

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

June 2021
(No: 500)

500th Edition

Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



@WonfordMethodistChurch



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

As I write this, the country is looking forward to 'Independence Day', June 21st, when all covid restrictions are set to be lifted. Whether that will happen remains to be seen. At this moment, it's not looking too good, but you never know.... We all long to be free again and to live as we used to live, even though, for many, there will be a residual anxiety, the inevitable result of months and months of bad news, fear and uncertainty.

In Galatians 5.1, Paul writes, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free". This freedom he writes about is not necessarily freedom from all physical constraints. Christians, oppressed or even imprisoned for their faith have nonetheless claimed this truth for themselves. Throughout this pandemic, shut-in though we may have been for much of the time, it has remained true of us. Paul means that, though the world can throw unpleasant things at us, it doesn't own us. We are Christ's and that means ultimately that we are safe. We are free from the destructive blindness that traps and deadens the lives of those who live without Jesus. We are from living without hope. Moreover, this hope isn't some pie-in-the-sky promise, but something 'sure and certain' which we begin to feel the benefit of the moment we say we want to follow Jesus. We go through life with Christ beside us, His Spirit within us, and our heavenly Father's arms around us. This is how we are meant to live, and when people realise their true purpose in life, they are at their most liberated. When they turn against their God-given purpose and attempt to forge their own path, the freedom they believe themselves to be enjoying is illusory. It leads away from God and therefore cannot lead to fulfilment and wholeness.

I can never be sufficiently grateful that God has thrown me a lifeline in Jesus Christ, so that I can find out for myself the truth of these words: "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8.36). This is a truth it takes a lifetime to explore, but it doesn't depend on our physical circumstances and won't be affected in any way by what does or doesn't happen on 21st June – though we'll all of course be delighted if that day really does prove to be our Independence day!

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

500th Edition of Contact Newsletter

The edition marks the 500th for the Contact newsletter at Wonford Methodist Church. I have only had the privilege of being the editor for a short time but thank all those that have gone before me for their hard work and dedication particularly before the use of computers made the process much easier.

Throughout the edition you will find photos and stories over the time of the last 500 editions.

Promotion Leaflet from Early in Church History

The first minister at Wonford Methodist Church was Rev Paul Hardy. He was followed by Rev Eddie Fairbeard.

W.M.C.
WHERE
ARE
WE ?

YOUR MINISTER writes :—



REV. EDDIE FAIRBEARD
Phone 56716
Call or write : 20, Whipton Lane

As Exeter's youngest Methodist Church, our aim is simple: to provide a CENTRE OF WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY LIFE in the WONFORD AREA.

This leaflet gives you some idea of our present activities and future plans. We hope you'll come along and find out more. As a newcomer myself, I can assure you of a friendly welcome in the FAMILY CIRCLE of Wonford Methodist Church.

Now TWO QUESTIONS :

CAN WE HELP YOU ?

CAN YOU HELP US ?

If you're sure the answer's "No", then throw this away and read no further !

But if it could be "Yes", I'll be pleased to call and see you.

Sincerely,
Eddie Fairbeard.

WE'RE
ON
THE
MAP
LOOK
INSIDE



Prayer Focus for June

Prayer - Our Strongest Weapon - Pray Without Ceasing

During April Alan and I join, with thousands of others, for Spring Harvest at Home. During this event we thought about the 'silent church'. Many countries around the world cannot worship as we do. They hide and whisper their worship in secret. Some cannot meet with anyone to worship. We in the UK have experienced this over this past year. The only difference being we did not have the fear of persecution hanging over us. As you remember how that felt for us, pray for those in other countries where they face persecution or even death for their faith.

You will probably be aware that Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe has been sentenced to another year in prison on false charges and isn't allowed to leave the country for 2 years. Please pray for her and her family and pray for so many others in the same situation.

As we emerge from lockdown let us thank God for His guidance for those who have developed the vaccines, those who have given their time to vaccinate us. Let us proceed with caution as are now allowed to hug, visit relatives, stay overnight in hotels & move about more freely.

Pray for all those in our congregation. Continue to pray for our minister Ben for a full recovery.

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

If you have anything that you would like included please let Julie Rothwell know so that she can include it here.

Our Prayer Phone Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is now Rev Alan Rothwell (01392 926840). 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 Margretta Bowstead (01392 437329) or Rose Smith (01404 510853)

The Prayer Team

Memories of Wonford Church

I have been attending Wonford Church for over 35 years. I have many lovely memories from these years. Bible studies, helping at Youth Club, editing the Contact magazine and becoming a steward. However, my most special memory is my wedding to my husband Malcolm. I had been married before so we had a very small quiet wedding, in the old chapel, with Rev Robert Manning marrying us and Rev Terry Harris, who had baptised both my children and been there for me through the collapse of my first marriage, saying prayers for us. It was a very special day with Joan doing the music, Jenny Harrington doing a lunch for us at our house for family and a few friends, (thanks again Jenny) my sister making a cake and sister-in-law driving me down with my dad to the church. A very homely wedding. This was 18 years ago now and we have been very blessed with a happy marriage.



