

# Wonford Methodist Church

# Contact Newsletter

# August / September 2018

(No: 471)



**Minister: Rev Bruce Sawyer (01392 256716)**  
*(Rev Ben Haslam - from September 2018)*



# Wonford is a Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

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



**@WonfordMethodistChurch**



# A Message From Monika Noronha

**Dear Friends,**

A few Sundays ago, we awoke to a loss of internet connection! We had no access to email or social media. It felt very strange to know that the connections to which we have become so accustomed, were simply not available to us. Thankfully, the landline was available to make a necessary telephone call to my mother who may have tried getting hold of me on social media.

First we had to try and locate the problem. Was it our router or a general, local issue. There was no apparent damage to the line outside the house [most of which is underground anyway!] If it had not been so early on a Sunday morning, we might have been able to ask the neighbours if they were experiencing any issues. But it was not long before a text message came through from our service provider informing us that engineers were working on the fault and they were hoping the problem would be fixed by 4pm. 4PM! Consequently, we had to be patient.

Sometimes we may feel that the line to God has gone dead. Communication with God often feels even more complicated than the internet. And trying to reboot or restart communication with God seems to fail miserably. How did we lose touch in the first place? Is God not listening? Or has his mobile phone slid down the side of the sofa? He seems to be permanently on silent and we just can't get through!

As Christians, I believe we have a unique religion. In fact, I rarely use the term 'religion' to describe my faith, because what we are actually offered by God is a living relationship, and communication with the God who created our world is a very real part of that relationship. That communication can happen in several ways. It can happen through prayer. We have been encouraging our community and each other to nurture that communication with the Try Praying initiative. And prayer involves many things like talking, listening, silence, confessing or saying sorry to God, praising, thanking and requesting things too. Another way of hearing God is by reading the Bible, searching out what he may be saying to us through a story or a parable, a Psalm or a New Testament letter. If we engage with God in the Bible and through prayer, we are able to build that relationship and grow it into a faith-filled lifestyle. We begin to understand how God wants to be a real and active part of our lives.

***Philippians 4:6-7 says:***

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

So, whether you are anxious, angry, fearful, content or troubled at this time, may I encourage you to Try Praying. Step out in faith and tell God how you are feeling. And take time to listen too and to learn. I'll be praying that our lines of communication with God will start buzzing and sparking into life, enabling us to become better communicators of his love to all the people around us!

**With every blessing**  
**Monika Noronha**

## Dates For August / September

### Coffee

#### August

5th	Melanie & Eileen
12th	Pauline & Fran
19th	Madeline & David
26th	TBA

#### September

2nd	Melanie & Eileen
9th	Fran & Pauline
16th	Madeline & David
23rd	Helen
30th	Sue G

### Flowers

#### August

5th	Edith & Tudor
12th	Bronwen & Clifford
19th	Madeline
26th	TBA

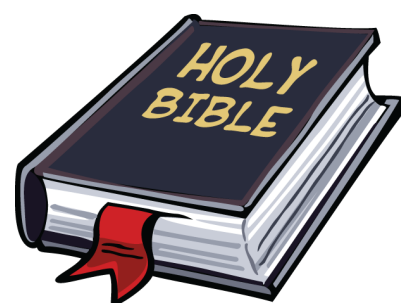
#### September

2nd	Barbara J
9th	TBA
16th	Helen
23rd	Mandy
30th	TBA

### Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

There is not a Bible Study in August.

Further information will be available in September when we have further details from the new minister.



## Our Calling

Our Calling, in the Methodist Church in Britain, is to:

*increase **awareness** of  
**God's presence** and to  
celebrate **God's love***

***help** people to **grow** and **learn** as  
**Christians** through mutual  
support and care*

*to be a good **neighbour** to  
people in **need** and to **challenge**  
**injustice***

*make **more followers** of **Jesus**  
**Christ***

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

***Acts 2: 46-47***

## Home Group

The Home Group is looking for new folk to join this friendly fortnightly evening gathering in various homes at 7.30 pm; where we usually follow a series of Bible studies, booklet-based, and discuss and learn together. We are wondering whether Tuesday evenings are the best time to meet, and may change to a Wednesday or Thursday instead. So far we have one date fixed: **Tuesday 11th September at 7.30pm at Margretta's 39 Meyer Court, Butts Road, EX2 5PW**; when we will decide future dates to suit everyone?!

