Unto us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord

Luke 2:11

Winchester Road Methodist Church
Winchester Road, Highams Park
London, E4 9JP
Minister: Rev Hilary Cheng
hilary@chens.org.uk
Tel Church 020 8531 8663
Tel Home 020 8524 3649
www.winchesterroadchurch.org.uk
@winroadmeth
Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church
Bazaar 2019: Everyone ready before the doors open (above).
Ahead of the rush, ready to sell some delicious cakes (below).
See pages 8-9 for the Bazaar update & 23-24 for more photos.
SUNDAY SERVICES
10.30am Morning worship and Young Church
Biscuit Club for ages 11 +
Cookie Club for ages 3 - 11
Crèche available for babies, or there are red toy bags available at the back of the church
Refreshments are served in the Hub following the morning service every Sunday

WORSHIP DURING DECEMBER/JANUARY
(Christmas services detailed in middle pages)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| Sunday 1st | 10.30am | Rev Hilary Cheng
Sacrament of Holy Communion |
|          | 4pm    | Circuit Service, to be held at Leytonstone Methodist Church, High Road, Leytonstone, E11 3DA |
| Sunday 8th | 10.30am | Miss Glynis Barber |
|          | 3pm    | Bereavement Service (see page 7)
Highams Park Baptist Church, Cavendish Road, E4 9NG |
| Sunday 15th | 10.30am | Mr Leo Cheng |
| Sunday 22nd | 10.30am | Mr Peter Dawe |
|          | 4pm    | Rev Hilary Cheng
Carol Service |
| Tues 24th | 4pm    | Pop-Up Nativity (see page 22) |
|          | 6.15pm | Sacrament of Holy Communion |
| Wed 25th  | 10.30am | Christmas Day Service |
| Sunday 29th | 10.30am | Rev. Kevin Swaine |
| Sunday 5th  | 10.30am | Rev Hilary Cheng |
Dear friends,

This time last year, Leo, my husband, and I went away for a few days. Due to an evening engagement, we did not leave home until 10pm. By the time we reached the place where we were to stay, it was half past midnight, and after a full day at work, we were both tired.

When we entered our overnight accommodation, we were told that there had been a flood on the premises and that we would have to go on to the next nearest accommodation of the same name. This was five miles away, and with no map of the city where we were to stay, which neither of us knew, we set off with basic instructions to ‘Turn left at the first roundabout and right at the second set of lights’ etc until we found our way there. Breakfast was thrown in for free due to the inconvenience.

Early the next day we were on our way again in order to reach our final destination. When we went to book in, we were told that the hotel was full and that we had been booked out to another hotel seven miles away. No one had let us know even though they could have done.

These two experiences, happening as they did on the same holiday, reminded me of how Mary and Joseph must have felt when they made their journey to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. How many inns did they go to before they found one where Mary could rest? We were tired and frustrated, particularly when the second lodging relocated us. How did Mary and Joseph feel? We arrived in a Volkswagon. Mary had the inconvenience of travelling on foot or possibly on a donkey, AND she was nine months pregnant. I was not pregnant (!) and did not have the discomfort of having to walk or ride on an animal. Alternative arrangements had been made for us. No booking had been secured for the holy family.

Thinking about these events helped me to put things into perspective concerning the birth of Christ. So often, we hear the familiar words of Mary giving birth in the stable, but rarely do we enter the scene and put ourselves in Mary’s position, or indeed Joseph’s. We speak of them travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem, a distance of eighty miles, but
eighty miles on foot would take days, rather than the two hours it would take us by car. We listen to the story but little do we think of the implications of the journey, nor the sparse surroundings in which Jesus was born.

As you prepare for Christmas this year, think about your own home, the people around you, the care and the love with which you are surrounded, of all that Christmas means to you. Then think about the Christ child, the place where he was born, so far from home, and of the love which his parents gave to him in spite of their modest surroundings.

Then quietly, in your heart, give thanks to God, for bringing Jesus safely into the world, for His humble start in life, for all that He gave to His own family and of all He continues to give to us today. The story is remarkable, but then Jesus was the most remarkable person who ever lived.

Celebrate His birth this Christmas, and remind yourself of the special place He has in your life.

May the peace of the Christ child fill your home this Christmas.

