

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

# **Newsletter**



“But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”

*James 1:6*

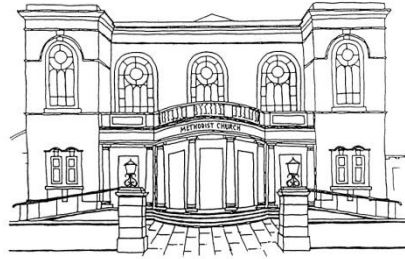
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The May Newsletter was produced by  
Rachel and Simon Clarke.

Items for the June Newsletter should be sent to Rachel Clarke

**no later than Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

email: [newsletter@salisburymethodist.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@salisburymethodist.org.uk)

Material for consideration should be as follows:

An A4 Word or other editable text document (in Aptos font size 15pt if possible).

Please ensure you have consent for any material submitted.

**If you need help creating a document, please contact Rachel Clarke.**

01722 338392

## Worship in May

- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May**      10:30 a.m. Revd Steve Hawkes HC
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May**      10:30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham      Christian Aid  
3:00 p.m. Revd Cecil King and Mrs Fi Waddingham LB
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May**      8:00 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham HC  
10:30 a.m. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham AA
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May**      10:30 a.m. Mr M Spencer

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

LB    Little Blessings

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### Easter Offering – Fund for World Mission

The theme of this years' service, '**Education for All, Hope for All**', focuses on the right of every person to receive an education.

All the money raised through the Easter Offering goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Great Britain for work in our Partner Churches around the world. The Dedication service this year will be held at Tisbury MC on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

In 2024, collections from Easter Offering services raised over £190,000, thanks to the generosity of Methodists. We thank Methodist Women in Britain for enabling this appeal, and you for making a difference by contributing to God's mission in this way.

*Liz Chick*

## Ministers letter.

Dear Friends,

You may know that Mariet, Nathanael and I have a cat called Wesley, named, not after John Wesley, but after Charles Wesley on account of his constant 'singing'. He lives in the moment, it seems like such a blessing, if it's time to sleep he sleeps, if it's time for food, he eats, if it's playtime he kind of plays!

Part of the skill of living a spiritual life is to live in the moment. That's why TV drama, or going to the theatre, or cinema, can be so powerful; or reading a novel or history or biography. I normally listen to a lot of music on YouTube while I'm working. If I'm reviewing Doctoral dissertations for Asbury Seminary in Kentucky, Mariet can tell how well written, or not, it is—the music gets louder the worse the content and writing style!

YouTube learns which music I search for play again and again and it makes suggestions for music or short film clips that might interest me. What I note in the clips I watch is that they are often of the 'key moment/s' in the story, you know, things like Leonardo and Kate standing arms outstretched on the rail at the bow of the boat. They can't see the ship, only the water and view of what lays before them, they are lost in the moment.

Dramas, story, and music are so powerful because they take us into the reality of our own lives, happy times, joyful moments, challenging or tragic times. I love reading Mark's gospel, it's a fast moving, short story full of significant moments, and a constantly echoing call to join in the drama and follow Jesus. One of the recurring themes is people either seeing and understanding who Jesus is or not. One of the stories in Mark's gospel is that of the healing of blind man Bartimaeus, (in chapter 10: 46-52). He calls out to Jesus 'Son of David' meaning he did know and understand, he could 'see' who Jesus was, even as he cried out for his blindness to be cured. Jesus gave him his sight, and he followed him on the road. The first thing Bartimaeus saw, was Jesus riding the donkey on the road into Jerusalem, where the drama of his passion, death and resurrection must play out.

On May 24th, Aldersgate Day in the Methodist pattern of life, John Wesley has his heart strangely warmed by God as he receives the assurance that he is loved, forgiven and saved by Christ. It is an important day. But what we don't often hear is that Charles Wesley, his brother, had his own significant moment just three days earlier than John! Actually, there were two significant moments, the first was on

17th May 1738. Charles, often ill, encountered Luther's writing on the epistle to the Galatians and experienced the power of Christ rescuing him from temptation. Charles health rallied for 24 hours and then he became unwell again. If you read some of Charles Wesley's manuscript entries, he describes himself as waking alone, or hungry, or weary, or faint, unable to pray, in a temper and on it goes. But on Sunday 21st May Charles woke in hope and expectation of Jesus coming. Following a brief visit by John, Charles turned to prayer including stating "I wholly rely upon thy most true promise" (that God will send his comforter {Spirit}).

