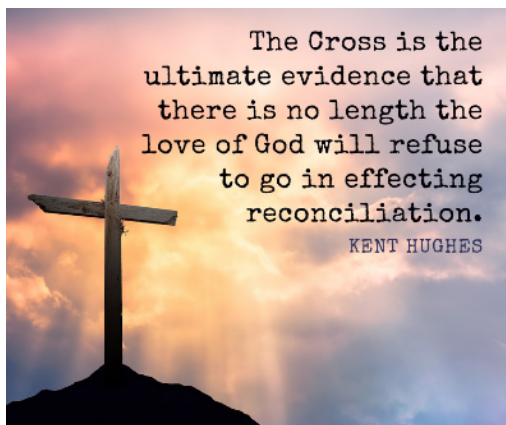


Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

November 2019

(No: 483)



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,

By the time you read this, we may or may not have left the EU. As I write this, I hear people either speaking in increasingly apocalyptic tones about the terrors that await us post-Brexit, or shaking their heads at the ineptitude of Parliament in negotiating (or sabotaging, depending on your point of view) our withdrawal deal. Meanwhile, Turkey bombs Syria, a typhoon hits Japan and what amounts to a civil war rages in Cameroon. Our little island feels such a claustrophobic place sometimes. Our domestic concerns consume us to the point where we can't hear the rest of the world.

As Christians however, we are called, not just to be attentive to the wider world in which we live (because it's God's, He loves it, and we are part of it), but we're called too to be attentive to what is beyond what we can see. We're called to remember that God's people belong to God's Kingdom, and with this comes the confidence that, despite appearances, God is working in the world to bring about reconciliation between Himself and a world which has turned its back on Him. The Cross of Christ is the way He chose to do this. The question for us is therefore, how can we promote God's project of reconciliation? This goes beyond just being nice. This is about making God's love real to others so that they want to know more. It's about telling people that a real, life-changing relationship with God is possible. Most of the situations I just referred to signal a world that is fractured and fallen. They are the sort of thing you get when God is pushed out. We can't just shake our heads and mutter about the hopelessness of it all. Never underestimate the usefulness of being a prayerful, loving presence in the world. Let the world see that you have hope. Remember your Great Task as a Christian, summed up by Paul:

“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God”. (*Corinthians 5: 19-20*)

With every blessing

Ben Haslam

Dates For November 2019

Coffee

3rd	Liz & Pauline
10th	Jenny T & Susan L
17th	Helen
24th	Melanie & Eileen



Flowers

3rd	TBA
10th	Bronwen
17th	Helen
24th	Sylvia & Tom



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!

6th November	39 Meyer Court	Acts 8: 4-25
20th November	14 Grainger Close	Revelation 19

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. At present Ben is part-way through one of the York Course Guides called 'Daring to see God Now'; and it is helping us see and discuss the good news, despite all the bad news around - the kingdom of God is near. Please check the monthly Dates or church Notices each month. All are welcome!

Next Meeting **Thursday 28th November 2019**



What is a Sustainable Diet?

A sustainable diet is one with a low environmental impact that uses techniques that protect the environment for future generations.

Greta Thunberg is a young person who I admire greatly. Her campaigning has brought her international recognition and has helped to bring the current climate crisis into the spotlight.

We are turning to our governments and asking them to listen to science and to commit to reducing our carbon emissions sooner and to move towards a more sustainable future.

One reason that I admire Greta is that she looks at what she can do to live more sustainably. For instance, she chose to go vegan. The environment is one of the driving factors that led me to being vegan too.

Animal agriculture is one of the leading causes of deforestation, biodiversity loss, water pollution and ocean dead zones globally. It also accounts for more greenhouse gases than all transport combined. With a growing population pushing us further into intensive farming, this isn't a sustainable way of living. Intensive farming leads to loss of wildlife, loss of biodiversity, poorer soil, increased pollution and poorer animal welfare.

With all this in mind, how can we eat more sustainably? If you don't want to cut out meat from your diet, you could reduce the amount and choose better meat from local farmers. Where possible buy produce that is local and in season. Local, smaller farms (especially organic) are better for biodiversity, are less polluting and contribute fewer emissions. In Devon we are fortunate to be surrounded by farms. Buying local is not only better for the environment but supports our farming communities and helps to ensure their survival.

Whatever we consume it has environmental implications and so wasting food is something we can't afford to do. Did you know that the UK wastes 10 million tonnes of food annually? I know that I'm guilty of this sometimes. Reducing our food waste is probably something we could all do to work towards a more sustainable future.

