

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

June 2017  
(No: 459)

What does the Lord  
require of you?  
To act justly and to love  
kindness and to walk  
humbly with your God.  
MICAH 6:8

THINK PRAY  
**VOTE**

Make your voice heard on 8 June



[bit.ly/election-2017](http://bit.ly/election-2017)



**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,**

One of the things I have found most troubling about this General Election campaign is Theresa May's talk of 'Strong and Stable' leadership. Let me clear before I'm accused of being party political – I'm not intending to comment on Theresa May's ability to provide strong and stable leadership (or any other politician's ability in this regard either). What troubles me is the apparently widespread view that this is what we need.

Do we really want, or need, strong leaders? I suppose it depends how we understand strong. Of course we want leaders who are competent and able. I'd love our leaders to show moral firmness and courage, to have leaders who are full of vigour.

The trouble is that too often strong leadership becomes about strength and power. About the ability to use power to successfully achieve our ends. When understood in this way, it can quickly become associated with aggression and wilfulness (and there are plenty of historical examples of this from the left or right of the political spectrum). We seem to think that being a strong leader means we must not show weakness. But the effort not to show weakness can mean that people don't see us for who we are. For me, this starts to raise questions about integrity and whether we can really trust someone if they are constantly wearing a mask or trying to project a certain image.

I guess none of us would want a weak leader, but what about a vulnerable leader? Someone who was willing to relinquish the power to protect themselves and be wounded for the sake of others (John 19:10-11, Philippians 2:4-7). Someone who was willing to put their power at the service of others (John 2:1-11). Someone who didn't always presume to know what was best, but engaged and responded to people (Mark 10: 51-52), and even allowed them to change the course of action (Mark 7:24-30). Someone who acted from compassion (Matthew 14: 13-21) and was willing to show emotion (John 11: 33-35). Someone whose mission was not to maintain the status quo, but risked condemnation by proclaiming a manifesto in favour of the poor and marginalised (Luke 4:18-19).

Such a vulnerable leader would be worth not just voting for, but following. It would be an example not just inspiring those who aspire to leadership, but all of us. Might I suggest that we keep this example of vulnerable leadership in mind as we head to the polls.

**With every blessing      Bruce**

# Dates For June

## Coffee

4th	Helen & Sarah
11th	Anne & John
18th	Melanie
25th	Susan L



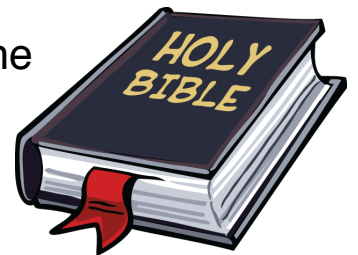
## Flowers

4th	Kathy
11th	Joan & Tony
18th	Beryl
25th	Helen



## Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This group meets in the lounge at 2pm normally on the third Thursday each month. All are welcome. This month they are continuing their study of The Beatitudes looking at Matthew 5 v8.



15th                      2.00 p.m.                      Bible Study in the lounge.

## Tuesday Home Group

This group are following the study of the book of Ruth, recently undertaken by the Away group. Dates of the meetings in June are shown below. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to come along. Seriously! This could be just the right kind of group for you! Give us a try.

### Monika Noronha

7th	7.30pm	At The Manse - 20 Whipton Lane
21st	7.30pm	At The Manse - 20 Whipton Lane

## Girls' Brigade Cake Stall - Advance Notice

Girls Brigade are having a cake stall at Wonford Community Day on Saturday 10th June. Any contributions of cakes would be very much appreciated!

Please contact Helen or Monika.



## **University of Exeter - Evangelical Christian Union (ECU)**

Leadership handover has been taking place and thus this is a period of great change within the ECU. Not only has the committee changed but all ministry leaders and hall group leaders too. Though many people have now been in their roles for six weeks or so, do continue to pray for us. Pray that we would grow to understand our roles and would carry them out with godliness and wisdom. Pray also that as we get used to the weekly commitments and responsibilities we would remain humble and dependent on the Lord for all things.

Looking ahead...

- Please pray for the committee as we steer the ECU this year. Pray that we might be servant-hearted and Christ-centred in our leadership, and that God would be humbling us and teaching us reliance on Him.
- Please pray for Sarah Diamond and her events team as they plan Freshers' Week in September.
- Please pray that God might be providing Exeter with Christian freshers who are willing to get stuck in and serving.
- Please pray that God would continue to provide for us financially in the year ahead.

