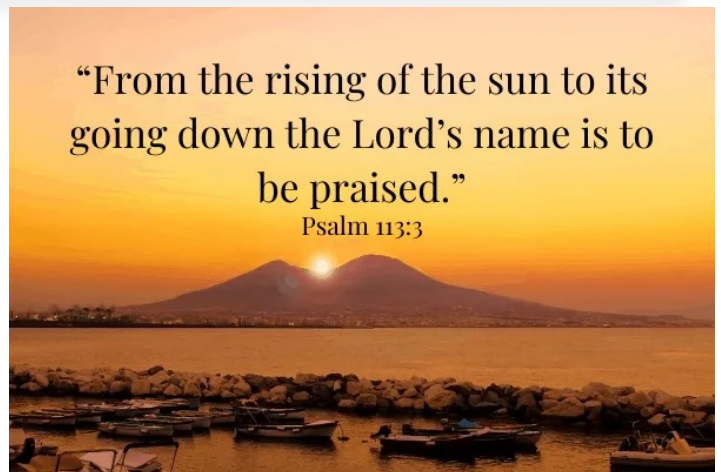


Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

August / September 2024
(No: 532)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



@WonfordMethodistChurch



YouTube Wonford Methodist Church



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

Psalm 100

You don't need to go to church to worship God/pray/be a Christian'. Have you ever heard anyone say this? I certainly have, and it's very frustrating, because it's technically true, but in spirit it's profoundly wrong. I had been a believing Christian for some time before I joined with other Christians at church, praying in my own way, reading the Bible faithfully and trying to be what I imagined was a 'good Christian'. It wasn't until I joined with my brothers and sisters in Christ however, that my faith gained more depth and vitality, and I became changed and challenged to grow into my faith. That's because it is vital to enjoy fellowship with the body of Christ of which we are a part and to be connected to something bigger than ourselves. During covid, many of us found that worshipping online, whilst better than nothing, even a vital lifeline for some, was not, and could not be, a substitute for in-person fellowship. Other Christians may sometimes annoy us, challenge us, disagree with us, but being part of a Christian community, if we're truly committed to it, helps us to grow in our faith like nothing else.

Psalm 100 begins with a universal call for the whole earth to lift its voice in praise to the Lord. Then it becomes more specific. The individual believer is invited to 'enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise'. We see the goodness and greatness of the Lord most closely when we see it reflected in the lives of others, and others see it most clearly in us. We also remind each other of unchanging truths which, if left to ourselves, we might forget. Our calling is always to grow, to go deeper in our faith, to live lives of praise, worship and thankfulness. Our brothers and sisters are, if we choose to see them as such, the best way we have of helping us to live like this. We are called to be blessings to each other and to help each other along in our walk with Jesus. For my part, I am just so grateful I don't have to do it all on my own!

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

Dates For August / September 2024

Coffee

August

4th	Melanie & ANO
11th	Alison & Jenny S
18th	Rose & Paul
25th	Melanie & ANO

September

1st	TBA
8th	Elaine & Graham
15th	Rose & Paul
22nd	Linda & Mervyn
29th	Melanie & Messy

Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. The group is taking a break for August but resumes the 13th September they will be returning to their study of Ten Commandments. All are welcome to attend. 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

The Roundabout Café will not meet in August.

In September they meet on Tuesday 17th from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake. The speaker will be our own Prof Tony Wragg with a talk entitled 'Certificates Galore'.

Everyone is welcome.



Monthly Prayer Meeting

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. There is no meeting in August but for September this will be the 17th.

Lisa Thomas

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

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

3rd August - we'll be having a coffee morning to raise funds for Breast Cancer charities, so please come along to show your support and any donations of cakes would be gratefully received

10th August - there will be a large jigsaw puzzle to get started on together and a group memory game

17th August - ahead of World Photo Day we'll be testing your knowledge about some famous photographs taken over the past few decades

24th August - a games morning with table football and the snooker table, along with table top games

31st August - we hope you will come and join with us to play the Alphabet Game

7th September - come along and see if you know your flags of the world in our quiz

14th September - it's National Doodle Day so set your creative and imaginative side free as you doodle away!

21st September - we will have a sewing morning to make tote bags for our Blythswood shoeboxes and plan our winter knitting challenge

28th September - as we approach National Dog Day we will have a few games of Dog Bingo!

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

All You Need Is Love

(1) I have watched the acclaimed, superb film 'Oklahoma' many times, but recently one of its simple songs preached a powerful sermon to me:

“The farmer and the cowman should be friends,
One man likes to push a plough, the other likes to chase a cow,
But that's no reason why they can't be friends!
Territory folks should stick together!” All you need is love.

