

WINCHESTER NEWS

OCTOBER 2022



Winchester Road Methodist Church
Winchester Road, Highams Park London, E4 9JP

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Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church

Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

As we welcome in October, the very hot summer days are but a distant memory. The grass is now green, the flowers recovering from the lack of rain, and birds are finding places to bathe once again.

However, it is not just the weather which is changing before our eyes, September has seen a change in both Prime Minister and Monarch. In some ways change is unsettling. We are, as a nation, waiting to see what kind of king, King Charles will become. We are waiting to see what change the new government will bring, maybe in hopeful anticipation, maybe with a feeling of anxiety.

Queen Elizabeth was said to be a 'rock' and 'stability in times of change' for the nation, commonwealth and world. Rev Justin Welby spoke of her unfaltering and steadfast faith in God. Every day, even in the midst of change, Queen Elizabeth kept her Christian faith.

We too share that immovable cornerstone in our lives, we believe in God and the hope which faith brings. So even in this time of change we are rooted in God's love, and that will never change. Whoever is our Prime Minister, whoever is our Monarch, whichever month or season we are in, we go forward with absolute faith in our God who has promised to love us whatever changes we face.

October is the month that gardeners plan spring bulbs looking forward in hopeful anticipation of the colour and diversity that changes in seasons will bring. May we live in the full expectation that change will come, but that God holds us close, and we have nothing to fear, but can look forward to what will become.

Blessings

Rev Stephanie

Services –October /November

Sun. 2nd Oct: - led by Revd. Norman Grigg
This service will include a baptism.

Sun. 9th Oct: - led by Kath Leckey

Sun. 16th Oct: - led by Revd. John Lampard

Sun. 23rd Oct: -led by Revd. Stephanie Njeru including communion

Sun. 30th Oct: - led by Cynthia Bonds

Sun.6th Nov: – Shoe Boxes & JMA: All Age Worship, and Parade, led by Revd. Stephanie Njeru

Revd. Stephanie Njeru has let us know about the following:

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: 158039**

Church Flowers:

October 9th in loving memory of
Mr & Mrs McSweeney

October 16th in loving memory of
Martin Dawe

October 23rd in loving memory of Ken Seaman



Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have made the following statement in response to the announcement of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

“It was with profound sadness that we learned of the death of Her Majesty the Queen today. We join the nation in grief and thank God for her long and distinguished reign. The loyalty to, and love expressed for, Queen Elizabeth across the world is a testament to the life that she led, one marked by dedicated service to others. She provided encouragement and reassurance to a world living through uncertain times. “For people of all ages the Queen has provided constancy, a calm and wise influence at all levels of society. Our nation, the Commonwealth and the world have been greatly blessed by her life and work. “We give thanks to God that her duty as monarch was grounded in a deep faith in Jesus Christ, which has been an inspiration to countless people throughout her reign. Her dedication, commitment and service to her people will never be forgotten and will sustain all those who mourn in the coming weeks. Our prayers are for her family who have lost a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt and we pray that all may be inspired by her service and guided by her example. “The prayers of the Methodist people are also offered for His Majesty the King in his new role.”

The Revd Graham Thompson and Anthony Boateng, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Creator God, We give thanks for the life of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

We honour her life of service built on a firm foundation of faith and an exemplary commitment to duty.

Comfort those who mourn and bring peace to those in distress.

We offer our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen



News from the Circuit and London District

The Conference are encouraging local churches to join the "Action for Hope" climate change initiative. Part of that is to sign up to be an Eco Church and look at ways in which we can become more environmentally friendly. The link is: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/climate-change/>

They are also looking at how we can provide warm spaces for people who aren't able to warm their houses full time under the new initiative <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/>

Both will be discussed at Outreach and Church Council. If you have any views please speak to one of the stewards.

Can you help?

There is now only one Circuit Steward. This makes the Circuit unviable. We need at least six, so the Circuit Leadership team are asking for one Circuit Steward from each church. To enable this to happen, the local church will relieve them of local church duties. The link for the job description is: <https://forestcircuit.vpweb.co.uk/volunteer-job-descriptions>.

