

WBCWBC Sunday 8th November 2020

Welcome to another edition of the WBCWBC, see what's new, and refresh your mind of what you may have already known!

Birthdays:
Monday 9th - Karen W
Wednesday 11th – Rachael J
Saturday 14th – Riley G

Roads for Prayer:
Watchet – Kingsland
Williton – Limes Close

Online Worship Service
www.youtube.com/watchetbaptist
Sunday at 5.40pm with service starting at 6pm.

Start the Week Prayer
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6196377534>
Monday at 9am for about 40 minutes

Small groups (Tide groups)
These meet on various days throughout the week.
Please ask for more info.
Open Prayer Gardens
These take place most weeks. Info is published by
email as these are arranged.

Keep in touch!

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<https://www.watchetbaptist.org.uk/news>

Sanctuary Snappers 2021 Calendar

It's November again and despite a very strange year Snappers have managed to continue photographing the beauty of Somerset and we hope to create our annual calendar within days. Whilst it is difficult to say whether you would like one or not without seeing any of the images it would be helpful to have an idea of how many folk are interested. I haven't checked but I suspect the price will be in the £6 to £7 mark but as with all these things, the more you have the cheaper it becomes. If you are interested in having any can you email lynnemcleaver@gmail.com with the number you think you may like. This is not binding and if you change your mind on seeing the resultant calendar you will not be held to account!
Many thanks, Lynne

Planting trees at Treborough & remembering Beverley Dean

Many of us have spent many happy and blessed hours at Treborough. A crowd funding page has been set up in memory of Beverley Dean, who died in February 2020, to buy and plant a memorial of native deciduous trees in Treborough Woodland, continuing Bev's vision. **You can read more here:**

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/beverley-dean-memorial-planting/updates/5df44?utm_term=WNDPrxebd

Bottling the Essence of Watchet
Is this a great opportunity for us ...?

It would be great for as many of us as possible to contribute towards the first exhibition at the new East Quay development entitled 'Bottling the Essence of Watchet'. It is going to be all about celebrating the extraordinary power of community and how we might explain what it feels like to live in Watchet. The idea is that as many people as possible express their own perspective on the town and their social community - positive or challenging. Surely this is a great opportunity for us to share a message of hope and faith! You can use a bottle or jar (Kilner jars are very suitable- you can get your hand inside!)- anything really, as long as it is made of glass! You do not have to be an artist to contribute- and bottles do not have to be completed to any required 'standard'- whatever you do will be acceptable, so long as it is a reflection of what you think about Watchet and it's community.

To inspire others, if you have completed a bottle (or jar) please could you send me a photo to include in a future edition of WBCWBC?

Please also have a look at the website <http://www.containsart.co.uk/bottles.html> or look on the Contains Art Facebook pages to see what has already been made. **Some of the bottles are displayed in the Post Office window and at the Visitor Centre** - and Neville Gabie, who is curating the exhibition, will be in Watchet again on the 30th / 31st **October** at the **Visitor Centre** if you would like to pop in and chat. He is a really nice person and would love to meet you!

Book Reviews

Some time ago, Mike was in touch to ask if there were folks among us who would be willing to read and review books – books that might help any and all of us to grow in our discipleship. A few people came forward and said they would be happy to. In the weeks and months to come, we will be sharing these reviews and encouraging you to buy or borrow the books themselves.

Some are lighter reading and others need a bit more concentration. There is fiction as well as non-fiction. And a mixture of devotional content with advice on Christian living, too. Good websites for picking up Christian books include eden.co.uk, while sites such as Book Depository and Amazon often sell second hand version for a cheaper price. And if you wanted to share your own experience of reading a book, do let Mike know. It would be great to develop a library of books that we know as a church and through which, we might encourage each other.

Thank you to Fiona A for the following review...

Surprised by Hope

N T Wright

[NT Wright (Tom Wright) is an English New Testament scholar, Pauline theologian and Anglican bishop. He was the Bishop of Durham from 2003 to 2010. The author of over seventy books, he is highly regarded in academic and theological circles for his "Christian Origins and the Question of God" series.]

This book was first published in 2007 and the preface opens with the following – “What are we waiting for? And what are we going to do about it in the meantime? These are the two questions which shape this book.” This book urges Christians to re-think heaven, the resurrection, and the mission of the church. Wright says that your view of heaven and life after death directly affects how you view life before death: “resurrection doesn't mean escaping from the world; it means mission to the world based on Jesus' lordship over the world.”

The book is set out in 3 clear sections – the first section sets the scene (and the confusion which exists), the second looks at God's future plan and the

third looks at hope in practice: resurrection and the mission of the church.

What did I like about the book?

I have read this book before and was delighted to re read it. It rightly sets the Easter story and resurrection at the heart of belief where hope flows from the resurrection, since the resurrection of Jesus and the Christian hope are mutually inclusive. Wright argues for the bodily resurrection of Jesus as the basis for life after death and this understanding of hope through the resurrection is integral to Wright's theology of Christian mission in the present. Because followers of Jesus are going to dwell physically in a new earth, everything done in the present is significant (and important). Three areas – justice, beauty, and evangelism – compromise the present mission and form the foundation for hope in the everyday work of the church.

I particularly liked the conclusion to the second section of the book moving into the final part – which can be viewed as 'so what does this mean to me', 'why it matters' and 'how do I respond'. This is because the resurrection of Jesus does not save us out of the world, but saves us to engage the restoration of the world as we anticipate full restoration. *"A piety that sees death as the moment of "going home at last," the time when we are "called to God's eternal peace," has no quarrel with power-mongers who want to carve up the world to suit their own ends. Resurrection, by contrast, has always gone with a strong view of God's justice and of God as the good creator. Those twin beliefs give rise not to a meek acquiescence to injustice in the world but to a robust determination to oppose it."*

The ultimate future hope though remains a surprise. *"Our task.....is to live as resurrection people in between Easter and the final day, with our Christian life, corporate and individual, in both worship and mission, as a sign of the first and a foretaste of the second."*

Where there things about the book which didn't quite work for me?

The sections in the book on hell and communication with the dead didn't quite work for me and I must admit that I somewhat skimmed this part of the book. Wright says that since the future heaven is a physical place and not an abstract "area" where Christians float for eternity, hell is not as much a place of eternal torment, as it is a place of dehumanization. I feel that I need to re read this part of the book again and also look at scripture in more depth and pray on the issue. He condemns praying for the salvation of dead saints but believes in praying for their rest.

Why should someone read this book?

This book is readable and also strongly Biblical with referencing to both the old and New Testament. Wright also references to some of his own / other writings which is useful. Again there are books that I want to look at further. I have read his *Simply Christian* book which is anything but 'simple'. I found *Surprised by Hope* to be easier read in that sense.

The third part of the book – hope in practice – deserves a further read which is in fact something I'm doing now. This part of the book essentially sets out the fundamentals to faith, rethinking salvation, building for the kingdom, and how we are to reshape the church for mission, the biblical roots and living the future (baptism, communion, prayer, scripture, holiness and of course love). In the final 2 chapters he develops the nature of Christian spirituality and mission. I enjoyed the *Tailpiece: two Easter sermons* as well!