

Salisbury Methodist Church
St Edmund's Church Street Salisbury

Newsletter



“Spring shows what God can do with a drab and
dirty world.”

Virgil A. Kraft

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The April Newsletter was produced by

Rachel and Simon Clarke.

Items for the May Newsletter should be sent to Rachel Clarke

no later than Friday 19th April 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 April

Sunday 7 April 10.30 a.m. Rev Katherine Robinson

Sunday 14 April 10.30 a.m. Local arrangement, AA,
National Methodist Youth Brass Band performing
3.00 p.m. Rev Cecil King MB

Sunday 21 April 8.00 a.m. Rev Rosemary Fletcher HC
10.30 a.m. Mrs Sue Holmes

Sunday 28 April 10.30 a.m. Rev Dr Philip Richter

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

MB Mixed Blessings

Minister's letter.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Dear Friends,

It seems to me that time comes and goes so quickly, as you read this, I shall begin the privilege of receiving a sabbatical. These are used in different ways by colleagues, amongst my time away from Circuit and Church work I hope to spend a little more time in the garden than possible in the normal working pattern of life.

Have you noticed that there are two specific and detailed references to gardens in the Easter Story?

1: Following the momentous events of 'The Last Supper, Jesus prays, 'Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me, may be in them, and I in them.' After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. (John 17:25 – 18:1)

Gethsemane was a garden on the Mount of Olives where Jesus went to pray to his Father and express his concerns and doubts about his role in God's plan to bring salvation and redemption to the world by his death on the cross and his resurrection. Accounts of the visit to Gethsemane can be found in Matthew 26:36-56, Mark 14:32-51, Luke 22:39-53, John 18:1-10. Each of the accounts are similar in content but different in detail and emphasis. Each agrees that Jesus came to the Garden to pray to his Father and share his deepest thoughts. For me, this is Jesus, the human being, sharing with his Father his own concerns about his work of bringing salvation and redemption to his people. He expresses doubts about his role in the amazing, sacrificial act of love he is called to undertake. Although Jesus struggles, his final words are put simply in Luke 22:42 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done.'

In his 'human' response to his task Jesus places his future into God's hands taking the step of faith we all need to take. Jesus goes back to the disciples and, according to Luke, found them sleeping--exhausted and says to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' (Luke 22:46) They awake, and get up, and go to meet that 'time of trial' which, for them it is the arrest and mock trial of Jesus which leads to humiliation, Crucifixion, and the death of

Jesus. Jesus goes from Gethsemane to Golgotha without complaint, and in love gives his life on the cross for all, including you and me. 'Amazing Love! How can it be? That you, my God, should die for me? (Charles Wesley)

Garden 2: The story does not end there, and we come to the second garden featured in the story. At the end of that horrendous day of Crucifixion, in fact, in the evening a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, a disciple of Jesus went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. (Mt 27:57: Mk 15:42: Lk 23:50, John 19:38-41)

It is John who specifically mentions the garden. But, as we know, it didn't end there either. Again, the four Gospel writers record the events with their own emphasis and their accounts are recorded in Matthew 28:1-10, Mk 16:1-8, Lk 24:1-12, John 20:1-18. We are told that after Jesus was laid in the tomb some of the women - Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome and perhaps some others came to check on Jesus's body. They went away to prepare the spices used to embalm a body. In the early morning of the day after the Sabbath, they returned, but found the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty! Jesus was not there, and, in various ways, they were informed he had risen as promised!

They were instructed to tell the disciples that Jesus had arisen!

Through his prayers in the garden, Jesus accepted the difficult task before him, and God's love and power went with him to the amazing, triumphant end! Over the years there have been times when I, and likely many of you, have faced situations causing worry and concern in everyday life and then at other times decisions to make. I suggest a response to God's call to serve, no matter what, might lead us into a much-loved outdoor space to pray to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to the love and power sufficient to achieve what God has called us to do or say. I pray it may be so.

Every Blessing.

Rev Mark



Pastoral News

Over the last month we have been saddened to learn of the deaths of 3 much-loved members of our community: Anita Pheby, Madeleine Bailey and Mavis Beeney.