(2) In the 1980's, the World Methodist Peace Award was given to Palestinian Father Elias Chacour, who was appointed a minister in Galilee. His congregation didn't get on well together; in fact, several deliberately sat on different sides of the Church. On his first Palm Sunday service, Elias had a packed Church, and he did something unusually bold! He locked the only Church door and placed the key inside his cassock, then told his congregation he would not open the door again, until the people made up their differences and lovingly forgave each other!

There was an embarrassing silence! Then, individual members were moved to reach across to each other, asking forgiveness and embracing each other. A few tears were shed! Amazingly, Elias' first Holy Week service got off to a wonderful start, and thereafter lots of great things happened in that church. It grew so much, it became a cathedral! (and Elias became an Archbishop)

(3) In my wildest dream, I would love to get Mr Putin and Mr Netanyahu together in a similar room, lock the door and show them (more than once!) the video of that song from Oklahoma! “Territory folk should stick together.” There's no reason why Ukrainians and Russians, Israelis and Palestinians can't be friends!

(4) Jesus urged His disciples: (and what an unlikely, mixed bunch they were!) “Love one another the way I have loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends.” (John 15 v 13) And eventually they did! Jesus Himself continued to practise what He preached, and demonstrated it by being prepared to die on a Cross. And from that Cross Jesus spoke the greatest words ever spoken: “Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing!”

(5) Is there anyone you need to reach out a loving, forgiving hand to, or say sorry to? To take that first step, all you need is love!

“In Christ there is no East or West, in Him no South or North,
But one great fellowship of LOVE, throughout the whole wide earth.”

Rev Malcolm Carter

Speaking Volumes Book Grant

Monika recently applied for a book grant from Speaking Volumes. The GREAT news is this was successful and we have been awarded £250 for our Church Library / Book Nook. A BIG thank you to Monika for preparing and submitting the application.

Methodist Prayer Handbook for 2024/25

If you would like to order a copy of the Methodist Prayer Handbook for 2024/25 priced at £4.15 each please see Caroline Colin ASAP. There are large print versions available if required.

Caroline Colin

FREE CPR & Defibrillator Training

This is being held at the dates/times/venues below if you are interested. It is being run by Devon Air Ambulance Trust

Monday 5th August	Tuesday 6th August	Wednesday 7th August
Mary Tavy Coronation Hall PL19-9QA	Bradworthy Memorial Hall EX22-7SZ	Lustleigh Village Hall TQ13-9TA
10:30am-12 noon or 1pm-2:30pm	1:30pm-3pm	6:30pm - 8pm
No need to book please come along on the day to either session.	No need to book please come along on the day.	No need to book please come along on the day.
Friday 13th September	Saturday 14th September	Tuesday 17th September
Honiton Methodist Church EX14-1EU	Musbury Village Hall EX13-8AJ	High Bickington Community Centre EX37-9PN
9:30am-11am or 11:30am-2pm	10am -11:30am	6:30pm-8pm
No need to book please come along on the day to either session.	Limited places - to reserve your place contact Graham Stark at grahamstark62@btinternet.com	Email comms@daat.org to reserve your place at this session.

New Pastoral Secretary Required from May 2025

Rose Smith has decided to step down as the Church Pastoral Secretary from May 2025. We thank Rose for all her hard work with this very important role.

If you are interested in applying, and want further information, please see Rose. If you would like to apply please see one of the stewards.

Circuit News

Churches

Cheriton Fitzpaine and Ottery St Mary Methodist Churches are now in the process of being sold. As with some of our previous church buildings that we have had to sell these might not be as straight forward as one would hope.

Withycombe

With the approval of The District, three people have been approached to look at the way forward with Withycombe. They will be looking into the management of the proposed church as well as the building itself.

Safeguarding

As a Circuit we were hoping to have a Circuit Safeguarding Officer in situ when Revd Julian Albrow took over as The Circuit Superintendent Minister two years ago. No one has come forward to take up this post so the Circuit Stewards have decided to advertise the post again, but this time as a Part Time Job. Initially for 10 hours a week.

Stationing

The Circuit Invitation Committee and The Circuit Stewards are pleased that Revd Donna Leigh has agreed to take on Pastoral Responsibility of Sidwell Street MC, St Thomas MC and Tedburn St Mary MC. Donna will only be giving $\frac{3}{4}$ of time to this appointment. The Circuit Stewards are looking in to various ways that The Circuit can help Donna and the three churches for the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ of what would be a minister's full time.

