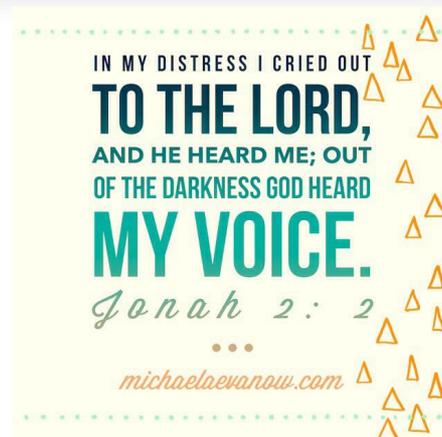
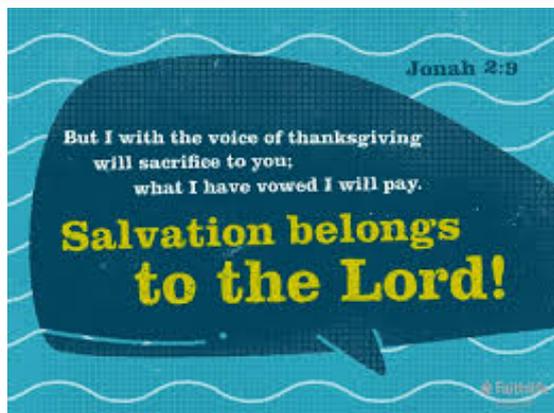


# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

July 2018  
(No: 470)



Minister: Rev Bruce Sawyer (01392 256716)



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

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



@WonfordMethodistChurch



# A Message From The Minister

**Dear Friends,**

Some of you will know that over the past year I've been reading *Running Over Rocks* by Ian Adams. It's a book exploring various spiritual practices. I have just started a section entitled "Practices of Possibility – from loss towards grace: the art of looking up". Ian begins the section with a short introduction, where he talks about negotiating a boulder field. He observes that as we walk through a boulder field, our eyes are naturally drawn down to the rocks where we place our feet. However, to travel well, or even run, through the boulder field, he argues that we need to look up, to the horizon and the bigger picture, and notice the individual rocks only in our peripheral vision.

This resonated deeply not only with my own experience in the mountains, but with where I find myself at the moment. At times it's easy to see the process of moving on as a boulder field. Easy to be drawn to the individual rocks in the path; all the practical arrangements of moving a family, the need to hand things on, coming to terms with the fact that everything is not nicely finished off or where I might like it to be, saying goodbye, the uncertainty.

The challenge is to look up, to notice the horizon and see the bigger picture, rather than just the immediate rocks in the path. To remember being excited about the profile of the next appointment, the opportunities that await, the knowledge that I have played my part here in this place, and that God has provided others to continue to live and love, witness and minister in this place. Doing this helps put the rocks in perspective. They still need to be negotiated, it might not be easy, but they are not the only thing in view, there is more opening up on the horizon.

I wonder, what rocks might seem to be in your path? What is it that draws your attention? What else might you notice if you lifted your eyes to the horizon? What might be opening up before you? Would this enable you to travel better through the boulder field?

And as I lift my eyes to the horizon, I remember that it is 360 degrees; it stretches behind as well as in front. I notice those rocks over which I have already passed, challenges that by God's grace were not insurmountable. I notice too that these are only a small part of that receding horizon. There is much more besides. Much to give thanks for; those who have journeyed alongside, encouraging and nurturing; moments of joy; places of encounter with others, with God; periods of growth; learning about the way that is

walked; for grace and love, patience and compassion. For the part that each of you has played in shaping that horizon, I thank you.

As I look to the horizon, I find there is much to draw strength and encouragement from for the journey. I pray that as you lift your eyes to the horizon, you too will be enabled to walk well over whatever rocks lie before you.

