

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

Newsletter



Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

John 4:10

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The October Newsletter was produced by
Rachel and Simon Clarke.

Items for the November Newsletter should be sent to Rachel Clarke

no later than Friday 20th October 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 October

Sunday 1 October	10.30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham
Sunday 8 October	10.30 a.m. Revd Anna Bishop HC HS 4.00 p.m. Revd Cecil King MB
Sunday 15 October	8.00 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham HC 10.30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham P
Sunday 22 October	10.30 a.m. Revd Jane Taylor
Sunday 29 October	10.30 a.m. Mrs Valerie Liversidge 4.00 p.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham and Revd Anna Bishop – All Souls service

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:-

HC Holy Communion

HS Healing Service

MB Mixed Blessings

P Parade Service

Ministers letter.

Dear Friends,

I am sure I'm not alone in this, but October seems to have 'rushed' towards me with some speed this year. The early mornings carry that unmistakable chill of Autumn, the early evenings lose the heat of the day more quickly and the darkness of the night beckons forth a length of days. As the pace of the season changing increases, I am keenly aware of the relentless change and pace of change the people around us experience. Sitting recently in our September District Synod I spent time reading the 'Justice Seeking Church' report recently produced by our Church and building on the journey of 'Walking with Micah'. The excerpt below is taken from the report, and I hope it encourages you to read the report, copies of which are in the vestibule at SMC, and seek ways to respond well.

"The last decade has seen enormous change in our society and around the world. The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in over 200,000 deaths in the UK by the end of 2022 and shone a light on pre-existing health inequalities. Mortality was 2.6 times higher in the most deprived than the least deprived areas, and highest amongst Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Black Caribbean groups, and among people with a self reported disability or a learning disability. And whilst inspiring forms of community solidarity were evident through the pandemic, isolation, addiction, domestic violence and mental ill health also increased. Following the financial crisis of 2008, significant reductions in public spending hit the poorest hardest, leading to an increase in child poverty and a fall in life expectancy amongst the worst off in certain parts of the country.

The pandemic, together with Russia's war on Ukraine, added to inflationary pressures and a rise in international energy prices. Here, significant rises in fuel and food prices have contributed to a widespread cost of living crisis. People are increasingly turning to foodbanks, and churches and community groups have been running Warm Welcome spaces for people unable to afford to eat and heat their homes. The current cost of living crisis is not new for many people, but has tipped them over into even deeper catastrophe.

Two key political referendums, on Scottish independence and Brexit, were held within a few years of each other. Both issues remain intensely contested and demonstrate deeper fractures and polarisation in society. Many people from minority ethnic groups reported an increase in abuse and hate speech after the Brexit vote. Negotiations to untangle UK and EU relationships are still continuing.

Internationally, the last decade has seen sea levels rise and an increase in flooding, heatwaves, droughts and other extreme weather events. The poorest are experiencing the biggest impact of the climate crisis. The world is set to emit enough carbon to exceed the 1.5°C global warming target within the next 10 years, with the planet's average temperature on a trajectory to reach 2.5°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. Urgent and radical action is needed to tackle the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and environmental destruction.

The war in Ukraine has led to the largest movement of refugees in Europe since the Second World War. This has added pressure to an already struggling international refugee protection system but has also raised questions about how different groups of refugees are treated. The #MeToo movement showed the ongoing injustices of misogyny and violence against women and girls. LGBTQI+ people still experience discrimination and victimisation. Racist violence in this country and the US, as well as evidence of ongoing systemic problems in policing, education, health, and maternity care, has shone a light on the need to confront racism in society and to act on the legacies of slavery and colonialism.

Such a description of our times can be overwhelming, as we feel buffeted on every side, witnessing or experiencing great need, injustice and oppression. Yet we are reminded by Paul, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21). At a time of such change and great pressures, it is important to take stock, to stand back and discern what God is calling us to do.”

