

WINCHESTER NEWS

MARCH 2023



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

Minister: Rev Stephanie Njeru

Tel: Church 020 8531 8663

www.winchesterroadchurch.org.uk



@winroadmeth



Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church

Please note that Revd. Stephanie Njeru is on sabbatical until 13th 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. Oseias da Silva.

Letter from Revd. Oseias da Silva

God is inviting...

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
(Matthew 11.28)

It is incredible to realize that the digital media revolution has reached most of us with the promise that our lives would be better facilitated and managed. Being fair, technology has been doing amazing things in all fields. We can see people communicating with each other easily, getting news in a matter of seconds, finding all kinds of resources very quickly, supporting developments in all areas, providing access in almost everything, and so on.

During the Covid19 Pandemic, people had to use digital media to keep in touch with each other as there was not much other option. Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Microsoft Teams, and many other platforms became part of our daily experiences, bringing people into this world of all backgrounds and ages. The result of this has been better interaction and communication in many cases.

The downsides of this revolution is people are much more attached to technology, spending hours on social media and others online resources daily or even over working because the access to it is so handy. It has been difficult to switch off from being connected with these online services.

Talking with people, especially the youngsters, they complain how it has been difficult to cope with the current pressures. The word *stress* has become a reality for many. People are feeling tired, disconnected from the real world, or even desperate for something new to happen in their lives. Moreover, people are getting sick without a physical illness. They are burned out and lost by their circumstances.

What can be done? Is there any response when I feel like this?

The season of Lent is a good time to go deep into personal challenges. When Jesus looked around and saw people tired and weary, He invited them to draw close to him. He offered his loving connection supporting those who felt astray and lost in the midst of many social struggles.

There is not any easy recipe to address the challenges, but there are ways to find peace in the midst of business. A good step is to find time to be quiet in the presence of God, giving space for meditation and contemplation. People have found it helpful to spend time in prayers and silence. They feel relaxed and refreshed. It is in the silence that the Spirit heals the souls.

J. David Muykens says that “In prayer I realise the presence of God and know that God is present each moment of the day. In Centering Prayer, I become aware of the imminent love of God, rest in God’s grace, realize God is in control, and trust the outcome to God. In that assurance the heartburn dissipates, and calmness descends.” Also, he says that one definition of contemplation is “resting in God”. In quiet awareness of God, we are content to accept divine control and live in the saviour’s love.

The season of Lent provides to us the call to Jesus’ invitation. Hopefully you can find space, time and willingness to engage in prayer and silence. (**Prayer Practice** by J. David Muykens)

When you pray, let go of the many concerns and responsibilities you have. Put them in the hands of the Lord. Be open to receive the presence and healing love of the Spirit during a time of Centering Prayer.

Read Matthew 11:28-30. As a word stands out, stay with that word. Ponder what it says to you. Offer verbal prayers expressing your desire to accept the invitation of the Spirit you are hearing. Take the calm you have been given with you into the activity of your daily life. Rev. Oseias da Silva

Revd Dr Jongi's Sabbatical

Please note that Revd Dr Jongi will be on sabbatical from Tuesday 21 February - Tuesday 23 May. All Superintendents have been sent an email detailing which Circuits will be assisted by which Deputy Chair whilst Jongi is away.

Services –February/March

Sun. 5th March: -10.30 Uniformed Organisations Anniversary All Age Worship led by Peter Dawe

Young people and adults renew their promises.

6pm Circuit Service from Shernhall (on Zoom)

Sun. 12th March: - Communion led by Revd. Armstrong Fummey

Sun. 19th March: - led by Revd. Tony Malcolm (Daffodils, prepared in Young Church will be distributed at the end of the service.)

Sun. 26th March: - led by Michael Hall

Sun. 2nd April: Palm Sunday: - Led by Janet Tweedale
(Palm Crosses will be distributed to the congregation.)

Sun. 9th April: Easter Sunday: 9.30 Communion followed by All Age Worship at 10.30 Led by Revd. Stephanie Njeru.

Church Flowers:

Sun.5thMarch in celebration of Mary and Alan's Burgoine's Wedding Anniversary

Sun. 19th March in memory of Mrs Childs (Shirley's Mother)

Sun. 26th March in memory of Phyllis Foster (Christine's Mother)



News from Our Church Family

JOYCE FORDER

We are sad to announce that Joyce passed away peacefully on Wednesday 8th February. Her funeral will take place on Tuesday 7th March at 11.00 am here, at Winchester Road, followed by a brief committal at 12.30 at the City of London Crematorium. Joyce regularly attended Winchester Road, for many years, with her daughter Lynda and granddaughters, Emily and Louise. Our thoughts are with the whole family at this time.

