

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

# **Newsletter**



**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today  
and forever.**

*Hebrews 13:8*

Minister:

Revd Dr Mark Cheetham

☎ 01722 697841

email:

minister@salisburymethodist.org.



Outreach Worker:

Fi Waddingham

email:

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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 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

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

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	10:30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham HC <i>(Christian Aid)</i>
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10:30 a.m. Mr David Flowers <i>(MHA)</i> 3:00 p.m. Mrs Fi Waddingham LB
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	8:00 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham HC 10:30 a.m. Mrs Valerie Liversidge AA
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10:30 a.m. Revd Dr Mark Cheetham <i>(Pentecost)</i>
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	10:30 a.m. Mrs Sue Holmes

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

## **Ministers letter.**

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

Dear Friends,

I have just renewed my membership with an organisation and it got me to thinking how we talk about membership within church life, because it is unlike anything/anywhere else.

‘Membership’ is not really a helpful word in many ways and it can be confusing, The Methodist Church, in common with other Protestant churches, believes in the sacrament of Baptism by which the church recognises the grace of God who grants forgiveness to everyone and allows us to live anew as forgiven people. The promises that people make at a Baptism service always come after the moment of Baptism. This emphasises that their actions are a response to God’s grace which has already been freely given.

When young children are baptised, the grace of God is received by them and their parents/carers, godparents and the church make promises on their behalf. As these children grow up and learn more about the church and the Christian faith into which they have been baptised, they will come to a point of deciding for themselves. It can happen at any age. If they decide to continue seeking to live out their faith within the Methodist Church, then they may come to a point of asking for confirmation. Confirmation literally means to confirm the promises that were made on your behalf at your baptism, it is a moment of public commitment.

In order to live out that commitment in a Methodist church, you then are received into membership in a particular Methodist church. So becoming a member is saying that this is the worshipping community within which you have chosen to live your Christian life. This is the church where you seek support for your discipleship and where you can support others.

In the Methodist tradition, straight after a person is confirmed, they are received into membership. When people have not been baptised as children, but want to be confirmed and received into membership, they will first be baptised. This is usually done in the same service. If someone has been confirmed in another Christian church and wants to become a member at SMC, we recognise that they have already been confirmed and we receive them as a member.

The difficulty we have is with the word ‘membership,’ If you join any organisation, like a sports club, or a choir, you might describe it as becoming a member. You often

have to pay your subscription and then you are 'in'. Members are those who belong to the club and non-members are those who do not. That is exactly what the Methodist concept of membership does not mean!

Everyone belongs in the Methodist Church. You do not need to do anything, or prove anything in order to belong, all are welcome to worship and be part of the community of the church. God's grace flows for everyone. We cannot and will not limit it! But membership is still important because it allows us to respond to that overflowing grace of God. Being a member of the church is a personal moment of commitment when a person is saying that this is the community within which they want to develop their faith and discipleship. It is not a ticket to gain admittance to any sort of 'club'.

Members of the church are the people who hold offices within the church, such as stewards, trustees and local preachers. All members have a pastoral leader who prays for them and keeps in contact with them. Each year members receive a membership card which states the commitments of members of the Methodist Church. It is up to every member to choose how they want to live these out.

These commitments are to:

- Worship within the local church, including regular sharing in Holy Communion, and through personal prayer
- Learning and caring, through Bible study and meeting for fellowship, so that I may grow in faith and support others in their discipleship
- Service, by being a good neighbour in the community, challenging injustice and using my resources to support the Church in its mission in the world
- Evangelism, through working out my faith in daily life and sharing Christ with others.

In the past we have run confirmation/membership courses, if there is sufficient interest we will run these again. These can be held online or in person and usually at a time to suit the people who are interested. Typically they run for 4 sessions. They are a place where you can ask questions and for you to decide if this is the time when you want to take this step of commitment.

