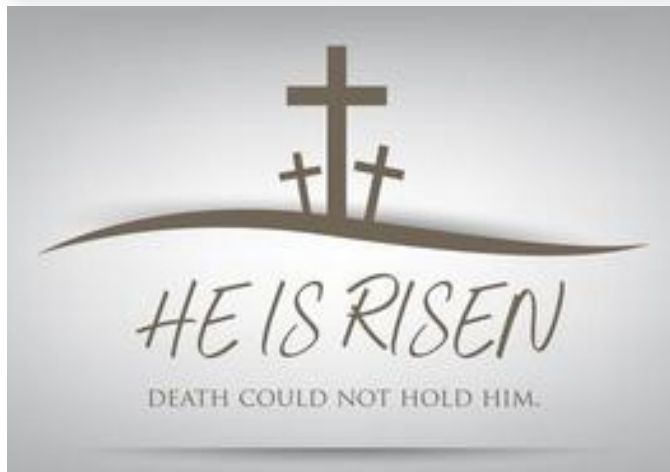


Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

March 2024

(No: 527)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



@WonfordMethodistChurch



YouTube Wonford Methodist Church



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

Psalm 51

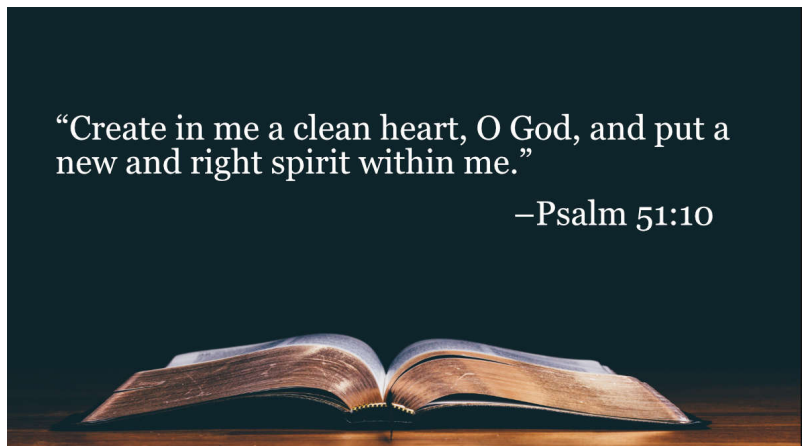
We sometimes teach children to pray with a teaspoon. TSP of course, standing for 'thank you, sorry and please'. This is a good way into prayer, but I wonder if our understanding of the 'sorry' but never really develops much from our childhood understanding. What I mean is, we say 'sorry' to God when we've done something particularly regrettable, but otherwise we assume we're fine. On the other hand, there are those who live with a constant, and crippling, sense of their own wretchedness, plagued with a feeling of being worthless. Psalm 51 delivers a crucial message for both.

The context is this: David, the author, has committed adultery with Bathsheba and arranged for her husband to be killed in battle so as to hide the fact that Bathsheba is pregnant and the child is his. Quite the faux pas by anyone's reckoning! The psalm is David's outpouring of regret, repentance, and anguish, but also trust that God is merciful, gracious and able to 'wash him whiter than snow'. Even after such a transgression, which David in no way diminishes or attempts to excuse, still asked for mercy, fully expecting, it seems, to receive it. Nothing and nobody, clearly, is beyond the scope of God's redemptive love. It's also worth noting that David identifies the root cause of his wrongdoing, namely, in heart which had drifted from God. He asks, not just for forgiveness, but a new spirit, a new heart, the cleansing, healing, regenerative power which only God's Spirit can bring. A great sin thus becomes a springboard for a better, healthier, holier life. Because God is who He is, this is how it often works when we really and truly seek Him, whatever we've done and whatever we think of ourselves. If we want it, and seek it, and are prepared to be changed by it, there is grace and mercy unbounded, there for the taking, from our ever loving, ever gracious God.

**With every blessing
Ben Haslam**

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me."

—Psalm 51:10



Dates For March 2024

Coffee

3rd	Elaine & Graham
10th	David P & Tony W
17th	Terry & Margaret D
24th	Melanie & Nussy
31st	Linda & Mervyn

Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In March they are meeting on the 1st and 15th and are continuing studying the Ten Commandments with a study guide by J John based on the Just 10 series of talks. All are welcome to attend. Please speak to Monika Noronha or Terry Spencer if you want further details.