Charles prepared himself for sleep, in the quietness he thought he heard someone enter the room and say "in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, arise, and believe, and thou shalt be healed of all infirmities.". Charles knew himself save, loved and free!

Many people come and go from Charles' story, some help him physically, others pray, still others talk and share. These many relationships are part of drawing Charles to the gospel of Christ. Charles lived in 'each moment of his life'. Jesus was with him in each moment but on 17th May a significant encounter with Christ changes Charles, and then on 21st May he knows that Jesus stands with him, Jesus speaks words of grace and forgiveness, he offers Charles new life in response to Charles seeking and yearning to know the love of Christ transforming his life.

On Easter Day we came to the story of some devoted women bringing spices to anoint a dead body of Jesus. What a dramatic moment that is - and the story doesn't go the way they expect - the body isn't there, they're told he had been raised - go back to Galilee! They were amazed and they were frightened. What a moment for the gospel story to end! We're left in the moment hanging, wondering when the sequel will come.....

What is this 'moment' of life you are living? Whatever it is. Jesus stands with you in that experience, what does he say to you? What is he offering you? What do you ask him for? This is the reality and the message of Easter - amazement that he is there and bringing life in all its fullness.

Every Blessing.

Rev Mark



## Pastoral News

*'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have everlasting life.'* (John 3:16)

We continue to hold in our hearts, and before God in our prayers, those of our church family who are enduring the pain of bereavement or failing health, or who are troubled in any way in body, mind or spirit. As we continue to celebrate the risen Christ this Easter season, may they and those who care for them hold fast to the knowledge that *'neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of god in Christ Jesus our Lord'* (Romans 8: 38.) We pray that God will sustain all who suffer and those who care for them with the knowledge of his presence.

And a prayer for those known to us who are suffering with varying forms of Dementia:

Loving God we pray for those whose memory is failing

For those who are forgetting the simplest of things

Cherished names, treasured experiences, loved ones' faces

Be with them in their fear

Reassure them in their frustration

Calm them in their anger

Comfort them in their depression.

Loving God we pray for those who care for those whose memory is failing

For those who must repeat things time and time again

Reassurance given, explanations offered, love assured.

Strengthen them in their tiredness

Guide them in their decision making

Unburden them of their guilt

Hold them in their grief.

And as memories fade  
May your love be known  
By both carer and cared for  
Now and always.  
Amen.

*Prayer by Richard Vautrey from "Each Returning Day" used by permission*

**Other news of the church family:** Revd Chris Jones has had knee replacement surgery which has put him out of action in recent weeks. Recovery has taken longer than expected following some setbacks, but he is now making progress. He has valued the offers of support received. Our thoughts and prayers are with Chris and Margaret as he continues his recovery.

We also send our love and good wishes to Pauline Gibson as she rests at home following surgery for a ruptured appendix. We pray that she will soon be restored to full health.

**Confirmation/Membership:** At our last Pastoral Team meeting, the possibility of further Confirmation classes was mentioned. Revd Mark stressed that these sessions are open to people of any age. If you have had an encounter with God and would like to explore further what this means, then please speak to Mark or your Pastoral Visitor. It may be that your Methodist Membership has lapsed and you would like it re-instated – again please speak with Revd Mark about this.

**It is good to share church family news, so please let your Pastoral Visitor know of anything you wish to share with others through the Newsletter. (Please ensure that you have permission from the people concerned or their relatives before sending items to Monica Gillings, [pastoral@salisburymethodist.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@salisburymethodist.org.uk) )**

**Please contact your Pastoral Visitor or Monica Gillings (01722 743700), Sandra Gunstone (01722 412847) or Margaret Rutt (01722 331013) if you or someone you know would like to speak to a Minister. If you would just appreciate a friendly chat, we are always here for you!**

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“I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security.”

*Pope Francis*

## **‘Wait’ is a verb**

As a teenager I was involved in a production of Roger Jones’ musical ‘Saints Alive’. This tells the story of the birth of the early church and is based on the events told in Acts chapters 1 and 2. It portrays the transformation of the apostles from a group of scared and defeated men to a group with passion and purpose who turn the world upside down.

I was struck by the fact that a large part of the musical is about a time when nothing happens, the time between Easter-dramatic, intense, a rollercoaster of emotions- and Pentecost- another whirlwind of energy, experience and action. Many of the lyrics from that performance have stayed with me but I often come back to a song called ‘Power to be witnesses’ and the words ‘Jesus said ‘Wait there in the city’”.

