

# Wonford Methodist Church



## Contact Newsletter

December 2018 / January 2019

(No: 474)

Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)

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



## **Girls' Brigade**

invite you to their:

**"Christingle"**

**Monday 3rd December  
2018**

**6.00 p.m.**

**(see separate notice)**



## **Exminster Christmas Tree Festival**

**Friday 30th Nov - Monday  
3rd December 2018**

**Exminster Methodist  
Church**

**Entrance FREE**

**Viewing times - see  
separate article.**



## **Annual Christmas Evening**

**All Welcome**

**Wednesday 19th December  
7.30 p.m.**

**An evening of food,  
fellowship and carol singing  
at**

**2 Wallace Avenue, Whipton  
- Joan & Tony Wragg**

**Small contributions to the  
table appreciated**



## **Young Church Christmas Party**

**Saturday 22nd  
December 2018**

**5.00 - 6.30 p.m.**

**Please come and join us for lots of  
games, food & fun!**

# A Message From The Minister

## Some reflective thoughts for Advent

When they were slaves in Egypt, the Israelites yearned for deliverance. God, through Moses, delivered them.

Later when the Israelites had suffered a long history of exile and then occupation by the Romans, they yearned for God's promise that a Messiah would come to be fulfilled.

That Messiah arrived and spoke clearly about a glorious conclusion to this long story of suffering and waiting, in which God's purposes for creation are fulfilled and all will be made new. Then, there will be 'no more crying or pain... for the old order of things will have passed away'.

We are part of that history, because, though the Messiah did come, the conclusion He talked about hasn't yet happened. So we are people who are waiting, people who are expectant, people who may walk in darkness, but who can nonetheless see a great light on the horizon.

That's what the season of Advent calls us to remember. Christmas is much more meaningful when we have observed a good Advent first. So times of quiet and reflection are a good idea (it's possible even at this time of year – I'll try if you will!) to help ground us in these enduring truths and stop us getting so swept up in the general busyness of the season that what really matters passes us by.

I imagine that the reason for the Church's year beginning with Advent is that it sets us up for the rest of the year. The prophets, John the Baptist, Mary and countless others waited for a Messiah, having more faith than answers, but trusting all the same. What an example of trust, hope and proclaiming of good news for us to follow as we enter into a new year!

We are also called to remind ourselves that what we see is not all there is, and that Advent and Christmas point us to the future as well as to the past. As T.S. Eliot put it; "The beginning shall remind us of the end, and the first coming of the second coming....."

Have a reflective Advent, wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy and holy 2019.

**Rev Ben Haslam**

# Dates For December 18 / January 19

## Flowers

### December

2nd Beryl Violet  
9th Bronwen  
16th Mandy  
23rd Mandy  
30th Mandy

### January

6th Madeline Phillips  
13th Eileen  
20th Margaret Sandford  
27th Melanie



A **big thank you** to everyone who has provided the Church flowers throughout the year and also to those who arrange them so nicely each week. It is much appreciated. More volunteers are required for 2019.

**Many Thanks - Eileen.**

## Coffee

### December

2nd Gary & Paul  
9th Fran & Pauline  
16th Melanie & Alison  
23rd 10.00 a.m. TBA  
5.30 pm Carol Service - Mince pies and offers of help welcome  
30th Tony



### January

6th Jenny & Susan Lloyd  
13th Fran & Pauline  
20th Pippa & Group  
27th TBA



## Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This will be starting again in the New Year. Rev Ben Haslam will be providing further details later.

## **Christmas Card Tree 2018**

Each year we have a Christmas Card Tree. The idea is, that instead of sending lots of people a Christmas Card, you put one Christmas Card on the tree to all the people at Wonford Methodist Church. The money you save you kindly put in the donation box. For the next two years, we are supporting, The Plymouth and Exeter District, Methodist Women in Britain Project. Their Project for the next two years is supporting South West Air Ambulance. Principally, Devon Air Ambulance, but seeing that some of the churches in our District are in Cornwall, Dorset and Somerset, they have decided to call the Project, 'South West Air Ambulance'.



**Beryl and Paul Violet**

## **Christmas Services on December 16th**

There is no planned evening service for Wonford on Sunday December 16th but you might like to consider joining either of the following events. Firstly Exeter Nativity is taking place with a procession around Princesshay starting at 2pm, followed by a service of Carols and Tableaux in the Cathedral at 3pm.

