

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

July 2016
(No: 450)



Minister: Rev Bruce Sawyer (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a couple of articles about worship, and I commend these to you. I wonder what you think worship is?

I want to suggest there are (at least!) two important aspects taking place when we gather to worship together. The first, and perhaps to many the most obvious, is that worship allows us to express ourselves. It gives us an opportunity to express our feelings toward God, our response to God, what's inside us. We do this in various ways, for example, through our singing, our silence, our praying, our giving. This is why we can struggle with new songs or something unfamiliar – because initially we may be unsure exactly what it is we are expressing. But worship also shapes us. Think how many people you have heard describe coming to worship in order to 'be fed' or 'to have their batteries charged'. Worship helps to shape us for living as followers of Christ, it gives us tools and resources upon which to draw. It shifts us in our understanding of ourselves, of God, and of the world in which we live. Perhaps this is something of what Jesus was talking about when he said that worship should be "in spirit and in truth".

Sometimes the frustrations we experience regarding worship, or the disagreements we have, are because we only recognise one thing that worship is doing. I mention this for two reasons. Firstly, over the summer, our evening services will largely be shared with other Methodist Churches around Exeter and across the Circuit. We do this in part to express our connexional identity; our understanding that we belong to something that is bigger than just the local church (which is not to say that commitment to a particular place is not important, just that through the summer we are expressing a different emphasis). But as we worship with others in this way, so we are shaped in that identity; we recognise what it is we share, and we are perhaps also challenged and enriched by experiencing other ways of worshipping.

Secondly, I mention it because at the last meeting of the worship team (who are responsible for planning our services at Wonford), it became apparent that there was a consensus that now is the time to review our pattern of evening services. We are seeing greater fluctuation in those attending in the evening. Some services, such as Messy Church and Café Church have maybe 50-60 people, often people we wouldn't usually see in a morning. Other services have much lower numbers. What should we be doing during our evening worship? What is needed to continue to provide appropriate opportunities to both express faith and to be shaped for a life of faith? And

how does this relate to other areas of our lives? I am reminded of Romans 12:1, which talks of offering our bodies – all that we are – to God as our act of worship. Worship on a Sunday evening often requires certain people such as stewards and musicians to be present, if we were not to worship every week in the evening, would this release more time and energy to be offered to God in worship through acts of service, evangelism and discipleship? Over the coming months the worship team will be thinking and praying over these issues. We will also be seeking to listen, so please prayerfully share any views you might have, particularly regarding evening worship, with the worship team over the summer months.

And finally, a huge thank you to each of you for the part you play in our worship at Wonford – without you, something would be missing.

With every blessing,

Rev Bruce Sawyer

[The worship team, chaired by Tony, is: Joan, Terry, Alan, Caroline C, Caroline S, Mandy, Paul, Gary, Monika, Jon and Bruce]

Dates For July

Flowers

| | |
|------|--------------------|
| 3rd | TBA |
| 10th | Bronwen & Clifford |
| 17th | Eileen |
| 24th | Kath |
| 31st | TBA |



Coffee

| | |
|------|------------------|
| 3rd | Jenny S & Fran H |
| 10th | Alison |
| 17th | Elaine & Graham |
| 24th | Susan & Jenny T |
| 31st | Rose & Paul |



Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This group meets in the lounge at 2pm normally on the third Thursday each month. This month they are studying another chapter of John. All are welcome and if you'd like to learn more, do speak with Bronwen or Clifford Maddicks.

21st 2.00 p.m. Bible Study in the lounge.

Tuesday Home Group

This month this group is continuing their study of 'The Parables'. For more information see Monika Noronha. New members always welcome.

5th 7.30pm Meeting at 20 Whipton Lane. 'Talents'

19th 7.30pm Summer Social at 14 Grainger Close.
'Bring & Share' supper

News from Churches Together in Devon

Major Jean Harris, of the Salvation Army, has completed her two years of Charing the Churches Together in Devon work, and we thank her for the way she has guided us through Enabling Group meetings with wisdom. Jean will have handed over during June to Rev Graham Thompson, Chair of Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District, who has been Chair designate for the last six months.

