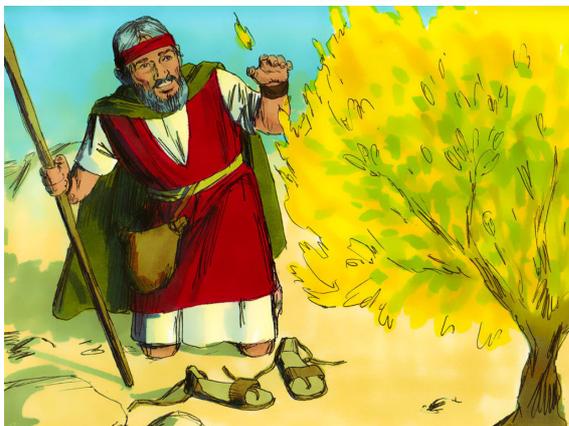


# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

August / September 2017

(No: 461)



**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,**

A couple of weeks ago, Caroline and I enjoyed a few days in Sennen. Despite strong winds and rain for a large part of the time, the sun came out on the final day. It was an amazing place to be; clear turquoise sea with cleanly breaking waves, blue sky overhead with traces of white clouds, rocky cliffs connecting the two. I sat on the beach and took off my shoes. I could feel the sand warm on the soles of my feet whilst my toes sunk into the cool sand beneath. As I sat there barefoot, Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush came to mind, and how God had told Moses to take off his sandals because the place in which he stood was holy ground (Exodus 3:5). Sitting there, looking out at the beauty of creation, it felt as though this place too was holy ground.

The bush that Moses observes, that burns but is not consumed, is a sign of God's presence. It is this that draws Moses' attention to God's presence, to hear God's voice, to recognise that he is standing on holy ground. We know that holiness comes from God. God alone is holy and the source of all holiness. The ground is holy not because of some incredible sign, but because God is there.

The psalmist tells us that the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it (Psalm 24:1). In Isaiah God asks, if this is the case, what is the resting place that humans would build for God? (Isaiah 66:1) One way of interpreting this might be as recognising that God cannot be contained in one particular place. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he told his disciples to remember he was with them always (Matt 28:20).

If God cannot be contained, is everywhere and always present with us, perhaps I was right to think of the beach at Sennen as holy ground. But then, if a place is holy because of God's presence, then every place has the potential to be recognised as holy, not just the beautiful or spectacular, even the everyday, mundane places, if we are alert to God's presence with us.

Which got me thinking. Although there are lots of reasons why God asked Moses to take off his sandals as a recognition that he was standing on holy ground, might it work the other way round? Could we let the act of taking off our shoes become something that prompts us to recognise this particular place as holy, to look for God?

So when you're enjoying a day at the beach, let the act of taking off your shoes prompt you to look for God with you, and recognise his holiness in the beauty around you. But so too, when you kick off your shoes at the end of a busy day, let that also be a prompt to recognise God with you at home, in the everyday, and to search for God's holiness there too.

**With every blessing**  
**Bruce**

# Dates For August / September

## Coffee

### August

6th	Fran & Pauline
13th	Margaret & Geoff
20th	Alison
27th	Lisa

### September

3rd	Elaine & Graham
10th	Rose & Paul
17th	Eileen & Melanie
24th	TBA

## Flowers

### August

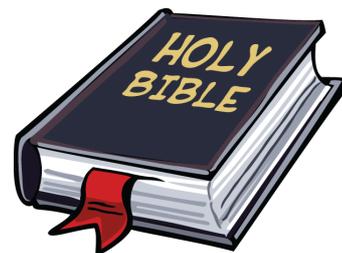
6th	Eileen
13th	Bronwen & Clifford
20th	Melanie
27th	Barbara Jackson

### September

3rd	Mandy (on behalf of Margaret & Keith - 60th wedding anniversary)
10th	TBA
17th	Bronwen & Clifford
24th	Kathleen & Norman

## Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

No meeting in August. Meetings start again in September. This group meets in the lounge at 2pm normally on the third Thursday each month. All are welcome.



