

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

February 2022

(No: 506)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

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A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

On the face of it, Nehemiah 3 isn't very exciting. It's about the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, and basically it's a list of who did what. Big deal we might think. But what's going on is huge. In the last chapter, Nehemiah had gone back to Jerusalem to assess the damage, and survey the condition of the walls. He sees a pitiful scene of desolation before him. Instead of running away or giving in to despair, Nehemiah, conscious of his God-given calling, gathers the people together and puts before them a simple but point: rebuild these walls and they will protect Jerusalem against her enemies and restore her prestige in the world. They take up this challenge, with 43 different groups of people taking a section of the wall and working on it, rather like the construction of a medieval cathedral. This is a delightful chapter, because in it we see God's people coming together in a common endeavour. Their abilities were different, but they came together nonetheless and contributed whatever they were able in pursuit of the common goal.

It's true that their situation was desperate. In its ruined state, Jerusalem was vulnerable to attack from pretty much anybody. It was no good going back to their homeland, after so many years of exile, if they were just going to make sitting ducks of themselves. Being in such a situation can lend a clarity of thought lacking in more comfortable circumstances. The thing is, where the Israelites were in a physically desperate situation, we today are in a spiritually desperate one. Society drifts ever further from God. In the church, we have had decades of theology which has undermined our confidence in our faith, in our God, in the scriptures, and in our identity in Christ. The hollowed-out, wash out Christianity we are left with is not the supernatural, life-changing force brought to birth on the day of Pentecost. The walls we need to rebuild are spiritual ones. It can happen. Wonderful things do happen when God's people come together.

With every blessing

Ben Haslam

Dates For February 2022

Coffee

6th	David & Margaret S
13th	Jenny & Susan L
20th	Lisa & Pauline
27th	TBA



Wednesday Bible Study Group

The WBG is *usually* meeting once a fortnight in the Church of an afternoon from 3pm to 4.30pm. Newcomers will be very welcome to join us. The fortnightly dates for February are the 9th and 16th. This group are looking at the amazing story of Paul the Apostle, one of the early Christian leaders, often considered to be the most important person after Jesus in the history of Christianity.

The Away Group

This group meets on a Monday evening every fortnight at 7.30 pm. Dates and venues will be given out each Sunday in the notices. The meetings in February are 7th and 21st. Currently the group are studying the book of Isaiah.

Saturday Morning Fellowship (10.30 am – 12.00 pm)

We will be starting a weekly time of fellowship on Saturday 19th February in the church hall for anyone who wants to drop in for a cuppa with cake, relax and have a chat and perhaps join in with a creative activity, games or something different we will be planning each week. We would also like to make use of the snooker and table tennis tables that are hidden away in the hall as well as the wealth of interests and talents that members of our church can share with us. There will be prayer support available in the church and at the end of the morning a time in the hall for us to focus together on the Lord. Everyone is welcome to join us for all or even part of the morning and if you would like to help in any way please do contact one of us.



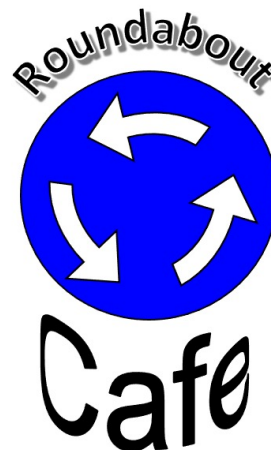
Mandy, Liz, Rose, Rev Ben and Sue K

Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 15th February 2022 when we will have a talk entitled 'Who Do You Think You Are'?

Why the publication of the 1921 census, in January 2022, is the most important document released by the National Archives in a generation.

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



Church Council Meeting

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Thursday 24th February 2022 at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to attend although only Church members can vote

Alison Howell

Green Team Article - Planting in Wonford

With houses being extended and parking spaces created, local gardens are getting smaller with less plants and trees. So it is great that two community groups have been busy planting locally.

Ludwell Life have planted up the Scrape (a shallow pond created in Butchers Field in Ludwell Valley) with nearly 800 plants including marsh marigolds, water mint, agrimony, yellow flag iris and speedwell. They are asking that dog walkers keep their dogs out of the pond while the plants establish themselves. In January they planted three new trees in their Community Orchard close to the Tollards Road entrance to Ludwell Valley Park.

Wonford Planters have been busy with the Pocket Park next to Wonford Green Surgery. The initial landscaping has been done and fruit trees are being planted this month. These include an apple tree dedicated to Mary Carpenter. Mary Carpenter was born in Exeter in 1807 and later moved with her family to Bristol. She was a social reformer who founded 'ragged schools' for children in slums and supported the higher education of women and the abolition of slavery. The Pocket Park will also have raised beds with herbs and everyone is welcome to sit in and/or tend.

