

Wonford Methodist Church



Contact Newsletter
December 2016 / January 2017

(No: 454)

Minister: Rev Bruce Sawyer (01392 256716)

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



Girls' Brigade

invite you to their:

"Christingle"

**Monday 5th December
2016**

6.00 p.m.

(see separate notice)



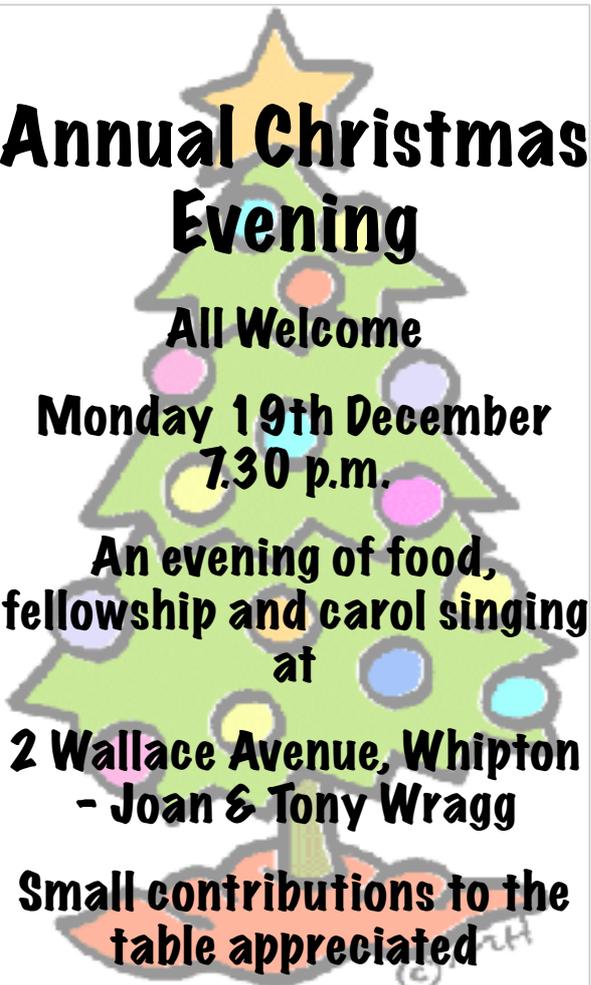
Exminster Christmas Tree Festival

**Friday 2nd- Sunday 4th
December 2016**

**Exminster Methodist
Church**

Entrance FREE

**Viewing times - see
separate article.**



Annual Christmas Evening

All Welcome

**Monday 19th December
7.30 p.m.**

**An evening of food,
fellowship and carol singing
at**

**2 Wallace Avenue, Whipton
- Joan & Tony Wragg**

**Small contributions to the
table appreciated**



Young Church Christmas Party

**Saturday 17th
December 2016**

5.00 - 7.00 p.m.

**Special appearance by Father
Christmas. Please come and have
some fun!!!**

A Message From The Minister

At the October Church Council, we agreed that from January we would hold Messy Church once a month – there is more detail about this elsewhere in Contact. One of the main reasons for this change was recognising that only holding it four times a year made the forming and developing of relationships difficult. For most of us, and for most of history, faith has been awakened and nurtured and matured within community.

I find this a striking feature of the nativity narratives within Luke and Matthew. The genealogy which begins Matthew's gospel reminds us that Jesus' birth takes place within an ongoing tradition and community of faith. Whilst both Mary and Joseph are visited by angels individually, their message encourages them to seek out others - Mary sets off to Elizabeth, Joseph to honour his commitment to Mary, and together they make their way to Bethlehem. Angels announce the birth to shepherds who travel together to see the newborn Jesus. A star guides the Magi (maybe 3, maybe more), who travel together to the infant Jesus. And after his birth, Jesus is presented in the temple, where Simeon and Anna have been waiting the promised Saviour. Each of these characters in their own way respond in faith to the baby Jesus, but none of the characters is alone. They are each a part of some community.