*“Our attention is easily drawn to the rocks of our losses – while the world around is quietly burning with grace. Let’s look up!”*  
[Ian Adams, *Running Over Rocks*, p.137]

**With every blessing**  
**Bruce**

## Dates For July

### Coffee

1st Helen & Liz  
8th Pauline & Fran  
15th Melanie & Eileen  
22nd Jenny & Ruth  
29th Lisa



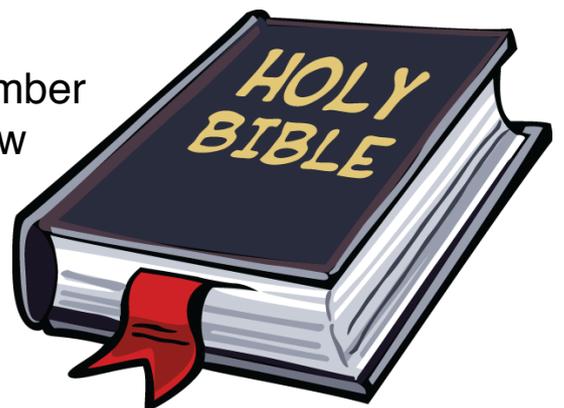
### Flowers

1st Helen  
8th Kathleen & Norman (69th Wedding Anniversary)  
15th Bronwen & Clifford  
22nd Kath  
29th Eileen



### Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

There is not a Bible Study in July or August. Further information will be available in September when we have further details from the new minister.



## **Our Calling**

Our Calling, in the Methodist Church in Britain, is to:

*increase awareness of  
God's presence and to  
celebrate God's love*

*help people to grow and learn as  
Christians through mutual  
support and care*

*to be a good neighbour to  
people in need and to challenge  
injustice*

*make more followers of Jesus  
Christ*

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

***Acts 2: 46-47***

## **Home Group and Bible Month 2018**

This is the House Group that meets approximately fortnightly, but in July will only be joining Rev Bruce Sawyer's final Bible Month Jonah chapter 4 evening on:

**Thursday 5th July at 7.30 p.m. in the Lounge and  
lasting about an hour.**

Each week will feature a DVD reflection from Jeff Lucas to get us thinking about the story of Jonah, followed by discussion; and this final one is entitled:

**Trusting through Anger and Disappointment**

Then the Home Group will re-start again in September after their summer break.

**BIBLE**  
MONTH **2018**  
*30 days with Jonah*  
— #BibleMonth —

# JoyFest Update

Below is a brief summary of Joyfest across Exeter:

“Through the app we recorded 362 acts that shared joy with 1,823 people.



Of this, 96.2% of people who received an act of joy were happy or extremely happy. And 97.3% of Christians performing the acts felt happy or extremely happy afterwards. However this isn't anything like the full story... I've heard of countless fun, creative, impressive and/or simple acts being done but not being put in the app.

Including:

- Hundreds of people at the Riverside “Joyfest” fun day where free drinks and cakes were given away during ‘happy hour’
- All the users of the Mint and the Palace Gate Centre being given snacks
- Every one of the 150ish guest at Exwick’s Long Table even getting a goody bag of sweets
- Numerous cakes, sweets, ice creams being given away
- Lots of TGI Friday lunches, BBQs, drinks and parties
- Neighbours, colleagues and strangers being joy’d

So, without wanting to fall into the classic evangelists-blunder, I think we can say at least 2.6 billion people experienced a brightened day by Joyfest Well, perhaps not, but I'm sure we must have connected with around 4,000 people... in one week... by the efforts of lots of normal, diverse and wonderful people within our churches!

I think many of us found there was a real openness to this and people had an appetite to smile, laugh and connect. And I hope you found people in your church were energised by this too!

Thanks so much for being part of it and helping make it happen.”

