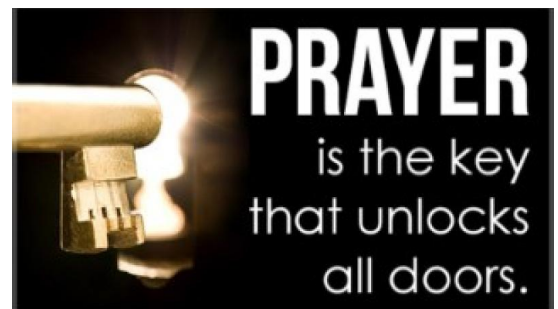
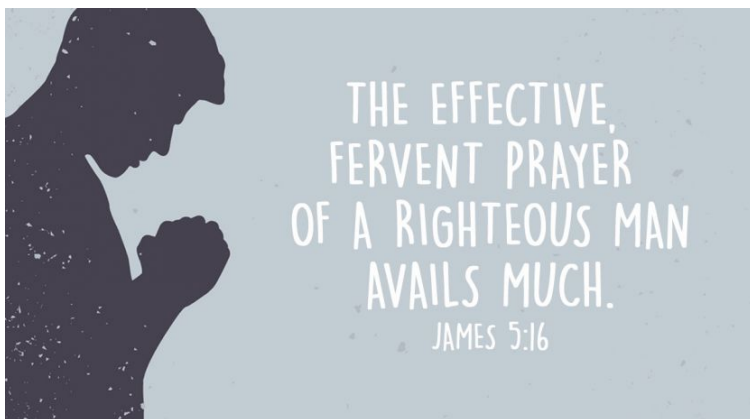


Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

July 2019
(No: 480)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist Church**

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



@WonfordMethodistChurch



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

Paul likened the Church to a body, with different organs, unique in function and appearance, but all having their place and their part. It's an image many Christians are familiar with, and yet, occasionally, a hackneyed idea pops up. This idea is that going to church is like going to a petrol station, and when there, we get 'filled up' by the preacher or minister. We get, in other words, our 'spiritual fix' to keep us going through the week before it's time to get topped up again. The problem with this idea is that it undermines, nay, does away with, any notion of the church being a true priesthood of all believers. The congregation, if we take the petrol station view, are simply passive recipients (or worse, 'customers') rather than the 'living stones' from which the Church is built. The biblical view, that we are all, together, the church, means that we need each other, and all our prayers, and our presence, and our gifts, are needed in order for the church to be what God desires it to be. You hear it said, often, that many in our churches are too old to do anything. Let's challenge this. Let's widen our thinking about people's giftings to go beyond posts that need to be filled (though that's important of course).

I remember, when I was a lay worker in London, a lady rang me from the church where I was due to preach that Sunday. She couldn't do anything very active anymore, she explained, but she could pray – she wanted me to know that she would be praying for me and asked for any particular prayer requests that I might have. What a wonderful, positive, godly attitude. I'll never forget that, though the lady herself has now gone to glory. Who knows what avenues the Spirit opened up because of her prayers? Who knows what she might have brought before the Lord, small but significant matters that others may not have thought about praying for? Tennyson wrote, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of". If he is right (and he is), then dear Gladys certainly did incalculable good simply by offering herself prayerfully before the Lord. Who can do that? Any Christian! We can also offer encouraging words, share what God has done in our lives and "build each other up in love". The simplest things can be the most powerful and we all have something to offer.

With every blessing

Ben Haslam

Dates For July 2019

Coffee

7th	Elaine & Graham
14th	Eileen & Melanie
21st	Pauline
28th	Ruth & Jenny



Flowers

7th	Kathleen & Norman
14th	Eileen
21st	Melanie
28th	Jenny H



Home Group

This group is now meeting fortnightly on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm in different members' homes, as our Sunday Screen Notices will tell each time. Anyone is welcome to come and join us as we explore the Bible together. Come with your questions or thoughts to help us, please!

3rd July 18 Tuckfield Close - looking at the first chapter of Mark

This is the only meeting in July before the summer break. Meetings start again on the 11th September.

