

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

June 2016

(No: 449)

THINK PRAY  
VOTE

Minister: Rev Bruce Sawyer (01392 256716)



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

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



# A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

“Should I stay or should I go now?  
Should I stay or should I go now?  
If I go there will be trouble  
An’ if I stay it will be double  
So come on and let me know”

*Should I Stay or Should I Go?, The Clash, 1982*

It’s not often that you’ll find me quoting punk rock lyrics from over 30 years ago, but they seem to have a surprising resonance at the moment! On 23rd June, each of us will be asked to answer the question "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?"

I wonder how you will be voting?

Although the media is full of people trying to persuade us one way or the other, I want to commend to you a resource produced by the Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and United Reformed Church with the support of the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office, which is available via the following link:

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Think-Pray-Vote-EU-Referendum-resource.pdf>

The resource doesn’t try to persuade you how to vote, instead it encourages us to reflect thoughtfully and prayerfully on how we vote. It does this by considering some of the key issues (such as agriculture, the environment, the single currency, movement of people) and asking questions to prompt us to think theologically about these issues, as well as suggesting Biblical texts to consider.

It also invites us to re-imagine the referendum question as “To what extent does the European Union enhance or hinder our ability to love our neighbour and, in doing so, our ability to love God?”

May I encourage you to consider the referendum from this perspective, and to pray with me;

Loving God,  
In the referendum that lies before us,  
in the challenge of seeking an answer,  
in our differences of opinion,  
in our need to understand,  
may you guide us in our decisions,  
make us gracious in our disagreement,  
and may we join you to work for the  
building of your kingdom  
rather than our own. Amen

*Prayer taken from "Think, Pray, Vote: EU Referendum resources for churches" by The Joint Public Issues Team - **also on the hall noticeboard if you want to read more.***

**Rev Bruce Sawyer**

## Dates For June

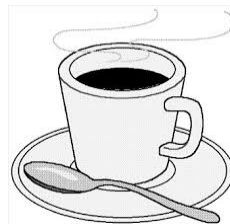
### Flowers

5th Kath  
12th Joan & Tony  
19th Jenny H  
26th Helen



### Coffee

5th Anne & John  
12th Linda & Margretta  
19th Paul H  
26th Wayne & Helen



### 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 Chapter 11 1-57. All are welcome and if you'd like to learn more, do speak with Bronwen or Clifford Maddicks.

16th                      2.00 p.m.                      Bible Study in the lounge.

## **Tuesday Home Group**

This month this group is continuing their study of 'The Parables'. For more information see Monika Noronha. New members always welcome.

7th	7.30pm	Meeting at 20 Whipton Lane <i>Matthew 18: 21-35 The Parable of the Unforgiving servant</i>
21st	7.30pm	Meeting at 20 Whipton Lane <i>Luke 18: 1-8 The Parable of the Widow and the Judge</i>

## **Wonford in Bloom**

Wonford is again entering Britain in Bloom and once again we will be contributing to this by transforming parts of the church fence. The theme that is being adopted by the community for this year is "Journeys", and those who attended our planning meeting in April decided that it would be appropriate for us to try and tell the 'Journey of Creation'. Throughout June, seven panels will be created – one to represent each day of creation. Each panel is being designed and made by a different group within the church and I am looking forward to seeing these all take shape and come together throughout June!

If you're not part of a group that is helping to make one of the panels, then you haven't missed your opportunity to be involved – come along to Messy Church at 4pm on 12th June, as one of the panels will be made as an activity during our time together.

**Rev Bruce Sawyer**

## **Circuit Consultation**

Each year the circuit holds a consultation – an opportunity for anyone from across the circuit to come together and reflect on what is happening. This year the consultation is taking place on Saturday 11th June, 10.00am – 12.30pm at Budleigh Salterton.

There will be the opportunity to celebrate some of the things that are taking place across the circuit (including a presentation by our Open the Book team), updates on some areas the circuit is involved with and a chance to think about what a healthy church is and how we deal with challenges facing the circuit over the coming couple of years. Of course there'll also be the chance to meet and chat with folk across the circuit over coffee.

**Rev Bruce Sawyer**

## 25th Wedding Anniversary Party Invitation.

This will take place on June 11th from 7pm onwards at the Jack in the Green, Rockbeare . There will be a Ceilidh dance band with a break at 9pm for bacon sarnies. So if you can come, please let us know, to help us know numbers on 01392 661894 or at paul.lisa@blueyonder.co.uk.

