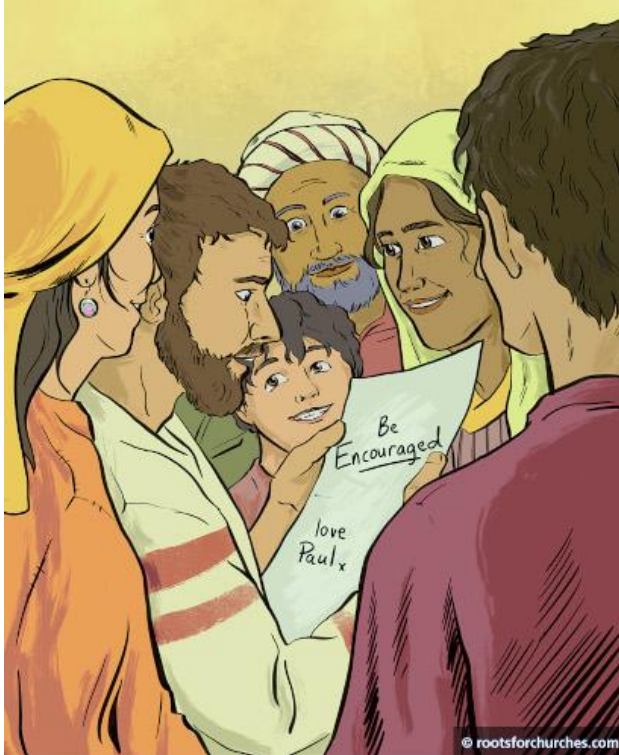


WINCHESTER NEWS

JULY/AUGUST 2025



Winchester Road Methodist Church

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Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church

Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

Sometimes I think God just wants us to smile and gives us things to help us on our way.

Some of you may have realised that I enjoy nature (well, most of it). I really enjoy a colourful garden and growing seedlings. They give pleasure and a sense of achievement.

A little while ago I saw an advert for a 'houseplant roulette' where you pay for the group of plants and then it is up to the garden centre to choose them for you. I decided to give it a go, and the houseplants arrived a couple of days ago. And this is where I believe God has a sense of humour. I was sent two dragon plants (I have a bearded dragon pet), four spider plants (I am an arachnophobe), two prayer plants and two 'dumb' plants. Needless to say, this particular selection brought me a smile, although perhaps an ironic one.

As I thought about grouping them into larger pots, I wondered how to mix them. In the end I decided to put a dragon, a spider and a prayer in one pot to remind me that all of nature is a gift and that I need to be able to consider this, even the things I am not comfortable with. This trio is in the living room where I find respite in the warmer weather.

The other grouping I've decided to put in my office – a dragon, a prayer plant and a dumb plant. These sit on my table which I face when I pray or write my sermons. This will be a reminder that prayer brings wisdom, and that we should not try and rely on our own efforts.

As we anticipate the summer holidays, I hope that God may bring a smile for you. For those in education, that it may be a well-earned break. For those who will now have extra childcare responsibility, that you will have energy, inspiration and patience, especially in the warm weather. And for us all, that any change in routine may bring joy whether it be something that we are comfortable with, or something that takes us out of our comfort zone.

May God bless you richly this summer.

Rev Stephanie

Services

Sun. 6th July: 10.30 Led by Adele Bird & Carole Merriman – This service will include a video of John Lampard's final service at Wesley's Chapel as well as contributions from the congregation.

