

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

April 2025
(No: 539)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



@WonfordMethodistChurch



YouTube Wonford Methodist Church



A Message From The Minister

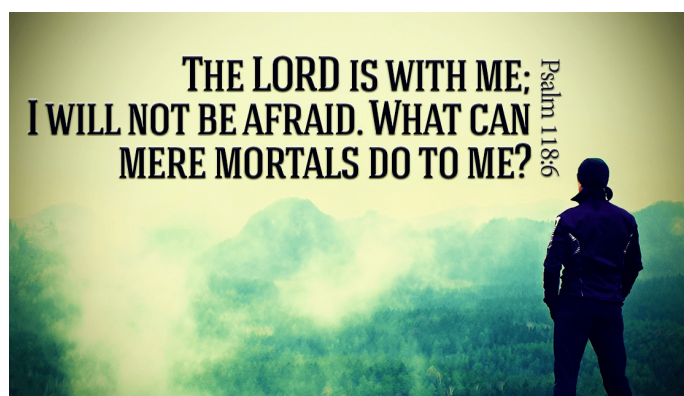
Dear Friends,

Psalm 118

The book of Psalms was the 'Singing the Faith' of ancient Israel and it is likely that this Psalm would have been sung as people entered the Temple during the festival of Passover. These words would have been on their lips as they prepared to celebrate God's great deliverance, of God working wonders by His outstretched arm before an enslaved and weary people. This is an important psalm for us too, especially as we journey towards Holy Week and prepare to celebrate Easter. We too celebrate a great deliverance (from sin and separation from God) and we stand in awe at the sacrifice which made it possible. We acknowledge the sin and brokenness (ours and the world's) which led Jesus to the cross, but we also give thanks for the liberation and hope which flowed from it.

The world is in a precarious state. We watch the news and we are tempted to fear for the future. There is, however, a flip side to this. Many have noted the stirrings of something in this country, the first flutterings of a renewed interest in the Christian faith and what it might mean. Jesus died for everyone and everyone stands in desperate need of the salvation and new life which only Jesus can offer. Uncertain times prompt people to look for hope beyond themselves, so let's pray that this is what's happening and that it will bear fruit. Let's pray that more and more people approach the gates of righteousness, with faith in their hearts and songs of joy on their lips. There really is a hope in this world that can never perish, spoil or fade and which the ups and downs of life cannot take away from us. It is a hope which flows, with Jesus' blood, down the cross. It is a hope made real on Good Friday and celebrated on Easter Sunday. Let's never forget this, and let's pray and offer witness to others, so that they might realise it too.

With every blessing
Ben Haslam



Dates For April 2025

Coffee

6th	Nessy & Bill
13th	Lisa & Sam
20th	Linda & Mervyn
27th	Ann & John

Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In April they meet on the 11th and 25th. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us as we explore the Bible together and share fellowship. We are looking at the 'I am' sayings of Jesus. We are also growing in numbers a little which is very exciting. Please speak to Monika Noronha or Terry Spencer if you want further details.

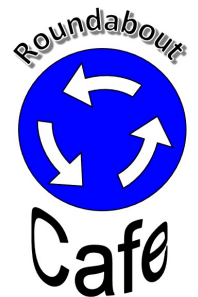
Monika

The Away Group

This group meets on a Monday evening every fortnight at 7.30 pm in the lounge. Dates and venues will be given out each Sunday in the notices.

Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 15th April 2025. This month we will travel along the South West Coast Path from Minehead to Bude, in the footsteps of Wordsworth, Kingsley and Blackmore not to mention the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society.



We meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake. Please join us if you can.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. For April this will be the 15th.

Lisa Thomas

Wonford Welcome Drop-In for Everyone - Saturdays 10.30am to 12.00pm.

(There is no light lunch available - this finished at the end of March)

In April we will be having the following activities for you to join, if you would like to, alongside a free cuppa & biscuits.

5th April

We are inviting friends of the late Donna St Taw to gather in the chapel between 11am - noon and share memories, light a candle and remember the joyful & beautiful energy she brought in with her whilst she was with us in her valued 'safe space' at Wonford Methodist Church. Refreshments will be available in the hall up until 12.30pm on this day.

12th April

We'll be having a Cowboy/Cowgirl morning, with a picture & music quiz and some line dancing, so come on down in your cowboy boots, checked shirt and a stetson hat to join in the Yeehaw!

19th April

It is Easter Holy Saturday so we will have space for quiet reflection and prayer.

26th April

There will be a games morning, which will include table football, magnetic darts, table top curling and mini table tennis

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

Notice of General Church Meeting

This will be held on Sunday 11th May 2025. It will follow our Sunday Morning Service. After the short formal meeting, we will be looking at Gifts of the Spirit, details to follow, then a bring and share light lunch.

All are welcome at this meeting and we approve our stewards and GCM reps.