We welcome Rev Lythan Nevard this month as the new Minister at Cornerstone Church Cranbrook. Her Service of Welcome will be on 13th July at 7.30pm at St Martin's School, Cranbrook.

At the AGM we also welcomed four new members to the Enabling Group-Baptist Ecumenical Officer Rev Michelle Parkman, Church of England Ecumenical Officer Rev Dr Mark Butchers and Salvation Army Ecumenical Officer Major Sue Camp-Richards. We also heard that Rev Dr Thomas Bush for Devon United Reformed Churches will be joining us soon.

Rev Sue Macbeth

County Ecumenical Officer for Devon



Sunday 10th July 2016
'In Tune with God'
Summer Evening Worship Service
At Matford Orchard 4.30pm

- ✿ Bring and Share BBQ
- ✿ Bring a Deck Chair
- ✿ Bring a Musical Instrument if you play - if not, bring a good voice and pair of hands
- ✿ Bring a new song that you would like to share
- ✿ Bring a Friend

Nature is one of God's beautiful creations. Through nature, God is able to teach us, speak to us, and provide for us.

A summer afternoon of fellowship followed by an informal service to offer up our thanks and praise to the Lord of all creation. Let's get 'In Tune with God' through hymns, songs, poems, music and prayer.

To help prepare, please speak to Mandy Denton by the 3rd July if you have a poem, a special hymn or song that you would like to share or include.

Directions: Post Code - EX2 8XS

Matford Orchard is situated behind the Devon Hotel on the Dawlish Road. Matford Lane runs between the Devon Hotel Reception and the Carriages Brasserie. Matford House is the first white house on the left. Turn left just before the house to drive down to the orchard.



'In Tune With God'

As part of my Worship Leader training, I am encouraged to plan and lead a service or four. I came up with this particular idea before considering training of any sort or allowing my heart and my ears to respond to God's call, and I put forward my suggestion to Bruce last year for possible consideration. Doesn't God work in mysterious ways? Who would have known?

I am not a good singer, I am sure you know this and have heard! However I love music and I have a good ear and a sound rhythm. The beat of music makes me come alive and it is through music that I feel close to the Lord and can feel His Spirit move in me.

I sometimes feel that at church when we worship, we feel a little inhibited and we don't always let ourselves go to offer uplifting Praise. I am aware we aren't attending a rock concert, but I think we can tend to worry too much about what we might look like, or what the people next to us or behind us may think. We feel uncomfortable to raise our arm or lift our hands in worship. A vast comparison for some of us who at home in the freedom of their own company have music on a slighter higher volume as we hum, sing or dance to the beat while hoovering, dusting, cooking or gardening. I wonder if this is how God enjoys seeing us? How we bring Him a smile through our free act of joyful self. It isn't what other people think, it is what God thinks that matters most and allowing the Spirit to move us that is important. Songs are like prayers and I believe that we can use these musical moments to connect and build a personal relationship with our Creator and Saviour.

Another part of me was wondering how many people in the congregation have been blessed with musical talent that we don't know about? Who plays an instrument, writes songs or poetry? Perhaps they are too humble to ask to become part of the worship team or too shy to get involved.

And so.....this is where I came up with the idea of having an outside service in the glorious sunshine (hopefully), enjoying the beauty of nature and God's creation. Allowing ourselves to be free to worship our God and Praise Him - giving Him the Glory. Allowing our senses to soak in the wonder of our Creator. Church is the house of God and a beautiful sanctuary to come into His presence. A time to be still and a time to lift up our voices. But church can also be outside. No walls, no pews, no formality of service but just God's family joining together in fellowship. Let's get 'In Tune with God' and give this outdoors service of Praise a try as I step in Faith and in continued learning of the call to Worship.

Thank you for joining me and for your encouragement of my journey

Mandy Denton

Worship at Wonford

Our Wonford Worship life is always exciting and eventful and here are some of the notable things coming up this July and August.