Best wishes,

Rev Mark



## Pastoral News

We give thanks for the lovely spring days we have enjoyed over the last few weeks. Over the holiday period some of us have been able to enjoy relaxed time with family and friends or perhaps spend more time in the garden as new growth is all around us. We are very conscious, however, that for others in our church family and beyond it has been and continues to be a very stressful and anxious time. We hold before God all those who are in particular need -we may not know their names, but God does and hears us.

We pray for all our young people who are facing the added pressure and challenge of public exams which start this month. May they be supported by loving friends and family and may they know God’s loving presence with them in all their preparations and alongside them in the exam room:

*Lord, we pray:*

*Keep them from anxiety, and stress.*

*Grant them peace and enable each to do the best they can.*

*Lord, may each know that your love for them is not based on success but on grace.*

*May each know that no matter the result, you are for them and that identity and value are based on your love for each one.*

*In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

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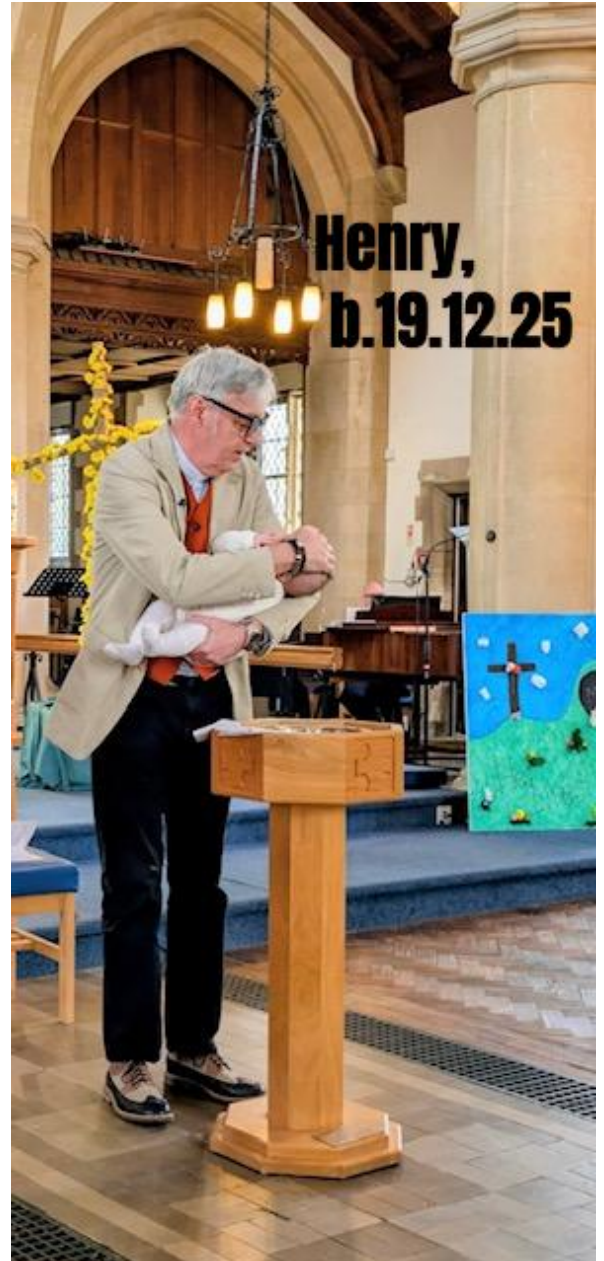
Some of you may remember Sandie Heap (née Egan), a member here some years ago. We have received the sad news from her daughter that she passed away peacefully on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Her funeral service is on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 11am at Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bath Road, Bristol, BS4 3EW. For more details speak to Barbara Hickman or Monica Gillings. We hold all the family in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

### **News of the church family:**

For Katharine and Jonathan Robinson, it has been a time of change. They both started new jobs in April. Katharine is the Racial Justice Officer for the Diocese of Salisbury focussing on supporting work for racial justice across the diocese in different ways. She is delighted to be stepping into this role and working in an area about which she is passionate. Jonathan is Worship Renewal Engagement Officer (Music) with the Methodist Connexional Team and responsible for developing and implementing the music ‘stream’ of the worship renewal strategy. He is looking forward to this new challenge! We send them our congratulations and wish them both well in this exciting new chapter.