Alison Howell



Dismantling the Old Chapel - 2006



Zoom Bible Studies

Deacon Becky Lovatt is planning to lead Zoom Bible Studies fortnightly on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm, based on her latest book "Metamorphic Lockdown". The Bible studies will be based on the Acts of the Apostles, "from early church through a post-Covid church and beyond"; which all sound very interesting. A group of us from Wonford joined her Zoom Bible Studies through Lent, and certainly some - including me - are hoping to join this series too. I understand they start on Thursday 22nd April and run through fortnightly to the last one on 5th August. You will need to register with Becky for the Zoom-link from her - deaconbecky@outlook.com

Margretta Bowstead

The Big Issue

The Covid pandemic has been life changing and difficult for so many people. Many people have lost their jobs and homes. No more so than the Big Issue sellers. Many of them live in small flats or rooms and had to spend months only leaving their homes for food and other essentials. The Big Issue organisation helped them by giving over £1million in the last year in food vouchers and other help so they could still eat, heat their homes and pay their rent.

I have bought the Big Issue fairly regularly for a long time. When the children were small, I bought from the man that always stood outside the Co-Op (or Gateway's as it was then), Geoff I think he was called, sadly he died a few years ago. He lived in the hedge behind the Catholic church for a while. They looked after him with food and drinks. He was given a flat but moved around a bit. He lost his brother to drink and was quite sad about it, but also spent time in hospital with drink related problems himself.

These people have such a difficult time, it is so hard to get back up once you are down. Helping them is not easy but buying the Big Issue is one way of doing so. It gives them a purpose and pays a living getting them into the routine of work and some self-confidence.

Of course, we could not buy the Big Issue from sellers for much of the last year, but I eventually saw in the Sunday papers that you could pay for a subscription on line, even choosing your Big Issue seller by name, and have the magazine delivered by post to your home. So I started a subscription



off, choosing a chap I had bought from in town a few times and knew his name. I hope it helped him out during a very bleak time. I enjoy the magazine and particularly enjoy attempting the crossword.

The Big Issue slogan is that it is there to give people a 'Hand up, not a hand out'. So as the sellers come back out on the streets, give them a smile, stop for a chat and if you can, buy their magazine.

Alison on behalf of the Church Green Team

Do you like cooking?

'Holiday Hunger' has been in the media spotlight recently thanks to a campaign by footballer Marcus Rashford. Families on low income are entitled to free school meals but during the school holidays there was no extra help so families had to provide additional meals from limited income with a potential for 'holiday hunger.'

This is an issue that Wonford Community Centre has been looking to address for a while and in 2018 and 2019 we ran free Family Activity sessions in the summer holidays which included a free meal.

We are going to run our free family activity sessions again this summer (providing covid restrictions allow) on four Tuesdays in August.

We would like to provide a free meal alongside this but are in need of volunteers to prepare and cook it so do you like cooking and are you free on any Tuesday mornings in August? If so we would love to hear from you!

Please contact Pauline Haggerty Volunteer Co-ordinator volunteer-wclc@outlook.com or Helen Moore Manager wclc@outlook.com



**'Stars in Their Eyes'
2011**

Snippets from the Financial Archives

- In 1957 the hall, vestry, kitchen and toilets were built at a cost of £8,863.
- A fence was erected around the premises costing £175.
- During the year ending 31st August 1972 our offerings were £334.96 and the Circuit Assessment was £308.00. The accounts show no payments for gas or electricity!
- Two years earlier we did pay for our utilities and the church insurance was £31 14s 0d.
- Today our insurance is over £1,600.00.
- In the early 1970s the small, prefabricated chapel was built. The outline for the scheme was for a 20ft by 30ft sanctuary and an 8ft square link between the hall and the sanctuary.
- Seating would be provided for 60 people with the cost, including furnishings, not to exceed £5,000.
- The cost of the new church building which was dedicated on 9th December 2006 was in the region of £330,000.

Membership of Church Activities at Wonford

	<i>September 1967</i>	<i>June 1972</i>
Church Members	22	38
Sunday School	6	36
Girls' Brigade	Started October 1967	43 (waiting list)
Boys' Brigade	15	15
Youth Club	Started 1971	50

In 1972 about 7,000 people lived within ½ mile of the church and all but one of the regular members lived within 1 mile of the church. Between 1967 and 1972 Wonford's membership increased while the membership of the Circuit dropped from 1785 to 1613.

Odd extracts from the 1970 / 80s editions of Contact

No. 58 – April 1976 'Gary Lord was awarded the Junior Section Gold Achievement Badge'.

No 61 – July / August 1976. Revd Ian T F Graham writes 'May I remind you of the Circuit Train to London on December 4th ... we need 600 people to buy tickets at £5 ..'

No 63 – October 1976 ‘ The young people have offered to run another social evening for the church and this will be on Saturday December 4th; tickets will be on sale shortly 30p.’