Christopher Gavin Edwards 1943-2023

Some of the older members of Winchester Road may recall my brother Chris, a war-time baby and younger son of the Church's one-time Society Steward, Syd Edwards. In effect, Chris "joined" the Church in infancy when he was christened by the then Minister, Gerald Lansley. Over the next twenty years Chris became a regular Sunday School pupil and later a Church member before leaving Highams Park to train as a teacher. It was during his time at Kesteven College that Chris met his future wife Pam. After a brief spell teaching in Grantham, Chris was appointed deputy head of a joint Methodist/Anglican junior school in Southwell, where he was destined to remain for the rest of his teaching life. As a newly married couple, Chris and Pam set up home in the attractive Nottinghamshire village of Collingham, where their two children, Antony and Nicola were born. Both Chris and Pam became staunch members of Collingham Methodist Church.

More recently, however, Chris did not enjoy many years of a well-deserved retirement before being struck down by Parkinson's Disease, a progressively debilitating illness, against which he bravely and uncomplainingly battled for over twelve years.

Those at Winchester who remember Chris will be saddened to hear that he finally passed away aged 79 at his home in Collingham on January 30, 2023.

May he rest in peace.

Grant F Edwards, Epping

Father, I wait thy daily will; Thou shalt divide my portion still; Grant me on earth what seems thee best, Till death and heaven reveal the rest."

By Isaac Watts

What's On?



Friday 3rd 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 3rd March.

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

Saturday Coffee/ Lunches

Proceeds will be for Guide activities and church funds as specified.

18th March: - 5th Guides visit to Paris in 2024

25th March: - Church funds

17th June: - JMA

15th July: - 2nd Guides Camp

Please speak to Janice if you are able to help.

Felicitas:- Heavenly Sounds Concert

William Byrd: Mass for Five Voices

JS Bach: Komm, Jesu, Komm

Jean Langlais: Messe Solennelle

Antonia Caldara: Crucifixus a 16

Saturday 11th March – 4pm at St John's Church Epping CM16 5DN

Tickets £12 (£10 in advance) Children & students under 25 Free

From: www.ticketsource.co.uk /www.felicitas.org.uk

24th June 2023 at St Mary's Church, South Woodford: If ye love me, a programme centred around contemporary settings of Ubi caritas et amor.

Valentine Singers are celebrating 25 years of concert giving in 2023, beginning with **Music from Vienna** on **Saturday 25 March, 7.30pm at St Gabriel's Church, Aldersbrook E12 5HH.**

The programme features Beethoven's glorious Mass in C, Haydn's exuberant Te Deum, written for the Empress Maria Theresa, and a sparkling Dixit Dominus by his Viennese contemporary, Marianna Martines.

Laura Pease was Chair of Valentine Singers from 2013 until her recent death and this is a concert that she had been looking forward to immensely. We shall be paying tribute to her in the programme.

The choir will be joined for this concert by Writtle Singers Chamber Choir, Jericho Ensemble (leader Tina Bowles) and a superb team of professional soloists.

Tickets bought in advance cost £18 (£10 for students/benefit holders); free admission for under-16s (free ticket required for admission!)

See www.valentinesingers.org.uk or call 01277 364772.

Vintage Sale

Thanks to everyone who contributed by helping, donating or coming along for tea and cakes. £825 was raised for church funds.



Hold her hand!.... Whilst out in town, I saw an elderly couple holding hands while they were walking. As they approached, I commented on how romantic it was. He replied, "We've been holding hands when we go out in public for over 30 years. I have to! If I let her go, she shops!"

Mothering Sunday or Mother's Day

During the Middle Ages the fourth Sunday in Lent became a day when worshippers were encouraged to think about motherhood and the influence of Jesus' mother Mary. The Gospel reading for the day, usually from John chapter 19 v 26-27, records Jesus words when he was looking at the disciples gathered at the foot of the cross. *'He saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so, he said to his mother "He is your son." and then he said to the disciple "She is your mother."*

Following centuries saw an increasing number of girls, from the age of ten, leaving home to become domestic servants. It became the custom to allow these girls to visit their homes on this day which became known as **Mothering Sunday**. Many authors painted a romantic picture of servant girls picking flowers to give to their mothers as they walked. The church took up, this idea and individuals were encouraged on this day to return to the church, where they were baptised or attended Sunday school, which was named as their **mother church**. Sadly, both my two churches in Highams Park, where I was christened or attended Morning Sunday School, have closed. From this idea came the tradition of sending cards and flowers to our mothers on Mother's Day. At Winchester Road children prepare a small bunch of daffodils to present to all the mothers and ladies in the congregation at the Mother's Day Service.

