 15th - the flowers are in loving memory of
Eileen & Alan Norton

June 29th - the flowers are in loving memory of
Harry & Edith Dawe



Our Church Family

Jack Finch: A Thanksgiving Service was held for Jack Finch on Monday 19th May at the URC church in Buxton Road. Jack was an active member at North Chingford Methodist Church and in the Forest Circuit. He also supported Whitechapel Mission for many years, helping with the collection and distribution of clothes. Jack and Betty transferred their membership to Winchester when North Chingford closed, although were unable to attend services. Family members recalled his 'care for all' as well as his sense of humour.

Isabella - Congratulations to Emily Clarke and her partner Rob on the birth of their daughter Isabella Jess on 25th April. Another great granddaughter for Dorothy Clarke who has been very excited and happy to meet her.



Audrey Herriott: Audrey was a regular worshipper at Winchester Road until she moved to a home in Norfolk to be with her twin sister and nearer to family members. Her sister died a while ago and Audrey passed away peacefully in her sleep on 4th May. Her funeral will be held in Norfolk on 3rd June.

Bob Borrow who printed our newsletter, for many years, died on 23rd May. He was at home with his family. Aged 95, he printed our April newsletter, despite his machine, not himself, breaking down. I personally had known him for nearly 50 years, as an active member of CADOS. He and his wife Hazel took many starring roles in musicals, and he printed all their posters and programmes. He will be greatly missed by his family. Winchester are grateful for all the years he continued to print our newsletter.

Patron Saints

Did you celebrate St George's Day, which my diary shows as being on 23rd of April, but Google told me that this year it was moved to Monday April 28th. The Church of England required this change because saints' days cannot be held during the week before or the week after Easter. This year we remembered VE Day May 8 1945, the date on which the Second War ended 80 years ago. It gave rise to religious services which included the memories of war veterans. There were parades, street parties, National Union Flags on houses and special TV programmes.

These events brought to my mind notions of national identity and patron saints. The one fact most people know about our patron saint, **St. George**, is that he killed a dragon. He became our Patron Saint in 1350, despite not being British when King Edward III created the Order of the Garter supposedly because George combined Christian Faith and Military prowess. Tradition tells us that George was a Greek or Turkish born member of the guard of the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who was sentenced to death for refusing to recant his Christian Faith. He became popular with soldiers and the nobility who joined the Crusades because of his faith and heroism despite not believing in dragons.

Before St. George, England's patron saint was **St Edmund the Martyr**. Edmund was the King of East Anglia who ruled eastern England between 855 and 869 during the period when the country was being attacked by the Vikings. The historic records are scant and it is unclear whether he died in battle or was captured and killed for refusing to deny Jesus Christ, and he was buried locally. In 924 he was reburied and the place of his shrine now bears the name Bury Saint Edmunds, though the shrine was destroyed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1530s under Henry VIII.

Some writers have suggested that a better choice to be our patron saint would be **St Alban**, though the evidence is not strong. It is believed that Alban was a citizen of the Roman City of Verulamium (site of modern St Albans), during the 3rd or 4th Century at a time when the Roman authorities were attempting to destroy Christianity. On a journey Alban met a Christian priest named Amphibalus who was escaping from persecutors and took him into the safety

of his house. Alban was impressed by the faith and the courage of the priest and converted to Christianity. The authorities heard that Alban was harbouring a Christian and tried to seize him. Alban put on the priest's cloak and clothes allowing the soldiers to arrest him and take him before a judge. The sentence was that Alban would be beheaded if he did not renounce his Christian faith. He responded with the words "*I worship and adore the true and living God who created all things*" Alban was executed on a hillside outside the city and there is a tradition that his head rolled down the hill and a spring appeared where it rested. Today the Abbey Church of St Albans stands on the site.

If Alban was British then perhaps, he would be a better choice for our Patron Saint.
Allen Steel, June 2025.

Chingford Banking Hub

Now open at 62 Station Road E4 7BA. Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

For those whose own bank no longer has a branch to go in.

You can withdraw and deposit cash, pay bills, and make enquiries.



Shoebboxes

I start filling the shoeboxes at the end of August and checking the items I've got, I find I have very few cars, I like to put 3 cars in all of the boys boxes, perhaps a truck of something similar in the 3-5yr old's. If you have any cars, in reasonable condition,

from your own children they will be fine, also please keep a look out for reasonably priced sets of cars etc. Toys of all sorts that will go into a shoe box, things to wave and blow, puzzles, boys are the most difficult, girls pretty hair items, bracelets etc. You can put them in the box at the back of the church or give them to me. Thank you. Sylvia

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.

In the spring term £370 was raised for our local foodbank 'Eat or Heat' who are meeting the needs of up to 100 individuals each week.

This term money raised will be for the Children's Cancer Trust



Saturday Lunches

The next will be on **Saturday 21st June**

Money raised will be for JMA

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

The last café of the year will be on: 19th July (for Church Funds)

Thanks to everyone who supported the coffee morning on Saturday which was raising funds towards the 2nd Highams Park Guides trip to Disneyland Paris this October. As many of you will know we encourage the guides to give their time to help raise funds towards the trip and, thanks to the generosity of those who donated and bought cakes and gave their time to arrange the cake sale, an amazing £666+ was raised to ensure the girls have a Spooktacular time at the theme park. It is very much appreciated.

Open Day at North Chingford Methodist Church

Saturday 7th June 11am – 3pm.

There will be a range of activities for all ages in the halls and on the forecourt. This is the start of a 3 month consultation on the future use of the building and grounds. There will be a chance to share your ideas.

This is also part of CHINGFORD DAY and there will be activities on the Green, St Peter & Paul's Church and Mornington Hall from noon.

Events in Highams Park

Friday 13th June 7.30: Waltham Forest Music Society present She’Koyokh (a lively evening of Klezmer and traditional music from Eastern Europe. Tickets on the door, cash only.

14th & 15th June East London Shakespeare Festival’s production of Much Ado About Nothing at Humphry’s Café in The Highams Park, IG8 9RB
To book tickets visit www.elsf.uk

Felicitas Concert – ‘There is Sweet Music’

Sat. 28th June 7.30 at St John’s Church Loughton IG10 1PD

A varied programme of choral music, directed by Simon Winters

Tickets: £12.50 in advance from Ticketsource or £15 on the door

Children and full time students under 25 free.

www.ticketsource.co.uk/www.felicitas.org.uk

Fill me with your Spirit, Lord, fill me with your love.
Fill this empty heart of mine, come down gentle dove.
You see all my self-concern, Lovelessness and pride.
Help me to open up my heart, place your love inside.
Fill me with your Spirit, Lord, fill me with your power.
Give to me your source of strength, from this very hour.
You have seen me trying hard, failing every time,
Show me how to let you now, live Your life in mine.
Fill me with your Spirit, Lord, fill me with your joy.
Give to me that happiness, nothing can destroy.
Even when my sufferings point me to despair,
May I know that joy inside just because You’re there.
Fill me with Your Spirit, Lord, fill me with Your peace,
Quieten all the turbulence, bid my struggles cease.
Often my anxieties, fill my life with stress,
Show me how to let them go, give to me Your rest. By Howard Webbe

Young Church on Sunday

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, by arrangement, but weekly provision has been extended to provide for those aged 3-13.

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. So come early!



PENTECOST

Father God, we thank you for sending your Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Fill our hearts with your love and help us to seek your face. Give us grace to turn to your world with a burning desire to bring your love to others.

Amen.



Down's Syndrome Garden at Chelsea, spotted by one of our members.

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 JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER

by Monday 23rd June - jdent7@gmail.com or **07751603883**

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