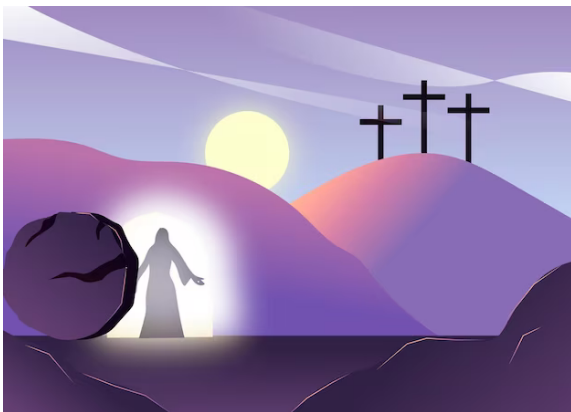


# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

April 2024  
(No: 528)



**Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)**



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

[www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk)



@WonfordMethodistChurch



YouTube Wonford Methodist Church



# A Message From The Minister

**Dear Friends,**

Easter is the day we celebrate the greatest event in the world's history and it is a day which should be marked with celebration, with joy and jubilant singing. Yet, as I write this, the world seems to be in a state of instability and chaos and, come Easter Sunday, still will be. The resurrection of Jesus has led to the salvation of countless souls, but wars and rumours of wars persist. Despite this, I believe it is possible to know and experience real joy. By joy, I don't mean mere happiness. Real joy doesn't have much to do with our circumstances. Those who seemingly have everything going for them experience deep depression. People struggling through a deeply traumatic time have described experiencing something like a deep and inexplicable joy. So, joy isn't entirely bound up with our circumstances. It's a gift, and it centres on an experience of God's presence, whatever might be happening around us.

The events of Holy Week and Easter describe God entering into our fallen world and taking on sin and all its appalling consequences – and emerging victorious. Indestructibly, unquestioningly, unfailingly, the ultimate fact in our world is that God is in control. The Lamb is upon the throne and has more things in hand than we ever realise. Darkness and sin cannot overcome the light of Christ, and this is what we celebrate at Easter. This is the source of all true joy – that whatever sin has destroyed, God can, and will mend, and that those who choose Him are forever held in His love. The resurrection was the beginning of the end of the old order of things which, as scripture tells is, is passing away. The resurrection is also the primary event which marks the beginning of the encroaching of God's kingdom into our world, an encroachment which will one day see the realisation of the wonderful vision of the city of God in Revelation 22. In the meantime, we live with the certain knowledge of God's presence, and of His spirit dwelling within is. Because He lives, we also will live.

**With every blessing  
Ben Haslam**



# Dates For April 2024

## Coffee

7th	Rose & Paul
14th	Nessy & Melanie
21st	Jenny S & Alison
28th	Liz & Pauline

## Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In April they are meeting on the 12th and 26th and are continuing studying the Ten Commandments with a study guide by J John based on the Just 10 series of talks. All are welcome to attend. Please speak to Monika Noronha or Terry Spencer if you want further details.

**Monika**

## The Away Group

This group is currently not meeting whilst the Alpha Course (see below) is taking place.

## Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 16th April 2024.

This year the RNLI will be celebrating its 200th anniversary and George Hislop will be telling us about many aspects of the RNLI's operations, crew training, the boats, lifeguards and their international work.

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



## Alpha Course

This meets on a Monday at 7.30pm and will be held in the lounge. Come along and find out more about this exciting course. Further details will be given in notices each Sunday.

**Tony Wragg**

## **Wonford Welcome Drop-In for Everyone - Saturdays 10.30am to 12.00pm**

Spring is definitely in the air at Wonford Welcome this April and we will be having the following activities for you to join if you would like alongside the free cuppa & biscuits -

**6th April** - whatever your ability we hope you'll want to join in with our Movement to Music and other activities for World Health Day

**13th April** - on the day before National Gardening Day there will be a Seeds & Plants Swap as well as a Garden Quiz to help you with your Spring 'green fingers'!

**20th April** - we will be making up small 'bug houses' to go above our church plant borders to hopefully encourage more friendly insects & bugs

**27th April** - we'll be running a games morning so do come along and join in with a few classic games like Beetle, quoits, pool and table football

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!

