

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

June 2019

(No: 479)



**Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)**



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist Church**

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



@WonfordMethodistChurch



# A Message From The Minister

**Dear Friends,**

You may remember the last General Election being announced, about two years ago. A Bristol lady called Brenda was asked by a reporter for her reaction, and, from the depths of Brenda's being came the anguished wail, "There's too much politics going on at the moment!". Her cry occasioned pained nods of sympathy across the nation.

I'm sure we often feel like that, like all we want to do is shut ourselves off from the outside world and barricade ourselves in. The never-ending, and fruitless, political dramas enacted within the walls of the Palace of Westminster become soul destroying to follow, whilst knife crime soars, Trump threatens yet another trade war, and uncertainty and fear abound.

Let's not get carried away though. Politics isn't the be-all and end-all. All politics should be for is creating and sustaining the right conditions for societies to function and flourish. Our Christian heritage, whether we realise it or not, has given our public life so much that is of incalculable value – the importance of personal freedom, of human rights, the principle that everyone should have access to justice to name just a few. Things which, if cherished, bring out our better nature. Democracy too, is a precious thing (even when it doesn't yield the results we would like) which many people, even today, still don't enjoy. The British humanist association once denied that our most cherished values have anything to do with Christianity, but this is nonsense – they most certainly do. Individual Christians, and Christian movements too, have brought about great and lasting change in many spheres of life. The Church is at its best when it takes to heart Jesus' call to be salt and light in the world, affirming what is good and godly, and challenging all that is not in accord with God's purposes.

The most important thing that Christianity brings to politics, and to individual lives though, is hope. Hope that God is in control. Hope that how things are now is not how they always have to be. The hope that God's purposes extend beyond this world and this life. The hope that comes when faith in Christ gives us vision, assurance and new life. The world needs us, not so much to be political in a narrow, party, sense, but to be unafraid of speaking with our distinctive voice, and to demonstrate in the world the truth of what we believe – that through his sacrificial death and glorious resurrection, Christ has opened up the way for us to live a new redeemed life. A life guided by God's Holy Spirit, in which we are invited to discover God's unique calling on our lives and in living that out, to find purpose, wholeness and 'life in all its fulness'. That's how Christians change the world, and the more people discover this for themselves, the better for the world. Let's pray accordingly!

**With every blessing**

**Ben Haslam**

# Dates For June 2019

## Coffee

2nd	Elaine & Graham
9th	Rose & Paul
16th	Margaret S & Eileen
23rd	Liz & Pauline
30th	Melanie



## Flowers

2nd	Alison
9th	Kathy
16th	Joan & Tony
23rd	Helen
30th	Barbara J



## 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. Anyone is welcome to come and join us as we explore the Bible together. Come with your questions or thoughts to help us, please!

5th June	18 Tuckfield Close - join us for a light supper as we look through some of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' materials
19th June	39 Meyer Court - we will commence the study of some new materials

## Minister's Bible Study

This is led by Rev Ben Haslam each month and includes some discussion. It is usually held on the 3rd Thursday afternoon at 2pm in the church lounge, and lasts about an hour. Please check the monthly Dates or church Notices each month. All are welcome!

# Wonford Community News

## Wonford Summer Fair

Everyone invited to Wonford Summer Fair on June 1st from 11am to 2pm! There will be stalls, activities for all ages and refreshments at Wonford Community and Learning Centre and the playing field behind.

Girls' Brigade are having a cake stall at Wonford Summer Fair. Donations of cakes to sell and customers to buy them would be very welcome!

**Thank you - Helen Moore**

## 'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayer Walk

As part of our involvement in 'Thy Kingdom Come', there will be a Prayer Walk around Wonford on Saturday 8th June, starting at Wonford Methodist Church at 10am. Please arrive by 9.45 for a brief chat and 'sending out'!

There will be tea, coffee and cakes/ biscuits available at church from 11am to close and share our experiences of the prayer walk.

## Church Council

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 18 June 2019 at 7.30pm in the church.

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

Look forward to seeing you there.

