

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

February 2019

(No: 475)

*I can do all things
through **Christ**
who strengthens me.*

-Philippians 4:13

Faith
does not
make things easy
it makes them
POSSIBLE
luke 1:37

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,

Who are we? Really? What makes us the people we are? Are we the products of our upbringings, the culture around us as we grew up, our social status, our appearance, our wealth (or lack of same) or our success in life? Is our identity bound up with our circumstances, and things we have no control over, or is it something we create for ourselves? Depending on who you ask, you'll get a different answer to this question of what makes us who we are. Often, we're not sure ourselves. Sometimes we let the opinions of others colour how we see ourselves, and unkind words and ignorant gossip have destroyed many a person's self esteem (even, tragically, within the church).

The secular world will tell you that your identity lies in what you own, what you achieve, what you do. The Gospel tells you that your identity, if you've given your life to Christ, lies in your status as a child of God, and your salvation is no achievement of yours, but purely a gift, given in grace, by God. When you become a new creation, as Paul puts it, your new identity begins to form and your God-given gifts and graces begin to be channelled into His service.

That's how it's meant to work anyway. Sometimes we hold back. Sometimes we judge ourselves (or allow ourselves to be judged) by the false standards of the world, and sometimes we assume God's role as judge ourselves, and condemn others, without offering them the grace and forbearance that God has shown to us. There is no place for any of this in the Kingdom of God, where all are equal recipients of God's grace and none are there by their own merits. When people become Christians, they start with a clean slate, and what they have been doesn't matter, and what they can become, through God's transforming spirit becomes an exciting possibility. They still struggle sometimes with the 'old Adam', but nonetheless they are held in the hand of gracious God whose spirit guides and directs through all the vicissitudes of life. This is our story, this is our song, and this is something to celebrate. Amen!

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

Dates For February 2019

Coffee

3rd	Fran & Pauline
10th	Rose & Paul
17th	TBA
24th	Jenny & Ruth



Flowers

3rd	Barbara Jackson
10th	Eileen
17th	Edith & Tudor
24th	TBA



Home Group

This group is now meeting fortnightly on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm in different members' homes, as our Sunday Screen Notices will tell each time. We will be concluding our study and discussion of Paul's epistle to the Colossians and will also look at Philemon. Anyone is welcome to come and join us as we explore the Bible together. Come with your questions or thoughts to help us, please!

13th February

18 Tuckfield Close

27th February

14 Grainger Close

Minister's House Group

This is a new group setup by Rev Ben Haslam. The first meeting will be on Thursday 21st February 2019 at 2pm in the lounge. All welcome. It is likely to include some discussion and Bible Study.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2019

Fairtrade Fortnight 2019 will run from 25 February until 10 March. Fairtrade Fortnight is an action-packed highlight of the year, when campaigners, businesses, schools and places of worship show their support for the farmers and workers who grow our food in developing countries.

www.fairtradefoundation.org



We hope to do our bit for Fairtrade Fortnight by promoting some products and encouraging one another to use Fairtrade foods and beverages. We are a Fairtrade Church and all our tea and coffee and sugar here is Fairtrade.

Monika

Rosie is a Star

At Christmas we hear the story of the Good News of Jesus and the STAR that was a significant part of that story. I bring you Good News of Rosie & Laurie and Mum Ruth & Dad Mike Bradley – and they asked me to pass on their greetings to all at Wonford. Mike had taken Laurie to school, which he very much enjoys, as well as now starting in the Beavers – the junior Scouts; and Ruth & Rosie visited me early in January and - for me - Rosie is a STAR!

For 3 years Rosie has had many hospital stays and operations in Bristol and Exeter. And there she was, sitting on my carpet, showing me her new [that day] shoes, hearing well and picking up all Ruth was talking about. I don't think she can speak; but instead Rosie & Ruth go together to sign-language lessons. And Rosie signs! She taught me how to sign "brother" – when we were talking about Laurie! We had a "conversation" about a picture of a fox, that Rosie thought was a cat; but Ruth couldn't recall the 'sign' for a fox, so she could only tell Rosie it was not a cat!!

Please continue to pray for more Good News for my STAR Rosie, and for Laurie and Ruth & Mike throughout 2019.

