

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

March 2020

(No: 486)

THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA AND THE CROWN OF LIFE



"[...] Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."
Revelation 2:10

NOT ALL OF US CAN DO GREAT THINGS.

BUT WE CAN DO SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE.

- Mother Teresa

FAITH DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN THAT GOD CHANGES YOUR SITUATION

SOMETIMES IT MEANS HE CHANGES YOU

- Steven Furtick

Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



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The **Methodist Church** 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



@WonfordMethodistChurch



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death”

(Revelation 2. 8-11)

Christ begins His address to each of these churches with two words – ‘I know’. Each of these churches is known, deeply and intimately by Jesus and nothing of their life together, or their life as individuals can escape His searching gaze. This could be unnerving – but it is also liberating. Imagine being known so deeply, so fully, so comprehensively, that you never have to pretend, that you never have to uphold an image or play to any gallery. Such is the case in our relationship with Jesus, because with him, we are beheld in a gaze that only ever desires our good, though one that is relentless in urging us on to new heights –‘being transformed from one degree of glory to another’ as Paul puts it.

The church in Smyrna (now called Izmir in modern day Turkey) needed that security, that reassurance, as they were a threatened church, and things were about to get worse. Amid all these hardships however, they are noticed, and commended, and reassured by none other than Jesus Himself. What was asked of them was great. The divine love that answered their courage was even greater.

There was a particular reason why so many of the Christians in Smyrna were poor. Many of that city’s citizen’s had refused to trade or do business with them. Smyrna had acquired a reputation for loyalty to the Roman Empire and as a result of this a temple, dedicated to the Emperor Tiberius, had appeared in the city. Fire burned continually before a bust of the Emperor and you were expected to sprinkle incense on this fire as your act of homage to the divine Caesar. Those who refused to do so were outlawed. Smyrna’s Christians were chief among those who refused to partake in this emperor-worship and they suffered for it. In spite of this, they

are rich, spiritually, because they refuse to compromise their faith. Given the choice between popularity (or 'fitting in', 'relevance', esteem, whatever you want to call it), and their integrity and devotion to their Lord, there is no question of not choosing the latter. The victor's crown is too great a prize to lose and they clearly had no intention of doing so.

With every blessing

Ben Haslam

Dates For March 2020

Coffee

1st	Eileen & Melanie
8th	Rose & Paul
15th	Margaret S & Margaret D
22nd	Pauline & Liz
29th	Susan L



Flowers

1st	Kathleen P
8th	Kathleen D
15th	Sylvia & Tom
22nd	Lisa (Mothering Sunday)
29th	Barbara J



Home Group

This group is now meeting fortnightly on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm in different members' homes, as our Sunday Screen Notices will tell each time. They will be studying The Life of Paul this spring. Come with your questions or thoughts to help us, please!

11th March	39 Meyer Court
25th March	18 Tuckfield Close

Minister's Bible Study

This is led by Rev Ben Haslam each month and includes some discussion. It is usually held on the 3rd Thursday afternoon at 2pm in the church lounge, and lasts about an hour. Please check the monthly Dates or church Notices each month. All are welcome!

Next Meeting Thursday 19th March 2020

Away Group

This is the Bible Study Fellowship Group that meets every week, usually at Joan and Tony's or at Julie and Alan's. But a lot of you are missing it!!! Why not come and join with them on Monday nights at 7.30pm?

Lent Lunches

These take place at various churches leading up to Easter. Before each lunch there will be a short service, at 12 noon, followed by a light lunch. Volunteers to help with the one at Wonford on the 1st April would be very much appreciated. Could you let Ben or one of the stewards know if you can help.

4th March - United Reformed Church, Heavitree

11th March - St. Michael's Church, Heavitree

18th March - St. Lawrence's Church, Heavitree

25th March - Blessed Sacrament, Heavitree

1st April - Wonford Methodist Church

Flower Rota

After many years of looking after the flower rota, Eileen Kerswell has decided to give up the role. We thank Eileen for all her work in putting the rota together and on many occasions putting together flower arrangements in the Church every Sunday.

If you feel you can take over this role or need further details please see Eileen or one of the stewards.

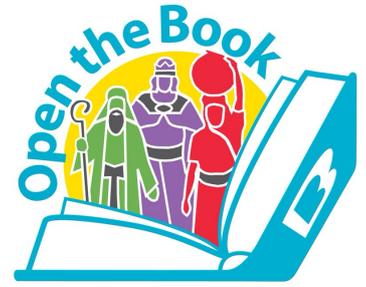
Advance Notice - "South West Awake!"

For 30 minutes, 2pm – 2.30pm, on Saturday 30 May 2020 all around the 630 miles of the South West Coastal Path, folk from churches will stand and pray and praise. The website is www.southwestawake.com for more information.



