

WINCHESTER NEWS

MAY 2023



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

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@winroadmeth



Group: Winchester Road Methodist Church

Letter from Revd. Stephanie Njeru

Dear Friends,

I find this time of year, both in church life and personal life to be a season of thanksgiving. We are rejoicing in the stories of Jesus' resurrection and calming many a fear, anxiety and confusion. We journey with the disciples in the anticipation of Pentecost and the start of their exciting journey to proclaim the Good News around the world.

Towards the end of May we will celebrate the Spirit 'warming' John Wesley's heart and enabling him in his ministry. In June we will celebrate ordinations and the 'sitting down' of ministers who have taken up their vocation to be set aside by God for a specific purpose.

We have, this year, King Charles' coronation and think of the things that he has already done for the environment and young people in particular. As I look out onto my garden, I give thanks for the rain, the sunshine and the hope and expectation of flowers and fruits that both the pollinators and I shall enjoy this year. Seeds planted and nourished will hopefully bear fruit later on.

In church life we will, in the next few weeks, be considering the spiritual seeds that we have sown. At the Annual Church Meeting we look back at the things that we have been able to achieve, using that as an opportunity to look forward at what we may become. These ideas, some named in the church anniversary service, will inform how we plant, nourish and rejoice with one another in the present and the future.

With blessings this Easter season,

Rev Stephanie

Services – May & June

Sun. 7th May: led by Dallion Roye

Sun. 14th May: led by Revd. Stephanie Njeru to include Communion.
Church General Meeting will follow this service.

Sun. 21st May: led by Kath Leckey

Sun. 28th May: - led by Cynthia Bonds

Sun. 4th June: (10.30) - led by Heather Hall
(6.30) - Circuit Service Shernhall

Rev Stephanie Njeru

With pastoral oversight of Leyton Trinity, Lighthouse and Winchester Road
Methodist Churches Forest Circuit (35/33)
Normal rest day Friday

Mobile: 07458 050833 Landline: 0208 279 2380

Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting - Mondays 12:30pm

Weekly Zoom Bible Study - Wednesdays 7:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8345484534?pwd=UTBwdWFBaG1qK0k3Yys2a0xiUEY1QT09> Both on: **Meeting ID: 834 548 4534 Passcode: 158039**

Landline: 0203 051 2874 United Kingdom

Church Flowers:

Sun. May 7th: - in loving memory of Ernestina

Sun. May 21st: - in loving memory of
Rose & Bert French

Sun. May 28th: - in loving memory of
Pat Hills



News from Our Church Family



Mary Rose French: Mary has been, and continues to be, an active member of Winchester. For over 20 years she has organised Christmas Inn for those who would otherwise be on their own on Christmas day as well as monthly Sunday lunches for 'Care' clients. She has been a steward and guide leader, regularly helps with the foodbank and can be found in many other roles around church and the local community.

We were therefore thrilled when she was awarded a British Empire Medal which she received at the Tower on 20th April.



Margaret Chapman: We are sorry to announce that Margaret passed away peacefully on 18th April. Margaret was a member at Winchester and regularly worshipped here before moving to be nearer to her family. Our thoughts are with the family.



Doris Weston has moved to a Care home near to her nieces and nephew in Wiltshire.

She was in hospital following a fall but still in good spirits as she entertained staff, patients and visitors with her singing.

She is very happy in the home and has been singing and playing the piano.

Doris wants to thank all those at Winchester Methodist and in 'Care' for all their support in recent years. She also remembers former members, Dorothy Barr, Pat Hills and Pat Bates who were all in the choir with her.



*Heavenly Father,
In these troubled times we need your help, just like those first disciples did when Jesus came back to you after his resurrection. They must have wanted him to stay with them.*

They must have felt puzzled and bereft – and wondered how to go on. But you, Lord, knew a better way. You sent them a helper, the Holy Spirit to fill them with your life. We thank you so much that the same Spirit will be our helper too, if we are willing to ask you for him. We will be able to face each day, each challenge, with your Spirit living in us to guide and empower us, to enable us to carry on even when we don't understand. So, we pray, come Holy Spirit, fill us, encourage us to carry on sharing your love and life and truth, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

What's On

Saturday Coffee/ Lunches

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

17th June: - JMA

15th July: - 2nd Guides Camp

Please speak to Janice if you are able to help.