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

### **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. For April this will be the 16th.

**Lisa Thomas**

## **Spring Preaching Series 2024**

### **Adventures of the Early Church: A Journey through Acts**

This continues into April.

#### **Apr 7 Acts 11 vv13-19**

The Church in Antioch      *Dr Jon Curtis*

#### **Apr 14 Acts 16**

The man of Macedonia/into Europe; and Lydia.      *Rev Ben Haslam*

## **Apr 21 Acts 17 vv16-33**

Paul in Athens. *Dr Joan Wragg*

## **Apr 28 Acts 28 vv11-28**

Onward to Rome *Prof Tony Wragg*

## **General Church Meeting**

Our General Church Meeting will be held after our Sunday Service on 14 April. At this service we approve our church stewards, welcome new ones and approve our representatives to the Church Council. All are welcome to attend. We usually have a short break for coffee and then hold the meeting. It only takes about 20 minutes but is an important event in the life of the church. Please pray for our stewards and the work they do getting the church ready and welcoming people at the door. Alison

## **Friday Toddlers**

Toddlers have grown into a lovely friendly, busy group. It is amazing watching these little ones developing and having fun and the adult building relationships. However, we would welcome more helpers each Friday. If one of us is away it makes the morning quite challenging. If you are able to commit to regular help or are free to help on a less regular basis it would be very much appreciated.

We could do with at least two part time and one full time helper coming onto our team. All you need is a friendly attitude and you will need to have safeguarding training (if your training is up to date, no further training is necessary). The time commitment is from 9am to 12noon each Friday in term-time.

Please speak to Lisa or Alison if you are interested. Thank you.

## **The 'Real' Christ**

Long before Professor Indiana Jones burst on our cinema screens with "Raiders Of The Lost Ark", determined to keep that holy, gold-coated chest (holding the 10 Commandments) out of Nazi hands, there had always been worldwide interest in the actual whereabouts of the Ark of the Covenant.

Likewise, Dan Brown sold millions of books about the Holy Grail, the wine cup that Jesus actually used at the Last Supper. This is another subject which has intrigued people for centuries. Does this mysterious cup have a special power if ever we locate it?

And let's not forget the Shroud of Turin, in which it is claimed Jesus's body was wrapped at His burial, and His body somehow miraculously imprinted on the cloth. Other Churches claim to have wooden splinters from Christ's

cross at Calvary, while the Knights Templar long ago claimed to have had another chest, supposedly containing a diary written by Jesus Himself.

So what? Have any of these ancient, religious artefacts produced an avalanche of revival throughout the Christian Church? No! Never! But a personal faith by men and women in the REAL, Living Christ in every generation, continues wonderfully to change people's lives. Inviting the Risen Jesus into our lives is a transforming experience. As St Paul powerfully testified, "If anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new creation. The old life is gone, the new life emerges!" (2 Cor 5 v17)

Shortly after the first mobile phones appeared in the 1970's, a woman's husband had a heart attack on a train journey somewhere in England. In panic, she looked up the train carriage and spotted a man talking on his mobile phone. She quickly walked up, and anxiously asked if she could use his phone to dial 999 for an ambulance. Somewhat embarrassed, the man admitted his was not a real phone; he was only pretending! Can you believe it? A true, sad story. (Fortunately, she located someone with a real mobile phone and an ambulance was waiting for her husband at the next station.)

Ours is not a 'pretend' faith. We believe in an authentic Christ who announced, "I am the REAL Light, I am the REAL Shepherd, I am the REAL Bread of life....." How authentic is YOUR faith in this Risen Christ? Can you eagerly sing one of our great hymns?:

***"He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today.....  
You ask me how I know He lives,  
He lives within my heart!"***

**Rev Malcolm Carter**

## **Prayer Focus - April 2024**

**Week Commencing Sunday 7th April**

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them.

*Acts 4:33-34a*

Lord, may the power of your resurrection life be at work in and through us to meet the needs of those around us.

## **Week Commencing Sunday 14th April**

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord  
*Acts 3:19*

Lord, we are sorry for all the wrong we do in thought, word and deed. Lord, we ask for forgiveness and we pray for revival in our time!

