

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

May 2023
(No: 519)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



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YouTube Wonford Methodist Church



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

Psalm 8

This is not a series on 'Ben's favourite psalms', but Psalm 8 does happen to be one of my favourite psalms. I love the sense of wonder at God's majesty and creative power, and most of us will be able to identify with the sense of smallness when contemplating the vast scale and sheer beauty of God's creation. Ultimately though, the psalm is about God's sovereign rule over all that He has made. The psalmist tells us that God has 'established a barricade' to deal with His foes, reminding the reader that God's name is 'mighty over all the earth'. In other words, whilst God has given us free will, whilst we are completely free to make our own choices, yet God has set limits to the destruction human beings can cause. You might not think so when watching the news or contemplating some atrocity or other, but then we don't know what would have happened if God had not set limits on man's destructive capabilities.

What the psalmist is asking of us is that we hold on to the truth that God is good and He is ultimately in control, whatever it may look like. What the rest of scripture makes clear is that God will not put up with the current chaos and cruelty of the world forever. The fact that God is in control means that one day His way will prevail in the end. Why does it seem to be taking so long? Why does God not just call time now and have done with it? We don't know, but faith requires trust and, after all, if we succumb to faithlessness and despair, what will we have achieved? All we will have done is cut ourselves off from the one real source of hope that we have. What we can do is, like the psalmist, look around us for signs of God's goodness, and the biggest sign of all is that God can amongst us, in Jesus Christ, so that through faith in him, we can become part of the solution, rather than the problem, coming to know God as one who brings new life to our fallen, sinful selves. If He can do that, then He is truly a God who deserves all our praise and adoration. Lord our God, how mighty is Your name in all the world!

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

Dates For May 2023

Coffee

7th	Coronation Lunch (Janett)
14th	Namita
21st	Margaret D & Terry L
28th	Rose & Paul



Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In May they meet on the 12th to continue their studies of Jesus' disciples and 26th they will be launching into the Bible Month studies of the book of Revelation. These will continue into June and early July. Please do join them if you are able.

Monika

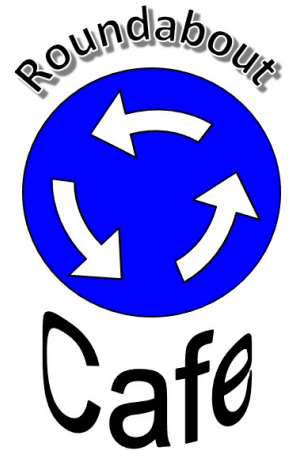
The Away Group

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 16th May 2023 when there will be a talk from Trevor Huggons about the Air Ambulance

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



Coronation BIG Lunch - Sunday 7th May 2023

There will be a bring & share lunch after church on this day starting at 12.30pm. For further details see Pippa.



Wonford Welcome Drop-In

Wonford Welcome joined Exeter City Council's 'Warm Space Scheme' in November extending the opening hours and offering hot meals. Initially we were going to be part of the scheme for 3 months but decided to continue for longer. But with the arrival of spring and the rise in temperature the WW team has decided that the extended hours and the provision of hot meals will finish at the end of April.

Over the last six months Wonford Welcome has provided 72 hours of 'warm space' enabling people to come in and use our heating instead of their own. Over 200 hot meals have been provided at a cost of 50p as well as free hot drinks, biscuits, cakes and fruit. Thank you to Exeter City Council for a grant which was used to buy kitchen equipment such as a toaster, food hygiene training and to contribute towards the additional heating costs. Thank you, too, to the new volunteers who joined the WW team and of course to the original team.

Wonford Welcome will continue to take place from 10.30am to 12.00pm with free tea, coffee, cake and biscuits, good company and activities such as quizzes, board games and colouring. Please pop along one Saturday – everyone is Welcome!

May 6th

Wonford Welcome will be closed so that everyone can watch the Coronation

May 13th

Wonford Welcome does Countdown!

May 20th

Quiz about bees and eating doughnuts for Doughnut week!

May 27th

Games morning with pool, table football etc

In June we are hoping to have a Craft Morning at WW perhaps with craft activities for all ages, people bringing their own arts/crafts to do and perhaps stalls. If you would like to know more or take part please contact Helen Moore helenbigwood@hotmail.co.uk

We hope to see you soon!

Sue, Rose, Paul, Mandy, Monika, Liz, Lisa, Helen, Alison

Prayer Focus for May

Week Commencing Sunday 7th May

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 14:6**

Pray for the newly crowned King Charles III and his Queen, Camilla.

Week Commencing Sunday 14th May

Shout for joy to God, all the earth!
Sing the glory of his name;
make his praise glorious.