God bless,

**Dave Vinall**

**Exeter Vineyard Church**

Join us in celebrating 10 years of

**BRIDGE BOOKS**

*Connecting people to God*



**2008 - 2018**

## 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations!

*A Party* - You are invited to our celebration with food, drink, thanksgiving and prayer for the past and the future. Next door in the Riverside café on **Saturday 30th June 4.00pm - 5.30pm**. RSVP please.

*A Gift* - To celebrate these 10 years we want to thank everyone who comes into the shop in July. Every customer will receive a beautiful Gift Book.

*Ten plus 1* - Any church group or school buying 10 items will get another free. Valid from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> August. Buy your Bibles, prizes and hymn books now!

### **The Start**

In 2007 Exeter had three Christian bookshops: S.P.C.K., Wesley Owen and the Cathedral shop. When the first 2 shops closed and the Cathedral shop became more of a gift shop, John and Margaret Robertson felt strongly that the city and region needed a well-stocked Christian bookshop to serve the local churches and community.

In June of 2008 they opened Bridge Books. The venture was never going to be straightforward, but they experienced many practical encouragements including shelving from Wesley Owen and Exeter City Council tailoring a lease to match the needs and fitting a lowered ceiling and lighting at their expense. They had always envisaged that the ministry was to establish Bridge Books and then hand it to someone younger with a similar vision. In March 2012 Gary and Mary Lee were called to continue the ministry'.

### **The Future**

We want to set the shop up for the next 10 years.

Practically , it would be great to:

- Replace the shop front door making it easier for pushchairs and wheelchairs to enter
- Replace two old display stands
- Replace welcome mat
- Reorder the small office
- Paint front of shop
- Renew front sign

Please pray that the £4500 needed will be made available. For six years we have led the ministry at Bridge Books. To be sure that the ministry will continue to grow and be part of the Christian community for the next 10 years, Mary & I think it would be good to start praying about who would take the ministry on in the future.

Drink Wise Age Well

Devon

# MAP Groups



Thursdays in Exeter:  
St. Sidwell's Community Centre,  
Sidwell Street, Exeter  
at 10.45am-12.15pm

Thursdays in Honiton:  
The Kings Centre, Lees Building, High  
Street, Honiton 10-11.30am

Thursdays in Kingsbridge:  
Harbour House, The Promenade,  
Kingsbridge 2.30-4.30pm

Fridays in Barnstaple:  
Barnstaple Library, Tuly Street,  
Barnstaple 10.30am-12pm

No need to book, just drop in.  
Free refreshments provided.

For more  
information  
call our  
Advice Line  
free: 0800  
304 7034

MAP - Mutual Aid Partnership - offers a free, confidential & supportive environment. Come & talk with others aged 50+ to share experiences & learn tools to overcome concerns around alcohol & wellbeing.



# Breakfast @ Church

The Young Church are holding a Breakfast at church on Sunday 8th July – 8.30am

The young people will serve you breakfast, including:  
Cereals, Toast and Bacon Butties, Coffee/Tea and Juice.

In return they would like you to give a donation to their chosen charities:  
ShelterBox and YMCA.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Young Church members and their Leaders.



## Girls' Brigade 'Bring & Buy'

**This takes place on Monday 9th July at 6.00pm**

**Toys  
Cakes  
Fancy goods  
Plants and produce  
Refreshments  
Activities  
Books**

Hope to see you there!

Donations of plants, produce, cakes, toys, books and fancy goods would be gratefully received!

These can be brought on Sunday 8th July or to the sale.

Thank you!





**Sunday 15th July  
2018  
4.00pm  
ALL Welcome**



### **Church Green Team**

Do you walk or cycle to church? Do you ever think of choosing to do that for as long as you are able? I was astounded to hear of Rebekah Sawyer over 2 days cycling 44 miles alongside her friend - what friendship is that?! And it wasn't just for achieving the mileage, it was to raise donations for the Shelterbox charity which does good works all over the world when there have been disasters.

When I ride my bike or walk, I am also helping reduce a little of the air pollution by cars - and it all helps my good health as well, doesn't it?

