

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

February 2008

(No: 365)



Minister: Rev Mark J Gilborson (01392 256716)



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

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

# A Message From The Minister

If you came to the 'Generation Game' in January I hope you enjoyed it, I know about eighty of you did, one person remarking 'it was blooming marvellous!' (*Note to Editor - Am I allowed to say blooming?!*) I sat there reflecting on the shared meal, the laughter, the work and energy that had gone into the evening, out the front **and** behind the scenes, and then there was the sea of happy faces. I reflected, where else would you get a gathering of people from all walks of life and right across the age spectrum? Some church members for many years and several having stepped across the threshold of our church for the first time. And so as I thought more about it I can echo those words, it was 'blooming marvellous'.

For me this is the heart of our Christian faith: it is the mix of generations, the mix of experiences and backgrounds, the sharing of skills and ideas, the idea that all have something to offer and all have something to learn. All are valued and all are welcomed, we see it time and time again throughout the gospels and in the life, actions and words of Jesus..

In January we had our covenant service, here we remind ourselves of the promises of God to remain with us 'even' to the end of the age, that is through all 'generations'; at the same time we remembered the generations that had gone before us and claimed this promise as their own.

So we find ourselves in as 'The Who' put it in 'My Generation', the people of God called together in Wonford to, as Charles Wesley puts it, 'To serve the present age', or as I might put it 'to serve the present generation'. We only do this by using the skills and knowledge of the older generation whilst embracing the dreams and aspirations of the younger generation (not that those are mutually exclusive!).

As God calls us to serve Him and His world how might we best work together, which old traditions and ideas can we use and employ, what are the new ideas that we can embrace and use for the Kingdom?

May we be a generation who lives the gospel in such a way that we are an inspiration for the generations to come.

In Christ **Mark Gilborson**

# Dates For February

## Birthdays - have a great birthday!!

|      |                             |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 1st  | Carol Shears                |
| 13th | Geoff Bowstead              |
| 17th | Chimenim 'Chimmy' Chinnah   |
| 19th | Emma Fisher                 |
| 21st | Karen Lord                  |
| 25th | Bill Noronha                |
| 27th | Simon Tregale & David Lewis |



## Flowers

|      |                    |
|------|--------------------|
| 3rd  | Sylvia             |
| 10th | Melanie            |
| 17th | Margaret Evans     |
| 24th | Bronwen & Clifford |



## Coffee

|      |                    |
|------|--------------------|
| 3rd  | Vanessa & Claire   |
| 10th | Linda & Pat Lowans |
| 17th | Sue & Friend       |
| 24th | Doreen & Barbara   |



## 'It's God's World' - Lent Course

Instead of **denying** yourself something through Lent, why not **add** in something! Have you thought of joining a Lent study group? '**Listening to God's World**' is a 5-week Lent study course with a difference, with the weekly titles being - '**The Hunger for God**', '**The Caricature Christian**', '**The Shift in Credibility**', '**The Eclipse of the Church**' and '**Reconnecting with our Communities**'. Each week there'll be a video presentation for about 10 minutes and a related bible study to be discussed in your group.

This **Hope 08** year there will be groups meeting on Tuesday (House Groups - starting 5th Feb 08), Wednesday (at 2 Wallace Avenue - starting 13th Feb 08) and Thursday evenings (*'Christians Together in Heavitree'* - starting 14th Feb 08) all looking at the same study in that week so you can switch to another group if one of the dates isn't convenient - **see details below for venues and times**. All are welcome to attend so please make a special effort. Full details are available in the Notices on Sundays.

***Margretta Bowstead***

## **Home Group Meetings in February / March - Lent Course**

Home group will now meet alternate Tuesdays. Meetings will be following a Lent Study course entitled '**Listening to God's World**' - see above.

