

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

November 2016

(No: 453)



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,

Last month, I explored something of the President of Conference's theme for the year of holiness. This month I want to explore something of the theme of the Vice-President, Rachel Lampard; justice.

Just like with holiness, Rachel argues that justice is part of our Methodist DNA; "Methodists do things, we get stuck in. We see things are not right, and we act because we are responding to people who are created in God's image."

Rachel is also keen to argue that holiness and justice are not polar opposites; "the holy huddle versus the activist justice-seeker - but they are inescapably intertwined. It's not a matter of loving God first and then as an outcome loving our neighbour: it's less linear and more circular. Responding to God's love for us, seeing the sacredness of creation because God loves it, we love God and love our neighbour. In loving our neighbour, and seeking justice for them, our love for God finds concrete expression, is enriched, and we find a closeness with God. Because God has commanded us to walk with God 'in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice'. And it is that closeness, that drawing nearer to the being of God that is holiness. The inner and the outer manifestations of God's love cannot be separated or take place sequentially."

Rachel then asks a couple of searching questions; "I wonder if we as Church sometimes struggle with the urge to fix people, to sort them out, rather than be a church of the poor? [Something that Pope Francis has recently been encouraging] How much does this relate to our desire to be the host of every party? Hospitality is a good thing. We can give freely, we can share what God has given to us, often sacrificially, to others who have need of it. But being the host also puts us in a place of control. Our house, our rules. My bat, my ball. Do we really know and understand what it costs sometimes for people to step over the threshold, accept our hospitality, our agenda? What would it mean for us to become guests instead? To receive rather than to be in a position of power, where we assume we only need to give? What does doing justice look like when we put ourselves into the hands of others?"

These are questions that resonate with my experience with chaplaincy, where I am a guest in someone else's space, and often there might be very little I can do to 'fix' a situation, other than listen, and pray. Whilst this does challenge my assumed way of thinking and acting, and can be quite unsettling, I have also learnt that it can be powerful and transformative, both for me and the one to whom I am listening. This seems to be at the heart of what Rachel wants to

encourage, that to seek justice we first need to understand the situation by listening to those who face injustice, and then to work with and alongside them in pursuing justice. We need to work for a world in which all voices can be heard and respected, and to do that, we might need to realise that it is we who first need to stop, and create space for the other.

Rachel believes that such an understanding of justice means that churches will be a place where more people want to be, and where more will be able to respond to God's call. However, she also cautions that "A commitment to justice and holiness changes us and will change the Church, if we have the courage. The courage to be a guest at the party, instead of the host. The courage first to listen instead of speak, to first ask why instead of rushing to offer solutions. But then together to speak and act boldly. The courage together to join in the mission of God that he invites us to share. And we do it all in the knowledge that, by God's grace, anything can be possible."

I wonder, do we, individually and collectively, have the courage to act in this way?

With every blessing,

Bruce

Dates For November

Flowers

6th	Lisa T
13th	Julie & Alan
20th	Eileen
27th	Bronwen & Clifford



Coffee

6th	Ruth & Jenny T
13th	Sue G & Lisa
20th	Elaine & Graham
27th	Linda & Margretta



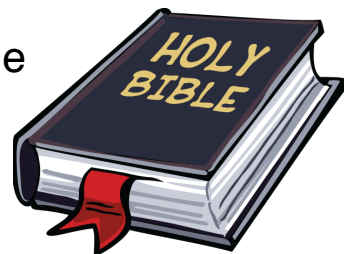
STOP PRESS - Congratulations Lisa Thomas!!

Congratulations to Lisa Thomas for completing the Great West Run. She would like to say a huge thank you to all those who have so very generously supported her and encouraged her in her plan to run the Great West Run on Sunday 16th October in aid of Dream-a-Way and Maggie's special holiday. She is still calculating how much we she has raised.

Thank You! from Lisa Thomas

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.

