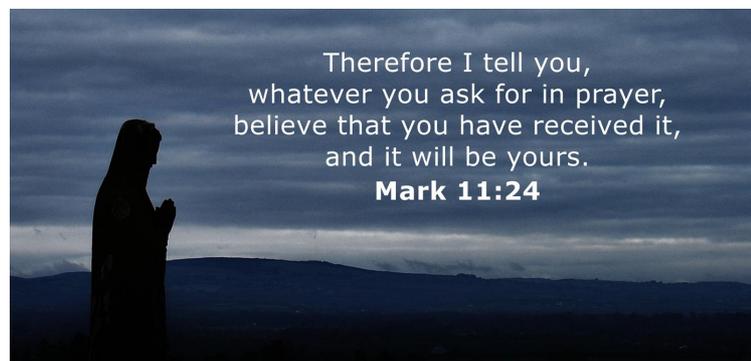


Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

March 2021

(No: 497)



Therefore I tell you,
whatever you ask for in prayer,
believe that you have received it,
and it will be yours.

Mark 11:24

Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



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A Message From The Minister

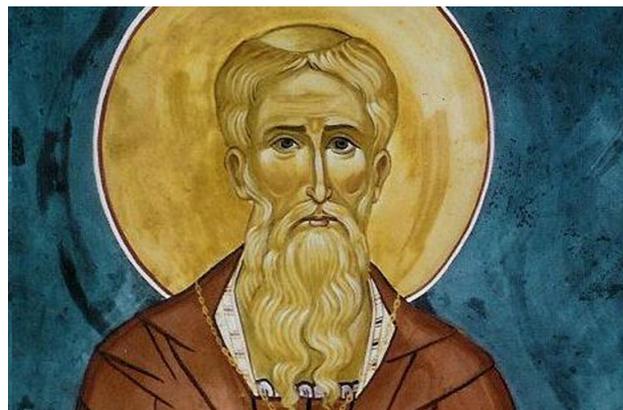
Dear Friends,

This month marks a special saint's day, and I'm not talking about the over-rated Patrick. March 20th is the feast day of St. Cuthbert. I know we Methodists don't do saints in a big way, and there's a good reason for that. A saint, biblically, is anyone who has given their life to Christ. Nonetheless, I like Cuthbert. I lived in Durham for two years, and walked past his awe-inspiring tomb most days. Cuthbert became famous in his own lifetime for his holiness, learning, love of creation and his inspirational preaching. He had a passion for mission, but valued contemplation and reflection too. His eventual final resting place, amid the Norman splendour of Durham Cathedral, is fitting, I feel. I'm grateful to all such as Cuthbert who have carried out the Great Commission in their own day so that the Church can be here today.

There are social and cultural pressures on us at the moment pushing us to see the past entirely in negative terms – as an endless catalogue of oppression and injustice and wrong thinking. As well as being ludicrously simplistic, this approach ignores the many bright lights which illuminate the history of our species, the many examples of faith and godliness, the countless examples of God's grace being made manifest in human lives, down the ages. We are not living in a uniquely enlightened age - far from it. We have our glories, and our follies, as any other era does.

To assume that goodness and truth exist only in our own time and that we can therefore expunge everything and start again is supremely misguided. Every age builds on the advances of previous ones, but still manages to make plenty of mistakes of its own. History gives us valuable perspective and the great figures of our Christian heritage give us something else as well – inspiration. We need our Cuthberts, as it were, if we are going to be in our age and generation what they were in theirs. Let's be grateful for all who have gone before us, whether the example they have left is one to learn from or to emulate.

With every blessing
Ben Haslam



Themed Preaching Series on Holy Habits Spring 2021

The theme topics are taken from the book Holy Habits by Rev Andrew Roberts (Malcolm Down Publishing 2016).

Mar 14th	Rev Ben Haslam	Worship (with Communion)
Mar 21st	Rev Paul Smith	Making Disciples (Passion Sunday)

All the above dates are for 10am services only.

Property Steward

Graham Prowse has kindly agreed to become our new property steward. We wish him well in this new role.

Persecution and the Early Church: a series of three Zoom Sessions

Thursdays March 4th, 11th, 18th: 7 pm to 8 pm

March 4th: "The destroyers of our Gods": pagan motives and their consequences

The Romans were not in general intolerant of strange religions, so why did they persecute the Christians ? What did the Christians do to deserve it ? Or was it what they did not do?

