

# Wonford Methodist Church

## Contact Newsletter

October 2021

(No: 503)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a  
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church



[www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk)



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# A Message From The Minister

**Dear Friends,**

Many of us feel as if we are slowly emerging from the light, gradually adjusting our eyes as things around us begin to look more like we remember them. Certainly church life is beginning to look more like 'normal', with singing allowed and greater numbers of folk attending. Yet what a world it is we are emerging into! Fuel shortages, empty shelves in the supermarkets and we even hear talk of the prospect of no turkeys for Christmas! How much is media sensationalism and how much will come to pass remains to be seen, but it does feel like we are living through interesting times indeed. Although we live in uncertain times, the promises made to us by God (to give us hope and a future, for example) are rock solid and nothing has changed in that department. This has given me an idea for my monthly message for the next few months.

The book of Ezra sees the Israelites begin to return from their long exile, and commence the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. This having been completed, there is a joyous celebration as the Temple is dedicated, and the Passover celebrated. The book of Nehemiah (Ezra and Nehemiah were originally one book) consists largely of an account, from Nehemiah's perspective, of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. He also had to oversee the worship life of the newly returned exiles, keep an eye out for bad behaviour(!) and guard against any pagan influences which might corrupt the life and faith of God's people. No small task! Perhaps the book of Nehemiah might resonate as we emerge from the 'exile' of covid and rebuild our life together as a worshipping community. That's why I would like to focus on this book for the next few months and see what it might have to say to us today, in the knowledge that these ancient texts always reward close attention, however unfamiliar they might initially be. In particular, there are a series of four prayers in Nehemiah which contain the word 'remember', for example: "Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people" (Nehemiah 5:19). Now is not a time to be hurtling forwards in a blind panic, or using these times as an excuse to recreate the church in our own image. Now is a time to remember the Lord our God and His promises, and to really commit time to seeking His will for the way forward as we seek to 'repair the broken walls' of our churches. I hope you find the book as inspiring and rewarding as I do and I look forward to exploring it with you.

**With every blessing**  
**Ben Haslam**

# Dates For October 2021

## Coffee

3rd	Liz & Pauline
10th	Susan & Jenny T
17th	TBA
24th	Alan R
31st	Maggie S & David P



## 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 Homegroup 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: 13 & 27 October, 10 & 24 November and 8 December; and our Sunday Notices will also confirm these.

## Church Council Meeting - 12th October 2021

The next meeting takes place on Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 7.30 pm. Agenda items should be sent to Alison Howell ASAP as well as reports.

## Exminster's Environment Fair

Exminster are holding an Environment Fair in the Victory Hall on Saturday morning October 9th from 10am to 1pm. This is run by the village

Environment Working Party (responsible to the Parish Council), with contributions from a number of voluntary groups from the village and the area around. This includes the Green Spaces Group, the Gardening Club, New Leaf (part of the NHS), the Primary School, Cubs and Scouts, Co-cars and Co-bikes, Exeter Woodcarvers, Exeter Cycling Campaign, our Wildlife Warden, Devon Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. Refreshments organised by Westbank.

## **COP26 Climate Change Conference**

The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021. The COP26 summit will bring together world leaders to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UK is



committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire climate action ahead of COP26.

The goals are to secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach, adapt to protect communities & natural habitats, mobilise finance and work together to deliver this.

- **Pray** for those most affected by the climate crisis. May we listen more closely to their stories and stand in solidarity with their actions to tackle climate breakdown. May we weep when they weep. May we work for a world where all live in peaceful harmony.
- **Pray** for wisdom for our leaders. That they may show courage and a commitment to the common good, rather than short-term self-interest. That statements may be turned into action, and that they set the direction for us all to build a world where everyone has enough.
- **Pray** for ourselves, that we may understand more deeply our role in causing the crisis and in building a better future. May our prayers help us align our lives more closely with God's kingdom – where the hungry are filled and the lowly lifted high.