After Christmas, on 8th January, we shall celebrate our Covenant Service. A service which reminds us of God's generous, faithful and committed love for us, and in which we are invited to respond by renewing our commitment to follow God. Though faith may be deeply personal, the introduction to the Covenant Service in the Methodist Worship Book reminds us that "The covenant is not just a one-to-one transaction between individuals and God, but the act of the whole faith community". Like those seeking the newborn Jesus, we need others to accompany us on the journey of faith, and others need us to accompany them.

Such community does not simply happen. It takes our commitment. Nor does it just take one shape – worship, house groups, visiting, serving, are all ways in which our community of faith is both expressed and maintained. In what ways are you already part of the community of faith at Wonford? Sometimes, as with Messy Church, we may need to review how we are enabling community to take shape, and perhaps even to make changes. As we hear again the familiar stories of Christmas, I encourage you to note the subtle emphasis on community. And as we approach our Covenant Service, may I challenge you to consider your commitment to the community of faith at Wonford, and invite you to renew it together on 8th January.

With every blessing for a peaceful and joyful Christmas

Rev Bruce Sawyer

Dates For December 16 / January 17

Flowers

December

4th Alison
11th Jenny H
18th Mandy & Candi
25th Christmas Day

January

1st Melanie
8th Elaine
15th Anne N
22nd Lillian
29th Kathleen & Norman



A **big thank you** to everyone who has provided the Church flowers throughout the year and also to those who arrange them so nicely each week. It is much appreciated. More volunteers are required for 2017.

Many Thanks - Eileen.

Coffee

December

4th Helen & Ruth
11th Sue & Martin
18th 10.00am Paul H
5.30 pm Carol Service - Mince pies and offers of help welcome
25th Christmas Day

January

1st News Years Day
8th Rose & Paul
15th Anne & John
22nd Melanie & Eileen
29th Jenny & Sue Lloyd



Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This meets in the lounge at 2pm normally on the third Thursday each month. All are welcome and if you'd like to learn more, do speak with Bronwen or Clifford Maddicks. Dates for Dec 2016 and January 2017 are below.

Thursday 8th December (2.30pm)

Thursday 19th January



**Temple Methodist Church
Budleigh Salterton**

invites you to a Colourful Display of

***The 12 Days
of Christmas***

Friday 9th December

(Late Night Shopping)

5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Saturday 10th December to

Wednesday 14th December

10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

(Sunday 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.)

Free Admission



Exminster Christmas Tree Festival

Raising money for Action for Children
and CHICKS Children's Charity

Admission free



Friday 2nd December - 3 pm till 7 pm

Saturday 3rd December - 10 am till 7 pm

See the Toy Santas here on Saturday from 10- 12

Stalls Saturday from 10-12 Lunches Saturday 12.15 to 2 pm

Sunday 4th December - 3 pm till 5 pm

Light refreshments throughout

All Age Service amongst the Trees - Sunday 10.30 am

Monday 5th December – arranged group visits



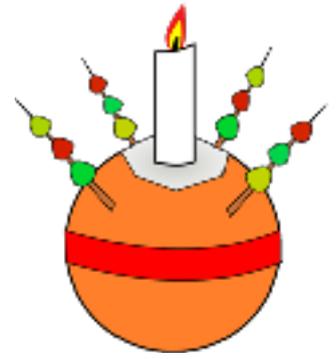
**Be sure to come and see all the Christmas Trees
at Exminster Methodist Church (EX6 8BT)**

To enter a tree email us at exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk
Christmas Trees 2016

Girls' Brigade Christingle

2nd Exeter Girls' Brigade invites you all to its Christingle Service at 6pm on Monday 5th December 2016. Everyone is welcome to join us on this special occasion.

The Girls' Brigade team



Tuesday Group Meetings in December 2016 / January 2017

Tuesday 6th December	7.30pm	Home Group Party at 20 Whipton Lane
Tuesday 10th January	7.30pm	14 Grainger Close
Tuesday 24th January	7.30pm	20 Whipton Lane

Monika

CHRISTMAS CARD TREE 2016

How can you save sending everyone at church a Christmas card? How can you prevent missing someone out? In previous years we have had a Christmas Card Tree, supporting various projects organised by The Circuit Network (now Methodist Women in Britain) Team.

