

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

October 2023

(No: 523)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

[www.wonfordmethodistchurch.or](http://www.wonfordmethodistchurch.or)



@WonfordMethodistChurch



YouTube Wonford Methodist Church



# A Message From The Minister

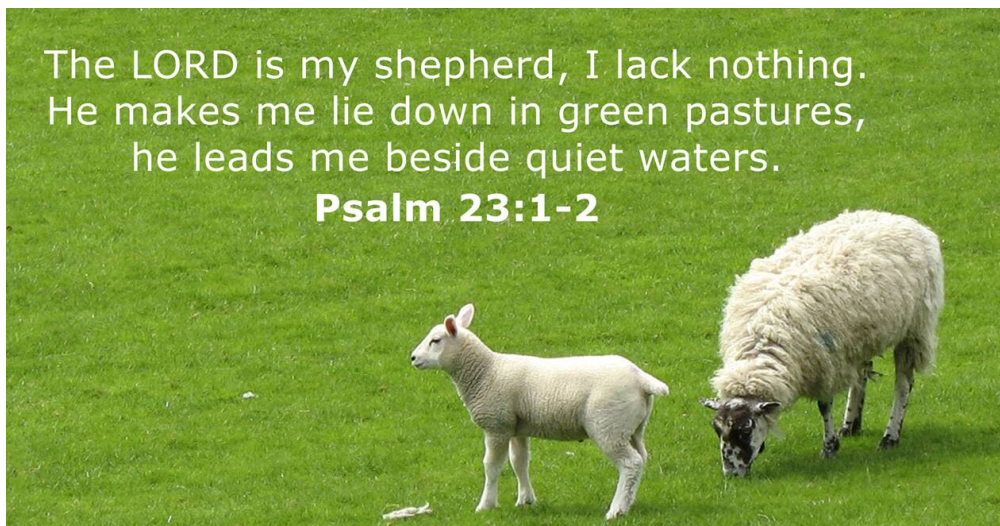
**Dear Friends,**

## **Psalm 23**

Psalm 23 resonates with many people, and is one of the best known poems in the world, because, like all the greatest poetry, it seems to speak to us at the deepest level. It's often read at funerals, but it's not just about death, it's about going through life with a deep trust that God is there and that his presence makes all the difference.

Psalm 23 doesn't pretend that life is always rosy. It recognises that every life involves dark valleys, experiences of pain and grief, and though faith doesn't make these go away, it does open up the possibility of going through life with God as our guide, sustainer, comforter and refuge. It is at heart, a poem about trust. King David, who wrote it, was a shepherd in his early life and he knew that a shepherd had to be trusted by his sheep or he couldn't do his job. Just as his sheep come to trust him to guide them away from wolves, David has learned the same kind of trust in his relationship with God. In other words, he has found God to be steadfast, reliable and rock-like in His trustworthiness. Our shepherd God is the one constant in our lives, the one constant companion who will never leave us or forsake us and our life's journey is so much richer and deeper when we see each and every day, every experience, every peak and every trough as a place to discover God's presence and to learn to love and trust God, giving ourselves to Him as He gives Himself to us.

**With every blessing**  
**Ben Haslam**



# Dates For October 2023

## Coffee

1st	Rose & Paul
8th	Sharilyn & Steve
15th	Linda & Mervyn
22nd	Kath & Kev
29th	Elaine & Graham

## Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In October they are meeting on the 13th and 27th and are now studying the Ten Commandments with a study guide by J John. All are welcome to attend.

## Monika

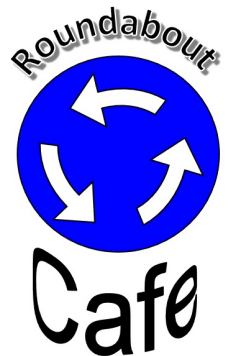
## The Away Group

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 17th October 2023 when there will be a talk on the Exe Estuary with Imogen Salmon

They 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 October will be having the following activities for you to join if you would like alongside the free cuppa & cake:

## **7th October**

We will be making up pots of Tete a tete bulbs to give out after church

## **14th October**

We'll be having fun with The Alphabet Game

## **21st October**

It is time for another picture Bingo with '5 a day' prizes to be won.

## **28th October**

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

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**

## **Cleaning Help Wanted Please!**

There are a lot of behind the scenes volunteer roles at Wonford that help keep our church a clean and safe place to be. One of those involves cleaning the church premises and we are looking for a few more volunteers to join our little team.