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

## Home Group

This group currently meets fortnightly on either a Tuesday or Wednesday evening, usually at the Manse at 7.30 pm. We have no meetings through August, and re-start in September. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us, for this could be just the right kind of group for you! Having found we very much enjoyed all we heard about the OT book of Ruth, we're next thinking of studying the impacts of Climate Change, based on "Baked Alaska", the Riding Lights Theatre group's play with 7 studies during the autumn.

## Monika Noronha

5th	7.30pm	At The Manse - 20 Whipton Lane
20th	7.30pm	At The Manse - 20 Whipton Lane

## **Synod Snapshot**

District Synod met at Ridgeway Methodist Church, Plympton in the Plymouth & Devonport Circuit on Saturday, 6th May 2017 with an agenda built around 'Engaging with the World Church'. The District Chair, Revd. Graham Thompson, led the opening worship with a call to "be faithful to God in a comfortable world".

The keynote address was given by Dr. Daleep Mukarji, former Vice President of the Conference. Dr. Mukarji explained how and why the Conference decided to establish the One Mission Forum and then addressed Global Relations in Mission for the 21st Century, highlighting the changing understanding of 'partnership'. In particular, the need to see relationships as central, not money. As part of a world-wide Methodist Church, our partnerships need to be flexible and sustainable. They must be mutually beneficial: listening and learning together - as well as mutually accountable and sensitive to power differentials. They should be easy to run; with good leadership, encouraging friendship and opportunity for transformation for both partners. Dr. Mukarji then illustrated some of the difficulties, asking 'Are we ready to listen and learn?'

Synod considered a proposal to renew our engagement with the Diocese of Cuttack in the Church of North India. It was agreed to establish a 5 year partnership that is based upon learning, mutual support and prayer. The District will designate the Sunday before Lent as 'Cuttack Sunday' and establish a Cuttack Fund to assist a programme of exchanges.

In the business agenda, reports were received from District Officers including all the necessary financial matters. We debated the use of electronic communication for Synod business and relaunched the District website. We heard about the work of the Methodist Church in Germany as they respond to the needs of Syrian refugees. A 'Covenant Champion' for the Anglican-Methodist Covenant addressed Synod and a presentation by the Rural Support Officer underlined the importance of work in a District which is 80% rural communities.

## **Harvest Baskets**

Harvest baskets will resume in September to support local families. There will be the opportunity to bring non-perishable items on any Sunday in September and on Harvest Festival - Sunday 1st October.

Please ask if you have any questions. Thank you.

**Monika Noronha**



## Sunday 20th August 2017

### Morning Service - Prayer at Wonford

The church will be open from 9.15am for Breakfast and a discussion about Prayer At Wonford. Topics and items raised can then be used in the Morning Service which will be focusing on Prayer At Wonford.

This will be a Celebration and Thanksgiving for all The Prayer Team have guided us through over the past years. It will also be looking at the way forward with Prayer At Wonford.

Please come along and be prepared to participate in this important Christian Discipline.

### Evening Service

At 6.30pm we will be hosting a United Service from the other Exeter Methodist Churches. The service will be led by Rev. Ann Varker from Crediton. Please come along and support this service if you can. We will be serving light refreshments after the service. If you can help with this please see Monika.



Sunday 24 September 4-6-pm



**'I am the true Vine'**

## **Safeguarding at Wonford - Foundation Refresher Session**

The Methodist Connexion is always trying to improve its administration – and you could hear of this in some debates at the annual Conference held in June, which now are “live-streamed”. I learned of the updating of some of the Safeguarding training - for all who volunteer to help in our churches. This is not ‘annoying admin.’, but for **Creating Safer Space**. We are so grateful for the many who volunteer here at Wonford.

We are very fortunate in having as our Circuit & District Safeguarding Training Officer, Rev Julian Albrow, minister at St Thomas, who makes the training sessions interesting and enjoyable. He’ll be delivering the Foundation Refresher session at Wonford on Weds. 27 September, 7 for 7.30 pm prompt start. It’s for those who first were trained about 4-5 years ago, and I’ll be reminding about 20 of you to attend, please!

