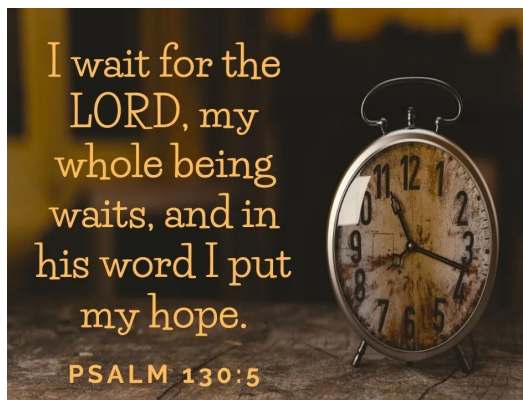


# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

February 2025

(No: 537)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

[www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk)



@WonfordMethodistChurch



YouTube Wonford Methodist Church



# A Message From The Minister

**Dear Friends,**

## **Psalm 130**

Amazon has a lot to answer for... by the way, I'm talking about the online shopping site rather than the rainforest and I should also add that I have been known to shop on Amazon myself so those opening words were not meant to be in any way sanctimonious! However, there is some evidence to suggest that the ability to order an item with one click and have it appear on your doorstep the day after is one of the factors contributing to a culture of instant gratification, of expecting things to happen when we want them to happen. God doesn't fit very well into this culture as, well, to us He often seems ridiculously slow. Sometimes He doesn't seem to act at all. This can lead us to wonder if He really cares about what's happening around us, and leads some to question whether He is really there at all.

God can still be found however, not at the click of a mouse or the snap of the fingers, but in the quiet and patient waiting of those who are prepared to seek God and attune themselves to His rhythms. Psalm 130 begins with a heartfelt cry from the depths but it's a cry which reaches up to the heights of heaven. The psalmist, confident that God is merciful and gracious, is therefore prepared to wait on the Lord, to live in a way that is attentive to God's word and God's voice, that is willing to learn to discern God's presence in the whole of life and realises that this is not the work of a moment, but a question of developing spiritual awareness, a way of life rather than a transaction. Where does all this watching and waiting lead? Well, 'with the Lord is unfailing love... with Him is full redemption'. Not that we somehow earn this redemption by waiting on Lord, but that we cannot possibly begin to appreciate that which we don't pay proper attention to. So let's practice paying attention, making the most of our time with the Lord and pray for the ability to sense His presence where ever we are and whatever we're doing.

**With every blessing**  
**Ben Haslam**

# Dates For February 2025

## Coffee

2nd	Linda & Mervyn
9th	Elaine & Graham
16th	Melanie & Nesy
23rd	Ann & John

## Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In February they meet on the 7th and 21st. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us as we explore the Bible together and share fellowship. Please speak to Monika Noronha or Terry Spencer if you want further details.

**Monika**

## The Away Group

This group meets on a Monday evening every fortnight at 7.30 pm in the lounge. Dates and venues will be given out each Sunday in the notices.

## Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 18th February 2025.

How did the body of Richard III end up in a car park in the centre of Leicester?

Did Richard III have the Prince's in The Tower murdered or did both end up in Devon?

We meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake. Please join us if you can.



## Monthly Prayer Meeting

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. For February this will be the 18th.

**Lisa Thomas**



## **Wonford Welcome Drop-In for Everyone - Saturdays 10.30am to 12.00pm.**

***We will also serve a light lunch and pud (for a cost of £1) between 12.00 and 12.30pm.***

In February we will be having the following activities for you to join, if you would like to, alongside a free cuppa & biscuits.

**1st February** - we will be encouraging you to get gently active with 'movement to music' for all ages and abilities.

**8th February** - there will be a games morning, which will include table football, magnetic darts, table top curling and mini table tennis.

**15th February** - we'll have a morning enjoying songs from popular musicals, including sing a long.

**22nd February** - we will be raising awareness of social justice and how the Methodist Church can help us to be a more justice-seeking church, supporting individuals and the community.

On the 1st March we will be taking part in the Great Devon Breakfast raising money for the charity FORCE, so please put the date in your diary and join us for some tasty breakfast/brunch treats.