Easter Sunday was a very special day for Beverley Turner as she attended the christening of her grandchildren Pearl Rose and Henry George Shearmon at All Saint's Church in Southbourne.



We have 2 Members who live in Wilton Place Care Home, and on Thursday 7 May Revd Dorothy Pipet will lead a short act of worship there. This is a new venture which we hope may become a regular service in the future.

**Birthday celebrations:** We send our love and congratulations to Wendy Smith who will be celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday Wendy and enjoy your special day. We also send warm happy birthday greetings to Revd Derek Chapman who will be 92 on 20 May.

**\*\* Save the date! Sunday 5 July at SMC \*\***

**International Bring and Share Lunch**

**Bring a favourite dish from any country in the world**

*For more details please speak to Angela Maunder or Monica Gillings*

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@salisbury Methodist.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@salisbury Methodist.org.uk)

# Tisbury Methodist Church

*Grown from the Community,  
serving the Community in God's name*

## **125th Anniversary**

**We invite you to join us as we celebrate this milestone:**

**1st May - Family Friday Party Special 3:30-5pm**

**3rd May - Healing Service 10:30am**

**6th May - Tis Tots 10:00am and Communita Birthday Lunch  
from 11:30-1:30pm**

**7th May - Tisbury Community Choir Concert starts at 7:30pm.  
Arrive early to take your seats.**

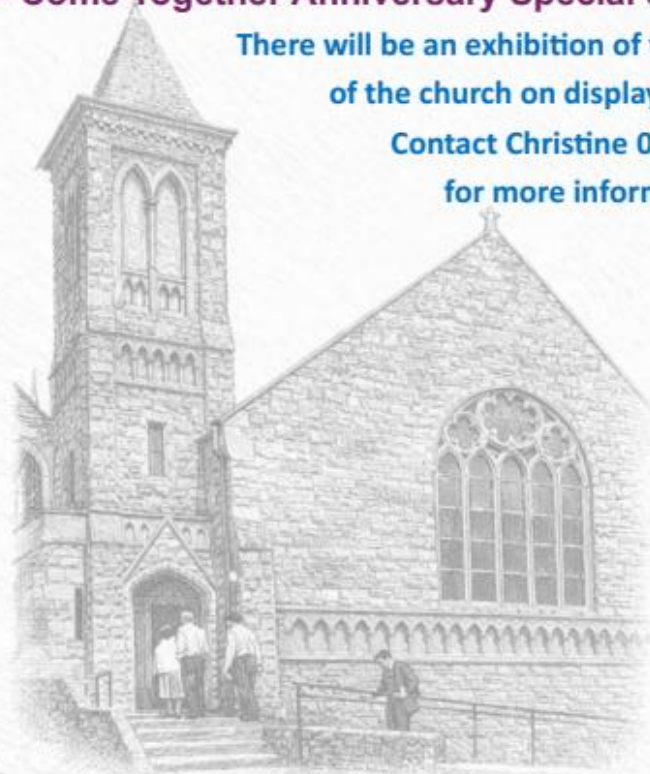
**9th May - Saturday Communita Café Special  
Afternoon Tea 3:00-5:00pm**

**10th May - Anniversary Songs of Praise Worship 10:30am  
led by David Hull, followed by lunch**

**10th May - Come Together Anniversary Special 3:30-4:30pm**

**There will be an exhibition of the history  
of the church on display**

**Contact Christine 07740512437  
for more information**



## Our Zambia link:

May is the beginning of **the dry season**. In the coming five months there will be a lot more out of door activities. In United Church of Zambia (UCZ) congregations, there will be church weddings during these five months.

