

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

October 2017

(No: 462)



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 write this as the children have returned to school at the start of a new year. It can be a struggle to resume the regular morning pattern – getting everyone up, fed, lunches packed, uniforms on and out the door – after a summer that has been less structured. Yet despite the initial struggle, many children (and adults), find that they thrive in an environment where there is routine, a pattern to periods of learning, play and rest. Hopefully by the time you are reading this, we have all settled back into that rhythm!

As a Methodist Church, the start of the new school year also signals the start of a new church year. September is the time when new ministers begin appointments, and there are various meetings and pieces of work to be done. In local churches, many of the activities and groups resume, starting a new programme after a summer break. It is a busy time for many, as we settle back into the rhythm of church life. A rhythm that is marked weekly by patterns of collective prayer and worship, and seasonally by times of feasting and fasting, preparation and celebration, penitence and praise.

In July, the new President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference announced that the theme they will explore over the coming year is Day by Day. They want to draw upon Acts 2: 42-47, one of the earliest descriptions of the church, to focus upon rhythms of Christian mission and discipleship. The Vice-President challenged us to consider how each part of the rhythm can be a moment of revelation – both laughter and lament have their places in the rhythm of life, and can become moments of encounter with God and growth in faith.

In particular, they identified five disciplines, five components, of the rhythm of discipleship and mission from that passage in Acts:

- Give thanks
- Keep Silence
- Pray
- Act
- Read & Reflect

Over the coming months, it is my intention to reflect a little more on each of these aspects. But as we settle into the new year, let me challenge you to consider the place and shape that each of these finds within the rhythm of your discipleship, your attempt to follow in the way of Jesus? Is there a balance to your rhythm of discipleship (over a day, week or longer period)? Is one (or more) missing? As many of us resume familiar rhythms of study, work, or service, let us ensure we are not neglecting the rhythm of our own discipleship and mission.

With every blessing
Bruce

Dates For October

Coffee

1st	Madeline & David
8th	Elizabeth & Melanie
15th	Fran & Pauline
22nd	Lisa & Sue G
29th	Ann & John



Flowers

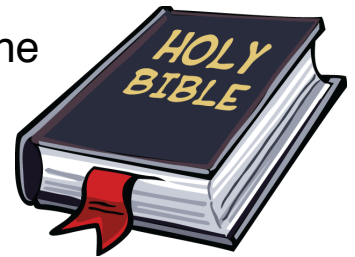
1st	Harvest - Mandy
8th	Harvest Flowers
15th	TBA
22nd	TBA
29th	Barbara Jackson



Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This group meets in the lounge at 2pm normally on the third Thursday each month. All are welcome.

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



Home Group

This group currently meets fortnightly on either a Tuesday or Wednesday evening, usually at the Manse at 7.30 pm. They extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join them, for this could be just the right kind of group for you! They are studying the impacts of Climate Change, based on "Baked Alaska", the Riding Lights Theatre group's play with 7 studies during the autumn.

Monika Noronha

10th	7.30pm	At The Manse - 20 Whipton Lane
31st	7.30pm	At 14 Grainger Close

BIG 'Thank You' from Kathleen Dell

Kathleen would like to thank everyone for the card she received on her 90th birthday.



Our Calling

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

- ✳ increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love
- ✳ to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice
- ✳ help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care
- ✳ make more followers of Jesus Christ

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

'Thank You' from the Beanies Group

Many of you will know that over the past year or so, we have hosted the Beanies group on a Tuesday evening. This is a group for 7-10 yr olds, run by Andy Shiach of the Wonford & St. Paul's Community & Youth Project. Now that the Phoenix Suite has been refurbished, they will be moving their activities to be based there, however we received the following note of thanks:

"The use of your Hall, and ongoing support by the Methodist church has been a real blessing to the group and we have all very much appreciated your ongoing generosity and interest. The group has grown and developed as a direct result of your help, so again I would like to say thank you for stepping in when we needed the extra space. Please pass our thanks and gratitude to all involved."

