

# WINCHESTER NEWS

November 2021



**Winchester Road Methodist Church**  
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**@winroadmeth**



**Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church**

# Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends

Ninety-nine years ago this month, on 26 November 1922, the tomb where Tutankamen had been laid was discovered by British archaeologist Howard Carter. His search for the tomb and its treasure had taken many years to find as he explored various leads concerning the burial place of the Egyptian Pharaohs. Once he had located the burial chamber, Carter's eyes were opened wide to the dazzling array of treasure found within the tomb.

King Tutankamen reigned from 1352- 1343BC, but it was not until 3,365 years later that his burial place was discovered. Carter's find came because he persevered and did not give up looking.

There are a few truths about faith within this story. The first is that if we seek Jesus, we must go on looking until we find him. When we do, we discover what a priceless treasure having a relationship with the living Christ is. The second lesson is that we need to be persistent. Sometimes it can be difficult to keep going in our faith, particularly when there are setbacks, when bad things happen to us, when illness overwhelms us, or our circumstances change for the worse.

The good news is that God stays with us through our difficulties, he doesn't abandon us to our fate. We may not realise his presence beside us, but when we emerge on the other side of our darkness, we can look back and see how we were given strength to cope through the presenting challenges.

It took Carter a long time to find the tomb and its contents, but his persistence was rewarded. Our search for Jesus does not usually happen overnight, instead, it takes months and years to develop, but the search is worth it in the end. The relationship with Jesus is worth far more than any material treasure and will sustain us through life's trials and tribulations.

The winter is before us, and with it, the uncertainty of illness, rising energy bills, staff shortages in some workplaces, and other negative aspects of life. But as Christian people we have the knowledge that God is with us and will sustain us, come what may.

In a recent Bible study session, we came across this prayer, written by Jill Baker, who was the President of Methodist Women in Britain 2011-2013 and then Vice-President of the Methodist Conference in 2017

'Lord, you reach out to the world in its deepest, darkest hopelessness.  
Through the shadows of my own anxiety,  
The dark doubts of night,  
I grasp at your promise, 'I am with you always'.  
I whisper the words until they become my peace.

May Jesus be your peace too.

*Hilary*

## **Services for November/December**

**Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> Nov:** -Rev. Hilary Cheng – AAW (including dedication of shoeboxes and JMA)

**Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Rev. John Lampard - Remembrance Sunday

**Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> Nov:** Jacob Adofo

**Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Rev John Lampard (Communion)

**Tues. 30<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Alternative worship, led by Samuel Ebdon

**Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Rev. Nigel Anstey



The flowers in November are in loving memory of:

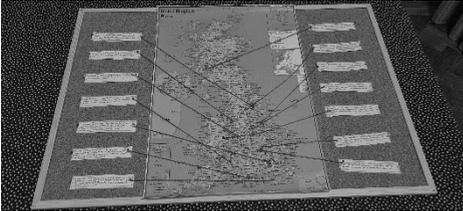
**7th Nov. - Sheila Saunders.**

**14th Nov. - Tom (Jan Dent's father).**

**N.B: As the weather gets colder, please remember that the church still needs to be well ventilated, and you might want to dress more warmly.**

## Alternative Worship

We held a midweek service on 26<sup>th</sup> October led by Samuel Ebdon. In our review, alternative forms of worship were requested by members and Samuel has agreed to lead these on the fourth Tuesday of the month.



Five people attended the service which focussed on how we can use our different gifts to respond to the climate emergency. There were different prayer stations including crafts, ideas of how other churches are responding and inter active

confession prayers. It provoked much discussion about how we could respond by making small changes in our lives. Samuel had contacted churches and asked for information about their projects and offered our church's prayers for them. They will also be praying for our church as we continue to look at ways to grow our faith. We hope that some of these activities may be shared with other members, including our young people. The next service will be on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30, when we hope more people may be able to join us. There will not be a service in December. We will confirm dates of future services in the New Year.

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## Harvest

We were delighted to be able to hold our Harvest service in church this year. It was a Parade service and many of the members of our uniformed organisations were able to attend and take part. Wesley's Chapel were very grateful for the generous donations of food items, and money, to help them to provide breakfast for homeless people in Whitechapel. Sylvia also arranged flowers and small boxes of gifts to take to members who are unable to attend church services. They were gratefully received.