Minister's Bible Study

This is led by Rev Ben Haslam each month and includes some discussion. It is usually held on the 3rd Thursday afternoon at 2pm in the church lounge, and lasts about an hour. Please check the monthly Dates or church Notices each month. All are welcome!

Responding to the Gospel - Methodist Prayer Handbook 2019-20

Order one now! I recommend it wholeheartedly; it is my bedtime reading every night. I am happy to order a copy for you – whether you have had it for years, or would like to start using it this coming September.

This is the time that I order our copies. I hope to check with each of you who had one last year. Please tell me if you want a 2019-20 copy: price usually about £3.95 each, but I may get a discount if numbers are good; and there's a Large Print version, same price – just tell me if you want it.

I'd like to know before Sun 14th July, please; but I won't want paying until mid-August when I give you your copy. The Methodist Prayer Handbook is a really worthwhile publication to have beside you; and contains a wide range of information about the Methodist Church in this country and worldwide, as well as the varied and helpful prayers.

Margretta Bowstead (01392-437329)

Creation Celebration

Our friends from Blessed Sacrament Church, Heavitree would like to invite you to an ecumenical Creation Celebration on Saturday 27th July at 11am, followed by a vegan lunch at 12pm. The aim is to celebrate and reimagine our common home, to give thanks for God's gift of creation and to respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, to challenge ourselves to take individual and group action around the climate emergency.

To make this a truly ecumenical event they would also invite you to be involved in the planning and preparation eg. with decorating the church, with refreshments, with music/singing etc. They are holding a planning meeting at 7pm on 12th July 2019, at the Richard Reynolds Centre, Blessed Sacrament Church, Heavitree. It would be great if someone from Wonford Methodist Church could join us then.

Please contact Shirley Larkin s.larkin@ex.ac.uk if you need more info or directions.

Young Church Anniversary Service – Sunday 7th July

Then God said 'Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle and yes the Earth itself and every animal that moves on the face of the Earth'

Genesis 1 v 26 (The Message).

Over the past few weeks we have been looking at what this means for us with our young people at church. We have thought about the wonders of God's creation and how important it is to all of us in so many ways. We have looked at what we love about the things that live and grow all around us, and how we should be caring for them in our gardens, on the beaches & seashores, in our parks and woodland, on the moors and along the riverbanks. We have thought about how we use our senses to feel & touch,

taste, hear, smell and see many of the wonderful things God has provided for us and how we can worship him through enjoyment in nature.

Please come along to our Young Church Anniversary service on Sunday 7th July when we will share what we have been doing and encourage you to think a bit more about our place as Christians in God's creation.

Sue Keatt

Do You Love Trees?

I do have such a love for trees and am blessed to live adjacent to Ludwell Valley Park where there are many different types of beautiful trees. I have also planted a few smaller ones in my garden although two of them are not so small anymore! Sometimes when I am out walking I have been known to stretch out my arms and hug a large tree – it feels great! I thank the Lord for trees as not only are they beautiful, they provide us with oxygen, purify the air, contribute in water cycle & in climate change, provide us with wood, food, give shelter, protect wildlife and give us medicine. So, if you are able, next time you are outside I would encourage you to look up & around at the trees, stand beneath one, gaze up to the branches, reflect on its beauty & thank God for His creation. Oh, and if you feel like it, give it a big hug!

TREES by Joyce Kilmer. (1914)

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.*

Sue Keatt, Church Green Team

Prayer Focus for July

Pray Without Ceasing!

This months prayer focus is very similar to last months. I make no apology for this. So much is ongoing that needs much prayer.

As usual please pray each day for all who are leading worship each Sunday and those leading Bible studies, Messy church and Girls' Brigade and Mum's and Tots. This month please pray also for our church anniversary which takes place on 14th July. Pray for safe travels for Rev Steve Wild and that we would all gain a deeper relationship with the Lord. Steve doesn't seem to travel anywhere without leading someone to Christ so pray for a 'fruitful' journey for him.

This month remember in your prayers those who have taken GCSE and A Level exams. Pray that as they await results they will be relaxed and free of worry.

Our Country is still in political turmoil and we desperately need to pray for our politicians. Our Country as a whole is still divided. We are seeing many industries and big name shops failing all of which adds to more people unemployed. Our education system, NHS, social care for all ages are all struggling to meet the needs of the people. We need to pray for healing in our land.

