

# WINCHESTER NEWS

FEBRUARY 2023



Laura Diane Pease

**Winchester Road Methodist Church**

**Winchester Road, Highams Park London, E4 9JP**

**Minister: Rev Stephanie Njeru**

**Tel: Church 020 8531 8663**

**[www.winchesterroadchurch.org.uk](http://www.winchesterroadchurch.org.uk)**



**@winroadmeth**



**Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church**

# Services –February/March

**Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.:** - led by David Hobbs

**Sun. 12<sup>th</sup> Feb.:** - led by Heather Hall

**Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> Feb:** - **Communion** - led by Revd. Norman Grigg

**Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> Feb:** - led by Revd. Tony Malcolm

**Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> March:** -**Uniformed Organisations Anniversary All Age Worship**  
when young people and adults renew their promises.

led by Peter Dawe

6pm Circuit Service from Shernhall (on Zoom)

**Sun 12<sup>th</sup> March:** - **Communion** led by Revd. Armstrong Fummey

Please note, on Easter Sunday there will be communion at 9am followed by All Age Worship at 10.30. Both led by Revd. Stephanie Njeru

## Church Flowers:

**Sunday 5th February** in loving memory of Joan and Jack Pegg (Barbara's mum and dad)

**Sunday 12th February** in loving memory of George and Cis Easton.

**Sunday 19th February** in loving memory of Dorothy Barr and Jean and Roy Viggers



Please note that Revd. Stephanie Njeru is on sabbatical until 13<sup>th</sup> March.

If you need to speak to a minister please contact one of the stewards who can advise as to who is covering for Stephanie .

The following letter was written by Revd Sue Creighton

## *Letter from Revd. Sue Creighton`*

Dear Friends,

You have all been very much in my thoughts and prayers while Stephanie is on sabbatical, and also following the sad death of Laura Pease.

Recently I have been reflecting on the words of Psalm 131. The great orator Charles H Spurgeon said 'if we are to liken Psalms to gems, this one would be a pearl. It is one of the shortest but one of the longest to learn.' The Psalm is written by David at a time when God's people were moving from exile back home. This had been their prayer and yet they were still anxious, fretful, worried and were grumbling to God, and David, as they faced change and the unknown. David writes in the Psalm that he is 'like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me.'

David was saying that he had found peace and contentment in God. Unlike a weaning child who is fretful, anxious, hankering for its mother's milk, he was like a weaned child who is satisfied with their new situation and no longer longs for what has been. In verse 2 David says, 'But I have still and quietened my soul.' He was ready to put his complete trust in God.

The Psalm always speaks to me, especially in times of change and transition. It speaks to me when I consider the life and mission of Trinity Debden and Loughton; when I consider the Forest Circuit and our Mission and Ministry Strategy, and as I pray for and think about the churches in our circuit. How can all of us find hope and comfort in these words of King David?

The final verse of the Psalm says, 'O Israel, put your hope in the Lord both now and for evermore.' As you read those words why not replace Israel with your name, the name of someone on your heart, the name of your church, or the circuit. Can we put our hope in the Lord both now and for evermore?'

Every Blessing  
Rev Sue Creighton

# News from Our Church Family

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## LAURA DIANE PEASE

Following the death of Laura in December, her funeral took place on 24<sup>th</sup> January. A short committal service at the City of London Crematorium was followed by a Thanksgiving service at Winchester Road Methodist Church. The church was packed with family, friends, colleagues from Whitefield School, members of Laura's choir (Valentine Singers) as well as local preachers and members of Winchester and other churches in the circuit. Extra seating was made available in the Hub.