Monika

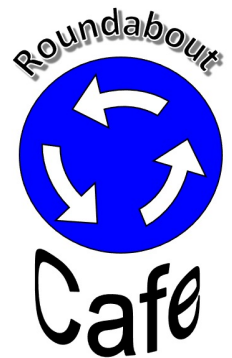
The Away Group

This group is currently not meeting whilst the Alpha Course (see below) is taking place.

Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 19th March 2024 when there will be a talk on 'The Building Stones of Exeter' with John Davidson.

John is a retired teacher with a keen interest in our City. His talk on the 'Exeter Floods' last year was very popular and he returns with a look at some of the common and less common stones that make up our City.



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

Alpha Course

This meets on a Monday at 7.30pm and will be held in the lounge. Come along and find out more about this exciting course. Further details will be given in notices each Sunday.

Tony Wragg

Wonford Welcome Drop-In for Everyone - Saturdays 10.30am to 12.30pm (optional warm light lunch at 12.00pm - cost 50p)

In March we will be having the following activities for you to join if you would like alongside the free cuppa & biscuits -

2nd March - for World Book Day we will have a book swap morning so please bring good condition books you no longer need and maybe get a new book to take home.

9th March - we'll be making up Mothering Sunday posies and then share a 2 course community meal together.

16th March - there will be a St Patrick's Day themed game/quiz and some green snacks to enjoy!

23rd March - we will be playing Recycling Bingo with prizes for a line and a full house.

30th March - on Holy Saturday we will have a time of reflection & prayer and enjoy eating hot cross buns (there will not be a warm light lunch).

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

Monthly Prayer Meeting

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. For March this will be the 19th.

Lisa Thomas

Spring Preaching Series 2024

Adventures of the Early Church: A Journey through Acts

This continues into March and April.

Mar 3 Acts 9 vv1-19

Paul's Conversion; Road to Damascus. *Caroline Colin AA*

Mar 10 Acts 10

Peter meets Cornelius; Changed perspective. *Rev Ben Haslam*

Easter

Apr 7 Acts 11 vv13-19

The Church in Antioch *Dr Jon Curtis*

Apr 14 Acts 16

The man of Macedonia/into Europe; and Lydia. *Rev Ben Haslam*

Apr 21 Acts 17 vv16-33

Paul in Athens. *Dr Joan Wragg*

Apr 28 Acts 28 vv11-28

Onward to Rome *Prof Tony Wragg*

How We Can Make a Difference - 'Green' days throughout March

4th–17th March - Fairtrade fortnight. We are increasingly more how interconnected we are globally. This is at the very heart of the Fairtrade message and is where their role begins. It's a special festival where companies, individuals, groups, and welfare organisations come together to recognise and celebrate the farmers and workers in developing countries. Did you know that most of these people who work hard to produce the food that comes to our tables are often underpaid and exploited? This Fairtrade Fortnight is an event that highlights their issues and problems.

By supporting Fairtrade, we have the power to drive long-term change, not only with our shopping choices but with our support in spreading the message and through prayer. Thank the Lord for the work of organisations like Fairtrade and Traidcraft, and lift our prayers of support for the farmers & workers who grow our food and the issues they face.

3rd March – World Wildlife Day. The theme for this year is 'Connecting People & Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation'. We are in the midst of a global digital revolution that is breaking down barriers to people-centred digital governance and to equal opportunities for all to unleash the power of digital transformation. The 'digital divide' is slowly narrowing, with better connectivity and Internet access reaching 66 per cent of our global population. However, around 2.7 billion people of our global population are still not online. On average, only 36 per cent of the populations in the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries are online. Women and young people are more likely to experience gaps in Internet access and/or job-ready digital skills. Technological innovation has made research, communication, tracking, DNA analysis and many other aspects of wildlife conservation easier, more efficient and accurate. Yet, uneven access to these new tools,

environmental pollution and unsustainable applications of certain technologies remain critical issues for achieving universal digital inclusion by 2030. World Wildlife Day 2024 is a platform for intergenerational exchange and youth empowerment through art, presentations and conversations on the opportunities ahead for our shared sustainable future in digital wildlife conservation. WWD2024 offers a jumping off point for exploring what digital innovations are available now, what intersectional discrepancies we are facing and how we want our digital connectivity to evolve for all people and planet.

