

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

August / September 2023
(No: 522)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



@WonfordMethodistChurch



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A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

Psalm 22

Psalm 22 was given to the ancient Israelites as a prayer to be used when they felt cut off and alienated from God. God may be ever-present, but our feelings and circumstances fluctuate and sometimes we feel as if God has abandoned us. However, at one point in scripture, we hear the words of this psalm being used to describe a situation in which the speaker was very literally cut off from God. The speaker is Jesus. Jesus experienced complete separation from God in order to save us from that same fate. Jesus endured the very worst thing any human being could face, being cut off from God – the one fate from which there is no return, so that we can enjoy eternal life.

Was Psalm 22 then, pointing towards Jesus? Undoubtedly, as much of the Old Testament does. Scripture often works on different levels though. This psalm, despite its bleak tone, is an encouragement to those in horrendous circumstances that God is still on the throne and does not change. He is still the God of deliverance and hope, even (perhaps especially) to those who are reviled and ridiculed by everyone else. Even those who feel they are mere ‘worms’. It is a prayer we can use when awful things happen and God seems to do nothing. It reassures us that we can bring our pain and our anguished questions to God and know that He hears those cries, even if He seems to do nothing. I say ‘seems’ because God is unalterably and always a God of healing and restoration, whether that happens within or outside of time. The main thing to remember is that those who keep their connection to God open, even if all they can do at times is to cry out in pain, are better able to discern where God is in a given situation and will, one day, be in a position to say ‘proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn because He has acted.’ Amen to that.

With every blessing
Ben Haslam



Dates For August / September 2023

Coffee

August

6th Margaret D & Terry
13th Linda & Mervyn
20th Sam D & Melanie
27th Maggie & David

September

3rd Lisa & Sam D
10th Terry & Alf
17th Elaine & Graham
24th TBA

Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. They are having a break in August but reconvene on Friday 1st September 2023 to continue their studies of the Disciples.

Monika

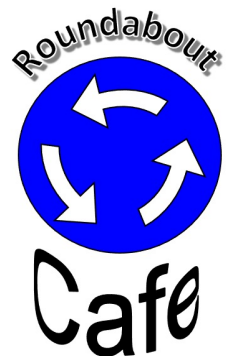
The Away Group

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 19th September 2023. There is no meeting in August.

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



Wonford Welcome Drop-In - Saturdays (10.30am to 12.00pm)

We continue with 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 August and September we will be having the following activities for you to join if you would like alongside the free cuppa & cake.

5th August - there will be an opportunity for you to have a go at some of our favourite childhood games (gentle ones though, nothing too energetic!)

12th August - we have our monthly Games Morning with the pool table, table football and a variety of table top games

19th August - there will be a focus on photography and we will be having a look at the Wonders of God calendar entries so far

26th August - come along and test your knowledge about man & woman's best friend with a quiz about dogs. And if you have one, do bring in your friendly pet dog to meet us

2nd September - come and celebrate 'Read a Book Day' with us! Bring your favourite book and take part in a literary quiz!

9th September - we have our monthly Games Morning with the pool table, table football and a variety of table top games

16th September - it's national Doodle Day so let your imagination & your pencil go wild and enjoy some doodling!

23rd September - on the International Day of Signing we will have the opportunity to learn some basic sign language

30th September - we are holding a coffee morning to raise funds for MacMillan

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

Harvest Baskets

Throughout September we will once again be collecting for our Harvest Baskets donation to the Chestnut Children's Centre. Please bring along any non-perishable foods or personal hygiene items any time throughout September. We will display our donations at our Harvest Festival and donations can still be brought along on that Sunday also.



We look forward to generously blessing local families in this way again this year!

Thanks!
Monika

Wynstream School Summer Fair

Lisa and Ben recently visited Wynstream School's Summer fair. We were given our own stall on behalf of this church so we were doing our bit to put us on the map! We took along with us a 'prayer bear' (see picture) and offered children the chance to write their own prayer - all of which prayer bear promised to bring before God at the following week's Tuesday prayer meeting. We had a great time and were delighted by the response of so many children. Please do pray for other opportunities to witness to the gospel in our community.



God bless,
Lisa and Ben

Struggling With Unwon Victories

Life is a struggle, even more so it seems at present.

The cost of living is restricting most people. Food prices have soared, and some parents go without meals so their children can eat. Crippling rent and mortgage rises have meant that many young adults will have to remain

living with their parents for the foreseeable future. Inflation has a stranglehold.

A severe shortage of doctors and nurses makes it difficult to see a doctor face to face, and those awaiting operations will wait a lot longer. Thousands of elderly people are being evicted from care homes. Many businesses have closed, yet fewer workers to harvest our fruit and vegetables indicate more food shortages ahead. Strikes galore in the NHS, along with teachers and railway workers, have only added greatly to the country's chaos.

At the time of writing, the City of Nottingham is in mourning and shock, following the murder of two young university students and a school caretaker. At the same time, an overcrowded boat from Libya, full of migrants, capsized, leaving hundreds missing, including many babies. The wars in Ukraine and Sudan rage on, and natural, climate disasters of drought, flooding, fire and volcanic eruption are causing huge devastation worldwide.

Yes, life is a struggle for millions, and there are no slick answers. Where is the Christian Church in all this? Most Churches continue to fill baskets for food banks in the UK, and many regularly open their premises weekly to supply food, warmth and friendship. Many wonderful Christian charities are involved non-stop in disaster areas around the world, thanks to constant giving by Christian supporters. Yes, Church happens within and beyond its walls.

