

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

Newsletter



(flowers from Mothering Sunday)

“God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break
of day.”

Psalm 46:5

Minister:

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The April Newsletter was produced by
Rachel and Simon Clarke.

Items for the May Newsletter should be sent to Rachel Clarke
no later than Friday 17th April 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 April

Friday 3rd April

9:30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham

(Good Friday)

Sunday 5th April

8:00 a.m. Revd Dr Stephen Maunder HC

(Easter Sunday)

10:30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham HC AA

Sunday 12th April

10:30 a.m. Mr Michael King

3:00 p.m. Mrs Fi Waddingham LB

Sunday 19th April

8:00 a.m. Revd Anna Bishop HC

10:30 a.m. Mrs Fi Waddingham AA

Sunday 26th April

10:30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham

6:00 p m Mrs Jo Throp

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

“It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is well done.” - *Vincent Van Gogh*

Ministers letter.

Dear Friends,

I want to begin this Easter message by inviting you to continue your reflections on our beautiful creation embroidery, which holds both creation and resurrection (we are made, and we are yet more wonderfully re-made) as mirror images of each other. They are held together by the will and loving purposes of God, who is our Life-giver. Such knowledge has endless implications and ramifications for us, all of them glorious. In our life with and in God, there are no dead ends, in God there is endless patience and resourcefulness that cannot be defeated by even the worst of our sins.

At Easter, we are invited to rejoice that the cross and the empty tomb have been present in the heart of God since the very foundation of the world. I note that the account of the resurrection begins in darkness and despair, the women friends of Jesus creep out to give the dead body of Jesus the proper care that was not possible as his body was removed from the cross in a hurry. None of the 12 disciples are present at this dawn moment, perhaps they're overwhelmed by despair, frightened for their own safety, paralysed by grief.

The brave women who go, are the first witnesses to the resurrection, they are not believed when they share that the tomb is empty and they receive a message that Jesus is risen. You might try imagining yourself in those moments; to help, I point you to one of the pictures in the Methodist Modern Art Collection which captures this moment. Richard Bavin, painted 'The Empty Tomb'. It brilliantly uses simple shapes and contrasting colours to define the space and express the empty tomb. Its perspective is from inside looking out, the light coming through the opened tomb highlighting the cloths left on the slab, picking out dimly the features of the space.

It is a still, quiet moment, but it is not the same stillness of death, there is a sense of anticipation. Although the quiet would not necessarily have been comforting or strengthening, but something to be endured while the disciples, named and unnamed regrouped and started on a new plan.

The women who first go to the tomb are faced with a young man in a white robe by the rolled away stone who reassured them Jesus is not here but that he would be going ahead of them and they will see him. It is only in Mark's gospel account that there is no actual appearance by Jesus. There is one later on, but it is possible the verses from 9 onwards are added to the account at a later date. The women's response to run leaves the original audience, and us, with a cliffhanger ending until we realise that something must have been said at some point, otherwise we would not be sat here today, experiencing these words.

The artist Richard Bavin dwelt, and invites us to dwell, in relative stillness and reflect on how the empty tomb offers the possibility that something so empty could mean that so much could be fulfilled.

The joy of Easter Day is not about a happy ending to the story of Jesus, but rather, and more importantly, it is good news that we are all, like the women, like the first disciples named and unnamed, forgiven people and healed of injury, guilt or failure. We are, the Church, a community of genuinely forgiven people called to show plainly to others that we are a community of forgiving people and a forgiving Church. The resurrection of Jesus is the remaking of creation itself. The resurrection of Jesus is the word of God speaking in the heart of darkness bringing life out of nothing and bringing the human race into existence as the bearers of his image and likeness.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Rev Mark

Prayers for Easter Tide

submitted by Rosemary Fletcher

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith
and a generosity of service
that gives without counting cost.
A life overflowing with Grace
poured out from the One
who gave everything,
that we might show
the power of love
to a broken world,
and share the truth
from a living Word.
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith,
and a yearning to share it

By John Birch

Lord,
the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed
hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know what we
must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it.

New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book



Pastoral News

There are a number of our church family who are currently going through particularly difficult and challenging times and are anxious about what the future holds. We hold all who are struggling, whether in body, mind or spirit, in our thoughts and prayers:

*Lord
For those struggling
through stormy seas,
growing weary
of the journeying
and losing sight
of their destination,
be the lighthouse
that guides them
past hidden dangers,
into calmer water
and the safe harbour
of your loving arms.*

Amen

(John Birch/faith and worship.com)

Thank you: Judy and Graeme Davis send many, many thanks to everyone for all their ongoing prayers and kind thoughts. Graeme is now home but has a long way to go. They hope to be able to join us for worship by Easter.

Other church family news:

It has been a busy and very special time for Penny and David Symonds. Their daughter Marcia and her husband James moved to Alderbury recently and on Sunday 22 March, Revd Marcia Wadham was licenced in Alderbury St Mary's as Team Vicar in the Clarendon Team. She has responsibility for Alderbury, West Grimstead, East Grimstead and West Dean. We give thanks for her calling, pray God's blessing on her ministry, and wish them both well as they settle into their new home and community.

It is a joy to welcome Pam and Sandra back with us following their safe return from Australia/New Zealand, and we look forward also to the return of Revd Rosemary and James from their wonderful 3 months in Sri Lanka - we have missed you all. We pray for safe travel for Rosemary and James, they plan to be back at SMC on 29 March, Palm Sunday.

We wish Fi, Barney and Greg every happiness and blessing as they settle into their new home and thank them for all they do to support the life of SMc.