First and foremost it's our Church Anniversary services on July 17th at both 10am and 6.30pm when we are very blessed to have with us Rev Martin Turner, who until recently was minister at Methodist Central Hall, London. Martin is an in-demand speaker and now lives in his (partial!) retirement in Cheltenham. Please make a point of being at worship for BOTH these services which represent the official birthday of the church (but not it's real one – rather like the Queen has two birthdays). Also we shall be having the usual picnic and Bible Study at the Maer picnic site at Exmouth at 1.15pm when Martin will be leading.

Secondly please do support Mandy Denton's gracious invitation to us all to share a time of fellowship and worship on Sunday 10th July 2016 from 4.30pm out in the orchard where both she and Caroline and their families live on the edge of beautiful countryside at Matford (just down the lane behind the Devon Hotel at Matford). For Mandy it's part of her training portfolio as a Worship Leader and we as a church must support her in that. We will have a 'Bring & Share' barbecue and there is an opportunity for a favourite hymn/song; and if you play an instrument then bring it along. Mandy is calling this event "In Tune with God". Let's get along and support it.

Then from late July to the end of August there is a sequence of evening services at different churches in the city and just outside. Two of these are farewell and welcome services for Circuit ministers. These are all an opportunity to share in worship and fellowship with our friends in other places. We shall do our best to provide transport where and when this is needed. Particularly note the fact that we are hosting one of these combined services at Wonford on the evening of August 21st so it will be good if lots of us are there to welcome and show hospitality to our guests. This one will be a Praise service with our own musicians featuring prominently. So - happy and fulfilling summer worship for us all.

Tony



Prayer Focus for July

**The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want;
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

Psalm 23:1-3 (RSV)

Week beginning Sunday 3rd

Please pray for God's anointing and encouragement to rest on those being ordained today at Conference as they continue their journey of faith. Pray also that the colourful and vibrant 'Journey of Creation' panels created for 'Wonford in Bloom' and displayed on our fence will be a wonderful witness to all who see them.

Week beginning Sunday 10th

Please pray that God will continue to bless our lives with a spirit of love and unity; individually, as a church and in our nation. Pray also that he will lead us 'in paths of righteousness for His name's sake'.

Week beginning Sunday 17th - Church Anniversary

On our journey of faith together as a church, please pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire Rev Martin Turner who leads our anniversary services today. Pray with thankfulness for those who have previously built up our church and brought us this far.

Thank God for Girls Brigade, Mothers and Toddlers and 'Open the Book' which come to a pause in their journeying during the school holidays.

Week beginning Sunday 24th

As God leads Rev David Easton and Rev Steve Ward along new paths please pray for them as we say farewell at the service tonight.

Pray also that God will protect all taking journeys as the holiday period begins.

Week beginning Sunday 31st

Please pray for all who are changing direction in their lives, whether starting or leaving school, college or university; maybe retirement or job change and those who are facing the future alone or adjusting to the disabling effects of chronic illness. Pray that God's peace will be with them and He will truly restore their souls.

Thank God that He continually walks beside us guiding us forward on life's journey.

Phone Prayer Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contacts are Michael or Judith Maher (01392 214789). 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 either 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

Fundraising for Dream-a-Way

We have a couple of events coming up during July, so keep your eyes peeled! There is to be a Gangster double bill, showing 'Bugsy Malone' and 'Some like it Hot' in the church and a car treasure hunt and skittles evening. Dates to be confirmed. As well as supporting us and this great charity, it will be tremendous fun and family and friends will be heartily welcome!



Cheers for now, Lisa Thomas and Pam Richardson

Gary Completes the SW Coast Path

Congratulations to Gary Lord on his completion of the South West Coast Path.

It's taken a long time, Gary, but you made it!! Gary is the fifth member of our church to achieve this following in the footsteps of Dave Westcott, Natalie Husk, Joan and myself. Whereas Gary spread his completion over several years, Natalie did it all in one go during a two month period. Dave is still walking – he must have done it twice over by now and has become a leading expert on the path and its connections with local history. He has nearly finished writing individual guides to the Path and is an in-demand speaker and photographer. For those of you who don't know the Path starts at Minehead and leads anticlockwise around the whole of the South West peninsular, finally ending up at Poole Harbour. So who's going to be the

next to take up the challenge? – it's only 630 miles and the equivalent of four times up Everest from sea level – easy! Any takers? Well done Gary – you will miss it. How about the Two Moors Way next?