I was inspired reading about the Church Army working in County Mayo in Ireland. The team there use Kintsugi pottery in their meetings, ministering to those in need. Kintsugi involves repairing broken pottery with gold paint, leaving a gold seam where the cracks are joined, and in the process giving the pottery a more refined look! **No broken person is beyond Christ's redemption!** That's the message. There is beauty in imperfection. The Good Samaritan always has a vital part to play, painting the gold on to others' human cracks.

Likewise, Jesus knew all about life's struggles. His own greatest struggle was in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he wrestled in prayer with God his Father, hoping to avoid the Cross. If the musical 'Les Miserables' had been written in his time, Jesus would have fervently sung "One day more, this never-ending road to Calvary". But in the end, Christ won the mighty victory over sin and death!

Let us thank God that even in these present times of struggle, there is still a growing desire for His salvation. I commend this great prayer, worth praying often. "O God, Who has folded back the mantle of the night, to clothe us in the golden glory of the day, chase from our hearts all gloomy thoughts, and so fill us with the brightness of hope, that we may effectively aspire to

to **unwon victories** THROUGH CHRIST our Lord. Amen.” One day more! Press on.

Rejoice that Kevin Sinfield has joined the struggle to find a cure for MND, by running endless marathons for his Rugby friend Rob Burrow to raise needed cash. Rejoice too that the Bishop of Exeter has blessed a rowing boat, and its crew, who will attempt to row 550 miles in the Arctic Ocean to raise money for YMCA’s ongoing battle with Exeter’s homeless. Rejoice that Terry Waite has been knighted in the King’s honours list after being kidnapped, and enduring 5 years in total darkness and isolation in Beirut. ALL these wonderful people are **making a difference** in the struggle, until the victory is won. Press on with your contribution! Press on with Christ!

Rev Malcolm Carter

24 Hour Prayer Event

Some of you are aware that I have hopes for us to host this event at Wonford and it will be news to others.

Provisionally this will take place from 8am on Saturday 9th and finish at 8am Sunday 10th September.

This is in a very early stage of organisation so please send me any feedback.

Lisa Thomas

Prayer Focus for August

Week Commencing Sunday 6th August

Your Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light for my path.

Psalms 119:105

Thank God for the Bible. May we all become increasingly hungry to hear God speak to us through its pages!

Week Commencing Sunday 13th August

Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Matthew 22:7

Thank God for all that He has done for us! May we respond with a desire to go deeper with God, to know more of His love and to share His love with others.

Week Commencing Sunday 20th August

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Teach us, Lord, how to follow you, how to serve you and how to make you known to others.

Week Commencing Sunday 27th August

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

Psalms 147:1

We pray for our second ‘local arrangement’ service this month. We pray for those who are sharing their favourite hymns. Bless us as we worship you together.

Prayer Focus for September

Week Commencing Sunday 3rd September

God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good.

Genesis 1:31a

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation: We pray for wisdom for governments and organisations. May the care of our planet and its climate be prioritised over profit, providing a balance between farming, wild spaces, homes, and businesses.

Week Commencing Sunday 10th September

Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

Psalms 86:11

Education Sunday: We pray for all pupils, students, teachers, tutors, professors, and mentors at this time of year. We pray that education at every level will be properly funded and resourced.

Week Commencing Sunday 17th September

The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.

He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

Isaiah 50:4

We pray for all those starting new jobs, learning new skills, and developing new ways of working. May they grow in confidence and in the enjoyment of their daily tasks.

Week Commencing Sunday 24th September

So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

We pray for all students and 'freshers' heading to university. We pray for all the many students from all parts of the world who study here in Exeter. May they all feel welcomed and be happy studying here in our city.

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

Church Refreshments

An inspection by Exeter City Council Environmental Health has taken place with Karen, Lisa and Helen in attendance.

We were told that a checklist needed to be completed by all Church users of the kitchen. This has now been put together and is on the clipboard in the kitchen. Please can everyone doing refreshments on Sunday mornings or at Church groups/events fill this in. **The only extra thing on the checklist compared to the previous guidelines is noting the fridge temperature so it shouldn't be too time consuming. Thank you.**

But apart from this he was pleased with everything and awarded us 5 stars again!

Huge thanks to Karen for being our link person with Exeter City Council and for ensuring that we achieved the top rating on two Inspections! Lisa and Helen are now taking on the link role.



‘Creation Celebration’ at the Blessed Sacrament Church

An ecumenical service celebrating Creation is being organised for 2nd Sept from 11am at Blessed Sacrament to be followed by a shared plant based lunch. The theme is ‘seeds’.

If you would like to get involved there are meetings on 29th July 10-12 and 19th August 10-12 both in the Richard Reynolds room at Blessed Sacrament . If you would like to know more please contact Shirley Larkin s.larkin@exeter.ac.uk

**Thank you
Helen**

Dates For Your Diary

August 2023

Sat 5th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 6th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Malcolm Carter
Sat 12th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 13th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament Service
Sat 19th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) *
Sun 20th	10.00 a.m.	Paul Violet
Sat 26th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 27th	10.00 a.m.	Mandy Denton

September 2023

Fri 1st	3.00 p.m.	Friday Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 2nd	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
	11.00 a.m.	'Creation Celebration' at the Blessed Sacrament **
Sun 3rd	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship - Caroline Colin
Sat 9th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 10th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament Service
Sat 16th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) *
Sun 17th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Preb Norman Wallwork
	6.30 p.m.	John Allen - Café Church
Tue 19th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Sat 23rd	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 24th	10.00 a.m.	Jon Curtis - Themed Preaching

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

The deadline for items for the October 2023 Newsletter will be Sunday 10th September 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 12.00 p.m.

Wonford Welcome Drop-In

Tea, coffee and biscuits are free.

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