In the challenging world described above I pray that the last two sentences, one from the writing of St Paul, the other from the wisdom of those writing the ‘Justice Seeking Church’ report, offer a way forward.

Every Blessing.

Rev Mark

Five Minutes for the Planet

Have you had lots of postcards this summer, from people in exotic (or not-so-exotic) locations? These can be put to good use through “Recycling for Good Causes”. It’s worth mentioning that I am still sending them old phones, broken jewellery and watches, and obsolete coins. Please speak to me if you have some of these.

I have been asked again for details of charities offsetting the carbon cost of travel, so some people must have been abroad this summer! They are: <https://worldlandtrust.org> (which buys up and preserves rainforest and other habitats) and <https://rippleeffect.org/> (which organises people in Africa to plant trees in their locality).

Recycling for Good Causes does not take printer cartridges, but these can also be recycled, and I can find a good home for them if you have any.

Paul Butler

Pastoral News



As a caring community we hold in our thoughts and prayers all those among us who are suffering with on-going serious health issues, awaiting test results, or facing a difficult road ahead. We remember, too, all those who are enduring the pain and loss of bereavement. May all these dear ones know that they, and those who support and care for them, are held in God's loving and healing embrace.

If you would like to be prayed for by name at the Wednesday morning Prayer Group, please let your Pastoral Visitor, Monica or Margaret know.

Our **All Souls** service, where we particularly remember loved ones who have died, is on Sunday 29 October at 4 pm. There will be an opportunity to light a candle and to have names read out if you wish. It would be helpful, but not essential, for names to be given to Monica in advance. If you would find it helpful to bring a photo, please do so.

Celebrations: How better to start the new Methodist year than by officially welcoming 9 new Members into our fellowship as we did on Sunday 3rd September! We welcomed Christy-Anna, Sarah, Fielder, Gibson, Mary and Tim by transfer along with O'Neil, Tana and Caroline by Confirmation. We give thanks that they have found a spiritual home with us and look forward to getting to know them more in the future.

We rejoice in our increasing membership and are consequently in need of more Pastoral Visitors! We know that there is an enormous amount of informal care and support given within our church family, for which we are extremely grateful. However, the Pastoral system exists to try to ensure that no one falls through the cracks. If you would like to know more about the role, please speak to Monica or Margaret.

Gill Munday retired on 1st September and the occasion was marked with a surprise Afternoon Tea with her colleagues. We send our love to Gill and wish her every happiness and blessing for this new phase of life.

Get Connected: The next drop-in tech help session is on Tuesday 17 October, 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!

Click! faith through photos

We enjoyed the first meeting of our brand-new SMC group for anyone who takes photos, on standard cameras or smartphones, and who wants to explore their faith. The September theme was 'Living Water', based on John 4:10. It was fascinating to see the sheer variety of photos people had taken and to hear their reflections on the pictures. It helped us get a much deeper appreciation of 'Living Water'.

This is one of the photos and the accompanying reflection (shared with the permission of the photographer) – 'The picture was taken in Rome at the Saint Cecilia Church in Trastevere. It was a very hot day

and this image was looking down into the pool surrounding a fountain in the courtyard in front of the church. I was fascinated by the shapes being made in the water, random and constantly changing, but with a degree of patterning and order. It was good to be able to just pause in the midday sun and watch this beautiful display, with the water as the blank canvas. I guess I first saw the fountain and then noticed something even more



eye-catching here. Maybe this was a reminder that the 'living water' of Jesus may disturb our calm, but also bring new meaning and shape to life.'

If you'd like to get a taste of what the group is like, you'd be most welcome at the next meeting – on **Sunday 8th October, at 4pm, in Room 1**. No need to bring your photos, the first time, just yourself!

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

Eco Church

Salisbury Methodist is close to achieving silver level Eco Church.

To obtain an award we must reach certain standards in 5 areas: -

Worship and Teaching

Buildings

Land

Global and Community Engagement

Lifestyle.