Wonford Welcome is open to all; everyone, whatever their age or beliefs, will receive a warm welcome! If you are able to spread the word, put up a poster or share it on social media please do. And if you haven't been along yet please do come and join us one Saturday.

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

## **Themed Preaching for Spring 2025**

We have started a new series entitled '**The Master's Men**' (*and Women - see Luke 8: 1-3*). Further details of the remaining parts are below.

<b>Feb 9th</b>	Thomas (The Doubting Twin) ( <i>John 20: 24-31</i> )	Rev Ben Haslam
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<b>Feb 16</b>	Matthew/Levi (The Despised Tax Collector) <i>(Matt 9: 9-13)</i>	Dr Jon Curtis
<b>Feb 23</b>	Bartholomew / Nathaniel (The True Israelite) <i>(John 1: 43-51)</i>	Rev Lehman Pratt (Riverside Pastor)
<b>Mar 9</b>	James (The Brother of John) (A Man of Ambition) <i>(Mark 10: 35-45)</i>	Rev Ben Haslam
<b>Mar 16</b>	Andrew (He Brought Others to Jesus) <i>(John 1: 35-42)</i>	Caroline Colin
<b>Mar 23</b>	John (The Apostle of Love) <i>(Luke 9: 49-56)</i>	Rev Gareth Higgs
<b>Mar 30</b>	Peter (The Man Who Became a Rock) <i>(Mark 8: 27-33)</i>	Prof Tony Wragg

## **Sad News**

Since the start of 2025 we have lost three of our Church members.

### **Maggie Harmon**

Our good friend and all around legend, Maggie Harmon, passed into her eternal life on new year's morning. She was very peaceful and had hubby Paul and friend Dan with her.

There is to be a memorial service on Saturday 8th February in the Church at 1:30pm followed by refreshments in the hall. All are welcome and the dress code is bright (not somber please). Donations will be taken for Hospice care.

### **Margaret Evans (of Coronation Road)**

Margaret passed away in hospital on the 4th January. This dear lady was a member of our Church at Wonford and performed roles within the Church, including Vestry steward and communion steward as well as being a pastoral visitor. She has not attended for several years, due to her husbands' poor health and latterly, her own health concerns. Ben and I have sent a card to the family via Margaret's home sending thoughts and prayers from our church to them and offering our contact details if any support is requested.

## Rory Parsons

On Tuesday 14th January about 5pm, Rory passed away peacefully at home with his wife Kathy beside him. She is very grateful of all the kind messages and cards sent to her and the family.

Please uphold all the family and friends of these dear ones in your prayers.

## Lisa Thomas

### Giving Graciously

Our Church is supported by the generosity of our fellowship and through that generosity we support lots of other charities. During the last financial year we supported many charities both financially and by donating gifts. In addition we have a magnificent set of buildings, a varied and dynamic team of leaders, and a large number of thriving activities which provide Christian outreach and witness in our community and encourage and strengthen our fellowship in their faith.



Recently we have invested in major projects to enhance our facilities including new microphones for the church and hall, a new suspended ceiling in the hall, a complete refurbishment of the store – to name but a few.

We also have other major projects in mind to continue to make Wonford Methodist Church a 21st century place of worship.

The financing of these major projects comes largely from our reserves but they are slowly decreasing so exactly what we can achieve will be limited. We would like to think that the 'day to day' running of the church could be met by our regular income (without needing to use our reserves).

When you think about your giving, please remember that what you give not only supports the work of our church at Wonford and the Exeter Coast and Country Methodist Circuit but makes a real difference to thousands of people worldwide. John Wesley couldn't have put it better:-

‘Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.’

## Running our Church and Circuit

Lots of our income goes on maintaining our buildings, but a significant proportion is paid to The Exeter Coast and Country Circuit. The Circuit money provides Ministers (salary) for the Circuit, maintains the Manses, and makes a contribution to the running of the Methodist Church as a whole. In addition, the Circuit gives grants to churches.

## The Money Quiz

How much do you think it costs each week to provide these things at Wonford Methodist Church?

Choose the correct answer from the figures in the table below which are based on the year September 2023 to August 2024.