After a rather long, gloomy and wet winter, along with the darkness of the world news, we are thankful that we are able to look forward to the increased light of Spring, and above all to the resurrection hope and joy of the Easter season.

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

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

Excerpt from The Prophet

And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said, Speak to us of **Children**.

And he said:

Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,

And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,

For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls,

For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor carries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.

The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.

Let your bending in the Archer's hand be for gladness;

For even as he loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.

By Kahlil Gibran

“It's as though we are being charged to pray”

You will probably have already picked up the outcome of last month's full Wiltshire Council Meeting (24 February), which failed to rescind or modify the Sunday Parking changes. It was a disappointing outcome, but I see it as the first skirmish of an ongoing campaign that could succeed. The proposals will now have to go out for Statutory Public Consultation.

We have learnt a lot already about how best to frame our objections (not least, citing the disproportionate impact on Salisbury, since 50% of all Wiltshire's pay-and-display revenue comes from Salisbury and our tariffs are much higher than the rest of the County). It's worth noting that there was a significant public assurance during the debate given by the Cabinet Member for Finance ([Cllr Gavin Grant](#)) that Consultation will be 'real and genuine'. We should hold them to that.

It was good to see that several councillors specifically expressed disquiet in the debate about the Sunday Parking changes, including:

[Cllr Chris Taylor](#) (who warned that one should “never mess with the Methodists!”), [Cllr Sven Hocking](#), [Cllr Pauline Church](#), [Cllr Dominic Muns](#), [Cllr Zoe Clewer](#), & [Cllr Bridget Wayman](#) [*click on links to go directly to their contributions to the debate]. So, I'm confident that our lobbying did have some effect.

Sue Gilbert and Philip Richter were interviewed about the issue on BBC Wiltshire: on the Ben Prater Breakfast Show on 9th March (available on [BBC Sounds](#) for 29 days: at 1:03:30 & 1:08:47); as well as on the [BBC Wiltshire website](#).

Once the **Statutory Consultation** opens, we'll enter Phase 2 of the campaign, and we will need to be nimble in drawing people's attention to the Consultation and encouraging them to make an informed response. **Watch out for the announcement about the Consultation which should appear in the local Press in April. Don't miss your chance to send in your views.** To help you, we have updated the page of our website about the implications of the changes for SMC: <https://salisburymethodist.org.uk/car-parking/>

Thank you for all you've done so far.

Philip Richter, Joint Pastoral Lead

**Full Council, 24 February 2026, 10.30am - Morning and afternoon session' available at youtube.com - search for Wiltshire Council*

**Statement on the situation in the Middle East from Global Relationships
05 March 2026**

We note and share in [the grave concern expressed by the World Council of Churches to the widening hostilities across the Middle East](#) and the dangerous escalation of violence which is fuelling a spiral of retaliation. We stand in solidarity with all communities facing fear, loss, and growing instability and call for a renewed commitment to dialogue grounded in the rule of law, with all parties striving for peace and justice.

We hold in prayer all communities across the region and especially our partners, the Middle East Council of Churches, remembering the longstanding Christian witness in the region to justice and meaningful dialogue. We also remember those within our own communities who are part of the Iranian diaspora, their family and friends who are living in the midst of this conflict, and all who – whether at work or on holiday – are currently caught in the region waiting for a safe way home.

We share in the words of the Revd Dr Leão Neto, General Secretary of the World Methodist Council, that “The way of Jesus is the way of peace. He calls us to follow peace and reject war. Jesus said: ‘blessed are the peacemakers.’” In that spirit we offer a prayer for Iran, written by a member of the Methodist Farsi-speaking community.

Heavenly Father,

We believe that you are aware of the situation in Iran and its oppressed and defenceless people.

We pray that you would protect the people and not allow any bloodshed of the innocent.

We pray for peace, freedom and the war to end as soon as possible.

May your will as it is done in heaven be done in Iran and the Middle East. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

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***Lamentation, prophecy and prayer from the Belonging Together Ministers' Group, a response to the conflict in the Middle East.***

The Belonging Together Ministers' Group (BTMG) of the Methodist Church in Britain releases this statement with heavy hearts as violence in the Middle East escalates to distressing and painful new levels. Reports of large-scale attacks, assassinations of political and religious leaders and devastating retaliatory strikes weigh deeply upon us. In this hour of global trembling, the BTMG raises its voice with grief, clarity and unwavering conviction. The escalating violence in the Middle East – including the devastating strikes, assassinations and retaliations reported in recent days – represents a tragic unravelling of our shared humanity, a terrible indictment of our civilisation. We cannot remain silent while God’s children are crushed beneath the machinery of war driven by political decisions and military ambition.

As an ethnically diverse fellowship whose members bear the histories, memories and wounds of many nations, we feel the shock waves of this conflict in our bones; its poison curdles our blood. Our global connectedness gives us painful nerve endings that cannot ignore the cries of widows, the terror of children, the devastation of families and communities, and the desecration of human dignity across the lands of the Middle East. History continues to show that armed conflict does not yield lasting peace, justice or security.

We **proclaim with prophetic urgency that war is a lie**. It promises security but brings only fear and anxiety. It claims to resolve conflict but multiplies hatred and hostility. It asserts strength but exposes the frailty of our moral imagination and the mutability of our human conscience. We lament the **futility of war** and reject the illusion that peace can ever be born through fire and steel, through bombs and drones. The shock waves threaten global safety, deepen geopolitical fragility and make the world an increasingly unstable and dangerous place for all people. The blood of innocents testifies against every nation and every leader who believes the world can be healed by weapons.

