

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

March 2011

(No: 396)



Minister: Rev Mark J Gilborson (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

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A Message From The Minister

'Out in the cold' is one of those interesting idioms or phrases in the English language that makes our language so fascinating. We use it to explain how someone might not be allowed to take part in a group or activity. Somehow our action or inaction leaves them 'out in the cold'.

On 29th January myself, Jon and Rosie along with 50+ others were literally 'out in the cold', we slept outside, in the Guildhall area, as part of heightening awareness for those who find themselves homeless, whilst also raising money for the YMCA and their project: 'Sleep Easy'. All in all I am delighted to say that nearly £10,000 was raised in Exeter; a special thank you to those who sponsored the Wonford contingent.

Sleeping outside was not easy, it was very cold, -2! It was also noisy and it was surprising just how many lights are on in the city at night. We were all well equipped, warm sleeping bags, layers of clothing, hot drinks available and cardboard boxes to sleep on. There were also security people there and a fence to keep us safe.

What was most surprising was that one genuinely homeless person took great offense at what he called 'playing' at sleeping rough, and so he climbed the fences, squirted people with water, kicked the boxes we were sleeping in and shouted 'wakey wakey' very, very loudly at regular intervals all through the night. Actually Mr' Wakey Wakey', as he became to be known, made our experience much harder and probably much better for it, we left tired, jaded and a bit dazed by the experience.

As I reflected, Mr Wakey Wakey reminded me just how easy it is to leave people 'out in the cold', we think we understand where they are, what their needs are, what we can do to help but actually we need to listen more closely. For me it was only when he screamed in my ear that I got a glimpse of the reality of his situation; he well and truly made his point and I will not forget it. For me there was something prophetic about Mr Wakey Wakey. I was reminded of Ephesians 5:14 'awake from your sleep, rise up and Christ will give you light'.

Who have we left 'out in the cold' or given the 'cold shoulder'? Where do we need to wake from our slumber and allow God's light and warmth to shine anew in places and people we thought we understood?

Yours, in Christ

Mark Gilborson

Dates For March

Birthdays - have a great birthday!!

1st	Barbara I
3rd	Rosie N
5th	Lydia L
8th	Joe F
9th	Charlotte W
15th	Susan L
17th	Monika N
28th	Jessica B



Flowers

6th	Barbara Jackson
13th	Sylvia & Tom
20th	Jenny Harrington
27th	Bronwen & Clifford



Coffee

6th	Beryl & Kath
13th	Noronha Family
20th	Susan & Martin
27th	Lesley & Martin



Thursday Dates

3rd	7.30 p.m.	Church Prayer Meeting in the lounge
	7.30 p.m.	CTAX meeting in the Church
10th	2.00 p.m.	Bible Study (at 2.00 p.m.) on Romans 5 called 'Reasons to Rejoice' led by Rev Mark Gilborson.

Home Group Dates

We continue to discover 'The Divine Blueprint - God's Extraordinary Power in Ordinary Lives'. Please come and join us in learning more of our faith as we discover God's extraordinary power. All welcome.

If you need any further information please contact Sharon Gilborson.

- | | | |
|------|-----------|--|
| 1st | 8.00 p.m. | At Sharon & Mark's - 20 Whipton Lane
'The Divine Blueprint - God's Extraordinary Power in Ordinary Lives' led by Maggie Harman. |
| 16th | 8.00 p.m. | At Monika & Bill's - 18 Tuckfield Close
Led by Sharon Gilborson |
| 29th | 8.00 p.m. | At Emma & Joe's - 83 Wonford Street
Led by David Westcott |

Action for Children

The Circuit evening service on the 20th March will focus on the work of Action for Children. Jamie Lee, South West Fundraiser, who is based in The Green Ark Childrens' Centre, Plymouth will talk about some of the work carried out in our area. The Stephenson Award will also be made that evening, this honour is awarded to those who have been nominated for outstanding and long-term support for Action for Children. The Service will be followed by light refreshments. Please come along if you can.