Tuesday Home Group

A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to join us. We enjoy looking at the Bible together and we have fun with it too. We try to make it as relevant as possible to our daily lives while also enjoying the time we spend together. Please speak to Monika if you would like to come and join us! New members always welcome.

1st	7.30pm	18 Tuckfield Close - 'The Pharisee and the Tax Collector' led by Bill Noronha
15th	7.30pm	20 Whipton Lane - 'The Parable of the Rich Fool'
29th	7.30pm	20 Whipton Lane - 'The Rich Man and Lazarus'

Advance Notice - the Tuesday Home Group Christmas Party is on Tuesday 6th December at 7.30pm at The Manse - 20 Whipton Lane. This will be a 'bring & share' supper.

Coffee Morning and Fence Decorating!

Please come and join us to help create our Christmas fence decoration on Saturday 19th November at 10am.

The monthly prayer breakfast will take place as usual at 8.30am.

Coffee, tea and cakes available from 10am. This event will be open to the public and will be an opportunity to invite the community to come and see what we are doing. Offers of cakes and biscuits will be most welcome.

Monika

Advance Notice - Girls' Brigade Christingle

This is on Monday December 5th at 6pm. Please put the date in your diaries.

Further details to follow in Church Notices and December Contact.



Barn Dance

Sidwell Street Methodist Church

Saturday 12th November 7.30pm

In aid of World Missions

Light refreshments provided



Tickets £6

Contact Sally McClelland 01392 214950



Service of Remembrance

**A short, quiet service of reflection and prayer
for anyone who would like to remember a loved one.**

Sunday 20th November 2016

6.30pm

Wonford Methodist Church

The Marriage Sessions: *CHERISH*

An opportunity to invest in, and enrich, your relationship.

Explore:

- How to really value your partner
- How to best express love for each other
- How to keep love alive over the long haul

Wed 30th Nov

7.30pm –

9.30pm

Wonford

Methodist Church



The Marriage Sessions is an evening for couples. It aims to create space for you and your partner to:

- Spend time together
- listen and talk to one another
- reflect on insights from real-life couples & relationship specialists
- Enjoy each other's company and a selection of desserts!

This is an evening just for the two of you – there is no group discussion or need to share anything with anyone other than your partner.

Attending the evening does not mean something is wrong in your relationship – all relationships can grow and be even healthier with care and attention.

There is no charge for the event (though donations are welcome) and no need to book – simply come along.

For more information, please contact Rev'd Bruce Sawyer

(01392 256716 / bruce.sawyer@methodist.org.uk)

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk

This event is based on material provided by:



Themed Preaching Series on Hebrews

We started a new themed preaching series in September on Hebrews. Below are the dates and themes for November. All dates are for morning worship at 10am.

Nov 13th

Living for Jesus Hebrews 13 vv1-17

Dr Cherryl Hunt

Nov 20th

Final Prayer and Blessing Hebrews 13 v18 to end Rev Terry Spencer

Vacancy for Exeter FoodBank Manager

Exeter FoodBank are currently seeking a permanent, part time, Manager (for up to 20 hours per week) to join them at an exciting time in its development. This is a rewarding and challenging role, with responsibility for the effective day to day running of the Foodbank and implementing the strategic vision of the charity.

Further details on their website:

<https://exeter.foodbank.org.uk/2016/10/12/efb-is-looking-for-a-part-time-manager/>

Exeter City Chaplaincy Update

Our three newly commissioned chaplains are now fully operational covering Sidwell Street, a number of Estate Agents and a cluster of city centre shops.

Two of our chaplains spent a day in August being recorded and filmed for a slot on BBC Radio Devon and a feature on BBC Spotlight.

David Hastings, is our new administrator, replacing the invaluable Mary Ellis. David reports that for the June to August (a typical quarter) the chaplains visited 213 retail premises and held almost 700 conversations.

In addition to week by week contacts some of our chaplains are relaying constructive suggestions and mutual concerns about shop-door sleepers on the Cathedral Green and in Sidwell Street.

