God’s love and faithfulness will last for ever. Psalm 100:5 You are good to us, Lord, and your love never fails. Psalm 106:1 Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful and trusting. 1 Corinthians 13:7 Love comes from God, and when we love each other it shows that we have been given new life. 1 John 4:7 God showed His love for us when He sent His only son into the world to give us life. 1 John 4:9 1 Corinthians 13:13 For now there are faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.

Winchester Road Methodist Church
Winchester Road, Highams Park
London, E4 9JP
Minister: Rev Hilary Cheng
hilary@chengs.org.uk
Tel Church 020 8531 8663
Tel Home 020 8524 3649
www.winchesterroadchurch.org.uk
@winroadmeth
Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church
Baptism of Theo David Flanders on Sunday 5 January 2020.
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
Alternative style evening services held once a month (see below)

WORSHIP DURING FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Leader</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 2\textsuperscript{nd}</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Worship Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 9\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Gillian Farnfield</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Samuel Ebden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 16\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Rev Hilary Cheng</td>
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<td>Sacrament of Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 23\textsuperscript{rd}</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Uko Emmanuel</td>
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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
Dear friends,

As I write during the last week of January, Brexit is only a few days away. After three years of deliberations and debates, postponed exit days, heartache and disappointment, it actually feels as if it is going to happen.

I can remember the political talks that took place in the 1970’s as Britain entered the Common Market. It feels as if we are stepping away from that now, and the future looks unclear. We do not fully know what will happen next nor how the country will fare after Brexit. We are living in uncertain times.

As a nation we have lived through uncertain times in the past, the World Wars, foot and mouth disease, terrorist attacks, and yet we always seem to find a way through these obstacles.

You may have, or may be experiencing difficult times within your own life, with family issues, loss, bereavement, unemployment, illness, debt looming large. When faced with such examples in my own life, I always take a look back and remember how God has been alongside and present in each of these situations. I may not have been fully aware at the time, but emerging on the other side of a difficulty, I have been thankful to know God’s presence with me.

The coming months will be interesting, and most likely, challenging too, as we negotiate the unchartered waters of Brexit. But God, who has brought us this far, will be with us in the decisions that are made for the future.

Christmas is already a month gone, but the message that Christ came to bring, lives on. One of the names for Jesus in the Bible, is Emmanuel, which means God with us. We can never be alone or abandoned, when we know that God loves us enough to walk with us through all the political and personal decisions we must face. So let us embrace Brexit, whether it was what you voted for or not, and seek God’s presence as we enter this new political phase of British history.

Emmanuel, may God be with us,

Hillary
2020 Dates for your diary

All events held here at Winchester Road unless stated otherwise

Sat 8 February: Winchester Café, 10am – 4pm

Sun 16 February: Communion

Sat 22 February: Jumble Sale, 10am – 12 noon (see page 6)

Tue 25 February: Church Council Meeting, 7.30pm

Mon 2 March: Church Outreach Meeting, 7.30pm

Fri 6 March: World Day of Prayer, All Saints Highams Park, 11am

Sun 8 March: Uniformed Organisations Anniversary Church Parade

Sun 15 March: Communion

Sun 12 April: Easter Sunday, including Communion

Sun 19 April: Church Review, following the morning service, lunch included (see page 6)

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)
SUNDAY 19 APRIL - SAVE THE DATE

Sharon Nugent from the District Learning Network will be coming to visit us to facilitate a church review. This is to help us to assess and evaluate where we are as a church and to help us to move forward with 'Growth'. This will take place after morning service and will include lunch. Further details to follow.

BAPTISM

On Sunday 5th January, we welcomed Theo David Flanders, son of Ross and Kirsty Flanders, into our Church family.
He was surrounded by family and friends.
[See photos on page 2.]

Jumble Sale

Saturday 22 February, 10am-12noon
Admission 30p

Please bring any jumble to the Church on Friday 21st from 6pm onwards. Any offers of help with sorting on Friday evening, serving on the stalls on Saturday, or taking a car load at the end to one of the recycling centres will be gratefully received.

Thank you, Hazel (020 8527 5323)

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 5th February: Jenner Plummer – Nursery Rhymes
Wednesday 19th February: Topic tbc
Wednesday 4th March: Rev. Tony Malcolm – My Life
Wednesday 18th March: Topic tbc

For more information, please speak to Sylvia Dixon.
The Phoenix

When the Borough of Waltham Forest became a cultural borough, magnificent wooden animal carvings sprung up across the Borough. As they were carved by an artist, Marshall, using a chain saw, they attracted interest and caught the imagination of young and old alike.

When Mum and Dad died, neither felt the need to have a grave but we were keen that there should be a lasting memorial to celebrate their love of our church and the community and to recognise their years of service to both. With Church Council’s blessing, we approached Marshall to commission a sculpture with an appropriate religious theme. It was Marshall who felt that a Phoenix, rising from the ashes as a symbol of the resurrection, would be the most apt.

