

Salisbury Methodist Church  
St Edmund's Church Street Salisbury

# Newsletter



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

*Robert Laurence Binyon*

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The November Newsletter was produced by  
Rachel and Simon Clarke.

Items for the December/January Newsletter should be sent to Rachel Clarke

**no later than Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

email: [newsletter@salisburymethodist.org.uk](mailto: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 November

Sunday 5 November    10.30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham and  
Revd Margaret Jones HC  
3.00 p.m. SANDS service

Sunday 12 November 10.30 a.m. Revd Anna Bishop  
3.00 p.m. Revd Cecil King MB

[illegible]

Sunday 26 November 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

CA Chapel Anniversary

HC Holy Communion

MB Mixed Blessings

## Ministers letter.

Dear Friends,

November, a month of deep remembering. I have reflected a little on Exodus 32:1-14 both personally and in worship recently. God is up the mountain and Moses is up there, too. And there's not been a peep from them for forty days and forty nights. The Israelites' response to this reflects a common human tendency when feeling powerless and miserable and faced with waiting and uncertainty: they get impatient and make some seriously questionable decisions.

The Israelites, aided and abetted by Moses's brother Aaron, decide they've had enough of not having things in their own hands or of controlling the timeline. And so, driven by some perverse nostalgia and an even more irrational trust in the values represented by a golden bull, an image made of riches gleaned from the Egyptian empire, the people throw God over for a sacred cow.

I can imagine this kind of conversation at the foot of the mountain: "That God is hard to understand. And this Moses seems to have done all he's capable of. And why did we think that God was so great again? Where is that God right now and what has that God done for us lately? We're the ones who've been doing all the heavy lifting. So our strength and vision and experience are enough. None of this is really that shocking. In fact, it's all rather painfully familiar.

What does seem shocking to me, is that God is ready to do the people in. But if anyone's paying attention, this God, of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whose name is I am that I am and I will be who I will be, this God who chose to be in a relationship with a people who were from the other side of the tracks, this God is passionate and perfectly free to feel all the feels... and often does!

Good thing Moses was there. And Moses was there with God because God knew who was needed as a partner in the relationship and in the work with this people. Moses is the person for the job. In the face of God's hurt and anger, Moses acts as the people's advocate and as God's advisor. On the surface, Moses appeals to God's political reputation: "Do you really want the Egyptians to think you were just kidding about your love and compassion for the people Israel?" But actually Moses is saying "remember." Remember those you have loved through the ages, those to whom you promised your love, presence, and providence. Remember. Remember who you are.

What kind of God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Miriam, Esther, Ruth, and Jesus? The God of our spiritual tradition has moments of rage, disappointment and grief, but is, at the end of the day, compassionate, merciful, abounding in steadfast love and hoping for us to respond with love.

Moses doesn't forget who God is. Moses doesn't forget that God spared his life on more than one occasion, that God called him to speak truth to power, that God knew he was a murderer and still honoured him with the task of participating in the liberation of those in bondage. Moses doesn't forget who God is, a God who receives the cries of the suffering, who is gracious and merciful, who refuses to stand by while loved ones are oppressed, who lifts up the lowly, and makes a way when there seems to be no way.

Moses, in a stunning act of faithfulness, says to God, remember who you are. The outcome, in verse 14 we are told that after listening to Moses, God "changed God's mind." God remembers God's own heart of love and how much the people have already been through.

In such a time as this, a moment of crisis on so many levels, it is important to remember what is real and matters most of all. Remember what kind of God we serve, and how it is the love, justice, and compassion of that God we are made to enact in the world. Remember. Remember that the awful headlines do not represent the whole of the human family. Remember. Remember how God has been gracious and merciful to you when you didn't deserve it. Remember. Remember when God has brought you through. Remember. Remember when somehow you had enough to get by when you didn't believe it was possible. Remember. Remember that God has called you and empowered you to be yourself in the world, to offer your strength, creativity, vision, talent and kindness to the work of mending and making a gentler world. Remember.

Remember that you are a part of God's family, and your family name is Beloved. Remember. Remember that you are the person God needs right now to step up, to serve, to give, to pray, to love, to advocate, for such a time as this.

Every Blessing.

Rev Mark



## Pastoral News

With sadness we report the sudden but peaceful death of Yvonne Evans on Wednesday 11 October. She was extremely proud of her Welsh name and home and took some persuading that the time had come to move closer to her beloved daughter Catherine and family! Since her move to Sarum Manor, it has been a joy to welcome her both to worship and social gatherings. She was a lovely lady, of strong faith, who enjoyed good company and conversation. She remained positive, kind and cheerful in spite of increasing frailty and was always touchingly grateful for pastoral visits and any help she received. She spoke of Catherine, Stephen, Bertie and Cleo with great pride and affection and their care for her has been unstinting. We send them our heartfelt condolences at this sad time.