We **condemn the killing of civilians** – God’s image-bearers, whoever they are – whose lives are extinguished by decisions made far from their homes, their prayers, their aspirations and their hopes. Each lost life is a divine tragedy; each extinguished flame is a celestial funeral. Each shattered family is an open and gaping wound in the heart of creation.

We **decry the carnage and havoc being unleashed**, not only for those in this present moment but for the generations who will inherit broken cities, poisoned trust, psychological scars and a world rendered more unstable and more dangerous. Destruction is easy; reconstruction – of cities, of societies, of the human spirit – takes decades, beyond the murky horizon of political expediency. We speak now not as geopolitical analysts or political commentators but as disciples of Jesus Christ, who commanded us to love our enemies and who wept for a city that chose violence over peace. We **call upon all leaders and nations** involved, directly or indirectly, to turn away from the reckless path of escalation. We urge a return to diplomacy, restraint, humanitarian action and the sacred priority of human life. We implore the international community to reject the (il)logic of vengeance and to pursue the hard, holy work of peacemaking. As a people belonging together across nations and cultures, the BTMG remains committed to standing with the suffering, amplifying the silenced, and praying without ceasing for a peace rooted in justice, dignity, solidarity, truth and compassion.

May the Spirit of God afflict the powerful, comfort the afflicted and spark the healing of the nations.

**For and on behalf of the Belonging Together Ministers' Group of the Methodist Church in Britain**

**The Revd Dr Vincent Jambawo**

## **A Prayer for Peace, Justice and the Healing of the Nations**

God of all peoples and generations,  
God whose heart breaks with every mother who mourns,  
God who watches over every shattered city and every terrified child –  
**Hear our cry.**

In this moment of violence and fear,  
stretch your protecting hands over the Middle East,  
over every land where missiles fall,  
over every border where hatred grows,  
over every home where families tremble.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the innocent and the vulnerable –  
for those who have not chosen this path yet bear its highest costs.  
Wrap them in your powerful protection.  
Hold their fear in your loving embrace.  
Guard their lives with your gentle compassion.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for leaders and nations –  
break the pride that seeks victory through destruction and at all costs,  
shatter the arrogance that trusts in weapons more than wisdom,  
and stir in every heart the reverence and respect for human life  
that cannot be ignored or silenced.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for peace that does not deny justice,  
for justice that does not require revenge,  
for reconciliation that is more resilient than the history of wounds.  
Let swords be beaten into ploughshares.  
Let rhetoric surrender to dialogue.  
Let fear be overcome by hope.  
Let hatred yield to love.

**Spirit of God, move among us.**

**Make us instruments of your peace, witnesses of your truth,  
bearers of your light in a world shadowed by conflict.**

We pray for the healing of every nation, the mending of every heart  
and the dawning of the peace that passes all understanding.

**In the name of Jesus Christ,  
the Prince of Peace, the Lover of Sinners, the Pilgrim Neighbour.  
Amen.**

***For and on behalf of the Belonging Together Ministers' Group of the Methodist  
Church in Britain***

***The Revd Dr Vincent Jambawo***

*Submitted by Rosemary Fletcher*



**Do you need someone to talk to? We are here to listen to you.**

### **What is Salisbury Listening Place?**

A free, confidential, drop in or book in service. A friendly and safe place where you can share whatever is on your mind with a trained Listener who will not interrupt or judge you or give you well-meaning advice.

### **How does 'just listening' help?**

It is surprisingly effective. Given space and time with someone who really listens to what you are saying can really clarify your thoughts. How many times have you thought 'But they're not really listening to what I'm saying'? Being truly heard can support you to see a way forward.

### **Where is Salisbury Listening Place?**

It's easy to get to from the city centre. From the Market Square, walk up Winchester Street, past McDonald's and take the second turning on your left into St Edmund's Church Street. On your right you will see Salisbury Methodist Church where we are based. Up to three Listeners will welcome you.

### **What next?**

Coffee and an informal chat and, if you are ready, a listening session in a private space. It usually takes an hour in total, but you can come again if you want to.

### **When is it open?**

Monday evening 5.30pm – 7.30pm, Wednesday and Saturday mornings 10am – 12noon.

### **We look forward to meeting you.**

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

Tel: 01722 325 294 or Email: [salisburylisteningplace@gmail.com](mailto:salisburylisteningplace@gmail.com) and leave a message. We will get back to you.

Further information: [www.thelisteningplace.org](http://www.thelisteningplace.org)

**A personal response to the sermon on Sunday March 8 by The Revd Mark and to the reading from the prophet Jeremiah chapter 1.**

Here are some of Mark's words I noted as I re-listened to his sermon which started with reference to the corner of darkness in our Creation embroidery.