Pray for our General Church Meeting. Help us to continue to grow in love, in unity and service to one another and our community.

Week Commencing Sunday 21st May

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **John 17:3**

We continue to pray for all those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. Today we pray especially for local businesses, for business leaders and their staff.

Week Commencing Sunday 28th May

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
May the Lord rejoice in his works. **Psalms 104:31**

We pray for every community suffering from the effects of climate change right across the world.

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

Green Team Article - May 2023

Ludwell Valley Park (LVP) – beautiful biodiversity on our doorstep.

In 1983, Exeter City Council (ECC) took the decision to create three valley parks in Exeter, one of which was Ludwell Valley (there are six now). There is no use of herbicides, pesticides or artificial fertilisers, so the park is a haven for wildlife. LVP is also unique as its undulating hills offer significant views of the city, of the Haldon Hills and by looking across in another direction, you can see the estuary from Topsham winding out to the sea at Exmouth.

The valley is still used to graze cattle in the summer months (they have just arrived in May and will be here for the next six months) and the grazing is important to maintain the wildflowers. Grazing stops the meadow becoming thatched and dense which would cause the wildflowers to gradually die out.

Before the land came into council ownership, now managed by the Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT), the meadows in the valley were intensively farmed and they lost a lot of their wildlife value because the wildflowers were killed off. There are some small areas of unspoilt meadow remaining where wild flowers such as Lesser Knapweed and Birdsfoot Trefoil still survive and are an important foodplant for butterflies as well as for bees. These are grazed and cut to maintain their value.

New wildflower meadows have been introduced in some areas to try to recreate wildlife rich meadows – these have recently been ploughed and seeded, so hopefully they will be full of wonderful wildflowers in the summer for us (and the wildlife) to enjoy. These have attracted butterflies like the Common Blue and Orange-tip and the barley, wheat & oats in amongst the flowers will attract wild birds.

Some areas of the meadows are left to become overgrown. This provides cover for small mammals such as voles which are eaten by the owls that hunt in the valley.

Scrub areas are valuable as nesting areas for birds and as a source of food for insects and other wildlife. To maintain their value DWT cut back the scrub every few years to keep it young and dense.

Ludwell has several kilometres of old hedge banks and they are looked after by layering them on rotation every 15 years or so. They are a very important part of the landscape: they act as corridors to allow wildlife to move around the park safely and bats use them to aid navigation as well as attracting insects which are a food source.

Several hedges in the valley were grubbed out in the 1920s in order to create larger fields. ECC and DWT have looked at historic maps of the area and have reinstated them by building hedge banks with planting on top.

Over the summer months LVP also offers us the opportunity to pick fruit and nuts for free! As well as hedgerows full of wild blackberries, elderberries, sloes, cherries, plums and hazelnuts, The Old Cherry Orchard was planted in about 1830 and as the trees are now getting older traditional variety replacements are being planted each year. The Community Orchard is situated at the far end of the park, off the cycle/foot path near Pynes Hill and since 2017, thirty-seven fruit trees have been planted— different types of apple trees as well as plum/damson, cherry and nut trees.

Just over a year ago the old field names were reintroduced (you can see the name signs on the gates) and a scrape (it's a bit like a natural shallow pond) was created in Butchers Field – this has been planted up and is home to tadpoles etc.

If you would like to know more about the history of Ludwell Valley, including archaeological finds and local Ludwell clay, please go to the Ludwell Life website (ludwelllife.org.uk) and you can also receive their bi-monthly newsletter with beautiful photos and updates on events like bat boxes having been installed within the valley, DWT running hedge laying sessions in the traditional Devon style, a tree give away as part of Saving Devon's Treescapes project and even a wonderfully creative outdoor art & theatre experience 'Imaginarium of Us' put on by the theatre group Burn the Curtain for many local people to enjoy.

Spending time each day in Ludwell Valley Park is essential for my wellbeing (and also for our dog, Halo!). For me, being outside and experiencing nature is how I connect best with God. I feel His presence in nature. It's easy to forget the beauty that is all around us when we are consumed with the hustle and bustle of this demanding world, but when we take time to experience his creation, we are able to relax and reflect on all the things God created in this world. Ludwell Valley Park is a place to be still and listen to the Lord, a place to be thankful and to receive God's blessings, a place to be.

***And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees:
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God to Thee; How great Thou art!***

<https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/nature-reserves/ludwell-valley-park>

This link takes you to a page about Ludwell Valley Park which includes a YouTube video and guide that can be downloaded.



