

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

April 2021
(No: 498)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16



You are loved more than you will ever know by someone who died to know you.

Have a Blessed Easter!



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a Fairtrade church **The Methodist Church**

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



@WonfordMethodistChurch



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

In Shakespeare's play, Hamlet is given some advice by an older character, Polonius: "To thine own self be true". It sounds like very modern advice, this idea of being 'true to yourself', of doing what feels right to you regardless of any other considerations. Personally, I'm not really sure what 'being true' to yourself actually means. Does it mean doing whatever you feel like? Does it mean following your own values at all costs?

The nature of truth is a hot topic in this day and age. We've heard much in recent years about 'fake news', of clashes of values between generations, and of people going on telly to talk about 'their truth'. I won't mention names.... Pontius Pilate famously asked Jesus the question: "What is truth?" as have many philosophers and writers down the ages. I think we can all agree that truth isn't something we can manipulate to suit our own purposes, though it seems that many people do just that. Truth is also about much more than just feelings, in that we can react strongly against something without that being an indication that it is untrue. Our feelings can be a highly unreliable guide to truth, and sometimes we rely on them too much. We might even have to overcome our feelings to reach the truth sometimes.

What Jesus has to say about truth is powerful and hopeful. "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free" (John 8.32). He means the truth about Himself, that He is God, and therefore the key to all truth. What's more, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14.6). Some people take exception to this. How can Jesus be so arrogant as to make such a claim for Himself? Or else they try to water down the words, as if what Jesus really meant to say was, 'I am a way, a truth and a life'. But He didn't and we can't get round that. There has been no convincing way of 'reinterpreting' Jesus' words, though those who find them offensive have tried. Instead, why don't we celebrate them? Here is God Incarnate, maker and sustainer of all of creation, revealing Himself to us, and inviting us to share His life? Here is God, revealing the truth about Himself, that He is our loving Father and love is His very essence. If Jesus is The Truth, then Jesus is our gateway to how things really are and our faith in Him is the lens through which we are called to see life. This truth is something which can transform us: we are set free from false versions of how to be human beings so that we are free to become who God wants us to become. Something to celebrate indeed.

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

Re-Opening of the Church

The Church re-opens on Thursday 1st April 2021 at 6.30 pm for Maundy Thursday Communion led by Rev Ben Haslam. Easter Sunday Communion takes place on 4th April 2021 at 10.00 am led by Rev Alan Rothwell and Caroline Colin. The Easter Sunday service will be live streamed on Zoom and Facebook.

The Church will stay open for Sunday services at 10.00 am and these services will be live streamed on Zoom and Facebook.

As agreed by the Church Council we are purchasing new equipment to enhance our live streaming but this may not be available until later in April.

Notes for Attending Sunday Worship

- Please wear a face covering
- Please wait to be invited in by one of our stewards
- Please use hand sanitiser as you enter and leave
- Please sit in the seat allocated by the steward and social distancing must be respected
- The toilets are available and are monitored
- Please give your contact details to the Steward; they will be recorded for Track and Trace purposes only
- You should not enter if you have symptoms of COVID-19
- If you subsequently test positive for Coronavirus please inform the church
Rev Ben Haslam 01392 256716

If you have any questions please speak to one of the stewards.

Good News! Praise the Lord!

I truly hope this year that the Easter story will bring you much to raise your spirits and thank God-in-Jesus for: He is risen! He is risen indeed!

I don't always manage it, but I always try to find the 'good' in everyone, and every happening. As an **Eco-Church** we are constantly trying to have 'greener' ways - whether it is by using refillable "Ecover" to wash up at Wonford (though little has been used this past year!), or delighting in our Solar Panels and their 'green' electricity. Please do remember, that our eco-friendly electricity, even though it has hardly been used at all in our closed buildings this past year, is being used in our neighbourhood! This is a form of our Church 'outreach' that few will be aware of. But one thing I do not understand is: why all the new housing I see being built is not, as a matter of course, getting solar panels fitted from the start.

Sue Keatt in her excellent 'green' article in our March "Contact" did a wonderful thing in challenging me to do even better to *Make a Difference*. Do read it again, and see if you can do the same! Have you heard that we hope soon to have new fences around our site? When that is all done our garden areas will change and the bike rack will probably be moved to the back. We plan to plant butterfly and bee friendly plants - who knows? - maybe a "bug hotel" will be there too!

