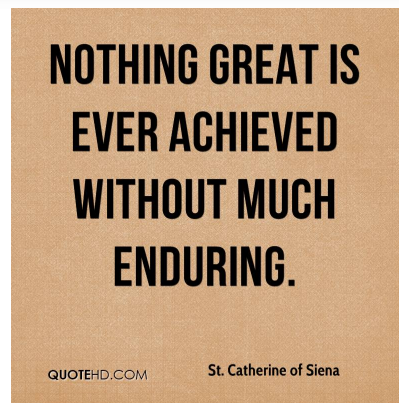
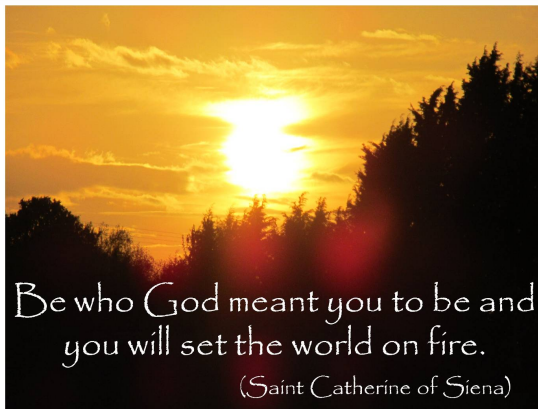


Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

November 2018

(No: 473)



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,

At the very centre of the Christian faith is the conviction that there is no God but the God revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Sadly, that doesn't stop us worshipping many other gods, gods of our own imagining. We might imagine an angry policeman god. The Father Christmas god. The god who does nothing but bring guilt and fear into his supposedly beloved children. How do we reach beyond these distorted pictures of God and embrace the real thing? Go back to the first sentence: when we see Jesus, we see who God is and we learn that His nature is love and His grace limitless. Being a Christian means nothing less than embarking on a lifelong journey with Jesus, and getting ever closer to the heart of God through prayer, worship, and a conscious decision, every day, to commit ourselves to Jesus afresh and to live by the guiding and strengthening of the Holy Spirit.

One of my great concerns is that, in this country at least, Christianity has come to mean a set of moral instructions, of bland platitudes, being a 'nice' person. That's a feeble, watered down version of the life changing faith that following Jesus really is. It's a privilege and a joy and the only really fulfilling way to live because – and this is those who see Christian faith as just another 'lifestyle choice' fail to understand – it's what we were created for. Another amazing truth is that, the further we go along this road, the more we become, not religious robots, but our authentic, true selves, the people God wants, and always intended us to be. This doesn't necessarily make us perfect or better than others. If anything, it makes us more conscious of our need for God and of the ways we fall short of who we could be. It does though, mean that we are equipped to make a real imprint on the world. As St. Catherine of Siena advises, "Be who God created you to be and you will set the world on fire".

**With every blessing
Ben Haslam**



Dates For November

Coffee

4th	Lilian
11th	Pauline & Fran
18th	Alan
25th	Melanie & Eileen



Flowers

4th	Jenny Harrington
11th	Julie & Alan
18th	Sylvia & Tom
25th	TBA



Home Group

This group is now meeting fortnightly through the autumn on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm in different members' homes, as our Sunday Screen Notices will tell each time. Our studying and discussion will be based on Paul's epistle to the Colossians and will benefit very much from all we learn in our Theme Preaching using the same book. Come with your questions or thoughts to help us, please!

Our studies will go over into the New Year; and our dates for the autumn are always starting at 7.30pm on:

7th November	14 Grainger Close - led by Margretta
21st November	18 Tuckfield Close - led by Laurie

Do come along and help us decide what's best - or phone/talk with Monika Noronha or Margretta.

Advance Notice - Christmas Day Lunch

We are attempting to co-ordinate a Christmas Day lunch for members of our congregation who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. This would comprise a Christmas Dinner at church, followed by games, board games for example and may be even the Queen's Speech or a film to watch.

If you would like to join us, please speak to Monika.

If you would be willing to help make this happen, hands on or by making a donation, again, please speak to Monika.

Our Calling

*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*

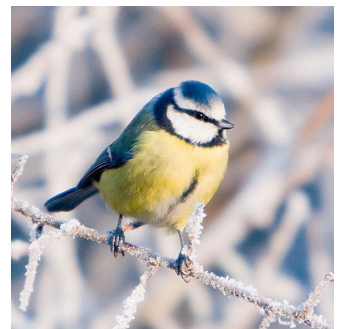
Our Calling, in the Methodist Church in Britain, is to:

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

Wildlife Winter Wonderland

As we welcome in another season, we have started to get used to putting on our coats and heating our homes. However, looking in my garden I am reminded that God's smaller creatures also have to adapt but for them it is a bit more difficult: it is about surviving the winter.



