

# Wonford Methodist Church

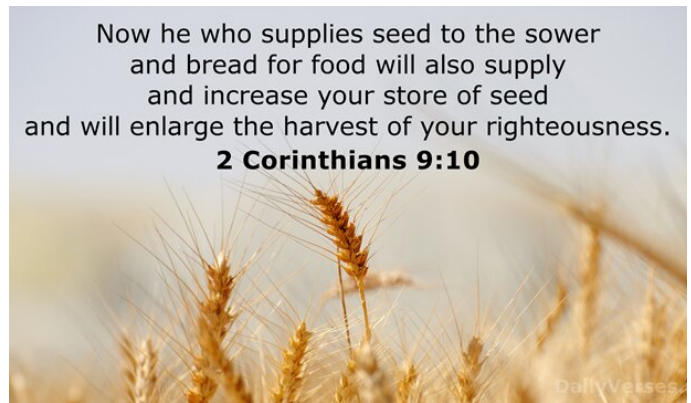
## Contact Newsletter

October 2025

(No: 544)



Now he who supplies seed to the sower  
and bread for food will also supply  
and increase your store of seed  
and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.  
**2 Corinthians 9:10**



**Senior Steward: Lisa Thomas**  
([info@wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk))



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,**

I'm sure all who were present for our Church Anniversary services in July led by Rev Dr David Hull will not quickly forget them.

I was reminded in the morning service of a forgotten Charles Wesley hymn "God of my salvation, here." This hymn is not easily found but is a real gem! It's rather long – 8 verses each of which has 8 lines – so I won't include it all, but some verses and lines are worth reflecting upon.

It is based upon Psalm 25:5 "Thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day." It was first published in Hymns and Sacred Poems in 1742 and can be found on the website [hymntime.com](http://hymntime.com). Verse one sets the context of our approach to God:-

***God of my salvation, hear  
And help me to believe;  
Simply do I now draw near  
Thy blessing to receive;  
Full of guilt, alas! I am,  
But to Thy wounds for refuge flee;  
Friend of sinners, spotless Lamb,  
Thy blood was shed for me.***

The last two lines are repeated at the end of every verse reminding us that Jesus who died for us is our welcoming friend, however unworthy we feel. His grace is always greater than our need. Like water it reaches down to our lowest point, as David reminded us in his sermon and All-age talk.

Verse four reminds us that we can never EARN God's grace, there is nothing we can pay to gain it. It's a free gift to all who believe and who are never sent away empty.

***Nothing have I, Lord, to pay,  
Nor can Thy grace procure;  
Empty send me not away,  
For I, Thou know'st, am poor;  
Dust and ashes is my name,  
My all is sin and misery;***

***Friend of sinners, spotless Lamb,  
Thy blood was shed for me.***

In his sermon David mentioned a line from the sixth verse: "Coming as at first I came." This reminds us that "each time" we come to Jesus we come just as we did the first time: i.e. in our constant need of God's grace. A friend from my youth group often reminded me of our ever present need to hear again the simple message of salvation. The whole of verse six is given here:-

***No good work, or word, or thought  
Bring I to gain Thy grace;  
Pardon I accept unbought,  
Thy proffer I embrace;  
Coming as at first I came  
To take, and not bestow on Thee;  
Friend of sinners, spotless Lamb,  
Thy blood was shed for me.***

The whole hymn is shot through with an appreciation that its only by God's grace (revealed in Jesus' death and resurrection) that we are able to enter His presence. Our grateful thanks to Rev David Hull for reminding us of the essential wonder of God's grace in Jesus. Amen!

**Rev Terry Spencer**

## **Dates For October 2025**

### **Coffee & Tea**

#### **October**

5th	JoJo & Melanie
12th	Rose & Sue
19th	Alison & Jenny
26th	Linda & Mervyn



## **Bible Study Group**

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us as we explore the Bible together and share fellowship. In October we will be starting a new study topic, and meet on the 10th and 24th. Please speak to Monika Noronha or Terry Spencer if you want further details.

**Monika**

## **The Away Group**

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

## **Roundabout Café**

In October they will meet on Tuesday 21st when there will be a talk by Ben Clapp from the Royal Albert Memorial Museum about St Nicholas Priory in Exeter. We meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake. Please join us if you can.



## **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. This will take place on Tuesday 21st October 2025.

**Lisa Thomas**

## **Wonford Welcome Drop-In for Everyone - Saturdays 10.30am to 12.00pm.**

In October we will be having the following activities for you to join, if you would like to, alongside a free cuppa & biscuits:

**4th October** - The Big Quiz! With picture, general knowledge & music rounds on Musicals. Teams of up to 5 people welcome & prize for winners.

