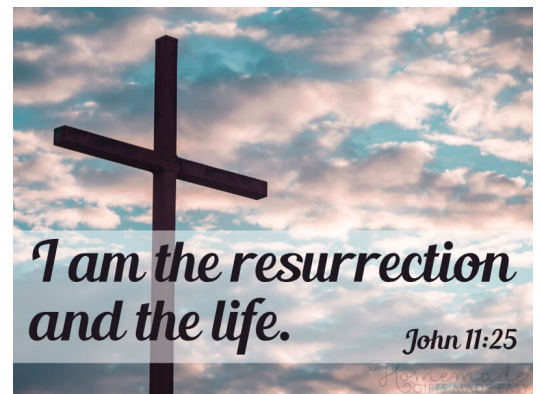
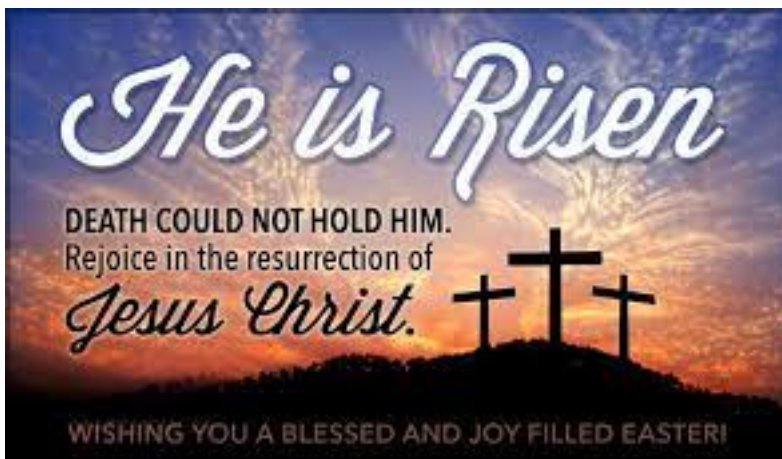


Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

April 2023
(No: 518)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



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YouTube Wonford Methodist Church



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

For the next few of these letters, I recommend that you read the relevant Psalm first, slowly, reflectively and prayerfully. So we begin at the beginning, with the very first of the Psalms (we won't be looking at all of them, just selected highlights!) The psalm which begins the book is all about walking in the way of the Lord. People who genuinely try to follow Jesus in every part of their lives will, at some point, be accused of being narrow minded, closed, or of not living in the real world. Never mind the fact that Jesus is the best judge of what is truly 'real', or that Jesus said that the road to salvation is narrow, we the Psalmist here, telling us that turning aside from the many seductive voices around us and walking resolutely in the way of the Lord will lead to a place of deep blessing and peace. People who are rooted in God and His word, to the extent that they 'delight in the law of the Lord' are like 'trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season'. Psalm 1 is about the choices we make in life and the fact that choosing the narrower, often more challenging path God calls us to tread leads to the richest blessings and the most abundant, fulfilling life. The broader path of choosing our own path from the multitude of options the world gives us is more superficially fulfilling at first, but leads only to a dark place and away from God. Try to grab everything and you end up with nothing. Give your life to God and you end up with everything, far more than you could ever have imagined.

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

HE SHALL BE
LIKE A
TREE
PLANTED BY
THE RIVERS OF WATER
THAT BRINGS
FORTH HIS
FRUIT
IN HIS SEASON
HIS LEAF ALSO
SHALL NOT WINTER
& WHATSOEVER HE DOES SHALL
PROSPER PSALM 1



Dates For April 2023

Coffee

2nd	Eileen & Melanie
9th	Linda & Mervyn
16th	TBA
23rd	David & Margaret S
30th	Pauline & Liz S



Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In April they meet on the 14th and 28th. They are currently learning about the Disciples. Please do join them if you are able.

Monika

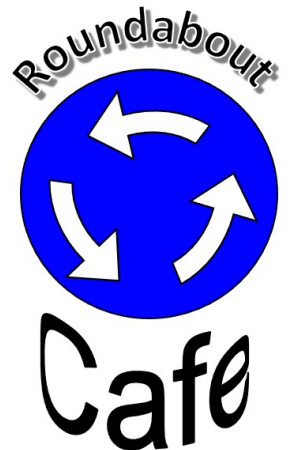
The Away Group

This group meets on a Monday evening every fortnight at 7.30 pm. Dates and venues will be given out each Sunday in the notices.

Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 18th April 2023 when there will be a talk from Alex Castele who is the Divisional Secretary of SAFFA (The Armed Forces Charity)

We meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake. Everyone is welcome.



Themed Preaching at Wonford

This continues into March April

This Spring we are looking at the 'People Who Met Jesus'.

Apr 2nd	Palm Sunday (All-Age)	Tony Wragg
Apr 9th	Easter Day (Resurrection)	Ben Haslam (S)

Filming & Taking Photographs in Church

Please be aware that each week our Sunday service is being recorded and live streamed. If you or your children go up to the front of church during the service you will be seen on the camera. If you are not comfortable with this then please do not go up to the front.



Photos / video that you take at church functions are for your own and immediate family's personal use and should not be put on line (e.g. Facebook) without permission of those in the video. You can speak with a Steward if you have any questions or concerns.

Wonford Methodist Church is a safe space and we are committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults.

Sue Keatt, Church Safeguarding Officer

Wonford Methodist Church Archive

During the past few weeks I have been trying to write the story of our church from its early beginnings in Victorian Britain to the present day.

I have become very much aware that we have little in the way of an archive – particularly over the past 50 years.

I am happy to collect together photographs, documents and other memorabilia to act as a Church Archive for the future.

If you are happy to contribute can you please ensure that things are named and dated.

This particularly applies to photographs. They need the date and who or what is in the photo in pencil on the back.

Thanks for your help.

David Westcott.



Wonford Welcome Drop-in and Warm Spaces on Saturday mornings.

As part of the Exeter's 'warm welcome spaces' initiative to help people keep warm & in touch with others this winter, we are continuing to extend our opening times from 10.30am - 1.30pm and we are providing cheese on toast, soup and a roll or beans on toast for 50p.

We have started our hunt for any beautiful local photos taken by you for our 2024 WMC calendar 'Wonders of God'. Please send a photo you'd like to be considered to Mandy Denton and later in the year there will be a vote to find the favourite twelve to feature in our calendar, so do get snapping!

In April we will be having the following activities for you to join if you would like alongside the free cuppa & cake -

1st April - it is April Fools Day and we will be sharing a few jokes and having a silly Quiz.

8th April - on this Holy Saturday there will be prayer stations in the church & hall along with a time of quiet reflection for those who would like to join us

15th April - we are holding a 'Seed Swap' so please bring along any spare seeds, bulbs or even young plants to give away in exchange for some new ones.

22nd April - it will be Earth Day and we'll be exploring how we can "Invest in our Planet". Also looking at any photos submitted so far for our 'Wonders of God Calendar 2024'.

29th April - we will have our monthly Games Morning with the pool table, table football and a variety of table top games.

Wonford Welcome is open to all; everyone, whatever their age or beliefs, will receive a warm welcome! If you are able to spread the word, put up a poster or share it on social media please do. And if you haven't been along yet please do come and join us one Saturday!

Helen, Liz, Mandy, Paul, Rose, Sue K and Monika & Lisa.

Prayer Focus for April

Week Commencing Sunday 2nd April

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,
“Hosanna to the Son of David!”
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!” **Matthew 21:9**

We pray for The Passion, a play being presented at our church this week. We pray that all who see it will grasp a better understanding of the love God has for them.

Week Commencing Sunday 9th April

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” **Matthew 28: 6-7**

As we celebrate the risen Christ, we pray that our joy will be a witness to those around us, that Jesus is very much alive in 2023!

Week Commencing Sunday 16th April

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” **John 20:19**

May the peace of Jesus be with us in our everyday,
In our home life and in our family life
In our learning and in our working
In our worship and in our hearts as we grow in faith
Finally, may we reach out to others with the peace of Jesus.

Week Commencing Sunday 23rd April

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. **Luke 24:27**

We thank God for the Away group and the Home group, the moments when we study God's word together in more detail. We pray that more people will get hungry to explore the Bible together.