Sue Keatt on behalf of the Church Green Team (Alison, Helen, Liz, Martin)

Nature Detectives

The Green Team would like to encourage our youngsters to look at their local environment and see how many insects they can recognise and find. We have found an easy minibeast hunt on the Woodland Trust website that the children could use to tick off any insects they see over the half term week.

If they hand them back in by 4 June, we will see who has ticked off the most and there might be a prize for them! No cheating mind!

The bug hunt sheets will be available at the back of church and you are welcome to also take them for your grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Look out for our Adult insect quiz in the June Contact.

Green Team (Alison Howell, Helen Moore, Martin Lloyd, Sue Keatt, Liz Simonetti)

PHILIPPA HANNA

with full band

Stained Glass Stories

LIVE TOUR

SAT
20
MAY
2023

Exeter
Cathedral

7:30PM
START



“A voice to die for
Lulu”

“Beautiful Voice
Leona Lewis”

Supported by:
**Lou Key
and harris**

PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED:

LITTLE MIX

LIONEL RITCHIE

ANASTASIA

PHILIPPA HANNA is an internationally acclaimed performer racking up over **1500 shows** in **25 countries**. Since her industry debut in 2007, she has released 5 critically acclaimed studio albums and published two books, winning fans in the likes of **Leona Lewis, Lionel Richie** and **Little Mix**. The Yorkshire born, half-Irish, Singer-Songwriter is a rarity in the UK Music Industry, bridging the elusive gap between **Gospel, Pop** and **Country music**.



Lou Key & harris Sister duo Sarah and Lou bring a unique sound of raw and intimate worship; ministering the presence and fragrance of Jesus inviting eyes and hearts to behold the wonder and glory of our risen king.



Brought to you by...



Compassion works in 25 developing countries to support childrens needs within their communities, enabling them to grow and have the opportunities they deserve.



Good News for Everyone serves to introduce others to Jesus by the placing, presenting and/or distributing Scriptures in many different areas of life, most often Testaments, which include the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs, but also copies of the full Bible.

TO GET TICKETS: <https://bit.ly/PHsgs>



Praise Indeed!!

In the decade before WW2, a Methodist Church in Wigan had a minister whose preaching was both inspiring and uplifting. One of his congregation, George a farm labourer, was so moved by his minister's sermons that he regularly shouted out 'Hallelujah' during the service.

The minister found these frequent outbursts sincere but quite off-putting, so one Sunday after the service, he took his keen worshipper to one side and said, "Look, George, if you promise to keep quiet in future when I'm preaching, I will buy you a new pair of trousers." George's face lit up, and he agreed not to blurt things out while his minister was preaching. However, the following Sunday, the minister preached a powerful sermon on the Cross, and George was so moved he had to stuff a handkerchief in his mouth to keep silent, but a few minutes later he could resist no longer. George stood up, pulled the hanky out and shouted, "Breeches or no breeches, Hallelujah!"

You will remember the wonderful film 'Whistle Down The Wind', in which a farmer's three children discover a man asleep in their barn, and in their innocence they believe it is Jesus. The following Sunday at Church, their Sunday School teacher asked her class, "What would we do if Jesus came back to our world?" One of the farmer's children gave an earnest reply: "Please Miss, we would praise Him!" "That's right," enthused the teacher, "We would praise Him."

Some years ago in Portugal, a massed choir and orchestra from England gave a performance of Handel's Messiah. The packed audience sat reverently still until the choir sang the Hallelujah Chorus: "King of kings and Lord of lords....." ending with a crescendo of Hallelujahs. The audience leapt up to identify somehow with this moving, uplifting moment in the oratorio. Believe it or not, the conductor could not proceed until the choir had given TEN encores of the Hallelujah Chorus! TEN! The audience had so caught the joy and wonder of Christ!

Keep praising Him! Our worship needs our enthusiastic praise. Sing all the Hallelujahs you can in this ongoing Easter season. Express them with feeling. As Charles Wesley urges us, "I cannot from His praise forbear.

***My ready tongue makes haste to sing
The glories of my heavenly King."***

Not forgetting: "O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise." And Psalm 150: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!"

Rev Malcolm Carter

Dates For Your Diary

May 2023

Sun 7th	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship - Chris Carter Service followed by Coronation BIG lunch - Bring & Share starting at 12.30 p.m.
Fri 12th	3.00 p.m.	Friday Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 13th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 14th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament. Followed by General Church Meeting
Tue 16th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Sat 20th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
	7.30 p.m.	Philippa Hanna at Exeter Cathedral **
Sun 21st	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg
Fri 26th	3.00 p.m.	Friday Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 27th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 28th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Leon Dundas

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



The deadline for items for the June 2023 Newsletter will be Sunday 14th May 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)