

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

May 2017

(No: 458)

John 15:5

I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. IF
YOU REMAIN IN ME AND I IN YOU, YOU
WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT; APART FROM ME
YOU CAN DO NOTHING

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,

"April showers bring May flowers", or so the saying goes. Except this year it doesn't feel as though that rings true – as I write I can't remember the last time it rained. It seems to have been dry for the whole of April, and not just dry, but sunny!

I was struck by the effects of this the other day whilst out walking on Dartmoor. The grass was not just brown, but closer to beige – dried out by the lack of rain, and perhaps bleached by the sun. It was so dry that there was a crisp, crunching sound as I walked across it, the grass lying flat and broken behind me as I strode on. Even the mosses had dried out, becoming brittle and crumbling apart when my feet brushed past.

As I continued walking, I began to notice how much easier it was than normal. My feet weren't being sucked into the ground, I didn't have to pick them up as high, and they weren't getting progressively heavier from boots becoming soaked in water.

Often when I walk, I find myself praying, or pondering passages of scripture that come to mind – I find it easy to connect with the Creator when surrounded by the vastness and beauty of creation. On this occasion, as I reflected on the comparative ease of walking over dry ground, I found myself wondering about those times when we feel spiritually dry; God seems distant, the journey of faith too hard, the challenges around too great (which in my own life are often times associated with tiredness and busyness when I haven't taken time to stop and simply be with God). During these times, like the pale brown grass, how much easier does it become for others to walk over us? For something, or someone, other than God to be allowed to shape us (a metaphorical foot stamping down on us and leaving us crushed)? Like the dried out moss, we become fragile and brittle, easily broken.

And as I made these connections, I remembered some of Jesus' words to his disciples on the night he was betrayed; "Remain in me" (John 15:4). With these words Jesus compares his disciples to branches and himself to a vine. One of the things that the vine does is to bring water to the branches and Jesus had already spoken of himself as being living water, a spring gushing up to eternal life (John 4:10, 14). Jesus knows that for him, and for his disciples, there will be tough times ahead. If they are not to dry out and become crushed or brittle, they need to stay connected to Jesus, to be faithful to God, to keep walking in his ways (John 15:10); to remain in him. For in him, comes the living water.

**With every blessing,
Bruce**

Dates For May

Coffee

7th	Sarah & Steve
14th	Pauline & Fran
21st	Jenny T & Helen
28th	Paul H



Flowers

7th	Jenny H
14th	TBA
21st	Mandy
28th	Barbara J



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 continuing their study of The Beatitudes.



18th 2.00 p.m. Bible Study in the lounge.

Tuesday Home Group

This group are following the study of the book of Ruth, recently undertaken by the Away group. Dates of the meetings in May are shown below. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to come along. Seriously! This could be just the right kind of group for you! Give us a try.

Monika Noronha

9th	7.30pm	At The Manse - 20 Whipton Lane
23rd	7.30pm	At The Manse - 20 Whipton Lane

Girls' Brigade Cake Stall - Advance Notice

Girls Brigade are having a cake stall at Wonford Community Day on Saturday 10th June. Any contributions of cakes would be very much appreciated!

Please contact Helen or Monika.



Help With Decorating The Church Fence

We would really like to decorate the church fence for Pentecost and leave it up as our contribution to Wonford in Bloom for this year. However, Pentecost falls at Half Term and a number of people are away at this time. If your church group (or any other affiliated group) would like to contribute by completing a panel with a dove and some 'tongues of fire' then PLEASE get in touch. Your panel could be completed before the Half Term break if need be. It would be great if we could all work on this together. Also, just imagine what impact it could have on all those voters visiting our hall on Election Day (June 8th)!

Monika Noronha

Wedding Bells

Friends old and new have been getting hitched over Easter. Our old friends the Gilborsons had the joy of seeing India married to Ben in Bath, where they both teach. New friends Robert and Jenny also tied the knot in Edinburgh over the holiday period. As a church we offer our congratulations and very best wishes to both happy couples. May God really bless your married lives together.



New Church Directory

We are shortly planning to begin work on a revision of the church directory. Please let Andrew or Tony know of any deletions, additions, alterations, etc. There will be a significant number of people to add to the Directory which is for "Members and Friends" of Wonford Methodist Church. Andrew will be supplying a large print version for folk to make additions and changes. Watch out for its appearance over the next few weeks and check your entry carefully.