Alison Hobbs
Church Green Team

Taster Session on Marriage

These are taking place at Belmont Chapel on Tuesday 3rd December, which any couple in a long term relationship might find of interest. We live in a society that doesn't necessarily celebrate Marriage, and we fail to realise what a fantastic guide God gives us for living together happily. If you are interested, there are more details to be found on their website -

<https://www.belmontchapel.org.uk/courses/> or from their church office

"Ask a Moslem"

This takes place on Saturday 16th November 2019 from 11am to 1pm. Members of the Inclusive Mosque group will be hosting an informal session during which they will speak, answer questions and share in informal conversation about Islam.

You are invited to come along and ask any questions you may have in the Reception/Coffee area of the Mint Methodist Church Centre, Fore Street, Exeter EX4 3AT.

Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2019

Just think for a moment, a filled shoebox may be the only gift they have ever been given - their first gift, ever. Imagine the joy when they receive a box and then discover the presents inside - what a Christmas present for someone truly in need!

We are collecting boxes through Blythswood Care again this year, which is an established Christian charity based in Glasgow, Scotland. They bring hope to families in Europe, Africa and Asia through filled shoeboxes at Christmas, relief and development aid or social projects for young and old. Their motto is 'transforming lives through Christian care for body and soul'.

You need to cover a shoebox in wrapping paper with the lid wrapped separately and they can be for adults as well as teenagers and children. The categories are; Elderly Woman, Man, Woman, Teenage Boy, Teenage Girl, Boy or Girl.

I will bring in some sample boxes and the leaflets, which provide a full checklist of items that can be put in the shoeboxes. The donation towards cost of transporting each shoebox is £3.

Date for final collection at Wonford Methodist is Sunday 17th November.

Most important items - toothbrush & toothpaste, soap & flannel, hat/scarf/gloves, sweets (dated at least March 2020), a small toy and pencils/pens/paper. Other suggested items for children - a ball, skipping rope, hair accessories, puzzles, stickers. For adults - shampoo, deodorant, comb, sewing equipment, candles (but no matches), kitchen utensils, screwdriver/pliers, pack of cards, small wind up torch and for teenage girls/woman-sanitary products.

You might like to add in a Christmas card with a message, your name & town/country but do not put in your address. If you have any questions or you want to donate a few items or money instead of filling a box then please let me know - all contributions are very welcome and will help to put a smile on the faces of people who live in such poverty. This shoebox may be the only gift they have ever been given.

Sue Keatt

PS. We really do need empty & unwanted shoeboxes to wrap so if you have any then please bring them in!



FILL THEM WITH



Prayer Focus for November

Pray Always With a Thankful Heart

This month as we continue to pray for our Country. May I encourage you to give thanks to God for His goodness to us. As we pray for our Government, give thanks that we are free to elect our chosen candidate, we are free to exercise our right to vote. When praying for our NHS, thank God that we have free healthcare. Thank Him that for those who are able there is a private medical service & that frees up spaces for those less fortunate. Pray for our social care, but thank God for the social care we do have. Do you see the pattern? For everything we pray for, give thanks for what we do have. There are many Countries around the world that have none of the freedoms we enjoy. Pray for these Countries as well. As Remembrance Sunday draws near pray for all who have lost loved ones as a result of war. Remember our armed forces who risk their lives to try to bring about peace. Remember too the friends & family who will gather at Wonford to remember those who have passed away recently.

Keep praying for the persecuted church, those wrongly imprisoned, those living in war torn Countries & those whose life has been affected by natural disasters or criminal activity.

Pray also for our church family, our leaders, especially Ben, & all our activities.

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

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.

The Prayer Team

'Miracles of Jesus' Themed Preaching Series

This started in September and continues until the end of November 2019.
Details below:

Nov 10

Monika Noronha Luke 8 vv40-56 A girl restored to life and a woman healed (*Remembrance Sunday*)

Nov 17

Rev Keith Salter Luke 17 vv17-19 Jesus cleanses ten men with leprosy

Nov 24

Andy Mulcock Luke 18 vv35-42 Jesus heals a blind beggar

Exminster Christmas Tree Festival



29th November to 2nd December 2019

Opening times:

Friday 29th from 3 pm till 7 pm

Saturday 30th from 10 am till 7 pm

Saturday Coffee Morning from (10-12 noon) with various stalls
The 'Santa Lady' is coming with some of her many toy Santas
Light lunches 12.15 pm till 2.00 pm

Sunday 1st from 3 pm till 5.30 pm

Sunday Service amongst the trees for all ages at 10.30 am

Monday 2nd Group visits - by arrangement only

Admission is free

Light refreshments available during opening times

It's not too late to display your own tree – it's free. More information:
Contact Brenda on 833928 or email exminstertreefestival@gmail.com

**Be sure to come and see all the Christmas Trees
at Exminster Methodist Church (EX6 8BT)**

**All money raised is for children's charities who work in Devon:
Action for Children and Children's Hospice South West**

News From The Methodist Church

Advent Offering 2019 - Homelessness & Hospitality

Our theme for this year's Advent Offering for the Mission in Britain Fund is 'Homelessness & Hospitality'. It focuses on personal stories from people with experience of homelessness who are making positive changes to their life thanks to the hospitality of the Bristol Methodist Centre. The support they are receiving is varied: from meals, clothes and shower facilities to one-to-one counselling, help with benefits and prayer.

