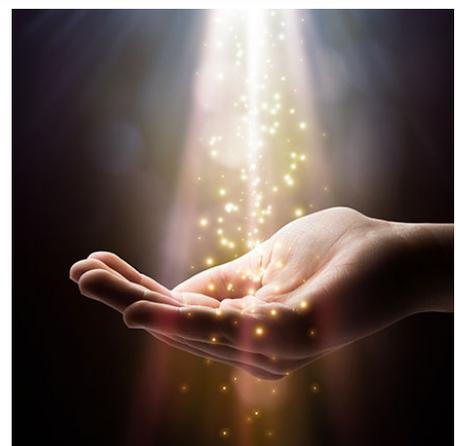


# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

October 2019

(No: 482)



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,**

Healing. It's a word we can use very glibly, or else we can shy away from using the word at all. There are two extremes to avoid when thinking about healing. One is to exclaim that we can't believe in an 'interventionist God' anymore, as there's so much suffering in the world – God must be powerless to help. It's useless to even think about God healing therefore, let alone pray for it. If we believe this, we have, to all intents and purposes, given up on God. (Incidentally, I have heard people say that it's wrong to pray for parking spaces, as why if God fails to solve much greater problems, why would He step in to help us find a place to park our car for a couple of hours? Why, for heaven's sake, shouldn't we pray for a parking space, if that is our most immediate need? Aren't we told to pray without ceasing? Aren't the whole of our lives, including what seem the more trivial matters, of concern to God? If praying for everything becomes your practice, surely you become a more effective and faithful intercessor where life's graver matters are concerned? **GOD IS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER NOT A UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE! TALK TO HIM ABOUT WHAT YOU LIKE! ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING! THAT'S WHAT PLEASES HIM BEST!**) Having got that off my chest, back to the subject...

The other extreme view, where healing is concerned is that God must always bring bodily healing in answer to prayer and if He doesn't, the one praying must clearly lack faith. This too is dangerous nonsense. God's ways are often inscrutable to us and ultimately, we have to learn to live with mystery. This is hard, and all of us will experience unanswered questions. Alongside those unanswered questions however, many have felt a deep certainty of God's goodness and supporting arm, despite darkness and pain. In John 6, people begin to find Jesus' teaching offensive and turn their backs on him. Jesus turns to the Twelve and asks, "Do you want to leave me too?". Peter replies, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life". In other words, 'your teaching may be hard to hear sometimes, your path you call us to tread may be costly, but who else can give us what you offer? Where else can we find the new life and the hope that we have found in you'. Peter has discovered the Greatest Truth. Where healing, and many other things are concerned, Christians may struggle sometimes, as others do. Christians however, have a hope, an assurance, a life-giving connection with God in their lives because they have found Christ who gives what can be found nowhere else. That's the best answer we have to give to

the rest of the world. We might not have all the answers all the time. Healing may come or it may not – or, it may come in a form we didn't expect. Healing may even come in the form of death. We haven't got an easy roadmap through these things. We have however, got a Saviour. The one, The Only Saviour. He has the words of eternal life and, but for Him, we would have nowhere else to go.

**With every blessing**

**Ben Haslam**

## **Dates For October 2019**

### **Coffee**

6th Madeline & David  
13th Elaine & Graham  
20th Alison  
27th Melanie



### **Flowers**

6th Harvest  
13th Harvest  
20th TBA  
27th Margretta



### **Home Group**

This group is now meeting fortnightly on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm in different members' homes, as our Sunday Screen Notices will tell each time. Anyone is welcome to come and join us as we explore the Bible together. Come with your questions or thoughts to help us, please! They will be continuing with 'The Kingdom of God' theme.

9th October	34 Station Road, Pinhoe	Matthew 13: 1-45
23rd October	18 Tuckfield Close	Matthew 20: 1-28

### **Minister's Bible Study**

This is led by Rev Ben Haslam each month and includes some discussion. It is usually held on the 3rd Thursday afternoon at 2pm in the church lounge, and lasts about an hour. At present Ben is part-way through one of

the York Course Guides called 'Daring to see God Now'; and it is helping us see and discuss the good news, despite all the bad news around - the kingdom of God is near. Please check the monthly Dates or church Notices each month. All are welcome!

### **“Theologising Brexit”**

On Sat 5th October, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm at The Mint Methodist, a joint Circuit, District & Diocesan ecumenical event with talk by Prof Anthony Reddie “Theologising Brexit” with links to the rise in nationalism, xenophobia and racist attacks. There will be a talk and some discussion; it is free to attend and all are welcome.