The idea is that you put a Christmas card to everyone at the church on the Christmas Card Tree, and then place a donation in the box supplied. This year we have decided to make a big change and support 'The Methodist Church Fund for Home Mission'. This seemed more appropriate because of the work and projects they support. University Chaplaincy and Mission Alongside The Poor is just a couple of areas they work in. For more examples visit The Methodist Church Website or the magazine booklets 'Mission Matters' or 'Connections'.

For further information please see Beryl Violet, Paul Violet, or the posters around the Christmas Card Tree.

Beryl Violet



#AdventChallenge

Spread the joy of Christmas: take on our **#AdventChallenge** and bring the Bible to life for those around you this Advent.



Our online Advent calendar challenges you to do a small, practical act of kindness every day, to share goodwill and make a difference in this season of Advent.

Last year, over **13,000** people took part, with over **105,000** challenges accepted. Whether it was the **4,000** people who actively encouraged someone, or the **3,000** contributions to local foodbanks, a massive difference was made.

So this year, buy someone some flowers, babysit for some friends, smile at a stranger in the street ... and make someone's day.

We'll email you three daily challenges every day throughout Advent and you choose the one that best suits you. The challenges are simple, practical, Bible-based and life-affirming. So you can show your community what true hope, love, joy and peace look like, even in the mad dash towards Christmas.

Sign up now to take part in this year's **#AdventChallenge** by visiting

adventchallenge.org.uk

Wonford Community News

TLC Group Christmas Fair

All welcome to the TLC Christmas Fair on 7th December from 1.30pm to 3.30pm with crafts and gifts, teas and cakes in the Church Hall.

Carols by Candlelight

Everyone is invited to Wonford Community and Learning Centre for their annual Carols by Candlelight event with the Summerland Singers on Wednesday 7th December at 7.30pm.

Phoenix Suite

The refurbishment to turn the old Phoenix Youth Club into the Phoenix Suite for use by the whole community is underway at last! Come along on Thursday 15th December between 5.00pm and 7.00pm to see how its getting on! The official launch will be on Saturday 4th February with a day of free activities - put the date in your new diary!

Helen Bigwood

Statement from President/Vice-President of Conference

Election of Trump

Below is a link on the Methodist Church website.

http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/us-elections?utm_source=Methodist%20Church%20House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=7742218_Week%20Ahead%2017%20Nov&dm_i=BVI,4LXXM,BI2RW8,H51DO,1

Thank You from TearFund - Harvest Hunger Lunch

On behalf of the whole of Tearfund projects, partners, and staff, I want to thank Wonford Methodist Church Exeter so much for their continued generous support, prayer and recent donations towards our work in Malawi. We highly appreciate it, so please do pass on our thanks to your congregation. It's been such a blessing to have had the churches support for over 20 years now!"

Josh Thomas



MESSY CHURCH GOING MONTHLY!

On 16th - 18th May, we (Karen Lord, Sue Gosney and Caroline Sawyer) had the privilege of going on a Messy Church conference.

Since going to the conference we believe that God has been leading us in taking the work of Messy Church @ Wonford a step further.

In order for our Messy Church to be more than a 'craft group for kids' and to share the Gospel with all-ages we believe it is all about relationship with the people who we come into contact with, and coming alongside those we meet at Messy Church.

For this to happen we believe that it is important to hold our Messy Church sessions more than four times a year. After consultation with the helpers of Messy Church and Wonford Church Council, Messy Church will be happening once a month, starting from January 29th 2017. We are grateful to the church in being prepared to take this step of faith with us.

We would like to thank all those who have supported us in making this choice, and to all the helpers. As you can imagine, running Messy Church monthly is a big commitment and will involve a lot of work for it to run smoothly. We are looking for more people to support this work through prayer, helping with activities, preparing food and washing up. If you feel you could support us in anyway please speak to Caroline Sawyer, Karen Lord or Sue Gosney.

Please pray for us and the work of Messy Church here in Wonford, and for all those who attend. Please also pray about who you may be able to encourage to come.

Thank you.

The Messy Church Leadership team (Caroline, Karen and Sue G.)





@ Wonford

"Messy Church" is a place for people of all ages to enjoy sharing time together and exploring stories from the Bible.

It includes times of craft and messy activities, stories, songs and sharing a meal together.

4-6pm once a month on a Sunday at
Wonford Methodist Church.

