

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

July 2009
(No: 380)



Minister: Rev Mark J Gilborson (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk

Welcome to Your Leadership Team

With Mark on study leave we, your Church Stewards, have agreed to write our thoughts and aspirations about being a Steward in a vibrant and exciting church like Wonford.

When first asked to be a Steward it was something that I had thought about before, but initially I needed to find out more about what's involved. Isn't a steward someone that wears a fluorescent jacket and directs people and traffic at festivals and events? I imagine myself on the door of the church with a big yellow coat. OK so if it's not that, then what? – stand on the door, pray with the preacher, etc.?

I then read Jesus' account of leadership and how he washed the disciples' feet. To lead is to serve – so my heart is that God will enable me to serve the church and Him in all I do. If you find me at the door with a yellow jacket and a bowl for washing, just ignore me....

There are many different facets to being a Steward. What initially attracted me to the idea was the Sunday morning role of welcoming people into the church, of greeting the minister or preacher and helping them to feel comfortable in what may be unfamiliar territory. Part of that role is to lead a vestry prayer – a moment of quiet reflection before the service. I have always considered myself “rubbish” at prayer, never really knowing what it is or how to go about it, always wondering how other people manage it.

It was this challenge that provoked me with the thinking that there is no better way of learning or understanding than by doing. It was the same provocation with our first 24hr prayer weekend. Having gained much from an hour of prayer time that weekend, I had asked the question “will there be another one next year?” and received the answer “maybe, do you want to help?” And so the challenge of understanding by doing continued. I think this is the way it is with much of church life and it is the way forward to a church fulfilled in worship, fellowship and support. Somewhere near the heart of all this is trying to discover what prayer is.

I have been coming to Wonford Methodist Church for about 20 years. Before this I went to Wipton Methodist Church. Both my children were christened there. I was brought up a Methodist, attending a Chapel in Calne, Wiltshire. I have always believed in taking part and getting involved

even if only in a small way. Being a Steward is a totally new path for me, with God's help, I hope I do well.

What a scary thing to be asked to be a Steward at church! I thought "Why on earth are you asking me? Isn't that what Grown Ups are for?!" I was born on the 24th of July 1973, a few days after our old chapel building was opened. I came along to the opening service kicking but not yet screaming, and I have been coming to Wonford every Sunday ever since. I guess the facts speak for themselves....I now qualify as a Grown Up. So it is scary...But exciting! I am looking forward to all the challenges the role will bring. With such a cross section of ages and types at Wonford there is never a dull moment, always something new on the horizon. It will be a privilege to serve the church which has been my home for so long in this new way

Traditionally a Methodist Church Steward helps the minister to make the church a place of welcome and ensures that the services and church life run as smoothly as possible. My aim is to serve you, the church, to the best of my ability as our team of Stewards do our bit to steer the church through another year. So please pray for us, that we will be sensitive to God's leading in all that we do. Thank you.

Aren't we fortunate and really blessed to have such a brilliant team of people leading our church?

Every Blessing

Your Church Stewards

Dates For July

Birthdays - have a great birthday!!

8th	Evie W
9th	Anna W
14th	Sharon G
24th	Julian W & Pippa W
25th	Harry T
27th	Vanessa W & Andrew J



Flowers

5th	Kathleen & Norman Dell
12th	Bronwen & Clifford
19th	Eileen
26th	Sylvia & Tom



Coffee

5th	Jenny & Doreen
12th	Vanessa & Lisa
19th	Melanie & Eileen
26th	No coffee - shared lunch



Thursday Dates

July

2nd	7.30 p.m.	Church Prayer meeting in the lounge.
9th		No meeting
16th	2.00 p.m.	Bible Study led by Rev Mark Gilborson Mark Chapter 9 v 33-50
23rd	10.30 a.m.	No meeting. Instead we are going to the Action for Children Supper Party on the 25th at St Thomas.
30th		No meeting at the church

Tuesday Home Group Dates for July

7th	8.00 p.m.	At Melanie & David's - 14 Grainger Close
15th	8.00 p.m.	At Sharon & Mark's - 20 Whipton Lane

If you need any further information please contact Sharon Gilborson.