Anita, along with her late husband Derek, felt very much at home in our church family. They enjoyed joining us for worship on occasions and were regulars at the coffee bar and church breakfasts, sharing good food and conversation. Life was a struggle for her following Derek's sudden death, but she continued to come to Wednesday coffee and Poetry Group when her health allowed and was appreciative of the care and support she found in our midst.

Madeleine's strong Christian faith sustained her throughout her life and she played an active part in the life of SMC, having moved to Salisbury with her family in her thirties. She was a member of the drama group and the choir, and served coffee in what was apparently then known as the 'Canteen'. In Carol's words, 'she was one of life's carers' and fittingly ended her working life running the small care home in Woodfalls along with her husband Noel. In recent years increasing frailty prevented her from attending worship as often as she would have liked, but she loved company and appreciated visits from church folk who kept her in touch.

Mavis moved from Hucknall, Notts, to live with her daughter Lesley and enjoyed worshipping with us as a Member for six years before increasing dementia led to her move to Willowcroft Care Home four years ago. She loved singing, was sociable, warm and friendly and everyone remembers her lovely smile. She was very grateful to Sandra and the late Paul Gunstone who brought her to church every week and was very fond of them both.

We give thanks for the well-lived lives of these dear ones. May they rest in peace and rise in glory as they are reunited with their beloved husbands. We hold their families and friends in our prayers at this sad time.

We continue to remember all those known to us who are struggling with ill health or other anxieties. May they know the comfort and strength of God's love upholding and sustaining them.

Other news: We are delighted that Revds Rosemary and Philip Richter are now sharing the role of Pastoral Lead and we are very grateful for their wisdom and support. If something is troubling you and you would value a conversation or a visit, please let your Pastoral Visitor know. Holy Communion at home can also be arranged.

It is a joy to have the Duma family back with us and we look forward to welcoming them 'officially' at an appropriate future service.

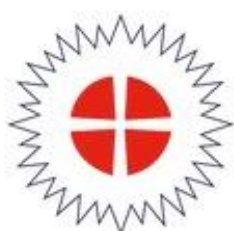
An opportunity for all ages to get together and have fun is the upcoming Beetle Drive on 21 April, organised by The Listening Place. Do come along for a great afternoon of 'Beetle Madness'!

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

The Pastoral Team wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter.

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!



the
**National Methodist
Youth Brass Band**

Free Concert : SMc : Saturday 13th April : 7:00pm

The National Methodist Youth Brass Band is made up of young Methodists with a shared love of playing in brass bands.

The band will also be participating in Sunday Worship on 14th April.

Greetings from the new Outreach Worker

As I write this, I am watching the sun catch a patch of daffodils blowing in the breeze. There are signs of spring and new life starting to appear around us. Taking up this role is a new pattern of life for not just me but my family too. It is an exciting time that marks not just a beginning but also the end of a period of transition and change for us. Over the lockdown period my children seemed to suddenly grow into independent young people far less dependent on me leaving me with more availability to work. Having spent most of my working career serving people in the entertainment and hospitality industries, Covid left me searching for new opportunities and trying to work out what I was meant to be doing. After a period of reflection and exploration, pushing several doors and learning much about myself this role presented itself, and here I am. Some of you already know me, some may think they do and I am a new face to others. So who am I? I am a single parent to three teenagers living in Alderbury. I have been a member of SMC for 23 years and am currently training as a local preacher. My youth work experience has been within the voluntary sector, serving as a scout leader for 20 years, involvement in various church groups and most recently as a leader with a home education community learning hub. My hobbies include hiking, exploring new places, sewing, history and eating cream teas.

I am really looking forward to deepening relationships with you all as we work together to develop and grow our church family and serve our community. Please do get in touch if I can be of help.

I leave you with some words from Proverbs 3 which have been of help to me in discerning my current path and should strengthen us as we move forward as a church community.

‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.’

Fi Waddingham

“It happens to all of us,” I concluded that Easter Sunday morning. "God simply keeps reaching down into the dirt of humanity and resurrecting us from the graves we dig for ourselves through our violence, our lies, our selfishness, our arrogance, and our addictions. And God keeps loving us back to life over and over.”

