

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

April 2018

(No: 467)



Minister: Rev Bruce Sawyer (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

During the recent snow I was out in the Ludwell Valley enjoying sledging with the children. There were a great many others out enjoying this too. Many had plastic sledges, but there were several more traditional wooden sledges, as well as a couple of snowboarders and even one person on skis! Perhaps even more surprising than the sight of snowboarders and skiers in Ludwell Valley, was the interesting assortment of improvised sledges that were also there. With varying degrees of success, people were sledging on airbeds, skateboards (with the wheels removed), cushions inside plastic bags, baby baths, plastic table tops, body boards and plastic paddling pools/sandpits! It turns out that body boards can ride down snow slopes just as well as they can ride waves at the beach.

You might be wondering what any of this has to do with an Easter message. Well, in a strange way it reminded me of the cross. The cross was an instrument of pain and humiliation. It is widely recognised as one of the most horrific ways to die. This is the place to which the religious leaders, the Roman authorities, and the crowds of Jerusalem condemned Jesus to bring punishment and judgement upon him, to remove the threat he posed to the status quo, to end his life. For maybe 48 hours it seemed as though they had succeeded. Jesus' bruised, pierced, and lifeless body was removed from the cross and placed in a tomb. It had been ended. The cross had done its intended job.

Yet Easter morning came just three days later. No longer was the cross empty, but so was the tomb. As scarred and bewildered followers began to encounter Jesus risen from the dead, so they discovered God had been doing what those improvising sledges on Ludwell Valley had been doing – taking one thing and changing, transforming its purpose. In God's hands, this instrument of punishment and death is transformed into one which brings forgiveness, and life, and sets us free.

So I wonder, as we experience and celebrate again this gift of new life at Easter, how might we transform those ordinary things around us that they too find new purpose in God's kingdom?

With every blessing

Bruce

Dates For April

Coffee

1st	Fran & Pauline
8th	Helen & Elizabeth
15th	Melanie & Eileen
22nd	TBA
29th	TBA



Flowers

1st	Easter Sunday - Mandy
8th	TBA
15th	TBA
22nd	Jenny H
29th	TBA



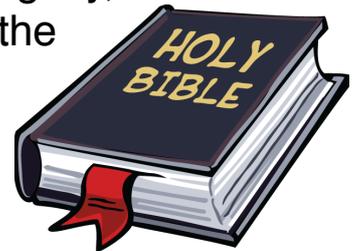
Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This group meets in the lounge at 2pm normally on the third Thursday each month. All are welcome. This month they are continuing to study Job.

19th 2.00 p.m. Bible Study in the lounge.

Home Group

This is the House Group that meets approximately fortnightly, and often hosted generously by Caroline Sawyer at the manse. Do look in the Diary Dates for exactly when we're meeting this month, and we'd love to have you come and join us anytime. In January we've made a good start on studying Paul's letter to the Ephesians, fortunately with a guide book to help us discuss the challenges there.



Monika Noronha

10th	7.30pm	At 39 Meyer Court
24th	7.30pm	At 20 Whipton Lane

trypraying.

Our Calling

Our Calling, in the Methodist Church in Britain, is to:

*increase awareness of
God's presence and to
celebrate God's love*

*help people to grow and learn as
Christians through mutual
support and care*

*to be a good neighbour to
people in need and to challenge
injustice*

*make more followers of Jesus
Christ*

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2: 46-47

Wonford Methodist Church General Church Meeting

After the morning service on Sunday 29 April 2018 we will hold our General Church Meeting (at approx. 11:15am in the Chapel, for about an hour). This meeting is open to all within the life of the church at Wonford.

At the meeting we will elect various representatives to roles within the life of the church (see separate article) and receive reports reflecting the past year. The meeting also encourages us to reflect on some aspects of our life together – this year we hope that the main part of the meeting will be an opportunity to consider plans for the future of the boundary fence (to see potential ideas and discuss the possibilities).

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

Appointments

You are probably aware that all sorts of people contribute in a whole variety of ways to the running of the church and our witness in the community. We seek to affirm these acts of service in the appointments made annually at our February Church Council (and a full list of those appointed can be found

in the vestry). I am always grateful for those willing to serve the church in any way, and often amazed at the generosity of time and dedication that people give to their roles. Thank you.

Following our February Church Council, I would like to draw your attention to the following roles that we need to fill over the coming months:

Gift Aid Secretary – Gift Aid is a government scheme which increases the value of donations made by tax payers to certain charities. As a church we benefit through this scheme and are able to claim several thousand pounds through it each year. Linda Clarke has administered this scheme for us over the past few years, but has indicated that she will stand down from this role from May 2019. Although this seems a long way off, she would love to have someone work alongside her over this coming year so they can learn the ropes and ensure a smooth transition. If you'd like to know more, please speak with Linda [and also if you're a tax payer and don't already Gift Aid your donation!].

