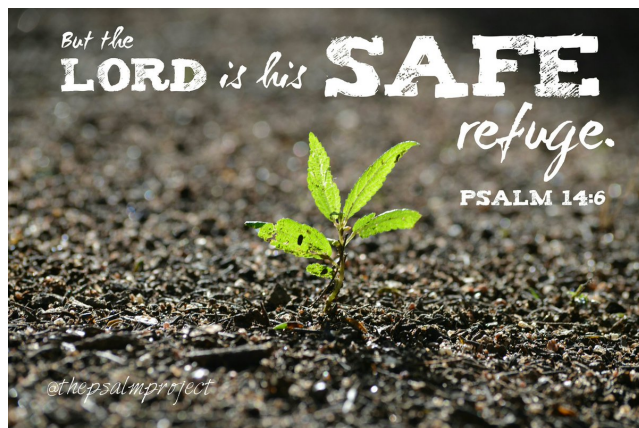


Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

July 2023
(No: 521)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



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A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

Psalm 14

This psalm begins with one of the most famous lines in the whole of the book – ‘the fool says in his heart, there is no God’. The ‘fool’ in question wouldn’t have been an atheist, as atheism was virtually unknown when this was written. What it actually means is that said fool looks around him and says to himself, ‘God is absent, and has no interest in what’s going on here’. In the eighteenth century, a school of thought known as ‘Deism’, which taught that God created the world, set it in motion and then left it to its own devices, and was this a distant, unknowable God who plays no active part in our day to day lives. Deists are, according to the psalmist, fools and such ‘foolish’ beliefs persist today. There are also those who believe in God’s active presence in the world, without this making any difference to the way they live – they still want to manage and control everything around them instead of following the patient, prayerful path of discernment which allows us to be guided by Him, pushing our egos to the side and putting God in the centre.

God has given us free will, but the psalmist states that, far from being indifferent to how we use this free will, grieves over the stupid and selfish choices we do often make. That’s not all however. God is most definitely present alongside those who genuinely seek Him, and, ultimately, amid the chaos and seeming hopelessness of the world, brings cause for celebration. We can live as if God didn’t exist, or we can invite Him to take the reins. That path leads to security, fruitfulness and rejoicing – and only a fool wouldn’t want those things!

With every blessing

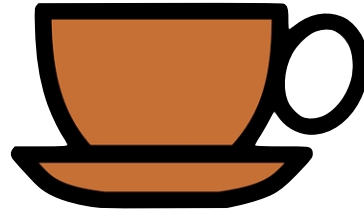
Ben Haslam



Dates For July 2023

Coffee

2nd	Monika & Bill
9th	Terry & Alf
16th	Linda & Mervyn
23rd	Liz & Pauline
30th	Elaine & Graham



Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In July they meet on the 7th and 21st to complete their Bible Month studies of the Book of Revelation. They will also be having a summer social at a venue to be arranged - listen out for notices. Please do join them if you are able.

Monika

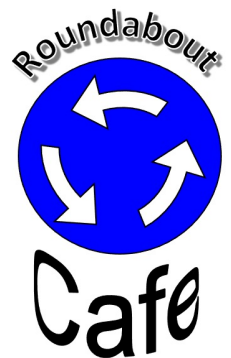
The Away Group

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 18th July 2023 (weather permitting).

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 July we will be having the following activities for you to join if you would like to alongside the free cuppa & cake, and good company:

1st July

We'll be enjoying Music from the 1960s and challenging you to see how many songs and singers you can name from the swinging sixties.

8th July

It is World Chocolate Day so we have a wonderful excuse to try out some surprisingly different chocolate flavours and will be quizzing you about your knowledge of chocolate!

15th July

We will be running a Clothes Swap so here is an opportunity to bring one or two items to give away and in return get something new for yourself

22nd July

We'll have our monthly Games Morning with the pool table, table football and a variety of table top games.

29th July

It is International Friendship Day so you can join us in making a simple gift for a friend

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

For Thine Is The Power

Many of you when on holiday will have visited Clovelly on the Devon coast. Perched 400ft above its harbour, Clovelly was unknown to the outside world until the 19th century, but now its steep, cobbled streets attract thousands of visitors. The village is unchanged and pedestrianised. Goods for its few inhabitants are moved over the cobbles on sledges. The beauty and charm of this hidden gem are preserved.

