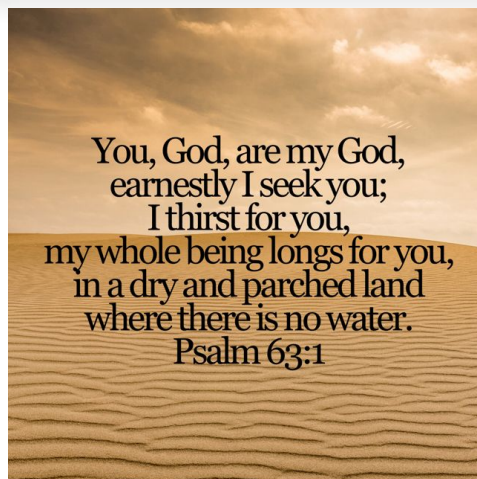


# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

May 2024  
(No: 529)



**Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)**



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

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



@WonfordMethodistChurch



YouTube Wonford Methodist Church



# A Message From The Minister

**Dear Friends,**

## **Psalm 63**

In an age in which people are becoming ever more sensitive (too sensitive, some might say...) about the use of words, I'm frankly amazed we're still allowed to read the Bible. There's plenty in it to make the faint hearted reach for the smelling salts. The Psalms record a huge range of human emotion, not all of it positive. Psalm 63 is very positive, but describes love for God in a way which might make us blush. The psalmist addressed God almost as a lover might, in gushing and rhapsodic language that feels a world away from the more formal and correct way that we often feel more comfortable praying. We are less likely than the psalmist to connect worship with intense feeling and overwhelming passions.

Yet God is our oldest love. He knew us and loved before we were even born. His love for us is the only pure, untainted, unselfish love we will ever receive. Any love we feel, whether for God, friends or loved ones, pales in comparison with the love with our creator directed towards us. We see this love most clearly in Jesus Christ, and never clearer than when He hangs on the cross, brought there by pure, self-giving love'. This is why a currently popular slogan ('love is love') is as misleading as it is shallow. We can only live at all because 'God first loved us', and if we drift from God (and we can drift from God in our hearts and minds even if we go to church every Sunday) our love can go awry. Human love can become controlling, possessive, jealous, overbearing or bound up exclusively with sex (to be clear, sex is not a bad thing in itself, in the right context, but not always the same thing as love). Under the headship of God, who alone loves perfectly, what is good in human love flourishes and what is less good dwindles. Let God teach us how to love. The Psalmist, by the way, is so passionate, not because he is a fanatic but because he has experienced God's love and can think of nothing else which compares with it: 'I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory'.

**With every blessing**  
**Ben Haslam**

# Dates For May 2024

## Coffee

|      |                    |
|------|--------------------|
| 5th  | Margaret D & Terry |
| 12th | Ester & Sam        |
| 19th | Sam & David        |
| 26th | Liz & Pauline      |

## Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In May they are meeting on the 10th and 24th. From the 24th May to the 5th July they will be interrupting their studies on the Ten Commandments and will be using the Bible Month material to take a look at the book of Genesis. All are welcome to attend. Please speak to Monika Noronha or Terry Spencer if you want further details.

## Monika

## The Away Group

This group is currently not meeting whilst the Alpha Course (see below) is taking place.

## Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 21st May 2024.

Continuing our nautical theme we will have a talk by Graham Forshaw on the Exeter Port Authority. The EPA manage the Exe Estuary, the Exeter Canal and Quay and all that goes on therein.

They meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake.

Everyone is welcome.



## Alpha Course

This meets on a Monday at 7.30pm and will be held in the lounge. Come along and find out more about this exciting course. Further details will be given in notices each Sunday.

## Tony Wragg

## **Wonford Welcome Drop-In for Everyone - Saturdays 10.30am to 12.00pm**

In May we will be having the following activities for you to join, if you would like to, alongside the free cuppa & biscuits -

**4th May** - It's the May Day bank holiday weekend so we will be making flower decorations and having a quiz about May Day traditions.

**11th May** - as we near near National Children's Day we would like to revisit some good childhood memories so we'll be finding our favourite nursery rhymes, playing skittles & hopscotch, trying to keep up a Hula-hoop and other items to remember the happy times we had as a child.

**18th May** - there will be a games morning in the hall, whilst some of the church members will be clearing out the church garage/shed.

**25th May** - 'Reduce, Re-use & Recycle' - with this motto in mind we'll be having a resources give-away morning of craft materials and other items. It is also National Africa Day so if you have lived in Africa or enjoyed travelling there then please bring along some photos from your time there or items you brought home that are special to you and share something about the wonderful continent of Africa!

