

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

April 2009

(No: 377)



Minister: Rev Mark J Gilborson (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk

A Message From The Minister

As you prepare for Easter this year I hope that you have appreciated the series of preaching about women as they travel towards the cross, I wonder who you most associate with?

Martha busying herself with life's necessities or Mary sitting at Jesus' feet? Salome wanting the best for those whom she loves? The woman who touched Jesus' cloak, desperate for healing, Jairus' daughter starting a new life when all thought her life was over? Jesus' mother, the Lord's servant, who accepted God's will, or the woman at the well who found the Christ amidst the mess of her life. The widow giving her all or the widow praying without ceasing for justice? Maybe it is the woman who wept at Jesus feet and in doing is saved from her sins by faith? Or maybe it is Mary Magdalene who after all of the trauma of the cross encounters Jesus and tells others 'I have seen the Lord'.

At each of the encounters we have women, people, real lives, real stories caught up in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. At each juncture he encountered these people and touched their lives. For those willing to listen, to respond, to follow, their encounter with Jesus would be life changing.

The Easter story is so significant because it is not one that we talk of in the same way as other historical events, you can read about Napoleon or Julius Caesar, you can discuss the ideas of Socrates or Plato, you can see a picture of someone the experts tell us might be Shakespeare. The Easter story tells us that Jesus rose from the dead, the Easter story tells us that Jesus conquered death, the Easter story tells us that we can meet this same Jesus for ourselves!

Do you wonder why we make so much fuss about Easter? Why we traipse down to the centre of town to join with the Walk of Witness, or get up at the crack of dawn to celebrate communion on Easter day? The reason is that we have been touched by the same one who touched those women we read about in the Bible, we have encountered the risen Jesus who: heals, saves, forgives, loves and conquers death.

May you encounter that same Jesus in your life this Easter.

In Christ **Mark Gilborson**

Dates For April

Birthdays - have a great birthday!!

1st	Dan H
4th	Phil M & Julia H
5th	Pat L
6th	Margretta B
11th	Nigel T
16th	Alison H
20th	Nessy H
22nd	Chantel W
25th	Gary L
30th	Sarah T



Flowers

5th	A M Evans
15th	Pat Lowans - Easter
19th	Ada
26th	John T



Coffee

5th	Rose & Paul
12th	Beryl Violet
19th	Doreen & Barbara
26th	Margretta & Margaret E



Thursday Dates

April

2nd	7.30 p.m.	Church Prayer meeting in the lounge. Everyone is welcome.
9th	7.30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Communion in the Church
16th	2.00 p.m.	Bible Study led by Rev Mark Gilborson. 'Who do I say I am?'. Mark 8 v1 - 9 v1.
23rd	7.00 p.m.	General Church Meeting followed by Bring & Share Supper
30th	10.30 a.m.	Meet for Coffee & Chat

Tuesday Home Group Dates for April

We will be continuing with the Lent course 'Responding to God's World'.

If you need any further information please contact Sharon Gilborson.

Lent Course for 2009

These continue briefly into April 2009 at the venues below.

Monday	7.30 p.m.	2 Wallace Avenue - Starting March 9th
Tuesday	10.30 a.m.	St Lawrence Church Led by Cpt George Bradbrook CA
	2.00 p.m.	1 Sweetbrier Lane, Heavitree
	8.00 p.m.	Tuesday Home Group Meetings - see above
Wednesday	10.15 a.m.	The Richard Reynolds Centre Led by Canon John Deeny
	2.00 p.m.	17 Honeyland Way, Exeter Led by Jean Edwards
Thursday	7.00 p.m.	74 Clyst Valley Road, Clyst St Mary Led by Jo Moran

Christians Together in Devon Events

Various events are being organised by Christians Together in Devon. A brief summary is given below. I have uploaded more details onto my online document store (<http://public.me.com/andrew.m.jackson>).

General Church Meeting

I invite all of you who can to come along at 7.00 pm on Thursday 23 April for our annual General Church Meeting, and bring some food to share in fellowship at the supper afterwards.