At this season of remembrance, we hold in our hearts and prayers all those who mourn. May God's loving arms uphold them in their grief and loss and may they find comfort and strength through the caring support of friends and family.

Paul Gunstone: *'Sandra, John and Emma would like to thank everyone for their cards and kind messages following Paul's death as a result of a tragic accident.'*

We bring to God all those known to us who are suffering with ill health and those facing lengthy treatments. May they and those who care for them find peace and rest in the knowledge of God's loving care.

Eileen Gray: *John Gray has let us know that his wife Eileen's dementia has now advanced significantly and that she is resident in a home. Her condition is such that he does not think visits would be helpful.*

We remember Eileen in our prayers as she settles into unfamiliar surroundings.

**Celebrations:** We send our love and congratulations to Revd Derek Chapman following the birth of his precious great grandson, Timothy Theo, on 15 September. We give thanks for Timothy's safe arrival and pray God's blessing on this new family.

**Get Connected:** The final session for tech help this year will be on Tuesday 21 November, 2.00pm-4.00pm in the Welcome Area. All welcome.

And finally, advance warning, **a date for your diaries:** The Pastoral Team will be hosting a **Coffee Morning** for the whole church family on **Saturday 20 January** and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible!

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](mailto: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!



Dear Friends,

As we approach the Autumn of 2023, tragically the war in Ukraine does not seem any closer to ending. The number of people fleeing the war and arriving in Salisbury does however appear to have slowed so while we were initially meeting several new families a month at the Salisbury Community Hub for Ukraine we are now seeing fewer new arrivals. The Hub has proudly served the Ukrainian community in the city by providing support for housing, education, jobs and many other issues since it was established in April 2022. The focal point of our Hub has been at Salisbury Methodist Church which has been an incredibly generous host for our meetings and language classes that have run every week and provided an invaluable base for community connections to be forged and built upon. Along with the integration of the Ukrainian families into the local area and the establishment of their own successful communities and enterprises we have also seen a sustained increase in the provision of support from the Local Authorities.

Given these factors we feel that now is the right time to allow the Hub to evolve into an organisation that will continue to provide support as and when required, on a virtual basis, by accessing us through the email address below. The team will retain its online presence and continue to be available to provide information, resolve any issues arising and to sign-post. This change will take place after Friday October 27<sup>th</sup> after which the Hub will no longer be holding its meetings or language lessons on a Thursday or Friday morning at the Methodist Church and we will move onto our virtual provision. This will not include language classes but there are now many more options available for these at Wiltshire College and online.

It has been an absolute privilege for those of us involved in the Hub to work closely with the Ukrainian community and to witness their strength, resilience and optimism in the most challenging circumstances. We would also like to offer our sincere thanks to everybody who has been involved at the Methodist Church and to all the hosts and other organisations and individuals with whom we have worked over the last 18 months.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact us on [admin@salisburyukraine.org.uk](mailto:admin@salisburyukraine.org.uk) or refer to the website [salisburyukraine.org.uk](http://salisburyukraine.org.uk)

At the same time as the Hub at SMC will transition to a Virtual Hub we are truly delighted to confirm that the Ukrainian community will be relocating to a regular venue at St Martin's Church rooms where the group plans to run activities for children, teenagers and adults. More information will follow in due course on this development.

With very best wishes,

The Salisbury Community Hub for Ukraine

## 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 [jam@salisbury Methodist.org.uk](mailto:jam@salisbury Methodist.org.uk)

Joanna Throp

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“It may be that God is reminding me that I am approaching my November. Well, why regret it? November has beauty, has seen the harvest into the barns, even laid by next year's seed. No need to fret about not being allowed to stay and sow it, someone else will do that. So go contentedly into the earth with the moist, gentle, skeletal leaves, worn to cobweb fragility, like the skins of very old men, that bruise and stain at the mere brushing of the breeze, and flower into brown blotches as the leaves into rotting gold. The colours of late autumn are the colours of the sunset: the farewell of the year and the farewell of the day. And of the life of man? Well, if it ends in a flourish of gold, that is no bad ending.”

— *Ellis Peters, Brother Cadfael's Penance*



# LIGHT in the DARKNESS

*The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5*

Can you find the sources of light in the grid?

