

**Salisbury Methodist Church
St Edmund's Church Street Salisbury**

Newsletter



Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Psalm 90 verses 1-2

Minister:

Revd Dr Mark Cheetham

☎ 01722 697841

email:

minister@salisburymethodist.org.uk



Outreach Worker:

Linda Hayman

email:

outreachworker@salisburymethodist.org.uk

www.salisburymethodist.org.uk

Salisbury Methodist Church, St Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury, SP1 1EF

email: admin@salisburymethodist.org.uk

				4		6	7	
1				5	3			
	2		6					
		7						3
		3				8		4
		5	2		9			
					8		9	6
7		9	3		1			
5	8					7		

The September Newsletter was produced by
Rachel and Simon Clarke.

Items for the October Newsletter should be sent to Rachel Clarke

no later than Friday 15th September 2023

email: **newsletter@salisburymethodist.org.uk**

Material for consideration should be as follows:

An A4 Word or other editable text document in Arial font size 14pt

Please ensure you have consent for any material submitted.

If you need help creating a document, please contact Rachel Clarke.

01722 338392

Worship in September

Sunday 3 September 10.30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham HC

Sunday 10 September 10.30 a.m. Revd Anna Bishop

4.00 p.m. Revd Cecil King MB

Sunday 17 September 8.00 a.m. Revd Judy Davies HC

10.30 a.m. Mrs Sue Holmes AA HF

Sunday 24 September 10.30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham

Sunday 1 October 10.30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham

Children and Young People on Sunday (CHYPS) offers activities for children, linked to the church service, each Sunday except when there is an All Age Worship.

Additional Information:-

AA All Age

HC Holy Communion

HF Harvest Festival

MB Mixed Blessings

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It's so good to be back! I have had such a lovely three months or so on Sabbatical and then on holiday, but I am enjoying re-connecting with you all so much. And if I haven't yet caught up with you, you can be sure that I am very much looking forward to doing so. A period of absence does so much to remind one of how valuable community is, and how precious the relationships within it.

I have walked and read, prayed and reflected and learnt a very great deal, which I will look for opportunities to share with you over the coming months. But a highlight was my solitary retreat in Devon, when I was privileged to see badgers in the wild on moonlight walks.

I wonder whether you have ever done absolutely nothing? You might have different responses to that depending on your circumstances. If your life is full and frantic at the moment, you might be thinking, "Are you joking? I would LOVE to do nothing, but it's impossible!" (That's roughly what I was thinking before my Sabbatical!) But if you have a quieter life, and especially if that is not by your own choice, you might be thinking, "I am absolutely sick of doing nothing! I'm bored to tears and I don't feel useful."

But however you respond, I repeat the question: have you ever done absolutely nothing? I mean really absolutely nothing. One of the things I realised on retreat is that so often when we have a break or take time to rest, in actual fact we simply fill our time with other forms of activity, both physical and mental. And if we feel like we spend all our days doing nothing, we probably aren't really doing nothing. Often what we call doing nothing is actually reading or listening to music, doing puzzles, watching TV, chatting to friends and family. All these things can be relaxing and restorative for us. But we can also find ourselves thinking about all the things we've got to do and how we will do them, re-living the past, wondering what everybody is doing without us, planning and analysing and often fretting and worrying.

But when I went on retreat, I challenged myself to spend a period of time each day doing absolutely nothing. It was really hard work! I was in a comfortable apartment with a whole wall of sliding windows looking out over the Devon hills. The sun was warm and gentle and birds were coming and going on the feeder hung in the window. It was utterly idyllic. And yet it may be the most challenging thing I have done to force myself to sit still and enjoy it for a couple of hours!

I kept thinking I'd get up and wash up my coffee mug; then I had to tell myself, "No, there's no deadline, the mug will still be there in a few hours." Or "It would be nice to go for a walk tomorrow, I'll find the map and plan a route...No – the map isn't going anywhere, there's no rush." Or "I can't wait to find out what happens next in my book, I'll read for a bit...No – the plot won't change in the next few hours, but this moment I'm in right now will never come again." And then it became a kind of 'phantom-task syndrome' – I kept getting a restless feeling that there was something I really ought to jump up and do. I had to keep reminding myself that there wasn't.

I never expected doing nothing to demand so much unremitting self-control and discipline. It took huge effort! In normal life I think I'm so busy, but I realised that much of what I 'do', I am 'doing' for the sake of it. And I suspect I'm not alone in that.

