

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

March 2019

(No: 476)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



@WonfordMethodistChurch



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

The root of the word 'religion' means 'to see', and the difference between a religious and a secular outlook on life is that the former encourages you to see your life as a gift, something given, something intended, and something with a purpose. If you see life as a gift in this way, you will value it, and seek to make the most of it. If however, you see life as having no purpose at all, as having no meaning and no direction, it will have very little value for you and what you do with your life won't matter to you so much. I would suggest that the religious are those who 'see' that bit further, who have caught a glimpse of the mystery at the heart of existence, and who know beyond doubt that what they can see is not all there is.

Christian faith goes one further and says that this 'something more' has touched human history, embraced flesh and blood, the divine becoming human in order to bring humanity back to the divine. This is an astonishing claim, that He who created all that exists, somehow inhabited a human life, and through that human life, opened up a way for us to be connected with Him. Those who open up their lives to God in this way find a new, transformed life possible, made possible by the help of the Spirit of God. This is powerful, life-changing stuff, and all too often, churches keep quiet about all this, and forget that their urgent task is to pray that others will come to know all this for themselves, and to pray too, for opportunities to speak positively of their faith in ways that that will attract and encourage others to want to know more. Many suspect that there is more to life than meets the eye. Those of use who know they are right need to tell them so – with the help of God's Spirit and always encouraging each other as we do so.

With every blessing

Ben Haslam

Dates For March 2019

Coffee

3rd	Fran & Pauline
10th	Monika & Bill
17th	Melanie
24th	Liz S
31st	Alison H



Flowers

3rd	Margretta
10th	Sylvia & Tom
17th	Kath & Rory
24th	TBA
31st	Mother's Day - Mandy



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. We will be concluding our study and discussion of Paul's epistle to the Colossians and will also look at Philemon. Anyone is welcome to come and join us as we explore the Bible together. Come with your questions or thoughts to help us, please!

13th March

18 Tuckfield Close

27th March

39 Meyer Court

Minister's Bible Study

This is a new group set up by Rev Ben Haslam. The next meeting will be on Thursday 21st March 2019 at 2pm in the lounge. All welcome. It is likely to include some discussion and Bible Study.

Elijah and Elisha Themed Preaching Series - Spring 2019

This series continues into March and starts looking at Elisha.

Mar 10th

Enter Elisha: Elijah passes on the baton

Clive Hughes

1 Kings 19 v 19-21 2 Kings 2 v 1-18

Mar 17th Miracles of Healing and Provision
2 Kings 4 v 1-44 2 Kings 8 v 1-6

John Allan

Mar 24th
Humility: the Healing of Naaman
2 Kings 5

Alan Rothwell

Mar 31st
Eyes opened: A Story of Deception and Mercy
2 Kings 6 v 8-23

Tony Wragg

Tony (*On behalf of Worship Team*)

Our MET Torquay Conference weekend. You might be interested in reading this report prepared for the Methodist press

Tony

Up the mountain and in the wilderness at Torquay

We were also “by the grave” and “on the beach”, these being the titles of the four addresses given at the Methodist Evangelicals Together (MET) South West Regional Conference over the last weekend of January. Over 100 of us gathered for this annual event held at The Livermead Cliff Hotel, right on the English Riviera Seafront. Our speaker was Rev Dr David Coffey, sometime General Secretary of the Baptist Union and also President of the Baptist World Alliance, his overall theme being “Mentored by Jesus”. David chose four scenarios, the sermon on the mount, the feeding of the 5000, the raising of Lazarus and the post-resurrection appearance on the beach, in all of which Jesus mentored his disciples in their responsibilities and privileges as his envoys. David’s scholarly, humorous and pastoral approach shone through each of these sessions. I remember being particularly challenged by his question as to how our churches would cope with a sudden influx of new born Christians and enquirers in the event of local or national revival. The four talks are available from Ground Vision (www.groundvision.org) either individually or as a box set and would make excellent house group material.