'CARE'

Although 'Care' is no longer providing regular help in the community, Sunday lunches for 'Care' guests are once again a regular feature at Winchester Road. They take place on the 1st Sunday of the month. If you know someone who may like to come along to lunch, please ring the 'Care' number, 07546713843.

Please contact Mary Rose French, on the number above if you are able to help with Sunday Lunch.



Christian Aid Week

Sun May 14 to Sat May 20

As in the previous couple of years I am hoping to do an in store 'bucket collection' in

Tesco. If anyone can help, please let me know. I am likely to do it on the Mon, Tues or Weds but there is nothing to stop people doing it on another day as long as Tesco gives us permission to collect.

Door to door collectors would also be very welcome.

As always I am looking for someone who might take on the job of Christian Aid Coordinator and bring some new ideas or energy to the role.

Thank You Pat



Coffee Mornings:- 4th Wed. and Fri. of the month 10.00 – 12.00 Please join us for a tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Next – 24th & 26th May

Hazel

Parkinson's UK Quiz:-

Saturday 13th May – St Edmunds Church 7.00 for 7.30.

Tickets £10 including Ploughman's Supper

Contact Joyce Roden for information and tickets.

Age UK Waltham Forest Waltham Forest Resource Hub (North) 58

Hall Lane, Chingford E4 8EU Tel: 020 8558 5512 email:

info@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk www.ageukwalthamforest.org.uk

There are lots of activities and plenty of advice on their website. Below are a couple of forthcoming events:

Coronation of King Charles III: - We are marking this special occasion at our weekly coffee morning on Friday 5 May, with tea, cake and popular tunes. We expect this will be popular with many, so if you would like to attend, please let us know by emailing us at events@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk

Fundraising Quiz To celebrate National Fish & Chips day:- Friday 2 June, we are holding a Quiz and Chips night! A regular fun quiz with a fish & chips supper, all for £12 per person and held here at the Hub. All proceeds to Age UK Waltham Forest. To book your 'plaice', contact us on 020 8558 5512 or email us at events@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk



This year's Cliff Festival has the theme 'Eden Restored' and will explore 'what it means to live in and witness to the kingdom of God in our messy world which will one day be fully restored to its created glory, and reflecting on the

meaning of our stewardship of the earth and how we can honour God as we look after his creation.'

There is a full programme of worship, teaching and activities for those who can attend in person, and online content for those who would like to join online. For information contact: cliffcollege.ac.uk/festival

Springtime gardens

In March my diary told me that winter was over, the 20th was the Vernal Equinox, the beginning of Spring and then on 26th we moved our clocks onto Summertime. The windy cold wet days were past, and we could take up gardening again. These events reminded me of a poem by Rudyard Kipling, which deserves to be better known. Before you read it, I offer you a brief biography of its author whose reputation has fallen due to his links with the days of Empire.

Rudyard was born in Bombay in 1865 where his father was the principal of a college dedicated to the support and promotion of Indian Art. Aged six he and his sister were sent to England to be educated, and to keep them safe from the tropical diseases which caused many childhood deaths. Rudyard felt that his parents had deserted him, placing him in a boarding house in Portsmouth which he described as the 'House of Desolation'. At school he made slow progress due to the school's failure to notice his poor eyesight. His mother briefly returned to England in 1877 and took a short lease on Goldings Farm at Loughton (Essex) where Rudyard enjoyed playing in Epping Forest. In 1878 Rudyard was sent to the United Services College in Devon, a school established for the children of army personnel serving abroad. As his father could not afford to send him on to university, he returned to India in 1882 where he worked as a journalist on Anglo Indian Newspapers. He also began writing and publishing a series of short stories whose success led him to return to England determined to become a serious author.

He married the sister of an American publisher and for a time lived in the USA. It was in New England that he wrote one of the classic children's stories, which is still popular, **The Jungle Book**, which Disney adapted into a humorous musical cartoon film. Kipling's success as a novelist and poet enabled him to purchase a fine house in its own grounds, Batemans in Sussex, where he lived until his death in 1936 aged 70. This house and attractive garden are now in the ownership of the National Trust.