- |            |           |   |
|------------|-----------|---|
| 5th Feb    | 8.00 p.m. | Meet at Mark and Sharon Gilborson's - 20 Whipton Lane (671289). Studying ' <b>The Hunger for God</b> ' (1 Corinthians 2) led by Margretta Bowstead. |
| 19th Feb   | 8.00 p.m. | Meet at Sue's - 13 Heneaton Square (662655). Studying ' <b>The Caricature Christian</b> ' (1 Peter 2: 9-25) led by Monika Noronha                   |
| 26th Feb   | 8.00 p.m. | Meet at Rose and Paul's - 17 Madison Avenue (660166). Studying ' <b>The Shift in Credibility</b> ' (Acts 17: 16-32) led by Sharon Gilborson.        |
| 4th March  | 8.00 p.m. | Meet at Joe and Emma's - 83 Wonford Street (436776). Studying ' <b>The Eclipse of the Church</b> ' (Acts 2: 42-47) led by Paul.                     |
| 11th March | 8.00 p.m. | Meet at Martyn & Susan's - 9 Purcell Close (205045). Studying ' <b>Reconnecting with our Communities</b> ' (Acts 10) led by Emma & Joe.             |

## **Wednesday Lent Course**

This will start on the 13th February 2008 and will run for 5 weeks. It will be held at Joan & Tony Wragg's - 2 Wallace Avenue, Whipton and will start at 7.30 p.m.

## **‘Christians Together in Heavitree’ - Lent Course** (see above)

These will be following the same Lent Course (**‘Listening to God’s World’** as detailed above)

14th Feb 7.30 p.m. Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Heavitree

21st Feb 7.30 p.m. United Reformed Church, Heavitree

28th Feb 7.30 p.m. Wonford Methodist Church

6th March 7.30 p.m. St Michael’s, Heavitree

13th March 7.30 p.m. St Paul’s, Burnthouse Lane.

## **Thursday Fellowship Dates for February**

7th 7.30 p.m. Church Prayer meeting in the lounge. Everyone is welcome.

15th 2.00 p.m. Bible Study led by Rev Mark Gilborson. This is open to all. The present series is on Psalms and this meeting will look at Psalm 90 - **‘Praying our Death’**. This meeting finishes at 3.00 p.m. to enable people to meet children from school.

21st 10.30 a.m. Coffee, Chat and Epilogue. Please feel free to call in; you will be made very welcome. Tea or water is available if you don’t like coffee.

28th 7.30 p.m. ‘Christians Together in Heavitree’ Lent Course - see above for details.

## **Christmas Card Tree 2007**

Thank you to all who supported the Network Project with your generous giving. £115 was raised for the work of the Langley House Trust, a Christian Fellowship who help to find work and accommodation for ex-offenders.

*Thank you everyone - Beryl Violet.*

## **New Theme series: The Letter to the Philippians**

Here's a new series to look forward to. It's running between February and March and features a few guest speakers. Why not read the letter through before we start – it's a really good read. We hope that lots of you will come to the evening occasions too so as not to break the continuity.

- 10th Feb 10.00 a.m. **'To All the Saints'** Phil 1 v1- 2  
Tony Haines, Kingswood School, Bath
- 6.30 p.m. **'I Have You in my Heart'** Phil 1 v3 -11  
Howard Govier, Exmouth
- 17th Feb 10.00 a.m. **'To Live is Christ'** Phil 1 v12 - 26  
Mark Gilborson
- 6.30 p.m. **'One in Spirit and Purpose'** Phil 1.27 – 2.11  
Monika Noronha
- 24th Feb 10.00 a.m. **'Work out your Salvation'** Phil 2 v12-18  
Tony Wragg
- 6.30 p.m. **'Brother, Worker and Soldier'**  
Phil 2 v19-end. Rev Charles Hadley,  
University Lazenby Chaplain
- 2nd March 6.30 p.m. **'I Want to Know Christ'** Phil 3 v1-11  
Geoff Bowstead
- 9th March 10.00 a.m. **'I Press on Toward the Goal'** Phil 3 v12-21  
Joan Wragg
- 16th March 10.00 a.m. **'Rejoice in the Lord Always'** Phil 4 v1-9  
Ken Kite - The Mint
- 6.30 p.m. **'I Can do All Things Through Him'**  
Phil 4 v10 - 23 Mark Gilborson

**Tony Wragg**

(On behalf of Worship Team)

## Hope 2008

Hope 2008 is already underway nationwide and here in Exeter. It began with a night of prayer in the Cathedral at New Year and is moving on through a series of city and local initiatives to bring hope and faith to our communities.