Cards from Whitechapel Mission and some of those receiving gifts are displayed in the Hub.

**We are in urgent need of door stewards, please let us know if you are able to go on a rota to help either regularly or occasionally.**

## Our Church Family

We are very sad to announce that Martin, Janet and Peter Dawe's son was killed in a tragic accident a couple of weeks ago.

Janet and Peter wish to thank everyone for their cards, thoughts and prayers.

Special thanks also to Hilary and Pat. All these have been a great help to the whole family at a difficult time, including Martin's wife Jayne, and children, Hope and Harry.

Janet & Peter Dawe

**Ron Taylor:** - On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October a memorial service was held for Ron, who died on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Although a small funeral was possible at the time, due to the pandemic, Joan and the family were not able to celebrate his life as they wished. The service was attended by the family, friends and members of the church. It was a chance to remember the important role Ron played within the family and beyond. The service was followed by a buffet lunch.

In memory of my loving wife Ann Jacqueline Steiner, I would like to thank all who donated to the RNLI and the Parkinsons Society. The letters of gratitude from the two organisations shown here gives thanks for such generous support from all those of you that contributed.

Many thanks Gerald

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**  
CHANGE ATTITUDES.  
FIND A CURE.  
JOIN US.

Thank you for your kind gift of £565. Your donation will make a huge difference to people with Parkinson's.

We are immensely grateful for your kind donation of £340. At its core the RNLI is powered by selflessness and generosity. So, this is an incredible gift.

Thank you



We announced the christening of Isaac and Eli last month and Alex has sent a beautiful picture of the occasion. (See back cover) We have been pleased to see them in church and growing up fast!

## Church Matters

For the first time in 18 months, the Church Council were able to meet in person. Below is a summary of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**Forest Circuit Mission Plan response:** Our response had been circulated. It will be reviewed by Circuit with the responses from the other eleven churches. Hilary thanked everyone who had participated. Members were encouraged to put items onto the church website which is currently underused.

**Data Protection:** This is ongoing.

**Ministerial Matters:** Laura has stepped back from her Safeguarding role for the time being, and, in the meantime, Hilary will deal with any Safeguarding matters. A property, in Wanstead, owned by the circuit is up for sale. The money from the sale would go to circuit and could be used for mission projects.

**Pastoral:** Currently there are 76 members and 47 associates in seven groups. There are a further 9 people to be formally added. Three baptisms are planned for next year.

**Outreach/ Growth:** Ideas from the recent survey had been discussed. Alternative Worship would be arranged on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month(see p.4). A nativity story session for the gym group will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. A Pop-up-Nativity is planned for Christmas Eve. This would include craft activities in the Memorial Hall before going into the church to tell the Nativity story. Further ideas will be discussed at the next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Resources:** Two external doors have been re-painted; the window in the Memorial hall repaired and new mugs purchased . Outstanding items include Recovering the Memorial Hall roof; Re-decorating the Hodgson Hall and completing the H&S risk assessment and environmental audit. Curtains in the church need replacing or repairing.

**Finance:** The Committee received updated accounts.

**Bazaar:** A proposal for a slightly 'scaled back' bazaar was approved with back up plans in case this could not go ahead. This would be held on 27<sup>th</sup> November. (See inside back cover)

**World Day of Prayer** Winchester Road would be hosting next year's World Day of Prayer on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

**CARE Highams Park update** Our church have taken over the total management of Care. The landline phone has been replaced with a new mobile phone. Insurance has been checked and further procedures for safeguarding will be put in place. It would not be safe to hold Christmas Inn this year under the current

circumstances, so, as last year, gift bags will be prepared and delivered to clients in the week before Christmas. Re-starting the monthly lunches will be considered in February.

**3Generate** Eight young people from the Biscuit Club are attending the Methodist young people's gathering this year. Support for funding was agreed. The Young People will report on the weekend during the service on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Circuit Archives:** These are now stored at Woodford Church and recent information from churches has been requested.