Harvest Baskets

Harvest baskets will resume in September to support local families. There will be the opportunity to bring non-perishable items on any Sunday in September and on Harvest Festival - Sunday 1st October.

Please ask if you have any questions. Thank you.

Monika Noronha



Parenting Teenagers – Getting Them (and you!) Through

Wed 8 November, 7.30pm, Belmont Chapel

Do you feel like your teenager has become a different person overnight? Will they go out with you only if you wear a brown paper bag on your head? Or maybe your child is almost a teenager and you're feeling a bit apprehensive about what's ahead. It's normal!

There's hardly a mum or dad on the face of the earth who, at times, is not overawed by the task of parenting. And it's the teenage years that can be particularly challenging – especially the struggle to understand and keep up with our children's physical and emotional changes. At times like this, we often need a bit of encouragement and a reminder that we are not alone. At Parenting Teenagers – getting them (and you!) through Rob Parsons and Katharine Hill will look at some of the common issues faced by parents of teenagers. They'll share insights and ideas gained from their personal experience of working alongside parents for over thirty years. The evening will help you, as mums and dads of teenagers, feel empowered and encouraged and, most of all, it will help you know that the challenges you face are not unique.

Book today: www.careforthefamily.org.uk/parentingteenagers

Call: 029 2081 0800 Tickets: £6 in advance, £7 on the door



Sunday 22nd October 2017

4.00pm

ALL Welcome

Prospective Exeter City Centre Chaplains – Taster Evenings

Exeter City Centre Chaplaincy is looking for others to join its fifteen trained and commissioned Volunteer Chaplains. Between them the Chaplains visit over 200 retail premises, holding something like 700 staff greetings or conversations a month. Each Chaplain usually gives a morning per fortnight to visits. Although Exeter retail Chaplains do not openly promote their Christian faith they are trained to relate their faith to important issues and personal problems when asked.

If you have a pastoral heart and a listening ear, and are interested in joining the team, do consider coming to one of the introductory evenings EITHER Thursday 9th November OR Monday 20th November both at 7:30 pm. Venue: Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT. [For more details or to make contact get in touch with Prebendary Norman Wallwork 01392 851966 n.wallwork@btinternet.com or Revd Paul Collings 01392 206229 paul.collings@methodist.org.uk]

Wonford Methodist Church Facebook Page

Are you on Facebook?

Please 'like' our new church Facebook page to receive news and updates regarding events – search for @WonfordMethodistChurch



Please encourage your friends to like the page too!

We hope to regularly update the Facebook page to keep people informed about what's happening, so if you're organising a church/church group event or activity, please forward details to Andrew Jackson or Pippa Wragg-Smith for them to be added to the page.

For those not on Facebook, don't worry, you'll be able to view the same details by visiting our website (www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk).

Church Council Meeting

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 October at 7.30pm in the church.

All are welcome to attend and join in the discussions although only Church Council Members are able to vote.

Please put the date in your diary. Thanks Alison



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Maggie's 50th Birthday & Nile Cruise Evening

Maggie and Paul Harmon would love you to come to a double celebration evening on Saturday 7 October at 7pm at Wonford Methodist Church. It will be a joint celebration of Maggie's 50th birthday and showing you all pictures of our Nile cruise we experienced last November. Many of you contributed to our trip of a lifetime and we would like to share this evening with you all. If you are able, please bring a little something to drink. Food and musical entertainment will be provided. It would be helpful to know if you are coming. Please let Maggie know by telephoning 07989072184. We look forward to sharing with you. No presents required, only your company.