Recently, a friend Brian, told me that he was an engineer, who years ago had to install electric lights at the top of Clovelly's main street. The cobbles were carefully removed, and each one carefully numbered! A trench was dug and the electric cable inserted. Then the cobbles were expertly

replaced in their original positions; the power was now there, but no cables were showing.

Right now, the Christian Church in many places is getting alongside people struggling with the high cost of living, opening its warm premises and providing free meals, care and friendship; but on the debit side, many Churches are themselves struggling with rising prices and considerably fewer members, and have had to close altogether. Fewer Churches, leaders, preachers, members.

We desperately need again the life-giving power of God's Holy Spirit in our lives! Like those cobbles in Clovelly, each one of us is precious to God, not numbered, but named! Jesus knows each one of us by name, but we have lost the power of God. All Christians need empowering by the unseen power of the Holy Spirit. It's back to our roots, how the Church burst into life on that Day of Pentecost 2000 years ago in Jerusalem! That's where the spiritual revolution began. That's when people were attracted by the Good News of Christ being preached, and flooded into the Church. We need another Pentecost! Like those first disciples, we must learn to watch and pray:

***“On all the earth Thy Spirit shower;
The earth in righteousness renew;
Thy kingdom come, and hell's o'erpower,
And to Thy sceptre all subdue.”***

PS. As I finished typing this article, I switched on my TV and saw the closing, very inspiring song from 'Sister Act 2', with Sister Mary Clarence leading her charismatic youth choir in singing 'Fill Us With The Light Of Day!' God's unseen power.

Rev Malcolm Carter



Prayer Focus for July

Week Commencing Sunday 2nd July

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations.

Psalm 89:1

We thank God for all the young people in our church as we celebrate the Young Church anniversary! Help them all to grow in faith and in love for you. Bless all the leaders and helpers of Young Church.

Week Commencing Sunday 9th July

I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you have established your
faithfulness in heaven itself.

Psalm 89:2

We thank God for all the years of witness of Wonford Methodist Church in this community! As we celebrate our church anniversary may we be thankful for all past blessings, joyful for all that God is doing amongst us at the moment and hungry to know and share more of Jesus in the future!

Week Commencing Sunday 16th July

The heavens praise your wonders, Lord,
your faithfulness too, in the
assembly of the holy ones.

Psalm 89:5

We give thanks for new church family members! May we continue to grow together in love so that we reflect Jesus to one another and to the community around us.

Week Commencing Sunday 23rd July

For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord?
Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings?

Psalm 89:6

We pray for all those heading off on summer breaks and holidays. May they be refreshed and renewed in body and spirit. And whether we are at work or at play this summer, may we all be blessed with the opportunity to find rest and refreshment out in the warmer weather.

Week Commencing Sunday 30th July

Who is like you, Lord God Almighty?
You, Lord, are mighty,
and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Psalm 89:8

We pray for our Saturday Wonford Welcome. We thank you that it is truly a welcoming space for all. Bless all those who help to make it happen.

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

Fun Insect Quiz - Answers

This quiz was in the June Newsletter. Below are the answers. How many did you get correct?

1. How many species of insect have been identified in the world?
 - a) 565,000
 - b) 925,000
 - c) 1,200,000

Answer - b) 925,000

2. How many days (on average) does a bumblebee live for?

- a) 19
- b) 28
- c) 36

Answer - b) 28

3. How many different species of ladybird are there in the world?

- a) 2000
- b) 5000
- c) 8000

Answer - b) 5000

4. Which beetle is the strongest insect on the planet?

- a) Rhinoceros beetle
- b) Bull-headed dung beetle
- c) Hercules beetle

Answer - b) Bull-headed dung beetle

5. What insect was the first living creature to be sent into space?

- a) Soldier ant
- b) Cockroach
- c) Fruit fly

Answer - c) Fruit Fly

6. What percentage of all the species in the world are insects?

- a) 25%
- b) 40%
- c) 80%

Answer - c) 80%

7. How old (in millions of years) is the oldest insect fossil?

- a) 180
- b) 320
- c) 400

Answer - c) 400 million years old

8. Insects have structures known as simple eyes, in addition to the compound eyes they use to see. But what do they use these simple eyes for?