How can WMC contribute to improving the local environment? When the car park is resurfaced we will probably lose the plants that have self-seeded at the base of walls but hopefully we can keep most of the roses and perhaps

add some evergreen plants alongside the fence. I would love to have scented plants that children could run their hands through as they walk on the wall and for people waiting at the new bus stop to enjoy. The Green Team have made a start on ridding the raised flower bed of ivy so we can have pollinator friendly plant in this and in a new flowerbed and planters. The fence has really improved the appearance of the Church and, though our space is small, with careful planting we can make it even more attractive as well as supporting wildlife!

Helen

Green Team (Alison Hobbs, Alison Howells, Helen Moore, Margretta Bowstead, Martin Lloyd, Sue Keatt)

Wonford Methodist Church - Themed Preaching Spring 2022

We continue to look at Paul's letter to the Church at Ephesus during February and into March.

Feb 6	All Age Worship	Karenza Cordery	
Feb 13	Chapter 4 v1-16	Unity in Christ	Ben Haslam (S)
Feb 20	Chapter 4 v17ff	Living in the light	John Allan
Feb 27	Chapter 5 v1-21	Be filled with the Spirit	Joan Wragg

Prayer Focus for February

Week Commencing 6th February

- Pray for Karenza Cordery who will lead our all-age service on this first Sunday of the month.
- Psalm 138:3 says: *'When I called you answered me; you made me bold and stout-hearted'* The Psalmist was confident in God who answered his prayers. Pray that we too, may become bold prayers, trusting that God will always hear us and answer when we call to him.
- Pray especially for all those church activities which remain 'on hold', especially for the Girls' Brigade and Messy Church - we need more leaders and helpers for both these activities, if they are to resume. Pray too, for a vision for fresh outreach!
- Pray for Rev Ben Haslam as he returns from sabbatical. May he be refreshed and energised both physically and spiritually.

Week Commencing 13th February

- Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2
- Pray for Ben as leads our service, looking at the first part of Ephesians Chapter 4.
- Sunday 13th February is Racial Justice Sunday. We pray for all who are discriminated against due to their race. Help us to examine our own hearts and replace any prejudices with your all-encompassing love.

Week Commencing 20th February

- Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32
- Pray for John Allen as he continues our series on Ephesians, looking at the second part of Ch4.
- This Sunday is Student Sunday. We pray for the many students studying here in Exeter. We pray for all those who reach out to them with the love of Jesus.
- Pray about the ongoing challenges of the pandemic worldwide, nationally and within our local communities. We ask God to comfort all who are grieving for whatever reason and think of those known to us personally.

Week Commencing 27th February

- Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Eph 5:1-2
- Pray for Joan who leads our service this Sunday, looking at Ephesians 5:1-21
- We are in the middle of Fairtrade Fortnight 2022! May we be challenged, Lord, to do everything we can to support fair trade in our world, in our communities and in our own homes.

Our Prayer Phone Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is now Rose Smith (01404 510853). 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 Lisa Thomas (01392 273220) or Margretta Bowstead (01392 437329).

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.

Dates For Your Diary

February 2022

Sun 6th	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship with Karenza Cordery
Mon 7th	7.30 p.m.	The Away Group meet
Wed 9th	3.00 p.m.	Wednesday Bible Group in the Church **
Sun 13th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Themed Preaching and Sacrament **
Tue 15th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Wed 16th	3.00 p.m.	Wednesday Bible Group in the Church **
Sat 19th	10.30 a.m.	Saturday Morning Fellowship (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 20th	10.00 a.m.	John Allan - Themed Preaching ** Start of Fair Trade Fortnight
Mon 21st	7.30 p.m.	The Away Group meets
Thu 24th	7.30 p.m.	Church Council meets
Sat 26th	10.30 a.m.	Saturday Morning Fellowship (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 27th	10.00 a.m.	Dr Joan Wragg - Themed Preaching **

Advance Notice

Friday 4th March 2022 is World Day of Prayers (formally Women's World Day of Prayer). The theme is 'Freedom, Forgiveness, Justice and God's Peace'.

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

Christian Resources Exhibition at Westpoint

This takes place on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th February 2022. Further details can be obtained <https://creonline.co.uk/cre-south-west-2022-exhibitor-welcome/>

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love.

Ephesians 3:16-17



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 meets *(Fortnightly)*

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- 3.00 p.m. Bible Group at the Church *(Fortnightly)*

Thursday

Friday

- 9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group ***A***
(Check with organisers before attending)

Saturday

- 10.30 a.m. Saturday Fellowship Meeting
(Starts on the 19th February 2022)

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 March 2022 Newsletter will be Sunday 13th February 2022. There is no guarantee of inclusion, but they may be given to:

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