Do come along and help us decide what's best - or phone/talk with Monika Noronha

## New Contact Details for Lisa Thomas

Lisa Thomas wishes to share her new contact details with everyone. They are below:

Home tel no. 01392 273220

email - [lisa.thomas66@icloud.com](mailto:lisa.thomas66@icloud.com)

## New Wool Craft Group Launches

We are going to start a wool craft group on Wednesday September 26 for charity. We will meet in the Church Lounge from 7.30pm – 9.00pm on this date. We are hoping that this group will run from September to March each year. Everyone is welcome, if you are a beginner or would like to learn to knit or crochet help will be available. Yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks can be provided if needed. We are hoping that the first charity we will knit or



crochet for will be the Seafarer's Mission who are always in need of mufflers, scarves, hats and fingerless mittens. Patterns will be available although the Seafarer's Mission are happy for knitters to use their own patterns. If you wish to bring your own yarn and /or knitting needles please bring DK yarn, size 4mm needles or 3mm and 3.75mm needles if you wish to knit the mittens.

If you are interested in joining this group but feel that Wednesday is not the right evening for you do let Lisa or I know.

So, we hope to see you there, to knit or crochet, have a cuppa and a chat!

**Lisa Thomas and Linda Clarke.**

## Penny Pot Update

My latest cashing in of our WMC Penny Pot plus a donation from Margaret Simmons of £30, representing a so-called surplus from the Barn Service Barbecue, has enabled us to send a cheque for £55.50 to The Bible Society. We do thank Margaret for this generosity. Also thanks to David and Madelaine for an abundance of 10 pence pieces in a recent input to the pot. This is the way we should be trending. Brown coins still welcome but let's be having the 5s 10s and 20s (and higher) too.



Remember we are supporting poor Bible starved Christians in distant parts of our globe. Please be generous. Thank you.

**Tony**

## **Themed Preaching for this Autumn -**

### **Paul's Letter to the Colossians**

This Autumn we will be looking at Paul's letter to the church at Colossae for our morning theme preaching. We hope that you will take the opportunity to read the scripture passages indicated before each talk. Terry Spencer has prepared this series and in his notes he quotes as follows from The Message.

Some Christians in Colossae were in danger of giving 'cosmic forces' equal billing with Jesus. Paul, in humility and with love (not arrogance) argues his conviction that Jesus Christ occupies the centre of creation and salvation and is without peers. Jesus is uniquely preeminent, not just one important cosmic force among many. (Peterson: The Message).

Here is the full programme which includes contributions from our new minister Ben, from Andy Mulcock of ISCA Church and from our good friend and former Chair of District, John Carne. Paul had never been to Colossae but had heard of the church's problems and wrote out of his pastoral concern for it.

#### **Tony**

Sept 23	Col 1 vv1-14	The Fruitful Gospel	Terry Spencer
Sept 30	Col 1 vv15-23	The Cosmic Christ	Tony Wragg
Oct 14	Col 1 v24-2 v5	The Mystery Revealed	Andy Mulcock
Oct 21	Col 2 vv6-23	The Insider Threats	Monika Noronha
Oct 28	Col 3 vv1-11	The Old Self	Ben Haslam
Nov 11	Col 3 vv12-17	The New Self	John Carne
Nov 18	Col 3 v18-4 v1	The Christian Household	Ben Haslam
Nov 25	Col 4 vv2-18	The Faithful Church	Joan Wragg

### **What is Away Group?**

Away Group is one of Wonford's Bible Study/Fellowship Groups which normally meets every week on a Monday evening at 7-30pm. We have a regular group of about 11 or 12 and we usually meet at Julie and Alan's or Joan and Tony's, but sometimes at other venues. We are currently progressing through the Gospel of Mark a chapter at a time and enjoying looking again at the life, miracles and teaching of Jesus. Small groups meeting in homes was a classic characteristic of early Methodist practice, providing space for mutual encouragement, problem sharing and prayer, as well as deepening of faith knowledge. So if you need more fellowship and impetus in your Christian walk do come and join us. You will always be

welcome. We shall be taking a break for the month of August but will be back in action on Monday 3rd September.

**Tony Wragg**

## **Church Green Team**

As many of you will know, I am a keen gardener. I have an allotment as well as a garden. So occasionally I need to replace or buy new gardening tools. I had heard of 'Men in Sheds' so a few years ago I decided to visit them. They are a group of retired men who wanted something to do and an opportunity to socialise. Age UK helped them set up and supports them and any profits go to Age UK.