We often think about waiting as wasted time, time that could be put to use. We get frustrated at queuing, we expect our deliveries the next day, we want instant responses. However, ‘to wait’ is a verb, a doing word, an action in itself. During Covid, I looked forward to my weekly trip to Tesco, a chance to stand in the car park and wait with others. The waiting was an opportunity to connect with other people, to share a difficult and uncertain time, to draw comfort from the shared experience. We had no idea what the future held but drew strength from being together in the experience. I feel that the disciples must have felt a bit the same.

Why does Jesus say wait? He understands what it is to be human, he experienced it. Throughout his ministry we see him take time out to be still, heading to quiet places- the wilderness, hillsides, out on the lake. Jesus knew that the disciples had been overwhelmed by recent events and needed time to process what had happened, they were physically and emotionally exhausted and needed rest. He knows that we need rest.

Jesus does not want them trying to work in their own strength. They need the power of the Spirit within them to enable them in their new challenges. It can be difficult to allow the Spirit in when we are overly busy and full of cares. Jesus allows them time to pray, to settle and to be ready to receive. Jesus says ‘wait’, God’s timing is perfect, and we need to trust it. By doing this we acknowledge God’s power and authority. Jesus says, ‘wait in the city’. A call to be counter cultural. The city is a bustling hub of constant action and Jesus challenges us to be still in the midst of it. A call to be different to those around us, to value our time differently maybe.

So, in the waiting we have the opportunity to prepare ourselves, to allow God in to transform us ready for what he would have us do next. May we wait productively.

*Fi Waddingham*



## **Strike on Al Ahli Hospital, Gaza, 13 April 2025**

### **From the Methodist Church**

We deplore the strikes by the IDF on the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Northern Gaza on the 13 April, Palm Sunday. The Anglican-run hospital is one of the last functioning hospitals in Northern Gaza. Our hearts go out to the family of the child who died after the hospital was given 20 minutes to evacuate critically ill or injured patients.

The hospital is the site of one of the projects supported by the Methodist Church 'Gaza/Lebanon Justice Appeal'. The Princess Basma child rehabilitation clinic operates out of Al Ahli Hospital. Our partner, The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre reports that colleagues in Al Ahli Hospital are safe and that, while the clinic has sustained minor damage, the Gaza team are fixing, cleaning and repairing the facility so that it can once again receive patients.

Revd David Hardman, Methodist Liaison Officer, Jerusalem said "We work closely with the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and are appalled at this missile attack on the Al Ahli Hospital. We are aware of the tremendous care this hospital has continued to offer even under the most difficult circumstances of the past 18 months.

Our thoughts and prayers continue for all the people of Gaza suffering unimaginable trauma and for our Anglican colleagues, Al Ahli Hospital and Princess Basma staff as they bravely continue their healing work."

This deliberate attack on a hospital follows a pattern of attacks on civilian infrastructure in Gaza since the end of the ceasefire. Hospitals and schools are protected sites under international humanitarian law. IFRC Secretary General Jagan Chapagain has recently reiterated "Even in the most complex conflict zones, there are rules. These rules of International Humanitarian Law could not be clearer – civilians must be protected; humanitarians must be protected. Health services must be protected."

We call on Israel to cease its strikes on homes, schools and hospitals in Gaza and the West Bank, and on the international community to work strenuously to negotiate an immediate ceasefire that will lead to a permanent end to the war in Gaza.

*submitted by Rosemary Fletcher*

## Fairtrade Shop:

Takings for the last 4 weeks have totalled approximately £645.00, plus £322.60 from the March Cathedral stall. There is still a supply issue with both Cafe direct Instant coffees, but I've been assured that stock will become available during May. Other popular items are also currently out of stock with our suppliers, so thanks for your patience as we await new deliveries.

*Monica Gillings*

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## 'HiViz' Holiday Club

I am excited to report that planning is well underway for our weeklong summer holiday club for primary school aged children in August. This year's theme is 'building the kingdom'.

All our planning will lead to nothing without some volunteers to staff it and look after the children. If you could spare some mornings during the week of 11<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> August to help please contact me for a volunteering form or more information.

*Thank you, Fi Waddingham*

*outreachworker@salisburymethodist.org.uk*

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## Worship in May

At the risk of repeating myself, thank you to everyone who was involved in any way with the Lent and Easter services. It was lovely to have the first contribution to worship from JAM on Palm Sunday. The Palm Crosses we distribute each year are made by hand in Africa. A contact first made a few years ago by Jeannette Lake travels to The Gambia, brings back the crosses and sells them on, profits going back to The Gambia. The Lent Liturgy this year was very meaningful and the images on and around the cross linked in well with the spoken words.

