

Wonford Methodist Church



Contact Newsletter

December 2019 / January 2020

(No: 484)

Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



Girls' Brigade

invite you to their:

"Christingle"

**Monday 9th December
2019**

5.45 p.m.

(see separate notice)



Exminster Christmas Tree Festival

**Friday 29th Nov - Monday
2nd December 2019**

**Exminster Methodist
Church**

Entrance FREE

**Viewing times - see
separate article.**



Annual Christmas Evening

All Welcome

**Wednesday 18th 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 21st
December 2019**

5.30 - 7.00 p.m.

**Please come and join us for lots of
games, food & fun!**

A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends

“Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord; for He has roused Himself from Himself from His holy dwelling”. Zechariah

The way we celebrate Christmas is not conducive to silence. It is noisy, busy, chaotic and frenetic. Today, the jaunty strains of ‘Frosty the Snowman’ would drown out the song of the angels and perhaps we prefer it so. The first Christmas, after all, begins with a profound silence: humanity has reached the point where it is hopeless. Morally and spiritually cut off from God, it’s only hope is if God Himself intervenes. This is not a comfortable truth – it’s not easy to be told that in our natural state, we are hopeless, that our dependence on God is so total that none of our words, or actions or little scraps of goodness are sufficient to enable us to stand in the presence of God. The silence of a humanity that has come to the end of its own resources is met with something so astonishing that we could never have dreamt it up – the cry of a baby in whose frail body is God Himself. God communicating to us in flesh and blood. Those who follow the life of this baby will learn, with wonder, of how His teaching, His life, His death, His rising from death, and His continued presence with them thereafter are God’s way of bringing new life and salvation to the world. Christmas is only the beginning. There is no better way of marking the season than by making at least some time for the silence that allows us to wonder at the love which brought God into our midst, and to be reminded that the only right response is gratitude, love and hearts committed afresh to Him.

*The darkest time in the year,
The poorest place in town,
Cold, and a taste of fear,
Man and woman alone.
What can we hope for here?
More light than we can learn,
More wealth than we can treasure,
More love than we can earn,
More peace than we can measure,
Because one Child is born.*

Anon.

Rev Ben Haslam

Dates For December 19 / January 20

Flowers

December

1st Mandy
8th Beryl & Paul
15th Eileen
22nd TBA
29th TBA

January

5th TBA
12th Bronwen & Clifford
19th TBA
26th TBA



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 2020.

Many Thanks - Eileen.

Coffee

December

1st Rose & Paul
8th Elaine & Graham
15th Liz S & Pauline
22nd 10.00 a.m. Helen
5.30 pm Carol Service - Mince pies and offers of help welcome
29th Melanie



January

5th Jenny T & Susan L
12th Liz S & Pauline
19th TBA
26th TBA



Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This will be starting again in the New Year on Thursday 16th January 2020 at 2pm in the lounge. All welcome.

Marriage and Relationships Discussion

The Methodist Church is asking all of their churches to engage in a consultation in a sensitive, non-judgemental and prayerful way, on about marriage and relationships in the Methodist Church setting. The discussion will include, divorce, co-habiting and same-sex relationships, civil ceremonies and marriage.

The result of our discussions will be given to our Circuit Office who will collate all the results from our Exeter Coast and Country Circuit. This in turn will be notified to District Synod who will proceed to a vote next Spring. Reports from all the Synods will go to the 2020 Conference who will then make a final decision.

Wonford Church Council have, therefore, chosen **Sunday 12 January** for our discussion and invite anyone who worships at Wonford Church to attend. The discussion will follow on after the morning Covenant Service, after a short coffee break. It will be followed by a bring & share lunch.

For more information please see these links. If you don't have access to a computer then please speak to someone you know who does and ask them to show you or print off the Methodist Church information.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/views-of-the-church/human-sexuality-including-gay-and-lesbian-issues/>

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/>

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/12606/3240-10-amended-marriage-and-relationships-report.pdf>

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/14704/marriage-and-relationships-study-guide-colour.pdf>

Please remember this in your prayers so that we can engage in a useful, sympathetic and non-discriminatory discussion.