### **District News for 2019-20**

Rev Graham Thompson, Chair of Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District writes:

Throughout 2018-19 we have had a District focus on Prayer because prayer is the ‘heartbeat’ of our relationship with God. I hope this focus will continue and during the new Connexional year we will be giving a particular focus to Testimony as a result of a request that came from the young people of the Methodist Church for a Year of Testimony. Both prayer and testimony are about conversation - talking and listening - and being alongside another. Perhaps we should converse with God as much as we converse with others”, and we should talk with others as much as we talk with God? And the focus for our conversations can be the life of faith for which Jesus has rescued us and to which we have been called. Who will you talk to next about all that God has done for you?

### **Creation Service**

On the 27th July 2019 about 10 of our members attended Blessed Sacrament RC Church in Heavitree for a Creation Service



# Community News

## **The Great House and Wonford Village**

Local residents have been researching the medieval moated manor house (which is where Birch Court is now) and also the more recent history of Wonford Village. The end results will be an interpretation board about the Great House and a Wonford Village trail.

On the afternoon of October 27th the board will be unveiled and there will be tours along the Wonford Village Trail with teas available at the Church. Then that evening there will be a lantern procession to Wonford Community and Learning Centre for a celebration with music from the Heavitree Strummers and refreshments. Please look out for further details.

Any help with the teas would be gratefully received!

**Helen Moore**

## **Film Night @ Blessed Sacrament RC Church, Heavitree**

On Friday October 4th at 7pm in the Richard Reynolds Room of the Blessed Sacrament Church, Heavitree there is a film night.

Are you confused about climate change? Do you wonder what difference anything you can do will make? Come along to our free showing of the film Global Healing and hear from scientists, priests, sisters and theologians about the climate emergency and how we can care for our common home. Tea and coffee provided

## **Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2019**

Just think for a moment, a filled shoebox may be the only gift they have ever been given - their first gift, ever. Imagine the joy when they receive a box and then discover the presents inside - what a Christmas present for someone truly in need!

We are collecting boxes through Blythswood Care again this year, 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'. 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.

I will bring in some sample boxes and the leaflets, which provide a full checklist of items that can be put in the shoeboxes. The donation towards cost of transporting each shoebox is £3.

**Date for final collection at Wonford Methodist is Sunday 17th 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!



## **Open the Book**

We have decided to put our 'Open the Book' dates in contact from October.



So we have:

1st October 2pm @ Wonford M C - Rehearsal  
'Elijah and the Ravens'

8th October 2:45pm @ Countess Wear School -  
Assembly

PS We would be delighted for anyone free on Tuesday afternoon to join our O T B team. It's great fun! Speak to one of us to find out more.

**Rev Terry Spencer, Margretta Bowstead, Karen Lord and Bill Noronha**

### **Wonford Green Team**

Last summer my husband and I were enjoying a walk around the Quay in Exeter, as we approached the covered area called the Transit Shed, we saw there were a few tables set up selling produce. I stopped to browse. A lovely lady had various bars of lovely smelling soap. She explained she made hand soap and shampoo bars at her home in Devon, they were wrapped in paper and were all made using natural ingredients. No parabens, chemicals or palm oil. AND NO PLASTIC. At one time, before plastic was invented, shampoo was always sold as solid bars. On impulse I bought some shampoo and conditioner bars. I have been very pleased with the result and am pleased to reduce my plastic shopping in this way.

Various businesses now sell these and there are quite a few small Devon companies which means you can support a local business. If you have the Internet, Google The Natural Spa or Emma's Soaps or go on the site called Etsy which sells items from small producers. Lush and Holland & Barrett also sell shampoo bars.

**From Alison Howell on behalf of the Green Team.**

### **Norman Dell's Thanksgiving Service**

This takes place on Monday 7th October 2019 at Wonford Methodist Church starting at 12.30pm.