What can we do to help protect wildlife? Live your daily life with the smallest negative impact on the environment, wildlife, their habitats, or the planet's biodiversity, discuss wildlife conservation and what you and your community can do to help. Consume Responsibly – we could find out how and what we consume could affect the lives & environment of wildlife. And ask ourselves is it ethically sourced, promoting sustainable living and good animal welfare? Stay informed – learn more about the planet's flora and fauna, including those that are in danger of extinction.

Volunteer – we cannot always give money, but we can pray and donate our time. Often wildlife and conservation organisations like the Devon Wildlife Trust & Ludwell Life have volunteer events and even safely picking up & disposing of litter can protect wildlife from harm.

18th March – Global Recycling Day. Every year the Earth yields billions of natural resources and at some point, in the not too distant future, it will run out. Think again about what we throw away – seeing not waste but opportunity. Recycling is a key part of the circular economy, helping us to protect our natural resources. Give thanks to our Creator God for the wonderful world He has given us and pray that we as stewards cultivate, guard and use it wisely.

22nd March – World Water Day. This year's theme will be 'Leveraging Water for Peace', which raises awareness and inspires us to tackle the water and sanitation crisis around the world – 2.2 billion people are living without access to safe water. How important is water to your home and daily life, your wellbeing, your local environment? Think about the different ways water benefits our lives, how we can value water properly and safeguard it effectively for everyone. Thank the Lord for all we have and pray for those who cannot turn on a tap or access fresh water.

Church Green Team - Sue K, Alison H, Helen M and Liz S

Book Swap for World Book Day

Back in 1923 'Book Day' was a Catalan tradition of giving books away to friends and family in honour of the birthday of Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes (most famous for his book Don Quixote).

In 1995 UNESCO created 'World Book & Copyright Day' which was aimed at promoting reading, publishing and copyright. Since then World Book Day has grown with over 100 countries now taking part and with celebrations that encompass everything from reading and writing, to fancy dress and drama events.

The 23rd of April was selected for World Book Day as it was the anniversary of the deaths of William Shakespeare and Miguel De Cervantes and several other prominent authors were born on or died on this day

The United Kingdom's own version of World Book Day began in 1998 and a charity called World Book Day gave several million schoolchildren in the UK a special £1 World Book Day Book Token which could be redeemed against any book in any UK bookshop. To avoid a clash with St Georges Day World Book Day UK is held on the first Thursday in March.

To mark World Book Day UK we are having a Book Swap on Saturday 2nd March from 10.30am to 12pm. Please bring along books for adults, teens or children and swap them for others. There will also be book related quizzes and questions, a story corner for children and free refreshments

We are also hoping to set up a Book Nook in the Church Hall for those attending Toddler Group, Wonford Welcome and Sunday Services. The charity Exeter City of Literature are donating twenty new books and a bookshelf to start us off. They have also supplied bookmarks and Literary Maps of Exeter and Devon which will be available at the Book Swap. To find out more about their work visit www.exetercityofliterature.com

Helen Moore

Our Church Giving

With the high cost of living still affecting us all, our church offerings are feeling the same sort of pressure and over the past year our offerings have decreased by almost 10%.

One way to boost our income is by Gift Aiding our giving; the church can then claim 20% Gift Aid. If you pay income tax we can claim Gift Aid on your giving whether it is by the envelope scheme or direct bank transfer.

Also we can claim Gift Aid on loose cash given during our collections.

For more information please chat to our Gift Aid Secretary, Paul Violet, or our Treasurer, David Westcott.

Parking at Church

As you all know, there are no lines in the car park. This allows those who come by car to park in the car parking area fairly freely.

We would like to remind our drivers to be mindful of this space to allow all who want to and need to park on church grounds to be able to.

If there appears to be no more parking available or you are able to walk, there are spaces on the opposite side of the Lidl car park (close to the fields) that we can use.

