

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

Newsletter



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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 15th March 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 March

Sunday 3 March	8.00 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham HC
	10.30 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham and Rev Margaret Jones HC
Sunday 10 March	8.00 a.m. Rev Rosemary Fletcher HC
	10.30 a.m. Mr Mike New
	3.00 p.m. Rev Cecil King MB
Sunday 17 March	8.00 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham HC
	10.30 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham
Sunday 24 March	8.00 a.m. Rev Judy Davies HC
	10.30 a.m. Rev Jane Taylor
Thursday 28 March	7.30 p.m. Maundy Thursday service at St Thomas's
Friday 29 March	10.30 a.m. Good Friday service Rev Dr Mark Cheetham (hot cross buns served, 9.30 a.m. before service in the main hall)
Easter Sunday	
Sunday 31 March	8.00 a.m. Rev Anna Bishop HC
	10.30 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham HC and AA

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

HC Holy Communion (after the 8.00 a.m. service during Lent, a cooked breakfast is served in the main hall)

MB Mixed Blessings

Ministers letter.

Dear Friends,

So much has happened over the last few weeks as both the Church and the Circuit continues to grow, wrestle with life and be transformed through different people's involvement in various aspects of Church life. You may well have read Rev Anna's lovely letter of farewell to her role at SMC, though not the Church itself. We have prayed for and blessed her exploring this next phase of life and ministry; and as a Church, we will more formally thank her for her work amongst us on Easter Sunday.

Also, by the time you read this we will have formally marked the end of Linda's time in the role of our Outreach Worker with Children and Young Families, and we pray a healthy and joyous retirement for her.

So what comes next? As I sit and write this letter my mind replays the pictures I have mentally taken of some of our grass verges and parks as I have driven or walked past them. In some places there are tall, upright, vibrantly yellow and white variations on the humble daffodil. A bulb whose trumpet points to the sun and whose form withstands much except being heavily trampled upon. In other places the blooms are still some way off flowering and shorter than their cousins.

Why? Because of their position. The more sheltered, the less nourished by sun and rain, the more caught in the shade and shadows they are, the later they will bloom and perhaps for less time. Working our way through lent is perhaps a little like checking out where we are planted, of noting the prevailing conditions, assessing our needs, and then more intentionally letting the miraculous work of God's love set about us, transforming us into people even more beautiful than we are today.

The act of stepping out of ministry roles and/or into ministry roles happens all the time and is a lot like understanding where we are planted for this season of our life. Such movements into or out of roles are acts of commitment involving discernment of calling, skill sets, head space, capacity and so on. And I have news to share.

At Circuit and Church level we have been successful at solving the question of how to resource the role of pastoral lead at SMC. On the day I wrote this letter, 19th February, I am delighted to say that the Circuit Leadership Team have joyfully appointed Rev Dr Philip and Rev Rosemary Richter to share this role as works best for them. They begin immediately and we pray for their settling into the work at hand.

Within the life of SMC, we have also successfully completed a recruitment process for our next Outreach Worker with Children and Families. Mrs Fiona Waddingham will begin working with us early on in March. We will recognise this transition in worship, likely on March 3rd, when I will affirm that in Fiona we have matched the skills sought by the job description as given to us by the Trustees. We pray for Fi's settling into the role and for the work that will follow.

I pray that God's beautiful gifts of this season assure you that you are loved, that new life begins in each moment, fills your 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



The envelopes for your gifts to the Easter Offering for the World Church Fund will be available through Lent.

The Dedication service will be on Sunday 19th May at 4pm at Amesbury Methodist Church followed with refreshments.

The theme of the service stems from an awareness that justice is not static, but instead rolls forward gathering momentum across generations. Justice can never be declared as 'done'. Instead, justice inspires more justice from generation to generation.