		Cost in £ per week			
		A	B	C	D
1	Electricity for the church and hall	21	31	41	51
2	Gas for heating and hot water	25	50	93	120
3	Water for kitchen use and toilets	13	23	33	43
4	Monthly Newsletter	3	13	23	33
5	Insure the Church and Hall	10	20	30	40
6	Preaching fees and travelling for visiting preachers	7	14	21	28
7	Our Circuit contribution for Ministers & Manses	240	340	440	540
8	General Property Maintenance *	14	24	34	44
9	Licences & Broadband Connection	19	29	39	49
10	Donations we make to other charities**	10	20	30	40

\* Not including major property works

\*\*These are the donations made through our Church Council, not the money we collect for specific charities.

**Answers on page 15**

This means our total running cost are around £830 per week. Our offerings are about £625 per week so you can see that there is a bit of a gap.

This gap is partly filled by the income we receive from our Trustees, from letting our premises, from our solar cells and from the interest we get on our 'savings'.

It is always difficult to ask people to give more to church funds, particularly with the difficult economic situation we are all in. Remember that all actions, however small, will make a real difference and will be gratefully received.

Here are three ideas to think about:

- When did you last review how much you give? Many people increase their offering on a regular basis.
- The envelope scheme or contributing your offering by standing order encourages regular giving. Gift Aid boosts our income by thousands of pounds a year so if you pay income tax make sure you let us know.

Please remember

The cost of running the church is the same whether you attend or not

- Think prayerfully about whether you could manage to give a little more.

## **The Church Leadership Team**

### **Church Council Meeting**

Our next church council meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 at 7.30pm in the church hall. All are welcome.

At the February meeting we agree our church appointments for the next year. Please can you let me know of any changes so I can bring a correct list to the meeting to be approved. A list will be displayed on the church notice board for you to check.

Please note, our church stewards are not approved at this meeting. This is done at the General Church Meeting in April.

Any queries please speak to me.

Thanks

**Alison**



# Prayer Focus for February 2025

## Week Commencing Sunday 2nd February

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

*1 Corinthians 13:1-3*

Lord, may your love help me to speak words of love.

May your love fuel my faith to see you work through my deeds.

And may your love release me and all I have, to be generous to all in need.

## Week Commencing Sunday 9th February

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

*1 Corinthians 13:4-5*

Change my heart with your love, Jesus. Fill my heart with your love. Help me to see that life is not all about me, but about you working in and through me.

## Week Commencing Sunday 16th February

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

*1 Corinthians 13:6-7*

God, in a world of fake news, lies and deceit, help us to bring the truth of Jesus' love to all those around us. Thank you that you never give up on us, even when we make mistakes or fail.

## **Week Commencing Sunday 23rd February**

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

*1 Corinthians 13:13*

Jesus, your love for us took you to the cross, dying for us, saving us from our sins and promising eternal life. Thank you for your indescribable gift to each and every one of us!

### **Our Prayer Phone Link**

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is now Lisa Thomas (01392 273220). 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 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**

### **Best of All**

At Christmas, we were engulfed with scores of TV films to choose from. I enjoyed sampling a few, but for me the three most outstanding, uplifting and inspiring were the same as in previous years. And I confess I like a happy ending!

“It’s A Wonderful Life”, even in black and white, retains its popularity. George Bailey is a banker who is dedicated in helping his American community in Bedford Falls, but he runs into loan problems and is so despairing, he considers committing suicide. Thankfully an angel shows George what life would be like without his lovely wife, children and friends. The climax comes when George realises how valued HE himself is when scores of people crowd into his home, generously cancel his loan debt, and all burst into singing ‘Hark the Herald Angels sing glory to the new-born King! Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.’ Hang on to your dreams even when the going gets rough.

In the musical “Scrooge”, Ebenezer is an elderly miser who very reluctantly gives his clerk Bob Cratchit Christmas Day off work. Ebenezer is also visited by heavenly spirits, who help Scrooge see what his life was like as a boy and young man, before he became the skinflint too attached to money.

These spirits completely convert Scrooge, and he pledges to help crippled Tiny Tim Cratchit get better, bursting out into song (echoing George Bailey): 'I like life, life likes me.....life is fine, life is good, specially mine.'

Yes, heating bills, rent and food costs keep rising, and vast numbers of people are struggling to pay them, but more and more churches and charities are opening their premises to provide warmth and meals for the needy. Good people want their story to have a happy ending.