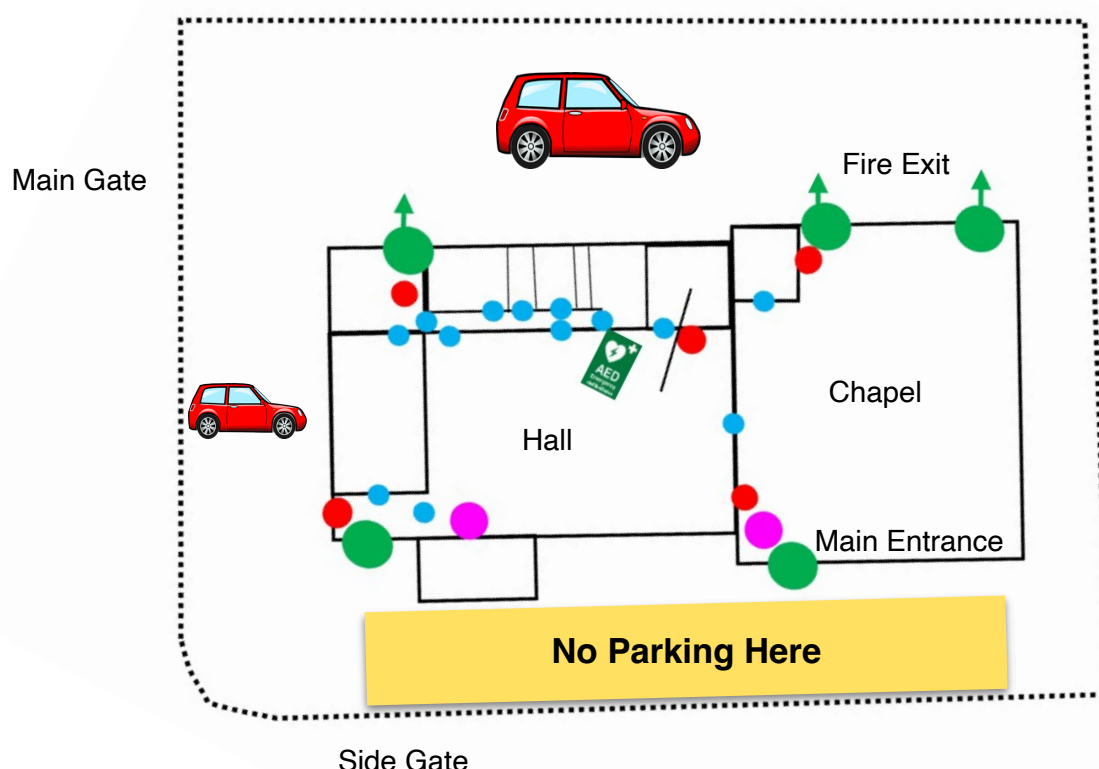
We have had a chat with the manager of the store and he is happy for spaces that are away from the main shop to be used. There are no cameras or security systems; parking is completely free and there are no time restrictions.

The Leadership Team's main concern is that on days that the car park is very full emergency vehicles may not be able to access the site safely.

Please make sure that you are not parked in the fire assembly area (marked on the fence near the pedestrian front gate) opposite the church front door facing Lidl or covering any exit doors - see plan below.

Thank you,

Lisa on behalf of Leadership Team



Easter Dawn Service



If the weather is good we would depart Wonford Methodist Church at 6:15am to walk up the hill for an Easter Sunday Dawn Service! It is also possible to drive to Pynes Hill and access the field with a shorter, level walk. We usually share communion and sing some Easter songs. If the weather is not suitable we would remain at church.

Also, if interest and the necessary help is forthcoming, we could have breakfast together at church. Please speak with Monika if you are keen to attend or help in any way, thank you!

Monika Noronha

Lent In The Spotlight

In the course of my work as a prison chaplain, I went one morning to visit an inmate who had just arrived in Liverpool Jail. He had committed several serious drug offences. I entered his cell, explained who I was, and shook hands with him. His very first words were, "My uncle is a Methodist lay preacher!" He quickly wanted to get out of the spotlight of selling vast amounts of dangerous drugs, by shifting the spotlight to his worthy uncle!

"An Inspector Calls" is a powerful film often shown on TV; many of you will have seen it. A very respectable, upper-class family are interrupted in their evening meal by a police inspector, who informs them that a young woman, Eva Smith, has just taken her own life. The whole Birling family deny having any knowledge of or involvement with this Eva, and express annoyance at this inspector's sudden, uncalled-for intrusion into their family celebrations.

However, the inspector's persistent investigation reveals that ALL the Birling family, father, mother, daughter, son, plus the daughter's fiancé DID know and meet Eva, and each one clearly played some part in Eva's death. The daughter admits "We're up to our necks in it, aren't we?" One by one, the

inspector puts each of their lives firmly in the guilt spotlight.

Years ago on holiday in Spain, I saw El Greco's famous painting of the crucifixion in Toledo Cathedral. He was accused of making a huge error by painting the soldiers in Spanish uniform, not Roman! But El Greco insisted he was right to put Spanish soldiers in the spotlight at Calvary.

