

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

April 2026
(No: 549)



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Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



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A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

Snatching Victory From The Jaws Of Defeat

After the horror of Jesus' suffering and death there appeared to be no hope. There was only despondency and despair for the followers of Jesus. However, the glory and wonder of Easter Day and the resurrection was not a reversal of fortunes – Jesus' body was not resuscitated – but rather transformed! What appeared to be a defeat for Jesus was transformed into a victory for Him and us!

The resurrection of Jesus was unique and unprecedented. Unrepeatable. So how can we get our minds round it? One way is by human analogies. In the realm of sport some victories appeared impossible, yet were achieved.

For example, in the Champions League Final on the 25th May 2005 in Istanbul Liverpool found themselves 3 goals down at half-time to a brilliant A C Milan team. Then, in six minutes in the second half Liverpool scored three goals to level the match. They went on to win the European Cup on penalties!

They snatched victory from the jaws of defeat!

Even more remarkable is when one man or woman stages a great come back as can happen in tennis. Jimmy Connors was in the 4th round at Wimbledon in 1987 when he lost the first two sets 6 – 1. He was also losing the third set of five to his Swedish opponent, Mikael Pernfors 4 – 1! He was 34 years old and suffering an injury. Remarkably he came back to win the final three sets 7 – 5, 6 – 4, 6 – 2! He fought back to win 18 out of the last 25 games!

He snatched victory from the Jaws of defeat!

Jesus' resurrection is, of course, ultimately incomprehensible. At a human level we cannot explain it. But, by faith, we believe it was God's powerful intervention to raise Jesus in a new, imperishable body giving hope to all.

As John S Whale put it: “the Gospels do not explain the resurrection, the resurrection explains the Gospels. Belief in the resurrection is not an appendage to the Christian faith; it is the Christian faith.”

Easter blessings
Rev Terry Spencer

Dates For April 2026

Coffee & Tea

5th	Nessy & Dan
12th	David & Martin
19th	JoJo & Melanie
26th	Margaret & Terry



Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us as we explore the Bible together and share fellowship. In April they meet on the 10th and 24th. Please speak to Monika Noronha or Terry Spencer if you want further details.

Monika

The Away Group

This group meets on a Monday evening every fortnight at 7.30 pm in the lounge. Dates and venues will be given out each Sunday in the notices.

Roundabout Café

We meet on Tuesday 21st April when John Tucker will tell us about ‘The Western Fjords of Norway’.

We meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake. Please join us if you can.



Monthly Prayer Meeting

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. This will take place on Tuesday 21st April 2026.

Lisa Thomas

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

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

4th April – it's Easter Saturday so we will have a shorter quiz and a few games as well as an Easter Hat competition so please come along wearing your decorated hat! Also, as it is Holy Saturday, we will have a quiet space in the chapel for prayer and reflection.

11th April – there will be Games Morning, so we'll have out the table football, pool table, magnetic darts and a few other games for you to try.

18th April – it will be a Crafty Morning, so we will 'make do and mend' with Lisa offering to do simple alterations with her sewing machine and also bring along your knitting or crocheting to 'knit & natter' with us.

25th April - we will have table top games and activities in the lounge room.

Wonford Welcome is open to all; everyone, whatever their age, background 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 H, Paul & Rose, Sue K and quiz game host Dan.

Feel Good Festival - Reminder

Wonford Health Matters are working with Wonford Community and Learning Centre to put on a Feel Good Festival on May 16th from 11am to 2pm. This is an opportunity to find out about groups and clubs which support health and wellbeing, to access health and wellbeing information and services and to have fun! If you know of any groups that might like to take part please speak to Helen. We are also looking for musicians and face painters. Thank you!

Helen

Themed Preaching for Spring 2026

In January we started a new themed preaching series entitled 'The Miracles of Jesus'.

Apr 5th	The resurrection of Jesus (AA)	Rev Terry Spencer & Dr Jon Curtis
Apr 12th	The man at the Beautiful Gate	Paul Violet
Apr 19th	The conversion of Saul	Chris Carter

Good Friday Service at the Cathedral

Running alongside this service is the Exeter 'Try Praying' bus campaign. If you'd like to donate head to <http://do.trypraying.org/donate> hit the 'donate' button and choose 'Exeter' from the drop down menu. We're hoping to have at least 15 buses with the Try Praying banner over the Easter period - and beyond! **Good Friday is on the 3rd April 2026.**

Thanks for all your support

Hannah Richards, on behalf of the CTaX exec team



**Good Friday
Cathedral Service 10am
All welcome!**



In collaboration
with the Exeter
trypraying
bus campaign

Exminster Methodists
warmly invite you on

Good Friday



**To a service of hymns, prayer and
meditation at 2.30 pm
Led by Revd. Donna Leigh**

Please note that during the service nails will be
driven into a cross.