Hilary

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: Carole Merriman
Stewards: Janet Evans, Hazel Mathews, Carol & Dumisani Moyo, Pat Ovenden.

OUR SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
Laura Pease
**2019/20 Dates for your diary**

*All events held here at Winchester Road unless stated otherwise*

**Sun 8 December:** Bereavement service, Highams Park Baptist Church, Cavendish Road, E4 9NG, 3pm (see page 7)

**Wed 18 December:** Carol Singing, Tesco, Highams Park, 5.30-6.30pm

**Sun 22 December:** Carol Service including Nativity, 4pm

**Tues 24 December:** Pop-Up Nativity (family-friendly interactive nativity), 4pm for 4.15pm start

**Tues 24 December:** Communion, 6.15pm

**Sun 12 January:** Covenant Service & Going forward Communion

**Sun 16 February:** Communion

**Tue 25 February:** Church Council Meeting, 7.30pm

**Fri 6 March:** World Day of Prayer, All Saints Highams Park

**Sun 8 March:** Uniformed Organisations Anniversary Church Parade

**Sun 15 March:** Communion

**Sun 12 April:** Communion

**Sun 17 May:** Church Parade

**Wed 3 June:** Church Council Meeting, 7.30pm

**Sun 14 June:** Young Church Anniversary, All Age Worship

**Thurs 8 October:** Church Council Meeting, 7.30pm

**First & Third Wednesday of each month:** Open Fellowship, 2.30-4pm (see page 10)

**Every Friday during term time:** Coffee Morning, 10am-12noon, to support Waltham Forest Dyslexia Association (charity number 802993)

Winchester Road Christmas Services: pages 12-13

Churches Together Highams Park Christmas Services: page 14

Christmas Concerts: page 11
Christmas Card Postbox

This is at the back of the church for the congregation to send cards to friends in the church. Please ensure that the full name is on the envelope. The cards will be distributed after the Carol Service on 22nd December.

For anyone preferring not to send individual cards, there will be a board for you to display greetings to the whole church.

Donations in lieu of postage/cards will be sent to Olives School & Rehabilitation Centre in Kenya and will go towards giving the children a special meal for Christmas.

‘But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”’
~Luke 2: 10-12

Bereavement Service

Churches Together in Highams Park hold a Bereavement Service every year before Christmas and invite the community to remember their friends and loved ones who have died either recently or years ago.

This year the service will be held on Sunday 9th December, 3pm at All Saints Church, Church Avenue, Highams Park, E4 9QZ.

The service includes carols, readings and an address, and there is an opportunity to light candles in memory of those who have died.

All are welcome to attend.
This year, our annual Christmas Bazaar was held on Saturday 23rd November.
Local choir, Harmony E4, kindly got everyone in the Christmas spirit with a variety of carols and Christmas tunes in preparation for the doors opening at 10am.

As always, there were many stalls to browse and lots of Christmas shopping to be done by the adults, whilst the children were creative in the Craft Room, visiting Father Christmas, looking at what the toy stalls had on display, and winning teddies (some of them ginormous!) on the Teddy Tombola or a variety of prizes on the Tombola; pictured is one happy lucky winner with her tin of Baked Beans!

There was a delicious array of food on offer, from sweets and cakes to jams and pickles, as well as tasty lunch options available for hungry shoppers and stall holders.

A big thank you to Sarah Hayward and her team of helpers for all the hard work that goes into organising the Bazaar, and thank you to everyone who works so hard with all the preparation that goes on behind the scenes throughout the year, and all the volunteers who helped on the day.

Thank you to all the visitors who came and enjoyed the day.
We look forward to seeing you next year!
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Thank You

Our thanks go to Rachel Lampard who was available on two occasions for anyone who wanted to discuss the Marriage and Relationships report from the Methodist Church. This report will be going back to Conference next summer. If it is received, each church will need to decide what its response to the report is. Copies of the report are available in the Church.

Once the report comes to the Church Council, we will need to make a decision. Please ensure that you have asked any questions you may have BEFORE the meeting.

Many thanks,
Hilary

WINCHESTER ROAD OPEN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

A varied programme of speakers and members’ interests.
Meets on first and third Wednesday of the month, 2.30pm-4pm.