Worship is at the heart of our church and gives heart to our church.

Welcoming all, Wonford Methodist Church seeks to spread the good news of Jesus by serving the community in which we are placed, on Sundays and through all our weekday activities.

You'll be able to read and hear how the last year has gone and be involved in the election of Church Stewards and representatives to Church Council.

Presentations about creative ideas for Evening Worship will follow and we want to hear your views on what the future patterns of Evening Services might be.

Margretta Bowstead - Secretary

24/7 Prayer Weekend

***"On Earth as it is in Heaven"
[The Lord's Prayer]***

There will be a 24/7 Prayer weekend on 9-10 May 2009 from 8.00am Saturday to 8.00am Sunday. This year, as you can see, we have a theme to help us plan our displays. We would like to create displays or 'corners' for prayer based on phrases from the Lord's Prayer. This will enable you to consider any visual/written/musical contributions you may wish to bring to your prayer time. If you would like to help plan the weekend please come and speak to



someone on the prayer team - Everyone is welcome!

There will be 24 1-hour slots in the lounge. The church will be open to all for prayer from 8.00am-5.00pm Saturday. From 5.00pm, there will be 15 1hr prayer slots in the church as well as those in the lounge. We would also encourage as many as possible to pray at home. Lists will go up by Easter so that individuals and groups can book their prayer times well in advance. Volunteers for security will also be able to sign up early. Please get involved if you can. It is a wonderful opportunity to explore what prayer is and to spend time with God.

Gift Aid.

A big thank-you to those of you who gift aid your offering it makes such a difference to our Church finances.

If you are a tax payer and not yet gift-aiding your offering, and donations to the other charities which we support during the year, then please consider doing so. Reclaiming on tax paid through employment, capital gains, tax on a private pension plan, or investment interest makes a big difference to the

running of the church here at Wonford. Last year we were able to claim over £3,900.00p in gift aid which made a real difference to our Church income.

Tax reclaimed even on small amounts, for example, £5 a month can mean we can claim an additional £1.41p! You don't need to give a fixed amount per week/month/year although most people do.

Joining the scheme couldn't be simpler, you merely fill in your name, address, and the date on a short declaration form, then choose whether to use the weekly offering envelopes or arrange a standing order at the bank. It's as easy as that, and if for any reason in the future you are no longer required to pay tax, opting out is equally straightforward. Belonging to the scheme is a private arrangement between you and the gift-aid secretary no one else knows about it. You may be certain that we never, ever, need to know any of your personal financial details.

In May each year the tax on your total giving for the year is reclaimed through the Methodist Finance Office, and several months later, when the claim has been processed, the refund of tax is paid into our church bank account.

If you would like any further information – please ask me.

With every penny counting during this time of recession, let's try to make the most of the Government's Gift Aid tax relief system.

Barbara Irish (Gift Aid Secretary)

Are You Brave Enough to Go Over the Edge??

Dare to make a difference to the lives of the U.K's most vulnerable children by abseiling 70ft off the University of Exeter. This event takes place on Saturday 9th May 2009.



Details on the notice-board and from Barbara or Vanessa. Alternatively Text 'abseil' to 07850 975098 or telephone 0117 935 4440.

Plymouth & Exeter District Training Calendar

A new edition of this is on the church notice board in the hall and covers January - August 2009. This version is interactive and courses can be booked online. I have put an electronic copy on a website. The address is below:

<http://public.me.com/andrew.m.jackson>

Theme Series for Lent 2009

During Lent we have a themed preaching series based on 'Women in the Gospels'. April 2009 dates are shown below.

April 5th	10.00 a.m.	Two Widows (Luke 18 v1-8 & Luke 21 v1-4). With Tony Wragg - All Age Palm Sunday Service
April 9th	7.30 p.m.	A woman washes Jesus' feet (Luke 7 v36-50). With Monika Noronha. Maundy Thursday Service
April 12th	10.00 a.m.	Mary Magdalene (John 20 v1-18) with Rev Mark Gilborson - Easter Sunday Communion.

