

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

Newsletter



**for behold, the winter is past;
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come,
*Song of Solomon 2:11-12***

Minister:

Revd Dr Mark Cheetham

☎ 01722 697841

email:

minister@salisburymethodist.org.



Outreach Worker:

Fi Waddingham

email:

outreachworker@

salisburymethodist.org.uk

Salisbury Methodist Church, St Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury, SP1 1EF

www.salisburymethodist.org.uk

☎01722 322755

email: admin@salisburymethodist.org.uk

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The March Newsletter was produced by
Rachel and Simon Clarke.

Items for the April Newsletter should be sent to Rachel Clarke
no later than Friday 13th March 2026

email: 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 March

Sunday 1st March	8:00 a.m. Revd Judy Davies HC 10:30 a.m. Mr Dan Bishop AA Parade
Sunday 8th March	8:00 a.m. Revd Anna Bishop HC 10:30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham HC 3:00 p.m. Mrs Fi Waddingham LB
Sunday 15th March <i>(Mothering Sunday)</i>	8:00 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham HC 10:30 a.m. Revd Jane Taylor
Sunday 22nd March	8:00 a.m. Revd Denise Binks HC 10:30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham
Sunday 29th March <i>(Palm Sunday)</i>	8:00 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham 0:30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham HC

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

Safeguarding Spot

Rebecca and I held another foundation safeguarding training in February. Thank you to everyone who attended for giving their time to discuss the ways of how we can make our church a safe space for everyone.

Safeguarding thought isn't just for those who have 'done the course'. As our 'strap line' says

"Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility"

Diana Noble

Sunday Parking Charges

Below is the letter that was printed in the Journal on 12th February -which I have been asked to have printed in the newsletter as some people do not buy the journal.

Wiltshire County Council are discussing ways to increase money received for the roads and have put out a proposal to increase parking charges.

They are proposing to charge now from 7.00 am - 7.00 pm in all car parks in Salisbury and to increase the Sunday rate to bring in line with the weekly rate. This will mean a 3-hour limit on parking on a Sunday -with a proposed charge of £5.60. This will seriously impact the Churches and the viability of local businesses.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern about the recent proposed increase in the cost of Sunday parking in Salisbury and the unintended impact this will have on the local city centre church congregations.

For many churches, Sunday is their busiest day, welcoming not only regular worshippers but also elderly residents, families with young children, and visitors who may not be able to walk long distances or use public transport. Affordable Sunday parking has long made it possible for these members of the community to attend services, volunteer, and take part in the many social and charitable activities that churches support.

The rise in parking charges risks creating a real barrier to attendance, rising from the present £1.90 for the day to a new rate of £5.60 for the maximum of 3 hours parking. This will be unaffordable particularly for older people and those on lower incomes. Churches play an important role in Salisbury's social fabric, offering support services, community groups, and spaces for reflection and wellbeing. Making access more difficult on Sundays may inadvertently weaken this contribution. The bus services on a Sunday are very limited - with Park and Ride not operating at all.

I fully recognise the financial pressures facing the council and the need to manage parking fairly. However, I hope that consideration can be given to the specific impact of Sunday charges on places of worship and their congregations, perhaps through concessions, limited free parking periods, or alternative solutions that support both the city and its communities.

I would welcome further discussion on this issue, perhaps with local people contacting their city councillors with their concerns and encourage the decision-makers to engage with churches and community groups to find a balanced approach.

Yours faithfully,

Sue Gilbert

Church Member and Local Resident

Ministers letter.

Dear Friends,

I hope all is well with you? As I write it is a cold, grey, damp day but my inbox and social media feeds are full of adverts for holidays. I wonder whether there are really more or am I perhaps just more receptive to them because of the sort of day it is? As you will doubtless know, this is a common event in January, February and early March as advertisers and marketing strategists seek to convince us that our summer holidays must be planned and booked as soon as, and sometimes even before, Christmas is over.

On reflection, I can't decide whether these adverts provide a few moments of pleasant day-dreaming – where might we go, what might we explore, what would it feel like to have the warm sea gently lapping over my toes? Or are they simply an unhelpful distraction that will both divert me from doing what I really need to do and leave me feeling grumpy about the weather?

On the one hand, it doesn't really matter as the distraction / day-dreaming is only a passing glimpse of the sun in the course of a day. On the other hand, I found myself wondering if I was perhaps, albeit in a relatively innocuous way, succumbing to temptation – the temptation to be envious and discontented and the temptation to procrastinate. I strongly suspect that my thoughts led me in this direction because we seem to have rattled headlong into Lent.

