

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

May 2011  
(No: 398)



HELP PEOPLE  
**EXPERIENCE**  
THE BIBLE IN  
NEW AND  
CREATIVE WAYS

Minister: Rev Mark J Gilborson (01392 256716)



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

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

The **Methodist Church** 

**biblefresh**  
It could change your world

# A Message From The Minister

Well the Biblefresh year is approaching its half way point, the actual anniversary date for the completion of the King James' Bible is the 2nd May and May is a busy month for us.

You will be aware that May is the month when we have planned our special 'city-wide' planned preaching from Luke's gospel. It is hoped that those who belong to fellowship groups will be using the four preaching themes to study the themes in the following weeks. If you don't currently belong to a fellowship group and you want to know what Luke's gospel says about death, life, hopes and dreams, money, ambition and the use of time then don't worry. It is my hope that we will run an additional daytime and evening meeting so that we can study this together as a church. Please check the notices for more information.

The Circuit is also starting its 'Disciple' course in May, this is a year-long course of study and the first 'orientation' meeting is at St Thomas at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th May. We are also hoping to run a daytime event in the autumn. It is not too late to join, please see me if you are interested.

May 7th gives you two things to get involved in. The Methodist church has decided to write the whole Bible by hand and Exeter will be doing its part on Saturday 7th May 11am-1pm at Waterstones (the Sidwell Street end). Please come along and be part of this historic experience! In the afternoon we are planning to meet at Wonford at 2pm to deliver the remainder of Luke's gospels to people on the estate – we need lots of people to do this!

Finally I just want to encourage those who set out to read the Bible in a year, you are over a third of the way through! I know many of you are sticking with it and really enjoying it. I am sure that some are struggling too. If you have fallen behind, why not make after Easter, the beginning of May a time to have another go. I have recently discovered something called the E100 which has one hundred bible readings and takes about three months, reading ten minutes a day. Please let me know if you would like to do this.

I said May was a busy month!

**Yours, in Christ**

**Mark Gilborson**

# Dates For May

**Birthdays** - have a great birthday!!

1st Zara T  
5th Beth C  
7th Pam H  
11th Pauline  
24th Linda C  
26th Joan W  
27th Edith C



## Flowers

1st Barbara  
8th Jenny Sanders  
15th Karen  
22nd Margretta  
29th Lisa



## Coffee

1st Rose & Paul  
8th Eileen & Melanie  
15th Margaret Evans  
22nd Lillian  
29th Kath & Beryl



## Thursday Dates

12th 7.30 p.m. Church Prayer Meeting **in the lounge**  
**Bible Study** - This is being replaced this month by discussions. See items later in this newsletter for dates

## Home Group Dates

This group will be studying 'Help .....' throughout the month of May culminating in a discussion service on May 29th at 6.30pm led by Paul Violet based on 'Help - all my dreams are shattered' Luke 24 v13-35  
Please come and join us in learning more of our faith as we discover God's extraordinary power. All welcome.

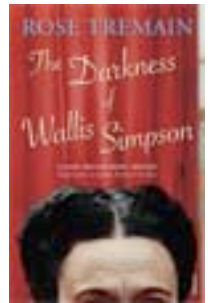
If you need any further information please contact Sharon Gilborson.

- |      |           |  |
|------|-----------|--|
| 10th | 8.00 p.m. | At 22 Walsingham Road. 'Help - I'm scared of dying'<br>Luke 8 v40-56 |
| 17th | 8.00 p.m. | At 39 Meyer Court. 'Help - Life's too busy'<br>Luke 10 v38-42        |
| 24th | 8.00 p.m. | At 14 Grainger Close. 'Help - I've got it all'.<br>Luke 18 v18-30    |

### **Wonford Worms**

This groups are due to meet on Thursday May 19th at 7.30pm at 17 Madison Avenue. They will be discussing 'The Darkness of Wallis Simpson' by Rose Tremain.

For more information please see Sharon Gilborson 01392 671289.



### **Plymouth & Exeter District Synod**

There was an inspiring presentation at the Plymouth & Exeter District Synod on 2 April about the Palestine/Israel issue, and the plight of many Christians somehow caught in the middle in that troubled land. Palestinian Christian Sally, studying at the Bethlehem Bible College but this year in Yeovil helping with SWYM/South West Youth Ministries, told us her life story and the hard times that she has survived. And we heard from Rev John Angle of the Hope Christian Trust. He has links to the Bethlehem Bible College and told of his many visits and the experiences he has had over 30 years of going to Palestine/Israel and the work done to help people like Sally. Do spend a few moments looking at the leaflet on the Hall notice board and learn more of the work of the Hope Christian Trust.

**Margretta Bowstead**



On Saturday 21st May I am doing a 7.5 mile walk in Exmouth, along with others from Exeter Central Library, to raise money for Hospiscare. If you'd like to support Hospiscare do let me know and I will add your name to my sponsorship form.

**Karen**

See [www.womensmidnightwalk.co.uk](http://www.womensmidnightwalk.co.uk) for more details.

Mothers' Union believes children should be valued as children, not consumers. Yet marketers target children's natural inexperience in order to reach the household purse.