Regards

***Alison Howell (Church Secretary)***

## 'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare

The accomplished Exeter & Countess Wear Community Theatre are performing one of Shakespeare's comedies, The Tempest, at four venues this month and our very own Ben Keatt is playing the part of Ferdinand!



13th and 14th June 7.30pm at St Margaret's Church Gardens, Topsham

15th June 7pm at Sports Club, Cricket Field Lane, Budleigh Salterton,

21st June 7.30pm in the garden at The Tally Ho! in Countess Wear

22nd June 7pm at Jubilee Park, Kingswear

The performances are outdoors so please bring your own chair/rug.

See Sue or Ben for tickets (adult-£9 and child-£4) or you can purchase them on the door.

## **Sam's Baptism**

As announced in Church a couple of weeks ago Sam is being baptised on Exmouth beach on Saturday 29th June 2019 at 11.30am. Please come along and support Sam if you can.

## **James Series Bible Month - June 2019**

In June we will be following a mini-theme preaching series under the title "James Speaks for Today". The official Methodist Bible Month material for this year is Paul's letter to the Colossians but since we have just done that material in one of our major theme preaching campaigns we are going back two or three years to a recent Bible Month series on James.

The series will be over just three Sundays as follows

June 16th	James 1 and 2	What is Genuine religion and faith? Rev Alan Rothwell
June 23rd	James 3	Watch your speech and seek wisdom Dr Joan Wragg
June 30th	James 4 and 5	Prayer healing and faith Rev Terry Spencer

**Tony Wragg**

## **Prayer Focus for June**

### **Pray Without Ceasing!**

As usual please pray each day for all who are leading worship each Sunday and those leading Bible studies, Messy Church and Girls' Brigade and Mum's and Tots.

May I encourage you to join in 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative for the global wave of prayer from 30th May until 9th June. Our world seems in turmoil with wars, terrorism and natural disasters. It has been reported that Christians are the most persecuted group worldwide. We are being encouraged to join this prayer wave to pray for all that is happening in our

world. There are 24/7 prayer initiatives that we can take part in when we can sign up to a time slot to pray so that someone is praying every hour of the day and night. Wonford are hoping to hold a prayer walk so please watch out for the date for that.

Our Country is in political turmoil and we desperately need to pray for our politicians. Our Country as a whole is divided. We need to pray for healing in our land.

Remember to pray for all who are in need, the homeless, the sick and disabled, those in crisis mentally or in their personable lives. Pray for those in our care system, both those being cared for and those giving the care

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



*If you have anything that you would like to be included please let Julie Rothwell know.*

### **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.





ST THOMAS METHODIST CHURCH, EXETER

# TR Aidcraft @ ST THOMAS

***Celebrating 40 years of Traidcraft!***

**Saturday 29 June**

**Coffee morning**

**10 – 11.30am**

*including home-baking stall*

**Afternoon tea**

**2.30 – 4pm**

**Sunday 30 June**

**Morning Worship**

**10.30 – 11.30am**

*followed by refreshments*

our Traidcraft SHOP will be open throughout the weekend;  
also crafts and cards will be on sale on Saturday

**COME and CELEBRATE WITH US!**

# The Book of James Word Search

E H Z Q R W T E M P T A T I O N R C A H C G C A  
Y A S Y C A J I E C N E I T A P O O G H C G E P  
X D B K C M S P D V W R O B T S L K R R O X D Z  
H G F D V Y Z I Z E A S B S O R W Q B H I P F F  
T T I P S B P N B I F L K M U T M K A F M N C J  
I K A A W Z R Z T Q O E Y B Z G R V F M N G Y J  
A G V B K W I U O C W Y L V U X F T P U A U P U  
F G C R L D D X P U O J Y C L I Y P G P X C E D  
M C R O V L E L H D U Z X B O V K C Q W J W M G  
W F E T M N P L L N K T C Q V M E R C Y M E I M  
S T N H Y M P I K K Y N H L E C I D R M Z E G E  
D G Y E P N I O S Y V O D C O T A V N V I S L N  
R Q F R G D T P T N R E S P E C T S C U L Z D T  
F O D L W D Q U B K L T J W Y Z U A D H S O U Q  
X N J Y L S Q Q C O C N O M M U H Y M F B L A G  
C L V S U F R B O I M O D S I W K F O C U R X O  
H D P T A W F E Z G W S A O H A M F X A S E Y K  
M W R D F H G L P J G X I R U T M Y K K Q R B W  
J P H V S X L I T A D H T X M W R E Y A R P A Q  
B N T N M Q D E A H D C C O I U U E W P Q X J F  
Q I O A Q G T V G N O W K O L M G L M T P A T M  
P G E S Q P D E J T N F G B I R F C U O U V I Z  
H V S Y V U F R B P B I B B T R F I R Y Q C G A  
G N Y A M J E M I P B W I Z Y M F U P P Q R B O

