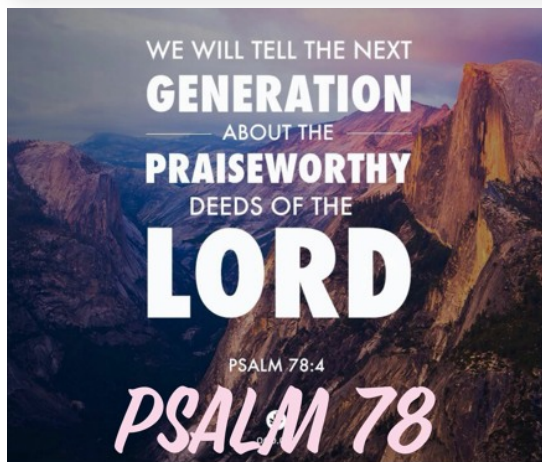


Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

July 2024
(No: 531)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



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A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

Psalm 78

How often do we hear it said that churches are in trouble these days because they won't do anything new? That they are so hidebound and wedded to the way 'we always do things' that the rest of the world has just lost interest in us? Given that this seems to be the received wisdom of our day, I'm going to say something radical and shocking: we are most spiritually at risk, not when we fail to do anything sufficiently new, but when we forget. When we forget why we became Christians, when we forget what God has done for us, when we forget about His life-changing grace and His abundant mercy. In our life together, particularly when we gather for worship, what matters most is that what we do holds before us the great story of God and His people and how we are part of it.

The supreme example of this is communion. Jesus commanded us to commemorate His death precisely because we so easily forget, and yet is by remembering the unchanging truths of our faith, regularly, faithfully, gratefully, that these truths sink into us and transform us. All this is a long and rambling way of introducing Psalm 78! Put simply, this Psalm recounts all the mighty acts through which God has saved, and revealed Himself to, Israel, followed by a rebuke for forgetting all this – and for the inevitable backsliding which followed as a result. However, nothing changes the fact that God is compassionate and full to bursting with grace and mercy which means the door is always open for His erring people to return and begin again. In our Christian discipleship, remembering is so much more important than novelty, so perhaps if we feel discouraged or have hit a spiritual 'dry patch', then it might be time to attend the long neglected garden, to retire the ancient ruins, to relight the lamp in the sanctuary, to let daylight flood into our souls once more as we recall the acts by which God has brought us back to Himself and made a rich, abundant life possible. Then, whatever else might be going on around us, we will at least be able to say, 'He shepherded us with His upright heart, and with skilful hands He led us'. Amen!

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

Dates For July 2024

Coffee

7th	Margaret & Terry
14th	Elaine & Graham
21st	Linda & Mervyn
28th	Nessy & Melanie

Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. On the 5th July they will be concluding looking at Genesis using the Bible Month material. The 19th July is a bring & share afternoon tea. All are welcome to attend. 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

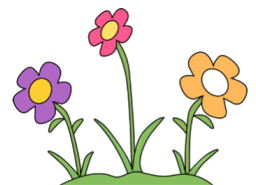
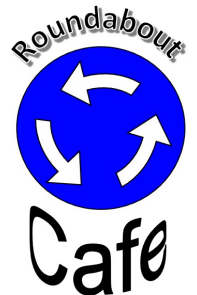
The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 16th July 2024.

This month we will have our annual garden coffee morning at the Westcott's

They meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake.

Everyone is welcome and if you could bring a chair that would be great

(Alternative arrangements will be made if it rains)



Monthly Prayer Meeting

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. For July this will be the 16th.

Lisa Thomas

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

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

6th July - we'll be taking part in 'Create Week' that celebrates the joy and importance of accessible creative arts so we hope you will be inspired and get creative!

13th July - on Wimbledon finals' weekend we will set up for a few games of table tennis and enjoy eating strawberries & cream!

20th July - it's time for us to launch the WMC 'Book Nook' so do join us to see what it looks like and get a chance to read one of the new books.

