

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

May 2019  
(No: 478)



**FAITH**  
is like Wi-Fi,  
it's invisible but  
it has the power  
to connect you to  
what you need.

**Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)**



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church **The Methodist Church**

[www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk)

 @WonfordMethodistChurch



# **A Message From The Minister**

**Dear Friends,**

“Christ has no hands but ours”. I know these are well meaning words, but really.... In the eighteenth century, a school of thought known as Deism held that God created the world and then left it to it's own devices, refusing to interfere any further. If we say, ‘Christ has no hands but ours’, we're being modern day Deists, giving up on God and relying on our own efforts. This doesn't get us very far and won't do. In fact, one very key reason for the decline of the Church in our part of the world is that we have jettisoned the supernatural, Spirit-led Christianity of the New Testament in favour of a managerial, human centred faith in which God is asked to bless whatever we decide to do.

I used the word ‘supernatural’ just then, and some of you will have frowned or looked puzzled. Surely talk of the supernatural belongs to the lunatic fringe of the Church? Well, I'm simply using the word to mean that which is beyond our everyday experience, that which comes from outside our everyday world of things and places that we can see. In the New Testament Church, people expected God to be tangibly and dramatically present in their midst. In growing churches, even today, there is an emphasis on encountering the living God in worship, a sense of being open to the Divine in our midst.

Too often, the contemporary Church has been obsessed with being relevant. If only we can show that we're relevant to people's actual lives, goes the mantra, our churches will grow. No. Our churches will grow if they help people to encounter God, in all His irresistible power and love, and be transformed by that encounter. The world doesn't need our relevance. The world needs us to be a gateway to God. Let's pray for that. Let's desire that above all else. Christ has hands – and arms. Let's pray for the world, as well as us, to be swept up in them.

**With every blessing**

**Ben Haslam**

# Dates For May 2019

## Coffee

5th	Jenny T
12th	Alison H
19th	Pauline & Liz S
26th	TBA



## Flowers

5th	Melanie
12th	TBA
19th	Alison
26th	Edith & Tudor



## 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. We will be continuing to listen to the David Coffey tapes from the last Met conference. Anyone is welcome to come and join us as we explore the Bible together. Come with your questions or thoughts to help us, please!

<b>8th May</b>	<b>18 Tuckfield Close</b>
<b>22nd May</b>	<b>39 Meyer Court</b>

## 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!

## Wonford Community News

### Wonford Summer Fair

Everyone invited to Wonford Summer Fair on June 1st from 11am to 2pm! There will be stalls, activities for all ages and refreshments at Wonford Community and Leaning Centre and the playing field behind.

Girls' Brigade are having a cake stall at Wonford Summer Fair. Donations of cakes to sell and customers to buy them would be very welcome!

**Thank you - Helen Moore**

# **Church Green Team Update**

## **Do You Know Your Carbon Footprint?**

World Environment Day is held on June 5th each year. It is a day designed by the United Nations to raise awareness and to invite us to take action. You may already be striving to do your bit. Perhaps you recycle, try to buy eco-friendly products or are cutting down on single use plastics. As God's stewards of this precious world, what more can we do? A good place to start is knowing our carbon footprint.

Our carbon footprint is a measure of the total emissions caused by us as individuals. These greenhouse gases are detrimental to our planet and are driving climate change. The size of our carbon footprint is dependent on our lifestyle choices. By understanding the impact of these choices, we can identify areas where we can improve. If you have access to the internet, you can find various carbon footprint calculators. The one that I favour is <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk>. Once you've calculated your carbon footprint, it provides you with useful tips on how you can reduce it.

Here are some ways that we can reduce our carbon footprint:

1. Eat more plant based meals
2. Unplug your devices when not in use
3. Eat locally produced food
4. Lift share, walk more or use public transport
5. Wash clothes at a lower temperature and line-dry your clothes
6. Try to avoid purchasing items in excessive plastic packaging
7. Avoid fast throwaway fashion - buy items to last
8. Consume less - simply buy less stuff
9. Switch to a green energy supplier
10. Compost your food waste

There is growing focus on the problem of climate change and it can feel overwhelming. However, if we all do our bit, we can make a difference.

**Alison Hobbs - Church Green Team**

## **New Pastoral Secretary Needed**

**Welcome!** – That's what we all want to feel at Wonford Methodist Church – but how to make it happen? You're already reading one of the ways to do this – through our Contact newsletter each month – given you by one of our 14 Pastoral Visitors. It is they who give you yours, or pop it through your letterbox, or email it to you.

It takes a bit of organising; it means a list of everyone which is kept secure; and it works methodically and well, most of the time, within the framework devised by previous Pastoral secretaries at Wonford. Please think if you could offer to be our next Pastoral secretary when Margretta 'sits down' from this role on 30 April 2019, and find out more from her. Let one of the stewards or Margretta know if you are interested in taking up this very important role.

## **Prayer Focus for May**

### **Pray Without Ceasing!**

Please pray each day for all who are leading worship each Sunday and those leading Bible studies, Messy church and Girl's Brigade and Mum's and Tots.

