

A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

It seems strange to be writing this so soon after Christmas and yet already turning my attention toward Lent! Easter is early this year – 27th March (it won't be in March again until 2024 and won't be earlier than this year until 2035!) – which means that Lent begins on 10th February. Yet though it may seem strange, this idea of turning is very appropriate when talking of Lent.

Lent is a period of repentance designed to help us prepare for Easter. For many, the word repent is associated with saying sorry for things we have done wrong. Yet this is only a partial reflection of the word. Repent literally means 'to turn'. The Christian understanding of repent involves a double turning. Yes, there is the turn away from what is wrong, or unhelpful, or distracts us from God (and there is some connection here with the traditional practice of giving things up for Lent). But there is also a second turning; a turning toward God – an active seeking of God in our lives, an attempt to discern God's will for us and our communities, to listen to and walk with God (which is perhaps why there is a growing trend for Christians to take things on, rather than give them up, during Lent; for example, to read a devotional book, to offer practical help or time, or to give to a particular cause).

In the Jewish-Christian tradition, ashes have been a symbol associated with repentance (e.g. Job 42:3-6, Jeremiah 6:26, Daniel 9:3, Luke 10:13). It is for this reason that on the first day of Lent, the Church has given Christians the opportunity to be marked with ashes as a symbol of their repentance and intent to use Lent as a time of turning toward God. As they are marked with ashes on their forehead, the minister will say:

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return,
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.”

It is for this reason that the first day of Lent is known as Ash Wednesday. Many find the service profoundly moving and helpful as an expression of their desire to seek God.

Although the Methodist Church has a service for Ash Wednesday, I thought it would be good to join with our brothers and sisters at St. Michael's Church on this day – they will be holding services at 9.30am and 7.30pm on 10th February. I will be going to the 7.30pm service – why not come with me?

Whether you can come or not on 10th February, I hope you are challenged to consider how for you Lent will be a time of repentance, both turning away from that which is wrong or distracts and turning toward God.

**With every blessing,
Rev Bruce Sawyer**

Dates For February

Flowers

7th	Barbara J
14th	Eileen
21st	Julie & Alan
28th	Margretta



Coffee

7th	Terry & Tony
14th	Ann & John
21st	Sheila
28th	The Prowses



Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This group meets in the lounge at 2pm normally on the third Thursday each month. This month they are studying John 4 43-54. All are welcome and if you'd like to learn more, do speak with Bronwen or Clifford Maddicks.

11th 2.00 p.m. Bible Study in the lounge.

Tuesday Home Group

For more information see Monika Noronha.

2nd 7.30pm At David & Melanie's - 14 Grainger Close
16th 7.30pm At Monika & Bill's - 18 Tuckfield Close

Fairtrade Fortnight

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight we are encouraged to SIT DOWN FOR BREAKFAST and STAND UP FOR FARMERS!

We are celebrating Mother's Day on 6 March with a Fairtrade breakfast at 8:30am before the All-Age service. Maybe the men and young people will serve the ladies? We are giving you early notice so that you can plan ahead for this special occasion!



Discovering God in Culture

Day festival of bible teaching, mission strategies, art, poetry, questions about Christian living, youth work, plus food and good company



**St Thomas Methodist Church, Cowick St,
Exeter, EX4 1JE**

12 March, 2016, 10.00-15.45

Speakers include: Neil Richardson, Nicola Price-Tebbut, Andrew Brazier, Anna Davis, Norman Wallwork, Richard Skinner, Steve Jones, Graham Thompson, Peter Willis, Julian Albrow

To register, reply Revd Julian Albrow, julian.albrow@btinternet.com 01392 255791 or via <https://eventbrite.co.uk/e/discovering-god-in-culture-tickets-18186030908Y>
Please provide name and address, and say if you would like (free) lunch. Vegetarian?



Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network

South West

Ample parking in paddock behind church. Free entry. Thanksgiving offering

Circuit Conversation held at Wonford on 6th January 2016

Rev Paul Smith, after a helpful introduction calling us all to respect all those with different opinions from our own, gave an informative and clear outline of the 3 issues to be considered if our 2016 Methodist Conference is to decide on forming a group to discuss a possible change in our Church's Definition of Marriage in the light of the government's legalising same-sex marriage. These 3 issues are:

- What is marriage?
- What is the authority of the Bible?
- How to hold unity in diversity within the life of the church?