respect

brotherly

love

mercy

judgment

temptation

faith

patience

prayer

humility

Believer

pride

wisdom



# **News from the Methodist Church**

## **Time to properly Rethink Benefit Sanctions – say churches**

A coalition of churches is calling for an independent review into benefit sanctions, saying recent changes to the system will not fundamentally change the impact on struggling families.

The Government announced an end to benefit sanctions lasting longer than 6 months, but the Joint Public Issues Team (representing the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Church of Scotland) say this will only help a small proportion of families affected by sanctions.

JPIT says the expanded sanctions regime continues to cause hardship and drive families to foodbanks and the roll out of Universal Credit further expands the reach and duration of benefit sanctions.

Paul Morrison, policy adviser to the Joint Public Interest Team said: “We welcome the announcement that the maximum length of a benefit sanction will be reduced. It however does not fundamentally change this damaging and discredited system.

“Since 2015 the Churches alongside many others have called for a full independent review of the benefit sanctions regime. The human cost of the UK’s harsh sanctions regime is very high. We see the hunger and hardship it causes every day in churches and foodbanks.

“The Governments claim that their harsher sanctions drive more people into work is not supported by published evidence. We need a proper independent review – where all the evidence is looked at and where the effects of sanctions on people’s lives are properly and publicly examined.

“Universal Credit further escalates the sanctions regime. More families will be under threat of sanction - including for the first time those in work. Sanctions for families on the new Universal Credit system are more frequent and on average last longer. We must properly review this system before expanding it still further.”

## **Susanna Wesley: Foremother of Faith**

To celebrate 350 years since the birth of the 'Mother of Methodism' Susanna Wesley, Methodist Publishing is releasing *From a Mother's Pen: Selections from the spiritual writing of Susanna Wesley*.

Susanna (1669 – 1742) was the mother of John and Charles Wesley, the most prominent of the founders of the Methodist movement.

This new title, edited by the Revd Dr Charles I Wallace Jr, reveals how Susanna was able to push back in a patriarchal world and undertake the difficult role of 'loving critic' to the men in her life.

It reveals her unconventional and inspiring reflections through journal entries, letters, essays, and advice to her children.

Through her role as mother of 19 children (nine of whom died in infancy), rector's wife, teacher, theological writer and community leader, she is described by the Revd Wallace as 'smart, conscientious and unconventional' and a 'proto-feminist': someone whose ideas are echoed in the development of feminism.

The Revd Wallace said: 'These samples of her writing allow a wider audience to ponder for themselves her historical and sacred significance in our own day. We don't have to be professional historians or theologians to start a conversation with a woman who was unconventional in her own day, and still models faith and practice for her 21st century spiritual descendants.'

*From a Mother's Pen* offers historical, theological and spiritual material from a woman ahead of her time. Born more than three centuries ago, many of her experiences will ring true for modern readers.

Theologian and Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral, Paula Gooder, said:

'I often search for inspiration in 'foremothers' of the faith -- women who have trod the path of faith in years gone by and, by their living and writing, shine a light for those of us who follow after. This search, however, can sometime feel fruitless. Over the centuries fewer women than men committed their thoughts to paper and, of the few that did so, very few indeed have been preserved and produced in a form that can be used today. Collections such as this new selection of Susanna Wesley's writings are a delight and I give thanks for her life, her writings and the inspiration she is to me and to so many others.'