The role involves cleaning the chapel, hall, lounge & toilets and we have all the equipment and cleaning products on the premises. We would welcome someone or a pair (sharing the chores cuts the time in half!) to join us and be added to the rota to come in to clean every 5 or 6 weeks. Each cleaning session usually takes one of us about 2 hours and two of us about an hour each.

The team currently includes Bill Noronha, Liz Simonetti, Paul Smith, Sue Keatt and Terry Lenton so please speak with one of us if you think you could help.

## **Church Green Team Update**

As we move in to another season, we thought we would look back over the past few years to see how those at Wonford Methodist Church have been encouraged to improve the way we look after the environment and try to become better custodians of God's creation.

- Installed a water butt to collect rainwater to use to water the plants and tubs in the church grounds

- Planted small border plants that benefit butterflies & bees
- We will soon be installing 2 bug boxes to help useful insects to over winter successfully
- We have avoided using harmful pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers
- Buy environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Some of the church have been involved in a local litter-picks
- A couple of our church anniversary picnics have been arranged locally to reduce to need to drive further afield and enable us to enjoy nature locally
- Our church has participated in Tearfund/Cord 'Toilet Twinning' scheme
- We are a Fairtrade church with our tea, coffee and sugar
- Monthly articles in our church Contact newsletter have encouraged planting for wildlife & why that is important, challenged us to reduce car & energy use, to shop more sustainably, to reduce our waste and how to recycle where we can
- At Café Church we have had local environmentalists & speakers to talk about environmental issues
- 'Caring for God's Earth' continues to be a theme in our Young church and were also in Messy church & Girls Brigade whilst they were running
- We have a large display board in the church hall with lots of ideas to help with green issues
- Installed LED or low energy bulbs in the church and manse
- The ceiling is soon to be lowered in hall which will improve our energy use and the acoustics in the room

Continue to include praying for our environment and environmental issues in our church prayers

**Alison, Helen, Liz and Sue K**

'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it' (Psalm 24 v 1)

As human beings we are part of the whole and have a responsibility to love and care for what God has entrusted to us as temporary tenants of the planet.

We are called to conserve its complex and fragile ecology, whilst recognising the need for responsible & sustainable development and the pursuit of social justice.



## Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2023

Last November, in our Church Hall, the Exeter Blythswood group processed and sent 1626 shoeboxes from Exeter & East Devon to people living in abject poverty in Ukraine. It is a blessing to think that our boxes brought a little bit of happiness to each of the people opening them in December and discovering the gifts inside! We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine – for safety & shelter, reconciliation & restoration and for peace across their land.

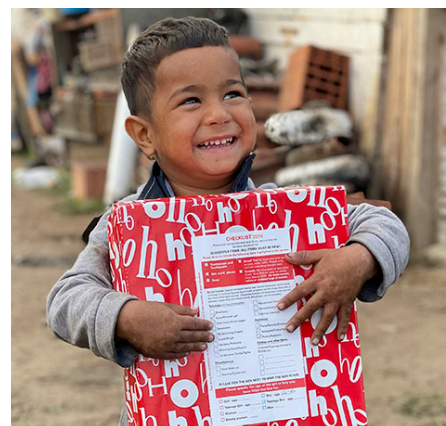
We are collecting boxes through Blythswood Care again this year. Blythswood Care is an established Christian charity based in Glasgow, Scotland. They bring hope to families in Europe, Africa and Asia through filled shoeboxes at Christmas, relief and development aid or social projects for young and old. 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 so it can be opened easily and they can be for adults as well as teenagers and children. The categories are Male or Female; Preschool, Primary, Teenager, Adult or Elderly.

Their website [www.blythswood.org](http://www.blythswood.org) will provide a full checklist of items that can be put in the shoeboxes and you can print of a label from there, but if you don't have access to a printer then I can give you a leaflet. The donation towards cost of transporting each shoebox is £3. Date for final collection at Wonford Methodist is Sunday 19th November.

Most important items - toothbrush & toothpaste, soap & flannel, hat/scarf/ gloves, sweets (dated at least March 2024), 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.

To any of our talented knitters, each year we are most in need of scarves,



large hats (we have too many small ones) and mittens or fingerless gloves please, for both children and adults. 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.

Please do contribute if you can. This shoebox may be the only gift they have ever been given and what a Christmas present for someone truly in need!