Give thanks for 40 years of the Toddler Group!

Week Commencing Sunday 30th April

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. ***John 10:10b***

We pray for all those in leadership in our church, for Ben, our minister and for our leadership team, for our church council and for those involved in leading all the different groups and activities here at Wonford Methodist. We give thanks for those who may recently have stepped down from leadership and for those taking up new roles or responsibilities. May they be strengthened as they serve in this way.

Our Prayer Phone Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is now Lisa Thomas (01392 273220). Your request will then be passed to members of the Prayer Link who will pray for your need. If the first contact is unavailable, please contact Rose Smith (01404 510853).

After Service Prayer Support

This is available in the Quiet Room on Sunday mornings. Two members of the Prayer Team will be available to pray with you.

The Prayer Team

Green Team Article - April 2023

In thinking about what to write for this month's Green Team article I 'Googled' what is on nationally in April. Several events were given. Earth Day, Stress Awareness Month, Alcohol Awareness month, World Autism Acceptance Month and of course April Fool's Day. As Christians, our most important event is of course Easter. The day our Lord gave his life for the forgiveness of our sins.

Earth Day is on 22 April each year. This year will be the 53rd year of the Movement. Since 1970, billions of individuals from more than 190 countries worldwide have come together every April 22nd to take action towards a greener, more equitable future for our planet. It is up to us all to be

champions for our planet. The Earth Day site lists several things we all as individuals can do to protect our planet, species and eventually ourselves:

1. Plant trees and or pollinating plants in your garden to support bees, butterflies and other organisms that are critical to sustain biodiversity. Don't buy compost with peat in it.
2. Reduce your plastic consumption. Plastic pollution is one of the most important environmental problems we face in today's world.
3. Participate in Advocacy - Educate yourself about the science behind climate change and show responsibility in addressing it by taking climate action to the next level. Send a letter to your local elected officials, speak up at your next town hall meeting,
4. Make sustainable Fashion Choices - Fast fashion has completely revolutionised the apparel industry, but not for the better. Buy clothes made with natural fabrics or use our many charity shops who offer a huge choice in clothes these days
5. Join a community clean up in your area or on a beach or other Eco voluntary work
6. Donate to a campaign supporting the environmental movement
7. Be active on social media on environmental issues

I am sure we can all think of many other examples of things we can do to help the environment, we feel we are doing enough individually. But this April 22 maybe we could all just pray, talk and maybe add one more thing that we could do to conserve our environment.

While writing this the hymn taken from Psalm 24 is going through my head:

The Earth Is The Lord's
And Everything In It
The Earth Is The Lord's
The Work Of His Hands
The Earth Is The Lord's
And Everything In It
And All Things Were Made
For His Glory

The Mountains Are His
The Seas And The Islands
The Cities And Towns
The Houses And Streets
Let Rebels Bow Down
And Worship Before Him
For All Things Were Made
For His Glory

Green Team (Alison Hobbs, Alison Howell, Helen Moore, Martin Lloyd, Sue Keatt, Liz Simonetti)

Church Resources

Previously all the groups in Church eg Messy Church, Toddlers, Girls Brigade and Young Church had their own art/craft/stationery/games resources. This could lead to waste – one group had paints that dried up because they didn't use them very often while other groups were buying new paint.

So last year Helen, Alison and Lisa emptied the slatted shelves and cupboard in the store room. Resources were sorted and combined so that there is now one stock of paints, sequins, bean bags, instruments etc which all groups can share. The resources used most often – pens, scissors glue, paper, drawing pins – are in the top half of the blue cupboard and the resources used less often are on the slatted shelves.

If you are planning an activity for a group or a service please see if the resources you need are in the store room before buying new! There is an inventory on the blue cupboard listing what we have and where it is.

Following on from this Lisa, Helen and Rose did a similar sort out in the kitchen with damaged items recycled where possible and items surplus to requirements 'rehomed'. The cupboards and drawers have also been rearranged so that equipment used most frequently is most accessible.

Please ask if you can't find something!