Kipling was greatly affected by the deaths of two of his children, his daughter Josephine from pneumonia and his 18 year old son John, who was killed

fighting in the Great War and whose body was never found. This led to his involvement with the Imperial War Graves Commission, who maintain numerous war cemeteries around the world. It was Kipling who wrote the words carved on the graves of unidentified soldiers "*Known unto God.*" and the phrase "*The Glorious dead*" inscribed on the Cenotaph on Whitehall. He also encouraged the use of the Biblical quotation that can be read on many War Memorials across Britain, "*Their Name Liveth For Evermore*" (*Ecclesiasticus 44 v 14*).

Kipling's prose and poetry reflects his Indian background and life experience including *Chalky and Co* stories set in a boy's school; the novel *Kim* the story of a soldier's son orphaned in India; *The Just So Stories*, a collection of animal tales e.g. *How the Camel got his hump* and the *How the Leopard got his spots*. Amongst his poetry '*If*' is the best known poem beginning with the lines..... "*If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you,* "

Older readers may be familiar with the **Barrack-Room Ballads**, poems and songs written in the everyday cockney speech of the Victorian Soldier including *The Road to Mandalay*.

Today Kipling is criticised for his support for Empire and the male orientation of his writings, though many still find him readable, and it is his poem '**The Glory of the Garden**' that I wish to prune and share with you.

*"Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,
Of borders beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues
Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made,
By singing "O how beautiful" and sitting in the shade
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel paths with broken dinner-knives
And some can pot begonias, and some can bud a rose,
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows.
There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick,
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,
For the glory of the garden glorifieth everyone.*

*And when your back stops aching and your hand begins to harden,
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.
Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees,
That half a gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So, when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray,
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!
And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away!"*



In 1907 Kipling became the first British author to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, though he rejected the offer of a knighthood, after his death in 1936 his ashes were interred in Poets Corner in Westminster Abbey between Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy. His wealth plus the royalties from his writings enabled his daughter, Elsie Bambridge, and her husband to buy and restore the impressive mansion Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire which she left to the National Trust on her death in 1976.

Allen Steel, May 2023



Sale of Easter Goods

Thank you to everyone for your support of the sale of Easter Goods. A magnificent £115 was raised for Amnesty International. Maureen

Wear a Hat Day!

_Many thanks to Hazel who ran a coffee morning on Friday 31st in aid of Brain Tumour Research. She raised just over £130.



APPLICATIONS FOR THE JPIT INTERNSHIP ARE NOW OPEN!

Full time, paid opportunity for someone aged 21-30.
September 2023 - August 2024.
Apply by 22nd May.

Visit JPIT.uk/internship




JPIT, the Joint Public Issues Team, run three annual internships, hosted by the Methodist Church, aimed at recent graduates aged 21-30. These are 12-month, full time, living wage roles, starting in September 2023. Applications have just opened for the full-time role, which focusses on communications, engagement, and research. Applications for this role are open until 22 May.

JPIT are holding an open meeting on May 4, for potential applicants to learn more the internships and application process.

Winchester Road Growth Group

In 2019 we started to look at ideas for the future of Winchester Road. In 2020 our first meeting of our Growth Group had to be cancelled (#Covid).

We surveyed our church congregation in 2021 and put forward some ideas to Circuit, and we said we saw ourselves as a growing church with different styles of worship enabling everyone in their own way to know, love and worship God and to know His will for their lives.



Would you like to be a part of our focus group that will help to shape some ideas for the future of Winchester Road?

Please see Sarah Hayward, or any of the stewards if you would like to be involved, or would like some more information.

An Invitation to explore Revelation in Bible Month: - Bible Month is an annual opportunity for the whole Methodist Church in Britain to feast on one particular book of the Bible together. The Bible is God's gift to everyone; Bible Month is about learning how to approach and appreciate different texts, and growing our faith, understanding and biblical literacy. This year's Bible Month, held in June, will focus on the book of Revelation.

1)The Methodist Church has produced a free, day-by-day guide to reading the whole of Revelation, with questions for reflection or discussion.

www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/the-bible/bible-month/

2)We have a WhatsApp group where we will share our thoughts and questions in response the daily reading. We plan to meet four times in June, hopefully over a meal at someone's house, to work through four themes.