**Lisa & Paul Thomas**

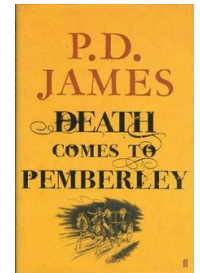
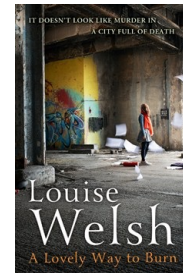


## The Wonford Worms Book Club

This group is meeting on the 2nd June to review 'A Lovely Way to Burn' by Louise Welsh.

The next book is going to be 'Death Comes to Pemberley' by P.D. James.

Anyone wishing to join the group can contact Gary



## Sunday 10th July 'In Tune with God' Summer Evening Worship Service At Matford Orchard 4.30pm

- ✱ Bring and Share BBQ
- ✱ Bring a Deck Chair
- ✱ Bring a Musical Instrument if you play - if not, bring a good voice and pair of hands
- ✱ Bring a new song that you would like to share
- ✱ Bring a Friend



**Further Details to Follow**

## **Methodist Prayer Handbook 2016/2017**

This is entitled 'Freedoms to Share', the title of which comes from the Graham Kendrick hymn 'Beauty for Brokenness'. The double-page spread for each day of the month covers different countries as well as the different Methodist Districts in Britain & Ireland, riches indeed of information and focus for your prayers. If you want to see one, do have a word with me at church. I need your order by the end of June – please tell me – they cost about £3.50 each, depending on how many orders I get, but I don't want any money in advance. I should get delivery of our order mid-August.

There were 20+ of us last year; will there be more for this year, I wonder?!

**Margretta Bowstead**

### **Never To Late To Be Forgiven**

There are three realisations that have amazed me recently, with regards to my faith.

Firstly, in the Bible Jesus mixed with everyday sinners, cheating tax collectors, gamblers and prostitutes, just like the Salvation Army do today. They frequent the pubs and clubs collecting and selling their War Cry.

That is the second amazing realisation;

That the founder of the Salvation Army, a hundred years ago now, Sir William Booth, came from the Methodist tradition. The Salvation Army band encourages everyday folk in the community to draw near and for their hearts and minds to be encouraged through the testimony of an officer, a soldier of Christ.

The third realisation was that at the very last moments of Christ's life here on Earth, on the cross next door to Him, the thief asked for forgiveness and Jesus said to that man; I tell you this that you will join me today in my Father's Kingdom.

What these realisations mean to me is that everyone has the chance of being forgiven in Wonford, Burnthouse Lane and Rifford Road area. Everybody is worth saving and we, being Christ like, should be mixing with gamblers, alcoholics and criminals and telling them that it is never to late to be forgiven.

We need to be as a church preaching and demonstrating forgiveness, and going out into the shops, like when we went into Lidl's with the impromptu carol singing and when the men's group went to the Devon Motel for a meal

Like the Salvation Army Band we need to have the music, the theatre and visual aids to draw people to hear the words of love and forgiveness that Jesus offers and that Jesus offered to us already here at Wonford Church. Then we can all sing; Soldiers of Christ arise and put your armour on Strong in the strength that God Supplies through His eternal Son. Strong in the Lord of hosts, and in His mighty power. Who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror. etc by John Wesley.  
Sharon and I pray that you have a blessed Summer.

**Nick Goddard**

*Please join Methodist friends for a*

# QUIZ AFTERNOON

at Lympstone Methodist Church

to celebrate the Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II

**Saturday, June 11th: 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

**'The theme will be 90'**

**Bring along a team or come along and make up a team on the day**

**Quiz starts at 2.30 pm - No entry fee**



# Prayer Focus for June

*O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed,  
Stuart K Hine*

## **Week beginning Sunday 5th**

Please pray for our circuit churches with their diversity of sizes, facilities and giftings. Pray God will bless all who come to worship, socialise, learn and play and that His will is done when the Circuit Consultation meets at Budleigh Salterton this Saturday.

Thank God for the All Age services where the children have fun as they progress through the Bible.

## **Week beginning Sunday 12th**

Please pray that God will guide our Church Council meeting on Tuesday and that any decisions taken will prosper the ministry of the church and bless us in our fellowship.

