Salisbury Methodist Church St Edmund's Church Street Salisbury

Newsletter



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The December/January Newsletter was produced by Rachel and Simon Clarke.

Items for the February Newsletter should be sent to Rachel Clarke

no later than Friday 19th January 2024

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 December

Sunday 3 December 10.30 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham HC

Sunday 10 December 10.30 a.m. Mr Dan Bishop

3.00 p.m. Rev Cecil King MB

Sunday 17 December 8.00 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham HC

10.30 a.m. Rev Andrew De Ville Chair of Southampton District

6.00 p.m. Rev Anna Bishop, Carol Service

Saturday 23 December 4.00 p.m. Rev Anna Bishop, Christingle Service

Sunday 24 December 10.30 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham

11.15 p.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham and

Rev Anna Bishop HC

Monday 25 December 10.00 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham AA

Sunday 31 December 10.30 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham and

Rev Steve Hawks CS

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 Worship

CS Circuit Service

HC Holy Communion

MB Mixed Blessings

Please note that the morning service on 17th December will not be streamed, alternative content will be available online.

Worship in January

Sunday 7 January 10.30 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham, C, HC

Sunday 14 January 10.30 a.m. Rev Anna Bishop

3.00 p.m. Rev Cecil King MB

Sunday 21 January 8.00 a.m. Rev Anna Bishop HC

10.30 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham

Sunday 28 January 10.30 a.m. Mrs Beatrice King

Sunday 4 February 10.30 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham HC

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:-

C Covenant Service

HC Holy Communion

MB Mixed Blessings

New Number!

I am now available by text message! My number is: 07579 852074.

My preferred text messaging app is Signal, because it is an independent non-profit organisation (https://www.signal.org/), but I am also available on WhatsApp and standard network text messages. I look forward to hearing from you!

Anna Bishop

Ministers letter.

Dear Friends,

To accompany the winter preaching plan I wrote a note that seemed to connect deeply with some that read it, and so I have included that note in this letter. I wrote, as I sit and write this letter, I remain confronted by the pictures, reporting, and sheer horror of what is unfolding in Israel and Gaza. There are few words to describe my reaction to the violence, terror, and destruction of humanity. Heartbroken for the people involved is all I choose to write.

I wonder what compassion, anger and sorrow rests within God's being today. We believe in a God who weeps with those in such distress as this, we believe in a God whose total commitment to humanity results in the sending of His own beloved Son. God's victory over violence, injustice and hatred in this world is accomplished and shown through a bloodied body, Jesus, dying upon a cross. The work continued through a transformed yet apparently recognisable Jesus following the resurrection. God's surely breaking heart works the miracle of God's love in the shared brokenness of those people whose loved ones suffer.

Through our winter preaching plan:

- We enter & travel beyond the active waiting & watching of Advent. As we watch in horror at events in our world, God does not wait, he acts even now in the hearts and minds of those who have power and control over the horrors we see. We pray that God's gift of the Prince of Peace brings clarity, wisdom and an ending to the violence and oppression of our siblings.
- We will celebrate the birth of Jesus, a refugee, a helpless child reliant upon others for his safety and protection as he grew and matured. We surely pledge ourselves once again to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ in word, thought, deed and love.
- We will affirm in our Covenant service that we are committed to God's service, each of our gifts, graces, skills, and brokenness given for the relief of suffering and the growing of God's Kingdom.
- We are then left wrestling with how to live out such discipleship in our worship and mission which not only changes each of us but transforms the world around us.