There are a few things that we can do to help our wildlife at this time of year as harsher weather approaches. I enjoy encouraging birds in to our garden and in colder weather food can be scarce so I hang up bird feeders with peanuts and fat balls, halved apples on the ground, put out meal worms and make sure their water is clean & not frozen over.

Many creatures will need a warm, safe & sheltered spot to over winter. I try not to tidy up the garden too much – wildlife will benefit from a pile of leaves left in a sheltered corner or a bundle of twigs/small branches on the ground and I refrain from cutting back ornamental grasses which can provide a little safe haven. Even the seed-heads on the spent summer flowers can be left for some birds to eat, along with the fallen fruit and berries.

If you only have a small space, a window box or patio pots you can still help wildlife by putting out a bit of food & water for the birds – in our garden this has also attracted squirrels, field mice & even foxes! You can also plant a few bulbs for the bees to enjoy in the spring – crocuses and scented daffodils are good for our little pollen seekers as well as for us humans to enjoy.

Sue Keatt
Church Green Team

Themed Preaching for this Autumn - Paul's Letter to the Colossians

This series continues into November as detailed below.

Nov 11	Col 3 vv12-17	The New Self	John Carne
Nov 18	Col 3 v18-4 v1	The Christian Household	Ben Haslam
Nov 25	Col 4 vv2-18	The Faithful Church	Joan Wragg

TRAIDCRAFT @ ST THOMAS

FABULOUS pre-Christmas Coffee Morning
Saturday 24 November
10:00 – 11:30



with Traidcraft tea, coffee, biscuits and Home-baking stall

our Traidcraft SHOP will be open PLUS craft and Christmas items and cards for all occasions

ORDERS may be placed from the full Traidcraft range in the Autumn + Winter catalogue

Every purchase you make, no matter how small or great, makes a MASSIVE DIFFERENCE to the lives of and the life opportunities for the people and communities that TRAIDCRAFT work with.

The 'Traidcraft team' are looking forward to seeing lots of you there!

Shoebox Appeal 2018

Just think for a moment, a filled shoebox may be the only gift they have ever been given - their first gift, ever. Imagine the joy when they receive a box and then discover the presents inside - what a Christmas present for someone truly in need!

We are collecting boxes through Blythwood Care again this year, which is an established Christian charity based in Glasgow, Scotland. They bring hope to families in Europe, Africa and Asia through filled shoeboxes at Christmas, relief and development aid or social projects for young and old. Their motto is 'transforming lives through Christian care for body and soul'.

You need to cover a shoebox in wrapping paper with the lid wrapped separately and they can be for adults as well as teenagers and children. The categories are; Elderly Woman, Man, Woman, Teenage Boy, Teenage Girl, Boy or Girl.

I will bring in some sample boxes and the leaflets, which provide a full checklist of items that can be put in the shoeboxes. These include toiletries, hats & scarves, stationery, toys & sweets as well as some other items of clothing. For the adults things like candles, a hand powered torch or kitchen utensils are very useful. The donation towards cost of transporting each shoebox is £3. Date for final collection at Wonford Methodist is Sunday 18th November.

Most important items - toothbrush & toothpaste, soap & flannel, hat/scarf/gloves, sweets (dated at least March 2019), a small toy and pencils/pens/paper.

Other suggested items for children - a ball, skipping rope, hair accessories, puzzles, stickers. For adults - shampoo, deodorant, comb, sewing equipment, candles (but no matches), kitchen utensils, screwdriver/pliers, pack of cards, small wind up torch and for teenage girls/woman- sanitary products.

You might like to add in a Christmas card with a message, your name & town/country but do not put in your address.

If you have any questions or you want to donate a few items or money instead of filling a box then please let me know - all contributions are very welcome and will help to put a smile on the faces of people who live in such poverty. This shoebox may be the only gift they have ever been given.

Sue Keatt



PS. We really do need empty & unwanted shoeboxes to wrap so if you have any then please bring them in!

Wonford Community News

The Phoenix Café:

This is open every Thursday from 10am to 1pm and is now serving reasonably priced food as well as teas and coffees. Why not take an autumn stroll in Ludwell Valley or around Wonford Playing Fields and then pop in? You'll find it next to Wonford Sports Centre.

FoodCycle:

The FoodCycle volunteers make a three course vegetarian meal from surplus food donated by supermarkets. There is no need to book or pay just turn up and enjoy on a Tuesday evening at Wonford Community and Learning Centre (between the Pharmacy and the Sports Centre).

Crafty Club:

This is a new club taking place at Amersham Court on Tuesdays. This is from 12 until 4. Take your lunch along at the start or drop in later.

Singing for Fun:

Takes place at the Phoenix Suite on Wednesday mornings at 10.00pm.

