

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

February 2023

(No: 516)



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,

It's amazing, and disconcerting, how quickly things can go wrong. In Nehemiah 12, the former exiles, now back in their home land, we're singing and dancing in celebration of the newly dedicated city of Jerusalem. Now, in chapter 13, we read of spectacular case of 'when the cat's away, the mice will play'. Nehemiah has returned to Babylon, and to his old job in service of King Artaxerxes. Returning to Jerusalem to see how they are getting on, he is shocked at what he finds. An awful lot of backsliding had gone on, and it seems they had forgotten their special calling to be God's distinctive, holy people. One outrage which particularly incenses Nehemiah is the giving of a room in the Temple to Tobiah who, you might remember, had been a fierce opponent of the Israelites and the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls. We might wonder what the big fuss was all about – surely it's only a room? Where's the harm? Well, the harm resides in the fact that the High Priest is bringing that which is profane into a holy space. We might see our buildings in a purely functional way, so it can be hard for us to understand that the Temple represented the presence of God. It contained the Holy of holies, a space so sacred only the High Priest could enter, and then only after ceremonial cleansing. We don't need a building to symbolise God's presence, as we have Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, who brings us, through faith, into the very presence of God. He is our High Priest. For the ancient Israelites however, being in the Temple was the nearest thing they had to standing before God, and so to desecrate it was a terrible thing.

What can we learn from this? Well, what stands out loud and clear is that it is dangerous to compromise our faith. Such a compromise is exactly what Eliashib the High Priest did in allowing Tobiah to take over part of the Temple. Are there any ways in which we allow our faith to be compromised? Do we listen to the world when it tells us that the Bible is ridiculous, that our faith is offensive, that Jesus Christ was just a great moral teacher and nothing more. Sometimes we view our faith through the lens of our secular society instead of looking at the world with the eyes of faith. We contradict scripture, water down truths God has revealed to us (the virgin birth or the resurrection for example) and we sit in judgement of God as if we know better. Many theologians and biblical scholars have taken this approach and led us to believe that this is the nature, intelligent approach to take and makes us more relevant to the wider world. The result? Decline. The spiritual life and vitality of the church goes down the drain. Compromising on revealed truths is every bit as bad as the Israelites desecrating the Temple and flouting the sabbath. Far better to take God at His word, and take the riskier, but richer, more fruitful, more truthful path, and allowing ourselves to be transformed and renewed by God's word instead of trying to fit those words into a mould more acceptable to secular society. Let's do it. Let's take the risk.

Let's care less about what people think of us and more about honouring the God who gave Himself for us and calls us to give ourselves wholly to Him.

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

Dates For February 2023

Coffee

5th	Eileen & Melanie
12th	Rose & Paul
19th	Margaret S & David
26th	Esther & Lisa



Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In February they meet on the 3rd and 17th. They are currently investigating a new theme to study. 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 21st February 2023 when there will be a talk on Exeter Quay which includes a brief history of our Church

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



Themed Preaching at Wonford

This continues into February, March and April

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

Feb 5th	Zachaeus (All-Age)	Tony and Mandy
Feb 12th	Nicodemus	Ben Haslam (S)
Feb 19th	Jairus' Daughter	Paul Violet
Feb 26th	Bartimaeus	Jon Curtis
Mar 5th	The Paralyse Man (All-Age)	Monika Noronha
Mar 12th	The Rich Ruler	Ben Haslam (S)
Mar 19th	Women with Perfume	Caroline Colin
Mar 26th	Criminals at the Cross	Joan Wragg
Apr 2nd	Palm Sunday (All-Age)	Mary Hext
Apr 9th	Easter Day (Resurrection)	Ben Haslam (S)

Church Green Team - Clothes That Cost The Earth

I really enjoy Simon Reeve's travel programmes and during his latest South America series I was horrified to see a huge landfill site in the Atacama Desert in Chile filled with hundreds of thousands of tonnes of clothes from other countries. I was also surprised to hear that the greenhouse gas emissions from textile production is more than those of all international flights and maritime shipping combined.

Though I am not a follower of fast fashion (new styles released frequently often at cheap prices and low quality) I decided I needed to do something about my own clothes 'consumption',

Checking through our wardrobes

I found clothes that I wasn't going to wear again which I passed on to my daughter or to charity shops and a couple of old t-shirts which I cut up for cleaning cloths. There were some items I didn't wear because they had loose buttons or small stains which I have now sorted and others that I was saving for best that are now regular.

Extending the life of the clothes that we have

The main way to extend the life of the clothes we have is to wash them less, Research by washing machine company AEG showed that 90% of items that are washed are not dirty enough to need it. Washing leads to 'wear' on fabric, colours fading and to clothes shrinking and becoming mis-shapen

reducing the 'life' of clothes. Washing clothes less often and at lower temperatures will use less electric and also reduce water usage which is important for those on water meters as well as for the planet.