**Margretta Bowstead**

### **A World Transformed by God's Love**

#### **Methodist Prayer Handbook 2018-19, order now!**

I recommend it wholeheartedly; it is my bedtime reading every night; and I am happy to order a copy for you – whether you have had it for years or would like to start using it this September.

This is the time that I order our copies in bulk, to get a discount. I hope to check with each of you who had one last year. Please tell me if you want next year's copy, price about £3.50 each, or £3.95 for a Large Print version.

I'd like to know by Sun 15th July, please; and will ask you for your money in mid-August when I give you your copy.

The Methodist Prayer Handbook is a really worthwhile publication to have beside you; and contains a wide range of information about the Methodist Church as well as the varied and helpful prayers.

Margretta Bowstead (01392-437329)

## **BOOK REVIEW (By Andrew R. Simpson)**

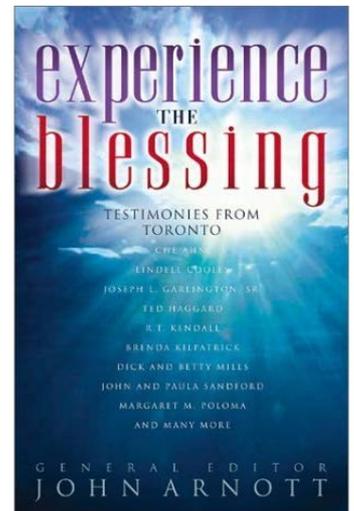
### **Experience the Blessing: Testimonies from Toronto.**

In January 1994 something remarkable happened in a small industrial unit on Toronto airport. The leaders of the church there had been dissatisfied with their meetings: they wanted to experience more of God; something more real. After attending a number of revivals in Canada and Argentina John and Carol

Arnott developed heightened expectations. In the Introduction to this book the pastor Arnott quotes the scripture Ephesians 5:19, that believers should know '...what is the breadth and length, and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth all understanding, that you may be filled with all his fullness.' When Paul wrote this he was trying to express an experience that he himself had witnessed, but which few Christians today can really comprehend: he was talking literally.

These days Christians may think that what he describes is a thing of the past, a phenomena that passed away in the 1980s as a small revival in England and America seemed to fade from view. They think, perhaps that it is now impossible to know the love of God as the early disciples did. The experience at Toronto appears to disprove this. The Arnotts decided to devote their mornings to the Lord in prayer, Bible study and worship. Their lives became changed dramatically because of this, the book recounts, and they 'fell back in love with Jesus.'

If you are a staunch Methodist you may be very sceptical, even condemning, of reports coming out of Toronto: people barking like dogs and rolling around the floor, waving their hands in the air erratically. Today there are films on 'You Tube' made during the meetings where the congregation seem to behave extraordinarily, and you cannot help but think, not having been there, 'they must be putting it on.' There are numerous reports of



worshippers being 'soaked' in the Spirit; collapsing on the floor. But the 28 testimonies in this book, from all types of individuals, are to a large extent from people who 'didn't believe it could happen to them'. Some rejected the reports outright; some were desperate, like a pilgrim going to Lourdes as a last resort; some were cynical and disillusioned. But all the reports give witness to a life changing experience. Scott McDermott, an American United Methodist Church pastor, extremely sceptical beforehand of what he had heard, who dismissed these as 'products of overactive imaginations', experienced one of the most incredible encounters with the Lord that Arnott had ever witnessed: a vision of himself running uphill from Jericho to Jerusalem to be embraced by the arms of Jesus. He was literally amazed by his experience and subsequently pointed out that, in 1739, over 200 years earlier, as reported in his 'Journal' John Wesley, McDermott records, himself found members of his congregation collapsing on the floor in his meetings. Rather than condemning this he sought to understand what had happened by listening to their experiences.