Barbara Irish.

Fairtrade Fortnight

I hope you will enjoy the Fairtrade decorations in the hall this year. We have [hopefully!] helped the Fairtrade Foundation to create the longest bunting on record! After Fairtrade Fortnight, we will be sending our bunting to head office to be joined up to a record breaking attempt!



On Sunday March 6th, during teas and coffees there will be a video to watch on the plight of the honey farmers around the world. Information and samples will also be available. There will be quiz papers available, just for fun!

On Sunday 13th March, may I encourage you to 'Show Off' the Fairtrade products that you buy? This year I would really appreciate a little bit of help with providing samples. So, for example, if you bake cakes with Fairtrade chocolate, please feel free to bring some along for us to sample. Or, if you think you have discovered the tastiest Fairtrade tea or coffee in town, please bring some along for others to try. Maybe you own a Fairtrade cotton teeshirt? Come and show it off! Please let me know what you are able to bring along. Drowning in Divine chocolate might sound fun, but it would be nice to have a variety of products to sample!

Thank you.

Monika Noronha

The Environmental Crisis

A Christian Response?

Friday Evenings in March
7:30 – 9 pm

Mint Methodist Church
Exeter

What are the facts?
What does the Christian faith say?
How should we respond?

Hear leading experts speak,
ask your questions and be inspired



Climate Change

*A Lot of Hot Air or
Creation in Crisis?*

4th
March

Sir John Houghton –
Leading Scientific Advisor to
International Governments

Where Have All the Tigers Gone?

*The Significance of
Biodiversity Loss*

11th
March

Dr John Sale –
Former UN Advisor on Conservation

Fighting for Survival

*How Environmental Problems
Impact the World's Poorest*

18th
March

Richard Weaver –
Senior Policy Advisor for Tearfund

Living it Out

*Christian Living that
Doesn't Cost the Earth*

25th
March

Ruth Valerio –
Manager of A Rocha's
'Living Lightly' Project



A Reminder

Venture FX is to establish fresh expressions of church in new places and in new ways within a culture of holy risk-taking. The scheme is intended to complement things that are already taking part to achieve outreach and the implementation of new ideas (Fresh Expressions) throughout the church.

Jon Curtis, has been chosen to be one of these Venture FX pioneers and the Exeter Circuit is currently putting the final touches to a five year project of trying to engage with young adults in our city. Although much of the cost of this church is met by national and district monies there is an opportunity to contribute locally and we thought it would be good to give you the chance to 'invest' in this project but also in one of our own.

So please pray for Jon and all of the others as they are appointed and apply for positions, pray too for the projects, not least the one we hope to have in Exeter. Finally please use the slip and return it to our treasurer David Westcott who will help you set up your contribution.

Yours, in Christ
Mark Gilborson

I/We pledge to give £.....

As a: one off payment/ annual amount/ a monthly amount
(Please circle the one that is applicable)

Name

Address
.....
.....
.....

Contact number

Are you a UK tax payer and would like to contribute so that any tax may be added to this amount? YES/NO



FORUM 2011

What the Spirit is saying to the Church today

Saturday, **5th March 2011, 10.30am-4.30pm**

at the **Cardinal Newman House, Exeter** (Wonford Road, EX2 4PF)

followed by an ecumenical act of worship at

Blessed Sacrament RC Church (29 Fore Street, Heavitree, EX1 2QJ)

at **5pm** in which the Devon Church Leaders will re-sign the
Ecumenical Covenant

Speakers:

Professor Grace Davie, Professor of Sociology, University of Exeter
"Religion in Britain in the 21st Century: Some Questions to Ask"

Dr Michael DeLashmutt, Director of Studies, Sarum College
*"Symbol, Imagination and Meaning: The Church's response to 'disenchantment' in a
Secular Age."*

Also featuring presentations on local success stories!

The FORUM is open to all!

Admission is by ticket, price £5/£3 (concession) per person
Tea, coffee and soup will be available at lunchtime (included in ticket
price), but please bring your own packed lunch.