Sun. 13th July: 10.30 Led by Peter Dawe

Sun. 20th July: - Communion Led by Rev. Stephanie Njeru

Sun. 27th August: led by Heather Hall

Sun. 3rd August: - 10.30 Led by Millicent Acquah

Sun. 10th August: 10.30 Communion led by Rev. Kevin Swaine

Sun. 17th August: 10.30 led by Rev. Stephanie Njeru

Sun. 24th August: 10.30 led by Peter Richardson

10.30 Circuit Service at Leyton Trinity led by Rev. Stephanie Njeru to include Communion

Sun. 31st August: 10.30 led by Rev. Kevin Swaine



'God of grace and growth, we praise you for making us all equal, but different, and, as we celebrate our uniqueness, so we celebrate your creativity – all the shapes and colours and seasons of creation, all the different traditions and rituals and music of each community. May diversity bring us closer and unity make us strong, as we serve the world your Son came to live in and to die for. We give thanks and pray in his name. Amen.'

Our Church Family

Rachel Lampard & Steve Walker: We wanted to let our friends know that we are moving our membership from Winchester Road to Wesley's Chapel. This is in large part because we want to be able to support Rachel's parents. They are getting older, and Judith is experiencing memory loss, so we want to be able to support them in attending church, but also to be able to worship alongside them.

We are both so grateful to have been members at Winchester Road since 2009. When we arrived, we were the exhausted parents of three children under the age of four, and you welcomed them into creche and Sunday School, and before long into Beavers and eventually into Biscuit Club and 3Generate! As a family we have been so blessed by being part of the church family at Winchester Road. Thank you for everything.

Please do keep in touch - we're still living nearby! We'll always feel part of Winchester Road Methodist Church.



Congratulations to Pam & Mike Hayward on their 50th wedding anniversary.

They also want to thank the church family for their many greetings and the gift of a plant.

Congratulations to Samuel and Heather Ebdon on their wedding in York on 7th June.



Remembering Iris Jenner'

"We would like to express our thanks to everyone who supported us at Iris Jenner's funeral on 13th February at Winchester Rd. and also to those who helped beforehand and on the day. The love and care shown to us by our friends at Winchester Rd. was very much appreciated.

Mum was always a very generous and kind person, a great cook, knitter and artist. She had known a lot of tragedy in her early life, as two of her brothers were killed in WW2 and a sister died through illness. She found great comfort in her Christian faith and always taught me to be thankful for the freedoms and opportunities that 'peacetime' Britain had to offer. Mum regularly attended All Saints church in Leyton for many years before she moved to Chingford. She enjoyed coming to Winchester Rd. with my dad, when she could and was delighted when she attended on her 90th birthday.

Mum's final years were quite difficult for her, as she sadly developed dementia. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated money and flowers in her memory. Donations have been sent to 'Dementia UK.'

From Annmarie, Nick, Jess, Sophie and Laura Moseley.

Church Flowers:

July 6th - in loving memory of Joyce Roden

**July 13th - in loving memory of Ron Taylor and Ena &
Horace Hopkins (Joan Taylor's parents)**

July 27th - in loving memory of Doris Weston

August 3rd - in loving memory of Mr & Mrs Brooks (Sylvia's parents)

**August 31st - in loving memory of Kath & Eric Warner and Stan & Margaret
Petitt**



Sunday School or Young Church

As you leave TFL's Embankment underground station you are tempted to walk into the attractive Victoria Embankment Gardens. Enclosed by trees and shrubs with lawns and colourful spring and summer floral displays the path has a succession of fine statues including one of **Robert Raikes** (1775-1811). The



inscription below credits Anglican Raikes with the foundation of Sunday Schools, but this not strictly accurate although he did play a leading role in their development. Credit should be given to **Hannah Ball** who, after hearing John Wesley preach, opened a school in 1769 to educate poor children in High Wycombe. Both Hannah and Robert believed that all children, both boys and girls, should be taught to read and that the best book for this task was the Bible. Raikes, as a prison reformer, believed that improved literacy would enable youngsters to find employment which

would keep them out of prison. As teenage children worked long hours in the developing factories of the Industrial Revolution, he opened a boy's school in 1780 in the poorer areas of Gloucester on Sundays, the Sabbath being the only day when boys did not have to work. Initially classes were held in homes of the teachers, but later rooms were rented for the purpose. This was possible because Raikes had inherited ownership of the local newspaper the Gloucester Journal from his father, thus he had the financial resources and the time to develop his ideas. In the early days he spent his own money on setting up Sunday Schools and published articles describing them in the Gloucester Journal which led to the idea being taken up in the parishes around Gloucestershire. Wider national publicity followed and this educational innovation spread nationally. Later girl's schools were created.

