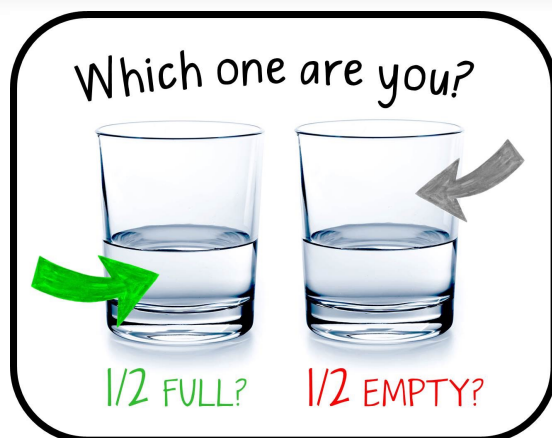


Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

May 2016
(No: 448)



Minister: Rev Bruce Sawyer (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

I wonder whether you are a “glass half-full” or a “glass half-empty person? We often describe someone who is pessimistic as being “a glass half-empty” person. The description rests on the assumption that someone notices what is missing, rather than what is there. It reinforces our association of emptiness as negative. If the shelves are empty, we go hungry. If the fuel tank is empty, we are going nowhere. We talk of running on empty when we have no energy, when we lack motivation, when we have nothing more to give. Rarely is the description of something as empty seen as something positive.

Yet at the heart of the gospel, of Christian faith, there is emptiness that we dare to proclaim as Good News! Mary goes to the tomb and it is empty. Not just partially empty – half-empty – but fully empty (well save for some linen cloth that Peter notices later!). Empty, because the one who was dead is alive. Empty because even rock cannot restrain the power of God. Empty because stone cannot contain the glory of God. Empty because the joy and grace of resurrection are unbounded, limitless and overflow into all the world.

The tomb is empty, and for once the emptiness is good news! It means that Jesus lives. It means that death ultimately is overcome. It means that whatever we have done, can do or will do to God, God gives himself back to us in love. It says that even in despair there is hope – we will not be separated from God.

Whether we are glass half full or glass half empty people, it seems to me that the call is for each of us to become empty tomb people; people who like Mary notice the emptiness of the tomb and allow that to transform them and to lead them to encounter that which is missing from the tomb: a risen, living, loving Saviour.

With every blessing,

Rev Bruce Sawyer

Dates For May

Flowers

1st	Margretta
8th	Alison
15th	Helen
22nd	Edith & Tutor
29th	Mandy



Coffee

1st	Sue Gosney
8th	Margretta
15th	Melanie
22nd	Elaine & Graham
29th	Sarah & Lisa



Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This group meets in the lounge at 2pm normally on the third Thursday each month. This month they are studying John Chapter 9 1-41. All are welcome and if you'd like to learn more, do speak with Bronwen or Clifford Maddicks.

19th 2.00 p.m. Bible Study in the lounge.

Tuesday Home Group

This month this group is continuing their study of 'The Parables'. For more information see Monika Noronha. New members always welcome.

3rd	7.30pm	Meeting at 20 Whipton Lane
17th	7.30pm	Meeting at 39 Meyer Court
31st	7.30pm	Meeting at 18 Tuckfield Close

Church Kneelers

The new church kneelers are almost ready for use. To help with costs, if you would like to sponsor one please get in touch with either Alison Howell or Lisa Thomas to find out how. A suggested sum of £10 per church kneeler will cover most of the cost of the materials bought to make them. It was not easy making the colour and pattern choices on your behalf, but we have enjoyed making them and we sincerely hope you like them.

Lisa Thomas

All Age Services

In May we will be starting an exciting new series for our All Age services. Over the course of about a year, we aim to tell the broad story of the Bible from Creation to the early Church (Genesis to Acts). As we journey through the year, we'll get an idea of how they all flow together (so it would be really good if we could try to come to them all, so there's no gaps in the story!). Each service will focus on a particular story within this larger story, and the idea is that the service will be shaped around that particular story – for example this means that we will pray and sing at appropriate points in the story, which might mean that things feel slightly different to usual.