**Sue Keatt**

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

## **Exeter Male Voice**

### **Praise Choir**

On their first visit to Exminster, invite you to

## **An Act of Praise**

(A service of hymns and songs)

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 4.00 pm**



**At Exminster  
Methodist Church**

**Near the  
Post Office - EX6 8TA**

**Refreshments afterwards**

**Admission free - No collection**

Cash donations, if wished, may be made for the Disaster's Emergency Committee (DEC) The DEC brings together 15 leading UK aid charities, raising funds to quickly and effectively respond to overseas disasters. Registered charity No 1062638.

[exminstermethodists@gmail.com](mailto:exminstermethodists@gmail.com)

## **Elijah and Elisha Autumn Preaching Series**

This continues into October

**Oct 8** Elijah raises the widow's son Rev Ben Haslam  
1 Kings 17. 17-24 – "Now I know you are a man of God!"

**Oct 15** Elijah triumphs over the priests of Baal.  
1 Kings 17-40 – "If the Lord is God, follow Him..." Rev Terry Spencer

**Oct 22** Elijah flees from Jezebel Dr Joan Wragg  
1 Kings 19. 1-18 – "a still, small voice..."

**Oct 29** Elijah ascends to heaven Rev Paul Smith  
2 Kings 2. 1-12 – "The chariots and horsemen of Israel"

**Nov 12** Elisha succeeds Elijah Rev Ben Haslam  
1 Kings 19. 19-21  
2 Kings 2. 13-22 – "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?"

**Nov 19** The healing of Naaman Barbara Easton  
2 Kings 5. 1-19 –  
"Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel"

**Nov 26** The Aramean attack is thwarted Monika Norohna  
2 Kings 6. 8-23 – "Lord, please open his eyes so that he may see..."

## **Church Council Meeting**

Our next church council meeting is being held on Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 7.30pm in the church. All are welcome. If you have anything you wish discussed, please let Rev Ben Haslam or myself know before the meeting.

At this meeting we look at and approve our Safeguarding Policy, Health and Safety Policy and the church property annual checks.

**Alison Howell**



## **The Magnetic Power Of God**

In our July house group, the Bible theme that ten of us studied was Judgment. Yes, without doubt, there will be God's Judgment one day; we will ALL be judged! But Jesus categorically instructed us NOT to judge others. It's quite clear in Matthew 7 v 2 that "in the same way as you judge others, you will be judged!" God is the sole Judge, and our job is to get on worthily with our own lives.

Recently, as I waited for the lift to take me to my flat, the lift doors opened and another resident accidentally bumped into me as she came out. My flat keys fell out of my hand, and dropped down the small gap between the lift and the floor into the lift shaft! When the manager heard about it, she told me that to get the lift engineers out to retrieve my keys would cost me £300! Fortunately, Norman who keenly leads our morning tai chi sessions, heard about this, and kindly brought his 5ft long wire with a magnet on the end. Bending down in the lift, I shone the torch into the pitch-black lift shaft, while Norman painstakingly lowered this long wire and magnet down into the lift shaft. After patient manoeuvring, he very gently raised the wire through the tiny gap, with my rescued keys attached to the magnet!

Jesus does not want anyone to be lost. He is the Good Samaritan who is willing to deal with all our brokenness and help with our recovery. He is the Good Shepherd, who leaves the 99 sheep, and passionately goes after the 1 sheep that is missing, and searches high and low till he finds it. The very core of our faith is that Jesus is also the Saviour, who loves us so much that he laid down his own life for his sheep!

Rest assured that Christ wants us all in his sheepfold! NOW is the day of salvation, not tomorrow. Whoever you are, open your heart to this wonderful Saviour. Invite him into your life. "The vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives." Reach out for the magnetic love of Christ! Sadly, some deliberately choose to refuse Christ's love. That's their choice, but no one needs to be lost.

"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out!"

"When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men and women to myself!" (John 12 v32)

This is the magnetic power of Christ, for all who believe in Him!

**Rev Malcolm Carter**

# Prayer Focus for October 2023

## Sunday 1st October

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.

***Psalm 136:1***

As we celebrate our Harvest Festival, pray for the families receiving our Harvest Baskets donations. Pray too that we will find more ways to bless our local community.

## Sunday 8th October

If my people, who are called by my name, will HUMBLE themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Teach us true humility, may we fear God with the reverence and awe that he is worthy of.

## Sunday 15th October

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and PRAY and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Following on from our 24 hours of prayer [I think we covered 21hours!], let's continue to pray for revival in our hearts, in our midst and in our community.