Margretta Bowstead

Elijah and Elisha Themed Preaching Series - Spring 2019

We are venturing into the Bible books of 1 and 2 Kings for our Spring preaching theme featuring Elijah and Elisha, two great servants of God in times long before Christ. Maybe you don't know much about them, who they were, and what they did, so we hope this series will fill in some gaps for you. I'm looking forward to it and I hope that you will also find it instructive and inspirational. By the time you read this the series will have already started, but here is the full list of the talks.

Jan 20th

Meet Elijah – The man for the hour

Paul Smith

1 Kings 17

Jan 27th

Elijah Confronts Ahab: Speaking Truth to Power
1 Kings 18 v 1-15

Ben Haslam

Feb 10th

Showdown on Mt Carmel: The Lord Alone is God
1Kings 18 v16-46

Terry Spencer

Feb 17th

God meets Elijah in disappointment
1 Kings 19 v 1-18

Joan Wragg

Feb 24th

Truth will out; a Ruthless Woman
1 Kings 21 v 1-28

Ben Haslam

Mar 10th

Enter Elisha: Elijah passes on the baton
1 Kings 19 v 19-21 2 Kings 2 v 1-18

Clive Hughes

Mar 17th Miracles of Healing and Provision

2 Kings 4 v 1-44 2 Kings 8 v 1-6

John Allan

Mar 24th

Humility: the Healing of Naaman
2 Kings 5

Ben Haslam

Mar 31st

Eyes opened: A Story of Deception and Mercy
2 Kings 6 v 8-23

Tony Wragg

Tony *(On behalf of Worship Team)*

Christmas Card Tree 2018

A very BIG thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Card Tree. A total of £100.00 was raised for Methodist Women in Britain, Plymouth and Exeter District, Project for 2018 - 2020, Devon Air Ambulance.

Paul Violet

Church Green Team Update

A Rocha and their Eco Church Work

At the heart of Eco Church is a unique online A Rocha survey that enables churches both to record what they are already doing to care for God's earth, and to reflect on what further steps they can take to that end. The survey covers all areas of church life: Worship and Teaching; Management of Church Buildings and Land; Community and Global Engagement; Lifestyle. As such it challenges churches to act in respect of the songs they sing and the food they serve; of the energy they use and of the ethics of their investments; of the wildlife that finds a home on their land and of the water that flushes their loos; and so on.

The 6 members of our Wonford Church Green Team have over the past year tried to spread this message further and deeper in all we are doing. You will have seen the new wall boards in the hall; and I hope you are looking at "our" Church Green Team section, where articles and information can be read. We are hoping our next A Rocha survey will bring us to the level of a Bronze award, for we have certainly upped our work and involvement this last year.

Please keep trying to do more for God's Earth

Margretta

World Day of Prayer

As ever, the first Friday in March sees the World Day of Prayer Service at the United Reform Church in Southernhay on Friday 1st March at 10.30 am, with tea/coffee from 10 o'clock. Do notice that it is now called the World Day of Prayer, dropping the gender-specific word – because men do attend as well! However the Service is still prepared by women, from different countries in the world, and this year it is prepared by the Women of Slovenia and entitled "Come, Everything is Ready".

Church Council

Please note the next Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 February 2019 at 7.30pm in the church.

At this church council we agree our Annual Appointments & named 'link' people.

If you are interested in taking up an Appointment please speak to Rev Ben Haslam, a Steward or Alison. If you wish to step down from an appointment then please let Ben and Alison know. Appointments start from 1 May.

All are welcome to attend, although only church council members can vote.

Regards

Alison Howell (Church Secretary)

Prayer Focus for February

Pray Without Ceasing!

As always may I encourage you to pray for all our activities here at Wonford. Pray for those who will lead worship both in preaching & our music group. Remember those who will run Messy Church & Girl's Brigade and for those who will lead our Bible Study groups. Don't forget to pray for our stewards.

Pray also for those who are living with illness or those who are getting frailer through age. Don't forget those who are no longer able to join us for worship.

Please continue to pray for those in North Korea who will receive Bibles, that they would be protected from the authorities and that they would gain a deeper relationship with our Lord.

Over the Christmas period we have seen much in the news of desperate people turning up on our shores having paid for small boats in order to flee conflict. Pray for these people that they will be treated with compassion & fairness.

Pray also for the people of Indonesia as they rebuild their lives after the tsunami & for those people affected by the explosion in the flats in Russia. We continue to pray for all affected by war in our world. Pray for those displaced by the effects of war.

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

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)

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.

Donations for Raffle and Bingo Prizes Please.