Following a recruitment programme in the Exeter congregations across the Sundays of October, and interviews in November, we will be running our new training programme in January and February.

Our popular Carol Event in St. Stephens is on Thursday 15 December. Thank you to all for your support and interest. Please continue to pray for all of us within the Chaplaincy. We are, as ever, deeply grateful for the regular grants and donations we receive from the Exeter Christian churches and fellowships, without which our work could not continue.

Operation Christmas Child

It is time again to join the world's largest children's Christmas project. Through Operation Christmas Child, show God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and partner with local churches worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Each child receives a shoebox as an unconditional gift of love, based on need, regardless of their background or religion.



HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOEBOX

1. Get an empty medium sized shoebox, wrap the box & lid separately in decorative paper.
2. Decide if your gift is for a boy or a girl (aged 2-4 or 5-9 or 10-14) and attach the appropriate label on the outside of the lid (leaflets available in church hall).
3. Fill your shoebox with a variety of new gifts that a child will love. Why not add a personal note and photo, and you may also like to pray for the child who will receive your box.
4. Include a £3 shipping donation for each shoebox you fill or make this payment online.

Please fill your box with a selection from the following or similar items. All items should be new.

TOYS - Include a toy that a child can love like a doll or a cuddly toy (with CE label), toy truck, skipping rope, yoyo, ball, small puzzle, musical instruments, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES - Pens, colouring pencils, sharpener & eraser, crayons or felt pens, stamp & ink pad sets, notebooks and paper, colouring & picture books, solar calculators etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS - Toothbrush, toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, flannel, comb or brush, etc.

OTHER ITEMS - Hat, cap, gloves, scarf, sunglasses (with UV rating), hair accessories, wind-up torch, jewellery set, wrapped sweets (with best before date of at least March 2017).

You could also include a ***PERSONAL NOTE AND PHOTO*** of you and your family/group.

DO NOT INCLUDE used or damaged items; clothing other than that listed above; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; seeds; chocolate or food items; lotions or liquids including bubbles; medicines; hand-made stuffed toys; playing cards of the 4 suit variety; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; sharp or fragile items; books with mainly words

Finally, secure your shoebox with an elastic band and take it to church by 20th November please.

Thank You - Sue Keatt



Traidcraft FABULOUS Pre-Christmas Coffee Morning

This takes place on Saturday 12th November from 10:00 - 11:30am at St Thomas Methodist Church

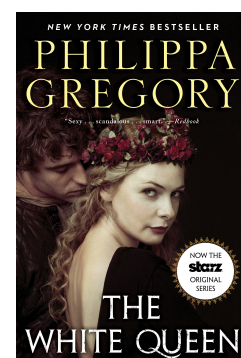
Traidcraft tea, coffee and hot chocolate, Home-baking stall and the Traidcraft SHOP will be open + craft items, Christmas items and cards for all occasions. ORDERS may still be placed from the Autumn/Winter catalogue. We look forward to seeing lots of you there to browse and buy.

Janet Lee

Wonford Worms

Our Book Club meets about every 6-8 weeks, giving us time to read the book borrowed from the Library. This time it is Philippa Gregory's 'The White Queen', and I have copies to lend you, if you are interested in joining us on Thursday 24th November at 7.30pm – just ask me for one. We meet in the church lounge and enjoy discussing what we've read. New members are always welcome.

Gary Lord (email: the@lords.wanadoo.co.uk or Tel: 01392-272487)



Penny Pot and Hunger Lunch

I have recently been able to send two cheques to David, our treasurer, representing proceeds from our Penny Pot and the Hunger Lunch that we had on Harvest Festival day. So far £37 will be going to the Bible Society to help with the provision of Scriptures for spiritually hungry Christians in distant parts of our world and £130 will be going to TEAR Fund to support relief work in drought hit parts of Africa. A small request that the latter amount go to a project in Zimbabwe, or failing that, in Malawi or Chad. So thank you all for continuing to support the Lord's work amongst the struggling and disadvantaged in our world. It is massively appreciated.