But it will be deeply Biblical, because that's what this is about; exploring the story together. So I'd really like to encourage everyone to come to these services, even if you think All Age services aren't for you – part of being a family is about shared experiences, spending time together, supporting and encouraging other members and learning from them, even though we are all different and prefer different things. This isn't about doing something for children whilst adults look on – if there's an activity or response, it's for all; young or old – it's about journeying deeper into God's story, which is something we are all called to do. It is God's story that has brought us all together so it is right and good that we spend time exploring that together.

Rev Bruce Sawyer

Changes to Circuit Ministers

Some of you will know that Rev'd Beth McDowell has not been able to work full-time since October 2015 due to health concerns. Under medical advice, Beth has requested to change to part-time. This was agreed at the Circuit Meeting in March and means that from April, Beth will be working a 2/3 appointment (which includes a 1/3 drop in stipend). Her days of work will be Friday - Monday (inclusive).

Please pray for Beth (and her husband Phil) and Littlemead, Tower Street and Withycombe churches as they adapt to this new pattern of working.

You may know that as part of my probationer's studies I was working towards an MA in Theology and Transformative Practice. As a probationer I completed all the taught part of the MA. This year I have been trying to work on my dissertation, which is exploring some Biblical texts that might be particularly relevant for transgender persons. In consultation with the Superintendent it has been agreed that in order to complete this work, for the period April-July I will move my day off to Saturday and will reinstate a study day (which will usually be either a Monday or Friday). **Rev Bruce Sawyer**

The Depressed Cake Shop

Exeter

Wednesday 18th May 2016



The Depressed Cake Shop – breaking down the stigma around mental health one grey cake at a time.

One in four people will suffer from mental illness at some point in their lives. The Depressed Cake Shop provides a platform on which to start a conversation about mental health. We are doing this through the medium of grey cakes!

It all started in the summer of 2012. Miss Cakehead, a creative director and PR specialist in London, conceived the first Depressed Cake Shop as an awareness campaign as well as making some money for mental health charities. The concept was such a success that the project continued and pop-ups have been held around the UK, as well as in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Houston, Atlanta, Kuala Lumpur, Australia, India and Exeter!

On Wednesday 18th May, Exeter will be grey with cake. Many businesses and organisations have already signed up including: Cakeadoodledo, Lloyds Kitchen, Café Espresso, The Cathedral Café, The Glorious Art House, Plant Café, St Loye's Foundation, Princesshay, The Diocese of Exeter, Glenn Cosby (Great British Bake Off). This is not an exhaustive list as cafes, shops and organisations are coming on board all the time.

There are only two rules: the cakes must be grey and the money raised must go to a mental health charity of the baker's choice.

See further details on their Facebook page

The black dog imagery has been chosen as Winston Churchill famously referred to his own depression as his "black dog".

Where there is cake, there is hope. And there is always cake.

**For more information please contact Kate Shirazi:
mail@cakeadoodledo.co.uk**

Exeter FOODCYCLE

INTERESTED IN
HELPING OUT YOUR
COMMUNITY?

Join us

TO HELP TURN
UNWANTED SURPLUS FOOD
into

DELICIOUS MEALS
AT WONFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

To find out more email us at...
EXETER@FOODCYCLE.ORG.UK



EXETERFOODCYCLE



FOODCYCLEEXETER

FOODCYCLE.ORG.UK/EXETER

See Next Page for Further Information

Volunteering with Foodcycle, Exeter

Who Are We?

Foodcycle is a UK charity with 27 hubs around the UK – and this great initiative has now arrived in Exeter! We aim to tackle food poverty and social exclusion whilst reducing food waste. We've recently set up a new hub converting Exeter's surplus food into healthy three course meals for the community of Exeter. These weekly meals are based in Wonford Community Centre every Tuesday evening and we're looking for new volunteers to join our team! So if you're passionate about good food, reducing waste or enriching your community then come and get involved!

How Can You Volunteer?

Transport Team

The transport team is core for providing the food that will be served up in the evening. This role involves collecting Exeter's food surplus from our partners Exeter Food Action in Sidwell Street, Exeter and transporting it over to the Wonford Community centre for the cooking team. The transport team can consist of whichever mode of transport is most comfortable for you – bike, foot, unicycle. So if you would like to pick out our surplus ingredients and ensure their safe passage over to Wonford then please sign up with our transport team!

