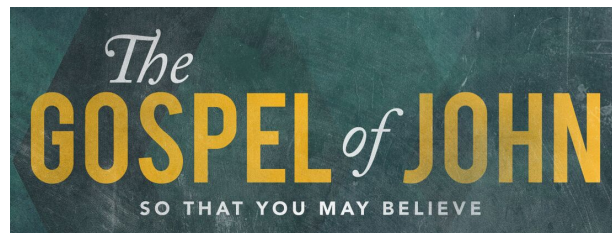


Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

June 2025
(No: 541)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



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A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

Acts 2. 1-13

We call Pentecost the birthday of the church, but on this particular birthday, the flames on the candles didn't flicker upwards, atop a delicious cake, but poured down from above, penetrating the hearts and souls of all those early believers hidden huddled behind locked doors. The Holy Spirit came upon them. Thanks to this outpouring of Pentecostal fire, they didn't stay in hiding any longer. From this point the gospel began to spread and the church began to grow as people put their faith in Jesus and they in turn received the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is why two kinds of baptism are referred to in the book of Acts – baptism by water, the means by which believers enter into the fellowship of the church, and baptism by the Spirit, by which believers receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit into their lives.

To come back to the day of a Pentecost itself, it is worth reminding ourselves of just what happened when the Spirit descended. Present on that day were speakers of several different languages and the likelihood is that they wouldn't all have understood one another. With the dramatic arrival of the Holy Spirit however, they found themselves understanding each other perfectly, regardless of their differing linguistic and ethnic backgrounds. They did not suddenly all start speaking the same language. No, they remained who they were, in all their God given individuality, but the Spirit of God created a bond between them which overcame everything which would normally hinder communication and understanding. The Spirit does not destroy our uniqueness. Instead, the Spirit helps us to become who we are supposed to fully be, which is who we are in Christ. This is our real identity and it is the Spirit's work in our lives which helps us to achieve it. We too then, are Pentecost people, and those called to testify that the Holy Spirit is alive and well, and active in the church today as we invite Him to fill us afresh this Pentecost.

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

Dates For June 2025

Coffee

1st	Margaret & Terry
8th	Joan & Melanie
15th	Linda & Mervyn
22nd	Ann & John
29th	Nessy & David

Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In June we meet on the 6th and 20th. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us as we explore the Bible together and share fellowship. We are looking at the Bible Month studies of John's Gospel, sessions 2 and 3. On 6th, the study will be led by someone within our group and on the 20th, we have invited Rev Ben Haslam to lead the Bible study. If you would like to join us and receive a copy of the study material [while stocks last!], you are more than welcome! Please speak to Monika Noronha or Terry Spencer if you want further details.

Monika

The Away Group

This group meets on a Monday evening every fortnight at 7.30 pm in the lounge. Dates and venues will be given out each Sunday in the notices.

Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 17th June 2025. This month we have Professor Ruth Hawker who will tell us about the history of the Salvation Army and its role in Exeter

We meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake. Please join us if you can.



Monthly Prayer Meeting

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. For June this will be the 17th.

Lisa Thomas

Wonford Welcome Drop-In for Everyone - Saturdays 10.30am to 12.00pm.

In June we will be having the following activities for you to join, if you would like to, alongside a free cuppa & biscuits -

7th June - it is the start of British Heart Week so we'll have a few things to do that can help you keep your heart healthy.

14th June - during Healthy Eating Week we'll have our '5 a day' bingo with a few food related prizes and share some healthy snacks.

21st June - there will be a plant & seed swap so please bring along any you have spare to give away and then hopefully you can take home something new to grow in your garden or on your windowsill.

28th June - there will be a games morning, which will include table football, magnetic darts, table top curling and mini table tennis

Wonford Welcome is open to all; everyone, whatever their age or beliefs, will receive a warm welcome! If you are able to spread the word, put up a poster or share it on social media please do. And if you haven't been along yet please do come and join us one Saturday.

Alison, Helen, Lisa, Liz, Mandy, Monika, Paul & Rose and Sue K

Church Council Meeting

We will be holding a Church Council meeting on Tuesday 17 June at 7.30pm in the church hall. All are welcome. This will be Ben's last CC with us so I hope as many as possible can make it.

There will need to be a few arrangements put in place for after Ben leaves and we no longer have a Minister to guide our meetings. So please attend if you are able.

Alison Howell

Can You Help The Toddlers?

The Toddlers are having an end of term teddy bears picnic soon. If you have a gazebo that is easy to put up and down, could we borrow it for some shade as we plan to be outside and hope for sunshine! Please let Lisa, Alison or Nessy know. Thank you

Rhythms of Grace Conference

I have been involved with Toddler groups for nearly 40 years, and had my first encounter with Christians through a toddler group and promptly put up a brick wall with barbed wire on top. I had no understanding of this “love” they shared and that they lived what they preached and it was very scary.