The 28 accounts in this book, which include those of a New York Supreme Court judge, an American physician, a British Anglican minister, a burnt out missionary from Mozambique and many others, serve to confirm that God can still work in unbelievably miraculous ways, healing his worshippers both emotionally and physically. Even if you are sceptical and dismissive of the Toronto reports, it is worth perusing this book before finally deciding the Truth.

***'Experiencing the Blessing: Testimonies from Toronto', edited by John Arnott, was published as a paperback by Renewal Books in 2000.***

## **Prayer Focus for July**

**Do not worry but pray about everything!**

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

I begin as usual suggesting that we pray for all who will lead worship here at Wonford each Sunday. (See details inside the back cover). Also pray for all who will lead our Bible studies and our Tuesday prayer meetings.

July is a month when Ministers and Deacons all over the Country are preparing to move to pastures new or 'sitting down'. It is a month of 'farewell do's', packing preparing their children to begin new schools or colleges.

During this busy time they continue with all the things our Ministers and Deacons are called upon to do.

July is also our anniversary month. On 15th July we welcome Rev R Manning to lead our worship

In the wider world there have been two serious volcanic eruptions in Hawaii and Guatemala. Many lives have been lost, homes and livelihoods are gone. The coastline in Hawaii has been changed. Rebuilding work cannot begin until the eruptions have ceased so please pray for the people of these Countries. Pray that rebuilding, once it can begin is as quick as possible so that people can get on with rebuilding their lives.

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

## **News From The Methodist Church**

### **Responding to acts of violence in London**

The Chairs of the London District have called on the Mayor of London, the government, civic bodies, churches and the Metropolitan Police to unite in condemning all acts of violence and to work together on finding ways to tackle "this murderous scourge that is threatening the peace and economic stability of our great city".

The Revds Nigel Cowgill, Michaela Youngson and Dr Jongi Zihle also offered this prayer:

*O Lord of health and life,  
come now in your grace and cover us with your love and protection;  
Speak calmness into our fears and heal us from the scourge of  
pain and death.  
Visit your kindness upon all affected by the murders in London and  
comfort them in their time of need; this we pray and ask,  
in the healing name of our risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.*

## Praying for Syria

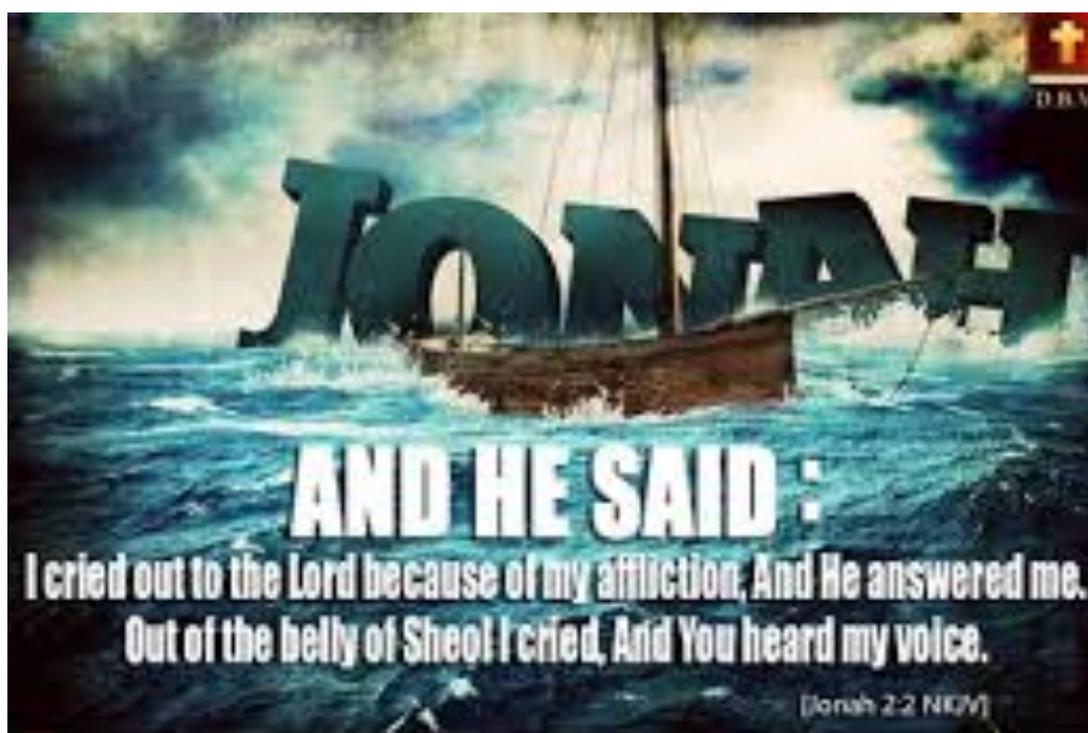
In response to the recent events in Syria the President and Vice-President of the Conference, the Revd Loraine N Mellor and Jill Baker, have offered this prayer.

