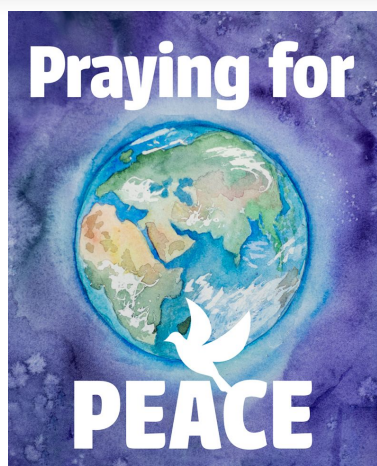


Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

November 2024

(No: 534)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



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A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

Psalm 121

Psalm 121 is one of the 'songs of ascents', a psalm which would have been sung by pilgrims as they 'ascended' the hill to Jerusalem, their destination and the site of the Temple. The Psalmist lifts his eyes to the mountains, where his help comes from. Perhaps he is referring to the Temple, symbol of God's presence and holiness, but perhaps he means that as he contemplates God's greatness, His sheer holiness, beauty and glory, he is, in a sense, lifted up in his inner being, so that the world around him no longer forms his horizon, that there is a larger reality beyond what we see around us.

Have you ever heard someone described as being 'too heavenly minded to be any earthly use'? Well, C.S Lewis believed the opposite, namely that those who 'fixed their minds on what is eternal, not temporal' actually achieved far more for the Kingdom of God than those whose concern is only with what they can see. Sometimes, we're too pragmatic and practical, spending too much energy in controlling our immediate surroundings and never standing back to see the bigger picture. Lewis believed that, if you aimed for heaven, you got earth thrown in as well. On the other hand, if you aim for earthly things and nothing more, you end up with nothing at all. We may live in the concrete world of the here and now, but we are invited to join in the song of the angels, to praise God for His majesty, glory and goodness wherever we are and whatever we feel like. Our faith teaches us, after all, that God is not distant but ever present and close, and the most stunning example of this is the incarnation – God appearing amongst us in flesh and blood, in Jesus Christ. God really is with us, and the more we allow our lives to be shaped by that fact, the more we will signpost Him to others, that they too might 'lift their eyes to the hills'.

With every blessing
Ben Haslam



Dates For November 2024

Coffee

3rd	TBA
10th	Linda & Mervyn
17th	Alison & Jenny S
24th	Elaine & Graham

Coffee after Sunday Worship

Coffee is served after morning service by volunteers. It is appreciated by all and provides a time of fellowship for everyone.

We have a small team of regular helpers for which I am very grateful, but it would be really great if a few more people could join our coffee team.

Please speak to me if you can help.

Melanie Westcott

Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In November they meet on the 8th and 22nd. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us as we explore the Bible together and share fellowship. 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 19th October 2024.

This month they welcome Mike Richards and his talk on 'Humour in the Police Force'. Mike is a retired police officer and will tell us something about his time in the police.



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

Monthly Prayer Meeting

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. For November this will be the 19th.

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.

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

2nd November - we'll be putting together a few Blythswood shoeboxes filled with gifts to send to people in Ukraine living in poverty.

9th November - you are welcome to help with the Shoebox processing in the hall or you can play a few table top games in the lounge.

16th November - it's time again for a game or two of picture Bingo with prizes!

23rd November - we'll be introducing a few fun activities to gently challenge your co-operation and co-ordination.

30th November - we will be celebrating St Andrew's Day with a short quiz to test your knowledge about the patron saint of Scotland.

We will also be practising our short skit for the church Carol Service throughout November and the first few weeks in December

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

Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2024

Last November, in our Church Hall, the Exeter Blythswood group processed and sent 1854 shoeboxes from Exeter & East Devon to people living in abject poverty in Ukraine. It is a



blessing to think that our boxes brought a little bit of happiness to each of the people opening them in December and discovering the gifts inside! We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine – for safety & shelter, reconciliation & restoration and for peace across their land.

We are collecting boxes through Blythswood Care again this year. Blythswood Care 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 so it can be opened easily and they can be for adults as well as teenagers and children. The categories are Male or Female; Preschool, Primary, Teenager, Adult or Elderly.

Their website 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 there are leaflets available in the church hall. The donation towards cost of transporting each shoebox is £3. **Date for final collection at Wonford Methodist is Sunday 9th November.**

Most important items - toothbrush & toothpaste, soap & flannel, hat/scarf/gloves, underwear, sweets (dated at least March 2025), a small toy and pencils/pens/ paper. Other suggested items for children - a ball, skipping rope, hair accessories, puzzles, toy car, 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.

To any of our talented knitters, each year we are most in need of scarves, large hats (we have too many small ones) and mittens or fingerless gloves please, for both children and adults. 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.

