

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

# **Newsletter**



**For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.**

**Psalms 36:9**

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The February Newsletter was produced by  
Rachel and Simon Clarke.

Items for the March Newsletter should be sent to Rachel Clarke

**no later than Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

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 February**

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

Sunday 11 February     10.30 a.m. Mrs Kate Newton

Wednesday 14 February 7.30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service URC

Sunday 18 February     8.00 a.m. Rev Stephen Maunder HC  
                                     10.30 a.m. Mrs Valerie Liversidge

Sunday 25 February     10.30 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham P

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:-

CS    Commissioning Service for pastoral visitors and listeners

HC    Holy Communion

P     Parade Service

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## **Newsletter deadlines for 2024**

19<sup>th</sup> January

21<sup>st</sup> June

16<sup>th</sup> February

16<sup>th</sup> August

22<sup>nd</sup> March

20<sup>th</sup> September

19<sup>th</sup> April

18<sup>th</sup> October

17<sup>th</sup> May

15<sup>th</sup> November

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

At the beginning of the new year we have recently renewed our Covenant with God, and have committed ourselves anew to “willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.” The Covenant prayer dramatically reminds us that God’s purposes for us do not remain the same, but change and evolve as life moves on and circumstances alter; but that God’s purposes are always an expression of God’s “faithful and enduring love” for us and for those we are called to serve. Therefore part of our response to God’s love is to be continually engaged in an active discernment process to discover what God is calling us to next.

This can lead to some big surprises, as I feel very aware at the moment. As many of you will know, Dan has been called out of a 20-year teaching career to serve on the Connexional Team as Director of Ministry Development. This has made quite a change to our pattern of family life, but Dan is finding it energising and inspiring and this is good not only for the church, but for our family.

And now it seems that I, too, have been called to take a new path. Looking back, I can now see that God was already beginning to move me on through the deep reflection I did during my Sabbatical, which drew me into disability theology. This in turn led me back into academic theology to begin doctoral research last October. And now I find myself called on to a further stage: I have been appointed to the post of Tutor and Lecturer at Sarum College, to cover Beth’s maternity leave, while she spends time enjoying lovely baby Merryn. This exciting opportunity means that I am no longer employed as a Circuit minister.

I have been reflecting on the lovely poem that begins Ecclesiastes 3, which reminds us that “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” My season as a minister in this Circuit, and especially at SMc has been absolutely wonderful! It’s hard to find the words to express how precious to me this season has been, and it is all of you who have made it such a blessing. You wouldn’t believe me if I told you there hadn’t been any moments of frustration or disappointment or exhaustion! But I hope you will believe that they have been very, very few.

I have received and learned far more from you than I could ever hope to give and I am humbled that I have had the privilege to be a minister at this vibrant, loving church. There are too many individuals who have supported me to thank you all by name – but whether you have offered a word of appreciation on the door, sent cards, turned some of my crazier ideas into reality, put up with me being late, been willing to share your wisdom and advice, taken a task off my to-do list, been a “yes, we can” sort of person, given me hospitality or shared your story with me – all of it has mattered immensely to me and enriched me more than I can say.

It is always a wrench to leave behind one season of life, even when the new one promises much. But, of course, we won't be leaving you! And that makes it all feel much easier. As a family, SMC is our spiritual home, and so we will all remain involved in the life of the church in many ways. However, I will need to learn to be an ordinary member of the congregation – I haven't done that for a long time and so I will need you to help me!

None of us knows what God will call us to next, or when, and perhaps God will turn out to have some surprises in store for you as well in 2024. But as the Covenant reassures us, whatever happens, we can always be sure that God goes ahead of us and is waiting for us in our unknown future to shower us with the riches of God's grace.

With love,

Anna.

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### **Fairtrade Shop**

Over the 9 weeks since last reporting, including the extra Christmas sales, the shop takings have amounted to approximately £1586.00, plus a special order for Zaytoun Palestinian products of £328.80. So thank you for choosing Fairtrade goodies when thinking about your Christmas gifting.

Our new Cafedirect coffee bags are proving popular - they are very handy to have in, if you only make the occasional cup of ground coffee!

New stocks of the excellent Kilombero rice from Malawi have arrived and they are in new 500g packaging. For smaller households this may be a more convenient size than the former kilo bags.

