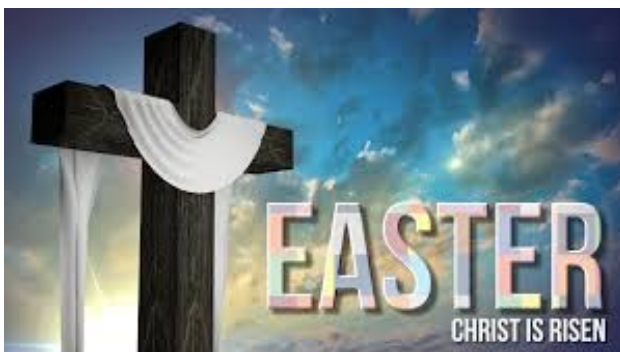


# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

March 2016

(No: 446)



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,**

Monika led the opening devotions of our February Church Council by reflecting a little on Barnabas. His name means “son of encouragement” and certainly as he is portrayed within Acts he is someone who encouraged others. We see this in a variety of situations – encouraging those in Jerusalem to give Paul a chance, accompanying Paul on his first missionary journeys and then setting off with Mark. As the meeting ended, in the spirit of encouragement with which we began, it was suggested that some of the 'highlights' from the meeting should be shared with the wider church. So in the tradition of all good preachers I offer here three points from the meeting which I hope you will find encouraging!

At the February 2015 Church Council we spent time deliberating about how much we could offer to the circuit to support the ministry of the Methodist Church throughout the Exeter Coast & Country Circuit and further afield. After prayer, the meeting decided to step out in faith and increase the offer by £2500 on the previous year. A year later Dave Westcott (our treasurer) reported to the Church Council that our offerings had increased significantly. Not only had we been able to honour the increased offer we had made, but felt able to increase our offer this year by a further £500. Thank you to everyone who has been able to give financially to the church over the past year; thank you to those who challenged us to step out in faith; and thank you to those who noticed how God had been working and called us to give thanks.

One of the outcomes of the increased giving is that it gave the Church Council the opportunity to extend the support given to Beanies. Beanies is a Tuesday evening club working with 7-11 year olds. It started from conversations with parents in Wonford and is run by Andy Shiach who works from the Old Post Office. In the summer we agreed to let the Beanies use the hall once a month to provide a bigger space for games. This proved very successful with the group, but the down side was that too many were coming when it was held in the hall that they had to ask some not to come on the weeks they were back in the Old Post Office. Church Council were delighted to hear of this work and decided that we were now in a position to be able to offer the hall to Beanies each week to encourage that important work and the building of relationships with children from the area and that we could cover the heating/lighting costs to enable that to happen. So hopefully in the near future you will find the hall full of 7-11 year olds on Tuesday evenings (and if anyone would like to help with that work, they would love to have some extra volunteers – please speak with me for details)! Thanks again for your generosity and faith in making this happen.

Finally, thanks to contact through Joan, we have begun to explore the possibility of supporting a group of Indians from the Syrian Jacobite Church. This is a

group who are currently meeting in homes in the area to worship in their native language, but have outgrown their home! Subject to necessary conversations with the superintendent and connexion, we hope to be able to provide a place where they can worship once a month and support their faith and discipleship. These are just some of the things that God is doing in and around the area (in addition to all the great things that many of you have been involved with for many years), and in and through you. Thank you all for the part you are playing.

**With every blessing,  
Rev Bruce Sawyer**

## Dates For March

### Flowers

6th	Mothering Sunday - Karen
13th	Eileen
20th	Melanie
27th	Easter Sunday - Barbara J



### Coffee

6th	TBA
13th	Melanie & Eileen
20th	Rose & Paul
27th	TBA



### Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This group meets in the lounge at 2pm normally on the third Thursday each month. All are welcome and if you'd like to learn more, do speak with Bronwen or Clifford Maddicks.

17th	2.00 p.m.	Bible Study in the lounge.
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### Tuesday Home Group

This month this group is following the 'Lent 40acts Course' in small groups. For more information see Monika Noronha.

