

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

Newsletter



**Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training.
They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a
crown that will last forever.**

1 Corinthians: 9:25

Minister:

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The July/August Newsletter was produced by

Rachel and Simon Clarke.

Items for the September Newsletter should be sent to Rachel Clarke

no later than Friday 16th August 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 July

Sunday 7th July	10.30 a.m. Mrs Sue Holmes and Mrs Fi Waddingham AA P
Sunday 14th July	10.30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham AC and HC 4.00 p.m. Mrs Fi Waddingham LB
Sunday 21st July	8.00 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham HC 10.30 a.m. Revd Denise Binks
Sunday 28th July	10.30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham

Children and Young People on Sunday (CHYPS) offers activities for children linked to the church service each Sunday, except when there is an All Age Worship.

Additional Information:-

- AA All Age service
- AC Action for Children
- HC Holy Communion
- LB Little Blessings
- P Parade Service



July 14th Action for Children Service

A small bring and buy sale will be held in the hall following this morning's worship. Your support will be welcomed.

Daphne Torok

Worship in August

- Sunday 4th August 10.30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham HC
- Sunday 11th August 10.30 a.m. Revd Philip Richter
No Little Blessings this month
- Sunday 18th August 8.00 a.m. Revd Rosemary Fletcher HC
10.30 a.m. Revd Rosemary Fletcher and Mrs Fi Waddingham AA
- Sunday 25th August 10.30 a.m. Mr Bernard Robert

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

HC Holy Communion



New Notice Boards

One new notice board has been installed on 24th June with a second being installed later in the week.

These are replacing the two notice boards which have been in situ for over 25 years.

We hope it/they meet with your approval.

Publicity Team

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to thank you all as I prepare to finish my time as District Chair. It has been an incredible privilege and honour to serve alongside each of you in ministry and fellowship over the last few years.

As I reflect on our shared journey, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication, commitment, and passion displayed by you all. Together, we have navigated challenges, joyfully celebrated and continually sought to spread the love and message of Christ throughout our communities.

While my time as District Chair is ending, I am confident that the spirit of collaboration and service that defines our District will continue to thrive under new leadership with Rachel and her colleagues, and we will continue to pray for all of you.

Helen and I would also like to thank you all for the very generous gift that we have received and the kind words you have shared, both at the Service of Celebration and with the many pieces of bunting that you had written on. The ability for me to do my role was only because of your unwavering support, encouragement, and partnership. It has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated people, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as your District Chair.

As Helen and I move to our new appointment in the Winchester, Eastleigh & Romsey Circuit we remain grateful to the Church for allowing us to stay within the District, both for personal reasons and because we want to continue to serve the best District in the Connexion!

Thank you once again for the privilege of serving as your District Chair. May God continue to bless each of you and the important work we do together.

Every blessing,

Andrew & Helen de Ville

Ministers Letter

In case you do not know, we have a General Election this July! Some people in the world do not have the opportunity to vote, or to vote in free and fair elections, while there are other countries in the world where voting is compulsory. In the UK we have a choice, but it is the duty of all of us who are eligible to cast our vote.

In May we remembered our founding fathers John and Charles Wesley. Do they have anything to say about being engaged with the political issues of our day?

John and Charles Wesley had no time for those who thought Christianity should not engage with the world. For them there was no holiness apart from social holiness. (For John Wesley, he thought that we discover holiness, and grow in grace through being with each other in discipleship communities. What does this have to say to us about our mission statements?) As far as both John and Charles were concerned, it was the role of every Christian to make the world a better place:

*To serve the present age,
my calling to fulfil;
O may it all my powers engage
to do my Master's will! Charles Wesley StF 658*

Gary Best, a contemporary Methodist historian, has written a paper called Wesley's Political Manifesto which includes the following:

“First - and foremost - reduce the gap between rich and poor. Wesley thought poverty ‘contracts and depresses the mind’ and he said it was a disgrace that in such an affluent country, abounding with ‘all the necessities, the conveniences, the superfluities of life’, there was so much squalor and vice. He was not popular among the upper classes because he constantly challenged their rich way of life.”

“Both the Wesleys were highly critical of slavery. As young missionaries in Georgia in the 1730s they had incurred the wrath of the colonists by supporting a ban on the possession of slaves. In 1774 John published his ‘Thoughts Upon Slavery’ - the first truly successful piece of antislavery writing. He poured scorn on the concept that black people were inferior to white people, he graphically depicted the worst horrors of the slave trade, and appealed to the hearts of his readers:

‘Did the creator intend that the noblest creatures in the visible world should live such a life as this?

Who can reconcile this treatment of the negroes...with either mercy or justice? I absolutely deny all slave-holding to be consistent with any degree of natural justice....’”

John Wesley encouraged people to take a different world view in two respects. First, he promoted the concept that all people of all races were children of God - they were all our brothers and sisters, and they were all therefore of worth. This belief had for him - and it should have for us - profound implications on how we should respond to what is happening in other parts of the world. For example, Overseas Aid, and on how we should treat refugees and asylum seekers.

Secondly, John Wesley constantly urged people to look beyond what society deemed acceptable and to be guided instead by the gospel message. The gospel offered a different world view - one not governed by commerce and the pursuit of wealth but by a desire for fairness and justice for all. The 2023 Methodist Conference has directed us to be a “justice seeking church” and this desire goes right back to the beginnings of Methodism.

The report includes these words: *“As Christians we’re called to seek God’s justice. Justice that enables everyone, and all creation, to flourish. Justice that removes everything that diminishes people, that oppresses or exploits them. Justice that enables us all to grow in relationship with each other and with God.”*

Does any of this help us decide who to vote for on Thursday July 4th? As Christians we must vote according to the principles of our Gospel, where we are called to care for those who are marginalised, and those who are poor and struggling in our society. Let us reflect on the ministry of Jesus when we cast our vote. May we remember that we are all children of the same living, loving God, who cares for all.