We had time to discuss in smaller groups; and held a "straw poll", not a "vote", on whether those attending agreed that 2016 Conference should form a group to revisit the Methodist Definition of Marriage which had about 80% in favour and 20% against. The whole meeting was very well led by Paul Smith, whom Superintendent David Easton warmly thanked at the close.

More can be read at:

www.methodist.org.uk/talkingofmarriageandrelationships

Margretta Bowstead

Women's World Day of Prayer

This event takes place on Friday 4th March 2016. Services are being held at South Street Baptist Church at 10.30am and Alphington Parish Church at 7.30pm.



Church Council Meeting

The next Church Council meeting is on Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 7.30pm in the church. All are welcome to come and join in the discussions, you don't have to be a Member. However you will not be able to vote if you are not a Member of the church council.

Alison Howell

Responsible Giving

One of the commitments that all members of the Methodist Church make is to give responsibly and generously for the work of the church. How much to give and how often are - perhaps - issues for another day. But have you thought how you make your gifts?

Using weekly envelopes is tried and tested and many benefit from the reminder that such a system offers. However, in this electronic age, is it fair to expect church officers to spend time, after each service, counting money and creating the records that are required? I am sure they would rather be sharing in refreshments and fellowship with everyone else!

So, have you considered giving by Standing Order? That is, a regular gift (usually monthly) that you control through your bank account? The benefits are:

- You don't have to remember to bring money to church
- The church continues to receive your gift whether you are able to attend or not
- The records are easier to maintain as the church's bank statements evidence your giving
- Contributions that are 'gift aided' can be easily and quickly identified
- There is a reduced requirement for someone to go to the bank each week
- There is less chance of cash or cheques being lost or misappropriated
- Church officers can have a relaxed drink after the service!

Once you have established a Standing Order can I also encourage you to review the amount you give each year? Perhaps at the same time as the annual Covenant Service?

Thank you for your financial support.

Rev Graham Thompson

To find out more speak to our treasurer David Westcott



Keswick in Devon

*THE TIMELESS GOSPEL
IN A FAST CHANGING WORLD*

29 February - 4 March

Monday 7.45pm, Tues - Thurs 10.45am & 7.45pm
and Friday 9.30am & 7.30pm

All Saints' Church, Sidmouth EX10 8ES

Monday at 7.45pm

**"Introduction to
both series"**

Tuesday – Thursday
at 10.45am

**TRANSFORMED
LIVES IN LUKE'S
GOSPEL**

Tuesday – Thursday
at 7.45pm

**TRANSFORMED
CHURCHES IN THE
BOOK OF ACTS**



Main Speaker:

**DAVID
COFFEY**

for more information
please contact us

Friday at 9.30am - 1pm

**CHOOSE 2 OUT OF
4 SEMINARS**
see website for details

Friday at 7.30pm

**THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO
LUKE**

Performed
by Bruce Kuhn



www.keswickindevon.org.uk

Telephone: 01395 568420

No fee

Just come along!

SAVE THE DATE!

Wonford Playing Field Community Consultation

Saturday 13th February

At Wonford Community and Learning Centre

Do you walk your dog, play football or meet your mates at Wonford Playing Fields? Or perhaps you cut through on your way to Lidl? Or maybe don't go to the field at all?

We would like to hear from **everyone** about how the playing field and the area around the Community Centre and Sports Centre could be improved.

Pop in anytime between 10am to 2pm to give us your thoughts and views

If you would like a more in-depth discussion there will be two one-hour workshops, with one in the morning at 10.30am and one at lunchtime starting at 12.30pm

For further information: Please contact Project Manager Peter Wilkinson at peter.wilkinson@thenextfield.co.uk or speak to one of the community organisers in Wonford COGs

Supported by Exeter City Council, Devon County Council, Active Devon, the NHS, Legacy Leisure, and Wonford Community Community Organisers



Prayer Focus for February

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Renew a right spirit within me.

**Do not banish me from Your presence,
and don't take Your Holy Spirit from me.**

Psalm 51:10-11 (New Living Translation)

Week beginning Sunday 7th

As Church Council meets on Tuesday, please pray that God will continue to guide the decisions to be made and will bring forward a permanent secretary.

Ash Wednesday (the start of Lent) - Pray also that God will 'renew a right spirit within us' as we journey through the next forty days of Lent and reflect on Jesus' victory over temptation in the wilderness.