Nadia Bolz-Weber

Worship

I hope that you have seen elsewhere in the newsletter that the service on Sunday 14th April will be led by the National Methodist Youth Brass Band. This will be an All Age service and we hope it will inspire us all. If you have friends who are interested in brass band music, please invite them to join us for this service. Please also see the information about the concert on Saturday 13th at 7.00pm.

The next Worship Consultation will be on Tuesday April 16th at 7.30pm. One item on the agenda will be a discussion on All Age Worship and we will be considering how we can make these services more relevant to everyone in the congregation. If you have any other items for the agenda, please send them to me using worship@salisburymethodist.org.uk. This is an open meeting, and everyone is welcome to attend and contribute to the discussions.

Save the Date: - On Sunday 14th July we will be looking at different styles of music in worship. Revd Mark and Jonathan will pick one hymn to be played in a variety of different ways. Please bring a picnic lunch and join in a discussion on the merits, or otherwise of the different styles of music in worship. There will be more information at a later date.

Jim Gillings Worship Team Leader

Relaunch of Ecumenical Group

We are relaunching this group, which meets fortnightly on Monday afternoons. Previous meetings have included: imaginative response to a Bible story; favourite poems which speak to us of God; our faith journeys.

Each meeting begins with a brief account of how we are, followed by a five minute silence. Taking it in turns to lead, we then focus on the topic for the session. At the end we have another five minute silence, followed by a prayer or blessing.

Meetings take place at SMC, in room 1 or room 2 fortnightly from April 8th.

Further information from Ruth Popplestone 433594

Pause for Prayer

“Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is....life is good when you are happy, but much better when others are happy because of you.”

Attributed to Pope Francis

“Jesus no longer belongs to the past but lives in the present and is projected toward the future; Jesus is the everlasting "today" of God. This is how the newness of God appears to the women, the disciples, and all of us: as victory over sin, evil, and death - over everything that crushes life and makes it seem less human. And this is a message meant for me and for you, dear sister, you, dear brother. How often does Love have to tell us, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Our daily problems and worries can wrap us up in ourselves, in sadness and bitterness...and that is where death is. That is not the place to look for the One who is alive!”

Pope Francis

When our faith
stands at the grave,
grieving
for a stone that's rolled away,
forgive us.

When our faith
is short of
understanding
though the truth is there to see,
forgive us.

When our faith,
beset by doubt, sees
no further
than an empty tomb today,
forgive us.

Bring to mind
the cry of Mary,
'I have seen the Lord!'
and grant us faith to believe!

We give thanks to you, Lord,
for you have done marvellous things!

When we were walking in darkness
you were there, you were there,
when we were kneeling in weakness
you were there, you were there,
when we drew near feeling worthless
you were there, you were there,
when we were needing forgiveness
you were there, you were there,
when we were searching for your grace
you were there, you were there.

We give thanks to you, Lord,
for you have done marvellous things!

faithandworship.com

Such love, pure as the whitest snow;
such love weeps for the shame I know;
such love, paying the debt I owe;
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, stilling my restlessness;
such love, filling my emptiness;
such love, showing me holiness;
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, springs from eternity;
such love streaming through history;
such love, fountain of life to me;
O Jesus, such love.

Graham Kendrick

SUCH LOVE...

Spring is in the air and soon we will be seeing lambs leaping around in the fields – a true sign of spring and new life. Easter is also a sign of new life – death to resurrection – Jesus alive again and meeting up with his followers. One meeting can be read in the Gospel of John, Chapter 21:15-17, when Jesus cooked them breakfast on the beach, but:

*¹⁵ When they had finished eating, **Jesus** said to **Simon Peter**, “Simon son of **John**, do you **love** me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “**Feed my lambs.**” ¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take **care** of my **sheep.**” ¹⁷ The **third** time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” **Peter** was hurt because Jesus asked him the **third time**, “Do you love me?” He said, “**Lord**, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.*

