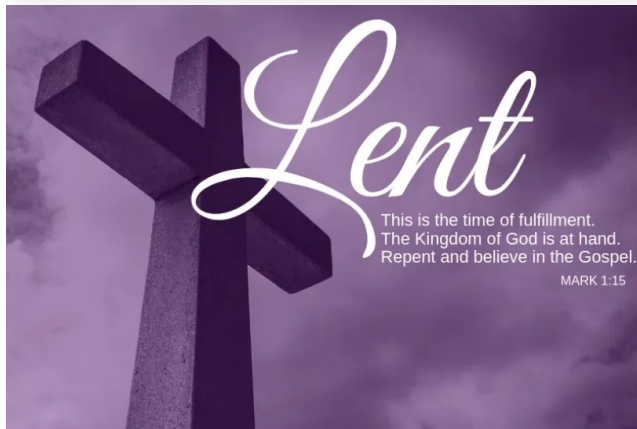


# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

March 2026

(No: 548)



**Senior Steward: Lisa Thomas**

**([info@wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk))**



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

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



@WonfordMethodistChurch



YouTube Wonford Methodist Church



# A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

## “Religion & Politics”

It is often said that if you don't want to cause any problems with work colleagues, neighbours or family members stay clear of talking about the subjects of religion and politics. However, as divisive as these subjects can be, it would be unwise to think that we could have any deep and meaningful relationships which avoided these subjects.

In this season of Lent we are bound to come up against these two subjects as we reread the stories of Jesus' final days confronting both the secular (Romans) and religious powers (Jewish Authorities) of his day. Pontius Pilate and Caiaphas represent the leaders of Jesus' time who struggled to work out how to respond to Jesus' startling claims.

At the trial of Jesus Pilate wants to release Jesus rather than have him put him to death, but is also confronted, by Jesus, with his own existential question: What is truth? (John 18:38) Pilate is forced to face up to the question of who and what is real and important to him as a human being apart from his role as governor of the Roman province of Judea.

(Interestingly, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church believes Pilate became a Christian and venerates him as a martyr and saint – a belief also held by the Coptic Church.)

Jesus' first trial before the Jewish Council (Sanhedrin) and the High Priest, Caiaphas, gives us a different picture. (Mark 14: 53 – 65) Jesus, because he claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One, was condemned for blasphemy. Jesus had repeatedly pointed out the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders who burdened the poor with a strict interpretation of the Law – the external rituals of religion - and had little time for God's mercy, justice and faith. Jesus was popular with the common people who heard him gladly whilst the scribes and Pharisees were resented and intent on holding onto control and power over their fellow countrymen and women. Hence their plotting to remove Jesus by manipulating the crowds and their overlords, the Romans. Maintaining the status quo (and resisting the new) is a common goal of those in power and wishing to remain so. In the case of Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin, their obsessive desire for holding onto their narrow understanding of religion blinded them to God's new revelation in Jesus.

As we continue our journey through Lent and Holy Week once again may our eyes be opened to the glory of the Son of God who loved us and was

prepared to suffer and die for our salvation as individuals and indeed the salvation of our religion and politics.

**Every blessing**  
**Rev Terry Spencer**

## Dates For March 2026

### Coffee & Tea

1st	Margaret C & Terry L
8th	Quentus & Cecilia
15th	Linda & Mervyn
22nd	Jenny & Alison
29th	Ann & John



### Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us as we explore the Bible together and share fellowship. In March we will be continuing to look at 'Prayers of the New Testament', and meet on the 13th and 27th. Please speak to Monika Noronha or Terry Spencer if you want further details.

**Monika**

### The Away Group

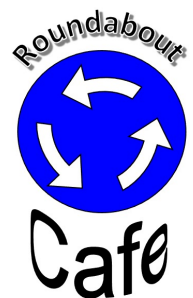
This group meets on a Monday evening every fortnight at 7.30 pm in the lounge. Dates and venues will be given out each Sunday in the notices.

### Roundabout Café

We meet on Tuesday 17th March when we are delighted to welcome our very own Rev Terry Spencer to tell us

#### 'How I Got Here'

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. This will take place on Tuesday 17th March 2026.

**Lisa Thomas**

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

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

**7th March** - our Wonford Welcome Big Quiz is celebrating International Women's Day - teams of up to 5 people & a prize for the winners.