The first major event in Exeter is on Good Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. All Christians are asked to join in procession through the city, incorporating three dramatic enactment's of the Good Friday story in the High street, culminating in a mock crucifixion in the Cathedral close. The plan is to meet at Belmont Chapel at 10.00 a.m. We hope that our whole church will be part of this. Please put it in your diary now!

Our working party has also been planning activities for our own church and neighbourhood – car washes, cream teas, holiday club... Watch this space for more news.

**Further details ... see Joan Wragg**

## Plymouth & Exeter District Training Calendar 2007/8

Below is a list of the district training courses for February 2008.

For details of any course or event contact Keith Elliott or, where given, the named contact person.

Further details about how to book a place on one of these courses is available on the church noticeboard.

### February Training Courses

- 9<sup>th</sup> Faith Sharing**  
Venue – Ivybridge Methodist Church. 9.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.  
Contact - Keith Elliott or Dave Martin
- 13<sup>th</sup> ‘Keeping the faith by sharing the faith’**  
Venue - Old Deanery, Exeter. 10 am - 1 pm to include lunch.  
Contact – Keith Elliott **(E)**
- 21<sup>st</sup> Connecting and Working with Communities**  
Venue - Tavistock Methodist Church. 10.30 am - 4.00 pm  
Contact – Keith Elliott **(E)**

## Prayer Focus for February

**Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," He said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:14-15)**

### **Week beginning Sunday 3rd**

This (Ash) Wednesday sees the start of Lent, 40 days of preparation for Easter. Please pray for the Church of Christ worldwide, especially the Suffering Church where persecution is rife and the certain hope of God's promises is the rock on which their faith is founded.

Also pray for people in our own fellowship who are struggling; those who are faced with difficult decisions in relationships, finance or employment. Pray for our young people facing peer pressures to be 'part of the crowd', that the Lord will protect them and show them the better way.

Thank God for all those who spread the good news in a world that centres on bad news, thinking especially of our minister, Mark, our lay preachers, and others who are called by God to do this work.

### **Week beginning Sunday 10th**

Please pray this week for the work of the Church Council, which meets on Tuesday evening. Ask God to give clear vision and wise decisions. Pray also that the people that He has raised up to step into the tasks before them will be open to respond.

Thank God for His encouragement and guidance to us all, both in our individual lives and in the life of our church.

### **Week beginning Sunday 17th**

Take time this week to **PRAISE GOD** for all the blessings that He gives us. Praise Him for the work that goes on among our young people and the youth initiatives opening up in Exeter. Praise Him for all those who are able to help in times of trouble (emergency services, medical staff, voluntary organisations, social services, etc). Praise Him for times of fellowship; those organisations that meet regularly in our Church, pastoral visitors and those who are an encouragement to us. Praise

God for the blessings that He pours out on those who do not know Him  
- His love is unconditional. **PRAISE GOD!**

### **Week beginning Sunday 24th**

Please pray that we will, as a fellowship, continue to reach out into our community, and that God will give us clear direction and enthusiasm to do so. Ask Him to renew within us His gift of love in our own lives and as a church family.

Thank God for the abilities that He gives, in His wisdom, to each of us, which we may share with others.

### **The Prayer Team**

### **Prayer Phone Link**

If you have a prayer need, please contact Sarah Taylor (01392 424334) and your request will be passed onto 20 people on the phone link who will then pray for your request.

### **After Church Prayer Support**

This is available in the Quiet Room on Sunday mornings with 2 members of the Prayer Team who will be available to pray with you.

Should you wish to join the Prayer Phone Link or After Church Prayer Support please contact any member of the Prayer Team. Further details can be seen in the Quiet Room

### **The Prayer Team**

### **The District World Church Conference**

This year will be held in our own Circuit at St. Thomas on Saturday 8th March, from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. The theme will be **KOREA**: the speaker will be Rev. Dr. Jonathan Pye, Principal of Wesley College, Bristol, who has recently visited Korea. Everyone is welcome, and we hope the Circuit will be well represented

**Ann Weeks. (Circuit World Church Secretary)**

## Opportunities to Serve - Church Council

At its meeting on 12th February 08 the Church Council will be appointing many of you to serve God and his church in a wide variety of ways during the year beginning 1st May 08. Those who are ready, willing and able to continue in their current roles for a further year are warmly thanked for their past and future contributions to the church's mission. If, however, you feel the time has come to hand on some specific work to someone else, please have a word **as soon as possible** with one of the Church Stewards or with Mark Gilborson (if possible with a suggestion for a successor). Speak to one of these people also if you are feeling called to play a more active role in the church's life and are not sure what form that could take.

