

Wonford Methodist Church



Contact Newsletter
December 2022 / January 2023

(No: 515)

Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk

A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends

The great day has arrived! They have rebuilt the foundations, restored the walls and put the gates in place. All that is left now is to hold a rededication ceremony for the new city. This is more than just a question of cutting a ribbon and declaring the city 'open' however. This is also a declaration of faith in God as well as an act of thanksgiving. Any church which has undertaken a significant building project will be able to appreciate the sense of achievement, as well as relief and gratitude which accompanies its completion. Although they didn't perhaps have to contend with quite as much red tape as we do, that doesn't mean it wasn't a colossal undertaking, especially when you consider the amount of opposition they encountered along the way.

There is, however, something slightly odd about this rededication ceremony, namely that, normally, only the completion of a temple would be marked in this way. The temple was the holiest site in Jerusalem. It seems then, that this ceremony is making the point that everything within the walls is to be regarded as holy ground, or rather that, the inhabitants of the city are called to holiness, not just when they are worshipping, but in every part of their lives. They are called to holiness when out shopping. They are called to holiness when chatting with their neighbours. They are called to holiness when setting off for work. Holiness is a daunting concept. It means, not being 'holier than thou', but 'set apart for God'. As the covenant prayer says, we are not our own, but His. Holiness means remembering that we are His every single day, offering each day to His service, offering all our gifts and graces to be used for His glory. We are called to be God's distinctive people in every area of our lives, living in the world but not being of the world. This doesn't mean floating above everything that's happening around us, but rather a refusal to allow the world to dictate our thoughts and attitudes. It's all too easy to be carried away with the latest fashionable school of thought, but as Christians, we are called to subject everything to scrutiny, alongside seeking constantly to be led by God's spirit rather than the spirit of the age. It's a tall order, but it's what God requires of us, and if we truly give our lives over to Christ, we will begin to flourish, to be a blessing to the world even as we challenge it, and begin the journey towards becoming the people God calls us to be.

God Bless

Rev Ben Haslam

Coffee Rota

December 2022

4th Melanie & Eileen
11th Susan & John S
18th Rose & Paul
25th No Coffee

January 2023

1st TBA
8th Linda & Mervyn
15th Alison & Jenny H
22nd Liz S & Pauline
29th Margaret D & Terry L

Thank you for all those who have helped with teas & coffees in 2022. If you are interested in becoming a regular on the rota or just helping out occasionally see Melanie Westcott.

Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on:

Tuesday December 13th Christmas Morning

Tuesday January 17th Talk about Exeter Floods with
John Davidson



We meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and nice things to eat. Everyone is welcome.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2022.

A big Thank You to everyone who contributed this year - we have sent off a fantastic 1626 gift filled shoeboxes from Exeter & nearby towns & villages to go to people in Ukraine! Some of you helped with sorting the boxes and cartons at the processing centre, provided boxes and/or items for the boxes, gifted money, carefully wrapped empty boxes and prayed with us throughout the campaign - without you we could not undertake such a project, so thank you very much!



From Sue Keatt and the Exeter Blythswood Steering Group.

Wonford Welcome Drop-in and Warm Spaces on Saturday Mornings.

As part of the City's 'warm welcome spaces' initiative to help people keep warm & in touch with others this winter, we are extending our opening times from 10.30am - 1.30pm and will provide a warm snack lunch for the cost of 50p. This is open to anyone from the church and the community so please do encourage people to come along.

In December we will be having the following activities alongside the free cuppa & cake:

3rd Dec

Christmas traditions around the world, we will be making Christmas decorations, sharing Christmas traditions and a few Christmas treats to eat

10th Dec

We will have a Christmas Quiz and be continuing with making decorations & cards etc.

17th Dec

Carol singing outdoors and distributing invites for our Carol Service as well as continuing to make crafts and eat some festive food

24th Dec

We will have Christmas games, songs and festive food

31st Dec

We will be looking back over the year with a 2022 Quiz and games.

Throughout January, we will continue to enjoy each others company, have games and a creative focus each week so please do drop-in when you can and remember we will be open for a warm light lunch as well - all are welcome!

Helen, Liz, Mandy, Paul, Rose, Sue K and Monika & Lisa.