Over the weekend we were also introduced to the new MET Development Worker, Rev Derek Balsdon; we heard about the work of Wesley Cottage from John Hogarth, and the Rev Graham Shaw spoke to us about the challenging situation in Zimbabwe and the issues facing the Christian people there. Rev Steve Wild (Chair of Cornwall District) gave an entertaining and challenging life story/testimony on the Saturday afternoon

in which he highlighted the many evangelistic opportunities offered by everyday encounters with people. Rev Graham Thompson (Chair Plymouth and Exeter) also gave a pastoral word at the Saturday evening Celebration (led musically by the Wonford Methodist Church Worship Group) at which we also heard good news from local churches in the SW. The closing communion service was imaginatively and sensitively led by Rev Doreen Sparey-Delacassa, involving a dramatic presentation of the events around the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our love offering at the Saturday Celebration amounted to over £1800, one third of which will go to the Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund.

Altogether it was a superb weekend in which we were all richly blessed by the ministry and by the wonderful hospitality and the delicious food at the hotel. What an ideal venue it is; and we are booked in there again for January 24th to 26th 2020 when our main speaker will be Rev David Hull (Current chair of MET and chaplain at Kingswood School). Do note the date and watch for further info on the MET website.

Tony Wragg *(And you might spot familiar faces on the photos.)*



Church Green Team Update

Earth Hour

Earth Hour began as a symbolic lights out event in Sydney in 2007 and in the twelve years since has become an international event with millions of homes, businesses and landmarks switching off for an hour.

The aim of Earth Hour is to spark conversations about accelerating climate change and the staggering loss of biodiversity which threaten the planet. Also, to encourage people to think about what they can do to protect nature. People all over the world will be turning off their lights (and other electrical devices) at 8.30pm on the 30th March. Why not join them? Perhaps Earth Hour is an ideal opportunity for candle-lit prayer for the planet?

Helen - Church Green Team

A Reminder for Gift Aiders

A very big thank you to those of you who gift aid your offerings to the church here at Wonford, it really does make a big difference to the church's finances.

We are once again approaching the end of another tax year, if any of you have changed your name or moved since the end of March 2018 please let me know. It is a legal requirement by HMRC to hold correct addresses before we make our gift aid claim.

If you no longer pay tax or are unsure whether we should make a gift aid claim in your name because the amount of tax you pay has significantly changed please do not hesitate to have a word with me, I will do my best to help you and you can be assured that any information you give me will be kept confidential.

If you pay tax but do not at present gift aid your offerings please consider doing so, I would be very happy to explain the scheme to you.

Once again a big thank you to all our gift aiders at Wonford.

Linda Clarke

Gift Aid Secretary

Wonford Methodist Church

Heavitree Ecumenical Lent Services

These will be held in each of the 5 Heavitree Churches as happened successfully last year. Held on Wednesdays at 12 noon, it starts with a 10-15 minute Service and then is followed by a “soup & roll lunch” – and money donations go to the Foodbank. This time the Lent Service will at Wonford on Weds. 3rd April; and any willing helper that day, please talk with Margretta this month.

Do attend any that you can at 12 noon -

Wed. 13th March	St.Michael's CofE, Church Lane, Heavitree.
Wed. 20th March	St.Lawrence's CofE, Lower Hill Barton Road.
Wed. 27th March	The Blessed Sacrament RC, Fore Street, Heavitree.
Wed. 3rd April	Wonford Methodist Church, Wonford.
Wed.10th April	United Reformed Church, Fore Street, Heavitree.

Margretta

Prayer Focus for March

Pray Without Ceasing!

During March we enter the season of Lent, beginning on the 6th. Most people find something to ‘give up for Lent’. I wonder if we should ‘take up’ something. There are schemes that encourage doing a good turn each day, a prayer for someone in a war torn Country or a Country affected by famine. Wonford usually has something available to help with this.

Also this month it is Mothering Sunday. Though a happy day for some and a chance to thank our mothers it can for some be distressing. Some may have lost their mother or are nursing them through illness. Some mothers may have lost their child. Others may have had a bad upbringing. Remember those people as well.

As always may I encourage you to pray for all our activities here at Wonford. Pray for those who will lead worship both in preaching & our music group. Remember those who will run Messy Church & Girls' Brigade and for those who will lead our Bible Study groups. Don't forget to pray for our stewards.