Reading: Pliny the Younger Letters X, 96-7. Emperor Maximinus Daza: Rescript to the City of Tyre of 312 AD (in Eusebius HE IX, 7, 2-15 = 283-85)

March 11th: Fear, apostasy, flight and defiance: the range of Christian reaction

Our idea of the persecutions is dominated by the passions of individual martyrs, but many of these are fiction. Even the authentic passions record only the last stages of the martyr's trial and execution; it is as if all we had of Hamlet was the pile of bodies at the end of the final Act. A more rounded picture of Christian experience under persecution, especially of the fear that it engendered, can be gleaned from reading a wider range of sources.

Reading: Letters of Dionysius Patriarch of Alexandria (HE VI, 40-42 = 205-10)

Peter, Patriarch of Alexandria Canons of Easter 306

March 18th: "Being made perfect": the spirituality of the martyrs

The inspirata patientia of the martyrs, their 'inspired endurance', aroused admiration. Where did the inspiration come from ?

Reading: Extracts from Origen Exhortation to Martyrdom

Passion of Polycarp (Musurillo 3-21 odd)

Passion of Phileas (Musurillo 330-345 or 353 odd)

How We Can Make a Difference - 'Green' Days throughout March

22nd February to 7th March - Fairtrade fortnight.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us more than ever how interconnected we are globally. This is at the very heart of the Fairtrade message and is where our role begins. By supporting Fairtrade, we have the power to drive long-term change, not only with our shopping choices but with our support in spreading the message and through prayer. Thank the Lord for the work of organisations like Fairtrade and Traidcraft, and lift our prayers of support for the farmers & workers who grow our food and the issues they face.

3rd March – World Wildlife Day.

The theme for this year is 'Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet'. This looks to shed light on the links between the state of our planet's forests & woodlands and the preservation of the many livelihoods that depend on them, with much attention to the traditional knowledge of the communities who have managed forest ecosystems & its wildlife for centuries!

This aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 2 (Zero hunger), Goal 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), Goal 13 (Climate Action) and Goal 15 (Life on Land). We are being encouraged to just #DoOneThingToday to make a difference and help wildlife conservation.

Set a Goal – Live your daily life with the smallest negative impact on the environment, wildlife, their habitats, or the planet's biodiversity, discuss wildlife conservation and what you and your community can do to help.

Consume Responsibly – we could find out how and what we consume could affect the lives & environment of wildlife. And ask ourselves is it ethically sourced, promoting sustainable living and good animal welfare?

Stay informed – learn more about the planet's flora and fauna, including those that are in danger of extinction.

Volunteer – we cannot always give money, but we can pray and donate our time. Often wildlife and conservation organisations like the Devon Wildlife Trust & Ludwell Life have volunteer events and even safely picking up & disposing of litter can protect wildlife from harm.

18th March – Global Recycling Day.

Every year the Earth yields billions of natural resources and at some point, in the not too distant future, it will run out. Think again about what we throw away – seeing not waste but opportunity. Recycling is a key part of the circular economy, helping us to protect our natural resources. Give thanks to our Creator God for the wonderful world He has given us and pray that we as stewards cultivate, guard and use it wisely.

22nd March – World Water Day.

How important is water to your home and daily life, your wellbeing, your local environment? Think about the different ways water benefits our lives, how we can value water properly and safeguard it effectively for everyone. Thank the Lord for all we have and pray for those who cannot turn on a tap or get fresh water.

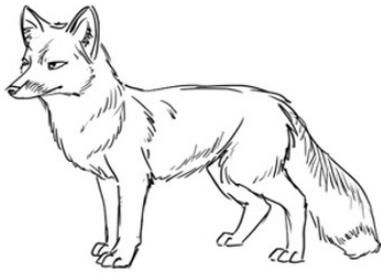
Sue Keatt and the Church Green Team

"Build on a Strong Foundation" - 5th March

The World Day of Prayer is a women-led global ecumenical movement always held on the first Friday in March. It will not surprise you that this year in Exeter there will be no Service held in a building, though it was to have been held in the Mint Methodist Church.