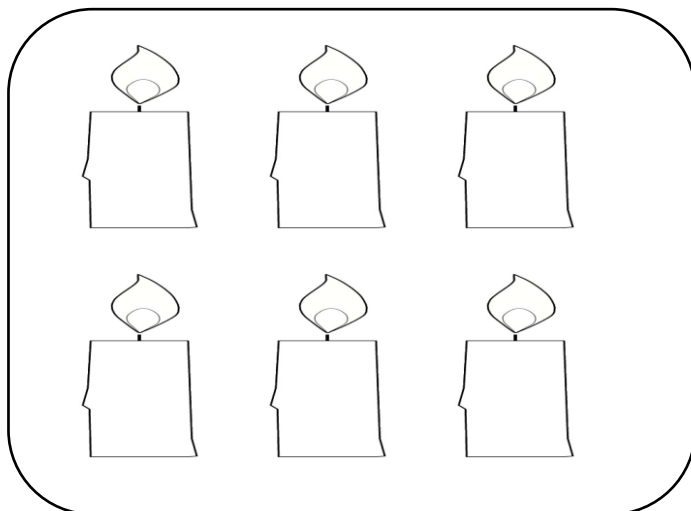
S	R	E	S	A	L	G	E	W	I	J	C
P	T	T	K	L	H	L	R	V	S	D	F
B	A	A	Q	R	D	O	W	G	U	B	U
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C	E	S	U	O	H	T	H	G	I	L	O
P	A	M	L	T	O	O	M	A	L	F	N
E	D	G	L	O	W	W	O	R	M	O	W

Bulb  
Flame  
Lamp  
Star

Candle  
Full Moon  
Lasers  
Sun

Firework  
Glow Worm  
Lighthouse  
Torch

**Prayer candles** – pray for somebody and light a flame (by colouring it in) after each prayer.

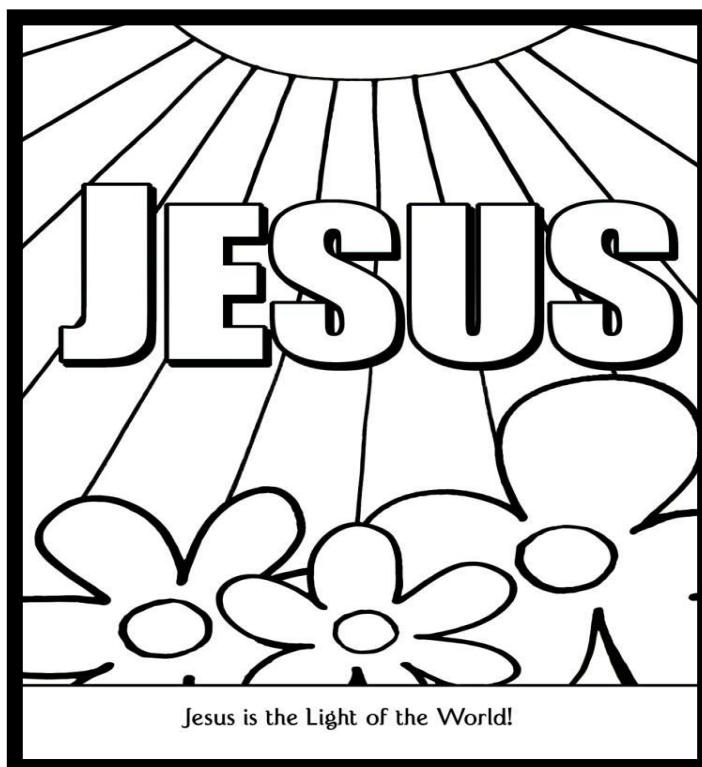


*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world."*

*Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life". John 8:12*

Think of a letter you can put after the first word and before the second to make two new words. If you're correct, the shaded column will spell out another source of light.

RAN		LAD
FEE		ARCH
LIMB		WED
PRO		INCH
POSE		WEAR
BRA		RAMP
YET		CON
ANTI		LOUD
TOO		NOW



Answer: GLOWSTICK  
Compiled by Linda Hayman

## Click! faith through photos

Click! is our brand-new SMC group for anyone who takes photos, on standard cameras or smartphones, and who wants to explore their faith. The October theme was 'Trees of Life', based on Matthew 13:31-32. There was a stunning variety of images, giving us all kinds of innovative ways of understanding the theme. All the photos had been taken by members of the group, often in the preceding month. People said how much they'd enjoyed finding their pictures and noticing 'Trees of Life' as they went about their daily lives.

Here is one of the images brought to Click! and what the contributor said about it: 'This photo was taken in the arid dry Simpson Desert in Australia. This large twisted desert Acacia tree had struggled against all adversity to survive and mature. A storm was brewing but the rain evaporated before it touched the ground. The wind had died and everything was still. Suddenly the sun came out and bathed the tree in light. Its beauty left me stunned and silent. On reflection this tree reminded me of some of the beautiful old folk I have met in my life. Through their struggles, which they overcame with love and cheerfulness, they have helped and influenced me and strengthened my faith' (by kind permission of Louise Hartgill).