Christmas dates:

Wonford Community and Learning Centre Carols by Candlelight will be on 12th December

Carol Service at St Lloyes Chapel Ruins on 17th December at 6.00pm

Bible Study Collections

The Bible Study collections for the Bible Society have amounted to £302.00 for the past year. The 'tea money' amounted to £144.00 and was sent to the Zimbabwe Victim Support Fund. This total includes some extra gifts.

Many thanks to all who helped.

Clifford Maddicks



Prayer Focus for November

In all things give thanks!

I begin as usual suggesting that we pray for all who will lead worship here at Wonford each Sunday. We will be continuing our walk through Colossians. On Sunday 11th November is Remembrance Sunday. There will also be a service to remember the loved ones we have lost over the last year. This will be held on Sunday 18th at 6.30pm. Pray for our All Age Worship & also our Junior Church & Messy Church. Also pray for all who will lead our Bible studies and our Tuesday prayer meetings.

Continue to pray for our politicians as they make the important decisions that affect us all.

May I encourage you to pray this month for those who suffer with mental illness. They are the ones who find it hardest to ask for help. Though it is recognised that there is growing need in this area, through financial cutbacks, it is one of the hardest areas to access help until the sufferer is desperate or ends up committing a crime. Pray for those who work with these vulnerable people.

In the wider world pray for those who have been made homeless, injured & bereaved in the recent earthquake & tsunami in Indonesia & the earthquake in Haiti. Both very poor areas that already live in inadequate homes & struggle with the everyday day needs that we all have. As you pray for them give thanks for what we have.

Julie Rothwell

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.



**Sunday 25th November 2018
4.00pm**

ALL Welcome

News from The Methodist Church

Remembrance 100

To commemorate 100 years since the end of World War I, you can get involved in 100 days of prayer for peace, hope and reconciliation. Engage in innovative peace making activities and look for the #remembrance100 hashtag on social media.



Remembrance 100 began on Saturday 4 August with a prayer for peace making. It concludes on Sunday 11 November - Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday.

The following Remembrance 100 resources are available from the Remembrance 100 website - www.remembrance100.co.uk

100 Days of Peace and Hope

Including contemporary stories and prayers aimed at peace making, with contributions from members of the Methodist family, along with others including the Most Revd Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury. There are free downloadable prayers and reflections for every day during the 100 days.

Silence

A beautifully illustrated 36-page printed booklet for your Remembrance Sunday worship services. Perfect to hand out to your congregations and passers-by.



Exminster 10th Christmas Tree Festival

Plans are underway for the **Exminster 2018 Christmas Tree Festival** over the weekend of 30th November to 2nd December with group visits on Monday 3rd. All money raised goes to children's charities working in Devon.

Groups, organisations, families, individuals, churches and businesses etc. **are all invited to display a decorated tree at the Festival**. You can bring along your Christmas tree (real or artificial) and decorate it in your own colours, ideas etc. Why not start planning now! **Entry is free.**

Entry forms and details are available from Jeny on 832553 or email exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk

Last year there were 44 lovely trees on display and the £1,400 raised was shared between Action for Children and for Bramble children's ward at the RD&E Hospital. This being the 10th Festival, we are hoping for a record number of trees with extra things happening during the weekend.

**The festival is held in
Exminster Methodist Church**

Dates For Your Diary

November 2018

Sat 3rd	10.00 a.m.	Safeguarding Refresher FM training Credition MC (9.30 for a 10am start)
Sun 4th	10.00 a.m.	Ann Skinner - All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	Adrian Bailey - Café Church. Eco-Church
Wed 7th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 14 Grainger Close **
Remembrance Sunday - WW1 Peace 100 Years Ago		
Sun 11th	10.00 a.m.	Rev John Carne - Colossians Themed Preaching 6 **
	6.30 p.m.	Circuit Service at St Thomas MC 100 years of Remembrance
Sun 18th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament and Colossians Themed Preaching 7 **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Ben Haslam and Monika Noronha Candles of Remembrance
Tue 20th	10.00 a.m.	The Roundabout Café meets (until 12pm)
Wed 21st	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 18 Tuckfield Close **
	7.30 p.m.	Annual Pastoral Visitors Meeting in the lounge
23-25 November - 3Generate Youth Conference in Southport		
Sun 25th	10.00 a.m.	Dr Joan Wragg - Colossians Themed Preaching 8 **
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church

Exminster Tree Festival - 30th November to 2nd December 2018

Advance Notice - December 2018

3rd	6.00 p.m.	Girls' Brigade Christingle
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**** Details in this newsletter or on the notice board in the hall.**

December 2018 / January 2019

**A reminder that the next newsletter covers
December 2018 and January 2019. The deadline is
Sunday 11th November 2018**

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. 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 December 2018 / January 2019 Newsletter will be Sunday 11th November 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