During May, UCZ congregations run **evangelism campaigns**, taking advantage of the dry weather to hold outdoor worship and meetings, as well as door to door visiting and leafleting.

During the next fifteen weeks – up to election day on 13<sup>th</sup> August, there will be campaigning for the **election** of the President, the National Assembly and local authorities. There are seventy new constituencies, as the next National Assembly will have 113 more members than the present one and will also include nominated female, young and disabled members. We are asked to pray for honesty and integrity in the campaigning

As in the UK, Zambians will have **two holidays** in May – Labour Day on 4<sup>th</sup> May and Africa Freedom Day on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

Africa Freedom Day commemorates the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963 and celebrates the liberation of African nations from European rule. 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 current motto "**Changing the Narrative**".

In church, Easter is being celebrated, up until Pentecost on 24<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.

*Cecil King*

### **Ecumenical Prayers for Justice and Peace**

in the Cathedral Trinity  
Chapel 12 noon All are  
welcome

Third Wednesday of every  
month

Next date

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

## Jewellery recycling

Have you got odd earrings lying around or broken jewellery or jewellery you no longer want?

You can turn old banknotes and unused jewellery into a donation to **Transform Trade** via their partners at Recycling for Good Causes who will reuse and recycle the jewellery, meaning your donation also saves precious raw materials.



They recycle:

- Any jewellery – gold, silver, costume jewellery, watches, broken and damaged items (like odd earrings, snapped chains or items with missing stones).
- Any old UK and foreign banknotes

Call [0800 633 5323](tel:08006335323) and you can request as many envelopes as you'd like.

There are some envelopes at SMC near where the collection box for stamps is situated

Or use your own envelope or jiffy bag (No bigger than A5 in size) and post free of charge by printing out a freepost label from their website.

[Transform Trade](https://www.transform-trade.org)

<https://www.transform-trade.org>

Transform Trade (formerly Traidcraft Exchange) is a UK-based international development charity and campaigning organization working to make trade just and equitable for farmers and artisans. Founded in 1986, they focus on empowering marginalized producers in tea, fashion, and farming sectors, prioritizing people over profit and challenging unjust trade policies.

*Rosemary Fletcher*

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**“There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.”**

*Mahatma Gandhi*

## **Our younger children need YOU!**

CHYPS sessions take place in the hall or the upstairs rooms, arranged by our volunteer leaders, with the invaluable help of other volunteers, some of whom offer to help beforehand, and others who are pressed into service on the day!

However, we now need to allow Helen some maternity leave from leading the younger group so we need another leader for the sessions for primary age children. It involves preparing some activities, as well as a reading or some teaching based on the lectionary of the day. We are trying to prepare as a group, so that our leaders can share ideas.

Could you help with this? If we can have two or three leaders for the junior group, we can spread out the leading so that all our volunteers regularly have time in the service.

*Please speak to Paul Butler or Helen Browncross*

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### **What is No Mow May?**

No Mow May is Plantlife's annual campaign urging everyone to pack away the lawnmower, let wildflowers grow freely and help nature from your doorstep.

From May onwards, simply stop mowing your lawn (or even just a small part of it) and do more by doing less.

No lawn is too small! Even the tiniest wild patch can provide vital food needed by bees and butterflies and give wildlife the best start to summer.

Plus, less mowing will save you effort, cost, reduce your carbon footprint and give you a deeper connection to nature.

It really is that simple to make a difference – from May, put the mower away!

*Barbara Hickman*

### **Poetry Group**

in Room 1 at 10.30am.

First Friday of every month

Next date

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

The subject will be

**Clothes**

## **Visit of Whiteson Chenge - Partnership Coordinator from Lusaka Zambia**

Mr Whiteson Chenge is coming to the UK for a short visit in April 2026. He is being hosted by the Wessex Synod of the United Reformed Church and by Salisbury Methodist Circuit.

