

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

October 2022

(No: 513)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk

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A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

It takes a certain kind of courage to remain committed to something which others have begun to be regarded as unfashionable, dull and irrelevant. Being a Christian in modern Britain, for example, means that you believe things which most of the people around you find, at best, ridiculous. A Christian, in such a situation, can either abandon the faith for an easier life, water down their faith, take out all the supernatural elements so that it just becomes a call to be nice to people, or you can stand firm in your faith, come what may. I'm sure you don't need me to tell you which approach the Bible advocates. One of the most admired qualities of our late Queen was her refusal to play to the gallery, maintaining a stance of duty and dignity until the very end, even when nobody else did.

In Nehemiah 10, the Israelites assemble in order to reaffirm their commitment to God, rather like we do when we say our covenant prayer every year. Except they go further than simply praying together. They make a binding agreement in writing, giving this affirmation legal status. They have experienced exile because of their rejection of God, and they are determined not to make that mistake again. They make a commitment to live God's way and to personal holiness. They make of themselves an offering to God, what Paul called a 'living sacrifice' (Romans 12.1). They would then direct their attention to the Temple, symbolising them the presence of God. That temple no longer exists. Since that time God has given us a new way to be holy – through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Those who put their faith in Him are then to come together to form a new temple, built not with bricks and mortar, but from 'living stones' (1 Peter 2.5) – you and me! Together, God's people form a spiritual house in which God lives by His Spirit. Nehemiah 10 is all about being called to commit ourselves to God, and for us, our churches are the place where we meet to live out this commitment. We are reminded of the truths of our faith, we sing and pray to God together, we encourage each other in our faith, and we then take the good news we have heard into our daily lives to share with others. That's what it means to commit ourselves to God. We can't do it alone. We need to meet together. We each need to make our own personal commitment to Jesus, but we need our brothers and sisters in Christ to fully live out that commitment. As the Israelites say at the end of this chapter, "we will not abandon God's house".

With every blessing

Ben Haslam

Dates For October 2022

Coffee

2nd	Melanie & Eileen
9th	Liz & Pauline
16th	Rose & Paul
23rd	Linda & Mervyn
30th	Terry L & Margaret D



Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. Dates each month will be announced in the Sunday Notices each Sunday morning at the 10am service.

The Away Group

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

Wonford Welcome Drop-In (10.30 am – 12.00 pm)

This is the new name for the Saturday Fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join us and if you would like to help in any way, or have suggestions of things we can do, then please speak with one of us.

Mandy, Liz, Rose, Rev Ben and Sue K

Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 18th October 2022 where hopefully there will be a talk from a representative from Christian Aid about he missionary work

We meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake. Everyone is welcome.



Themed Preaching at Wonford - Autumn 2022

This Autumn our Themed Preaching Series will be focussed on some of the stories that Jesus told. We've just called it "Jesus the Storyteller". These talks will take place in the morning service from September until Advent. We are mainly using our own Wonford team but have a debut appearance from Rev Ash Leighton-Plom (St David's and St Michael's Mount Dinham) and our faithful and well-used friend Rev Paul Smith. We hope you enjoy and find encouragement in Jesus' use of parables to illustrate the comforts and challenges of our Christian faith.

Sept 18	The Lost Son Luke 15 vv11-32	Tony Wragg
Sept 25	The Mugged Traveller Luke 10 vv25-37	Terry Spencer
Oct 2	The Scattered Seed Matthew 13 vv1-8:13-23	Jon Curtis. Harvest Festival
Oct 9	The Three Servants Luke 19 vv11-27	Ben Haslam (S)
Oct 16	The Disgruntled Workers Matthew 20 vv1-16	Joan Wragg
Oct 23	The Persistent Widow Luke 18 vv1-8	Monika Noronha
Oct 30	The Rich Farmer Luke 12 vv13-21	Ashleigh Leighton-Plom
Nov 6	All-Age Ann Skinner	
Nov 13	The Wise and Foolish Girls Matthew 25 vv1-13	Ben Haslam (S)
Nov 20	The Great Banquet Luke 14 vv15-24 Matthew 22 vv1-18	Paul Smith

Give the passages a read-through before the services.

Tony Wragg

Energy Efficiency in our Homes

As we all know the cost of our gas and electricity in our homes is increasing drastically. One way to mitigate this is to make sure our homes have as much insulation as possible. There are grants available for anyone who is either renting or own their own homes.

Cosy Devon is a DCC & District Council initiative to retrofit low income family homes. The total income of the family must be below £30,000. They offer help to insulate homes to reduce their fuel bills. There is a form on the following site that would need to be completed. Improving the energy efficiency of your home - [Cosy Devon](#) - household energy efficiency

Energy Company Obligation(ECO) offer cavity wall or loft insulation grants to low income families. One person in the household needs to be receiving a state benefit. i.e. disability or pension benefit. This is Government scheme to tackle fuel poverty. Under the ECO scheme the 'Big Six' utility companies are obliged to provide funding to households that need to improve the efficiency of their homes. This is in part to achieve the government's goal of being net carbon neutral by 2050 but as a main aim of tackling fuel poverty across the UK. [Click here to download the form Insulation Grants - available grants \(government-grants.co.uk\)](#)

Government Boiler Upgrade Scheme. Gas heating boilers should be replaced every 10 to 15 years. This is because new models which are more efficient are being produced. Here is a link to information on the Sustainable Energy site: [Upgrading your boiler | Centre for Sustainable Energy \(cse.org.uk\)](#) All new boilers should be 'A' rated.