27th July - as the Summer Olympics Games gets started in Paris, please come along and test your knowledge with our Quiz on the Olympics

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, Liz, Mandy, Monika, Paul & Rose and Sue K

Christ Present in the Struggle

Life is one big struggle for millions worldwide. Climate change in some countries produces a year's rainfall in just one day, floods sweeping away homes and thousands displaced. Other countries are devastated by drought, earthquakes or fires, preventing the sowing of crops and future harvests. Millions are on the edge of starvation in places like Sudan, Gaza, Haiti, to mention just a few.

In our own country, whichever party wins the election, thousands struggle daily because of rising food prices, rent increases or loss of job. Many even in full-time employment depend on food banks to scrape by financially. The toll on mental health is immense. For many families life remains one big struggle.

C.S. Lewis states that even when we know everything about our impending NHS hospital operation, our heart still gives a lurch when the attendant brings the trolley! But he insists that the Christian knows that Jesus will be there too!

God doesn't say, "I will deliver you from the waters," but "when you pass through the engulfing waters, I will be there with you." In the well-known, uplifting story of the Dutch ten Boom family being arrested by the Gestapo, a German officer counted them on to the truck, en-route to Ravensbruck Concentration Camp. He counted six, but Caspar ten Boom shouted, "No! Seven. God is with us!" And what an appalling struggle life was in that concentration camp.

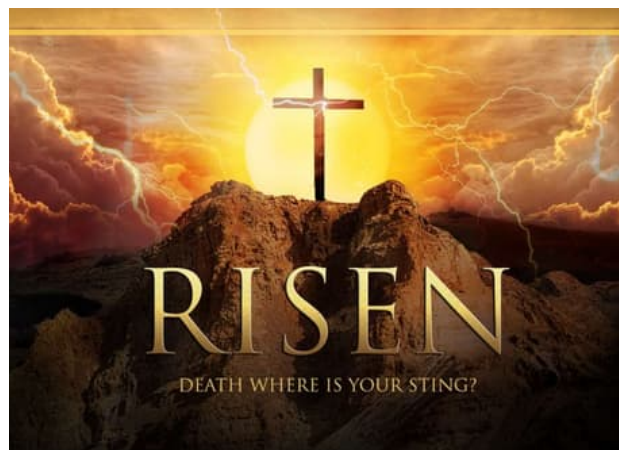
Christ Himself experienced the tunnel of darkness in the Garden of Gethsemane. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Take this cup from me! Yet not what I will, but what You will." An angel from heaven appeared and strengthened Him.

In May 1992, I led my Church group into the Garden of Resurrection in Jerusalem. It was an intense time, because Israel were celebrating 25 years since defeating the Palestinians, and had drafted in 45,000 soldiers for this noisy occasion of soldiers marching intimidatingly round the Arab community, waving flags, while a helicopter hovered above us.

In contrast, our party's inspiration was watching hundreds of Christians from all over the world coming out of that Garden Tomb with joy on their faces, all saying the same words (in different languages) "HE IS RISEN!" This Risen Christ is with us in ALL our struggles. As Corrie ten Boom says, "When a train goes through a tunnel, and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off!"

St Paul struggled for many years planting the Gospel in many different cities. His darkest tunnel came when he faced execution in Rome for his faith. Earlier he had written to a young minister, Timothy, "I have no regrets. I couldn't be more sure of my ground. The One I've trusted in can take care of what He's trusted me to do, right to the end."

Rev Malcolm Carter



Devon County Council Civic Service 21st April 2024



Dignitaries present (left to right) - Mayor of Exmouth, Mayor of Mid-Devon, Mayor of West Devon, Chairman of Devon County Council (Graham) ,Lord Mayor of Exeter, Vice-Chairman of Devon County Council, Chairman of East Devon County Council, Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Lord Lieutenant of Devon, High Sheriff

News from the Methodist Church

Methodist Leaders Issue Election Call to Love, Pray and Vote

A General Election is a significant event in the life of the country. As choices about the future are debated and decisions made, let us choose to love, to pray, and to vote.