The World Day of Prayer on Friday 1 March (at St Osmonds) has been prepared this year by an ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women. It will be particularly poignant to hear their words and share worship with them in their current harrowing circumstances. We have been asked to provide Zaytoun goods for sale at the service and we are glad to be able to do so in support of Palestinian farmers. Their amazing resilience in the face of the increasing number of violent attacks in the West Bank is humbling and, so far, stocks are still getting through.

*Monica Gillings*

## A series of lectures from speakers across the churches of Salisbury, during Lent 2024.

The Cathedral is delighted to host an ecumenical Lent Lecture programme with speakers from across the churches of Salisbury. Together we aim to reflect on big themes that will dominate UK news as we head towards a General Election and which voters will be considering as they go to the ballot box. We will not be expressing party political preferences but hope to shine the wisdom of Scripture and our diverse traditions onto cutting edge topics.

Monday evenings during Lent, held at Salisbury Cathedral.

19.30 – 21:00pm, to include a talk, Q&A, and a concluding service of Compline.

Entry is free and no booking is required. All are welcome.

### Lecture Timetable:

- **19 February, The Environmental Crisis**

**Revd Dr Mark Cheetham, Superintendent Minister, Salisbury Methodist Circuit**

- **26 February, Health and Social Care**

**Pastor Pete Orphan, Salisbury Baptist Church**

- **4 March, Education, Education, Education**

**Katie FitzSimmons, Diocesan Director of Education**

- **11 March, Immigration and Refugees**

**Revd Deacon John Proctor, OBE, Salisbury Catholics**

- **18 March, Just Economics**

**Revd Dr Kenneth Padley, Canon Treasurer, Salisbury Cathedral**



## Pastoral News

We think of those among us who are suffering from serious health conditions, whether at home, or in hospital, or in the hospice. We are aware too that some are awaiting test results, or for surgery and other treatments, and we hold them all in our prayers. We also think of those who mourn the loss of a loved one and pray that they will be comforted.

Incarnate God, thank you.

In the hardest of times, you are here.

When we are alone, afraid or sad,

Confused, ashamed or hurt, you are here.

You are with us. You are here. You are.

For your love is always present: stronger than a mighty wind yet gentler than a dove.

You urge, lead and protect us.

You know, embrace and nurture us.

Searching God,

If we turn away or close the door, you will never abandon us.

Our past, future and present are in your keeping.

You are nearer than our own beating hearts and closer than our breath.

You call us by our name and we rejoice that we are held in your love. Amen.

*Darren Garfield, Deputy Chair, Bolton and Rochdale District*

*(from the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2023- 24)*

### Celebrations:

On Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>, during our annual Covenant service, it was a joy to welcome Diba into church membership at SMc. It is good to have Diba and her family with us!

We send our love and congratulations to Beth, George and family.

Beth writes -

*“George, Beth, Nathaniel and Grace give thanks for the safe arrival of baby Merryn Elizabeth Roberts, born 3<sup>rd</sup> December, weighing in at 7lb.”*

It was a great joy for the congregation when Beth brought Merryn to worship the following Sunday!

Love and congratulations go too to Gill and Michael Munday as they celebrate the birth of their granddaughter, Jodie. She weighed 9 lbs and was born on 17 January to Gill's second son and his partner.

**Thank you** to the young people who are part of CHYPs: Jago, Faith, Angel and Cleo, who designed the lovely Christmas cards which were distributed to members of our community who are unwell, housebound or in residential care. The cards were very much appreciated by those who received them.



**The Bereavement Journey** -7 sessions of films and discussion for anyone who has been bereaved at any time. These sessions will be at St Francis Church, beginning on March 5th at 2.15pm.

For more information see [thebereavementjourney.org](http://thebereavementjourney.org).

To register interest, please contact Revd Mary Terry at [mary@st-francischurch.org.uk](mailto:mary@st-francischurch.org.uk). or Tel: 07732 203452

**Change of address:** Brian Mould is now permanently settled at Braemar Lodge and shares his contact details: Brian Mould, Braemar Lodge Care Home, 20 Stratford Road, Salisbury SP1 3JH, Tel: 01722 600123 (to his room).

**Get Connected:** The next drop-in session is on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2.00pm – 4.00pm in the Welcome Area. If you need friendly help with your phone, tablet, or laptop, do come along.

**The Annual Commissioning Service for Pastoral visitors and Listeners** will be on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February, and led by Revd Mark.