Wednesday 4\textsuperscript{th} December: Barbara Chapman: Christmas poems
Wednesday 18\textsuperscript{th} December: Party
Wednesday 8\textsuperscript{th} January: Members Own: Exciting holidays
Wednesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} January: Age UK: More scams

For more information, please speak to Sylvia Dixon.

Pat Mackean’s new address

If you would like Pat’s new address, please speak to Mary Burgoine or contact Alex Fletcher (whose contact details can be found on page 21).

Tee Hee

Where does Father Christmas go to enjoy badminton, horse-riding and subtropical swimming?
Santa Parcs
Chrina Jarvis will be performing in a Christmas concert with chamber choir, Felicitas, on 7th December, and Laura Pease will be performing with the Valentine Singers on Saturday 14th December. Info below:

**Felictas**
**Saturday 7th December 2019 at 7.30pm**
The Abbey Church, Waltham Abbey, EN9 1XQ

The festive programme for ‘**In a cold winter’s night**’ will include:
Gibbons: This is the Record of John | Howells: ‘A spotless rose’ | Warlock: Bethlehem Down | Tavener: The Lamb | Peter Gritton: Follow that star! | Morten Lauridsen: O magnum mysterium | Praetorius: Magnificat | other carol settings by Ben Parry, Paul Fincham & John Rutter

Tickets: £15 (£12 if purchased in advance)
Free for children & full-time students under 25
This event has unreserved seating and a few seats have restricted view.

Tickets available from:
[www.felicitas.org.uk](http://www.felicitas.org.uk)
[www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

**Valentine Singers**
**Saturday 14th December 2019 at 7.30pm**
St Anne’s Church, Larkshall Road, Chingford, E4 6NP

A feast of seasonal music with favourite carols for everyone to sing.

Tickets: £10 if bought in advance / £13 on the door
Students/benefit holders: £5 if bought in advance / £7 on the door
Under 16’s: Free
Includes seasonal refreshments.

Tickets available from:
Box Office: 020 8550 4654
[www.valentinesingers.org](http://www.valentinesingers.org)
Christmas at

Wednesday 18th December
Carol Singing
5.30-6.30pm
Tesco, Highams Park
In aid of Action for Children

Sunday 22nd December
Carol Service
including Nativity
4pm
Followed by mince pies in the Memorial Hall and distribution of Christmas cards

Christmas Eve
Pop-Up Nativity
Refreshments from 4pm
4.30pm Start
Family-friendly
Interactive Nativity
Christmas Eve
Sacrament of Holy Communion
6.15pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Family Service
10.30am

Christmas Day
Care Highams Park Christmas Inn
If you or a friend would like some company on Christmas Day, then join us after our morning service. Lunch and transport provided. Please call 020 8523 5955 and speak to the Care Duty Helper to book.

For services at the other churches in Highams Park during the Christmas period, please see page 14
Other Christmas services in Highams Park

Churches in Highams Park (CTHP)

Below are the services of the other churches in CTHP during the Christmas period. Many of the services are at the same time as our services, but as we celebrate Christmas it will be good to think of others who are worshipping in the community. There are also some other services at times that we may wish to attend.

All Saints Church, Church Avenue, Highams Park, E4 9QZ
- Friday 20th December, 6pm: Christingle Service
- Sunday 22nd December, 10.30am: Carol Service
- Tuesday 24th December, 5pm: The Nativity Story
- Tuesday 24th December, 11.30pm: Holy Communion
- Tuesday 25th December, 10.30am: Holy Communion

Highams Park Baptist Church, Cavendish Road, E4 9NG
- Sunday 8th December, 3pm: Bereavement Service (see page 7)
- Sunday 22nd December, 10am: Nativity from scratch
- Sunday 22nd December, 6pm: Carols by Candlelight Service
- Tuesday 24th December, 11.30pm: Christmas Eve Communion
- Tuesday 25th December, 10am: Christmas Morning Service

Catholic Parish of Christ the King, 455 Chingford Road, E4 8SP
- Tuesday 24th December, 6.30pm: Carols and Children’s Nativity followed by Mass at 7pm
- Tuesday 24th December, 11.30pm: Carols and readings followed by Mass at Midnight
- Tuesday 25th December, 10am: Christmas Day Mass

All are welcome to any of these services.