Pray for our Country as we near March 29th. Our politicians have some hard negotiating to do. Pray that the right & fair decisions will be made.

May I encourage you to pray this month for Zimbabwe, Venezuela and The Yemen this month and the work of Open Doors worldwide.

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

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.

Donations for Raffle and Bingo Prizes Please - REMINDER

As part of my role at work I am responsible for the activities at the care home and I regularly have games with prizes for the residents to win. We have a very small budget and I would appreciate donations so if you have any unwanted gifts or nearly new items that would be suitable for small prizes (eg. a teddy, scarf, set of handkerchiefs, photo frame, toiletries etc) then please let me have them and they will be put to good use. Some of the residents do not have family or friends that visit so to win a small prize can mean so much to them.

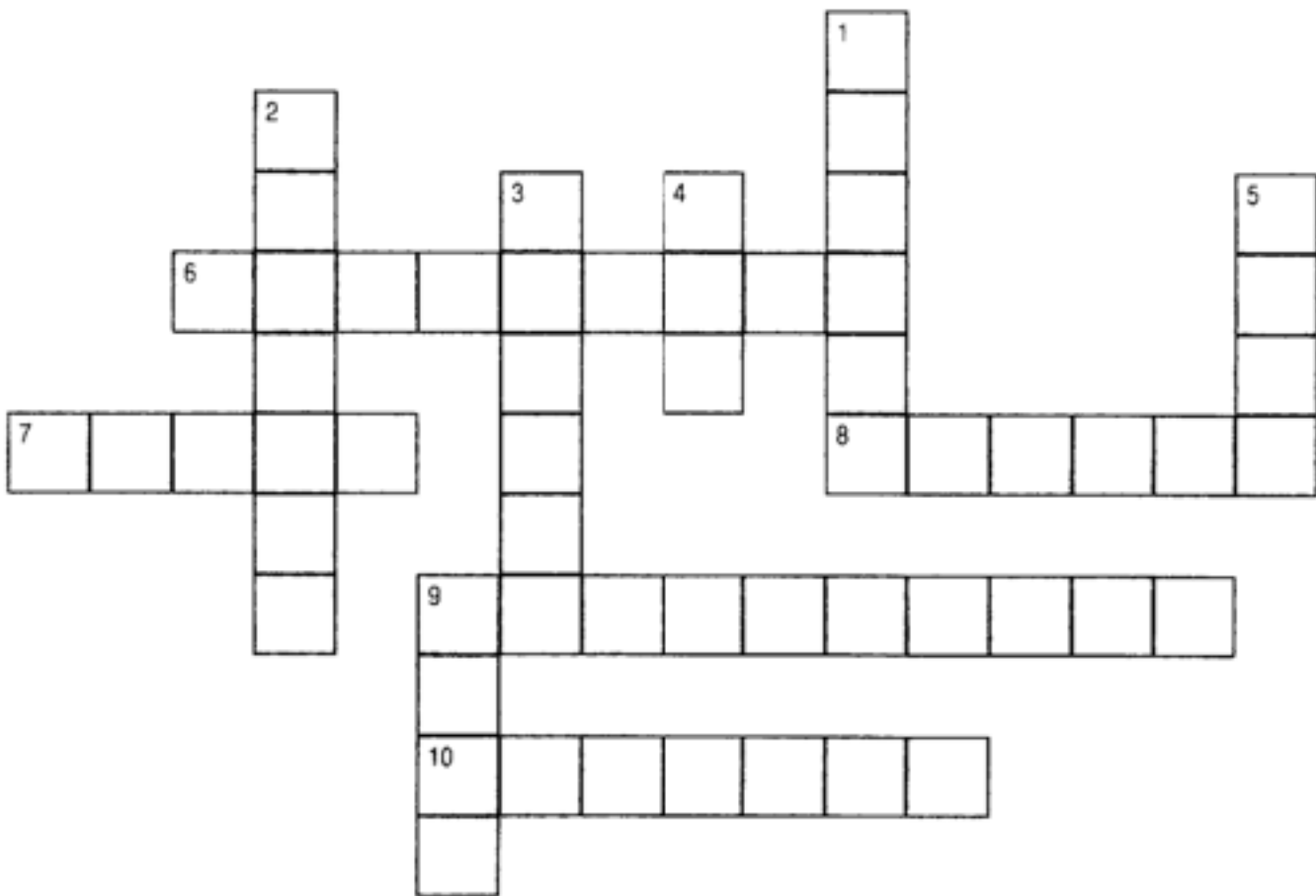
Thank you

Jenny Tregale



Elisha Crossword Puzzle

In March we move on in our themed preaching series to study 2 Kings and look at the prophet Elisha. To encourage you to start reading about Elisha try the crossword puzzle below.



ACROSS:

6. Elisha's master was taken to heaven by this (2 Kings 2:11).
7. Animals that ate the children who taunted Elisha (2 Kings 2:24).
8. Name of the Syrian captain who Elisha healed (2 Kings 5:1).
9. This woman and her husband prepared a special room in their house for Elisha (2 Kings 4:10-12).
10. Disease the captain of the Syrian army had (2 Kings 5:1). (Hint: Someone who has leprosy is called a "leper.")

DOWN:

1. Elisha used a mantle to part this body of water (2 Kings 2:13, 14).
2. Son of Ahab who ruled Israel (2 Kings 3:1).
3. Prophet who Elisha followed (2 Kings 2:2).
4. The widow filled every vessel she could find with this (2 Kings 4:6).
5. Elisha made an axe head of this material float (2 Kings 6:6).
9. Substance thrown into the water at Jericho (2 Kings 2:21).

Bible Word Search: Elijah vs. Ahab