The men bring their skills into use to mend old unwanted tools, either gardening or household tools, and sell them in their shop. They will also sharpen your shears etc. Their shop currently is next to the bus station in Paris street. So next time you need a new spade or hammer, why not pop in the shop and have a chat with them. It saves these items going into landfill.

***Alison Howell, (for Church Green Team: Margretta Bowstead, Sue Keatt, Helen Moore and Alison Hobbs)***

## **Report on Marriage and Relationships**

The Marriage and Relationships Task Group has delivered an interim report to the Methodist Conference, the governing body of the Methodist Church, which is meeting in Nottingham. The Conference agreed a change to the way in which the Task Group will complete its work.

After discussion of issues raised by the draft report in workshops and long and respectful debate on the floor of the Conference, the Task Group will now produce a further report containing a number of key theological arguments and recommendations.

This report will be delivered at the 2019 Conference and, subject to acceptance, will be referred to the District Synods of the Church for a year-long process of consideration and approval.

The 2020 Conference will then make a final decision, with any provision implemented with immediate effect. None of this prevents a longer and more detailed Conference Statement being presented at a later stage.

Local churches, circuits and individual members are being encouraged to feed in their opinions about this work through their Synods.

A video from the Methodist Conference featuring members of the Task Group with different perspectives will shortly be available to help these discussions.

The Conference was also reminded about the Model Statement for Living with Contrary Convictions from the 2016 Conference.

Chair of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group, and former President of the Conference, the Revd Kenneth G Howcroft, said: “The group’s task is great while its timetable is short. The group has worked with commitment since the 2016 Conference and has engaged in a lot of thinking, praying, research and writing.”

The report observes that: “As with all matters of policy, any recommendations should be based on prayerful discernment; careful reading, interpretation and application of the Scriptures; and rigorous thinking. We have come to see that the key aspect in all relationships is the Christ-like quality of the way in which people relate.”

Visit the Methodist Conference website: [methodist.org.uk/conference](http://methodist.org.uk/conference)

## **Living with Contradictory Convictions**

Included in the report to the 2016 Conference by the previous Marriage and Relationships Task Group.

We continue to believe that God has been revealed in Jesus Christ, accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and live in communion with God and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We cherish our place within Christ's Church recognising that it is Christ alone who chooses, calls and confirms us as members of His church, the body of Christ.

Whilst we may not all agree about everything, we recognise the importance of the truths which bind us together as well as the issues which currently divide us.

Therefore, we resolve:

- To engage with each other openly, honestly, prayerfully and graciously

- To treat each other with respect and dignity, recognising the sincerity of the faith of those who may see things differently
- To seek to learn from one another as we travel together as fellow pilgrims
- To renounce all language and behaviours that attempt to coerce others to change their views or beliefs
- To seek, as far as conscience allows, to preserve the fellowship of Christ's Church
- To unite under the authority



**Sunday 23rd September  
2018  
4.00pm  
ALL Welcome**

## **Prayer Focus for August**

***Do not worry but pray about everything!***

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

I begin as usual suggesting that we pray for all who will lead worship here at Wonford each Sunday. (See details inside the back cover). Also pray for all who will lead our Bible studies and our Tuesday prayer meetings.

During July we prayed for Ministers and Deacons preparing to move on. Please pray this month for them in their new appointments, as they settle in new homes with all the unpacking and for their children settling into new schools or colleges. Pray for the Ministers taking up their appointments in our circuit.

This month please pray for our young people as they await their GCSE and A level exam results. For some there will be great joy as they gain what they

need to move on to further education. For others it will be a time of disappointment as their results are not as good as they had hoped. Our young people work very hard to get the results they need but nerves or family problems, illness or any number of things can get in the way when it comes to actually taking the exams. Pray also for those who chose to take up apprenticeships or have been fortunate to join the world of work. Remember those who have not been able to go on to higher education or work that they will find something very soon rather than be left with a life of benefits. Perhaps voluntary work would lead them to permanent jobs.

## **Prayer Focus for September**

***Do not worry but pray about everything!***

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

### **HAPPY NEW METHODIST YEAR!**

I begin as usual suggesting that we pray for all who will lead worship here at Wonford each Sunday. (See details inside the back cover). Also pray for all who will lead our Bible studies and our Tuesday prayer meetings.