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

Wonford Methodist Church Themed Preaching Spring 2023

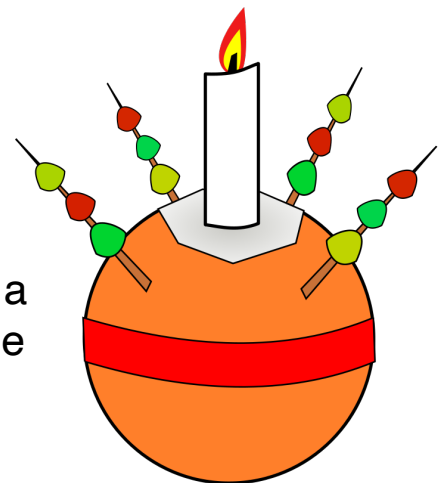
This Spring we are going to be looking at the 'People Who Met Jesus'.

Tony Wragg

Jan 22nd	Andrew and Simon Peter	Terry Spencer
Jan 29th	The Samaritan Woman	Andy Mulcock
Feb 5th	Zachaeus (All-Age)	Tony and Mandy
Feb 12th	Nicodemus	Ben Haslam (S)
Feb 19th	Jairus' Daughter	Paul Violet
Feb 26th	Bartimaeus	Jon Curtis
Mar 5th	The Paralysed Man (All-Age)	Monika Noronha
Mar 12th	The Rich Ruler	Ben Haslam (S)
Mar 19th	Women with Perfume	Caroline Colin
Mar 26th	Criminals at the Cross	Joan Wragg
Apr 2nd	Palm Sunday (All-Age)	Mary Hexy
Apr 9th	Easter Day (Resurrection)	Ben Haslam (S)

Christingle Service

There will be a Christingle workshop and short service at Wonford Methodist Church on Sunday December 11th 2022 at 4pm. Come and join in the activity of creating your own Christingle and then celebrate the coming of Jesus into this world during a short service. Light refreshments available. Everyone is welcome!



Monika

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' (I imagine that tune is now going through your mind!), so perhaps this year we can look at ways to make it more wonderful for our environment and maybe our bank balance.

Before Christmas:

Only buy what you need – a shocking amount of food is thrown away over Christmas & New Year. Try to be creative with recipes to use up your leftovers.

Sustainability - look for local produce at street markets or farm shops, locally made gifts at craft fayres and independent shops, as well as choosing items that are 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 wrapping paper that is made to be recyclable or 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 and thick socks – this is something most of us are getting used to doing more as we are trying to save money on our heating bills.

Try to make something homemade like cards, gift tags, craft gifts, edible gifts or decorations. Or buy pre-loved items at one of the many charity shops or bring & buy sales.

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/bring & buy sale, or you can sell through eBay, Facebook Marketplace, Gumtree etc.

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

Sue Keatt on behalf of the Church Green Team

Girls Brigade

Back in 2015, following the sudden departure of the previous GB leader, Rosie stepped into the role, Monika and I became helpers to support her and soon after we were joined by Sarah and Zoe. We all did our training together and it was a lovely team to be part of,



Monday evenings were all about 'faith, fun and friendship'

as the girls learnt through activities and I particularly enjoyed the use of balloons to illustrate the difference between happiness and joy! We also went on trips, held fundraising events, put on an annual Christingle and were rehearsing 'One Way Jesus' accompanied by tambourine routine to perform to families and church members when the lockdown started.

With a young family and a demanding job Rosie has understandably decided that she is not able to restart GB and no-one else has come forward to be Leader so GB has closed.

A huge thank you to Rosie and to all the leaders over the 50 years of GB at Wonford. Many girls will have learnt about Gods love through GB and I hope that the words we sang to each other at the end of every meeting stay with them 'May Gods blessings surround you each day, As you trust him and walk in his way, May Gods presence within guide and keep you from sin, Go in Joy, Go in Peace, Go in Love'

Helen

Crisp Packets

Thank you to everyone who brought in crisps packets for GB. Since GB has closed these are no longer required. If you have got into the habit of collecting crisp packets they can be taken to Sainsbury and Co-op stores.

Prayer Focus for December 2022

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

Isaiah 11:3b-4.

Lord, we pray for the poor and needy. We thank you that you care about everyone, especially those who are struggling to make ends meet at this tough time. Help us to put your love and justice into action so we can bless those around us.