Our Young Church's Annual Trip

On Saturday 9th September, 16 of us went to The World of Country Life at Sandy Bay, Exmouth. We set out with clothing for all weathers as the forecast was not promising but we were blessed and did keep dry. We had lots of fun walking young goats on leads (some of them were strong and quite mischievous!), watching beautiful birds of prey fly and perch very near to us and using up our energy on all of the play equipment. We all really enjoyed our ride on the deer train, when we had the chance to hand feed the deer and 2 large lamas from the tractor pulled train – the animals certainly were not shy and there was lots of laughter when some of them pushed their big heads in to the carriage as they searched for food!

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to the Church Council for kindly giving us money for the outing as we had a brilliant time together.



Shoebox Appeal 2017

This year we are collecting boxes through Blythswood Care, 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'.



The boxes are covered in wrapping paper in the same way as last year but can now 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 checklist of items that can be put in the shoeboxes. These include toiletries, stationery, toys & sweets as well as some items of clothing. Unlike the charity we supported last year, Blythswood have decided to keep the donation towards costs down at £3 per shoebox. Date for final collection at Wonford Methodist is Sunday 12th November.

Sue Keatt

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

Wonford's Prayer Life

We especially want to thank Michael & Judith Maher for their years of dedicated and quiet leadership of our Prayer team here.

Over many years we have had here at Wonford a good variety of prayer-life since our 'new' Chapel, with its Quiet Room, was built nearly 11 years ago. On Sundays after the Service anyone can go into it for their prayer needs. During the week our Prayer Phone Link is available at any time. If you have a special need, phone Alan Rothwell in the first place, as explained every time in our newsletter at the end of our Prayer Focus. He will pass it on to 2 people, who pass it on to another 2, and so on; and so up to 15 of us will pray for your request wherever we are. Almost every Tuesday morning a few of us gather in the Quiet Room from 9.15am to 10 o'clock, with a Bible reading and a hymn leading us into informal prayers shared together. In the Wonford Green Surgery opposite there is a Prayer Box in the waiting room, where anyone can leave us a request for prayers, just like the one on the bookcase in our Hall here, which we collect each Tuesday before praying. Having read all this, we would welcome more pray-ers. So, do please have a word with one of us named below and offer yourself to join in whatever way you can to make our prayer-life even better.

There will be a few changes from 1st October, as follows:

- Sunday Mornings 'After Service' Prayer – Monika Noronha will do the rota for this
- Tuesday Morning Prayers - Margretta Bowstead will do the rota for this, with Monika having oversight of the GP Surgery Prayer Box
- Prayer Phone Link – The first point of contact will be Alan Rothwell; with Margaret Kearns and Margretta as 'deputies'
- Prayer Focus in our "Contact" newsletters will be done by Julie Rothwell.

We ask God to bless all we are doing.

The Prayer Team

Open the Book Research Proves Fruitful

For the last two years, Open the Book (OtB) has conducted independent research in several primary schools to measure how their storytelling assemblies have made a difference to the children's biblical literacy, Christian values and relationships with the local church. The consensus was that the knowledge and influence of Bible stories on the OtB groups was significantly positive and the OtB school children clearly retained Bible stories and characters better than their non-OtB school counterparts. It was evident that:

- ✳ OtB storytelling is highly valued and enjoyed by children, teachers and volunteers alike
- ✳ It develops the children's own sense of spirituality and helps form their world view
- ✳ It increases biblical literacy and builds moral character

One RE coordinator reinforced the relationship-building aspect when she said, 'It's lovely having some of the local Christian community coming into school.'

'Redeeming Gender' Talk

In the light of Bruce Sawyer's talk at the July Circuit Meeting on his MA research into transgender people's reading of the Bible, you might be interested to attend on Sunday 15 October, 2.30 – 4.30pm a talk by Rev Prof Adrian Thatcher on his latest book, 'Redeeming Gender'. Adrian is Honorary Professor in the Department of Theology & Religion at the University of Exeter. This is an open-to-all meeting of the PCN/Progressive Christian Network at the Southernhay URC Hall; and there is a charge of £2.50 per person.