After the rather busy time in April, May seems relatively quiet month. May 30th is Ascension Day when we remember our Lord being taken up into Heaven to sit at God's right hand ready. Why not take this opportunity to pray for all who serve us at Wonford. Pray for Ben, Local Preachers, Worship Team & Worship Group who lead us week by week. Pray for our Communion Stewards & Church Stewards. Those who come up with wonderful flower displays each week, those who make our teas & coffee, those who cater for Messy Church & many other events. Pray for Bronwen & those who may offer help to keep our church clean, tidy & welcoming.

This month in our Country, at the time of writing it is not known what our situation will be with Europe but our land has become very divided. Pray for healing & restoration of the United Kingdom. Pray for the Police Service, Fire & ambulance services & our NHS.

In the wider world pray for all the Countries that have suffered natural disasters. Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi are the places we have heard

about but other Countries like Haiti. Also pray for New Zealand following the recent terrorist attack.



***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 included please let Julie Rothwell know so that I can include it here.

### **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.

## **Easter Message from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference**

This message can be found online by visiting the link below:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/an-easter-message-from-the-president-and-vice-president-of-the-methodist-conference/>



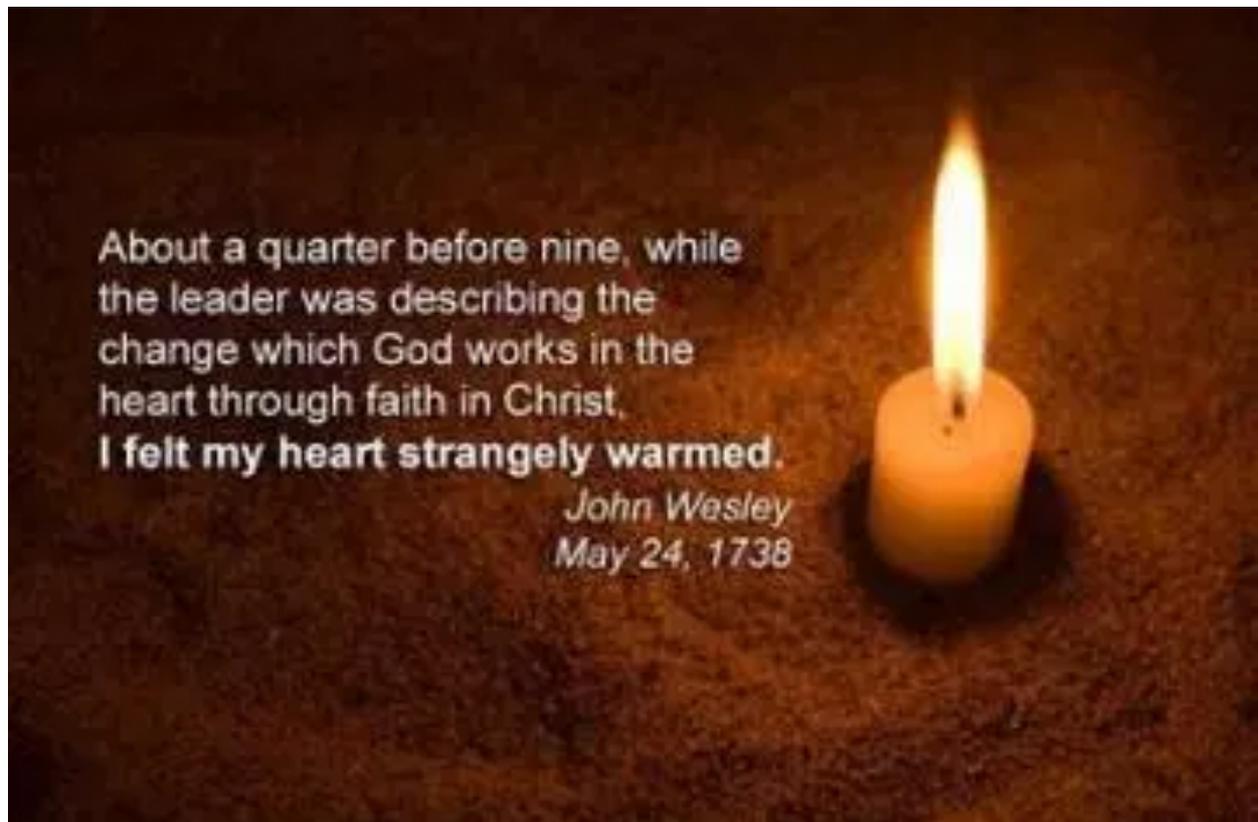
# Dates For Your Diary

## May 2019

Sun 5th	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - All Age Worship
	<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Celebrate Together Service</b>
Wed 8th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 18 Tuckfield Close **
Thu 9th	7.30 p.m.	Book Club meets in the lounge
<b>Christian Aid Week. 12th - 18th May</b>		
Sun 12th	10.00 a.m.	Sue Jones
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Prayer & Praise
Thu 16th	2.00 p.m.	Minister's Bible Study meets in the lounge **
Sun 19th		<b>Aldersgate Sunday</b>
	10.00 a.m.	Deacon Becky Lovatt
	<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
Tue 21st	10.00 a.m.	The Roundabout Café meets (until 12pm)
Wed 22nd	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Meets - 39 Meyer Court **
Sun 26th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament Service, including re-commissioning of Pastoral Visitors
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Brian Hadfield

**'Thy Kingdom Come' prayers 30th May - 9th June**

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



# 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 June 2019 Newsletter will be Sunday 12th May 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](mailto:andrew.m.jackson@me.com)