We are at silver or even gold level in the first 4 sections. However, we are still at bronze level in the final section Lifestyle.

Below are the sections on which we still need to improve: -

The reduction of car use is encouraged in our church:

The members of our church receive encouragement to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit:

Our church encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption:

Our church runs or partners with other organisations in running a food cooperative that enables members to bulk buy ethically sourced produce at wholesale prices:

The ethical investment of personal savings is encouraged at our church:

As part of our life together, the members of our church undertake an environmental lifestyle audit:

It may seem that I am writing this article as a tick box exercise. Once you read this, we suddenly leap up into the silver level.

However, in the current climate change crisis even a small personal action if repeated by enough people can make a difference.

I along with all at SMC who are concerned about our changing world ask you to undertake a carbon footprint audit, a lifestyle audit and if it applies to you review any investments you have.

Links to undertake a carbon footprint audit are: -

<https://www.climatestewards.org> requires detailed answers that require some research.

<https://climatehero.me/> more user friendly, takes less time than the above but is less accurate.

To find out more about the other actions you can take please search,

<https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/resources>

Under the resources section you will find an area called Lifestyle with several leaflets you can download to assist you. In true eco style it will save a lot of paper if you can search for these yourself. If you have a problem, please ask me for assistance.

Jim Gillings

Christian Aid



On Sunday 10th September I went with more than 80 others to St Thomas' church for the Creationtide service arranged by the Salisbury Christian Aid Group. The title was "Let Peace and Justice Flow", and there was a striking tissue paper river flowing from the altar down the central aisle of

the church. We read from the prophet Amos, calling for "oceans of justice, rivers of fairness" (Amos 5:21-24, from *The Message*), and heard from Patrick Watt, the Chief Executive of Christian Aid. He thanked all the people of Salisbury who have supported Christian Aid (to the tune of £94,000 over the last five years); and addressed the question of why Christian Aid was focusing so much on climate change. His answer was that Christian Aid works with the poorest, and they are being disproportionately affected by climate change, when they have done least to cause it. That in itself, is a great injustice of our present time.

That beautiful service was bookended by two terrible disasters, in Morocco and in Libya. Christian Aid does not have any partner organisations in Morocco, so they will be concentrating their relief work in Libya where they already have representatives on the ground. Their efforts will be continuing long after the event has faded from our news reports, so if you would like to contribute to their work, do visit the Christian Aid website.

Paul Butler

"And this is it. This is the life we get here on earth. We get to give away what we receive. We get to believe in each other. We get to forgive and be forgiven. We get to love imperfectly. And we never know what effect it will have for years to come. And all of it...all of it is completely worth it."

Nadia Bolz-Weber

Pause for Prayer

A prayer for those affected by the earthquake in Morocco from Christian Aid

God, our refuge in times of trouble.
You told us to pray always and not to lose heart.
We pray for our neighbours in Morocco.
We pray for you to comfort those affected by the earthquake.
For those who have lost loved ones, homes and all they know.
Bring solace in their grief, healing in their pain and help in their time of need.
Let those in need know they are not alone.
May your light shine through the darkness.
And bring hope and strength.
We pray for provision for communities.
who now face an uncertain future.
Open our hearts,
May they be full of compassion.
Draw close to those who need you today.
In the name of Jesus, Amen

A prayer for those affected by the floods in Libya from Christian Aid .