This year, the Methodist Church is encouraging us to 'pause, breathe and make space for God, offering an opening sentence which reminds us that Lent is about so much more than giving up chocolate. And how it is an invitation to let go of whatever weighs you down and being open to what lifts you up. And the benefits last longer than 40 days.

Whatever we do Lent offers us an opportunity to recalibrate our way of life, and although it is a personal journey it is also something that we do together; it's an opportunity to pause, breathe, and rediscover what matters most – through simple spiritual practices, fresh hope, and a gentle invitation to joy.

You can sign up to receive a weekly email at: [https://www.methodist.org.uk/for churches/lent/](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/lent/) and perhaps think about joining a small group as to help you encounter God more deeply than is perhaps possible on your own. However you choose to observe Lent this year, I pray you will have a deeper awareness of God and God's love for you and for all that God has made.

Every Blessing.

Rev Mark



Pastoral News

During morning worship on 8 February, it was a joy to formally welcome John Pipet (husband of Revd Dorothy) into Membership at SMC, by transfer from Trinity Loughborough Methodist Church. He and his daughters, Alys and Ellen, have been worshipping with us since September, and we have been blessed by their presence with us and all that they contribute to the life of our community.

At the same service the Pastoral Visitors and Listeners were commissioned, and we welcomed Dawn Heslington to the pastoral team. Revd Mark's letter last month focussed on the importance of pastoral care and the system at SMC which seeks to ensure that everyone is cared for 'in an organised way'. We also give thanks for all the mutual care which goes on outside the formal system, for all the love and support shown in quiet ways within our congregation.

Do you join our worship online? Do you miss seeing others?

If you are no longer able to get to church in person, would you be interested in joining online Zoom sessions to meet up and enjoy conversation together? Help with the technology can be provided if required. Do let your pastoral visitor know if this is something you might like to try. We would be very happy to set this up if there is sufficient interest.



Celebrations: We send our love and congratulations to Shirley Read who celebrated her 90th birthday recently. As well as receiving lots of beautiful flowers, she was able to enjoy a meal with her family on 7th February at the White Hart Hotel.



We also send our love and belated birthday greetings to Angela Emerson who celebrated her 80th birthday on 12th February, enjoying special times with her family. Looking forward, we send love and Happy Birthday wishes to Vera James who will be 97 on 24 March. She really appreciates being able to join in worship online and sends her love to all.

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)

Lent

is a spiritual reboot.

A journey of pausing, breathing and
making **s p a c e** for God.

It's a way of life.



Curious?
Sign up to receive
reflections through Lent

Publicity at SMc – The Newsletter

What is the newsletter?

The SMc newsletter is a booklet published 10 times a year for February, March, April, May, June, July, September, October, November and December. It gives an opportunity for people to contribute items with more detail than can be accommodated in the weekly notice sheet. This can vary from publicity for upcoming events, accounts of recent activities, news from church groups or items of general interest.

Currently 36 paper copies are delivered by our pastoral visitors and another 25 are collected by people who have requested a paper copy. If you have signed up for a paper copy these are collected from the box and names ticked off the list. Otherwise, extra copies are available in the rack in the Welcome Area. To help with printing numbers and minimize waste, please add your name to the list if you regularly take a paper copy.

A full colour version is also uploaded to the church website. You are encouraged to save environmental and printing costs by joining the mailing list to receive a digital copy.

As editors, Simon and I spend time each month trying to put together a booklet that is more than a series of posters, containing interesting articles and reports. Obviously, we can only achieve this with help from our contributors, some of whom send material regularly each month, others who send occasional contributions. All are equally welcome and help make the SMc newsletter an important part of our church life.

How can I submit content?

Page 2 of each newsletter includes the next deadline along with a brief description of how to submit documents for consideration along with the deadline for the next edition.

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.

Here are some slightly more detailed instructions:

We are always happy to receive photographs for the front page. These should be high resolution photos taken by yourself. Only in very exceptional circumstances do we use pictures of people on the front page. We may also hold on to your photo for a subsequent edition if we cannot use it straight away.

The newsletter is compiled as a series of A4 documents, which the very clever printer in the office converts into the A5 booklet format you are used to seeing. This is why our standard font (Aptos) and size (15pt) may seem quite large, anything smaller is hard to read when it is shrunk down into the booklet. If you are including photos of people in the material you should make sure you have consent for the image to be used.

