

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

March 2025

(No: 538)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



@WonfordMethodistChurch



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A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

Psalm 139

The Ancient Israelites were surrounded by peoples who believed in some very unpleasant gods. Many of these 'gods' were downright hostile towards the people they looked down upon and you can only imagine if these pagans had read Psalm 139 – which is all about a God who is not remote and hostile, but lovingly intimate with His people. They must have thought that such a God was too good to be true. If we believe, however, that God reveals Himself through His word, then we can take it that Psalm 139 shows us the depths of God's concern for the people He created. He knows us. We matter to Him.

However, to some, the idea of a God who takes this level of interest in us won't necessarily be welcome to everyone. I often think that many people that many people reject God, not so much because they don't believe as because they don't care for the idea of an all-seeing God who knows every detail of their lives and might not approve of everything they do! What I dearly wish these people would realise is twofold: firstly, that this God who sees all exists whether they choose to acknowledge Him or not, and pushing Him away will have far more disastrous consequences than accepting that He is God and allowing Him into their lives. Secondly, that this God desires only our good and our flourishing and He knows far better than we do how that is best to be achieved. He is a God we are called to learn to love and trust, a God who has revealed Himself to us in Jesus Christ. The God we see revealed in Jesus is a God of self-giving love, a God we can unreservedly trust our lives with. One final thought on Psalm 139 – if you're ever feeling at a low ebb, or lacking in any sense of worth or value, stand in front of a mirror and read this Psalm to yourself. Remember that this is God speaking to you – words of reassurance and words of deep love.

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

Dates For March 2025

Coffee

2nd	Rose & Paul
9th	Jenny & Alison
16th	JoJo & Helen
23rd	Margaret & Terry
30th	Nessy & David

Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In March they meet on the 14th and 28th. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us as we explore the Bible together and share fellowship. We are about to start a new study guide looking at the life of Jesus. Please speak to Monika Noronha or Terry Spencer if you want further details.

Monika

The Away Group

This group meets on a Monday evening every fortnight at 7.30 pm in the lounge. Dates and venues will be given out each Sunday in the notices.

Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 18th March 2025. This month we welcome back our good friend John Davidson who will talk about 'The Train Now Arriving'. The coming of the railways to Exeter.

We meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake. Please join us if you can.



Monthly Prayer Meeting

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. For March this will be the 18th.

Lisa Thomas

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

(We will also serve a light lunch and pud (for a cost of £1) between 12.00 and 12.30pm. ***Please Note - this will be finishing at the end of March.***)

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

1st March

We will be taking part in the Great Devon Breakfast raising money for the charity FORCE, so please join us for some tasty breakfast/brunch treats and help us to raise funds for this fantastic charity. ***(A light lunch will not be served today).***

8th March

It is World Book Day and International Women's Day so we will be joining the two together for a quiz about female writers.

15th March

Our focus today will mark English Tourism week so please bring some of your holiday photos and share your happy memories of visits to our lovely English villages, towns & cities.

22nd March

There will be a games morning, which will include table football, magnetic darts, table top curling and mini table tennis

29th March

Ahead of Mothering Sunday we will be making up flower posies for our Sunday service

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

Themed Preaching for Spring 2025

We have started a new series entitled 'The Master's Men' (*and Women - see Luke 8: 1-3*). Further details of the remaining parts are below.

Mar 9	James (The Brother of John) (A Man of Ambition) (<i>Mark 10: 35-45</i>)	Rev Ben Haslam
Mar 16	Andrew (He Brought Others to Jesus) (<i>John 1: 35-42</i>)	Caroline Colin
Mar 23	John (The Apostle of Love) (<i>Luke 9: 49-56</i>)	Rev Gareth Higgs
Mar 30	Peter (The Man Who Became a Rock) (<i>Mark 8: 27-33</i>)	Prof Tony Wragg

The Book Nook

We previously had a bookcase of Christian books in the Church Hall but we now have a Book Nook!