Lord Jesus, you're familiar with grief, you know what it is to weep with those who are suffering.
You're close to the broken-hearted and comfort those who mourn.
Devastating flooding has led to losses beyond measure for the people of Libya.
With so many thousands affected, help us to see beyond the numbers to real communities and families whose lives have been upturned.
We pray that you would strengthen those who are still fighting to survive, and the rescue workers trying to save them.
We pray that you would console those who fear the worst as they wait for news.
We pray that you would be with all who are traumatised and deeply grieving.
Show us, Lord, how to serve you by helping our neighbours in Libya.
When we are daunted by the scale of the disaster, inspire us with your Spirit that we may know how to make a difference.
We thank you for the work of aid agencies on the ground and for all who give what they can to help save lives and support survivors.
You're close to the broken-hearted Lord. Be close to the people of Libya, we pray.
Amen

Autumn

Psalm 96:12 (The Message)

'Let wilderness turn cartwheels, animals, come dance, put every tree of the forest in the choir—'



Pumpkins are a fruit.

Pumpkins belong to the gourd family, along with cucumbers and melons.

Pumpkins are **not just orange**. They can also be white, blue, yellow, green and red.

There are over 100 kinds of pumpkins.

Pumpkins **grow from flowers**.

Pumpkins **float!**

Pumpkins are **nearly 90% water**.

On average, a single pumpkin contains around 500 seeds!

Pumpkin **seed shells are white**; the inside seeds are green.

Usually, pumpkins are pollinated by bees.

All but one of the autumnal words below can be found in the grid but which one is missing?

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U	D	E	S	A	N	I	L	R	S	U
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R	E	S	E	S	U	I	G	N	U	F
R	H	R	I	Q	T	S	H	I	O	I
E	O	C	S	R	U	T	O	G	L	R
L	G	S	E	V	A	E	L	H	O	T
L	A	E	I	K	E	E	L	T	C	B
U	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	S	N	O

Autumn
Bonfire
Colours
Conker
Dark Nights
Fungi
Halloween
Hedgehog
Leaves
Mist
Pumpkin
Seeds
Squirrel
Trees



Autumn shows us
how beautiful it is
to let things go.

Let us pray...



O Lord of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colours of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who gives us the breath of life, and we thank you.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we must share with others. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.

OUR STORY



You are warmly invited to a gathering of the church family on Sunday 22nd October, starting around 12.30 (after the morning service/coffee) with a buffet lunch.

It's called "Our Story", remembering the words of the hymn, "this is my story, this is my song...", and it's a party with a purpose!

We all have our own stories, the lives we have lead, the faith journeys we have undertaken; and we hope that in this gathering we can learn more about each other through those stories.

The plan is that during the afternoon, we will hear a story about Jesus' disciples, something about the history of our church, and two or three people will speak about their journeys of faith.

The rest of the time we will sit around the tables where we usually share coffee, and share instead some simple facts about ourselves and try to build up a picture of who "we" are. Eventually those who wish to do so will be invited to share something of their own journeys within their group. We hope that everyone will participate but no-one has to speak if they don't want to.

It's going to take a bit of planning, and we'd like to hear from you soon if you would like to come.

Please fill in the back page, tear it off (keep the front as a reminder), and either hand it to Paul Butler or Sarah Sirengo, or leave it in an envelope in the North Corridor pigeonholes, addressed to "Stewards"

Your

name.....

How many of you want to come?

Are any of them children?

(Older ones can join in; if there are lots of younger ones we could run a crèche)

Food. We will have a bring-and-share lunch, and if you can bring food that has meaning for you e.g. “My mother always used to make this”, or “It is the taste of my home country”, then lunch will itself be a sharing of stories. If that’s not possible, bring something that you enjoy! Please tell us here what you would like to bring.

.....
.....

(Ideally, it will be something that you can eat with fingers or a fork, and we suggest that you bring enough for at least six people to try some. If it has a special own meaning, please consider writing this on a card to put on the table.)

Is there anything else you would like to bring to the party e.g. helping with refreshments?

.....
.....

How colourful can you make this autumn forest picture?



If you happen to go for a walk this autumn, take a look around you and see the wonders of the season. Change is all around you. Some trees and animals are preparing for their winter sleep. What can you find? Take a bag and an adult with you to collect some autumn treasures (please don't touch any fungi as it may be poisonous) and/or a camera to take some photos. (See the Scavenger Hunt, page 11). Perhaps you can make a picture or collage with them when you get home, or do a leaf rubbing.