**11th October** - Coffee Morning with delicious cakes to raise money for two local groups - Wonford Health Matters and Jay's Aim.

**18th October** - We will be bringing in items to make up a few Shoebox gifts for Blythwood Care to go to people in poverty in Ukraine and Romania.

**25th October** - Sharing memories of our school days, including our favourite subjects and the infamous school dinners! (United Nations Day - 'Education Shapes the Future')

Wonford Welcome is open to all; everyone, whatever their age, background or beliefs, will receive a warm welcome! If you are able to spread the word, put up a poster or share it on social media please do. And if you haven't been along yet please do come and join us one Saturday

**Alison, Helen, Lisa, Liz, Mandy, Monika, Paul & Rose and Sue K**

## **An Introduction from the Revd Simon Leigh**

Dear One and All,

Although it may be at a bit of a distance I shall be looking after Wonford for the next year and hopefully we will have a minister matched with you this autumn, to begin in September, 2026.

As for me, I am married to Revd Donna who is the minister St. Thomas, Tedburn St. Mary, Exminster and Crediton. We have been married over 40 years and have three allegedly grown up children, living in London, Plymouth and Sheffield. We also have four grandchildren, all of them teenagers – I know I look so young!

I became a minister in 1994 and was sent for initial training at Wesley College, Bristol. Revd Donna was then a midwife and worked at St. Michael's Hospital in Bristol. Our first appointment was in Epsom and Carshalton and I was ordained in 1999 in Liverpool. In 2008 I accepted a post as Superintendent of the Plymouth and Devonport Circuit and had churches at Elburton, Oreston and Stoke. In 2020 we moved to the Bude and Holsworthy circuit where I had 11 churches. Revd Donna, who candidated from the Plymouth and Devonport Circuit was ordained in 2017, and was minister at Crownhill, Compton and Colebrook churches. When we moved to Holsworthy she became Chaplain at Shebbear College, then a Methodist school.

While in the former Plymouth and Exeter District I have been Deputy Chair of District and Rural Officer. In the new District I am a member of the District Property Committee and as the Devon area Ecumenical Officer. I am a member of the Connexional Complaints Panel, which I sometimes chair.

In 2024 we moved to Exeter and here I am.

I am the Superintendent in this circuit and have The Mint, Sidwell Street, Farway, Honiton and Temple churches under my pastoral charge. I also have the pleasure of your company too.

I am a Crystal Palace supporter and take an interest in Exeter Chiefs too. I like cricket and Surrey would be my team.

I am grateful to your church stewards, to Sue Keatt and Revd Terry Spencer for the support they have already given me.

Every blessing,

**Revd Simon.**

## **The Power Of Love**

**“I’ve Just met a girl named Maria!”**

Tony sings these moving, amorous words in the outstanding film ‘West Side Story’. Unfortunately, Maria is from Puerto Rico, and her romance with Tony is doomed. Two gangs, Jets and Sharks, constantly fight each other, and Tony is killed by Chino, a Puerto Rican.

I’ve just written a letter to a Russian girl named Maria, and sent it (via Amnesty International) to the prison, almost 600 miles from her home, where she is in solitary confinement. Why? Maria is a journalist, who wrote condemning her country bombing the theatre in Mariupol, Ukraine, where innocent, sheltering women and children were killed. Maria was arrested because Russia’s censorship laws make it illegal to speak against Ukraine being invaded. I wrote along with many others to encourage her, and build her hope of release.

Sadly, our world is full of HATE! Hate causes Jess Carter of the Lionesses’ successful soccer team to be bombarded with racist abuse. Hate causes the Green Line dividing Cyprus, with Cypriots and Turks kept apart; the Blue Line similarly divides Lebanon from Israel, whose settlers constantly steal land and animals belonging to Palestinians. The Bible powerfully condemns King Ahab and his grasping wife Jezebel for stealing Naboth’s vineyard, and getting him killed at the same time. There’s no future in hate!

As for the 60,000 killed in Israel’s dehumanisation of Gaza’s people, the United Nations’ urgent plea to stop the war has gone unheeded, which in turn breeds more hatred and revenge against the Israeli nation.

If our world wants to prioritise POWER, it needs to grasp that LOVE is power! Love for God and our neighbour are powers our sick world is desperately needing. Food banks galore, in many countries, are helping poor people right now. I’ve just seen on TV three little girls, named Elsie, Alice and Bebe, who were murdered in Southport, whose parents are

committed to running several punishing marathons, to raise money to help desperately poor children.