Helen Moore

Play It Again, André

Of course, after 70 long years, the classic film 'Casablanca' deserved to be shown yet again on our screens. Swedish actress, Ingrid Bergman, speaks those memorable words to Dooley Wilson the pianist in Rick's bar: "Play it again, Sam, for old times' sake." 'Casablanca' remains a timeless story of loss, love and redemption.

I watched another outstanding programme recently, with André Rieu and his wonderful, world-famous orchestra playing to 100,000 devotees in the packed market square-cum-theatre in Maastricht, and millions worldwide on TV. One well-known melody André really boosted was 'Amazing Grace'. In addition to his vast orchestra, André had 300 European pipers in the auditorium to swell the unforgettable, inspiring, musical sound.

Earlier in this special programme to celebrate André's 70th birthday, he very movingly told his interviewer that years earlier the pressure of his job had really told on him, and he was forced to withdraw for a while, but at last success had followed success, and he and his orchestra and singers were

now acclaimed the world over. Triumph had replaced the dark days, and his vast audience appreciated his honesty in telling his story.

The playing of 'Amazing Grace', aided by those impressive pipers, was indeed uplifting, but my urge to André Rieu is: "Play it again, André!" Say to your massed listeners, "Yes friends, my wonderful orchestra and pipers have played that famous tune to the very best of our ability, but we are not doing the song full justice. Let me introduce you to the author of that masterpiece 'Amazing Grace!'

Did you know that John Newton had been the captain of a slave ship, regularly carrying slaves to be sold? He sank to the depths of human depravity, but this man had the most remarkable turn-around in his life. He was converted to Jesus Christ, Who inspired him to write these powerful words of 'Amazing Grace'. So, tonight we are not only going to play the music. Our choir are going to sing the words as well. Ladies and gentlemen, here is the timeless 'Amazing Grace'!"

***"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me
home."
Play it again, André!***

Malcolm Carter

PS. 2023 is the 275th anniversary of John Newton's conversion, a glorious story of loss, love and redemption, worth telling again and again!

Easter Day Dawn Service

There will be an Easter Dawn Service on Sunday 9th April 2023. For those who would like to walk, we will depart from Wonford Methodist Church at 6am sharp to walk across the playing field, cross the little bridge and walk up to the field adjacent to the Pynes Hill business park. For those who can only manage a shorter walk, there is access to the top of that field just down from the NFU offices in the business park.

There will be a short service of songs and prayers and hopefully also Holy Communion.

For further information please contact Monika Noronha.

LAMPS

presents

THE PASSION

A MOVING & MEMORABLE RETELLING
OF THE EASTER STORY

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

"FULL OF INSIGHTS AND
EMOTIONALLY SHATTERING."

£8 FOR ADULTS £5 FOR CHILDREN

TUESDAY 4TH APRIL 7.30^{PM}

WONFORD METHODIST CHURCH

ADV TICKETS FROM
WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM
OR £10 ON THE DOOR
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

The **Methodist** Church



The Passion

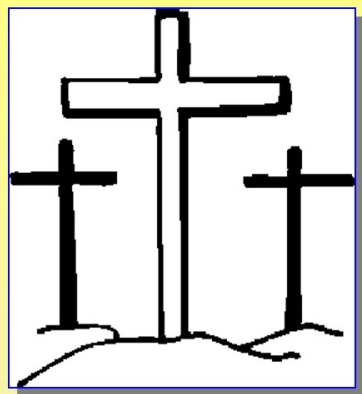
You will see from the previous page we are hosting 'The Passion' on Tuesday 4th April 2023 at 7.30pm. Tickets can be obtained from Pippa or online - <https://www.wegottickets.com/event/574916>. Tickets will be £10 on the door so please get them ASAP or you might be disappointed.

Exminster Methodists

invite you to join them on

Good Friday

**For a Service of hymns,
prayer and meditation**



At 2.30 pm,

Followed by Hot Cross Buns

During the service nails will be driven into the cross. Retiring collection for CR2EE (Christian Response to Eastern Europe)



Easter Day Celebration

At 10.30 am

with Holy Communion

Following this service the congregation are invited to help transform with flowers the bare cross placed outside the church.