Tony Wragg

Tree-planting at Wonford, Exeter

During 5th February around twenty of us gathered from different faith traditions to plant 250 young trees in the Ludwell Valley Park in Exeter. Young Moslems joined with Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, and others in this shared symbolic action to demonstrate unity with one another and with the Earth.

Many of us had not planted trees before and what was felt to be a daunting prospect turned into a delightful experience. We dug in our own plants – all native species such as hollies, oaks, alder buckthorn, hazel and hawthorn – and also shared in planting a maple together.

The intense planting should allow for some losses but will hopefully result in a small area of woodland that will enhance the biodiversity of the park, as well as providing shade, shelter and sustenance for the future.

As one participant said, “there is something very healthy about being in direct contact with nature through the soil and the shared activity of planting”.

Exeter City Council ranger Chris Moulton guided us in our exercise and we are most grateful to him and the support he gave us – as well as the spades and saplings!

The day was interspersed with periods of silence, reflection and diverse prayers, and was concluded by Richard Dealler’s inspiring reading of ‘The Man Who Planted Trees’ by Jean Giono..

Dear God

We pray for balance and exchange. Balance us like trees. As the roots of a tree shall equal its branches so must the inner life be equal to the outer life. And as the leaves shall nourish the roots so shall the roots give nourishment to the leaves. Without equality and exchange of nourishment there can be no growth and no love.

AMEN.



What's the best gift God could give you?

***Tuesdays, 7.30pm – 9.00pm (25th April – 13th June)
The Lounge, Wonford Methodist Church***

Life Explored is an informal and relaxed course for anyone who wants to find contentment and happiness in life. Over seven weeks the course will explore the Bible story (creation, fall, redemption, new creation) as follows:

25th April – The Good God
2nd May – The Trustworthy God
9th May – The Generous God
16th May – The Liberating God
23rd May – The Fulfilling God
6th June – The Life-Giving God
13th June – The Joyful God

The course features a combination of short films and Bible interaction and will begin with a selection of desserts! You don't need to know anything about the Bible, and you won't be asked to sing or pray. You can ask any question you like, or you can just sit and listen. Whoever you are, whatever you're thinking, Life Explored is a place for you to discover the greatest gift in the universe.

The course will be led by Bruce Sawyer, John & Ann Nicholson, Alan Rothwell and Joan & Tony Wragg – please speak with one of us if you are interested in coming or to find out more.

Just Living Conference

A day conference on living justly in the world today, for people of all faiths and no faith.

*"And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
(Micah 6:8 NIV)*

Organised by Temple Methodist Church, Taunton and the DMLN of the Methodist Church.

Saturday 3 June 2017
Temple Methodist Church
Upper High Street, Taunton TA1 3PY

You're welcome to join us for all or some of the day. There will be tea and coffee provided throughout the day, with more to be added.

Including a keynote address on Justice, Faith and Action - Dr Daleep Mukarji OBE, former Director, Christian Aid.

With workshops on:

- Welcoming the Stranger with Rev Inderjit Bhogal (former President of the Methodist Church)
- Human Sexuality with Dr Susannah Cornwall
- Sustaining the Earth
- Renewing Politics/Community Action
- Peace and War
- Benefit Sanctions

The Quaker Tapestry exhibition will also be open for the day.

To book a free ticket, please follow the link below...

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/just-living-conference-tickets-31384836892>





Mint Methodist Church

"Alive with Christ in the Community"

Fore Street, Exeter EX4 3AT



CHURCH CENTRE FACILITATOR

We are looking for a creative person with energy and drive who is able to welcome people and initiate activities in this city centre church, which has substantial premises hosting a large number of varied groups and activities throughout the week. It is an exciting new role which has been designed for a person who will work with the Minister and other team members in exploring and developing further opportunities to engage with all the users of the premises.

You will be able to demonstrate that you have:

- good interpersonal skills and the ability to interact sensitively with a diverse range of individuals .
- proven organisational skills and experience;
- effective communication skills;
- a good level of computer skills
- sympathy with the ethos, mission and aims of the Mint Methodist Church;

This is a full time post – 40 hours per week. Salary £19,177 per annum, and will be subject to a probationary period.

Enquirers should either phone: The Senior Steward on 01626 853117 or
Email: mint.exeter.app@gmail.com for further information and an application form.

Applications should be received by **9.30 a.m. on the 15th May 2017**
Interviews will take place on **Monday 22nd May**

East Africa Famine Appeal: Hope in the midst of despair

More than £340,000 has been given in response to the East Africa Famine Appeal, launched at the end of February by All We Can and the World Church Relationships Team of the Methodist Church in Britain.