As part of my role at work I am responsible for the activities at the care home and I regularly have games with prizes for the residents to win.

We have a very small budget and I would appreciate donations so if you have any unwanted gifts or nearly new items that would be suitable for small prizes (eg. a teddy, scarf, set of handkerchiefs, photo frame, toiletries etc) then please let me have them and they will be put to good use. Some of the residents do not have family or friends that visit so to win a small prize can mean so much to them.

Thank you

Jenny Tregale

News from The Methodist Church

350th Anniversary of Susanna Wesley's Birth

2019 marks the 350th anniversary of the birth of Susanna Wesley, “the mother of Methodism”.

Although most known for her influence on her sons John and Charles, Susanna deserves recognition in her own right as an accomplished writer, teacher and theologian. A selection of her writings will be published this spring, and celebratory events are planned throughout the anniversary year. More information will become available on www.methodistheritage.org.uk

The Methodist Heritage Committee offers churches this prayer, written especially for use on Sunday 20 January 2019, the anniversary date.



**Susanna
Wesley**

1669 350 2019
ANNIVERSARY

This prayer has been written by Jenny Carpenter, Vice-Chair of Trustees at Epworth Old Rectory and their representative on the Methodist Heritage Committee.

*Living, loving God, Trinity in Unity,
We praise and thank you for the life of Susanna Wesley,
Mother of Methodism.*

*Inspired by her regime of private prayer and meditation,
may we grow in our devotion to you.*

*Following our conscience as she did, may we think for
ourselves and dare to act on Kingdom values.*

*Aware of her programme of teaching her children,
girls and boys alike, may we value and nurture all in our care,
sensitive to individual needs.*

*Encouraged by her determination to build up the faith of her family and
the parish of Epworth, may we lead others to follow Christ more closely.*

*Discerning the Holy Spirit moving powerfully in the life of the nation as
she did, may we be open to new challenges and
expect great things from you.*

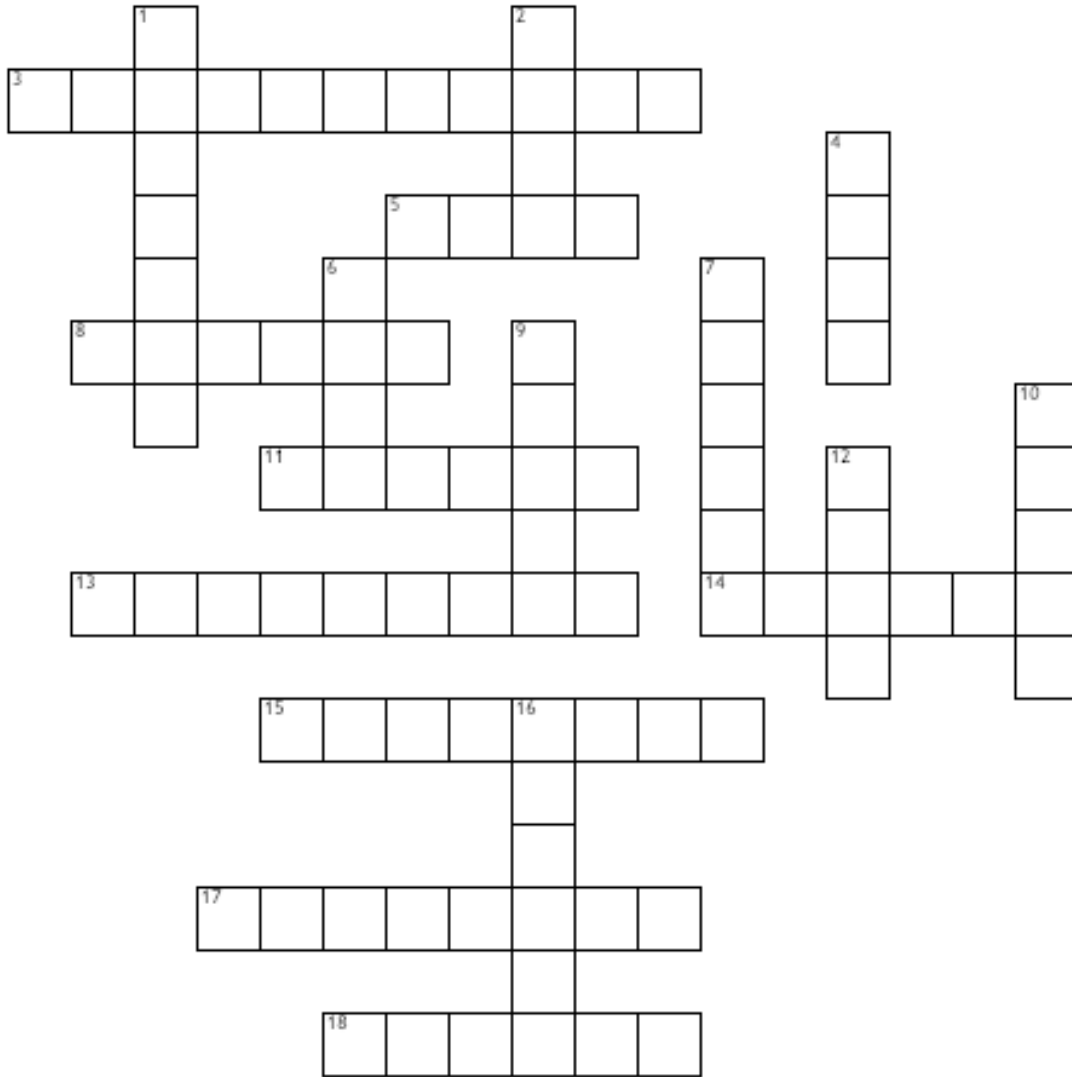
*We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Spirit.
Amen.*

