

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

November 2021

(No: 504)



Faith and Science:
Towards COP26

UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



@WonfordMethodistChurch



YouTube Wonford Methodist Church



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

In 445 BC, Artaxerxes King of Persia sent Nehemiah, an Israelite and trusted official, to help rebuild the shattered walls of Jerusalem. This is a big task in itself, but to make it all the harder, not everyone is happy about it, and as we shall see, there are those who do all they can to make Nehemiah's life difficult... When we first meet Nehemiah, he is in Susa, one of the most important cities of the Persian Empire. He is an Israelite, but one living in exile, since the Babylonians invaded Israel and carried off most of its people. Nehemiah's brothers visit him from the old country with distressing news. The walls of Jerusalem have been broken down, they tell him, and all its gates destroyed by fire. Nehemiah's immediate response is to pray. It says something about Nehemiah's character that his first response is not aimless despair or anger, but to take what he is feeling directly to God. He mourns for his homeland and makes no show of pretending that all is well. His prayers are not a flight from reality, but a bringing of his reality before God, a replaying of everything he is feeling before the God in whom he trusts. This kind of prayer is real and honest, but above all it is trusting. Nehemiah must have had a strong prior relationship with God which allowed him to be this honest and this trusting. But this isn't just Nehemiah pouring his heart out to God. He is seeking to be part of the answer to his own prayers: "give success to your servant today..."

Despite the dire situation, this is a prayer of great confidence. It is also a prayer of intercession, that is to say, a prayer for others. Nehemiah realises that the Israelites have, by and large, rejected their God, and he pleads forgiveness for them. He prays that they will realise their desperate need to be in a right relationship with God, before all else. Nehemiah recognises that this relationship, between God and his people, has been broken, and that this lies at the root of all that has gone wrong. His prayer therefore gets to the very hearts of the situation, addressing the causes, not just the symptoms, of his people's predicament. There is so much that we can learn about prayer in difficult times from this one prayer of Nehemiah's. His complete openness to God, his honesty, his concern for the spiritual health of his people and his putting himself at God's disposal are all key elements of prayer. All in one short chapter! Nehemiah may be realistic, but is full of hope too. He sees not only the facts before him, but the deeper truth that the God he serves is faithful, and never rejects those who turn to him in faith. Have a read of Nehemiah 1 yourself, and let this prayer inspire you too.

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

Dates For November 2021

Coffee

7th	Alan R
14th	Rose & Paul
21st	TBA
28th	Liz & Pauline



Church Flowers

Rose and I are happy to arrange the flowers in our Church each Sunday. We are also happy to receive donations towards fresh flowers if anyone would like to give. We would be pleased if people would like to arrange their own flowers for any particular Sunday – please just let me know.

If there is a celebrations, a special event, an anniversary or funeral where fresh flowers or a specific arrangement is needed, could you please talk to me in advance so I can arrange this with pleasure.

Any financial contribution towards the flowers would be greatly appreciated and please remember to share your ideas with Rose or myself.

Mandy

Wednesday Bible Study Group

The Home Group which met regularly in the evening, has now changed its name to Wednesday Bible Group, and will meet in the Church of an afternoon from 3pm to 4.30pm once a fortnight. Newcomers will be very welcome to join us, and through October & November we will be using the Mint Church's "Eco Awareness" study guide, which we hope will be particularly relevant to all we hear of the COP-26 conference in Glasgow for 1-12 November. The fortnightly dates are: 10 & 24 November and 8 December; and our Sunday Notices will also confirm these.

The Away Group

This group meets on a Monday evening at 7.30 pm. Dates and venues will be given out each Sunday in the notices.

Thank You from the Family of Tom Crawford

Sylvia Crawford and family would like to pass on their thanks for the lovely Church service for Tom and the many cards and messages received.

Thank You from the Family for Barbara Cutting

Barbara's family would like to thank those of you who attended her service of thanksgiving on Friday 15th October 2021. A special thank you for the flowers, the music and the 'tech guys' for arranging the streaming. Thank you for the love shown to mum and your kind messages to the family in the last month.