Mo's Snack Shack

Some of you may remember that way back on a very cold and frosty morning in February 2019 we hosted at SMC a coffee morning for Syrian refugees at which they treated us to some of their street food. It was organised by Mohammed and others. Now Mohammed has his own stall in the market each Saturday where the delights of his home Middle Eastern food can be bought. The stall is open from 0900 to 1530 hrs and is situated somewhere between the Guildhall steps and the War memorial. His sales include chicken shawarma, tabbouleh, hummus, baba ghanoush, baklava and mamoul and are all a delight to the palette. Also, if any of you happen to be looking for home hospitality with a difference, I am sure Mohammed would be happy to oblige.

Barbara Hickman



Pastoral News

Sadly two faithful members of our church family died within a day or so of each other last month, Doris West and Pamela White. Neither had been able to attend worship in recent years due to illness or increasing frailty but remained very much part of our community. We give thanks for their lives and hold their friends and family in our thoughts and prayers.

Pamela was a capable and independent lady and remained fairly active until the last 3 or 4 months of her life. When her final illness took hold she faced it with courage. She appreciated pastoral visits and maintained a keen interest in church matters and current affairs. In her younger days she loved sport and church members remember her as an active member of the Tennis Club and, later, the Bowls Club.

Doris was an unusual, deep-thinking and complex person with an interesting background including links with her First Nations Anishinabe relatives in Canada. As well as attending house groups at SMc, she also enjoyed Poetry Group and was a talented poet in her own right. She published 'Walking with Wolves' after her 2010 visit to Canada and later 'The fragility of Bones' and 'Surprised by Joy', dealing with her struggles following her cancer diagnosis. Her steadfast faith shines through the following poem, may it be a blessing to all those known to us who are facing their own struggles at this time:

THE BLESSING

Gentle Jesus
I was so weary, but sleep would not
come.

My mind swirled tirelessly over the
problems of the day,
while the night
stretched endlessly before me.

Then with a sigh
I lay my head down....in my
distress I called to you, and

sleep settled upon me, a blessing
so gentle as if your hand had stroked my hair.

(From 'Surprised by Joy')

Other family news: Betty Bailey, though no longer able to attend worship, remembers all at SMc, thinks of us and appreciates still being part of the church family.

Celebrations: We send our love and warm Happy Birthday greetings to Vera James who celebrates her 95th birthday on March 24th, Palm Sunday! We also send very belated greetings and love to Joan Smith who was 95 in January.

Get Connected: The next drop-in session will be on Tuesday 19 March, 2.00pm – 4.00pm. If you need friendly and expert help with your phone, tablet or laptop, do come along.

A reminder that the Pastoral Team will be meeting on Tuesday 5 March, 12.30 for 1.00 in the Hall.

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!

Worship

All the Sundays covered by this newsletter have 2 services, an 8:00 am Communion and the regular 10:30 service. Between the services there will be breakfast in the hall thanks to Paul Emerson and his team. Hopefully we will be blessed with fine weather on Easter Day so the 8:00 am service can be held in the garden to celebrate the Risen Lord.

As you will see elsewhere in the newsletter, we will be joining our friends at St Thomas' at 7:30 on Maundy Thursday evening, then we will be holding Good Friday worship at SMc at 10:30 am.

This is always a busy time of year for ministers and local preachers, please hold all those who lead our worship in your prayers.

Jim Gillings Worship Team Leader

We would like to invite you to take part in or support the Amos Trust Run the Wall

5K Community Run in Salisbury on 2nd March 2024.

The reason for this particular date is that it will coincide with the Palestine marathon taking place in Bethlehem. Because there is a separation wall in Bethlehem the Palestinians' movements are restricted, they do not have access to a 26-mile circuit, and the event has become known as Run the Wall. The charity Amos Trust has been supporting this event for the last few years, encouraging people around the world to run at the same time wherever they are. So we're running in solidarity with the Palestinians and it's a call for human rights.

You can become involved in several ways:

- 1) Running or walking – either wherever you usually like to run/ walk (e.g. Parkrun) or we would be delighted if you choose to join a group of us at Hudson Field at 10.30am.

