

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

November 2020

(No: 494)



**Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)**



Wonford is a Fairtrade church **The Methodist Church**

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

 @WonfordMethodistChurch



# A Message From The Minister

**Dear Friends,**

“What have I done to deserve this?” That’s what we sometimes scream in our heads, whether because of a ‘first-world problem’ or something truly awful. We often half-consciously assume there’s some connection between things going wrong and there being something wrong with us which means that we deserve it. We might know, in our heads, that this is rubbish, that life isn’t that simple, but the feeling can linger nonetheless.

In the New Testament, there are 40 instances of Jesus healing people. In almost every case, those healed are poor, marginalised, and rejected by everybody else. The healing that Jesus offers isn’t just physical healing, but also the healing which comes from being accepted, from being told that you have worth and value, that you matter. Jesus never explained why sickness happens and certainly never tried to fob people off with simplistic answers as to why the world is the way it is. He did though, make the love of God real and the people who met him found their lives changed forever.

There’s a prayer which talks about the ‘wholesome medicine’ of the gospel. This ‘medicine’ is a different kind of medicine and doesn’t fix every problem in life, but it will give us what we most desperately need - a place in the world where our souls are at home and love and acceptance more complete than anything we have ever known becomes ours. That heals far more than we often realise.

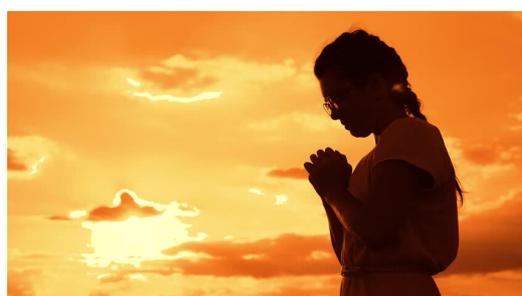
**With every blessing**  
**Ben Haslam**

## **Wonford Methodist Church Open for Prayer**

We will be opening the church for **PERSONAL PRAYER** on **Wednesdays only from 10am to 12 noon.**



**Personal silent prayer only and strict social distancing will apply**



## **Our Autumn Themed Preaching - Genesis**

This series continues into October as detailed below.

### **Tracing the work of God through the Mist A series based on the early chapters of Genesis**

Nov 8th	Genesis 9	Eternal promises Rev Ben Haslam
Nov 15th	Genesis 11	The Tower of Babel Dr Joan Wragg
Nov 22nd	Genesis 12	A turning point; God speaks to Abram Rev Terry Spencer

### **Property Steward Needed**

Wonford desperately needs a Property Steward to help look after our church and to undertake regular checks of the building and equipment. It includes arranging an annual check for safety of building, arranging any workmen to do repairs, etc and joining the Church council.

If you feel you have the time and skills please contact Rev Ben Haslam or Alison Howell who can give you more details.

Please consider this as it is an important part of keeping our church running smoothly and safely.

God bless

Alison

### **A THANK YOU from the Church Treasurer**

I would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of the church to everyone for their amazing generosity during the last six months. Our church funds have been maintained by everyone in our fellowship.

To those who regularly give by standing order or bank transfer; to those who joined the scheme during lockdown; to those who have personally given me their offering or posted it; and to those who have diligently put aside their offering to be given in later a really big thank you.

The Church Accounts have been prepared, examined and approved by the Church Council. We have a substantial sum of money in our reserves and will use this to improve our church premises. By Christmas we hope to have

the interior of our church decorated and by the February Church Council we hope to be able to move forward with work on our fence and car park.

We are a truly blessed fellowship - thank you.

**David Westcott**  
**Church Treasurer**

### **Michael's Memorial Stone**

Dear friends at WMC.....a little note to say there is a memorial stone , in loving memory of my dear late husband Michael, now in place at St Mary's Church, Cheriton Bishop.

We had a short outdoor service to intern the ashes, led by minister Rev. Martin Wood ... just 8 of us gathered at a peace-filled place to the side of the church, where there's an old stone cross in the ground, which seems to be there protecting the three small rows of memorial stones.

At the bottom of Michael's memorial stone is engraved. " The Lord is my Shepherd"

With my love and gratitude for all the kind thoughts and cards... sustaining words...and most of all the many heartfelt prayers I know have been prayed over the past seven months and which the Lord in His great love and mercy has answered in so very many ways....and to Monika too, for the beautiful, God inspired prayers at the service for Michael on "Zoom" which Mark Gilborson led most sensitively.

**God Bless all.**

**Judith Maher**

### **Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2020**

This year more than ever, we are aware of the importance of caring about others and showing kindness through giving to someone in need. They may feel that because of the global pandemic they may be side-lined or forgotten but imagine the joy when they receive a colourful paper wrapped box and then discover the gifts inside - what a Christmas present for someone truly in need!

We are collecting boxes through Blythswood Care again this year, though we will need to manage things differently with social distancing and other restrictions. Blythswood 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'.

You need to cover a shoebox in wrapping paper with the lid wrapped separately and they can be for adults as well as teenagers and children. The categories are; Elderly Woman, Man, Woman, Teenage Boy, Teenage Girl, Boy or Girl.