Messy Church Helpers – since we changed to a monthly Messy Church last year, we've seen an increase in those attending, with many families attending each month (in January we had 74, and in February 69). This is fantastic and something we thank God for. The increased numbers mean that we could really do with some extra regular helpers – there are all sorts of ways you can help, for example in the kitchen preparing food or helping with one of the (simple) craft activities. Please speak with Karen Lord, Sue Gosney or Caroline Sawyer if you'd like to know more.

Christian Aid Link – are you concerned about issues relating to poverty and injustice? Would you like to help the church make a difference in these areas and raise awareness of the work of Christian Aid throughout the congregation? We are looking for a new link person for Christian Aid to help keep church informed and challenge us to get involved. Traditionally this has been through a focus on Christian Aid week in May, but the role need not be restricted to that! Please see Jenny Harrington for further information.

Please do give prayerful consideration as to whether God might be calling you to take on one of the above roles. Additionally, there are two roles where appointment is made by the whole church at our General Church Meeting (29th April):

Representative to Church Council – a member of Church Council (and therefore a managing trustee) which oversees the running of the church. Church Council typically meets 3 times a year on a Tuesday evening. It is important to have representatives from a variety of people within the church to represent different perspectives. Whether you are young or old (or somewhere in between), however long you've been a member of Wonford Methodist Church, if you would like to be more involved in the life of the church, this could be a role for you.

Church Steward – this is a key role in the life of the church. As well as the practical tasks on a Sunday of ensuring the building is ready for worship, liaising with the preacher, and welcoming people to church, Church Stewards are members of the Leadership Team (and Church Council). Together with the minister, treasurer and property steward, they meet regularly (usually 6 times a year) to help guide the direction of the church. They are also involved in taking forward many of the decisions made by Church Council. The appointment is made annually, with an expectation that no-one serves for more than 6 consecutive years.

If you would like to nominate anyone for election as a Church Council Representative or a Church Steward, or are interested in offering yourself for either role, please give their/your name (with that person's consent) in writing/email to Rev Bruce Sawyer, or Alison Howell, by 15 April 2018.



Sunday 22nd April 2018

4.00pm

ALL Welcome

Penny Pot Update

The latest emptying of the Penny Pot realised £23.50 for the Bible Society. It should have been more but the paying in machine jammed.

Thank you to everyone who contributes. Every penny is vital to the work of BS in providing precious Bibles and NTs to worldwide Christians.

It's rumoured that one and two pence pieces may be axed soon. We may have to rename the pot! Anyhow please keep the one, two, five, ten twenty, fifty, one hundred and two hundred pence coins flowing in. They are all welcome and you won't miss them (too much).

Tony Wragg



EASTER OFFERING 2018

Seek peace and pursue it

Your local Easter Offering Service is prepared by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund.

This act of worship enables the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland to give to the work of the 65 Partner Churches overseas.

Methodist Women in Britain

The Methodist Church

The service will be held at Littlemead Methodist Church, Exmouth
on 29th April 2018 starting at 6.30 p.m.

Membership Course

**7.30-9.00pm, The Lounge (Wonford Methodist Church)
Thursdays – 19th & 26th April and 3rd & 10th May**

Bruce will be running a course aimed at helping people explore membership of the Methodist Church. The course will consider areas such as:

- What is church?
- How do we read the Bible?
- Is there anything distinctive about Methodism?
- What does membership of the Methodist church mean?

If you would like to become a member of the church, want to consider if membership is for you, or simply would like to know more about one of these areas then why not try it out? The sessions will be relaxed, where all questions are welcome, and attending the course does not commit you to becoming a member!

Please let Rev'd Bruce Sawyer know if you are interested.

Vacancy at Exeter Foodbank

Exeter Foodbank has an exciting job opportunity for a part-time administrator, for up to 10 hours per week.

As a foodbank, we are inspired and motivated by the love God has shown to us, and the desire to demonstrate that same love in very practical and tangible ways to some of the most vulnerable people in Exeter. We are seeking an administrator who shares these values, with excellent communication, interpersonal and organisational skills, and a motivation to provide practical and compassionate support to people in crisis.

Further details of how to apply and a full job description are attached; these are also available on our website: <https://goo.gl/o8T9P4> The closing date for applications is 12th April.