I wonder if you remember that Peter denied Jesus after he was arrested? Three times Peter said he didn't know Jesus but then the cock crowed and Peter remembered that Jesus had told him this would happen. ***I wonder what words you can think of to describe how Peter might have been feeling then? You can probably think of a lot with your family and friends helping.***

But, of course, Jesus knew that Peter really did love him. He knew that Peter had made a mistake and wanted to forgive him and for Peter to forgive himself, so it was important for Jesus to ask Peter three times if he loved him and to hear Peter's answers. Jesus also told Peter to feed his lambs and take care of his sheep? ***I wonder what Jesus meant by that? Who are his lambs & sheep? How could Peter help?***

Can you find the highlighted words within the Bible passage in the grid below?

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

Colour me in...



Feed My Lambs

WALKING TO EMMAUS

Help the two disciples find their way from Jerusalem to Emmaus



JERUSALEM



EMMAUS



LUKE 24

VERSE 15

‘As they talked and discussed these things with each other Jesus himself came up and walked along with them, but they were kept from recognising him.’

VERSE 30

‘When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him.’

How do people recognise us?

Look in a mirror and think how someone would describe you. What are your noticeable features?

People also recognise us by our actions. What words might people use to describe how you act?

Compiled by Fi Waddingham



From the Stewards

One item of business for the Church General Meeting on 25th April is the appointment of Stewards. Whereas many churches have Stewards for particular responsibilities, e.g. a Property Steward, a Worship Steward etc, SMC has teams and Team Leaders, plus four Stewards *of the church as a whole*. This arrangement was set up to support the Minister in his or her work, to look forward and support the life of the church between Church Council meetings.

We are now in urgent need of new Stewards; currently we only have three; Paul Butler, Helen Browncross and Jacqui Saunders, and Jacqui will stand down in April.

The Stewards meet with Rev Mark once a month. Our job is to stand back a little and take an overview of church life. The agenda for our meetings is very varied; recent topics have included the appointment of a new Outreach Worker, kitchen safety, and how to develop our work with children and young people.

SMC has many busy people in the congregation, doing good work for the life of the church, and we are particularly looking for Stewards who may not have found themselves a role yet, and may be able to offer a fresh perspective.

Please prayerfully consider whether this might be a role for you: you don't have to have been attending SMC for years, and there is no upper or lower age limit; the main requirement is a willingness to get involved, and another member of the congregation who will second your nomination (Nomination forms are available from the Church Office).

Stewards should be members of the Methodist Church, or seeking membership. If you are interested but would like to know more, or to attend one or more Stewards' meetings as an observer to see what goes on, please talk to Rev Mark, to Paul Butler or Helen Browncross. (A formal role description is also available on request)

Paul Butler on behalf of the Stewards

“If I take Easter as the starting point, the one incontrovertible fact about how God treats those whom he loves, then human history becomes the contradiction and Easter a preview of ultimate reality.”

Philip Yancey

We Need You!!

The North Corridor is a very busy place.

Can YOU be the person to help organize the varied displays that are appreciated by the hundreds of people that come to our premises.

We aim to have each display up for about a month.

We have material for the following displays in our cupboard in the church balcony (The cupboard key is kept in the church office):

- Advent
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Lent
- Methodist Homes
- Action for Children
- United Church of Zambia
- pictures of Jesus in different cultures
-

Other groups and organisations ask or are asked to put up a display:

- Alabare
- The church art group
- Holiday Club
- Church Outreach worker
- Christian Aid
- Salisbury Foodbank
- Click

Display frames and boards are either hanging in the North Corridor or kept on top of the church balcony cupboard.

In the church office are hooks for hanging the boards, Velcro for fixing things to display boards and scissors for cutting up the Velcro.

Jeannette and Cecil will show the new team where everything is and how they have done the work.

PLEASE do come forward to take over this important role.

See Cecil, Jeannette or Sue Gilbert



Christian Aid Week Sunday 12th to Saturday 18th May 2024

SMC will hold its Christian Aid Service on Sunday 5th May.

Christian Aid will be asking us to focus on the situation in Burundi; where, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water.