**14th March** - ahead of Mothering Sunday we will be making up flower posies for our Sunday service

**21st March** - we'll be encouraging lots of smiles & laughter through fun activities to celebrate the International Day of Happiness

**28th March** - we hope you will come and join with us to play the Alphabet Game

Wonford Welcome is open to all; everyone, whatever their age, background 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 H, Paul & Rose, Paul H, Sue K and game host Dan.**

## **General Church Meeting**

We have our annual General Church Meeting after the church service on Sunday 29th March 2026.

After a short formal meeting we will split in to groups to consider four questions about the role of our church, how we contribute to mission & outreach in our community and the resources we require to do this at Wonford. Everyone is welcome and we would appreciate your thoughts & ideas please.

**Sue Keatt (Temporary Chair of Wonford's Church Council)**

## Themed Preaching for Spring 2026

In January we started a new themed preaching series entitled 'The Miracles of Jesus'.

Mar 1st	Jairus' daughter (AA)	Caroline Colin
Mar 8th	The raising of Lazarus (S)	Rev Terry Spencer
Apr 5th	The resurrection of Jesus (AA)	Rev Terry Spencer & Dr Jon Curtis
Apr 12th	The man at the Beautiful Gate	Paul Violet
Apr 19th	The conversion of Saul	Chris Carter

## Would You Like to Join a New Gospel Music Choir at Wonford Methodist Church?



As you know, our new minister Rev'd Mmasape joins us in September and it would be lovely to welcome her with a song or two from our own gospel music choir!

We have a choir leader from The Mint Methodist Church who is kindly willing to help us, so now we need a number of lovely & lively singers!

So, if you love the Lord and also want to raise the roof by praising him together (and maybe wearing bright, colourful clothes too) then please speak with me or one of the Church Stewards.

Thank you (in hopeful anticipation).

**Sue Keatt**

## Community News

### Lego

We have some lego at Church which is used on Saturday and Sunday mornings but we could do with some more! If you have any you can donate that would be great! Please speak to Sue or Helen. Thank you.

### Reducing Food Waste

Wonford Community and Learning Centre are part of the Neighbourly Scheme and receive items from Lidl and Sainsburys which would otherwise go into landfill.. Free food, flowers and plants are available to everyone at the Centre on Saturdays from 11am. This project is for everyone

## Feel Good Festival

Wonford Health Matters are working with Wonford Community and Learning Centre to put on a Feel Good Festival on May 16th from 11am to 2pm. This is an opportunity to find out about groups and clubs which support health and wellbeing, to access health and wellbeing information and services and to have fun! If you know of any groups that might like to take part please speak to Helen. We are also looking for musicians and face painters. Thank you!

Helen

## Advance Notice - Good Friday Service at the Cathedral

Running alongside this service is the Exeter 'Try Praying' bus campaign. If you'd like to donate head to <http://do.trypraying.org/donate> hit the 'donate' button and choose 'Exeter' from the drop down menu. We're hoping to have at least 15 buses with the Try Praying banner over the Easter period - and beyond! **Good Friday is on the 3rd April 2026.**

Thanks for all your support

**Hannah Richards, on behalf of the CTaX exec team**



## Drink More Milk!!

I have to confess I had a very strange dream at Christmas. Somehow, (don't ask me how!) Mr Putin, (Russia) Mr Netanyahu (Israel) and an official of Hamas were all together in the same room, wearing ear phones. Their door was deliberately locked, and for the next two hours all they heard was a record of the Beatles, repeatedly singing, "All You Need Is Love!" Every time the song finished, a voice spoke in their language, "Greater love has no-one than this, that a man laid down his life for his friends!"

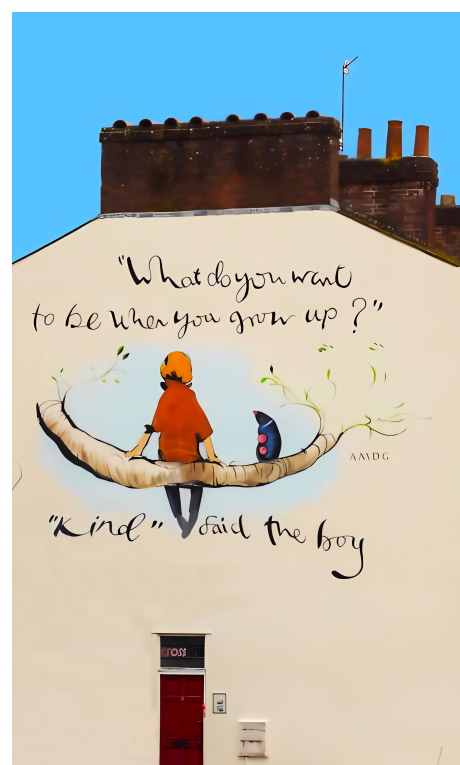
In the powerful, Christmas film 'Scrooge', Ebenezer Scrooge sings, "I hate people, I detest people, I loathe people.....," but fortunately Scrooge has a dream too, and is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present, who invites this unbearable miser to drink from his cup, offering him a chance of redemption. Scrooge samples the drink, and loves it! He asks the Spirit what it is. "It's the milk of human kindness, and you need huge quantities of it, Ebenezer!"