For further details or to book please contact 01395 239116 or
sabrina.groeschel@churchestogetherdevon.co.uk

Pastoral Visitors Meeting

There is a meeting for all pastoral visitors on Monday 14th March 2011 at 7.00pm in the church lounge. Please let Lisa Thomas or Rev Mark Gilborson know if you cannot attend.

Spring Theme Preaching at Wonford Methodist Church

We have another theme preaching and worship series for you to look forward to this Spring with some good invited speakers to provide excellent ministry. The series was devised by Monika and is entitled “Great Prayers of the Bible”.

We hope it will help to inspire our own personal and corporate prayer lives as we follow the struggles and inspiration of those Bible prayers who have travelled the Way of Faith before us. Here’s the timetable: we invite you to check out the readings before the services by way of preparation.

Date	Morning	Evening
13th March	A Bargaining Prayer of Abraham: Genesis 18 v16-33. Rev Mark Gilborson	Prayer & Praise Rev John Simkins
20th March	An Exploratory Prayer of Solomon: 1 Kings 8 v22-53 Monika Noronha	Circuit ‘Action for Children’ Service at Sidwell Street Methodist Church
27th March	A Physical Prayer of Hezekiah: 2 Kings v18-19. Rev David Hull (Chaplain of Shebbear College)	Cafe Church Dr Susannah Cornwall
3rd April	A Text Message Prayer of Nehemiah: Nehemiah 2 v1-20. Rev Mark Gilborson (All Age)	An ‘Even-If’ Prayer of Habbakuk: Habbakuk 3 v1-19. Caroline Colin
10th April	A Prayer of Jesus for the Church: John 17 Dr Joan Wragg	A Prayer for Courage: Acts 4 v23-31. Prof Tony Wragg (Prayer & Praise)
17th April	A Prayer for Spiritual Growth: Ephesians 3 v14-21 Rev Paul Smith (Plymouth Central Hall)	A Prayer of Paul for the Colossians: Colossians 1 v9-13. Dr Ken Kite
21st April (Maundy Thursday)		The Gethsemene Prayer of Jesus: Matthew 26 v36-46 Peter Jolly

Prayer Focus for March

Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. The Spirit led Jesus into the desert where the devil tempted Jesus for forty days. After the devil had tempted Jesus in every way, he left Him to wait until a better time.

Luke 4:1, 2a and 13 (New Century Version Youth Bible)

Week beginning Sunday 6th

As Lent begins on Wednesday, please pray that we will keep our hearts right before God as we face our own trials and temptations.

Thank God for the increasing awareness of fair trading for poorer countries, which is highlighted in this Fairtrade Fortnight.

Week beginning Sunday 13th

Please pray for insight and inspiration for those leading the new series, 'Prayers of the Bible'.

Pray also that God will guide those voting on Tuesday (15th) over proposed plans for an enlarged Circuit.

Week beginning Sunday 20th

Please pray for all children in need; that God will meet those needs despite cut backs in social and welfare provision.

Pray also for the disadvantaged children of Goa, and for a generous response to the 'El Shaddai' concert on Friday.

Thank God for the work of 'Action for Children' and for the combined AfC service at Sidwell Street tonight.

Week beginning Sunday 27th

Please pray that the love of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit, will open our hearts and minds to minister healing to each other.

Thank the Holy Spirit that, as He filled Jesus with power at the Jordan River, He is able to share that same power with us.

We would love to have your suggestions to include in the Prayer Focus. These may be placed in the Prayer Box in the Hall or given to Michael and Judith (or phone us on 214789) by the first week of the month.

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.