Getting the enormous oak log in place was quite a feat but its position to the left of the hub entrance was perfect. It was fascinating watching the creative process as, hour by hour, the wood began to take shape. Church users, passers-by, children going to school all stopped to talk to Marshall and guess what it would become – a partridge, turkey and swan were the top favourites. Finally, just before Christmas the carving was finished with a plaque inscribed thus:

“I am the Resurrection and the Life” John 11: 25
Carved by Marshall November 2019 in Loving Memory of Kath and Eric Warner who served this church and our local community with love and humility.”

Hilary dedicated the sculpture on the first Sunday in January; that was such a fitting service for the dedication as it symbolised rebirth and resurrection through the celebration of a new year and a new life as Theo Flanders was christened that morning.

We think Mum and Dad would have approved of our choice. Mum would have loved watching Marshall carving and would have taken great pleasure in talking to everyone stopping by to watch; and Dad would have been there in the background enjoying it all with a little chuckle.

The photos on pages 15 and 16 shows the process of the phoenix rising from the unhewn log. We hope you will enjoy seeing the carving for yourself and will remember Mum and Dad with affection.

Janice and Maureen
February 26th is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the 40 day period of Lent. We remember Jesus being led into the desert for 40 days where he faced the temptations recorded in the gospels. The Devil tempted him to turn stones into bread to satisfy his hunger, or to put God's protection to the test by jumping from a high point of the Temple, or giving him the power and wealth of Kingdoms if he worshipped the Devil. (Matt 4 v 1-11 and Luke 4 v 1-13). The best known of the Lenten hymns was written by George Smyttan, who was the son of a Doctor serving a Missionary Society in India. He served briefly as a parish priest in Nottinghamshire and sadly died in his early forties whilst travelling in Germany and was buried in an pauper's unmarked grave.

Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted and yet undefiled.

The Hymn, No. 236 in Singing the faith, has been 'adapted' in the interest of clarity by 'Jubilate Hymns' and, though the first verses are the same, I invite you to compare it with the verses in the old Methodist Hymn Book No 165. (Jubilate Hymns is a Christian Publishing House founded by Michael Baughen, a former Anglican Bishop of Chester who composed the music for the hymn Lord for the Years)

MHB verse 4                                         STF verse 4
So if Satan vexing sore,                             So if Satan pressing hard,
flesh or spirit should assail                        Soul and body would destroy;
Thou, his vanquisher before                         Christ who conquered be our guide
Grant that we may not faint nor fail                Give to us the victor's joy.

A new addition of the collection of Lenten Hymns in Singing the Faith was written by Rev Timothy Dudley-Smith the former Anglican Bishop of Thetford which I have yet to sing. It is set to the tune St Agnes (usually associated with the hymn Spirit Divine attend our prayers MHB 289).

Christ our redeemer knew temptations hour
in desert places, silent and apart.

Another new hymn comes from the pen of an American Evangelical Lutheran academic and hymn writer Herman Stuempfle STF 237. He takes us through the temptations Jesus faced recorded in the gospels, for example verse 1 begins.....
Jesus tempted in the desert,
lonely hungry filled with dread:
'Use your power' the tempter tells him;
'turn these barren rocks to bread!' 
'Not alone by bread' he answers.
'Can the human heart be filled.'

It is set to the tune called Ebenezer which can be found as the less familiar tune for the Hymn 'Through the night of doubt and sorrow', No. 616 in the MHB.

With this in mind many Christians decide to fast or give up some luxury during the forty days of Lent to recall the time Jesus spent in the desert. John Wesley believed that his Methodists should fast regularly to take their minds off the things of this world and to focus on God. John fasted regularly, usually on Fridays during his adult life. Jesus' teaching set out in what is referred to as the 'Sermon on the mount' (Matthew Ch 5-7) spoke about fasting... 'when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites: they make their faces unsightly so that other people may see they are fasting. I tell you this, they have their reward already. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face so that men shall not see you are fasting.............. and your Father who sees what is secret will give you your reward.' (NEB Matt 6 v 16-18).

In Judaism on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) Jews fast to demonstrate their regret, atonement, for their sins. Muslims fast during the month of Ramadan when they neither eat nor drink from sunrise to sunset and through prayer come closer to God. Also many non-religious people speak of giving up chocolate, alcohol or pleasure for Lent for a variety of reasons.

Many Christians during Lent commit to spending time in prayer, Bible reading or other study and for them it is also a time for 'almsgiving', showing concern for our neighbours recognising the needy or less fortunate in the community.

Allen Steel
February 2020

‘Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!’

~Psalm 147:1
Sheila Saunders

We are sound to announce the death of Sheila Saunders. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sheila’s family and friends at this time.

The Prophets

From Glynis Barber: As you may recall, I preached at Winchester Road on the 8th December last year, and I promised that I would send some information about the prophets.

Note from the Editor – Glynis has kindly written some information on the prophets. I will leave it in a plastic folder on the noticeboard so it is available for all to read.

Church Posters

Some Church posters have gone missing, especially the large ones. If found, please leave for me on the table in the vestry, and I will return to the S.S. files.

Many thanks,
Barbara Chapman

An appeal for any unused Christmas cards with envelopes

If you have any unused Christmas cards with envelopes, Janice or I would be pleased to receive them.

Thank you.