Loving God, as the election approaches, may we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our country and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community. We ask that each one of us will use our votes wisely and we ask for the spirit of discernment. Help us to continue to follow in the steps of Jesus and be guided to your Kingdom of justice and peace. May your kingdom come on earth as is heaven and may we all work for that day. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Every Blessing

Rosemary

Acting Superintendent – until July 8th, 2024.



Pastoral News

It is with sadness that we bring news of the death of one of our members, Pam Sharpe, on 19th June, aged 91. Pam and John, who died in December 2022, were members and regular attenders at SMC, until increasing frailty, and the Covid pandemic led to their move to Braemar Lodge. We give thanks for Pam, for her kindness, grace, and faithfulness. She enjoyed visits, and was always interested in what was happening at church. We think of, and pray for her family and friends.

We also remember another member of our church community, Florence (Flo) Isted, who enjoyed worshipping with us up until a few years ago. We share the sad news that Flo died peacefully on 20th May, at the age of 91, surrounded by her family. We give thanks for her life and hold her family and friends in our prayers.

O God, I look for you now
knowing you always look out for me
You soothe away my stresses;
pour healing on my tired body.
You open my eyes to the beauty
of all you created and gift to us.
From fear and guilt, release me,
for darkness is as light to you.

Gwynn Bamford, Birmingham District

(Edited, from Methodist Prayer Handbook 2023-24)

Looking out

It is always good to look around, and see new faces worshipping with us at SMC. Our Pastoral visitors, and those who welcome us as we arrive, are asked look out for visitors, or new people, but this is something we can all try to do. If unsure of what to say, try something like “It is good to have you with us, have you worshipped with us before?” It would be helpful, where appropriate, to ask the person if they would like to fill in one of the cards, with their name and contact details. Also, following on from a short item “A Caring Community?” in the June Newsletter, if you notice that we haven’t seen someone recently, who has been a fairly regular attender, then please mention this to someone in the pastoral team, so that we can follow this up.

We think of, and hold in our prayers, all those who are unwell and struggling at this time. We remember those in hospital, those undergoing treatment, people being cared for in nursing homes, and those who are housebound. May they know and be assured of God's loving and constant presence.

Birthday Greetings and family news

We send our love and congratulations to Dorothy King, who will be 100 years old on 6th August, and to Nora Snook who will celebrate her 95th birthday on 7th August.

Also, early in August, on the 8th, we wish Simon Clarke a very happy 30th birthday. Those who know Simon's sister Emma, may be interested to hear that she will be travelling to Paris in July where she is volunteering with Team GB logistics as their kit coordinator.

Jenny and Bernard Robert, will be celebrating their 60th (Diamond) Wedding Anniversary on 15th August. Bernard & Jenny have written a short item, included on page 20 of the Newsletter.

We think of, and send our best wishes to Revd Rosemary Richter, as she recovers from knee surgery.

Get Connected: The next drop-in session is on Tuesday 16th July, 2.00pm – 4.00pm in the Welcome Area. If you need friendly help with your phone, tablet, or laptop, do come along. This will be the last session for the foreseeable future, as the external funding has run out. If we wish these sessions to continue, we will need to look at possible funding options.

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!

Winning doesn't always mean being first. Winning means you're doing better than you've ever done before. - *Bonnie Blair, American speed skater and five-time gold medallist*

A prayer for Action for Children

Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, we ask that you bring healing to any child or young person who has been the victim of abuse or neglect. They are your children and have been called into your wonderful light. Show them that you see them and know what they are going through. Show them that you are right beside them. No matter how terrible the situation, we pray that they will know that they can lean on you.

Open our eyes, Lord, to see any potential signs of abuse and remove every form of ignorance from us.

Give these children and young people hope and provide healing in their body, soul and mind. Ease their suffering, Father, and cause a complete restoration in their lives.

Amen.

actionforchildren.org.uk/ choosechildhood

Registered charity nos. 1097940/SC038092. Company no. 4764232.

© Action for Children 2020. 1301.

Prayer for school holidays from Methodist Women in Britain

Bless, O Lord, those who are taking time out for a holiday. May they be Holy Days too, where your presence is felt, and your Spirit is able to bring rest and renewal to tired minds and bodies. For those able to travel give journeying mercies. And for those who stay at home, may they feel your presence with them every day. Amen.

Five Minutes for the Planet

SMC recycling update

There have been a number of changes in what we can recycle at SMC, so it's time for an update.

We have boxes (by the entrance to the hall) for:

- Pens
- Printer cartridges
- Toothbrushes and electric toothbrush heads
- Interdental brushes
- Dental floss holders
- Coffee packets
- Bread bags
- Pringle tubes

Blister pack recycling has been very popular in the past but places that will take them are becoming fewer. The church is looking into the possibility of getting our own recycling bin for blister packs (but please don't bring them in until we have one!).

Paul Butler

My God, my God, why did you leave
Gaza?

How long will you forget her
completely?

Why do you hide your face from Gaza?

In the daytime I call upon you, but you
do not answer,

By night we find no rest.

Do not depart from the people of Gaza,

For distress is near, for there is no one
to help.

Our souls and our lives approach the
abyss, our eyes melt from humiliation.

We call upon you, Lord, every day,

We stretch out our hands to you.

Why, Lord do you reject our souls?

Why do you hide your face from us?

Revd Dr Munther Isaac, Adapted from Psalms 13, 22, and 88



It's our 20th Anniversary! Do come and join us on **10th September 2024** at **6.45 pm** at our **Open Evening** at Salisbury Methodist Church.