Many thanks for all your support of Exeter Foodbank.

Best wishes

Laura McIvor - Administrator - Exeter Foodbank

‘Open the Book’ Team

The photo below was taken in March by Caroline Sawyer, when all but 2 of our team were at Countess Wear Primary School. We are a mixed team of Methodists and Anglicans, who go in to act and tell Bible stories fortnightly in term-time. We had just finished telling the children the story of Jesus healing the blind woman. After Easter we’ll be back at the school, and our first story will tell of “Peter’s Happiest Day”.

If you’d like to join us, please speak with Bruce Sawyer.



We Have Moved - Judith & Michael Maher!

Michael and Judith would like our church family to know our new address (from March 15th) is:

***Garden Annexe
Melbury Cottage
Cheriton Bishop
Exeter EX6 6HD***

We hope to keep in touch and please call in if passing our way. Thank you for all the fellowship, prayers and fun we’ve shared over the past 27 years. Your encouragement and prayer support for Michael’s health problems have

truly been a blessing, as was Young Church for Jon and our grandchildren, thinking especially of shared times at Greenbelt and Belstone over the years. We feel privileged to have seen God move through His people in the rebuilding of the Chapel.....the blessings carry on.....where next is God leading us all?

With our love

Michael and Judith

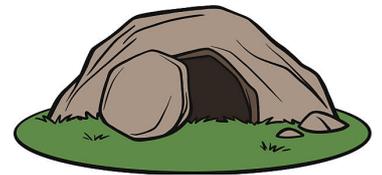
Prayer Focus for April

Try Praying!

Each week please pray for all who will lead us in worship . You may not know who it will be but Our Lord does. We are beginning this month by celebrating the RISEN CHRIST. Pray that more people will come to know our wonderful Saviour, that they may walk with Him & know His immeasurable love & grace for themselves.

Week Beginning 1st.

EASTER SUNDAY. CHRIST IS RISEN. HALLELUJAH, HE IS RISEN INDEED. As we gather to celebrate & worship our Lord remember those who are unable to gather. There are people all over the world who are unable to meet together. They face death or persecution for being Christians.



Week Beginning 8th.

This week pray for people living with disabilities including 'hidden' disabilities. Pray for those who care for them & the provision of social care close to their homes. Also for special schools that are needed for some children & the transport for them.



Week Beginning 15th.

This week pray for our Royal Family and our Queen in this her birthday week. Pray for the Duchess of Cambridge for the safe delivery of her baby this month. Pray also for our government as they sort out Brexit. No matter which way we feel the vote should have gone, we all have to live with the consequences.



Week Beginning 22nd

Pray this week for business owners & employers that they will keep good, fair & honest practices. Pray that more will take on less able people to do jobs suitable for their abilities providing equipment & space they need to enable them to work.



Week Beginning 29th.

As our church holds Messy Church this week please pray for children everywhere for their safety & education. Pray they will be protected from addictions in later life.



Phone Prayer 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 (437329) or Margaret Kearns (679949).

After Service Prayer Support

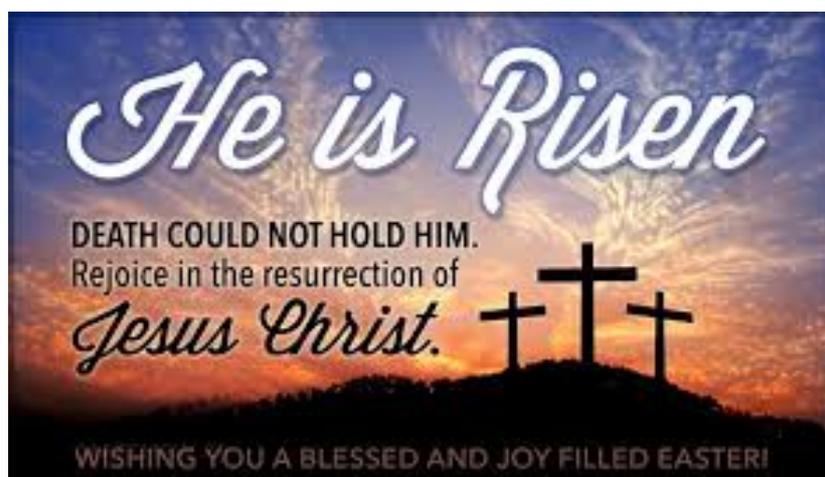
This is available in the Quiet Room on Sunday mornings. Two members of the Prayer Team will be available to pray with you.

The Prayer Team

Ribbons of Prayer on the Fence!