Our Circuit Superintendent, Revd. Tony Malcolm, led the service with two college friends of Laura's, Revd. Diana Young and Dr Frances Talbot. Diana, Frances, Laura, and Richard had all met, and become firm friends while studying at Oxford University,

Laura's son Jonathan read out a eulogy which included many aspects of Laura's life, including as a Mum. She worked at Whitefield School for over 40 years, as a teacher and later as principal and there were many tributes to her work. She was also very active in the church, having many roles, including her work in Young Church. We also heard about her love of walking, knitting and some of her, less fortunate, driving exploits! She was also a lifelong singer, joining first Chapel End Savoy players and later, (when she felt she was now too old to play a lovelorn maiden in the chorus of Gilbert and Sullivan productions) Valentine Singers. The singing during the service benefitted from so many of the Valentines choir members present as well as Christine Gwynn, their Musical Director, who played the piano and organ.

The family were gratified to hear so many tributes to Laura, many coming from people that they hadn't even met before the service, as they had been by the many cards received from friends from local schools and churches.

It was a chance to celebrate and remember Laura's life.

The service was followed by a lovely buffet lunch, provided by Maureen, Janice and their team.

We continue to hold Richard, Jonathan, Simon and the rest of the family in our prayers.

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Congratulations to Ross Duncan on gaining his Masters degree in the History of International Relations with Distinction from the London School of Economics. (See back Cover)

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Congratulations also to Mary Rose French, who was awarded a British Empire Medal, in the New Year's Honours, for services to the community. This included her work for Care Highams Park, Monthly Sunday Lunches and Christmas Inn, as well as with the Guides and local foodbank.

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We are sorry to announce the passing of Eileen Maidment on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Eileen and Alec were active members of the church including Eileen in Young Church and Alec in Scouts. Eileen worked at Joseph Clarke and Whitefield schools. They moved to Felixstowe in 1990 to be near one of their sons. Eileen is remembered as a truly gentle lady with a big heart and strong faith. Our thoughts are with Alec and the rest of the family at this sad time.



*God of hope and consolation, when death comes to someone I love, may I be brave - brave enough to cry, brave enough to reach out for comfort, brave enough to talk about the one I miss so much. And may I be strong enough to ask for help, strong enough to be there for others when they are grieving too. I ask this in the name of your risen Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Our newsletter travels far, and wide. Pat McKean sent her good wishes to all, for the New Year, from New Zealand!

# What's On?

## Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Vintage Sale and Coffee Morning

10.30am-1.00pm.

Come and grab a bargain!  
books, jigsaws, toys, crockery, ornaments and bric-a-brac.

If you can help on Friday or Saturday, please speak to Hazel



## Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – World Day of Prayer

The theme this year is “**I Have Heard About Your Faith**”, prepared by women in Taiwan, and will be celebrated, locally, with members of other denominations at All Saints Church at 10.30 on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Please speak to Mary Burgoine if you can help with the service or want more information.

## Saturday Coffee/ Lunches

**18<sup>th</sup> March and 25<sup>th</sup> March**

Proceeds raised for Guide activities and Church Funds  
Please speak to Janice if you are able to help.

## **Waltham Forest Music Society**

Presents

**The London Mandolin and Guitar Quartet**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30** (Doors open 7.00)

**All Saints Church, Church Avenue, E4 9QZ**

Tickets on the door (cash only) £15 (Members £10)

For more information contact V & A Books – The Avenue

## TRAIDCRAFT

Very sadly Traidcraft has gone into administration and is no longer trading in fair trade. Due to continuing lower sales during, Covid and then the cost of living rising and not their expected boost at Christmas they have had to end. I had tried to order as much as I could to keep the stall going for a time, but they are not allowed to sell anymore.

I think as a church we have probably supported Traidcraft from almost the beginning - forty years ago, Julia Dick, (now Thomas) started it, I remember the toilet paper was not great!! Then Meg McSweeney took it over.

When I retired 27 years ago, I spoke to Rev Peter Hudson saying I would be interested to take it over as Meg had taken over the Sunday School and was not able to continue. He said Laura Pease had just come to our church and she was an agent, so Laura dealt with the money side, and I took to ordering and selling.