For The Methodist Year 2023/2024 The Circuit Ministers will have the following responsibilities:

Revd Ben Haslam – Crediton, Wonford, Exminster, Honiton and Farway.

Revd Steve Santry – Sidmouth, Sidford, Seaton, Dalwood, Axminster.

Revd Donna Leigh – Sidwell Street, St Thomas, Tedburn St. Mary.

Revd Wayne Grewcock – Budleigh Salterton, Exmouth, Shoreline. (At some point there will need to be a change as The District has requested 1/3 of Revd Wayne Grewcock's time to pursue Shoreline as a District resource. This will mean a change to Exmouth and Shoreline, meaning we will need Pastoral cover for Budleigh Salterton).

Revd Paul Collings – Topsham

Revd Leon Dundas – Silverton

Revd Simon Leigh – Superintendency and The Mint.

Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District

Our Methodist District is changing. For various reasons The Methodist Church has decided to amalgamate our District with The Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly District. After lots of discussion and voting at Circuit, District then Connexional Level from 1st September 2024 we will become a part of The South West Peninsular District of The Methodist Church. Please remember Revd Daniel Haylett, who will be The District Chairperson, in your prayers and all those who will be taking up various offices within this 'new district'.

Circuit Services

There will be a Circuit Farewell Service for the Revd Julian Albrow, Revd Brian Hadfield and Revd Alison Richardson on Sunday 21st July 2024 at St. Thomas MC. There will be refreshments from 5.00 pm and the service will start at 6.30 pm. The service will also include Presentation of Long Service Certificates for some of our Local Preachers.

There will be a Circuit Welcome Service for Revd Simon Leigh and Revd Donna Leigh on Sunday 1st September 2024 at The Mint MC at 6.30 pm. Refreshments will be available before the service.

Revd Ben Haslam

The Revd Ben Haslam's appointment with The Circuit comes to an end on 31st August 2025. After prayerful reflection and conversations with valued friends, Ben has decided that he will NOT be requesting an extension to his appointment. Please can we respect this decision and give Ben encouragement as he looks forward to new challenges.

Ben would appreciate your prayers as he completes his profile and undertakes visits to possible Circuits and Churches. Please also remember in your prayers The Circuit Invitation Team as they prepare a profile on behalf on The Circuit for a minister to replace Ben.

Prayer Focus for August 2024

Week Commencing Sunday 4th August

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalms 51:10

Pray for all the churches and organisations offering free meals for children this summer, and for those providing holiday clubs. May they bless those struggling with the cost of living and those hungry for meaning in life.

Week Commencing Sunday 11th August

Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.

Isaiah 40:26

God, you have blessed us with the beauty of creation. May we care for it wisely and use its resources carefully.

Week Commencing Sunday 18th August

For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

Thank you God, for all the gifts you have given us. Help us to use them wisely so that we will be a blessing to those around us.

Week Commencing Sunday 25th August

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power,
for you **created** all things,
and by your will they were **created** and have their being."

Revelation 4:11

Give thanks to God for all that he has made. May we give God the glory and honour that is due to him and may our lives reflect the love of God into our communities.

Prayer Focus for September 2024

Week Commencing Sunday 1st September

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:19

Pray for all Methodist ministers, newly retired, newly appointed and those continuing in their work. Pray too, for churches who have a change of minister and those without an incumbent. Lord, do a new thing, may your Holy Spirit be at work in our churches, circuits, districts and the Connexion.

Week Commencing Sunday 8th September - Education Sunday

Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.

Psalms 149:1

Pray for all students settling into new schools or classes. Pray for all teachers settling into new terms, new jobs. Give them fresh inspiration and ideas to teach, guide, support and to keep going through the rough and the smooth of school life.

Week Commencing Sunday 15th September

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

We pray for our community, for those who live or work in Wonford and for all who are a part of our worshipping community at Wonford Methodist Church. Inspire us with new ways to serve the community around us.

Week Commencing Sunday 22nd September - Peace Sunday

Consider the blameless, observe the upright;
a future awaits those who seek peace.

Psalms 37:37

Lord, we lament the presence of war in the world today. We pray for the success of diplomacy and dialogue between warring factions around the world. We pray for peace for all who suffer hunger, hardship and displacement.

Week Commencing Sunday 29th September

“A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

John 13:34

Pray for our city as the population grows again with students old and new arriving at university. We pray particularly for students arriving from overseas. May they find a warm welcome from all as they arrive in Exeter.