## **Week Commencing Sunday 21st April**

It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”  
*Acts 4: 10b and 12*

We pray for our friends and family who don't know Jesus yet, and for those who need healing of any kind.

## **Week Commencing Sunday 28th April**

Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.  
*Acts 8:35*

We pray for all who open up and explain the Scriptures to us. We pray too that our recent Alpha group has helped people to understand more about Jesus' life and example.

## **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**

## Parking at Church - REMINDER

As you all know, there are no lines in the car park. This allows those who come by car to park in the car parking area fairly freely.

We would like to remind our drivers to be mindful of this space to allow all who want to and need to park on church grounds to be able to.

If there appears to be no more parking available or you are able to walk, there are spaces on the opposite side of the Lidl car park (close to the fields) that we can use.

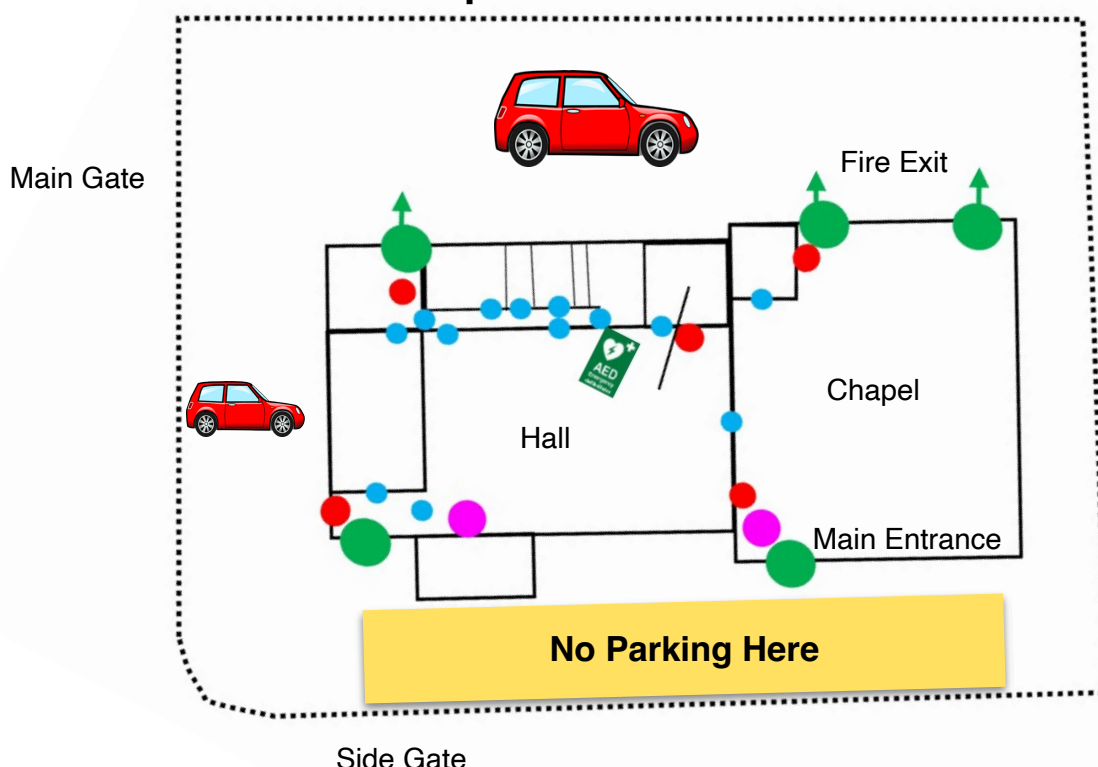
We have had a chat with the manager of the store and he is happy for spaces that are away from the main shop to be used. There are no cameras or security systems; parking is completely free and there are no time restrictions.

The Leadership Team's main concern is that on days that the car park is very full emergency vehicles may not be able to access the site safely.

**Please make sure that you are not parked in the fire assembly area (marked on the fence near the pedestrian front gate) opposite the church front door facing Lidl or covering any exit doors - see plan below. Some people are still parking in this area.**

Thank you,

**Lisa on behalf of Leadership Team**





# News from the Methodist Church

## New Methodist Church Website

The Methodist Church has launched a new website - [methodist.org.uk](https://methodist.org.uk). It has a completely different layout to the old one and contains a lot more resources and information. Have a look and explore.