Dates and themes:

29th January – Love God

26th February – Love your neighbour

26th March – Love your world

30th April – Easter Celebration

28th May – The Church's Birthday!

25th June – Making a difference

Prayer Focus for December/January

December

**Jesus said, "I have come into the world as a light,
so that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness."**

(John 12: 46 NIV)

Week beginning Sunday 4th

Please pray for the Leaders, girls and all coming to the Girls' Brigade Christingle on Monday. Pray that Jesus, 'the Light of the world' will be recognised in all the candles shining out this Advent season.

Week beginning Sunday 11th

This Sunday afternoon sees the Exeter Nativity progressing at the Cathedral. Please pray that it will be well supported, with the Cathedral filled to hear the Christmas story – not just a 'story' but a real historical event, God coming down to man.

Thank God as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Chapel rebuild, praising Him for the generous hearts who funded it and the prayers that were answered in its completion.

Thank His Holy Spirit who has encouraged us in times of joy and comforted us in moments of distress and sorrow.

Week beginning Sunday 18th

Please pray for our Ministers and Lay Preachers at this busy time of year and for all those involved in Christmas preparations with the various groups in our church.

Pray also that God will bless and inspire Tony W and Caroline C as they faithfully lead the Carol Service this evening and that the word of God may dwell richly in the hearts of those assembled.

And there were shepherds out in the fields.....

Week beginning Sunday 25th

Celebrate Christmas!

**....And an angel of the Lord appeared to them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them.**

(Luke 2:9 RSV)

As we think of the shepherds on that cold, lonely hillside, suddenly surrounded by the incredible 'glory of the Lord', and as we meditate on the wonder of the birth of our Saviour the Lord Jesus, 'Light of the World', please pray that the wonderful love and light of His presence will help and comfort those who are struggling daily with the basics of survival...refugees and migrants on the move...the homeless...the mentally desperate...the lonely and sick...those trapped in abusive situations and those who see no hope for their future.

Pray that God's peace and calm will rest on all peoples of the world.

**Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin, mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild.**

(Joseph Mohr)

Prayer Focus for January

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.

Give me oil in my lamp, I pray

(Author unknown)

Week beginning Sunday 1st Happy New Year!

Please pray that God will supply all the needs of our 'Open the Book' team as they practice before starting a new term at Countess Wear Primary School next week.

Thank God for all He has supplied to and through our church this past year and for His continuing guidance and provision for the year to come.

Week beginning Sunday 8th Covenant

Please pray that a spirit of joy might be in the hearts of all who teach and lead in schools, further education, at home and in our Churches.

Pray also for the Covenant Service today and praise God that He is a 'Nearby God' who always waits for us to meet with Him.

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,

Give me joy in my heart, I pray.

Week beginning Sunday 15th

Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you". Please pray that we will know that peace in

our hearts even when we are going through the worst of life's storms and turmoils.

Pray also for wisdom and God's leading in any decisions taken at the Circuit Meeting this Thursday concerning its future 'shape'.

Thank God for those who administer communion to us and for the peace and blessing we receive through this.

**Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,
Give me peace in my heart , I pray.**

Week beginning Sunday 22nd

Please pray for the valuable outreach of Messy Church as the Leaders make preparations for next Sunday. Pray for more volunteers and God's continuing blessings on all who will be there.

Please also pray for God's love to be poured out in this 'Week of Christian Unity'.

**Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
Give me love in my heart, I pray.**

Week beginning Sunday 29th Messy Church

Please pray that God will truly be King of Kings and we will turn to Him for our peace in this world of unrest. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, for peace to break out in the Middle East and peace to be a priority in 2017; that God's will be done.

Thank God for those who work for peace in the most difficult of situations, and ask Him that we might be channels of His peace.

**Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna,
Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings!**

Phone Prayer Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contacts are Michael or Judith 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 either 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

Change of 'Monthly Prayer Breakfast' to 'Monthly Prayers and Coffee'

After our meeting and chat after church a couple of weeks ago, it was decided to make a small change so that the Prayer Breakfast would stay at the same time of 8.30am, with prayer for an hour and a cup of coffee for those who wish to stay afterwards.

