

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

November 2017

(No: 463)



Minister: Rev Bruce Sawyer (01392 256716)



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

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



# A Message From The Minister

**Dear Friends,**

I mentioned last month that the Methodist Church is being encouraged to reflect on 5 disciplines, or rhythms, of discipleship and mission over the coming year; give thanks / keep silence / pray / act / read & reflect. This month we begin to look at these in a bit more detail, starting with “Give thanks”. In his letter to the church in Thessalonica, Paul encourages the believers there to “give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thess 5:18).

There are times when Paul’s encouragement seems unnecessary. Times when giving thanks to someone, or to God, is easy and natural. Times when our hearts overflow with gratitude and words come easily. Perhaps this is because it’s our birthday and the gifts we’ve received are obvious and wrapped in front of us, perhaps because we have been deeply touched by the thoughtfulness or care of someone, or perhaps because we have been moved by the beauty of something. There are equally times when Paul’s encouragement feels absurd. Times when giving thanks to someone, or even especially to God, seems difficult, maybe impossible. Times when gratitude is the last thing on our mind and things look bleak. Perhaps because the situation we are facing is overwhelming, perhaps because we are deeply touched by tragedy, illness, or pain, or perhaps because we are moved by injustice and suffering. Paul’s encouragement to give thanks in all circumstances then seems to us to be inappropriate.

Yet Paul’s understanding of giving thanks goes beyond feeling. At times Paul was writing letters from prison, or from house arrest, hardly circumstances in which we would naturally give thanks! Yet Paul begins each of his letters by doing just that; even if his situation doesn’t lead to thanks, he can thank God for the faith of others, for what God is doing through them. For Paul, gratitude is a discipline. It is a rhythm that we learn to practice. Sometimes it might involve looking beyond our immediate situation and rooting our thanks not in our natural feelings, which ebb and flow, but in the nature and character of God, whose love remains steadfast, who is gracious and compassionate.

So as we learn to practice these rhythms of discipleship and mission, how might you complete the following sentence each day this month?

**With every blessing  
Bruce**



# Dates For November

## Coffee

5th	Eileen & Melanie
12th	Rose & Paul
19th	Alison
26th	TBA



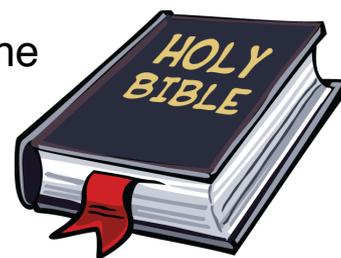
## Flowers

5th	TBA
12th	Julie & Alan - Remembrance
19th	Alison
26th	Bronwen & Clifford



## Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This group meets in the lounge at 2pm normally on the third Thursday each month. All are welcome. This month they are studying Job Chapters 6 & 7.



16th      2.00 p.m.      Bible Study in the lounge.

## Home Group

This group currently meets fortnightly on either a Tuesday or Wednesday evening. They extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join them, for this could be just the right kind of group for you!

### Monika Noronha

14th	7.30pm	At 18 Tuckfield Close
28th	7.30pm	At 14 Grainger Close

## Girls' Brigade Christingle

This will be on Monday 4th December at 6.00pm. Everyone is welcome! The service will be followed by refreshments and a cake stall.

We are raising money for 'Action for Children'



## **Our Calling**

Our Calling, in the Methodist Church in Britain, is to:

*increase **awareness** of  
**God's presence** and to  
celebrate **God's love***

***help** people to **grow and learn** as  
**Christians** through mutual  
support and care*

*to be a good **neighbour** to  
people in **need** and to **challenge**  
**injustice***

*make **more followers** of **Jesus**  
**Christ***

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

***Acts 2: 46-47***

## **Prayer Request from Exeter University Christian Union**

*International Events Week - 22nd to 24th of November 2017*

- ◆ Please pray for our international sec, Tom Banks, and Jen Hudson,
- ◆ Friends International Staff Worker, as they prepare 3 days of events to reach international students.
- ◆ Pray that God will make us useful for his Kingdom.
- ◆ Pray that any cultural barriers may be broken so that there is nothing in the way of the gospel.
- ◆ Pray for fantastic follow up for those who decide to follow Jesus.