Over the week I began sometimes to find it easier to do nothing, and I began to discover the benefits of simply being. Just enjoying the gifts of each moment as it came filled me with a profound gratitude, which left little space for anxiety or rumination. Allowing my mind to wander freely brought unsought and unexpected insights and opened up unforeseen creativity. And practising being still brought a sense of contentment and a profound closeness to God.

Essentially I discovered that I spend most of my life filling up my mental space with activity. Sometimes even saying my prayers can be a way for filling the space. But God needs empty space to work in.

The beginning of the new academic and Connexional year may seem like an unrealistic time to recommend doing nothing! But perhaps when life is at its busiest is when we most need creative insights and awareness of God's presence? Perhaps it will make us both happier and more efficient? And if inactivity is forced upon us, perhaps we can turn that into a blessing by making it into empty space where God can work?

Either way, as the fruit of a glorious retreat, I want to encourage you to find a little time every day to do nothing! And I invite you, too, to ask me regularly whether I am continuing this discipline! Because part of the joy of community is the way we can hold one another to account in love and kindly help each other on.

With love,

Anna.

"One day I sat in the woods, which I found to be stunningly different than walking 'through' the woods. And in the sitting, the woods jumped to life with a spirited activity that I had scarcely ever seen or known to exist. And as I sat there turning this way and that in order to draw it all in, I thought that it was not the woods coming alive. Rather, it was me coming to a halt."

Craig D. Lounsborough



Pastoral News

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the deaths of 2 very dear and long-standing members of our church family: Paul Gunstone on 8 August and Jean Marsden on 9 August.

Paul is remembered as a quiet, gentle man who was always ready to put himself out to help others. His kindness and friendly, unassuming nature, along with the twinkle in his eye, won him many friends and he will be greatly missed. He was a carpenter by trade and our church benefitted hugely from his skills over the years. He and his work colleague hung the embroidery in the sanctuary following the redevelopment and he installed the stained-glass windows in Room 1 along with the beautiful surrounding woodwork. For many years he was a driver on the minibus rota. He has been a constant and loving support to Sandra and we send our condolences to Sandra, John, Emma and families and hold them in our thoughts and prayers.

Jean was a people person, a caring lady with a listening ear, and a good friend to many. She enjoyed good conversation and took a lively interest in the world around her. She faithfully attended Sunday morning worship until Covid intervened - since then she has greatly appreciated joining with us online and discussing services with her friends during regular phone calls. She continued her work with the church collection of used stamps for the RNIB, a useful contribution she felt she could still make, and was also a supporter of the Fairtrade Shop. We send our condolences to her daughters Cathy and Andrea and all her family; and hold them in our thoughts and prayers.

We name before God all those known to us who are struggling with illness and bereavement at this time. May they be assured of God's loving presence with them.

Celebrations: It was a joy to be at the service in August when we welcomed Jo Throp into full membership following Confirmation. We thank her for her uplifting and moving testimony.

Jo has sent the following message:

"Thank you for all the hugs, cards and messages I received following my confirmation on 6th August. The service meant a great deal to me, made even more so by your kind words. With so many seeds being planted and yeast agitating, growing and stretching us, I am excited to see what the future holds for our Church. Love Jo x"

The celebrations continued in the Hall afterwards where we marked Dorothy's 99th birthday with singing and delicious cake so kindly provided by Rosemary. Dorothy was delighted and thanked everyone for their kindness.



At the beginning of this new Methodist Year, we look forward to welcoming a number of other new Members on Sunday 3 September.

Get Connected: The next drop-in tech help session is on Tuesday 19 September, 2.00pm – 4.00pm in the Welcome Area. If you need friendly and expert help with your phone, tablet or laptop, do come along. All welcome.

It is good to share church family news, so please let your Pastoral Visitor know of anything you wish to share with others through the Newsletter. *(Please ensure that you have permission from the people concerned or their relatives before sending items to Monica Gillings, pastoral@salisburymethodist.org.uk)*

Please contact your Pastoral Visitor or Monica Gillings (01722 743700), Sandra Gunstone (01722 412847) or Margaret Rutt (01722 331013) if you or someone you know would like to speak to a Minister. If you would just appreciate a friendly chat, we are always here for you!

From the Stewards

At our last meeting we were very pleased to welcome Sarah Sirengo to shadow our meeting, (just as Helen and Jon did last year), while she decides what role she is called to in SMC.

Over the summer the press seems to have been dominated by bad news, such as the “migrant crisis”. There’s a piece in this magazine from the Joint Public Issues Team, about the new Illegal Migration Bill – you are invited to read and form your own views.