I don't like to wear the same top for two days running at work but instead of washing it after one wear I put it on a hanger to wear again at the weekend and the following week.

Repairing clothes can also extend their 'life' and we are hoping to have a Repair Café at 'Wonford Welcome' soon!

Adding 'responsibly' to our wardrobes

The production of petroleum based fibres like polyester creates greenhouse gases but there are now bio based synthetic fibres made from renewable crops like sugar cane which are more environmentally friendly and also recycled polyester.

Organic cotton has less environmental impact than cotton as it doesn't use fertiliser or pesticides and often goes hand-in hand with more natural dyes. Instead of buying new think about buying second-hand clothes - now rebranded as pre-loved or vintage! - online (local if possible) or from a charity shop. I am really pleased with an organic cotton Sea Salt shirt which was 'as new' from the Sue Ryder shop in Heavitree for only £5!

If you want clothes for a special occasion Oxfam have an online shop for second hand designer items or think about renting or buying an outfit.

Helen

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

Notice of Next Church Council Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 23 February 2023 at 7.30pm in the Church. All are welcome to attend.

At this meeting we approve our Annual Appointments. If your are new to a group or wish to stand down then please let your group leader and myself know before the meeting. I can then have a correct list ready to distribute before the meeting. I will put a list on the notice board in the church so people can amend it if it is incorrect.

The Annual Appointments do not include the Leadership Team/Stewards as they are approved at our General Church Council in April/May.

Alison Howell

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

As part of the City'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 will provide a warm snack lunch at 12.30 for the cost of 50p. This is open to anyone from the church and the community, in fact anywhere in Exeter so please do encourage people to come along.

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

4th February - we will be sharing our favourite books from childhood as it is National Story Week so please bring along your most loved books.

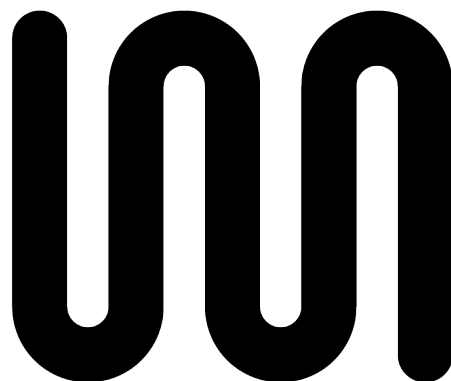
11th February - as we approach the time of Lent we will be looking at ways to personally observe this time and there will be an activity to remind each of us how much we are loved.

18th February - there will be a quiz to test your knowledge about birds and their nests and we will be making & eating pancakes.

25th February - we'll be finding out why Fairtrade is so important and tasting some lovely Fairtrade goodies.

Please do come and join us - you can pop in for a quick drink & chat or stay for the whole morning. Everyone is welcome!

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



Prayer Focus for February

Prayer – Our Strongest Weapon – Pray Without Ceasing

Week Commencing Sunday 5th February

Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.
Psalm 42:5

Pray for our weekly Saturday Wonford Welcome and Warm Space drop-in sessions. Please pray for the volunteers and those attending, that all will be blessed by the fellowship, food and fun!

Week Commencing Sunday 12th February [Racial Justice Sunday]

Let justice roll on like a river,
and righteousness like a never-failing stream!
Amos 5:24

Let's reflect on the importance of racial justice, and give thanks for human diversity. We pray for an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice. May our words and actions truly make a difference.
Racial Justice Sunday (methodist.org.uk)

Week Commencing Sunday 19th February [Student Sunday]

Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Saviour,
and my hope is in you all day long.
Psalm 25:5

We pray for all those young people we know who are studying at school, college or university. We pray also for all the students [approx. 25,000] studying here in Exeter!

Week Commencing Sunday 26th February [27th Feb Fair Trade Fortnight commences]

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened
in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the
riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably
great power for us who believe.

Ephesians 1:18-19a.

Fair trade and food justice affects many parts of our world. The cost of living crisis has brought problems right to our own villages, towns and cities. Pray for all families struggling to put food on the table. Pray for the Exeter Food Bank and Exeter Food Action/ Fairshare Southwest as they work to alleviate the situation.