On May 11<sup>th</sup> we will hold our annual Christian Aid service, in which Paul Butler will join Revd Mark to lead our worship.

Thank you to all who attended the Worship Consultation last month. It is important that all of us have the opportunity to input into worship at SMC.

*Jim Gillings Worship Team leader.*

## Let there be Light!

### New lighting for the Sanctuary – we need your support.

You probably know – but you may not – that Salisbury Methodist Church was rebuilt in 1992 and the Sanctuary was re-modelled to be as we see it today. New lighting was installed - free from ceiling hangings –which considerably helped to enhance the overall feel of the room.

Some 35 years on, this installation has become unreliable and is failing. It is also unsustainable, as its components, including the light tubes, are no longer available. In today's terms it is also very expensive to run. Over the last few months, it has become clear that we urgently (i.e. before next winter) need to refurbish the lighting in the Sanctuary.

A small group is meeting to decide on what needs to be done and to propose a course of action to the Church Council, which meets in early June. This includes obtaining estimates from suitable suppliers.

We have set these objectives:

- To install effective energy efficient LED lighting.
- To be able to create different light conditions that reflect the way the sanctuary is used and to ensure brighter lighting than the current system is providing.
- To upgrade the emergency lighting to the latest regulations.
- To enhance the ambience of the sanctuary in hours of darkness.
- To achieve the above with minimal effect on the look of the Sanctuary.

This work must be done to a high standard because we need it to serve us well for the next 30+ years. This will not be cheap - we are currently looking at a budget of over £35,000. We envisage this being raised from grants we might be able to obtain, reserves SMC holds and donations / special fundraising.

**This is where we need your help.** We are asking if our congregation and our friends who use the Sanctuary can raise at least £5,000 to help pay to keep this precious space useable to all. We realise that this is the second major appeal for the fabric of SMC this year, but in the last 35 years, there have been very few appeals of this nature.

**Individual donations** may be made by bank transfer to Salisbury Methodist Church, Account: 65592317, Sort Code: 08-92-99. Please use the reference "lighting". If you are registered with Gift Aid for SMc then please use the reference "lighting Gift Aid" to add Gift Aid.

Or you can our website donation page: <https://salisburymethodist.org.uk/donate> and following the link to our stewardship account, where you can also add Gift Aid.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article - Nick Rutt and James Rowley - for the Lighting group.

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### **Fellowship of Reconciliation**

The Fellowship of Reconciliation (FoR), the oldest faith-based peace movement in the UK, sent messages of solidarity and support to Catholic sister agencies at the passing of Pope Francis. The FoR regularly partners with Catholic based peace and justice movements for events and education work.

Rev Dr Mark Wakelin, Chair of the Fellowship, said:

"Today the Catholic Church lost its leader, and the wider church lost a prophetic voice. Pope Francis was a beacon of hope in increasingly dark times. He dared to frequently speak God's truth of gospel nonviolence in a world that seems addicted to war. The work and witness of Pope Francis will be long remembered as one that lifted our eyes to focus on the work of God, not one that sought to make the work of God acceptable to human eyes. His statements on war, peace and gospel nonviolence, coupled with his intentional prioritising of ecumenical relationships have ensured his legacy will continue to send ripples beyond the Catholic Church"

The Fellowship sent messages of solidarity to Pax Christi England and Wales and Pax Christi Scotland, CAFOD, The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh and the National Ecumenical Officer for Catholic Bishop's Office of England and Wales.

*Rosemary Fletcher*

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### **Poetry Group**

The next Poetry meeting will be in Room 1 at 10.30am on Friday 2nd May.  
The subject will be **Myths and Legends**.

*Mary Mitchell*



## News from The Listening Place

The next training course is running on Tuesday evenings, starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April and continuing 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May from 7pm- 9.15pm at Salisbury Methodist Church. If you missed the notice about the training and would like to take part, please contact Rev Cecil King.

The Listening Place Open Evening will take place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7pm at Salisbury Methodist Church and the speaker will be Alex Ewing, Director of The Bridge Youth Project, a Christian schools-work charity operating across many Salisbury based schools.

At the Open Evening we will be saying a fond farewell and a big 'thank you' to Sue Robbins who is retiring after 13 years of service as Manager of TLP.