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

Breast Cancer Coffee Morning.

As mentioned in the July Newsletter, at Wonford Welcome on 3rd August we will be raising money for two great breast cancer charities 'Breast Cancer Now' and 'Coppa Feel'.

If you are able to bake a cake or come to 'eat cake and donate' that would be great!

Helen

News From The Methodist Church

Joint Statement Following the General Election

Joint statement following the General Election from Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Church leaders

We congratulate Sir Keir Starmer on his appointment as Prime Minister, and all who will now take their seats representing their constituencies as Members of Parliament in Westminster.

The election campaign has been hard-fought, but we know that the real challenges still lie ahead.

The new government inherits a situation where poverty in the UK has been increasing and deepening at an alarming rate. Conflict and persecution in different parts of the world are forcing many to flee their homes to seek safety in other countries including the UK. The existential threat of climate change is causing enormous suffering to both humankind and the wider natural world. There is an urgent need for politicians to restore trust and rebuild integrity in public life. There are also huge pressures on the NHS, on social care, on the criminal justice system, education and other public services, as well as on the public finances.

It is clear that there is an appetite for change in the country, but also a need to restore faith in the ability of politics to meet these challenges.

We urge the new government to put the needs of those who are most vulnerable and marginalised at the forefront as it wrestles to respond to these problems. We also encourage it to work in partnership with local communities to tackle them, in recognition that we all have a part to play in these endeavours, and welcome the commitment made by the new Prime Minister to build strong partnerships with faith groups. Churches across the UK will continue to respond practically in many different ways, but we also look forward to building relationships with the new government and newly elected MPs, and remain ready to support policies and initiatives that offer just and sustainable long-term solutions.

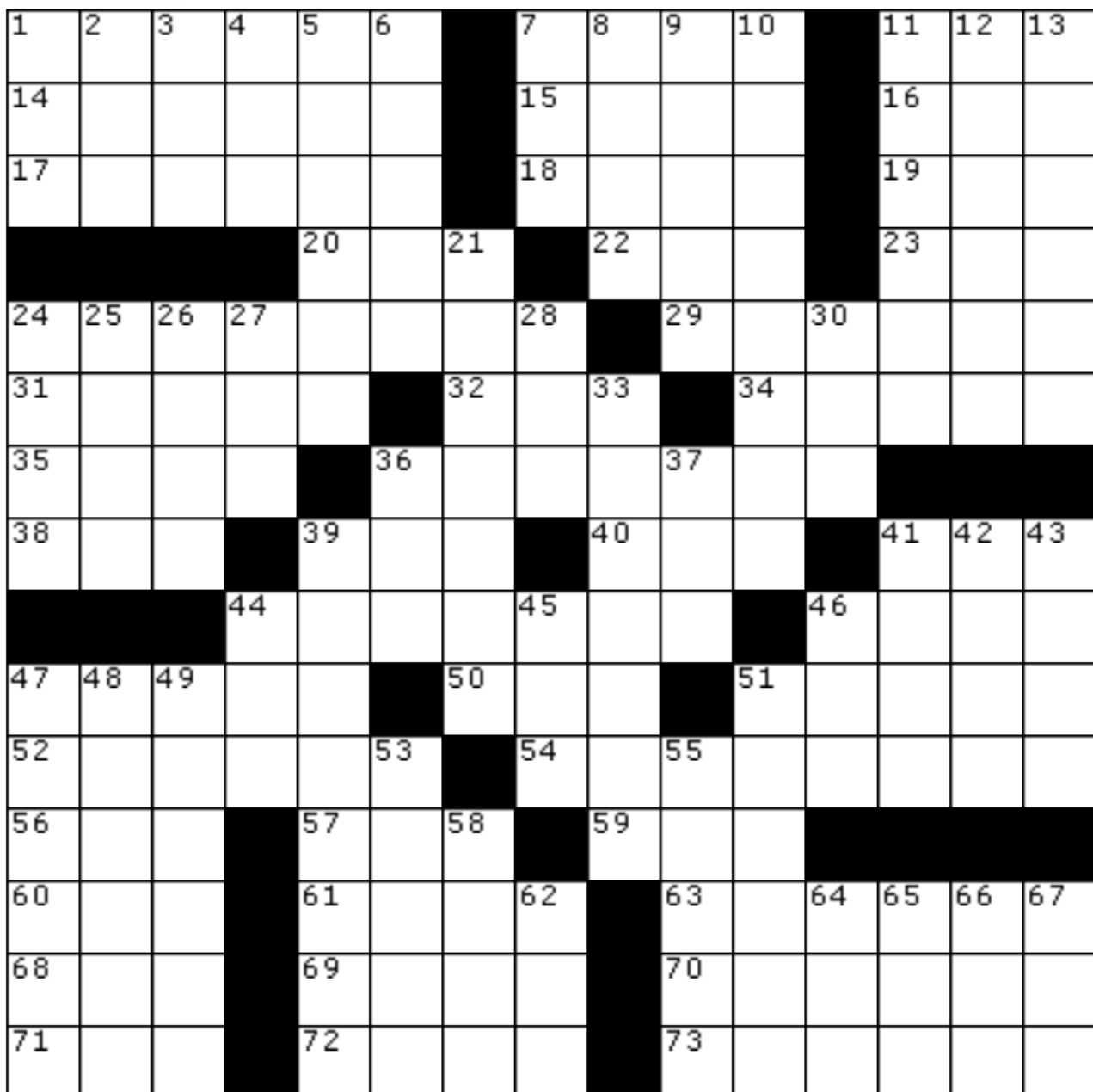
We offer our prayers for the Prime Minister, for the new government and for all elected MPs. We will pray for God's blessing to be on all endeavours to