The charity 'Exeter City of Literature' have a project called 'Books in Warm Spaces' and have given Wonford Welcome books for children, teens and adults including craft books from David Charles. New Christian books from Bridge Books have been purchased with a grant from 'Speaking Volumes' and the Church has provided a children's bookshelf and children's books.

All of these books are available for everyone to browse and borrow.

The Book Nook is in well used by the Toddler Group and it is wonderful to see the parents and children looking at books together but we would encourage more people to use it on Saturdays and Sundays.

If you would like to contribute to the Book Nook please speak to Sue or Helen.

World Book Day

Wonford Welcome will be celebrating World Book Day UK on March 8th with a book quiz and story telling for younger children and we will also be finding out more about people's favourite fiction!

Recently 'Exeter City of Literature' organised a search for Exeter's favourite book. From the suggestions made a shortlist of six was drawn up and the winner was Lord of the Rings

I wonder what the favourite novel at WMC would be? I have asked a couple of members of the Church Book Club Wonford Worms and their suggestions include:

All The Light We Cannot See - Anthony Doerr

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - CS Lewis

A Thousand Splendid Sons - Khalid Hosseini

Last Christmas at the Castle - Tricia Ashley

Birdsong - Sebastian Faulkes

Jamaica Inn - Daphne du Maurier

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo - Stig Larsson

Please come along to Wonford Welcome on March 8th and let us know your top three books/authors!

Helen

A Worthy Investment

When an elderly widow in my Darlington Church died in the 1960's, relatives discovered several tins of salmon in her larder, which had 'blown', and needed to be quickly disposed of. During WW2 she had occasionally bought a costly tin and stored it, waiting for some celebratory moment to open it.

In more recent times, during the 2020 Covid lockdown, many people stockpiled lots of vegetables and fruit; before long they found their bananas had turned brown and mushy. The message is: never stockpile foodstuffs subject to decay!

During the Jews' gruelling Exodus trek through the desert, escaping from Egypt's Pharaoh, God provided them with manna, a remarkable flaky food which fell from the sky every morning. The one, vital command by God was to pick just enough for one day's need. If too much was gathered, it became inedible. Not surprisingly many years later, Jesus urged us to pray: 'Give us THIS DAY our daily bread.'

So what is of lasting value? Even on his first day of Presidency, Donald Trump's cryptocurrency had millions of US\$ wiped from its value! Financial experts warned that there might be more volatility in the pipeline, even disaster. Contrast that with the opening words from a 'Call The Midwife' episode: "And there was LOVE, because love grows where nothing else is certain."

The ever popular film “Sleepless In Seattle” ends on the top of the Empire State Building with Sam, Annie and Jonah walking together, hand in hand, with Jimmy Durante romantically singing, “It’s so important to make someone happy, one girl you’re everything to; someone to love is the answer.”

True love is of **lasting** value, and the supreme architect of love is God Himself! The greatest verse in the whole of the Bible states: “God so **loved** the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not PERISH, but have **everlasting** life!”

“LOVE came down at Christmas, love all lovely, **Love** Divine.”(Christina Rosetti)

“Amazing **love**, how can it be, that Thou my God shouldst die for me?

‘Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!” (Wesley)

“See how these Christians **love** one another!” (Tertullian)

“When Jesus wraps this all up, it’s your faith, NOT your gold, that God will have on display.” (1 Peter 1 verse 7)

“Wise men came with the treasures of earth in their hands, and left with the TREASURE OF HEAVEN IN THEIR HEARTS!” (Alan Lathwell)

Jesus’ love is a love **worth** investing in!

Rev Malcolm Carter

Prayer Focus for March 2025

Week Commencing Sunday March 2nd

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor”.

Luke 4:18

Church Action on Poverty Sunday. We pray for all those who struggle to heat their homes, feed their families or make ends meet. Jesus, champion of the poor, fill us with your compassion to help change the lives of those in the grip of poverty.