We are extremely fortunate to have **Caroline Cavanagh, Anxiety Specialist as our Guest Speaker.** Caroline helps people to understand anxiety and to use this knowledge to increase mental resilience and performance.

Caroline is a Professional Speaker, Published Author, National Award Winning Therapist, Clinical Hypnotherapist and Master NLP Practitioner.



Above all she's a lady who loves to help people feel mentally stronger.

Anxiety is not a bad thing when you know how to give it leadership. Caroline will show you how.

There will be a Q&A session after her talk, followed by light refreshments and Caroline's books will be available to purchase.

We hope to be joined by a founder of the Listening Place, Rev Canon Anne Long, now in her nineties, to help celebrate 20 years of service to the local community.

For further information: Jill Lakeman: 07718 796533 or thelakemans@hotmail.co.uk

"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." - Michael Jordan

"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it." - Michael Jordan

"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen." - Michael Jordan

The Father of Fairtrade

Father Frans van Der Hoff was a Dutch Catholic missionary who died recently. He was a co-founder of the global Fairtrade movement.

He lived simply and worked alongside poor residents in Mexico for most of his life.

In 1988 he started arranging for coffee beans to be exported from Mexico to Holland where they were sold in European countries and in 1994 adopted the Fairtrade label.

He believed in the power of social organisation to advance the interests of poor farmers. In 1982 he encouraged the coffee farmers to create a co-operative, which quickly expanded and today has more than 2,600 workers in 56 coffee growing communities.

Father Frans' idea caught on because it was a way for poor farmers and their communities; to earn what we might term a living wage and for consumers to be sure that no-one is being exploited.

Thank you Father Frans

Ruth Popplestone

Methodist Recorder At SMC

For many years now I have taken out a subscription to the Methodist Recorder on the part of the church, leaving copies in the Welcome Area each week to be browsed/read by whoever is passing through our church building - and there are many. The time has come for me no longer to renew this subscription but I hope another will - perhaps even the Church itself if there is enough support. To me it gives a wider view of Methodism not just in this country but beyond and helps individual congregations to feel less isolated in these times of declining chapels and numbers. Obviously the Methodist Recorder itself badly needs every subscription and I am hoping that someone else may feel they would like to take up this mantle.

Barbara Hickman

Hakuna Matata Choir

As we welcome the Hakuna Matata Choir to be with us at SMC from June 29th to July 3rd and who are taking part in worship on Sunday 30th June we pray for them and the peoples of Kenya.

Father, we bring the beautiful country of Kenya before You. We thank you for creating such a vibrant country with so much potential. We ask, Holy Spirit, for a fresh fire of Your Spirit among the majority, though nominal, Christian population of Kenya. Lord please establish effective means of discipleship as people who associate themselves with the Church are increasing. We pray that for true spiritual growth in their lives and that they will grow in the knowledge of Christ. Father, we pray that You will bring an end to government corruption that broadens the gap between rich and poor. We remember all those recently affected by terrible floods and the effects of climate change.

Father, we ask, among tribalism and multiple denominations, for unity in the Kenyan church that transcends culture and personalities. We pray that the church in Kenya may fulfil its mission in the world. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Adapted <https://prayer.africa/kenya/from>

Rosemary Fletcher

Help

Our CAMEO Group at Church has been so successful that we need some more volunteers to help us to run it. This would involve help with setting up, welcoming people, making drinks, and serving refreshments and clearing up.

If you feel this is something you could do on a Thursday afternoon from 1.45 pm to 4.30 pm please contact Carolyn Clarke (01722 325103) or Janet Ings (01722 346957).

Your help would be much appreciated.

Carolyn Clarke

BIBLE FACTS

How much do you know about your Bible?

Shortest book: **2 John**

Longest chapter: **Psalms 119**

Longest book: **Psalms**

Shortest verse: **John 11:35**

Shortest chapter: **Psalms 117**

Longest verse: **Esther 8:9**

Spans: 1500 years • Books: 66 • Chapters: 1,189 • Verses: 31,102 • Words: 773,692



Longest word: **MAHERSHALHASHBAZ**



Number of writers: **40**
Translated into: **1200 languages**



39 books, 929 chapters, 23,145 verses, 592,439 words

OT/NT % CHART

OT: %	Books	NT: %
59.09%	Books	40.91%
78.13%	Chapters	21.87%
74.41%	Verses	25.59%
76.57%	Words	23.43%



27 books, 260 chapters, 7,957 verses, 181,253 words

WORDS used in the Bible



Source: Adapted from Bible's 25th Anniversary and 100th Anniversary. For more information, visit www.bible.com

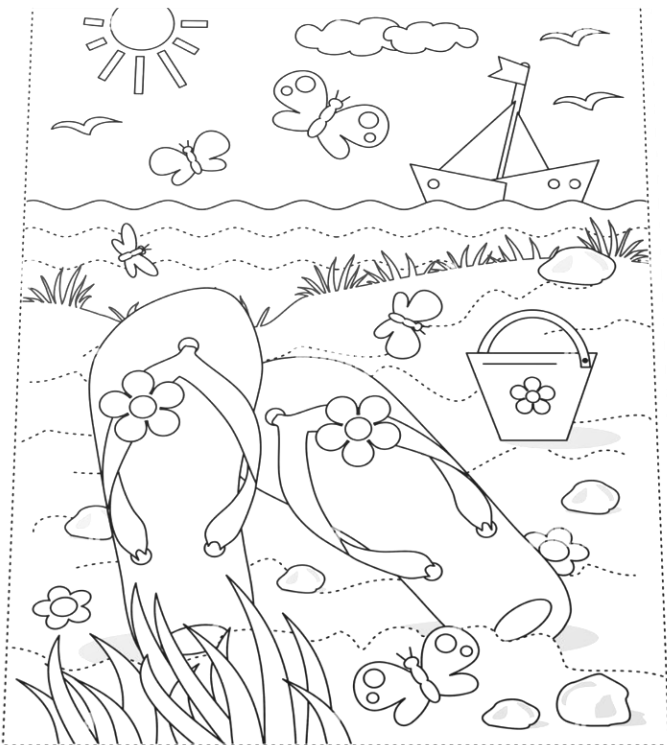
Happy Holidays!