Cooking Team

Once the surplus has been diverted from the bin it arrives to our kitchen where the cooking team get their creative, foody juices flowing and design a nutritious three-course menu for the evening. With their ideas set, they get to work crafting a great meal for the community to share. Do you enjoy cooking, being creative with food or want to become more confident in the kitchen? Then please come and join our cooking team!

Hosting Team

Our all-important hosts fulfil the final piece in the Foodcycle puzzle! This involves welcoming our guests and serving up the delicious grub that has been produced. So if you love playing host and want to take on this key role in bringing the community together then please sign up to be a part of our hosting team!

Are you interested? Do you want to know more?

Please get in touch;

Visit our website: <http://my.foodcycle.org.uk/hub/exeter-hub>

Email us at: Exeter@foodcycle.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/exeterfoodcycle/>

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FoodCycleExeter>

Next Cafe Church at Wonford

An evening with Adam and Steph Sanders Featuring Conversation, Worship and Jazz Piano

*Come and enjoy a special evening with Adam and Steph
Make this event known as widely as possible*

Sunday May 29th 2016 at 6.30pm

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

What a really glorious Eastertide we had. The Walk of Witness on Good Friday enabled us to join in The Passion of our Lord. It is so lovely to join with our Christian brothers and sisters and all in a bustling Exeter.

The highlight for Sharon and I was Rocky from Newbury, I can hear you saying "What has Rocky to do with the Easter Story?" Well Rocky led Jesus into the Cathedral slowly, and didn't he bray when Jesus returned to Cathedral Green carrying the cross. He was right, how could we greet Jesus triumphantly as King one moment and reduce Jesus to a common criminal the next.

Then Easter Sunday gave us, at Wonford Church, the chance to celebrate Christ's Rising with the help of Alan Rothwell, Caroline Sawyer and the musicians, Jesus' Holy Spirit inspired us through testimony, through the eyes of Mary Magdalene and through the amazing transition of the Lenten Tears into an Easter Flower.

But I somehow feel we in Exeter have got things back to front!! For the City of Exeter and all those pilgrims who travelled here for the festival get to witness how well we killed the Son of God off, by nailing Him to the cross. On Easter Sunday the City is closed and dead on the very day the Easter Festival Begins. Whilst we Christians in Exeter meet and greet the risen Christ tucked away in our Churches.

It would be really lovely for us as Christians in Exeter to meet and greet the risen Christ on Easter Sunday together. In so doing, we would enable The Holy Spirit to shine in the city to all, on that glorious day. My prayer is that we could also be a powerful witness, next Easter, to Jesus Christ risen today.

Nick Goddard

Theme Preaching Series for Spring/Summer 2016

By the time you read this we shall be well into our latest theme series on the Epistles of Peter but I am listing the whole series so that you can see how it all hangs together. We hope that you enjoy and are challenged by these wonderful letters written to churches facing up to persecution in the first century. Isn't it great to think that one of Jesus original disciples can speak to us down the ages in this way? We are indebted to a few guest speakers joining us, in particular Mike Butterworth, Paul Smith and Adam Sanders.

Tony

May 1 - Evening

Being Ready to Reason Our Faith

1 Peter 3 v8 to end

Rev Bruce Sawyer

May 8 - Morning

Living for God

1 Peter 4 v1-11

Prof Tony Wragg

May 22 - Morning

Suffering and Humility

1 Peter 4 v12 to 5 v10

Rev Paul Smith

May 29 - Morning

Assuring Our Call and Election; Being Sure

2 Peter 1 v3-21

Adam Sanders

June 12 - Morning

Coping with False Teachers

2 Peter 2

Rev Bruce Sawyer

June 19 - Morning

Looking forward: The Day of the Lord: New Heaven, New Earth

2 Peter 3

Rev Alan Rothwell

Another Prayer Meeting Opportunity

A group of Christians from Exeter meet monthly on the third Thursday (11am) at St. Stephen's Church in the High Street Exeter. We pray in the chapel upstairs while the church is open for refreshments and we pray for our brothers and sisters in The Middle East using a map and candles, the session lasts about half an hour and can be followed by refreshments.. We began in Lent 2015 and it would be really lovely to have you join us, if you are able.

