

WINCHESTER NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025



Winchester Road Methodist Church

Winchester Road, Highams Park London, E4 9JP

Minister: Rev Stephanie Njeru

Email: Stephanie.njeru@methodist.org.uk

Tel: Church 020 8531 8663

Mobile: 07458 050833 / Landline: 020 8279 2380

www.winchesterroadchurch.org.uk



Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church

Letter from our Minister

Dear friends,

I find November is an odd sort of month. It's about both remembering and looking forward. We start the month giving thanks for those people who have lived a life of faith before us, those who have influenced us through personal relationships with them, and those who we do not know but could have influenced us by their stories and their life.

In the UK we also celebrate Guy Fawkes night and the calamity that never quite took place.

On 11th November we remember those who have died in a bid for the freedom of others. Those who were killed in war, mostly those in the military of various countries, but not forgetting the regular citizens whose efforts were also invaluable. These special days are ones of recognition and ones where we can pray for hope, peace and strength to witness to God's love for all.



November is also the month where our thoughts turn towards cake baking, shopping, gift making, card posting and making sure we still fit into that Christmas jumper! Although not in the full swing of Advent and Christmas parties and preparations, we are constantly surrounded by the reminder that there is an event coming up.



After the sweets and goodies have been collected from people's doorsteps, attention turns towards an even bigger event. Whilst most people think about filling stockings and the gaps under the Christmas tree, Nativity rehearsals in primary schools point caregivers, and children alike, towards the real event, the birth of Jesus.

We know that to be the real event of Christmas. And, although it's still early in November, there's no harm in reminding those around us that there is something bigger and better to focus our energy upon.

So, although we may not necessarily want to think about Christmas this early, especially for those whose workload increases significantly because of it, we need to help people prepare for the transition from death to life. And the journey that November takes us on, from mourning and remembering the damage that can be done through actions and words of humanity, to the light and life that God has given us through grace and love.

Blessings and prayers for your journey this month.

Rev Stephanie

Rev Stephanie Njeru has pastoral oversight of Leyton Trinity, Lighthouse and Winchester Road Methodist Churches Forest Circuit (35/33)

Normal rest day Friday

Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting - Mondays 12:30pm

Weekly Zoom Bible Study - Wednesdays 7:30pm

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8345484534?pwd=UTBwdWFBaG1qK0k3Yys2a0xjUEY1QT09>)

Both on: **Meeting ID: 834 548 4534 Passcode: 158039**

“Heavenly Father,

Here we are in November – the month of short, dark days. A dreary, difficult month, unless you have a birthday! Lord, it seems as if the world is permanently in November at the moment. So much is so difficult for so many people, through no fault of their own. And it seems to go on and on.

Lord, would You bring your healing light into the world's darkness. Bring transformation, compassion and a softening into the hearts of those with responsibility for the conflict and the suffering, that they might work for peace for all people. We know that nothing is impossible for you, Lord, so we pray in faith – and in the name of Jesus.”

Services

Sun. 2nd November: 10.30 including the dedication of shoeboxes. Led by Peter Richardson and Carole Merriman.



Sun. 9th November: 10.30 Remembrance Sunday
Led by Janet Tweedale. We will go out for a brief service at the end to lay wreaths by the memorial in Wickham Road.

Sun. 16th Nov: 10.30 All Age Worship to include JMA and a report on 3 Generate Led by Dallion Roye

Sun. 23rd Nov: 10.30 led by Audria White

Sun. 30th Nov. 10.30 Communion & Baptism led by Rev Stephanie Njeru

Special Future Services

Sun: 7th Dec: 3pm Memorial Service followed by refreshments.

Sun: 21st Dec: 4pm Carol Service to include a 'pop-up' Nativity Tableau followed by refreshments and mince pies. Christmas cards will be distributed. **(N.B. there will be no morning service)**

(There will be a post box at the back of the church for you to post cards to other church members. Please put full names on the envelope. Donations in lieu of postage will go to charity. Please note cards will need to be posted by 14th Dec. at the latest. There will also be a board in the Hub for those who wish to display a card for all in the church.)

Thurs. 25th Dec: 10.30 Christmas Day Service

Sun. 11th January: Covenant Service

Church Flowers:

November 2nd - in memory of Sheila Saunders

November 9th - in memory of Thomas Purton (Jan Dent's father)

November 16th - in memory of Audrey Herriot



Harvest

We celebrated our Harvest Festival on 5th October. The church was beautifully decorated by a team led by Janet Dawe and Sylvia Dixon. (see p.15)

The window displays were prepared by some of the young groups.



