

WINCHESTER NEWS

MAY 2026



The cross transformed on Easter Sunday.

Winchester Road Methodist Church
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Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church

Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

I wonder whether you have ever played 'peekaboo' with a baby? Babies recognise faces when still quite young, but they don't recognise you when you have your face covered. To them, you have disappeared, even though you stand right in front of them.

One of the readings we have had in church recently is the walk of Cleopas and his companion back to their hometown of Emmaus on the evening of Easter Sunday. Whilst walking, Jesus appeared, but they did not recognise him until he was sat at their table, giving thanks to God for the bread they were to eat. As soon as they recognised Jesus, he disappeared. I'm sure that Jesus didn't disappear to tease them, or make them laugh if he was to reappear, but there was something about the recognition of Jesus that meant this part of the journey was complete, and he was to move on to help other people start to make sense of it all.

During the journey home, there were many things that were talked about, anxiety, unbelief and not being able to understand what had happened. Even through all this confusion, Jesus was by their side for the whole of the experience, bringing a sense of peace and understanding.

I wonder what type of journey you are on.

Whether your journey is one of new awakening, or one of weariness of the past weeks and months. Is it a journey of hope and anticipation for a new job, good health, new life? Or is it a walk, which, at the moment is filled with doubt and confusion?

No matter what path you are currently walking, Jesus is walking it with you, sometimes carrying you, sometimes by your side answering your questions, and sometimes leading and encouraging you as the Good Shepherd he is.

I pray that you feel the presence of Christ in your heart and mind as you take your next steps. Jesus will never leave you, and is willing for us to open up that conversation so he can be your companion.

Blessings and prayers 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=UTBwdWFBaG1qK0k3Yys2a0xiUEY1QT09>)

Both on: **Meeting ID: 834 548 4534 Passcode: 15803**

Services

Sun. 3rd May-10.30: Led by Peter Dawe

Sun. 10th May-10.30: Church Anniversary Led by Rev. Gail Adcock
this will be followed by a 'Bring and Share lunch.

Sun. 17th May-10.30: led by Worship Leaders

Sun. 24th May-10.30: Communion led by Rev. Stephanie Njeru

Sun. 31st May-10.30: Local Arrangement



“Lord Jesus Christ, ‘Rabboni’, alive though you died, meet with me now as you met that couple on the Emmaus Road. Speak to me now as you spoke to them, and grant me your peace, both now and throughout the day to come.”



Church Flowers:

Sun. 3rd May - in memory of Ernestina

Sun. 10th May - The flowers today have a double focus. Firstly to congratulate, our daughter, the Rev. Gail Adcock for completing her journey to be an ordained minister,

which started at Winchester Rd Sunday School.

Secondly, in memory of our son, Phillip Langley, whose birthday is today. We are thankful for you both. (Alan and Sue Langley)

Sun. 17th May - in memory of Lily & Bernard Skilton (Christine Eastons parents)

Sun. 24th May – In memory of Rose and Bert French (Mary's Parents)

Sunday 31st - in celebration of Janice & Roger's Golden Wedding Anniversary

Rev. Peter Hudson- died earlier this year, aged 91.

Peter served in, South Wales, Sussex, Northeast London as well as Leytonstone and here at Winchester. Wherever he served he worked tirelessly to ensure that the church was rooted in, and responsive to the local community.

He founded youth clubs, Good Neighbour schemes, multi-faith projects and was responsible for many other initiatives. He believed deeply that churches should be vibrant community hubs, serving the isolated, unemployed, disabled and vulnerable.

Peter was responsible for setting up 'Care' and 'Christmas Inn' at Winchester, in collaboration with other churches in Highams Park.

Monthly 'Sunday Lunches' and 'Christmas Inn' continue to take place at Winchester, although 'Care' no longer offers a 24/7 help line.