Week Commencing 11th December. 3rd Sunday in Advent

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy[a] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

Matthew 11:5

We pray for all who need to hear the good news of your love this Christmas. Help us to consider who we might invite to a special Christmas service this year, for example, our carol service on 18th December.

Week Commencing 18th December. 4th Sunday in Advent

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

Matthew 1:21

Thank you, God, for this promise of a Saviour! Fill our hearts with joy and hope as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth once again. May our joy overflow to all around us as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Week Commencing Sunday 25th December. Christmas Day

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace
to those on whom his favour rests.'

Luke 2:14

With the words of the angels resounding in our ears, we simply say 'Thank you God for sending Jesus!' Let peace come to our hearts, our communities, our nations and our world! Amen

Prayer Focus for January 2023

Week Commencing Sunday January 1st

In him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:4-5

May the light of Christ shine in the dark places in this world, in our communities and in our own hearts. Ignite faith in the hearts of those who are lost in darkness as your light shines through our hearts and lives, our words and actions.

Week Commencing Sunday January 8th

The Lord gives strength to his people;
the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Psalms 29:11

Lord, give us humble, obedient and serving hearts as we recommit ourselves to you in our 2023 Covenant Service.

Week Commencing Sunday January 15th

A new command I give to you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

John 13:34

As the Week of Christian Unity commences during this week, we pray for all our fellow Christians.

Week Commencing Sunday January 22nd

All will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.

John 13:35

We give thanks for the work of CTAX Christians Together Across Exeter. We pray for all who work together to bless our city and to make Christ known through our joint witness. We pray for the annual prayer service on 22nd which takes place at St Matt's this year. This week is also Holocaust

Memorial Day [Friday 27th], so as we remember, may the peace of God reign on earth.

Week Commencing Sunday January 29th

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

The pain of grief is experienced differently by different people. As we love and serve each other, may we bring your comfort, O God, to all who need it.

Covenant Service

I thought it might be helpful to have the opportunity to reflect on the words of the Methodist Covenant in advance of our service on 8th January. We may share it in this or a similar form on the day.

I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to what you will,

rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing,

put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you,

or laid aside for you,

exalted for you,

or brought low for you;

let me be full,

let me be empty,

let me have all things,

let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things

to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.'

The Methodist Covenant Prayer



Dates For Your Diary

December 2022

Sat 3rd	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome/Warm Spaces Drop-In (to 1.30 pm)
Sun 4th	10.00 a.m.	Sally Naylor & ICE Team. All Age Worship.
	6.30 p.m.	Café Church Presents 'Wesley' the film
Sat 10th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome/Warm Spaces Drop-In (to 1.30 pm)
Sun 11th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament
Tue 13th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm). Christmas Party
Sat 17th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome/Warm Spaces Drop-In (to 1.30 pm)
	5.00 p.m.	Young Church Christmas Party **
Sun 18th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Malcolm Carter
	5.30 p.m.	Carol Service - Rev Ben Haslam / Mandy Denton
Tue 20th	7.30 p.m.	Joan & Tony's Christmas Evening **
Sat 24th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome/Warm Spaces Drop-In (1.30 pm)
Sun 25th	10.00 a.m.	Christmas Morning - Rev Ben Haslam
Sat 31st	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome/Warm Spaces Drop-In (to 1.30 pm)

January 2023

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m.	Local Arrangements. All Age Worship.
Sat 7th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome/Warm Spaces Drop-In (to 1.30 pm)
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m.	Covenant Service / Sacrament - Rev Ben Haslam
Sat 14th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome/Warm Spaces Drop-In (to 1.30 pm)
Sun 15th	10.00 a.m.	Chris Carter
Tue 17th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm). **
Sat 21st	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome/Warm Spaces Drop-In (to 1.30 pm)
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Themed Preaching **
Sat 28th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome/Warm Spaces Drop-In (to 1.30 pm)
Sun 29th	10.00 a.m.	Andy Mulcock - Themed Preaching **

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

The deadline for items for the February 2023 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th January 2023. 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

**Young Church
Christmas Party**

**Saturday 17th
December 2022**

5.00 to 6.30pm

**Christmas Day
Service**

**Sunday 25th
December 2022**

10am

Rev Ben Haslam



**Christmas
Evening**

All Welcome

**Tuesday 20th 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**



Carol Service

All Are Welcome

**Sunday 18th
December 2022**

5.30 pm