The call to donate to the urgent appeal to help avert famine in countries on the verge of disaster has been met with a generous wave of giving from Methodist Churches and individuals across the world.

All We Can Chief Executive, Maurice Adams said, “The response so far to the East Africa Famine Appeal has been remarkable and humbling. Such an extraordinary



response is required because of the extraordinary calamity we are witnessing. The need is vast, and the resources required to tackle this ongoing emergency continues to be immense.

“All We Can is working tirelessly to distribute this funding to those most at risk. We are very thankful for the generosity of churches and individuals knowing that many communities have come together to raise money to help their neighbours in East Africa and Yemen. Collectively, we have already done so much but I encourage those who can, to continue to give, to continue to respond, to continue to do all they can for those living under the terrible shadow of famine.”

A grim picture of human misery is mirrored across much of East Africa, where conflict, economic crises, drought and poor governance has resulted in the worst humanitarian catastrophe since the formation of the United Nations.

In South Sudan, some 100,000 people are already in a state of famine in the counties of Leer and Mayendit, and another one million are at risk of sliding into famine in the coming months.

The situation is so bad that many, like Akuch Kon, have been forced to eat bitter wild leaves in order to survive. She, like thousands of others, left her home, fleeing hunger, in the hope of refuge in Sudan. She was stopped from crossing the border and now camps out under the trees in Rumading, a village in South Sudan’s Lol State, scavenging for what little she can find. The barely edible wild foods that families like Kon’s have been forced to eat have limited nutritional value and people are literally starving to death as

they try and find food to eat.

The money raised so far through the East Africa Famine Appeal has been given to ongoing work in South Sudan that focuses on providing nutritional treatment to severely malnourished people and for the distribution of food aid to the most vulnerable families.



Families including Kon's were given life-saving provisions of sorghum, beans and cooking oil by one of All We Can's humanitarian aid partners. These supplies of food are essential in staving off the threat of acute malnutrition.

In Somalia, Yemen, Ethiopia and Burundi All We Can's partners report many of the same scenes of desperation and despair.

"However, donations made to the East Africa Famine Appeal are already making a significant difference. Lives are being saved."

In Yemen, the delivery of aid is extremely challenging but All We Can is able to distribute food to some of the neediest families in the country through its dedicated humanitarian aid partner. These provisions are vital in a situation where almost one in four people are severely food insecure. The rate of child malnutrition in the country is one of the highest in the world.

In Somalia, All We Can is working through its partner to deliver nutritional support and care. Donations made to the appeal that have gone to the response in Somalia are supporting a comprehensive malnutrition treatment programme that nourishes and saves the lives of young children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.

In Ethiopia and Burundi, All We Can is working with its long-term partners to identify the best ways to protect and prepare communities who are at threat of continued food insecurity.

The need is vast - and The Methodist Church in Britain continue to urge people to respond quickly, generously, and collectively to this catastrophic situation by supporting the appeal being managed by All We Can.

To support the East Africa Famine Appeal visit www.allwecan.org.uk/famine



@ Wonford

"Messy Church" is a place for people of all ages to enjoy sharing time together and exploring stories from the Bible.

It includes times of craft and messy activities, stories, songs and sharing a meal together.

4-6pm once a month on a Sunday at
Wonford Methodist Church.

Dates and themes:

29th January – Love God

26th February – Love your neighbour

26th March – Love your world

30th April – Easter Celebration

28th May – The Church's Birthday!

25th June – Making a difference

Prayer Focus for May

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

(Luke 6:38 NIV)

Week beginning Sunday 7th

Please pray that God's blessings will continue to flow through the giving of our time and energy to further His work through the fellowship of His church. Thank God for the many blessings given to us through other people's kindness and generosity of spirit.

Week beginning Sunday 14th Christian Aid

Today sees the start of Christian Aid Week with the opportunity to prayerfully give of our finances to help those who have nothing. Pray that the Lord will encourage generous hearts at this time of year.

Pray also for Ann and John Nicholson as they highlight the work of 'Compassion' this evening – an organisation dedicated to giving support to children in poverty through sponsorship and communication.

Thank God for all the money given through our Easter offering which will be dedicated to God's work at Temple Church, Budleigh Salterton on Wednesday.

Week beginning Sunday 21st

Please pray for Rev Alan Rothwell and Tony Wragg as they share leadership of Silverton MC until a new minister is appointed.