If you are able you may want to go outdoors to pray or go for a Prayer Walk

## **Prayers of Joy**

Look at things in the world that are amazing, anything about creation you want to give thanks for. Look for God in the world around you – what do you see? You may want to take a photo or draw a picture about what gave you joy and put it somewhere to remind you of the goodness of God's creation.

## **Prayers of Lament (sadness/mourning).**

We may feel anxious and sad about things going on in the world and it's good to share those with God through prayer. God is interested in the whole of who we are, our happiness and joy as well as our sadness and anger. On your walk you may also see things that are causing harm to the world. These may be things we would like to change, or it may be things that remind you of bigger problems. As you walk and see those things, pray for healing in God's world.

## **Prayers of Hope.**

Hope is very important. Our hope for a better world is what drives us to act. Recognising the world isn't perfect, but making the choice to go on a journey with God to make the world a better place, through how we live our lives and how we use our voice to call for action from people with power. On your walk, make sure to look for things that give you hope: small spots of natural beauty, communities coming together – the sky is the limit! As you find things that give you hope, pray thanks to God for them. God is a God of promises, have a conversation about what a better world would look like. What do we hope the future holds?

## **Climate Justice.**

As you are outside, think about the weather. Climate change is causing extreme weather changes around the world. If it is raining, you may want to consider people around the world who are dealing with flooding that destroys their homes and their sources of food. If it is sunny, you may want to consider people who live in areas of drought, where a lack of water means there is no drinking water or means to grow food. Climate change is affecting many people right now and it's very, very important that we try to stop climate change. We also need to make sure that people who have been impacted already are not forgotten. Pray together for people who are already struggling to survive because of climate change. As you pray, think about the ways in which you can use your voice as families, or in your workplaces. It is really important that we all, together with God, do what we can.

Thank you to all of you who took an interest in our display on Climate

Sunday in the church hall last month and keep looking at our information board that shows ways we can all make changes in our life styles to help to reduce the climate crisis **from Sue Keatt and the Church Green Team**

## **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](http://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

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 October**

### **Prayer - Our Strongest Weapon - Pray Without Ceasing**

As we move into October, leaves are beginning to change into the beautiful colours of autumn. It reminds us of God's wonderful creation. It reminds us that God planned everything to work together. However, we also see how humankind has destroyed the way world works through our actions causing climate change. The poorest nations suffer the most through this. Haiti suffered another devastating earthquake followed by a hurricane. Parts of Africa sees crops fail year on year through drought. Other poor countries suffer the effects of devastating floods. We must pray for these countries but it must be coupled by action. Prayer must always be coupled with action.

Afghanistan has been in the news for all the wrong reasons. Pray for those who remain in the country but whose life is in great danger. Maybe write to our MP's continue to work toward getting them out. Also pray for those who did get out. Pray that councils will act to make available homes for them and for our own homeless or those needing to get into cheaper homes. Maybe derelict buildings can be restored to bring about more housing that folk can afford.

Hold in your prayers the NHS and also social care. However the funding is raised it must be fair and used in the correct way.

Pray for each other in our church family. We think particularly of Sylvia Crawford and the family & friends following the loss of Tom. We also think of the family and friends of Barbara Cutting.

Alan and I use our Church Directory to pray for all our members. Maybe it's something we all can do. Don't forget those who come along to our church but are not members. They are just as important.

*May you all be richly blessed as you pray for all the activities at Wonford, surrounding area and the wider world.*

**If you have anything that you would like included please let Julie Rothwell know so that she 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)

Various prayers and services from the Methodist Church are available to listen to via free-phone telephone numbers:

To listen to a short prayer – 0808 281 2514

To listen to a selection of Methodist related news stories: 0808 281 2478  
(Content for both is updated weekly on a Thursday afternoon)

### **The Prayer Team**

### **Autumn Themed Preaching**

### **Letters to the Seven Churches - Revelation 2 and 3**

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

Oct 3	Harvest Festival - All Age	Monika Noronha
Oct 10	The Letter to Smyrna	Prof Tony Wragg
Oct 17	The Letter to Pergamon	Rev Terry Spencer
Oct 24	The Letter to Thyatira	Rev Ben Haslam
Oct 31	The Letter to Sardis	Dr Joan Wragg
Nov 7	All Age Worship	
Nov 14	The Letter to Philadelphia	Caroline Colin
Nov 21	The Letter to Laodicea	Rev Ben Haslam



# News From The Methodist Church

## Online chat show takes faith outside the box

Welcoming people of all faiths and none, a weekly online chat show exploring spirituality in an inclusive, fun and non-judgemental way will be launched by the Methodist Church this month.