The World Church Circuit Festival

This will be held at Sidwell Street Methodist Church (***please note change of venue due to building works at The Mint***) at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 1st July 2009. The theme for the evening will be ZIMBABWE, with Philip Bhebhe and Caroline Colin, who will be able to give us up-to-date information. Everyone welcome. The collection that evening will be for Zimbabwe: the usual "purses" for World Missions, split between Network and the General Fund will also be received.

2nd Exeter Girls' Brigade Summer Open Evening

This will take place on Monday 6th July 2009 at 6.30 p.m.

Everyone welcome, please come along and support the girls as they showcase what they've been doing during this year. Refreshments provided and the tuck shop will be open.

Anna Williams



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>

Family Barbecue

This will take place on Friday 3rd July 2009 at 6.00 p.m. at Exmouth. Bring your own food to cook, a blanket/chair to sit on and your singing voice.

See Sharon Gilborson for more details.



Bring and Share Lunch - Sunday 26th July 2009



We have something to celebrate and rejoice in on this day! With several new members being welcomed to our church family and 3 Baptisms, a bring and share lunch is to take place after the service. Please contact Jenny Harrington if you need more information, or bring something to share - simply come and celebrate with us on this special occasion. All are welcome!

Action for Children - Annual Supper Party

This will take place on Saturday 25th July 2009 at St. Thomas Methodist Church starting at 6.30 p.m. Ticket are priced at £6.00 are available from Barbara Irish or Vanessa Welch. Entertainment will be provided by local soprano, Marlene Butler. The event is hosted by the Exeter & District Support Group. (www.actionforchildren.org.uk).



Advance Notice - Car Wash / Family Fun Day

This is planned for a summer's Saturday at the church. Volunteers are needed to wash cars, bake and serve cakes, run arts and crafts and offer face painting for children, etc. See Ruth Lovell for more info or to offer ideas.

Advance Notice - Silverton Street Market Weekend

Silverton are looking forward to being joined by Wonford friends on the 2nd August 2009. Events for the day are listed below.

- 4.00 p.m. Guided walks,
- 5.00 p.m. CreamTeas,
- 6.30 p.m. Worship (with musical contributions from the Brazier/Palmer Friends)

If are intending to go please contact Patricia Rolls at Silverton. (860483).

Advance Notice - Back to Church Sunday (September 27th 2009)

In 2004 the first Back to Church Sunday was held in the diocese of central Manchester. This was so successful that it has been held every year since and has spread to many dioceses across the UK and to most other denominations as well as to churches abroad. And this year our Church Council has voted that we will join them!

The principle is simple. Just take an invitation card and offer it to a friend who used to go to a church and invite them to come back. This is a chance for all of us to be thinking about whom we can invite.. and to be praying now.

We'll have printed cards available and may need volunteers to leafleteer the roads near to our church in September. So this is advance notice for you to put the date in your diary. It will be a great opportunity!

Further information from Joan Wragg

Advance Notice - Shebbear Study Day 2009

This takes place on Saturday 17th October 2009 from 9.30am-4.30pm. The topic is "Christians in a Secular Society". The speakers are Mrs Sue Gunn-Johnson, Deputy Head in Torquay and Revd Ginnie Pearson Methodist Minister in Hartland (from America). The cost is £12 per head which includes lunch.

Contact: Peter Ellis 01409 231309

Wonford and the Greenbelt Festival

In just a few weeks time, over August bank holiday weekend, a group of our young (and not so young) people will be off to Greenbelt once again. Greenbelt is a Christian Arts Festival: it is currently held at Cheltenham race-course and attracts about 20,000 people to camp and enjoy the multifarious activities – music, drama, literature, seminars, panels, worship, dance, crafts, exhibitions, trade-stalls and much more. Groups from Wonford have been attending Greenbelt for over 25 years. Joan and I and our family first explored it in 1983 when it was held at Knebworth. Since then it has moved via Castle Ashby and Dean Park to Cheltenham and scores of our Wonford young people have undergone the Greenbelt experience. Gary and Karen are among the longstanding Greenbelters and Joan is a Greenbelt Angel.

