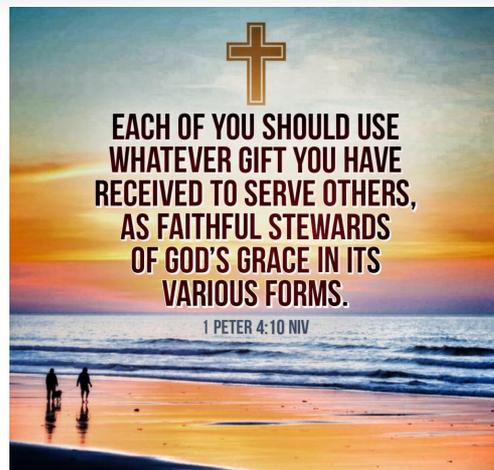


Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

June 2022
(No: 510)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



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The **Methodist** Church 

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A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

Paul told the church at Corinth that they were 'Co-workers in God's service'. That's a pretty huge claim. We think of God, quite rightly, as being all knowing and all-capable, and hardly in need of our assistance with anything. That may be true, but when someone becomes a Christian, they discover another truth: that they have been given the massive privilege of being given a part to play in God's kingdom-building work, and that they have gifts and graces which enable them to do this. In other words, God chooses to allow us to be co-workers with Him. Why, you may be thinking, am I talking about Corinthians when I'm meant to be talking about Nehemiah 7? Well, because it helps us to understand what's going on. God is at work, and so is Nehemiah in the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. There is no clear division of labour between Nehemiah and God. The rebuilding of the wall is presented in Nehemiah as being the work of God, but human beings do the bricklaying. This is because, at the most basic level, God gives the gifts and abilities needed to undertake the work. Moreover, God gives the initiative and the vision to enable those abilities to be coordinated and productive. For another example, look at how it all starts. The King of Persia commissions Nehemiah to rebuild and restore Jerusalem, but it is God, moving behind the scenes who makes this happen. Nehemiah has a close relationship with God and this relationship means he acts out of the inspiration and the wisdom which he receives from God. He acts at God's prompting, which because truly knows God, he is able to recognise as such.

Does this mean that everything which happens is directly caused by God? No. He has given us free will, and allows us to use it. At the same time, God is not absent from human affairs, and is very much active in the world, in a way which doesn't override our free will. What delights God the most however, is when we, of our own free will, choose to entwine our lives with God's purposes and give ourselves to His service, as Nehemiah does.

What's also happening in this chapter is the beginning of the rebuilding of human community in Jerusalem, as well as the walls. Hence the very long list of names! This list of names, by the way, may seem to us to be ridiculously obsessed with who everyone's ancestors were, thus determining whether they had a right to reside in the rebuilt Jerusalem. In our age of 'inclusiveness', this may seem unfair or cruel. Nehemiah is doing

it however, for the sake of the survival of God's people. We have already seen how these people have enemies circling all around. This must be a true community of God's people, and those who simply want to dominate those people, regardless of what God might want, are guarded against. This list of names may not make for exciting reading, but they show the care and attention with which Nehemiah is approaching his task, and his determination that idolatry and pagan practices be kept out. All in all, this is the wonderful story of God and His people, reconstructing and restoring what heedless humanity had seemingly destroyed forever.

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

Dates For June 2022

Coffee

5th	Eileen & Melanie
12th	Margaret D & Terry L
19th	Susan & John Smith
26th	Liz & Pauline



Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group, which met at 3pm on 27th May, has already started using the Methodist "Bible Month" study of the Old Testament book of Isaiah. But of course, meeting fortnightly, our sessions will run into July for our final one! The themes of the 4 sessions are: "Tough Love", "Light to the World", "Faithful Servant" and "A New World", which all sound very interesting. So, do come and join us in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm on any of those Fridays. They will be announced in the Sunday Notices too, if you are at Wonford.

Margretta Bowstead

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.

Saturday Morning Fellowship (10.30 am – 12.00 pm)

We would like a few more photo entries for our Wonford Methodist Church calendar competition please so keep taking photos as we want some from different places & times of the year that show God's Love through a lens.

4th June - we have our cream tea celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee - we'll start eating at 11am and everyone is welcome!

11th June - it's our Games morning so we'll have the pool table, table football and darts etc out for everyone to enjoy.

18th June - we will be raising awareness for Refugee Week, along with a clothing swap and prayer station.

25th June - for National Beatles Day we will enjoy music from the Fab Four and have a quiz to test your Beatles knowledge!

Everyone is welcome to join us and if you would like to help in any way, or have suggestions of things we can do, then please speak with one of us.