There is a chance to meet with Mr. Whiteson Chenge informally, in Room 1 of Salisbury Methodist Church on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026 from 2.30pm to 4.00pm

Whiteson's visit is a short one, but it is important that he meets with those who would like to meet with him, so I have arranged this informal meeting.

### **Professional Background**

**Aviation Career:** I began my career as an Air Traffic Controller at the Lusaka International Airport before branching into Aircraft Flight Operations, serving several airlines in Zambia.

**Retirement & Business:** I retired from formal employment in 2018 and currently operate B&B apartments in Lusaka.

### **Volunteering and Community Work**

**Zambia Society Trust (ZST):** I am currently serving as the Education Grants Coordinator in Lusaka for the Zambia Society Trust (UK, based Charity).

### **Community Involvement**

I am actively involved in local church programmes, particularly at the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) congregation at St Andrews and currently serving as Lusaka Presbytery World Partnership Committee Convener and Link Coordinator with the Wessex Synod/Southampton District Methodist Church . I led a 2-person delegation to visit St Anne's Parish Church in Corstorphine, Edinburgh of the Church of Scotland on a twinning exchange program in 2015 and organised reciprocal visits to St Andrews, Lusaka.

I am married to Justina and we have a daughter, Bupe whose name translates as a gift in English.

*Rosemary Fletcher*

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**“The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore.”**

*Vincent Van Gogh*

## Pause for prayer

### Prayers from Common Worship

Prayer for Ascension Day Thursday  
May 14<sup>th</sup> 2026

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.

Prayer for Pentecost Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,

ignite in us your holy fire;

strengthen your children with the gift of  
faith,

revive your Church with the breath of  
love,

and renew the face of the earth,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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### A prayer for Iran and the Middle East:

Ever-loving God,

who hears us in our anguish and  
distress,

and longs for us to be free.

We pray for the people of Iran and the  
wider Middle East,

at this time of fear and uncertainty.

Be near to those who are anxious;

bring comfort to all who are suffering.

Guide those with the power to make  
decisions,

and lead them in the ways of wisdom,  
compassion and moderation:

that people of goodwill would seek  
harmony and reconciliation.

Join us with our Christian brothers and  
sisters in all places,

in praying for peace with justice,

through him who is the prince of  
peace,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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### A prayer for Palestine and Israel:

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son  
Jesus Christ

came down from heaven to be the true  
bread

which gives life to the world:

In your mercy, provide for all those in  
Gaza

and beyond who suffer from hunger  
and starvation,

that they may be given both physical  
bread

to nourish their bodies and heavenly  
bread to sustain their souls.

By the power of your Spirit,

bring a final end to the cruel war,

the release of all captives,

care for the sick and wounded,

comfort for those who have lost loved  
ones,

and the opening of a pathway

for a just and lasting peace

here in the very homeland where your  
Son,

our Lord Jesus Christ,

ministered during his earthly life;

who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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**A prayer for Archbishop Sarah:**

Almighty and everlasting God,

the only worker of great marvels,

send down upon your servant Sarah,

called to be Archbishop of Canterbury

and all who are committed to her care,

the spirit of your saving grace,

and that they may truly please you,

pour upon them the continual dew of  
your blessing.

Grant this, O Lord,

for the honour of our advocate and  
mediator,

Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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**Prayers for all who lead:**

Lord of life,

you strengthen all that is good

and give good heart to those who do  
right in their purposes.

Be with the leaders of the world we  
pray,

that through your guidance

they may discern what is best for all  
their people,

and through your power

they may have the resolve to fulfil it,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Loving God,  
whose Son came among us as one  
who serves,  
teach our hearts to love the service of  
others.  
Keep us all from the temptations of  
selfishness and love of power,  
and, in humility, inspire us to wash one  
another's feet,

that as we offer love and care  
we may know that in the least of your  
children  
we are ministering to your Son,  
in whose service is perfect freedom,  
even Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*Rosemary Fletcher*

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### Church Flowers



Each week our worship both, on-site and online, is enhanced by the beauty of the floral displays. With the flowers donated by members of our community, often to mark a significant anniversary. The displays are created by a small team of volunteers who are looking for more help.