I hope you've received the "Try Praying" useful booklet and noticed the banners on our fence. We are also encouraging passers-by to add a ribbon to the fence as a sign of a prayer for a person or situation. Maybe you'd like to add one for someone, each time you come to Wonford?

Monika Noronha





Roseanna
AND
Jordan

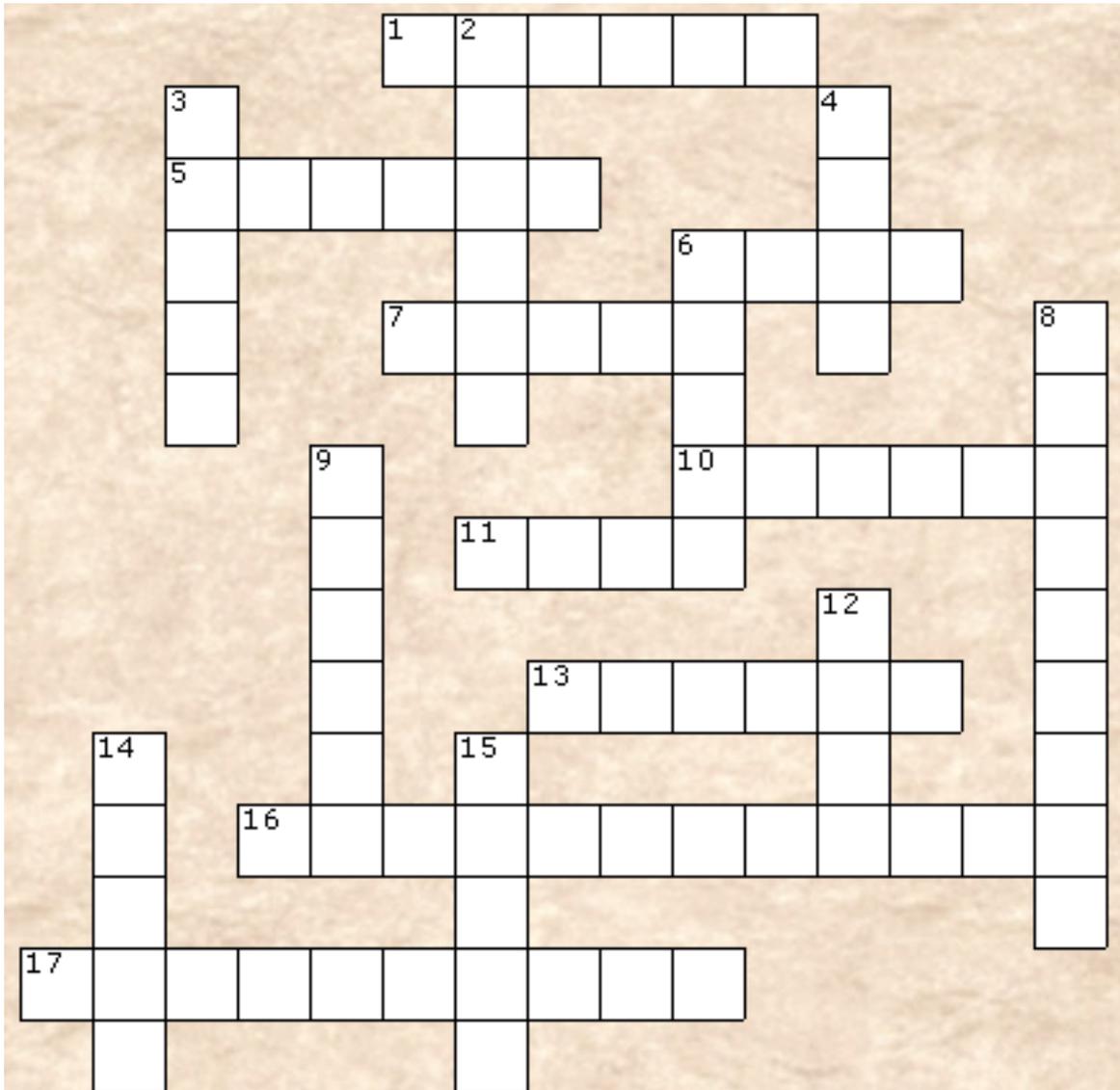
*invite you to celebrate
their marriage*

21ST APRIL 2018

CHURCH OF ST PETROCS
12 WELLINGTON SQUARE
SOUTH BRENT, DEVON
TQ10 9AG

| 1:00 pm |

Easter Puzzles



ACROSS

- 1 Jesus 5 Doubting ___ 6 Jesus rode a ___ into Jerusalem
 7 Disciple who denied knowing Jesus
 10 Easter season 11 Coloured Easter ___ 13 ___ of Gethsemane
 16 Easter celebrates the ___ of Jesus 17 Sunday before 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
 12 Season before Easter 14 ___ betrayed Jesus
 15 Easter animal?