It was a parade service and was also followed by Care lunch, so the church was full. During the service, led by our Circuit Superintendent Rev. Mike Long, there were activities for all, both in the church and the Hub.

As well as making harvest wreaths, collage pictures of sweetcorn, potato prints and 'scratch art' a few children decorated boxes of treats, and made cards, for two of our members in Care homes.

We are very grateful for the generous donations of breakfast foods which are going to The Whitechapel Mission. The mission serves breakfast every morning to the homeless and needy in the area. Other donations went to our local foodbank, 'Eat or Heat'.



Congratulations

To: Debbie and Richard who were engaged at the end of September.

And to: Laura and Jessica Mosely who ran in the Royal Parks half marathon to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society, in memory of their Nan, Iris.



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. The charity for this term is Haven House.

New Class: Chair Yoga: Tuesdays 11am – 12pm -Free.

Suitable for Parkinson's Disease and other movement disorders. Gentle movement for mobility, posture and flexibility. For all ages, abilities, carers and family.

To book: 07707668867



Our local foodbank is celebrating its 14th anniversary this year! It was started by a Social Worker in Walthamstow, who had started collecting items of food for those in need. It still operates in Walthamstow, but a branch was opened in Chingford Congregational Church in 2013, to bring help closer to those in need. Supported by all local churches, volunteers collect and sort donations on Mondays and distribute to clients every Tuesday. Over the years demand has increased and now they can serve as many as 40 clients (100 + individuals.) They provide fresh food as well as tinned and packeted food and at Christmas will give out gifts and Christmas food. Help is needed on Tuesdays, 8.30 – 9.30 to set up.



WINCHESTER ROAD CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2025

A reminder that we have our Christmas Bazaar at the end of November. Preparations are in full swing now!

There are many ways that you can get involved – so please take a look at the information below and get in touch if you can help in anyway. Thank you to everyone that has already offered help or brought items to the church.

Donations Needed	
New and Nearly New Items	We will be running a 'Christmas Gifts' stall again this year. Please bring any items to the church.
Second Hand Toys, including soft toys	Please bring items to the church
Cakes	Please see Sarah Hayward with details of anything you are prepared to make or donate for the cake stalls.
Books: especially paperbacks.	Please bring these to church at any point, and leave with the bookstall.
Christmas Jumpers	We are collecting Christmas jumpers & PJs (any Christmas clothing) for our pre-loved stall this year. Please bring these along to the church by Sunday 16 th November.
Jewellery	Please give to Sarah Hayward, or Alex Fletcher

Volunteers for help	
Friday 21 st Nov 9am till 11am	We need 2-3 able-bodied people to help move all of the items downstairs to the stalls.
Saturday 22 nd Nov 9.30am to 3.30pm	Volunteers to help serve on the stalls where needed. We have a few stalls that are in need of some additional support – even 1 hour is helpful.
Saturday 22 nd Nov at 3.15pm	Help to take down tables, take down the grotto, move items upstairs and generally clear up for approximately 2 hours (the more people that help, the faster we are!)

Sarah Hayward winchesterchristmasbazaar@gmail.com

REMEMBRANCE

For many of us November is the special time when we remember family and friends who have died. The Church celebrates November 1st as **All Saints Day**, when all martyrs, and people who are recognised as holy persons or saints, are remembered. The Second Day of November is **All Souls Day**, the day to remember all those we have known and loved but have died. In some countries All Souls is a holiday when families lay flowers on graves, light candles and say prayers at the graveside. The evening before is referred to as **All Hallows Eve or Halloween**. I find myself out of sympathy with ghosts, ghouls and the scary events that are now attached to Halloween.

This year there has been an emphasis on remembering the end of the Second World War, eighty years ago. May 8th the anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) was marked by a national holiday and ceremonies broadcast from the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield in Staffordshire. On August 15th we remembered VJ Day (Victory over Japan in the Far East), though the official surrender document was not signed until September 2nd 1945. The second Sunday in November is recognised in Britain as **Remembrance Sunday**, the day when the nation remembers those who were killed during the two World Wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45. This year it will be held on **November 9th** the Sunday nearest the anniversary of **Armistice Day November 11th** when hostilities ceased in 1918.

Roy Falconer, father of our Son-in-Law, when researching his family history, knew that one of the family was killed during the war of 1914-1918 and buried in France. He wrote to the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** to ask for the details and the location of the grave of his ancestor George William Falconer, aged 19, whom he never knew. When war was declared George, and three of his cousins, signed up to join the army. His first posting was to Gallipoli, from where he returned injured to Britain. On recovering from his wounds, he joined the Sherwood Foresters Regiment and was sent to fight in the Battle of the Somme in France. George and a comrade were sheltering in a bomb crater in No Mans Land when they took a direct hit from a grenade and George was badly injured. He was dragged back by his

comrade and taken to the Field Hospital at Acheux-en-Amienois where he died on 17th September 1916.