Transformation in the world, that seems rather daunting! In trying to break that down a little, I turned to you. I am often moved by your generosity to one another, exploring and sharing faith with the people around you who are perhaps held in moments of grief, or stretched by the demands of life, seeking to respond to the need you see around you. Such love for one another marks SMC as a community of faith open to and being transformed by God's love, which in turn brings us closer to one another and closer to God. Such love for one another demonstrates how deeply you wrestle with the realities of this world and find a way to transform one another's lives and thereby bring an element of change to the world.

lives with the power of God's Spirit, and blesses you as you in turn are a blessing to those around you.
Every Blessing.
Rev Mark

I pray that God's beautiful gifts of this season assure you that you are loved, fills your

Worship

November was a time of remembrance with All Souls, SANDS and Remembrance Sunday services. Each was very moving and meaningful for many members of the congregations. Thank you to all who led or took part in these occasions. Towards the end of the month, we also held our Church Anniversary service. Our thanks go to Revd David Hollingsworth for making time to come to Salisbury and for leading our worship. After help from the young mathematicians in the congregation we now know how to remember the number of books in the Old and New Testaments. David also encouraged us to be more outward looking as we move into 2024.

December will see our Advent and Christmas services, please see elsewhere in the newsletter for the times of the services. Writing this I am very aware that these services will take place against the backdrop of the situation in Israel/Palestine. In addition, to our ongoing concern for all those caught up in the conflict our prayers are with all those who will be preparing and leading worship at this time.

During December many of the congregation give up their time to take part in the various services. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers. Please also note that the final service of 2023 will be a Circuit Service at SMc on Sunday 31st December. The first service of 2024 on Sunday 7th January will be the annual Covenant Service.

The next Worship Consultation will take place on Thursday 25th January at 7:30. As usual this will be an open meeting. If you have items for the agenda, please send them to me using worship@salisburymethodist.org.ok

Jim Gillings Worship Team Leader

From the Stewards

Numbers can be important. Last month I tentatively described SMC as a growing church, but now the pew statistics for the last year are available, they seem to bear that out. It's true that they show a decline in both membership and attendance from 2016 to 2020, and then everything was disrupted by Covid. Since 2021, however, there is a gradual but steady increase in the numbers of both Members and those attending on a Sunday morning (both adults and children).

We can rejoice, and be both thankful and encouraged, but also we need to be alert to ask what is God doing here, and perhaps also why?

Smaller numbers can also be significant. Three is the current number of Church Stewards, who meet regularly with our ministers and support them where possible. After April 2024, there will only be two, where as we would like to have four.

Two is the ideal number for preparing tea and coffee after the Sunday service. It is always appreciated, and just think what it would be like without it! If you are not sure what is involved, please speak to Carolyn Clark, who will try and pair you up with an experienced coffee-maker.

And one (or at least one) is the number of people we need with an enthusiasm for the work of the Salisbury Food Bank. In the New Year we will be taking a bigger role in making arrangements for the Foodbank on a Saturday morning, and we would like to hear from someone willing to get involved in this.

Often it only takes one person to make a difference. Please consider if you feel you could offer to help with any of the above.

Finally, 25 is also a significant number, and the Stewards wish you all a very happy Christmas!

Paul Butler on behalf of the Stewards

CHURCH FAMILY BREAKFAST

The next breakfast is at 9.00 on Sunday 17th December

If you are joining in at the start of the day or getting ready to join in later why not come and enjoy the church family breakfast. 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

God's Answer

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,

With all your soul,

And with all your mind.

Lord, I know I only give little pieces of me.

Words of my busy mouth,

Thoughts of my teeming mind,

Fragments of my heart,

Splinters of my time,

A nod of obedience,

A glance of respect.

Sometimes that is all there is left

Among the business of life

And it is never enough.

Now there is a baby lying in straw

Tight wrapped and sleeping

A fragment of God's heart.

It is enough.

Paul Butler

Christmas is Coming!!

Here are two sets of ideas that could help our planet



Millions of Christmas jumpers are sold each year in the UK and worn only a few times. Instead of sending another Christmas jumper into the world this gift from 'Transform Trade' funds the fight for a more ethical global fashion industry.

Look at transform-trade.org. You can send an e-card for £15 instead of a jumper!