Nick Goddard

Girls' Brigade Summer Fair

Everyone is warmly invited to the Girls' Brigade Summer Fair on Monday 23rd May at 5.45pm in the Church Hall.

All profits to Action for Children. Donations for the cake stall and plant sale would be very welcome!

Helen



Prayer Focus for May

Jesus said, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:4,5 (NIV)

Week beginning Sunday 1st

Please pray for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit in both our personal and church life so that we may witness with renewed faith to the presence and power of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Week beginning Sunday 8th

Please pray for our ministers, lay preachers and those gifted to lead us in worship and praise. Also for those God has called and empowered to be evangelists and healers.

Week beginning Sunday 15th Pentecost

This Christian Aid Week please pray that God will continue to prosper the work of Christian Aid and all that they do in the poorest and most deprived areas of the world.

Pray also that people visiting the Devon County Show will be drawn to the Christianity tent where volunteers witness to the love of God in Jesus.

Thank God for His gift of the Holy Spirit, our comforter and helper, freely given to us all to guide, help and remind us of all that Jesus said:

'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' (Acts 2:4 NIV)

Week beginning Sunday 22nd

Please pray for our house groups, fellowships and prayer groups, that we will find a deeper love for Jesus as the Holy Spirit 'guides us into all truth' (John 16:13)

Thank God for John Wesley and his Aldersgate experience of being 'strangely warmed' by the Holy Spirit.

Week beginning Sunday 29th

Please pray for the groups in our church who 'open the doors' to serve the community through Mothers and Toddlers, Friday Fellowship, Roundabout Café, Girls' Brigade, Pastoral Visitors, Messy Church and Men's Coffee and Games morning. Pray also that we will listen and be guided by the Holy Spirit as to future direction.

Phone Prayer Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contacts are Michael or Judith Maher (01392 214789). 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 either Margretta Bowstead (437329) or Margaret Kearns (679949).

We would like to thank Beryl Violet for all the years she has faithfully been first point of contact and are very glad that she will continue on the Prayer Link.

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

News From The Methodist Church

Presidential Easter Messages

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have reminded people of the central Easter message of hope, passion and joy in the midst of despair.

Dr Jill Barber said: "This Easter we share Christ's tears for our world in all its pain. For children drowned fleeing from the unimaginable horrors of war. For unaccompanied children in the jungle at Calais, "The Easter message is one of ... life from death, love stronger than hate. At the moment of utter darkness, the light of the risen Christ breaks through."

The Revd Steven Wild added: "This Easter, with joy and love, may we all cry Hallelujah and encounter the risen Lord."

The Vice-President's Message:

The image that fills my mind this Easter is Jesus weeping over Jerusalem. Jesus longs to gather us as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but do we want to be saved? When we see the news, it seems we are set on a path to our own destruction.

Ann Carr, one of the early women preachers, was sent to Leeds as a missionary in 1821, to work among the very poor. The majority were women, migrants from the countryside, desperate to find work in the textile industry. Lonely and lost. Displaced from home and family. Young single women, 'fallen women', widows.

In seeking to share the good news, Ann found that the hymns of the time didn't use images that related to women's experience. With Martha Williams, she founded the Female Revivalist Methodists and produced their own hymn book, adapting the words of traditional hymns, and writing their own. They gave women a voice.

Seen through the eyes and hearts of the women who were first at the tomb on Sunday morning, I find some of the Easter hymns particularly moving. 'Bring the sweet spices of your sight, Your contrite hearts and streaming eyes, Your sad complaints and humble fears! Come, and embalm him with your tears.' 'Mary - know thy Saviour's voice, Hear it and reply, My Lord!' 'Happy Magdalene, to whom Christ the Lord vouchsafed to appear.' 'What a change his word can make, Turning darkness into day; Ye who weep for Jesu's sake, He will wipe your tears away.'

This Easter we share Christ's tears for our world in all its pain. For children drowned fleeing from the unimaginable horrors of war. For unaccompanied children in the jungle at Calais. For all those caught up in the bewildering cycle of seemingly endless violence, in which it is not even clear who is fighting whom. Amongst it all we rejoice in signs of hope.