Our church's involvement has grown in recent years. A couple of months ago two of our members, Pippa Wragg and Nikki Andrews found themselves in London (unbeknown to each other at the time) at adjacent Greenbelt planning meetings; Nikki for youth work and Pippa for the music programme. Nikki says "The purpose of our committee is to organise a varied and exciting programme for all young people between the ages of 11 and 17 and to lead a team of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers to ensure that youngsters get the most out of the Festival". And Pippa adds "We book bands for the Festival. This year there are 6 stages to co-ordinate so it's a lot of work! We try to book bands which are relevant, interesting and have a positive message, as well as entertaining the Greenbelters after a long day's seminars"

Joe Fisher has also been heavily involved in the recent past in compering events and running the Family Fun afternoons. Amanda, along with a Cheltenham-based group with the unlikely name of Fuzzy, has been responsible for the design and operation of spaces and programmes for prayer, reflection and worship. Jon Curtis's band the Cut Ups are playing at the festival this year and another band The Computers, managed by Pippa, are also playing. Pippa is also hosting a panel discussion on the theme of "Women in music". Why DO girls get flutes and oboes to play and boys drums and guitars? And why are there so few female sound engineers on the live circuit? Should be a good discussion!!

So do remember all these folk and those young people who will be attending Greenbelt this year in your prayers. Greenbelt is a great way of both dabbling and deepening in Christian faith and experience and has been a blessing to many over the years. Let's pray that it will continue to be so.

Tony Wragg

Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF)

Stop Press report from Miss Margaret Simmons.

“As I reflect on ‘Make your Mark, Change the World with MRDF’ District Conference held at Wonford Methodist Church on June 19th 2009, it was both informative and challenging.....a pity it was so poorly attended (12 people).

The first Speaker, from Stop Climate Chaos, highlighted the problems of climate change to peoples’ lives when the rains don’t come when they should or when there is too much rain and whole areas are flooded. 2009 is a big year in this respect as there are crucial talks by world leaders in Copenhagen in December. A big march is planned for London on the 1st weekend.

After lunch (very appetising and beautifully presented locally) discussion was shared on how we ourselves could make our mark and help raise awareness of the ‘earthed’ work of MRDF in our own Circuits and Churches. The afternoon’s Speaker was from World Development Movement and she gave most interesting facts about how the big multinational companies make trade agreements with the poor countries that are not to the advantage of the people.

From MRDF staff during the day we learned of their support and strengths with very small projects, in parts of Africa, Asia, Latin America. The Organisation prefers working with small scale locally based overseas’ Partners, finding that being along side the needy local people MRDF can give the support and training actually needed (not tell them what we think is needed). This way they are given the skills they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

Trustee Claire Boxall enthusiastically spoke on her role as MRDF Trustee, one of fourteen, who’s supporting duties also involve carefully overseeing a properly run charity. The day was ably led by Silverton’s Chris Rolls (Global Education Adviser in Methodist Schools working alongside MRDF) and Menka Jha (Programme Officer).”

Thank you very much Margaret for making time to share your experiences in this way. Another encouraging aspect of the day was the age group of the day’s staff and their commitment and enthusiasm. MRDF’s aim is that every Methodist Church in the country should have an MRDF contact (Co-ordinator). So, even if not able to be present at this District event, what can you do? Remember, MRDF will be pleased to talk aspects through with you - ‘phone 02074675132 / www.mrdf.org.uk

What about it?

Prayer Focus for July

'Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God.'