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 12<sup>th</sup> November, at 4pm, in Room 1**. No need to bring your photos, the first time, just yourself!

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Oh, the tree of life is growing

Where the spirit never dies

And the bright light of salvation shines

In dark and empty skies

*Bob Dylan*

## President and Vice-President update on the situation in the Middle East

As deaths and injuries of civilians continue to rise in the Israel-Hamas conflict, we are heartbroken to see the devastation this is having on so many people living in the region. We believe in a God who weeps, and, alongside the Holy Spirit our Comforter, our hearts are breaking with all those whose loved ones have had their lives brutally cut short, for the terror felt by Israeli families, and the unimaginable wait that many face for news of the people being held hostage. We watch in horror as Gazan civilians flee for their lives, unable to leave Gaza and trapped in the midst of a violent and unpredictable conflict.

The situation may feel overwhelming; so much information, so much misinformation and so much misery. Where is our hope? Watching and reading news reports can leave us confused and feeling helpless. What can we do? As members of the Methodist Church we have witnessed the plight of the Palestinian people's oppression for many years and have sought to encourage those on all sides who are working for lasting peace with justice in the region.

Now we pray for all those people and groups we have met: Daoud Nasser from the Tent of Nations and the recipient of the World Methodist Peace Prize in 2018; Rabbi Nava Hefetz from Rabbis for Human Rights, the Wi'am Peace and Reconciliation Centre in Bethlehem; the staff of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel, and the countless people and families in Gaza and the West Bank who we, as a Church, have supported over the years. We uphold them, praying for their safety, asking for God's protection and comfort. And we pray for those who have the power to effect change – that they will use this privilege wisely and well to put a swift end to this violence and aggression. We undertake to continue to pray that the beautiful peace of the Prince of Peace will manifest in our world, and we pledge ourselves once again to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out this discipleship in our worship and mission.

We call on the UK Government to do all it can to encourage dialogue between Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and states in the wider region. We urge our Government to use its influence to end the siege of Gaza that is depriving its population of water and food, and to call on all parties to abide by international humanitarian law.

As well as praying, we ask you to consider doing the following:

- Supporting [Christian Aid's appeal](#) and/or signing a petition calling on the UK Government to establish safe routes out of Gaza for people left homeless or caught up in the violence
- Find out more about the situation: [Resources for studying theological issues relating to Israel-Palestine](#)
- Write to your MP to ask them to act to protect civilians in Gaza and to support a lasting peace
- Be generous to those who you may not agree with, and try to find common ground. Pray for those people and, if appropriate, pray together. Be aware of

those in your church or community who are particularly impacted by this situation, whether they have a connection with Israel or Palestine or because this is a painful and traumatic reminder of their own experiences of conflict. And please pray for those in leadership who are being called to offer support to the people who are impacted by the ongoing situation.

**The Revd Gill Newton, President of the Methodist Conference**  
**Deacon Kerry Scarlett, Vice President of the Methodist Conference**

### **Pause for Prayer**

Loving God  
I see the news and I am afraid.  
Violence is spiralling out of control.  
I don't know what to think or feel.  
The temptation to fall into  
hatred, or  
despair  
feels very close at hand.  
Help me to remember  
that nothing in all creation  
can separate me from your love  
that I know in Jesus.  
May your perfect love for me  
cast out my fear  
and free me to discern  
what is mine to do  
amidst the chaos of this suffering world.

**Amen**

In a world that God made good  
let us pray  
for people seeing things  
no human being should see  
for people seized by terror  
no human being should experience  
for people whose depths of suffering  
no human being should know.  
God of unquenchable hope  
Confirm our belief that  
this is not how things should be;  
Affirm our belief that  
things can and will be different;  
Strengthen our belief in

Jesus  
who opens the way from  
death to resurrection, and  
Help us, as his disciples  
to be your  
agents for change  
in our broken world.

**Amen**

How can we call a land "Holy"  
when a festival site  
becomes a killing ground  
and a hospital  
becomes a grave?  
Christ, have mercy  
upon the land of your birth  
and all who know it as home.  
May the prophecy of Isaiah find fruition  
in this time and place:  
No more shall infants live but a few days  
or the lives of older people be cut short.  
No more shall weeping and distress  
echo across the plains.  
No more shall children be borne  
for calamity.  
Let houses be built and lived in.  
Let vineyards be planted and enjoyed.  
Let enemies come and eat together  
and the days of hurt and destruction  
be over.  
In Jesus' name we pray

**Amen**

## Fairtrade Shop

With Advent and Christmas fast approaching we now have Meaningful Chocolate Company and Divine Chocolate Advent Calendars in stock along with a range of other chocolate items which would make excellent Christmas gifts. We have also stocked up on delicious Medjoul dates which always fly off the shelf at this time of year. Our attractive range of Christmas cards, including many with Bible verses, will be on display from Wednesday 1 November. This year we are supporting Transform Trade and Embrace the Middle East as mentioned last month.