## Sunday 22nd October

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and SEEK MY FACE and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Lord, may we learn to take you seriously and may we seek your presence continually, wherever we may be, whatever we may be doing. May we also find real joy in worshipping you, especially when we come together to sing your praises!

## Sunday 29th October

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and TURN from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Lord, may we turn from sin and repent of all our wrongdoing. Help us to do this every day and may God guide us to do the things He wants us to do.

### 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



## Faith in Politics

7th October 2023  
10-4pm



**Faith in Politics**

**The Mint, Exeter**  
**7th October 2023, 10-4pm**

Keynote Speakers:

Sir Gary Street MP

Andy Flanagan, Executive Director of Christians in Politics

Steve Hucklesby, Policy Advisor of Joint Public Issues Team

A development day primarily designed for Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, but open to all.

Join us for conversation, bible study and theological input.

**Bring your own lunch, refreshments provided.**

**To book a place please email**  
**[admin@pemd.org.uk](mailto:admin@pemd.org.uk)**

The event will also be accessible via Zoom.



### Livestream

to join the event via Zoom  
please use the details  
below.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/92723088874?pwd=cXMxd1pSL0JPS2t5WVHV2WGU3WmxvUT09>

Meeting ID: 927 2308 8874  
Passcode: 833685

JOIN US FOR A GAME OF...

# YOU BET!

Games & fun for  
everyone!