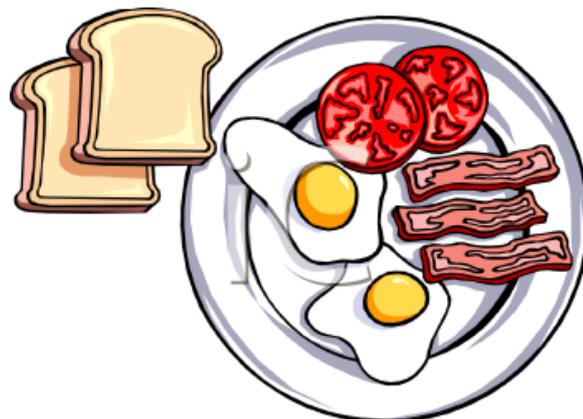


Tony Wragg

'Just Love Exeter' Crosslines Breakfast

This is a homeless breakfast that 'Just Love Exeter' run on a Saturday morning. As students run the breakfast during the term, the holidays pose as a bit of a problem for volunteers as they all go home! A lovely lady called Emma steps in for us over the holidays and is doing the same this summer for 2 1/2 months. She currently is praying and searching for volunteers to help her every Saturday morning from 7-11 at Crosslines to serve the breakfast to the guests. We would greatly appreciate it if you be able to volunteer, even just for one week. Please drop Emma an email on emmab007@hotmail.com to let her know.

Thanks so much
Laura Mak
Just Love Exeter



Dates For Your Diary

July 2016

Annual Methodist Conference meets - 30th June to 7th July in London

| | | |
|----------|------------|---|
| Sat 2nd | | Induction of new President Roger Walton and Vice-President Rachel Lampard at the Conference |
| Sun 3rd | 10.00 a.m. | All Age Worship |
| | 6.30 p.m. | Geoffrey Tamblin |
| Tue 5th | 7.30 p.m. | Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane ** |
| Wed 6th | 7.30 p.m. | CTaX Council meets at St Stephen's |
| | | 'Action for Children' Sunday |
| Sun 10th | 10.00 a.m. | Rev Norman Wallwork - Sacrament Service |
| | 4.30 p.m. | Matford Orchard 'In Tune With God' ** |
| Wed 13th | 7.30 p.m. | Cranbrook Ecumenical Welcome Service for Rev Lythan Nevard at St Martin's School ** |
| | | Church Anniversary Sunday |
| Sun 17th | 10.00 a.m. | Rev Martin Turner |
| | 1.00 p.m. | Picnic and Bible Study at The Maer, Exmouth ** |
| | 6.30 p.m. | Rev Martin Turner - Sacrament Service |
| Tue 19th | 10.00 a.m. | Roundabout Café (until 12pm) |
| | 7.30 p.m. | Home Group Summer 'Bring & Share' Social at 14 Grainger Close - All Welcome ** |
| Thu 21st | 2.00 p.m. | Monthly Bible Study in the lounge ** |
| Sun 24th | 10.00 a.m. | Rev Bruce Sawyer |
| | 6.30 p.m. | Thanks & Farewell Service at Sidwell St MC ** |
| Sun 31st | 10.00 a.m. | Stephen Lawson |
| | 6.30 p.m. | United Service at The Mint - Rev Brian Hadfield |

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

Next Contact Newsletter

The next newsletter will cover August and September 2016. Due to the end of school term being so early this year and having to get the newsletter printed before the end of term, the deadline is Sunday 10th July 2016.

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

- 7.30 p.m. Away Group Bible Study (33 Matford Ave)
Girls' Brigade (4 - 16 year olds) 5.45 to 7pm *A*

Tuesday

- 9.15 a.m. Weekly Prayers in the Quiet Room
10.00 a.m. Men's Coffee and Games Morning
10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café (3rd Tuesday each month)
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*
2.00 p.m. Friday Fellowship in the lounge

Saturday

- 8.30 a.m. Monthly Prayer Breakfast (3rd Saturday each month)

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 August/September 2016 Newsletter will be Sunday 10th July 2016. 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