## **YMCA Exeter Job Vacancy – Executive PA and Administrator**

They are pleased to announce that they are hiring! See advert below.

### **Executive PA and Administrator**

Part Time - 0.6 FTE (22.5 hrs / week)

Salary £18500 - £20000 pa (pro rata) depending on experience

33 days A/L pro rata (inc Bank Holidays) and Health Insurance Plan

Closing Date: 9am on 30th May 2017

For further information and an application pack contact Katy Shelley on 01392 410530 ext 216 or [katy.shelley@ymcaexeter.org.uk](mailto:katy.shelley@ymcaexeter.org.uk) or download a pack from [www.ymcaexeter.org.uk/work-with-us](http://www.ymcaexeter.org.uk/work-with-us)

## **New Church Directory**

If you haven't checked and/or updated your details for the next edition of the Church Directory then please see the last version on the table in the hall after each Sunday service. We would like to get a new version out for September.

**Tony Wragg**

## **Bible Society Cash Pot**

The latest emptying of the Bible Society CashPot realised a total of £33.50. Thank you for your contributions. This money has now been sent off to the Bible Society to finance the provision of Bibles to needy Christians in various parts of our world.

## **Change of Name**

Alison and daughter Freya would like us to know that they have changed their surname from Davey to Hobbs. So they are now Alison and Freya Hobbs. We wish Freya and others in her situation all the very best during the important GCSE exam season.

## **Away Group Bible Study**

They meet every Monday night at 7.30pm, apart from Banks Hols etc, and we share wonderful fellowship together. Sometimes we get as many as fifteen to the group but we can always squeeze others in. Do come and try us out. We are currently in the middle of a series of recorded talks by Jonathan Lamb from the Keswick in Devon programme earlier this year on selected Psalms. Superb!!!

## **Open Air Praise Service**

On Sunday July 9th we are again invited to Mandy Denton's for our open-air Praise Service in the orchard at Matford. This time there will be a cream tea too! Last year we had a really great time of worship together and look forward to more of you joining us this time. Plenty of car parking space - but watch for the rabbit holes!!! Let's hope and pray for a nice sunny afternoon. Put the date in your diary now.

## **Church Anniversary Services**

A reminder that the wonderful Paul Smith is coming to be our Church Anniversary preacher for both morning and evening on Sunday July 16th. Do make a note of this important occasion in the church's calendar and join with us for both services if at all possible.



## **What's the best gift God could give you?**

***Tuesdays, 7.30pm – 9.00pm (25th April – 13th June)  
The Lounge, Wonford Methodist Church***

Life Explored is an informal and relaxed course for anyone who wants to find contentment and happiness in life. Over seven weeks the course will explore the Bible story (creation, fall, redemption, new creation) as follows:

25th April – The Good God  
2nd May – The Trustworthy God  
9th May – The Generous God  
16th May – The Liberating God  
23rd May – The Fulfilling God  
6th June – The Life-Giving God  
13th June – The Joyful God

The course features a combination of short films and Bible interaction and will begin with a selection of desserts! You don't need to know anything about the Bible, and you won't be asked to sing or pray. You can ask any question you like, or you can just sit and listen. Whoever you are, whatever you're thinking, Life Explored is a place for you to discover the greatest gift in the universe.

The course will be led by Bruce Sawyer, John & Ann Nicholson, Alan Rothwell and Joan & Tony Wragg – please speak with one of us if you are interested in coming or to find out more.



## Devon County Show

Below is a photo of Karen, Gary, Amanda and Joan playing at the Churches Tent at the Devon County Show - Photo by Steve Spaul.



## Celebrate Africa – Sunday 11th June

Please join us after the morning service in a brightly decorated church hall where you can sample some African food, make musical shakers or bead necklaces, enjoy some lively African music and learn more about this wonderful continent & its people. We will also be sharing information about an exciting expedition that Ben Keatt is going on in July with St Peter's High School to Malawi and there will be a table with various items for sale to raise money for the St Peter's Malawi Education Trust to buy things like mosquito nets to take over with them.

St Peter's has been raising money for the community of Mtunthama in central Malawi since 2002 to support a range of projects and for the past 10 years students have had the opportunity to visit southern Africa on an annual expedition.