From that moment, Scrooge's life is remarkably changed. He starts to sing "I like life. Life is fine, life is good...." He even wishes that every day could be December 25th, and embarks on a mission of generosity, giving a huge turkey to Bob Cratchit his clerk and doubling his wages, not least providing all the needed medical care for Bob's handicapped son, Tiny Tim. All because he drank the milk of human kindness.

On Christmas Eve 2025, Putin sent 600 drones to demolish more of Ukraine and its terrified people. In contrast, the Churches of Exeter sent 1,636 boxes of Christmas cheer to Ukrainian people, to lighten some of their darkness.

In Exeter, we are blessed with an attractive, huge mural painted on a building in the centre of busy Exeter, from Charley Mackesy's famous book, 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse.' Perched on a tree branch, the mole asks the boy, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The boy's answer is **KIND!**

**KINDNESS** is one of the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit, (Galatians 5 v 22) and we must pray that in 2026, those world leaders in my dream (above) will drink vast quantities of this milk of human kindness, and like Scrooge find redemption. **JESUS**, as always,



paved the way:

“This is my commandment, that you **LOVE ONE ANOTHER**, as I have loved you.” St Paul latched on: “Be **KIND** to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another.” “All you need is love”.

“Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.....”

**Rev Malcolm Carter**

## **Mental Health First Aid Aware Course**

This takes place at The Mint Methodist Church on Wednesday 11th March 2026 from 12.30 to 5.30pm.

Tickets need to be purchased from the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1981571241927?aff=oddtcreator>

## **Prayer Focus for March 2026**

### **Week Commencing Sunday 1st March**

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;  
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.  
I will be glad and rejoice in you;  
I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.  
*Psalm 9:1-2*

We give thanks to God for all the signs of Spring. Here is a prayer challenge: Find something each day this week for which you can be thankful!

### **Week Commencing Sunday 8th March**

The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.  
They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.  
*Psalm 19:9b-10*

Give thanks for God’s Word, the Bible. Pray for all those who help us unlock its meaning and God’s purpose for our lives. How is the Prayer Challenge going? Keep it up!

## **Week Commencing Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday.**

He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

*Psalm 91:4*

Give thanks that God cares for every one of us and wraps his loving arms around us!

Continue the prayer challenge of daily giving thanks to God for something!

## **Week Commencing Sunday 22nd March**

I will proclaim the name of the Lord.  
Oh, praise the greatness of our God!  
He is the Rock, his works are perfect,  
and all his ways are just.

A faithful God who does no wrong,  
upright and just is he.

*Deuteronomy 32:3-4*

Give thanks, as Moses did here, that God knows what He is doing in our world, even when we find it bewildering. Even if being thankful is tough, find something each day to thank God for, however small.

## **Week Commencing Sunday 29th March**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

*Philippians 4:4-6*

The Message puts vs 6-7 like this: Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the centre of your life.

# Lent

is a spiritual reboot.

A journey of pausing, breathing and  
making **s p a c e** for God.

*It's a way of life.*



**Curious?**  
**Sign up to receive**  
reflections **through Lent**

# Dates For Your Diary

## March 2026

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m.	Caroline Colin - All Age Worship. Themed Preaching **
Sat 7th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm)
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Themed Preaching and Sacrament **
Wed 11th	12.30 p.m.	Mental Health First Aid Course at The Mint **
Fri 13th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study in the lounge **
Sat 14th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 15th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Steve Ayers
Tue 17th	9.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **
	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Sat 21st	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Preb Norman Wallwork
Fri 27th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study in the lounge **
Sat 28th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 29th	10.00 a.m.	Mary Hext
	11.30 a.m.	Church General Meeting **

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



The deadline for items for the April 2026 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th March 2026. There is no guarantee of inclusion, but they may be given to:

Andrew Jackson - 19 Hills Orchard, Martock, Somerset. TA12 6DF.

**Tel: 07818455600 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. 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.

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