I still have many items on the stall, and will continue to sell and maybe have a small stall at the Bazaar next year as I have Christmas items to sell from last year. I do not know what will happen to the money Jean Norton now holds and what we will continue to make but I suppose we will be told as Traidcraft hopes part of their work in the different countries will continue as fairtrade is now in the supermarkets due to the efforts of Traidcraft. Please continue to buy from the stall - Sylvia Dixon



**Age UK Waltham Forest Waltham Forest Resource Hub (North) 58 Hall Lane, Chingford E4 8EU** provide a wide range of resources and classes. For more information

and a full programme: - Tel: 020 8558 5512 or email:

[info@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk](mailto:info@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk) / [www.ageukwalthamforest.org.uk](http://www.ageukwalthamforest.org.uk)

They are looking for volunteers to support their work. If you feel you could help, please contact Emma P on:

[volunteering@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk) Please also consider donating to help them be here for older people – online donations can be made at [Age UK Waltham Forest - JustGiving](https://www.justgiving.com/ageukwalthamforest) or at their offices.

## Getting into the New Year

In the days when we depended on chequebooks to pay bills the first task at the beginning of the year was to write the date of the year on a number of cheques to ensure that there was no hiccup in payment. Producing an accurate calendar which reflected the annual journey of the earth around the sun of 365¼ days, and was in line with the seasons has been a concern for over two thousand years. From 41 BC the **Julian Calendar**, established by Julius Caesar, was recognised throughout the Roman Empire. It was important to allow for the extra quarter of a day and for the Christian Church to fix the date of Easter, which should fall on the 'first Sunday after the full moon after the vernal equinox'. The Roman Catholic Church grappled with these problems and after much discussion came up with a revised calendar which was signed and promulgated by Pope Gregory III in February 1582 and is known as the **Gregorian Calendar**. Roman Catholic countries introduced it the following October but needed to drop ten days so that it would coincide with the lunar Vernal Equinox which my diary tells me is on March 20th. In some countries there were riots with protestors complaining that they had been robbed of ten days of their lives! The acceptance of the Gregorian calendar in Britain did not happen until 1752 when the 2nd of September was followed by 14th of September. As I write this article, I discover that today, January 7th, is Christmas Day according to the Orthodox Church in the Ukraine and Russia as they follow the Julian Calendar.

Looking at this month there are two notable dates in February the first being 14th **St. Valentines Day**. During the late third century the Roman Emperor Claudius II passed a law forbidding soldiers in his army to marry because he believed that marriage would undermine their commitment to military service. Valentine is thought to have been a priest, or bishop, who carried out marriage services for Christians. He was arrested and while in prison became friendly with his jailer's daughter and cured her of her blindness. In 270AD he was sentenced to be beaten and then stoned to death but before his martyrdom he wrote a letter to the girl which he signed 'from your Valentine.' The idea of sending love messages arose in the late Middle Ages based on this flimsy evidence. Many historians think the sending of love messages owes more to the pagan Roman festival of Lupercalia, when young



men actively pursued the girl they fancied, justified by the belief that the birds and other creatures sought their mates for life at this time. It is thought that the sending of love notes developed during the Middle Ages amongst the upper classes as an element in traditional chivalry. Shakespeare in his play Hamlet has Ophelia quoting this verse to the King: *"Tomorrow is St Valentine's day, all in the morning betimes And I a maid at your window To be your Valentine."* (Act IV Scene 5)



The first published printed cards came in the late 18th century but the idea really took off with the introduction of colour printing in the late Victorian period, as did the popularity of the Christmas card. These cards, usually sent by men, depicted the senders notion of a beautiful woman who resembled the recipient and usually it included some lines of verse such as *Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet and so are you*. The introduction of the 'penny post' made it cheap to anonymously send these Valentine Cards. Alongside cards the commercial world encouraged the sending of flowers or chocolates as suitable gifts.