Week Commencing Sunday March 9th

Jesus answered, "It is written:
'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"
Luke 4: 8

Jesus, tempted even as we are, may we keep our eyes fixed on you and you only. May we worship you wholeheartedly and not be distracted by worldly things.

Week Commencing Sunday March 16th

The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?
Pslam 27:1

Jesus, Light of the world, shine the light of your love into the hearts and lives of those who live with fear. We pray for people we know and for situations around the world where people live in fear.

Week Commencing Sunday March 23rd

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.
Psalm 63:1

Jesus, who offers living water to the spiritually thirsty, give us opportunities to talk about you when people express their hunger and thirst for the truth.

Week Commencing Sunday March 30th

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are attentive to their cry;
Psalm 34:15

Jesus, our good shepherd, we thank you that you care about all the things that trouble us. We pray that you will meet the needs of all who cry out to you.

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

News from the Methodist Church

We do not live by bread alone

In the wilderness, Jesus reminded us that people don't live by bread alone. Each week during Lent, we'll reflect on what sustains us, based on the lectionary Gospel passage for Sunday.



What's available for individuals?

You can sign up for this resource by going to:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/soul-food/>

You will receive 40 daily deliveries of spiritual nourishment through Lent, delivered to your email inbox.

Here's what to expect each day if you sign up:

Monday: A recipe video using easily available ingredients. We encourage you to cook and share this with your community—perhaps as a Sunday meal after church!

Tuesday: A Bible study video, with discussion on questions from the week's Gospel passage.

Wednesday: A craft video, perfect for doing at home or in a group setting. Craft Resources - *if you have the electronic version of the newsletter clicking on the link below will give you the resources.*

[Journal Pages covering Lent through to Easter \(Pdf\)](#)

[Craft 4 Template - Hands holding heart \(Pdf\)](#)

[Craft 8 Template - Women witnesses \(Pdf\)](#)

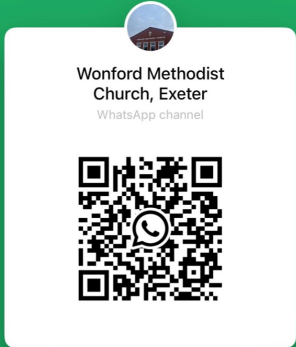
Thursday: An inspiring story about how the Methodist Church and our partners work to ensure nourishment and care for all.

Friday: A reflection on a classic soul song, revealing the good news within its lyrics.

Saturday: Soul Food Saturday, our magazine-style video show, featuring a panel sharing weekly highlights and showcasing photos from across the church. We'd love to see what you're up to during Lent!

Sunday: No email, but we invite you to gather in worship, reflecting on the theme as you praise God together.

**Did you know that you can follow
Wonford Methodist Church on
WhatsApp?**



Wonford Methodist
Church, Exeter
WhatsApp channel

Scan this QR code
on your phone's
camera

Make sure that
your notifications
for this channel
are unmuted!

You'll be kept informed of all the Church
activities

Dates For Your Diary

March 2025

Sat 1st	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) including the The Great Devon Breakfast raising funds for FORCE **
Sun 2nd	10.00 a.m.	Dr Jon Curtis - All Age Worship
Sat 8th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 9th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Themed Preaching and Sacrament **
Fri 14th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 15th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 16th	10.00 a.m.	Caroline Colin - Themed Preaching **
Tue 18th	9.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **
	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Sat 22nd	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Gareth Higgs - Themed Preaching **
Fri 28th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 29th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 30th	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - Themed Preaching **

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



The deadline for items for the April 2025 Newsletter will be Sunday 16th March 2025. 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

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 in the lounge *(Fortnightly)*

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.

*We will also serve a light lunch and pud (for a cost of £1)
between 12.00 and 12.30pm.*

(***A*** = No meeting during school holiday)