Michael Maher

A Poem for Christmas

The Christmas Silence

*Hushed are the pigeons cooing low
On dusty rafters of the loft;
And mild-eyed oxen, breathing soft,
Sleep on the fragrant hay below.*

*Dim shadows in the corner hide;
The glimmering lantern's rays are shed
Where one young lamb just lifts his head,
Then huddles 'gainst his mother's side.*

*Strange silence tingles in the air;
Through the half-open door a bar
Of light from one low-hanging star
Touches a baby's radiant hair.*

*No sound: the mother, kneeling, lays
Her cheek against the little face.
Oh human love! Oh heavenly grace!
'Tis yet in silence that she prays!*

*Ages of silence end to-night;
Then to the long-expectant earth
Glad angels come to greet His birth
In burst of music, love, and light!*

Margaret Deland



Christian Christmas Word Find



Jesus Is The Reason

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

Jesus
Angel
Rejoice
Magi
Messiah
Stable

Manger
Noel
Joseph
Savior
Incense
King

Gold
Worship
Myrrh
Mary
Emmanuel
Christ

Prophecy
Bethlehem
Good News
Shepherds
Great Joy
Eastern Star

He Is Christ The Lord
Glory To God On High
Town Of David
Peace On Earth
Good Will To All
For All People

Dates For Your Diary

December 2016

Exminster Christmas Tree Festival - 2nd to 5th December 2016**

Sat 3rd	7.30 p.m.	Exeter University Gilbert & Sullivan Christmas Gala at Sidwell Street MC - tickets £5 on the door **
Sun 4th	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship - Caroline Colin.
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Yangsun Yi - Sacrament
Mon 5th	6.00 p.m.	Girls' Brigade 'Christingle' - everyone welcome **
Tue 6th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Party - 20 Whipton Lane **
Thu 8th	2.30 p.m.	Monthly Bible Study in the lounge **
	7.30 p.m.	Worship Team meets
Fri 9th		10th Anniversary of Church Dedication 'The 12 Days of Christmas' at Temple MC until Wed 14th - various times **
Sat 10th		Santa Slide at The Eden Project **
Sun 11th	10.00 a.m.	Derek Burnside
	2.00 p.m.	Exeter Nativity at the Cathedral
	6.30 p.m.	Paul Violet
Thu 15th		Exeter City Centre Chaplains Carols at St Stephen's
Sat 17th	8.30 a.m.	Monthly Prayers and Coffee **
	5.00 p.m.	Young Church Christmas Party **
Sun 18th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Sacrament
	5.30 p.m.	Christmas Carol Service Caroline Colin & Tony Wragg **
Mon 19th	7.30 p.m.	Joan & Tony's Annual Christmas Evening **
Tue 20th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe (until 12pm)
Sat 24th	6.30 p.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Christmas Eve Communion **
Sun 25th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Christmas Day Service **
	6.30 p.m.	No Evening Service



January 2017

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer
	6.30 p.m.	No Evening Service
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - All Age Covenant Service
	6.30 p.m.	David Bradford
Tue 10th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets - 14 Grainger Close **
Sun 15th	10.00 a.m.	Steve Jones
	6.30 p.m.	Mandy Denton - Prayer & Praise
		19th - 25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Tue 17th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe (until 12pm) **
Thu 19th	2.00 p.m.	Monthly Bible Study in the lounge **
	7.30 p.m.	Circuit Meeting in the Church
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Alan Rothwell - Themed Preaching
		No Evening Service - Ecumenical Prayers at the Cathedral
Tue 24th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane **
Sun 29th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Themed Preaching
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church

***** For more information see a separate item in this newsletter, or look on the noticeboard for a poster***





Carol Service



All Are Welcome

Sunday 18th December 2016

5.30 p.m.

Come and sing familiar Christmas Carols and see youngsters in nativity scenes and sketches

Followed by mince pies and coffee

Christmas Eve Communion

All Welcome

**Saturday 24th December
6.30 p.m.**

Rev Bruce Sawyer

Christmas Day Service

**Sunday 25th December
10.00 a.m.**

Rev Bruce Sawyer

New Year Party

**Date, Time and Theme
to be confirmed.**

Bring & Share Supper

More details to follow

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 (33 Matford 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 Prayers and 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 February 2017 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th January 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