During the last two years there have been numerous gatherings of war veterans and ceremonies broadcast on TV remembering the two European wars. These led our son-in-law, Russell Falconer, to offer to drive us to Normandy in the summer to visit the sites of the D Day Landings of 1944, the Battlefields of Normandy which followed, some of the cemeteries of the two wars, and also to see George Falconer's grave. Some Normandy war cemeteries have orderly rows of graves stretching



as far as the eye can see while others are just a handful of graves in the corner of a field. The grass is immaculately mowed and edged, and the plants pruned and tended. Visiting these War Cemeteries is a sobering and emotional experience. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records information about the individual soldiers, when they are able, storing it away on site for visitors to read. We found the grave of George William Falconer in the beautifully maintained war cemetery beside the Supermarket in the farming village of Acheux.

The Cemetery at **Bayeux**, (see front cover), has 4,646 burials, mostly from the D Day Invasion of Normandy in 1944. It is the largest British War Cemetery in Normandy. **Laurence Binyon**, one of the noted poets of the First World War, served in the Red Cross. Our visits to the cemeteries brought words from his poem '**For the Fallen**' to my mind.

*"They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.*

*They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old; Age shall not
weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and
in the morning, We will remember them."*

Allen Steel, November 2025

3Generate 2025



This year the biggest group from the circuit so far, attended the 3Generate weekend in Birmingham. Dean, Martha and Maame from Winchester Road attended. Rachel and Steve Lampard accompanied the group. Maame was going for the first time. Dean went as a young leader. Below are their accounts.

On Friday 3rd October, after school, we met at Asda shopping centre in Leyton where we met Rachel the leader of 3 Generate to get on the mini bus to Birmingham.

We arrived at Birmingham around 8-9pm. It took us 2 hours to get there. When we found our tents, we set up our sleeping bags and did some activities including a silent disco, art and crafts and basketball. Early Saturday morning, we did some more activities. Rock climbing, a dodgeball competition, a VR head set and a silent disco.

On Sunday, everybody started to pack up because it was our last day at 3 Generate. However, we still did a few activities like, drawing and playing dodgeball for fun.

My achievements at 3 Generate were trying new things and being self-reliant. Also, I have learnt to be more confident spending more time with God and to be more grateful.

Maame Akosua Konadu Owusu

This was my sixth year at 3Gen and what consistently brought me back was the incredible connection to God I felt when at the convention, and the great time I had with the leaders who took me. So, when I had the opportunity to go as a leader, I excitedly took it, and I am so glad I did.

Being a leader had a different set of expectations, mainly focussing on ensuring that the group (larger than ever before) blended together and threw themselves into the trip wholeheartedly. Despite these new expectations, I never felt weighed down by them. Rachel and Steve, seasoned 3Gen veterans, equipped me with the confidence to feel I was capable of fulfilling my role. I was able to talk to the group about what they had been up to, connect with them and gain an insight into their own personal journeys, not just individually, but as a group too.

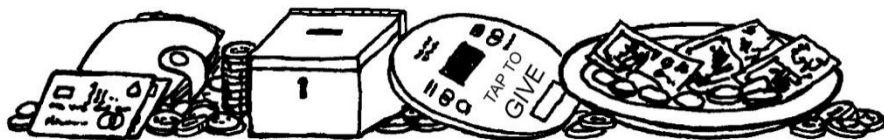
Nothing personifies how beautifully the group came together than Dodgeball. We played Dodgeball last year and we really enjoyed it, falling short at the last hurdle and losing the final. This year we had 1st place in our sights, and this was our group goal. Whether they were playing the game or cheering from the sidelines, everyone was involved and after taking the role of manager of the team, it truly warmed my heart to see everyone join in on the pre- and post-match huddles. We played the final on Sunday and had great support from everyone. Such great support, that by the end of our pre-final huddle, we had members of other groups cheering us on. Unfortunately, we lost the final, based on some dodgy refereeing if you asked me! However, the pride I felt afterwards was massive. Despite losing everyone came together for one final group huddle. As a coach it was heartwarming, but as a leader it was moving to see the group come together in such a beautiful fashion. It was truly satisfying seeing the togetherness of the group – bound and built on the foundation of our love of God and our journeys with Christ.


Dean Gordon





Next Year:


2-4th October 2026



 **Message About Church Finances** As we continue to grow together in faith and fellowship, we want to take a moment to share an update on our church's financial health and invite you to partner with us in sustaining the mission and ministry we all cherish.