Another major news story has been climate change; our response to that issue starts from our belief that we are stewards of a God-given planet. The churches hold September as Creationtide, and on other pages you will see news of a special service in St Thomas’ church on the 10th September, and an Eco-day at Amesbury on the 30th.

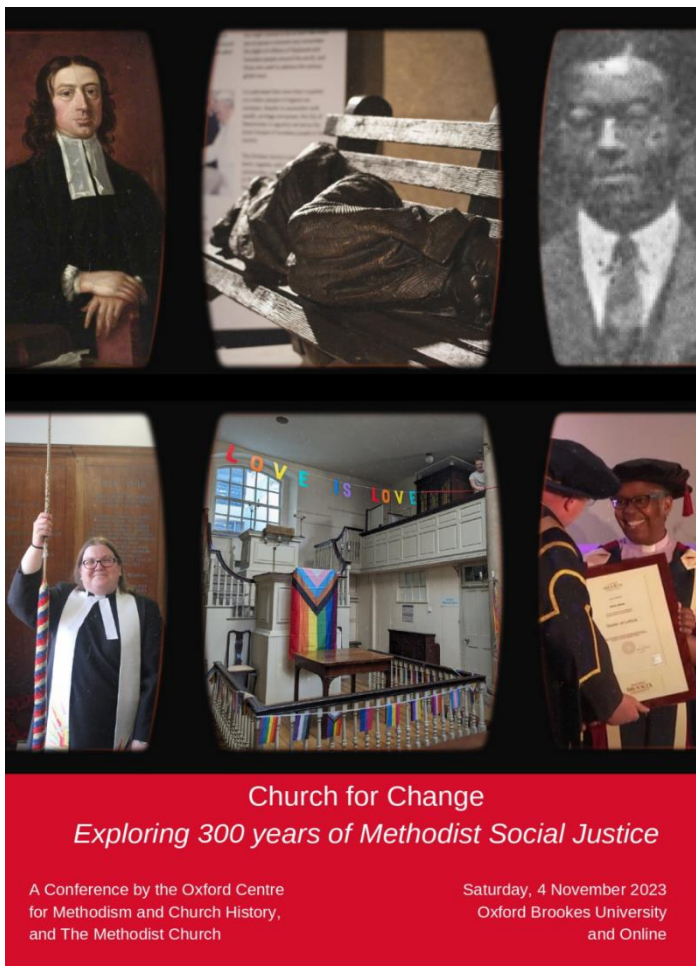
Autumn at SMC will bring a number of good-news opportunities to engage with our faith.

You will have seen some weekly notices about Prisoners of Conscience. The Circuit Justice and Peace group has asked us to follow the Cathedral’s example by supporting one prisoner of conscience each month – maybe with prayer, or by writing to the authorities who are detaining him/her. Details of the “prisoner of the month” will be available in the foyer.

If you are missing the focus of “Horizons”, Beth Dodd is offering a short series of meetings in October looking at poetry for Black History Month. Also in October we will have an opportunity to meet as a church to hear and tell our individual stories and think about how they make up “Our Story”

Lastly, the stewards look forward to hearing your views on the opportunity of having young children in a dedicated area in the sanctuary with us over the summer.

Paul Butler on behalf of the Stewards



Church for Change': Exploring 300 years of Methodist Social Justice

Saturday 4th November 2023

10.30am – 5pm

Online: Zoom

In-Person: Harcourt Hill Campus, Oxford
OX2 9AT

FREE Tickets:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/church-for-change-exploring-300-years-of-methodist-social-justice-tickets-691656432007?aff=oddtcreator&utm_source=Methodist%20Church%20House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14074994 Methodist%20News%2017%2F08%2F23&dm_i=BVI,8DOC2,4JEBAL,YK1V2,1

Host:

Rachel Lampard

Keynote Speakers:

Professor Pippa Catterall - Professor of History and Policy at the University of Westminster

John Cooper - Director of The Fellowship of Reconciliation, whose members include The Methodist Peace Fellowship.