If you have news you want to share in the newsletter, please let your pastoral visitor know. They will pass the information to the person compiling the pastoral news. If you send the news directly to us, it will be forwarded on for inclusion.

It is helpful to Simon and I if you use the dedicated newsletter email address (newsletter@salisburymethodist.org.uk) to send us material, this reduces the chance of your email being lost in depths of our personal email accounts.

If you want to include something in the newsletter and for any reason are unable to follow the instructions, we can always find a way to work around it. Just ask me for help.

Many thanks to all those who contribute to producing and distributing the newsletter each month.

Rachel Clarke

Wesleyan Politics

Last month this magazine published the JPIT Principles of Justice. They are by no means a new idea. In John Wesley's New Rooms in Bristol there is a display setting out succinctly the objectives that Wesley pursued in his lifetime:

- Reduce the gap between rich and poor
- Seek to ensure full employment
- Introduce measures to help the poorest, including a living wage
- Offer the best possible education
- Empower individuals to feel they can make a difference
- Promote tolerance
- Promote equal treatment for women
- Create a society based on values, rather than on profits and consumption
- End all forms of enslavement
- Avoid engaging in wars
- Avoid narrow self-interest and promote a wider world view
- Care for the creatures with whom we share our planet.

All of these feel just as relevant today. How can we best put them into practice?

Paul Butler

Rosemary and James continue their travels in Sri Lanka – meeting up with a lot of folks from the years they lived and worked there 2005-2010.

3 more SMC plates have been given away and greetings brought from SMC and a little bit of the history of John Wesley and Salisbury shared

Rosemary in green saree – presenting a plate to the Reverend Sujithar, General Secretary of the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka, - affiliated to Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Suji is a friend and a Methodist Minister and when he and Chrishanthi had their baby Henosha in January 2007 they asked Rosemary to be her godmother.



Sunday 1st February Rosemary was preaching back at Kandy Methodist Church, in which Rosemary and James were much involved. Here she is presenting a plate to the Reverend Mihiri de Silva who is Minister of Kandy MC and Superintendent of the Circuit.

And on Monday 2nd February they made their first visit back to the Theological College of Lanka, where they lived and worked for their 5 years as Mission Partners.

Here they are pictured with the current Faculty, together with their friends Joy and Bryan Jones from Wroughton, who joined them for some of the time. Rosemary is presenting the plate to the Reverend Leslie Daareju, a Methodist Minister, who was inducted as College Principal on 9th January 2026.



This is the only place in Sri Lanka where Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians are trained for Ministry. Christians make up 7% of the population, 6% being Roman Catholics.

When they plates were presented, greetings were given from the Southampton District, Salisbury Methodist Circuit and SMc in particular.

Rosemary writes from Sri Lanka

On Wednesday 4th February, I went into the Theological College for the 6.30am Independence Day service in the College Chapel, followed by the raising of the flag outside and the singing of the National Anthem in Sinhala and Tamil. It is 78 years since Independence.

I found it very emotional – the country is in such a better position than it was when we left in 2010, and on our previous visits – 2013 and 2017, despite the recent cyclone, whose devastation is still in evidence in certain areas. The new Government is such an improvement on previous years of dynastic families ruling the country (4 since independence) and is tackling many serious issues and in 18 months has achieved a lot. We have met many former students, former colleagues, and friends and all remain positive about what has been achieved in such a short time and there seems to be an end for the moment of identity politics and people voting on ethnic lines. We have never heard in any country such universal support for a government. Of course, there are nuances and some criticisms but everyone we have met is pleased with such a dramatic change. The group who are not happy are the extreme Buddhist monks who used to be very powerful but now no longer receive special treatment... but that is another story.

The preacher at the Chapel Service was one of our former students who is now Archdeacon in the Diocese of Kurunegala.

Here is the Prayer for Independence Day from the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka which is linked with CTBI.

“Almighty God, your wisdom and your love are over all; accept the prayers we offer for our nation, now united as one people of late devastated by violence, corruption and politicisation.

Give integrity to its citizens and wisdom to those in authority, that harmony, peace and justice maybe secured in obedience to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.”

Rosemary Fletcher



Easter/Spring Craft Stall

Penny Symonds will be having a small craft stall with an Easter theme in the Hall after the service on **Sunday 29th March, Palm Sunday.**

There will be lacy Crosses and bookmarks, fluffy chicks and crochet bunnies – all beautifully made by Penny.