Week beginning Sunday 14th

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will enlighten our understanding of the Scriptures as we listen to the new Themed Preaching series which starts today.

Thank God for the gift of preaching and teaching He has given to people within our church.

Week beginning Sunday 21st

Please pray for all the young people's groups and activities and the 'Open the Book' outreach to the children at Countess Wear Primary School.

Thank God for all the seeds of faith being planted in the hearts of the children.

Week beginning Sunday 28th

Please pray that a spirit of love and unity will continue to flow through our fellowship/house groups, social activities and worship/prayer groups.

Phone Prayer Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is Beryl Violet (01392) 270132. Your request will be passed to members of the Prayer Link who will pray for your need.

After Church 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

Let's Thank God For The Festival

Sharon and I wanted to thank the people of Wonford for being a caring and understanding family over the year 2015. We thank God and you for we were under pressure in the last week and seriously had considered our membership.

I wanted to thank specifically Tony and Joan Wragg, for opening their home at Christmas. It was a wonderful community get together. Various people chose Carols to sing; I chose 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear', as it speaks of those on a trek and man at war with man hears not the love song that the Angels bring, and I felt we had to think of those migrating across Europe fleeing the war in Syria and Libya. One of Joan's neighbours Milly sang a verse of 'Angels from the Realms of Glory'. Then Caroline Sawyer, gave a talk based upon the tapestry she created, with coloured threads; coloured thread to represent life, black to represent the dark periods in our life and gold to represent the golden and special presence of God to hold on to. We were given a picture of the HOPE tapestry to take away with us. Together, with the food and carols and talk, it felt like a big family sharing the true meaning of Christmas and where the Spirit of Christmas was found.

This year, 2016, will be difficult for us, with buses being re-organised, family health and finances, but the love of Christ that we experience through our fellow family members is very special, and has convinced us that Wonford is right for us, and indeed will help us through all the changing scenes of life.

All the best for 2016

Nick and Sharon Goddard





**In Aid of Action for
Children**



Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th February 2016

Wonford Methodist Church

10am to 12pm



ALL Welcome



Includes a MASSIVE greeting cards clear out.

**Cards for ALL occasions - Valentines Day,
Mothering Sunday, Easter and many more.**

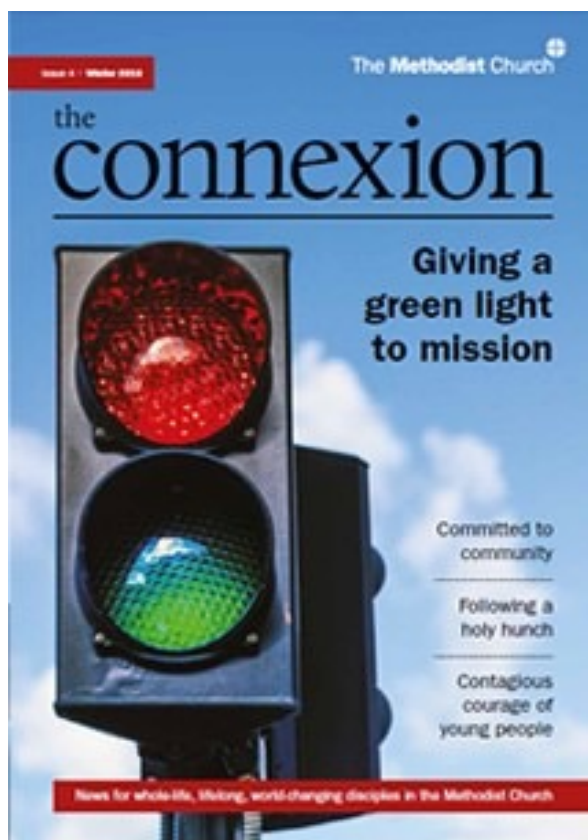
**Donation of cakes, etc, would be very much
appreciated.**

**Help is required - please let Paul Johnson
know if you can.**



News From The Methodist Church

Giving a green light to mission



the connexion magazine brings together inspirational stories from Methodist people worldwide, who are passionate about sharing God's love to change lives.

The latest issue features stories of mission in action. It tells how Methodists are doing church differently, by taking risks, offering radical hospitality, going mobile and going on-air. The Holy Spirit is inspiring local Methodist churches to meet needs and change communities. Mission continues to change Methodism.