At first the schools were not linked to churches and religious education was not the main aim. Raikes later set out how his schools were to be organised. *“The children were to come after ten in the morning and stay till twelve; they were then to go home and return at one ; and after reading a lesson they were to be conducted to Church. After Church, they were to be employed in repeating the catechism till after five and then dismissed, with an injunction to go home without making a noise.”*

I suspect that many of my older readers attended Sunday School in their youth beginning on their own before the morning service and leaving after the first hymn, perhaps after a prayer or possibly a short talk from the preacher. Others may have attended a formal session in the afternoon with hymns, prayers and a Bible story told to them in a small group. I have been told that the Winchester Sunday School was attended by well over a hundred children each Sunday. Nowadays activities from dance, football or cycling and athletics have taken over and only a few churches have Sunday Schools. The description of the gathering as a school may have put off some youngsters and so the title **Young Church** has been substituted for it, though here at Winchester Road the young people aged 11+ chose to be called **Biscuit Club** and those 3-13 **Cookie Club**. We are pleased to note from the report to the annual Church Meeting that numbers have increased over recent months. The Sunday morning congregation, old and young join to sing a different active opening hymn each month led by children on the screens.

One of the characteristics of the Methodist church is hymn singing. John and Charles Wesley wrote and collected hymns on different themes publishing them in collections for the different seasons of the Christian Year or for particular groups of people. I suspect that many of you will be familiar with the blue bound **‘School Hymn Book of the Methodist Church’** which was published just after the war of 1939/45. Maybe like me you can still sing the words of some of the popular hymns from memory.

The best-known author of children’s hymns is **Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander** (Born Cecil Frances Humphries in 1818) she was known to her family as Fanny.. She began writing and publishing hymns in her twenties including *All things bright and beautiful, Once in Royal David’s city, There is a green hill far away.*

She has been criticised for her acceptance of the social class system by writing a verse in the hymn 'All things' which had to be deleted from twentieth century published versions of the hymn.

*'The rich man in his castle, The poor man at his gate,
God made them high or lowly, And ordered their estate.'*

Her collection entitled 'Hymns For Little Children' went through 69 editions during her lifetime. She gifted the royalties of this book to a school for the deaf which she had helped to set up. In 1850 she married an Anglican clergyman, William Alexander, who became Bishop of Derry and after her death the Archbishop of Armagh. William (who was six years younger than his wife) and Fanny had three children. Throughout her life she was active in visiting the sick, supporting help for unmarried mothers and working to establish a district nursing service.

Sabine Baring –Gould born in 1834 was the grandson of William Baring, one of the brothers who founded Barings Bank, and also the heir to Lewtrenchard Manor House in Devon. After obtaining a degree from Cambridge (Clare College) he was briefly a teacher in two Independent schools before becoming an Anglican Priest serving churches in Yorkshire and Essex. On his father's death he inherited the Lewtrenchard Manor and when the parish became vacant in 1881 he appointed himself as Vicar. During his lifetime he published numerous short stories, novels, historical articles about Devon and Cornwall. Among his many publications were an anthology of *Devonshire Folk Songs* and collections of *Folk Hymns for the use of schools*. During his time as a priest in Yorkshire he wrote the hymn for which he is best known ***Onward Christian Soldiers*** to be sung 'on a procession with cross and banners'. It did not become popular until Sir Arthur Sullivan wrote the familiar tune which I recall singing during my Sunday School sessions and Day School Assemblies.