If you are interested in learning more about how you could use your talents in this way, please speak to Liz Chick or Alison Babey.

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**“Many people seem to think it foolish, even superstitious, to believe that the world could still change for the better. And it is true that in winter it is sometimes so biting cold that one is tempted to say, ‘What do I care if there is a summer; its warmth is no help to me now.’ Yes, evil often seems to surpass good. But then, in spite of us, and without our permission, there comes at last an end to the bitter frosts. One morning the wind turns, and there is a thaw. And so I must still have hope.”**

*Vincent van Gogh*



**The Redlynch  
Christian Aid Group**

**Present**



**RAISING FUNDS DURING CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2026**

*You can support this worthwhile cause - relieving poverty and hunger and giving humanitarian aid and disaster relief worldwide*

*Just come along and enjoy a great breakfast in exchange for a donation – no booking necessary - full selection including gluten free and vegetarian:*



**DATE: SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MAY**

**TIME: from 8.00 am to 11.00 am**

**WHERE: Woodfalls Methodist on the Ridge Woodfalls SP5 2LH**

*Supported by*



*All profits to  
Christian Aid*

## Trusting God when the future is uncertain

In the last few months our family has faced upheaval due to an unexpected house move. Change is unsettling and new experiences daunting. The following hymn has been playing on repeat somewhere in the back of my brain so I thought I would share it with you here.

‘All my hope on God is founded’  
He does still my trust renew.  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
Only good and only true.  
God unknown, he alone,  
Calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,  
Sword and crown betray our trust;  
What with care and toil we fashion,  
Tower and temple fall to dust,  
But God’s power, hour by hour,  
Is my temple and my tower.’

Singing the Faith 455 Robert Bridges, based on Joachim Neander

These lyrics have been a reassurance that even when I do not know what lies around the corner I am not walking the path alone and God will see me through it. Nice as a home may be, it is just bricks and mortar and we can start again whilst our place in God’s kingdom is eternal. We see change and uncertainty all around us in the world currently and it is unsettling. We can hardly turn on the TV or radio without news of greed and power struggles. As we read scripture we see God’s people have lived through many turbulent political situations, faced war and exile, hardship and change. God has always been faithful to them and with them through it. We believe in a God who is in the midst of our difficulties, a God who loves us so much that he came to share our humanity and suffer with us.

During this Easter season we travel with the disciples through a time of change and uncertainty after the events of Holy week and the joy of the resurrection appearances as they try to understand how to move forward. Jesus tells them to wait and so they gather and pray. On the day of Pentecost they are empowered by the Holy Spirit and filled with an understanding of their next steps. When we cannot see the way forward Jesus says ‘wait and pray’.

## **Israel's New Death Penalty Law - Responding to Israel's new death penalty**

01 April 2026

The Methodist Church in Great Britain expresses its deep alarm and profound concern at the passage of Israel's new death penalty law, which will apply to Palestinians tried in military courts. We note with concern that some members of the Knesset appeared to glorify death by arriving for the debate wearing gold noose-shaped pins and that several lawmakers celebrated the bill's passage with champagne inside the chamber. We applaud those members who voted against this horrific bill.

Human life is sacred. It must be protected without exception.

B'Tselem, an Israeli human rights organisation, has warned that this law entrenches the dehumanisation of Palestinians and "normalizes the killing and injury of human beings," as Executive Director Yuli Novak stated in response to the legislation.

"Israel is reaching a new low in the dehumanization of Palestinians, enshrining their cruel treatment in state law. It already kills Palestinians systematically and faces no demands for accountability. Under the leadership of top ministers, the Israeli system is day by day becoming a system that normalizes the killing and injury of human beings."

This law has been widely condemned by international bodies, including the Foreign Ministers of the UK, France, Germany, and Italy, who issued a rare joint statement calling the law "de facto discriminatory" and the European Union, which called it a "clear step backwards" and urged Israel to uphold its obligations under international law.