A few years later we moved to Exeter from London and having two young children the first thing I did was seek out toddler groups and soon found myself helping out and then running one. I met more Christians and the same intriguing love met me and captured my heart, God opened my understanding and gave a very clear call on my life to “let the little children come to me”.

Through parenthood, voluntary work attached to health visitor's, teaching a Christian home school programme, registered childminding, support minding, fostering and now grand parenting and a full time carer for my deaf grandson and helping the Toddler team at Wonford, how blessed I've been by our wonderful Father God through Toddler groups.

So having said goodbye to my amazing hubby, together 45 years, 4 years ago I was plunged into a world of grief, dark days and panic attacks. Left feeling fearful of navigating the world by myself. God's amazing love still had hold of me and it would appear still has work for me to do. I began to feel a burden to support other toddler group leaders. So I wrestle away with God, not me Lord, send someone else, I'm too tired, busy, inexperienced, old, terrified!!

One Sunday morning in June last year Ben, our minister, prayed for our toddler group and mentioned June being the month of prayer for toddler groups. The toddler group team, including our wonderful founder Joan, were in shock, we'd never heard of this before??

So I asked to know more, Ben sent me two internet links and I've discovered a whole group of toddler group leaders who are supporting one another based in London. They even hold conferences and get together to pray, praise and learn together. Having made contact with the lovely Jo through the '1277 Make them Count' Facebook page and finding out about the 'Rhythm of Grace' conference and trusting God to get me to St Paul's, Shadwell, London I booked my place. The conference was run by the London parent and toddler network. I was met by Jo and the biggest warmest Yorkshire hug ever. Jo runs the 1277 Facebook page, she is a trustee of Daniel's Den who run Christian toddler groups all over London every day except Sundays their aim is for a group to be within walking distance of every uk family. Wow what an amazing vision. There were leaders representing every borough of London and me. Every one was so enthusiastic and supportive of my idea to support leaders in Devon. I

listened to Rev Rob Powell give his testimony and quote amazing statistics on how Toddler groups are reaching out to communities from a study called 'Talking Toddlers'. 74% of families with 0-4 year olds have contact with a church toddler group. 40%, yes 40% of active Christians came to faith between the ages of 0-4 years. Wow! This just blew me away. The government also bought out a study called "Not "JUST" a toddler group" looking at how we are supporting babies and young children and their families and how we are an important positive part of the community. I've had that "just" said to me so many times as we were often not seen, funded or supported as more so called important areas of the church. I attended 2 workshops one on how to make more use of your churches outside space with the 0-4s lots of fun ideas and one based on this years theme for the month of prayer for toddler groups which is every June

Isaiah 43 v 18-21

Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it. I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wilderness.

I have to say knowing the story and struggle Joan had setting up our group over 40 years ago, I didn't feel comfortable with "not dwelling on the past" as I feel our toddler foundations are strong and steadfast and we have some families who have attended 4 generations. It's an honour to support and be involved but it's only by standing on these foundations that God can do a "new thing" in bringing together Devon's toddler group leaders to pray and share together. So that is what I'm about doing, please pray as I step out into this new venture.

Thank you Nessy x

A Legacy

Almost half a million people were in Rome to share in Pope Francis' uplifting and deeply moving funeral service. Countless millions worldwide watched on TV. What a worthy, memorable but humble, **approachable** leader of the Catholic Church! His legacy is the message he preached, but energetically lived himself: **Build bridges, not walls**. All are welcome!" He wanted all nations to come together and make peace. Francis was a constant beacon of hope!

Francis had a deep compassion for all people, especially the poor and lonely, and when he witnessed Israel's non-stop destruction of Gaza, he openly criticised it as "shameful". Not surprisingly, the Israel/Papal relationship deteriorated quickly.

It was ironic that on the same day Pope Francis was buried, the powerful film “West Side Story” was shown on TV, in which two, rival Manhattan gangs, Jets and Sharks, fiercely demonstrated they did NOT want to build any bridges! They insisted on marking out and living in their own territory. The only legacy from this story is ongoing unhappiness, hostility and death. John Wesley’s financial legacy when he died in 1791 was just 6 silver teaspoons and a handful of coins in a drawer, **but** his other glorious legacy was thousands of men and women he led to Jesus Christ!

One of the ministers Wesley trained was another Francis, Francis Asbury, who ministered in America, riding his horse 300,000 miles, preaching the Gospel almost every day on his vast travels. When Asbury’s statue was unveiled in Washington in 1924, President Coolidge said, “His was the spirit that conquered our land. He merits every morsel of fame!” A worthy legacy. Jesus Himself set the highest standard required for being His follower: “A new commandment I give you. **Love one another the way I have loved you.** This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends.” ALL are welcome in Christ’s Kingdom, Jets AND Sharks, Jews AND Palestinians!