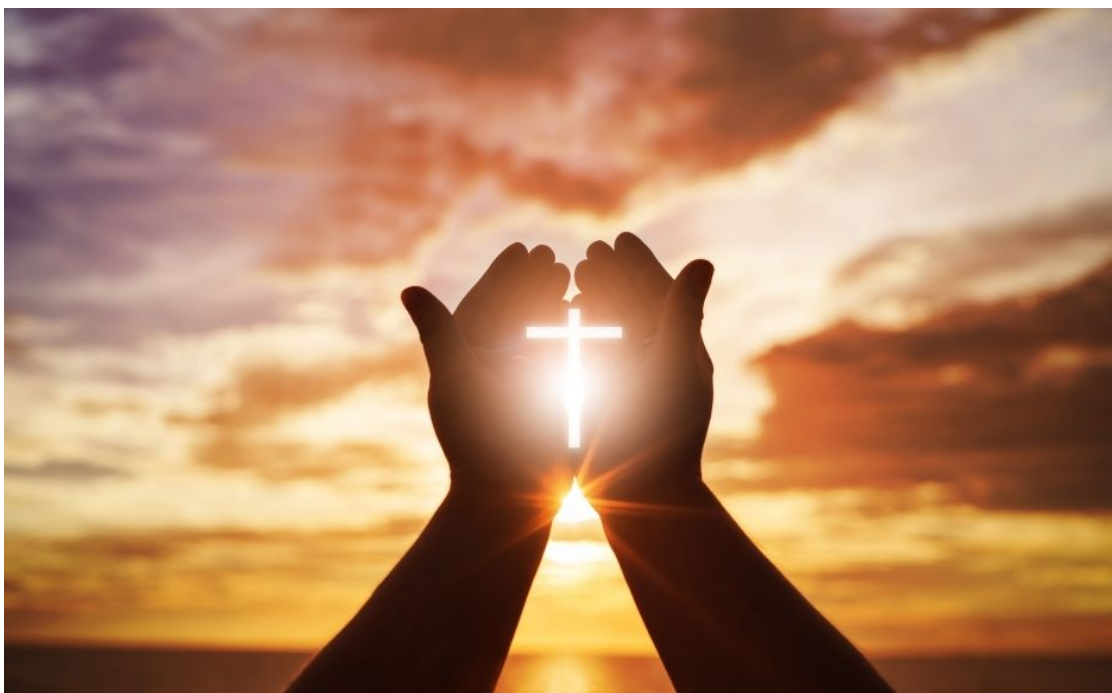
Our Prayer Phone Link

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



Gift Aid

As most of you will realise the cost of living has gone up considerably in the past few months. This has and will be affecting the costs of running the church. With this in mind it is important that we make the most of offerings made. One fairly easy way of doing this is by Gift Aiding any donations you make if you pay Income Tax. Currently, this means that for every £1.00 you donate to the church, we can claim 25p from the government. That makes your donation £1.25. Many people already do this and we are extremely grateful for their Gift Aiding. If you do not already Gift Aid but would like to do so, please speak to me and I can give more information and explain what you need to do.

If you do not pay Income Tax, we can still claim 25p in each £1.00, under what is called GADS, but this has certain rules. If you would like more information about GADS, please speak to me.

Paul Violet

Christmas Card Tree 2022

A very BIG thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Card Tree this year. The sum of £100.00 was raised for The Christian Hospital, Berhampur, in the District and the Diocese of Cuttack, Church of North India. The Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) of The Plymouth and Exeter District, have decided that their 2020- 2022 Project for Fund Raising would be to support the rebuilding project of this Christian Hospital in Cuttack.

The Plymouth and Exeter District of The Methodist Church, of which we are a part of, has been linked with Diocese of Cuttack, Church of North India for quite a few years now. For more information, please look at The District's website, under Resources.

Paul Violet



Bible Names from the Old and New Testaments



Aaron, Abigail, Abraham, Adam, Bathsheba, Caleb, Daniel, David, Elijah, Elisha, Esther, Gideon, Goliath, Jeremiah, Jethro, Job, John, Jonah, Joshua, Josiah, Judah, Judas, Lazarus, Leah, Mark, Mathias, Matthew, Miriam, Moses, Naomi, Noah, Paul, Peter, Philip, Rebekah, Rueben, Ruth, Samson, Sardis, Solomon, Stephen, Thomas, Timothy, Titus, Zacchaeus, Zipporah

Dates For Your Diary

February 2023

Fri 3rd	3.00 p.m.	Friday Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 4th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 5th	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship and Themed Preaching Mandy Denton & Prof Tony Wragg **
Sat 11th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 12th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament. Themed Preaching **
Fri 17th	3.00 p.m.	Friday Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 18th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 19th	10.00 a.m.	Paul Violet - Themed Preaching **
	6.30 p.m.	Café Church
Tue 21st	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Sat 25th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 26th	10.00 a.m.	Dr Jon Curtis - Themed Preaching **

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



The deadline for items for the March 2023 Newsletter will be Sunday 12th February 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)