- a) Detecting colours
- b) Magnifying images
- c) Detecting light

Answer - c) Detecting Light

9. What is the loudest insect in the world?

- a) Cicada
- b) Cricket
- c) Bee

Answer - a) Cicada

10. What is the largest butterfly in the UK?

- a) Purple emperor
- b) Swallowtail
- c) Peacock

Answer - b) Swallowtail

Cleaning Materials

Over the last twenty years there has been a huge rise in the variety of cleaning products available and now there are sprays/liquids/wipes specifically for kitchen floors, shower cubicles and cooker tops. But do we really need all of these different products and what is the impact on the environment?

Most cleaning products are washed down drains and some of the chemicals they contain will end up in our waterways causing pollution. Ammonia, nitrogen and phosphates in waterways lead to increased growth of aquatic plants which clogs habitats and leads to decreased oxygen levels adversely affecting wildlife. Cleaning products are also a significant source of urban air contamination.

Cleanliness is, of course, important for our health but perhaps we can consider cleaning products that are more environmentally friendly which don't contain toxins or harmful chemicals ie no phosphates, no chlorine, no artificial fragrances or colours. These 'green' cleaning products often

contain natural ingredients such as pine oil, are manufactured with less impact on the environment and have biodegradable or recyclable packaging.

Unfortunately environmentally friendly products are generally more expensive but if we reduce the range of products we use it may save money enabling us to buy a smaller range of 'green' cleaning products.

Margretta initiated the use of more environmentally friendly cleaning products here at Church and, to reduce our use of plastic further, 5l bottles of liquid soap and washing up liquid have now been purchased so we can refill existing containers. We are also trying out discs which can be dissolved in water in an existing spray bottle to make anti-bacterial spray.

At home I have realised that hot, soapy water is better for cleaning than most of the fancy sprays and I am using white vinegar and bicarbonate of soda to clean the toilet and soda crystals down plug holes to keep them clean and smelling fresh.

There are lots of recipes for cleaning products available online and you can add essential oils if you want fragrance. This recipe for an all-purpose cleaner is from the Friends of the Earth website and it can be used on tiles, windows, mirrors and other hard surfaces in the kitchen and bathroom.

Ingredients:

½ cup of white vinegar

¼ cup bicarbonate of soda

2 litres of water

Mix in a bucket and decant into a spray bottle

I couldn't write an item about cleaning without saying a huge thank you to the Cleaning Team at Church for all you do – it is very much appreciated!

Helen for the Green Team

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2023/2024

"The 2023/24 Methodist Prayer Handbook, entitled "Hidden Treasures" is now available to order and, following in the faithful footsteps of Margretta, Caroline Colin will be happy to receive your order for this year. Please let her know, as soon as possible, if you would like a copy.

The cost is £4.50 each (larger print copies available at the same price) HOWEVER, if she receives enough requests for a bulk order, the price reduces to £4.15 per copy."

Dates For Your Diary

July 2023

Sat 1st	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 2nd	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship - Young Church Celebration
Fri 7th	3.00 p.m.	Friday Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 8th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 9th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Dr David Hull - Church Anniversary This will be followed by a lunchtime Bible Study and picnic at Exmouth
	6.30 pm.	Rev Dr David Hull - Church Anniversary
Tue 13th	7.30 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Fri 14th		Summer Fete at Wynstream School
Sat 15th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) *
Sun 16th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament
Tue 18th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Fri 21st	3.00 p.m.	Friday Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 22nd	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Prof Stephen Lea
	6.30 p.m.	Circuit Service at Seaton MC
Sat 29th	10.00 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 30th	10.00 a.m.	Pamela Murphy

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

August / September 2023 Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter covers these two months. The deadline is quite early (Sunday 9th July 2023) since I need to get it printed before the end of the school term

The deadline for items for the August / September 2023 Newsletter will be Sunday 9th July 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)