**Margretta Bowstead**

## **Prayer Focus for August / September**

### **August**

**Don't worry about anything,  
but in all your prayers ask God for what you need,  
always asking Him with a thankful heart.**

*Philippians 4:6 (GNB)*

#### **Week beginning Sunday 6th**

Please pray that God will bless the joint evening services this month, their Ministers and their mission.

This evening's service is at Silverton, whose outreach and activities seek to include all people.

Thank God for the prayers He has graciously answered over the past year.

#### **Week beginning Sunday 13th**

Please pray that God will bless the joint service tonight at St Thomas and their Minister Julian Albrow. Pray also for their outreach with Rainbows, Brownies and Boys’ Brigade and the wider community.

#### **Week beginning Sunday 20th**

Please pray that God will continue to bless and inspire Rev Ann Varker as she leads the joint service here this evening.

Pray also for the Leadership team and for all the activities at Wonford, that they continue to thrive as we seek to be a welcoming Church and a blessing to the wider community.

### **Week beginning Sunday 27th**

Please pray for God's continuing blessing upon the Mint Church and Minister Steve Santry, with responsibility as Superintendent for the Exeter, Coast and Country Circuit. Also for the Rev Yansun Yi of the Korean Church, and the many activities and outreach events over the week as a busy city centre Church and community centre, hosting the Exeter Food Bank.

## **September**

**Beauty for brokenness,  
Hope for despair,  
Lord, in Your suffering world  
This is our prayer.  
(Graham Kendrick)**

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

Please pray as we start a new Methodist year that our worship and praise may continue to be a fragrant offering before the Lord.  
Pray also for God's blessings upon all the activities restarting this week, especially the Young Church outing to 'World of Country Life' this Saturday.  
Thank God for the beauty that continues to flourish, even in the midst of despair.

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

Please pray for the Exeter, Coast and Country Circuit meeting this week, that there will be a willingness to seek the positives in all the expected changes this year.

Pray also for the prayer life of our Church and Saturday Morning prayers this week.

### **Week beginning Sunday 17th**

Please pray for the Roundabout Cafe, that the Holy Spirit will continue to flow through the fellowship and welcome there.

Thank God for Minister Bruce's Bible Study on Thursday...words of truth and hope to strengthen faith.

## **Week beginning Sunday 24th. Messy Church**

Please pray for all the volunteers at the refresher Safeguarding Training session on Wednesday, through which everyone can be kept safe within our various activities.

Thank God for Messy Church today - sowing seeds of hope and love.

## **Phone Prayer Link**

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contacts are Judith or Michael Maher (01392 214789). 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 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**

# **News From The Methodist Church**

## **President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference meets the Archbishop of Canterbury**

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference visited Lambeth Palace on Friday (14th July) for a meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury.



Accompanied by senior figures from both churches, the President, the Revd Loraine N Mellor, and the Vice-President, Jill Baker, met Archbishop Justin Welby to discuss matters of mutual concern and were encouraged by reports of Anglicans and Methodists working together in mission, evangelism, witness and service all over England.

Their wide-ranging discussions also took in the future of Europe, prayer, evangelism and witness, and the churches' engagement with political and public issues.

The President, Vice-President and the Archbishop commended the report

'Mission and Ministry in Covenant' to both churches for study and reflection together. This report sets out a proposal for a full relationship of communion between the two churches and a reconciled ordained ministry. The proposal, contained in a report requested by the 2014 Methodist Conference and Church of England General Synod, builds on the existing relationship between the two churches expressed in the 2003 Anglican-Methodist Covenant.

## **UK High Court judgement fails to offer protection to civilians**

The Methodist Church has expressed its disappointment and concern following a ruling of the High Court, announced earlier this week, allowing the UK to continue to export weapons to Saudi Arabia.

The High Court judged that the UK Government had gathered sufficient information to entitle it to rationally conclude that there was no 'clear risk' of a 'serious violation of International Humanitarian Law.'

Saudi Arabia has led a coalition of forces against Houthi militias in Yemen, a conflict which has claimed the lives of over 10,000 civilians since 2014.