Some special dates in Autumn

- Autumnal Equinox (first day of autumn - 23rd September)
- Harvest Festival (celebrated during September/October)
- Grandparents Day (1st October)
- World Teachers' Day (5th October)
- British Summertime Ends (29th October – clocks go back one hour)
- Halloween (31st October)
- All Saints Day (1st November)
- All Souls Day (2nd November)
- Firework Night (5th November)
- Armistice Day (11th November)
- Remembrance Sunday (12th November)
- BBC Children in Need (17th November)
- St Andrew's Day (Patron Saint of Scotland – 30th November)
- Advent (1st – 24th December)
- Last day of autumn (20th December)

Fairtrade Shop

Lots to report this month. Firstly, Monica, Pip and I made a visit to Wimborne which has its own Fairtrade shop, ie Fair Ground at 1 Cornmarket Court. We came back with a few supplies like honey (clear and set) which we had not previously sourced. In addition, we were able to view a range of products they stock with a view to extending our own range a bit come Christmas, so watch this space - or rather the Shop! Alas no stockists of Fairtrade biscuits or pasta have been found to date though we still have all butter shortbread biscuits at the bargain price of £2.80. Monica has notified us through recent notices of new items we are stocking; I quote:

We now have 2 types of Meru Herbs cooking sauces in stock – Tomato and Basil and Tomato and Chilli. They are fairly traded and produced without the use of fertilisers or pesticides and make excellent additions to the store cupboard. They can be used straight from the jar as a quick ‘heat and eat’ sauce for pasta or meat, as a pizza base, or used in stews and other tomato-based dishes.

We also have jars of Organic Korma Curry paste which has been specially created to be used with Ma’s coconut milk. Just add half a jar of paste to a can of coconut milk to create a delicious curry base in no time!

Left over from our recent book launch event are two beautiful embroidered Palestinian purses - alas the Smart phone covers quickly went but can possibly be re-ordered. Looking ahead, as our usual source of Christmas cards is no longer available, we plan to stock a range of very attractive cards from Embrace the Middle East, plus a selection from Transform Trade.

Shop takings over the last 4 weeks were approximately £332.75, plus £212.90 from the Zaytoun stall at the book launch event and £267.60 from the September Cathedral Stall.

Barbara Hickman

Level 2 ‘Food Hygiene & Safety for Catering’ training course

Are you interested in helping with church events that involve catering?
If so, SMc is offering the above on-line course which will enable you to gain a certificate. It is not required for just serving drinks.

There are a number of places still available and you will need to register your interest by Monday 23rd October. It doesn’t cost you anything and it is provided by a company called Train4Academy.

You will need to commit approximately 3 - 4 hours to achieve this.
For more information and to register please contact:
Dawn Heslington on 01722 744524

A Hot Topic !!

It has been a very busy period for the property team. Alongside the "normal" maintenance jobs, the major project has been the replacement of our ailing gas boilers and the installation of a heat pump. The contract was awarded to RGV Engineering Ltd. of Netheravon to supply and fit the new equipment.

The project started during half-term in April when pipework and cabling were installed between the boilerhouse and the electricity cupboard. This involved us in emptying all the storage cupboards in the hall, removal of some shelving, and relocation of the AV desk sockets.



The old gas burners were removed by RGV in mid-May and the two new condensing boilers installed along with associated pipework and ancillary components.

The opportunity was taken to redesign and rewire our control cabinet (upper left) which controls the heating zone valves and circulation pumps. Also, any twin-head pumps can now be changed over automatically and regularly by the control system without manual intervention.

The tall white cylinder beyond the two boilers is the 200 litre buffer tank, which stores hot water ready for final heating by the boilers or circulation to the heating zones. The tall red cylinder in the foreground is the replacement expansion vessel (the old one was found to be defective)

The commissioning of the new boilers was delayed due to insufficient gas pressure. Solving this problem has taken nearly two months and was eventually found to be due to an incomplete repair at the gas main in the street some years ago. The boilers have now been successfully commissioned.