The background to the day called Mother's Day (or Moms Day), in the USA, arose from the lives of two women **Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905)** and her daughter **Anna Jarvis (1864-1948)**. Ann, the daughter of a Methodist minister in West Virginia, was married to a Baptist. She is believed to have had between 11 and 13 children of whom only four survived into adulthood. Her children fell victims to one of the epidemics of measles, typhoid or diphtheria which were common in the nineteenth century. Ann found the time to work in her community founding Mothers' Day Work Clubs which brought help and advice to mothers which led to improvements in family health and childcare. Her daughter, **Anna Jarvis**, was inspired by her mother's example and by a prayer which her mother had prayed in church in which she said; "I hope and pray that someone, someday, will found a memorial mother's day commemoration." Three years after her mother's death Anna

held a memorial service to remember her mother and all the other mothers of her church living and dead. From this came the observance of a 'Mother's Day' held on the second Sunday in May. Anna suggested that white carnations, her mother's favourite flower, should be worn on the day. They were to be the 'symbol of truth, purity and broad charity of mother love.' 'The carnation, she wrote, would not drop its petals but hugs them till it dies just as mother love does not die.' Over time the tradition developed of wearing red carnations for living mothers and white carnations for the deceased. The widespread popularity of the day led to President Woodrow Wilson in 1914 ordering that flags on official buildings should be flown on half-mast annually and the day be celebrated as a national holiday. The celebration of motherhood was quickly taken up by the commercial world and it is now the custom to give flowers, cards, chocolates and presents to mothers on Mother's Day. Anna was unhappy that her idea had become commercialised and campaigned against its exploitation. She said "A printed card means nothing except you are too lazy to write to the woman who has done most for you. You take a box of candy (sweets/ chocolates) to mother and eat most of them yourselves." Anna Jarvis never married and never bore children. According to Wikipedia she died in 1948 in a sanatorium where all her expenses and medical care were paid for by the greetings card industry.

According to an article I found recently, the fourth Sunday in Lent is also known as **Refreshment Sunday**. On this day in mid Lent the famine rules were relaxed and one of the gospel Bible passages about the feeding of the five thousand was read (Mark 6, Matthew 14, Luke 9). Some of you might think many Sundays at Winchester Road during the year could be called Refreshment Sundays!

Singing the Faith, has two hymns about Motherhood written in the second half of the twentieth century,(119 & 120).

"We gladly celebrate and praise, The gift so great and good. Through which God's kindness is made known, The gift of motherhood. We sing of Mary's mother love: For she, of all on earth, Received the privilege to bear and bring God's Son to birth." StF 20.

Allen Steel. March 2023

NIGERIA HEALTH CARE PROJECT

In 1912, The Wesley Guild encouraged the development of primary health care in rural areas of Nigeria.

The Nigeria Health Care Project (NHCP) comprises a small team of volunteers in the U.K, who work in partnership with Methodist Church Nigeria (MCN) promoting primary health care in rural areas. (www.nhpc.org.uk)

They currently support: 8 hospitals & a Health Centre.

3 mental health centres.

A community-based orphan care programme.

A motherless babies' home.

A Leprosy & rehabilitation centre.

A College of health technology.

Training of health workers.

Their long –term partnerships, including regular reports and visits, ensure the accountability and effectiveness of the work.

In 1992 It was decided to provide a boost and give more encouragement to the people of Nigeria, to carry on the work that had been started in 1912. This was done in consultation with the Methodist Church Nigeria & Methodist Overseas Division. Various funding sources were looked at, one being the formation of Friends of (NHCP). We decided to take up, the map of Nigeria sectioned into squares covering the country. When each square was covered with a coloured dot, each representing 5p, we had made £100.

(Mary Burgoine has been collecting 5ps and creating maps for nearly 20 years. The first one was way back in 2005. Since then, she has completed a further 63 maps.)

Please keep the 5ps coming. Now people are using money again after the pandemic there are a few more around. The latest map is on the notice board, and can be seen on the back cover of the newsletter. If you feel able to give regularly, this really helps. We have an Association of Friends whose donations help to ensure that salaries of essential staff can be paid.

So, on behalf of the NHCT Team, a very BIG THANK YOU. Mary Burgoine



Shoebboxes

I know its only March but already I'm thinking of covering shoeboxes with Christmas paper and this has already started. I will need many more shoeboxes so please put any you get in the box at the back of the church, or give to me. Not too

small ones or very big ones please. Just think to go into boxes will be - hats, scarves, gloves or mittens, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, flannel, notebook, biro, pencil, coloured pencils or felt pens, combs or brushes.