Extract from Methodist church website:

'Within the church, there is a diversity of interpretations and a range of understandings about intimate relationships. The Conference encourages Methodists to continue to discuss these differences in a spirit of openness and love. Our shared ambition is to combat repression and discrimination, to work for justice and human rights and to give dignity and worth to people whatever their sexuality.'

Exminster 11th Christmas Tree Festival



29th November to 2nd December 2019

Festival times:

Friday 29th Open 3 pm till 7 pm

Saturday 30th Open 10 am till 7 pm

Saturday Coffee Morning from (10-12 noon)
with Plant and Traidcraft stalls
The **'Santa Lady'** is coming
with animated toy Santa's
Light lunches 12.15 pm till 2.00 pm



Sunday 1st Open 3 pm till 5.30 pm

Sunday Service amongst the trees at 10.30 am

Monday 2nd Group visits - by arrangement only

Admission is free

Light refreshments available

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

exminstertreefestival@gmail.com

**All money raised is to be shared between
Action for Children who work in Devon & Children's Hospice South West**

Girls' Brigade Christingle

2nd Exeter Girls' Brigade invites you all to it's Christingle Service at 5.45pm on Monday 9th December 2019. Everyone is welcome to join us on this special occasion.



The Girls' Brigade team

Home Group Meetings in December 2019 / January 2020

This group meets fortnightly on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm in different members' homes, as our Sunday Screen Notices will tell each time. Anyone is welcome to come and join us as we explore the Bible together. Come with your questions or thoughts to help us, please! In December we have our Christmas Social at 18 Tuckfield Close on Weds 4th December; and then in the new year 2020 we will start a new study guide on **The Life of Paul**. Do come and join us!

4th December	7.30pm	18 Tuckfield Close - Christmas Social
15th January	7.30pm	39 Meyer Court
29th January	7.30pm	14 Grainger Close

Monika

Church Green Team Update

Reduce, Re-use and Recycle this Christmas

We all know the lyrics to a well-known Christmas song, 'It's the most wonderful time of the year', so this year I am looking at ways to make it more wonderful for our environment and maybe my bank account!

Before Christmas

- Only buy what you need – a shocking amount of food is thrown away over Christmas & New Year.
- Sustainability - look for locally made gifts as well as Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance etc.
- Reduce waste – buy items with less packaging, get reusable items, choose a living tree in a pot and avoid disposable dinnerware.
- Find alternatives to items that cannot be recycled – instead of glossy wrapping paper use plain brown paper which you can decorate with stampers or pen, cloth bags, a scarf or reusable gift bag. Instead of shiny Christmas crackers/hats you can make your own.

- Turn the heating down a couple of degrees and put on a warm, cosy jumper!
- Try to make something homemade like cards, gift tags, craft gifts, edible gifts or decorations.
- Waste-free giving - instead of giving people 'stuff & things' which they often do not want or need, why not give them cherished memories & experiences like a day out, an afternoon tea, star gazing on the moors or whatever they might enjoy doing. Or you could make up your own personalised gift coupons eg. 'I will mow your lawn once a month, 'I will babysit for an evening', 'I'll visit & read to you every fortnight for a year' or 'I will walk your dog'

After Christmas

Recycle all the rubbish you can in your green bin, a bottle bank or local council Recycling Centre, re-use by giving away unwanted items to Exeter Food Action (for food items), through Freecycle or to a local charity shop, or you can sell through eBay, Gumtree etc.

The beauty of Christmas is not in the presents but in His presence.

Sue Keatt on behalf of the Church Green Team



Wonford Community News - Christmas Dates

Wonford Community and Learning Centre Carols by Candlelight will be on Wednesday 11th December 2019 at 7.30pm.