"The Sound Of Music" ends with the Von Trapp family escaping from the Nazis, receiving the blessing of the abbess in Salzburg and her guidance to: 'Climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow, till you find your dream. A dream that will need all the love you can give, every day of your life for as long as you live.'

John Wesley followed that same dream, and even on his death bed was able triumphantly to say: 'Best of all, GOD is with us!'

Jesus' constant invitation is: "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will refresh you. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Yes, Jesus's way is the best of all!

**Rev Malcolm Carter**

## **Statement on the Announcement of a Ceasefire Agreement between Israel and Hamas**

The commencement of a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel will come as an enormous relief for all living in Gaza and for those waiting for the release of hostages held by Hamas. The UN reports that 70% of those killed in Gaza are women and children and, even in the last few days, schools and hospitals sheltering those displaced have been bombed. Our churches deeply mourn the loss of life. Each person lost is uniquely and equally precious in the eyes of God.

We long for a halt to the violence in Gaza and for the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners. The ceasefire announced today is only a first phase lasting six weeks. As church leaders we call for the ceasefire to be permanent and unconditional so that humanitarian aid can be rolled out unimpeded in Gaza. The UN agency, UNRWA, has unparalleled capacity to deliver desperately needed support. Israel's ban of UNRWA jeopardises vital life-saving assistance. We ask the UK government to make clear that the restriction of humanitarian aid in this way would have consequences for bilateral relations.

We urge the UK government to uphold standards of International Humanitarian Law. Our government and the international community must

fully support the International Criminal Court in its investigations regarding grave breaches of international law.

While a ceasefire is being negotiated in Gaza, there are escalations elsewhere in Palestine, as evidenced by the Israeli drone attack this week on the refugee camp in Jenin, killing at least six people. This takes place against the backdrop of a continued expansion of settlements in the West Bank and the destruction of the homes and property of Palestinians. Our churches will continue to pray for a redoubling of efforts to bring an end to Israel's occupation in order that all Israelis and Palestinians might live in peace, harmony, and friendship.

We pray for a just, equitable, and lasting peace in the region that goes beyond simply the absence of violence. Our churches will continue to work closely with Israeli and Palestinian partners, agonising with them in their current sufferings yet confident that God's grace and deliverance offers hope for the future for all.

*Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary, the Baptist Union of Great Britain*

*Revd Helen Cameron, President of the Conference of the Methodist Church in Britain*

*Carolyn Godfrey, Vice-President of the Conference of the Methodist Church in Britain*

*Revd Philip Brooks, Deputy General Secretary (Mission), the United Reformed Church*



# THE TWELVE DISCIPLES

H	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	Z	O	E	E	N	P
T	H	U	S	L	A	E	E	O	E	U	S	O	E
H	E	I	R	L	S	M	W	H	L	I	U	M	J
O	U	P	T	N	I	A	J	U	D	A	S	I	E
M	M	H	D	S	T	E	E	E	A	D	S	S	P
A	E	I	R	E	T	E	P	H	T	O	H	A	A
S	H	L	Z	T	H	A	D	D	E	U	S	E	O
T	E	I	B	A	R	T	H	O	L	O	M	E	W
D	W	P	E	D	L	T	E	O	L	W	E	S	Z
M	W	D	M	I	E	R	J	E	S	E	B	S	L
L	B	J	O	H	N	M	D	H	L	H	E	R	I
W	J	A	M	E	S	Z	E	B	E	D	E	E	E
S	U	E	H	P	L	A	S	E	M	A	J	E	W
S	U	A	B	H	Z	I	W	E	R	D	N	A	E

