

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

September 2020

(No: 492)

Special Edition



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist Church** 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



@WonfordMethodistChurch



A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

I don't know if you have ever travelled first class by train. I haven't and I'm never going to because a) I'm from Yorkshire and b) you don't really get much extra for your money as far as I can see. Plus, a good book and a good view are options for everyone, as far as I can see! However, although I consider myself a very prudent person indeed for opting for second class travel, I am aware that far too many people consider themselves to be second class people. This might be because they have low self-esteem, or others have treated them badly. It may be because they have had a great deal of criticism flung at them, and very little encouragement. All sorts of things can happen as a result. Sometimes they overcompensate by bullying or throwing their weight around. Sometimes they simply go through life with a sense of dejection, feeling they aren't worth very much.

This is very sad indeed, and the Church is sometimes wrongly portrayed as existing for the sole purpose of making people feel bad about themselves. It's true that Paul wrote, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God". That is a fact that we can't ignore. As Rowan Williams expressed it, "The Gospel will never tell us we are innocent, but it does tell us we are loved". We are not loved moreover, because of anything we have done or achieved. We cannot 'make' God love us. Praise God, we don't have to, as God knew and loved us before we were even born, simply because we are His.

Remember God so loved the world – that means everyone. It means that every single person on the planet is equal before God, and there is no such thing as a second class person. The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news available to anyone and everyone – faith and trust are all that's needed. The Gospel might not tell us that we are perfect, but it will always tell us that we are completely and unconditionally loved and that there is a great future for us, in which we walk hand in hand with God. We hear a lot at present about how things are going to differ as a result of the Covid-19 situation. Very true no doubt. We must not forget the foundational truths of our faith though, which will always be true and are not affected in the least by what's happening around us. If Christ died for us, then we must be worth an awful lot to Him....

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

Wonford Methodist Church Open for Prayer

From the week beginning 7th September 2020 we will be opening the church for **PERSONAL PRAYER** on **Wednesdays only from 10am to 12 noon.**



Personal silent prayer only and strict social distancing will apply

Wonford 'All Age' Worship Service

Sunday morning services start at Wonford on 6th September with 'All Age' worship led by Dr Jon Curtis. This church has been rearranged to allow for social distancing so please be directed by the stewards to where to sit. Face coverings need to be worn. There will be no tea/coffee after the service.

It is hoped to 'live stream' morning services on some way but initially it might be a recording made available via our website and Facebook after the service.

Notes for Attending Sunday Worship

- Please wear a face covering
- Please wait to be invited in by one of our stewards
- Please use hand sanitiser as you enter and leave
- Please sit in the seat allocated by the steward and social distancing must be respected
- The toilets are available and are monitored
- Please give your contact details to the Steward; they will be recorded for Track and Trace purposes only
- You should not enter if you have had symptoms of Covid-19

If you subsequently test positive for Coronavirus please inform the church
Rev Ben Haslam 01392 - 256716

If you have any questions please speak to one of the stewards.

Our Autumn Theme Preaching - Genesis

This Autumn, starting on September 20th, we are going to explore the early chapters of the book of Genesis. We know some of these stories well - the Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, The Tower of Babel, etc - but what do they mean for Christians in the 21st century? Well - come along and see how these ancient texts relate to some of the questions and issues of today's world and society. Here's the programme and the speakers.

Tracing the work of God through the Mist A series based on the early chapters of Genesis

Sept 20th	Genesis 1	From Chaos to Order	Prof Tony Wragg
Sept 27th	Genesis 2 & 3	Paradise lost	Rev Ben Haslam
Oct 11th	Genesis 4 & 5	Family jealousy and the upshot	Rev Alan Rothwell
Oct 18th	Genesis 6	Noah gets the message	John Hogarth
Oct 25th	Genesis 7 & 8	The Flood and its outcome	Rev Ben Haslam
Nov 8th	Genesis 9	Eternal promises	Rev Ben Haslam
Nov 15th	Genesis 11	The Tower of Babel	Dr Joan Wragg
Nov 22nd	Genesis 12	A turning point;. God speaks to Abram	Rev Terry Spencer

Sounds good doesn't it? Rev Alan Rothwell devised the series so we thank him for his work on it.

It may be a good idea to read through the passage before each service. We are going to try to relate the truth of early Genesis to the saving work of Jesus. Let's see if that works!!!

Tony



Church Cleaning Rota - Request for more helpers

Currently we only have one person on our church cleaning rota, Bill Noronha. We urgently need help with the cleaning as there will need to be more thorough cleaning from September. If several people are on the rota it spreads the load. The stewards will be wiping surfaces, light switches, door handles etc down before and after services but more general cleaning is still needed.



So if you think you could take a turn, please speak to a steward or Bill.

Many thanks

Alison

“Climate Sunday”

Somehow, since mid-March this year on my daily hour-long walks in my neighbourhood, I've been noticing all “nature” in a much deeper way – and praising God through it all, as he lifts up my heart and spirit. My heightened awareness is helped by the monthly Prayer Points I get from – www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk. As an Eco Church we, at Wonford, are indebted to *A Rocha UK*, who are behind the Eco Church project. One focus is a new initiative called ‘Climate Sunday’ which many UK Churches across the denominations are joining.



You all will have read the excellent article by Sue Keatt in last month's Contact Newsletter, and her question about Wonford choosing to have a Climate Sunday – and be part of a larger group doing this. Did you send her, or our Minister Ben Haslam, any comments on this suggestion? I do hope so. Although we have already made some progress as an Eco Church there is more to do, as suggested in the 3 points she quotes; and the Church Council recently agreed we would – somehow – be part Exeter's celebration of the national Climate Sunday on Sunday 5th September 2021. However, if Wonford does re-open soon for Services, the showing of the film “Global Healing” - postponed from 26 April, seems unlikely to happen in October. In the meantime, do keep an eye out for any ideas to share with our Green Team members, please; for this will really help our Team to know what you think Wonford Methodist Church folk should do next, to help preserve God's Wonderful World, and limit changes for the worse in the climate.

Margretta Bowstead - Church Green Team

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2020-2021 – The Earth is the LORD's

I have heard that the order for our Prayer Handbooks is due for delivery to me about 20th August. For those who asked for a copy, they will cost £4.15 each. I will try and get them to you as soon as I can, after receiving them! I will be very grateful for your patience; and, likewise, I will be patient in awaiting your payments. Thank you.

Margretta Bowstead

Prayer Focus for September

Prayer - Our Strongest Weapon - Pray Without Ceasing

May I encourage you to continue with your prayers for the COVID-19 that is affecting most of the world if not all of the world.

Pray especially for Beirut, not only feeling the effects of COVID-19 but also the devastating explosion. So many have been made homeless. Pray that they will get all the help they need to build new homes, places of employment and all their medical needs will be met.

As schools return, pray for our youngsters, that they will adapt to a new way of doing things. Pray that there will be no new outbreaks of the virus. Pray especially for those who should have taken GCSE & A level exams but were unable. Some may not have been given the marks they were expecting and as a result may not be able to move on to the next stage they were hoping for.

Pray also for people who due to COVID-19 have lost their jobs either because business have had to cut back on staff or they have been forced to close down.

Still keep safe everyone. Pray for our brothers and sisters facing illness at this time & pray for those who are preparing our church building in readiness for us to meet together once more.

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

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)

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

Services in September

There will be no services at 6.30pm. Services at 10am are listed below but please read the guidelines outlined earlier in this newsletter.

6th	Dr Jon Curtis - All Age Worship
13th	Rev Terry Spencer
20th	Prof Tony Wragg - Themed Preaching on Genesis 1
27th	Rev Ben Haslam - Themed Preaching on Genesis 2

A Call to Pray for Everyone Involved in Education at This Time

Barbara Easton, head of service for the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust, calls for prayers at this anxious time as schools return

Children have had a very mixed time over the last several months. Many have missed friends and the experience of learning as a community. Some have flourished, spending more time at home than ever before. For a few, more time spent at home has been a time of inescapable trauma. Young people in examination years have been on an emotional roller-coaster which is now reaching its end. Children will receive the reckoning of the generation who went before – those in traditionally high performing schools will be credited with the same high grades as their predecessors; children in

less successful schools will be judged no better than their fore-runners. The exceptional youngster not credited as an individual but as an aberration. Lives, careers and futures in the balance. Schools are facing the challenges of the return to school. Staff and children are anguishing about the full opening, uncertain how to prepare and what to prepare for. The guidance is like 'an ever-flowing stream' and yet more is expected.

And so I ask you to pray:

- **For young people and their families as they deal with their results**
- **For the people in exam boards, university admissions offices and schools balancing the requirements of process and the futures of young people**
- **For everyone involved in the full return to education**
- **For our Methodist schools across the country, serving and loving in the name of Christ and of the Methodist people**
- **For Methodist schools and universities across the world, each serving in its own place.**
- **God of grace, we hold before you everyone involved in education at this time.**
- **Give peace, righteousness, energy, delight and empathy all in their places**

We offer all our young people into your care,

Amen.

October 2020 Newsletter

I hope to be able to print some paper copies of the newsletter. If you have become use to receiving an electronic version (and don't want a paper version) please contact Rev Alan Rothwell who will update our records.

The deadline for items for the October 2020 Newsletter will be Sunday 13th September 2020. 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