In the light of the horrific recent events in Israel/Palestine our support has never been more desperately needed. Embrace the Middle East is a Christian Development Charity which tackles Poverty and Injustice in the Middle East. From their website, where much more information can be found:

‘We support, enable and partner with Christians in the Middle East as they work to transform lives and restore the dignity of the most excluded and marginalised in their communities, through: Healthcare, Education and Community.

### WE WORK TO TRANSFORM LIVES

We currently work with Christians in [Egypt](#), [Iraq](#), [Israel/Palestine](#), [Lebanon](#) and [Syria](#), supporting health, education and community projects, which bring vital services to those at risk of marginalisation and exclusion’.

Do come and browse – we have many items under £5.00 which make lovely gifts while at the same time supporting vital humanitarian aid.

Our shop takings over the last month were approximately £426.00, plus £154.20 from the Eco fair at Amesbury and £58.30 from Amesbury’s Autumn Fair. Many thanks for your on-going support.

*Monica Gillings*

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## Poetry Group

The November Poetry Group meeting will be on Friday November 3rd at 10.30am in Room 1 when the subject will be ‘**Animals**’.

The December Poetry Group meeting will be on Friday December 1st when the subject will be ‘**Dark**’.

All are welcome.

*Mary Mitchell*



## From the Stewards

Since last month, it feels like the Stewards have been dealing with a lot of practical issues; worship materials for Christmas, and the pattern of Christmas services; the success of recent social events and how we might build on this. The Finance team and the Church Council have been considering how we can fundraise in a situation where our income broadly pays our outgoings, but the church needs to rebuild its reserves against future major expenditure. The Worship group has begun to consider whether we should offer alternative forms of services in an afternoon or evening.

The Christmas materials produced by the Methodist Church come under the heading “Out of the Ordinary”; Jesus’ birth is at the same time both ordinary and extraordinary. All the ordinary things we are doing, the routine of keeping the church functioning and the building viable, are also part of an extraordinary agenda, to work for the Kingdom of God. Isn’t it easy to attend the routine meetings, do the chores, and lose sight of the objective?

Something that is out of the ordinary, against the general trend, is that SMC is a growing church. We know that we can be good at doing the ordinary thing of being welcoming: at “Our Story” this afternoon, I was very struck by the number of people who said that they had come to SMC and stayed because people welcomed them. One person mentioned the effect of people simply smiling at them as they came into the sanctuary. We have to remember that is just as easy to forget these simple kindnesses.

*Paul Butler on behalf of the Stewards*

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On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, Christian Aid will be selling donated, pre-loved Christmas decorations from a stall in Salisbury Market. Come and say hello, and spruce up your Christmas collection.

*Paul Butler*

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“It was so much easier to blame it on Them. It was bleakly depressing to think that They were Us. If it was Them, then nothing was anyone's fault. If it was us, what did that make Me? After all, I'm one of Us. I must be. I've certainly never thought of myself as one of Them. No one ever thinks of themselves as one of Them. We're always one of Us. It's Them that do the bad things.”

*Terry Pratchett, Jingo*



## Eco Church

In the October newsletter I wrote that we were close to achieving our silver Eco Church award. Since then, I am delighted to report that A Rocha UK have approved this for Salisbury Methodist Church.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this achievement. The services preached over the Creationtide season, the SMC contribution to the Circuit Eco Fair at Amesbury, and the increased use of vegetarian and vegan food at meals served in church, all helped towards gaining the award.

However, as we move forward there are still many challenges ahead. Where the answers to survey questions were “occasionally” it will be lovely if in future we can put “regularly”. Examples are encouraging and facilitating Carbon Footprint and Environmental Lifestyle audits, plus increasing the use of locally sourced foods for meals in church.

In the New Year I will be looking at how we can build upon the good practice already established, and plan for moving onto the highest-level gold award.

In the meantime, I would like to repeat my thanks to the church leaders and the wider congregation for their hard work in maintaining the drive to be the most ecofriendly community possible.

*Jim Gillings*

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“I didn’t go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don’t recommend Christianity.”

*C. S. Lewis*

## Christian Aid



Once again, anything I was going to write has been overtaken by world events. The terrible events in Israel and Gaza have driven last month's natural disasters and even the Ukraine war out of the news-stream.

Christian Aid has been working with refugees in Palestine since the 1950s. Even before this latest escalation of violence, the humanitarian need in Gaza has been acute for many years due to the 16-year-old blockade enforced by Israel and Egypt and a lack of effective government in Gaza.