Everyone is welcome

At the Methodist Church (near the Post Office)

Exeter Male Voice Choir Concert

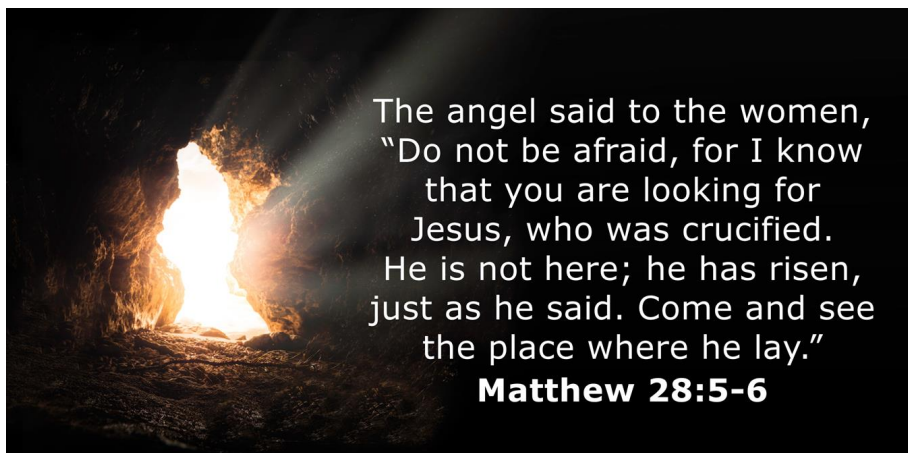
Wednesday
29th March 2023,
7.30 pm

At Exminster
Methodist Church
(Near the Post Office – EX6 8BT)

Tickets £6.00 (to include light refreshments) are available from Jeny on 832553 or from church members, or by emailing us, or at the door

Raising funds for the hall

exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk



Easter Word Search

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

Alive, Angel, Apostles, Appearance, Arrest, Barabbas, Betrayed, Calvary, Christ, Church, Cross, Crucified, Death, Eggs, Emmaus, Garden, Gethsemane, Golgotha, Iscariot, Jerusalem, Jesus, Joy, Judas, Magdalene, Mary, Parade, Passover, Peace, Peter, Pilate, Priest, Redeemed, Risen, Romans, Rooster, Salvation, Sanhedrin, Spring, Tomb, Trial, Worship

Dates For Your Diary

March 2023

Wed 29th 7.30 p.m. Exeter Male Voice Choir Concert at Exminster MC *

April 2023

Sat 1st	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 2nd	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship and Themed Preaching Prof Tony Wragg **
Tue 4th	7.30 a.m.	'The Passion' at Wonford Methodist Church **
Fri 7th	Good Friday	
	2.30 p.m.	Good Friday Service at Exminster MC **
Sat 8th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 9th	Easter Sunday	
	6.00 a.m.	Easter Day Dawn Service leaves the Church **
	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament. Themed Preaching **
	6.30 p.m.	Easter Praise Service
Fri 14th	3.00 p.m.	Friday Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 15th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 16th	10.00 a.m.	Dr JP Hunter
Tue 18th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Sat 22nd	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Celebration Service - 40 Years of Toddlers Group
Fri 28th	3.00 p.m.	Friday Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 29th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 30th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Malcolm Carter

**** Details in this newsletter or on the notice board in the hall.**

The deadline for items for the April 2023 Newsletter will be Sunday 16th April 2023. There is no guarantee of inclusion, but they may be given to:

Andrew Jackson - 19 Hills Orchard, Martock, Somerset. TA12 6DF.

Tel: 01935 826072 or e-mailed to andrew.m.jackson@me.com

Weekly Activities

Sunday

10.00 a.m. Morning Service and Young Church
(*1st Sunday in each month is All-Age Worship*)

6.30 p.m. Evening Service (*not every week*)

Monday

7.30 p.m. The Away Group meets (*Fortnightly*)

Tuesday

10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café (*3rd Tuesday each month*)

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group ***A***

3.00 p.m. Fortnightly Bible Group in the Church Lounge

Saturday

10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

Wonford Welcome Drop-In and

Warm Spaces light lunch.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are free.

Light lunch is available for 50p.

(***A*** = No meeting during school holiday)