Alternatively our music group and others are leading a Carol Service at Ottery St Mary URC Church at 4pm. If you would like a visit to Ottery you will be most welcome. Refreshments to follow. We would certainly appreciate your support at this.

Tony

## **Carol Singing at Lidl's**

On Saturday December 23 do join us as we sing carols at Lidl's at 10.30. Meet up at church at 10.15. This is an important act of witness by the church and we need at least 20 singers, or more if possible.



## **Church Christmas Dinner Update**

Sadly the Christmas Day dinner here at church will now not take place. However, on Tuesday December 11th, those attending the Roundabout Cafe will be offered a Christmas lunch following the carol singing.

I apologise for the change of plan but I hope this will be a suitable alternative.

Offers of help will be gratefully received.

**Monika Noronha**



# **Exminster 10th Christmas Tree Festival**

Plans are underway for the **Exminster 2018 Christmas Tree Festival** over the weekend of 30<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December with group visits on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>. All money raised goes to children's charities working in Devon.

Groups, organisations, families, individuals, churches and businesses etc. **are all invited to display a decorated tree at the Festival.** You can bring along your Christmas tree (real or artificial) and decorate it in your own colours, ideas etc. Why not start planning now! **Entry is free.**

**Entry forms and details are available from Jeny on 832553 or email [exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk)**

Last year there were 44 lovely trees on display and the £1,400 raised was shared between Action for Children and for Bramble children's ward at the RD&E Hospital. This being the 10<sup>th</sup> Festival, we are hoping for a record number of trees with extra things happening during the weekend.

**The festival is held in  
Exminster Methodist Church**

## Girls' Brigade Christingle

2nd Exeter Girls' Brigade invites you all to it's Christingle Service at 6pm on Monday 3rd December 2018. Everyone is welcome to join us on this special occasion.

**The Girls' Brigade team**



## Home Group Meetings in December 2018 / January 2019

5th December	7.30pm	39 Meyer Court
9th January	7.30pm	18 Tuckfield Close - New Year Social
16th January	7.30pm	Venue to be confirmed
30th January	7.30pm	Venue to be confirmed

New members are always welcome. Please contact Monika for details.

**Monika**

## Church Green Team Update

### A plastic problem

Caring for the environment is something very close to my heart. My interests were kindled in my childhood. Frequent walks on Dartmoor and cosy evenings watching David Attenborough programmes led me to develop an appreciation of nature. I pursued this passion at university where I studied environmental biology.

As you may know, our world is under ever-increasing pressure from plastic pollution. There is an estimated 150 million metric tons of plastic currently circulating in our oceans. It is choking our precious ecosystem and entering the food chain. Much of this plastic pollution comes from land and consists largely of single-use plastics. It is very hard to avoid using plastic altogether as it is such a useful material and prevalent in our shops and lives. However, we can reduce the amount of single-use plastic that we use and encourage businesses to look for environmentally friendly alternatives.

Ten top tips for reducing single use plastic:

1. Refuse plastic straws in cafes and restaurants. Paper straws and reuseable straws are viable alternatives.
2. Instead of buying drinks in disposable containers, consider bringing a reuseable bottle from home.

3. Instead of wrapping your lunch in cling film or a plastic sandwich bag, you could use a lunchbox or fabric wrap.
4. Switch to a biodegradable toothbrush.
5. Avoid single use plastic cutlery.
6. Avoid beauty products that contain microbeads and glitter. These wash down our drains and end up in the ocean.
7. Be prepared: bring cloth or other reuseable bags when you're shopping.
8. Bring your own containers to the supermarket. Many let you use your own containers when purchasing goods at the delicatessen.
9. Where possible, try to avoid food with excess plastic packaging and voice your concerns to the supermarkets.
10. Wrapping paper is usually not recycleable. They often contain some plastic e.g. glitter. You could consider reusing wrapping paper or using it for fun craft activities so that less ends up in the bin. You could also avoid wrapping paper and consider some alternatives e.g. cloth wraps, reuseable gift bags or decorating your own paper with children's drawings.

Of course, It is virtually impossible to avoid plastic entirely but every little helps and our precious world will thank us for our efforts.

## **Alison Hobbs**



## **Wonford Community News - Christmas Dates**

Wonford Community and Learning Centre Carols by Candlelight will be on 12th December 2018 at 6.00pm.