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

You can find all of these modes of transport in the grid except for one. Which one is missing?

- Aeroplane
- Lorry
- Barge
- Rickshaw
- Bicycle
- Rocket
- Boat
- Scooter
- Bus
- Ship
- Car
- Skis
- Coach
- Sledge
- Ferry
- Tandem
- Helicopter
- Taxi
- Horse
- Train
- Hovercraft
- Tram

What can you see in the suitcase? The initial letters of each item, when put in order, will spell out a favourite holiday destination.



Dear God, Thank you for holidays. For our time to rest and relax with our families and friends. Time to enjoy your beautiful creation. Time to notice things we may not notice when we are too busy. We thank you for this precious time and know that you are there enjoying everything with us.

Amen.

Volunteer Needed

North Corridor Displays

Despite our earlier requests, we are saddened that no one has come forward to oversee the displays in the North Corridor.

This role would involve coordinating groups within the life of the church to put up displays on a rotating basis, rather than the individual concerned producing the displays themselves. The boards could also be left in place for longer than is customary at the moment. A list of organisations and groups happy to display is available.

So – are you that person? Maybe you are not involved in Church Life and this will give you the opportunity to help our outreach. Given the footfall down the North Corridor, these displays are important.

For an informal chat please speak to Sue Gilbert, e mail publicity@salisburymethodist.org.uk or have a chat to Paul Butler our senior steward.

It will be a shame to lose this much appreciated platform.

Sue Gilbert

Publicity

A bag of tools

Isn't it strange
that preachers and kings,
and clowns that caper
in sawdust rings,
and common folk
like you and me
are builders for eternity?

Each is given a bag of tools,
a shapeless mass,
a book of rules;
And each must make –
ere life is flown –
A stumbling block
Or a stepping stone.

By R L Sharpe

A Prayer for Summer

The warmth of the sun's embrace,
the gentle breeze swept in by
incoming tide,
the rhythm of seasons,
of new birth,
death and recreation.
All these speak so clearly of your
love,
your power
and your beauty.
All are expressions of your creativity,
and more importantly of yourself.
As an artist might share his
personality
within each brushstroke,
so within the myriad colours of a
butterfly's wing
you share the exuberance of your love

That we can glimpse you within
creation
is a beautiful thought,
but also tells us that you desire to be
seen,
to be found and known.
Open our eyes, Lord,

as we walk through this world,
feel the wind and sunshine,
see the majesty of creation
unfolding before our eyes.
Help us to see you.

Under the warmth
of the summer sun
the world awakes and blossoms
into every imaginable colour.
You created a garden for us to enjoy,
and within it planted
the most magical of flower and trees.
You needed no horticultural training
to plan your colour scheme,
no gardening expert
to recommend variety or design.
Your garden is perfect,
its colours harmonious,
its scale immense,
spoilt only by the clumsiness
of those who tend it.

https://www.faithandworship.com/Prayers_Summer

As we enter August many young people's minds turn towards exam results.

As students waiting for results, life can seem out of control. We forget that there will be solutions whatever our grades.

Let us pray that whether our results are what we dream of or hope for or what we fear, we may trust in our God-given capacity to embrace the next stage of life, along with whatever joys and challenges lie ahead of us. Amen.

Written by Catherine Wickens, when she was awaiting her A level results Catherine is the daughter of friends of Rosemary and James.

Philippians 4:4-7

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Sometimes words are not enough to express the language of our hearts, sometimes minds are filled with prayers without expression.

Sometimes there are not enough spare moments in each day, sometimes regret is all we have as our confession.

Sometimes faith is not enough but in the presence of your peace, sometimes prayer can be a quiet conversation.

Sometimes words are not enough to express the anguish on our hearts, sometimes prayers are answered that remain unspoken.

<https://www.faithandworship.com/Prayers>

A Prayer for the General Election

God of grace and truth,
in Jesus you embody your choice of us.
Bless all who make choices in this general election.
Clothe your people with gratitude
for the right to choose our government,
and turn that gratitude into clear choices.
Give those who vote your spirit of wisdom and understanding.
Uphold all who stand for election:
preserve their dignity, and guide them in the path of integrity.
Renew this nation in honour for the stranger,
respect for the different, and cherishing of diversity.
When all the votes are counted,
show us ways to foster the flourishing of all
and be a blessing to our neighbours.
In the name of Christ and the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Fairtrade News

As previously mentioned, this September is the 30th anniversary of the Fairtrade Foundation and we are looking for a possible way to celebrate at SMC. If any of you have ideas do come and speak to anyone on the shop rota. The Methodist Recorder tells us that the anniversary will get off to an auspicious start when it becomes an official campaign partner with the Glastonbury Festival. For the first time all the organic cotton used to produce the official festival merchandise, including t-shirts sweatshirts and tea towels, will also have the charity's endorsement.

It has been a busy time with extra stalls to promote Fairtrade at various events in our community. It was good to have positive responses from folk at the People in the Park event in May (£191.10) and at St Mark's Eco Fair on 8 June (£153.40). The usual May Cathedral stall takings were £399.50. In June, following the Dean's talk at the Cathedral where Pip had been asked to provide a stall selling Zaytoun Palestinian goods, takings were £921.90 following the Dean's helpful plug! There will be another opportunity to hear the Dean speak of his Sabbatical in Jerusalem as an Ecumenical Accompanier, and also to support Palestinian farmers through Zaytoun, on Wednesday September 11 at St Thomas's.

