

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

June 2024

(No: 530)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist Church** 

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



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# A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

## Psalm 73

Most of us have an inbuilt sense of justice. We feel anger when we see people profiting at the expense of others. In an age when many demand that their governments intervene to ensure equality (which never seems to work out well, however good the intentions), we might wonder why God doesn't do the same. Surely, God can step in to see that nobody goes without, and that those who exploit others don't enjoy their ill-gotten gains for very long? The writer of Psalm 73 wrestles with this very issue. Oppression and iniquity abound, and the perpetrators get away with it.

Yet the Psalm ends in the most remarkable and beautiful way. Even when the Psalmist feel aggrieved and embittered, when he stands back and looks at the big picture, he realises that God is always with him and, more than that, will lead him to glory. In other words, the answer is not to shake our fists at the sky and scream about the unfairness of it all, but to look deeper, to see the connections between earth and heaven. Only then can we even begin to understand, in however inadequate a fashion, some of the meaning behind it all. By that I don't mean that 'everything happens for a reason'. I mean that a loving God is ultimately in control, a God who dwells in glory, a glory which is our destination too. Where does this leave us though in the here and now? It leaves us with the task of cultivating trust in this God, the God made known to us in Jesus Christ, allowing Him to transform us, and pointing others towards Him too. God brings change through transforming human hearts. Governments will always let us down and we shouldn't have too high hopes of what the state can do. It will always remain true however, that though 'our heart and our flesh may fail, God is the strength of our lives and our portion forever'. Amen.

With every blessing

Ben Haslam



# Dates For June 2024

## Coffee

2nd	Elaine & Graham
9th	Alison & Jenny S
16th	Melanie
23rd	Linda & Mervyn
30th	TBA

## Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In June they are meeting on the 7th and 21st. They will be using the Bible Month material to take a look at the book of Genesis. All are welcome to attend. Please speak to Monika Noronha or Terry Spencer if you want further details.

**Monika**

## The Away Group

This group is currently not meeting whilst the Alpha Course (see below) is taking place.

## Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 18th June 2024. This month our own Rev Malcolm Carter will tell us about his visits to the Holy Land. The talk is entitled '**Israel - the Holy Land the good and the bad**'.

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



## Alpha Course

This meets on a Monday at 7.30pm and will be held in the lounge. Come along and find out more about this exciting course. Further details will be given in notices each Sunday.

**Tony Wragg**



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

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

**1st June** - remembering the importance of D-Day on the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings

**8th June** - we'll have our '5 a day' picture Bingo with prizes

**15th June** - come and join us for a games morning in the hall

**22nd June** - we will have photos and maps of old Wonford so please come along and share your memories of Wonford (including the Panny)

**29th June** - we are running a Music Quiz that may well include a bit of a sing along

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**

### **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. For May this will be the 21st.

**Lisa Thomas**



## The Northbrook

The Northbrook is Wonford Methodist Church's local stream – it flows along the bottom of nearby Ludwell Valley. There is also a tributary which currently runs down Wonford Street and next to the Church in a culvert but which probably used to fill the moat of the medieval Great House on the site of the Birch Court flats (previously Gardeners Arms).

Locally the Northbrook is known as the Panny possibly named by the cavalry from the nearby Barracks who exercised their horses in the area when it was just fields.

The Northbrook stream has two main tributaries, one that starts up in Beacon Heath and goes through Whipton and another that starts in Stoke Hill and goes through Hamlin Lane Playing fields (JLC), and these meet in Vaughan Road. The stream flows underground at Heavitree Bridge and then through Wonford Playing Fields and Northbrook Park into the River Exe. So there are probably quite a few Church folk living close to the Panny! A small group of us, including members of Heavitree Local History Society and the Mile Lane Pod, are hoping to produce a leaflet about the Panny and would love hear people's recollections of playing near or in it.

Gary remembers that the Hele's School cross country route went through the Panny which annoyed his Mum – from a laundry point of view!

At Wonford Welcome on June 22nd we will be having a local history morning with photos and information about old Wonford and we would love people to come along to share their knowledge and memories particularly of the Panny. Please invite any neighbours, family or friends who might be interested. Thank you.

Helen

PS. There is a website called 'Ludwell Life' That has some further information about the Panny - <https://ludwelllife.org.uk/>



## **Church Council Meeting**

There will be a Church Council meeting on 18 June 2024 at 7.30pm at church. All are welcome to attend, although only church council members can vote on any issues.

The agenda will be emailed around Church Council members about a week before the meeting and a copy will be put on our church noticeboard for all to view.

**Alison**

## **Bible Month 2024 - Genesis**

Bible Month takes place during June each year and in 2024 the Methodist Church is feasting on the Book of Genesis.

Through a menu of carefully curated resources, training and learning opportunities, churches and circuits are encouraged to taste and see the goodness of an individual text; enjoying some of its unique flavours, considering its origins, appreciating its place alongside the rest of Scripture, and savouring the unique contribution it might make to our faithful living and learning today.

Genesis is the starting point for all Christian theology and explores many of the foundational questions of life and faith:

Who is God? What is God like? How does God interact with the world? How is that world meant to be? What does it mean to be human? What does it look like to be God's people?

Through the book, we get to journey with many different characters as they wrestle (sometimes literally!) with finding answers to these questions in the midst of the messiness and uncertainty of life.