Christians Together in Heavitree events

Carols in the pub at the Horse and Groom at 7.30pm on 18th December
 Carols at St Loyes Ruins in Rifford Road at 6pm on 19th December

A local resident is collecting items for shoeboxes for the homeless. If you can donate any unopened toiletries, hats/scarves/gloves/socks or sweets please take them along to the Phoenix Cafe at Wonford Community and Learning Centre on Thursdays between 10am and 1pm. Last date for donating Thursday 12th. Ask Helen for more information

Greetings from Bristol!

I recently had a lovely hand-written letter from Rev Paul Hardy, who was Wonford's very first Methodist Minister in 1962 [I think] on Paul & May Hardy's return from South Africa. Paul is now 95, and May died awhile back. He recalled their Wonford appointment as being "a very happy period", and said "how much I have appreciated the Wonford newsletter". He also writes "It is quite obvious from the contents of each edition that Wonford is making a big influence in many ways. Praise the Lord."

In his retirement Paul did quite a lot of painting and drawing, though stopped while May was so ill. But now he has taken it up again, and says "I have been told by the family and many others that my paintings have taken a new lease of life." He ends his letter "So, again, thank you so much for your regular Contact. I continue to pray for all of you at Wonford, please give them my good wishes, and continue to great witness and work in the power of the Holy Spirit and in and with the Lord Jesus Christ."

Margretta Bowstead

Our Theme Preaching at Wonford for Spring; Christianity Explored

Unusually during January, February and March you will find the same preacher speaking for seven weeks and he won't be here in the church with us! We are actually going to be following the Christianity Explored course and the "sermons" will come to us on screen and will be presented by Rev Rico Tice. Rico is an Anglican minister, conference speaker and evangelist based at All Souls Church, Langham Place, London, He is also very keen on rugby and is a non-executive director of Christians in Sport. Of course a minister/local preacher will be with us to present the other elements of each service in the usual way. So here's what to expect

Jan 19th	Good News	Prof Tony Wragg
Jan 26th	Identity	Rev Terry Spencer
Feb 9th	Sin	Rev Alan Rothwell
Feb 16th	The Cross	Rev Ben Haslam

Feb 23rd

Resurrection

Dr Joan Wragg

Mar 8th

Grace

Prof Tony Wragg

Mar 15th

Come and Die

Caroline Colin and Mandy Denton

This is something of an experiment so we are limiting it to just seven weeks. Let us know what you think in due course.

Tony
For Worship Team

Away Group

This is the Bible Study Fellowship Group that meets every week, usually at Joan and Tony's or at Julie and Alan's.

We are doing some wonderful narrative studies of the Acts of the Apostles at present - very absorbing and exciting stuff.

But a lot of you are missing it!!! Why not come and join with us on Monday nights at 7.30pm? We are taking a Christmas break but getting back together on January 6th at Joan and Tony's. Come and share the thrill as the young church grows and spreads its wings

Tony

Prayer Focus for December/January

December

Pray Without Ceasing

ADVENT—that special time of year when we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord & Saviour. In your prayers remember those for whom Christmas is a lonely time. For some the passing of a loved one, or maybe their spouse has had to go into a home & they may not be able to visit. Others may live alone & are housebound & they go from a few days before Christmas to after New Year & see no-one. Thank Father for our own families & friends & that we are able to celebrate together.

At the time of writing we are still in political chaos so keep praying for our Country. Pray that our leaders will be honest in their canvassing for the General Election on the 12th December. Also pray for the next Government, whoever that may be.

At Wonford, pray for the Girls' Brigade Christingle, the annual Mums & Tots visit to the Nativity at Pennywell Farm & the Church Carol Services. Pray for all the leaders as they prepare for each service & for the Christmas parties, activities & travels. Pray for those who will lead our services each week.

Pray for those who work in our emergency services & NHS as they work so hard to keep us safe & care for us as the need arises & for those who work in our care homes & residential & nursing homes as they care for our loved ones.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the peace, love and blessing of the Christmas Child.