Certainly Peter, Jesus' right-hand man, didn't want to be in the spotlight when he was asked if he knew this arrested prisoner Jesus. 'Peter got really nervous and swore, "I never laid eyes on this man you're talking about."' (Mark 14 v 71) Make no mistake, we are all implicated in Christ's death! Would I, would you, have shouted "Crucify him!" when Pilate asked the crowd what they wanted him to do with Jesus?

The season of Lent reminds us that we are ALL in the spotlight! Our challenge is to use these weeks leading up to Easter to make time each day to pray, to deepen our commitment to our Lord, and ask for His increased power in our lives. Let's make space to put ourselves in the spotlight at Calvary.

***"Guilty, vile and helpless we,
Spotless Lamb of God was He,
Full atonement can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Saviour!"***

A 'holy inspector' has unexpectedly called to ask us, "Were YOU there when they crucified my Lord?"

Rev Malcolm Carter

Prayer Focus for March

Week Commencing Sunday 3rd March [3rd Sunday of Lent]

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.
Psalm 9:1-2

We give thanks to God for all the signs of Spring. Here is a prayer challenge: Find something each day this week for which you can be thankful!

Week Commencing Sunday 10th March [4th Sunday of Lent and Mother's Day]

He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

Psalm 91:4

Give thanks that God cares for every one of us and wraps his loving arms around us!

Continue the prayer challenge of daily giving thanks to God for something!

Week Commencing Sunday 17th March [5th Sunday of Lent]

The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.
They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

Psalm 19:9b-10

Give thanks for God's Word, the Bible. Pray for all those who help us unlock its meaning and God's purpose for our lives. How is the Prayer Challenge going? Keep it up!

Week commencing Sunday 24th March [Palm Sunday]

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Mark 11:9b-10

As Passion Week commences, thank God for sending Jesus, who suffered and died all for love's sake. Pray for friends and family who do not yet know just how much Jesus loves them. What are you thankful for this week?



Week Commencing Sunday 31st March - EASTER SUNDAY

“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. HE HAS RISEN! He is not here.

See the place where they laid him.

Mark 16:6

Give thanks for the love of God, which conquered death, for Jesus who rose victorious, for the forgiveness of our sins and the offer of a new, eternal life with Jesus! If you have been thankful for something each day this month, you may be on your way to a life-transforming habit! Pray that we will all learn to be more thankful!