Colossians 4:2 (Good News Bible)

Week beginning Sunday 5th - Young Church

Please pray for all our young people as they take part in the Youth Celebration Service today, Sunday, and the Girls Brigade Open Evening on Monday. Pray that 'Christ's message in all its richness may live in their hearts'. (Colos 3:16 GNB)

Thank God for the joy our children bring to us.

Week beginning Sunday 12th - Church Anniversary

Please pray for the Holy Spirit to flow through our Anniversary services today (Sunday) and to inspire all our lives during the week ahead.

Thank God for the years our church has stood as a witness to the Christian faith.

Week beginning Sunday 19th

Please pray for all those you know who are suffering with physical or mental illness. Pray the Lord will touch them with His healing hand.

Thank God for Jesus who is 'the same yesterday and today and for ever'. (Hebrews 13:8 GNB)

Week beginning Sunday 26th - Celebrate

Please pray that the joy of the Sunday service Celebrations (with baptisms, confirmations and transfer of new members) will stay in our hearts and be a blessing to us all whenever we think about it.

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

Biblical Occupations Word Search



Can you find the following biblical occupations in the word search above?

Ambassador, Apothecary, Artisan, Astrologer, Baker, Basketmaker, Brewer, Brickmaker, Carpenter, Charioteer, Clerk, Coppersmith, Craftsman, Cupbearer, Disciple, Fisherman, Gatekeeper, Glassworker, Harvester, Jeweler, King, Laborer, Magistrate, Maid, Mason, Metalsmith, Nurse, Prefect, Silversmith, Slave, Tentmaker, Woodworker

Dates For Your Diary

July 2009

Wed 1st	7.30 p.m.	Zimbabwe World Church Event at Sidwell Street MC **
Thurs 2nd	7.30 p.m.	Monthly prayer meeting in the lounge **
Fri 3rd	3.00 p.m.	Cream teas at Alphington MC in aid of Action for Children until 5.00 p.m.
	6.30 p.m.	Family barbecue at Exmouth - open to all **
Sat 4th		Young Church outing
	9.30 a.m.	Charity Fair at St Thomas MC until 12.00 p.m.
Sun 5th	10.00 a.m.	Young Church Celebrations - all age worship
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Myra Dillistone - Sacrament
Mon 6th	6.30 p.m.	Girls' Brigade Open Evening **
Tues 7th	8.00 p.m.	Home Group Meeting at Melanie & David's **
Wed 8th	7.30 p.m.	Prayer Team meeting at Martin's - 9 Purcell Close
Sun 12th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Tom Stuckey - Church Anniversary & Action for Children Sunday
	6.30 p.m.	Circuit Service at Wonford - Rev Tom Stuckey
Wed 15th	8.00 p.m.	Home Group meeting at Sharon & Mark's **
Thurs 16th	2.00 p.m.	Monthly Bible Study - Mark Ch9 v33-50 **
Sun 19th	10.00 a.m.	Jean Mann
	2.45 p.m.	Walk and tea at Cheriton Fitzpaine MC
	6.30 p.m.	Prof Stephen Lea
Tues 21st	10.30 a.m.	CTH Prayers & Refreshments - St Lawrence
	7.00 p.m.	Farewell Service for Rev John Carne Sidwell Street MC
Sat 25th	6.30 p.m.	Action for Children Annual Supper Party at St Thomas MC **
Sun 26th	10.00 a.m.	Special Baptisms, Confirmation & New Members Service followed by Bring & Share Lunch Rev Mark Gilborson - Sacrament
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Paul Collings
Tues 28th	7.30 p.m.	Worship Team meet at Pat Lowans 23 Pound Lane, Topsham

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

Advance Notice - August / September Edition of Contact

This is the normal double issue. I will need contributions by Sunday 12th July 2009 since it needs to be printed before the end of the school term.

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
9.15 a.m. Weekly Prayers in the Quiet Room
6.00 p.m. Brownies *A*
8.00 p.m. Home Group
(See inside for more details)

Wednesday

- 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 August/September 2009 Newsletter will be Sunday 12th July 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