Please bring cash for your purchases as all profits will go to **Action for Children.** Many thanks.

Christian Aid News



Dates for Christian Aid Week – 10-16 May 2026

SMC Christian Aid Service Sunday 3rd May

May is not really very far away when you consider the preparation that is needed for Christian Aid Week. Looking back at your magnificent effort last year (when we delivered over 1700 envelopes house to house), it is clear that we raise more when people deliver envelopes in the street where they live.

If you are not already involved in Christian Aid Week, could you be one of those people? All you would have to do is mark some envelopes with your own address as a return point, and pop them through the letterboxes along your own street. Any that are returned to you can then be added to the greater Christian Aid totals for SMC and for Salisbury as a whole (£11,460 in Christian Aid Week 2025).

Please speak to Paul Butler if you feel you could do this.

And in the meantime, on **Thursday 19th March at 2.30 pm** Salisbury Christian Aid will be holding a short ceremony around the rowan tree which has been planted in Churchill Gardens to commemorate Christian Aid's 80th anniversary. Children from St Osmund's and St Martin's primary schools will be participating through poetry and song.

Do please join us!

Paul Butler

World Day of Prayer Service in Salisbury Baptist Church on Friday 6th March at 2.00 pm



The World Day of Prayer is an international, women-led, ecumenical movement that shares the hopes, concerns, and prayers of women from around the globe. For 2026 the women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

This day is a powerful demonstration of global solidarity. It begins in Samoa and moves across the world in a continuous wave of prayer, finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa.

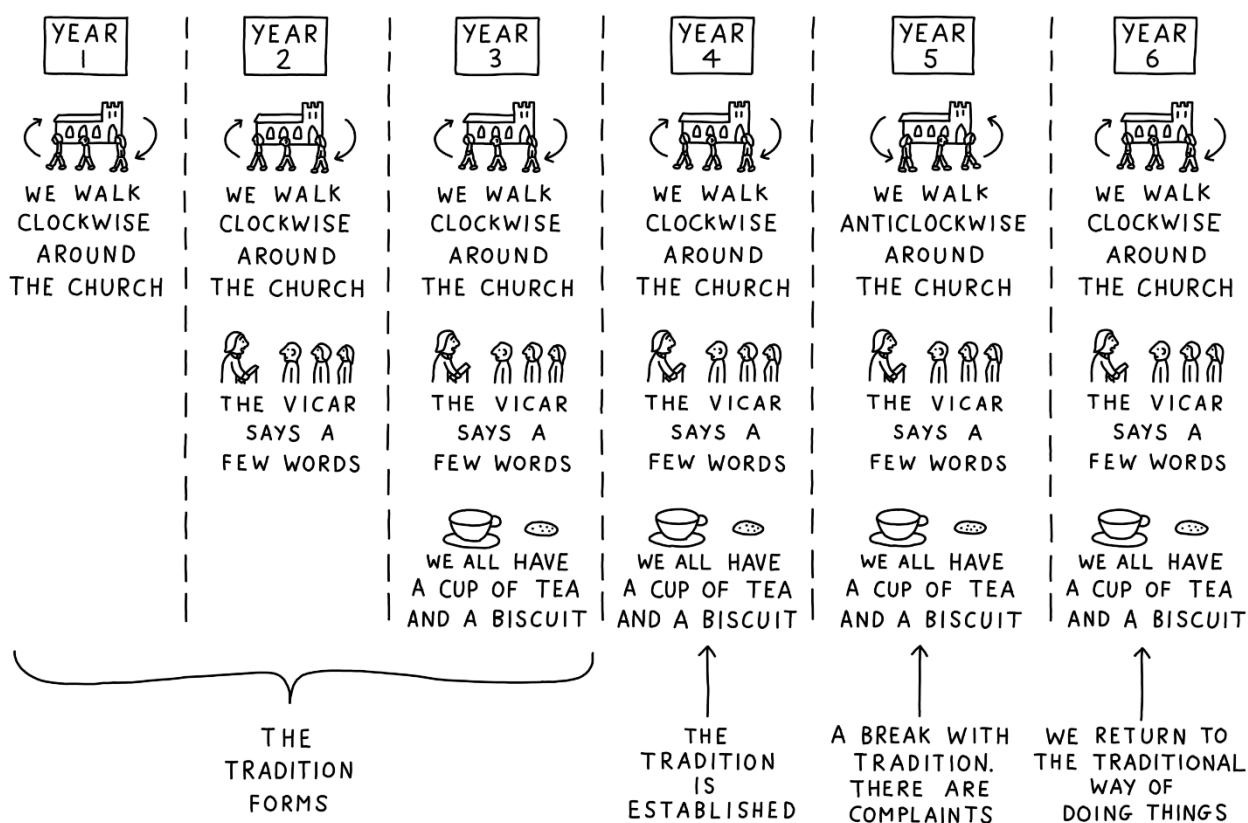
Church communities across Salisbury are working together – following their very successful ecumenical fund-raising coffee morning at St Thomas’s early in February – to bring words, music and stories from Nigeria to men, women and children in our city.