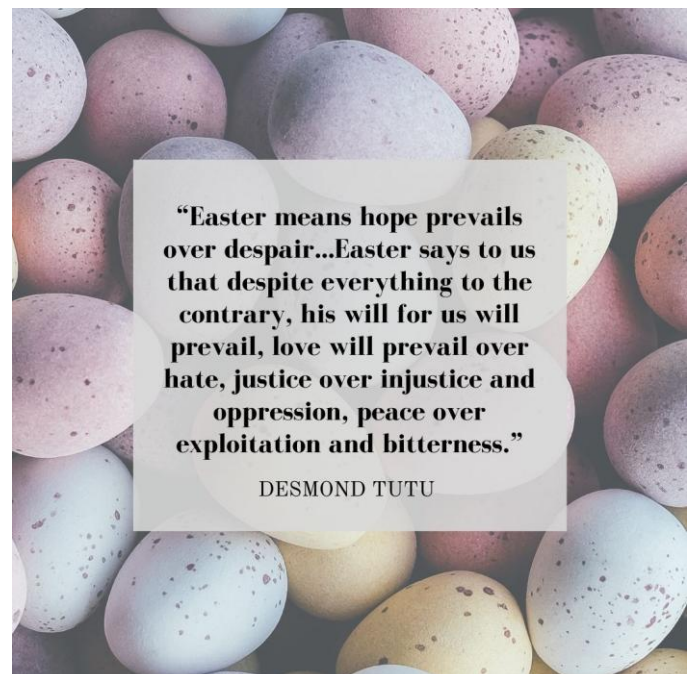
*God's voice, God's words call Creation into being - into love, mercy, justice. God is the one who lifts up prophets - to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build up and to plant. That is the call on Jeremiah. Prophets are asked to do hard things, to put themselves into risky situations, to stand up to the powers of hatred, violence, greed and apathy, to speak words that no-one wants to hear. Prophets are given the capacity to perceive what is broken, to identify the places of pain, to note the injustices in society and to speak, to see the lack of God's love at work in the world and its people. Prophets are given the capacity to see the writing on the wall and to see how things will be if change is not brought about. Prophets call for destruction of systems and practices that do harm and for an overthrow of those who abuse their powers. Prophets also perceive God's hope and vision for a new world and for a new creation yet to be, planting that which will nourish and sustain. Jeremiah gets the call - young, not experienced, perhaps lacking in confidence or the skills he perceives as necessary for the work set before him.*

Mark went on to reflect on The Revd Jesse Jackson and his role in the US civil rights movement. My mind was reflecting on what Jonathan Porritt had said at Lower Bemerton earlier in March and his book *Love, Anger & Betrayal: Just Stop Oil's Young Climate Campaigners*. The synchronicity of that Sunday morning's sermon with the actions of the young climate campaigners, our Creation embroidery, Mark's sermon was overwhelming. Prophets are not those who lived centuries ago but are alive and with us today acting in the name of creation. The climate campaigners have experienced (and are experiencing) like Jesus *Love, Anger and Betrayal*. I commend this book. Their story is one to be read alongside our reading of Jeremiah - and perhaps, like me, going back to hear the whole of Mark's sermon: [https://youtube.com/live/ADQxG3\\_Bs-0](https://youtube.com/live/ADQxG3_Bs-0).

*Barbara Hickman*

## Linda's Spring Bloomers anagrams - How many can you find?

|     |                   |  |     |                    |  |
|-----|-------------------|--|-----|--------------------|--|
| 1.  | MORE RIPS         |  | 26. | RUSTIC HID         |  |
| 2.  | POD SWORN         |  | 27. | GNOME TO FRET      |  |
| 3.  | UPTIL             |  | 28. | MUIR TILL          |  |
| 4.  | FORTH I SAY       |  | 29. | CLUE IN MOB        |  |
| 5.  | FAD IF OLD        |  | 30. | C HORREL MY BOSS   |  |
| 6.  | ELLE BULB         |  | 31. | MAIN GOAL          |  |
| 7.  | TA NICK           |  | 32. | PRAISE             |  |
| 8.  | SIS IN CAR        |  | 33. | HOXLP              |  |
| 9.  | AIR LUMP          |  | 34. | BALD JOES CARD     |  |
| 10. | UNHOLY PAST       |  | 35. | DUAL MINI GREW     |  |
| 11. | MAIN PALOUR       |  | 36. | MAIL ALEC          |  |
| 12. | ONE AMEN          |  | 37. | POYNE              |  |
| 13. | I CALL            |  | 38. | MILAUL             |  |
| 14. | SCOUR C           |  | 39. | IF THEY ALL LOVELY |  |
| 15. | LUNAR CUSUN       |  | 40. | VELOX FOG          |  |
| 16. | BELLO HERE        |  | 41. | I SWEAR IT         |  |
| 17. | AI ONCE WRITTEN   |  | 42. | AA ZEAL            |  |
| 18. | THY CHINA         |  | 43. | HORNED DRONDO      |  |
| 19. | SNAPY             |  | 44. | GERMAN COOK        |  |
| 20. | OLVIA             |  | 45. | LINE TOUR MANUAL   |  |
| 21. | I TIARA FRILL     |  | 46. | BUN MURAL          |  |
| 22. | CLEMANCY          |  | 47. | STEAL MIC          |  |
| 23. | AH PAT GREY CHIN  |  | 48. | SHE LUCKY ONE      |  |
| 24. | LOW GRUNT         |  | 49. | I SEE FAR          |  |
| 25. | BE IN THE GRADE L |  | 50. | PLUS WILY SOW      |  |



## Our Zambia link:

April begins with Holy Week and then the Easter season. Here, we are in Springtime, the end of winter and the beginning of warmer weather. In Zambia, April is the transition from the warm wet season to the cooler dry months.

For St John's, Mtendere, Palm Sunday is the biggest act of witness in the year, when thirteen of the many Christian congregations in Mtendere worship together outside and go in procession to the nearby Chainama Hills Hospital taking gifts for the patients and money collected for hospital funds.

On Easter Sunday, all the choirs and fellowships and the Boys' Brigade band will be involved in thrilling worship of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

We are asked to pray in the next few months about the general election in Zambia. On 13th August Zambians will vote in local government, in national parliament and in presidential elections. At present the Electoral Commission is delineating new constituency boundaries, increasing the number of National Assembly members by nearly 45%, from 156 to 226. The government's hope is that this will accurately reflect the population distribution and produce more diverse and inclusive representation.