Please tell our Green Team members what you would like to see!

Margretta Bowstead and the Church Green Team

Prayer Focus for April

Prayer - Our Strongest Weapon - Pray Without Ceasing

I thought this month we could begin our prayers by thanking God. The signs of spring as flowers adorn our gardens and hedgerows, the lighter evenings and of course the roll out of the vaccines. Thank God for the many NHS staff and other volunteers stepping forward to administer these vaccines. Thank him that the numbers are lowering and pray that as we lower the restrictions, the virus will not return in such huge numbers.

At the time of writing we do not know the outcome of 'court case' in Iran of Nazanine Zargari Ratcliffe but she is not alone in being imprisoned on trumped up charges. In Iran and many other countries people are jailed on charges like spying or spreading propaganda against the governments. They can be sent to prison camps for becoming Christians. Pray for them all.

Remember to hold our Queen and the Royal Family in your prayers. March has not been a good month for them.

Pray for our Government as they make decisions especially with leading the country out of what we all hope is the final lockdown. Meanwhile all continue to keep to the rules and keep safe.

May you all be richly blessed as you pray for all the activities at Wonford, surrounding area & the wider world.

If you have anything that you would like included please let Julie Rothwell know so that she can include it here.

Our Prayer Phone Link

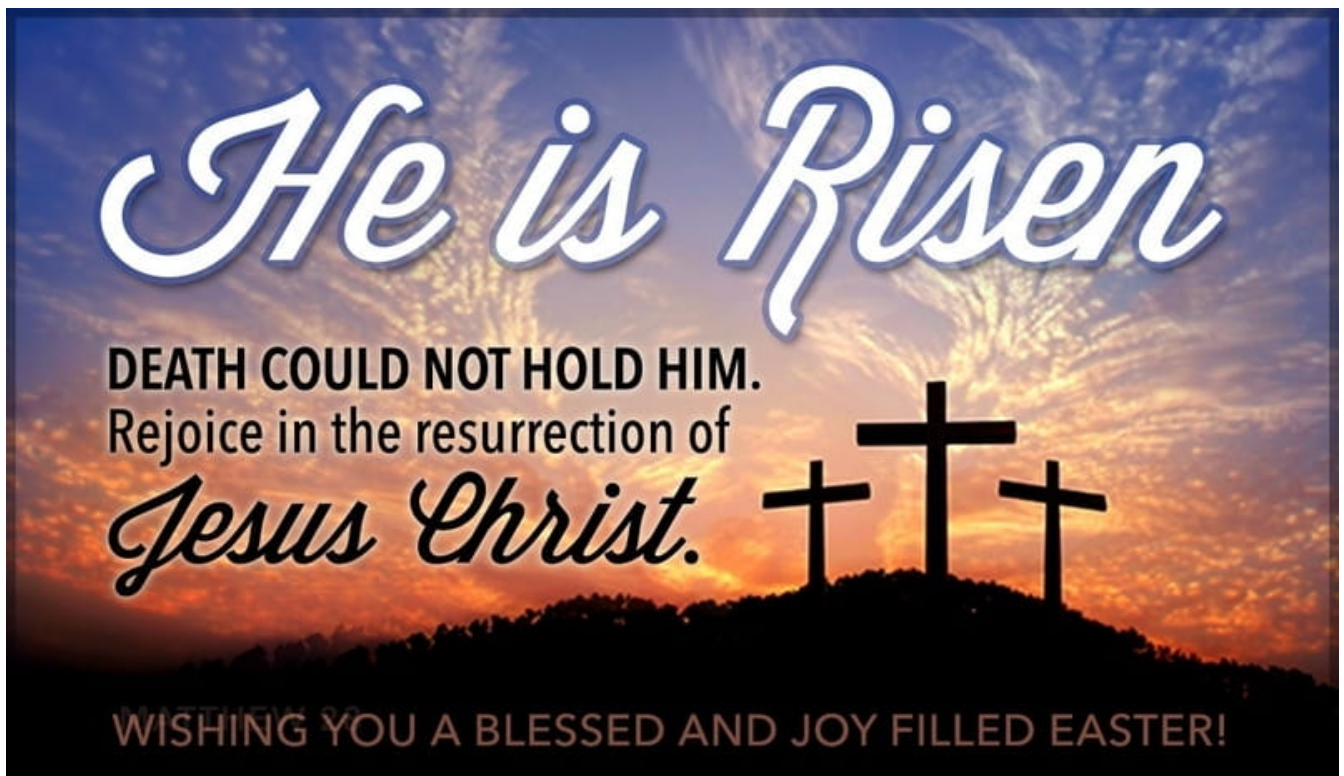
Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is now Rev Alan Rothwell (01392 926840). Your request will then be passed to members of the Prayer Link who will pray for your need. If the first contact is unavailable, please contact Margretta Bowstead (01392 437329) or Rose Smith (01404 510853)