Thank You for All the Shoes!

The Shoe Drive at Exminster is now closed and we have a sizeable mountain of shoes, handbags and belts! These will be sold by the Gambia Fellowship Association and the money raised used to buy new school shoes for children in The Gambia.

Exminster's 2017 Christmas Tree Festival

Plans are well underway for Exminster's 2017 Christmas Tree Festival over the weekend of 1st to 3rd December with an opportunity for group visits on Monday 4th. All money raised will be given to good causes in

Devon including Action for Children.

Churches, groups, organisations, families, individuals, businesses and are all invited to display a decorated tree at the Festival and help make it the biggest and brightest yet. 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 01392 832553 or email exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk

Theme Preaching Series for Our Autumn Programme

Our theme preaching for the Autumn period will be focussing on Lesser Known New Testament characters. We get to hear a lot about Jesus and his mother Mary, about Peter, James and John and about the adventures of Paul but we hear less about some of the other important characters from the New Testament. So this series takes a look at these “lesser known” folk, who they were, what they did and what we can learn from their lives and work. We hope you enjoy standing in the shoes of Simeon and Anna, sorting out who’s who of the six Marys and distinguishing the two Philips as well as all the other characters we shall meet. Enjoy the series. Here’s the full programme of characters and service leaders.

Tony Wragg

Sept 24	Anna and Simeon	Joan Wragg
Oct 1	Harvest - All Age service	Bruce Sawyer
Oct 8	Philip the Apostle	Bruce Sawyer
Oct 15	Mary of Magdala	Tony Wragg
Oct 22	Thomas	Bruce Sawyer
Oct 29	Stephen	John Carne
Nov 5	Lydia and Dorcas - All Age	Caroline Colin
Nov 12	Philip the Evangelist	John Allan
Nov 19	Barnabas	Bruce Sawyer
Nov 26	Timothy	Terry Spencer

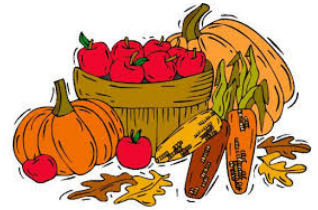


Prayer Focus for October

In all things give thanks and praise

Week beginning October 1st. Harvest Festival.

As we thank our Lord for all our food and homes that we enjoy, please remember those who have nothing due to floods, drought, earthquakes or war. Remember those in our own country who find it difficult to make ends meet financially.



Week beginning 8th. Prison Sunday.

Please pray for all who work in the prison service, for those who volunteer to work along side prisoners and for the prisoners themselves as they serve their sentence. Pray also for their families who live with the hardship and shame caused by their relative.



Week beginning 15th. Church Council.

Please pray for all the Church Council Representatives. They meet at 7.30pm on the 17th. Please pray that the decisions they make will be in line with God's plan for our church.



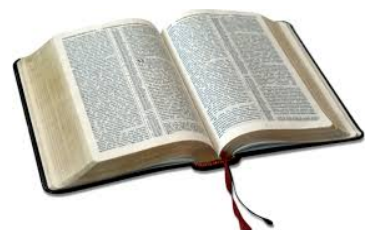
Week beginning 22nd. Young People.

Please pray for Messy Church on 22nd for the leaders and caterers and all who will attend. Also pray for Junior Church and the Girls Brigade. Again pray for the leaders and all the young people who attend. Give thanks for the joy of young people in our church.



Week beginning 29th. Bible Studies.

Please pray for the Bible Studies that take place. On Mondays the Away Group meet at 7.30pm. Alternate Tuesdays see the Home Group meet at 7.30pm. For those who prefer a daytime Bible Study the 3rd Thursday in the month could be for you. Please pray for these important groups.



Phone Prayer 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 (437329) or Margaret Kearns (679949).