OtB/Open the Book

Our Team of Anglicans & Methodists act out Bible stories fortnightly on Tuesdays at Countess Wear Primary School Assemblies, and practise them at Wonford MC the Tuesdays in between. We would be delighted for anyone free on Tuesday afternoons to join our OtB Team. Our next few weeks have on:



March 3rd	2.00pm	'Jesus and the Taxman' WMC rehearsal
March 10th	2.45pm	'Jesus and the Taxman' at School
March 17th	2.00pm	'John's Story' WMC rehearsal
March 24th	2.45pm	'John's Story' at School

Rev Terry Spencer, Bill, Dave Salter, Karen and Margretta

“Greta”

It was back last autumn when I came into our Church Hall and saw “Greta” – an almost life-sized picture of the teenager who challenges us all about how we care for God’s Earth, ‘our’ World. The Girls’ Brigade girls had made it the night before, helped and inspired by their Leaders, and must have had a lovely time making it all. It is eye-catching, but also “speaks” in so many ways and to all ages! Each time I look at it, something new catches my eye – a phrase I’d not noticed before – and so I am challenged to do even more to care for God’s Earth. Also I am amazed at the way the 17-year old activist, Greta, is still very actively in the news, attending Davos and world meetings month on month. I just wonder whether “Greta”, and all the future she stands for, also affects you like this? Please do tell us what more we should be doing! A very interesting local development is the application by DWT/Devon Wildlife Trust for funding from Viridor towards improving the bio-diversity in the Ludwell Valley Park, the nearest part to us of the Green Circle of Parks, which DWT now oversee the care and preservation. Our Church Green Team did send a letter to DWT declaring our support for their application, with our 6 names included; and others also signed as individuals.

Church Green Team - Margretta Bowstead

Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk

This takes place at 10.30am on Friday 6th March 2020 at Belmont Chapel - is this year's theme of the World Day of Prayer Service. There is Coffee/Tea at 10.30am; and the Lord Mayor will be attending the Service which begins at 11am. It has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe – and I hope all our lovely Zimbabweans in our congregation will make a special effort to attend this special Service this year! In fact, all being well, there are 3 Wonford folk taking some small parts in the Service. The Bible reading within the Service is from John 5:2-9a, and the focus is on **Peace, Reconciliation and Love** – what more could we want?

Margretta Bowstead

Prayer Focus for February

Pray without ceasing

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

As I write China is virtually shut down due to Coronavirus & other parts of the world are also affected. So many lives lost & families separated to try to halt the spread. For all affected it is a very anxious time. Please pray for all and for those Doctors & Nurses as they care for those who have fallen ill.

Continue to pray for our government as they debate trade deals over the next few months.

During this time of Lent pray not only for ourselves as we prepare our hearts for Easter but also pray for the future of our church. How do we encourage new families to join us and discover for themselves the wonderful saving grace of our Saviour. Pray for our youth workers as they prepare week by week for the young folk. They give of their time but sometimes there are just a few young ones. If our church is to grow and continue we must reach out to the young families. Pray especially for Joan as she continues to run the tots group each Friday morning. Pray also for those who help in this very important work.

March 22nd we celebrate our mothers. Whilst for most this is a very special day, for others it is a day of sadness. Remember those who have lost their mother. Also remember those for whom motherhood is a distant dream. It just never happened for them & remember those mother's who have lost their children.

It is also the commissioning service for our pastoral visitors. Give thanks for those who give of their time to visit & care for their group of members of our Church.

If you have anything that you would like included please let Julie Rothwell know so that it 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)

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

News From The Methodist Church

Adopt a Lenten lifestyle for 40 days and for life

A campaign launched by a group of four Christian denominations aims to change participants' lifestyles by adopting one of six commitments to address climate change, for 40 days and then for life.

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT), made up of the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, launched its first green Lent campaign in 2019 which resulted in many people changing lifestyle habits including flying less, reducing meat consumption and buying only second hand clothes.

Rachel Lampard, JPIT Team leader, said "The climate is already changing and together we must act to limit its impact. The campaign offers information about the effect of our everyday lives on the environment, alongside ideas for living more sustainable lives.

Living Lent sets the challenges within the Christian Lenten journey to Easter, offering daily prayers and reflections. We hope that the journey through Lent will enable people to reflect on both the personal lifestyle changes we need to make and the changes that we need from our society and government in order to care for God's wonderful creation."