Wed 7 June 6.30pm - The Church Then and Now (Chapters 1-3)

Mon 12 June 6.30pm - The Triumph of the Lamb (Chapters 4-5)

Sun 18 June 6.30pm - Witness, Worship and Waiting (Chapters 10-13)

Mon 26 June 6.30pm - Heading Home (Chapters 17-22)

(It doesn't matter if you can't attend all four evenings)

To find out more or join either the daily reading group or the weekly discussions, please contact Rachel Lampard on racheljlampard@gmail.com

Caretaker Required at Wesley's Chapel

Tuesday – Saturday 8am – 4pm (35 hrs per week)

Salary: £23,000 per annum

Full details & a job description from: Tracy Smith at Wesley's Chapel,
49 City Road, London, EC1Y 1AU

Tel: 0207 253 2262

Email: manager@wesley'schapel.org.uk

Closing Date – 12th May



On 6th May His Majesty King Charles III will be crowned alongside Camilla, The Queen Consort, in Westminster Abbey. How can we pray for him, as he approaches this important event? Paul says: *'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.'* (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

For God's presence – to guide every aspect of King Charles' life as he prepares for his Coronation and future roles. At his Accession, he was proclaimed Defender of the Faith, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Charles has talked about *'the Sovereign's particular relationship and responsibility towards the Church of England – the Church in which my own faith is so deeply rooted.'*

For God's wisdom – as he provides leadership that will honour God and promote the wellbeing of our society. King Solomon prayed for wisdom for himself: *'So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.'* (1 Kings 3:9).

For God's love – to strengthen all relationships within the Royal Family; for reconciliation, understanding, forgiveness and good communication.

For God's purpose – to be fulfilled through the work of the King and Queen Consort and their family in the years to come. He has said: *'and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.'*

A Prayer for the new King:

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King. Bless his reign and the life of our nation. Help us to work together so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness flourish among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Young Church

Both groups have been looking at the events at Easter and leading up to Pentecost. Our decorated cross on Easter Sunday can be found on the front cover and the Ascension on the back cover.

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

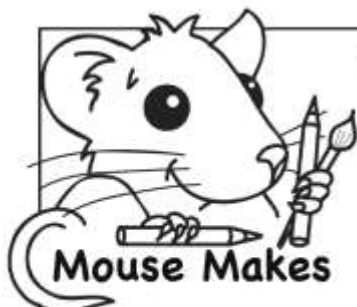
Their next meetings will be Sunday 14th May at 10.30 and 28th May at 5.30.

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.



**FRIDAY 6 TO SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER 2023,
THE NEC, BIRMINGHAM**



Forty days after His resurrection Jesus appeared to the Apostles one last time. He told them that the Holy Spirit would come, then He blessed them and ascended into heaven.

What did Jesus say that the Holy Spirit would give the Apostles?

Find the answers in the word search

What did Jesus say from the Apostles?

a _____
Acts 1:9

Where was Jesus taken up to? _____
Luke 24:51

Where did the Apostles return to?

Acts 1:12



_____ to be Jesus' witnesses.
Acts 1:8

Who appeared to the Apostles?
Two _____ and what were they dressed in? _____
Acts 1:10

Where is Jesus seated?

At the _____ of God.
Mark 16:19

W G A C J S A P O S T L E S D C M P
I A B L E S S E D H E A V E N H E R
T T I O S M C P O W E R E T U R N A
N H W U U J E R U S A L E M T I J Y
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S K Y S B H N H O L Y S P I R I T R

JESUS • CHRIST • FORTY DAYS • APOSTLES • ASCENSION • TAKEN • LOOKING
SKY • RETURN • BLESSED • WORSHIPPED • JOY • PRAYER • GOD • SAT
GATHERED • WITNESSES • HOLY SPIRIT



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OUR MISSION

We are a church at the heart of Highams Park which seeks to discern and follow God's direction. Our aim is to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour through the life of the church and outreach to the community. We promote worship and fellowship enabling us to grow towards God.

We are an inclusive church where all are welcome.

OUR STEWARDS: Senior Steward: Carole Merriman

Stewards: Carol & Dumisani Moyo, Pat Ovenden, Janet Dawe, Samuel Ebden

OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM: - led by Jean Norton

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JUNE 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 22nd May**

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