We are pleased to announce that Sue Coakley has been appointed as Assistant Manager for TLP.

*Jill Lakeman*

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### Christian Aid Week

**11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> we as a church will be celebrating 80 years of Christian Aid. It is a charity that we as a church have supported for many years - I'd love to hear if there is anyone in our congregation who supported Christian Aid in its first decades! Despite the fact that the work of Christian Aid is still needed as much as ever, the message this Christian Aid week is one of HOPE.

I do know that many of us are gardeners, and we have had a very dry spring, with some days having both high and low temperatures in the same day. Yet we do what we can, and trust and hope that our seedlings will survive. Just imagine if it was not your flowers that were struggling, but the plants that you rely on to feed yourself and your family. This will be the story we hear in Christian Aid Week - how subsistence farmers in Guatemala and across the world are having to learn new farming methods to survive in a changing climate. Without access to commercial support (or garden centres!) they rely on the organisations supported by Christian Aid to disseminate new ideas, new techniques and fresh hope for the future.

*Paul Butler*

# Easter isn't over... it has just begun!

We continue to celebrate Jesus's resurrection as we see his unexpected encounters with his friends. Nobody recognised Jesus after he had risen. Jesus had to **do** something before his friends knew it was him.

Read these stories of Jesus meeting with his friends:

*At the garden tomb Mary thought he was the gardener until Jesus spoke her name, and then she knew. (John 20:11-18)*

*Two friends met him on the road to Emmaus but didn't realise it was Jesus they were walking and talking with until he broke bread with them, and then they knew. (Luke 24:13-35)*

*The disciples didn't recognise Jesus on the shore until their empty nets miraculously filled with fish, and then they knew. (John 21:1-13)*

**I wonder why nobody recognised Jesus at first, even those who knew him well?**

**I wonder if you will recognise Jesus if you meet him? How might you know it's him?**

Perhaps you can think and talk about these points with your friends and family.

## WORDSEARCH

All but one of the words below are in the grid but which one is missing?