Wonford Welcome is open to all; everyone, whatever their age or beliefs, will receive a warm welcome! If you are able to spread the word, put up a poster or share it on social media please do. And if you haven't been along yet please do come and join us one Saturday!

**Alison, Helen, Lisa, Liz, Mandy, Monika, Paul & Rose and Sue K**

### **Madeline Phillips.**

David and Madeline's family wish to thank everyone for the strength of concern they have received following Madeline's death on the 9th March. They are immensely grateful for the prayerful support and the number of letters, emails and cards received as well as the assistance given at her very memorable Thanksgiving Service.

## Monthly Prayer Meeting

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. For May this will be the 21st.

**Lisa Thomas**

## 12 Hour Prayer Event

Following the 24 hour prayer event in September, we are holding a 12 hour prayer event on the 18th May, Pentecost weekend, here at Wonford Methodist Church. The 12 hours are to be 8am until 8pm and there will be a sign up sheet in the hall after services during early May to put your name down to pray during this time. Prayer is an important part of our Christian lives and our church life, so we are looking forward to another time of inspiration from the Lord.

**Lisa Thomas**



La La Choirs and  
Lympstone Band  
present

**BIG BLAST 2024**

Saturday, 11th May  
7.30pm (doors open 7pm)  
Sidwell Street Methodist Church, Exeter

**TICKETS**  
[www.lalachoires.co.uk](http://www.lalachoires.co.uk)  
£10 Adults  
£5 Under 16s



A musical extravaganza  
to kickstart your summer

# Prayer Focus - May 2024

## Week Commencing Sunday May 5th

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music;  
make music to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of singing,  
***Psalm 98:4-5***

Thank and praise God with hymns and songs, either by reading them or listening to worship songs. Lord, as we read or sing your praises this week, fill our hearts with joy, hope and love.

As we think of your ascension into heaven [Ascension Day 9th May], may we rejoice that you will one day return in glory and power!

You may also like to engage with prayers from Thy Kingdom Come [<https://www.thykingdomecome.global>] and pray for 5 friends or family members who do not yet know Jesus.

## Week Commencing Sunday May 12th

Rejoice always, pray continually,  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
***1 Thessalonians 5:16-18***

Continue to pray for five friends or family members that they may come to know Jesus. Come and join in on our Day of Prayer on Saturday 18th May, at Wonford Methodist Church.

## Week Commencing Sunday May 19th

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.  
***Acts 2:2-3***

Lord God, come send the fire of your Holy Spirit into our hearts, our homes, our church and our community. May we trust in the power of your Spirit to bring change, to bring life, to equip us to serve you more effectively.

## Week Commencing Sunday May 26th - Trinity Sunday

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.

***Psalm 29:2***

Thank God that He shows himself to us in three different ways: as God our creator and sustainer,  
As Jesus our friend and Saviour and as the powerful Holy Spirit- revealing His presence with us and in us every day.


### **Our Prayer Phone Link**

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is now Lisa Thomas (01392 273220). Your request will then be passed to members of the Prayer Link who will pray for your need. If the first contact is unavailable, please contact Rose Smith (01404 510853).

### **After Service 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.


### **The Prayer Team**



The light shines in  
the darkness and  
the darkness doesn't  
extinguish the light.

- JOHN 1:5

 Praying for peace.



God is our refuge  
and strength,  
an ever-present  
help in trouble.

- PSALM 46:1

 Praying for peace.

## Amazing Grace

Several of Andre Rieu's extremely popular and entertaining TV programmes come from Holland. One was a special performance in honour of those who inspired Europe during the onslaught of WW2, so Rieu invited 3000 military service personnel in uniform among his massive 10,000 audience.

Well-known, nostalgic songs were sung by everyone in this vast, emotional gathering, such as 'When Johnny comes marching home', 'Adieu, adieu', 'You'll never walk alone', 'We'll meet again', and several others. Then Andre announced, "Next we're going to play 'Amazing Grace', because that's a tune that goes right to the heart." BUT no one sang it! The orchestra just played the tune.

Yet the words are so powerful and inspirational, and even more so if Andre had told his audience that the writer of 'Amazing Grace', John Newton, had formerly been a slave ship captain until he had remarkably experienced the transforming power of Jesus Christ, and been inspired to write the totally uplifting words of 'Amazing Grace'! Andre had backed off from getting that enormous, 10,000 audience to SING such committed and challenging words. He settled for the tune only.