The second important date this year is Wednesday 22nd Feb, which is **Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent**. The forty days (excluding Sundays) up to Easter Sunday is a time when Christians prepare themselves for Easter, and remember the temptation of Jesus in the desert. The word Lent comes from an old English word which means **lengthen** which recognises that days are getting longer, and that Spring will soon be with us. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday, which most people call Pancake Day, the time to feast before Lent begins. For some it is a time of **fasting**, giving up meat, fats and eggs is part of the discipline of Lent, but others may give up a particular 'food' or 'pleasure' such as chocolate, alcohol, traditional Sunday Lunch, Netflix or visits to the cinema. The list is endless! A positive resolution may be better, such as setting aside a time for **prayer** each day, following a Lenten course, reading a portion of the Bible daily,

volunteering to help a charity. **Almsgiving**, making a donation of money to a charity or a good cause is a third element in the Lenten observance.

On the first Sunday in Lent congregations will hear the Bible passage which tells of the Temptations which Jesus faced in the wilderness before he embarked on his ministry. (Mark 1 v 12-13, Matthew 4 v 1-11 or Luke 4 1-13). Singing the Faith includes a new hymn written by Timothy Dudley-Smith which was inspired by these Bible passages: *“Christ our Redeemer knew temptations hour in desert place, silent and apart; and three times over met the tempter’s power with God’s word written, hidden in his heart.*

### Seasonal thoughts

January saw the passing of the author **Ronald Blythe** at the age of 100. For me, his best-known work is an account of rural life in the fictional village of **Akenfield** in Suffolk from 1880 to 1960. It is considered to be a classic of English rural life and became well known thanks to a filmed version made in the 1970s. For over twenty years he also wrote a column in the Anglican Church times. Below is a seasonal extract from one of these which might conjure up memories for some readers.

“It is Twelfth Night I take down the holly. Log fires have dulled its gloss. The white cat has done for the Christmas cards. No sooner do I stand them up that she mows them down, believing this to be her duty. I shove crushed wrapping paper into a sack unceremoniously, empty ashes and remove wizened apples, when, without warning, an Epiphany sun blazes in making the interior look trashy and looking in need of a good putting-to rights.



As children, we took down the paper chains and folded up the paper bells with sadness. We watched the snowman drip into nothing and witnessed his dying.



Many old, country people called Twelfth Night 'the real Christmas'. When ice and snow made it impossible to work, play took over. In freezing Victorian classrooms, the children would be told to stand up and 'beat your arms' to get the circulation going. One reason for our present day Twelfth night aches is that our blood barely circulates. Families dine on sofas, not at tables. But then the Three Kings probably dined on a carpet.

Allen Steel February 2023

## Methodist Church House

As you will be aware, we have been in the process of moving out of our Marylebone premises over the last year. We have now completely left and our new address is:

**25 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9SF**

Please note that the Connexional Team are not yet in our new building due to renovation work being undertaken, but all correspondence should now use this address.



Helping people with mobility issues in Waltham Forest get out and about and enjoy their local area and amenities. Mobility

scooter and wheelchair hire and escorts available.

Also, Chiropody, lunch outings and shopping trips.

For more information call 020 8520 3366, email

shopmobilitywf@gmail.com or pop into their new hub in the shopping mall, Selbourne Walk, Walthamstow. - open Tuesdays

10am-4pm and Thursdays & Fridays 1pm -4pm



### Lent

The monk, within his monastery,  
The ploughman and the lord;  
Would keep the Lent time patiently,  
And keep a simple board.  
Rich food nor meat could touch their lip,  
Just plain and simple fare;  
Dried bread in sauce they could not dip –  
Or face the Parson's glare!  
Today, such things don't tend to be  
We've left them in the past!  
Just those within that monastery  
Who keep the Lenten fast.  
But all should come to love anew  
The treasured time of Lent  
And spend more time with Father, who  
Rewards such time well spent!

Nigel Beeton

Our Ukranian Friends celebrated their Orthodox Christmas on 7<sup>th</sup> January.



It was attended by local Ukranians as well as refugees who have fled the country in the last year. Tanya wrote “Thank you Winchester Road Methodist Church for continuous support and a warm welcome.”