1st	7.30pm	At 20 Whipton Lane
15th	7.30pm	At 20 Whipton Lane
22nd	7.30pm	At 20 Whipton Lane



**TRAIDCRAFT**

Fighting poverty through trade

**TRAIDCRAFT @ ST THOMAS**

**COFFEE MORNING for  
FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2016  
SATURDAY 05 MARCH  
10:00 – 11:30am**

**TRAIDCRAFT TEA, COFFEE AND  
HOT CHOCOLATE AVAILABLE**

**CRAFTS, GIFTS AND CARDS  
TRAIDCRAFT SHOP, *INCLUDING FOODS  
AND CLEANING PRODUCTS***

**FIND 'OLD FAVOURTIES' AND  
DISCOVER 'NEW' ONES TO TRY!**



# Discovering God in Culture

Day festival of bible teaching, mission strategies, art, poetry, questions about Christian living, youth work, plus food and good company



**St Thomas Methodist Church, Cowick St,  
Exeter, EX4 1JE**

**12 March, 2016, 10.00-15.45**

**Speakers include: Neil Richardson, Nicola Price-Tebbut, Andrew Brazier, Anna Davis, Norman Wallwork, Richard Skinner, Steve Jones, Graham Thompson, Peter Willis, Julian Albrow**

To register, reply Revd Julian Albrow, [julian.albrow@btinternet.com](mailto:julian.albrow@btinternet.com) 01392 255791 or via <https://eventbrite.co.uk/e/discovering-god-in-culture-tickets-18186030908Y>  
Please provide name and address, and say if you would like (free) lunch. Vegetarian?



Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network

South West

Ample parking in paddock behind church. Free entry. Thanksgiving offering



## **Discovering God in Culture** - see poster on previous page

Below are some more details about this event.

### **Colourful Language!**

We're not talking four letter words, but the Colourful Language of Mission and the Arts - painting, graffiti, dance, sculpture, embroidery, gardening, woodwork, music and other ventures that speak of the creative goodness of God. During Lent, St. Thomas Methodist Church will host an exhibition of very colourful paintings by Methodist minister Peter Willis. A day conference entitled 'Discovering God in Culture' will take place on Saturday 12th March from 10.00am - 3.45pm. The day begins with Rev Dr Neil Richardson, (ex President of Conference) followed by workshop sessions. Choose on the day what you would like to attend from the following:

- New Testament Church: Encultured & Counter-Cultural - Neil Richardson
- Discovering God : Biblical reflections - Graham Thompson
- Discovering God in Local Economics - Steve Jones
- In Pursuit of Youth - Andrew Brazier
- Christian Death in Contemporary Culture - Norman Wallwork
- Theology in Film - Julian Albrow
- Theological Reflection on the music of Shostakovich - Anna Davis
- Poetry Writing Workshop - Richard Skinner

### **Women's World Day of Prayer**

There are Services at South St Baptist Church at 10.30am and at Alphington Parish Church at 7.30pm, to which all (men and women!) are invited to attend! Each year women of a particular country plan the Service which is used throughout the world on this day – always the first Friday in March. This year it is planned by the Christian women of Cuba - entitled Receive Children.

Receive Me. - and this theme will be explored through the Service. An offertory is taken – and can be Gift Aided – which is used to help the work of WWDP in this country and the projects run by Christian charities around the world.



**Margretta Bowstead**

## **Alter Kneelers**

Alison Howell and Lisa Thomas would like your help with putting together the new covers for our alter kneelers and will be meeting on Thursday 17th March at 7.30pm (venue to be confirmed)

Please contact Lisa on 661894 for more information.

## **A BIG Thank You**

I would like to thank everyone at Wonford for all the cards, good wishes, visits and the love shown to me these last few weeks since the loss of my birth mother. Thank you doesn't seem enough but I am so blessed to have such a great 'Church Family'.

God bless you all.