I would very much appreciate a short report from all our church activities to attach to our agenda. They should cover a brief overview of the last year. This is a good way of everyone seeing what has been happening at church and is useful for Ben's annual report to Circuit.

Blessings all.

Alison

Be Ready For What God May Do

At Christmas, I re-read two particular letters several times. One was from a close friend I worked with for many years, Sister Frances, who now lives in Southport.

She wrote about those three lovely girls who were tragically killed during the summer, one of whom, Alice, attended her Church school. By 6pm Frances joined over a thousand people in the centre of Southport for a lengthy, silent vigil. Already there was a mountain of flowers, candles, messages and toys, which continued growing all night. Frances looked at others in the crowd acknowledging their common sadness. Suddenly, she became aware of the Presence of God!

Yes, the unity of deep sorrow was felt by the vast crowd, witnessing to the innate goodness of people's hearts, but what Frances and many others present experienced was an even greater power, the Power of a compassionate God, Who wanted to identify with their grief! An unforgettable moment that Frances wanted to share with me.

The second Christmas letter was a message from someone I had never met before. As I waited to celebrate the Saviour's birth, this letter urged me:

1. To prepare myself to receive Christ's Light.
2. To be open to new possibilities happening in my life.
3. To recognise that WE are bearers of this Light. OUR lives can bring love and hope to others. Yes, they can!

There is an unusual, powerful beginning to the musical 'Godspell'. John the Baptist comes down the main theatre aisle towards the actors on the stage, singing 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord!' In other words, something remarkable is going to happen. Christ is coming among us to bring us LIFE! Prepare to receive Him into your hearts.

In the same way, as we wait for Good Friday and Easter Morning to come, prepare to get closer to Christ in your faith. Prepare to kneel at Calvary's Cross, and identify what Christ is experiencing for YOU. Ask yourself, what does Christ' dying really mean to me? Then prepare to let His Resurrection

Power into your life. Be ready for what He can and will do!

Postscript. Never under-estimate the power of your prayers for others. When you say 'God bless you' to someone, MEAN it! There's no telling what our God will do with your blessing! A Blessed Easter!

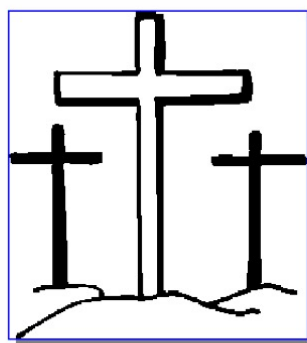
Rev Malcolm Carter

Exminster Methodists

invite you to join them on

Good Friday

**For a Service of
hymns, prayer and
meditation**



At 2.30 pm,

Followed by

Hot Cross Buns



During the service nails will be driven into the cross. Retiring collection for CR2EE (Christian Response to Eastern Europe) working in Moldova and Ukraine

Everyone is welcome

At the Methodist Church

(near the Post Office)(EX6 8BT)

The 'B' and N°2 buses stop a short distance from the church at the Victory Hall stop.



Exminster Methodist Church

Email exminsternethodists@yahoo.co.uk

Prayer Focus for April 2025

Week Commencing Sunday 6th April

Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev.
Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
Carrying sheaves with them.
Psalm 126:4-6

Lord, this week we pray for those we know who are grieving, those with heavy hearts for whatever reason, and for a real blessing of provision for those who are struggling to put bread on the table.

Week Commencing Sunday 13th April

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”
Luke 19:38

As Passion Week commences, thank God for sending Jesus, who suffered and died all for love’s sake. Pray for friends and family who do not yet know just how much Jesus loves them. How will you connect with the Easter story this week?

Week Commencing Sunday 20th April

‘Why do you look here for the living among the dead?
He is not here; he has risen!’
Luke 24:5b-6a.

As we celebrate the risen Christ, pray for the many Christians around the world who are unable to celebrate freely or in total safety.
Lord, thank you for everything that you have done for me!

Week Commencing Sunday 27th April

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

John 20: 19-20

Pray that the peace of the presence of Jesus may be evident in our world at this time, also in our communities and within our own hearts.

Lord, help me to know the peace of your presence in every situation I face this week.

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

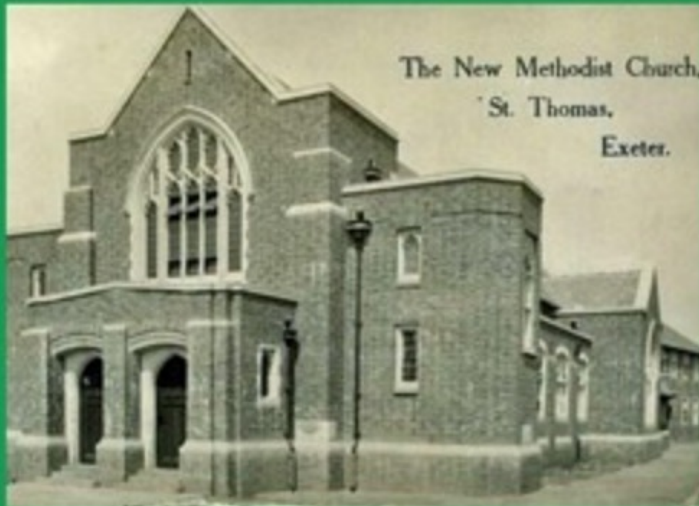
This is available in the Quiet Room on Sunday mornings. Two members of the Prayer Team will be available to pray with you.