Please come along and join us and enjoy refreshments afterwards. Funds raised will go direct to WDP for Christian organisations supporting projects in the UK and across the world. wwdp.org.uk

Liz Chick

TRADITION

HOW IT DEVELOPS



International Women's Day

Prayer from the Reverend Rosie Frew of the Church of Scotland

On this International Women's Day,
as we celebrate and give thanks for the achievements of women,
we remember the women who have played a part in our lives.

Those who have
nurtured us,
taught us,
inspired us,
loved us.

Forgive us when we have limited women
through inequality,
by stereotype,
by exclusion,
through lack of opportunity.

On this International Women's Day,
as we acknowledge the challenges women still face,
we pray that all women may know equality
of healthcare,
of education,
of wealth,
of prospects.

We pray that all women may know themselves to be
respected,
safe,
included,
empowered.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus
in whom there is neither male nor female.
Amen.

Prayer for the World Water Day

God of life,
You have given water to your creation
so that we all can live,
so that we can be clean and healthy,
every day.
Give us the water we need for our body
to drink so that we are not thirsty!

God of life,
You have given us eternal life
in the Holy Baptism by water,
in the name of the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Spirit.

God of life,
you have promised us living water
through Jesus Christ,
so that our whole life, body and soul
can be filled with your Spirit
and we can worship you in truth and
Spirit
every day and everywhere.

God of life,
You have shown us
that the gift of eternal life
means that we do like you do:
sharing our gifts,

so that all can have life
in abundance.
Make us thankful
and accountable
when we use the water we have been
given today.

God of life,
provide clean water
for those who do not have it this day.
Give us open hearts and hands
to seek water justice
and to support those who can provide
water for others.

God of life,
make our lives
a source of living water
for others,
so that justice and peace
can fill our churches,
all nations,
and the whole creation.

We pray in the name of the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Spirit,
our creator, saviour, and life-giver.

Amen

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary World Council of Churches

UN International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade

A Collect For Modern Slavery

Taken from 'From Shore To Shore: Liturgies, Litanies and Prayers from around the World by Kate Wyles, published by SPCK, London 2003'. Thanks to the Revd Dr Michael Clarke for his permission to use this collect.

Almighty and most loving God,
through your Son Jesus, who came among us as a slave,
choosing rather to serve his disciples than to be served by them;
help us in our weakness not to seek to oppress others,
nor to make peace with any form of exploitation,
but in all things earnestly and of our own free will,
to seek to serve each other following Christ's good example;
this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Earth Hour

Earth Hour 2026 is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm local time, marking its 20th anniversary as a global movement for climate and nature, where people turn off lights to symbolize commitment to protecting the planet. Organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), it's a symbolic call to action beyond the hour, encouraging sustainable choices for forests, seas, and a healthier future

A prayer for use at Earth Hour:

Creator God, this earth is beautiful and fragile. Forgive our confusion and inaction as we confront the challenges of climate change. In the light of your truth, seen so clearly in the life and teachings of Jesus, help us to re-examine ourselves and our lifestyle choices and see clearly the implications of how we live on all that sustains life on earth. May we follow your leading in caring for every aspect of this precious world, which you made and love.

Throughout history you have moved people to do amazing things for the sake of their neighbours and especially the poor. Inspire us now to work together, as your people, to change priorities in the way we live so that we build a fair and safe world for all your creation and for future generations. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen

From Eco-Congregation Ireland

Rosemary Fletcher

Our Zambia Link:

Continue to pray for honesty, integrity and peace in the campaigning which has begun for the presidential and parliamentary elections in August.

Give thanks for the sufficient rain which has fallen in the rainy season drawing to its end.