Please do contribute if you can. This shoebox may be the only gift they have ever been given and what a Christmas present for someone truly in need!

Sue Keatt

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

Thanks

Shortly after WW2, one of our ministers felt moved to send a letter to the teacher who had taught him many years earlier, thanking her for all the help she had given him. This is the reply he received:

“I cannot tell you how much your note meant to me. I am in my 80’s, living alone in a small room, cooking my own meals, lonely and like the last leaf of autumn, lingering behind. You will be interested to know that I taught in school for 50 years, and yours is the first note of appreciation I ever received. It came on a blue, cold morning, and it cheered me as nothing has in many years.” Not surprisingly, the minister burst into tears.

Let me tell you about Michael. I met him in Walton Prison. He had been dumped into care by his father at the age of 2, and up to the age of 18 had been switched from one foster home to another. He was bitter and angry. I invited him to our Methodist chapel, and slowly Michael began to change. Reading the Gideon New Testament I gave him led him to experience the overwhelming love which God had for him. This led to a firm faith in Christ. On release from jail, my wife and I invited Michael to spend a few days in our home, before travelling for a job in London, caring for homeless young people. A few weeks later, we received a letter from Michael telling us he was enjoying his work and finishing with, “Thank you both for letting me stay in your home.”

A few months ago, our Wonford Church had a visit from Mission Aviation Fellowship. For over 60 years, pilots have flown small planes to thousands of needy people in extremely remote parts of the world. We saw a video of Max Meyers, a pilot of a small Cessna seaplane, telling how he managed to locate two fishermen who had got lost on the sea off Papua New Guinea. Max courageously put his seaplane down on the swirling waters, and shouted to one terrified fisherman (sadly his friend was already dead) to jump into the sea, where Max somehow grabbed him and hauled him into the Cessna. Remarkably Max was then able to take off, and bring the fisherman safely to the nearest hospital. A truly amazing, single-handed

rescue, but Max never received one word of thanks from anyone!
No doubt Max would have smiled next time he read Luke chapter 17, where Jesus healed 10 men with awful sores, suffering from leprosy. They were thrilled, but only 1 man came back to thank Jesus. No wonder Jesus said, "Were not 10 healed? Where are the 9?"
Is there someone who needs a letter, or word of thanks from you? And, like those lepers, don't forget Jesus Himself! "Thank You Jesus, thank You Jesus, thank You Lord for loving me...."

Rev Malcolm Carter

Autumn Themed Preaching Series - 'Songs of the Bible'.

This series started in September and continues into December 2024. Below is an outline of the dates so you can read ahead.

November 3rd

All Age Service

Mary Hext

November 10th

At the name of Jesus (Philippians 2:6-11)

Rev Ben Haslam

November 17th

Worthy is the Lamb (Revelations 5:11-14)

Prof Tony Wragg

November 24th

Song of Solomon (Song of Songs 1)

Hannah Richards

December 1st

All Age Service

ICE Team

December 8th

The Magnificat (Luke 1: 46-55)

Dr Joan Wragg &
Rev Ben Haslam

Tear Fund Quiz Night

This takes place on the Saturday 16th November 2024. There will be a Bring & Share Supper and, of course, the quiz! Please think ahead about who you might invite and **save the date** in your diary.



Monika

Prayer Focus for November 2024

Week Commencing 3rd November

Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.
For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures
forever. Praise the Lord.

Psalm 117

Please pray this week for the District Chairs [people!] who will be meeting to place 70 ministers into 100 Methodist churches needing new ministers. Probationer ministers are few and far between these days. Pray for wisdom as this group of church leaders discusses the way forward.

Week Commencing 10th November

When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord;
he brought me into a spacious place.

Psalm 118:5

Our minister Ben, is one of those seeking a new appointment. Ask God to lead and direct him as he is offered places to visit which might be suitable for his next appointment

Week Commencing 17th November.

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 58:11

Pray for any ministers who may be considering visiting us for a prospective new appointment. Give our leadership team wisdom as they meet prospective ministers.



Week Commencing 24th November

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Psalm 27:13-14

Appointments may not be resolved in this first round of discussions. Pray for the churches and ministers who need to wait for the second round of discussions in January.

Prayer Meeting

We meet for prayer on the third Tuesday of each month (see earlier article) at 9am in the church lounge, just before the monthly Roundabout Café. If you are free at this time, please do consider joining us. Prayer is at the heart of all we do as Christians and within our church, so you could be involved! For those of you who work during the week but would like to pray with others in the church, please speak to Lisa, our senior steward about other possibilities of praying together. Thank 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

Wonford Community News

Wonford Planters: There are now only two of them looking after the flower beds in Burnthouse Lane and the Pocket Park so extra volunteers - regular, occasional or one-off – would be appreciated.