Contributors:

Rev'd Dr Tim Macquiban

Dr Munyurangabo R. Benda

Dr Clive Norris

Rev'd Dr Jill Marsh

Rev'd Mark Rowland

Professor Bev Clack

Professor William Gibson

Sessions:

Inequality & Poverty

Recognising & Owning our Church's part in Injustices

Pursuing Peace

Relationships

Optional Chapel Service

Church for Change is a one-day conference, which arises from conversations around the Methodist Church's work in social justice projects, as highlighted by the 2021-22 'Walking with Micah' project, and its subsequent report to Methodist Conference (2023), 'A Justice-Seeking Church'. This Report recommended six Principles of Justice. From these, this conference uses the Report's Priorities of Justice, as well as its Justice threads through British Methodist history to explore themes of Race, Leadership, and Relationships. It will be held both in-person (at Oxford Brookes' Harcourt Hill campus) and virtually (via Zoom).

Pause for Prayer

Reflection for all those involved in education for the Start of new School Year

What will this year bring?

We do not know; It will likely bring us its usual times of work and play, experiences of learning, newness, success and challenges, all things that are part of school life. It's a new beginning; The planting of a seed that will grow for a year, The seed of fruit that will blossom in times to come. It offers new hope, Hope for good work, for successful results, For friendship, for fun, for learning.

A prayer

*In this coming year, may there be learning, prayer, and fun. May there be hard work, faith and friendship. May no one in school be lonely; May no one be left out in class; May no one suffer because of how others treat them.
As we begin this new school year in hope, in prayer and friendship, May God begin it with us, be with us during it, and successfully bring it to its conclusion. Amen.*

September 10th 2023 Education Sunday a Prayer from All We Can

Lord Jesus, you came to earth as a teacher, using stories to instruct.
You commended us to listen more than we speak.

Thank you for teaching us.

We pray for the teachers, the lecturers,
the mentors and wisdom bringers, who enable learning to happen.

We pray for the assistants and administrators;
the helpers who ensure the students can flourish.

We pray for the learners, as they absorb new information,
gain new skills and discover their particular route through education.

We pray for schools, colleges, universities and all places of education around
the world.

May they be safe places, filled with inspiration and aspiration.

We give you thanks and praise today for all in education

And ask that you protect and uphold each one of them.

Amen.

Our Zambia link:

The good news from Zambia is a bumper maize harvest this August. Maize is the staple diet, and so maize is the most important crop. Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday in our link congregation – St John's, Mtendere – was August 13th, when the theme of worship was that grateful hearts would bear fruit in giving lives.

During the dry months from May to September travel is much easier and outdoor meetings possible, so the usual conferences, rallies and evangelistic campaigns have been held this year. Notably for St John's people, the youth have conducted an evangelism campaign in the rural area of Rufunsa, east of Lusaka, and the Women's Christian Fellowship have held their annual conference.

We are asked especially to pray in September for the school pupils beginning the final term of the school year, the term when the school leaving exams are held.

And we are asked to give thanks for progress in completing two manses for church workers in Lusaka. (Most of the UCZ ministers in Lusaka are in rented accommodation.)

Continue to keep St John's congregation in your prayers, as they pray for us.

Cecil King

Publicity

The publicity Committee produce two leaflets which are available from the Welcome Area and come as a great addition to our monthly newsletter.

SMC at a Glance covers the activities of the Church over the next three months, and includes all the known services, our special events, the activities for the young people, our regular activities including the weekly group meetings, house groups, our coffee bar details, Fairtrade shop times, Listening Place times and contact details, our Thursday afternoon Come and Meet Each Other, CAMEO social group. The contact details of our Church Ministers, Outreach worker and Church office are also listed.

The Group and Activity Leaflet gives more detail of the weekly and monthly meetings. The activities pamphlet was designed to give more detailed information on what was going on at the church and more importantly, who to contact.

Hopefully you will find both leaflets of interest - please pick one up when you collect your newsletter this month. You will find them in the notice racks by the hymn cupboard door in the Welcome area.

Sue Gilbert

The next Poetry meeting will be in Room 1 on Friday September 8th at 10.30am. The subject will be 'Holidays' and everyone is welcome.

Mary Mitchell

***Click! faith through photos* - 4pm Sunday 10th September, Room 1**

We're starting a brand-new SMC group in September for anyone who takes photos, on standard cameras or smartphones, and who wants to explore their faith. You don't need to be an expert photographer – just someone who enjoys taking pictures.

Our group is called *Click! faith through photos* and the idea is that we will have a different theme each month, based on a text from the Bible. Holding the theme in our mind's eye, we'll see what images reach out to us, during the following month, for catching on our cameras. Or sometimes we may rediscover pictures we took a while ago. At the next group meeting you'll have the chance to share some of your images via the video projector and, the idea is, as we each say something about our photos, we will be inspired and get a deeper appreciation of our theme.