James Alpheus

Bartholomew

Simon

Thomas

Philip

John

Peter

James Zebedee

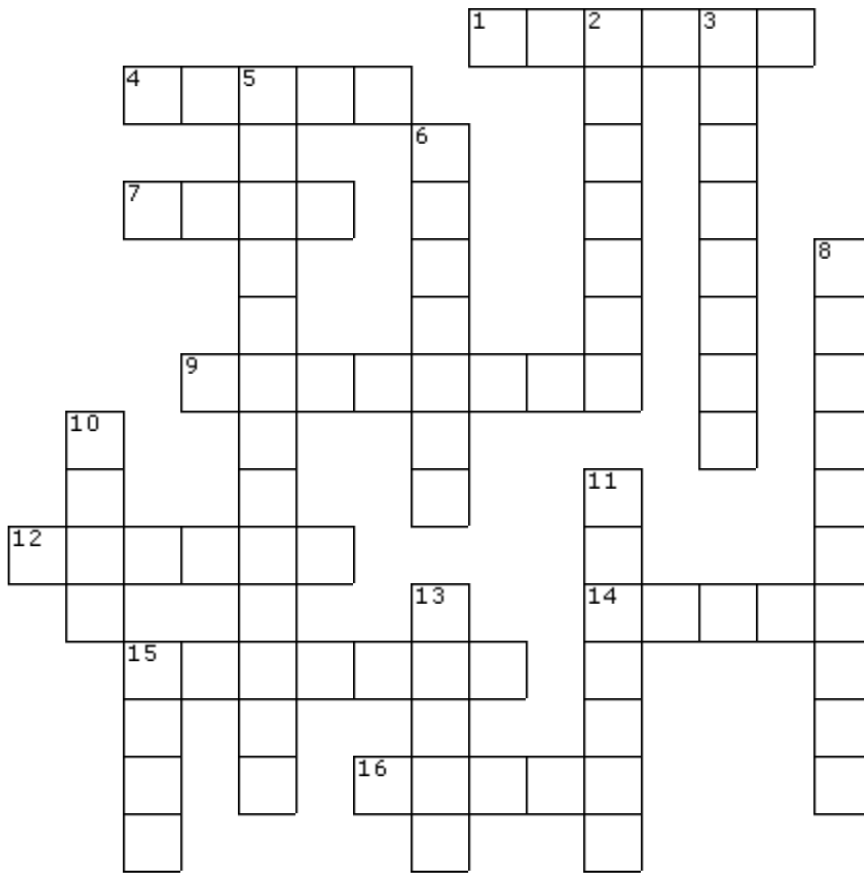
Andrew

Judas

Thaddeus

Matthew

# New Testament People Crossword



## ACROSS

- 1 This Roman governor condemned Jesus
- 4 The disciple Peter's other name
- 7 She was Jesus' mother
- 9 He climbed a tree to see Jesus
- 12 This disciple was known as "Doubting \_\_\_\_"
- 14 This disciple walked on water with Jesus
- 15 This man was the first Christian stoned to death
- 16 This disciple betrayed Jesus

## DOWN

- 2 Jesus brought this man back to life
- 3 He tempted Jesus (2 words)
- 5 She found Jesus' tomb empty (2 words)
- 6 This disciple was a tax collector
- 8 Jesus visited the house of these sisters (2 words)
- 10 He had a vision and wrote in down in the Book of Revelation
- 11 John the \_\_\_\_
- 13 Christ
- 15 This man became known as Paul after Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus

# Dates For Your Diary

## February 2025

Sat 1st	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 2nd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Paul Smith - All Age Worship
Fri 7th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 8th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 9th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Themed Preaching and Sacrament **
Sat 15th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 16th	10.00 a.m.	Dr Jon Curtis - Themed Preaching **
Tue 18th	9.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **
	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Wed 19th	7.30 p.m.	Leadership Team Meeting
Fri 21st	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 22nd	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Lehman Pratt - Themed Preaching **
Tue 25th	7.30 p.m.	Church Council Meeting in the Hall **

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

## The Money Quiz – Answers

- |      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. B | 2. C | 3. A | 4. B | 5. D  |
| 6. A | 7. D | 8. C | 9. B | 10. C |



The deadline for items for the March 2025 Newsletter will be Sunday 16th February 2025. 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)**

# **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 in the lounge *(Fortnightly)*

## **Tuesday**

9.00 a.m. Monthly Prayer Meeting *(3rd Tuesday)*

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

## **Wednesday**

## **Thursday**

## **Friday**

9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group **\*A\***

3.00 p.m. Fortnightly Bible Group in the Church Lounge

## **Saturday**

10.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

Wonford Welcome Drop-In

Tea, coffee and biscuits are free.

*We will also serve a light lunch and pud (for a cost of £1)  
between 12.00 and 12.30pm.*

( **\*A\*** = No meeting during school holiday)