Those items go into all boxes then for the girls pretty things i.e hair slides etc, jewellery, dolls for younger ones, a cuddly toy for all, for boys cars, I try to put 3 in each) and I couldn't find any at the sale on the 18th Feb. For younger ones musical things etc. Boys are more difficult to fill the box. We also send a few boxes to elderly people. If you can get any of these items can you also put them in the box at the back. They do not have to be new but in a good condition. Thank you.

Sylvia Dixon.

Last month Sylvia announced that 'Traidcraft' had ceased trading. The church had supported this Fairtrade initiative for many years. However, the Methodist Church website reminds us that, **Fairtrade Fortnight 2023** is taking place 27 February – 12 March 2023.

“This Fairtrade Fortnight, join us in spreading a simple message: making the small switch to Fairtrade supports producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet. “

Did you know? Coffee, bananas and chocolate could soon be much more difficult to buy. Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink. **But, here's the good news.** More people choosing Fairtrade means extra income, power and support for those communities. By making the small switch to Fairtrade, we can all support producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food, and the planet.

Our Young People

Young Church

On 19th March (Mothering Sunday) members of Young Church will be preparing bunches of daffodils which will be distributed to those in the congregation at the end of the service.

During Lent young church families will be recalling the events leading up to Easter and placing artefacts on the cross. On Sunday 2nd April (Palm Sunday) the Young Church will help to distribute palm crosses, and on Easter Day, 9th April, there will be All Age Worship when we remove the artefacts from Lent and decorate the cross with flowers.

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 meetings will be 12th March at 10.30 and 26th March at 5.30.

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.



Uniformed Organisations



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 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

Resources for families and young people can be found on the Methodist website (www.methodistchurch.org.uk) under 'Our Work' and include information and competitions about a range of subjects.

OUR SOCIAL CHANNELS ARE CHANGING!

There are some exciting changes taking place to our social media channels. To keep up to date with EVERYTHING children, youth and family ministry related – including 3Generate – there'll be just one place you need to be! Join our brand new '**The Well Community**' on Facebook to be informed, resourced and equipped.

3Generate 2023 will be back at the NEC in Birmingham **6th - 8th October**. Tickets for this year's 3Generate event go on sale from Monday 17 April 2023.



NEW TO THE 3GENERATE APP

31 days of brand new devotional content was recently added to the 3Gen App. These devotions have been written especially for children and young people to help them as they Tune In to God.

Download the App for free on both Apple and Android. If you already have the App, you may need to update to get this exciting new feature.



A young lad said to his Dad, 'What makes rain?' 'I really don't know son.'

'What makes a rainbow?' 'I don't know son.'

'How are clouds made?' 'I'm not sure son.'

'Do you mind me keep asking questions Dad?'

'No, how else will you learn if you don't!'



Waltham Forest
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

Company Registration No.8499311
Charity No.1152939

*Taking good news relevantly and seeing
young people's lives changed by Jesus.*

CENTRE DIRECTOR

WFYFC is looking for a *gifted* Centre Director to manage and lead the Centre, ensuring its mission to young people is forward thinking and carried out to the highest quality.

We are wholly committed to equipping and supporting our staff to fulfil this exciting opportunity, you will be able to form, communicate and carry out effective strategies for turning vision into reality.

You will possess a strong ability to relate well to and create productive relationships with a wide range of people within churches, schools and beyond.

A dynamic and creative communicator, you will be able to engage with young people and share the Good News of Jesus, relevantly, with them. You will seek to put Jesus at the centre of all that you do, making and maturing followers of Christ in settings from schools, colleges, churches and other places where young people can be contacted.

Starting salary £24,405 pro rata (+London weighting of £2,000)

Part-time/Full-time 24 to 36 hours per week

Waltham Forest YFC operates an automatic enrolment pension scheme with National Employment Savings Trust (NEST).

There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement for this post to be filled by a committed Evangelical Christian and it will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure.

Closing Date : Sunday 5th March

(App forms sent out after 17th January)

Interviews : Saturday 1st April

Application pack from:

Waltham Forest Youth for Christ
149 Canterbury Road, London E10 6EH
Tel: 020 8518 7707 (please leave a message)
Email: ann.dunn@wfyfc.org.uk



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 APRIL NEWSLETTER

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

jident7@gmail.com or 07751603883

Deadline to submit items: **Monday 20th March**

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