 **Why Church Finances Matter** Our church is more than a building—it's a living, breathing community, constantly in use throughout the week with a variety of groups using our premises. Every worship service, outreach programme, youth activity, and pastoral care visit is made possible through the generous support of our congregation. From keeping the lights on to funding local missions, your contributions directly impacts lives both within and beyond our walls.

 **Current Financial Snapshot** However, like many organisations, we are facing increased costs—from utilities and maintenance. Over the past 5 years we have completed a number of necessary projects which has depleted our reserve funds. We are looking at a number of new projects over the next few months/years to improve the premises i.e. New fire exits in our largest halls, upgrade Wi-Fi across the whole building, refurbishments of all toilets, a new creche area in the Church, and replacement of metal framed windows to reduce our carbon footprint.

 **How You Can Help** We invite you to consider how you might contribute to the financial health of our church. Whether it's a one-time gift, a regular tithe, or an increase in your current giving, every contribution makes a difference. Here are a few ways to give:

Online via bank transfer details below.

In person during Sunday services.

By mail to the church office.

Buying things at the Church Grand Christmas Bazaar on 22nd Nov.

Church Bank Account : CAF BANK Winchester Road Methodist Church
405240 00013495

We'd be happy to talk with you about planned giving, or other ways to support the church financially. Our Church Treasurer is Jean Norton - admin@winchesterroadchurch.org.uk

♥ **A Heart of Gratitude** We are deeply grateful for your generosity, prayers, and commitment to our shared mission. Together, we are building a church that reflects God's love and serves our community with compassion and purpose. With faith and hope, *The Church Leadership Team*

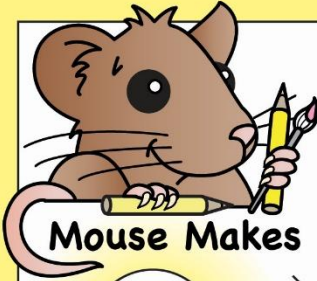
Our Young Church



Our Young Church (Cookie Club) meet every Sunday during the morning service. The oldest group, (Biscuit Club), meet by arrangement. We start in church at 10.30 and there is an action video, song of the month, with instruments available for the children.

In our sessions we have biscuits, share news, and look at bible stories. We then enjoy activities including playing games, doing crafts, cooking, and singing. If you enjoyed the activities during our Harvest Service why not come along and see what we do on a Sunday.





LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Advent Sunday this year falls on 30th November.

ADVENT is a time to celebrate the ARRIVAL of Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour.

We look forward with HOPE, we give thanks for God's LOVE and the PEACE and JOY we have in Jesus.



Read:
LUKE 2:10-11
Who is 'God's news of great joy' for?



Read:
John 3:16
How did God show He loves us?



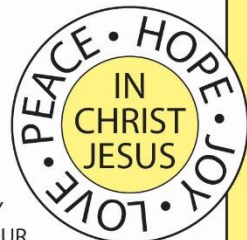
Read:
Isaiah 40:5
What shall be revealed?



Read:
Romans 5:1-2
Through who do we have peace with God?

L G L O R Y E M P R O M I S E
S O K J Y A A R R I V A L W F
A D V E N T G O O D N E W S O
V P L S V L I R P S V P C A R
I E I U I O F C H R I S T H T
O A G S U V T M E S S A G E O
U C H O P E O P C A N D L E L
R E T U R N J O Y T W D B E D

ADVENT • ARRIVAL • HOPE • JOY • LOVE • PEACE • GOD • GLORY
MESSAGE • PROMISE • PROPHECY • FORETOLD • JESUS • SAVIOUR
CHRIST • GIFT • GOOD NEWS • RETURN • CANDLE • LIGHT





The church was beautifully decorated for Harvest.

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 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
by **Monday 24th November - jdent7@gmail.com or 07751603883**

Printed copies of the newsletter, in black and white, are available in church.
Should you wish to make a donation towards the printing costs please put your donation, in an envelope, in one of the boxes at the doors of the church.

This newsletter is available to download as a PDF from our website.
It can also be emailed to you in full colour. Contact Jan Dent, as above.

**Winchester Road
Methodist Church**

Grand Christmas Bazaar

**Saturday 22nd November
10am till 3.00pm**

**Hot lunches, refreshments, cakes
Christmas gifts, homemade crafts,
stationery, jams, sweets & more**

Visit Father Christmas in his grotto

ENTRANCE £1, CHILDREN FREE

**We accept card for payments over £5, but
please bring cash with you for smaller
purchases.**