Various prayers and services from the Methodist Church are available to listen to via free-phone telephone numbers:

To listen to a short prayer – 0808 281 2514

To listen to a selection of Methodist related news stories: 0808 281 2478
(Content for both is updated weekly on a Thursday afternoon)

The Prayer Team



HOLY WEEK ZOOM SESSIONS



You are invited to attend some Zoom led sessions focussed on Holy Week.

You can attend one, or all the sessions if you desire.

The outline of each session is as follows: -

28th March – The Entry into Jerusalem (Led by Monika Noronha)

30th March – The Last Supper (Led by Jon Curtis)

31st March – Gethsemane (Led by Janet Bell)

1st April – Jesus before Pilate (Led by Brenda Mosedale)

2nd April – Crucifixion (led by Andrew Sails)

4th April – Resurrection (led by Stephen Mosedale)

Each session will run from 19.00 for approximately 60 minutes.

Please email to register your interest stating which session/s that you are interested in attending by no later than Friday 26th March. Zoom details will be sent to the attendees around at 15.00.

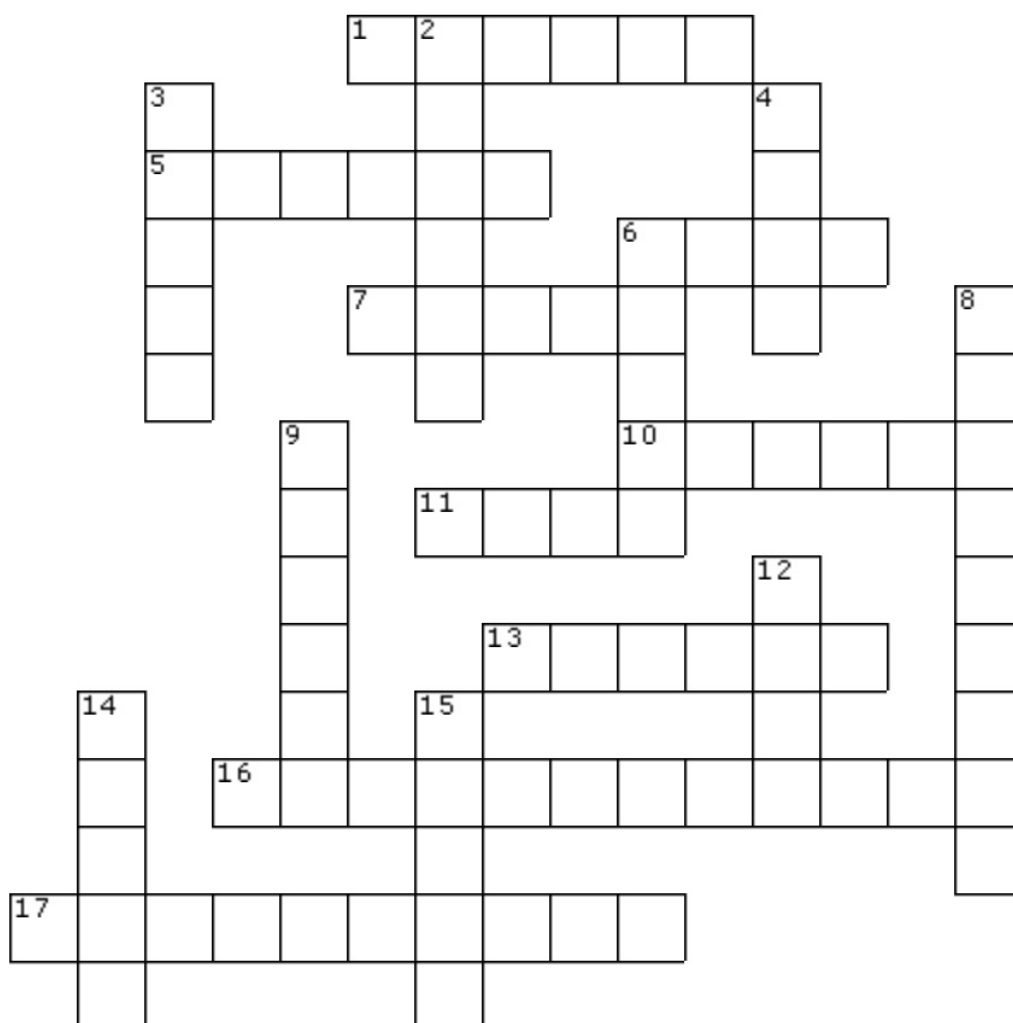
exetermcco@gmail.com

Services in April

There will be no services at 6.30pm. Services at 10am and others are listed below. These will be in the Church and live streamed on Zoom and Facebook (not live streamed for the Maundy Thursday Service).