Hope & Anchor features guests from Britain and across the world who are taking faith outside the box, addressing challenging questions and preconceptions with intelligence and laughter and inviting viewers to explore new spiritual landscapes.

The Revd Trey Hall, Director and Evangelism and Growth for the Methodist Church, said:

“Imagine a table at your local pub where friends and strangers meet up and talk about anything and everything, from the frivolous to the sublime – this is the energy of Hope & Anchor.

“It’s a show for everyone – especially those who don’t consider themselves religious but are spiritually curious and Christians who creatively challenge the status quo and are passionate about change.”

Guests confirmed include:

Chine McDonald, broadcaster and head of community fundraising & public engagement at Christian Aid,

Ms Penny Cost, the first drag queen to become a candidate for ordination in the United Methodist Church.

Emma Hardy, MP for Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle since 2017.

Guvna B, rapper, author and broadcaster.

Hope and Anchor is co-hosted by Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference, Thelma Commey, past Methodist Youth President, Jenny Pathmarajah, Methodist presbyter, and Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth.

Live streamed on Facebook, the weekly show starts on Tuesday 28 September between 12:45 and 1:15 .

Further details can be found at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/watch-hope-anchor/> where you can sign up for weekly reminders.

# Revelations WordSearch

T H R O N E V A E H O R S E S  
D S A I N T S E U G A L P N H  
N E M E S R O H V I S I O N C  
O N V E S R Y T R A M I L R R  
L U J I L E E T T A T L E E U  
Y M T U L A A D G A A A A B H  
B B I D D Y S E N M T N R E C  
A E E B H G S U B U R R S L S  
B R S T E P M U R T H E I L K  
S S O M A G R E P E P T A I A  
P A N G E L S L N H J E N O N  
I A C H R I S T E T S G O N R  
R S Y M B O L S A R D I S I Y  
I B E A S T U U N O G A R D M  
T R I B E S H P M U I R T N S

## Words

Angels, Babylon, Beast, Christ, Church, Creatures, Devil, Dragon, Elders, Ephesus, Eternal, Heaven, Horsemen, Horses, Images, Israel, Jerusalem, Judgment, Kingdom, Lamb, Martyrs, Nations, Numbers, Pergamos, Plagues, Rebellion, Saints, Sardis, Seals, Smyrna, Spirit, Symbols, Throne, Thunders, Thyatria, Tribes, Triumph, Trumpets, Vision

# Dates For Your Diary

## October 2021

Sun 3rd	10.00 a.m.	Monika Noronha - All Age Worship. Harvest Festival
	6.30 p.m.	Harvest Praise
Sat 9th	10.00 a.m.	Exminster's Environment Fair at Victory Hall ** (Until 1.00 p.m.)
Sun 10th	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - Themed Preaching **
Tue 12th	7.30 p.m.	Church Council meets in the Church **
Wed 13th	3.00 p.m.	Wednesday Bible Group meet in the Church **
Sun 17th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Themed Preaching **
Tue 19th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm)
Sun 24th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Themed Preaching & Sacrament **
	6.30 p.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - Café Church
Wed 27th	3.00 p.m.	Wednesday Bible Group in the Church **

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

Sun 31st	10.00 a.m.	Dr Joan Wragg - Themed Preaching **
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**\*\* Details in this newsletter or on the notice board in the hall.**

# 2050

UK's target to reach  
net zero by

# 196

Countries who adopted  
the Paris Agreement

# 70-90%

The level of decline of coral reefs  
even if only 1.5 degrees Celsius of  
warming is achieved



# 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

## 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 November 2021 Newsletter will be Sunday 17th October 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](mailto:andrew.m.jackson@me.com)