**Julie Rothwell**

## **Gift Aid**

A very big thank you to those of you who gift aid your offerings to Wonford. It does make a big difference to the church's finances. We are again approaching the end of another tax year and I will be hoping to submit our gift aid claim in April or May. If you have changed address during the last 12 months please let me know. HMRC requires us to hold correct addresses for all our gift aiders and these should all be correct before I make our gift aid claim.

If you pay tax, do not at present gift aid your offering and would like to know how to do this or would like more information about gift aid please do not hesitate to talk to me. I am at church most Sunday mornings or can be contacted on 01392 201553 or can be e-mailed at

[merlinn@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:merlinn@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Linda Clarke**  
**Gift Aid Secretary**



## **MET (Methodist Evangelicals Together) Weekend Away Report 29-31 January 2016**

Dear Friends at Phillipi (with speaker Rev Dr Chris Blake),

I love the book of Phillipians and was quite excited to find there was to be a whole weekend dedicated to discovering all that Paul writes in this wonderful letter of love and friendship. We arrived on Friday afternoon at the Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay, first-timers Maggie and I, to meet many other Christian people from very far and wide – some as far away as Staffordshire, Wiltshire and Hampshire. Our speaker Chris and his lovely wife Joy introduced themselves on the Friday evening during a time of praise and worship. He has been principle of Cliff College and is now about to move back into ministry. Chris's style of teaching was clear and he had some lovely illustrative stories of people he'd met and signs or pictures that helped us focus on learning all Phillipians has to teach of knowing Jesus as saviour and friend and how to live a Christ-like life.

The hotel is in a glorious position with a huge lounge that has a panoramic view of Torquay harbour and this was a real treat for me as having grown up near the sea, I love to look out over waves rolling to the shore as moody clouds are blown by overhead. We were richly blessed with a comfortable room each, delightful and happy staff ready to serve and delicious food – no need to eat for a week!

To pick up on the message of the talks; as Paul writes, he is in prison and though in chains, his attitude is that he is free because of Christ's death and resurrection. We should be united with Christ and in Phil 2:3 he encourages us to put others before ourselves and he speaks of Jesus as our example. That Jesus being God, became our servant, giving up His 'rank' to die for us and show us humbly how to live righteous lives. We should not seek recognition, but be humble and as we do so, God will raise us up. We are called to be positively surprising – to stand out in our time. As disciples in Christ, we need to set our eyes on Jesus, Phil 12,13 and 14, on the goal set before us and not to look back or think of ourselves in the way we used to or to limit what God can achieve in us or through us, but see those attitudes and things we once held dear as rubbish next to knowing Christ. Two quotes; Phil 4:13 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me'. Phil 4:8 & 9 'Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if



anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you’.

We finished with a wonderful time of sharing and came away truly blessed and nourished. Give this wonderful book a read for yourself and be filled again with God’s love and spirit. Peace to you!

**Lisa Thomas**

## **MISSION IMPOSSIBLE**

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to engage with the Wonford Community and bring them to Christ.

Jesus engaged with his community at the well and the sea shore, so where will we meet with the Wonford community? You may say perhaps the pub, the doctors, or the shop. I believe the best place is on the R,S and H buses. There are those in our congregation who already use the buses in the week, but only Sharon, Mike, Judith, Helen and I use the bus on a Sunday after church.

When Sharon and I have been to church, we chat about about the service, recall the hymns and read from the Contact Magazine. Not only do the other passengers hear, but the bus drivers too (we have two drivers at church now Paul and Nick).

So, how about rising to the challenge of the mission? We hope to see more of you travelling home on the bus (the S goes at 11.17 & 11.47 and the R goes at 11.32 & 12.02, from the church) engaging with the Wonford Community, not on the road to Emaeus, but on the road to Exeter.

Hope you have a lovely Easter.

**Nick Goddard**



## **Fairtrade Fortnight**

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight we are encouraged to SIT DOWN FOR BREAKFAST and STAND UP FOR FARMERS!

We are celebrating Mother's Day on 6 March with a Fairtrade breakfast at 8:30am before the All-Age service. Maybe the men and young people will serve the ladies?



## **Prayer Focus for March**

**And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard His cry and saw how He died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God."**

*Mark 15:39 (New International Version)*

### **Week beginning Sunday 6th - Mother's Day**

Pray for the work of Fairtrade during this 'Fairtrade Fortnight' and for the Fairtrade breakfast this Sunday to celebrate Mother's Day.

Also pray for the Circuit Meeting here on Tuesday that wise decisions will continue to be made concerning future finances.

And for good attendance at St Thomas Methodist Church this Saturday as they host a Day Festival (Discovering God in Culture) with Christian events, teaching and food.

**THANK GOD FOR JESUS – WHO LOVES US WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE.**

### **Week beginning Sunday 13th**

Please pray that God will inspire more helpers to come forward for the 5-10 year old group at Young Church and that all the preparations for Messy Church next Sunday will go very well.

Pray also for the CTaX (Christians Together across Exeter) meeting on Wednesday and for our Prayer Breakfast here on Saturday.

**THANK GOD FOR JESUS – THE SON OF GOD**

### **Week beginning Sunday 20th**

Please pray for good weather and plenty of people to see the 'Walk of Witness' through the city centre on Good Friday and that many hearts will be turned to the Lord Jesus.

**THANK GOD FOR JESUS – WHO SUFFERED A TERRIBLE DEATH ON THE CROSS FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD.**

### **Week beginning Sunday 27th - Easter Sunday**

"Allelulia! He is risen!"

As the churches meet together on the Quay for the Dawn Communion Service this Easter Sunday please pray for those who do not know the love and saving grace of our risen Saviour.

"He is risen indeed! Allelulia!"

**THANK GOD FOR JESUS – WHO HAS THE VICTORY OVER DEATH.**

### **Phone Prayer Link**

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is Beryl Violet (01392) 270132. Your request will be passed to members of the Prayer Link who will pray for your need.

### **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**

## **Silverton Methodist Church**

**Good Friday - March 25th 2016  
Annual Walk and Worship**

2.30pm - meet at Killerton car park to walk through the woods to Silverton

or 4.00pm - bring your own picnic to Silverton ( drinks provided ) or

5.00pm - Worship with the Wonford Music Group

**Lifts arranged back to Killerton car park**



**Messy  
Church!**

*A fun place for families finding faith.*

creative

At

fun

Wonford Methodist

Church

family

Opposite Lidl

chat

sharing

On

food

**20th March 2016**

4 o'clock until 6 o'clock

Please come all are welcome!

No unaccompanied children please

Tel 01392 256716

# News From The Methodist Church

## **Governments must do more to meet the immediate needs of Syria's people**

The Methodist Church, along with three other major UK Churches, has called on governments to provide substantial new funding to alleviate the suffering of the people of Syria, including refugees in the neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan.

The call from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church came on the eve of the international pledging conference for Syria, which took place in London earlier this month.

The Revd Steve Wild, President of the Methodist Conference, said: "The bombing and shelling of civilian areas by the Syrian Government and other groups has caused immense death and suffering. The disregard for civilian life has been shocking; it is callous and totally unacceptable, even in war."

In the light of the recent deaths from hunger in the Syrian town of Madaya, he continued: "It is a fundamental principle under international humanitarian law that those fighting a conflict must not restrict the delivery of aid to victims. The parties to the conflict who are meeting in Geneva must tackle this issue. They have a responsibility to ensure that life-saving aid gets to all in need." Since these words the UN have made unveiled plans for aid convoys.

This challenge to governments follows on from a combined statement on Syria issued in December 2015, in which the Churches challenged the divisive rhetoric that sets communities apart and committed themselves to prayer for those suffering conflict and for those tasked with negotiating solutions and bringing security.

## **Prayers on the Move**

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK) has launched a new app, website and booklet, promoting daily prayers for busy people.

The Prayers on the Move app and website offer 31 one-minute audio



prayers, which are easy enough for the even least experienced in prayer to try out. These beautiful, super-short meditations could also provide refreshment for seasoned pray-ers who are feeling a bit jaded.

To promote this nationwide initiative adverts on the London Underground, like the one pictured, feature short, accessible prayers to encourage all kinds of people to give prayer a go.

You can discover more at [www.prayersonthemove.com](http://www.prayersonthemove.com), including ordering the booklet, which is also available as an e-book and PDF.

You can also follow Prayers on the Move through social media - Twitter (@PrayersOTM #prayersonthemove), Facebook and Instagram.

### **3Generate manifestos**

Young Methodists from across the country have shared their priorities and passions for the Church, highlighted for the first time in three new manifesto documents released this month. This follows research at the Methodist Children's and Youth Assembly, 3 Generate, which identified the concerns of the different age groups.

This new venture raises the voices of the young people of the Church and highlights the real and varied subjects close to their hearts. These issues include the environment, poverty, bullying, disability accessibility and the refugee crisis.

Craig Gaffney, Youth President of the Methodist Church, added: "These statements are essential reading for all Methodists across the Connexion. It is vital that everyone in the Church engages with the voice of young people and the topics close to their hearts. All of the issues raised should be important to the whole Church and its membership and should be a regular focus for any Christian living out their faith."

Discover more by visiting

[http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/young-people-have-their-say-on-priorities-of-methodist-church?utm\\_source=Methodist%20Church%20House&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=6793146\\_E-News%20%28February%202016%29&utm\\_content=News%20Release%20-%203gen%20manifestos&dm\\_t=0,0,0,0,0](http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/young-people-have-their-say-on-priorities-of-methodist-church?utm_source=Methodist%20Church%20House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=6793146_E-News%20%28February%202016%29&utm_content=News%20Release%20-%203gen%20manifestos&dm_t=0,0,0,0,0)

# Dates For Your Diary

## March 2016

Tue 1st	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets <i>Lent 40acts</i> at 20 Whipton Lane **
Thu 3rd	7.30 p.m.	Book club meets in the lounge
Fri 4th	10.30 a.m.	Women's World Day of Prayer at South Street Baptist Church **
	7.30 p.m.	Women's World Day of Prayer at Alphington Parish Church **
Sun 6th	8.30 a.m.	Mothering Sunday Breakfast **
	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Sacrament and Commissioning of Pastoral Visitors Service
Tue 8th	7.30 p.m.	Circuit meeting at Wonford MC
Wed 9th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets <i>Lent 40acts</i> at 20 Whipton Lane **
Sat 12th	10.00 a.m.	'Discovering God in Culture' at St Thomas MC ** (Ends at 3.45 p.m.)
Sun 13th	10.00 a.m.	Lloyd Smale - Passion Sunday
	<b>6.30 p.m.</b>	<b>'Mission &amp; Arts' Circuit Service at St Thomas MC</b>
Tue 15th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe (until 12pm)
	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets <i>Lent 40acts</i> at 20 Whipton Lane **
Wed 16th	7.30 p.m.	CTaX Council meets at St Michael's, Alphington.
Thu 17th	2.00 p.m.	Monthly Bible Study in the lounge **
Sat 19th	8.30 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast **
Sun 20th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Palm Sunday
	<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
Tue 22nd	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets <i>Lent 40acts</i> at 20 Whipton Lane **
Thu 24th	6.30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Communion
Fri 25th	10.00 a.m.	Good Friday - CTaX Cathedral Service and Walk of Witness
	2.30 p.m.	Meet in Killerton Car Park for walk to Silverton Methodist Church **
	5.00 p.m.	Good Friday Service at Silverton Methodist Church *
Sun 27th	<b>British Summer Time Begins</b>	
	7.30 a.m.	Easter Day Sacrament Service at The Quay
	10.00 a.m.	Rev Alan Rothwell - Sacrament Service
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer

\*\* 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

- 7.30 p.m. Away Group Bible Study (2 Wallace Avenue)  
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 Cafe (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 March 2016 Newsletter will be Sunday 13th March 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)