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

All Together Now: bringing generations together



A one-day conference,
streamed live online

Tuesday 10 October
2017, 10am-3pm

ALL TOGETHER NOW explores what it means to be an intergenerational Church community. It will help you to think intentionally about being a Church of different generations. The conference includes reflections on theory as well as practice, and you'll also have an opportunity to see intergenerational ministry in action!

Who's the event for: Anyone engaging with different generations in church life.

Speakers include:

- **Eleanor Bird** (Head of Children and Youth Ministry, St Chad's Church, Romiley)
- **Martyn Payne** (Messy Church team member)
- **Gareth Crispin** (Youth, Children & Families Minister, St John's Church, Lindow)

Venue: Anywhere! Enjoy the conference from the comfort of your own sofa or office. Gather with people local to you or find a hosted event nearby!

Find out more and register your interest at:
www.methodist.org.uk/alltogethernow

The **Methodist Church**



The Marriage Sessions:

COLLABORATE

Wednesday 15th November, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Wonford Methodist Church



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

Explore:

- some of the common pressures couples face
- what happens when this leads to disagreements
- how to handle conflict well and move forward

together

Reflections on The Marriage Sessions

Bill and I have attended the two Marriage Sessions which Bruce has organised over the last year. In one word they can be described as SPACE.

Space to just sit and chat with your partner, space to think about what matters in our relationship, space to watch a video and discuss the questions raised, space to enjoy light refreshments.

We were able to sit and be together with no pressures like group discussions, Q and A sessions and NO role play! The surroundings were comfortable and nicely lit with seating spaced out to provide privacy. Drinks and desserts were provided by a team of helpers [Paul Johnson, Paul Violet, Margretta, Pauline and Wayne - please forgive me if I have forgotten anyone! Your service made it all the more special, thank you.]

Also, the sessions came at a great time for us, just as we were getting used to an empty nest! We were very aware that we were entering a new era in our relationship. To be given this kind of support at this time was very special. Finally, it was a real treat to turn up at church and be able to enjoy the evening without any duties to carry out.

Thanks to all involved! We look forward to the next one, and encourage you to attend – you won't be disappointed!

Monika and Bill

Dates For Your Diary

October 2017

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - All Age Worship. Harvest Festival
	6.30 p.m.	Stephen Lea - Harvest Festival
Tue 3rd	6.30 p.m.	Harvest Social - 'Bring & Share' Supper & Games
Sat 7th	7.00 p.m.	Maggie's 50th Birthday Celebration & Nile Cruise Photos at Wonford MC **
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Themed Preaching
	6.30 p.m.	Paul Violet - Prayer & Praise
Tue 10th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane **
15th to 20th October - Week of Prayer for World Peace		
Sun 15th	10.00 a.m.	Tony Wragg - Themed Preaching
	2.30 p.m.	'Redeeming Gender' talk at Southernhay URC **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Beth McDowell - Sacrament Service
Tue 17th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe meets (until 12pm)
	7.30 p.m.	Church Council meets
Thu 19th	2.00 p.m.	Bible Study in the lounge **
	7.30 p.m.	Circuit World Church meets at Littlemead MC in Exmouth (1 rep per MC) **
Fri 20th	7.00 p.m.	'The Spirituality of Jane Austen' talk by Paula Hollingsworth at The Mint MC **
Sat 21st	9.30 a.m.	Safeguarding FM Training at St Thomas MC
	11.00 a.m.	Cranbrook Prayers at St Martin's School, Cranbrook (Until 3pm)
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Sacrament and Themed Preaching
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church
Sun 29th	10.00 p.m.	Rev John Carne - Themed Preaching
	6.30 p.m.	Cafe Church with J Morgan
	6.30 p.m.	Ecumenical Bible Society meeting at Tower St MC Exmouth with the Bishop of Crediton
Tue 31st	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 14 Grainger Close **
Tue 31st - The Reformation 'started' in 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to Wittenberg Church door		

**** 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 November 2017 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th October 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