**Bouncy Castles** Council were asked to reconsider the ban on bouncy castles on church premises if Uniformed Organisations Leaders agreed to be responsible for safety. This was agreed.

**Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 1t 7.30**

The Outdoor Macmillan Coffee morning, in Holly Crescent went off well thanks to support from Church and neighbours who attended and all those who made cakes. It was good to see folk able to socialise safely.

We raised £570.

Thanks to all. Pat, Beryl and Jan

### Christian Aid update.

In addition to the amount of £429.78 raised around Christian Aid week we received a further £150 in donations at Harvest Festival, some of the donations were gift aided so Christian Aid will actually receive more than these amounts.

£140 was raised by Colin in his steps challenge.

Up to now we have been in a group with the other HP churches but over recent years we have not had joint events and we have all agreed that from now each church will deal directly with Christian Aid. This cuts out Winchester Road as the middleman, this should make little difference to them but will save us a job.

I would very much like to find someone else to be our Christian Aid Secretary, mainly because I am often busy in May which is the main fundraising time for Christian Aid.

Please have a word if you are interested. Pat (07939299278)

## Born in song

(As promised, extracts from Laura's service.  
Allen Steel also followed a 'music 'theme in October)

Methodism was born in song – but we didn't invent it. There has been music in worship from the beginning. If I ever doubted its importance in worship, it was really proven in lockdown when we couldn't sing!

Music is important because:

### **It helps us to be active in our worship**

- Singing is active – something we do. John Wesley's rules for singing none too subtly spell out that hymns in worship are not just singalongs but a way of reaching out actively to God. We are commanded by God to sing in worship -whether you are a splendid bass or a dodgy soprano God commands us to offer the voice he gave you and to sing as well as you can.
- Paul wrote to the Corinthians - *I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. Hymns in church give us a time to use our minds **and** think about the words we use in worship.*

### **It binds us together**

- Think of the impact of singing 'Happy Birthday' together or Liverpool fans singing 'You'll never walk alone'. Music gives a shared voice and pulls us together.
- In worship our familiar hymns allow us to be together as we worship God. When we sing together, even if we're not the BBC Choir, we experience being one body, the family of God. If bread and wine at communion are a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, then our earthly singing is a foretaste of the heavenly choir.

### **It helps us to communicate with God**

- We are designed to communicate with God and music is one of the strategies He has given us. It starts at a level before words as music helps use to feel that we are in the presence of God. When we sing

a hymn like Be Still in a receptive way something happens - God's Spirit moves within us and we feel that he is close.

- Hymns give us words we may not find for ourselves. There are so many beautiful, clever hymns which say what we want to say, only better. If we grew up with Wesley, then some of his hymns will do that for us – or it may be Graham Kendrick - Meekness and Majesty or the Servant King are fantastic poems which say what the Saviour has done for us all.
- But we need to beware because when we join in some of the great Christian hymns, we may find ourselves making huge promises. Don't be so carried away by Wesley's 'Love Divine' that you fail to notice you've offered your whole self to God. Don't enjoy the chorus of 'Shine Jesus Shine' so much that you miss the commitment you've just made in the verses! But if what the hymns say express what you dare to feel then use their words and thank God for them.

### **It equips us for Christian living**

- In his commentary on Ephesians Tom Wright says that we take the words of hymns with us into our daily lives and that if we sing or hum them to ourselves as we potter around, they help us to keep our minds fixed on God. When we are anxious or perplexed the words of a well-known hymn may come to mind and bring comfort or guidance. Christian living outside the church is supported by the worship and singing we share inside it. Choose a couple of lines from a favourite hymn each day, consciously remember them and take them with you.

Laura Pease



*Lord, thank you for hope, for heaven, and for the here and now. Keep me focussed on this, and help me to keep the flame flickering, even on days of dark doubt. Amen*



# 100 years

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Red poppies have been worn as a show of support for the Armed Forces community since 1921.

The British legion have supported ex-Servicemen to find work after leaving the Armed Forces for 100 years.

The first four years of the British Legion's existence coincided with the economic hangover from the First World War, followed by the Great Depression. It was a time of mass unemployment with 2 million people out of work (out of a population of 42 million) in 1921.