Grace is such a wonderful gift. Grace is God's undeserved love, freely given by God, and it cannot be earned. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." No wonder John Newton was inspired to write:

*"Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see."*

Perhaps in a future programme, Andre Rieu will tell his packed audience that 'Amazing Grace' is so much more than a tune! It is an uplifting, powerful testimony of God's saving power in the most unlikely person's life, and it's definitely worth singing!

*"Yes, I'll SING the wondrous story  
Of the Christ who died for me...."*

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

**Rev Malcolm Carter**



## Church Green Team

You may have noticed that our Church Green Team notice board is looking a bit different. We have decided to focus on the four areas of the A Rocha's Eco Church survey, which we used a few years ago and received a Bronze Award.

These are designed to equip our church to express care for God's world:

- in our worship & teaching
- in how we look after our building & land
- in how we engage with our community both locally & globally
- and in the personal lifestyles of our congregation

We hope to include up to date articles, newspaper clips, photos, leaflets and other information that will help & inspire us as a church, and as individuals, to 'go green' and try to improve the ways we cut carbon and restore nature. Please speak with us if you have any suitable items you would like to add to the board and we can include it. Together we can strive to be good stewards and do our best to take care of the world as servants of the Lord.

The whole creation belongs to God.

As human beings we are part of the whole and have a responsibility to love and care for what God has entrusted to us as temporary tenants of the planet.

We are called to conserve its complex and fragile ecology, whilst recognising the need for responsible & sustainable development and the pursuit of social justice.

**Alison, Helen Liz and Sue K**

**Caring for God's Creation**



**ECO CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

## Paul's Missionary Journey from Acts Word Search

P A S C H C O I T N A R Y T E  
H G A I T A L A G E D U A C N  
S R L L N E A P O L I S P L O  
U E A I I S P H I L I P P I M  
R P M C R A N O S U S R A T L  
P H I I O R I E M O R S M H A  
Y E S A C E A N V D I H P Y S  
C S O H P A P I O A L E H A I  
M U I G E H R C M D H B Y T C  
A S E L E U C I A U E R L I I  
I N O D I S N A I R I C I R L  
A E C I D O A L E I T N A A Y  
H H J E R U S A L E M S O M F  
C T P Y G E S I D R A S Y C A  
A A X I N E O H P U T E O L I

### Words to Find

Achaia, Antioch, Asia Minor, Athens, Berea, Caesarea, Caude, Cilicia, Corinth, Cyprus, Egypt, Ephesus, Fair Havens, Galatia, Iconium, Jerusalem, Laodicea, Lystra, Macedonia, Neapolis, Pamphylia, Paphos, Perga, Philippi, Phoenicia, Phoenix, Puteoli, Rhegium, Rome, Salamis, Salmone, Sardis, Seleucia, Sicily, Sidon, Tarsus, Thyatira, Tyra

# Dates For Your Diary

## May 2024

|          |            |  |
|----------|------------|--|
| Sat 4th  | 10.30 a.m. | Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **  |
| Sun 5th  | 10.00 a.m. | All Age Worship with Rev Dr Stephen Mosedale |
| Fri 10th | 3.00 p.m.  | Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **      |
| Sat 11th | 10.30 a.m. | Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) *   |
|          | 7.30 p.m.  | Big Blast 2024 at St Sidwell MC **           |
| Sun 12th | 10.00 a.m. | Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament                   |
| Mon 13th | 7.30 p.m.  | Alpha Course in the lounge **                |
| Sat 18th | 10.30 a.m. | Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **  |
| Sun 19th | 10.00 a.m. | Heidi Cottrell                               |
| Mon 20th | 7.30 p.m.  | Alpha Course in the lounge **                |
| Tue 21st | 9.00 a.m.  | Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **       |
|          | 10.00 a.m. | Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **              |
| Fri 24th | 3.00 p.m.  | Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **      |
| Sat 25th | 10.30 a.m. | Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **  |
| Sun 26th | 10.00 a.m. | Chris Carter                                 |
| Mon 27th | 7.30 p.m.  | Alpha Course in the lounge **                |

**\*\* Details in this newsletter or on the notice board in the hall.**



The deadline for items for the June 2024 Newsletter will be Sunday 12th May 2024. 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)**

# **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 *(not every week)*

## **Monday**

7.30 p.m. Alpha Course in the lounge *(Weekly)*

## **Tuesday**

9.00 a.m. Monthly Prayer Meeting *(3rd Tuesday)*

10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café *(3rd Tuesday)*

## **Wednesday**

## **Thursday**

## **Friday**

9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group **\*A\***

3.00 p.m. Fortnightly Bible Group in the Church Lounge

## **Saturday**

10.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

Wonford Welcome Drop-In

Tea, coffee and biscuits are free.

( **\*A\*** = No meeting during school holiday)