Carol Service at St Loyes Chapel Ruins on 17th December at 6.00pm

# **Plymouth & Exeter District**

**of the Methodist Church**

invite you to come and meet the

## **President & Vice-President of Conference**

**Revd. Michaela Youngson & Mr. Bala Gnanapragasam**

at

**St. Thomas Methodist Church, Exeter**

on

**Saturday, 8th December 2018**

from

**10.30a.m. - 1p.m.**

(refreshments served from 10a.m. onwards)

Lunch is provided for those who pre-book via [admin@pemd.org.uk](mailto:admin@pemd.org.uk)

Parking is available at - and close to - the church

## **Church Wool Craft Group**

The Wool Craft Group now meets every other Tuesday in the Church Lounge from 7.30-9.00pm to knit or crochet. At the moment we are making items for the Seafarers Mission. We have a pleasant evening either knitting or crocheting, with a chat and a cup of tea or coffee. We are a fairly small group at present, but all are welcome whether you are an experienced knitter or crocheter, want to learn or are somewhere in between!



Our last meeting before Christmas will be Tuesday 11 December. We will begin again after Christmas on Tuesday 8 January.

**Linda Clarke and Lisa Thomas.**

**Linda Clarke and Lisa Thomas.**

## **New Hall Boards**

Our big thanks to Paul Violet, Gary Lord & David Salter for all their efforts in choosing and putting up new wall-boards in our Hall – a great addition with much to inform and enjoy - although it will take a little while for us to get them well-filled!

# **Prayer Focus for December/January**

## **December**

### **EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US**

The busy month of December is here. Please pray for the Girls Brigade as they prepare for their Christingle. The leaders & the girls put a lot of work into this annual event that is the start of our Christmas services on December 3rd. On December 16th it is The Nativity at the Cathedral. This begins at 2pm with the procession around Princess Hey finishing up with the Nativity in the Cathedral at 3pm. Please pray for all who are organising this event & all who will be taking part. Thank God for those who provide the animals for this special service. We then move to Christmas itself. We have our Carol service on the 23rd at 5.30 led by Rev Ben Haslam & Prof. Tony Wragg. On December 24th Rev Ben Haslam will lead our Christmas Eve Communion service. Our Christmas Day service will be led by Rev Alan Rothwell. Please pray for All our services including our 'normal' services.

As we celebrate the birth of this special baby, our Lord Jesus Christ, may I encourage you to pray for all parents and parents to be. Pray especially for those parents for whom the birth of their baby was not the happy event it should have been. Those who suffered a still birth or lost their baby soon after birth or those who had babies with disabilities. Pray that they will get the help & support they desperately need. Thank God for all babies and pray that they will be blessed as they grow up.

Pray for all babies and children around the world born into places of war or famine or in places that have seen natural disasters.

***May I take this opportunity to wish you all the peace, love and blessing of the Christmas Child.***

**January**

***Pray Without Ceasing***

**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE**

We begin our year with our All Age Covenant Service led by Rev Ben Haslam. This is a very special service when we renew our commitment to God and the work He has for us. This will be held on January 6th. January 20th to 27th is the Week of Christian Unity. During that week the M.E.T Conference takes place in Torquay from 25th to 27th January. Please pray for all who will be leading and taking part in these events.

As we begin 2019 we are aware of many changes in our country including Brexit. Pray That the right decisions will be made that is fair for all. We know that our NHS struggle during the winter months so please pray that all who work in our hospitals, surgeries and hospices will be given the strength and ability to help all in their care. Pray too that the general public will be sensible and only contact doctors and ambulances when necessary. This can be helped by making sure our neighbours, especially the elderly and housebound in our community are receiving visitors so that they don't become lonely. It has been known that lonely people will call for an ambulance just to have someone to talk to. Pray for them and for those suffering mental illness or addictions. They all need help and care.

In the wider world pray for Europe as a whole as Brexit approaches that important agreements can be made and be right for everyone. Pray also that gun and knife crime around the world will cease. Pray for all who have

lost loved ones in these crimes. Pray also for the families of those who commit these crimes.

***May you all be richly blessed as you pray for all the activities at Wonford, surrounding area & the wider world.***

### **Phone Prayer Link**

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is now Rev Alan Rothwell (01392 926840). 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 Margretta Bowstead (437329) or Margaret Kearns (679949).

### **After Church 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**

## **Bibles for North Korea Update**

For more than 15 years, North Korea has been ranked as the most dangerous place in the world for Christians. If they are found with a Bible, North Korean Christians face years of imprisonment in labor camps where they are tortured and beaten daily. Bibles are confiscated and destroyed, and most believers have never seen more than a page of God's Word.