"Build on a Strong Foundation" is its title, and it has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu in the South Pacific. Karenza Cordery, who is planned to lead our Wonford Service on Sunday 7th, has kindly agreed to include a bit about Vanuatu in that Service. Some of us have attended the World Day of Prayer Services over many years, where an envelope collection is taken for projects in the country who prepared that year's Service. I am hopeful of getting envelopes and anyone who would like one - please ask me for one (01392-437329) - and then I can arrange to collect it afterwards (or if Wonford is 'open' on that Sunday 7th it will be collected then). Afterwards our Church Treasurer will be checking the envelopes with me.

Margretta Bowstead



British Wildlife of the Forest Word Search



h	q	b	a	t	s	c	z	c	k	n	o	z	m	e
i	z	e	f	h	n	j	m	i	f	f	w	e	o	p
s	q	u	i	r	r	e	l	t	p	r	l	r	w	b
j	n	y	r	k	i	t	b	a	m	i	e	g	s	a
o	a	f	s	e	y	i	n	b	o	e	s	o	a	d
i	n	r	s	h	d	r	u	l	t	f	u	i	t	g
g	t	l	c	h	e	d	g	e	h	o	g	d	r	e
e	s	h	u	d	e	r	p	q	l	x	k	y	e	r
a	l	d	d	o	r	m	o	u	s	e	l	c	e	a
r	e	h	i	a	r	t	j	r	n	r	c	h	c	l
w	o	o	d	p	e	c	k	e	r	m	u	m	r	l
i	u	z	y	h	w	m	u	b	e	e	t	l	e	s
g	x	n	b	h	s	e	i	k	r	u	n	k	e	b
o	s	c	h	i	f	f	c	h	a	f	f	p	p	i
m	u	k	y	a	s	e	f	p	b	l	u	u	e	k
p	l	s	e	c	h	g	h	g	b	q	t	o	r	b
a	f	o	p	a	a	t	j	a	i	w	o	o	d	s
c	x	b	v	r	d	y	y	s	t	o	a	t	o	o
w	i	z	a	e	r	j	e	s	o	y	d	t	a	h

Find the words

ants
badger
bats
beetles
chiffchaff

deer
dormouse
earwig
fox
hedgehog
moth

rabbit
squirrel
stoat
toad
treecreeper
woodpecker

Prayer Focus for March

Prayer - Our Strongest Weapon - Pray Without Ceasing

Over the last year we have concentrated on COVID 19. Please continue to pray about this as you are led.

Pray also for world events. Many wars are continuing & natural disasters, earthquake in Japan, typhoon in the Philippines, in India a glacier broke away causing a landslide burying many. Any natural disaster during a pandemic causes so many more problems. How do you socially distance when people have to go to a venue for shelter and help along with so many others? Pray for those people who are considered 'too low' to bother with, like the Dalit people.

I think we all long for the day when we can meet together to worship without masks and being able to hug one another, to draw close to pray for each other, to hold the hand or put an arm around someone in distress. Pray for the roll out of the vaccine and its take up, that as many as possible will go for their jabs that would make that possible.

Give thanks though, that as church doors closed online services and young peoples meetings have reached people who never go into a church building. What an opportunity for the church to reach out to those. Pray that more will be reached.

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)

Various prayers and services from the Methodist Church are available to listen to via free-phone telephone numbers:

To listen to a short prayer – 0808 281 2514

To listen to a selection of Methodist related news stories: 0808 281 2478

(Content for both is updated weekly on a Thursday afternoon)

Services in March

Services at 10am are listed below. We are hoping to open the church again in March. Further details will be sent out when a decision has been made.

7th	Karenza Cordery - All-Age Worship
14th	Rev Ben Haslam - 'Holy Habits' Themed Preaching **
21st	Rev Paul Smith - 'Holy Habits' Themed Preaching **
28th	Prof Tony Wragg

A BIG Thank You

Vanessa and Andrew would like to thank everyone who have sent a card, email, made a telephone call expressing their condolences following the recent passing of their mum Barbara Jackson. Special thanks go to Rev Alan Rothwell for leading the funeral service, Tony, Joan, Pippa and Paul for helping at the funeral service and Rose and Mandy for decorating the church with flowers.



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 April 2021 Newsletter will be Sunday 14th March 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**