Pray that the huge administrative tasks of creating 70 more constituencies and of running the election will go smoothly, and pray for honesty and integrity in the pre-election campaigning.

In April, we hope that Mr Whiteson Chenge will visit Salisbury, staying here from 25th to 29th, and meeting people of the four congregations linked with congregations in Lusaka. Whiteson is the link person of the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) Lusaka Presbytery with our Southampton Methodist District. Pray for travelling blessings for Whiteson, as we look forward to meeting him and sharing his experience and wisdom.

At our linked congregation – St John's UCZ, Mtendere, Lusaka – pray for the minister, Revd Mwaka Phiri, and for Deaconess Majorie Mvula and for their families. And pray for the life and witness of St John's congregation, as they pray for us.

*Cecil King*

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

# The **FACTS** about **SANCTUARY**

**"What would you do to keep yourself and your family safe?"**

Every person has asked themselves that question.

## Why the UK?

The UK hosts 1% of the world's refugees. Germany, France, Spain and Italy receive far more asylum applications. People come here because they already have connections: family, language, community.

Safety alone isn't the same as belonging.

"I came without my wife and child. I did this in the hope that they will be able to come here safely..."

.. they shouldn't have to risk this dangerous journey."

**Common sense:**  
Create safe official routes so no one has to risk their life to reach safety.

## Accommodation

Whilst people await a decision on their asylum claim they are housed in hotels or shared buildings. They are banned from working so cannot live independently.

- This is not luxury: cramped shared rooms, no privacy, no cooking facilities, no choice on location.
- Often outside towns with no services, transport or community.
- Unable to work so cannot put skills to use.
- Asylum accommodation is separate from council housing so council housing waiting lists are unaffected.

**Common sense:**  
Process claims quickly, allow people to work, and invest public money in community housing, not private profit.

## Channel crossings

When no safe route exists, people are left with impossible choices.

- Small boat arrivals make up less than 2% of the UK's overall migration.
- You can only claim asylum when on UK soil.
- Safe official resettlement and family reunion schemes are extremely limited.
- Nearly all people who cross the Channel claim asylum, showing these journeys are about survival, not opportunity.
- Everyone arriving is screened for safety.

The right to claim asylum applies regardless of how someone enters a country

There's no evidence that people seeking sanctuary commit more crime than British citizens

If you were forced to flee your home, where would you go- and why?



## Money

Whilst people await a decision on their asylum claim, they are unable to access any public benefits.

Most people receive £49.18 per person per week to cover food, clothing, toiletries, transport, data and other essentials.

If meals are provided, this drops to £9.95 per person per week.

Have you noticed how often we're told to look down, not up, when things feel unfair?

## Families

Reaching safety often means years apart from loved ones. Family reunion routes are very difficult, so many families remain separated indefinitely.

1 in 5 asylum seekers are children - some wait up to a year before starting school.

## Facts can inform, but empathy transforms.

- Why does this matter to you?
- Have you ever experienced isolation, waiting, or fear?
- How can you bring these topics to life with real life stories and examples?

What does safety mean to you- and who deserves it?

## A fairer system helps everyone

A system built on compassion and efficiency would:

- Process cases faster
- Let people work and contribute
- Save public money
- Build stronger, safer communities

This isn't generosity - it's common sense and shared humanity.

What kind of community do you want to live in- fearful or fair?

## **City of Sanctuary Meeting**

Chloe Wolfe from Swindon City Of Sanctuary has kindly offered to attend and to talk about the formation of the Swindon scheme. We will also discuss our survey responses from the last meeting and propose an idea for getting started in Salisbury.

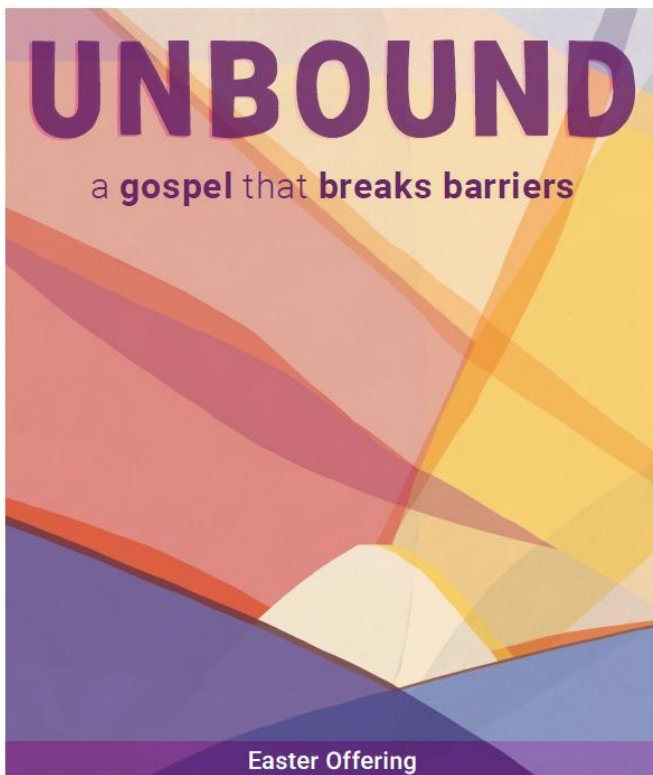
**Monday April 20th, 7.15pm**

**Venue: Harnham Parish Hall, SP2 8EY**

**Plenty of parking at venue. Also on R5 bus route.**

Please RSVP by **17th April** to [sanctuary.salisbury@gmail.com](mailto:sanctuary.salisbury@gmail.com), so that we have an idea of numbers.