According to the housing charity Shelter, more than 320,000 people in the UK were without a home at the end of 2018 – and the numbers just keep on rising. Join us in lifting the veil of stigma surrounding homeless people to reveal the real human heart beating beneath.

We also take a look at the Homeless Jesus statues that, from 2013 onwards, have mushroomed all around the world. The life-size sculptures are a visual translation of Matthew 25:37-40, a powerful reminder that "... just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Statement on Syria

The leaders of three Churches, including the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have released a statement calling upon the UK Government to take urgent action to prevent an escalation of the conflict in Syria.

Following reports from our Church partners in Syria, we are extremely concerned about the impact on civilians of the assault on north-eastern Syria by Turkey.

The diverse people of the region were just beginning to see some respite from the turmoil and destruction that has overtaken them during the past 8 years of war. The region urgently needs a political settlement that guarantees a place for every citizen. The people of north-eastern Syria, both Muslim and Christian, need and desperately long for freedom and stability in order to live side by side in peace.

We appeal to the UK Government to take urgent and decisive political action to ensure that a further escalation of conflict is averted. We appeal for all parties to work for a sustainable peace based on agreements that guarantee respect for human rights and a complete rejection of violence.

A Prayer for Syria

Gracious God,

We weep with those in Syria,
crying out for those who have been killed,
for those who grieve loved ones,
for those who face the chaos and upheaval of losing homes and livelihoods,
for those who are injured, traumatised and violated,
for those whose futures have been stolen from them,
for those seeking power through violence.

Turn these cries of lament into calls for justice.

Convict our politicians, world leaders, and the international community to work together create a way of lasting peace.

Give strength and wisdom to religious and community leaders in the region who seek to build bridges across divided communities.

Challenge each of us to work for a world which enables freedom, respect and stability for all people.

In the name of Christ,

Amen

Methodist artist creates artwork illustrating core values of the British Army

The Methodist Church has commissioned Methodist Presbyterian Ric Stott, an accomplished artist and pioneer minister, to produce six pieces of art on the British Army Core Values.

The Core Values illustrated by the art are: courage, discipline, respect for others, integrity, loyalty, and selfless commitment. Army chaplains will be encouraged to use the art to reflect with soldiers on the meaning of these values and how each one applies to them. Questions that might be prompted from the artwork include: What helps you to find the courage to overcome fear? What inspires you to put the needs of others above your own?

Dates For Your Diary

November 2019

Sun 3rd	10.00 a.m.	Hannah Richards - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Candles of Remembrance
Wed 6th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 39 Meyer Court **
Thu 7th	7.00 p.m.	Helpful Info on AV in the Church
	7.00 p.m.	CTaX AGM at the Salvation Army in Friar's Walk **
Fri 8th	7.30 p.m.	'Response' Concert - URC, Heavitree
Sat 9th	11.00 a.m.	Interfaith Week Peace Prayers - URC, Dix's Field **
Sun 10th	10.00 a.m.	Monika Noronha - Themed Preaching **
	4.30 p.m.	Film Service
Wed 13th	7.15 p.m.	Interfaith Week talk - URC, Dix's Field **
Thu 14th	10.30 a.m.	Theology of the Child - St Thomas MC ** (Finishes at 4pm)
Sat 16th	11.00 a.m.	'Ask a Moslem' - The Mint MC **
Sun 17th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Keith Salter - Themed Preaching **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Keith Salter
Tue 19th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm)
Wed 20th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 14 Grainger Close **
Sun 24th	10.00 a.m.	Andy Mulcock - Themed Preaching **
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church
Thu 28th	2.00 p.m.	Minister's Bible Study in the lounge **
	7.30 p.m.	Wonford Worms Book Club in the lounge

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

The next edition of this newsletter covers December 2019 and January 2020. The deadline for items is Sunday 10th November 2019. Please let me know of any Christmas events ASAP.



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 December 2019 / January 2020 Newsletter will be Sunday 10th November 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