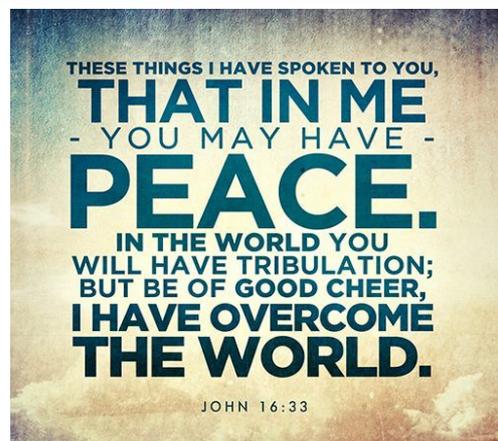


# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

October 2020  
(No: 493)



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,**

We are all very aware of the challenges the church is facing at the moment and, on the whole I believe the church is meeting them brilliantly. Online services, pastoral care via phone calls, food banks, and now many churches are opening up as much as is possible in very limiting circumstances. We have done what we can in our bizarre new situation, and God is blessing our efforts. It also occurs to me that the Church is just as crucial now as it ever was – perhaps more so. People need a reminder that there is more to life than the endless unsettling news cycle, that God is in control, that there is goodness and grace at the heart of existence. If the Church doesn't proclaim this truth, then who will? If the gospel is what the Bible says it is, then it is just as true now as it ever was, and a society which has been shaken, disoriented and left with many questions about the future will most likely be more receptive to spiritual truths than before. Pray, therefore, that people find hope, real hope, in Jesus Christ, amid all their insecurities and fears. Pray that they find new life and hope in the only place it can truly be found.

Remember too, that, as Paul writes, "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood... but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6.12). This is not the kind of language we usually use today, or feel comfortable with, but that is no reason to dismiss it. I am not at all an expert in what is called 'spiritual warfare', but I am certain that it is required of all of us that we pray for the church and its mission to be protected with Paul's words in mind. That kind of prayer work is vital, and all Christians can take part in it, whether or not they consider themselves to be knowledgeable about 'that kind of thing' – just keep at the back of your mind the words of Jesus: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world" (John 16.33). When we think of the work of the church, we tend to think of the visible, tangible tasks which need to be done; services being led, buildings being maintained, paper work being completed and the like. That's necessary but not the whole story. All that is what goes on 'in the front of the shop'. Real, deep, spiritual work needs to happen 'in the stock room' as it were, covering everything in prayer, attending to the nurture and discipleship of God's people and looking to mission and taking the life-changing message of the gospel outwards. This is as necessary as ever as we navigate these times with care, but with hope, faith and prayer always undergirding everything we do.

**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 Theme 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**

Oct 11th	Genesis 4 & 5	Family jealousy and the upshot	Rev Alan Rothwell
Oct 18th	Genesis 6	Noah gets the message	John Hogarth
Oct 25th	Genesis 7 & 8	The Flood and its outcome	Rev Ben Haslam
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

## Harvest Festival

This takes place on Sunday 4th October 2020 at 10am and will be led by Monika Noronha. You are asked to bring a can or packet to donate to Foodbank. Monika would like everyone to bring a piece of fruit, vegetable or a nut in their pocket or bag for use in reflection. These can be taken home at the end.

## Zoom Bible Study

Ben would like to invite you, and all of the church fellowship that you are involved with, to join in a Zoom Bible Study.

This will be good opportunity to share in Gods' word as well as join with each other in fellowship, so please do spread the word to everyone that you are in contact with.

The times and dates will not be set until we know who would like to join in and when is most convenient for those who want to participate.

Please register your interest by email to [benhaslam@methodist.org.uk](mailto:benhaslam@methodist.org.uk) or [lesleyalbrow21@outlook.com](mailto:lesleyalbrow21@outlook.com)

We look forward to hearing from you.  
God bless,  
Lesley Albrow



## Earth Overshoot Day

'Thinking green' and understanding the breadth and range of the human impact on the Earth's ecosystems are two quite different things. Most people agree that the demands on the planet of 7.8 billion people has altered land use contributing to climate change and pollution. We may also agree that we are consuming more and more natural resources but is it possible to measure how much is being consumed and is it sustainable.

One such measure is known as Earth Overshoot Day and this marks the day in the year when our human demand for resource exceeds what the planet can regenerate over the entire year.

Using this measure we began using more resources than we can replace in the early seventies. In 1972 by mid-December we had used up all that year's resources. The Overshoot Day has steadily got earlier and earlier in the year to the point where last year we had used up 2019's entire production by July 29th.