Elijah & Elisha Crossword

You may not be able to complete all this crossword straight away but during our themed preaching series complete what you can - see next page as well.

Across

3. Elisha's servant was afraid when he saw the Syrian army _____ the city.
5. Elisha opened his servant's _____ so he could see the angel army.
8. Elisha lives in the city of _____.
11. Which prophet raised the widow's son from the dead?
13. Elisha fights for the _____ army.
14. What army was Elisha and the Israelites fighting?
15. Who was king during Elijah's day?
17. What were the "jobs" of Elijah and Elisha?
18. Which prophet came 2nd?



Down

1. The king of Syria thought there was a _____ in his army because the Israelites kept anticipating where they were going.
2. To prove that Elijah's God was real, he lit an altar on _____.
4. Elisha says "fear not they that be with us are more than they that be with _____"
6. What was the name of the fake god that the people believed in?
7. Elijah was fed by _____ in the wilderness to survive the drought.
9. Elisha told his king to give the enemy a _____ after they were captured.
10. Elisha made the enemy _____.
12. The angels that surrounded the city had charriots of _____.
16. What is in every story that we have learned about this year?

Dates For Your Diary

February 2019

Sun 3rd	10.00 a.m.	Mary Hext - All Age Worship
	5.30 p.m.	Film Service
Thu 7th	7.30 p.m.	Christianity Explored - 4
	7.30 p.m.	Talk on the Holocaust at Southernhay URC
Fri 8th & Sat 9th		The Mint MC Panto 'Red Riding Hood and the Confused Wolf' - takes place in the evening.
Sun 10th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Themed Preaching 3 **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Prayer & Praise
Wed 13th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Meets **
Thu 14th	7.30 p.m.	Christianity Explored - 5
Sun 17th	10.00 a.m.	Dr Joan Wragg - Themed Preaching 4 **
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church
Tue 19th	10.00 a.m.	The Roundabout Café meets (until 12pm)
Thu 21st	2.00 p.m.	Minister's Home Group meets in the lounge **
	7.30 p.m.	Christianity Explored - 6
Sun 24th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Themed Preaching 5 **
		Sacrament Service
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Stephen Mosedale
Tue 26th	7.30 p.m.	Church Council meets **
Wed 27th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Meets **
Thu 28th	7.30 p.m.	Christianity Explored - 7

Advance Notice - March 2019

Fri 1st	10.30 a.m.	World Day of Prayer Service at URC, Southernhay 'Come Everything is Ready' prepared by the women of Slovenia. Tea / Coffee from 10am.
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**** Details in this newsletter or on the notice board in the hall.**



Elijah & Elisha



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

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

Tuesday

9.15 a.m. Weekly Prayers in the Quiet Room
10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café (3rd Tuesday each month)

Wednesday

7.30 p.m. Home Group Bible Study (fortnightly)

Thursday

2.00 p.m. Minister's Home Group (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 March 2019 Newsletter will be Sunday 10th February 2019. There is no guarantee of inclusion, but they may be given to:

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Tel: 01935 826072 or e-mailed to andrew.m.jackson@me.com