*It was bad enough your phone going off during his sermon, without the ring tone being “Christians Awake!”*

(A costly mistake during Laura’s funeral!)

Our Scout and Guide sections are looking for more adults to join their leader team. This is a rewarding form of volunteering as you will have a major impact on the personal development of local youngsters. No previous experience is necessary as you will be working alongside existing experienced leaders. An ability to work with young people is required. Training for the role will be given. A DBS will be required and undertaken by us. You do not pay for the uniform, the group does.

You do not need to be a supernanny or a walking encyclopaedia either. Everyone has something to offer, from sharing a favourite hobby; to demonstrating a new game; to teaching how to cook! You need enthusiasm to learn, be part of the team, and have fun!

If you are looking to enhance your CV or to give your time for local children then please consider becoming a Brownie, Guide, Beaver, or Cub Leader.

Brownies - 7 to 10 years of age, - Thursday evening 6 to 8pm

Guides - 10 to 14 years of age, - Thursday evening 7.15 to 9pm

Beavers – 6 to 8 years of age, - Wednesday evening 6 to 7pm

Cubs - 8 to 10 ½ years of age, - Wednesday evening 6.30 to 8pm

Scouts - 10 ½ to 14 years of age, - Wednesday evening 7.30 to 9pm

All groups meet at Winchester Road Methodist Church, Highams Park, E4 9JP.

## **Other Urgent Help Required!**

For the future of the Scout and Guide Family group, we are looking for five parents to become trustees and represent one of the six sections that make up our family group on our Executive Committee. The Constitution and the Scout Rules say, we cannot administer the group without this committee. The committee oversees the administration of the Group. As well as a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, our Executive welcomes any parent who wants to support our young people and our valuable leaders.

Our Executive Committee meets three or four times a year. Meetings last about 1 to 1 ½ hours. The Executive Committee is important for the smooth running of the Scout and Guide Group and maximising its potential for a hugely positive impact on our young members. Training for the role will be given.

If you feel you are up to the challenge for any of the leadership or trustee roles, please contact me in the first place [michaelhayward15@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelhayward15@hotmail.com) or phone 07854 505171. I will direct you to the Group Scout Guide Leader.

Looking forward in hearing from you.  
Mike -Chair- Group Executive Committee

## *Young Church*

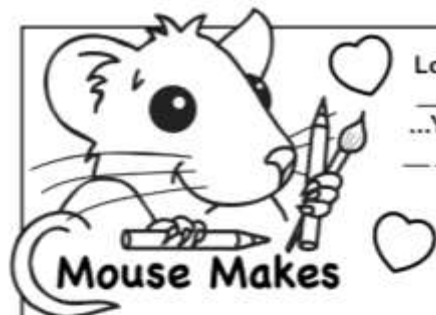
**The Biscuit Club (11+)** normally meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 10.30 and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday from 5.30 – 7.00  
Their next meeting will be 12<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30.

**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.

### News from 3Generate:

**We'll be back at the NEC in Birmingham for 3Generate 2023 : 6th - 8th October. Pop the dates in your diary now and we'll see you there!**



See what great love the Father has for us that He would call us His

1 John 1:3

Lord, you are a God who shows \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_  
 ...You have great \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 86:1



How did God show He **loved** us?  
 Read 1 John 4:9

Love the Lord your God with all your

\_\_\_\_\_ with all your \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and with all your \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 22:37



\_\_\_\_\_ is love.  
 Whoever lives in love lives in \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ lives in them.  
 1 John 4:16

Love is ...  
 Read 1 Cor 13:4-7

Love your \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the same as you love  
 Matthew 22:39

- Love is:**  
 PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL  
 PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD
- Love is not:**  
 JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL
- God's love is:**  
 LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE



### **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 Ebden

**OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM: - led by Jean Norton**

### **CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MARCH 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 20<sup>th</sup> February**

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