For 2020 the Living Lent campaign sets six challenges from which to choose:

- **Give up single use plastics.** A plastic bottle takes around 450 years to biodegrade. With the UK using 7.7 billion plastic bottles per year, an average of 117 bottles per person, per year, this challenge to give up single use plastics is critically important. The campaign includes an online plastic use calculator and tips on how to cut down this waste.
- **Go meat free.** Lent is traditionally a time when people give up meat. We now know that animal products – beef, dairy and sheep in particular – have a greater impact on the climate than plant based alternatives. The challenge explores some of the evidence behind this and offers simple ways to reduce meat consumption.
- **Commit to finding alternative modes of transport.** Driving a car emits, on average, about 271g CO₂ per kilometre. Whereas, in total, riding a bike accounts for only about 21g of CO₂ emissions per kilometre. Replacing car journeys with a cycling or public transport during Lent could have a dramatic impact on an individual's carbon footprint. If cycling is not possible, people are encouraged to look to public transport, car sharing or other ways of reducing energy consumption.
- **Reduce electricity use by 10%.** More than 25% of our carbon footprint is made up of domestic energy use. From installing smart metres to unplugging electronics that are simply wasting power on standby, there are many tips on how to reduce electricity use.
- **Live locally.** The average number of miles that our food travels has doubled over the last 30 years. Food transport accounts for one quarter of all heavy-goods vehicle miles in the UK, and estimates of the carbon emissions caused by food transportation range from 1.8% to 3.5% of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions. It's estimated that buying food originating from within a 20km radius would save over £2 billion in fuel and environmental costs per year.
- **Buy nothing new.** New items may well be cheap but they often come with a huge environmental cost. The energy needed to produce a single T-shirt would keep a home going for 2-3 days. A single kilogram of cotton takes around 20,000 litres of water to grow yet we dispose of around 300,000 tonnes of clothing in the UK each year. Making our clothes last longer, swapping and buying second hand could substantially reduce our impact on the environment,

Rachel Lampard commented: "Living Lent will appeal to people of all faiths and none who want to change their lifestyles to help the planet."

“We hear about how climate change is causing anxiety and depression in some people, especially the young. Often it feels overwhelming and the solution is beyond us as individuals. Living Lent helps participants explore how damaging our consumerist habits are, but that we can adopt a fresh new approach, starting with Lent and then perhaps for life.

My family took part in Living Lent 2019, and since then we have changed what we eat and how we travel. My children have also joined green campaigning groups in their schools working for wider change in the community.

“For Christians, Lent is a time of prayer, reflection and preparation. I hope that Living Lent 2020 will enable people to reflect on changes they can make during this period of Lent - and beyond.



Creating a climate of change.

A Prayer for Communities Affected by Flooding

For people battered by forceful storms
For communities battling rising floods
For emergency services stretched to the limit
We pray

For farmers losing straw and crops
For shopkeepers losing high street trade
For repeat victims losing strength and hope
We pray

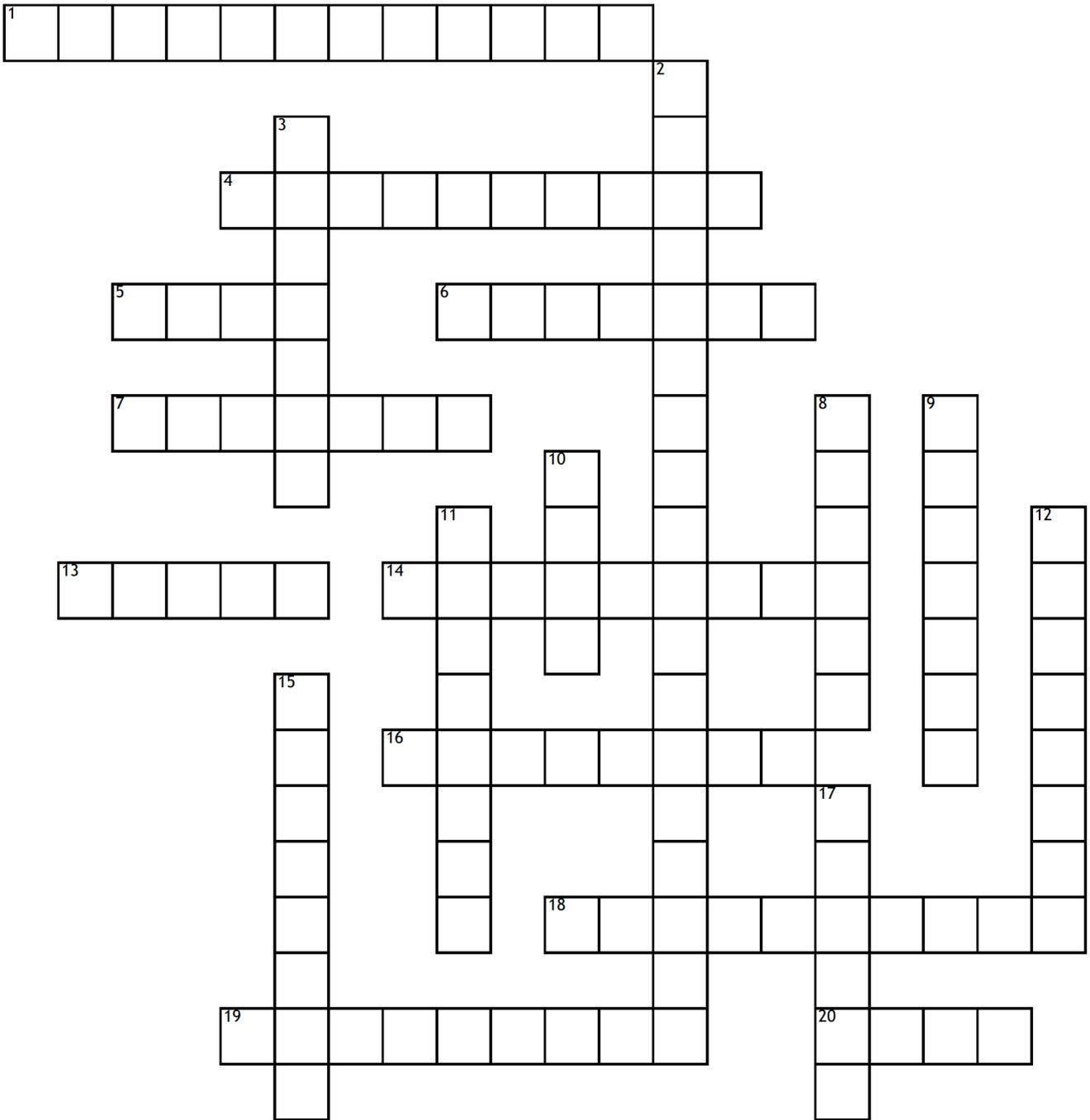
For resilience and resolve to change
For impatience with using flood plains
For commitment to protect riverbanks and coasts
We pray