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**The Easter Offering  
Dedication service  
will take place at  
Bemerton Methodist Church  
Roman Road, SP2 9BH  
on Sunday 19th April 2026  
at 4.30pm  
Followed by refreshments.**

Envelopes will be available for your donations to the  
**Methodist Church World Mission Fund.**

Which can be increased with Gift Aid.

# WALK OF WITNESS

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FRIDAY 3RD APRIL 2025  
10.30AM  
West Door Salisbury Cathedral  
to Market Square  
ALL WELCOME

**YOUTH  
Worship  
NIGHT**

BRINGING TOGETHER YOUNG PEOPLE FROM  
ACROSS SALISBURY  
(YEARS 6-13)

**SUNDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

**HOT CHOC, GAMES,  
LIVE WORSHIP,  
CONNECTION**

SALISBURY BAPTIST CHURCH, SALISBURY

SIGN UP USING QR CODE

**6-7:30PM**

MORE INFORMATION  
HANNAHFAMILYSBC@GMAIL.COM

THE  
**BRIDGE**  
Youth Project

There is a loud dissonance between the way the world is and the way most people believe it could or should be.

Something is clearly wrong.

Lament in the Psalms is a prayer language gifted to us to express that deep dissonance, even to wrestle it into a music of hope. A hope rooted in trust that God is good; and will finally wipe away every tear and make all things new. - *Graham Kendrick*

Psalm 139:11-12

New International Version

- <sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,"  
<sup>12</sup> even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

*Paul Butler*



Special thanks should go to Alison Babey for producing the beautiful posies on Mothering Sunday.

In all she made sixty bunches to be distributed.

Alison enhances our worship each week with her arrangements but would welcome offers of help, particularly for special services.

Please contact Alison or one of the stewards if you can help.

*Diana Noble*

## Church Steward

Responsible to Church Council.

### **Purpose:**

To have an overview of all aspects of church life.

To support the minister with the running of the spiritual life of the church, and in producing a strategy to allow this to develop.

To focus on the Vision for and the Values of the Church

To focus on fostering unity within the church and 'talent spotting' those with potential, encouraging them to become involved in leadership roles.

To be a point of contact between the church, the congregation, and the world beyond the church.

To this end it is their responsibility to uphold and act upon the decisions and policies of the Church Council/ Circuit Meeting.

For more information please speak to Helen Browncross or Jo Throp.

## Fairtrade News



As mentioned last month, we are using part of our shop profits to provide sponsorship through Transform Trade (formerly known as Traidcraft Exchange) for the small holder tea growers of the Nyeri Chai Farmers Association in Kenya, initially for one year. We have received an information pack from them, including a covering letter which begins:

*Dear Friends at Salisbury Methodist Church,*

*Thank you so much for sponsoring Nyeri producer group and joining us on a journey to build a world where businesses which value social good over shareholder profit can thrive.....*

*The world of trade is built on the exploitation of marginalised people – undermining those who want to pay fair wages, value safe working conditions, and invest in their communities. But your sponsorship is helping to change things..... fair trade businesses put the right people -the producers, artisans and workers running these businesses – in the driving seat.*

To read the letter in full and see further information on the project, do have a look at the display in the North Corridor. There's still time to try our delicious Kenyan teas if you haven't already done so!

**Stock news:** I have had good feedback on the new Orange Marmalade and it's selling well. We have new ranges from Whitakers chocolates– Peppermint Cremes and Dark Mint Wafers – but sadly the very popular Zaytoun Roasted Chilli Almonds are not currently available.

Shop takings for the last 4 weeks were approximately £510, plus £267.40 from the World Day of Prayer stall and £458.80 from the March Cathedral Stall.

*Monica Gillings, on behalf of the Fairtrade Team.*

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### Safeguarding Spot April 26

The District Safeguarding Officer has pointed us to this website. Independent Age. In particular, this link at the moment takes you to advice on relationships and scams.

<https://mailchi.mp/independentage.org/relationships-scams-and-winter-financial-advice?e=1d816bc933>

If you are concerned about someone you know please seek advice.

*Diana Noble*

## Worship

The start of April this year coincides with Holy Week. As mentioned in the March newsletter there will be the annual Maundy Thursday service at St Thomas' starting at 7:30 p.m. On Good Friday morning Revd Mark will lead our Act of Worship starting at 9:30 a.m. This earlier start is to allow people to join the Walk of Witness if they so wish. This will start from The Cathedral West Doors at 10:30 a.m. On Easter Sunday Revd Stephen Maunder will lead our 8:00 a.m. service of Holy Communion. Provided that the weather is kind to us this will be held in the garden. The service will be followed by breakfast and then the 10:30 a.m. service which will be All Age Holy Communion led by Revd Mark. Throughout Lent Paul Emerson and his wonderful team of helpers have arrived early to cook breakfast and then clear up in time for the 10:30 service. This is a great act of service to our church community and on behalf of us all I would like to offer my thanks. Later in the month on 26<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 6:00 pm we will hold the second of our quarterly alternative evening services. This will be led by Mrs Jo Throp and will be café style worship with snack food and drinks.

Our next Worship Consultation will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April starting at 7:30 p.m. This is your opportunity to comment on past services and put forward your ideas for the future. We would particularly like to hear your thoughts on the evening services and receive any ideas on the way forward with this initiative. As usual this is an open meeting, and all are welcome to attend. If you cannot come, please send me any thoughts or suggestions by email.