Carol Service – help required

Help is needed to set up and serve refreshments at the Carol Service here at Winchester Road on Sunday 22nd December. If you can assist please speak to a steward.

Thank you,
Hilary
Newsletter Editor Volunteer Required
(Maternity Cover)

Are you interested in creating this newsletter?

We are looking for someone to cover for me please whilst I am on maternity leave. The first newsletter to be produced will be the April 2020 edition which would need to be worked on during March.

We are looking for someone to cover for a period of at least 13 months, but ideally 2 years, or longer if you fancy it!

What is required?
- A computer with Word, Publisher or Apple Pages (I use Word)
- Preparing a newsletter 11 times a year* (July & August is a joint edition) to be ready for the first Sunday of each month (with January’s ready for the second week of the month)
- Creating the newsletter using articles and information given to you by members of the Church
- Images, front covers and ‘filler’ articles are available from a website called Parish Pump, for church newsletter editors (we have a subscription to the service)
- Following up with people who submit articles annually to ensure items are received in time to include in the newsletter
- Sending the newsletter to our proof readers
- Sending the newsletter to our Printer, Bob, at least 6 days before the first Sunday of the month, but earlier if possible

*We can be flexible, so if you are interested but would only be able to prepare a newsletter every two months, please do still come and speak to me.

You do not have to be creative, and it is enjoyable to prepare!

If you are interested, please do come and chat to me to see what is involved and I can go through things with you.

Alex Fletcher
Tel: 020 8531 5047 Email: wrmc.newsletter@btinternet.com
Update from the
Nigeria Health Care Project (NHCP)
(charity number 1112932)

We have heard from the NHCP, who thanked us for our continuing support, and provided an update on some of the various projects:

- Edawu Rehabilitation Centre for homeless people with mental illness is developing an income-generating piggery;
- Methodist Hospital Ogoli-Ugboju is raising funds for the hospital from its water-sachet scheme;
- Uzuakoli Leprosy Centre’s refurbished oil palm mill is in operation;
- Andrew Pearson Memorial Medical Centre at Igbo-Ora has been revived as a possible third training base for medical staff;
- Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust will be visiting Agboke Mental Health Centre in January 2020 to offer training support, in addition to the support they give at Edawu Rehabilitation Centre.

NHCP is a British Methodist charity supporting the development of health centres for medical and maternity needs, mental health, and homeless people in rural Nigeria.

For each 5p I receive, I cover a blank map of Nigeria with a coloured sticker dot. When the map is covered, £100 has been raised.

The most recent map is on display on the notice board.

For more information about NHCP, do come and speak to me or have a look online: www.nhcp.org.uk

Mary Burgoine
Light of the world

During recent weeks a Winchester Road notice board has been displaying a poster which tells passers-by that Jesus is the **light of the world**. Each Sunday at the beginning of the morning service the steward lights a candle and says "I light this candle as a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world." There are many sayings that liken goodness to light and refer to evil or ignorance as darkness. We speak of dark days and I find the long dark days of December and January depressing and long for the light and lengthening days of Spring. What we need is something that will bring light and joy into our life at this time of the year. Each December we can celebrate the birth of Jesus, decorate our houses, put lights on a Christmas tree or hang lights around our doors and windows. Each year many houses in the road where I live are bright with Christmas lights. The walking group (more accurately strolling group) I belong to like to visit and appraise the lights that decorate either Oxford Street or Regent Street. We like to see Christmas lights put up in the centre of Highams Park.

Christianity is not alone in having a winter celebration that is focussed on light. The Jewish Festival of Hanukah, which celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem, is also known as The Festival of Lights. It is a period of eight days which normally occurs between late November and the end of December. Each evening a candle is lit in homes on one of the nine branches of a candelabrum until on the final evening the central tallest candle is lit. In our church and some homes there is an advent candle, a circle of greenery with four red candles one being newly lit each Sunday during Advent, and a central taller white candle first lit on Christmas day.