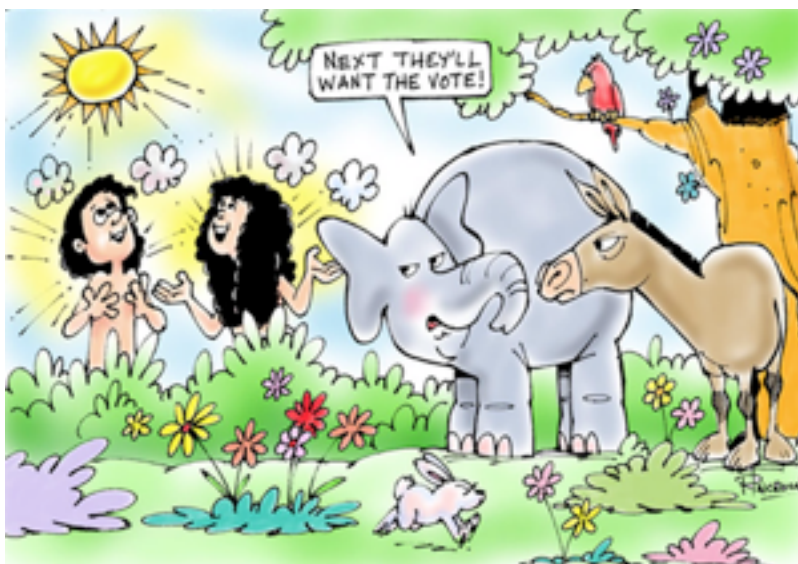
The Prayer Team

STOP PRESS NEWS!!!

El Shaddai Fundraising Event

At 7.30 on the 25th March Exeter Male Voice Choir (plus some special soloists that you will recognise from church!) will be putting on a performance for us at Wonford Methodist in aid of El Shaddai. As well as this, there will be an opportunity to purchase cakes, crafts and Ruth Bealing will be joining us with her stall of beautiful trinkets that have been hand made in India. As many of you know, we have had a couple of fundraising events already for this charity and your generosity at the curry evening last April saw us raise £1048.

It will be a great social occasion and will give us a chance to give more to our chosen charity El Shaddai.



Dates For Your Diary

March 2011

Tues 1st	8.00 p.m.	Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane **
Thurs 3rd	7.30 p.m.	Monthly prayer meeting in the lounge with Mark & Heather Davies **
Fri 4th	11.00 a.m.	Women's World Day of Prayer at Sacred Heart RC Church, South Street
	7.30 p.m.	Climate Change talk at The Mint **
Sat 5th	10.30 a.m.	Christians Together in Devon Forum (until 4.30pm)**
Sun 6th	10.00 a.m.	Anna Williams - all age worship
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Mark Gilborson - Sacrament
Thurs 10th	2.00 p.m.	Monthly Bible Study with Rev Mark Gilborson **
Fri 11th	7.30 p.m.	Climate Change talk at The Mint **
Sun 13th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Mark Gilborson
		1st in Themed Preaching Series on Prayer **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev John Simkins
		Prayer & Praise with India theme
Mon 14th	7.00 p.m.	Pastoral Visitors Meeting **
Tues 15th	7.30 p.m.	Circuit Meeting at Wonford
Wed 16th	8.00 p.m.	Home Group meeting at 18 Tuckfield Close
Fri 18th	7.30 p.m.	Climate Change talk at The Mint **
Sun 20th	10.00 a.m.	Monika Noronha
		2nd Themed Preaching Series on Prayer **
	6.30 p.m.	Circuit 'Action for Children' Service at Sidwell Street Methodist Church **
Mon 21st	7.30 p.m.	Local Preachers Meeting at The Mint
Fri 25th	7.30 p.m.	Exeter Male Voice Choir (+ others) fundraising event for El Shaddai **
	7.30 p.m.	Climate Change talk at The Mint **
Sun 27th	10.00 a.m.	Rev David Hull
		3rd Themed Preaching Series on Prayer **
	6.30 p.m.	Cafe Church - Dr Susannah Cornwall discussion
Tues 29th	8.00 p.m.	Home Group meets at 83 Wonford Street **
Wed 30th	10.30 a.m.	CTH meet at St Michael's

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

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
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
3rd is a Bible Study at 2.00 p.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 April 2011 Newsletter will be Sunday 13th March 2011. 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