God Bless

*Jim Gillings Worship Team Leader [worship@salisburymethodist.org.uk](mailto:worship@salisburymethodist.org.uk)*

### **Next Justice and Peace Meeting**

Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> 2026  
at 2pm in the Back Room  
at Bemerton Methodist Church.

**All are welcome**

### **Poetry Group**

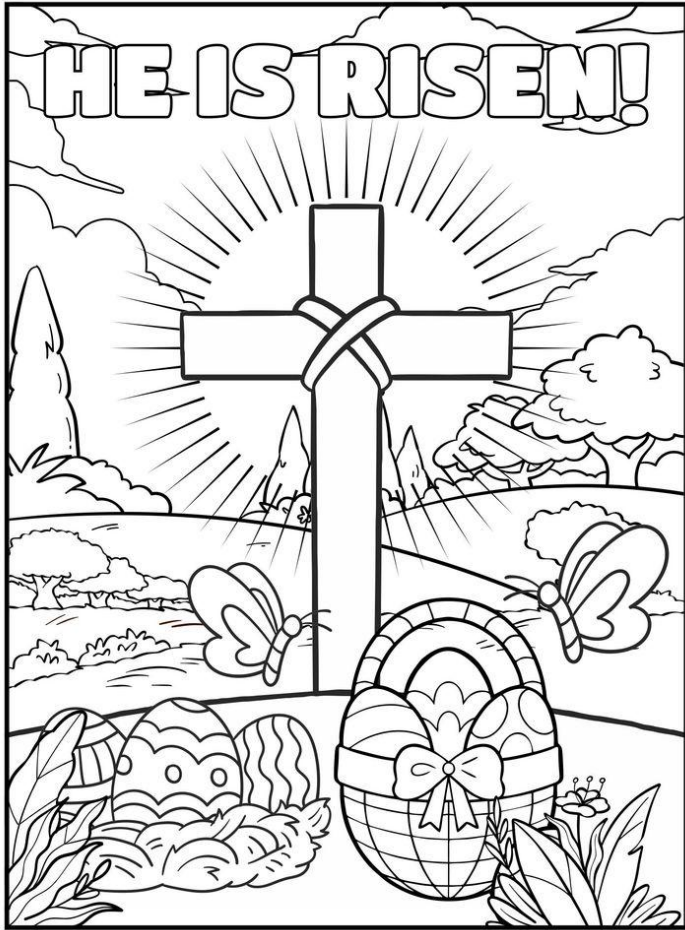
in Room 1 at 10.30am.

First Friday of every month

Update

There will be no Poetry in April.  
The next meeting will be on May  
1st and the subject is '**clothes**'.

# Happy Easter



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

Find these words in the above grid

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| Baptist   | Keys        |
| Church    | Living God  |
| Disciples | Messiah     |
| Elijah    | Rock        |
| Jeremiah  | Simon Peter |
| Jesus     | Son of Man  |

“Who do you say I am?”

**Matthew 16:** <sup>13</sup> Jesus went to the area of Caesarea Philippi. There he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist. Others say Elijah. Still others say Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah. You are the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah! No mere human showed this to you. My Father in heaven showed it to you. <sup>18</sup> Here is what I tell you. You are Peter. On this rock I will build my church. The gates of hell will not be strong enough to destroy it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. What you lock on earth will be locked in heaven. What you unlock on earth will be unlocked in heaven.” <sup>20</sup> Then Jesus ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is one of the most important questions Jesus ever asked: “Who do you say I am?”.

After his first question the disciples all chipped in telling him what the people were saying and then came the second question when nobody spoke until Simon Peter gave his answer. Jesus wanted a more personal answer and Simon Peter responded.

Faith is very personal. It's not just what others say about Jesus - it's about what you believe in your heart. Simon Peter's faith became the beginning of a movement that would change the world.

Perhaps you can discuss the following questions with your family and friends?

- I wonder if you think it was easier for the disciples to answer the first question or the second, more personal, question?
- Why do you think Jesus asked this personal question?
- Who do *you* say Jesus is?
- I wonder how our faith in Jesus can help us in our lives?

**Dear Jesus, Who do I say you are? Ask me the question now so I can answer you in prayer. You know me but I may not know you yet, or I may know exactly who you are. Please help me to come to know you so well that I can truly believe and my faith will allow me, like Simon Peter, to answer your question without hesitation – that you are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.**

**Amen.**



# EASTER

## *Sunrise Service*

5TH APRIL

Join us for 6am at the Old  
Cathedral site on Old Sarum  
Refreshments will take place afterwards at  
St Francis Church

Let's Worship Together  
Our Saviour Who Is Alive!