The church also urgently needs people to help with a range of essential jobs, including; Church Stewards, Christian Aid (May), World Day of Prayer (Oct/March), Property Maintenance, Door Stewards, Flower Arranging.

Please speak to one of the stewards if you feel you can help.

Assistant Beaver Leader Required

Can you please help? Beaver Scouts, often shortened to Beavers, is the second youngest official section of Scouting operated by The Scout Association in the United Kingdom. The core age range for Beaver Scouts is six to eight.

We meet Wednesday evening from 6pm to 7pm at Winchester Road Methodist Church E4.

For further details please email Roger Pettit (Group Scout Leader) roger_pettit@btinternet.com or contact Mike Hayward 07854 50517



What's On?

***Winchester Bazaar – Saturday 26th November *** (p.14)

London Methodist Lunch Club

“Have you thought it would be good to meet up with like-minded people from across London for a 3-course lunch, with a speaker, once a month? There is such a lunch club, and you would be welcome to join us.”

Lancaster Hall Hotel Craven Terrace

(Nearest Stations: Lancaster Gate or Paddington/ Buses along Bayswater Rd)

2nd Friday of the month (Oct-May)

Coffee from 11.15 / Lunch 12.30 (pre-booked)

Annual Membership fee

For more information speak to Mary Burgoine, Peter & Lindy Richardson, Carole Merriman or Janet Dawe

Age UK Waltham Forest

Waltham Forest Resource Hub (North) 58 Hall Lane, Chingford E4 8EU

Help with benefits, advice on benefit calculations, form filling, housing issues, energy saving, care and support, social prescribing, health and wellbeing.

* Information & Advice Drop-in service at Priory Court, Walthamstow - Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm.

* Coffee at the Hub – Wednesdays 10.00 – 1.00

* Befriending for over 60's living alone – (020 8558 8716)

* Cycling for over 60's - Mondays

* Other services include Veterans Club, Footcare, Handyperson, Help at Home, Shopping & Collection of Prescriptions. (There is a charge for some services.) Contact: 020 8558 5512/ support@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk' They have a full range of activities during the week including fitness, vegetarian cookery, monthly book club. and classes for help with technology. They also have 5 new Tai chi exercise classes.

Call on 020 8558 3404 or email 'contact@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk'

Please consider donating to help us be here for older people – online donations can be made here [Age UK Waltham Forest - JustGiving](#) or to our offices Age UK Waltham Forest, 58 Hall Lane, Chingford E4 8E

What's on at Winchester

The aim of our church is to share the love of God and to serve the local community through our Sunday services, weekday meetings, and the groups which meet on our premises.

Minister—Rev. Stephanie Njeru - For Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals contact the minister on Tel 020 8279 2380 Email stephanie.njeru@methodist.org.uk

Sunday Morning Service at 10.30

Young people attend first ten minutes and then go to their own Young Church or Young Peoples' Group. On some Sundays there is an All Age Worship Service

Evening services at 6.30 (as arranged).

Contemporary Worship (as arranged)

Uniformed Organisations

Beavers, (Wed 6.00pm) Cubs (Wed 6.30pm) Scouts (Wed 7.30pm) Contact 020 8529 1162 roger_pettit@btinternet.com

Rainbows, (Mon 6.15pm/Thurs 6.30pm) Brownies (Mon 6.00pm/Thurs 6.20pm) Guides (Tues 7.30pm/Thurs 7.15pm) Rangers (Thurs 7.30pm) Contact 020 8529 1162 janice_pettit@btinternet.com or visit Girl Guiding Website : girlguiding.org.uk

Sunday Lunch Club – Open to all

First Sunday of the month. To book contact CARE 07546 713843

Coffee Morning: Friday 10.00-12.00 (term time only)

We aim to serve the community by providing a place for different groups to meet. To arrange a booking email Lettings Manager Jean Norton admin@winchesterroadchurch.org.uk

Groups currently meeting here are listed on the next page:

For children and Young People

Baby Massage

Suitable for babies from 6 weeks until crawling. Classes run by qualified baby massage instructor. Contact : Lindsay doremeebies@gmail.com
www.do-re-meebies.co.uk

Do-Re-Meebies

Singing group for babies and toddlers. Monday & Thursday Contact : Lindsay doremeebies@gmail.com www.do-re-meebies.co.uk

Cheeky Monkeys' Gym Club

Structured gymnastics classes which aim to enhance basic co-ordination, balance, and movement. All classes run for 45 minutes.