PS There are some great Christmas jumpers in the charity shops at the moment. *Diana Noble*



Pastoral News

We are very aware that some members of our church family are going through difficult times, whether it be financial constraints, new home situations, physical or mental health issues, concerns for family members or coping with bereavement.

Loving God,

We know that you know what is on our minds and in our hearts even before we do ourselves. We thank you that you walk with us every step of the way, comforting us, healing us, strengthening us and deepening our faith in you in spite of the trials and tribulations we find ourselves experiencing. We pray that you will help us to be supportive to those around us who are struggling, whether or not we are able to name them.

Amen



The All Souls Service on 31 October, jointly led by Revds Mark and Anna, was a moving occasion and appreciated by those who attended. As well as lighting candles in memory of loved ones, we were invited to lay lovingly pressed autumn leaves in the shape of a cross. The beautiful result can be seen left.

Celebrations: It was a joy to welcome 3 new Members into our fellowship on Sunday 5th November: Lisa by Confirmation, and Pauline and Helen by transfer. We give thanks to God for their commitment and hold them in our prayers as they continue their faith journey alongside us.

Mary Parker is delighted to share the news that her son Andy has announced his engagement to Mou. Mary is looking forward to a wedding in Kolkata (Calcutta) in February and we send our warm congratulations to the happy couple.

Dates for the New Year:

Tuesday 16 January: The next drop-in **Get Connected** session will be 2.00pm – 4.00pm in the Welcome Area. If you need friendly and expert help with your phone, tablet or laptop, do come along.

Saturday 20 January: Church Family Coffee Morning, hosted by the Pastoral Team, 10.30 – 12 noon in the Hall. This will hopefully be an opportunity to meet folk who have joined us over the past year or so, to put faces to names, and to help us all to get to know each other a little better!

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!

Church Family Coffee Morning as we start the New Year!

10.30 - 12.00 Saturday 20 January2024 (In the Hall at Salisbury Methodist church)

We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to meet and share conversation over a cup of tea/coffee and delicious refreshments.

Everyone welcome!
There will be toys and games available for our younger members.



The Listening Place Christmas Tree



As part of the campaign to raise awareness of the work of The Listening Place, this Christmas, we have a tree in St Thomas's Church Christmas Tree Festival. The tree will be decorated in the Listening Place colours and will feature bespoke hanging decorations designed by Kathy Lowe, one of our talented

Listeners. The tree is Number 8 in the catalogue, so if you're popping in to see this wonderful display of nearly 100 trees featuring charities, local companies and organisations, then look out for our entry!

The festival is open from 10am – 6pm on Tuesday 5th December until Saturday 9th December and 12.20pm – 6pm on Sunday 10th December. Entry is free.

And, if you can't get there, we will be bringing the tree home to Salisbury Methodist Church for the remaining days before Christmas Day.

Used Christmas Cards

South Wilts Mencap Shop at 16 Catherine Street would appreciate receiving any used Christmas cards you are discarding. These will be converted into price labels by some of our willing volunteers.

Rachel Clarke

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Our Zambia link:

Praise God that the rains have begun, and pray that they will continue.

In December the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) looks forward to Christmas. The week before Christmas is "Christmas Revival Week" in the UCZ, when, in church and in all the church groups, we preach and pray that Christ will be born again in the hearts and lives of each of us and in the lives of people who have not been Christians.

December is also the month of public examinations, when school pupils write their school leaving examinations – after Grade Seven, Grade Ten and Grade Twelve. Pray for the young people doing their exams – and for their teachers and the people involved in marking the exams.

As in the UK, December is a month when people look to give support especially to children. Zambia has many thousands of orphans because of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, so we work and pray to support the orphanages and organisations that support orphans through school and higher education.

At our link congregation - St John's UCZ in Mtendere, Lusaka - we are asked especially to pray for the three robed choirs and for the Boys' Brigade Band and for the witness they give to the birth of Jesus and the salvation he brings.