Continue to pray for all the war torn countries all over the world and continue to pray for the persecuted church. It is now understood that Christians are the most persecuted of all religious groups. Pray for those who are helping in the worst areas of the world.



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

If you have anything that you would like to be included please let Julie Rothwell know.

Our Prayer Phone 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 (01392 437329) or 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.

News From The Methodist Church

Grenfell Fire - Two Years On

The catastrophic fire at Grenfell Tower started in the early hours of 14th June 2017. To mark the second anniversary, Notting Hill Methodist Church will be open for quiet reflection from midnight on Friday. The Revd Mike Long, whose church sits below the tower, said:

“We want people to know they have somewhere to come if they need or wish to be together, not out of some duty, but if they feel it would help in some small way.”

Over the last two years the Church and Revd Long have responded to the tragedy, offering pastoral and practical support and have hosted many community meetings and agencies supporting the people affected by the fire.

“Major urgent building works more recently mean we have had less resource available but from the Autumn with new community spaces including a kitchen, we hope to focus on young people and children as well as the wide spread challenge of loneliness amongst older people”, said Revd Long.

Since the first anniversary, a new foodbank has opened in the Church. “It was planned before the fire”, said Revd Long. Operated with the Trussell Trust, the foodbank offers support for the local community to which Universal Credit was rolled out last December.

Speaking about what has changed for people since the first anniversary, Revd Long, said: “Everyone knows there will be a long wait for answers and decisions to be made about the future for the tower. Patience is about actively sticking it out, enduring the limbo. This is hard for many, especially those worried about for example, the long term impact of the fire on the environment.”

Revd Long and other faith leaders will take part in a vigil in the evening of 14th June before what has become a monthly silent walk starting and ending at Notting Hill Methodist Church. “Faith can help people connect with their feelings and give expression to them”, said, Revd Long.

Methodist Church welcomes ruling on arms to Saudi Arabia

The Methodist Church has welcomed a ruling by the Court of Appeal on the legality of UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Conference, said:

“The Methodist Church welcomes the Court of Appeal’s ruling that the UK’s on-going arms sales to Saudi Arabia are illegal. The Methodist Church has been actively campaigning for the suspension of arms sales to Saudi Arabia for a number of years.

The practice of our government to license arms sales without being clear that they will not be used to commit atrocities or otherwise violate international law is unacceptable. A fair and legal assessment of the harm caused by these sales should conclude that arms sales to Saudi Arabia should be immediately suspended. The United Nations have warned that at least 13 million lives are in jeopardy as a consequence of conflict in Yemen. The Methodist Church repeats our earlier calls for the UK and other major nations immediately to cease all exports of arms to Saudi Arabia and support a ceasefire in Yemen.”

The Methodist Church, together with other denominations, has campaigned over a number of years for the trade of arms to Saudi Arabia to be stopped.

First Methodist Church receives Gold Eco Church Award

Stratford-Upon-Avon Methodist Church has become the first Methodist Church in the country to receive a Gold Eco Church award. The award recognises the top level of achievement as part of environmental charity A Rocha’s Eco Church scheme, which encourages churches to make changes to improve their climate impact and take action for the environment.

Stratford Methodist Church building was refurbished in 2014 which has significantly reduced its gas consumption, successfully reducing the carbon footprint of the church premises from 40 tonnes to 16 tonnes CO2 annually. The church has also installed solar panels and a ground source heat pump, and started using rainwater to flush the toilets. This has allowed the church to invite more community groups to use the building while continuing to reduce the environmental impact.

Alongside Stratford Climate Action Network, the church organised the first

Eco Fair in Stratford-Upon-Avon, and are busy preparing for this year's Stratford Climate Action Day on 22 June. Future environmental work for the church will involve more interaction with local groups, on a Climate Emergency campaign.

As well as working with environmental groups in the town, the church is working to encourage other local churches to become Eco Churches. It hopes to support their circuit, the newly created South Warwickshire Circuit, to take part in the new Eco Circuit scheme.