Christian Aid has two partner agencies in Gaza; one, in the north, provides medical assistance, while in the south of Gaza another partner is already supplying mattresses, medicines and "a community kitchen that will feed 200 people". Amid reports of hundreds of thousands being displaced, there is a huge need for external aid and Christian Aid is already raising funds in anticipation of delivering aid when permitted.

If you are able to help, go to the Christian Aid website where their Middle East Crisis Appeal is prominent.

*Paul Butler*

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## CHURCH FAMILY BREAKFAST

**The next breakfast is at 9.00 on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

Everyone is welcome.

Whether you like to start the day with toast and marmite or with a full breakfast you are very welcome to join us.

All we ask is your company around the breakfast table with some others from our Church family.

*Paul Emerson*



**THE NEW SARUM SINGERS**  
**Present**



**“Christmas Time”**

The New Sarum Singers celebrate Christmas with a full programme of carols and songs, inspired by the Christmas story. These works, both traditional and modern, will bring a touch of Christmas magic to the season. The concert is free and in support of the Salisbury Street Pastors charity, so why not join us for a merry musical treat?

**Musical Director : Lewis Edney**  
**Accompanist : Mary Douglas**  
**Plus Special Guest Organist**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Bemerton Methodist Church,  
Roman Road, Salisbury, SP2 9BH**

Free Admission and Parking with a retiring collection  
in aid of the **Salisbury Street Pastors** (Registered Charity 1142072) the  
charity that helps to keep people safe on the streets

Visit <https://newsarumsingers.wordpress.com/> for more information

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**Collection of stamps for RNIB**

We're delighted to report that Penny and David Symonds have kindly stepped forward to take on this task, following the death of dear Jean who had faithfully undertaken it for so many years. The collection box is in the Welcome area. Please help Penny and David by trimming stamps with a 1cm border where possible. Many thanks!

*Monica Gillings*

## **A Letter From The Network Of Christian Peace Organisations To The Foreign Secretary - Oct 2023**

We write to you in response to the outbreak of violence in Israel and Palestine. We urge the UK Government to use its influence to help create space for de-escalation and meaningful dialogue in the coming days and weeks, to urgently avert a deepening humanitarian crisis and military conflict that could cost many more lives than have already been tragically lost.

Indiscriminate attacks on civilians violate international humanitarian law. We condemn the Hamas attacks on civilians and the taking of civilian hostages. We also condemn the response of the Israeli Government in bombing of Gaza and targeting of the civilian population. The increased restrictions and complete cutting off of water, electricity, food and fuel constitute collective punishment and will create an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in Gaza, exceeding that which already exists as a result of the 16-year blockade.

We are deeply saddened by the continued violence in the region and urge you work for dialogue and de-escalation. We ask you to support measures for the immediate protection of civilians including a ceasefire, adherence by all parties to international law, and the UN's call for humanitarian corridors.

Long held concerns about land, peace and security have not been prioritised by the international community. The only way to break the cycle of violence and build a lasting peace is to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the blockade of Gaza and create conditions of justice, equality and peace for all Israelis and Palestinians.

As people of faith, we stand against the Islamophobia and antisemitism many individuals in this country may face as a result of violence in the Middle East. We will do what we can to de-escalate these tensions.

We ask you to avoid supporting polarised arguments and apportioning blame. We ask you to support measures that do not rely on military security but instead build a lasting peace based on justice and equality for all.

Yours Sincerely

Ann Farr, Chair, Pax Christi England and Wales

Sue Claydon, Chair, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

Rev Dr Barbara Glasson, President Methodist Peace Fellowship

Deacon Angie Allport, Secretary, Methodist Peace Fellowship

John Cooper, Director, Fellowship of Reconciliation

Simon Barrow, Director of Ekklesia

Oliver Robertson, Head of Witness and Worship, Quakers in Britain

Philip Austin, Coordinator, Northern Friends Peace Board

Andrew Fox, British Isles Mission Centre President, Community of Christ

Charlotte Marshall, Director, Sabeel-Kairos UK

Lydia Funck, General Secretary, Church and Peace – Ecumenical peace church network in Europe

Andrew Jackson, Chief Executive, Pax Christi

Rev Ruth Harvey, Leader, The Iona Community

Rhun Dafydd, Chair of Cymdeithas y Cymod (Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales)

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## **Five Minutes for the Planet**

### **Blister Packs again!**

Lots of us use tablets that come in blister packs, and there have been ups and downs with recycling them. When we collected them at SMC we quickly had hundreds, and around that time Superdrug decided they couldn't cope with people recycling in bulk.

You can still recycle small quantities of blister packs at Superdrug in the Old George Mall (the box is just in front of the pharmacy desk), but now Terracycle, who handle a lot of "difficult to recycle" items, have set up a new scheme for recycling by post.