Wednesday 10am & 11am (parent and toddler), 1pm & 2pm (All classes are designed for 3-5 year olds)

Friday 10am & 11am (parent and toddler), 1pm & 2pm (All classes are designed for 3 year olds) Check Facebook page for details

Contact:cheekymonkeysgymclub@hotmail.com

Highams Park School of Dancing - Street Dance

Dancing classes for 5-16 year olds, Wednesdays after school. Contact :

enquiries@highamsschoolofdancing.co.uk

www.highamsparkschoolofdance.co.uk

Highams Park School of Dancing

A variety of dancing classes. For details go to www.highamsschoolofdancing.co.uk Contact : enquiries@highamsschoolofdance.com

For Adults

C&A Club Social club

for former employees of C&A Highams Park. First Wednesday of the month 10am–12pm

The Happy Gardeners' Club

A gardening club which meets on the second Monday of every month from 1pm until 3pm. £3 per session. Just turn up

Healthy Hearts Exercise Club

Fitness class for people with heart conditions, chronic ill health or those recovering from a bout of ill health. Tuesdays 12 noon to 1pm.

Contact Eddie on 07789 595 897

Harmony E4

Choir meets alternate Mondays 7.45pm until 9pm. Contact: Kate Milner

07969 269107 www.highamsparkchoir@gmail.com

Highams Park School of Dancing

Adult dancing classes. For details go to www.highamsschoolofdancing.co.uk

Contact enquiries@highamsschoolofdancing.com

Keep Fit for Ladies

Fitness class for older ladies. Tuesday 2pm to 3.30pm Contact 020 8531 8663

Lipreading Self Help Group

A self-help group for people with hearing loss to practise their lipreading and finger spelling skills. For more information Contact Susan Kochs

020 8341 1518 / 07947241969

Keep Fit

Fitness Class. Thursday 2pm – 3pm Contact 020 8527 6230

Parkinson's Society

Second Tuesday in the month 11am to 1pm Contact: dottie.lee@gmail.com

U3A

We are a friendly organisation for people no longer in full time work who enjoy a variety of interests making new friends and having fun. Monthly meetings every third Tuesday of the month with an interesting speaker and refreshments 2pm to 4pm Contact Vicky on 020 8524 7674 or email membership@wfu3a.org.uk For details go to <https://u3asites.org.uk/waltham-forest> or find us on Facebook: Waltham Forest u3a.

Walthamstow Social Centre Blind Club

Bi-weekly Thursday 2pm – 4pm Contact 020 8531 3443

News from Our Church Family



Audrey Herriot moved to a home in Norfolk where she could be with her twin sister, Shirley.

Audrey sent some pictures of the home as well as her and her sister.



Sadly, Shirley died a couple of weeks ago. Our thoughts and prayers are with Audrey and her family.

We pray for all those in our church family who have been bereaved and those who are ill or undergoing hospital treatment.



God of hope, heal me and restore me, that I might know your resurrection power in my life. Amen.

Christmas is coming.....!

I shall be making Christmas puds again this year for Church Bazaar funds.

Should you wish to pre order one of any size, then please do let me know. No obligation!