I rejoice in a group of friends, calling themselves the Worldwide Tribe, who decided to go to Calais to stand alongside the migrants in the Jungle. 'They can use force, be inhumane and cruel ... We will respond with love. We will meet their ruthlessness with openness. We will accept their brutality with dignity ... We will stand in solidarity, as brothers and sisters of the world. We will peacefully and gracefully continue towards equality. We will work together, side by side, as one community of international citizens. Violence, fear and oppression will never win.'

The Easter message is one of hope in the midst of despair, life from death, love stronger than hate. At the moment of utter darkness, the light of the risen Christ breaks through. Love wins.

The President's Message:

After the Lenten fast, which with study and prayer has brought us closer to our Lord, we experience Holy Week with all the riches of the story so well known yet always fresh. As I've travelled, I'm thrilled that so many churches now make a Lenten cross out of the main trunk of the Christmas tree and decorate it with all the different symbols. There are so many resources to help us these days in our journey of discipleship.

But the glory of Easter is unsurpassed. The cry of all Christians to shout 'Hallelujah' is our birthright. We want and need more of the resurrection power and joy in the Church. Luke recording the early days of Christianity says of the first believers 'With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all' - Acts 4:33.

This time last year I had the great privilege of going to Portugal and being on a Holy Week mission with Bishop Sifredo and meeting our Methodist sisters and brothers in that beautiful country. We did many exciting outreach initiatives. On Easter Day I was at Aveiro Methodist Church, a thrilling place to be. We passed by a large Roman Catholic procession, children in white and the bright sun gleaming on the banners.

We Methodists are small in comparison, but each church member was invited to bring a person to Easter breakfast and the hall was full when I arrived and shared in a very hearty breakfast. The worship band and singers enabled us to worship in the glory of the risen Christ and I preached on Mary's encounter with the risen Lord - challenging the congregation to meet with him too. The silver chalices and beautiful loaf were uncovered on the table.

I had an interpreter and so my words could have been misunderstood, but I held half the bread and said: "If you want a living relationship with the risen Christ take and eat". At which point a blonde young woman got up in her pew walked down the aisle and dug into the bread weeping. She pushed the bread down her throat.

It's the strongest reaction I've ever known to someone wanting to encounter the triumphant Jesus.

A Methodist President and brilliant speaker of years past, the Revd Dr William Sangster, was found by his wife one Easter morning weeping. He had muscular atrophy and could not speak. She said: "Why are you crying Will?" He wrote on a piece of paper: 'It is Easter Day and I cannot say: "Hallelujah"'.
"

This Easter, with joy and love, may we all cry Hallelujah and encounter the risen Lord.



Ascension Day

May 5th 2016

Dates For Your Diary

May 2016

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Sacrament and 'Letters of Peter' Themed Preaching - 5 **
Tue 3rd	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane **
		5th May - National Day of Prayer for the Police
Thu 5th	7.30 p.m.	Ascension Day Service
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - 'Letters of Peter' Themed Preaching - 6 **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Beth McDowell
		Christian Aid Week - 15 to 21 May 2016
Sun 15th	6.30 a.m.	United Pentecost Prayer outside Cathedral and/or 5.30am Dawn Prayers from 5 Hill Tops
	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Pentecost Sacrament
	6.30 p.m.	Monika Noronha - Pentecost Prayer & Praise
Tue 17th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm)
	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 39 Meyer Court **
Wed 18th	6.00 p.m.	Pre-County Show Service at Westpoint
		19th - 21st May. Devon County Show at Westpoint
Thu 19th	2.00 p.m.	Monthly Bible Study in the lounge **
Sat 21st	8.30 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Breakfast
	7.00 p.m.	'Soul in the Machine - The Story of How YMCA Began' play at Belmont Chapel (Tickets - £10)
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Paul Smith - 'Letters of Peter' Themed Preaching - 7 **
	6.30 p.m.	Local Arrangements
Mon 23rd	5.45 p.m.	Girls' Brigade Summer Fair **
Sun 29th	10.00 a.m.	Adam Sanders - 'Letters of Peter' Themed Preaching - 8 **
	6.30 p.m.	Café Church - Adam & Steph Sanders **
Tue 31st	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 18 Tuckfield Close **

**** 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 (33 Matford Ave)
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***
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 June 2016 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th May 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