Pray also for those who find Jesus' resurrection from death and ascension to Heaven to be a 'stumbling block' and ask that God might release His gift of faith...opening their eyes and hearts to the truth of the Bible.

Week beginning Sunday 28th

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to prompt and encourage us to use our skills and God-given talents to build up and prosper the life of His church, here at Wonford.

Thank God for His gift of faith – enabling us to witness to His great love and saving grace.

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).

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

President & Vice-President Easter Message

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Dr Roger Walton and Ms Rachel Lampard MBE, speak about confidence, suffering and hope in this year's Easter Message.

"...Do we sometimes race over the reflection of holy week and the pain of Good Friday, in order to reach the joy of Easter?..."

"...The Christian vocation means feeling and facing the suffering and injustice of the world, alongside God, until new creation is complete. Staying with suffering and tackling injustice is no easy option but is where Christian confidence takes us..."

The full text can be found on the Methodist Church website.

Bible Month: 30 days with James

In June 2017, the Methodist Church is encouraging churches and circuits across the Connexion to run a Bible Month, 30 days focused on the letter of James.

James encourages Christians to live out their faith as well as to confess it. It is a reminder that faith without works is dead, and so encourages us to love God and neighbour in deed as well as in word.

BIBLE
MONTH **2017**
30 days with James
— #BibleMonth —

The month will involve two key elements:

- Preachers preparing and preaching a series of sermons on James over the four Sundays of June.
- Small group leaders running a Bible Month group that focuses on James, but which also helps those attending engage the Bible in fresh and innovative ways.

By focusing on a single book, the aim of the Bible Month is to help all in church engage more deeply with Scripture. A pilot project showed that the Bible Month model can be effective in raising biblical literacy, and the majority of those who took part were keen to hold another Bible Month in the future!

For more information and resources can be found on the Methodist Church website.

Churches Challenge ‘Dubs’ Suspension

A joint letter has been sent to the Home Secretary from the leaders of five Churches, including the Methodist Church, on changes to the policy on child refugees. The letter expresses concern at the government's recent announcement that it intends to suspend the safe resettlement of unaccompanied minors seeking refuge in the United Kingdom.

The Revd Dr Roger Walton, President of the Methodist Conference, commented: “It is not a question of the management of resources, but rather a matter of political will. The way that we treat the most vulnerable is a sign of what we aspire to be as a society.”

Connecting Disciples: 9-11 June 2017, Cliff College

Booking for new 9-11 June 2017 conference at Cliff College is now open. This is in addition to the conference taking place from March 6-9.

Connecting Disciples is the annual Methodist conference for all lay employees and children and youth workers whatever their role. It offers a chance for training, development, fellowship and community through workshops, worship, Bibles studies, prayer groups and networking. The theme for the event is ‘Be the change – Holiness and Justice’.

Find out more information (including booking) see the Methodist Church website.

Dates For Your Diary

May 2017

Tue 2nd	7.30 p.m.	'Life Explored' Course - 2 **
Fri 5th	10.30 a.m.	'The Missional Conversation' at The Mint MC **
Sun 7th	10.00 a.m.	Hannah Richards - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Julian Albrow - Sacrament Service
Tue 9th	7.30 p.m.	'Life Explored' Course - 3 **
	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meeting at 20 Whipton Lane **
Sat 13th		Wonford Green Surgery Garden Day **
14-20 May - Christian Aid Week		
Sun 14th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Sacrament Service
	6.30 p.m.	Prayer & Praise - Ann & John Nicholson talk about 'Compassion in Kenya'
Tue 16th	10.00a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
	7.30 p.m.	'Life Explored' Course - 4
Wed 17th	2.30 p.m.	Easter Offering Dedication Service at Temple MC, Budleigh Salterton
Thu 18th	2.00 p.m.	Monthly Bible Study in the lounge **
Sat 20th	8.30 a.m.	Monthly Prayers & Coffee
Aldersgate Sunday		
Sun 21st	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Steve Santry & Rev Paul Collings - Circuit Service at Topsham MC to celebrate their 150th Anniversary
Tue 23rd	7.30 p.m.	'Life Explored' Course - 5 **
	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane **
25 May to 4 June - Thy Kingdom Come - Global Wave of Prayer		
Thu 25th	6.30 p.m.	Ascension Day Service led by Rev Alan Rothwell & Mandy Denton
Sun 28th	10.00 a.m.	Pamela Murphy
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church - The Church's Birthday **

**** 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
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 Prayers & Coffee *(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 2017 Newsletter will be Sunday 14th May 2017. 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