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

Beach  
Breakfast  
Disciples  
Easter  
Emmaus  
Fish

Garden Tomb  
God  
Jesus  
Mary  
Resurrection  
Road



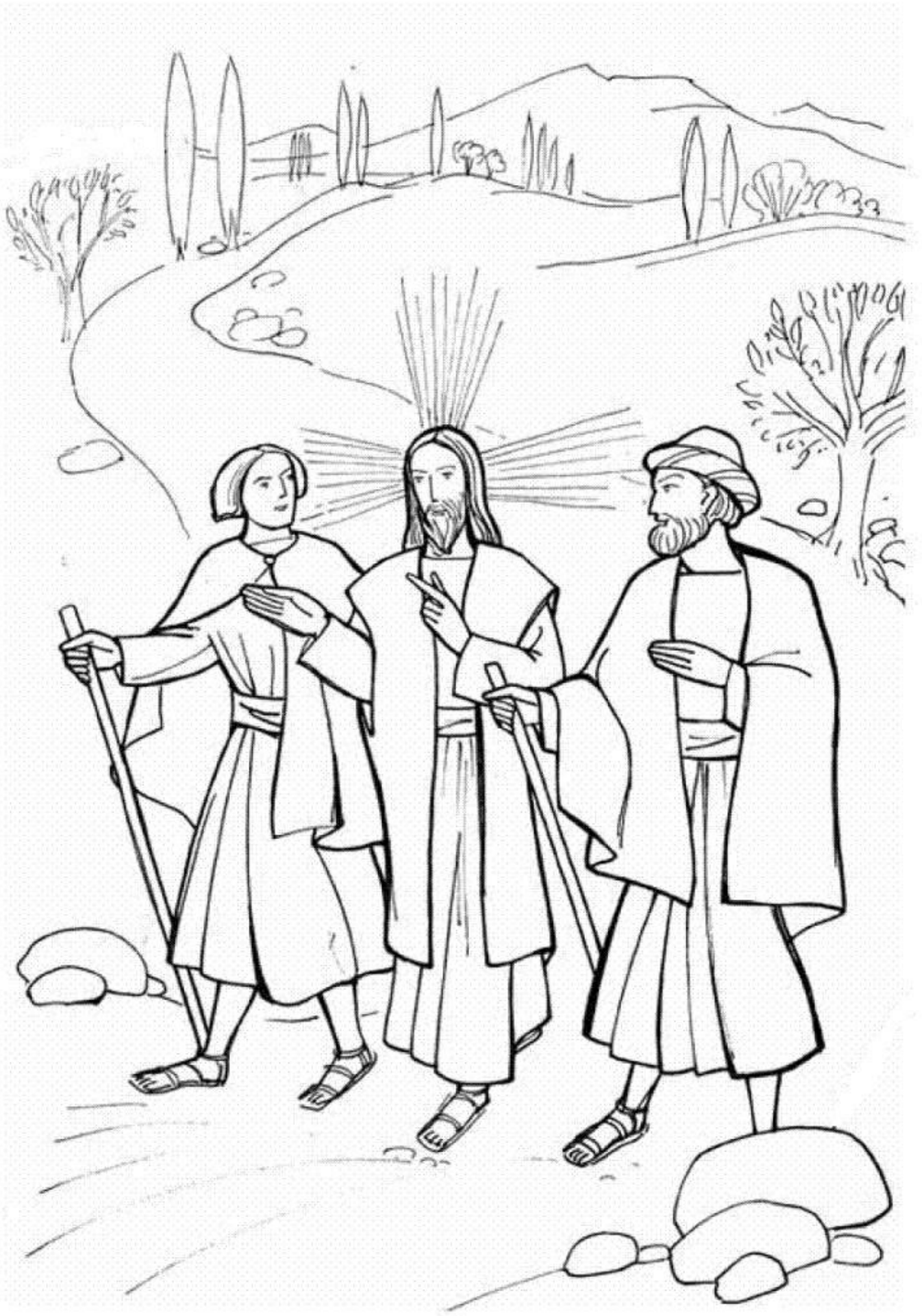
Jesus,

We thank you for always being with us, even when we don't recognise you. Help us to see you in our lives, to hear your voice calling us by name and to follow you with all our hearts. Help us to know it's you when you call us.

Amen.



Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus



## Lamentations for Nakba Day



**Thursday 15th May**

**7 for 7.30pm**

**All Saints Church, Harnham, SP2 8JN**

We welcome to All Saints Church, Harnham, SP2 8JN, Rev Canon Jonathan Herbert, Hammadi Charif, Miranda Pinch, Rev Hilary Bond and Nicholas Papadopoulos, Dean of Salisbury to lead reflections on the Nakba - it means catastrophe - of 1948 and subsequent events in Israel Palestine.

What is it really like to live in the Holy Land today? All our speakers have either visited within the last year or have direct connections with people who live there - in Jerusalem, in Bethlehem, in the Occupied Territories or at The Tent of Nations.

People of all faiths and none - welcome.

Simple refreshments - Zaytoun fair-trade produce stall

Queries to [sarumconcern@gmail.com](mailto:sarumconcern@gmail.com)

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### **An invitation from Salisbury Quakers to all local Faith Groups:**

You are warmly invited to join us for a weekend of celebration and thanksgiving. The 3rd-4th May will mark the 15th anniversary of the first Meeting for Worship in our Quaker Meeting House at 51 Wilton Road.

It was described as a leap of faith when we sold our property on Rectory Road in 2000, purchased the derelict building known as Kennet Lodge in 2003, and began the journey to refurbish it to become the beautiful and welcoming Meeting House we have today.

During the Open Day on Saturday, 3rd May, from 10am-4pm, there will be games and fun for all ages, a sustainability swap shop (for plants, books and craft materials), and refreshments, along with "before and after" pictures of the Meeting House.

We look forward to welcoming you there! Our car park is at the rear of the building, accessed via Fountain Way.

*Salisbury Quaker Meeting*



## Aldersgate Sunday

Methodists traditionally commemorate Aldersgate Sunday

On 24 May or the Sunday nearest to it, which was a day of significant change for John and also Charles Wesley. This year the Methodist Church has designated May 25<sup>th</sup> as Aldersgate Sunday

Throughout his life, John Wesley captured his experiences at Aldersgate in London in his journal:

*“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine and saved me from the law of sin and death.”*

It was 24 May 1738. John Wesley was almost 35 years old and had been ordained for nearly 10 years. The ‘society’ he attended was a Moravian meeting in London. Wesley has first encountered the Moravian Church during a difficult two-year mission to Georgia in North America, from which he had returned just six months earlier. During the journey, their ship had been struck by a severe storm, and shipwreck and death seemed inevitable to most aboard.