The installation of the heat pump was also delayed due to the unexpected requirement to seek planning permission. This has now been granted by Wiltshire County Council and the heat pump has now been delivered and is being installed.



Arrival and unloading of the heat pump



Unpacking



A tight fit !



Finally in place !

To provide sufficient clearance in front of the heat pump, the large shed had to be demolished !! A hazel tree behind the shed had caused the boundary fence panel to disintegrate and so it had to be felled. Replacement fence panels will be fitted and a smaller shed obtained and installed in due course !!

Doug Buttimer

From the Stewards

“One more step along the world I go....”

On Sunday 3rd September, we shared a joyful occasion with Rev Mark. The Church family at SMC welcomed five people transferring their membership to this church: Sarah, Christyanna, Tim, Fielder and Gibson. Three more – Tana, O’Neil and Caroline, chose to be confirmed declaring their membership of the worldwide family of God as well as becoming members of SMC. There will be others taking similar steps in coming months. In Rev Mark’s words, we are thankful for all they are, all they bring to us, and what they are yet to be.

Please make them all welcome. If you don’t know them, you can still look at the live streamed service from that date so that you will recognise them in the future!

“From the old things to the new....”

New groups are starting up within the church, new opportunities to examine our faith and to learn. To help us know more of our fellow-travellers, and understand them better, we are gathering to tell “Our Story” on October 22nd. If you have not already been given an invitation, there will be one in this magazine, along with more details about what to expect on the day. Do come and join us!

Something we have not done for a while is to hold a service specifically focused on healing for anyone who needs it. Rev Anna will be leading this service on 8th October and all are welcome.

Paul Butler on behalf of the Stewards

Poetry Group

Poetry will be in Room 1 on Friday 6th October at 10.30am.

The subject will be ‘Harvest’.

All are welcome.

Mary Mitchell

Worship Team

In September Revd Mark dedicated the new Lectern Bible. Thank you to everyone involved in the sourcing and purchase of this. It will serve as a reminder of Ian Anderson's contribution to the life of Salisbury Methodist Church.

We are delighted to welcome Jonathan Piper to the Worship Team. It will be good to have a new face welcoming the congregation at the start of worship. Sadly, Jon's arrival in the team coincides with the departure of Mary Mitchell. On behalf of everyone at Salisbury Methodist Church I would like to thank Mary for her service in the role of Worship Steward. We are still looking for one or two more willing volunteers to expand the team. Possibly you are one of our new members and see the role of Worship Steward as a calling to serve SMC. If you could volunteer for one Sunday every couple of months, it would be a great help. To find out what the role entails please speak to me or one of the worship team.

Worship Consultation: -the next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th October. All are welcome to attend. If you have something you wish brought to the meeting, but you are unable to come please let me know beforehand.

Jim Gillings Worship Team Leader

Children Of The Stone City

The Sanctuary proved a cool place to relax on Saturday Sept 9 as we sat and enjoyed this book launch by Beverly Naidoo. She spoke about her own growing up in South Africa with little knowledge of the horrors of Apartheid in her early years - indeed not until she was at university. She used her Apartheid experience to start her own career as a children's writer. Fast forwarding and living in the UK she was awarded a British Council scholarship to visit Israel/Palestine and the West Bank which led to several further visits. From this experience - just sitting and observing, not least outside the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music - has emerged this latest book, as above. Her presentation at SMC was interwoven by the playing of a young violinist from Salisbury which seemed entirely fitting for the occasion. This book is the story of two young Palestinian boys and is punctuated by the awfulness of their daily lives with, for one of them, glimpses of escape and hope through music. Rocketship looked after the bookstall and we sold approximately 20 copies of her book*. They, Waterstones and the Library all have copies - cost £7.99 paperback. As the original flyer said it is for readers between the ages of 9 and 90 years which includes most of us!