There is a rumour that the 1p is to disappear shortly so perhaps we should rename the Penny Pot the Cash Pot. You can always feel free to throw in the bigger denominations - we don't really miss our 5s and 10s do we? Keep the cash flowing. Thank you all.

Tony

News From The Methodist Church

Hurricane Matthew Hits Haiti

Hurricane Matthew hit the west coast of Haiti on Tuesday 5 October with devastating effect, leaving hundreds dead and thousands displaced.

The BBC reported that at least 10,000 people were in shelters along with reports of overcrowded hospitals and shortages of fresh water. The storm knocked down communications and blocked roads, hampering emergency efforts.

British Methodist Mission Partners in Haiti, John and Sharon Harbottle have managed to get a couple of emails through to us. They say: "Many areas of Port-au-Prince have suffered from extensive flooding, and the water pouring out of the mountains is likely to continue to increase for a day or two yet as it is still raining.

"Roofs have been blown off many homes and many people are in refuge centres. We understand that the authorities tried to clear people from the areas most at risk before the hurricane arrived, and everyone received text messages on their mobile phones giving guidance.

"The situation further to the west, where the centre of the hurricane made landfall, a little to the west of Les Cayes, is much worse. A few reports have been received from there indicating the town has had significant flooding, damage to buildings and trees are down.

"We have not been able to make contact with folk in that area nor in the Jeremie area, and we have now heard that one of the bridges on the main road from Port au Prince to the west has been washed away so there is no road access to the worst hit parts of the southern peninsula.

An emergency fund is now open to support the Methodist Church in Haiti as it helps in rebuilding communities in the hurricane-affected areas. Donations can be made online, or by cheque or bank transfer. More details are available on the Methodist Church website.

"Please continue to pray for the country and especially those in the areas closer to the central track of the hurricane."

A Prayer for Peace

Please join us in praying for Haiti and the communities affected by this devastating crisis.

Jesus, we see you calming storms-
storm tossed seas and stormy lives.
Extend your power and grace again,
especially upon these most recent storm victims.

Speak peace and healing over bodies and spirits broken by the chaos.

Jesus, speak peace. *Silence*

Speak peace and hope over families and communities devastated by sudden loss.

Jesus, speak peace. *Silence*

Speak peace and unity over diverse groups of people
so they would come together for greater provision,
just distribution, and effective rebuilding.

Jesus, speak peace. *Silence*

Speak peace and protection over rescue workers
as they reach out to those who are suffering.

Jesus, speak peace. *Silence*

You are the Prince of Peace.
You are the Resurrection and the Life.
You are strong to save.
Our hope and trust are in you. **Amen.**

Prayer Focus for November

**"Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."**

Psalm 46:10 (RSV)

Week beginning Sunday 6th

Please pray for those who suffer disabilities in body or mind.

Thank God for those who will be coming to the 'Celebrate Together' service this afternoon and for the special abilities and giftings He has given to each of these precious people.

Week beginning Sunday 13th - Remembrance Sunday

**He (God) makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
He burns the chariots with fire!**

Psalm 46:9 (RSV)

Please pray on this Remembrance Sunday that wars will cease, and pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6 RSV). Pray also as followers of our Lord Jesus we will be peacemakers in whatever situation we find ourselves.

Praise God for the work of CTaX (Christians Together across Exeter) who hold their Annual General Meeting this Wednesday with Alan (Rothwell) chairing it....and for the many city centre Churches working together promoting the Christian faith.

Week beginning Sunday 20th

Please pray for our Minister Bruce as he leads the 'Candles of Remembrance' service this Sunday evening, that God will bless those present with His comfort and peace as they are 'Still before Him and know that He is God.'

Thank God for the Spirit-led Ministers and Preachers who have enlightened us through the 'Hebrews' Teaching Series.