New stock has arrived! Fairtrade Fruit and Nut Muesli is back, along with Traidcraft Breakfast Blend Tea bags, which were always one of our best sellers. We now at last have a source of Fairtrade biscuits too, 2 types of organic Belgian Speculoos, made in the traditional way, so plenty of new things to try.

Shop takings for the last 5 weeks were approximately £369.50.

Barbara and Monica, on behalf of the Fairtrade Team.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Jenny and Bernard Robert are celebrating their 60th (Diamond) Wedding Anniversary on 15th August. They were married at St. Sidwell's Methodist church in Exeter by the Rev. Garfield Wade. They were both living in London at that time. Bernard was working as a Metropolitan Police Officer, and Jenny was completing her General Nursing training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. They moved to Wiltshire in 1987 where they were warmly welcomed into membership of Amesbury Methodist church. Then in 1999 they happily joined SMC when they retired to Netherhampton. Bernard continues to serve as a Local Preacher, and Jenny continues to enjoy being Organist for Bourne Valley. They are both very grateful for all the help, support and kindness from all their friends at SMC.

Margaret Rutt

From the Stewards

The Stewards have been dealing with a very varied in-box in recent weeks. The Church Council on 4th June approved the idea of a means for people to write their prayers down during the week, so that they could be offered as part of the service the following Sunday. A small group will decide what form this should take.

In view of the increasing numbers of groups now using the church premises, the Council approved the purchase of a defibrillator, to be positioned inside our premises. These devices can be lifesavers, though at the same time we hope that we may not have to make use of it.

Increased numbers also mean that the premises need to be cleaned more often, and the meeting agreed in principle that the church should pay a cleaner to look after the toilets and kitchen in particular. This will probably involve two early morning sessions each week.

Meanwhile, Little Blessings and JAM are looking for someone who could give up one Sunday afternoon a month to help out with catering, as both these events involve providing food for the children.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in either role, please contact the Stewards (Paul Butler, Kate Newton, Helen Browncross and Jo Throp).

The last Circuit meeting heard from the District research worker, who has been looking at the possibility of a “New People, New Places” initiative in Fordingbridge, where the Methodist church has recently closed. This “plant” would probably be led by an outreach worker or a Deacon, and would focus initially on social need.

Finally, at the top of the Stewards’ in-box this week has been the uncomfortable news of a theft of a cheque from the church donations box. The box has now been fitted with a padlock and we are reviewing security generally. In view of this, please be careful not to leave valuables unattended anywhere in the building, but particularly in the foyer.

Paul Butler on behalf of the Stewards

I ran the effort to bring the 2012 Olympic Games to New York City. We lost - on a global scale. To my surprise, life went on, and I learnt that nobody cares about your failures as much as you do. *Daniel L. Doctoroff*

Become A Better Listener



***A course to improve and practice
your skill at listening to other people***

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

**on Saturday, 21st September, 2024,
from 10am to 4pm.**

Course fee: £20 Please bring your own lunch

If, after attending this day, you want to develop your listening skills, there will be three further Saturday courses:

19th October - Extended listening through mirroring

26th October - Experiences in listening

2nd November - Being a listener for the Listening Place

There is no fee for these courses

All will be held at Bemerton Methodist Church except the last course which will be held at Salisbury Methodist Church.

To book a place on the course:

telephone: 01722 325294

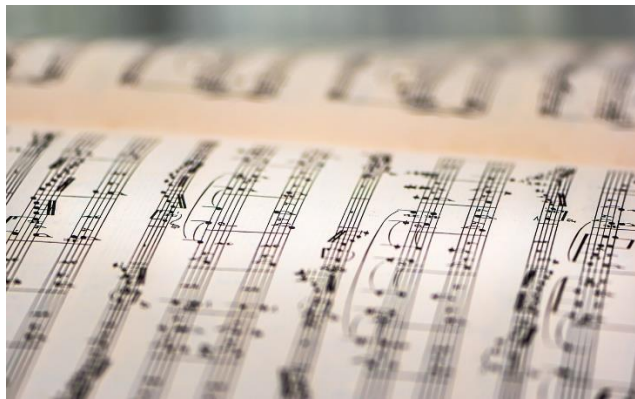
or email: salisburylisteningplace@gmail.com

Worship

We are delighted to welcome Sarah Sirengo to the Worship Steward team. Thank you, Sarah, for volunteering for this important work in the life of the church. Some of the senior members of the team are looking to either step down or reduce their commitment on each plan. We would love to welcome more new faces introducing worship on a Sunday morning. If you feel that you are called to serve SMC as a Worship Steward, please have a word with me or any other members of the team to find out what the role entails. The next Worship Consultation will be held on Tuesday 23rd July at 7.30. This is an open meeting, and all are very welcome. If you have any items for the agenda, please send them to me using worship@salisburymethodist.org.uk

Please note the 2 special services at the start of September. On Sunday 1st September at 3:00pm SMC will be hosting the District Welcome Service for Revd Rachel Bending our new Chair. I am sure that we will be looking for volunteers to help nearer the date. On Sunday 8th September there will be a Circuit Service at Bell Street United Church Shaftsbury. We hope that as many as possible will be able to travel to the first service of the new expanded Salisbury Circuit.

Music in Worship



How does music in our worship enable us to engage with God?