## Extending a Warm Welcome to Communities

Over the winter, the cost of living crisis continued to bite into stretched household budgets and Methodist Churches across the Connexion were on hand to provide a warm, welcoming space for their communities. Warm Welcome, the new name for the Warm Spaces initiative, emphasised the need to tackle isolation, as well as the cold, by building connections and community.

Over 280 Methodist Churches were registered with the Warm Welcome website ([warmwelcome.uk](https://warmwelcome.uk)) for the winter. Many more simply opened their doors and events to those who were cold and in need of company.

The Methodist Church was second only to the Church of England in providing the most Warm Welcome spaces in the UK. However, measuring the scheme's impact is about far more than the numbers says Andrea Campanale, Mission Projects Officer, who takes care of the Warm Welcome initiative for the Methodist Church. "It's about local churches making a difference in their communities. Although kick-started by the cost of living crisis and the shock rise in energy prices last winter, research showed that the value of Warm Welcome spaces was in combatting loneliness and isolation.

"Neighbours who have lived close to each other for years have got to know each other at a Warm Welcome space and have grown into relationships that now provide support and company"

Many of the Warm Welcome spaces are becoming community hubs. Open all year round, one idea being considered is how Warm Welcome could provide essential respite from the heat as summer temperatures increase to dangerous levels.

The Warm Welcome Space at St Andrew's Methodist Church, Sheringham is open each Tuesday between 10am and 3pm to welcome friends from the local community. Tea, coffee, hot chocolate are offered all day and at lunchtime there is soup and a roll.

Barbara George is a church steward and one of the volunteers for the Warm

Welcome at St Andrew's Methodist. "We have a table of ladies whose friendship has grown and they enjoy playing a game of cards together or a game of bingo. Two gentlemen enjoyed playing backgammon and chess together. It became obvious that as well as people having a warm safe space to meet, the need to challenge social isolation was especially important."

Those who used the space were keen to share how it made a difference to their lives. "I've enjoyed sitting and chatting; having people to listen; lovely soup and unlimited tea and coffee," said one. Another commented, "Our flat suffers from being in a very cold building. The social interaction has been equally beneficial and we have had lots of fun and laughter with the obvious health benefits that brings."

*A poem by someone who received a Warm Welcome at a Methodist Church.*

Tuesdays are the highlight of our week

When with friends we get the chance to speak

About where we've been and what we've done

And the fun we have is second to none.

So thanks Julie for all you do

For the coffee, the tea and lunches too

I know we may cause you a bit of strife

But having friends gives us a purpose in life

**A BIG thank you for all those who have helped create a warm, welcome space at Wonford Methodist Church on a Saturday morning.**



# Dates For Your Diary

## April 2024

Sat 6th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 7th	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship with Dr Jon Curtis Themed Preaching **
Fri 12th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 13th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) *
Sun 14th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam Themed Preaching and Sacrament **
	<b>11.30 a.m.</b>	<b>General Church Meeting **</b>
Mon 15th	7.30 p.m.	Alpha Course in the lounge **
Tue 16th	9.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **
	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Sat 16th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 21st	10.00 a.m.	Dr Joan Wragg - Themed Preaching **
	<b>3.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Devon County Council Civic Service</b>
Mon 22nd	7.30 p.m.	Alpha Course in the lounge **
Fri 26th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 27th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
	<b>7.30 p.m.</b>	<b>Exeter Male Voice Choir Concert at the Church in aid of Church Funds.</b>
Sun 28th	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - Themed Preaching **
Mon 29th	7.30 p.m.	Alpha Course in the lounge **

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



The deadline for items for the May 2024 Newsletter will be Sunday 14th April 2024. 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](mailto: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. Alpha Course in the lounge *(Weekly)*

## **Tuesday**

9.00 a.m. Monthly Prayer Meeting *(3rd Tuesday)*

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

## **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 12.00 p.m.

Wonford Welcome Drop-In

Tea, coffee and biscuits are free.

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