Green Team Article

With our new fence making a real visible improvement to our site, you may have heard comments about improving the surface of the whole car-parking area needing to be next! But I think there is a real environmental discussion to be had before that happens!

You will have seen or read about "flash-flooding" in areas where the drains cannot cope when heavy rain runs off hard-surfaces. We need to think about this carefully, and consider what different types of surface there are, their overall cost and their "environmental rating". Would our car-park area be better with more grids to drain excess water away safely? - or little channels to guide run-off towards the small planted areas? - or maybe we even consider having less hard surface and more areas with soil and plants?

Do please help us all think. Please tell our Green Team about the different surfaces you know about - what the costs might be? - who could give us more advice? - who is good at laying them? Our Property Team will make the final decisions, alongside our Church Treasurer. But, we each of us, can look around and share our knowledge to help us all. This is the time to learn, and discover more about car-park surfaces; and then choose what is best for our patch of God's Earth!

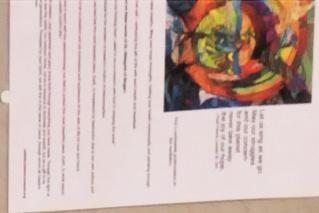
Margretta Bowstead, Green Team

PS. On the next page is a photo taken in the Church hall. Thank you to Melanie for taking the photo.



The future
How to have the ultimate green home

Education on Creation



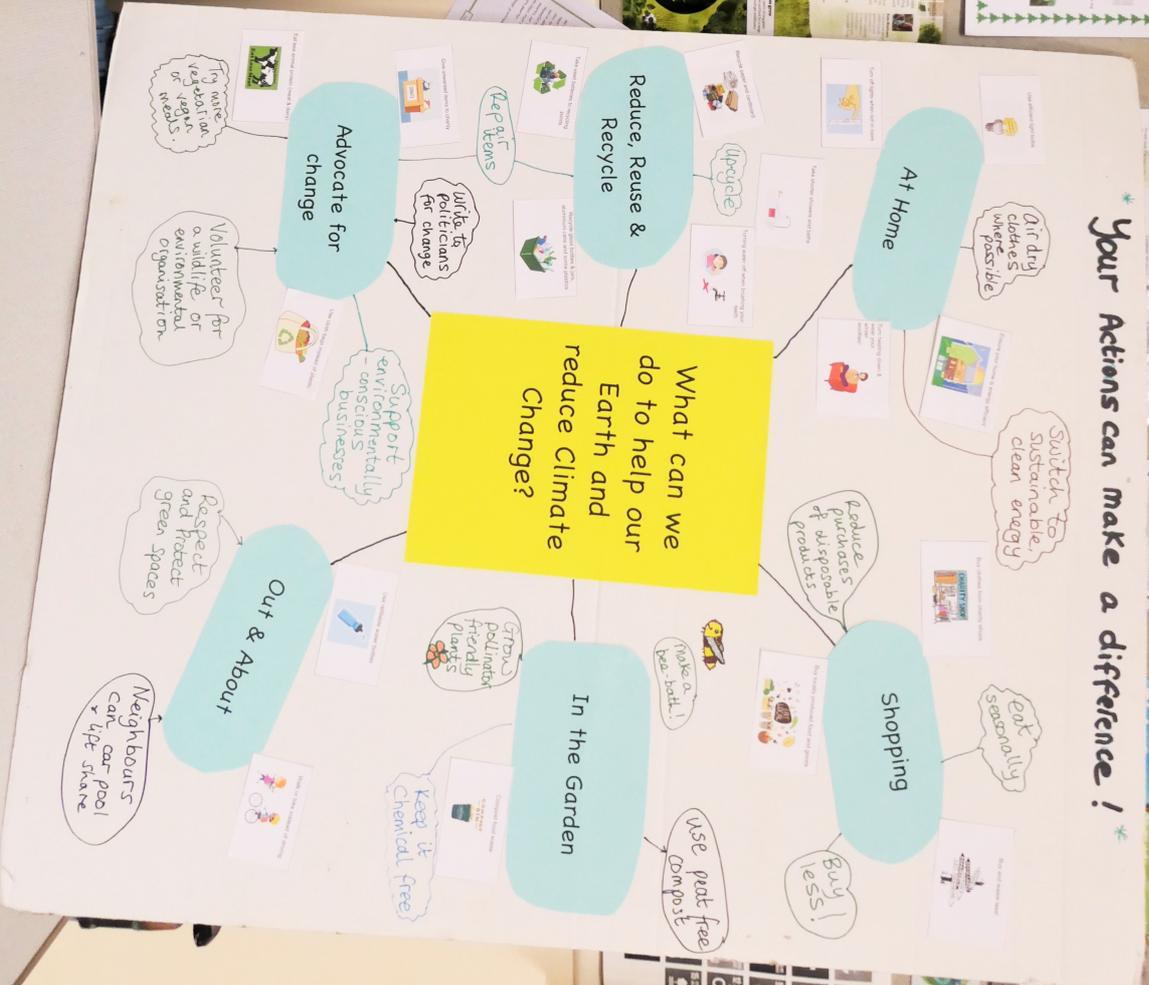
Organizations to Get Involved with Climate Change