*Carol service - Tuesday 5th of December 2017*

- ◆ Please pray for our evangelism sec, Alyssa Carey, as she plans and manages the carol service.
- ◆ Pray that God would already start making hearts softer.
- ◆ Prayer for our speaker, Adrian Holloway, as he preaches the word of God. Pray that God will speak through him and that seeds may be sown.
- ◆ Prayer for great follow-up for those who have responded.

Many thanks, Tom Kendall and Xin Yan Huang (ECU President and Vice-president 2017-2018.)

## **Parenting Teenagers – Getting Them (and you!) Through**

Wed 8 November, 7.30pm, Belmont Chapel

Do you feel like your teenager has become a different person overnight? Will they go out with you only if you wear a brown paper bag on your head? Or maybe your child is almost a teenager and you're feeling a bit apprehensive about what's ahead. It's normal!

There's hardly a mum or dad on the face of the earth who, at times, is not overawed by the task of parenting. And it's the teenage years that can be particularly challenging – especially the struggle to understand and keep up with our children's physical and emotional changes. At times like this, we often need a bit of encouragement and a reminder that we are not alone. At Parenting Teenagers – getting them (and you!) through, Rob Parsons and Katharine Hill will look at some of the common issues faced by parents of teenagers. They'll share insights and ideas gained from their personal experience of working alongside parents for over thirty years. The evening will help you, as mums and dads of teenagers, feel empowered and encouraged and, most of all, it will help you know that the challenges you face are not unique.

Book today: [www.careforthefamily.org.uk/parentingteenagers](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/parentingteenagers)

Call: 029 2081 0800 Tickets: £6 in advance, £7 on the door



**Sunday 26th November 2017**  
**4.00pm - 'Preparing for Advent'**  
**ALL Welcome**

# Wonford Methodist Church Facebook Page

Are you on Facebook?

Please 'like' our new church Facebook page to receive news and updates regarding events – search for @WonfordMethodistChurch



Please encourage your friends to like the page too!

We hope to regularly update the Facebook page to keep people informed about what's happening, so if you're organising a church/church group event or activity, please forward details to Andrew Jackson or Pippa Wragg-Smith for them to be added to the page.

For those not on Facebook, don't worry, you'll be able to view the same details by visiting our website ([www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk)).

## Justice Email

Methodists affirm that one aspect of "Our Calling" is to Service, which includes "challenging injustice".



There are many issues of injustice in the world, on many different levels, and it can be difficult to know where to begin. I don't know enough about what's going on, we might think. How can I make a difference? It's easy to feel overwhelmed.

**This is where Justice Mail can help!**

Justice Mail is a simple e-mail system that encourages individuals to take action on issues of injustice. It seeks to support the campaigns of many of the major development and justice organisations in the UK (e.g. Amnesty International, Church Action on Poverty, Labour Behind the Label, Christian Aid, Fairtrade, Greenpeace, Refugee Action, Shelter, WaterAid, Stop the Traffik).

Sign up for Wonford Justice Mail and once a month you will receive an e-mail that provides you with both information about a particular issue, and details of how you can take some simple steps to take action in this area (e.g. signing a petition or sending an e-mail).

Signing up to the Justice Mail list does not commit you to doing anything – each month you are free to decide whether you wish to take action – the e-mail acts as a prompt and provides information.

The creation of a Wonford Justice Mail list has been approved by the Church Council and will be managed by Bill Noronha. To become a part of the list and start taking action, just e-mail Bill: [billnoronha@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:billnoronha@hotmail.co.uk) – it's as easy as that!

We hope to issue the first e-mail in early December.