Easter Story

Word Search

S C B M N E J E S U S C H R I S T
K A A P O D V G V A R E J O I C E
J R V M S P R A Y E R W C B V F S
Y N O I X I F I C U R C T R M L E
L A P C O I E B Q O X B B N O O L
I R E S U R R E C T I O N R E S T
T R E P P U S T S A L Y E M B L S
S H L U P V Y T K V F D M T E K O
O C A R N E P A X R E S I H M R P
C R M E P E N L D M A N A O I E A
E U B I K G A A P I J R R R R V V
T H X C H Y N T N H R S M N A O X
N C N C A M I E O C T F Y S C S J
E K E R K O S E W N E I D A L S U
P U T O N I R N W R P Y A O E A D
L E Z W R W M D R Q I T Y F O P A
B S M N D I S C I P L E S C X G S

APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
CAVE
CHURCH
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
DISCIPLES
FAITH
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
JUDAS
LAMB
LAST SUPPER
LENT
MARY
MIRACLE
PASSOVER
PENANCE
PENTECOST

PRAYER
REDEMPTION
REJOICE
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SAVIOR
SON
THORNS
TOMB

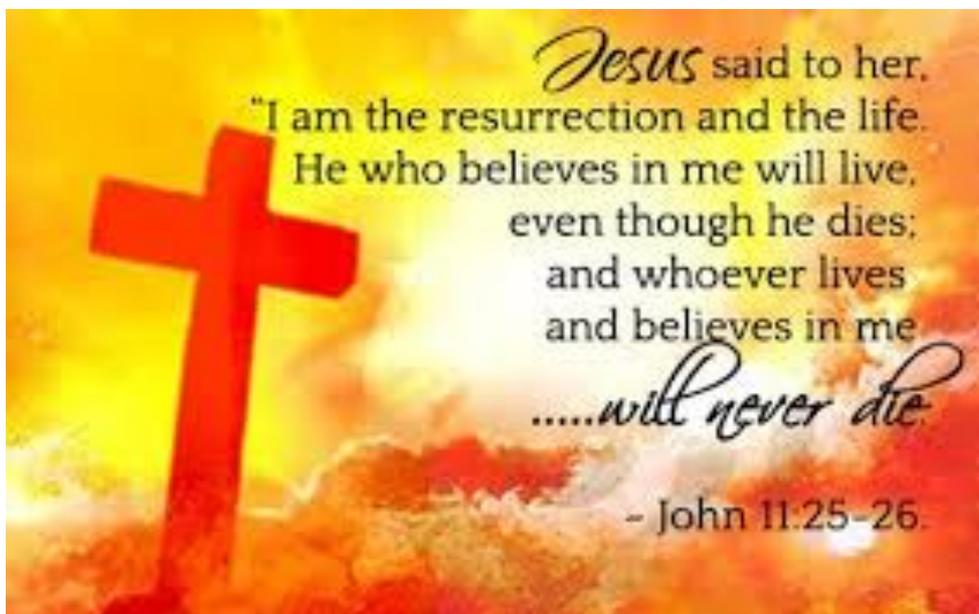


Dates For Your Diary

April 2018

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m.	Easter Day - Sacrament. Rev Alan Rothwell and Prof Tony Wragg
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Beth McDowell
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m.	Pam Murphy
	6.30 p.m.	Caroline Colin - Prayer & Praise
Tue 10th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 39 Meyer Court **
Sun 15th	10.00 a.m.	Chris Mann
	6.30 p.m.	Local Arrangement
Tue 17th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe meets (until 12pm)
Wed 18th	7.30 p.m.	Pastoral visitors meeting in the lounge
Thu 19th	2.00 p.m.	Bible Study in the lounge **
	7.30 p.m.	Membership Class - session 1 **
Sat 21st	10.00 a.m.	Plymouth & Exeter District Synod at Seaton
	1.00 p.m.	Marriage of Roseanna & Jordan at Church of St Petros, South Brent **
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church
Tue 24th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane **
Thu 26th	7.30 p.m.	Membership Class - session 2 **
Sun 29th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer
		This service will be followed by our General Church Meeting at 11.15am.
	6.30 p.m.	Circuit Easter Offering Service at Littlemead MC, Exmouth **

**** 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
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 Café *(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***

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 2018 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th April 2018. 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