**Geoff Bowstead**

## Online Bible Study

Recently, the web team at Methodist Church House launched an online Bible study called 'A Word in Time' ([www.methodist.org.uk/bible](http://www.methodist.org.uk/bible)).

'A Word in Time' follows the readings in the Methodist Prayer Handbook and offers commentary, explanations and questions to ponder on the selected passages.

Writers from all around Methodism have written a week of studies, providing the reader with a tool that allows them to make sense of the Bible and its relevance to 21<sup>st</sup> century life. This new application brings together the 40,000+ readers of the Methodist Prayer Handbook along with online disciples in their search for daily spirituality.



## Dates For Your Diary

### February 2008

|                 |            |  |
|-----------------|------------|--|
| Sun 3rd         | 10.00 a.m. | All-Age Worship - Rev Dave Martin                              |
|                 | 6.30 p.m.  | Rev Mark Gilborson - Sacrament                                 |
| Tue 5th         | 8.00 p.m.  | Home Group Lent Course 1 **                                    |
| Thurs 7th       | 7.30 p.m.  | Monthly Prayer Meeting at the Church                           |
| Fri/Sat 8th/9th |            | Pantomime (Dick Whittington) at The Mint **                    |
| Sun 10th        | 10.00 a.m. | Tony Haines - Philippians 1: 1-2                               |
|                 | 6.30 p.m.  | Howard Govier - Philippians 1: 3-11                            |
| Tue 12th        | 7.30 p.m.  | Church Council Meeting   |
| Wed 13th        | 7.30 p.m.  | Lent Course 1 at 2 Wallace Avenue **                           |
| Thurs 14th      | 2.00 p.m.  | Minister's Bible Study, Psalm 90 **                            |
|                 | 7.30 p.m.  | Lent Course 1 at Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Heavitree ** |
| Sun 17th        | 10.00 a.m. | Rev Mark Gilborson - Philippians 1: 12-26 Sacrament            |
|                 | 6.30 p.m.  | Monika Noronha - Philippians 1: 27 - 2: 11                     |
| Tue 19th        | 8.00 p.m.  | Home Group Lent Course 2 **                                    |
| Wed 20th        | 7.30 p.m.  | Lent Course 2 at 2 Wallace Avenue **                           |
| Thurs 21st      | 7.30 p.m.  | Lent Course 2 at United Reformed Church **                     |
| Sun 24th        | 10.00 a.m. | Tony Wragg - Philippians 2: 12-18.                             |
|                 | 2.30 p.m.  | Hope 08 Group Meeting  |
|                 | 6.30 p.m.  | Rev Charles Hadley - Philippians 2: 19 - end.                  |
| Tue 26th        | 8.00 p.m.  | Home Group Lent Course 3 **                                    |
| Wed 27th        | 7.30 p.m.  | Lent Course 3 at 2 Wallace Avenue **                           |
| Thurs 28th      | 7.30 p.m.  | Lent Course 3 at Wonford Methodist Church **                   |

### March 2008

|         |            |                                       |
|---------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sun 2nd | 10.00 a.m. | All-Age Worship - Rev Mark Gilborson  |
|         | 6.30 p.m.  | Geoff Bowstead - Philippians 3: 1-11. |

**\*\*For more information see a separate item in this newsletter, or look on the notice board for a poster and/or the full District and Diocese Training programme.**

# 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  
(2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month - see Sharon Gilborson for 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. Church Fellowship  
(1st Thursday in each month is a Prayer Meeting, the  
3rd is a Bible Study at 2.00 p.m. The 2nd and 4th 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\*

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 March 2008 Newsletter will be Sunday 10th February 2008. 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@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.m.jackson@btinternet.com)