**The Church Family Coffee Morning** on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January was a very happy occasion. It was lovely to gather for conversation, coffee and tea, and a choice of delicious cakes and cookies. Thank you to all who came, and all those who organised, served refreshments and provided cakes.

**Do you have a laptop or** computer that you no longer use? If so, please let Monica or Margaret know.

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!

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**JAM will run on the second Sunday each month.**

**1:00 - 3:00 JAM! Activities, Music, Faith & Food! - Youth Group**



## Reunion Down Under!

Nigel & Melodie Brookes were delighted to meet up with Ray and Rosemary Dawson during their visit to Melbourne, Australia at the end of November.

Ray, (who is now 80) and Rosemary and their two daughters, Katherine and Anne, lived in Salisbury from December 1985 to April 1987 while Ray was working at Porton Down. They were regular attenders at SMC. Katherine, who is the same age as Caroline (Brookes), attended South Wilts Grammar School, and Anne, a similar age to Jane (Brookes), attended Leadenhall.

Katherine now lives in Geelong, near Melbourne, is a renal specialist and has three boys 13,16 & 19. Anne is a paediatrician and lives in Bendigo 150 km from Melbourne.

Rosemary and Ray have very fond memories of the people at SMC and their time in Salisbury, and they regularly read the Salisbury Journal online. They send their best wishes to anyone who remembers them.



### *Melodie & Nigel Brookes*

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#### **Pilates with Christine**

Monday evenings in SMC Hall

5:45 - 6:30pm and 6:45 to 7:30pm

Gentle classes for all to improve posture, mobility and strength for everyday life.  
Free trial session. Thereafter £60 for bundle of ten classes.

[cncsarum@gmail.com](mailto:cncsarum@gmail.com)

# A JUSTICE-SEEKING CHURCH



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

10am-2pm



Hot drinks provided. Please bring a packed lunch.

# LOVE

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

**Valentine's Day** - a celebration of love for those special people in our lives. On this day some people may send cards and give presents to their loved ones to let them know how much they care about them.

This year Valentine's Day is special because it is also Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent which is the period of six weeks (40 days not including Sundays) leading up to **Easter**, the most important festival in the Christian calendar. Why? Because Jesus came to save us by taking on our sins and giving up his life for us on the cross. What greater love can anyone give?

## Love Word Search

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

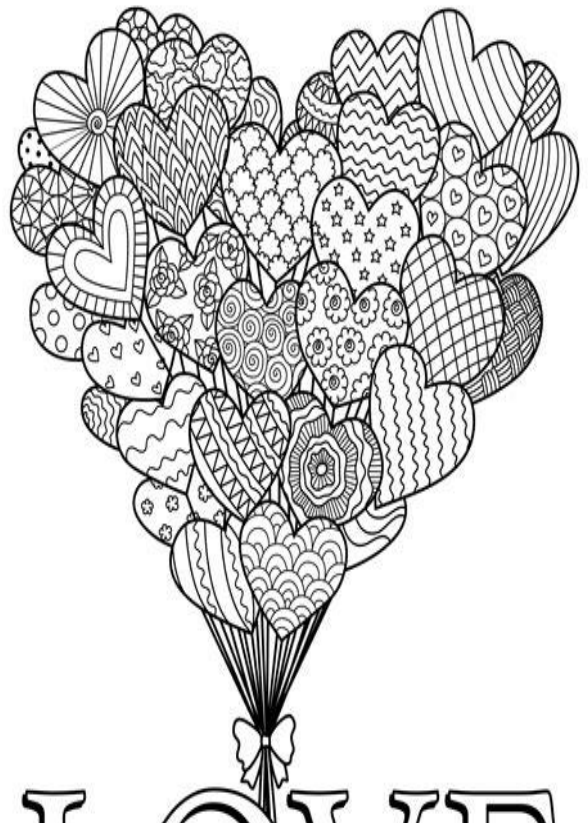
Honesty  
Passion  
Promise  
Forgive  
Happy  
Love

Heart  
Truth  
Loyal  
Care  
Rings  
Kind  
Help  
Hug

Soulmate  
Darling  
Kisses  
Friend  
Family  
Dear

COOL2Bkids

Colour me in...



LOVE  
is in the air

A new commandment I give you,  
that you love one another:  
just as I have loved you,  
you also are to love one another.



By this all people will know  
that you are my disciples, if you  
have love for one another.