In response to this the British Legion Unity Relief Fund was launched, making loans available for enterprising business start-ups and helping people find employment through approved employment schemes.

The fund was kickstarted with a grant of £150,000 (£7.3 million today) from the Prince of Wales and a further £30,000 (£1.4 million today) from other sources. Applications had to include a business plan and were scrutinised by branches, with help from local businessmen. Loans were capped at £25 and were designed to help people set up small businesses such as window cleaning or boot repairs. A loan of £5 could help a man start a grocery business; £20 could buy a horse and cart!

After the Second World War there was a focus on getting men into work and ensuring the government stuck to its quota of employing 3 per cent of disabled men into the workforce.

In addition, there were schemes to give men training in specialist trades. One beneficiary of this was the late Sean Connery.

In 1946 he joined the Royal Navy and spent 3 years training to be an anti-aircraft crewman. He was medically discharged due to an ulcer and after taking several jobs he joined a British Legion scheme to help the young and disabled. He chose to train as a French Polisher, a traditional skill of treating wood and restoring furniture and other items such as doors, staircases and musical instruments. It was while working in this profession that he got a job backstage in the theatre, where he found his true calling as an actor.

Another successful scheme was the London Taxi School which opened its doors to ex-Servicemen in 1928. Many of them had spinal disabilities which

meant standing up to work for long hours or lifting heavy boxes and other equipment was painful and difficult.

The idea came from Lieutenant General Sir Edward Bethune, a veteran of the Second Anglo-Afghan War of 1878 –80, the First and Second Boer Wars and the First World War.

From the outset the school was a success and at one time in the 1950s just under a third of all the capital's taxi drivers had come through the British Legion school.

It was the most expensive of all the employment support schemes though, costing £2,000 (£126,500 today) per driver.

Today they continue to help people in the Armed Forces community transition to civilian life and build successful careers.

For people who need help paying for training or equipment for a new job, they provide grants of up to £1,000. They also help people pay for professional licences they might need for work, such as a Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence.

They work with a range of partners who help serving and ex-serving personnel, and their families prepare for employment as they transition into civilian life.

RFEA - The Forces Employment Charity - give advice on how to put skills to good use, and help people find and fund the education and training they need to succeed.

And Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) help veterans find work or a new career through their employment support programme – LifeWorks.

In 2020,7,668 grants to members of the Armed Forces community were granted, totalling £11.7million

### **Traidcraft**

Christmas cards and other items will be on the stall from November. I will take orders for Christmas items from the catalogue if it is not on the stall.

I do not order Traidcraft items over £10 to put on the stall but will always order any requests so please take a catalogue and have a look.

I will not order Christmas Advent Calendars unless I have an order for them as I do not want to be left with them. Sylvia

## Waltham Forest u3a

Believe it or not our group has met at Winchester Road since 1996 so we thought it was about time that we told you a little about ourselves! Waltham Forest u3a is part of a national charity which was founded 40 years ago as U3A University of the Third Age. We have since been rebranded and like us, we suspect that you may flinch a little at our new lowercase title! However, our principles remain the same. We are open to anyone who is no longer in full-time employment who wish to make the most of life by continuing their creative, educational (no exams we promise) or social interests in the company of others.

Our motto is Learn, Laugh, Live and we endeavour to develop our interests, explore new ones and have a lot of fun along the way. Our interest groups are usually held in members' homes (although you may have come across our Play reading or Singing for Fun groups who use rooms at the Church) where knowledge is shared and friendships develop. We also meet every third Tuesday of the month at 2.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall to listen to a guest speaker followed by refreshments in the Hub, where members enjoy browsing the Book and Card stalls. In addition, we have social activities and outings to interesting places. Visitors are most welcome to come along to one of our meetings for a modest charge of £2. (Annual membership is £17 single/£27 joint if you share the same address.) We look forward to meeting you!