He had a remarkable gift for inspiring volunteers and his infectious conviction that church exists to serve the neighbourhood, made it difficult to say "NO!". *(I still remember him sitting in my living room persuading me to take on the role of 'Duty Helper' answering the phone for Care, despite the fact that my daughter was at the stage of picking up the phone and saying "Hello, Goodbye" and putting the phone down! I did agree when she was a bit older!)*

Extracts from an Obituary for Rev. Peter Hudson which appeared in the Methodist Recorder – March 27th 2026

Easter and Holy Week

Rev. Stephanie led a service in the Hodgson Hall on Maundy Thursday when a meal was shared. This was followed on Good Friday by the opportunity for people to visit places in a 'labyrinth' set up in the Memorial Hall each telling part of the story leading up to the resurrection and giving people opportunity for prayer and meditation. We are grateful to Stephanie, Zak and Elisha for all the preparation involved.



On Easter Sunday there was Communion at 9am followed by a simple breakfast. During the service at 10.30, led by Janet Tweedale, the congregation were invited to transform the cross. The items put on the cross during Lent were removed by the Young People and their families that had taken part in the Liturgy and the whole congregation then decorated the cross with flowers. (See front cover & p.11).

During the service wrapped eggs for pupils at Joseph Clarke School were collected and Easter biscuits shared. Both well-established traditions at Winchester.



“Having an Easter biscuit on Easter Sunday has been a tradition that has taken



place for at least three decades. It came about because communion was always part of the Easter Service but not everyone in the congregation felt able to share in the bread and

wine. As Communion is all about coming together, Easter biscuits were introduced so that everyone in the congregation could eat something together and it made that part of the service more inclusive.

Originally the cross imprint was made with the cross, worn every day by Kath Warner (Janice and Maureen’s mother), but it became more practical to have a special stamp made.”

The biscuits, made with love each year, remind us of the glorious message of Easter Sunday- that Christ is risen.”

Spring has sprung!

I am sure that at school the older members of the congregation will have had to learn poems and I expect that these words written by William Wordsworth became part of your repertoire.

*'I wandered lonely as a cloud,
that floats on high o'er vales
and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
a host of golden daffodils.
Beside the lake, beneath the
trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the
breeze'.*



As I type my eyes drift to the window and the view of the trees clothed in fresh bright green leaves which grow in our street and are now swaying in a gentle breeze of this sunny afternoon. I exclaim to all who will listen that **'Spring has sprung!'**

The concluding paragraphs of my article last month took up the theme of Easter eggs which represent new life. My neighbour and I have put up nest boxes to encourage the birds to nest in them and bring up the next generation. Over the years we have provided habitats for Blue Tits and Robins and our trees and bushes have housed Blackbirds, Pigeons and possibly Thrushes, but not this year.

Driving north through Sewardstone to Waltham Abbey, or towards the motorway, I glance at the farmer's fields which are now showing a rich green cereal crop which brings to mind the familiar Sunday School hymn. (STF 130)



*We plough the fields, and scatter, The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered By God's almighty hand.*

The German words (*Wir Pflügen et wir streuen*) were written by Matthias Claudius, published in 1782 and translated into English by Jane Montgomery Campbell in 1861. Claudius was a noted journalist, editor and poet, two of his best-known poems were set to music by the composer Franz Schubert.

I know that many of you followed the meditative labyrinth which Stephanie set up in the memorial hall. At the end of your journey through the Labyrinth you were offered seeds, potting compost and a small pot in which to grow your chosen seed. Unfortunately, every attempt that I have made to grow a pot of different herbs has been ruined by the squirrels in my garden who rummage through the pot in their frantic search for food

The Methodist School Hymnbook includes a section devoted to Springtime and Harvest including several which I do not think I have ever sung. E.g.

*'Sing a song of May– time, Sing a song of spring
Flowers are in their beauty Birds are on the wing.'* or

*'We thank thee for the Springtime Lord, for birds and trees and flowers
For running brooks and humming bees. For sunny, happy hours.'*

These hymns have been branded Victorian, sentimental, old fashioned and lacking meaning and have therefore been omitted from modern collections of hymns. Please note I am still searching for a meaningful Spring Hymn!

Allen Steel May 2026



“ May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as I trust in Him so that I may overflow with hope, by the hope of the Holy Spirit” Romans 15 v 13

What's On

**Holiday Club 22nd -24th July for children aged 5-11 **
(See back cover)

Circuit Groups for Youth (13-18) and Young Adults (18 – 35)

For information contact Zak Njeru – 0745802244

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.