If you want to run or walk, wherever you choose to do it, you must register first with Amos Trust via their website <https://www.amostrust.org/diary/run-the-wall-2024/> You will be able to download a Run the Wall T-shirt label, or you might like to order a Run the Wall T-shirt! You should then be given information and contact details for our event at Hudson Field. Please also register with us if you want to run at Hudson Field, we need to know the numbers in advance.

- 2) Helping at Hudson Field by setting up, stewarding etc
- 3) Giving financial support – Amos Trust hopes to raise £60,000: £30,000 to rebuild a demolished home in the West Bank & £30,000 for emergency relief in Gaza. You can donate on the Amos Trust website or via our Salisbury page www.justgiving.com/page/runthewallsalisbury

Remember while on the JustGiving page you can edit the suggested additional administrative payment right down to £1.

If you would like more information about our event at Hudson Field and to apply to join us there please email rtw.salisbury@gmail.com asap.

Pip & Bruce Carter

Six short prayers for the Lenten period

Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. Amen

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. Amen

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. Amen

Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. Amen

Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realise my need of you. Amen

Lord, you've guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you'll not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus. Amen

Do You Want To Fast This Lent?

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

(attributed to Pope Francis...)

From the Stewards

As a church, we are blessed to have a growing number of children attending on a Sunday, and we start to ask how best to provide for them. As a CHYPS volunteer I have often felt that I may be doing my best, but only scratching the surface of what is needed.

The question of how to keep children occupied for forty minutes on a Sunday rapidly becomes more complex, something like: "How do we share with those children the promise of a loving God, and the faith that brings us to SMC on Sundays and makes Sunday worship an important and even enjoyable experience?" Sometimes, if you try to look at our liturgy with fresh eyes, the question becomes "How do we explain to our children what we are actually doing in church on a Sunday?"

These concerns have been behind our request to Rev Mary Hawes (National Children's Advisor for the Church of England and Trustee of Godly Play) to visit SMC as an independent expert consultant to advise the church in developing its children's work. She has already met with the Stewards and raised even more interesting questions such as:

"What does the church as a whole want for young children?"

"Do we let children into the secret of why we go to church?"

("And even, "Do we let the adults off too easily?").

During March there will be a meeting with Mary, the Stewards, and as many people as we can reach who are working with our children and young people to discuss the way forward. In the meantime, I would love to know how you would answer any of these questions.

We hope these discussions will lead us in due course to proposals that can go before the Church Annual General Meeting in April.

Paul Butler on behalf of the Stewards

Easter Day Breakfast

What better way to begin the celebration of Easter than with our church family.

The church family will be breakfasting together at 9.00 a.m. and you and any of your friends are welcome to start your celebrations with us.

Paul Emerson



THE NEW SARUM SINGERS

Present



“No Greater Love”

The New Sarum Singers perform J. W. Peterson’s “No Greater Love”, a beautiful cantata recounting the life of Jesus Christ from his baptism to his death and resurrection. It is full of beautiful melodies and its unifying theme permeates the piece throughout. Under the direction of the choir’s musical director, Lewis Edney, accompanist Mary Douglas, and local guest soloists, this is a moving and uplifting musical gem.

Musical Director: Lewis Edney

Accompanist: Mary Douglas

Sunday 24th March 2024 at 3 p.m.

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

**Free Admission and Parking with a retiring collection
in aid of the Children’s Chance charity, funding activities for children in and
around Salisbury (Registered charity No. 1069104)**

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

Church Family Lent Breakfast

As we approach Easter some of the Church Family are enjoying breakfast on Sunday at Church. All are welcome to join us on any or every Sunday.

We hope you can make this a part of your preparations for this most significant celebration in the Church Calendar.

Paul Emerson

Candlelight Ceasefire Vigil For Gaza

The numbers may vary, but the message continues. At 5.15pm on each Saturday a group of us gather near the Library. We come from all faiths and none and of all ages. We stand in a circle holding lighted candles and with placards promoting peace.