seek peace, justice and the wellbeing of this nation – and where we can embody that blessing, we will.

Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain
Revd Helen Cameron and Carolyn Godfrey, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church

Bible Crossword Puzzle



Across

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Impose a tax | 7 Yearn | 11 Deface |
| 14 Celtic | 15 Opp. of yeses | 16 Bullfight cheer |
| 17 Type of American Express card | | 18 Snare |
| 19 What a nurse gives | 20 Shade tree | 22 For |
| 23 Color | 24 Incidental | 29 Radios |
| 31 Brother of Moses | 32 Stamping tool | 34 Wounds |
| 35 Baths | 36 Real busy | |
| 38 Summer skin colour | 39 Buck's mate | 40 Pea holder |
| 41 Villain | 44 A ghost | 46 Sanctified |
| 47 Bustling | 50 Sticky black substance | |
| 51 Packed | 52 Pieces of wood | 54 Pilate was one |
| 56 Dowel | 57 Nothing | |
| 59 Rock group | 60 Electroencephalograph (abbr.) | |
| 61 Muslim ruler | 63 Pasta | 68 Street abbr. |
| 69 Achy | 70 Biased | 71 Scarlet |
| 72 Fasten | 73 Cousin of Mordecai | |

Down

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Gone by | 2 Drain | 3 Put |
| 4 Samuel's mentor | 5 Tribe of Israel | 6 Hot liquid burn |
| 7 Picnic pest | 8 Corporation (abbr.) | 9 Biblical seat of emotions |
| 10 Betrothed (KJV) | 11 Honour your father and ____ | |
| 12 Attract | 13 Niche | 21 Region between Rockies and Ohio |
| 24 Asia | 25 Male parent | 26 Iraq's neighbour |
| 27 Distress call | 28 Central Intelligence Agency | |
| 30 Cain fled to this land | 33 Roman Empire sovereign | |
| 36 Child | 37 "Raven" author | 39 Plague of Egypt |
| 41 Connecticut (abbr.) | 42 In addition | 43 Colourer |
| 44 Box | 45 Old woman | 46 That woman |
| 47 Emerge | 48 Arm covering | 49 Followed closely |
| 51 Evil angels | 53 Peter's other name | |
| 55 Locale | 58 Italian money | 62 Representative |
| 64 Often poetically | 65 Dit's partner | 66 Tell a tall tale |
| 67 Stray | | |

Dates For Your Diary

August 2024

Sat 3rd	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm). This includes raising money for Breast Cancer cake sale
Sun 4th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Dr Stephen Mosedale
Sat 10th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) *
Sun 11th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament
Sat 17th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 18th	10.00 a.m.	Monika Noronha
Sat 24th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 25th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer
Sat 31st	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **

September 2024

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Ann Skinner - All Age Worship Circuit Welcome Service for Rev Dr Simon Leigh and Rev Donna Leigh at The Mint Methodist Church
Sat 7th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament
Fri 13th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 14th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) *
Sun 15th	10.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Themed Preaching Café Church with Bronwyn Nott. Talk on her visit to The Cuttack Diocese of India
Tue 17th	9.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) ** Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Sat 21st	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Caroline Colin. - Themed Preaching
Sat 28th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 29th	10.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Monika Noronha - Themed Preaching Film Service

The deadline for items for the October 2024 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th September 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

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)