John 13:34-35

DEAR GOD,  
PLEASE WRAP YOUR ARMS AROUND  
THOSE I LOVE TODAY AND LET  
THEM FEEL YOUR LOVE.  
AMEN

## Pause for Prayer

God of the poor, the widow and the orphan,  
Why do we kill husbands and parents and hope?  
God of life and love and longing  
Why do we woo death, hatred and despair?  
We are like lost children, who want our inheritance  
At the expense of our relationships.  
As you wait for us to come to our senses  
Forgive us that we have squandered peace  
Our own and yours, for the sake of our anger and greed.  
Show us how to walk humbly, love mercy and desire justice for all people  
In all places and with all people cause our pride to step aside for the poorest, the most  
desolate and the displaced, because amongst them you are walking too.

Oh sacred head now wounded...  
Today, as every day, you are wounded again by the sins of the world.  
Today the wounded of Gaza cry to you and we lift our cries with them.  
How long, we wonder, will it be until your promised reign of peace comes.  
How long before the captives will be released.  
O sacred head, when the wounds seem too hard to bear, too awful to see, teach us  
not to turn away but instead remind us that in you all trauma can find healing and long  
years of hatreds be transformed.  
Oh, make us yours forever  
And should we fainting be  
Lord, let us never, never  
Outlive our love for thee.

Amen

### *A prayer from the President and Vice-President of Conference*

God of peace and compassion,  
We pray for all impacted by the escalation in conflict in Israel-Palestine  
For all who are mourning  
For all who are fearful, today, and for what may lie ahead  
For all traumatised and re-traumatised by what they have experienced.  
Enable us to stand in solidarity with people of peace  
May your Spirit bring peace and healing to your troubled world

Amen



a new direction...



## Not goodbye, just a divergence...

As you must all know by now, I will be leaving my post as Outreach Worker at Salisbury Methodist Church on Friday 9 February 2024 after seven years in post (not bad considering I took over for one year's maternity cover!) and I believe I've earned some extra hours in bed in the mornings and delight in not having to join the rush hour traffic!

I want to thank Salisbury Methodist Church for giving me the opportunity to take over Helen's role as Outreach Worker when she decided not to return from her maternity leave. It was a complete change for me from my usual secretarial roles (although that has come in handy at times) and I relished the challenge.

I couldn't have done it without help from a lot of people, some have left SMC and others are still here and still helping! You all know who you are and how much I have enjoyed working alongside you and how important you all are/were to my role as Outreach Worker.

I must mention the many people outside of SMC too; my dear friends and colleagues at Bemerton MC and friends and colleagues from Circuit and Connexion levels, our brothers and sisters from the Salisbury United Reformed Church and St Thomas's church and all those involved in the continuing mission at Bishopdown. Thank you all.

*I would also like to take this opportunity to wish my successor every blessing with this important mission within (and without) of Salisbury Methodist Church.*

It is a very emotional time for me at the moment as I will miss so much about this job, especially the babies, children, families and carers I have been fortunate to meet, befriend and serve, yet I know that this is the right time for change, not only in my own life but in the life of SMC. I can feel God's Spirit moving in our church and circuit and I believe He has plans and exciting times ahead for us, which is why I am keen to start my new role as SMC Circuit Steward in March... *just when you thought you'd gotten rid of me!* 😊

With much love and blessings,

*Linda Hayman*

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“Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.”

— L.R. Knost



**The Listening Place Christmas Tree** was displayed at the Christmas Tree Festival 2023 at St Thomas's Church and afterwards in the foyer of Salisbury Methodist Church. Apart from generating a great deal of interest and publicity for The Listening Place, the event itself was a resounding success again. 12,000 visitors from the local area, different parts of the country and visitors from as far away as America and Australia helped to raise a massive £20,000 for local charities. We felt privileged and proud to be part of this annual event and hope to do so again. If you would like to help create new decorations for next year, the please talk to Sue Robbins, Manager of the Listening Place.

Some of the bespoke decorations, made by our Listeners this year:



## New Listening Courses

**Do you want be a better Listener?** A course which will help you improve your listening skills will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April from 10am – 4pm at Bemerton Methodist Church, 16, Roman Rd, Salisbury SP2 9BH

This course is open to all. Course fee: £20 (Bring your own lunch)

**Would you like to become a Listener?** Three further training sessions will be held on Saturdays 27<sup>th</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> May for those who would like to join The Listening Place as a Listener at the same venue from 10am – 4pm. There is no fee for these courses.