Members of the church who worked on the award said they were most proud of their wild flower garden which they developed on a small strip of land behind the church to encourage biodiversity.

Members of the church said:

“We appreciate very much the way the congregation supported the green measures we included in the redevelopment plan. The way the congregation took over the development plan of the small land strip at the back of the building is very inspiring.

“The Eco-Church programme provides a very comprehensive schedule to help congregations do what they can to care for the environment. It is not just for big congregations with a lot of resources. By taking part in both the Eco Congregation and Eco Church programmes we have become more aware of the way we can be good stewards of God's creation.”

A Rocha, who organise the scheme, commented:

“We are delighted that Stratford Methodist Church has recently become the first Methodist church to achieve a Gold Eco Church award. It's reflective of years of hard work and investment to put caring for creation front and centre of every aspect of their church life.

“There has never been a more critical time than now for Christians to be caring for the whole of the earth in the way that God intended. With 176 other Methodist churches registered for Eco Church, it's also reflective of the Methodist Church's commitment to seeing 'all of God's created Kingdom not just survive but thrive’”.



Cornish graduate travels to India for mission work

A Cornish graduate is about to embark on a two-month trip to India to work with young people in the south of the country. 23-year-old Louis Tregonning from St Austell, graduated with dual honours in Applied Theology and Performing Arts in 2018 and will be using his drama skills as part of the Methodist Church-run programme, Encounter Worldwide.

Louis was originally matched with a mission project in Sri Lanka, but after the recent terrorist attacks, was offered an alternative placement in Royapettah, Chennai, India. It won't be his first trip to the country as he visited during a two week trip with his Bible College last summer and this is where he got a taste for mission work. He will be using his arts background to run drama workshops with young people. Louis says he's excited about the challenge:

"It's felt like a crazy time trying to arrange all sorts of things for this new trip and learning all these new things about the place I'm going out to. But it is at times like these that I am reminded that it isn't through our own energies but through God and the gift of His Holy Spirit that we are sent to 'go and make disciples'. So despite the fact that it seems like there is too much to do and not enough time, in truth all I have to do is trust and obey and God will help me to grow through the process."

In preparation for the trip, Louis has also learnt more about mission work: "I'm sure what I've learnt will be of great benefit to me once I get out on there. It was so inspirational to get the opportunity to find out a bit more about some of the great missionaries from the past, and also, how important it is for missionaries today to look after themselves, as well as for others."



Dates For Your Diary

July 2019

27 June - 4 July. Methodist Conference meet in Birmingham

Wed 3rd	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 18 Tuckfield Close **
Sun 7th	10.00 a.m.	Young Church Celebration - All Age Worship **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament Service
Wed 10th	7.00 p.m.	CTAX Meeting, Belmont Chapel
	7.30 p.m.	Circuit Meeting, Seaton MC
Thu 11th	6.00 p.m.	DFBF Talk 'Religious Diversity', The Guildhall **
	7.30 p.m.	'Marriage and Relationships Debate'
		Sam McBratney and Rev Paul Smith in conversation at Wonford Methodist Church **
Sat 13th	10.00 a.m.	Safeguarding Refresher FM Training St Thomas MC

Church Anniversary Services

Sun 14th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Steve Wild - followed by BYO Picnic
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Steve Wild - Circuit Service, LP Recognition of Abigail Hardiman
Tue 16th	10.00 a.m.	The Roundabout Café meets (until 12pm)
Wed 17th	7.00 p.m.	Farewell Service for Rev Yangsun Yi, Sidwell St MC
Thu 18th	2.00 p.m.	Minister's Bible Study meets in the lounge **
Sun 24th	10.00 a.m.	Abigail Hardiman
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church
Sun 28th	10.00 a.m.	Paul Violet
	6.30 p.m.	Pam Murphy

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

August / September 2019 Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter covers August and September 2019. Due to printing issues the absolute deadline for articles is Sunday 14th August 2019.

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

Girls' Brigade (4 - 16 year olds) 5.45 to 7pm ***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 Café *(3rd Tuesday each month)*

Wednesday

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

Thursday

2.00 p.m. Minister's 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 August/September 2019 Newsletter will be Sunday 14th July 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