Giving children the message that they are what they own, rather than being valued for who they are, can negatively affect their wellbeing. Nearly three-fifths of parents believe that advertising seen by children can be harmful to them.

The Bye Buy Childhood campaign aims to empower families to challenge the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood through positive action.

Join the campaign to say "bye bye" to buying childhood.

More information on the Young Church noticeboard

[www.byebuychildhood.org](http://www.byebuychildhood.org)



## **Well Cafe**

In conjunction with Westbank's League of Friends we are intending to trial a monthly 'Well Cafe' starting on Wednesday 15th June 2-4pm. It is hoped that this will attract older people from the estate who can come in and socialise for a couple of hours once a month. There is likely to be tea, crafts, games, quizzes etc. We will need volunteer to come on the day to help or even make cakes in advance! If you feel you may be able to offer any help with this new and exciting venture please let me know.

**Rev Mark Gilborson**

## **BIBLEFRESH – IT COULD CHANGE YOUR WORLD!**

This contribution from the Exeter Circuit tells more about our churches' contribution to this year's Biblefresh celebration.



As reported last month by the Revd Mark Gilborson, as part of this year's Biblefresh initiative the Exeter Circuit is promoting at most of our churches in May a four-Sunday series of sermons drawing on passage from Luke's Gospel. The themes have been designed to attract both regular church-goers and those who may not attend church on a regular basis but would like a fresh look at the Gospel message

Each Sunday carries a theme which preachers are being encouraged to integrate in their services:

**8 May Help! I am scared of dying**

Theme: Life flows from Jesus

Aim: Don't fear death and sickness, but trust Jesus

Key text: "Don't be afraid, just believe" (Luke 8:50)

**15 May Help! Life's too busy**

Theme: Rearrange our priorities around Jesus

Aim: Do so, drawing from Jesus' resources

Key text: "Few things are needed or indeed only one" (Luke 10:42)

**22 May Help! I've got it all**

Theme: We will never be truly fulfilled loving anything other than Jesus

Aim: Follow Jesus, putting him first

Key text: "Come, follow me" (Luke 18:22)

**29 May Help! My dreams are shattered**

Theme: Living hope is found in Jesus' resurrection

Aim: Put all our hopes in Jesus

Key text: "But we had hoped" (Luke 24:21)

Here is a wonderful opportunity for collective acts of worship across the Circuit as we celebrate together the good news of the Bible. Some churches will be following up the service themes through fellowship groups, with notes of guidance available from your Minister – see other places in this newsletter for details.

Look out for two further Biblefresh activities in May. First, Radio Devon will feature broadcasts throughout the month by Christian leaders from the area focusing on the Luke Gospel themes. Second, on Saturday 7 May between 11 am and 12.30 pm, the Waterstones bookshop at 252 High Street will be hosting a 'Writing the Bible' day – watch for posters about this event. And then on Pentecost, rounding off our month of planned preaching will be an evening of celebration including an act of personal re-commitment at a Circuit Service at Wonford on Sunday 12 June at 6.30 pm.

## **A Message from the Minister on the Above Notice**

If you are part of a fellowship group it is likely that you will be using the study notes provided by CTaX to look at the stories from Luke's gospel further and discuss what the preacher had said the previous Sunday. I am aware that some of you do not belong to groups and so I have arranged for there to be an afternoon and evening group set up specifically to which everyone is invited

The evening groups will be at Tony and Joan's on Wednesday evenings 7.30pm: 11th, 18th, 25th May

The afternoon group will be in the Lounge at Wonford 2pm 12th, 19th, 26th May (this will temporarily replace the usual Bible study scheduled for 19th)

Remember this is a four part study and the final part will be all together on Sunday 6.30pm at Wonford Methodist led by Paul Violet.

I really hope that you can find time to join in this city-wide initiative.

**Rev Mark Gilborson**

## **Prayer Focus for May**

***Let each generation tell its children of Your mighty acts.  
I will meditate on Your majestic, glorious splendour  
and Your wonderful miracles.  
Psalm 145: 4,5 (NLT)***

### **Week beginning Sunday 1st**

Today sees the start of our Church Council 'New Year' when those newly appointed take up responsibilities whilst others stand down. Pray that God's will be done and that He will continue to bless and prosper our fellowship.

Pray also for God to protect Natalie (Husk) and her dog, Toby, as they set out on the Coast Path Walk to raise funds for the Leprosy Mission.

### **Week beginning Sunday 8th**

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire those leading the 'Biblefresh' themed preaching series starting today. Pray also that many families will come and join in 'Messy Church' next Sunday afternoon.



**Messy  
Church!**

*A fun place for families finding faith*

**creative**

At

**fun**

Wonford Methodist

Church

**family**

Opposite Lidl

**chat**

**sharing**

On

**food**

**15th May 2011**

4 o'clock until 6 o'clock

Please come all are welcome!

No unaccompanied children please

Tel 01392 256716

### **Week beginning Sunday 15th - Christian Aid**

Please pray that God will bless all the efforts of those taking part in Christian Aid Week, especially our representative here, Jenny Harrington. Thank God for the work of Christian Aid in our troubled world.

