

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

April 2016  
(No: 447)



Minister: Rev Bruce Sawyer (01392 256716)



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

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



# A Message From The Minister

**Dear Friends,**

We marked our journey together through Lent by placing teardrops on the wall, to remind us of some of the sadness contained in the stories we reflected on, and the sadness that is in the world. On Easter Day, we completed our journey. We added a final tear drop – not of sadness, but of joy. Jesus is alive, he is risen. The joy that comes from realising this, from encountering the risen Christ, is one which transforms. To visualise this, we gathered all our tear drops together to transform them into a flower, changing how we view those tears and creating a sign of the new life offered to us by Jesus.

Transformation is one of the central themes of Jesus' resurrection – death becomes the source of life, failures are forgiven, despair turns to hope, fearful disciples are empowered.

As I look back over the year, one of things which has given me greatest joy was the transformation of our fence with flowers and butterflies for Wonford in Bloom, and poppies for remembrance. Something which is grey and drab became something which had colour and beauty. Something which is a barrier became a means of communication. Placing things on the fence transformed its perception – instead of saying keep out, implying a lack of trust, suddenly it said we trust you, that the things on it will be respected. Instead of being a symbol of despair, it became a symbol of hope. And people noticed, people appreciated it, people responded – perhaps not articulated in the same way, but it evoked gratitude. They said thank you. It seems to me that in a small way, the transformation of the fence echoed the transformation of resurrection – it brought life and beauty and hope.

I would love this transformation, this colour and hope and communication to continue. I recognise that such transformation takes time and effort and energy and a willingness to work together. To try and facilitate the continuation of this transformation, my suggestion is that on 21st April, at 7.30pm in the hall, we have a meeting which is open to anyone who would like to think about how, during May and June, we can again transform the fence as part of Wonford in Bloom. Hopefully this might be a pattern that can be repeated a few times throughout the year, without people feeling they are committed to always taking part (e.g. we might hold another meeting in October for those who are free and willing to transform the fence for November/December).

And if you want to be involved, but can't make the meeting, do let me know!

Happy Easter.

**With every blessing,  
Rev Bruce Sawyer**

# Dates For April

## Flowers

3rd Mandy  
10th Bronwen & Clifford  
17th Julie & Alan  
24th Edith & Tutor



## Coffee

3rd Sheila  
10th Susan  
17th Anne & John  
24th Eileen & Melanie



## Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This group meets in the lounge at 2pm normally on the third Thursday each month. This month they are studying John Chapter 6. All are welcome and if you'd like to learn more, do speak with Bronwen or Clifford Maddicks.

21st 2.00 p.m. Bible Study in the lounge.

## Tuesday Home Group

This month this group is back to its normal Tuesday schedule after the 'Lent' course. For more information see Monika Noronha.

5th April 7.30pm Meeting at 20 Whipton Lane  
19th April 7.30pm Meeting at 14 Grainger Close

## Cafe Church

Sunday 10th April 2016

See advert on right

## To drink or not to drink: that was the question

Cafe Church at Wonford Methodist Church  
Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6-30pm

Speaker: Jon Curtis

A look at the origins and history of Teetotalism with special reference to the Methodist church.

Jon talks us through his PhD research over the last five years

Drinks and nibbles Discussion and questions All welcome



## **Wonford Methodist Church - General Church Meeting**

After the morning service on Sunday 17 April 2016 we will hold our General Church Meeting (at approx. 11am in the Chapel). This meeting is open to all within the life of the church at Wonford.

The meeting encourages us to reflect on some aspects of our life together – this year the main part of the meeting will be a virtual prayer walk; an opportunity, prompted by pictures and video, to spend time praying together for various aspects of the community surrounding the church, and to listen to what God is saying to us.

At the start of the meeting we shall also elect representatives to the Church Council and people to serve as Church Stewards for the coming year. If you would like to nominate anyone for election, please give their name (with that person's consent) in writing/email to Rev Bruce Sawyer, or Alison Howell, by 9 April 2016.