March in the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) will have three special Sundays:
8th: **Women's Christian Fellowship** (WCF) Sunday, giving thanks for the WCF's ministry in witness, in supporting bereaved families, in worship and in pastoral care.

15th: **Youth Christian Fellowship** (YCF) Sunday, celebrating the contribution of young people in witness and worship, in choirs and in drama, and in leadership of Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade and Sunday School.

22nd: **Green Harvest** Sunday: when God is honoured with offerings of the first fruits from the rainy season crops; thank God for sufficient rain this season.

Pray that all the arrangements for the April visit to England of Mr Whiteson Chenge will go smoothly. Mr Whiteson Chenge is the link person for our Southampton District's link with the Lusaka Presbytery of the UCZ.

Continue to pray for the new Lusaka East Presbytery, which includes our linked congregation of St John's UCZ, Mtendere. Pray for Bishop David Mujumila, Bishop of Lusaka East Presbytery, and for all the officers of the new Presbytery.

Our prayer link with St John's, Mtendere continues. Pray for the minister, Revd Mwaka Phiri, and for the Deaconess, Majorie Mvula, in their various ministries. Pray for the congregation of St John's, as they pray for us.

Cecil King

“These special holidays give rise to various liturgical calendars that suggest we should mark our days not only with the cycles of the moon and seasons, but also with occasions to tell our children the stories of our faith community's past so that this past will have a future, and so that our ancient way and its practices will be rediscovered and renewed every year.” — *Brian D. McLaren*

Fairtrade News - Action Tea



This month we hope to boost our sales of Kenyan breakfast tea. Whatever your favourite brand, we hope you will try this different label, at the same time doing something different for Lent. Each Sunday, you can taste it over coffee in the hall after worship. Kenyan tea comes in two forms - loose and in bags, the latter having just received the Great Taste Award as well as the ethicalconsumer.org best buy. Transform Trade, our suppliers, have also given us the opportunity to sponsor the Nyeri Chai Farmers Association for a year and this we are doing. I quote:

This brilliant group of tea growers are working together to transform the whole of Kenya's smallholder tea industry. They're fighting for fairer prices, for gender equality and for better representation as they grow tea that travels across the world....

This support links well with Sarah, Solomon and Stacey Sirengo whose home is in this tea growing area of Kenya.

So this is our opportunity - as a church and individually - to put faith into action, to put our mouth where our heart is.

From time to time the Fairtrade group meets to decide how to disburse the small amount of profit we accrue from sales and donations. We have had some big takings at events in the city concerning the Middle East and we have given £200 to Medical Aid for Palestinians. Transform Trade had a matched funding event before Christmas; they received £100. The sponsorship above of Kenyan farmers is £18 per month for a year.

Our figures for this month are shop takings approximately £550, £409.20 from the January Cathedral Stall and £248 from an Amnesty event at SMc.

Easter is approaching and we have stocked up accordingly with a selection of Easter eggs – the good news is that we are able to sell the Real Easter eggs and Fun Packs at last year's prices! We also have a small selection of Easter cards. In addition, we have new stock of packets of natural mixed nuts, perfect for healthy snacking, and orange marmalade from Eswatini.

*Barbara Hickman
Monica Gillings*

Ecumenical Prayers for Justice and Peace

in the Cathedral Trinity
Chapel 12 noon All are
welcome

Third Wednesday of every
month

Next date

Wednesday 18th March

Poetry Group

in Room 1 at 10.30am.

First Friday of every month

Next date

Friday 6th March

The subject will be

Gardens

Jonathon Porritt “Magnificent and crucial, a lodestone for all we believe in...”
GEORGE MONBIOT

LOVE, ANGER & BETRAYAL
THE CLIMATE CRISIS
JUST STOP OIL'S
YOUNG CLIMATE CAMPAIGNERS
JONATHON PORRITT

BOOK TOUR - FREE ENTRY
SALISBURY
4th March
6.30 for 7.00pm start
Refreshments provided

St John's Place
Lower Road
Bemerton
Salisbury
SP2 9NP

@loveangerbetrayal

The poster features a red background with a black and white photograph of Jonathon Porritt speaking into a microphone. The book cover for 'Love, Anger & Betrayal' is shown on the left, featuring a 'no oil' symbol. A quote from George Monbiot is in the top right corner.

