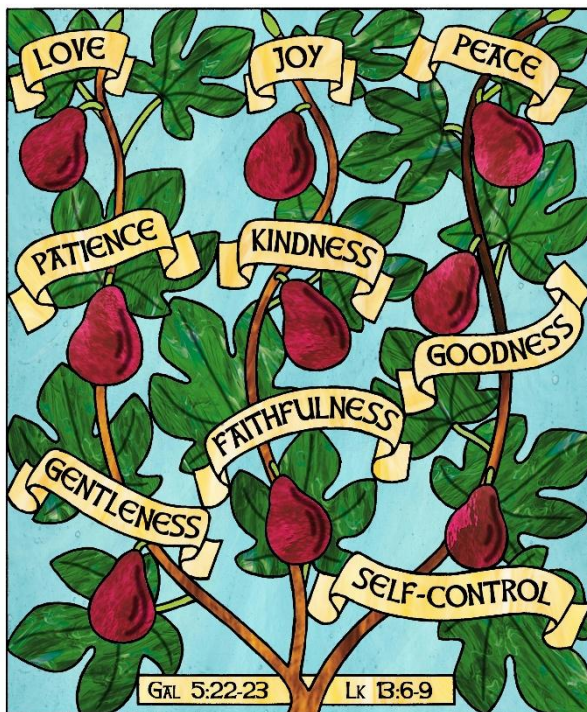


WINCHESTER NEWS

JUNE 2026



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,

As the summer weather starts to heat up, and our garden pots need watering every day, just to keep the plants alive let alone blossoming, so I have been drawn back to the book of Phillippians that is the chosen study book for Bible month this year. Bible month takes place in a lot of churches in June.

Paul's letter to rather nationalistic citizens is mostly unwelcome and Paul and his friends suffer because of his insistence towards telling the story of Jesus Christ. His message is summarised in chapter two (2:5-11) and all the rest of the letter is divided into parts, each one focussing on a different theme from chapter two.

We know that Jesus promised us the water of life, everlasting life through our belief in God and the things that Jesus did for us. He became human and died on the cross for us.

We are sustained by the power of God and by the water of life which is promised. So, as the heat was turned up on Paul and his friends for sharing the Good News, he needed to draw on the strength and life-giving water which was promised to him through the Spirit of God.

As we seek to tend and care for our gardens in the heat, remember the witness of those disciples for whom spreading the message of the love and care of God was difficult and brought violence and imprisonment. This still goes on today.

But also remember, as, through your attention to your gardens or pots, you see things blossom. God, through his life-giving water, wants you to blossom also. Jesus came and died, he rose again so that we may have life and have it to its fullest.

May you flourish in God's love this month... and please take precautions in the hot weather.

Blessings *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: 15803**

Services

Sun. 7th June-10.30: Led by Dallion Roye

Sun. 14th June-10.30: Led by Rev. Nigel Anstey

Sun. 21st June-10.30: Communion led by Rev. Stephanie Njeru

Sun 28th June-10.30: led by Carole Merriman & Peter Richardson

Sun. 5th July-10.30: led by Audria White



Church Flowers:

Sunday June 7th: in loving memory of Harry & Edith Dawe
(Peter's parents)

Sunday June 14th: in loving memory of Eileen & Alan
Norton (Jean's parents)

50

Janice and Roger Pettit

50

Congratulations to Janice & Roger, who celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary on 29th May.

Our Church Family

Mary Burgoine: Having been in hospital for a few weeks, Mary died peacefully on Friday 29th May with her family around her. She had also been able to see her sister and brother in April. Funeral arrangements to be confirmed. In October 2024 we were able to thank Mary for her tireless work for Nigerian Healthcare.



Pauline Fitzpatrick died on Tuesday 5th May. Pauline, Cyril and their daughters, Helen and Lorraine, lived in Cavendish Road and regularly attended Winchester Road Church. Lorraine and Helen were in Young Church and joined the guide unit. Cyril died in 2010 and Pauline moved to Heathfield in 2013 before moving into a Care Home in Haywards Heath in 2016. The funeral took place at Surrey & Sussex Crematorium on 5th June. Helen and her husband were able to come to the church anniversary and join us for lunch.

Don Ford was a member at North Chingford Methodist Church and transferred his membership to Winchester Road when that church closed. Don lived in the Spinney and although unable to attend church has been kept in touch with Winchester. His funeral was in Enfield on 2nd June.



Stuart Cambell Although not a member of the church Stuart was always happy to help, both when his son Tom was in Scouts and later helping to set up and run the youth club in 2008. Stuart died on 16th April, and his funeral took place on 18th May.