(So it was either the Circuit Train to London or the Social Evening at Wonford!)

No. 68 – March 1978 ‘Our Tarmac Fund stands at just over £200 with recent addition of £49.55 from a “Nearly New” sale’.

No. 74 – November 1977 ‘Paul Violet put on an excellent Disco at the District’.

No. 80 – May 1979 Revd Patricia M McBride writes ‘ We are now in the season between Easter and Pentecost – the period where the disciples moved out into the world with the gospel message. Perhaps, then, it is not inappropriate that we have our General Church Meeting during this period... where we think about the implications of this message for the life of our churches’.

No 92 – July / August 1980 ‘We look forward to welcoming Rev Terry Harris at the induction service at St Thomas on Friday 5th September’.

No. 173 – October 1988 ‘members of our fellowship have suggested that we might form a “Prayer Chain” passing on prayerful concerns to others’.

No 175 – December 1988 / January 1989 ‘The Tuesday group held a sponsored knit on November 1st and Raised £174.67 for Arthritis research’ (they also found that knitting was good for arthritis!)

No.178 – April 1989 ‘Billy Graham Live Link will be held at the Plaza where a satellite dish has been ordered’.

Thanks to David Westcott for this contribution



**Youth Club Dinner
~ 2010**



"A Place for All" – Methodist Prayer Handbook 2021-22

As far as I know this annual booklet will be published as usual. It contains a wide range of information over a double page for each day of the month, about the Methodist Church in this country and worldwide, as well as lovely photos and varied and helpful prayers. Those who had this year's edition will recall on Day 24 a photo of our Ludwell Valley picnic, sent in by Monika Noronha! I don't know if she has offered a photo this year. It runs from September 2021 to August 2022, and will cost maybe £4.50 whether ordinary or large print. Just tell me what you'd like. I need to know before 9th July, when my order goes in; and I get delivery mid-August, when I'll hope to hand them out and collect the money then! This time might be a bit different; and, perhaps, you could phone (01392 437329) or email to tell me your order mrw7bowstead@yahoo.co.uk. I recommend it wholeheartedly, as it has many uses; and this is the time to tell me if you'd like a copy order one now!

Margretta Bowstead

Fresh Flowers for Church

I expect some of you have noticed that there have been a couple of vases of fresh flowers in the church. One behind the piano and the other on the cupboard just inside the main door.

There is no longer a weekly Rota for flowers as was the case previously where Eileen used to go regularly down to Church every Friday to do the arrangements. Instead we are focusing more on Silk flowers for the main arrangements that will last a few more weeks. With not operating the flower rota system, the flower fund is unfortunately not being topped up with generous donations and we would like to keep the Church looking bright and cheerful.

Flowers as many of you know are not cheap to buy and the artificial ones are rather expensive too. If there could be some monetary contributions towards the flower fund Mandy and I would be very grateful for any your consideration towards this.

If anyone has a special anniversary that they would like to Fresh Flowers for Church

I expect some of you have noticed that there have been a couple of vases of fresh flowers in the church. One behind the piano and the other on the cupboard just inside the main door.

More Photos!!



WONFORD METHODIST CHURCH

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS :

9.30 a.m., FAMILY WORSHIP
10.45 a.m., B.B. BIBLE CLASS
6.30 p.m., EVENING WORSHIP
(FILM SERVICE 4th SUNDAY IN MONTH)

* *

WEEKDAYS :

GIRLS' BRIGADE—Mondays, 6 p.m.
Captain : Mrs. S. Bricknell,

BOYS' BRIGADE—Wednesdays & Fridays,
7.15 p.m.
Captain : Mr. C. Maddicks,

SISTERHOOD—Wednesdays, 3 p.m.
Secretary : Mrs. E. J. Laskey,

FELLOWSHIP GROUP—Thursdays, 7.30 p.m.
Secretary : Mrs. P. Charters,

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP—Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.
(Jointly with Whipton)
Secretary : Mrs. F. Hucker,

Services in June

Services at 10am and others are listed below. These will be in the Church and live streamed on Zoom and Facebook / YouTube

Bible Month on Ruth

Morning services in June will mark Bible Month by looking at the Old Testament book of Ruth



6th	Deacon Becky Lovatt - All Age Worship
13th	Rev Alan Rothwell 6.30 pm - Rev Ben Haslam - Communion Service
20th	Rev Ben Haslam and Caroline Colin - Communion Service
27th	Dr Joan Wragg 6.30 pm - Barn Service at Home Farm, Poltimore (<i>time to be confirmed</i>)

Dial-a-Prayer



FREEPHONE numbers for prayers, reflections and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

**Listen to a pastoral message from the
President and
Vice President: 0808 281 2695**

Listen to our Podcast: 0808 281 2478

Prayer updated every Thursday, Presidential message updated every Monday, Methodist Podcast updated fortnightly on Thursday.

The deadline for items for the July 2021 Newsletter will be Sunday 13th June 2021. 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