The very first *Click! faith through photos* meeting on **Sunday 10th September at 4pm** will be a 'taster', introducing the concept more fully and giving a live demo of how the group might work (so, there will be no need for you to bring your photos to share this time).

- *If you want to know more, please speak to Angela or Stephen Maunder, Philip or Rosemary Richter, or Rob Tarlton.*

Save the date!

SUNDAY 22ND OCTOBER

OUR STORY

A gathering for all the church family, to learn a little more about each other, our individual stories, and what brings us together as a church.

Paul Butler would like to hear from anyone who would like to tell us about their faith journey, provide a plate of a food that means something special to them, or help with the event generally.

NOAH'S ARK



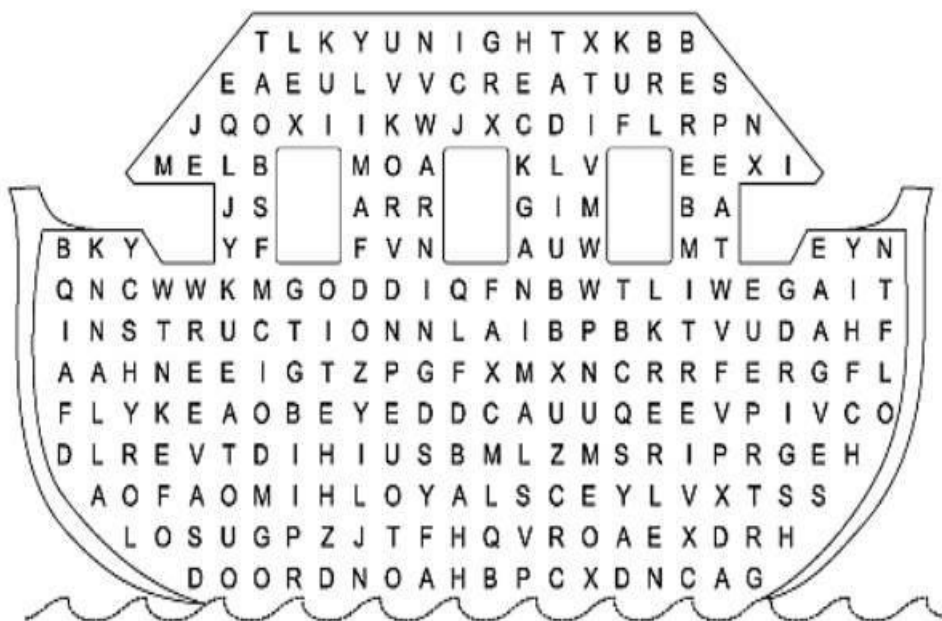
The story of Noah's Ark is one of the most well-known stories in the Bible. You can read it in the Old Testament, Genesis 5 beginning at verse 9. The story tells of how God instructed Noah, who was a good and faithful man, to build an ark and save two of each animal from the great flood. The ark would act as a refuge for the animals and Noah and his family, while God cleansed the earth.

When it started raining, Noah brought his wife and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives onto the ark. It rained for forty days and forty nights but then the waters began to recede and the ark came to a stop on the mountains of Ararat. Noah sent out a dove to find dry land but it returned. Seven days later, he sent out another dove and it returned with an olive leaf, signalling that it was safe to go onto land. Noah and his family then left the ark, taking the animals with them, and God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his promise to never again send a flood to destroy the earth.

NOAH'S ARK

Word Find

Find the words below in the Ark.



INSTRUCTION CREATURES PRESERVE WARNING ANIMALS REFUGE FAMILY OBEYED TIMBER NIGHT
BUILD RIGHT LIVED LOYAL FLOOD SAVE DOOR RAIN BOAT NOAH DAYS GOD ARK

Acrostic – one word is done for you...

R

A

I

Noah

B

O

W



SMC Family Skittles Event

Saturday 30th September

4.00pm – 7.00pm

At

Alderbury Bowls Club, Alderbury SP5 3AD

Come and enjoy a family time

Playing skittles and getting to know each other

Hot Dogs and Soft Drinks

Tickets Adults £7.50

Accompanied children free

Tickets on sale in Coffee Bar Wednesday and Saturday mornings, after service on Sundays or by e mail

tickets@salisburymethodist.org.uk



Do come and support the SMC Family Skittle Event being held at Alderbury Bowls Club on Saturday 30th September from 4.00pm - 7.00pm. We are hoping many families will attend, so children welcome - hence the early timing. Come and meet each other in a relaxed social atmosphere. Hotdogs will be served along with soft drinks, tea and coffee. Accompanied children are free. Buy your tickets, £7.50 per adult, from the coffee bar on Wednesday or Saturday mornings, from Sue Gilbert after Church or by contacting tickets@salisburymethodist.org.uk. There is lots of parking available. We hope as many people as possible will come and have some fun!