To register: [www.thelisteningplace.org.uk](http://www.thelisteningplace.org.uk) or talk to Cecil King or Sue Robbins

The annual **Commissioning Service for Listeners** will be held jointly with the Pastoral Team on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30, led by Rev'd Dr Mark Cheetham

## **Salisbury Vigils For A Ceasefire In Gaza, Israel And The West Bank**

We are now over 100 days into Israel's assault on Gaza. In this time over 22,000 Palestinians have been killed, at least 70% of them women and children with thousands more missing, presumed dead under the rubble of their homes, schools, mosques and hospitals. *Genocidal acts* were the words used by the South African Government in presenting its case to the International Court of Justice at The Hague recently and the facts provided were chilling: entire towns and villages wiped from the map; a Palestinian killed every six minutes; 48 Palestinian mothers killed each day, a child every 12 minutes; 10 children every day having one or both legs amputated often without anaesthetic; the World Food Programme reporting imminent famine. These statistics are overwhelming; each represents immense trauma, pain and human suffering with the loss of loved ones, of home, of school, of hospital, of church/mosque, of community. That is why we, together with many other groups, come together each Saturday outside the Library for half an hour for a silent candlelight vigil to demand a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and access to humanitarian aid. We meet at dusk, the time depending on sunset and the Muslim call to prayer. Weekly timings can be found on the Salisbury CND website ([https://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/news\\_items](https://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/news_items)) or the Facebook page for Sarum Concern for Israel/Palestine ([https://www.facebook.com/pg/SCIPWILTS/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/SCIPWILTS/posts/?ref=page_internal))

Why these weekly vigils? Here are some of the reasons offered in a recent straw poll.

It is a coming together of friends and strangers from near and afar.

It is a time to ponder/to pray.

The silence seems to permeate the whole area.

It is like an outdoor Quaker meeting.

It is a witness to the peace with justice for Israelis and Palestinians alike for which we all long.

It is a coming together of men, women and children of all faiths and none and from across denominations.

It shows Salisbury cares.

In our own sense of helplessness, we are grateful for this corporate act of support and solidarity.

It is important *to keep on keeping on*; in other words to keep hope alive.

*Barbara Hickman*



## Lent 2024

### Unbounded Love

#### God's love doesn't stay in the lines

Charles Wesley's famous hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (*Singing the Faith* 503) talks about Jesus as 'unbounded love' – a kind of love that cannot be contained, that works in our lives and in our world to free us and heal us. *Unbounded Love* is the theme of the Lent campaign of the Methodist Church in 2024 – holding together our commitments to be a justice-seeking church, and a people who experience and proclaim the good news of God's uncontainable love.



**What to expect?** - A range of resources that connect the Gospel readings from the Sunday lectionary throughout Lent to weekly themes, each one a line lifted from “Love divine, all loves excelling”. The themes are:

- **Week 1** - “Unbounded love”: Jesus’ baptism and wilderness experience – God’s love bursts the barriers of heaven, and then bursts into the realms of darkness.
- **Week 2** - “Visit us with thy salvation”: Losing our life (psyche) to find it – the ways we attempt to insulate ourselves from God’s love.
- **Week 3** - “Pure and spotless let us be”: Turning the tables in the Temple – corporate religious attempts to boundary God’s love.
- **Week 4** - “Finish then thy new creation”: God’s unbounded love for the cosmos.
- **Week 5** - “Changed from glory into glory”: Like a seed that has to die before it bears fruit, death is no barrier to God’s love.
- **Week 6** - “Till we cast our crowns before thee”: As Jesus entered Jerusalem the people responded by taking off their cloaks. What’s our equivalent?
- **Holy Week** - “Lost in wonder, love, and praise!”: As Jesus becomes bound by his opponents, will God’s love stay bound?

Please sign up on line to receive the daily reflections :-

[www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/unbounded-love](http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/unbounded-love)

## FIVE MINUTES FOR THE PLANET

Our first collection of recycling to raising money for medic to medic goes off this week.

The aim of the Medic to Medic is to guarantee the tuition fees for healthcare students who have academic potential but are in financial need. With this consistency of income, students are able to focus on their studies until graduation.

Please help by bringing your **coffee packets, dental products, pens, biscuit and bakery packaging and pringle tubes** to our boxes by the hall.

Look at the list on the Eco board showing other outlets for recycling in Salisbury.

There is a box for **printer cartridges**, collected to raise money for the Amesbury Girls Brigade, but so far we haven't collected any. Can you help?