Pray also that we will recognise answers to prayers offered up to God our Father at our Prayer Breakfast on Saturday.

Thank God for prayers already answered and blessings received.

## **Week beginning Sunday 19th**

Please pray for the 'rising stars' of Young Church who will be holding their Celebration service this morning – which is such a joy to us all. Pray for the leaders and helpers who give so much of their time to prepare the themes each week.

## **Week beginning Sunday 26th**

As we consider the beauty and diversity of God's creation around us, please pray that same awareness of the greatness of God will speak to our souls as we worship Him at the Barn Service today.

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Stuart K Hine*



## **Phone Prayer Link**

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contacts are Michael or Judith Maher (01392 214789). 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 either Margretta Bowstead (437329) or Margaret Kearns (679949).

## **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**

# **News From The Methodist Church**

## **Methodist Ecumenical Office opened in Rome**

Earlier this month Pope Francis and senior Methodist representatives from around the world took part in a series of events to mark the opening of the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome (MEOR).

The MEOR initiative promotes greater understanding of the worldwide communion through education programmes and the welcome it can offer from its location just across the River Tiber from St Peter's Basilica.

The Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Gareth J Powell, with other senior Methodist representatives from around the world, was received by Pope Francis in a private audience at the Vatican. This was followed by a meeting with members of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Discover more on the Methodist Church website, including the Gareth Powell's address to Pope Francis.

## **New Legacy Appeal Encourages Methodists to Celebrate Life**

The Church has launched a new set of materials encouraging people to consider thinking about the Church when writing a will.

A film supporting the material, titled 'Your Will is Your Legacy', is being shown in Methodist Synods across the country and features Vice-President Designate, Rachel Lampard, speaking about her own personal experience of Methodism.

In the video, Rachel says: "I was born into the Methodist Church. It has nurtured me in my faith. It has taught me so much that's important: about being a good neighbour, learning to forgive and about helping people in practical need as well as working for justice.

"What I leave behind in my will enable's what I hold dear in my life to continue after I've gone."

Discover more on the Methodist Church website.

## **Refreshed Guide to Methodism Released**

The book 'Called by Name' has been reissued with a fresh new look. 'Called by Name' is a fully illustrated resource featuring hymns, prayers, Christian art and images from contemporary life. It is designed to help new, existing and potential Methodists with their journey of faith.

Read more about the new version on the Methodist Church website.

## **Tickets for the Methodist Conference**

You can now book your tickets to events at the Methodist Conference which meets this year in London. Booking is required for attending the opening of the Conference on Saturday 2 July, Reception into Full Connexion, Sunday Worship and for all Ordination services on Sunday 3 July.

Visitors do not require booking for the open Conference sessions, exhibitions or most fringe events - see Methodist Church website for further details.

# Dates For Your Diary

## June 2016

The 2nd	7.30 p.m.	Book Club meets in the lounge **
Sun 5th	10.00 a.m.	Jon Curtis - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Gill Harvey
Tue 7th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane **
Sat 11th	10.00 a.m.	Circuit Consultation at Temple MC, Budleigh Salterton - open to all **
	2.00 p.m.	Quiz Afternoon at Lympstone Methodist Church to celebrate the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II **
	7.00 p.m.	Lisa & Paul Thomas's 25th Wedding Anniversary celebrations at 'The Jack in the Green' Rockbeare.
Sun 12th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Sacrament & 'Letters of Peter' Themed Preaching - 9 **
	<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Messy Church **</b>
Tue 14th	7.30 p.m.	Church Council meets
Sun 19th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Alan Rothwell - Young Church Festival and 'Letters of Peter' themed preaching - 10 **
	6.30 p.m.	Caroline Colin - Songs of Praise
Mon 20th	7.00 p.m.	Safeguarding Foundation Training at St Thomas MC
Tue 21st	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm)
	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane **
Sun 26th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer
	6.30 p.m.	Barn Service at Poltimore Farm
<b>Annual Methodist Conference meets - 30th June to 7th July in London</b>		
Thu 30th	2.30 p.m.	Circuit World Church Service at Seaton MC + tea

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



**Sunday 12th June 2016**

**4pm**

*Help build a panel for one of our fences*

# 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 (33 Matford Ave)  
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 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\*  
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 July 2016 Newsletter will be Sunday 12th June 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](mailto:andrew.m.jackson@me.com)