A Book to Read – ‘Follow the Money’ by Paul Johnson

“What does the Lord require of you? To act justly....” Micah 6 v 8(NIV)

Doesn't Jesus have a strong warning to his followers about not being able to serve both God and money (Mammon in the AV)? So isn't a recommendation to read a book which focusses on money a rather strange one for a Church magazine like this one?

Paul Johnson is the much-respected Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, a broadcaster and newspaper columnist. In the opening chapters of his book, he sets out how the Government raises the £910 Billion that it costs to run the country through the various taxes you and I pay. There are some staggering amounts:- £248 Billion from Income Tax; £175 Billion from National Insurance; Fuel Duty raises £25 Billion – the list goes on.

Then in subsequent chapters he sets out how the money is spent; again big numbers are racked up for Health, Education, Social Care and much, much more. It's a fascinating read in itself. Paul Johnson doesn't pull his punches and at various points is highly critical of some aspects of Government and especially of the lack of consistent and carried through policies. How many changes of Cabinet Ministers holding essential portfolios have we seen in recent times, let alone the catastrophic Mini-Budget of Liz Truss' short period in office and the subsequent about-turn in the nation's financial management?

Interestingly there is a strong sub-plot about Justice which makes it an important book for us to read. The author highlights the injustice of the north-south divide of our country. The injustice of the number of children in this country who live in poverty. The injustice of the Council Tax system where people in lower value houses pay far, far more in relation to the value of their property than those in high value property. The injustice of the tiny amount spent on Further Education and Apprenticeships for the 50% of our young people who do not go to University. The injustice of the utter chaos of Social Care in spite of a succession of Prime Ministers promising to 'sort it out, once and for all'. And more.

The quote at the head is from perhaps the best-known verse of all that Micah has to say to God's people in His name. **Walking with Micah** is a focus of the Methodist Church at present. We shall hear much more about it at the September District Synod. The Circuit Justice and Peace Group is active and feeds into the life and work of SMC. To act justly is a permanent requirement by God of all of His people.

I warmly commend 'Follow the Money' to give us an essential understanding of at least part of the very nature of our Society in Britain today as we seek to exercise our Christian Discipleship.

Bryan Coates

What you need to know about the Illegal Migration Act

The much-disputed Illegal Migration Bill passed its final parliamentary stages and became law on 20th July 2023. The following information comes from the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT).

The JPIT is a partnership between the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, and the United Reformed Church. All its member churches, and JPIT itself, have been outspoken in opposition to the Illegal Migration Bill since it was announced earlier this year.

In April, over 1450 church leaders supported a statement that was handed to the Prime Minister, arguing that the Bill would “foster discrimination and distrust” and cause “immeasurable harm”...

The Illegal Migration Act will result in the implementation of plans to make claiming asylum in the UK illegal if a person entered the UK by “irregular routes”. It will result in the detention and potential deportation of thousands of people made vulnerable by war and persecution, and will also create a range of challenges on infrastructure in the UK to house and support people whilst attempts to remove them from the country are made.

JPIT and its member churches will continue to advocate for safe and legal routes by which people can claim asylum in the UK, and for policies which treat people with dignity and respect. Many local churches continue to be active in their communities, welcoming refugees and asylum seekers and offering support and care. This is essential work, and bears witness to our Biblical calling to welcome the stranger.

For more information see <https://jpit.uk>

Paul Butler

Soup and cake lunch

You are invited to a Soup and Cake lunch on Wednesday, 30th August in the hall from 12.30pm - Tickets £5 from the coffee bar or Liz Chick. Raising funds for the Partnership supporting two orphanages and a Ukraine school in Romania.

Liz Chick

New ecumenical group

A meditative group, aimed at spiritual growth and mutual support, will be starting on Monday October 9th. It will meet fortnightly on the second and fourth Mondays of the month in Room 1, for a year in the first instance, subject to it continuing if members desire.