Following the meeting, fellowship will continue over a Bring & Share Light Lunch in the Hall.

**Please do put the date in your diary and join with us on the day.**

### **Changes to Circuit Ministers**

Many of you will know by now that in the summer both Rev'd David Easton (Circuit Superintendent) and Rev'd Steve Ward will be leaving the circuit and continuing ministry in new areas; David in Warrington and Steve in Cyprus. This means that (subject to Conference approval) in September we will welcome two new ministers to the circuit – Rev'd Stephen Santry (who will serve as Superintendent and have pastoral charge of The Mint) and Rev'd Yangsun Yi (a probationer who will work with Sidwell Street and alongside Rev'd Stephen Santry at The Mint).

As a result of these changes, I will be taking on pastoral charge of both Crockernwell and Whiddon Down churches, in addition to Wonford and Lypstone. Although I will continue as university chaplain, the amount of time allocated to this will be reduced.

Please remember in your prayers all who will be preparing to move over the coming months and for those churches who will begin working with new ministers.

## **What On Earth Is 'Away Group' ?**

Maybe some of you ask yourselves that question when you see or hear a notice in church about 'Away Group'. What is 'Away Group'? Well quite simply it's a house group Bible Study that meets every week on a Monday evening often at Alan and Julie's. When the group started, as a result of a Circuit Theme preaching series about four years ago, Home Group (that's the one that meets fortnightly on a Tuesday evening) already existed so it was natural to call the new group 'Away Group' - so now you know. 'Away Group' has a core membership at present of Alan and Julie, Mandy, Chris P, Caroline C, Sheila, Tony and Joan, Margaret K, Tracy and Nigel and Ann and John and quite often all 13 of us are present. Recently we have navigated the Sermon on the Mount, a couple of Old Testament prophets (Zechariah and Malachi) and we are now doing Paul's letters to the Thessalonians. We are a wonderfully happy and supportive group with a real bond of love amongst us. During the week of Keswick in Devon most of the group made a point of getting to several of the sessions addressed by Rev Dr David Coffey. I think Joan clocked up the most attendances with eight during the week. It was a wonderful week of Bible ministry as David explored transformed lives from Luke's gospel in the morning talks and transformed churches from Acts in the evenings. Do make a point of getting down to Sidmouth for these great sessions next year when it's rumoured that Jonathan Lamb (Chair of Keswick Ministries) is due to speak. It is quality teaching.

There is of course a third current Bible Study fellowship group on a Thursday afternoon based at Church and led by our minister Bruce. That group meets only once a month and is at 2pm. So if you don't currently belong to Home Group, Away Group or Thursday Group and you would like to share in some supportive fellowship then do talk to me or Monika (Home Group) or Bronwen (Thursday Group). If groups get too big we can always create a new group. Home, Away - perhaps a new group would be called "In Group" - that would sound quite trendy.

**Tony Wragg**

## **Change of Address - Please Note**

Margaret and Keith Evans have moved. Their new contact details are below:

Margaret and Keith Evans,  
Flat 35 Mowbray Court,  
Butts Road,  
Heavitree,  
Exeter EX2 5TQ

[margaret.afevans35@sky.com](mailto:margaret.afevans35@sky.com)

[keith-evans4@sky.com](mailto:keith-evans4@sky.com)

## **Prayerthon**

A small group of Christian university students are planning a sponsored prayer walk, or "Prayerthon", taking place on Saturday the 28th of May. This event will involve visiting 24 of Exeter's churches in a single day, and praying at each church for the people of a specific country of the world, with the aim of helping these people come to accept the love of Jesus.

They are raising sponsorship, which will be donated to Doulos Partners, a highly effective church-planting organisation which supports missionaries in many of the countries they will be praying for. On average, Doulos Partners converts one person for every 40 pence donated to them.