As we all know 2020 is not a typical year!

As a result of lockdowns across the world the Overshoot Day for 2020 has been calculated at August 22nd a positive move of over 3 weeks later than 2019. This is mainly due to reduced carbon emissions (15% down), reduced food demand and reduced forest destruction (9% down).

Earth Overshoot Day is not a precise measure and does not encompass every aspect of sustainability. It calculates an Ecological Footprint (not just a Carbon Footprint) and adds up the human competitive demand for productive areas. It is not fully comprehensive and can be criticised such as with the use of farmed land. Crops automatically fulfil their own sustainability without regard to the use or waste of the product and oil usage does not include the factor that it is a finite resource that will, at some time, run out.

What it does do is provide a measure that can raise awareness of sustainability. Pandemic 2020 has moved Overshoot Day by 3 weeks, which is back to levels of consumption seen in 2005. It has shown that real advances are possible and targets not just abstract ideals. How much more could be achieved by the coming together of nations and business to move that date back even further.

Let us all come together in prayer to look after the wonder that is God's creation.

**Martin Lloyd**  
**Church Green Team**

### **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!

## **Church Council Meeting**

This takes place on Tuesday 13th October 2020 at 7.30pm. It will take place via Zoom and details of how to join will be posted nearer the date. There are several vacancies at the moment and these are listed below:

*Property Steward*

*Church Council representative to Circuit*

*More Cleaners for the church*

*Christian Aid Link person*

If you are interested in any of these vacancies or want to find out more see one of the Church stewards.

## **Prayer Focus for October**

### **Prayer - Our Strongest Weapon - Pray Without Ceasing**

Please continue to pray about the ongoing COVID-19 as it is now affecting many younger people. As more places open, including some churches, we see a new normal. Fewer people are able to go into theatres, shops, our churches. No singing or handshaking or mingling. Our schools are now open for our children with social distancing, hand washing and hand gel to be in regular use and all in their 'bubbles'! As universities open up again Pray for the students as their education will take on a different way. Add to that this age group are seeing more cases of the virus. Pray that a vaccine

will be found.

Pray for our country as knife crime is still a problem. As I write investigations are going on in Birmingham following the stabbings there. Pray for those suffering from domestic abuse. Our government also has to deal with Brexit. Pray they will come to right & fair decisions.

In the wider world pray for Lebanon, Syria and other war torn countries. Pray for Zimbabwe and Uganda where the people are living under oppressive governments. COVID-19 is spreading in these and other countries that are ill equipped to treat patients.

Finally, pray for one another. Keep safe. I pray rich blessings on you all.

*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 October**

There will be no services at 6.30pm. Services at 10am are listed below.

4th Harvest Festival - Monika Noronha

11th Rev Alan Rothwell - Genesis Themed Preaching

18th John Hogarth - Genesis Themed Preaching

25th Rev Ben Haslam - Genesis Themed Preaching

## **Year of Prayer**

### *Why a Year of Prayer?*

The Conference has declared 2020/2021 a year of prayer so that our Church-wide commitments to evangelism, church growth, church at the margins, and pioneering and church planting will flow from a deep, contemplative orientation to God's grace and love.

Be part of this movement of prayer as we ask the Holy Spirit to help us be a growing, evangelistic, inclusive, justice-seeking Church of gospel people.

Weekly Online Prayer Meeting - Tuesdays at 12.45pm

Join others across the Methodist Church to pray together every Tuesday from 12.45 to 1.00pm.

Register for all future prayer meetings - <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlocuorTgqGtKiDOy-HII7hUICGSIaxMEz>

When you register for all future prayer meetings, you will receive an email containing a zoom link that will be the one you use from now on. It's important to keep the email somewhere you'll be able to find it each week, and add the event to your calendar if you are able to.

Please note: The meeting will be live-streamed to Facebook. If you don't want to be visible on Facebook during the meeting please turn off your video.

Alternatively you can join the weekly prayer meeting on Facebook Live here - <https://www.facebook.com/pg/MethodistChurchinBritain/videos/>

From September you will also be able to view past prayer meetings here - <https://www.facebook.com/pg/MethodistChurchinBritain/videos/>

This online experience will draw on the diversity of Methodist traditions to help the whole Church pray together. Each week, different leaders will share Scripture, offer testimony, and creatively lead participants deeper into prayer.

The deadline for items for the November 2020 Newsletter will be Sunday 11th October 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)**