In Christian Aid Week we will hear the story of Aline, a young woman from Burundi. She was married, and gave birth to her eldest son, when she was just 14 years old. Aline experienced constant abuse at the hands of her violent husband. After a few years he married another woman, forcing Aline to flee. He prevented her from taking their children with her, and told the local community that Aline was mentally ill and unable to care for her children.

“I wandered the streets, asking anyone for a place to sleep. Those who showed me kindness would let me stay for two or three days, but it was difficult. People would insult me and treat me with contempt. They forgot I was a human being. It filled me with sorrow”

Christian Aid provided Aline with the chance of a new life. She took part in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid.

“I came out with amazing knowledge and skills. The trainer restored a sense of hope and energy in me,” says Aline.

With a small start-up loan from a Village Savings and Loans Association, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she could transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. Eventually, her hard work had finally paid off, and she had earned the money she needed to rent a house.

Once Aline secured a home for herself, her three eldest sons were able to escape their father and join her. Today, Aline lives peacefully on her own plot of land in a remote village in the Kayogoro Commune in Makamba Province. She’s baked her own bricks and is building a strong home for her and her children in every sense.

Now Aline can afford food, clothes and essential healthcare for her family. She’s also purchased solar panels so her children can do their evening homework by electric light.

“I like to feed my family with the produce that I grow, such as beans, vegetables and corn. I am so happy that we are together. Now my children feel supported as they have a parent who can meet their needs.”- Aline.

Burundi continues to be one of the toughest places on earth to live, and the future is always uncertain. When a ferocious storm destroyed Aline’s home, almost killing her and her children, she was able to recover by selling the cows she’d been keeping. She now has resources, options and a great deal of resilience to cope with future challenges.

Paul Butler

Wedding near Kolkata



I was fortunate enough to enjoy my son’s wedding near Kolkata early in March. It was a Christian ceremony with plenty of Bengali traditions added on. It was very colourful with many changes of clothes for the Indian family. We were presented with clothes to wear for the wedding, having been asked to provide our sizes! The main wedding day started with a bowl of cumin paste with which I had to anoint the happy couple. Since we then all anointed each other, it became quite jolly. The traditional Christian Marriage Service followed after a make up session for the ladies and each member of my family played a part.

The third ceremony that day involved the bride being carried in by her brother-in-law then processing seven times around Andy with leaves in front of her face. They then exchanged garlands three times before singing and dancing completed the day. Mou will be joining Andy in Chelmsford at the end of March so we look forward to helping her adjust to our climate!

Mary Parker

A Statement from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference on the situation in Gaza

22 February 2024

We are deeply disappointed that the headlines today are about a parliamentary process and not the horrors of what is happening in Gaza. Such a vote should be above party politics and we urge the UK government to denounce actions that epitomise a collective punishment of the population of Gaza.

The scale of the destruction and tragic loss of life in so short a space of time is incomparable to any other conflict in recent times. We grieve for all lives lost on 7 October and in the subsequent fighting. There is no justification for such widespread killing of tens of thousands of innocent people and we are gravely concerned for the entire population of the Gaza Strip.

One and a half million people currently shelter in crowded conditions with little food and water in the city of Rafah. The horrific strikes on southern Gaza have killed many in recent days and those injured are unable to get treatment because of Israel's attacks on hospitals.

We were alarmed to hear reports that the Nasser Hospital in Gaza has been shelled, killing patients, staff and others sheltering there. The protection of hospitals during a war is a basic and inescapable requirement in international law.

The International Court of Justice has called on Israel to ensure that its forces do not commit any of the acts covered by the Genocide Convention. Yet attacks on Gaza have continued with inadequate regard to the protection of civilians. For those crowded into Rafah there is nowhere left to go. It is disturbing to hear that some in the Israeli government are discussing the possibility of creating settlements across the Gaza Strip. Time will tell whether what we witness in Gaza today is an ethnic cleansing of the present population.

Meanwhile, for those sheltering without food and water the situation is critical. To meet the basic human needs of such a large population there is no alternative to an immediate ceasefire. We urge our Government to demand an immediate halt to the shelling for the preservation of innocent life and require that Israel abide by the provisional ruling of the International Court of Justice.