A child may even be shown a Bible at school and asked if he has ever seen a book like it in his home. If he responds "yes," police will quickly show up at his house to question his parents and ransack their home in search of a Bible.

Despite the threat of imprisonment, torture, and even execution, North Korean Christians still desire to have a personal copy of God's Word.

***Julie & Alan Rothwell held a coffee morning at the Church recently and the total amount of money raised for Bible for people in North Korea is £300.***

***They would like to thank everyone who donated. This means that 30 Christians in North Korea can own a Bible for themselves. Thank you***

# Dates For Your Diary

## December 2018

### Exminster Christmas Tree Festival - 30th Nov to 3rd December 2018\*\*

Sun 2nd	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship - Caroline Colin
	<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	Ben Haslam Ecumenical Advent Service at Heavitree United Reformed Church
Mon 3rd	6.00 p.m.	Girls' Brigade 'Christingle' - everyone welcome **
Tue 4th	7.30 p.m.	Circuit Local Preachers' meeting
Wed 5th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 39 Meyer Court **
Sun 9th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament Service
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Yangsun Yi
Tue 11th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe (until 12pm) - Christmas Lunch
Wed 12th	6.00 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight at Wonford Community & Learning Centre **
Thu 13th	7.30 p.m.	Wonford Worms Book Club meets in the lounge
Sun 16th	10.00 a.m.	Stephen Haddad
	2.00 p.m.	CTaX Nativity procession around Pinesshay
	3.00 p.m.	Service of Carols and Tableaux in the Cathedral
	6.30 p.m.	No service at Wonford
Mon 17th	6.00 p.m.	Ecumenical Carols at St Loyal's Chapel Ruins, Rifford Road **
Wed 19th	7.30 p.m.	Joan & Tony's Annual Christmas Evening **
Sat 22nd	5.00 p.m.	Young Church Christmas Party **
Sun 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Julian Albrow
	<b>5.30 p.m.</b>	<b>Rev Ben Haslam - Christmas Carol Service **</b>
Mon 24th	6.30 p.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Christmas Eve Communion
Tue 25th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Alan Rothwell - Christmas Day Service
Sun 30th	10.00 a.m.	Paul Violet
	<b>6.30 p.m.</b>	<b>No Evening Service</b>



## January 2019

### Wishing You A Happy & Peaceful New Year

Sun 6th	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship & Covenant Service Rev Ben Haslam
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Alan Rothwell
Wed 9th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group New Year Social 18 Tuckfield Close **
<b>Fri 11th</b>		<b>Church New Year Social</b>
Sun 13th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Steve Santry
	6.30 p.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - Prayer & Praise
Wed 16th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets **
Sun 20th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Paul Smith - Themed Preaching 1
	<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
Wed 23rd	7.30 p.m.	Circuit meeting at The Mint
Sun 27th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Themed Preaching 2
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Brenda Mosedale
Wed 30th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets **
Thu 31st	7.30 p.m.	Wonford Worms Book Club meets in the lounge

***\*\* For more information see a separate item in this newsletter, or look on the noticeboard for a poster***





# **Carol Service**



**All Are Welcome**

**Sunday 23rd December 2018**

**5.30 p.m.**

**Come and sing familiar Christmas Carols and see youngsters in nativity scenes and sketches**

**Followed by mince pies and coffee**

## **Christmas Eve Communion**

**All Welcome**

**Monday 24th December  
6.30 p.m.**

**Rev Ben Haslam**

## **Christmas Day Service**

**Tuesday 25th December  
10.00 a.m.**

**Rev Alan Rothwell**

## **New Year Party**

**Friday 11th  
January 2019**

**Bring & Share Supper**

**More details to follow**

## 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  
(2nd Sunday in each month is Prayer & Praise)

### Monday

5.45 to 7pm Girls' Brigade (4-16 year olds) \*A\*

7.30 p.m. Away Group Bible Study

### Tuesday

9.15 a.m. Weekly Prayers in the Quiet Room

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

### Wednesday

7.30 p.m. Home Group Bible Study Meeting (fortnightly)

### Thursday

2.00 p.m. Bible Study (3rd Thursday each month)

### Friday

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

**To be sure these take place see Dates to Note or the Notice Board  
( \*A\* = No meeting during school holiday)**

The deadline for items for the February 2019 Newsletter will be Sunday 13th January 2019. 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)**