They will start at half past seven in the morning at Christ Church in Summerland, and finish at midnight at St Thomas Baptist Church. Along the way, as they walk between churches they will pray for the people of Exeter, particularly those who do not yet know Jesus. Below is a link to a map of every church we'd like to visit:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?hl=en&authuser=0&mid=zFbaYl4h6AHc.kl5BfoleJJT8>

They would love to get existing prayer and outreach groups involved in this event- either by praying with them on the day, or by praying for them from their churches or their homes. They would also like to promote the excellent work of Doulos Partners, so that anyone who feels called to donate will have an opportunity to.

For further details please contact **James Harman**  
[james.sortition@gmail.com](mailto:james.sortition@gmail.com)

## All In White Shall Wait Around

April 23rd is a Red Letter Day. Why you may ask. Not only is it our Patron Saint's Day, St. George, but it is the start of the outdoor bowling season !!! You don't have to wait until the time of glory to be amongst those in the title scene from Revelations, for you can find it here in Heavitree Park, opposite our Manse. I don't think there is a better sight than seeing forty eight men and women dressed in white, gathered around a game of bowls on a hot summer's day in Heavitree Park.

Here is another chance for you to join in and engage with the community. Bowling is therapeutic, it is company and we chat about life things such as church. Sharon and I love the coach trips, always with Wesley Powell driving. We go to Cornwall, Dorset and Somerset.

Heavitree Bowling Club, is stepping out in faith, it goes independent from Exeter City Council, and needs you.

So, why not come and join your community in recreation. Come and see me and I can help you with further information and arrange to have a roll up and meet the gang, how about a men's group session there perhaps !!

May God Bless us with a really glorious Summer.

**Nick Goddard** (see Church Directory for contact details)

## Prayer Focus for April

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
His mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is Thy faithfulness.**  
*(Lamentations 3:22,23 RSV)*

### **Week beginning Sunday 3rd**

In this season of spring with its new life and growth, please pray for all new beginnings; the babies and toddlers we see in church (the 'new shoots'); for Caroline Sawyer and Mandy Denton as they begin a new 2 year course to train as worship leaders and for those leading the new Themed Preaching series on the letters of Peter (starting next week).

Thank God for His mercies that are new every morning.

### **Week beginning Sunday 10th**

Please pray that each new morning will bring fresh revelation of the Lord's steadfast love, that we might witness to others of His love that never leaves us and gives meaning to our lives.

### **Week beginning Sunday 17th - General Church Meeting**

Please pray for God to bless and encourage those appointed as Stewards and Church Council members at today's General Church Meeting.

Also continue praying that a Church Council secretary will come forward.

### **Week beginning Sunday 24th**

Please pray for all the people in our church who faithfully proclaim God's word and serve others in a variety of ways.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Thank God for His great faithfulness to us even though we do not deserve it.

### **Phone Prayer Link**

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is Beryl Violet (01392) 270132. Your request will be passed to members of the Prayer Link who will pray for your need.