If you want to find out more, please speak to Bill Noronha or Bruce Sawyer, or visit the website: [www.justicemail.org.uk](http://www.justicemail.org.uk)

## Shoebox Appeal 2017

This year we are collecting boxes through Blythswood Care, which is an established Christian charity based in Glasgow, Scotland. They bring hope to families in Europe, Africa and Asia through filled shoeboxes at Christmas, relief and development aid or social projects for young and old. Their motto is 'transforming lives through Christian care for body and soul'.



The boxes are covered in wrapping paper in the same way as last year but can now be for adults as well as teenagers and children. The categories are Elderly Woman, Man, Woman, Teenage Boy, Teenage Girl, Boy or Girl. I will bring in some sample boxes and the leaflets, which provide a checklist of items that can be put in the shoeboxes. These include toiletries, stationery, toys & sweets as well as some items of clothing. Unlike the charity we supported last year, Blythswood have decided to keep the donation towards costs down at £3 per shoebox. Date for final collection at Wonford Methodist is Sunday 12th November.

### Sue Keatt

PS. We need empty & unwanted shoeboxes to wrap so if you have any then please bring them in!

## Lost Property

There is a large collection of lost property in the hall. Please collect it if it is yours otherwise it will go to a charity sale.

See Bronwen for further details.

## **Do You Believe In Miracles ?**

I wanted to tell you of a small miracle that happened recently.

In 2015, during the Lent Group, the question was posed 'does it matter whether there is a Christian Presence in the Middle East?'

A small group of Christians meet once a month with Sharon and I to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ because we believe they play a very important part in the reconciliation and caring for the marginalised and the different factions. We have prayed for Aleppo and Mousal, the refugees and boat people and more recently for the people of Yemen. We pray to support them in their time of need. We support Embrace, Barnabas Aid and other aid agencies.

Until recently we met at St. Stephens High Street, but because of concerts and art exhibitions we have had to meet at St. Olaves. This is where the miracle happened. Our friend Susan has bad legs and she could not attend St. Stephens any longer. St. Olaves doesn't have any stairs so Susan can attend once more. Thank you Lord.

St. Olaves, Fore Street, Exeter is a dear and very Spiritual space in our City. You would be very welcome to join us on the third Thursday of the month at 11am for about half an hour and find out what I mean.

Our next meeting is on November 16th when we shall use candles and place them on a map of The Middle East, say a verse and meditate on the various themes.

We look forward to seeing you and your belief in miracles.

**Sharon and Nick Goddard.**

## **Exminster's 2017 Christmas Tree Festival**

Plans are well underway for Exminster's 2017 Christmas Tree Festival over the weekend of 1st to 3rd December with an opportunity for group visits on Monday 4th. All money raised will be given to good causes in Devon including Action for Children.

Churches, groups, organisations, families, individuals, businesses and are all invited to display a decorated tree at the Festival and help make it the biggest and brightest yet. You can bring along your Christmas tree (real or artificial) and decorate it in your own colours, ideas etc. Why not start planning now! Entry is free.

Entry forms and details are available from Jeny on 01392 832553 or email [exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk)

Candles of  
Remembrance  
**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**NOVEMBER 2017**  
at 6.30pm

**Wonford Methodist  
Church**

A short service of  
reflection for anyone  
who would like to  
remember a loved one,  
by lighting a candle,  
or to simply sit quietly -  
with prayers and  
music.



# The Marriage Sessions:

## **COLLABORATE**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Wonford Methodist Church



An opportunity to invest in, and enrich, your relationship.

Explore:

- some of the common pressures couples face
- what happens when this leads to disagreements
- how to handle conflict well and move forward

together

### Reflections on The Marriage Sessions

Bill and I have attended the two Marriage Sessions which Bruce has organised over the last year. In one word they can be described as SPACE.

Space to just sit and chat with your partner, space to think about what matters in our relationship, space to watch a video and discuss the questions raised, space to enjoy light refreshments.

We were able to sit and be together with no pressures like group discussions, Q and A sessions and NO role play! The surroundings were comfortable and nicely lit with seating spaced out to provide privacy. Drinks and desserts were provided by a team of helpers [Paul Johnson, Paul Violet, Margretta, Pauline and Wayne - please forgive me if I have forgotten anyone! Your service made it all the more special, thank you.]