Here's the weblink [The Aldi Blister Pack Envelope Recycling Scheme · TerraCycle](#)

Not the snappiest of titles, but it's very easy to use if you have a PC and a printer. It works by offering freepost labels for you to post your used blister packs to the scheme.

If this doesn't work for you, I am told that Avon Lodge Veterinary Group in Stratford Sub Castle accepts bulk loads of blister packs. They are open Monday to Friday 8am - 6.30pm and Saturdays 8.30am - 12.30pm. [reception@avonlodgevets.co.uk](mailto:reception@avonlodgevets.co.uk)

*Paul Butler*

## **Our Zambia Link:**

Zambia celebrates 59 years as an independent nation on 24<sup>th</sup> October this year. To give thanks for that, there is a display in the North Corridor at SMC from 16<sup>th</sup> October to 20<sup>th</sup> November about Zambia, about the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) and about our link congregation, St John's UCZ, Mtendere.

Pray that the rains will arrive in Zambia in November. As we heard at Holiday Club in August, these rains are essential after 6 months with no rain, so that the crops will grow, so that the rivers and lakes will be replenished and so that Zambia will have enough electric power from the hydroelectric schemes on the Zambesi and Kafue rivers.

Pray for pupils in school preparing for school leaving exams at Grades 7, 9 and 12. These exams are at the end of November and during December, at the end of the school year.

Pray too for the ministers and deacons in training at the UCZ University who are completing their courses before starting ministry in January.

At St John's UCZ, Mtendere, the congregation give thanks for growth in numbers this year and for full resumption of church activities after the Covid restrictions. One new project the Chelston Consistory has recently started, is eye screening through the Community Development and Social Justice group. This is a much needed provision.

Continue to pray for the people of St John's congregation, as they pray for us.

*Cecil King*

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### **NATIVITY on the GREEN 2023 - 'MICHAEL MOUSE'**

**FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER at 6pm  
HAMPTON PARK PAVILION, BISHOPDOWN**

**Short rehearsals:**

**FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 6pm at BEMERTON MC  
FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 6pm at HAMPTON PARK PAVILION**

**STILL NEEDED...Animals, Mary & Joseph, Shepherd(s), King(s)**

**ALL AGES WELCOME  
NO WORDS TO LEARN!**

**If you can help with this exciting mission  
please contact Linda Hayman:**

**email: [outreachworker@salisburymethodist.org.uk](mailto:outreachworker@salisburymethodist.org.uk)**

**Many thanks.**





## Awareness Raising Market Stall

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September Listeners from The Listening Place manned a market stall to raise awareness of their work. It was hailed 'a great success' by Publicity Officer, Jill Lakeman. She said "We had a brilliant day. Members of the public visited the stall, and we were able to explain our service. Some expressed interest in training to become Listeners and some people came up to say 'thank you' for the help they had received from The Listening Place. That was particularly heartwarming."

Established nearly 20 years ago, The Listening Place provides a friendly and safe place where people can share whatever is on their mind with a Trained Listener. Listeners don't interrupt, advise or judge but, by listening, can often help to find a way forward. The service is completely free and confidential. No notes are taken or kept and only first names are used.

'Now, more than ever, people need our Listening service', commented Sue Robbins, Manager of The Listening Place. 'We are probably unique in Salisbury, as we provide walk-in, face-to-face sessions, where people can talk through their problems, worries or concerns'.

Based at Salisbury Methodist Church in St Edmunds Church Street, Salisbury, two hour sessions are held on Wednesday and Saturday Mornings between 10am – 12pm and Monday evenings from 5.30pm – 7.30pm. The aim is to provide accessible times for workers and non workers. Appointments can be made by phone to ensure a Listener is available, but drop ins are welcome. Coffee mornings are held on Wednesday and Saturday mornings in the Foyer of the church which provide a warm and relaxed environment. Private rooms are available for Listening sessions. Three Volunteer Listeners are in attendance at each session.

Although based at and supported by Salisbury Methodist Church, Listeners come from all walks of life and all faiths. They undertake a course to become Listeners and through this, become aware of the power of listening. As one Listener commented 'I thought I was a good listener before I trained, but the course improved my listening skills immeasurably and I now use them to help friends and family members as well as at The Listening Place'.

Courses are held regularly both to recruit new listeners and for individuals and organisations wishing to improve the listening skills of their staff. Three new Listeners have recently joined the team - if you think this might be for you then please get in touch with us.