Maureen Duncan

Tee Hee

My husband and I watched 3 DVDs back-to-back at the weekend. Thankfully I was the one facing the telly!
Winchester News – last edition next month

Dear all,

This is to let you know that the last edition of Winchester News in its current format will be the March 2020 edition.

After that, a brief two-page version will be published and made available in the church and online and will include the ‘Letter from our minister, Hilary’ and the ‘Dates for your diary’.

I’ve thoroughly enjoyed editing the newsletter since I took over from Dorothy Clarke in 2017, and I look forward to picking it back up in the future.

Best wishes,
Alex Fletcher, Editor

Congratulations to Annmarie Moseley for passing her counselling diploma at Christmas!

I completed my certificate at Highgate Counselling Centre and went on to study for my professional counselling diploma qualification at the City Lit Institute in Holborn. The course was hard work and challenging, while at the same time immensely enjoyable!

I passed my theory in July and my clinical practice in December. I am currently working voluntarily two days a week for Havering College Counselling Service with students aged 16+. I then hope to move onto some paid counselling work.

I have met many inspiring and resilient young people over my years of training and also with my ongoing work at Childline (NSPCC) and look forward to being able to continue to work within the field of mental health, which is an area which I have always felt passionate about.

Thank you,
Annmarie Moseley
Christmas Inn 2019

From the letters and cards received from guests who attended the event, it appears that Christmas Inn 2019 was a success and enjoyed by those who attended (in the region of 70 guests). There were a number who couldn’t attend on the day as they were ill (to six of whom we delivered a full meal). We had an exceptional number of helpers this year.

Guests, and helpers alike, enjoyed a delicious meal cooked by Janice and family; the raffle (this is always very popular); and the entertainer who played and sang while we served high tea to everyone.

The Mayor of Waltham Forest spent an hour or so chatting to our guests and helpers over first lunch sitting and for the first time one helper brought her Pets as Therapy dog along in the afternoon.

While transport is always a problem, we had a lot of offers of transport to the Church from car drivers and we only needed to use a Community Transport minibus plus driver for the last morning transport. We had less car drivers available for the return journey but we were able to book a second Community Transport minibus with driver, and with several drivers offering to do more than one return journey, we were able to get everyone away by 5.30 pm, taking with them goodie bags of a box of chocolates, sandwiches, cake, raffle prizes, etc.

My particular thanks go to Janice and family for cooking the Christmas meal, Alan Burgoine for organising the transport, Anne and Gary for providing numerous cups of tea and coffee throughout the day, Kevin for helping both on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, Caroline, our First Aider, who also provided extra transports, and everyone else who helped, either beforehand or on the day. If anyone would like to help with Christmas Inn, we are always glad to hear from them. We are also always happy to accommodate extra guests.

While all offers of help, be it donations of money, home-made cakes, boxes of chocolates, washing up for about 80 people at a time, etc are much appreciated, we would always be delighted to receive offers of transport (to morning service, to both sittings of lunch, and return at around 5pm). Both Alan and I are willing and able for the time being to continue to organise transport/organise the event but neither of us can guarantee we will be able to do so indefinitely so as a matter of urgency we would both like to identify successors. Christmas Inn has been running for about 25 years; it would be a great pity if it could not take place.

If anyone has any questions about Christmas Inn, please do not hesitate to contact me (maryrose.french@btinternet.com / 07808 121347) or ring the Care number (020 8523 5955). Meanwhile I think I can speak for all involved in Christmas Inn, particularly on Christmas Day, when I say that however tired you are by the end of the day, you are more than rewarded by the thanks of our guests and the smiles on their faces as they await their transport home, which make it all worth-while.

Mary Rose French
A short story from the Bible

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli.

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.

Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.

But Samuel did all the work he was given well.

One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.

He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.

It happened again.

No, I didn't call you.

I didn't call. Go back to bed.

The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.

God called Samuel again.

You must say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

and Samuel answered as he had been told.

I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.

The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.

He is God. He will deal with us as is right.

God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.

Samuel was afraid, but he told him.
After Jesus was baptised He was led by the Spirit into the **wilderness** for **forty days** where he was tempted by the devil.

**READ** the story in **Luke 4:1-13**

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**Can you find these words in the word search?**
- JESUS
- BAPTISED
- RIVER
- JORDAN
- LED
- HOLY SPIRIT
- WILDERNESS
- DESERT
- TEMPTATIONS
- DEVIL
- FORTY
- DAYS
- HUNGRY
- ROCK
- STONE
- BREAD
- WRITTEN
- SCRIPTURE
- ALL
- KINGDOMS
- WORLD
- GLORY
- WORSHIP
- SERVE
- GOD
- ONLY
- JERUSALEM
- TEMPLE
- HIGH
- IF
- SON
- JUMP
- THROW
- DOWN
- ANGELS
- HOLD
- LIFT
- FOOT
- LORD
- TEST
From log to Phoenix.
See page 7.
The Phoenix (see pages 7 and 15)

**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 MARCH’S NEWSLETTER**
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: **Wednesday 19 February**
Please note: the March edition will be the last in its current format – please see page 11.

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