Big gains in small spaces

Ecology: Action and Research



Your Actions can make a difference!



Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2021

Recently in Young Church we talked about acts of kindness and the importance of caring about others through giving to someone in need, like giving a gift filled shoebox to people living in abject poverty in Ukraine. At the moment they could be feeling that because of the global pandemic they may be side-lined or forgotten but imagine the joy when they receive a colourful paper wrapped box and then discover the gifts inside - what a Christmas present for someone truly in need!



We are collecting boxes through Blythswood Care again this year, though we will need to manage things differently with social distancing and other restrictions. Blythswood 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.

Their website www.blythswood.org will provide a full checklist of items that can be put in the shoeboxes and you can print of a label from there, but if you don't have access to a printer then I can give you a leaflet. The donation towards cost of transporting each shoebox is £3. Date for final collection at Wonford Methodist is Sunday 14th November.

Most important items - toothbrush & toothpaste, soap & flannel, hat/scarf/ gloves, sweets (dated at least March 2022), 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!

PPS. To any of our talented knitters, each year we are most in need of scarves and mittens or fingerless gloves please, for both children and adults.

Prayer Focus for November

Prayer - Our Strongest Weapon - Pray Without Ceasing

We are well into autumn now and the beautiful colours remind us of God's wonderful creation. We thank Him for showing His handiwork.

As I write it seems our country is in crisis. The NHS, lack of HGV drivers, farm and abattoir worker shortages! Then there is the gas price rise which could cause real hardship to many. We need to pray for all these situations. Pray for our government to act wisely in all these situations.

We also need to pray about climate change. We can all do 'our bit' in the fight against climate change but so many countries in our world are ignoring the situation. Pray that mind sets will change & the urgency will be recognised and change acted upon.

Pray for the countries that have had to deal with natural disasters and for countries at war. Remember all those affected by all this. Pray for those who have managed to flee from Afghanistan, that they would be made welcome. Finally, pray for all those in our church family who are unwell or have been recently bereaved. Pray also for all our activities as they begin to take place once again.

We also pray for the family, friends and colleagues of Conservative MP Sir David Amess following his tragic death. Think also of the killer and his family.

May God continue to bless you all.

If you have anything that you would like included please let Julie Rothwell know so that it can include it here.

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.

The Prayer Team

Autumn Themed Preaching

Letters to the Seven Churches - Revelation 2 and 3

Our Autumn Themed Preaching Series continues into November. Details for remaining sessions shown below.