On Sunday July 14th Revd Mark and Jonathan Robinson will plan a service to prepare us for discussions on what music for worship in an 'SMC style' should be, and how we might achieve this. Do you engage with God most when the music is similar to what you enjoy during the rest of the week, or when it is very different? How do we achieve a consistency that acknowledges that we are all different and yet isn't boring? Your feedback will be greatly appreciated. After coffee there will be a time to discuss the music used in the morning service. If you wish to join the conversation, please bring a packed lunch so that we can talk together during a time of fellowship.

Jim Gillings Worship Team Leader

I have always loved reading through “Footprints” and have found it very helpful. However I decided to change it a little and altered “a man, etc” to “me” and “I” and now it makes it more personal. What do you think?

Rita Molland

One night I had a dream.

I dreamed I was walking along a beach with the Lord.

Across the sky flashed scenes from my life.

For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand;

One belonged to me, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of my life flashed before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints. I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life.

This really bothered me and I questioned the Lord about it.

“Lord you said that once I decided to follow you, you’d walk with me all the way, but I have noticed that during the most troublesome time in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don’t understand why, when I needed you the most, you left me.

The Lord replied, “My precious child, I LOVE you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, that’s when I was carrying you.

This morning,
and all mornings,
as we face the day
daunted by expectations
others place upon us,
weighed down by burdens,
unsure of outcomes,
opposed,
alone,
afraid;

remind us
that you faced all this
and more,
that we might loose
these chains that bind us,
rise above and beyond
the troubles of this world,
and know peace.
To the one who has overcome
we bring our thanks and praise
www.faithandworship.com/Prayers

Our Zambia link

July and August are cool dry months in Zambia. Travel is much easier, because the roads and tracks are dry. It is the season when regional and national conferences and other gatherings are held, especially during August when schools are on holiday.

This year the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) will hold the National Synod, which meets every two years; national office holders are elected.

Pray for wisdom and peace as these appointments are made.

On Thursday, 13th June, UCZ said thank you and farewell to Gina Siatwinda Oliver, a mission partner from UK Methodism who has been the UCZ's Health Secretary. National Synod Bishop Sydney Sichilima spoke of Gina's unwavering dedication to the church's mission and to the community and her extensive travels throughout the huge country. Much of the UCZ's health work, its hospitals and clinics, is in far apart rural areas; Gina has tirelessly visited and supported even the remotest clinics; her work has been during the Covid epidemic and the cholera outbreak – challenging times.

Gina replied "Thank you for being an amazing team" – the team of health workers and administrators she has led.

It is our hope that Gina will visit Salisbury after her return to the UK. Pray for her, giving thanks for her ministry in Zambia. Pray also for Revd Emmanuel Kafwita Bwalya who is now acting Health Secretary of UCZ

Cecil King



Thank you everyone! We collected £2295 in Christian Aid Week!

This was an amazing result in a difficult economic climate; it's more than we have collected since before Covid. As in previous years, it was a team effort, and approaching forty people have been involved in different places and at different times. In particular it was good to have Christian Aid envelopes put out for worshippers attending Bemerton, Amesbury and Shrewton as well as SMC.

However, the Salisbury Christian Aid Committee (made up of representatives from many of the Salisbury churches) don't sit on their laurels – we will meet at the end of June to consider how to continue fundraising for Christian Aid during the rest of the year.

Paul Butler

**District Welcome Service for the Reverend Rachel Bending – new District Chair
Sunday 1st September 3.00pm – at SMC**

The service will be led by the Assistant Secretary of the Conference, the Revd. Michaela Youngson and the preacher will be the Revd. Dr. Jennifer Smith from Wesley's Chapel, London. It will include the celebration of Holy Communion for all who wish to share. As is customary on such occasions, light refreshments will be served following the service.

In order to manage numbers attending, people are asked to register for a free ticket.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/district-welcome-service-tickets-928668932777?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

If you would like to go, but are not on the internet, then please talk to one of the stewards.

Next Poetry Group Meeting.

Friday July 5th at 10.30am in Room 1.

The subject will be '**Mendacity**'.

Everyone welcome.

Mary Mitchell

Weekly Gaza Vigils

We plan these vigils from month to month outside the Library, always hoping that this will be the last occasion when we stand silently for half an hour with our banner CEASEFIRE IN GAZA NOW and our individual doves of peace. I found a recent occasion particularly moving. Where else in Salisbury, I asked, could one find a group of between 30 and 40 of a Saturday afternoon, young and old, Christians, Muslims and of no faith, from all walks of life, praying and contemplating the terrible human suffering and bearing witness to the message of Jesus of peace and justice; was this a new way of being Church? So we shall continue to meet from 5.00 to 5.30 pm during July with August currently an unknown. The dates are **6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.**