As we begin a new season please pray for Ben as he begins his ministry with us here at Wonford and his other churches.

A lot has happened in our world in the last month. So much that it is hard to focus on our prayer life. With the world cup taking up most of our news we have not heard what is happening elsewhere. Remember to pray for the wars going on around the world. Pray for our own government & the rest of the EU as they discuss the best way forward after Brexit.

Pray for the 12 boys and their football coach following their miraculous rescue from the cave in Thailand, that they will not suffer any ill effects, illness or mentally, following their time being trapped in the cave. Pray for the family of the Seal rescuer who sadly lost his life. Thank God for the bravery and knowledge of those who rescued them.

# Dates For Your Diary

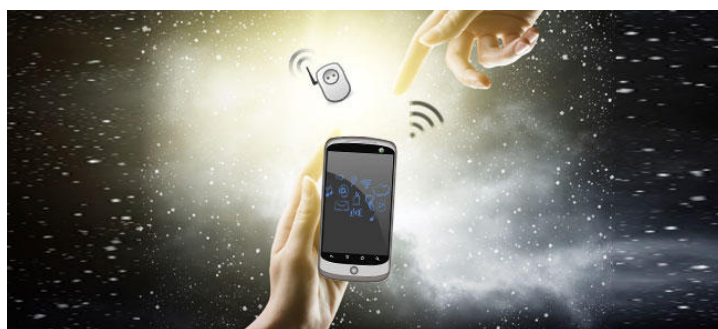
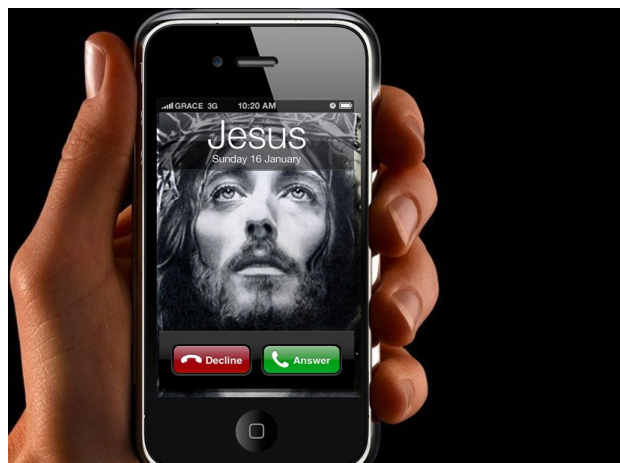
## August 2018

Sat 4th		<b><i>Start of 100 Days of Peace to 11 November</i></b>
Sun 5th	10.00 a.m.	Margaret Cole
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Andrew Brazier - United Service at Silverton
Sun 12th	10.00 a.m.	Rev David Keep - Sacrament Service
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Julian Albrow - United Service at St Thomas
Sun 19th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Alan Rothwell
	6.30 p.m.	United Service at Wonford
Sun 26th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Steve Santry
	6.30 p.m.	United Service at Crediton

## September 2018

2nd	10.00 a.m.	Jon Curtis - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	United Welcome Service at Tower St, Exmouth
Sat 8th	10.00 a.m.	Plymouth & Exeter District Synod meet at Plymouth Central Hall
Sun 9th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam
	6.30 p.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - Prayer & Praise
Tue 11th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Meets at 39 Meyer Court **
Wed 12th	7.30 p.m.	Circuit Meeting - Littlemead, Exmouth
Sun 16th	10.00 a.m.	Stephen Haddad
	6.30 p.m.	John Allan - Café Church **
Tue 18th	7.30 p.m.	Leadership Team meets
Wed 19th	7.30 p.m.	Worship Team meets at the Wragg's
Sun 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Collossians Themed Preaching 1 **
	<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
Sun 30th	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - Collossians Themed Preaching 2 **
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Service - preacher to be announced

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



# 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

7.30 p.m. Away Group Bible Study  
Girls' Brigade (4 - 16 year olds) 5.45 to 7pm **\*A\***

## Tuesday

9.15 a.m. Weekly Prayers in the Quiet Room  
10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café (3rd Tuesday each month)  
7.30 p.m. Home Group Bible Study Meeting (fortnightly)

## Thursday

2.00 p.m. Bible Study (3rd Thursday each month)

## Friday

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

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 October 2018 Newsletter will be Sunday 16th September 2018. 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)**