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### Cameo Group

Cameo Christmas Lunch was a great success and enjoyed by all. Please come and join us on a Thursday afternoon at 2.30 pm. All welcome for Tea, Cake, Cheese Scones and friendly chatter.

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### Poetry Group

The February Poetry meeting will be held in Room 1 at 10.30am on Friday 2nd February. The topic will be 'Rain'.

The March Poetry meeting will be held in Room 1 at 10.30am on Friday 1st March. The topic will be 'Wind'.

## **Our Zambia link:**

In the new year, the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) opened a TV station based in a Lusaka studio. The station is called “Alithea”, which is the word for “truth” in New Testament Greek. We pray that this TV station will show people how Jesus is the truth and will combat fake news.

Also in January, newly graduated deacons and ministers have taken up their first posts in UCZ ministry. We pray for them and the congregations and consistories welcoming them.

In our link congregation – St John’s UCZ, Mtendere, Lusaka – the new year was prayed in at a service of rededication by the congregation. On Epiphany Sunday – 7<sup>th</sup> January – the light to the world candle lighting service renewed the congregation’s commitment to bringing the Light of Christ to our neighbourhood and our city.

Our prayers are asked for the people of Zambia – especially health workers and vulnerable people – during the current cholera outbreak; pray for bereaved families.

Our prayers are asked for Lusaka families whose homes have been flooded during the recent very heavy rains.

It is hoped that a person from UCZ Lusaka Presbytery will come to the induction of the new United Reformed Church (URC) Wessex Synod Moderator, Pray that the arrangements for that visit and the strengthening of the Zambia link we share with the URC will go smoothly.

Continue to pray for our link congregation, St John’s, and for the minister, Revd Godfrey Gama, as they pray for us.

*Cecil King*

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### **Does Lent mean extra or less?**

#### **Will you enjoy your breakfast during lent?**

Lent is a time to contemplate on the difference which the message of Jesus, His resurrection and the Church has made to us. If that leads you to do more during lent rather than less why not join us at SMc for breakfast.

Breakfast will be enjoyed in the fellowship of the Church at 9.00 am on each Sunday during lent.

There will be an extra service at 8.00 am and a service at 10.30 am as is our usual practice.

You are welcome to breakfast whether you attend one service, both services or neither service. Whichever you do you can give someone the pleasure of your company and friendship and help the Church family grow and thrive.

The first breakfast will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> February. We hope you decide to do more and join us.

## **Worship**

This always seems a very busy time of the year in the Church calendar. Especially this year when as soon as we finished celebrating the Christmas season we are quickly preparing for Lent and Easter.

I would like to thank all who took part in the Advent and Christmas services. As usual many people were involved in preparing for, and leading worship. In addition, singers, organists, readers, AV team, door stewards, welcomers, and worship stewards, (I am sorry if I have missed anyone), gave of their time and talents over this busy period.

Thank you also to Helen and the CHYPS team and our young people for preparing the pre-recorded nativity. We have received very positive feedback from Revd Andrew De Ville the Chair of District who led our worship for that service.

Hopefully you will have noticed that you are receiving a warm welcome from Faith (sometimes ably assisted by Angel) when you arrive on a Sunday morning. Faith has joined the welcoming team as part of her Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme work.

At the Worship Consultation at the end of January we reviewed the Advent and Christmas services and started planning for Advent and Easter. Ash Wednesday is Wednesday 14th February. The service this year will be held at the URC starting at 7:30pm. For more information about the services in February please see the information elsewhere in the newsletter.

*Jim Gillings Worship Team Leader*

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### **VACANCY – North Corridor Co-Ordinator(s)**

Jeannette Lake and Cecil King have decided that they would like to step down from their role of managing the displays in the North Corridor. They have been working quietly behind the scenes for as long as most of us can remember producing interesting, informative and eye catching displays which the many people who use our church appreciate.

I am told the displays are changed monthly, that there are already exhibitions ready to be put up – so it is not such an arduous commitment.

For further details please either see Cecil, Jeannette or ask in the office.

We say a big thank you for the years of service to Cecil and Jeannette have given - you have been much appreciated.

*Sue Gilbert*

*Publicity*



# BOOK FAIR

## PLUS



*Woodfalls Methodist Hall*

**DVD's**

**GAMES**

**CD's**

**10-1.**

**SATURDAY  
2ND MARCH**

**REFRESHMENTS**