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”

C.S. Lewis

Worship

I would like to thank Revd Val Read for preparing and leading the first of our new quarterly evening services at the beginning of February. The service was well attended, and we were challenged with some thought-provoking questions and ideas. The next such service will be on April 26th and will be café style worship led by Jo Throp. Please book the date in your diaries. March sees the bulk of our Lent services. As mentioned in the February newsletter, on each Sunday there will be an 8:00 am Communion followed by breakfast and then the 10:30 am service. This is a major commitment for the team in the kitchen, please offer them your support and prayer. This year's Lent Liturgy has been prepared by Revd Stephen Maunder. We are grateful for his contribution to our worship over this period. Looking further ahead, the Maundy Thursday service on April 2nd will be held at St Thomas' starting at 7:30pm. On Good Friday, 3rd April, the service at SMC starts at 9:30 am to allow people to attend the Walk of Witness if they so wish. Provided the weather is kind to us the 8:00 am service on Easter Day will be held in the garden.

God Bless, Jim Gillings Worship team leader

Twelve boxes left over?

A day spent recycling!

Huge thanks are due to everyone who supported the Electronics Recycling Day at Harnham Hall on January 31st. A steady flow of people brought us overwhelming numbers of computers, screens, printers, laptops and phones (over two hundred phones before we lost count!)

We tried to sort things as they came in but ended up with a large box marked "Other," where we put modems, satnavs, audio equipment, digital cameras and even heart monitors. In addition, we had twelve large boxes left over, full of nothing but cables.

The total collection filled a room the size of SMC's kitchen and proved too much for the van from Jamie's computers, which had to come back for a second load.

It wasn't a day you could measure in terms of money raised, only in experiences, and the knowledge that there are so many people out there who really want to support our efforts to recycle.

Paul Butler

Five Minutes for the Planet will be back next month.

Here are some upcoming highlights among the varied programme of courses at Sarum College. Don't forget to use your discount codes when booking: **SMC20** 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**.



Dag Hammarskjöld

2 March
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

Explore the life and works of the former UN Secretary General, a scholar of medieval mysticism whose own writing was called mystical.

Roger Lipsey is a religious philosophy scholar.



Divine Ordinarity: A Poetry-Writing Retreat

10 to 11 March
Tuesday to Wednesday
From £160 onsite

A retreat to help participants explore and develop their poetry writing skills as a form of reflection.

Manon Ceridwen James is a poet and contextual theologian, and is Dean of Bangor Cathedral.



Dreams: A Path to Wholeness

12 March
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

An engaging and reflective day exploring the language, meaning and purpose of dreams.

Lisa Cornwell is a priest, theological educator, spiritual director and author of *Dreams: The Path to Wholeness*.



The Wisdom of Julian of Norwich for today

14 to 15 March
6pm Saturday to 6pm Sunday
From £160 onsite

Take in the compassionate wisdom of Julian and her unique insights into God.

Gillian Ahlgren is a specialist in the Christian mystical tradition with 35 years' teaching experience.



Theology Catch-Up: The Atonement

17 March
12pm to 2pm
£25 online

Beth Dodd

Why did Jesus die? Approaching Easter, we explore creative responses to the Cross in art & literature and reflect on the meaning of atonement in the light of our current national and global contexts, and what we can learn from trauma informed theologies.



Soul Play: The Spirituality of Laughter

19 March
1pm to 4pm
£40 online

Ian Macdonald

What is this God given gift of laughter? What does it reveal, what does it enable? We'll explore Theology and Science, explore its relationship with Spirituality. We'll do some Soul Playing, and explore how to bring more laughter into our lives.



Creative Writing in the Ecological Crisis

25 March
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

A guided workshop to creatively process eco-anxiety with poetry, Julian of Norwich and trauma theology.

Liz MacWhirter is an acclaimed Carnegie-nominated novelist, poet, speaker and theologian.