Maureen

(Maureen.duncan@mac.com; 07590574)



.....*all is safely gathered in*

In the familiar hymn All things bright and beautiful (STF 100) Mrs Cecile Frances Alexander wrote about *the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden he made them every one*. This year we had sun which exceeded pleasant, and many found temperatures reaching 40° hard to enjoy. My garden like many suffered from the heat and drought but thanks to good friends we were given apples and pears from their abundant harvest. I gave up tomato growing when I realised that Tesco provided a more reliable source but this year, I decided to grow runner beans but the drought, my erratic watering and black fly meant a failed harvest. All this is nothing compared with the devastating floods in Pakistan which destroyed homes and crops and the famine in East Africa caused by the worst drought in 40 years.

On the last Sunday in September this year we celebrated a Harvest Service but for many people around the world there is little to celebrate. An online entry tells us that 'Droughts represent 15% of natural disasters but took the largest human toll, approximately 650,000 deaths from 1970-2019 From 1998 to 2017, droughts caused global economic losses of roughly 124 billion dollars. In 2022, more than 2.3 billion people face water stress; almost 160 million children are exposed to severe and prolonged droughts. According to reports, the 2022 drought is the greatest to affect Europe in 500 years

Like many of you I remember joyful services when the congregation brought flowers fruit and vegetables from their gardens or allotments (supplemented with shop bought foods) to decorate the church to celebrate a good harvest. As a teenager I watched the apples or tomatoes, which had been placed at the foot of the organ pipes, in case the vibrations of the organ caused some fruit to fall on the organist. No service would have been complete without the congregation singing the Anglican Henry Alford's hymn

*Come ye thankful people come. raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.(MHB 962)*

The compilers of Singing the Faith have changed the last two lines to

Fruit and crops are gathered in, safe before the storms begin.(STF 123)

One of my favourite novels is the autobiographical **Cider with Rosie** in which the author, journalist and script writer **Laurie Lee** (1914-1997) wrote about his childhood in the Gloucestershire village of Slad just after the First World War. After his death some unpublished essays and other writings by this wellregarded author were deposited at the British Library in London. In

November this year Penguin Books will publish some of this material including an essay entitled **Harvest Festival** from which the extract below is taken. Returning to the village in later life one Sunday morning he strolled by



the church and heard a harvest hymn being sung. *“As a boy, living in Slad village, harvest festival had always seemed to me to be the crown of the year, an occasion of richness and thanksgiving, when one felt closer to the mystery and benevolence of the earth than at any*

other time. So, on this glittering, chrysanthemum-scented morning, I went eagerly into the church, seeking the ancient magic I remembered. The decorations had been made with care and taste but were somewhat restrained in quantity. A dozen tomatoes were arranged across the altar, and in front of it stood a loaf of bread and two handfuls of short-strawed wheat. In a corner lay a bunch of carrots, three onions, and a pot of homemade jam. Elsewhere were jars of Michaelmas daisies, strings of red creepers, and a marrow. But perhaps the richest harvest of all was the congregation. Everybody from the valley was there, from shuffling greybeards to tottering babes.”

Henry Alford's hymn might have been the one Laurie Lee heard but there are a number of popular hymns in the Methodist Hymn Book which have links with harvest or God's creation including and are also in STF *All things bright and Beautiful, (100)*, *We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land (130 translated from a German hymn by Mathias Claudius)* and *To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise, in hymns of adoration (STF 129)*

*And now, on this our festal day, thy bounteous hand confessing
before thee thankfully we lay the first fruits of thy blessing. (Verse 2)*

This hymn was written by William Chatterton Dix, born in Bristol in 1837, he was a prolific hymn writer and at the same time the manager of a Marine

Insurance Company in Glasgow. At the age of 29 he became seriously ill and was confined to his bed for several months. He used the opportunity to study the Bible which led him to a 'spiritual renewal and the writing of hymns'. He is best known for the Christmas carol...*As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold* (STF 224).

Two of the more modern hymns with harvest links included in *Singing the Faith* deserve a mention are, *Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field*, *Praise God for the people who gather their yield* (STF 126) Written by Brian Wren (born 1936) who trained as a Congregational Minister and served a church in Hockley Essex before moving to become a Professor of Worship in America. And, *For the fruits of all creation thanks be to God* (STF 124).