* Copies also available from the Fairtrade stall during October.

Barbara Hickman

"There's Always Hope"



Kathryn Ford, Area Manager for CAP in the South West of England gave an uplifting and informative talk to the 19th Annual Open Evening of The Listening Place on September 5th at Salisbury Methodist Church. Describing the work of

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Kathryn was able to give statistics which demonstrated their success in helping people manage their money and their debts more effectively both nationally and here, in Salisbury.

A person who had been helped by CAP locally attended the meeting and spoke movingly of her journey to become debt free. She described how, working alongside her, CAP had helped her maximise her income and put together a money management plan. Her faith had been deepened by the experience.

Kathryn described the hopelessness and despair of people finding themselves in debt and the effect of debt on their, and their family's mental health. Often single people, they became isolated and ashamed and often took a long time to ask for help. She encouraged those in need of help to reach out to CAP. They would be listened to, not judged and confidentiality ensured.

Whilst celebrating their own deep Christian faith in action, Kathryn emphasized that CAP helped all comers, whatever their faith, gender or race. They were always there to help and advise.

In conclusion, Kathryn spoke of CAP's wider mission to influence government on issues related to poverty, such as the national minimum wage.

A wide range of questions from the audience highlighted the growing incidence of income not meeting basic bills and the need for a voice to bring those in poverty to the attention of government.

Kathryn was thanked for her inspiring talk and presented with a basket of Fair Trade goodies by the Manager of The Listening Place.

From one of our three new listeners for the listening place

Having recently completed the training to be a listener at the Listening Place (TLP) I was keen to go along to their Open Evening as it gave me the opportunity to meet and get to know more of my fellow listeners. It sounds like such a simple concept - to listen without interruption or judgement and to enable someone to find their own solutions to a problem - but it's much harder than you think and can be incredibly liberating and empowering for the speaker.

The course I followed was originally designed by an amazing lady - Rev Anne Long - whose life experience in teaching, mentoring theological students and finally as one of the first women to be ordained into the Anglican Church enriched her understanding of the importance and power of listening. Imagine my surprise at attending the 90th birthday of a neighbour I knew only as Anne to find that this was the same Rev Anne

Long! Anne was delighted to learn that her course was still the foundation of our training and wisely said that listening was more important now than ever.

At the Open Evening we heard from our speaker Kathryn Ford from Christians Against Poverty, a charity that supports people overwhelmed by debt. I was shocked to hear just how many people in Britain are struggling with debt and to learn the devastating impact that this can have on their mental health and that of their children. Kathryn explained that, sadly, far too many people are struggling to even meet the everyday costs of Council Tax, rent, energy and food. So, as well as helping people to understand and get control of their finances and to repay or write off debt, CAP are also an advocate for change such as a fairer minimum wage for all and offer education in money management through their team of Money Coaches. Demand for their services is high now with all the complexities involved so they are always looking for more volunteers.

Kathryn also highlighted the importance of listening for both the Listening Place and Christians Against Poverty as well as recognising the important role all the Salisbury churches play in supporting the Listening Place and CAP.

Sue Robbins

Our Zambia link:

October is the hottest month, and the month in which we shall celebrate the 59th anniversary of Zambia's Independence Day – 24th October, 1964.

In the United Church of Zambia (UCZ), the special Sunday in October is on 8th October, when we shall observe Widows, Retirees and Orphans Sunday. The Bible, in the Old and New Testaments urges us to care especially for widows and orphans, and, in Zambia today, this is especially important because of the ravages of HIV/AIDS leaving very many orphans.

We are grateful for the several UK based charities supporting orphans in Zambia, especially helping children get through school.

Widows, retirees and orphans are the neediest people in Zambia, and at St John's, Mtendere – our link congregation – the Community Development and Social Justice group led by Mukupa Chanda works to help such people in our neighbourhood.