We encourage people to use their votes, and to ensure others can too. Voting is a hard-fought privilege still denied to many around the world. Churches will be active in ensuring everyone eligible is registered to vote and has appropriate photo ID, so that they are not denied the opportunity to participate in the democratic process. We should all be able to have our voices heard during this election, and to join in making choices that will shape the future of our society.

Revd Gill Newton and Deacon Kerry Scarlett, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Prayer Focus for July 2024

Week Commencing Sunday 7th July

For this God is our God for ever and ever;
he will be our guide even to the end.

Psalm 48: 14

We give thanks for all the young people in our church and pray God's blessing on the Young Church Celebration. Jesus, give each child a real hunger in their hearts to know you as their friend and Saviour.

Week Commencing Sunday 14th July

Within your temple, O God,
we meditate on your unfailing love.

Like your name, O God,
your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with righteousness.

Psalm 48: 9-10

We continue to give thanks, this week for our Church Anniversary and for the presence of this place of worship in the community of Wonford. Please help us to shine the light of Jesus into this community as we worship God here and serve Him here.

Week Commencing Sunday 21st July

Who is like you, Lord God Almighty?

You, Lord, are mighty,
and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Psalm 89: 8

We pray for our local Methodist Circuit. Revive us Lord! As a number of changes take place in the Circuit, bless Ben, our minister and all those serving our local Methodist churches. May their ministry bring glory to your name.

Week Commencing Sunday 28th July

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.

Psalm 23:1-2

We pray for all those who have the opportunity to take a holiday this summer. Bless their rest and relaxation. And for those staying home or continuing to work, may they find time to relax with family and friends and share fellowship. We pray too, for the Wonford Welcome, whose doors will remain open on Saturdays throughout August.

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



Circuit Farewell Service for Rev Julian Albrow

This takes place on the 21st July 2024 at 6.30pm at St Thomas Methodist Church.

We are all going to notice the loss of Revd Julian Albrow as he leaves the Circuit for not just pastures new, but to 'sit down' - ie, in layman's terms, Retire.

He has not only worked extremely hard during his unexpected two years as Super, but has had to do so whilst in the throes of the most awful personal circumstances.

There will be a farewell collection at Wonford for Julian over the next month.



Breast Cancer Coffee Morning.

I am one of the Service Administrators in the Breast Care Unit at the RD&E and have seen first hand how breast cancer affects men and women of all ages. Every 10 minutes in the UK someone hears the devastating news: 'you have breast cancer'.

At Wonford Welcome on 3rd August we will be raising money for two great breast cancer charities 'Breast Cancer Now' and 'Coppa Feel'.



If you are able to bake a cake or come to 'eat cake and donate' that would be great!

Helen

Our President and Vice-President Designate for 2024/25



Revd Helen D Cameron
President Designate



Mrs Carolyn Godfrey
Vice-President Designate

They will start their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference starts on Saturday 29 June.



Dates For Your Diary

July 2024

Fri 5th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 6th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 7th	10.00 a.m.	Young Church Celebration
Sat 13th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) *
Sun 14th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Daniel Haylett - Church Anniversary
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Daniel Haylett - Church Anniversary
Tue 16th	9.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **
	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café Annual Garden Coffee Morning (until 12pm) **
Fri 19th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge. Bring & Share Afternoon Tea **
Sat 20th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 21st	10.00 a.m.	Rev Malcolm Carter
	6.30 p.m.	Circuit Service at St Thomas MC - Farewell Service for Rev Julian Albrow **
Fri 21st	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 27th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 28th	10.00 a.m.	Local Arrangements

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

August / September 2024 Newsletter

This is the normal double issue. Since this needs printing by Friday 20th July all articles should be sent by Sunday 14th June 2024 at the latest

The deadline for items for the August/September 2024 Newsletter will be Sunday 14th July 2024. 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

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.

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