What Wesley noticed was the calm assurance of the Moravians: confident in God’s love and their salvation, they did not appear to fear death. Wesley did not have that assurance. He was struggling at this point in his life, when it was far from certain that the beginnings of a religious revival would take hold and flourish. John Wesley’s experience at the Aldersgate meeting transformed his belief and preaching, ultimately leading to the formation of the Methodist Church. Without Aldersgate, Methodism as we have known it may not have happened.

But Aldersgate is not just about the past, or just about John Wesley. His experience, so memorably and vividly expressed in his journal, demonstrates the difference it makes knowing God for ourselves. When one least expects it, even when things haven’t turned out the way we hoped or when we feel we’ve heard it all before, there

can be change. Change happens when we share the story. Wesley experienced this when someone else read to him Martin Luther's Preface to Romans. Just as John Wesley felt his heart 'strangely warmed', we too can be refreshed and inspired by listening to one another and by sharing our faith stories with each other.

**Collect for Wesley Day which the Church of England use in worship on May 24<sup>th</sup>**

God of Mercy,  
who inspired John and Charles Wesley with zeal for your gospel;  
grant to all people boldness to proclaim your word  
and a heart ever to rejoice in singing your praises;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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Salisbury Christian Aid and our Fairtrade Shop will be there. Do come and say Hello.

## From the Stewards

By the time this magazine reaches you, the date of the Church General Meeting should have been repeated many times. (If you hadn't heard, it will take place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, at 7.30 in the Sanctuary!). We will be checking in with our Church community and asking, "How are we doing?"

We want to be a Church that GROWS - that is, we

**G**ather in Community - because that is where spiritual growth happens best.

**R**aise Up followers of Jesus by sharing our stories, teaching and leading within the church. We also need an

**O**utward Focus, making a difference in the lives of others through love. We have to

**W**alk With God, following Jesus closely and daily, and

**S**haring our faith through transformed lives.

These are the headings you will be asked to think about before 8<sup>th</sup> May, and to discuss at the meeting.

Before the meeting you are also asked to prayerfully consider whether your part in our church community might be to serve in one of the roles that are vacant or will fall vacant soon. The CGM is the meeting where we will appoint new members of the Church Council (representatives of the congregation), a Church Council Secretary (because Helen Browncross is stepping down), a Worship Steward and two new Church Stewards. We would also like to appoint someone who can encourage and support the various small groups that are an important part of the life of the church.

Nominations forms will be available - what would you like to do to build our community?

*Paul Butler*

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“And here the first word that I wish to say to you: joy! Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy born of having many possessions, but of having encountered a Person: Jesus, in our midst.”

*Pope Francis*

## **Our Zambia link:**

Our link congregation – St John’s United Church of Zambia (UCZ) congregation in Mtendere, Lusaka – has five days of prayer and fasting during the first week of each month, helping church people to know the constant need of renewal and self discipline in following Jesus.

Zambia, like a lot of countries, observes Mothers’ Day on the second Sunday of May – 11<sup>th</sup> May, this year, and in UCZ worship that Sunday there will be a call to all adults to be role models for young people.

Africa Freedom Day on 25<sup>th</sup> May commemorates the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963 and celebrates the liberation of African nations from European rule. Zambia observes it as a public holiday (on Monday 26<sup>th</sup>, this year). In the UCZ, it is a day for reflecting on the need for the church to change ways of mission as the world changes, hence the UCZ’s motto for this year of Diamond Jubilee: “Changing the Narrative”.

Now the rainy season is over and the cool dry months have begun, there are many more activities out of doors. At St John’s – a young congregation – church weddings happen three or four times each week during the next five months.

In church, throughout May this year Easter is being celebrated, up until Ascension Day on 29<sup>th</sup> May. Pray, with our sisters and brothers in the UCZ, that we shall know the risen Jesus with us in all that we do.

Pray for the minister at St John’s, Rev Mwaka Phiri and for her family, and pray for the deaconess, Majorie Mvula and her family. Pray for the congregation at St John’s, as they pray for us.

*Cecil King*

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## **Safeguarding Spot**

If you are renewing your DBS consider signing up for the update service. This has to be done within 28 days of receiving a new DBS but, as long as you log in once a year, your DBS remains valid and can also be accepted by other organisations

*Diana Noble*

## Prayer for Ascension Day Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, for forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.

Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, let us hear the story of his parting.

For all those brave voices  
speaking out on injustice,  
inequality, abuse of power,  
and corporate greed, who  
want to leave this world  
a better, more equitable  
place for their children  
and grandchildren to inherit.

Who are willing to stand  
in the firing line of politics  
and suffer the consequences  
for speaking out the truth.