*If you would like to know more about the Listening Place you can visit our website [www.thelisteningplace.org.uk](http://www.thelisteningplace.org.uk) for further information.*

*To make an appointment please call 01722 325294 during session times or leave a message on our answerphone, or email [salisburylisteningplace@gmail.com](mailto:salisburylisteningplace@gmail.com)*

## **Amesbury Methodist Church Eco Fair**

Christian Churches across the world have been encouraged to mark the Season of Creation, which starts each year on 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis 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 world. As part of our response to this, a group from the Circuit Justice and Peace Group organised an Eco Fair at Amesbury Methodist Church on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September. We hoped that people from the other churches in Amesbury and the Circuit, and the local community would come along and be prepared to spend some moneys on various stalls, learn about climate change and related subjects, and what we can all do to work for climate justice, and also recycle some household unwanted bits and pieces such as greetings cards, stamps, printer cartridges, spectacles, pens, bras, mobile phones and other electronic goods. Reduce, Reuse, recycle being a good motto.

We were delighted that the Mayor of Amesbury came and opened the event at 10.00am and in the attached picture the Mayor Councillor Monica Devendran is pictured with the organising committee: The Reverend Rosemary Fletcher (Methodist Minister for Amesbury), the Reverend Anna Bishop (a Methodist Minister from Salisbury) along with her 11 year old daughter Grace and Jim Gillings (the Eco Champion of the Salisbury Methodist circuit). Amesbury Methodist Church are working to becoming an Eco Church and this event was part of their mission to become more environmentally aware and alert the local community to issues involved with climate change, climate justice and care of the environment.

Stalls included:

Extinction Rebellion bringing to our attention the need for climate justice, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Clothing Exchange, Christian Aid - many of the countries with whom Christian Aid work are affected adversely by Climate Change, Medic to Medic, Kindness Naturally, Greetings cards made from old cards in aid of the Diocesan Sudan medical Link – Amesbury is in the Anglican Diocese of Salisbury. I also attach a picture of the Card Stall with David and Katharine Callard. Other stalls included Eco Church/ A Rocha, the local Food bank, an Artisan Woodwork stall – locally made woodwork items, Traidcraft - Fair Trade items - Amesbury Methodist Church is a Fair Trade Church, Plant stall in aid of Alzheimer's Support, and lots of containers to collect things for recycling e.g., Printer cartridges, Stamps, Mobile phones and small electrical goods, bras, pens, greetings cards to name a few, and also Eco heating sources and how to make bird feeders and seed bombs - this was outside on the field behind Amesbury Methodist Church and was organised by 11 year old Grace. Photo attached also. The stamps go to the RNIB, printer cartridges for the



Girls Brigade for their fundraising, mobile phones to Christian Aid, so our recycling helps others. Spectacles went to SpecSavers for use in the developing world.

The plant stall added to the total for Alzheimer's Support from the event on 29<sup>th</sup> September, the Card Stall raised £144 for the Sudan Medical Link , £154.20 was spent on the Traidcraft Stall and the Woodwork stall raised £91.00 towards Amesbury Methodist Church Funds.

A good time was had by all – thank you to all who helped and all who attended.



# Southampton Eco District Events

## Creation Mondays

### Webinars 7-9 pm

- October 23, 2023
  - **Lament, Hope & Wisdom: Reflecting theologically on the environmental crisis**
  - Rev Margot Hodson, John Ray Initiative
- November 13, 2023
  - **Why be an Eco District?**
  - Revd Ian Souter, Bristol District Eco Champion
- December 11, 2023
  - **Calculating Carbon: Understanding carbon calculators**
  - Adrian Frost, Climate Stewards
- January 22, 2024
  - **Integrating Creation Care & Evangelism**
  - Holly Adams, Evangelism and Growth Team
- February 12, 2024
  - **Understanding Sustainable Buildings**
  - Dr Ho Lim, Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church
- March 11, 2024
  - **So what *should* we do about climate change?**
  - Jo Crocker, Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis
- Information and registration for webinar on Zoom:
- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/southampton-eco-district-events-2606229>

Address any queries to:

[ecodistrict@sdmc.org.uk](mailto:ecodistrict@sdmc.org.uk)

## **Salisbury Methodist Church Skills Sheet**

We would like to update how our members serve God at SMC.

Many members help in a variety of ways. Please could you indicate below, the areas you already help with:

I already help with \_\_\_\_\_

We recognise members have many diverse skills and would welcome support with several areas essential to our church community. Please tick below if you are willing to help with any of the following: -

\_\_\_\_\_ website

\_\_\_\_\_ piano/keyboard player for singing/musician rehearsals

\_\_\_\_\_ audio

\_\_\_\_\_ coffee on Sunday / Wednesday/ Saturday mornings

\_\_\_\_\_ flowers

\_\_\_\_\_ admin support for The Listening Place

\_\_\_\_\_ supporting our Young People in CHYPS or Jam sessions

Do indicate if you can help in any other capacity

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print your name and return sheet to the box in the foyer)

*Thank you for your support*