Despite atrocities taking place on both sides, the largest single cause of civilian deaths is thought to be air strikes by Saudi-led coalition forces; which have come under criticism from the UN, human rights groups and NGOs.

A UN panel of experts concluded that the bombing campaign of Sa'dah in 2015 represented a grave violation of the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution defined within International Humanitarian Law.

Yemen is now in the grip of a severe famine and cholera epidemic exacerbated by the destruction of infrastructure and health facilities.

Steve Hucklesby, Policy Adviser for the Methodist Church, made the following comment following the High Court judgement: "Our Government told the High Court that it tracks all allegations of strikes on civilians and shares this data with the Saudi military who engage in constructive dialogue over incidents of concern. However in the case of the majority of these strikes, the UK Government was 'unable to identify a legitimate military target'. In the light of evidence from the UN and elsewhere, it is difficult to understand how the UK Government concludes that there is no clear risk that there might be serious violations of International Humanitarian Law."

The Revd Loraine N Mellor, President of the Methodist Conference, added: "The judgement of the High Court yesterday will do nothing to provide civilians in Yemen with the protection that they so desperately need.

Our hearts go out to the people of Yemen who have come under attack from both sides in this brutal civil war and we will continue to pray. It is difficult to

see how a lasting peace can be achieved through a conflict that kills over 10,000 civilians and leaves 300,000 people infected with cholera."

Jill Baker, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference said: "Many of us try to express our ethical standpoints through the way in which we spend our money. It seems only right that we also expect ethical standards from our government in engaging in trading relationships that respect human rights and international law. We hold the people of Yemen and those providing assistance in our prayers."

## **A Prayer For Yemen, where over 10,000 people have died and 300,000 are suffering from cholera**

**Dear Lord, author of our peace**

**We bring before you the violence and suffering inflicted on the people of Yemen .**

**May governments find ways to place negotiation over confrontation, peacebuilding over military action, common purpose over sectarianism.**

**Thank you for the many that are bravely working to provide medicine and food in that desperate situation.**

**We ask for inspired leadership to help mediate in this conflict.**

**Guide our own government officials as they work alongside other governments in the region, that they may ensure that the protection of civilians in conflict is placed above all other considerations.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who knows our suffering, who stood against injustice, and through whom we can hope to be transformed.**

**Amen**

# Dates For Your Diary

## August 2017

Sun 6th	10.00 a.m.	Monika Noronha - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Steve Santry - United Service at Silverton MC
Sat 12th	7.00 p.m.	'Simple Faith' in concert at The Salvation Army, Friars Gate, Exeter **
Sun 13th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Sacrament Service
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Julian Albrow - United Service at St Thomas MC
Sun 20th	9.15 a.m.	Breakfast and discussion about prayer at Wonford *
	10.00 a.m.	Morning Worship - Prayer at Wonford **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Ann Varker - United Service at Wonford MC
Sun 27th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Stephen Mosedale - United Service at The Mint MC

## September 2017

Sun 3rd	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Worship
Tue 5th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane **
Wed 6th	7.30 p.m.	Local preachers meeting at Wonford MC
Sat 9th	10.00 a.m.	Plymouth & Exeter District Reps Synod, Hatherleigh
Sun 10th	10.00 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Worship
Thu 14th	7.30 p.m.	ECC Circuit Meeting at Honiton MC
Sat 16th	8.30 a.m.	Monthly Prayers & Coffee
Sun 17th	10.00 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.30 p.m.	ECC Circuit Service at Littlemead MC, Exmouth
Tue 19th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Wed 20th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane **
Thu 21st	2.00 p.m.	Bible Study in the lounge
Sun 24th	10.00 a.m.	Morning Worship
	<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
Wed 27th	7.30 p.m.	Safeguarding Refresher Module Session **
Sat 30th	10.00 a.m.	Bring Harvest goods for decorating and giving away

## Sunday 1st October 2017 - Harvest Festival 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  
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\***  
2.00 p.m. Friday Fellowship in the lounge

## Saturday

- 8.30 a.m. Monthly Prayers & Coffee *(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 October 2017 Newsletter will be Sunday 10th September 2017. 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)