### **Week beginning Sunday 22nd**

Please continue to pray that more children will join our Young Church and God will encourage the faithful leaders.

### **Week beginning Sunday 29th**

Please pray for our minister, Mark, and those involved in CTAX (Christians Together Across Exeter) in the partnership of Churches furthering the Gospel across the city.

Thank God that our Church is part of that partnership.

### **Prayer Phone Link**

Could you do with some prayer support for a particular need in your life? Your first contact is Beryl Violet (01392) 270132, who will pass your request to the members of our prayer link to pray for your need.

### **After Church Prayer Support**

This is available in the Quiet Room on Sunday mornings after the service, Two members of the Prayer Team will be available to pray with you.

### **The Prayer Team**

## **400th Edition of the Contact Newsletter**

You will notice from the numbers on the front of each Contact that the July 2011 edition will be the 400th.

I would appreciate contributions for this special edition. This can be articles from previous editions of Contact, stories from the history of the church, photos, etc. Anything considered!! Lets make this edition the biggest ever!!

# News from the Methodist Church

## Continuing the Conversation

In 2005 the report Time to Talk of God was enthusiastically received by the Methodist Conference. An expanded version was published a few months later and many local churches eagerly adopted its contents.

The desire to continue the conversation has now produced a new training course – Talking of God. Its aim is to give people more confidence when it comes to sharing the stories of their faith in everyday life. It does this by facilitating conversations about conversations, and rooting it all in the Gospels.

There are four easy-to-use sessions, complete with group members' notes, interactive activities, and downloadable PowerPoint slides.

Joanne Cox, Evangelism in Contemporary Culture Officer, said: "We have so many opportunities to talk about how Jesus continues to transform our lives. This resource is an exciting development in helping each of us to talk of God wherever we are."

See the Methodist website for details of this course.

## Methodist Church claimed over £6m in Gift Aid last year

A big thank you to all the Gift Aid secretaries without whose help we would not have been able to reclaim over £6million last year.

The Connexional Team Finance Office is now implementing an improved system for processing the reclaim of tax. This will provide a better service and make repayments to churches more quickly. It will also facilitate the effective and timely reclaim of gift aid on donations to connexionally-held funds.

A new database will process donations from individuals and churches and also assist in claiming gift aid on behalf of churches and circuits.

The major change that Gift Aid secretaries will notice is that communication will be primarily by e-mail.

Gift Aid declaration forms will be available from the Methodist website [www.methodist.org.uk/giftaid](http://www.methodist.org.uk/giftaid) and the annual returns will be sent out this month by email. We are hoping that the majority of the 4,500 secretaries will make their returns electronically, as this is quicker, more accurate, and more secure than using the post.

From 6 April 2011, it is only possible to reclaim 25p in the £1, as the rate has been reduced from 28p in the £1.

# Dates For Your Diary

## May 2011

***Natalie Husk starts her 630 mile SW Coast Walk in aid of The Leprosy Mission***

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m.	Joe Fisher - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Mark Gilborson - Sacrament
Sat 7th	11.00 a.m.	Handwriting the Bible - outside Waterstones *
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg
		'Help! - I'm Scared of Dying' **
	6.30 p.m.	Monika Noronha + G&M Lee - Prayer & Praise
Tues 10th	8.00 p.m.	Home Group meeting at 22 Walsingham Road **
Wed 11th	10.30 a.m.	Christians Together in Heavitree (CTH) meet
	7.30 p.m.	Discussion group at Joan & Tony Wragg's **
Thurs 12th	2.00 p.m.	Discussion group meet in the lounge **
	7.30 p.m.	Monthly Prayer meeting in the lounge **

### ***Christian Aid Week. 15th-21st May 2011***

Sun 15th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Mark Gilborson
		'Help! - Life is too busy' **
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church **
Tues 17th	8.00 p.m.	Home Group meeting at 39 Meyer Court **
Wed 18th	7.30 p.m.	Discussion group at Joan & Tony Wragg's **
Thurs 19th	2.00 p.m.	Discussion group meet in the lounge **
	7.30 p.m.	Wonford Worms meet at 17 Madison Ave **
Sat 21st	2.00 p.m.	Welcome Service for Rev Janet Conway at URC, Fore Street, Heavitree
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Mark Gilborson
		'Help! - I've got it all' **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Andrew Sails - Sacrament
	6.30 p.m.	Easter Offering Circuit Service at St Thomas
Tues 24th	8.00 p.m.	Home Group meets at 16 Grainger Close **
Wed 25th	7.30 p.m.	Discussion group at Joan & Tony Wragg's **
	2.00 p.m.	Discussion group meet in the lounge **
Sun 29th	10.00 a.m.	Monika Noronha
		'Help! - All my dreams are shattered' **
	6.30 p.m.	Paul Violet - discussion on the morning's theme

## Advance Notices

Sat 25th June

Messy Church & Fresh Expressions Day at Salvation Army Temple, Friars Gate, Exeter. Messy Church: 9.30am - 12.30pm. Fresh Expressions: 1.30 - 3.30pm. \*\*

***\*\*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 June 2011 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th May 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](mailto:andrew.m.jackson@me.com)