Prayer Focus for April

"Truly this was the Son of God!"
(Matthew 27:54 RSV)

Week beginning Sunday 5th - Palm Sunday

Please pray for all those leading services up to Easter Day and for the Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Pray that the hearts of many non-believers will be convicted, as was the centurion at the foot of the Cross, when he said "Truly this was the Son of God".

Thank God for Jesus, our wonderful Saviour, who suffered so much for us.

Week beginning Sunday 12th - Easter Sunday

**"Alleluia, Christ is risen."
"He is risen indeed, Alleluia!"**

Please pray for those you may know who are in spiritual darkness. Pray that they will come to know our risen Saviour.

Thank God for the witness of the dawn services across Devon, especially our own on Roly Poly Hill.

Week beginning Sunday 19th

Please pray that the General Church Meeting on Thursday evening will be well attended.

Pray especially that we will be open to God's vision as we explore alternative ways of worship on Sunday evenings.

Pray also that the vision we have for the '24 Hours of Prayer' event in May will inspire many to take part.

Week beginning Sunday 26th

Please pray for our young people this week as they face exams; that they will be able with God's help to give of their best. Also pray for those who are at college or university, that in the busyness of their lives they will also grow in their faith.

Thank God for the vision of the ICE team as they are encouraged to share their faith in local schools.

Phone Prayer Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is Beryl Violet (01392) 270132. Your request will be passed to members of the Prayer Link who will pray for your need.

After Church 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.

*Should you wish to join our Prayer Phone Link or After Church Prayer Support, please contact any member of the Prayer Team. Further details are displayed in the Quiet Room.

The Prayer Team

News from the Methodist Church

Your Prayers Wanted

The Methodist Prayer Handbook is looking for prayers of up to 100 words. The title of next year's handbook is 'Each Returning Day', which covers times of day, times of life, the seasons, birth and death, youth and maturity and life's pilgrimage. Each Returning Day comes from John Keble's hymn, New every morning (Hymns and Psalms 636).

Please send contributions to the editor at <mailto:primi@quantrillmedia.com> by 31 March 2009. Any submissions up until Easter will be considered, but the earlier ones stand a better chance of being included. In particular prayers for specific countries are more likely to be published!

If you have photos or illustrations (your own copyright) to enhance your prayer, send these too.

For more information (including terms and conditions) go to <http://www.quantrillmedia.com> or contact the editor at <mailto:primi@quantrillmedia.com> or telephone 020 8544 0537.

Holiness and Risk

The Methodist Church started life as a movement which sought to inject passion, direction and purpose into the spiritual lives of those in the established Church.

Led by the General Secretary of the Methodist Church The Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, Holiness and Risk <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=openogod.content&cmid=2321> was a three day event in snowy February. It allowed those in positions of change leadership to explore this heritage and think deeply about what it means to be Methodist, and what it means to express the charisms of the tradition in the 21st century.

The weekend was not about policy making but offered the opportunity to focus, enthuse and give confidence to speak of our capacity and gifts as a Church. Those attending had the opportunity to listen to keynote speakers, attend thought-provoking workshops and take time out for reflection, group conversation, prayer and worship.

If you weren't there you can hear recordings of the addresses from the Methodist Church website <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=openogod.content&cmid=2612> and even watch a couple of videos from the event.

Momentum - Tell Us What You Think

Momentum, Methodism's magazine of good news and partnership, is undertaking a survey in order to find out whether the publication is hitting the spot with readers. And if not, why not?

Questionnaires can be found within copies of the print digest (being sent to every Methodist church in Britain in the middle of March) or online at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=openoworld.content&cmid=25>

