

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

October 2024

(No: 533)



Praise the LORD, O my soul, and  
forget not all his benefits —  
who forgives all our sins and  
heals all our diseases...

- Psalm 103:2-3 -



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

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



@WonfordMethodistChurch



YouTube Wonford Methodist Church



# A Message From The Minister


Dear Friends,

## Psalm 103

The most joyous thing about this psalm is that its writer is profoundly aware of his own frailty and fallenness, but instead of feeling wretched, this only gives him an altogether deeper sense of God's grace and mercy. It is liberating and life-giving to realise that we don't have to be super human! It's still more wonderful to know our limitations are more than compensated by God's power and His Spirit dwelling within us (as Paul writes, in 2 Corinthians 12.9, 'God's grace is sufficient for us, for His power is made perfect in weakness').

In the scheme of things, every human life is brief, as the psalm acknowledges, and most of us feel, at one time or another, that our lives amount to very little in the scheme of things. This can be dispiriting, as we are conditioned to believe that we should 'make our mark' on the world and use our time on earth to make our views and preferences known, in the hope that others will hear us and change things accordingly. What the psalmist realises however, is that, whilst we may not feel we amount to much, this doesn't matter! We have the precious gift of life and we can all be recipients of God's love and grace. This is what begins to happen when we put our faith in Jesus Christ and life becomes different – we are connected to God and the most important thing becomes, not what we can do for and by ourselves, but deepening this relationship with our creator and growing every day in love and trust. That way lies the gift Jesus promised to us: life in all its fulness.

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



Praise the LORD, my soul;  
all my inmost being,  
praise his holy name.  
**Psalm 103:1**



# Dates For October 2024

## Coffee

6th	Margaret D & Terry
13th	TBA
20th	David & Maggie
27th	Rose & Paul

## Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In October they meet on the 11th and 25th. 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.

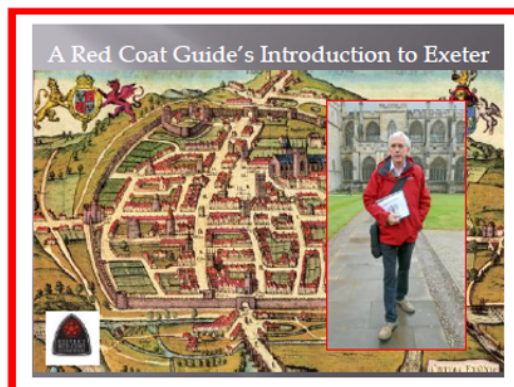
## Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 15th October 2024.

This month they welcome Jon Bell, one of Exeter's Red Coats, who will give us 'A Red Coat's Guide - Introduction to Exeter'. This is a lively introduction to Exeter's past, events and characters that shaped the city's history as well as the life of an Exeter Red Coat.



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 October this will be the 15th.

**Lisa Thomas**

## Wonford Welcome Drop-In for Everyone - Saturdays 10.30am to 12.00pm

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

**5th October** - we'll be celebrating World Architecture Day with a photo quiz of famous buildings around the world and a fun building challenge.

**12th October** - we'll be getting active (gently) with Movement to Music and playing games.

**19th October** - we will be continuing with the Movement to Music activity and playing games.

**26th October** - join us for Apple Day when we'll have apple themed activities to enjoy and challenge you.

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, 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](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 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!

## Worlds Apart

Throughout the Olympic Games in Paris, we witnessed athletes in every sport embracing each other; winning or losing, each competitor was thrilled to share in the camaraderie and contribute to the wonderful, friendly spirit in which the Games took place. And of course this had a similar uniting effect upon the millions of spectators from every corner of the globe.

Yet at the same time in UK, violence was rampant and explosive in the streets of over a dozen towns and cities! The appalling killing of three young girls in Southport became the launch pad for militant racists throughout our country to spread mis-information and resultant terror into all these cities. Apartments where immigrants were housed were violently attacked, shops were looted, cars set on fire, enormous damage done. The incredible professionalism of our police, who had stones hurled at them, saved the day, though some feared that things were so bad, we also needed military help!

These events in France and England happened less than a hundred miles apart, yet without doubt we were worlds apart! Our Prime Minister was right to call these chaotic, whipped-up protests as ‘far-right thuggery’! There is no excuse for this behaviour of hate. We could say that these mobsters do not represent our country, but the violence and decadence were so widespread and frightening, that it only underlined that our racist nation (and others) is desperately in need of **SALVATION!**

Of course, we know that that salvation has already been given freely to us in Jesus. His prime message is **LOVE**, not **HATE!** Love is the only remedy for hate. We cannot deny our country is in desperate need of Christ’s transforming power and love. Jesus’ consistent manifesto was, “Love God with all your being, and love your neighbour as yourself.”

In a recent ceremony in Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu said to his soldiers, “We are brothers!” But Jesus requires Netanyahu’s love to reach to his Palestinian neighbour as well, and until it does they too will remain worlds apart. The most famous Bible text begins “God so loved **THE WORLD.....**”. Jesus Himself expanded this by saying “Anyone who is angry with his brother without cause, will be subject to judgment.” Certainly the recent racial chaos and destruction on our streets powerfully illustrate Jesus’ words.