Further information from Ruth Popplestone on 01722 433594

**Southampton District
Methodist Women in Britain**



invite you to



Celebration Day
NEW HORIZONS

Saturday 23rd September 2023

Salisbury Methodist Church

St Edmund's Church Street SP1 1EF

10.00am for 10.30am to 3.30pm

Speaker: Maggie Woods

Co-Chair of Methodist Women in Britain (South)

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP
AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

**Tea and Coffee will be provided
Please bring your own packed lunch.**

Reflecting Together with Poetry for Black History Month

You are invited to join with others to reflect together on some poems that speak to us in different ways about how God is at work in the world. Just bring yourself and your questions - no knowledge or expertise required! As part of Black history month we will be focusing on voices of global majority heritage that have played an important role in the development of British spirituality, from ancient Egypt to the Grime artists of today

We will meet on **Thursdays 5, 12 and 19 October at 7:30pm-9pm**, either on Zoom or at 34 Queensberry Road, depending on the preference of the group.

To register your interest please contact Beth Dodd at justdodding@hotmail.com or ring 07554614983

You might also be interested in the following events organised jointly by the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture and Sarum College:

Hurricanes Roar: Celebrating Black Poetry in Western Spirituality

Online, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm on 23 October, 30 October and 6 November 2023

The great Barbadian poet Edward Kamau Brathwaite famously described the difference between the music of Caribbean poetry and the pedestrian rhythms of Standard English through a reference to the power of island weather: 'the hurricane does not roar in pentameters'. This series of online events organised by Sarum College and the [Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture](#) listens to the sound of the hurricane in contemporary culture by shining a light on the integral role that Black poetic voices have played in the development of western, particularly Anglo-American spirituality.

For more information and to register, go to

<https://www.sarum.ac.uk/short-courses/poetry-emilie-townes/>

or contact Beth Dodd at bdodd@sarum.ac.uk

Jam SMC

In July, a group of volunteers organised a gathering for young people interested in music. The event was held in the Worship Centre and was attended by a group of young people, mainly teenagers, from the Church and the Ukraine Hub. We had what is probably best described as chaotic fun singing 10,000 Reasons and Sweet Home Alabama!

We feel there is enough interest from our young people for this to continue, and I am writing to ask for some help. We are looking for adult volunteers of any ability, who play a musical instrument and who would be happy to join a 'music rota'.

We are looking for adults to assist the young people in playing instruments by providing some encouragement by being 'musical partners'. We do not expect volunteers to 'teach' the children, this will be addressed through other avenues. There is also no expectation to attend every month. For now, I am looking for expressions of interest.

The group will run on the second Sunday of the month on a termly basis following the school timetable. We will meet at 1pm for lunch and plan to JAM for an hour, finishing

at 3pm-ish. We will be playing four songs per term, two modern worship songs and two pop songs to be chosen by Revd Mark.

In addition to the music, we are hoping this initiative will eventually provide an opportunity for young people to 'gig' and evolve the group to suit their needs, connect with others, make friends and grow in confidence within the Church family.

We have not yet confirmed dates for our next meeting as we have several things to sort out first. However, if you would like further information, please do come and see me for a chat or email joannathrop@gmail.com

Church Wi-Fi and internet access is changing



If you use a smartphone in the building, then you probably don't need to know this, however if you are connecting to the church Wi-Fi with a laptop or tablet, there are changes that you need to be aware of.

Currently, the church building has two accessible Wi-Fi logins, **Salisbury Church** at the hall end, and **SMC Welcome Area**, at the front for the welcome area and the sanctuary.

Three major changes are being made to the Wi-Fi system from 1st September:

1. The creation of a single Wi-Fi system, so that there are no longer separate logins at the front and rear of the building.
2. The **SMC Welcome Area** Wi-Fi will cease to operate from 1st October.
3. Two new Wi-Fi logins are being introduced:
 - **SMC Guest** – our new casual, open access connection. This is available to all users of the building, simply select from your Wi-Fi list, and click to accept our terms and conditions, which can be found at <https://salisburymethodist.org.uk/wifi>, to enjoy internet access.
 - **SMC Users** – This is for regular users and organisations who require secure access. Please contact the church office for the password to use this service.

Whilst the **Salisbury Church** Wi-Fi continues to operate as before, in order that we can improve our network security, it will in future, only be available to authorised church office users. The password will be changed, and most users will be expected to switch to use either the **SMC Users** login or the **SMC Guest** login.

If you have any questions or concerns, then I will be happy to answer them.

Nick Rutt (online@salisburymethodist.org.uk)



Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Salisbury Christian Aid is holding a
special service for Creationtide

Sunday 10 September, 6pm

St Thomas's Church

**Speaker: Patrick Watt,
CEO of Christian Aid**



Christian Aid



The amount collected on behalf of Salisbury Methodist Church during Christian Aid Week now stands at £1548.29, to which we can add Gift Aid payments in due course of nearly £230.