The Last Supper Word Search



BETRAY

BLESSED

BLOOD

BODY

BREAD

BROKEN

DESIRE

DIP

DISCIPLES

EAT

EVENING

FATHER

FRUIT

GIVEN

HYMN

JESUS

JUDAS

KINGDOM

LAST SUPPER

LORD

MASTER

MEMORIAL

NEW TESTAMENT

PASSOVER

PETER

POURED

PREPARE

REMISSION

SINS

SON OF MAN

SOP

SORROWFUL

TABLE

TAKE

THANKS

UPPER ROOM

VINE

WATER POT

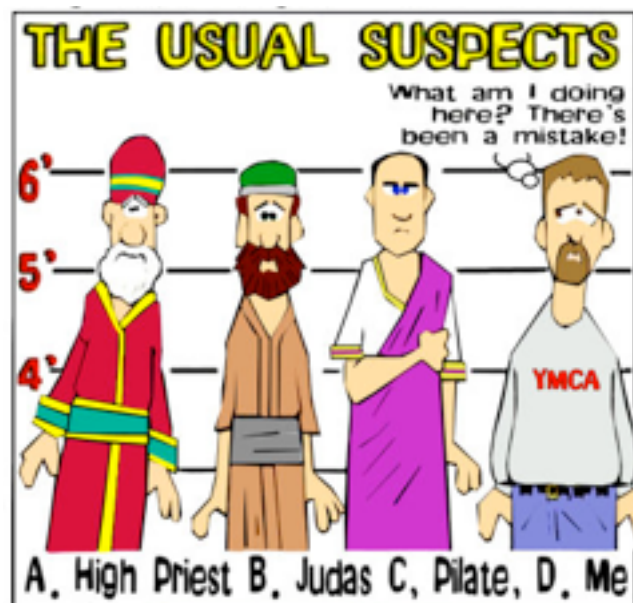
WINE

Dates For Your Diary

April 2009

Thurs 2nd	7.30 p.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting in the Lounge **
Sun 5th	10.00 a.m.	Tony Wragg - All Age. Palm Sunday. 'Two Widows'
	6.30 p.m.	Ken Kite
Thurs 9th	7.30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Communion with Rev Mark Gilborson & Monika Noronha **
Fri 10th	9.45 a.m.	Good Friday Cathedral Service followed by walk of witness with drama.
	2.30 p.m.	Walk to Silverton from Killerton. Tea at Silverton at 4.00 p.m. (bring your own).
	5.00 p.m.	Good Friday Service at Silverton
Sun 12th	6.25 a.m.	Easter Day Dawn Sacrament up Roly Poly Hill, then breakfast.
	10.00 a.m.	Easter Day Communion - Rev Mark Gilborson **
	6.30 p.m.	Jon Curtis - Easter Day Prayer & Praise
Thurs 16th	2.00 p.m.	Bible Study led by Rev Mark Gilborson **
Sun 19th	10.00 a.m.	Pat Kirkman
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Andrew Sails
Tues 21st	7.30 p.m.	Worship Team meet at Tony & Joan Wragg's.
Thurs 23rd	7.00 p.m.	General Church Meeting - Bring & Share Supper **
Sun 26th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Graeme Butler
	6.30 p.m.	At Sidwell Street
Thurs 30th	10.30 a.m.	Coffee, Chat & Epilogue **

****For more information see a separate item in this newsletter, or look on the notice board for a poster.**



IN A POLICE LINEUP... Who would be picked as the the person responsible for Jesus crucifixion? The correct answer is E.. all of the above.

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

- 2.45 p.m. Monday House Fellowship (68 Hoker Road)
(See Beryl Violet for details)
5.45 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. Girls' Brigade *A*

Tuesday

- 10.00 a.m. Men's Coffee and Games Morning
6.00 p.m. Brownies *A*
8.00 p.m. Home Group
(See inside for more details)

Wednesday

- 9.15 a.m. Prayers in the Quiet Room
7.00 p.m. Junior Youth Club (7 - 11 Year Old) *A*
8.15 p.m. Senior Youth Club (11+ Year Old) *A*

Thursday

7.30 p.m.

(1st Thursday in each month is a Prayer Meeting, the 2nd is a Bible Study at 2.00 p.m. Other Thursdays are coffee mornings starting at 10.30 a.m.) - **see inside for details as this does change.**

Friday

- 9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group *A*
2.00 p.m. Friday Fellowship - see Sheila Bricknell for details

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 May 2009 Newsletter will be Sunday 12th April 2009. 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