- 1st (6.30 pm) Maundy Thursday Communion - Rev Ben Haslam
- 4th Easter Sunday Communion - Rev Alan Rothwell and Caroline Colin
- 11th Dr Joan Wragg
- 18th Rev Ben Haslam - Communion
- 25th Rev Terry Spencer

Simple Easter Crossword

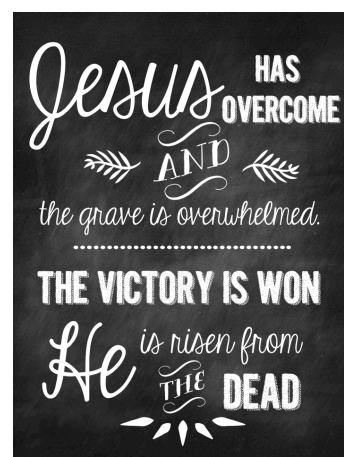
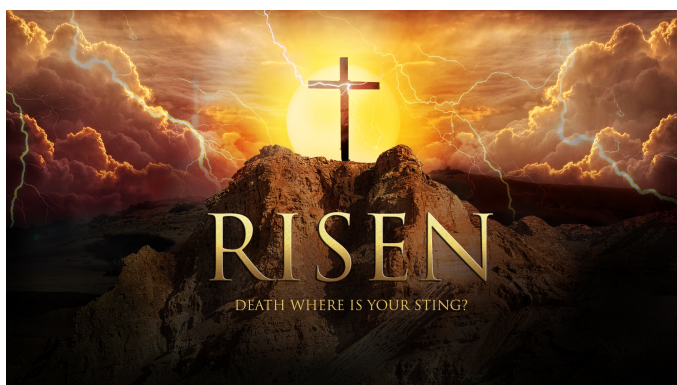


ACROSS

- 1 Jesus
6 Jesus rode a ___ into Jerusalem
10 Easter season
13 ___ of Gethsemane
16 Easter celebrates the ___ of Jesus
17 Sunday before Easter
- 5 Doubting ___
7 Disciple who denied knowing Jesus
11 Coloured Easter ___

Down

- 2 After 40 days, Jesus ascended to ___
3 An angel rolled away the ___ covering the tomb
4 People greeted Jesus with ___ branches
6 Where Jesus died
9 ___ sentenced Jesus to die
14 ___ betrayed Jesus
- 8 Mary ___ discovered Jesus had risen
12 Season before Easter
15 Easter animal?



Dial-a-Prayer



FREEPHONE numbers for prayers, reflections and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

**Listen to a pastoral message from the
President and
Vice President: 0808 281 2695**

Listen to our Podcast: 0808 281 2478

Prayer updated every Thursday, Presidential message updated every Monday, Methodist Podcast updated fortnightly on Thursday.

The deadline for items for the May 2021 Newsletter will be Sunday 11th April 2021. 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