Also, the sessions came at a great time for us, just as we were getting used to an empty nest! We were very aware that we were entering a new era in our relationship. To be given this kind of support at this time was very special. Finally, it was a real treat to turn up at church and be able to enjoy the evening without any duties to carry out.

Thanks to all involved! We look forward to the next one, and encourage you to attend – you won't be disappointed!

Monika and Bill

## **Theme Preaching Series for Our Autumn Programme**

Our theme preaching on 'Lesser Known New Testament Characters' continues into November.

**Tony Wragg**

Nov 5	Lydia and Dorcas - All Age	Caroline Colin
Nov 12	Philip the Evangelist	John Allan
Nov 19	Barnabas	Bruce Sawyer
Nov 26	Timothy	Terry Spencer

*St Thomas Methodist Church, Cowick Street, Exeter*

## ***TRAIDCRAFT @ ST THOMAS***

**FABULOUS pre-Christmas Coffee Morning**

**Saturday 11 November**

**from 10:00 - 11:30**

**with Traidcraft tea, coffee, biscuits  
and Home-baking stall**

**our Traidcraft SHOP will be open PLUS**

**... craft items**

**... Christmas items**

**... cards for all occasions**

***ORDERS may be placed from the full Traidcraft  
range in the Autumn/Winter catalogue***

**Every purchase you make, no matter how small  
or great, makes a MASSIVE DIFFERENCE to the  
lives of and the life opportunities for the people  
and communities that TRAIDCRAFT work with.**

**The 'Traidcraft team' are looking  
forward to seeing lots of you there!**

# Prayer Focus for November

## Pray Without Ceasing

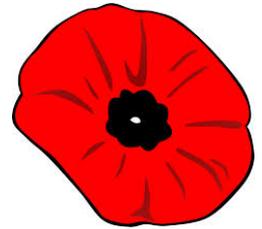
### Week beginning 5th

Our All Age worship will be led by Caroline Colin. Please pray for Caroline as she prepares for this service & studies to answer her calling into ministry. Remember to pray for all ministers & local preachers as they prepare to lead us in worship. Pray also for Celebrate Together. This caters for those with disabilities. Pray for their leaders & carers they will be blessed in their worship.



### Week beginning 12th

This weekend we remember those who gave their lives during times of war. It is a time to remember all who suffer as a result of war, those whose life has changed due to injury, those forced to flee from their homeland. Pray that those who have to flee will be accepted & cared for in the new lands they now live. Pray for healing both in body & mind to those affected by war. Pray that ALL wars may cease & peace will come to our world.



Pray for The Marriage Sessions: COLLABORATE. Pray for Bruce as he runs the session & for all who attend that they would be blessed by this time together to just be.

### Week beginning 19th.

This week there will be a service of remembrance for those who have lost loved ones during the year. Please pray for all who have been bereaved, that they would know the love & comfort & strength of our Lord.



### Week beginning 26th.

Please pray for our city of Exeter. Pray for all who work to spread God's love among those who live & work here. For CTAX & EEP committee members as they plan special events in our city. For all the churches who work together to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Both have meetings this month (CTAX 8th & EEP 21st). Pray that their plans will be God's plans to reach out to those who have yet to meet Him.



Also please pray for Messy Church taking place this week. Pray for the leaders & all who attend.

### **Phone Prayer 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 (437329) or Margaret Kearns (679949).

### **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**

### **Disaster relief for the Caribbean**

The Methodist Church in Britain is raising money to support the humanitarian aid and relief work following the heavy rains and winds causing disaster across the Caribbean.

The Church is working with its humanitarian aid and relief partner in the Caribbean, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which is supporting affected communities as soon as their needs are assessed.

Following Hurricane Irma, Bishop Otto Wade, the President of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, wrote that “Barbuda, Antigua's sister isle has been devastated. Anguilla, St Martin/Sint Maarten, USVI, and the British Virgin Islands were all greatly affected. As was the Turks and Caicos Islands of the Bahamas/Turks and Caicos Islands Conference. Many homes have been destroyed or have lost their roofs, as have some churches.”