The greatest words ever spoken by anyone are: "Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing." LOVE, (not hatred) is desperately needed as the bedrock to build our world upon. Decades ago, these words were chosen by our late Queen Elizabeth to be sung on reaching her 40th year of monarchy:

*"GOD reminds us every sunrise that the world is ours on lease,  
For the sake of life tomorrow may our love for it increase;  
May all races live together, SHARE its riches, be at peace:  
May the living God be praised!"*

I've just met a man named Jesus – "the most beautiful sound I ever heard". He said to me: "LOVE one another, as I have loved you!"

**Rev Malcolm Carter**

## **Garden Work Party at the Manse (20 Whipton Lane)**

Recently a few of us gathered at the Manse to tidy up the garden. We cut the grass, the hedge and cut back some of the shrubs. Many thanks to those of you who helped.

I would like to arrange another go which will include digging out the borders and beds and cutting down a few more shrubs. Hopefully this will then finish the work for the winter.

Another Garden Work Party is taking place on Friday 3rd October 2025. I will be there between 10.30 and 4.30. If you are able to give an hour or more I would be very grateful. I am happy to provide sandwiches if you are there over lunchtime (please let me know) and there will be tea and coffee and biscuits of course.

If there is heavy rain we will of course cancel.

Many thanks

**Alison**

## **Volunteering With Our Church**

We are all blessed by the care and attention taken by volunteers among us in the care and running of our church. If you have a little time on a regular or non regular basis and would like to get involved in a small or large way within the life of our church, please contact Lisa or speak to someone! Things you can do; help on Sunday with tea and coffee, reading during the service, welcoming folk at the door on an occasional Sunday morning or cleaning once a month. We are setting up a crew who will help with maintenance jobs around the buildings and this may involve the use of tools! Pastoral visiting is a commitment that builds friendships, getting to know a few folk better, offering prayer and fellowship. Whatever time you have, whether you feel you have skills or not, there will be something you can offer if you would like to.

Thank you

**Lisa Thomas**

## **Cake Sale at Wonford Welcome**

On October 11th we are having a Cake Sale at Wonford Welcome to raise money for Wonford Health Matters and Jays Aim.

Wonford Health Matters is a new community group set up by several Church folk and one of the GPs from Wonford Green Surgery. Jays Aim have provided three sessions of free CPR training at the Church. Wonford Health Matters and Jays Aim have worked together to install a 24 hour access defibrillator at One Stop in Woodwater Lane.

If you can bake for this or come along on the day to buy that would be great! There will also be a 'Teddy Hospital' if children would like to bring their soft toys!

Thank you

**Helen and Lisa**

## **Harvest Festival Social**

This takes place on Tuesday 7th October 2025 from 6.30pm. It will be a Quiz Night with a Bring & Share supper. Please make every effort to come along if you can.





## Wonford Health Matters

**Do you live in Wonford?  
Are you interested in health?**

**Then this new group could be for you!**

**Wonford Health Matters aims to:**

- **provide and maintain defibrillators which can be accessed 24 hours a day**
- **support local activities and events that improve physical health and wellbeing**
- **encourage health education and the take up of screening opportunities**
- **create a link between the surgery and the community**

**If you would like to find out more  
or have any suggestions please email:  
[wonfordhealthmatters@gmail.com](mailto:wonfordhealthmatters@gmail.com)**

## **The Faith Experiment: Miracles – can God break science?**

This is a presentation at All Saints Church, All Saints Rd, Sidmouth EX10 8ES as part of the Sidmouth Science Festival. It takes place on Monday 13th October 2025 from 7:00pm – 8:30pm.

Further details can be found on the link below:

<https://www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org/events/the-faith-experiment-miracles-can-god-break-science>

## **Church Council Meeting**

Our next Church Council meeting will be on Tuesday 21 October 2025. This is one week later than we agreed at our last CC. It will be held in the church hall at 7.30pm.

All are welcome to attend although only church council members can vote on any items. This will be our first one without Ben but Sue Keatt has kindly offered to Chair while we are without a Minister.

**Alison**

## **Circuit Contact**

Now that Rev Ben has moved on, I would like to make folk at Wonford Methodist aware that our circuit contact, while we do not have a minister, will be Rev Simon Leigh, our circuit superintendent. If people have any question or concern that would normally go to a minister, they can contact him via the circuit office; [simon.leigh@swpmethodist.org.uk](mailto:simon.leigh@swpmethodist.org.uk) If this is a worry for anybody, they can contact me or their pastoral visitor first.