Their website [www.blythswood.org](http://www.blythswood.org) will provide a full checklist of items that can be put in the shoeboxes and you can print of a label from there, but if you don't have access to a printer then I can give you a leaflet. The donation towards cost of transporting each shoebox is £3. ***Date for final collection at Wonford Methodist is Sunday 15th November.***

Most important items - toothbrush & toothpaste, soap & flannel, hat/scarf/ gloves, sweets (dated at least March 2020), a small toy and pencils/ pens/ paper. Other suggested items for children - a ball, skipping rope, hair accessories, puzzles, stickers. For adults - shampoo, deodorant, comb, sewing equipment, candles (but no matches), kitchen utensils, screwdriver/ pliers, pack of cards, small wind up torch and for teenage girls/woman- sanitary products.



You might like to add in a Christmas card with a message, your name & town/country but do not put in your address. If you have any questions or you want to donate a few items or money instead of filling a box then please let me know - all contributions are very welcome and will help to put a smile on the faces of people who live in such poverty. This shoebox may be the only gift they have ever been given.

**Sue Keatt**

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

## **THANK YOU to ALL at Wonford**

We would like to say thank you to all those at Wonford Church who supported Alan, I and family through the years but also over our recent loss of Alan. We have been so richly blessed with bags of food, flowers, cards and kind notes, direct and indirect contact and all the prayers. We have all felt very loved and cared for.

**Yours Nussy, Dan, Emma and family.**

Alan only wanted a small informal funeral but I'd like to share my prayer prayed at his funeral.

## **A Wife's Prayer**

*Dear Lord,*

*I just want to say thank you for my Alan.*

*Thank you that he took on a grumpy mixed up teenager and ignored those who said it wouldn't work, that we were too young and that it wouldn't last. Thank you that he was kind and that he never raised a hand to me or was cruel.*

*Thank you that he taught me so much about normal family life.*

*Thank you that he always loved me and was honest and true.*

*Thank you that he always had my back, stood up for me and gave me courage to stand up for myself.*

*Thank you that our struggles and tough times brought us closer and we faced life's ups and downs together.*

*Thank you for his work ethic and his drive to persevere and provide for his family.*

*Thank you for all his funny ways that drove me mad but made him special.*

*Thank you for all the fun and laughter we shared.*

*Thank you for the father he was and the blessing of our 2 special children, he was very proud of them and loved them with all his heart.*

*Thank you for the granddad he was, being involved as much as he could teaching and loving with equal measure.*

*Thank you that you will care for him and that he will live on in and through us and our memories till we meet again.*

**Amen**

## **Flower Rota Update**

Artificial flowers are now replacing the weekly fresh flowers, for the time being. I am not doing a flower rota for the remainder of this year and possibly, the foreseeable future until church re-opens for normal worship. Instead, I will gladly do an arrangement that I will change fortnightly or as the Christian Calendar requires. If anyone who would like to do an arrangement for a specific week, they are very welcome to contact me so that we can make a convenient time on a Saturday morning to meet at the church. Likewise, if anyone has a special anniversary, that they would like depicted in the flower arrangement, please do let me know so that I can make a card and display this in the arrangement for acknowledgement.

**Mandy Denton**

# Prayer Focus for November

## Prayer - Our Strongest Weapon - Pray Without Ceasing

Here we are in November and rather than seeing the Coronavirus on its way out we are seeing huge numbers falling ill. This time it's hitting the young people, especially those in halls of residence in our universities. These are first year students, first time away from home. Pray that those who are ill will make a full and speedy recovery and the rest keep free of the virus.

Pray for families split up with one in a care home unable to have family visiting. Pray for our leaders as they make decisions for our country as they have to deal with the virus, when to restrict towns down and when to reopen them. At the same time they are in talks with the EU regarding Brexit.

Pray for OPENDOORS and other organisations as they work with the persecuted church in other countries that also have the COVID-19 making it very difficult to reach those affected. Pray for the Dalit people in India, the lowest of the low in that country.

Continue to pray for our church family. Pray for those who work the technology that makes it possible for us all to join in our homes either on Zoom or on Facebook.

*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 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)

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)

### **The Prayer Team**

## Services in November

Services at 10am are listed below. There is only one service at 6.30pm.

1st	Sally Naylor & ICE Team - All Age Worship
8th	Genesis 9      Eternal promises Rev Ben Haslam
15th	Genesis 11      The Tower of Babel Dr Joan Wragg
22nd	Genesis 12      A turning point; God speaks to Abram Rev Terry Spencer
29th	Rev Keith Salter 6.30 p.m.      Rev Keith Salter

## Pocket Park

A couple of years ago several Church members helped Wonford Planters and Surgery staff to plant wildflowers at Wonford Green Surgery which looked lovely as well as being pollinator friendly.

The next Wonford Planters project is to create a 'Pocket Park' next to the Doctors and the ground has been cleared in readiness. There will be work parties coming up – please look out for details if you would like to be involved.

## Wonford Health and Wellbeing Hub

Exeter City Council is looking at replacing the existing Sports Centre, Community Centre and Phoenix Suite with a Health and Wellbeing Hub (largely funded by Sport England). This facility is for the Wonford community rather than the whole city so it is important that the community have their say. There was an online survey which showed that though some residents wanted a gym and spin studio there was more interest in social/creative activities and opportunities for advice/support than there was in sport

The architects have now come up with four designs for residents to comment on. Please have a look at [www.thisiswonford.co.uk](http://www.thisiswonford.co.uk) or What Wonford Wants Facebook page.

The deadline for items for the December 2020 / January 2021 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th November 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](mailto:andrew.m.jackson@me.com)**