We stand in silence as the dusk descends, witnessing by our presence the aching in our hearts for a ceasefire in Gaza, for peace for Israel/Palestine.

Passers by glance our way, children ask why are we there. Some join us. Others look the other way.

Buses and cars roar by as the life of the city continues, but for us, in this time and space, our silence is palpable as we pray and as lights from candles come into this darkened world.

With St Luke we ask that:-

'In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

And from a Litany for the Holy Land:-

For those who cannot see anything but rage and violence, that You would surprise them with mercy, and turn their hearts towards kindness for their fellow human beings.

Lord have mercy.

For the people of peace whose imagination is strong enough to conceive of a different way- may they speak, act and be heard.

Lord have mercy.

Mary Mitchell

Hot Cross Buns

Hot Cross Buns are a traditional part of Good Friday. They will be being served at Church from 9.30 a.m. for the Church family to enjoy breakfasts together in fellowship before the more contemplative part of the day. Please join us.

Paul Emerson

The secret to living well and longer is: eat half, walk double, laugh triple and love without measure.

Tibetan proverb

Early Arrival Sees Tomb Empty... Resurrection!

Compiled by Linda Hayman

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene John 20:11-18

11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus. 15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."



¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Just imagine if you had been there in the garden... I wonder if you would have recognised Jesus?

I wonder why Mary thought he was the gardener?

When do you think Mary knew that it was Jesus she was speaking to?

Jesus asked Mary not to touch him. I wonder why?

I wonder if the disciples believed Mary's amazing news when she told them?

If you hadn't been there...

I wonder if you would have believed Mary?

Perhaps you can talk about these things with your family and friends and see what others think too.

Easter Wordsearch. Find the words listed below but which one is missing?

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

Angels

Body

Disciples

Early

Easter

Garden

Gardener

God

Jesus

Mary

Magdalene

Morning

Name

Rabboni

Resurrection

Stone

Teacher

Tomb

Wept

When you call
my name it's
like a prayer

Beetle Drive!!

Sunday 21st April
At Salisbury Methodist Church

The Listening Place presents an afternoon of fun and family entertainment!

Save the date! More details in the April newsletter

Green Homes Event

The information below may be of interest to those of you who are considering making your home a greener place in which to live. Even if the event is not of interest to you the website is worth a look.

Jim Gillings

9th-17th March 2024 Wiltshire & Swindon Green Open Homes Event. The Green Open Homes event is an opportunity to ask a local resident about an energy saving improvement that they've made and see if it might work for you. On an event day, people who have made energy saving improvements open up their homes to share their experiences. Much more about it on the Wiltshire Climate Alliance website: <https://www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk/>

Five Minutes for the Planet Why do we bother?

Why recycle? Is it worth that extra trek to the blue bin? It's particularly difficult if you are away from home, when you can't find a suitable bin, or on holiday when you need something to eat and the only shop you can find sells food in single-use plastic boxes. Surely my one piece of plastic won't make a difference?

In 2022, the Greenpeace Big Plastic Count surveyed 250,000 people and calculated that UK households throw away nearly two billion pieces of plastic packaging every week. That is an unimaginable number – it is easier and simpler to work out that if everyone in the UK thought “this one plastic box doesn't matter”, there would be sixty million more plastic boxes in landfill.

It's just something to think about.....

Paul Butler



Easter Eggstravaganza

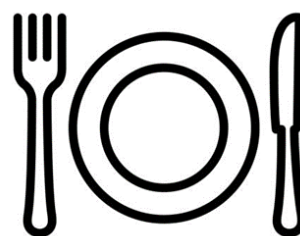
Sat 23rd March 10:00 – 14:00

Everyone Welcome!

Tea, Coffee and cake
10:00 – 12:00



Lunches
12:00 – 13:30



Tombola
Games
Raffle



Come and see the
young peoples
Eggcellent egg scenes



In Aid of Church Funds