On Saturday 25th May £600 was raised towards the guides centenary camp and celebration.(See below)

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

Future dates: 18th July for church funds.

2nd Highams Park Guides Celebrate their Centenary

This September, the 2nd Highams Park Guide Unit will be 100 years old. To celebrate, we will be holding a service of thanksgiving at Winchester Road Methodist Church at 2pm on Sunday 20th September 2026. We would love to welcome members of all the uniformed organisations, both past and present, that meet at the Church Halls to join us. And in true Winchester Road tradition we will be serving tea, coffee and cakes afterwards if you would like to stay and catch up with old friends. To ensure we have sufficient to cater for all guests, we would be grateful if you would **RSVP by 1st September** to 2ndhighamparkguides@gmail.com

We hope to see many of you there.

Crest

Crest Waltham Forest have been providing community-based services in and around the borough for over 50 years.

Crest, Waltham Forest's 'Ageing Well Team' continue to provide vital services to older people in the borough. They provide free activities for people aged sixty plus who have mental health issues or are experiencing the early stages of dementia. Through their weekly groups, they support participants' physical and mental wellbeing whilst providing cognitive stimulation and reducing social isolation. Activities include games, arts and crafts, singing and gentle exercise.

They now meet at Winchester Road Methodist Church on Mondays from 9.30 am. To 12.30 pm. and, on Thursdays from 10.30am to 3.30 pm. at Greenleaf Baptist Church 4 Greenleaf Road E17 6QQ

If you would like to join or have any questions, please do reach out to their referral team: referrals@crestwf.org.uk or by calling:

07350 359 397. Crest would also welcome more volunteers and donations to help with the support they provide.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Easter Goods stall in aid of Amnesty International. We raised an amazing £370. Why Amnesty you might ask? Many years ago Shirley Seaman organised for us to send Christmas cards across the world to people imprisoned for their beliefs and who were in fear of their lives. The information as to who we should send these cards to came from Amnesty. Janice and my Dad, Eric Warner, used to put out Easter cards with the profits going towards postage costs for the cards. It therefore seemed a natural progression for me to do the same although you will have spotted that the range of goods has extended a little now. In these difficult financial times, it is very humbling that our church community is still willing to dip into their pockets to support a variety of charities.

So, a big thank you to one and all! Maureen Duncan

Church Anniversary Gift Day

We are holding our annual Church Anniversary Service on Sunday 10th May.

We appreciate it is a difficult time with the current cost of living. However, we would still be grateful to receive any gift that you feel able to give at this time.

Last year Gift Day raised £6004.00 from Church members, friends and organisations which has been placed in the Toilet Facilities Renovation Fund. Any funds received this year will be used to maintain the Memorial Hall Floor , Update WiFi in the building, increase the fund for the toilet renovations & other future projects.

Any gifts that you wish to donate can be given in three ways :

1) Bank Transfer – CAF Bank Ltd
Account : Winchester Road Methodist Church
Sort Code : 40 52 40 A/c Number: 00013495



2) At Church - Cash or Cheque in the Gift Day Envelopes on the Pews then left in the collection boxes at the back of the Church

3) Send a Cheque – payable to Winchester Rd Methodist Church
To Jean Norton 13 Evanston Ave Highams Park E4 9JS

Please let us know if you wish your gift to count as a Gift aid donation by email if donating by bank transfer (tootsnorton@btopenworld.com) or by completing the gift aid envelope.

Thank you for all your help and support in the mission of this church.

Yours in Christ
Rev'd Stephanie Njeru & Jean Norton



“The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit” Psalm 34: v.18

Our Young Church



Our Young Church (Cookie Club 3-14) 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.

There are toys in church for those under 3.

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.

During Lent Young Church families opened each service with the Lent Liturgy, placing items on the cross.



On Palm Sunday the children gave out palm crosses to the congregation and then went out to create an Easter garden which was on display in the church throughout Easter.

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 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, Hazel Mathews and Carol & Dumisami Moyo

OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM: - led by Jean Norton

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER

by Monday 25th May - ident7@gmail.com or 07751603883