Things to remember:

- Bring a torch as it will be dark
- Wrap up warm
- You might want a portable chair
- The car park won't be open

Castle Rd,  
Salisbury SP1 3SD

Beatrice Rd,  
Salisbury, SP1 3PN

Brought to you by Salisbury Vineyard, Elim,  
Baptist, St Francis & Hope Church

### Linda's Spring Bloomers anagrams – ANSWERS

|                |                    |                       |                           |                        |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. PRIMROSE    | 11. PULMONARIA     | 21. FRITILLARIA       | 31. MAGNOLIA              | 41. WISTERIA           |
| 2. SNOWDROP    | 12. ANEMONE        | 22. CYCLAMEN          | 32. SPIREA                | 42. AZALEA             |
| 3. TULIP       | 13. LILAC          | 23. GRAPE<br>HYACINTH | 33. PHLOX                 | 43. RHODODENDRON       |
| 4. FORSYTHIA   | 14. CROCUS         | 24. LUNGWORT          | 34. JACOB'S<br>LADDER     | 44. MOCK ORANGE        |
| 5. DAFFODIL    | 15. RANUNCULUS     | 25. BLEEDING HEART    | 35. WILD<br>GERANIUM      | 45. MOUNTAIN<br>LAUREL |
| 6. BLUEBELL    | 16. HELLEBORE      | 26. DUTCH IRIS        | 36. CAMELLIA              | 46. LABURNUM           |
| 7. CATKIN      | 17. WINTER ACONITE | 27. FORGET-ME-NOT     | 37. PEONY                 | 47. CLEMATIS           |
| 8. NARCISSI    | 18. HYACINTH       | 28. TRILLIUM          | 38. ALLIUM                | 48. HONEYSUCKLE        |
| 9. PRIMULA     | 19. PANSY          | 29. COLUMBINE         | 39. LILY OF THE<br>VALLEY | 49. FREESIA            |
| 10. POLYANTHUS | 20. VIOLA          | 30. CHERRY<br>BLOSSOM | 40. FOXGLOVE              | 50. PUSSY WILLOW       |

## Youth Praise

There is an exciting new project underway within the city. Last month I made my way one Sunday evening to St. Francis church to experience the second gathering of Salisbury's new youth praise event. Aimed at young people from year 6-year 13 the monthly gathering aims to offer a space for worship, prayer and discussion in an informal, relaxed setting. The event is being run jointly by churches across the city with the oversight of the Bridge Project. On arrival I was offered hot chocolate and a chance to spend ten minutes chatting with others. The event opened with singing led by a praise band drawn from different churches. Then we were invited to take part in some ice breaker activities. After prayer and an introduction of the theme, 'How do we engage with social media and where does it fit with Christian living', we broke into smaller discussion groups to work through a series of questions. After some further singing a young person from St. Francis' spoke movingly of her experiences and changing relationship with social media connecting it to Romans 12 verse 2 'Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- his good and perfect will.'

There was an opportunity to pray in response to the evening's deliberations and the event closed with a further time of singing. It was a really good evening with a 110 young people from at least ten schools across the area. The next event will be on Easter day, 5<sup>th</sup> April, at Salisbury Baptist Church. I am hoping that we can gather a group from SMC to attend. This is a drop off event and for safeguarding reasons young people need to sign up in advance online. Please do so and also let me know that you are coming so I know how many adults I need to provide with the group. This is an exciting opportunity for our youth to gather with their peers and worship together. Please do share this event.

*Fi Waddingham, Outreach worker*

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## Cleaning Refills and a Plug for Wilton

Some of you may use our neighbouring Blueberry shop to replace your biodegradable cleaning and laundry products but for those of you who still use Ecover I have discovered there is an additional source for refilling your plastic bottles in Wilton, i.e. Wilton Hardware Store, opposite the Market Square. They do Ecover refills in washing up liquid, laundry (both bio and non-bio), fabric softener, multipurpose cleaner and hand wash. So it is possible to use your plastic containers for ever and day with no more going to landfill sites.

*Barbara Hickman*



## **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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## **Small Group Coordinator**

The church is committed to encouraging learning, nurturing and formation through study, fellowship, and service. This involves strengthening the existing group life through ongoing support, identifying and starting new groups with the help of the church team leaders. The coordinator is responsible to Church Council.

Below is a snapshot of the role description:

### **Spiritual Gifts and personal qualities helpful for this role**

The small group coordinator is likely to identify within themselves some of the following spiritual gifts: encouragement, leadership, wisdom, faith, administration, helping, and shepherding.

### **Responsibilities of the Position**

The small-group coordinator will develop and carry out plans to promote attendance and participation in the church program for nurture and growth as disciples of Jesus, working cooperatively with the pastoral team and minister.

### **Getting Started**

Share this ministry with other people in the church who have a passion for forming and supporting groups that concentrate on learning, fellowship, support, accountability, and service to the community and world.

For more information please contact Rev Mark.

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**.



### 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.



### Moving into Menopause

27 April  
10am to 4pm  
£70 onsite

Exploring theological landmarks to guide us through the journey to menopause. Open to all.

**Emma Pavey** is Associate Director at the Susanna Wesley Foundation, University of Roehampton.



### Theology Catch-Up: the Ascension

14 May  
12pm to 2pm  
£25 online

What in heaven is the ascension about? Come explore a niche topic that touches the heart of faith.

**Elizabeth Dodd** is Lecturer in Christian doctrine at Sarum College, and runs the Ministry MA.



### Deeper, Rooted, Lasting: Your church's ministry to parents and carers

20 May  
10am to 1pm  
£40 online

Discover practical tools and ideas for churches to support, equip and encourage parents and carers.

**Jess Rodewald** works for Parenting for Faith & has over 20 years experience working with families and churches.



### Neurodiversity in the Bible

21 May  
1pm to 4pm  
£40 online

How does the Bible help us understand neurodiversity and inclusion?

**John Allister** is the autistic author of *Faith, Hope and Autism: Learning to Love Neurodiversity*.



### Creative Repair

29 to 31 May  
6pm Fri to 2pm Sun  
£220 onsite

God the Creator calls us to be reflective and creative. Come explore creative repair as part of a rule of life.

**Anne Holmes** is a group-analytic psychotherapist. She is an Anglican priest and a Franciscan Tertiary.