Hindus and Sikhs celebrate a five day Festival of Lights called Diwali, between mid-October and mid-November which the all-knowing Wikipedia says 'symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance.' Temples, homes, shops and offices are all brightly lit for the occasion. On one evening you may hear the crackle and whoosh of fireworks on an evening when special food is served and presents are exchanged.

cont…
In Germany from the eighteenth century, around the beginning of Advent, branches of a fir tree decorated with lights were brought into the homes of well to do families who used melted wax to fix candles trees to the 'tree.' The custom came here thanks to our Royal family's Germanic links. Strings of coloured electric lights, called 'fairy lights' which replaced candles reached us from America during the 1880s. Initially these lights were expensive but by the 1930s cheaper reliable sets of lights were available and became popular with families. Today you don't have to spend time twisting a set of lights around your tree hoping that they work when you switch them on, you can buy an artificial tree with the lights in place so that all you have to do is plug it in. None of this however takes away the meaning of the custom reminding us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

I cannot leave this subject without writing about a painting by the Victorian artist William Holman Hunt entitled *The Light of the World*. Copies of the picture hung on the walls of many schools and churches or could be found as an illustration in the King James versions of the Bible. It pictures Jesus holding lantern at a door which is closed, overgrown with bushes. The door has no handle so it can only be opened from the inside. Hunt was inspired by a verse in Revelation Chapter 3 verse 20 “Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice, and opens the door, I will come to him, and will sup with him, and he with me..” The original painting now hangs in a side chapel of Keble College in the University of Oxford and there is a second later version by Hunt in St. Paul's Cathedral. William Holman Hunt, born in 1827, was a leading member of the Pre-Raphaelite Art Brotherhood, a group of artists whose work was characterised by a detailed observation of nature and who were strongly influenced by medieval art and the Anglo-Catholic religious revival of the late 19th century.

In chapter 8 verse 12 of John's Gospel (GNB) we can read Jesus' words “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness" and in John 9 v 5 "While I am in the world I am the light for the World".

*Allan Steel*
December 2019
Then one night...

Don't be afraid! I have good news that will be a great joy for everyone!

Earlier today, the Saviour, Christ the Lord, was born in Bethlehem.

Why's he telling us? We're just shepherds.

You will know him by this sign

He'll be in a palace or the house of someone rich.

Suddenly the sky was full of angels singing

Glory to God in heaven for He gives peace on earth to His favoured people!

So the shepherds decided to go down into Bethlehem to see what they had been told about...

...and they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby in the manger just as they had been told.

Look, there he is!

They told everyone about the angel's message

...and Mary listened carefully.

Then the shepherds returned to their flocks praising God for all they had heard and seen.
Mouse Makes

Good news! Where was Mary’s baby born? Why were Joseph and Mary there? Read Luke 2:1-6

Glory to God What did Mary dress her baby in? Read Luke 2:6

A Saviour is born What did the angel tell Joseph to name Mary’s baby and why? Read Matthew 1:21

What good news did the angel tell? Read Luke 2:10-11


What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby? Read Luke 2:16

Colour a star each day until Christmas
Tee Hee

Why are Christmas trees so bad at knitting? They keep dropping their needles.

How do you find Will Smith in the snow? Look for the fresh prints.

Who hides in a bakery at Christmas? A Mince spy.

When I went to the bakery to get my Christmas cake I noticed that everything was £5, except for one cake that was £10. When I asked the baker why this one was so expensive she said “That’s madeira cake.”

My mate said he could get me a good Christmas cake for practically nothing, but I’m not sure: I think it might be stollen.

A follow up to last week’s report that the knitwear nicker is back in town, and has been stealing Christmas jumpers in order of size. Police say he’s still at large.

---

**HALL & ROOM HIRE**

If you would like to hire one of our halls or rooms, please contact admin@winchesterroadchurch.org.uk or 020 8531 8663

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JANUARY’S NEWSLETTER**

(AVAILABLE FROM SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY)

If you would like to submit an article, joke, photo, poem, prayer or item of interest, please contact Alex Fletcher on wrmc.newsletter@btinternet.com or 020 8531 5047

Deadline to submit items: **Thursday 2 January**

This newsletter is available to download as a PDF from our website.
Join in our annual community

**Pop-Up Nativity**

Come as an angel, a shepherd or a king…. or come as you are

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December
Refreshments & children’s activities from 4pm
Nativity from 4.15pm  ALL ARE WELCOME!

Winchester Road Methodist Church, E4 9JP
Bazaar 2019: Making a decision on the toy stall (above).
Promoting the exciting raffle prizes (below).
Bazaar 2019: Visiting Father Christmas in his Grotto.