## **'Miracles of Jesus' Themed Preaching Series**

This started in September and continues and continues until the end of November 2019. Details below:

### **Oct 13**

Caroline Colin      Luke 7 vv1-10      Jesus heals a centurion's servant

### **Oct 20**

Rev John Carne      Luke 7 vv11-17      Jesus raises a widow's son

### **Oct 27**

Rev Ben Haslam      Luke 8 vv22-25      Jesus calms a storm

### **Nov 10**

Monika Noronha      Luke 8 vv40-56      A girl restored to life and a woman healed (*Remembrance Sunday*)

### **Nov 17**

Rev Keith Salter      Luke 17 vv17-19      Jesus cleanses ten men with leprosy

### **Nov 24**

Andy Mulcock      Luke 18 vv35-42      Jesus heals a blind beggar

## **Prayer Focus for October 2019**

### **Our Country needs your prayers!**

May I begin this month by encouraging you all to pray for our Country. Will we leave the EU with a deal or no deal? What will happen to our NHS? What will happen to jobs? What about cost of food and other essentials? Pray for our leaders to unite and to lead our land. Pray that they will put our Country before their own aspirations. Pray for our police force and NHS, our Social services and our armed forces. Pray for our teachers and university staff. Pray for those involved in housing and social care.

Keep praying for the persecuted church, those wrongly imprisoned around the world and those living in war torn Countries and those affected by natural disasters.

Closer to home continue to pray for our Minister, Ben, all leaders of the various groups held at Wonford and all that attend.

***May you all be richly blessed as you pray for all the activities at Wonford, surrounding area & the wider world.***

## **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)

## **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.

***If you have anything that you would like included please let Julie Rothwell know***



## **Methodist young people release statement ahead of climate strike**

The Youth Representatives and Youth President of the Methodist Church have released a statement to support those taking part in the day of action against global climate change on Friday, 20 September.

The Youth President and Youth Representatives of the Methodist Church are elected annually by the young people themselves at the 3Generate event, this year taking place in Southport in November. Together, the President and representatives ensure that the Church listens to and acts upon the opinions of its young people.

The statement is an emotional plea from today's young people to act now on climate change.

“Children and young people are taking the lead in calling for those in power to take seriously the global climate emergency we face. It is becoming more and more difficult to ignore the science, which tells us that – if nothing changes – we, and other children and young people, will almost inevitably grow up to inherit a world where life on earth is seriously destabilised, with massive crop failures, increasing animal extinction, imploding economies, epic flooding, hundreds of millions of refugees fleeing regions made uninhabitable by extreme heat or permanent drought.”

# Exminster 11th Christmas Tree Festival



Plans are underway for the **Exminster 2019 Christmas Tree Festival** over the weekend of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December with arranged group visits on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

All money raised goes to children's charities working in Devon. Since it began, this village event has raised over £10,700 for the charities.

Groups, organisations, families, individuals, churches and businesses etc. **are all invited to display a decorated tree at the Festival.** You can bring along your own 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 Brenda on 01392 833928 or email [exminstertreefestival@gmail.com](mailto:exminstertreefestival@gmail.com)**

The Festival is held in  
**Exminster Methodist Church**  
[exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk)

# Dates For Your Diary

## October 2019

Fri 4th	7.00 p.m.	Film Night at Blessed Sacrament, Heavitree **
Sat 5th	10.30 a.m.	'Theologising Brexit' talk at The Mint MC **
Sun 6th	<b>Harvest Festival Services</b>	
	10.00 a.m.	Jon Curtis - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Dr Joan Wragg
Mon 7th	12.30 p.m.	Norman Dell's Thanksgiving Service **
Tue 8th	7.00 p.m.	'Would I Lie To You' Bring & Share Harvest Supper *
Wed 9th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 34 Station Road, Pinhoe **
Sun 13th	10.00 a.m.	Caroline Colin - Themed Preaching **
	6.30 p.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - Prayer & Praise
Tue 15th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm)
Thu 17th	2.00 p.m.	Minister's Bible Study in the lounge **
Sun 20th	10.00 a.m.	Rev John Carne - Themed Preaching **
	<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
Wed 23rd	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 18 Tuckfield Close **
Sun 27th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Themed Preaching + Sacrament*
	6.30 p.m.	Café Church
Tue 29th	7.30 p.m.	Church Council Meets

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

**WOULD I LIE TO YOU?**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**WONFORD METHODIST CHURCH HARVEST SOCIAL  
TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER - 7PM FOR SUPPER**

**BRING & SHARE SUPPER**

# 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

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

## Tuesday

9.15 a.m. Weekly Prayers in the Quiet Room  
10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café *(3rd Tuesday each month)*

## Wednesday

7.30 p.m. Home Group Bible Study *(fortnightly)*

## Thursday

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

## Friday

9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group **\*A\***

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 November 2019 Newsletter will be Sunday 13th October 2019. 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)