*In the just reward of labour God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour God's will is done
in our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing
in the harvest we are sharing God's will is done* Allen Steel October 2022

JMA

Our JMA financial year has just drawn to a close with the highest ever total we have raised £2,123.27. A big thank you to all collectors - young and young at heart; to the Steeles for their contribution to the book stall; to Sylvia and her merry band of Coffee Corner volunteers; to everyone for buying from the stationery stall and for all those pennies, coins and notes that went into the JMA Coin collections.

Cash is not as readily available now as it used to be but nonetheless people have still managed to find a plentiful supply of coins to put in the boxes. I am also very grateful to those who have given me donations in lieu of cash either by bank transfer to the church or by amalgamating donations into banknotes - as the advert says "Every Little Helps" and we are all having to move swiftly into creative ways of receiving donations now that people are using cash less.

A big thank you again for all your support of JMA which helps families in need at home and abroad. Let's hope we can match this wonderful total next year. Thank you Maureen

Winchester Road Christmas Bazaar Saturday- 26th November 2022

Good News! Our annual Christmas Bazaar is returning to our pre-Covid format (with a few tweaks). Offers of help with the preparation (and clear up) are just as important as the physical donations of items. Dates and times below. Please see Sarah if you can help. If you have items to donate then Sarah can collect them at church on Sundays or come to see her at Brownies on Mondays (6.00 - 7.30). Sarah Hayward 07779 109 727 / winchesterchristmasbazaar@gmail.com

New and Nearly New Items	Please bring any items to the church (toiletries, unwanted gifts, games etc)
Second Hand Toys	Please bring items to the church
DVDs, Computer games	Please bring these to church
Desserts & Cakes	See Mary French and Sarah Hayward if you are prepared to make or donate for the refreshments or cake stalls.
Jewellery	Second hand jewellery to Alex Fletcher - as soon as possible for preparation.
Books	Please bring books as soon as possible to allow time for sorting.
Bric-a-Brac	No Bric-a-Brac stall this year but hope to have a Vintage Style Sale in the New Year. No shoes or clothes
Saturday 29th October at 10am	Sorting items that have been stored in various places around the building and putting up decorations.
Friday 25th November 9.00am till 11am	Able bodied people to help move all of the items downstairs to the stalls.
Saturday 26th Nov. at 3.30pm	Help to take down tables, move items upstairs and generally clear up for approximately 2 hours.

Young Church

The Biscuit Club (11+) normally meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10.30 and on the 4th Sunday from 5.30 – 7.00
Their next meeting will be 9th October at 10.30.

As you read this, some of the group will be at the 3Generate weekend, in Birmingham. We look forward to hearing all about it.

Cookie Club (3-11) start in church every Sunday and then go out to room 2 for a session. The service starts at 10.30.

Creche (under 3) There are toys and books, in the church, near the Hub for families to sit and let the children play. This means that parents can stay and enjoy the service, although the Well Room is available for use with additional toys.

.....and news from two of our Young Church members who were waiting for results as we went to print last month.

Laura Moseley

Laura Moseley passed her school GCSE exams this summer. Despite feeling very nervous and also losing her grandad in the middle of the exam period, she obtained 7's, 8's and 9's in almost every subject!
She will stay on at Chingford Foundation School 6th Form and plans to study 'A' level Maths, Biology and History.
Congratulations from mum, dad, Jess and Sophie x

Ben Walker

Ben says – “I was very pleased to get strong passes for all my GCSE’s and excellent results for Maths, Additional Maths, the Sciences and P.E. I’ve now started at Woodbridge Sixth Form and am doing Maths, Further Maths and Biology, as well as carrying on with my cycling as part of the Lea Valley Junior Team.”



Seen amongst the flowers in Green Park

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: Carol & Dumisani Moyo, Pat Ovenden, Janet Dawe, Samuel Ebdon

OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM: - led by Jean Norton

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

jdent7@gmail.com or 07751603883

Deadline to submit items: **Monday 24th October**

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