Creator God, we thank you for your goodness to us; for your loving care and grace in our times of need. We ask for you to look with kindness upon those who need you at this time. Those people who live in despair, give hope. Those young people facing exams, give peace. To us all, give grace. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Welcome: Ramon Marais

Ramon is our new caretaker. If you are at the church during the day, Monday to Friday do say 'hello'.

Many Thanks to Jean and others who have been working hard to keep things in shape since Tom left at the end of January.

Our Church Anniversary

We celebrated our Church Anniversary on 10th May. The service was led by Rev. Gail Adcock.

Gail's family were members at Winchester and Gail started her journey to becoming an ordained minister in our Young Church. Gail's parents moved away a few years ago and sadly they were not able to join us on the day. There were a number of former members and it was good to catch up with 'old' friends during lunch after the service.

Thanks to all those who brought food and helped with the preparation and, of course, the clearing up afterwards.

The Young Church members looked back at events over the 123 years at Winchester Road. And people added some of their own memorable events during the lunch. **If you have any particular memories, births, weddings, coming to Winchester, events, etc. please let me know to add to the timeline. Pictures would be good as well.**

Look out for the 'Timeline' when it is finished and displayed!

Our Young Church

We welcome all children and Young People to join us on Sunday Mornings, starting in church at 10.30 before going to their groups.



Our Young Church (Cookie Club 3-14) currently meet every Sunday during the morning service. We start in church at 10.30 with a video song before going to our groups. The oldest group, (Biscuit Club), meet by arrangement.

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.

**In September we will have two groups every Sunday.
One for those 3-10 and a second for 11+**

There are toys in church for those under 3.

**Bookings are now open for our Holiday
Club in July.
See back cover for details.**



*Loving heavenly Father, we praise you:
for your presence in our homes where you
strengthen and guide us;
for your presence with us now where you teach
and encourage us;
for your presence with us always when you fill us*

with your peace. Amen.

Whitsunday and Pentecost

In the nineteenth century it is claimed that there was a tradition of around forty single day holidays from work usually marking the main religious festivals or leading Saints Days. Single day holidays in England were recognised by Parliament passing of the Bank Holidays Act of 1871 which was proposed by the banker, philanthropist and poet John Lubbock (1st Baron Avebury), who was the Governor of the Bank of England. The Act nominated Easter Monday, Whit Monday, the first Monday in August and December 26th as days when the Bank of England would not be opened and financial transactions would not be allowed. Other banks followed the Bank of England's lead.

Good Friday and Christmas Day were well established as rest-days and so were not listed in the Act. These new days off were nicknamed by many people as Saint Lubbocks Days. The Act was repealed in 1971 and replaced by the Banking and Financial Dealings Act which made a number of changes to banking practice plus a list of the dates of the holidays.

Whit Monday which was linked to the moveable date of Easter was replaced by the fixed date of the last Monday in May and named as 'The Spring Holiday'. The August Bank Holiday was moved to be held on the last Monday in August. In 1974 New Year's Day was added to the list of English Holidays.

Pentecost, which is also known as Whitsunday, is celebrated 50 days after Easter and celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' Apostles when they were gathered together in Jerusalem. (Acts 2 v 1-4) In some traditions newly Baptised people wore white garments, and children received new clothes. In the last century in the Northwest of Britain processions with people dressed in white led by marching bands were held on Whit Monday. Whit Monday Procession 1923. The parade is still held today, in Manchester, although on a smaller scale.



Harriet Auber (1773-1872), born in Spitalfields, the daughter of an Hackney Anglican priest, was a poet and hymn writer remembered for a book describing the Spirit of the Psalms (1829) and for just two of her hymns. Only one of which can be found in the old 1933 Methodist Hymnbook, **Our blest Redeemer** Hymn 283 sung to the tune St. Cuthbert by J.B. Dykes. It was omitted when Singing the Faith was compiled in 2010. On May 24th we celebrated Whitsunday (also called Pentecost) which caused me to remember this hymn which Harriet wrote to be sung on that Sunday. I have asked Bruce to include the tune amongst those played before the service during this season. Harriet was inspired by the words of Jesus to his disciples at the Last Supper, as recorded in John's Gospel Chapter 14, when the disciples were anxious about the future. Jesus told them "Do not be worried or upset. Believe in God and also in me"(John 14 v1), Later in the chapter Jesus tells them that they will receive another helper (the Holy Spirit) "who will stay with

*'Our blest Redeemer, ere He breathed
His tender last farewell
A Guide a Comforter bequeathed,
With us to dwell.'*

In the next two verses of her hymn, Harriet Auber included a reference to Jesus' Baptism and the account of the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit, the promised comforter. At his Baptism Luke writes *And the Holy Ghost (Spirit) descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him , (KJV Luke 3 v 22)*

Harriet Auber includes this reference in verse 2 of the hymn .