Week beginning Sunday 27th - Advent

Please pray that God's name will be exalted (lifted high and given first place) among the nations of the earth as we prepare our hearts this Advent

Sunday to receive the coming of His Son at Christmas, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

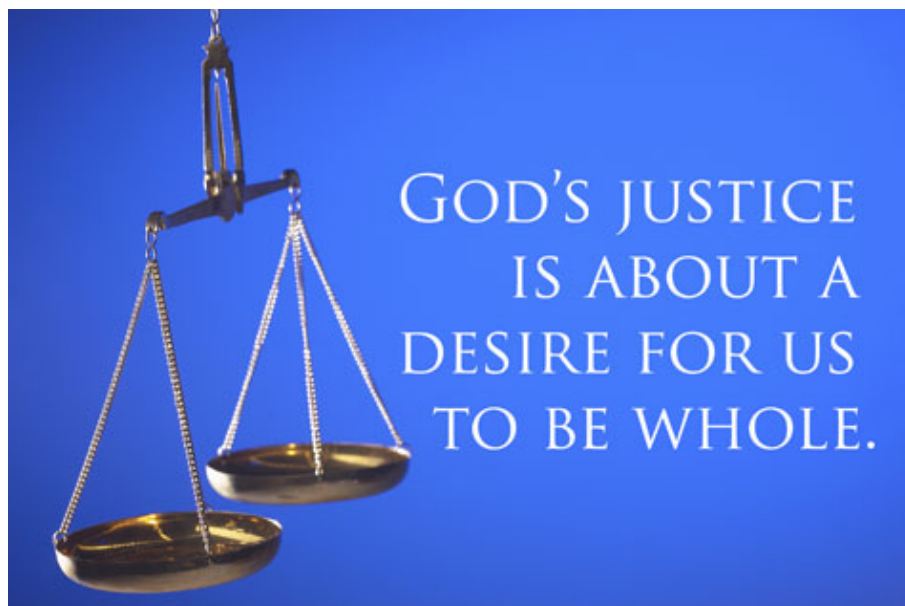
Phone Prayer Link

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



Dates For Your Diary

November 2016

Tue 1st	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Meets - 18 Tuckfield Close **
Sun 6th	10.00 a.m.	Caroline Sawyer - All Age Worship
	4.00 p.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Celebrate Together with Sacrament
Mon 7th	7.30 p.m.	Annual Pastoral Visitors Meeting
Sat 12th	10.00 a.m.	Traidcraft Shop & Coffee Morning at St Thomas MC (until 11.30am) **
	7.30 p.m.	Barn Dance at St Sidwell MC **
Sun 13th	10.00 a.m.	Dr Cherryl Hunt - Hebrews Themed Preaching **
	6.30 p.m.	Elizabeth Howell / Steve Jones
Tue 15th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe (until 12pm) **
	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Meets - 20 Whipton Lane **
Wed 16th	7.30 p.m.	CTaX Council & AGM - University Chaplaincy
Thu 17th	2.00 p.m.	Monthly Bible Study in the Lounge **
Sat 19th	8.30 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast
	10.00 a.m.	Coffee Morning and Fence Decorating **
Sun 20th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Hebrews Themed Preaching **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Candles of Remembrance **
Wed 23rd	7.30 p.m.	Leadership Team Meeting
Thu 24th	7.30 p.m.	Wonford Worms Book Club meet in the lounge **
Sat 26th	10.00 a.m.	Living Well with Dementia - South Street Baptist Church (until 2.30pm). Bookings essential.
Advent Sunday		
Sun 27th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church
Tue 29th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Meets - 20 Whipton Lane **
Wed 30th	7.30 p.m.	'The Marriage Sessions: CHERISH' **

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

December 2016 / January 2017 Newsletter

The next newsletter cover December 2016 and January 2017 and the deadline for items is Sunday 13th November 2016.

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 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 December 2016 / January 2017 Newsletter will be Sunday 13th November 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