Barbara Hickman

Praise and Protest

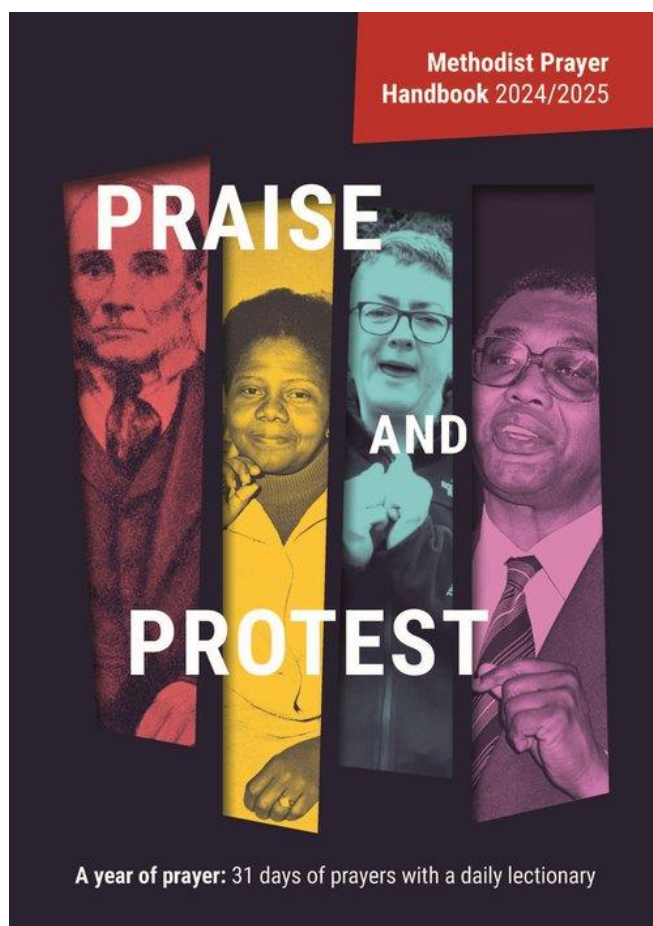
The 2024/2025 Methodist Prayer Handbook

In her song of praise, the 'Magnificat' (Luke 1:46-55), Mary thanks God for the child Jesus, who will announce God's kingdom which “brings down the powerful from their thrones and lifts up the lowly.”

To engage in God's mission and be part of that transformation, we believe the Methodist Church is called to become an increasingly evangelistic, inclusive and justice-seeking Church.

Following the prophet Isaiah's call, echoing through the ages to us and reflected in Mary's prayer, the 2024/ 2025

Prayer Handbook contains prayers on how the Church can “learn to do right, seek justice and defend the oppressed” (Isaiah 1:17:-1, NIV).



To order a copy of the Prayer Handbook for 2025, please contact Margaret on 01722 331013 and leave a message, or email handbook@salisburymethodist.org.uk

Margaret Rutt

“It has been a wonderful experience to compete in the Olympic Games and to bring home a gold medal. But since I have been a young lad, I have had my eyes on a different prize. You see, each one of us is in a greater race than any I have run in Paris, and this race ends when God gives out the medals.”— *Eric Liddell*

“No man who really is a man ever cared for the easy task. There is no enjoyment in the game that is easily won. It is that in which you have to strain every muscle and sinew to achieve victory that provides real joy.”— *Eric Liddell*

‘Summertime’

‘Summertime, and the living is easy...’ or so Gershwin would have us believe. I think maybe it should be. I am definitely not built for the heat and find I naturally need to slow down and take it a little easier to survive the hot weather. Summer tends to be a time when we take a break, whether that’s physically going away somewhere or just a rest from the usual everyday demands. Our diaries tend to be lighter as meetings stop until the Autumn. Families often appreciate the break from the daily stress of the school run. The rush hour traffic is lighter. In Matthew 28 Jesus says ‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest’. However, so often we believe we don’t have time to rest. We don’t give it as much importance as the busyness we create for ourselves, the mental load we strain under. So, as the academic year draws to a close and many of our young people are laying down the burden of study and exams, perhaps we can all examine what we can lay aside for a while to create space to come to God for rest. Let’s create space to enjoy the things that connect us to God and each other; our families, our hobbies, time in nature, music, exploring new places or whatever else you find helpful. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Summer.

Fi Waddingham, Outreach worker

‘Unsung Heroes’ Holiday Club

Planning is well underway for our weeklong holiday club for primary school aged children from 12th -16th August. We can only run it with enough volunteer helpers. I know many of you will be intending to help and we are hugely grateful. In order to make sure we can safely run I need to know numbers and your availability. Please fill out a volunteer’s form and return it to me. There are copies available in the church foyer or email me on outreachworker@salisburymethodist.org.uk for a copy.

Thank you, Fi

Safeguarding Spot

This month we are introducing a monthly ‘Safeguarding Spot’ in the newsletter.

Today I would like to celebrate over 50 volunteers across the circuit, including local preachers, church stewards and safeguarding officers who have completed the Unconscious Bias training. May we all work together to make our church the best it can be and welcome all.

Diana Noble

Ride and Stride 2024

Salisbury Methodist Church has registered to be a stopping point for Riders and Striders on 14th September. If you would like to take part as a Rider or Strider, please contact me or use the web address on the information below.

jim.gillings@salisburymethodist.org.uk



Supported by the
National Churches Trust
Charity Number 1119845



WILTSHIRE'S CHURCHES OPEN DAY



Join us on a bike, on foot or on horseback to keep Wiltshire's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses looking beautiful and open for the future by raising money for your own church and the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust.

Contact:

whct.rs@btinternet.com

www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk

01380 831199



Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust
Supporting Wiltshire's Churches since 1953

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Your Local Organiser:



Jim Gillings

“At present I absolutely want to paint a starry sky. It often seems to me that night is still more richly coloured than the day; having hues of the most intense violets, blues and greens. If only you pay attention to it you will see that certain stars are lemon-yellow, others pink or a green, blue and forget-me-not brilliance. And without my expatiating on this theme it is obvious that putting little white dots on the blue-black is not enough to paint a starry sky.”— *Vincent van Gogh*

Gratitude for Friendship

On the 29th July each year the Church of England daily prayer cycle remembers Mary, Martha and Lazarus as friends of Jesus.

The gospels describe how Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus gave Jesus hospitality in their home at Bethany outside Jerusalem. Jesus is said to have loved all three. After Lazarus' death, he wept and was moved by the sisters' grief to bring Lazarus back from the dead. Martha recognised Jesus as the Messiah, while Mary anointed his feet and, on another occasion, was commended by Jesus for her attentiveness to his teaching while Martha served. From this, Mary is traditionally taken to be an example of the contemplative life and Martha an example of the active spiritual life.