For more details please contact Vicky 020 8524 7674 or email:

[membership@wfu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@wfu3a.org.uk) or visit our website on

<https://u3asites.org.uk/waltham-forest>

Christine Farnes

*Spirit of fire, warm us with your everlasting love.  
Spirit of wind, blow away hurtful words that  
damage relationships.  
Spirit of earthquake, carry away our fears.  
Spirit of breeze, restore our peace with your  
calming breath. Spirit of the living God, speak to us  
in words we can understand. Amen*



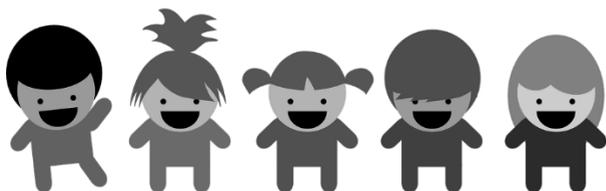
# Young Church

We welcome families to join us. Everyone starts in church at 10.30. Cookie Club then go out to room 2. Biscuit Club have their own session in the Hub on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month but can also be found helping with sound and screens in the church at other times.

**The Biscuit Club (11+)** will be attending the 3Generate weekend in Birmingham at the end of October and will tell us all about it during the service on 12<sup>th</sup> December. Their next evening meeting will be on 28<sup>th</sup> November 5.30 -7.00.



**Cookie Club (3-11)** We have been pleased to welcome back members of this group in recent weeks. We have been following the theme of Jesus welcoming the children. (Mark 10 v. 13-16) By the time you read this you should be able to see some of their work displayed in Room 2.



**Creche (under 3)** We have also been pleased to welcome back families with younger children. There are toys and books in the church near the Hub for families to sit and let

the children play. It is great to see them, and no-one minds when they go for a little wander occasionally. We do hope that they will be able to go out to the Well room soon, if they wish.



# *Christmas Bazaar*



**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

**10 am – 3.30 pm**

Due to Covid Considerations, we will have all our usual stalls, with the exception of: Bric-a-Brac, Lunches, Jewellery and the Craft Room

**Entrance 50p – Children Free**

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## *Our Stalls 2021*

Jams & Pickles

Christmas Gifts

Handmade Toys

Raffle

Stationery

Handmade Cards & Crafts

Toy Stall

Sweets

2<sup>nd</sup> hand Toys & Books

Cakes

Father Christmas



*Come and join us for tea, coffee and cake*

## WINCHESTER ROAD CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

Good News! We have approval to proceed with a slightly scaled back bazaar this year. The main changes are that we will not be offering lunches in the Hodgson Hall, nor will there be bric-a-brac, jewellery or Craft Room. We do of course have some plans in our back pockets to enact if government guidelines change. We will be offering a seating area with tea, coffee and cake in the Hodgson Hall.

We have started to sort items already that have been donated over the last 18 months and I know that lots of you will have items in your houses that have been waiting for news of the 2021 Bazaar. I have included a list below of the items that we are collecting, as well as some requests for help from people.

<b>Donations Needed</b>	
Second Hand Toys	Please bring items to the church
DVDs, CDs, Computer games	Please bring these to church
Cakes	Please see Sarah Hayward with details of anything you are prepared to make or donate for the cake stalls.
New and Nearly New Items	We will be running a 'Christmas Gifts' stall again this year. Please bring any items to the church.
Jewellery	There is no jewellery stall this year. Anything donated will be held over to the following year
Books	Please bring these to church

<b>Volunteers for help</b>	
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov 9am till 11am	We need a couple of able-bodied people to help move all of the items downstairs to the stalls.
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov 9.30am to 4pm	Volunteers to help serve on the stalls where needed.
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov at 3.30pm	Help to take down tables, move items upstairs and generally clear up for approximately 2 hours.

Unfortunately, we have no more space at the church at the moment for bric-a-brac or clothes to be donated. We hope to have a sale for this next year

Sarah Hayward ([winchesterchristmasbazaar@gmail.com](mailto:winchesterchristmasbazaar@gmail.com))



### **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  
Hazel Mathews, Carol & Dumisani Moyo, Pat Ovenden, Janet Dawe**

**OUR SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Rev. Hilary Cheng**

### **CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DECEMBER'S NEWSLETTER**

If you would like to submit an article, joke, photo, poem, prayer or item of interest, please contact Jan Dent -

**[jdent7@gmail.com](mailto:jdent7@gmail.com) or 07751603883**

**Deadline to submit items: Monday 22nd November.**

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