The book is available to buy here: <https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/books/9781858524641/from-a-mothers-pen-selections-from-the-spiritual-writing-of-susanna-wesley->

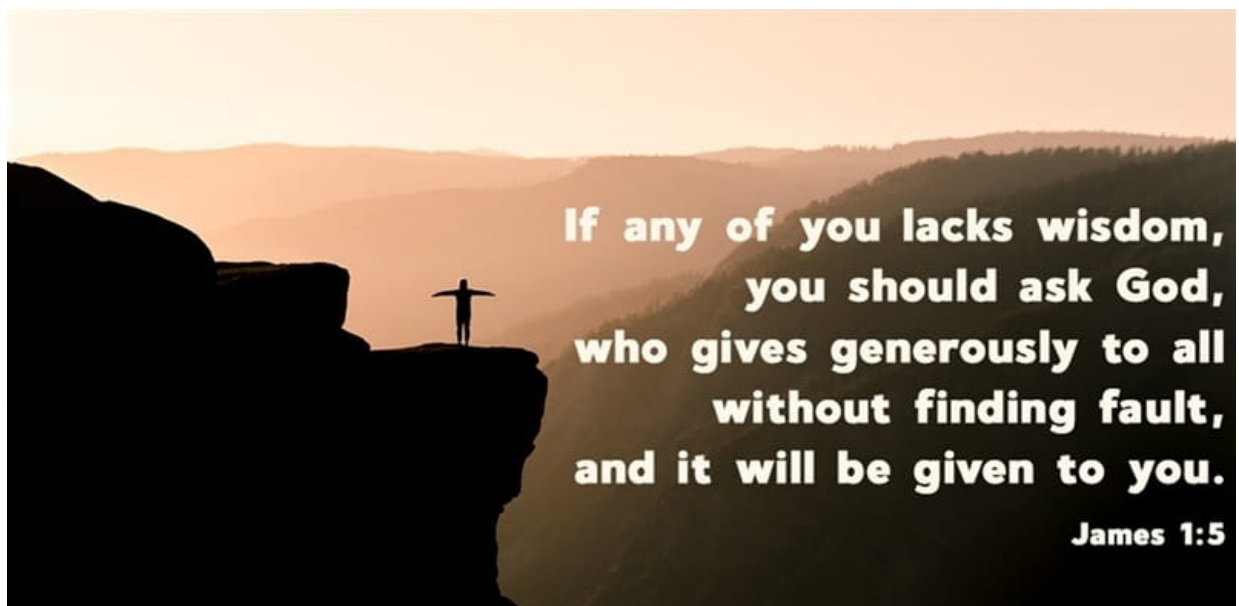
# Dates For Your Diary

## June 2019

### 'The Kingdom Come' - 30 May to 9 June

Sat 1st	11.00 a.m.	Wonford Community Fete (until 2pm) **
Sun 2nd	10.00 a.m.	Ed Bird (ICE Team) - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Stephen Lea
Wed 5th	<b>World Environment Day</b>	
	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 18 Tuckfield Close **
Sat 8th	10.00 a.m.	'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayer Walk **
Sun 9th	<b>Pentecost</b>	
	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament Service
	4.00 p.m.	Circuit Service at Seaton MC
	6.30 p.m.	'Fields of Gold' - Exeter Cathedral
Sun 16th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Alan Rothwell - James 1 **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Ben Haslam
Tue 18th	10.00 a.m.	The Roundabout Café meets (until 12pm)
	7.30 p.m.	Church Council meets **
Wed 19th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 39 Meyer Court **
Thu 20th	2.00 p.m.	Minister's Bible Study meets in the lounge **
	7.30 p.m.	Wonford Worms Book Club meets
Sun 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Dr Joan Wragg - James 2 **
	6.30 p.m.	Barn Service at Poltimore
<b>27 June - 4 July.</b>	<b>Methodist Conference meet in Birmingham</b>	
Sat 29th	11.30 a.m.	Sam's Baptism - Exmouth beach **
Sun 30th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - James 3 **
	4.00 p.m.	<b>Messy Church</b>

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



# 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 Bible Study *(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 July 2019 Newsletter will be Sunday 16th June 2019. 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)