We reaffirm unequivocally that life is sacred.

It must be safeguarded, whether threatened by war, terrorism, crime or by the power of the state itself. The normalisation of state-sanctioned killing erodes justice, undermines human rights and diminishes the dignity of all.

**The Revd Richard Andrew and Matthew Forsyth**  
**President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference**

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**.



### 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-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.



### Reading the Bible: Meaning & Truth

3 June  
10am to 4pm  
£70 onsite

Why read the Bible? We explore its triple identity – historical text and Jewish/Christian scripture.

Ann Conway-Jones combines academic Biblical expertise with experience of Jewish-Christian dialogue.



### Faces of Metanoia: Francis, Clare, Dorothy Day, Oscar Romero

3, 10, 17, 24 June, 1 July  
7:30pm to 9pm  
£90 online

Visionary Leaders provide us with a life-enhancing model for spiritual growth and meaning today.

Gillian Ahlgren is a church historian with a specialisation in the Christian mystical tradition.



### OutoftheBox Storytelling Retreat

5 to 7 June  
6pm Friday to 2pm Sunday  
Residential £340  
Non-residential £220

OutoftheBox uses stories and play to help search for wisdom and well-being for people of all ages in all sorts of contexts.

Judy Yeomans is an OutoftheBox Mentor bringing playful storytelling to both adults and children in Sussex.



### Parenting for Faith: Five Key Tools

11 and 18 June  
10am-1pm  
£70 for both sessions online

Learn the Five Key Tools from 'Parenting for Faith' to help teens and children meet and know God.

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

## **Five minutes for the planet**

### **More things to recycle!**

I have lost count of the number of mobile phones that have been sent from SMC to the good folk at Recycling for Good Causes. Now they can also recycle:

I-pods

Tablets

Satnavs

Cameras

Games consoles

Video cameras.

Electronic games

While you are looking for these, bear in mind that RGC can still recycle old watches and jewellery in any condition, (even odd earrings and broken chains), and redundant coins and notes of any nationality.

I send these away in post-paid bags and any money raised goes to Christian Aid.

*Paul Butler*

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### **Are we insured?**

Questions have been asked recently about the insurance cover for volunteers at SMC, and these were relayed to our insurers.

The church has Employers Liability cover not only for those employed by the church, but also for those working on behalf of the church as volunteers. There is no age limit on this cover, and it extends to work on behalf of the church outside church premises.

Many of us volunteer in some way. The insurance requires each of us to do whatever we do as safely as we can. The need to identify those who work for the church is one reason why we now have a formal “safer recruitment” process for volunteers.

The church also maintains Public Liability insurance for accident or injury to visitors and users of the building. This would cover an accident that happened because the building was not safely maintained, or if the church was negligent in some way. Again, there is no age limit.

*Paul Butler*

## Fairtrade Shop

We had very good sales in the run up to Easter. Our Easter egg selection proved popular, in fact we sold out with a late surge of customers on Palm Sunday! Thank you for your support. Do have a look at the tea project information on display in the North Corridor if you haven't already done so.

Over the last 5 weeks, shop takings have totalled approximately £877.

*Monica Gillings on behalf of the Fairtrade team.*

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## Worship

After the business of Lent and Easter, May returns to a more regular pattern of Worship at SMC. We will, however, have two services where we consider some of our outreach areas. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> we will look at our support for Christian Aid, and on May 10<sup>th</sup> we have our Methodist Homes service.

At our April Worship Consultation, we were delighted to receive the names of Fielder Kufakunesu and Mary Kufakunesu as new worship stewards subject to the necessary ratification by Church Council. On the new plan they will initially shadow established worship stewards. I am sure that you will welcome different voices at the start of our services.

I know that many people appreciated the themed services during Lent where aspects of the Creation Embroidery were used for the sermons and reflections. If you have suggestions for future themes that could be the bases of a series of sermons, please pass these onto Revd Mark or myself.