We call on Hamas to immediately release the remaining hostages and urge all governments to work with Israeli and Palestinian parties to achieve an agreement that ensures protection, support and a viable future for innocent victims of this conflict and security for all in the region.

In prayer we stand alongside all those in the region whose heart breaks with ours as we witness the unfathomable suffering. With the psalmist we pray:

*You are my help and my deliverer;
you are my God, do not delay. (Psalm 40:17)*

The Methodist Church in Britain has launched an appeal to support partners of the Methodist Liaison Office who are working in Gaza. [Find out more and donate here.](#)

Merciful God

We cry out to you, in anguish and horror, at the situation in Israel - Palestine
The images we are seeing, the stories we are hearing, of homes, hospitals, places of sanctuary, healing and care, destroyed.

We know that there are so many more stories which have not yet been told, and perhaps never will be,

Of precious lives lost, of grief and trauma beyond that which most of us can imagine.

Compassionate God, you came and dwelt among us; you know and understand the suffering of this world.

There is no place beyond your reach; you are everywhere, even in places where we fear there is no hope left.

Where we are tempted to despair, your spirit brings mercy, and justice, and healing.

You call us, again and again, in times of conflict and destruction, to be attentive to those who are most vulnerable.

Give us the compassion to weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn.

The discernment to recognize the limits of our own wisdom, and to avoid those actions and words which may cause further harm.

Inspire in us a renewed commitment to walk humbly with you, seeking the peace and flourishing which you desire for all of your beloved children, Amen.

Training provided by The Listening Place

Do you want to **Become a Better Listener?**

The Listening Place provides training for anyone whose role, either professionally, personally or in a voluntary capacity involves listening to a diverse group of people, staff, colleagues, people in distress or family members. This one-day course provides an introduction to active Listening and aims to increase listening skills by raising awareness of what being 'a good listener' means and improve the ability to listen to the 'whole person' without judgement.

The sessions comprise a mix of theory and practical workshops, giving course participants plenty of opportunities to practice new skills. The course is led by qualified Tutors from The Listening Place.

The next course will be held on Saturday 20th April, 10am – 4pm at Bemerton Methodist Church, Roman Road, Salisbury, SP2 9BH.

To book a place please fill in the online booking form

www.thelisteningplace.org.uk/courses

The course fee is £20, payable on the day

Please bring a packed lunch.

Many organisations, such as the Salisbury Foodbank, or staff teams, such as Practice staff have benefited from a bespoke training day. If you would like this course to be delivered to your organisation or staff team, then please contact our training team through our website or by contacting Sue Robbins 01722 325 294 or manager@thelisteningplace.org.uk. A donation to the work of The Listening Place would be appreciated.

Following the introductory course, a further three days training is provided for those wishing to become **Volunteer Listeners** for The Listening Place. These will be held on Saturdays 27th April, 18th May and 25th May at the same venue and times as above. No further course fees apply.

If you would like to book on to these courses then please book on line or contact Sue Robbins for further information or advice.

“When I joined the course I thought I was already a good listener. During the course I found that, although I had a basic understanding, my skills fell well short of being ‘good’! The course improved my ability to ‘listen well’ considerably and I now use those new skills in my voluntary role as a Listener at The Listening Place. I have also found these skills invaluable when listening to friends and family members. It is a course that could benefit everyone”

Jill Lakeman

Fairtrade Shop

Since I last wrote it has been a busy time with extra Easter sales, along with 2 Cathedral stalls.

The World Day of Prayer Service at St Osmonds was a very special and moving occasion. The presence of God was tangible in the full church, as we worshipped in solidarity with the Christian women of Palestine and heard their stories. We provided a stall of Palestinian products and takings totalled £300.20. The items of traditional vibrant Palestinian embroidery were very popular. We only had 2 purses left which are now available in the shop.

If you need to make an easy, quick and tasty sauce for a chicken or vegetable Korma, I can heartily recommend the small jars of organic Korma sauce and cans of organic coconut milk we have in stock. For anyone like me who doesn't appreciate very hot curries, this is the perfect answer!