*'He came in semblance of a dove
With sheltering wings outspread
The holy balm of peace and love
On each to shed'*

In verse three Harriet uses Luke's account of the coming of the Holy Ghost (Spirit)

'And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind and it filled the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like of fire, and it sat upon each of them .And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost (KJV Acts 2 v 1-4)

In his letter to the Church in Galatia Paul writes about the spirit and Christian conduct that results from faith in Jesus .

'But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control. The spirit has given us life. He must also control our lives. There is no law against such things as these. The Spirit has given us life ; he must also control our lives. We must not be proud or irritate one another or be jealous of one another.' Galatians 5 v 22-26 (GNB).

Allen Steel June



Shoe boxes

Sylvia needs shoeboxes in preparation for later in the year. If anyone can cover them, please speak to Sylvia.

Eat or Heat

Our local foodbank is based at Chingford Congregational Church. We are open on Mondays to receive donations and deliveries and on Tuesdays to distribute food to clients. We have been serving up to 40 clients (100+ individuals). We would be grateful for any donations of goods (See list in the Hub) or cash. We also would welcome help to set up tables etc on Tuesday between 8.30 and 9.30 am. Please speak to Pat Ovenden, Mary Rose or Jan Dent if you can help.

Rev.Stephanie Njeru would also appreciate support for her other two churches. Leyton Trinity Foodbank need both donations and volunteers. Lighthouse Methodist are running a 'Pre-loved clothes project for toddlers to school age. Please speak to Stephanie if you can help with either of these projects.

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. Money raised this term will be for YMCA and Christian Aid.



Saturday Lunches

These raise money for the church and other groups.

The next will be on: **13th June for JMA**

Future dates: 18th July for church funds.

Please speak to Janice or Maureen if you can help.

2nd Highams Park Guides Centenary Thanksgiving Service:- Sunday 20th September at 2pm.

We would love to welcome all past and current members, friends and family, church members to join us for a service of thanksgiving as our Guide unit celebrates its 100th birthday, followed by refreshments in the hall. To help us manage numbers if you intend to come, please RSVP by 30th June 2026. to 2ndhighamparkguides@gmail.com

Waltham Forest Music Society Concert: Felicitas

Friday 19th June at All Saints Church at 7.30(doors open 7.00)

Tickets on the door: £17 (WFMS members £12)

The programme of music from Europe and America will include pieces by Morten Lauridsen, Eric Whitacre, Ola Gjeilo, Benjamin Britten, Jules Massenet, Raffaella Aleotti, Thomas Luis de Victoria and Bela Bartok.

Felicitas was co-founded by Chrina, one of our members, and is celebrating 34 years of music making.

Diabetes Peer Support Group

For adults with a diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes, or pre diabetes. The group meets every second Tuesday of the month from 6-7.30 pm at Shernhall Methodist Church 173 Shernhall Street E17 9HX

There is no need to book but parking is limited.

For information contact: wfdiabetes2uk@gmail.com

Highams Park Yard Sale: Sunday 14th June

If you are interested in having a stall please email 'highamparklife@gmail .com.

Pat Ovenden will be having a stall in Holly Crescent in aid of church funds

Spitalfields-An Irish Walk: Sunday 14th June

Led by Oona Kelly

For details and tickets:

<https://highampark.london/events/spitalfields-an-irish-walk/>

Feed the Beast 19th -21st June

Forest Community Theatre Guildford Road E17 4EA

A comic political drama by Steve Thomson

For tickets and times:

<https://highampark.london/events/feed the beast/>

Risen Jesus, you are alive and you are here.

Speak to us again, and equip us to do your will and speak your Word that we might continue the mission you gave your first disciples. Jesus told his disciples to go up the mountain, a beautiful but lonely place.

Lord God, our lives can be very lonely.

Even in the middle of a crowd, we can feel alone.

Thank you, Lord, that you are always with us, wherever we are, however we feel. We bless you for all you will reveal to us.

Amen.





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:

Hazel Mathews and Carol & Dumisani Moyo

OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM: - led by Jean Norton

**There will not be a newsletter in August
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JULY & AUGUST NEWSLETTER
by Monday 22nd June - ident7@gmail.com or 07751603883**