Collect

God our Father,
whose Son enjoyed the love of his friends,
Mary, Martha and Lazarus,
in learning, argument and hospitality:
may we so rejoice in your love
that the world may come to know
the depths of your wisdom, the wonder of your compassion,
and your power to bring life out of death;
through the merits of Jesus Christ, our friend and brother,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

And a Prayer from the Wesley Church Centre Chester

“Let our friendships be strong O Lord, that they may be a blessing to others.
Let our friendships be open, O Lord, that they may be a haven for others.
Let our friendships be gentle, O Lord, that they may bring peace to others, For
Jesus' sake, Amen.”

Entitled “Strong Friendships” by Christopher Herbert

“We all change, when you think about it. We're all different people all through our lives.
And that's OK, that's good, you gotta keep moving, so long as you remember all the people
that you used to be.”— *Steven Moffat*

SALISBURY CIRCUIT DATES 2024 AND 2025

Sunday 7th July, Quidhampton is planning to hold an Open Day, with some gardens open, teas in the village hall and lots of activities at the White Horse. As this is the first Sunday in the month it is also the day of their monthly service of Holy Communion, which on this occasion will be held in a marquee in the garden of the White Horse, at the usual time of 10.30. All are welcome. Further details from the Reverend Jane Taylor janee4taylor@btinternet.com

Wednesday 10th July - 1pm, Circuit Justice and Peace Group at Bemerton MC. All welcome. Bring your own lunch. Drinks provided.

Wednesday 17th July and Wednesday 21st August - 12 noon to 12.30, Monthly Ecumenical Prayers for Justice and Peace in the Trinity Chapel of Salisbury Cathedral. All are welcome. Always the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

***Sunday 1st September - 3.00pm**, District Welcome Service for the Reverend Rachel Bending – new District Chair – at SMC - Preacher: The Reverend Dr Jen Smith of Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London.

Sunday September 8th - 4pm Circuit Service at Bell Street United Church, Shaftesbury, SP7 8AL To celebrate Tisbury, Shaftesbury and Motcombe joining the Salisbury Circuit.

***Saturday September 14th - 9.00am to 6pm**, Wiltshire Ride and Stride / Dorset Ride and Stride/ Hampshire Ride and Stride.

Bourne Café will be open from 10am - 5pm instead of the usual morning only hours. BV will be welcoming those on the Wiltshire Historic Churches sponsored event, " Ride and Stride" raising funds for BV and Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. Two of our members will be riding and seeking sponsors.

Tuesday 17th September - 7.30pm, Circuit meeting at Bemerton

Wednesday 18th September - 12 noon to 12.30, Monthly Ecumenical Prayers for Justice and Peace in the Trinity Chapel of Salisbury Cathedral. All are welcome.

Sunday 17th November 10. 30 am, SMC Church Anniversary.

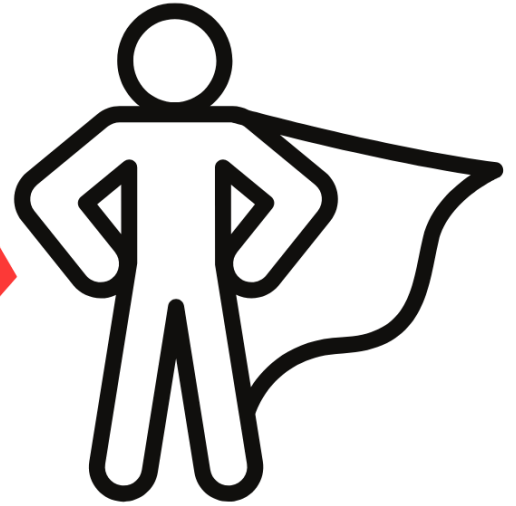
Friday 6th – Sunday 8th December Woodfalls MC Nativity Festival.

Sunday 26th January 2025 - 4pm Circuit Service at SMC – Preacher: the Reverend Dr Teddy Kalongo - to celebrate our link with Zambia and to commemorate 60 years of Zambian Independence (24thOctober 2024) and 60 years of the United Church of Zambia (16thJanuary 2025).

**further details elsewhere in the newsletter.*

UNSUNG HEROES

HOLIDAY
CLUB



12th-16th

August 2024

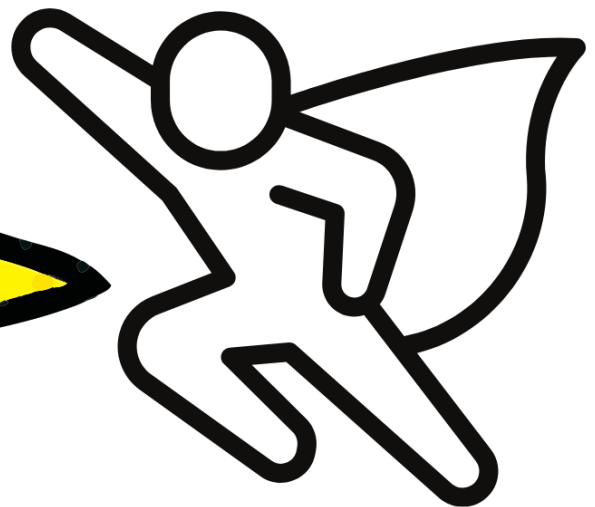
10am-
1pm

£2 per child per
session

Ages

5-11

SALISBURY
METHODIST
CHURCH



Registration forms available from:

Fiona Waddingham

outreachworker@salisburymethodist.org.uk

[Diane Coles enquiries@salisburyurc.co.uk](mailto:Diane_Coles_enquiries@salisburyurc.co.uk)

A JOINT ENTERPRISE OF SALISBURY METHODIST, SALISBURY URC AND ST. THOMAS' CHURCHES