Mandy, Liz, Rose, Rev Ben and Sue K

Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 28th June (one week later than usual) when we will have a talk by Jon Curtis.

He will update us on his work with
Exeter Food Action

We meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake.
Everyone is welcome.



Green Team Article - How to Go Green?

For anyone thinking about embarking on a greener lifestyle or looking at ways to further their green credentials.

It can be a difficult if not bewildering exercise. If you search “going green” you are immediately presented with a scope of information that does little to guide you. You can find ways to go green in 5 steps and you can find lists that turn you green in 100 steps. You can also find 40 ways to go green at home, or 10 simple changes to live green at work; and there are actually 84 earth friendly ideas. Interestingly, there are specific ways for teenagers to go green – these seem to revolve around the use of showers and turning lights off.

Searching for more guidance I turned to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

Here I found 17 global goals and 169 global targets.

Whilst each of these goals **is** profoundly important, such as ending hunger and ensuring sustainable clean water and sanitation, it is challenging for an individual to be inspired by a publication which the Lancet described as being ‘fairy tales, dressed up’.

So how do you go Green?

The Christian doctrine of creation is the starting point for theological reflection on the issue of climate change. The church has always celebrated the beauty of creation in praise and thanksgiving as a sign of God’s gracious goodness.

Entering into prayer and reflection about the issues around us should be an integral part of our worship and is our essential start point for going **Green**.

Let us all join in prayer and share our faith in worship for our world created and sustained by a loving God.

‘God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.’

The Methodist Church has a target of becoming a net zero emissions Church and the 2022 Methodist Council encourages members to reduce carbon footprint in the areas of energy, travel and diet.

Martin Lloyd

Church Green Team

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

Prayer Focus for May

Prayer – Our Strongest Weapon – Pray Without Ceasing

Week Commencing Sunday 5th June

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

Isaiah 6:3

Give thanks to God for the 70 year reign of HM The Queen Elizabeth. She is a shining example of committed service to God and humanity.

As we start our Bible Month series on the book of Isaiah, pray for a cause that is committed to tackling social injustice, an issue where you want to see God's love in action.

Week Commencing Sunday 12th June

'I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Isaiah 49:6

Give thanks for every single member of our multi-cultural congregation! Pray that we may continue to be a blessing to each other. Can you picture someone in church whose name you don't know? Ask God to bless them [and try and find out their name and pray for them again!]

Week Commencing Sunday 19th June

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

Give thanks for all that Jesus achieved on the cross for us! Pray for all those Christians who still suffer persecution because they put their trust in Jesus. Pray for the work of Open Doors, Barnabas Fund and Christian Solidarity Worldwide who are committed to supporting persecuted Christians.

Week Commencing Sunday 26th June

'Behold, I will create a new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.' Isaiah 65:17

Give thanks for God's promise of a new creation. Ask him to guide us in our roles in being ambassadors of God's kingdom on earth. Pray that people would experience a yearning to be part of such a world. Pray for someone today who has yet to discover new life in Jesus.

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) 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.

The Prayer Team

Beyond Self Christian Retreats

My name is Abigail and I'm a local preacher and member at the Mint. I wanted to share my new project with you. I was inspired to start Beyond Self a few years ago when, as part of my growing self-awareness that comes with training as a counsellor (www.abigailhardiman-counselling.co.uk), I came to the realisation that whilst I 'do' a lot of things for God and the Church I often don't allow enough time to simply 'be' with God. Even my prayer life can often be centred around what I am doing, rather than purely connecting with God.



I also recognised that whilst we are called by Jesus to love God with all our heart, mind and soul (or in the Old Testament with our heart, soul, strength and mind), there were significant parts of who I am that didn't feel as connected to my faith. With this new understanding I began to explore how I could experience and express my relationship with God differently, more holistically. This included exploring ancient ideas from Celtic Christianity, modern takes on mindfulness that blend traditions from the East and the West as well as concepts from transpersonal psychotherapy as part of my own training as a counsellor and psychotherapist. All of these different traditions emphasise our connections, with ourselves, with others, with creation and with God, hence the name 'Beyond Self'.

Embracing these connections has given me a sense of peace, power, hope and wholeness, even in the midst of a world that feels very broken. I wanted to share that with you by creating retreats that allow us to bring all of ourselves, just as we are and whatever we might be needing or struggling with. The advert for my July retreat is overleaf. Whether you're simply in need of a rest, or struggling with a difficult decision or life event, this wholeness and wellbeing day retreat offers a chance to replenish your resources and connect with ourselves and with God, mind, body and soul. There will be quiet moments of guided meditation, time for creative artistic expression (no artistic talent required!) and shared fellowship as we spend time together.