### **After Church Prayer Support**

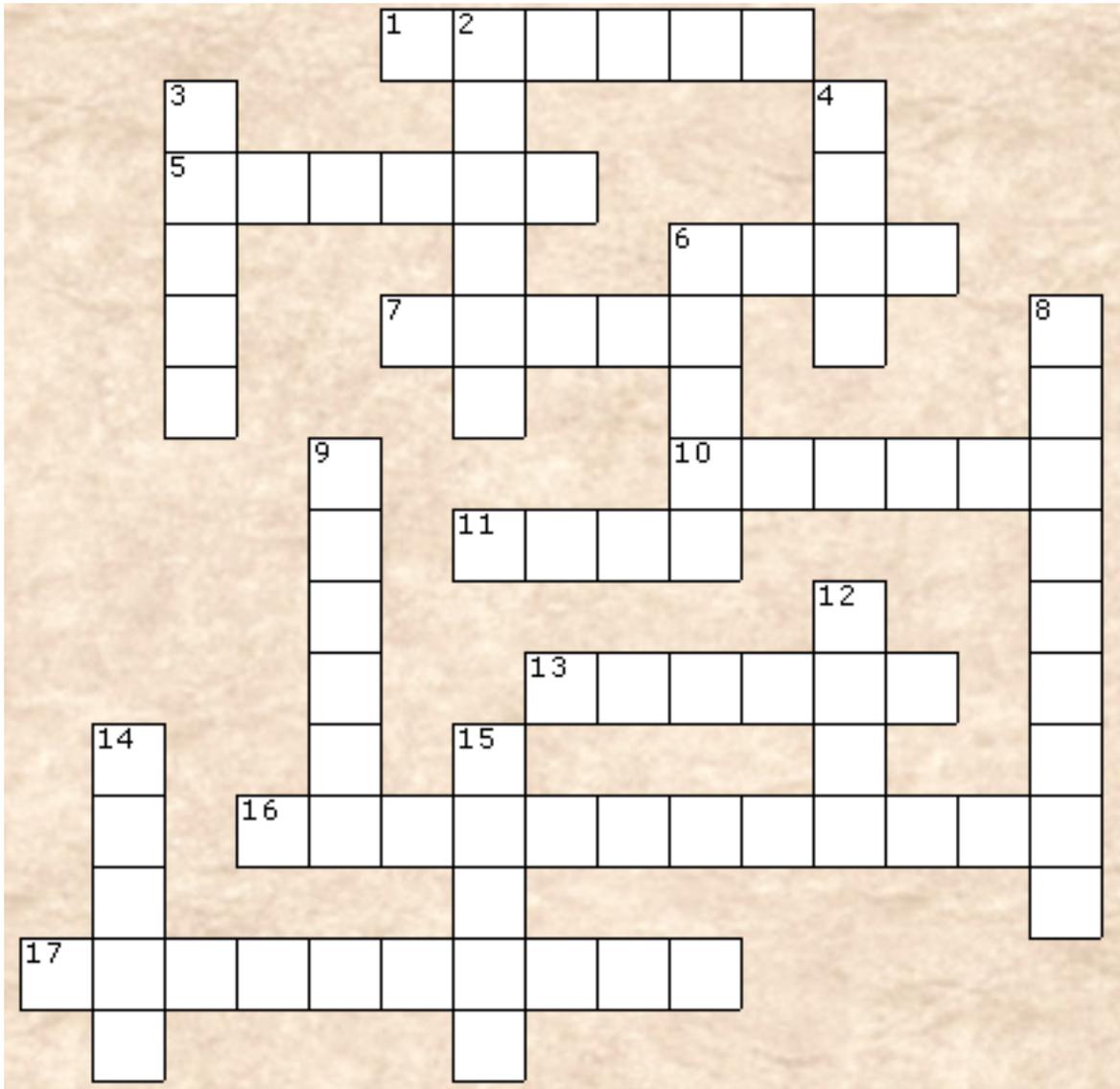
This is available in the Quiet Room on Sunday mornings. Two members of the Prayer Team will be available to pray with you.

### **The Prayer Team**



# Easter Crossword & WordSearch

(well this newsletter comes out on Easter Sunday!!)