## **A Short Introduction to Genesis**

The stories of Genesis divide neatly into 4 bit-sized chunks, which we'll take each at a time over 4 weeks starting on Sunday 9th June 2024:

Week 1: The Sovereign God who Creates (Chapters 1-11)

Week 2: The God who Calls and Blesses (Chapters 12-25)

Week 3: The God who Comes to People in their Struggles (Chapters 25-36)

Week 4: The God who Confirms and Safeguards Divine Promises (Chapters 37-50)

Further details at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/the-bible/bible-month/>

## **“Nation With Nation.....Shall Live As Comrades Free”**

In the ever-watchable film “Sister Act”, Sister Mary Patrick firmly states “I’m a sucker for a happy ending”. Thanks to Sister Mary Clarence’s singing skills, their Academy choir in San Francisco wins a major competition, which prevents their Academy being closed down. A very happy ending.

Right now in the real world, it’s hard to see how ‘happy ending’ could apply to the devastating, inhuman situation in Gaza and Ukraine. The killing of those 7 aid workers, who were trying to bring vital relief to millions on the verge of starvation, only pushed a possible, peaceful ending further into the distance. As for the hymn ‘Nation with nation..... shall live as comrades free’, that hope seems light years away! One Gaza doctor commented, “Everywhere you see people shocked and terrified, just staring out expressionless.”

In 2011, an earthquake in Fukushima caused a nuclear power plant to release vast amounts of radiation, which seeped into the land around, and on to its crops. The people responded by planting a quarter of a million sunflower seeds. Sunflowers now bloom everywhere in Fukushima! They absorb all that radiation. A happy ending from a world-threatening situation. And that’s what Jesus did on the Cross! By His death, He absorbed all human sin and violence, and brought new hope into our suffering world by His Resurrection! This Risen Christ really is the Saviour! “The vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.” His love can absorb evil; violence has no chance. He conquered sin and death once and for all! The happiest of endings.

Recently, I spoke with a distinguished, retired leader in the Methodist Church. He was apprehensive about falling numbers, fewer ministers and preachers, and not least the considerable number of churches that have recently closed down. He wondered what the future held for us. I reminded him that the Church in this country in the 18th century was sluggish and ineffective until 24th May 1738 at 8.45pm, when John Wesley’s heart was ‘strangely warmed’! Thereafter thousands of men and women were won into the Christian faith! With prayer and expectancy we can have a repeat outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit! We can even expect ‘nation with nation’ living in peace!

Jesus Himself powerfully reminds us that when we plant a seed in the ground, it dies, but in so doing it produces a wonderful harvest. Like Sister Mary Patrick, I remain a sucker for happy endings. Do you?

**Rev Malcolm Carter**

# Prayer Focus for June 2024

## Week Commencing Sunday 2nd June

Praise the Lord, my soul.  
Lord my God, you are very great;  
you are clothed with splendour and majesty.  
The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment;  
he stretches out the heavens like a tent  
and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.

***Psalm 104: 1-3***

As we start our Bible Month series from next week, looking at the book of Genesis, let's give thanks to God our creator for everything that he has made, this beautiful world, the whole universe and even us!

## Week Commencing Sunday 9th June

So God created human beings in his own image.  
In the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

***Genesis 1:27***

Creator God, may we, your people, reflect your qualities to all those around us by, among other things, being more loving, more faithful and more forgiving.

## Week Commencing Sunday 16th June

I will make you into a great nation.  
I will bless you and make you famous,  
and you will be a blessing to others.

***Genesis 12:2***

We may not be great and we may not be famous but, just like Abraham, we ARE blessed to be a blessing to others. Pray that God will give you the opportunity to be a blessing to someone this week.



## **Week Commencing Sunday 23rd June**

But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

***Genesis 32:26b***

Jacob struggles with God and seeks a blessing. Pray for people who are struggling at the moment, that they may feel God’s presence in the midst of difficulties.

## **Week Commencing Sunday 30th June**

You intended to harm me,  
but God intended it all for good.  
He brought me to this position  
so I could save the lives of many people.

***Genesis 50:20***

Help us Lord, to trust you, even when we cannot see Your hand at work in our circumstances. Thank you that you never leave us, even in difficult times.

### **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**



## We Are Recruiting a New Schools Worker!!



The details can be found on our website <https://icetrust.co.uk/about-us/>

Please also join us in prayer that a new worker will be found and that we will see increased funding to match. We also praise the Lord for those who have increased giving or made a one off donation in the last month.

Best wishes

Karen  
Exeter ICE

## Circuit Farewell Service for Rev Julian Albrow

This takes place on the 21st July 2024 at 6.30pm probably at St Thomas Methodist Church (to be confirmed).

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.



# Dates For Your Diary

## June 2024

Sat 1st	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 2nd	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship with Prof Tony Wragg
Mon 3rd	7.30 p.m.	Alpha Course in the lounge **
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 - Sacrament & Bible Month *
Mon 10th	7.30 p.m.	Alpha Course in the lounge **
Sat 15th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 16th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Leon Dundas - Bible Month
Mon 17th	7.30 p.m.	Alpha Course in the lounge **
Tue 18th	9.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **
	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
	7.30 p.m.	Church Council Meets **
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.	Monika Noronha - Bible Month
Mon 24th	7.30 p.m.	Alpha Course in the lounge **
Sat 29th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 30th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Bible Month
	6.30 a.m.	Circuit Service & Barbecue at Home Farm, Poltimore

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



The deadline for items for the July 2024 Newsletter will be Sunday 16th June 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](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. Alpha Course in the lounge *(Weekly)*

## **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)