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

Cecil King

Fairtrade Shop

With extra Advent and Christmas sales, so far November has seen shop takings increase to approximately £709, plus a special Zaytoun order of £282.00 and a bumper Cathedral stall of £513.20!



Thank you for all your support over this year which has enabled us to donate £100 to SMc, £400 to Transform Trade and £400 to Medical Aid for Palestine. Your purchases at fair prices have helped to 'provide an immediate lifeline for farmers and workers struggling with low incomes and disadvantaged by global trade'. They have been able to 'improve their living standards, invest in their communities and businesses and protect our shared environment'. (Fairtrade Foundation)

So a big 'Thank you' from all of us on the Fairtrade Team!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was filled with sorrow at the tragic death of his wife in a fire in 1861. When the Civil War broke out the same year, it seemed like an additional punishment. Two years later, Longfellow learned that his son had been seriously wounded in the Army of the Potomac.

Sitting at his desk, one Christmas Day, he heard the church bells ringing. It was in this context that Longfellow wrote these lines:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep.

"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!

The wrong shall fail,

The right prevail,

With peace on earth, good will to men!"

A request from the Church Stewards for volunteers from February 2024 for the Coffee Bar and Food Bank.

It is hoped coffee bar volunteers on a Saturday morning will support the Food Bank. This would involve collecting a voucher from the person who requires a food parcel and giving them a food parcel.

If you can give your time, please speak with Paul Butler (end of January 2024) or one of the other church Stewards. Thank you.

Recycling at SMc is Changing

Wiltshire Air Ambulance volunteers can no longer collect recycling from Salisbury. Please continue to recycle as much as you can. Look at the 'Compendium of Recycling' on the church website for a comprehensive guide to what you can recycle where.

At SMc we ask you to bring in these items which will raise money for Medic2Medic, a charity which helps to build the health workforce in some of the poorest countries in Africa.

- Dental products toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Plastic coffee packaging
- Biscuit wrappers and cake bars plastic packaging
- Plastic bread bags and bakery packets
- Pens
- Printer cartridges

We also collect mobile phones and foreign currency for Christian Aid and used stamps.

Diana Noble

Amnesty International, Write For Rights 2023

"Why Write for Rights? Because our words work wonder'. These are the words of Amnesty stating how cards and messages and letters sent last year have helped in the release of Cecillia Chimbiri and Joanah Mamombe in Zimbabwe who had been arrested and imprisoned after participating in an anti-government protest. Similarly Chow Hang-tung, a human rights lawyer from Hong Kong imprisoned for peacefully commemorating the victims of the Tiananmen Square massacre. So, this year on Sunday December 10 we shall again have a table in the hall after the service for people to send cards and messages - and a contribution towards postage would be appreciated.

December 10 happens to be the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which established that human rights belong to everyone, everywhere - something which we too need to be vigilant of.

Eco Church - A Compendium of Recycling Options

See https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/recycling for a full list of what can be left for kerbside recycling and what can be taken to household recycling centre.

What	Where it can be recycled		
Soft plastic RECYCLE WITH BAGS AT LARGE SUPERMARKET Don't recycle at home Soft plastic packaging plastic wrap, crisp packets, plastic bags, bread bags, pouches with this symbol	Any large supermarket		
Blister Packs	Superdrug Box at the back in Old George Mall store only Avon Lodge Vets, Stratford Road		
Batteries	Supermarkets, Electronic retailers, or in a sealed plastic bag on top of your black bin		
Coffee bags	Here at SMc		
Make up mascaras, compacts, liners, lip products, tubes eg foundation, vitamin tubs	Boots		
Make up mascaras, liners, lip products, tubes eg foundation	Superdrug		
Writing instruments pens, markers, highlighters, felt tips etc	Here at SMc Rymans		
Bread bags and bakery packets	Here at SMc		
Biscuit wrappers and cake bar plastic packagings sweet and savoury	Here at SMc		
Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes	Here at SMc		
Water filters	Well Natural Sainsbury's		
Duvets, pillow, linens	Dunelm		