Earlier in this newsletter, Simon wrote an article introducing himself to us at Wonford.

**Lisa**

## **Themed Preaching for Autumn 2025**

In September we started a new themed preaching series entitled 'The Minor Prophets and their Messages'. Further details about this series will be announced each Sunday as part of the notices.

# Prayer Focus for October 2025

**Week Commencing Sunday 5th October - also Homelessness Sunday**

## ***Psalm 65:11***

"You crown the year with your bounty,  
and your carts overflow with abundance."

Thank you God, for all your provision for our needs. As we celebrate Harvest, we pray that you will help us to play our part in feeding the hungry, clothing the poor and providing shelter for those who need it.

**Week Commencing Sunday 12th October - also Prisons Sunday**

## ***Matthew 25:38-40***

"When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you? The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Pray this week for all who are involved with the criminal justice system, for the staff, prison inmates, chaplains and the families of prisoners.

**Week Commencing Sunday 19th October - also Freedom Sunday**

## ***Luke 4:18-19***

'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

For children, women and men who are being bought and sold for sex, for those who live in fear of violence, who have experiences of abuse they have kept hidden, for those who are walking a journey of healing, we pray God of peace draw near, God of comfort draw near, God of justice draw near. Amen

*Based on a prayer resource offered by IJM, the International Justice Movement.*

## **Week Commencing Sunday 26th October - also Bible Sunday**

### ***Psalm 119:105***

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

Pray especially for young people at this time. Pray that those who are seeking for truth at this time will get access to a Bible and discover Jesus for themselves.

[If you are on Facebook, look up the Bridge Books page and search for Mia's Testimony]

## **A Poem Written By Sarah Taylor (27th August 2025)**

### **One More Time**

Can I say Hi one more time  
If there were visiting times in Heaven,  
Would you be there to let me in.  
Would you hold my hand and say,  
It's going to be okay.  
Can you hug me one more time,  
I'm lonely without you, I know I will see you again,  
But what do I do until then.  
I miss your smile and laughing with you.  
Your love kept me safe,  
But on days like today, I feel so alone.  
The memories we have are so special,  
But without you, they are nothing at all.  
Tell me I'm going to get through,  
Because I am nothing without you.

## **A Methodist Way of Life**

(An Article from the Methodist Church Website)

Nothing we do can make God love us more – but it can help us realise how deeply we are loved by God. We respond to God's love in Christ through the way we live our lives. The calling of the Methodist Church is to support you in this.

God longs to take you on a journey of a lifetime. Being a disciple is a bit like being a traveller on a train; taking an adventure through life, taking risks,

growing and learning. It starts with a choice: getting on the train and committing to following Jesus.

## Get On The Train

Do you love an adventure? Or do you hesitate on the platform, imagining everything that might go wrong?

Being a disciple starts with saying yes to Jesus. This can be scary, as you don't know where the journey will take you. But it is so worthwhile.

And if you have said yes, you need to continue to say yes every day, committing to staying on the train even when things get hard.

You can get on the train at any station, including ones that are off the map.

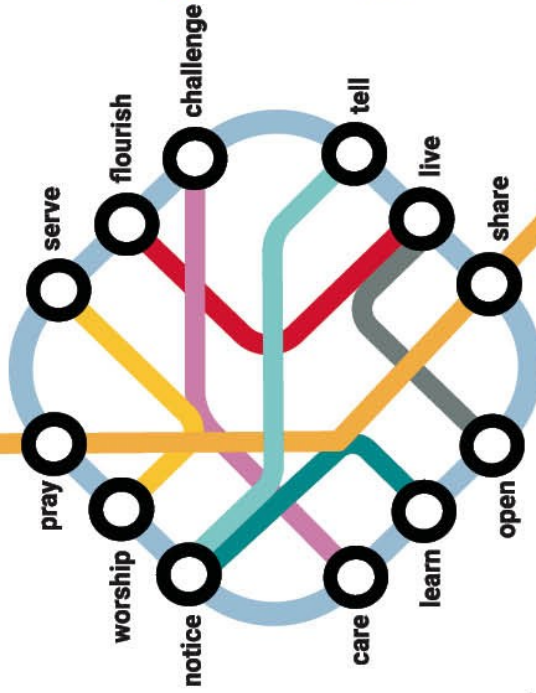
In the Methodist Church, there are 12 practices that we think particularly help us to encounter God. We call this A Methodist Way of Life. Each practice is a station on the journey where we meet God and grow in faith.