Retiring collection for local
charity CR2EE
in support of their work in
Moldova and Ukraine

**Followed by Hot Cross Buns
for anyone wishing to stay**



Everyone welcome

at the Methodist Church (near the Post Office)(EX6 8BT)

exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk

Piercing The Gloom

OK, let's be honest; it's not easy when we invite Christ to be no.1 in our life. We still have our dark moments, but thankfully Christ Himself lightens the way forward.

Some years ago over 30 folk from my Church went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. In addition to the well-known sights, I fitted in a visit to High Priest Caiaphas' house in Jerusalem. This is where Jesus spent His last night on earth, before He was brought before Pilate on Good Friday morning. Our party carefully made our way down lots of steps into the dark, cold cellar. We had one light. (Jesus didn't!) My Jewish friend and guide, Shlomo, played a fitting lament on his flute, and we sang "Man of sorrows, what a name for the Son of God, Who came ruined sinners to reclaim. Hallelujah! What a Saviour!"

Later in glorious contrast, we visited the **EMPTY** Garden Tomb, and then watched hundreds of Christian visitors from around the world joyfully emerge, equally asserting 'Christ is Risen!' Even at Calvary, when Jesus Himself felt death approaching, He was able to say to the dying thief alongside Him, Dismas, "Today, you will be with me in Paradise!"

He wonderfully pierced the darkness even then!

Yes, there have been many dark moments for the Christian. Both St Peter and St Paul were executed during Emperor Nero's cruel reign, but thousands more became followers of Jesus and His Church grew. In more recent times, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the brilliant theologian was hanged because he bravely resisted Hitler's Nazi dictatorship. As the noose tightened round his neck, Bonhoeffer's last, triumphant words were, "This is the end – for me the beginning of life!" His acclaimed book 'The Cost Of Discipleship' really pierced the gloom!

In the 1990's, as a prison chaplain in Liverpool, I heard about a prison chaplain in Texas USA who had counselled a female prisoner on Death Row for some years; she eventually made a real commitment to Christ. Later still, the chaplain and prisoner fell in love and were married! I joined with thousands of others in the UK and USA to pray for her execution date to be changed to a life sentence. Sadly, vast prayers were not able to pierce that gloom!

The New Testament tells us that when Mary Magdalene came with spices to anoint Jesus' dead body, 'it was still dark', but she met her Risen Lord, and later raced to tell the despondent disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" Countless millions have been able to echo joyfully those words, even those persecuted today in militant Islamic countries, for bravely declaring their faith. Let the light of Christ shine in **YOUR** life; be an open witness for Him, and pierce the darkness!

*“Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.....”
“For I am convinced that neither death nor life will be able to separate us
from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!” An unforgettable,
uplifting Easter to you!*

Rev Malcolm Carter

Prayer Focus for April 2026

Week Commencing Sunday 5th April

Easter Sunday

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

Matthew 28: 6-7

As we celebrate the risen Christ, we pray that our joy will be a witness to those around us, that Jesus is very much alive in 2026!

Week Commencing Sunday 12th April

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

John 20:19

May the peace of Jesus be with us in our everyday,
In our home life and in our family life
In our learning and in our working
In our worship and in our hearts as we grow in faith
Finally, may we reach out to others with the peace of Jesus.

Week Commencing Sunday 19th April

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24:27

We thank God for the Monday and Friday Bible study groups, the moments when we study God's word together in more detail. We pray that more people will get hungry to explore the Bible together. We pray for those who have been doing the Alpha course recently; may their explorations give them a hunger for reading God's Word.

Week Commencing Sunday 26th April

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.
John 10:10b

We pray for all those in leadership in our church, for our leadership team, for our church council and for those involved in leading all the different groups and activities here at Wonford Methodist. We give thanks for those who may recently have stepped down from leadership and for those taking up new roles or responsibilities. May they be strengthened as they serve in this way.

Starting After Easter

Would You Like to Join a New Gospel Music Choir at Wonford Methodist Church?

As you know, our new minister Rev'd Mmasape joins us in September and it would be lovely to welcome her with a song or two from our own gospel music choir!

We have a choir leader from The Mint Methodist Church who is kindly willing to help us, so now we need a number of lovely & lively singers!

So, if you love the Lord and also want to raise the roof by praising him together (and maybe wearing bright, colourful clothes too) then please speak with me or one of the Church Stewards.