Just a gentle reminder – we are a Fairtrade Church and use Fairtrade teas, coffees and sugar on church premises. If you kindly wish to donate teabags or instant coffee for church use, we would be grateful if you could choose a fairtrade option. Thank you!

Last 2 months takings as follows;

4 weeks from 20 January to 14 February shop takings were approximately £425.40, plus £222.80 from the January Cathedral stall.

5 weeks from 18 February to 20 March shop takings were approximately £638.50, plus £385.30 from the March Cathedral stall and £167.00 from a special Palestinian oil order.

Thank you for your continued support.

Monica Gillings

“Easter opened up a crack in a universe winding down toward entropy and decay, sealing the promise that someday God will enlarge the miracle of Easter to cosmic scale.”

Philip Yancey

giftaid it

A big thank you to all our church family for the weekly or monthly donations made to the Church. Last year we were able to claim £17,000 from the government due to members who have signed up for the Gift Aid Scheme. This is a government incentive whereby the Church can claim an extra 25%, on all donations made by taxpayers, so long as the gift aid does not exceed the amount of tax the person pays in the year. As you can see this extra money costs nothing and makes a tremendous difference to the income of the Church. For every £10.00 given we can claim an extra £2.50.

The claim for 23/24 is going to be made in April/May.

So :-

- If you are a tax payer and give money to SMC, and have not signed up to the scheme please see Sue Gilbert – the gift aid form is printed in this month's newsletter (see back page) – just complete it and return it to Sue or find the form on our web site under 'donate'.
- If you are giving to the Church via the card machine or in cash into the donation box, again please see the forms and details in this month's newsletter (see back page) – Your donations are increased at no cost to yourself.

If you are giving regularly and find you are no longer a tax payer, and have registered for Gift Aid, can I remind you it is your responsibility to inform the gift aid secretary you are no longer in a position to gift aid.

Regards, Sue Gilbert, Gift Aid Secretary

Poetry Group

The next Poetry meeting will be held in Room 1 at 10.30am on Friday April 5th.

The subject will be BIRDS.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

Mary Mitchell



presents an afternoon of fun for all the family



Sunday 21st April 2024

at Salisbury Methodist Church Hall

3pm – 5.15pm

Tea, cake and soft drinks

Pic 'n' Mix Sweetie Stall!

Bring and Buy Stall

(Cash only – no cards, please)

Tickets available on Wednesday or Saturday morning from the Listening Place table £5.00 per adult, £2.50 per child (16 and under) and Under 5's are free. Or

E: salisburylisteningplace@gmail.com or T: 01722 325 294.

Bring the children/grandchildren, bring a friend or other family members (or all of the above) and have a fun and very enjoyable afternoon of **Beetle Madness!**

All proceeds raised to support the work of The Listening Place



STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Instruction to your Bank / Building Society to pay by banker's order

Please complete the form below and forward it to your bank.	
To: The Manager (bank name)	
of: (bank address)	
	Post Code
Please debit my account	
Name(s) of account holders	
Branch Sort Code	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Account number	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
and credit Salisbury Methodist Church	
Sort Code 08-92-00	Acc No 65592317
With the sum of £	per week / month / year (delete as appropriate)
Starting on	day month year
Quoting reference - your sumameta	
Signed	

Salisbury Methodist Church St. Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire. SP1 3EF
 01722 322 755 | admin@salisburymethodist.org.uk | Registered Charity No. 1128507

A regular donation is the best way to help Salisbury Methodist Church. Support via standing order saves us money and provides us with a regular income to support the work of the church.

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by The Methodist Church from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

By completing this form you confirm: "I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference."

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made (tick ALL relevant boxes)		
today	in the past 4 years	in the future

You can either provide Initial or forename or both, but you should AT LEAST provide one of the two.

Title	Initials*	Forename(s)	Surname*

Address* (House Number and first line of address + Post Code at least)
Post Code*

Signature (Optional)

*Please note that the details marked with * are mandatory. Please notify your Gift Aid Secretary if you: 1. Want to cancel this declaration 2. Change your name or home address 3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or Capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at a higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.