Jesus left us this legacy of His wonderful love, available to everyone. What will your legacy be?

*“All praise to our Redeeming Lord, who joins us by His grace,
And bids us **build each other up, TOGETHER** seek His face.”*

Rev Malcolm Carter

Prayer Focus for June 2025

Week Commencing Sunday 1st June

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14

John, the gospel writer, and his fellow disciples, had this firsthand experience of the presence of Jesus among them. Pray that, as we look at John’s gospel in our services and Bible studies this month, we too may experience genuine encounters with Jesus. Help our faith in Jesus to grow!

Week Commencing Sunday 8th June

He said, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

John 1:23

We are hearing accounts of a 'Quiet Revival' here in the UK and in other countries. Lord, may we make a way for a full revival in our hearts, in our churches and in our communities. Help us to understand what that might look like in our day to day living.

Week Commencing Sunday 15th June

"I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full."

John 10:10

Pray for anyone you know who describes their life as empty, ask God to fill them with hope.

Week Commencing Sunday 22nd June

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you
another advocate to help you and be with you forever."

John 14:16 NIV

Pray that the Holy Spirit would be present in the hearts of all believers, guiding and comforting them in their daily lives.

Week Commencing Sunday 29th June

Thomas said to him,
"My Lord and my God!"

John 20:28

May Thomas's cry of recognition echo in all our hearts. Pray for your friends and family members who have not met Jesus yet, that they would know Jesus too and acknowledge him in their hearts and lives.

Our Prayer Phone Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is now Lisa Thomas (01392 273220). 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 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.

The Prayer Team

The Methodist Church Welcomes Pope Leo XIV's Election

The Methodist Church welcomes Pope Leo XIV's election, and we offer our prayers for his papacy.



Methodist people cherish our place in the worldwide church, and our relationships with the Roman Catholic Church at local, national and international levels. We look forward to ever more opportunities to share with our Catholic siblings in the mission of the Church. We pray that all church leaders listen to the voices of the poor and the oppressed, and speak out for justice, as we share God's love.

A Prayer on the Election of Pope Leo XIV

God of all grace,

we thank you that in every generation you reveal your love for the world, and set before your people your word of life and hope.

Bless and guide your servant, Pope Leo XIV.

Give him the assurance of your love, and pour your Spirit upon him: may his ministry reflect that of your Son Jesus, and let him be a bold witness to your love and truth.

Bless our siblings in the Roman Catholic Church as they welcome their new Holy Father. May he lead their Church with wisdom and grace.

Together with Pope Leo unite all Christians as a holy people, bearing hope and peace within the human family, and always attentive to the most poor and marginalised.

In the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

Bible Month 2025 - The Gospel of John

Bible Month is an annual campaign that celebrates Scripture by inviting the whole Methodist Connexion to feast on one particular book of the Bible together.

Through a menu of carefully curated resources, training and learning opportunities, churches and circuits are encouraged to taste and see the goodness of an individual text; enjoying some of its unique flavours, considering its origins, appreciating its place alongside the rest of Scripture, and savouring the unique contribution it might make to our faithful living and learning today.

In 2025, we'll be feasting on the Gospel of John.

Discover for yourself the life-giving truths that this brilliant book ponders and imparts.

Study resources for Bible Month 2025 can be found on the Methodist Church website (<https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/the-bible/bible-month/>)

Dates For Your Diary

June 2025

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m.	Cathy Jerrard - All Age Worship
Fri 6th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 7th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Bible Month / Sacrament
Sat 14th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm)
Sun 15th	10.00 a.m.	Lloyd Smale - Bible Month
	5.00 p.m.	Easter Offering Service at Wonford MC
Tue 17th	9.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **
	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Fri 20th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 21st	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Malcolm Carter
Sat 28th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 29th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Preb Norman Wallwork - Sacrament

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



The deadline for items for the July 2025 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th June 2025. There is no guarantee of inclusion, but they may be given to:

Andrew Jackson - 19 Hills Orchard, Martock, Somerset. TA12 6DF.

Tel: 07818455600 or e-mailed to andrew.m.jackson@me.com

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 *(not every week)*

Monday

7.30 p.m. The Away Group in the lounge *(Fortnightly)*

Tuesday

9.00 a.m. Monthly Prayer Meeting *(3rd Tuesday)*

10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café *(3rd Tuesday)*

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group ***A***

3.00 p.m. Fortnightly Bible Group in the Church Lounge

Saturday

10.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

Wonford Welcome Drop-In

Tea, coffee and biscuits are free.

(***A*** = No meeting during school holiday)