God calls each of us to get involved in all 12, as each helps us to respond to God's love in a different way. We do not expect to be perfect in this, but we live out these practices as far as we are able, with God's help. There are four areas on the map:

Some might feel familiar and safe, or like a passion – let's call it your home station. This could be linked to a vocation but could also be something completely different. We might avoid some stations because they're scary or difficult – experiencing God here feels hard. Others are unfamiliar, but it feels like the season to visit them. Let's call these exciting, or terrifying, stations growth stations.



# A Methodist Way of Life



**God loves spending time with you.**  
Don't overcomplicate it. God's there, and is a perfect listener.

**Q** How do you pray?  
Has prayer been easy or hard?

**God wants to refresh you.**  
Worshipping with others helps to knit us into a faith community.

**Q** When have you felt close to God in worship recently?  
What sort of worship refreshes you?

**God is near, and findable.**  
But not completely.

**Q** Where have you noticed God recently?  
Which part of the Bible is important to you at the moment?

**It's all about love.**  
Love for other people and yourself is what matters most.

**Q** How are you caring for yourself?  
Who are you caring for at the moment?

**You can become like Jesus.**  
You are not stuck where you are.

**Q** What has helped you learn and grow recently?  
What would you like to learn about faith?

**God gives a warm welcome.**  
We meet God in relationship with people.

**Q** How have you shown hospitality and generosity recently?  
How have you received them?



**pray**  
We pray daily



**worship**  
We worship with others regularly



**notice**  
We notice God in Scripture, and the world



**care**  
We care for ourselves and those around us



**learn**  
We learn more about our faith



**open**  
We practise hospitality and generosity

**It's a win-win situation.**  
Helping is good for the soul.

**Q** Who have you helped recently?  
Who has helped you recently?

**The earth is a gift from God.**  
We are part of the earth too, lovingly woven from the same fabric.

**Q** How are you caring for creation?  
What is your biggest challenge in responding to the climate emergency?

**God is a liberator.**  
God always takes the side of people experiencing poverty and injustice.

**Q** What issues of injustice are you concerned about?  
What are you doing in response?

**Your story matters.**  
It's natural to want to pass on good news.

**Q** When was the last time you told a story about God?  
Who do you discuss faith with?

**You be you.**  
You are made in God's image, so let that shine out.

**Q** How have you become more authentically you recently?  
Which is you: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control?

**You get to partner with God.**  
God involves us in the task of bringing love and restoration.

**Q** How have you shared your faith recently?  
What opportunities to share faith are coming up?



**serve**  
We will help people in our communities and beyond



**flourish**  
We care for creation and all God's gifts



**challenge**  
We challenge injustice



**tell**  
We tell of the love of God



**live**  
We live in a way that draws people to Jesus



**share**  
We share our faith

In response to God's gift of love, there are **twelve things** that we do individually and together to help us to worship God, and serve others, be evangelistic, and learn and care together.

None of this makes God love you any more – but it may help you realise how deeply you are loved by God.

# Dates For Your Diary

## October 2025

Fri 3rd	10.30 a.m.	Garden Working Party at The Manse **
Sat 4th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 5th	10.00 a.m.	Ann Skinner - Harvest Festival and All Age Worship
	6.30 p.m.	'Harvest Praise' Service
Tue 7th	6.30 p.m.	Harvest Social - Bring & Share Quiz Night **
Fri 10th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study in the lounge **
Sat 11th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) inc Cake Sale for Wonford Health Matters and Jays Aim **
Sun 12th	10.00 a.m.	Prof Tony Wragg - Themed Preaching **
Mon 13th	7.00 p.m.	The Faith Experiment: Miracles – can God break science? At All Saints Church, Sidmouth. **
Sat 18th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 19th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Themed Preaching and Sacrament Service **
Tue 21st	9.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **
	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
	7.30 p.m.	Church Council Meeting **
Fri 24th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study in the lounge **
Sat 25th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 26th	10.00 a.m.	Lloyd Smale - Themed Preaching **



The deadline for items for the November 2025 Newsletter will be Sunday 12th October 2025. 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](mailto:andrew.m.jackson@me.com)**

# **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 in the lounge *(Fortnightly)*

## **Tuesday**

9.00 a.m. Monthly Prayer Meeting *(3rd Tuesday)*

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

## **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. to 12.00 p.m.

Wonford Welcome Drop-In

Tea, coffee and biscuits are free.

( **\*A\*** = No meeting during school holiday)