Give thanks for the visit to Zambia of Revd Helen Everard from Fleet URC, which has strengthened our link with UCZ Lusaka Presbytery and pray for the development of more links between congregations here and congregations in Lusaka.

Pray especially for our minister, Revd Godfrey Gama, in his ministry at St John's, Mtendere, and as chair of Chelston Consistory.

Pray for St John's congregation as they pray for us.

Cecil King

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.

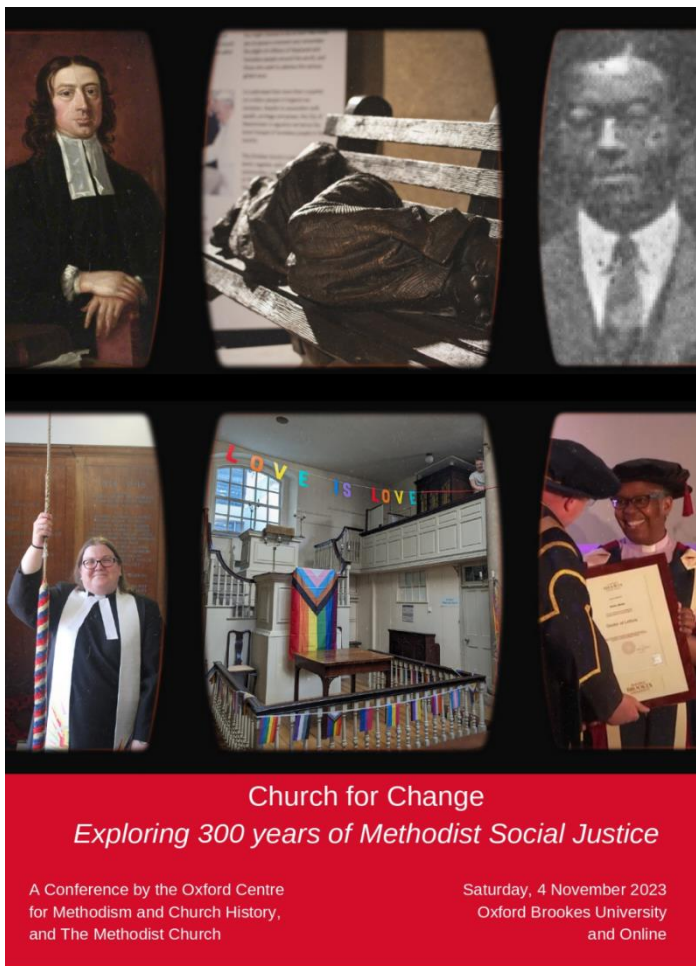
We have not yet confirmed dates for our next meeting as we have several things to sort out first. However, if you would like further information, please do come and see me for a chat or email joannathrop@gmail.com

Accommodation Needed

For two nurses employed at the NHS Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit in Fountain Way, Salisbury. If you are able to help or have any suggestions please contact Barbara Hickman for further details.

“I looked harder at Matthew 25 and realized that if Jesus said, "I was hungry and you fed me," then Christ's presence is not embodied in those who feed the hungry (as important as that work is), but Christ's presence is in the hungry being fed. Christ comes not in the form of those who visit the imprisoned but in the imprisoned being cared for. And to be clear, Christ does not come to us as the poor and hungry. Because, as anyone for whom the poor are not an abstraction but actual flesh-and-blood people knows, the poor and hungry and imprisoned are not a romantic special class of Christlike people. And those who meet their needs are not a romantic special class of Christlike people. We all are equally as sinful and saintly as the other. No, Christ comes to us in the needs of the poor and hungry, needs that are met by another so that the gleaming redemption of God might be known. ... No one gets to play Jesus. But we do get to experience Jesus in that holy place where we meet others' needs and have our own needs met.”

Nadia Bolz-Weber



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).