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally.



Ahab, Asherah, Brook Cherith, Brook Kishon, Broom Tree, Burned up, Cake, Chariot, Drought, Dust, Earthquake, False gods, Fire, Forty Months, Hear Me, Jezebel, Jezreel, Obadiah, Prayer, Priests, Resurrected, Sacrifice, Seven Times, Silence, Stones, Tishbite, Twelve jars, Upper Room, Widow and son, Wilderness, Wind, Zarephath

Dates For Your Diary

March 2019

Fri 1st	11.00 a.m.	World Day of Prayer Service at URC, Southernhay 'Come Everything is Ready' prepared by the women of Slovenia. Tea / Coffee from 10.30am.
Sun 3rd		Cuttack District World Church Sunday
	10.00 a.m.	Karenza Cordery - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Julian Albrow - Sacrament Service
Sun 10th	10.00 a.m.	Clive Hughes - Themed Preaching 6 **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Alan Rothwell - Prayer & Praise
Wed 13th	12.00 p.m.	Lent Service & Lunch - St Michael's Church **
	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Meets - 18 Tuckfield Close **
Thu 14th	7.30 p.m.	Spring Pastoral Visitors' Meeting - Richard Gosney
Sun 17th	10.00 a.m.	John Allan - Themed Preaching 7 **
	6.30 p.m.	Steven Haddad - Café Church
Tue 19th	10.00 a.m.	The Roundabout Café meets (until 12pm)
	7.30 p.m.	Worship Team Meets
Wed 20th	12.00 p.m.	Lent Service & Lunch - St Lawrence's Church **
Thu 21st	2.00 p.m.	Minister's Home Group meets in the lounge **
	7.30 p.m.	Book Club meets
Sun 24th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Alan Rothwell - Themed Preaching 8 **
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church
Wed 27th	12.00 p.m.	Lent Service & Lunch - Blessed Sacrament RC Church **
	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Meets - 39 Meyer Court **
Sun 31st	10.00 a.m.	Tony Wragg - Themed Preaching 9 **
	6.30 p.m.	Ron Lurvey

Advance Notice - April 2019

Wed 3rd	12.00 p.m.	Lent Service & Lunch Wonford Methodist Church **
	7.30 p.m.	Circuit Meeting - Tedburn St Mary MC

**** 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 April 2019 Newsletter will be Sunday 17th March 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