The Prayer Team



Photo Exhibition

St Thomas Methodist
Church - memories
through the years
1935-2025



Wednesday 9th &
Friday 11th April
2025
11am-3pm

Thursday 10th
April 2025
11am-3pm,
5pm-8pm

Celebrating 90 Years of
Worship and Service



Saturday 12th April
2025
10am - 1pm 'Coffee
morning'



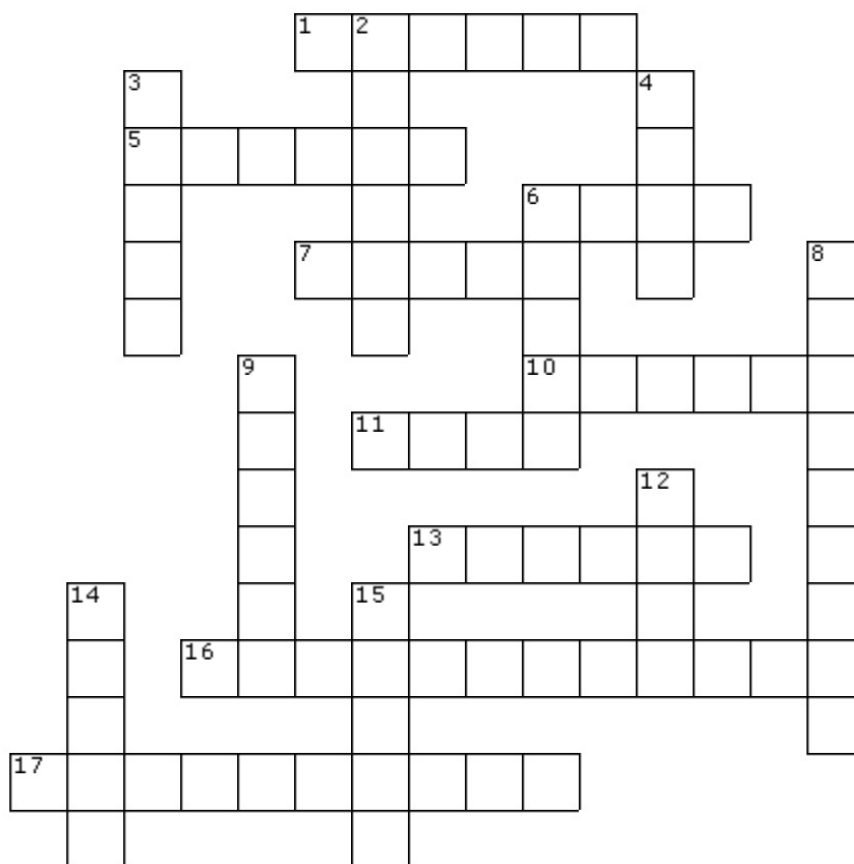
St Thomas Methodist Church,
Cowick Street, Exeter, EX4 1JE

Easter Offering Envelopes 2025

Over the next few weeks you will be seeing these on chairs in the Church. The Easter Offering 2025 service focuses on every person's right to education. Stories tell of people who are committed to changing lives through education.

Education for All, Hope for All offers churches, circuits and districts a moment to consider how education transforms lives and communities, opening God's promise of hope and fullness of life for all people. See Paul Violet for further information.

Easter Crossword



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?

Dates For Your Diary

April 2025

Sat 5th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm)
Sun 6th	10.00 a.m.	Mandy Denton - All Age Worship
St Thomas Methodist Church - 90th Anniversary Photo Exhibition		
Wed 9th to Sat 12th - see poster for details **		
Fri 11th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 12th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 13th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer
Tue 15th	9.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **
	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Good Friday		
Fri 18th	2.30 p.m.	Good Friday Service at Exminster MC **
Sat 19th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Easter Sunday		
Sun 20th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament
	6.30 p.m.	Easter Sunday Praise Service
Fri 25th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 26th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 27th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Steve Ayers

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



The deadline for items for the May 2025 Newsletter will be Sunday 13th April 2025. There is no guarantee of inclusion, but they may be given to:

Andrew Jackson - 19 Hills Orchard, Martock, Somerset. TA12 6DF.

Tel: 07818455600 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 in the lounge *(Fortnightly)*

Tuesday

9.00 a.m. Monthly Prayer Meeting *(3rd Tuesday)*

10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café *(3rd Tuesday)*

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)