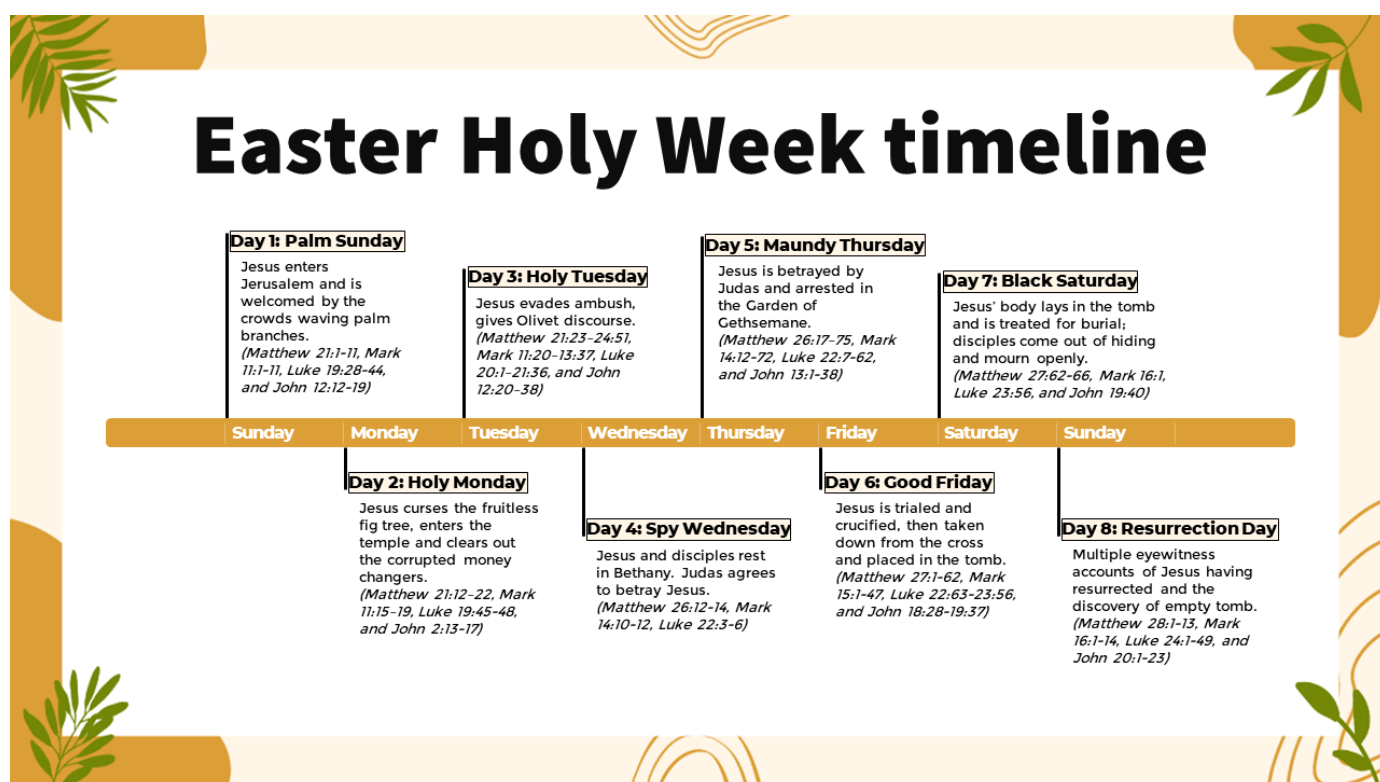
Our Prayer Phone Link

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



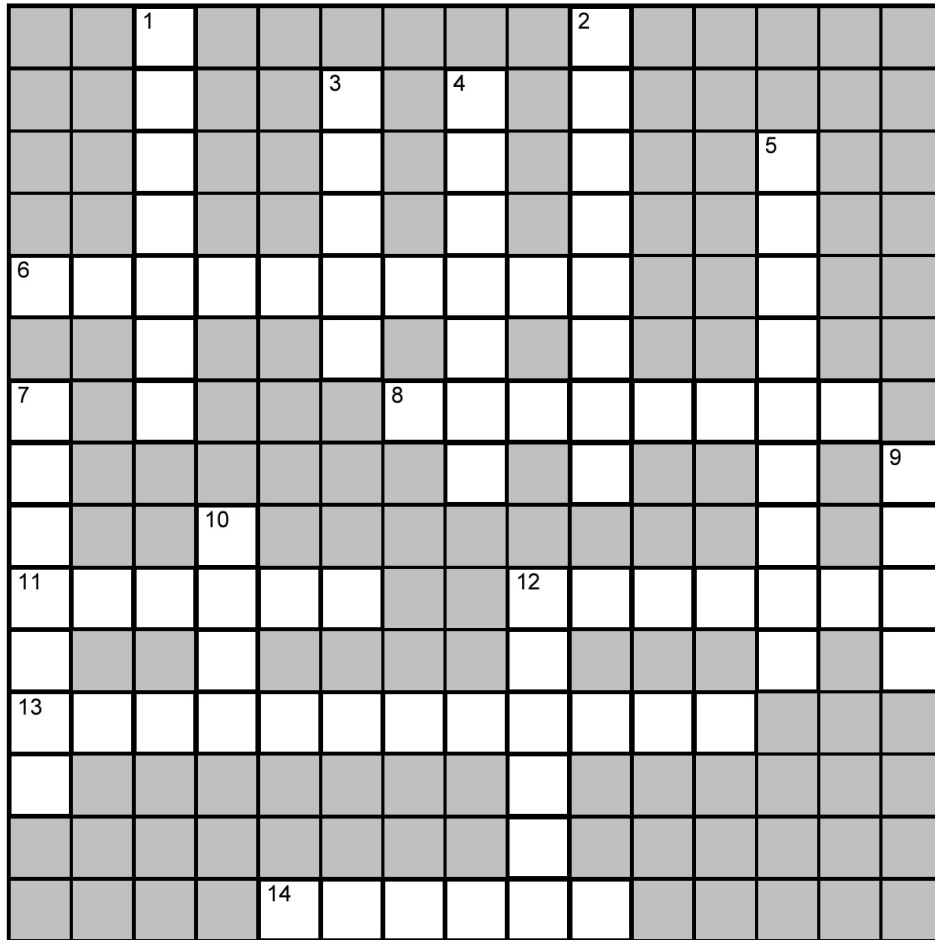
Easter Word Search

C	D	E	S	U	C	C	A	F	M	O	C	K	E	D
H	O	R	A	E	C	R	O	S	S	N	W	O	R	C
O	O	M	E	N	P	R	A	Y	E	R	S	O	U	L
S	L	L	M	H	G	I	N	I	F	A	T	H	E	R
S	B	B	Y	I	T	E	R	D	E	P	P	I	H	W
T	U	V	O	S	T	O	L	T	S	A	C	Y	S	R
S	N	S	D	W	P	F	R	E	S	R	R	O	E	E
E	L	E	E	E	E	I	I	B	S	A	L	R	F	H
I	I	S	C	J	Y	D	R	N	M	D	E	O	D	T
R	E	N	R	O	E	A	H	I	I	I	R	D	E	O
P	S	R	E	G	N	I	R	E	T	S	I	N	I	M
E	D	O	I	S	O	N	R	T	A	E	H	E	N	S
T	N	H	P	S	M	S	I	K	E	D	A	E	E	S
E	A	T	H	I	E	V	E	S	E	B	O	R	D	I
R	H	E	A	V	E	N	E	T	A	E	B	G	S	K

Words to Find

Accused, Angeles, Beaten, Betrayed, Blood, Bowed head, Brother, Cast lots, Commit, Cross, Crown, Denied, Father, Finished, Forsaken, Hands, Heaven, Holy Spirit, Innocent, Jesus, Kiss, Lies, Mary, Ministering, Mocked, Money, Mother, Paradise, Peter, Pierced, Prayers, Priests, Robe, Side, Soldiers, Son, Soul, Stripes, Tears, Thieves, Thorns, Whipped

Easter Crossword from Matthew 27



Across

6. Where did the soldiers take Jesus? (10)
8. Who did the crowd ask for Pilate to release? (8)
11. Where did Simon the cross bearer come from? (6)
12. Whose field did the priests buy with Judas's returned money? (7)
13. What is the field the priests bought known by today? (5,2,5)
14. By what method did Judas kill himself? (6)

Down

1. What was split top to bottom when Jesus gave up his spirit? (7)
2. Which prophet predicted about the field bought with thirty pieces of silver? (8)
3. What is the meaning of Eli? (2,3)
4. What did they offer Jesus wine mixed? (7)
5. Where did Joseph come from? (9)
7. What did the crowd shout to Pilate to do with Jesus? (7)
9. What did Pilate do with his hands before the crowd? (4)
10. What did they put on the stone? (4)
12. Who was Jesus handed over to by the priests? (6)

Dates For Your Diary

March 2024

Fri 1st	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 2nd	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.30 pm) **