*Onward Christian Soldiers ,Marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus ,Going on before.*

Few of the hymns we sang in Sunday school have been included in the new
Singing the Faith Hymnbook Allen Steel, July August 2025.

Our Young Church on Sunday

There are activities for the under 3's in the church, by the Hub. Those over 3 go out for sessions in Room 2 and the Hub. Currently, the older group, Biscuit Club, only meet by arrangement, but weekly provision provides for those aged 3-13 in Cookie Club.

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!



As our Young Church has grown in recent months, we are looking for people to support the groups, or even to lead occasionally. All those regularly working in Young Church need to have a current DBS and have attended a Methodist Safeguarding course. Please speak to one of the leaders if you feel you could help.

A Sunday School Teacher asked her class to write a list of eleven great men. As they were busy writing she walked between the tables and noticed one little lad chewing the end of his pencil. "Have you finished?" she asked.

Not quite , Miss. I'm trying to decide on the goalkeeper."

'Christian Aid week raised £371. Although this was down on last year it came hot on the heels of the Myanmar appeal so it is a very good result. Many thanks to Peter R for door-to-door collection, Adele and Babs for accepting 'delivery only' envelopes and Hazel for a Friday coffee morning. Thank you to everyone who donated.' Pat

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 money raised will be for the Children's Cancer Trust



Saturday Lunches

The next will be on **Saturday 19th July**

Money raised will be for Church Funds.

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

Thank you to all those who helped on 21st June. £1000 was raised for JMA as well as money towards church projects.

Trinity Church Debden – summer Beach Party Saturday 19th July 2-4

Barbeque, ice cream, crafts and games. Free event but booking essential at tinyurl.com/trinityparty/25

Local events:

Friday 11th & Saturday 12th July – All The World's A Stage (according to Shakespeare) Local drama group, Wadham Players, presents a light-hearted look at the Bard in words and music.

Venue: Forest Community Centre, Guildford Road, Walthamstow E17 4EA

Times & Tickets on this link: <https://highamspark.london/event/all-the-worlds-a-stage/>

Saturday 12th July – 'Game On Highams Park'

A community sports day for all, organised by Humphry's Café.

Venue: The Highams Park, IG8 9RB (by the Lake)

Time: 11.00am to 5.00pm Admission: Free



Most of you know that Mary Burgoine has collected 5p coins for many years to support the Methodist initiative to support healthcare in Nigeria. She recently received an update on their work.

“The Bethesda Orphan Care Project admitted 15 new babies in 2024. They were all successfully sent home in the care of extended families where they will be followed up by project staff until the age of 5. This community-based care has much better outcomes than traditional orphanages. The Agboke health centre rejoices in a new borehole and water system, donated anonymously by one of NHCP’s supporters. This centre provides good community-based healthcare.

The word from Royal Cross Hospital Ugwueke is that although Dr Hans Corpit is no longer a mission partner (following the difficult decision by the British Methodist Church to make all lay mission partners redundant) there is renewed enthusiasm from local donors to build and equip a school of nursing and midwifery. We are seeing examples of wonderful things happening in Nigeria without our direct support but building on foundations laid by NHCP.

It’s not all about money, though thank you for your continued and vital support, it’s also about fellowship and faith. So many times our hearts have been warmed and inspired by our Nigerian sisters and brothers.”

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 Carol & Dumisami Moyo

OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM: - led by Jean Norton

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

by Monday 25th August -jident7@gmail.com or **07751603883**

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

**WINCHESTER ROAD
METHODIST CHURCH**

God's Creatures Great & Small
HOLIDAY CLUB DAY



**Live
animals!**

**Tuesday
12th
August
9.30 till 4**



£10

PER CHILD

SIBLING DISCOUNT £8

Games | Crafts | Cooking | Animals

**Winchester Road
Methodist Church**

**Age
5-11**

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE PLEASE CONTACT
WinchesterHolidayClub@gmail.com