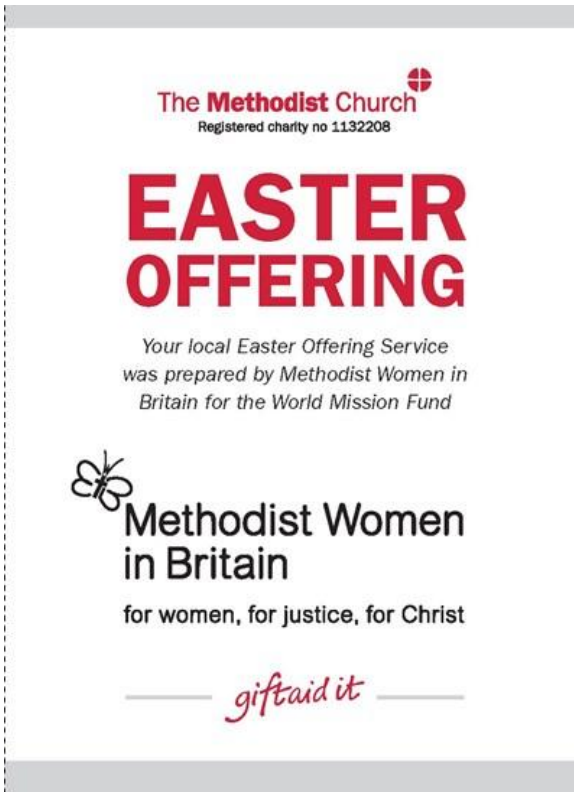
Womanist Theology: An Introduction

27 March
1pm to 4pm
£40 online

Valentina Alexander

Womanist theology developed from both Feminist Theology and Black Theology, but offers its own distinctive way of thinking theologically. Come and learn about the impact of Womanism as a social/cultural and spiritual global movement.

Easter Offering



The Easter Offering service in 2026 focuses on freedom. Jesus talks about God's kingdom as a place of release from captivity, and this year's Offering, *Unbound: a gospel that breaks barriers*, tells stories of how this is true.

People across the world might be trapped in many ways – by poverty, by violence, by the actions of others or by their own past. Sometimes the things that bind us are in our hearts. Through Bible study, worship and story, *Unbound: a gospel that breaks barriers* offers inspiration and prayer for all those struggling for liberation.

About Easter Offering: Each year, we hold an Easter Offering dedication service. This tradition dates back to 1883, when women in Manchester collected £32 for missionary work overseas from 'Christmas pennies' at family gatherings on Christmas Day. In March 1884, the London Districts distributed Easter envelopes and collecting bags asking for a penny a head and collected around £100. In 1900, Women's Work raised £1,655 for the work of overseas missions.

Since then, each successive Methodist women's movement has encouraged donations in support of God's mission. Recently, Methodist Women in Britain (supported by the Global Relationships team) have produced an annual service of dedication, often used widely around the Connexion as a circuit service.

The *Unbound* Easter Offering materials will include an Order of Service which we will share **at Bemerton Methodist Church on Sunday 19th April at 4.30pm** when we will receive and dedicate the money donated through the Easter Offering envelopes in our churches during Lent and Easter.

For over 100 years, the Easter Offering service has been a key fundraiser for the **Methodist Church's World Mission Fund** for work in our Partner Churches around the world.

Liz Chick

New Sarum Singers



THE NEW SARUM SINGERS

Present



“Olivet to Calvary”

The New Sarum Singers Palm Sunday concert will be a performance of J.H.Maunder’s “Olivet to Calvary”, which follows the dramatic and poignant last days of Jesus Christ’s life culminating in his death on the cross at Calvary. The work contains some beautiful hymns which the audience will be welcome to join in with the choir. Under the leadership of the choir’s new musical director, Andy Brockway, supported by Ian Hardy, organ accompanist, together with guest soloists, this will be a moving and uplifting musical experience.

Free Admission and Parking with a retiring collection in aid of the **Rise:61** (Registered Charity 1158086), a local charity committed to supporting young people and their families on the estate of Bemerton Heath, Salisbury.

Musical Director: Andy Brockway

Organist: Ian Hardy

with Guest Soloists

Sunday 29th March 2026 at 3 p.m.

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

The New Sarum Singers are a Salisbury based community choir who perform three times a year to raise money for local charities. Contact Roger Godwin on 01722 326731 to learn more of what they do or visit <https://newsarumsingers.wordpress.com>

ONE DAY FESTIVAL OF AFGHAN CULTURE & CUISINE AT SALISBURY ARTS CENTRE

4 April 2026
12pm- 8pm
Entry is Free!



AFGHAN COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Serving delicious traditional Afghan dishes and drinks all day from 12 - 6pm



FREE WORKSHOPS

Hourly workshops featuring Henna hand painting, arts, crafts, cookery and jewellery making. From 1 - 4pm



TALKS & DISCUSSIONS

Talks and discussions by leading authorities on cultural and political aspects of Afghanistan from 1 - 4pm



CONCERT OF AFGHAN MUSIC

Concert of traditional Afghan music played on traditional instruments from 6 - 8pm

**For more info and to book
tickets please visit
www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk**