

# Wonford Methodist Church

# Contact Newsletter

# March 2018

(No: 466)



**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,**

I thought I would take a break this month from reflecting on the 5 rhythms of discipleship and share something regarding Lent (don't worry, I'll return to the rhythms of discipleship in the coming months!).

Last Lent I came across a short poem/reflection by Kate McIlhagga entitled "Lent is not for the faint-hearted". Perhaps this is a sentiment that we can easily identify with. We are commonly told that Lent is a period of preparation for Easter. A time, when through penitence, reflection and self-discipline or denial, we (re)focus on God and our discipleship. More recently some have re-imagined Lent as a time to take things on, to practise generosity for example. Both these approaches to Lent are demanding; they require something of us, they are not entered lightly. They are not for the faint-hearted since through these practices we open ourselves up to God and expect God to be at work within us.

In her reflection, Kate McIlhagga describes Lent as a journey. For some of us this might not be a new idea – you may remember the road we had painted on the side of church a couple of years ago and the tear drops which marked our progress through Lent each Sunday. However, Kate explicitly developed this idea in one particular direction that has stayed with me since. If Lent is a journey, she says, then at the end we should expect to find ourselves somewhere different from where we started. For most of us, that somewhere different will not be a different physical place (though it might), but is about recognising that we will be different. We will be changed through the journey of Lent.

So I wonder as you are journeying through Lent, if you expected to be somewhere different at the end? Whether you are persevering with resisting the temptation of whatever you have given up, whether you are struggling to continue whatever you have taken on, or whether you are exploring one of the rhythms of discipleship, how is it changing you?

However God is at work within you, wherever the journeying is taking you, I pray that you will come to Easter changed by a deeper experience of the love revealed to us in Jesus, and his death for us.

**With every blessing**

**Bruce**

# Dates For March

## Coffee

4th Sarah & Lisa  
11th Fran & Pauline  
18th Madeline & David  
25th



## Flowers

4th Kathy Parsons  
11th Mandy Denton (Mothering Sunday)  
18th Bronwen & Clifford  
25th Melanie Westcott



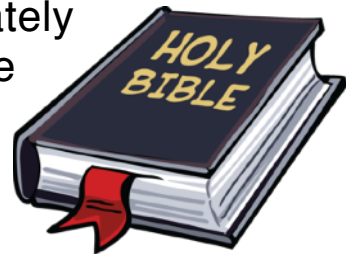
## Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This group meets in the lounge at 2pm normally on the third Thursday each month. All are welcome. This month they are studying Job.

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

## Home Group

This is the House Group that meets approximately fortnightly, and often hosted generously by Caroline Sawyer at the manse. Do look in the Diary Dates for exactly when we're meeting this month, and we'd love to have you come and join us anytime. In January we've made a good start on studying Paul's letter to the Ephesians, fortunately with a guide book to help us discuss the challenges there.



## Monika Noronha

6th 7.30pm At 18 Tuckfield Close  
13th 7.30pm At 20 Whipton Lane

## New Home Wanted for Hall Piano

Our Hall piano is now available to anyone offering it a 'good home'.

If you are interested, please have a word with Gary Lord **immediately**.



## Our Calling

Our Calling, in the Methodist Church in Britain, is to:

*increase **awareness** of  
**God's presence** and to  
celebrate **God's love***

***help** people to **grow** and **learn** as  
**Christians** through mutual  
support and care*

*to be a good **neighbour** to  
people in **need** and to **challenge**  
**injustice***

*make **more followers** of **Jesus**  
**Christ***

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**Acts 2: 46-47**

## Girls' Brigade Celebration!

2018 is the 125th anniversary of Girls' Brigade.

We are having a celebration of Girls' Brigade at Wonford on Monday 26th March at 6.00pm.

Past and present GB members and their families are invited to join us!

If you know anyone who has been involved with Girls' Brigade over the years please let them know about this event.

Thank you

**The GB team - Rosie, Monika, Helen, Sarah and Zoe**



## Women's World Day of Prayer - "All God's Creation is Very Good"

The Service this year is planned by the Christian Women of Suriname, a faraway place in the north of South America. Do come and learn from them when you come to worship at 11 o'clock at Sacred Heart Church, South Street in Exeter – all are welcome! For those not free in the morning, there is a similar act of



worship in a church in the St Thomas area in the early evening, but I have no details of that yet.

**Margretta Bowstead**

### **Wedding Bells - Message from Tash Gilborson**

I'm writing to you all because I'm getting married on Saturday March 31st, 2pm at St Nicholas church in Topsham.

You've all been such an important part of my church life so I wanted to invite you to the ceremony to see me get married. We don't have space to invite you to the rest of the day, but if you have an hour spare on that Saturday, it would be really lovely to see you!

**Tash x**



### **A Notice for those who gift aid their Church Offerings**

A very big thank you to those of you who gift aid your regular Church Offering. It does make a significant difference to our Church Finances.

Again we are approaching the end of another tax year. I hope to make our gift aid claim in April or May. May I please remind all gift aiders that HMRC requires correct addresses when a gift aid claim is made. If you have changed address or no longer pay tax since our last gift aid claim in May 2017 please let me know. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Linda Clarke**

**Gift Aid Secretary**

**March 2018**



**Sunday 25th March 2018**

**4.00pm**

**ALL Welcome**

## Exeter Coast & Country Circuit Circuit Meeting Resume and News

### EXMOUTH CHURCHES – ONE CHURCH COUNCIL

The Exmouth churches have come to a decision that one Church Council will best serve the community and each church voted on (and passed) a proposal to this effect in June 2017. On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 the three churches will cease to exist and become one church which operates in 3 worship areas and have a combined Church Council. This proposal was agreed by the Circuit Meeting unanimously. The District have to approve this decision.

### FACEBOOK GROUP

A Circuit Facebook Group has now been created so that folk can share good news and encourage one another. This is for any Circuit Methodists to join. The content will only be viewable by members of the group. The Facebook Group can be found under "Exeter Coast & Country Methodists" in the search bar. Please do join and start sharing. In due course this will be linked into the Circuit website. A Facebook Page is being created the content of which will be viewable by the public.

### CIRCUIT MEETING DATES:

- a) March 21<sup>st</sup> – Wonford MC, Exeter
- b) June 13<sup>th</sup> – Temple MC, Budleigh Salterton
- c) September 12<sup>th</sup> – Venue tba
- d) January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019
- e) April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019
- f) July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019

### CIRCUIT SERVICES:

- a) Easter Offering Service – 29<sup>th</sup> April – Littlemead, Exmouth at 6.30 pm.
- a) Barn Service – 17<sup>th</sup> June at Poltimore, Exeter at 6.30 pm + BBQ after.
- b) Farewell Service for Bruce Sawyer/Jonathan Froggatt/Beth McDowell – 22nd July at Wonford, Exeter – 6.30 pm.
- c) Welcome Service – 2<sup>nd</sup> September – at Tower Street, Exmouth at 6.30 pm.
- d) 100 Years of Remembrance – 11<sup>th</sup> November at St Thomas, Exeter – 6.30 pm.

The Circuit Meeting is open to all and is a helpful way of knowing what is happening in the life of the wider church, which can then shape the local church in its mission. If you have never been please speak to your church representative or a steward and arrangements will be made.  
Revd Steve Santry

### GOOD NEWS STORY

The Mint began two new groups for the very young in September 2017 – Church Mice, and Mini Mints. A team got together to look at the young element and now find themselves almost overwhelmed with numbers attending. A good connection with families is being built up. Church Mice includes songs, prayers, bible readings and craft. Matthew Mouse is very popular – as are the myriad other smaller knitted mice.

### ALPHINGTON PREMISES AND CONGREGATION

The Circuit Leadership Team is continuing to finalise a vision for the Circuit from 2018 onwards. Individual churches will aid us in this plan. In April 2016 the Circuit Office was moved to The Mint and there is an anticipated major housing development between Alphington and Exminster and therefore the future plans for Alphington Methodist Church are being carefully considered. There will be a meeting with that society during January. It is planned that firm proposals will be brought to the Circuit Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

### CRANBROOK – REVD LYTHAN NEVARD

Revd Lythan Nevard has now been Minister for Cranbrook for eighteen months and she gave a presentation on the ongoing work and plans for the future of this growing town. Her lively and well-informed presentation was well received. Cranbrook is very much part of our Circuit.

Having been asked how our Circuit could get involved Lythan said that help would be very welcome at the Messy Church, either with the children or with the rolling buffet.

Prayer was then given for Lythan and the work at Cranbrook.

### INVITATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Two ministers will be joining the Circuit in September (subject to Conference approval). The Welcome Service will be Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at Tower Street at 6.30 pm.



## **Message from Sharon & Nick Goddard**

To our dear friends and family at Wonford.

Thank you so much for your prayers at The Covenant Service.

As you know, we were following our dream to flee Rutherford Street. Over Christmas the Lord took us to a sleepy and tranquil place, just below Haytor. We patiently await God's plans for us, as we take the next steps on our Christian journey. Please pray for us that God will gently hold our hands and guide us and help our veil to be torn as at Jesus's crucifixion.

But we have already found the 'Haytor and Widdicombe' heated swimming pool (opens in April).

We wanted to say a big Thank You to Lisa and Alison for coming alongside us when we lost our mothers. We give thanks for my mum's generosity in life and in glory. For the money she left me and the car, which enabled us to get around. Thank you God for Joan's inspirational playing Sunday by Sunday.

Sharon and I will never be far away. You will still be able to get on my bus and will still be in Heavitree Park.

This Lent we may return to the Coming Down of the Fence Service (God Willing) that makes the Church, God's Service Station, accessible to the rest of your community.

**All the best and may God's blessing surround you all.**

**Lots of love Sharon and Nick Goddard.**



## **Article from Winter 2018 Connexion Magazine**

The article below was written by our Chair of District, Rev Graham Thompson.

### **Why Do We Go To Church?**

This question is usually asked spontaneously and we find ourselves on the spot. So what answer should we give? Chair of Plymouth and Exeter District, the Revd Graham Thompson, reflects on worship.

We go to church to worship God! We enjoy being with God. We want to celebrate all that Jesus offers, for we are people of the Resurrection – those who die and rise with Jesus and live every moment of every day certain that our risen Lord is in us and with us. We offer praise to God for who God is and all that God means to us. We offer thanks for the many wonderful ways in which God has blessed us; for the privilege of enjoying a relationship with the eternal God.

Worship is the central activity of the Church. Without worship there would be no Church. You can take away Bible studies and prayer meetings, you can lose a Sunday school or youth group, you can ignore social evenings and home groups, but if you have worship, you are still a church – a poor church but still a church.

### **Self-fulfilling worship?**

In his report to the 2011 Conference, the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, then General Secretary of the Methodist Church and Secretary of the Methodist Conference, said that having travelled around the country for a few years, he had picked up a prevailing view that Methodist worship “neither reaches the heights nor plumbs the depths”. Is Dr Atkins right? If he is, what has caused this and how might we change things?

I believe we get the worship we deserve. If we go to worship with a wrong frame of mind; without preparing ourselves (including praying for those who will lead worship); if we go with our minds made up as to what it is going to be like and what we will get out of it, questioning the length of sermon or choice of hymns, we then generate a self-fulfilling prophecy. You might find it helpful to think about other stumbling blocks to good experiences of worship, including these typically Methodist tripping hazards:

1. The free availability of the Preaching Plan listing who is taking the next service, along with announcing who is taking next week's act of worship, instead of simply stating when the next service will be and inviting people



to attend. We need to move the focus away from the leader of worship to the God whom we worship.

2. Busy office holders going to church with lots to sort out and people they need to talk to – focusing on the busyness of responsibility rather than the One for whom we seek to be useful. The privilege of worshipping the God of love; the God of all creation; the God who was, and is and is to come, means that our primary focus should be God.

### **Glorifying and enjoying God**

Worship is when we come together to meet with God and any encounter with the living God will change us. People leaving worship should be different – changed – by the experience of meeting God. Perhaps imperceptibly at first, but over time we are changed.

*The Westminster Catechism* states that the chief purpose of humanity is to glorify God and enjoy God forever. Not to go to worship so that we can get something good from God. The principal focus of any worship is God. Graham Kendrick, quoting Lamar Boschman, puts it like this: “Worship is first and foremost for God’s benefit, not ours, though it is marvellous to discover that in giving God pleasure, we ourselves enter into what can become our richest and most wholesome experience in life.”

Worship is the central activity of the Church and – perhaps – we could do better?

### **"Eco-Church? What can Wonford do to be an Eco-Church?"**

I'm writing this before I go to Cafe Church on 18th February to hear Prof. Stuart Barr share his ideas on "Why should we care about our environment?" Can we go on living the way we are? Prof. Barr offers a sustainability analysis and a Christian perspective on our responsibilities as planet Earth's guardians. I am expecting to learn a lot, and am most grateful to Tony Wragg for arranging this talk and Cafe Church evening.

We are already a FairTrade Church; and in an earlier newsletter I did raise the idea of our church becoming an Eco-Church, and you can read it in our April 2017 Contact magazine. I would like to see if there's a small group who would join me to find out what's involved. Please have a word with me, if so.

**Margretta Bowstead**

## Try Praying

Our preaching theme for early 2018 will be focussed on Prayer and continues into March. This will accompany our campaign under the title “Try Praying”, in which we will be challenging people to discover the reality of God for themselves as they simply try praying.

## Tony Wragg

Date	Theme	Bible Verse(s)	Preacher
March 2 (All Age)	Answered prayer	Acts 12: 1-17	Mary Hext
March 11	Exploratory prayer	1 Kings 8: 22-53	Rev Bruce Sawyer
March 18	Prayer in despair	1Sam 1; Ps 6; Rom 8: 18-27	Dr Joan Wragg
March 25 (Palm Sunday)	Who do you say I am?	Matthew 21: 1-11	Rev Bruce Sawyer
March 29 (Maundy Thursday) <b>6.30pm</b>	Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane	Matthew 26: 36-46	Mandy Denton and Rev Alan Rothwell

# Prayer Focus for March

## Pray With Thanksgiving

## Try Praying!

Each week please pray for all who will lead us in worship . You may not know who it will be but Our Lord does. As we move onward into Lent keep on preparing ourselves for the events of Easter and what it means to us in our own lives.

### Week beginning 4th.

This winter has been particularly cold & wet. Pray for all who find themselves homeless & all who find it hard to heat their homes, especially those who are elderly or sick & disabled. Pray for our NHS & all who work in it for wisdom in spending the funds & for those nurses, doctors & consultants who work long hours to tend the sick.



### Week beginning 11th. Mothering Sunday.

This week pray for all mothers. Pray for those who would love to be mothers but for whatever reason are unable to be. Remember those mothers &

fathers who have lost children through illness, accident or more sinister means. Pray for wisdom for mothers as they bring their children up. Also remember mothers whose children have chosen a life of crime, that they don't blame themselves for their child's choice.

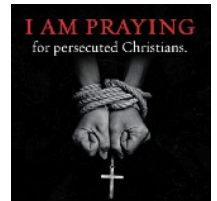
Remember those who have lost their mother or have been separated from them.



Thank God  
for Mums!

### **Week beginning 18th.**

This week pray for the persecuted church. Men, women & even children are imprisoned or killed because they own the Name of Jesus. They can be prevented from going to school or work but don't receive help to be able to live. Thank God that we are free to worship without fear.



### **Week beginning 25th.**

As Messy Church takes place this week pray for all who lead & those who will attend. Pray for all our young people. If possible pray for them by name.



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

### **Phone Prayer 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 (437329) or Margaret Kearns (679949).

### **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**

### **Ribbons of Prayer on the Fence!**

As I write this we are just beginning our particular 2 months of focus on Prayer, and I hope you've received the "Try Praying" useful booklet and noticed the banners on our fence. We are also encouraging passers-by to add a ribbon to the fence as a sign of a prayer for a person or situation. Maybe you'd like to add one for someone, each time you come to Wonford?

**Monika Noronha**



*invite you to celebrate  
their marriage*

21ST APRIL 2018

CHURCH OF ST PETROCS  
12 WELLINGTON SQUARE  
SOUTH BRENT, DEVON  
TQ10 9AG

| 1:00 pm |



# News From The Methodist Church

## 3GENERATE Manifesto 2018

*At 3Generate 2017 children and young people had the opportunity to speak out on a variety of issues that mattered to them. Here is a summary of what was said:*

### WE WANT A CHURCH COMMUNITY THAT...

- keeps **God at the centre**
- is **not afraid**
- always takes **action**
- is **relevant**
- is about **togetherness**
- is an **inclusive and safe space**
- has **children and young people involved** in all aspects of its life

### A CHURCH COMMUNITY THAT:

#### **KEEPS GOD AT THE CENTRE**

- Where we do what God asks us to do – love each other.
- Where prayer and engaging with the Bible are central.
- Where sharing our faith stories is encouraged and valued so that we grow closer to God.

#### **IS NOT AFRAID**

- To step out in faith and trust God.
- To lead the way on issues of injustice and social action.
- To have difficult conversations on challenging topics.

#### **ALWAYS TAKES ACTION**

- By sharing inspiring stories of action and change.
- By challenging injustice.
- By engaging politically e.g. in the debate around nuclear weapons.
- By praying for and responding to those in need e.g. supporting Foodbanks.
- By caring for the environment e.g. using less plastics.

#### **IS RELEVANT**

- Where people are equipped to engage with, and respond to, current issues.

- Where worship is engaging.
- Where modern technology is used effectively.
- Where we work towards being environmentally-friendly and sustainable.

#### **IS ABOUT TOGETHERNESS**

- Where adults value and support young people.
- Where better relationships are built, through conversations and questions, leading to acceptance, kindness, understanding and mutual respect.
- Where we learn about and understand other faiths.

#### **IS AN INCLUSIVE AND SAFE SPACE**

- Where all are welcomed, respected and accepted.
- Where we celebrate uniqueness and difference.
- Where we can have safe, open-minded conversation.
- Where there is support for those with mental health issues.
- Where we can be still, rest and connect with God.

#### **HAS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ALL ASPECTS OF ITS LIFE**

- Where we are trusted.
- Where there are opportunities for us to lead.
- Where our voice is heard and responded to.

## **Bible Month: 30 days with Jonah**

Bible Month is an opportunity for churches and circuits to spend 30 days focused on a single biblical book. In June 2018, Bible Month will focus on the book of Jonah.

You can find out more on the Methodist Church website, with resources available from Methodist Publishing.



## **Thy Kingdom Come**

Thy Kingdom Come 2018 has been launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This is a worldwide, ecumenical prayer movement calling on all Christians to pray that people might come to know Jesus Christ. The Methodist Church is a major partner in the initiative. The prayer is focused between Ascension Day and Pentecost from Thursday 10 to Sunday 20 May 2018.



The hope is that:

- People will commit to pray with God's world-wide family - as a church, individually or as a family
- Churches will hold prayer events, such as 24-7 prayer, prayer stations and prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world
- People will be transformed through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ

The invitation is simply for people to pray in whatever way they want, with whoever they want and wherever they can, that others might know Jesus Christ.

To take part you can sign up and 'pledge to pray' on the Thy Kingdom Website; [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)

There are also a huge range of helpful resources to resource individuals, families, and churches wishing to engage with the initiative. These include materials to download on prayer, liturgical resources, Novena booklets, packs on helping families pray together, details of prayer events, and tips on organising local events. Visit [www.thykingdomcome.global/prayerresources](http://www.thykingdomcome.global/prayerresources)



# Dates For Your Diary

## March 2018

Fri 2nd	11.00 a.m.	Women's World Day of Prayer, Sacred Heart Church South Street **
Sun 4th	10.00 a.m.	Mary Hext - All Age Worship / Themed Preaching 5
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Jonathan Froggatt - Sacrament
Tue 6th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 18 Tuckfield Close **
Wed 7th	12.00 p.m.	Ecumenical Lent + Lunch - St Lawrence Church
Thu 8th	7.30 p.m.	Wonford Worms meet in the lounge
Sun 11th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Sacrament, Themed Preaching 6 and Pastoral Visitor Dedication and Commissioning of 2 Worship Leaders **
	6.30 p.m.	Dr Joan Wragg - Prayer & Praise
Tue 13th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane **
Wed 14th	12.00 p.m.	Ecumenical Lent + Lunch - Wonford MC
Thu 15th	2.00 p.m.	Bible Study in the lounge **
Sun 18th	10.00 a.m.	Dr Joan Wragg - Themed Preaching 7 **
	6.30 p.m.	Janet Lee
Tue 20th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe meets (until 12pm)
Wed 21st	12.00 p.m.	Ecumenical Lent + Lunch - St Michael's Church
	7.30 p.m.	Circuit Meeting at Wonford MC

## ***British Summer Time Begins***

Sun 25th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Themed Preaching 8 **
	4.00 p.m.	<b>Messy Church</b> **
Mon 26th	6.00 p.m.	Girls' Brigade Celebration **
Thu 29th	6.30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday with Rev Alan Rothwell and Mandy Denton. Themed Preaching 9 **
Sat 31st	2.00 p.m.	Marriage of Tash Gilborson at St Nicholas Church, Topsham

## April 2018

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m.	Easter Day - Sacrament. Rev Alan Rothwell and Prof Tony Wragg
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Beth McDowell

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

trypraying.

# 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\***

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 April 2018 Newsletter will be Sunday 11th March 2018. 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)