**Sue Keatt & our wonderful ladies from Africa!**

Exeter, Coast and Country Methodist Circuit

# World Church Festival

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Exminster

Methodist Church

At 2.30 pm



**Speaker:** Hugh Scudder talking about local charity Christian Response to Eastern Europe's work in support of people in Moldova –

*Europe's poorest country*

**Followed by tea in the hall**

**Exminster** lies on the right hand side of the A379 Exeter to Dawlish Road. **The Methodist Church** is on the main road through the village (near the Post Office) at **EX6 8BT**

No 2 and 'B' **buses** (to and from Exeter) serve the village at 30 minute intervals. Please alight at the Victory Hall stop in centre of village (a short distance from the church).

**Car parking** (all free) is available in Dryfield Road, by the Victory Hall (note some spaces are for restricted periods) For those able to walk further, there is a larger car park at the Deepway Centre (just before the shops and narrows turn right up Deepway Lane – the centre car park is the second on the left – approx. 300 M up the hill).

**Disabled passengers** can be dropped at the church. The church and hall have disabled access and there are disabled toilet facilities.

**Contact us at:** [exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk) or Rev Julian Albrow on 01392 255791



# Prayer Focus for June

**In the last days, God says, "I will pour out My spirit on all people. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."**

*Acts 2:17,21(NIV)*

## **Week beginning Sunday 4th Pentecost**

Please pray that God will bless the Girls Brigade cake stall and their presence at 'Wonford Community Day' this Saturday.

Pray also that people coming to vote at our Church on Thursday will be aware of the Christian witness on our fence, decorations and posters, and will read God's words and the message of the Scriptures around the walls of the hall.

Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit which we celebrate this Pentecost Sunday – remembering the empowering of the disciples by the Holy Spirit which enabled them to birth the Christian church.

## **Week beginning Sunday 11th**

Please pray that God may grant wisdom to those Methodist Ministers who are considering moving to new appointments at this time of year.

Pray also for refugee children on the move, that our Government will reinstate the Dubbs report, opening the way for them to be safely resettled here in the UK with care and compassion.

## **Week beginning Sunday 18th**

Please pray that God may pour out His blessings on the Barn Service at Poltimore today.

Pray also this Fathers' Day for fathers everywhere, those in close family relationships, those who have limited or no contact with their children, and those separated by prison bars or serving with our armed forces.

Praise God's 'Father Heart' which pours out His Holy Spirit on ALL people and wants EVERYONE to be saved, having no favourites among those who call on His name.

## **Week beginning Sunday 25th**

Please pray for all those you know who are ill, whether acutely (short term) or chronically (long term). Ask God that He may heal all we lift up to Him, for 'He heals all manner of sickness and disease.' (Matthew 4:23)

## **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**

## **Messy Church in June**

“Messy Church” is a place for people of all ages to enjoy sharing time together and exploring stories from the Bible.

It includes times of craft and messy activities, stories, songs and sharing a meal together.

It takes place from 4-6pm once a month on a Sunday. The theme for the June “Messy Church” is “Making a Difference” and takes place on Sunday 25th June 2017.

## **Faith in Politics**

As a Christian people we believe that not only has our world and those who live in it been made by God, but the systems and structures that hold us together are part of God’s purpose too. We are called to draw attention to the needs of the oppressed, to speak out with the marginalised, and perhaps to highlight issues that are overlooked by mainstream coverage. We need to ask “who is our neighbour?” when we vote.

While some may welcome the opportunity that a General Election presents, many may feel worn out by politics. Perhaps that means it’s even more essential that Christians recognise their responsibility to think about what this election means for our communities and the situations where we want most to see change.



# Dates For Your Diary

## June 2017

Sun 4th	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Beth McDowell
Tue 6th	7.30 p.m.	'Life Explored' Course - 6 **
Wed 7th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Meets at The Manse **
Sat 10th	11.00 a.m.	Wonford Community Day at Wonford Community Centre - until 2pm
Sun 11th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Sacrament Service
Tue 13th	7.30 p.m.	'Life Explored' Course - 7 **
Thu 15th	2.00 p.m.	Monthly Bible Study in the lounge **
Sat 17th	8.30 a.m.	Monthly Prayers & Coffee
Sun 18th	10.00 a.m.	Steve Jones
	6.30 p.m.	Circuit Barn Service at Home Farm, Poltimore
Tue 20th	10.00a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
	7.30 p.m.	'Life Explored' Course - 4
Wed 21st	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at The Manse **
Sun 25th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Sacrament Service
	4.00 p.m.	<b>Messy Church</b>

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



# ELECTION 2017

# 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. 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 Prayers & Coffee *(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 2017 Newsletter will be Sunday 11th June 2017. 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)