Across Salisbury the churches raised £11,580 during Christian Aid Week. Even though this is less than previous years, it is a respectable total in difficult times. Christian Aid themselves say that all support is valuable in sustaining their presence in places like Malawi. As well as helping families to start growing drought-resistant crops such as pigeon peas, Christian Aid will provide continued support for the future.

This presence meant that when Cyclone Freddy hit Malawi and displaced half a million people (an event hardly reported in the UK), Christian Aid was able to mobilise immediate assistance with essentials such as water supplies and mosquito nets.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Paul Butler

Five Minutes for the Planet

A Supermarket Recycling Revolution?

There has been a subtle but significant change in recycling plastics at your local supermarket. As recently as December last year things like bread bags and crisp packets had to be recycled through Terracycle. Now, the range of items that can be recycled in the large bin at the supermarket has greatly increased. Look on the back of the bag or packet for a little notice saying something like:

“Recycle at Larger Stores”

Have a look round your favourite supermarket. The plastic bag bin is usually placed near the exit. Marks & Spencer seem to be going further, and offering a bin for all their food packaging (It moves from time to time: last time I looked it was in the food hall, but outside the tills).

Paul Butler

“To be one, to be united is a great thing. But to respect the right to be different is maybe even greater.”

Bono

Creationtide

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1st September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world.

The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October.

Following the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios, and the WCC, Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in 2015.

In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have also encouraged the faithful to take time to care for creation during the month-long celebration.

The season starts 1st September the day of Prayer for creation and ends 4th October the Feast of St. Frances of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.

SMc, Salisbury City and the Methodist Circuit are holding a number of services and events to mark Creationtide.

On Sunday 10th September at 6pm there is a service at St. Thomas'. Please see information elsewhere in the newsletter.

Sunday 17th September is SMc Harvest festival. As is our custom we will be making a collection for the Salisbury Food Bank. Please see below for a list of items they ask for on their website. Please ensure that the items you donate are in date.

On Saturday 30th September there is a Circuit Eco Fair at Amesbury methodist Church. Please see the poster in the newsletter. There will be a number of displays and stalls promoting the "Green" way of life. It is also hoped that this will encourage other churches in the circuit to join the Eco Church scheme. If you can help on the day especially with providing activities aimed at the younger people attending, or if you would like to have a stall promoting your "pet" eco activity please contact me.

Jim Gillings Worship Team leader

THE FOOD BANK ARE SHORT OF

- ** LONG LIFE MILK
 - ** LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE
 - ** TINNED FRUIT
 - ** TINNED SOUP
 - ** SIZE 5 NAPPIES
 - * SPONGE PUDDINGS
 - * INSTANT MASH
 - * JAM
 - * PACKET PUDDINGS/ANGEL DELIGHT
 - PASTA
 - PASTA SAUCE
 - TINNED TOMATOES
 - TINNED RICE PUDDING/CUSTARD
 - TINNED MEAT / TINNED VEGGIE MEALS
 - SNACKS
 - TINNED POTATOES
 - CHOCOLATE
 - SUNTAN LOTION
-
- COFFEE
-



- - Warmly invite you to our
 - **Annual Open Evening**
 - on Tuesday 5th September 2023
 - - From 6.45pm at Salisbury Methodist Church
 - **“There’s Always Hope”**
 - - Charlotte Bell
 - Centre Manager for Christians Against Poverty is our Guest Speaker
 - Charlotte and her Team have a wealth of experience in making a little go a long way, in helping people to budget and manage their money more effectively. The rising cost of living is affecting us all so come along and hear about CAP and their mission. It might help you too!
 - - Question and Answer Session will be followed by
 - Light Refreshments

The **Salisbury** Circuit 

Season of Creation

Eco Fair

Saturday September 30th 2023

from 10am to 3pm

at Amesbury Methodist Church, SP4 7ET
(ample car parking at the rear)

The event will be opened by Councillor Monica Devendran,
the Mayor of Amesbury

Information
Stands

Stalls

Recycle
your used
Printer Cartridges,
Mobiles, Stamps
and Greetings
cards*

Refreshments will be served

* Old mobile phones and printer cartridges. Postage Stamps – used and any from your collections.
Greetings Cards (not Christmas Cards) for recycling into future cards.

Further details from salisburymethodistcircuit12@gmail.com