January

Pray Without Ceasing

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE

I hope you have all had a good Christmas. At the start of this New Year may we pray for a closer walk with the Lord.

This month pray for our church that as we move forward into 2020 we will be a light in Wonford to guide those around us, to be good witnesses of the love of God to all. May we meet the needs of those less fortunate. For that we need to keep praying for God's guidance in our lives.

Pray for all the groups in our church, for each member, for those who lead & those who help in the running of the groups. Pray also for those who offer lifts to various meetings & services. Remember those travelling to Torquay for the MET conference that all will be blessed. January 12th is our Covenant Service so may I urge us all to prepare ourselves through prayer for this very special service. After this service we are having a discussion about same sex marriage. This has the potential to be divisive but may we, through prayer be sensitive to the feelings of others & embrace one another with the love shown by our Saviour. Ask ourselves, 'what would Jesus do'!

Pray that those wrongfully imprisoned will be released in this new year & continue to pray for all living in war zones or are living in hardship due to natural disasters.

May you all be richly blessed as you pray for all the activities at Wonford, surrounding area & the wider world.

Our Prayer Phone 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 (01392 437329) or 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

Christmas Word Search - find 47 words



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

Dates For Your Diary

December 2019

Exminster Christmas Tree Festival - 29th Nov to 2nd December 2019**

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	All Age Worship - Mandy Denton Rev Julian Albrow / Frank Field Circuit Service at St Thomas MC
Wed 4th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Christmas Social - 18 Tuckfield Close *
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament Service Caroline Colin - Prayer & Praise
Mon 9th	5.45 p.m.	Girls' Brigade 'Christingle' - everyone welcome **
Tue 10th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe in the lounge (until 12pm)
Wed 11th	7.30 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight at Wonford Community & Learning Centre **
Sun 15th	10.00 a.m. 2.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Norman Wallwork CTaX Nativity procession around Pinesshay Service of Carols in the Cathedral Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament Service
Wed 18th	7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Joan & Tony's Annual Christmas Evening ** Carols in the pub - Horse & Groom **
Thu 19th	6.00 p.m.	Ecumenical Carols at St Loye's Chapel Ruins, Rifford Road **
Sat 21st	5.30 p.m.	Young Church Christmas Party **
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m. 5.30 p.m.	Local Arrangement Service Rev Ben Haslam & Prof Tony Wragg Christmas Carol Service **
Tue 24th	6.30 p.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Christmas Eve Communion
Tue 25th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Christmas Day Service
Sun 29th	10.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Alan Rothwell No Evening Service



January 2020

Wishing You A Happy & Peaceful New Year

Sun 5th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Steve Santry
	6.30 p.m.	Dr Joan Wragg
Thu 9th	7.30 p.m.	Wonford Worms Book Club meet in the lounge
Sun 12th	10.00 a.m.	Annual Covenant Service - Rev Ben Haslam Followed by discussion about Marriage & Relationships. Bring & Share lunch
	6.30 p.m.	Café Church - R V Handley
Wed 15th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 39 Meyer Court **
Thu 16th	2.00 p.m.	Minister's Bible Study in the lounge
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - 18th to 25th January		
Sun 19th	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - Themed Preaching **
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church
Wed 22nd	7.30 p.m.	Circuit meeting at Sidwell St MC
Sun 26th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Themed Preaching **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Steve Santry - Sacrament Service
Wed 29th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 14 Grainger Close **

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





Carol Service

All Are Welcome

Sunday 22nd December 2019

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

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

Rev Ben Haslam

Christmas Day Service

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

Rev Ben Haslam

New Year Party

**Date to be
Announced**

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

5.45 to 7pm Girls' Brigade (4-16 year olds) *A*

7.30 p.m. Away Group Bible Study

Tuesday

9.15 a.m. Weekly Prayers in the Quiet Room

10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Cafe (3rd Tuesday each month)

Wednesday

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 February 2020 Newsletter will be Sunday 12th January 2020. 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