Our mission remains as urgent as ever: “Therefore go and make disciples of **ALL NATIONS**. I’ll be with you as you do this!” St Paul made it clear that he was in the sole business to tell people about Christ. No economic package, no social programme, no political strategy - only **CHRIST!** Let us pray with renewed fervour for fresh outreach to win others for Christ and an end of racism. “I pray that all of them may be ONE!” (John 17 v 21).

**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.

### **September 22nd**

Deborah’s Song (Judges 5)

Caroline Colin

### **September 29th**

Hannah’s Song (1 Samuel 2: 1-11)

Monika Norohna

### **October 6th**

All Age Harvest Festival Service

Rev Samantha Randall

### **October 13th**

David’s Lament (2 Samuel 1:17-27)

Rev Ben Haslam

### **October 20th**

David’s Ark Song (1 Chronicles 16: 7-36)

Rev Leon Dundas

### **October 27th**

Songs of the Vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7)

Rev Norman Wallwork

### **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

# Prayer Focus for October 2024

## Week Commencing Sunday 6th October

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again:  
Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all.  
The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in every situation, by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

***Phil 4:4***

This week, be thankful for God's provision. Keep trusting God and thanking him for the provision of all your needs and those of others too.

## Week Commencing Sunday 13th October Homeless Sunday and Prisons Week

For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one;  
he has not hidden his face from him  
but has listened to his cry for help.

***Psalms 22:24***

We pray for all those who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We pray for the organisations who serve, help and support them. We also pray for prison inmates and prison workers. And we pray for all prison chaplains as they minister hope to those they serve.

## Week Commencing Sunday 20th October

If my people, who are called by my name,  
will humble themselves and pray  
and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways,  
then I will hear from heaven,  
and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

***2 Chronicles 7:14***

Lord, sometimes we just muddle through life and try to cope. Thank you that we can come to you in prayer for ALL our needs, all of the time, wherever we are, whatever our situation.



## **Week Commencing Sunday 27th October - Bible Sunday**

Let's read and pray a little differently this week!

***Luke 18:1-8***

Take time this week to read and ponder the story of the Persistent Widow.

Then read Psalm 34:1-8 and rejoice in God, who hears our prayers and answers!

### **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**

### **Harvest Festival Service and Social**

The Harvest Festival Service takes place on Sunday 6th October 2024 at 10.00 am and is All Age Worship led by Rev Samantha Randall.

The Harvest Social takes place on Tuesday 8th October 2024 and will be a Beetle Drive and Bring & Share Supper starting at 6.30 pm.

Please make every effort to attend both events.

### **Church Council and Leadership Team Meetings**

The next Church Council takes place on Tuesday 15th October 2024 at 7.30 pm in the hall.

The Leadership Team meet on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at 7.30 pm in the hall.

# Advance Notice - 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



# HARVEST FESTIVAL

## WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

- APPLES
- AUTUMN
- BALLOONS
- BASKET
- CORN
- CORNUCOPIA
- CRAFTS
- CROP
- FACE PAINTING
- FARMER
- FESTIVAL
- FIELDS
- FLOWERS
- FOOD
- FOOD
- FRUIT
- FUN
- GRAINS
- HAYRIDE
- LEAVES
- MAZE
- MOON
- MUSIC
- OUTSIDE
- PICK
- PUMPKIN
- RIDES
- SCARECROW
- SEASON
- TOUR

S W B A S K E T S N I A R G  
Y H K F L O W E R S E M L T  
G L A V I T S E F D O S T S  
F N M U T U A E I O C O O E  
F N I H A N Z S N A U Y A A  
Z I B T J T T N R R V S I S  
S K M E N U R E R S Q D P O  
N P O U O I C E T O T L O N  
O M F A S R A F M A C E C H  
O U F L O I A P P R F I U A  
L P O W E R C P E J A F N Y  
L O O E C A L S D C R F R R  
A R D T Z E V O E U A P O I  
B C U X S A O E I M L F C D  
S E D I R F M T S P I C K E

The words appear UP, DOWN, SIDEWAYS, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.  
Find and circle each word.



# Dates For Your Diary

## October 2024

Sat 5th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 6th	10.00 a.m.	All Age Harvest Festival Service with Rev Samantha Randall **
Tue 8th	6.30 p.m.	Harvest Festival Bring & Share Social **
Wed 9th	7.30 p.m.	Leadership Team meet in the hall **
Fri 11th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 12th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) *
Sun 13th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam Themed Preaching & Sacrament **
	6.30 p.m.	Café Church with Rev Leon Dundas
Tue 15th	9.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **
	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Sat 19th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 20th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Leon Dundas - Themed Preaching **
Fri 25th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 26th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 27th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Norman Wallwork - Themed Preaching **

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



The deadline for items for the November 2024 Newsletter will be Sunday 13th October 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](mailto: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 12.00 p.m.

Wonford Welcome Drop-In

Tea, coffee and biscuits are free.

( **\*A\*** = No meeting during school holiday)