## Across

1 Jesus

6 Jesus rode a \_\_\_ into Jerusalem

7 Disciple who denied knowing Jesus

10 Easter season

13 \_\_\_ of Gethsemane

16 Easter celebrates the \_\_\_ of Jesus

17 Sunday before Easter

5 Doubting \_\_\_

11 Coloured Easter \_\_\_

## Down

2 After 40 days, Jesus ascended to \_\_\_

3 An angel rolled away the \_\_\_ covering the tomb

4 People greeted Jesus with \_\_\_ branches

6 Where Jesus died

8 Mary \_\_\_ discovered Jesus had risen

9 \_\_\_ sentenced Jesus to die

14 \_\_\_ betrayed Jesus

12 Season before Easter

15 Easter animal?



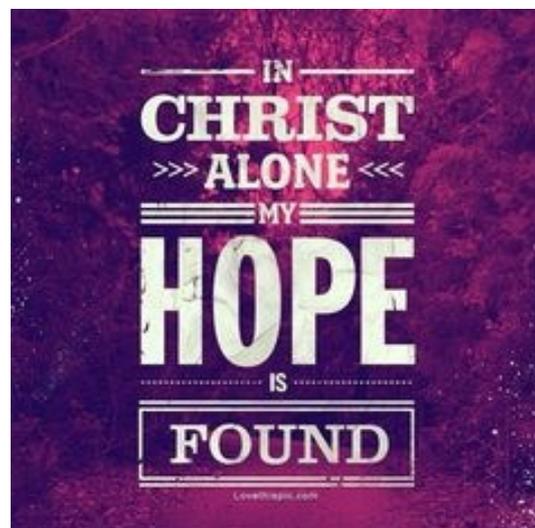
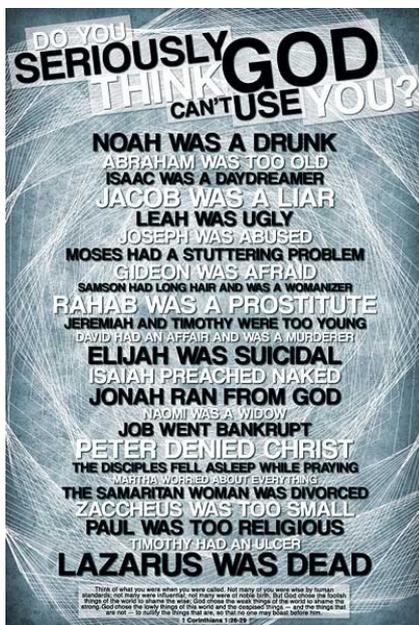
Alive, Angel, Apostles, Appearance, Arrest, Barabbas, Betrayed, Calvary, Christ, Church, Cross, Crucified, Death, Eggs, Emmaus, Garden, Gethsemane, Golgotha, Iscariot, Jerusalem, Jesus, Joy, Judas, Magdalene, Mary, Parade, Passover, Peace, Peter, Pilate, Priest, Redeemed, Risen, Romans, Rooster, Salvation, Sanhedrin, Spring, Tomb, Trial, Worship

# Dates For Your Diary

## April 2016

Sun 3rd	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Paul Violet - Songs of Praise
Tue 5th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane **
Sun 10th	10.00 a.m.	Dr Joan Wragg - 'Letters of Peter' Themed Preaching - 1
	6.30 p.m.	Jon Curtis - Cafe Church - 'To Drink or Not to Drink :That Was The Question'. **
Sat 16th	8.30 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Breakfast
	10.00 a.m.	District Representative Synod at The Avenue UC, Newton Abbott **
Sun 17th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Sacrament and 'Letters of Peter' Themed Preaching - 2 <b>The Annual General Church Meeting follows the morning service followed by a 'Bring &amp; Share' lunch - all welcome **</b>
	6.30 p.m.	Deacon Geoff Tamblin
Tue 19th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe (until 12pm)
	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 14 Grainger Close **
Thu 21st	2.00 p.m.	Monthly Bible Study in the lounge **
Sun 24th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Dr Mike Butterworth - 'Letters for Peter' Themed Preaching - 3
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Dr Mike Butterworth - 'Letters for Peter' Themed Preaching - 4
Wed 27th	7.30pm	Jon Curtis - Circuit Training on leading 'Local Arrangement' services.

**\*\* 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

- 7.30 p.m. Away Group Bible Study (2 Wallace Avenue)  
Girls' Brigade (4 - 16 year olds) 5.45 to 7pm \*A\*

## Tuesday

- 9.15 a.m. Weekly Prayers in the Quiet Room  
10.00 a.m. Men's Coffee and Games Morning  
10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Cafe (3rd Tuesday each month)  
7.30 p.m. Home Group Bible Study Meeting (fortnightly)

## Thursday

- 2.00 p.m. Bible Study (3rd Thursday each month)

## Friday

- 9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group \*A\*  
2.00 p.m. Friday Fellowship in the lounge

## Saturday

- 8.30 a.m. Monthly Prayer Breakfast (3rd Saturday each month)

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 May 2016 Newsletter will be Sunday 10th April 2016. 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)