'Heart, soul, mind and strength'
Wholeness and Wellbeing Day Retreat



A day of Christian mindfulness, guided meditation and
creative spirituality

10am – 4pm on Saturday 9th July 2022

Whitestone Parish Hall

£60 including vegetarian lunch and refreshments

(a limited number of reduced cost spaces are available for those on low incomes;
please contact Abigail to discuss)



Beyond self retreats are led by Abigail Hardiman, a
qualified counsellor and accredited local (lay)
preacher with the Methodist Church.

To book your place or for more information contact Abigail on
07300 106560 or abigailhardiman@protonmail.com You can also find
us on Facebook or at [abigailhardiman6.wixsite.com/beyondselfretreats](https://www.abigailhardiman6.wixsite.com/beyondselfretreats)

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2022-23

"**The Greatest Commandment**" is the title of this amazingly good help to all our prayers! In an A5 booklet with a double-page spread for each day, covering 1-to-31 days. So you just move steadily through it each month; covering world Methodist links on one page, and our UK Methodist Districts concerns on the other page as you pray. The booklet costs £4.15 each (with a large-print A4 version a bit more); and I'll be taking orders from now on. I'm not absolutely clear, but think this year they won't be available until August 2022. I'm happy to start taking orders anytime !

Margretta Bowstead

News From The Methodist Church

Queen's Speech fails to address cost of living challenge facing millions

A response to the Queen's Speech from Paul Morrison, Policy Adviser for the Methodist Church

The Queen's Speech has failed to offer help to families being pulled under by the cost-of-living crisis. Churches and charities have been reporting that more and more families having trouble making ends meet. This week alone, we learned from the Food Foundation that 7.3 million adults are unable to afford the food they need, and that an additional 250,000 are expected to be pushed into destitution in the coming months.

Something is going profoundly wrong when a wealthy society tolerates millions going hungry and destitute. Families are working when they can - unemployment has returned to record lows. Charity is doing its bit – Trussell Trust foodbanks supplied over 2 million food parcels last year. Government must play its part and not shirk its responsibilities.

The Queen's speech sets out the Government's priorities over the next Parliamentary session. It is an opportunity to indicate how the government aim to tackle the issues that families are facing today. Unfortunately, that opportunity has not been taken.

This was also an opportunity for government to set out an agenda for key policy areas such as benefits, housing and employment to ensure that families are not left so exposed to cold economic winds in future. While there was no clear strategy to address the current crisis short or long term there was legislation proposed around renting, levelling-up and energy

markets which could be used to begin to move us in the right direction. As yet however the details are not clear.

Churches all over the country run foodbanks and we long for the day when they close through lack of demand. Families, charities and communities are already acting to bring that day closer, but it also requires ambition and action from government of which this Queen's speech showed little sign.

A Methodist Way of Life

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

God loves you unconditionally, no strings attached. That's the good news.

In response to this gift, there are twelve things that we do individually and together as we grow as followers of Jesus, which help us to worship God, serve others, be evangelistic, and learn and care together. None of this makes God love you any more - but they may help you realise how deeply you are loved by God. As far as we are able, with God's help, we:

			
Pray We pray daily	Worship We worship with others regularly	Notice We notice God in Scripture and the world	Care We care for ourselves and those around us
			
Learn We learn more about our faith	Open We practise hospitality and generosity	Serve We help people in our communities and beyond	Flourish We care for creation and all God's gifts
			
Challenge We challenge injustice	Tell We tell of the love of God	Live We live in a way that draws people to Jesus	Share We share our faith

Dates For Your Diary

June 2022

Sat 4th	10.30 a.m.	Saturday Morning Fellowship (until 12.00 pm) ** Queen's Platinum Jubilee Event
Sun 5th	10.00 a.m.	Deacon Becky Lovatt - Pentecost
Fri 10th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 11th	10.30 a.m.	Saturday Morning Fellowship (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 12th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament. Trinity Sunday
	4.30 p.m.	Easter Offering Circuit Service at Wonford
Tue 14th	7.30 p.m.	Church Council Meets
Sat 18th	10.30 a.m.	Saturday Morning Fellowship (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 19th	10.00 a.m.	Monika Noronha
	6.30 p.m.	Circuit Barn Service at Poltimore

23rd to 30th June - Methodist Conference meets in Telford (Rev Graham Thompson will be President for 2022/23)

Fri 24th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 25th	10.30 a.m.	Saturday Morning Fellowship (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 26th	10.00 a.m.	Dr Jon Curtis
Tue 28th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm)

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



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

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. Saturday Fellowship Meeting

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 July 2022 Newsletter will be Sunday 12th June 2022. 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