Tuesday  
**3rd Oct**

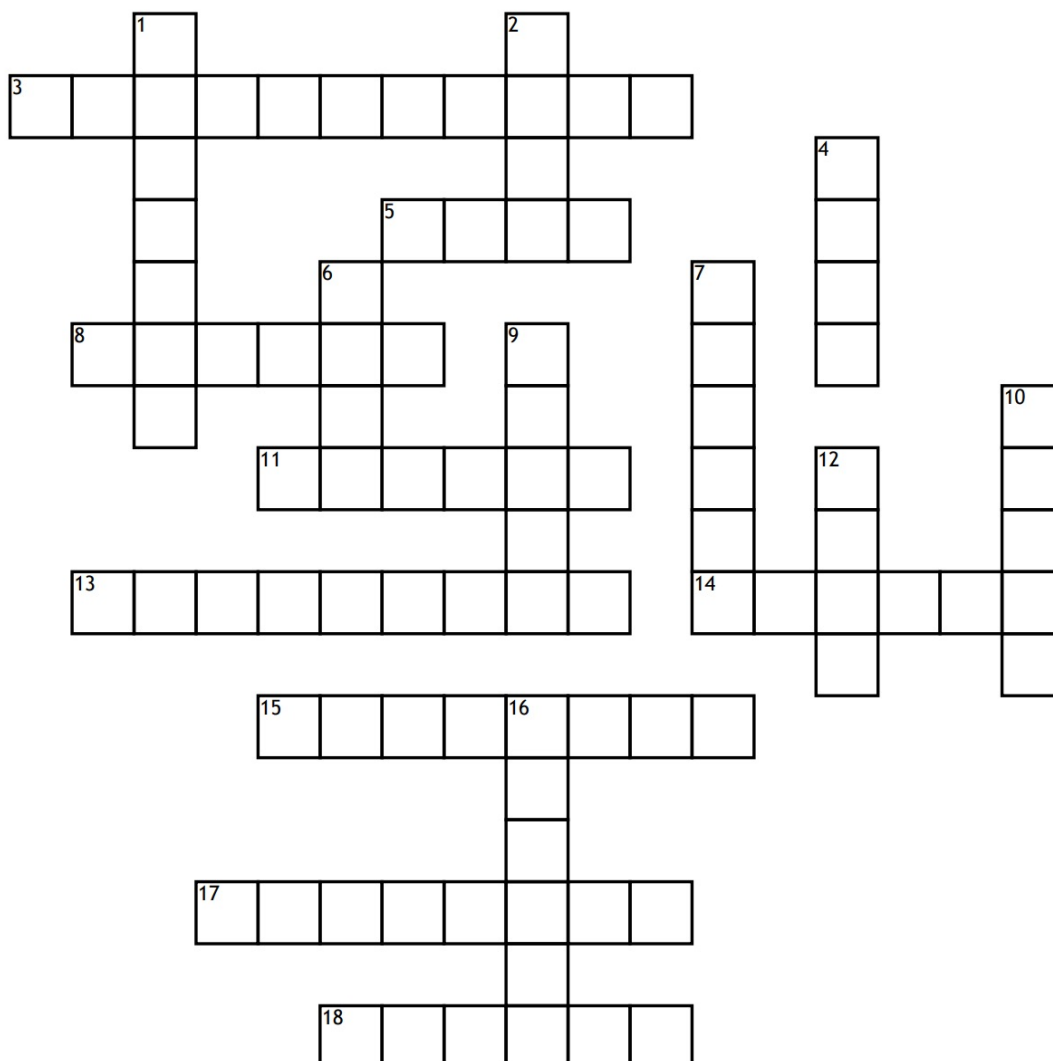
**ALL  
WELCOME**

at Wonford Methodist Church  
6:30pm start!

**Bring n share tea!**



# Elijah and Elisha



## Across

3. Elisha's servant was afraid when he saw the Syrian army \_\_\_\_\_ the city.  
 5. Elisha opened his servant's \_\_\_\_\_ so he could see the angel army.  
 8. Elisha lives in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 11. Which prophet raised the widow's son from the dead?  
 13. Elisha fights for the \_\_\_\_\_ army.  
 14. What army was Elisha and the Israelites fighting?

15. Who was king during Elijah's day?

17. What were the "jobs" of Elijah and Elisha?

18. Which prophet came 2nd?

## Down

1. The king of Syria thought there was a \_\_\_\_\_ in his army because the Israelites kept anticipating where they were going.  
 2. To prove that Elijah's God was real, he lit an altar on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 4. Elisha says "fear not they that be with us are more than they that be with \_\_\_\_\_"

6. What was the name of the fake god that the people believed in?

7. Elijah was fed by \_\_\_\_\_ in the wilderness to survive the drought.

9. Elisha told his king to give the enemy a \_\_\_\_\_ after they were captured.

10. Elisha made the enemy \_\_\_\_\_.

12. The angels that surrounded the city had charriots of \_\_\_\_\_.

16. What is in every story that we have learned about this year?

## **Statement in response to the Prime Minister's announcement on net zero policies**

A joint statement by The Baptist Union of Great Britain, The Methodist Church, The United Reformed Church

We are dismayed that the Prime Minister is delaying the implementation of policies to achieve net zero. As Christian leaders we are deeply committed to encouraging all within our sphere of influence to be ambitious in reaching net zero as we seek to care for God's creation. This transition must be rapid, equitable and just.

At a time when so many people are struggling financially, the government has a crucial role to play in ensuring the cost of transition to net zero does not fall most heavily on those least able to afford it. Delaying measures to insulate homes will have the opposite effect, and slowing efforts to reduce fossil fuel use will increase climate impacts on vulnerable communities around the globe.

Extreme weather events this year have demonstrated the urgency of the situation. The independent Climate Change Committee have assessed that even current policy measures are insufficient to meet the UK's climate targets. The government needs to urgently demonstrate how it will get the UK back on track to reach net zero before 2050.

The commitments made at COP26 were instrumental in providing confidence to industry, investors and civil society that the UK was serious about rising to the climate challenge. It is a source of extreme disappointment that the Prime Minister's announcement will damage that confidence and undermine our collective efforts. As a country, we have moral and legal responsibilities to show leadership in tackling the climate emergency together.

**Revd Lynn Green**

**General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain**

**Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson**

**Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church**

**Revd Gill Newton**

**President of the Methodist Conference**

**Deacon Kerry Scarlett**

**Vice-President of the Methodist Conference**

# Dates For Your Diary

## October 2023

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m.	Harvest Festival / All Age Worship with Mary Hext
	6.30 p.m.	Harvest Praise
Tue 3rd	6.30 p.m.	Harvest Social - 'You Bet'. Bring & Share tea **
Sat 7th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) *
	10.00 a.m.	'Faith in Politics' at The Mint MC **
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Themed Preaching **
Tue 10th	7.30 p.m.	Church Council meets in the Church **
Fri 13th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 14th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 15th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Themed Preaching **
	4.00 p.m.	Exeter Male Voice Praise Choir at Exminster MC **
	6.30 p.m.	Café Church with David Westcott
Tue 17th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Sat 21st	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Dr Joan Wragg - Themed Preaching **
Fri 27th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 28th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 29th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Paul Smith - Themed Preaching **

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



The deadline for items for the November 2023 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th October 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](mailto: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)