*Compassionate God, who cares for every created being, having even numbered the hairs on our heads, we pray now for each person in Syria. In these dark days, may decisions be made that honour the sanctity of life created by you; may wise and far-sighted counsel prevail that seeks the well-being of all humanity.*

*Prince of Peace, we open our hearts to you and confess our willingness to seek easy responses that require others to pay a hard price; we open our reason to you and pledge our commitment to hear your words of compassion and peace.*

*Lover of Concord, let your love shine through those who bring aid and solace in the land of Syria, those who choose between violence and peace, those who influence opinions in words and tweets.*

*Creator God, hear our cry and help us work together to seek peace and pursue it. Amen.*



## Another Jonah Word Search

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

Angry, Assyria, Call, Capital, Compassion, Complained,  
Disobedient, Doom, Enemies, Evil, Fish, Grace, Jesus,  
King, Love, Miraculous, Misery, Ninevites, Obedience,  
Outcasts, Overboard, Overthrown, Pagans,  
Punishment, Reluctant, Sackcloth, Sacrifice, Sailed,  
Salvation, Swallowed, Tarshish, Thanksgiving, Vine,  
Violence, Wind, Worm

## Dates For Your Diary

### July 2018

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m.	Young Church Anniversary - All Age Worship
	4.00 p.m.	<b>Rev Bruce Sawyer - Celebrate Together Service</b>
Thu 5th	7.30 p.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Bible Study on Jonah **
Sat 7th	11.00 a.m.	Wonford Community Centre events **
Sun 8th	8.30 a.m.	Breakfast @ Church **
	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer, Jonah – 4 **
	4.30 p.m.	<b>Praise in the Orchard, Mandy Denton</b>
Mon 9th	6.00 p.m.	Girls' Brigade Bring & Buy Sale **
Wed 11th	2.30 p.m.	Catholic Women's League Ecumenical Tea Party **
Fri 13th	7.30 p.m.	Exeter Cathedral "Greatest Story ever Toured" **
Sun 15th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Robert Manning – Church Anniversary**
	4.00 p.m.	<b>Messy Church</b>
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer – Sacrament Service
	6.30 p.m.	Circuit Farewell Service to 3 Ministers**
Sun 29th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Stephen Mosedale
	6.30 p.m.	United Service at the Mint – Rev Steve Santry

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

## August / September Newsletter

***This is double issue. Items to me by Sunday 15th July 2018. This is an absolute deadline since I need to get it printed the following week before my end of term.***



Thanks to Lloyd Vandenbrink (See Jonah 1-4) 08-25-1998

OH JONAH, PLEASE DON'T TELL ME THAT  
YOU'RE GOING TO WEAR THAT T-SHIRT ALL  
DAY AT THE BEACH AGAIN

# 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  
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 Café *(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\***

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 August / September 2018 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th July 2018. 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)