Printer cartridges	Here at SMc		
Mobile phones	Paul Butler at SMc Jewellery, watches, old and foreign currency also collected for Christain Aid		
Glasses	Specsavers		
Clothes Handbags, Belts	Charity shops Saleable condition		
and shoes	Cotswold Any condition		
	M and Sany condition		
Plastic flower pots	Household Recycling Centre in Hard Plastics		
Stamps	SMc welcome area box		
Lightbulbs and Fluorescent	Household Recycling		
Tubes incandes cant bulbs are not	CentreBin at the far end		
recycled and go in waste.	B &QBox near checkouts		
Electronic items	Household RecyclingCentre		
	CurrySAny.You get a £5 voucher redeemable for a purchase over £25 B&Q,Robert Dyas, John		
	Lewis etc also but with conditions		
Household Paint	Household Recycling Centre if still useable there's a collection pointfor use by others		
Used compost bags	Wilton Garden Centre		
Bras	Here at SMc		
Pool accessories such as	Five Rivers leisure centre		
goggles, floats, armbands			
and swim caps			

November 2023



Church for Change! Exploring 300 years of Methodist Social Justice

The Salisbury Circuit Justice and Peace Group hosts a screening of "the best bits" from this superb conference that took place at The Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History in November.

Highlights include:

Prof. Pippa Catterall on changing the public imagination of what is possible and how to build a better society

Dr Munyurangabo R. Benda on **genocide**, **forgiveness and the future**Dr Clive Norris on **developing a practical theology of resistance and ethical action**

John Cooper on working for peace and non-violent living
Rev'd Dr Jill Marsh on simplicity and inclusion
Rev'd Mark Rowland and Prof Bev Clack on building a transformational
community of diverse people who can disagree positively

Join us to watch video highlights and share refreshments and conversation at Woodfalls Methodist Church Saturday 3rd February 2024
10am-12.30pm





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 4th 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

"I know what I really want for Christmas.

I want my childhood back.

Nobody is going to give me that. I might give at least the memory of it to myself if I try. I know it doesn't make sense, but since when is Christmas about sense, anyway? It is about a child, of long ago and far away, and it is about the child of now. In you and me. Waiting behind the door of or hearts for something wonderful to happen. A child who is impractical, unrealistic, simpleminded and terribly vulnerable to joy."

Robert Fulghum



About twenty of us met for a shared lunch in the Hall after Sunday worship and coffee; some who had been involved in the very first discussions between churches that led to the creation of what we now call "SMC", and some who have joined the church family in the years since the new building opened in 1992. We touched on our older Methodist heritage, with John Wesley's visits to Salisbury in 1738, the new chapel in 1811, and the ups and downs of subsequent years.

SMC is now what is called a "gathered church" (as opposed to a parish within set boundaries), but when we asked where people had been born, we found that we were gathered from all parts of the British Isles, and beyond. Unfortunately we did not have time to map all our individual faith journeys to arrive at SMC, but we heard from Brian Mould about how music and his faith had led him to surmount numerous obstacles, and from Sarah Sirengo about how her trust in God to answer prayer had brought her to the doors of SMC.

However each of us came to be here, when we asked why people had stayed, the commonest response was simply "because I was made welcome". This simple act of welcoming was so basic and so important, yet something that we all can do.

The last question was "what would you like SMC to be in the future" – in a single word! The WordCloud [on the back cover] now includes all our answers to that question, as well as our places of birth, work and professions, and significant dates in our history.

Paul Butler, (who would love to hear any suggestions for how we could follow up on this event – stewards@salisburymenthodist.org.uk)

"There is something poetic about 39-year old man winning New Artist of the Year! I don't know where you're at in your life or what you're going through, but I wanna tell you to keep going, baby. I wanna tell you success is on the other side of it! I wanna tell you it's gonna be okay! I wanna tell you that the windshield is bigger than the rearview mirror for a reason! Because what's in front of you is so much more important than what's behind you!"