Ludwell Life: Work closely with Devon Wildlife Trust to look after Ludwell Valley Park and set up the Community Orchard near Pynes Hill

Wonford Community and Learning Centre: Groups and activities include like Wednesday Club, Community Café, Line Dancing , Age UK Tea Dance, Boxercise, Andy's Man Club and a board games group.

There is a 'help yourself' table with food, plants and other items donated by Lidl (part of the Neighbourly Scheme to reduce food waste) which is free to all. Separate to this is the Food Larder with basic food items available to those in food need. This is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings and no referral is necessary.

Exeter City Council are proposing to charge for parking at the Community Centre (and Sports Centre) which will have a huge impact on the Centre. There is a consultation until 10th November and the Community Centre are hoping there will be enough objections that it doesn't go ahead.

Chestnut Children's Centre/Family Hub: Last year Devon County Council asked Action for Children to change from Children's Centres to Family Hubs working with a broader age range. DCC have now decided to run the Family Hubs themselves and it seems that the main base in Exeter will be at Whipton. It is uncertain what provision will remain at the Chestnut Centre.

Chestnut Nursery School: have a breakfast club and an afterschool club and a family support worker who can help with transition into nursery.

Wynstream School: Have a Music Hub with free choir, guitar and drum lessons and reached the national Dodgeball Finals. Setting up a new Gardening Club on Wednesdays and volunteers would be welcome. Have now got funding for own library books rather than using Devon Library Services and the Library is open from 8.30am so that families can come in instead of sitting in cars on BHL with engines idling.

Wonford Green Surgery: Funding for a community event celebrating Wonford with interviews and portraits by international photographer

Burnthouse Lane Squilometre: recruiting a Pod (steering group) of local residents to co-ordinate events and activities to celebrate Burnthouse Lane particularly as the 100 year anniversary approaches. Speak to Jojo Spinks for more information

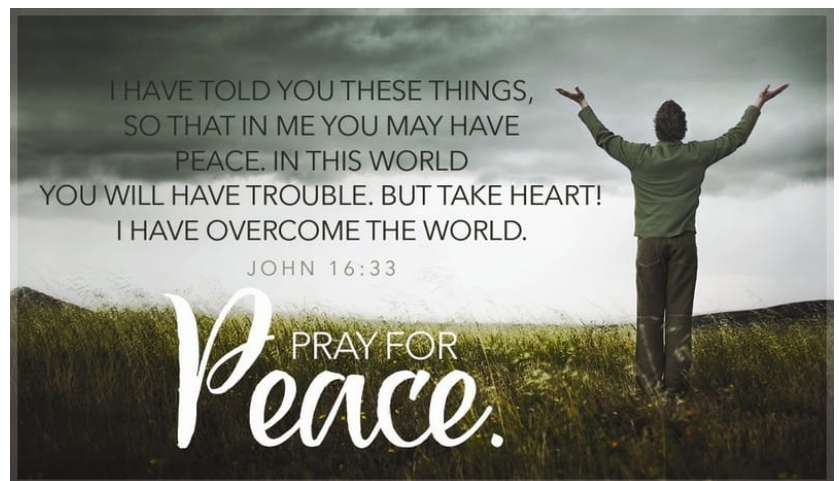
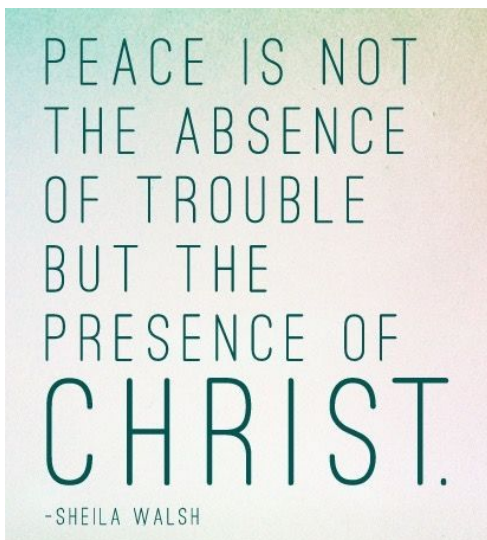
Helen (Wonford COGs Co-ordinator)

Dates For Your Diary

November 2024

Sat 2nd	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 3rd	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship with Mary Hext **
Fri 8th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 9th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) *
Sun 10th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam Themed Preaching & Sacrament **
Sat 16th	10.30 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) ** Tearfund Big Quiz inc Bring & Share Supper **
Sun 17th	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - Themed Preaching **
Tue 19th	9.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) ** Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Fri 22nd	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 23rd	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 24th	10.00 a.m.	Hannah Richards - Themed Preaching **
Sat 30th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **

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



The deadline for items for the December 2024 Newsletter will be Sunday 10th November 2024. 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 12.30 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)