Sun 3rd	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship with Caroline Colin Themed Preaching **
Mon 4th	7.30 p.m.	Alpha Course in the lounge **
Sat 9th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.30 pm) *
Sun 10th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam Themed Preaching and Sacrament **
Mon 11th	7.30 p.m.	Alpha Course in the lounge **
Fri 15th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 16th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.30 pm) **
Sun 17th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Julian Albrow
Mon 18th	7.30 p.m.	Alpha Course in the lounge **
Tue 19th	9.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **
	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Sat 23rd	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.30 pm) **
Sun 24th	10.00 a.m.	Local Arrangements
Mon 25th	7.30 p.m.	Alpha Course in the lounge **
Fri 29th	10.00 a.m.	Good Friday Service at Exeter Cathedral given by Churches Together Across Exeter
Sat 30th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.30 pm) **
Sun 31st	6.15 a.m.	Easter Day Dawn Service **
	10.00 a.m.	Easter Sunday with Rev Malcolm Carter Sacrament

Advance Date for April

Sat 27th	7.30 p.m.	Exeter Male Voice Choir Concert at the Church in aid of Church Funds. More details next month.
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**** Details in this newsletter or on the notice board in the hall.**

The deadline for items for the April 2024 Newsletter will be Sunday 17th March 2024. 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. Alpha Course in the lounge *(Weekly)*

Tuesday

9.00 a.m. Monthly Prayer Meeting *(3rd Tuesday)*

10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café *(3rd Tuesday)*

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 12.30 p.m.

Wonford Welcome Drop-In

Tea, coffee and biscuits are free.

(***A*** = No meeting during school holiday)