The government is providing grants to encourage property owners to install low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps, through the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS). These grants can help property owners overcome the upfront cost of low carbon heating technologies. You need an Energy Efficiency Certificate before applying.

The scheme is open to domestic and small non-domestic properties in England and Wales. It runs from 2022 to 2025.

What you'll get:

- £5,000 off the cost and installation of an air source heat pump (cheapest option)
- £5,000 off the cost and installation of a biomass boiler
- £6,000 off the cost and installation of a ground source heat pump

The more our houses are insulated the less CO₂ goes into the atmosphere and the less we have to pay for our fuel bills. Currently about 20% of our annual CO₂ is from our energy use. If you hear of any other schemes that are offering grants then please let a member of the green team know so we

can make people aware. Please pass these links onto anyone who is struggling with their fuel bills as this could be one way of reducing them.

Alison Howell - Church Green Team

Green Team (Alison Hobbs, Alison Howell, Helen Moore, Martin Lloyd, Sue Keatt)

Prayer Focus for October

Prayer – Our Strongest Weapon – Pray Without Ceasing

Week Commencing Sunday October 2nd

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land
and enjoy safe pasture.

Psalm 37:3

Help us to trust you in these uncertain times. Help us to do good to our neighbour.

Fill our hearts with thanksgiving as we celebrate our harvest festival.

Week Commencing Sunday October 9th

Homeless Sunday and Prisons Sunday

Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by
all who delight in them.

Psalm 111:2

We pray for all those who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We pray for the organisations who serve, help and support them. We also pray for prison inmates and prison workers. And we pray for all prison chaplains as they minister hope to those they serve.

Week Commencing Sunday October 16th

He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth
with rain and makes grass grow on the hills.

Psalm 147:8

We pray for each other as we worship together and serve God in our community. We give thanks for everyone in our congregation and groups.

Week Commencing Sunday October 23rd

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty!
My soul yearns, even faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Psalm 84:1

We pray for all who help to look after our church building and the whole site. May our buildings AND our lives be a blessing to all!

Week Commencing Sunday October 30th - Bible Sunday

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:105

We pray for the Home group and the Away group as we study the Bible together. Help us to grow together in love as we seek to understand and live out the love of God.

Our Prayer Phone Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is now Lisa Thomas (01392 273220). 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 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



Photos from the Saturday Fellowship Food from Africa Morning



Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have made the following statement in response to the announcement of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

“It was with profound sadness that we learned of the death of Her Majesty the Queen today. We join the nation in grief and thank God for her long and distinguished reign. The loyalty to, and love expressed, for Queen Elizabeth across the world is a testament to the life that she led, one marked by dedicated service to others. She provided encouragement and reassurance to a world living through uncertain times.

“For people of all ages the Queen has provided constancy, a calm and wise influence at all levels of society. Our nation, the Commonwealth and the world have been greatly blessed by her life and work.

“We give thanks to God that her duty as monarch was grounded in a deep faith in Jesus Christ, which has been an inspiration to countless people throughout her reign. Her dedication, commitment and service to her people will never be forgotten and will sustain all those who mourn in the coming weeks. Our prayers are for her family who have lost a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt and we pray that all may be inspired by her service and guided by her example.

“The prayers of the Methodist people are also offered for His Majesty the King in his new role.”

The Revd Graham Thompson and Anthony Boateng, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference



A Prayer on the Death of Her Majesty the Queen

Creator God,

We give thanks for the life of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

We honour her life of service built on a firm foundation of faith and an exemplary commitment to duty.

Comfort those who mourn and bring peace to those in distress.

We offer our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2022

We are collecting boxes through Blythswood Care again this year. Blythswood Care 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 so it can be opened easily and they can be for adults as well as teenagers and children. The categories are Male or Female; Preschool, Primary, Teenager, Adult or Elderly.

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 13th November 2022.**

Most important items - toothbrush & toothpaste, soap & flannel, hat/scarf/gloves, sweets (dated at least March 2023), 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.

Please do contribute if you can. This shoebox may be the only gift they have ever been given and what a Christmas present for someone truly in need! **Sue Keatt**

Dates For Your Diary

October 2022

Sat 1st	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 2nd	10.00 a.m.	Dr Jon Curtis - Harvest Festival All Age Worship Themed Preaching **
	6.30 p.m.	Harvest Praise
Sat 8th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 9th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament. Themed Preaching
Tue 11th	7.00 p.m.	Sam Wells Lecture - Humbler Faith, Bigger God at Wonford Methodist Church
Thu 13th	7.30 p.m.	Church Council Meets in the Church **
Sat 15th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 16th	10.00 a.m.	Dr Joan Wragg - Themed Preaching **
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Leon Dundas - Café Church
Tue 18th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Sat 22nd	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Monika Noronha - Themed Preaching **
Sat 29th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 30th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ashleigh Leighton-Plom - Themed Preaching **

**** 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 *(not every week)*

Monday

- 7.30 p.m. The Away Group meets *(Fortnightly)*

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

- 9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group ***A***

- 3.00 p.m. Fortnightly Bible Group in the Church Lounge

Saturday

- 10.30 a.m. Wonford Welcome Drop-In

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 2022 Newsletter will be Sunday 16th October 2022. There is no guarantee of inclusion, but they may be given to:

Andrew Jackson - 19 Hills Orchard, Martock, Somerset. TA12 6DF.
Tel: 07818455600 or e-mailed to andrew.m.jackson@me.com