You can read more details, including the effects of Hurricane Maria, on the Methodist Church website.

## **Rohingya Refugee Crisis Appeal**

**All We Can** and the **Methodist Church in Britain** are calling for support for this urgent appeal for refugees displaced by the recent violence in Myanmar.

Over the past few weeks, more than half a million people have fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State. The majority of those fleeing are Rohingya women and children.

All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain are calling for generous support for this urgent appeal to assist those seeking refuge in Bangladesh. People are in desperate need of water, food, shelter and access to medical care.

Since violence flared up in Myanmar in late August, an estimated 519,000 Rohingya people have sought shelter and safety in Bangladesh. Many are currently living in temporary, unsanitary structures constructed out of plastic sheeting and bamboo in informal camps and settlements. Refugees are arriving in Bangladesh exhausted and traumatised and camps and local host communities are struggling to respond to the scale of this disaster.

Food insecurity is one of the primary areas of concern, while providing health care, access to safe water and mitigating the threat of disease is critical. Heavy rains in recent days have made an already precarious situation worse for refugees trying to seek shelter in sub-standard housing and makeshift camps. All We Can's partner is responding to this emergency and is calling for urgent funds to help reach people suffering because of this crisis.

Humanitarian Aid Manager Jason Snuggs said: "Earlier this week, the United Nations spoke about the pressure Rohingya refugees are facing. People are arriving in Bangladesh fearful, exhausted and hungry, and in desperate need of immediate help.

"Many bring with them accounts of brutality and report having seen and suffered atrocities that have left them traumatised. Meeting the urgent needs of these refugees who have already suffered so much is critical. That is why we have launched this urgent appeal."

To donate, visit [www.allwecan.org/rohingya](http://www.allwecan.org/rohingya)



# Dates For Your Diary

## November 2017

Sun 5th	10.00 a.m.	Caroline Colin - All Age Worship. Themed Preaching **
	<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Celebrate Together
Wed 8th	7.30 p.m.	CTaX AGM & Council meets at URC, Southernhay
	7.30 p.m.	Parenting Teenagers at Belmont Chapel **
Sat 11th	10.00 a.m.	Traidcraft Christmas Sale at St Thomas MC (Until 11.30am)
		<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>
Sun 12th	10.00 a.m.	John Allan - Themed Preaching **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Brian Hadfield - Sacrament Service
Tue 14th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 18 Tuckfield Close **
Wed 15th	7.30 p.m.	Marriage Sessions - Collaborate **
Thu 16th	2.00 p.m.	Bible Study in the lounge **
Sat 18th	8.30 a.m.	Monthly Prayers and Coffee
Sun 19th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Sacrament & Themed Preaching **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Candles of Remembrance **
Tue 21st	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe meets (until 12pm)
<b>25th November to 10th December - 18 Days of Activism against Gender Violence</b>		
Sun 26th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Themed Preaching **
	<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Messy Church **</b>
Tue 28th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 14 Grainger Close **
Wed 29th	7.30 p.m.	Annual Pastoral Meeting

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

## December 2017 / January 2018 Edition

**The next edition of this newsletter covers December 2017 and January 2018. I know it seems too early to be thinking of Christmas but I need**



# 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

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

## Tuesday

9.15 a.m. Weekly Prayers in the Quiet Room  
10.00 a.m. Men's Coffee and Games Morning  
10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café *(3rd Tuesday each month)*  
7.30 p.m. Home Group Bible Study Meeting *(fortnightly)*

## Thursday

2.00 p.m. Bible Study *(3rd Thursday each month)*

## Friday

9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group **\*A\***  
2.00 p.m. Friday Fellowship in the lounge

## Saturday

8.30 a.m. Monthly Prayers & Coffee *(3rd Saturday each month)*

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 December 2017 / January 2018 Newsletter will be Sunday 12th November 2017. 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)