Bless their endeavours.

May their voices be heard,  
and this world, your gift to us,  
begin once more to resemble  
the world that you intended.





Here are some upcoming highlights among the varied programme of courses at Sarum College. Don't forget to use your discount codes when booking: **SMC2025** for 20% off selected courses.

And if you're looking for somewhere for friends and family to stay while visiting Salisbury, they can get 15% off a B&B stay with the code **SMC15**.



### Slavery, Reparations, and Theology

8 May  
7:30pm to 9pm  
£20 online

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An online course to think carefully and theologically about slavery and reparations.

**Carlton Turner is an Anglican priest and a Caribbean contextual and practical theologian.**



### The Calling Window

12 May  
7:30pm to 9pm  
£20 online

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A close-up look at stained glass design, using the Calling Window at Romsey Abbey as a case study.

**Sophie Hacker is a stained glass artist and visiting scholar at Sarum College.**



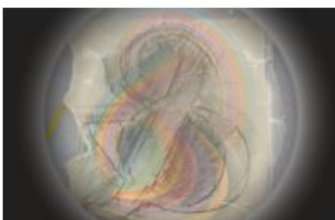
### Spiritual Exercises for the 21st Century

19 May  
1pm to 4pm  
£40 online

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Explore the transformative impact of Ignatius Loyola's Spiritual Exercises with practical approaches for today's world.

**Gillian Ahlgren researches, writes and teaches on the life and work of Teresa of Avila.**



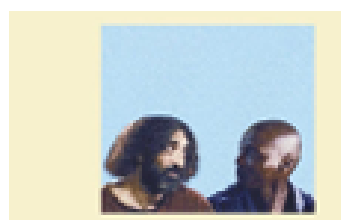
### Seeing Deeply and Differently - Art and Spirituality Retreat

6 to 8 June  
Friday 6pm to Sunday 2pm  
From £210 onsite

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A retreat to enrich and expand your spiritual life by experiencing creative ways of seeing deeply and differently.

**Claire Reed is an artist, researcher, and creative mentor.**



### Christ on Film

11 June  
1pm to 4pm  
£40 online

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An overview of Jesus in film history followed by a critical discussion of parallel portrayals from diverse global perspectives.

**Victoria Omotoso is a cross-cultural research scholar.**



### Growing Faith

12 June  
10am to 4pm  
£70 onsite

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Drawing on recent research, biblical insights and real life experience to learn how to help children grow in faith.

**Emma Coy is a Mission Enabler for Children and Families for the diocese of Guildford.**

## Five minutes for the Planet

Something different to recycle this month!



We are supporting Salisbury Soroptimists in their annual collection for ZABRA-AfreeBra

AfreeBra started as an initiative for International Women's Day in 2019. Since then, over a quarter of a million bras have been distributed in Africa. These have enabled women to own their first bra, helped young women participate in sport for the first time and restored dignity to countless women. As well of course keeping the materials out of landfill.

Please place lightly used bras in the box in the north corridor. Bras will be counted at the end of June. Last year the Salisbury total was over 5000! Already we have three sacks waiting to go.

*Diana Noble*

## OPEN DAY



Celebrate with us  
15 years at our

### Quaker Meeting House

Sat 3rd May - 10 to 4pm

FREE ENTRY



51 Wilton Rd SP2 7EF - Free parking  
behind off Fountain Way



### Family fun and games

For all ages

### Refreshments

Soup lunch  
Cakes  
Tea and coffee



### Fairtrade Stall

### Sustainability -

Swap or take

Plants and Seeds  
Books  
Craft materials



Simple \* Radical \* Spiritual

Regd Charity No 1149956

Wiltshire  
Climate  
Alliance



## WILTSHIRE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT 2025

DECARBONISE · ADAPT · THRIVE

### Save the dates

Business day - Friday 20 June

Communities day - Saturday 21 June

County Hall, Trowbridge

Two days of networking, talks, workshops and exhibitions to inspire and equip businesses and community organisations across Wiltshire to accelerate our journey to net zero.

- Hear from Wiltshire Council and other organisations and find out about their carbon reduction journey.
- Protect and grow your organisation while adapting to climate change
- Share your successes - inspire others and learn new ideas



Click here to find out more

Wiltshire Council





# SUMMER FAIR



**SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**  
**SALISBURY METHODIST**  
**CHURCH**



**10AM-2PM**



Join our uniformed youth organisations for summer fun. There will be stalls, games, challenges, lunches and more.