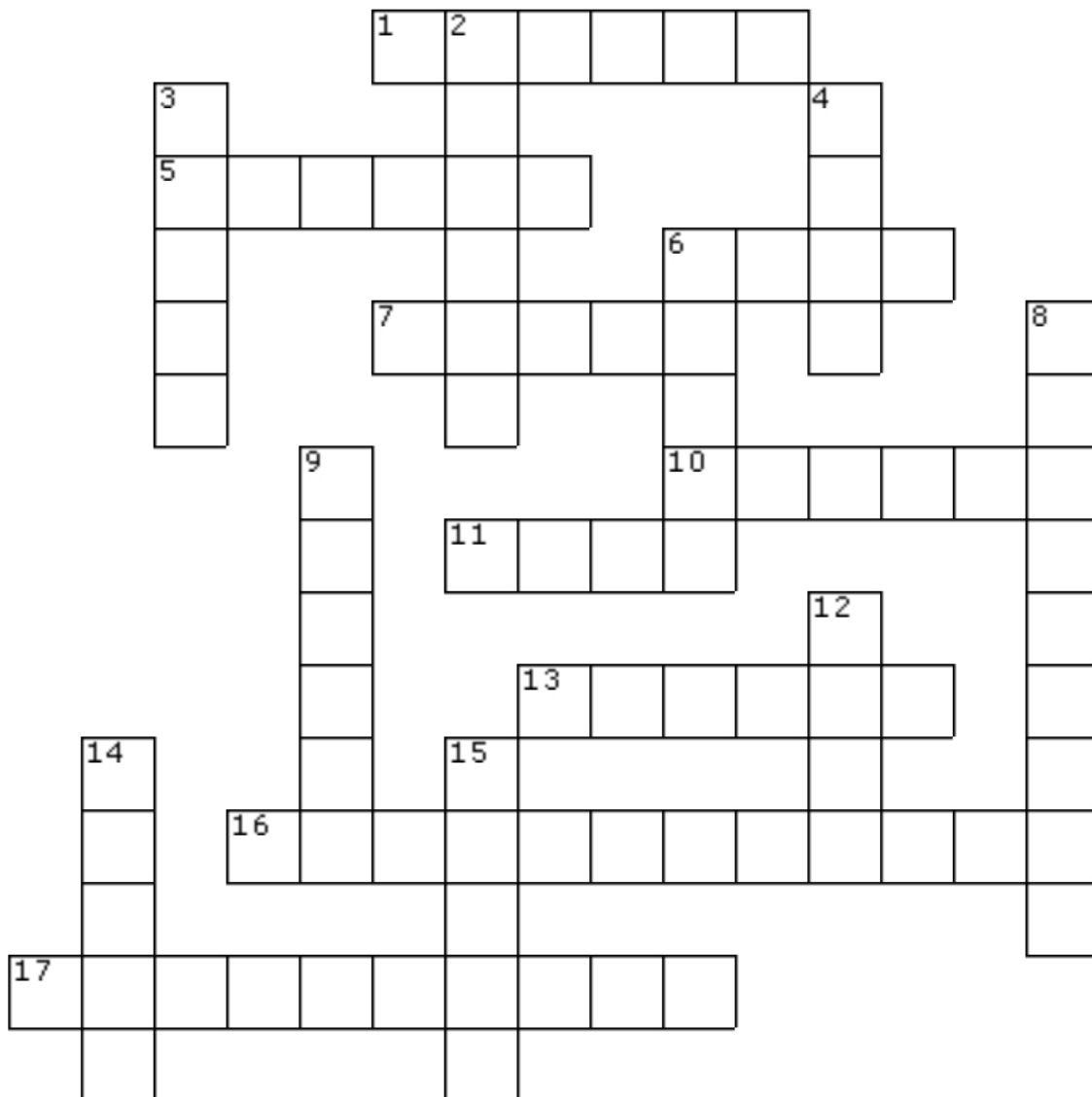


Thank you (in hopeful anticipation).

Sue Keatt



Easter Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1** Jesus **5** Doubting ___ **6** Jesus rode a ___ into Jerusalem
7 Disciple who denied knowing Jesus **10** Easter season
11 Coloured Easter ___ **13** ___ of Gethsemane
16 Easter celebrates the ___ of Jesus **17** Sunday before 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
8 Mary ___ discovered Jesus had risen
9 ___ sentenced Jesus to die **12** Season before Easter
14 ___ betrayed Jesus
15 Easter animal?

Dates For Your Diary

April 2026

Fri 3rd	10.00 a.m.	CTaX Good Friday Service at the Cathedral **
	2.30 p.m.	Good Friday Service at Exminster MC **
Sat 4th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm)
Sun 5th	10.00 a.m.	Easter Sunday - Rev Terry Spencer & Dr Jon Curtis
		All Age Worship and Sacrament
	6.30 p.m.	Easter Praise
Fri 10th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study in the lounge **
Sat 11th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 12th	10.00 a.m.	Paul Violet - Themed Preaching **
Sat 18th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 19th	10.00 a.m.	Chris Carter - Themed Preaching **
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 in the lounge **
Sat 25th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 26th	10.00 a.m.	Dr Jon Curtis & Rev Phillip Sourbut

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



The deadline for items for the May 2026 Newsletter will be Sunday 12th April 2026. There is no guarantee of inclusion, but they may be given to:

Andrew Jackson - 19 Hills Orchard, Martock, Somerset. TA12 6DF.

Tel: 07818455600 or e-mailed to 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. The Away Group in the lounge *(Fortnightly)*

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)