Nov 7	All Age Worship	
Nov 14	The Letter to Philadelphia	Caroline Colin
Nov 21	The Letter to Laodicea	Rev Ben Haslam

ST THOMAS METHODIST CHURCH, Cowick Street, EXETER

TRAIDCRAFT @ ST THOMAS

Pre-Christmas Event 2021

Saturday 20 November
from 09:00 – 11:30 am

coffee, tea and biscuits will be available

our Traidcraft SHOP will be open

PLUS

... craft items

... Christmas items

... cards for all occasions

***ORDERS may be placed from the full
Traidcraft range in the current 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 TR AidCRAFT work with.

The 'Traidcraft team' are looking forward to seeing lots of you after such a long time! We will ensure the morning is as covid-safe as possible.

News From The Methodist Church

Banner drop for COP26 in London, Manchester and Glasgow

Methodist churches in London, Manchester and Glasgow unfurled banners this weekend as part of global action from faith communities calling for climate justice and care for the vulnerable ahead of COP26, the UN Conference on climate change in Glasgow next month.



Pictured above are members of the congregation and church leaders from Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Visitors to London will also see the church's call to pray for COP26 on the outside of the building, which was the venue for the inaugural meeting of the United Nations Assembly in 1946.

The Revd Tony Miles, Superintendent Minister said, "We wanted to make a public declaration to assure people we are praying for COP26 and to inspire others to do same. We are urging the world leaders gathering in Glasgow next month to 'make COP count' and, as a Church and Conference Centre, we are endeavouring to make a difference locally too."

Eliana Achila a 13 year old member of Methodist Central Hall Westminster said, "Climate change is real and it is the poorest and most vulnerable on our planet that bear the greatest cost." Watch other young people share their hopes for COP26 here.

*Methodist Central Hall,
Westminster*



Methodist Central Hall, Manchester also unveiled a banner on Sunday. The Revd Ian Rutherford said, "We were proud to unfurl our banner at Methodist Central Hall, Manchester along with many other faith buildings across the UK as part of the #FaithfortheClimate initiative on Green Faith Day.

"Our banner design brings the bold message that we wanted to convey to Greater Manchester and to world leaders gathering for COP26 that we must all work together, like bees in a hive, to care for our common home and that we need to make COP 26 count."

*Methodist Central Hall,
Manchester*



A Statement and Prayer regarding the death of Sir David Amess MP

A statement and prayer from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton following the death of Sir David Amess MP:

“Sir David Amess MP was a faithful and dedicated public servant for many years. He was well known to the Methodist family locally and widely respected. We offer our deep condolences to his family, colleagues, friends and constituents. This senseless act of violence is appalling, and we extend our prayers to all who have been affected by it.”



Gracious God

We are thankful for all those who give their lives to public service; we are deeply saddened when it comes at such cost. Be with all who loved the late David Amess MP and especially with his family at this awful time.

Lord, we pray for all those affected by this violent act. May your comforting love and healing grace be with them all.

In Christ's name we pray.

Amen

Dates For Your Diary

November 2021

COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow (31st October to 12th November)

Sun 7th	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship.
Wed 10th	3.00 p.m.	Wednesday Bible Group in the Church **
	7.30 p.m.	Annual Pastoral Visitors' Meeting
Sun 14th	10.00 a.m.	Caroline Colin - Themed Preaching **
Sat 20th	9.00 a.m.	Pre-Christmas Traidcraft Event at St Thomas MC (until 11.30 am) **
Sun 21st	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Themed Preaching ** Sacrament Service
	6.30 p.m.	John Allan - Café Church
Tue 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm)
Wed 24th	3.00 p.m.	Wednesday Bible Group in the Church **
Sun 28th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Keith Salter
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Keith Salter

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

December 2021 / January 2022 Newsletter

As usual the next newsletter will cover December 2021 and January 2022. Can I please have item by Sunday 14th November 2021 and these include Christmas and New Year events / services.



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 *(not every week)*

Monday

7.30 p.m. The Away Group meets *(not every week)*

Tuesday

10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café *(3rd Tuesday each month)*

Wednesday

3.00 p.m. Bible Group at the Church *(fortnightly)*

Thursday

Friday

9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group ***A***
(Check with organisers before attending)

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 2021 / January 2022 Newsletter will be Sunday 14th November 2021. 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