In Jesus' name we pray

Amen

The Revd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

Lent Crossword



Across

1. dust to dust
4. Special Day
5. Jesus was buried in a
6. do not eat
7. to stay away from something
13. the tree Jesus was nailed to
14. to give up something for something else
16. last week of Lent
18. happy day
19. Jesus' crew
20. Easter Season

Down

2. jesus' road to crucifixion
3. holy day
8. sorry for sins
9. on your knees
10. Jesus' mother
11. hand over
12. Nailed to the cross
15. Type of Religion
17. color of lent

Dates For Your Diary

March 2020

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m.	Caroline Colin - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Deacon Becky Lovatt
Tue 3rd	7.30 p.m.	'The Great House & Wonford Village' local history talk
Wed 4th	12.00 p.m.	Lent Lunch at URC, Heavitree **
Fri 6th	10.30 a.m.	World Day of Prayer, Belmont Chapel **
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - Themed Preaching
	6.30 p.m.	Monika Noronha - Prayer & Praise
Tue 10th	7.30 p.m.	Pastoral Visitors meeting
Wed 11th	12.00 p.m.	Lent Lunch at St Michael's Church, Heavitree **
Wed 11th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Meets at 39 Meyer Court **
Thu 12th	7.30 p.m.	Worship Team meets
Sun 15th	10.00 a.m.	Caroline Colin & Mandy Denton Themed Preaching
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church
Tue 17th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm)
Wed 18th	12.00 p.m.	Lent Lunch at St Lawrence Church, Heavitree **
Thu 19th	2.00 p.m.	Minister's Bible Study in the lounge **
Mothering Sunday		
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Themed Preaching & Pastoral Visitors Re-Dedication
	6.30 p.m.	Prof Esther Reed - Café Church
Wed 25th	12.00 p.m.	Lent Lunch at Blessed Sacrament, Heavitree **
	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 18 Tuckfield Close **
Sun 29th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Paul Smith
	6.30 p.m.	Local Arrangements

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

Request for Help at the Devon County Show 2020

Margaret Simmons (Silverton) is looking for help from 2 or 3 more people to join the team making tea/coffee and serving cakes on the Churches stand at the Devon County Show on May 23rd. The stand is open from 8.15am until 5.30pm and they need about 6 people on at a time.

You will get a ticket to get into the show ground and then take turns with the other helpers to look around the show.

There is a lot of standing/walking so you need to be reasonably fit but there is a lot going on and it is an ecumenical effort. The visitors are very appreciative of us being there. It really is a good advert of Churches working together.

Contact Margaret Simmonds by email if you can help -

margaretsimmons22@yahoo.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
(2nd Sunday in each month is Prayer & Praise)

Monday

Girls' Brigade (4 - 16 year olds) 5.45 to 7pm ***A***
7.30 p.m. Away Group Bible Study

Tuesday

9.15 a.m. Weekly Prayers in the Quiet Room
10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café *(3rd Tuesday each month)*

Wednesday

7.30 p.m. Home Group Bible Study *(fortnightly)*

Thursday

2.00 p.m. Minister's 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 April 2020 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th March 2020. 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