The magazine is being distributed at the moment. But you can read the online version now and sign up to receive copies by post - see Methodist Church website.

One Programme Host Projects Needed for 2016/2017

The One Programme is a paid year for young people aged 16 to 23.

One Programme Participants (OPPs) are paid to work an average of 15 hours a week, the majority of which is spent working in a local project with some hours 'banked' and used for connexional work and training.

Each year the Methodist Church funds ten places for OPPs, which are selected by a panel of young people and key workers following an application process.

The Church is always keen to find a wide variety of different projects that can offer an exciting and supported year to an OPP. The host projects do not necessarily have to be children's or youth work. In the past young people have been placed with food banks, creative arts projects and Street Pastors to name a few.

Churches and projects, from across the Connexion, or that have a link to the Methodist Church, are invited to apply to host an OPP for the next year, which will run from September 2016 to August 2017.

The Host Project Application Pack, which contains detailed information and an application form, is available to download from the Children and Youth website or is available from Regional Coordinators.

For more details or for help and advice please contact your Regional Coordinator. (You can find out contact details of the Coordinator in your region here.)

Application deadline: **Friday 4 March 2016.**

(If you know of a church/project that might be suitable please pass on these details to them.)

Inspirational Women Appeal 2016

We are all likely to have met many women who have inspired us. Women, who have nurtured and cared for us, taught us and equipped us, and led us and encouraged us in our lives.

All We Can invites you and your church to celebrate these women in support of the many who are often overlooked this Lent. You can now order the church resources to accompany this year's Inspirational Women Appeal from All We Can.

All We Can's free worship resource pack will enable you to hold a service focused on celebrating inspirational women. It also gives congregations the opportunity to reflect on and pray for the challenging situations many women across the world face, and enables them to give gifts inspired by the women in their own lives.

In November 2015, Vice-President of Methodist Conference Jill Baker visited Jharkhand in India with All We Can to find out more about the work of its partner the Srijan Foundation. In the new Inspirational Women Appeal video, follow Jill on her journey as she meets Rita, a very inspirational woman.

You find out more resources at:

<http://www.allwecan.org.uk/service-materials/inspirational-women-appeal>

Dates For Your Diary

February 2016

Tue 2nd	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 14 Grainger Close **
	7.30pm	Circuit G.P. meeting at Topsham MC
Sat 6th	10.00 a.m.	Action for Children Coffee morning and card sale (until 12pm) **
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Steve Ayers - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Julian Albrow - Sacrament Service
Tue 9th	7.30 p.m.	Church council meets in the church **
Thu 11th	2.00 p.m.	Monthly Bible Study in the lounge **
Sat 13th	10.00 a.m.	Wonford Playing Field Consultation at Wonford Community and Learning Centre (until 2pm) **
Sun 14th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Sacrament Service + 'Lent' Themed Preaching 1
	6.30 p.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - Prayer & Praise
Tue 16th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe (until 12pm)
	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 18 Tuckfield Close **
Sat 20th	8.30 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast **
Sun 21st	10.00 a.m.	Chris Mann - 'Lent' Themed Preaching 2
	6.30 p.m.	Dr Joan Wragg
26th - 28th. Circuit Retreat at Sheldon Centre		
Sun 28th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - 'Lent' Themed Preaching 3
	4.30 p.m.	Film Service

29th February to 4th March 2016 - Keswick in Devon meetings **

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

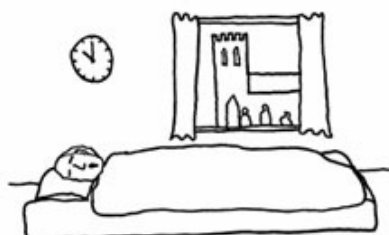
LENT



LENT IS A TIME FOR QUIET REFLECTION AND CONTEMPLATION



IT IS A SEASON OF ABSTINENCE AND FASTING



SOME CHRISTIANS GIVE SOMETHING UP DURING LENT



OTHERS CHOOSE TO CARRY OUT ACTS OF PENANCE

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 (2 Wallace Avenue)
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. Men's Coffee and Games Morning
10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Cafe *(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***
2.00 p.m. Friday Fellowship in the lounge

Saturday

- 8.30 a.m. Monthly Prayer Breakfast *(3rd Saturday each month)*

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 March 2016 Newsletter will be Sunday 14th February 2016. 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