*Jim Gillings Worship Team leader.*

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**Christian Aid Week is here - 10-16 May 2026**

Christian Aid Week started in 1957 to support people displaced within Europe after the Second World War; it has taken place yearly ever since, because the need for the work of Christian Aid has increased rather than diminished. The charity says this about Christian Aid Week 2026:

*As the world faces escalating crises — from climate change to conflict and deepening inequality — Christian Aid Week matters more than ever.*

*The funds raised in this week drive urgent action and lasting solutions for the future, helping communities build lives of dignity and resilience.*

*When you support Christian Aid Week, you're not just responding to today's needs, you're helping to shape a fairer, more sustainable world. Every gift counts and every action makes a difference.*

As in previous years, we will be collecting at SMC, and along with other churches we will be delivering envelopes to houses across the city. A team of us will be delivering in Laverstock on the afternoon of Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May – speak to Paul Butler if you can help.

Our Christian Aid Service will take place the previous week, on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**. Rev Dr Mark Cheetham will lead the service, and our speaker will be Verity Holloway, who works for Christian Aid.

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May between 8 am and 11am, you can support Christian Aid at the Big Breakfast at Woodfalls Methodist Church. Graham and Anita Tanner's team offer an enjoyable and varied breakfast menu, and it has become an annual fixture for many people.

If you can't get to Woodfalls, there will be another Big Breakfast at St Paul's on 20<sup>th</sup> June – details in the next magazine!

*Paul Butler*

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**If you cannot feed one hundred hungry people, feed just one.**

*Mother Theresa*



# Pentecost



Sunday 24 May 2026

## The Message - Acts 2:1-2

*When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.*

*Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force – no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building.*

Have you ever seen the wind? It's a trick question, of course, because it's invisible! But we have probably seen how the wind fills the sails of a boat or lifts a kite soaring into the sky. Sometimes, when the wind really gets going, we can hear it too, as it whistles through the trees and rattles the windows. And we've all felt the cool breeze on a hot day or had a gust of wind mess up our hair.

In the same way, we can't see the Holy Spirit, but we can see Him working in people's lives; we can hear Him talk to our hearts, and we can feel His presence. Have you ever been caught in strong wind – what did it feel and sound like?

**GOD the SPIRIT. Spiritually, wind symbolises change, movement and the presence of a divine force - spiritual energy that can bring transformation and guidance in life.**

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

You can find all these words in the grid, except one. Which one is missing?

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Berg      | Jet stream |
| Bora      | Levant     |
| Breeze    | Mistral    |
| Chinook   | Pentecost  |
| Gale      | Sirocco    |
| Gust      | Spirit     |
| Holy      | Tornado    |
| Hurricane | Wind       |

**We pray...**

**Father God,**

**Let us be open to receive your Holy Spirit as a gentle breeze, or a refreshing wind, or a mighty hurricane, blowing new life into us and whirling and shaking so that we can feel its power deep inside us, guiding and changing our lives to the glory of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*I wonder how many different ways you can see the effects of the wind in the picture. You may also like to colour it in.*



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## Easter Hope

The Revd Stephen Maunder offered us a lovely reflection on Easter Hope at the early service in the church garden on Easter Sunday, see below. *Barbara Hickman*

It was likely that Mary Magdalene was one of the travelling disciples. There were disciples who appear to have remained in their homes and to offered hospitality - Mary and Martha and Lazarus for example - and there were others who travelled with Jesus in addition, of course, to the 12 disciples, as he went from place to place.

Together with this physical travelling, we get snippets of her story of travelling in faith and wholeness. When she first met Jesus, Luke tells us that Mary was in a state of distress, possessed with 7 demons as the Gospel puts it, from which Jesus delivered her. From this starting point Christ took her from darkness into light as her dis-ease is brought into wholeness and.

But now at the start of our reading, Mary has returned into the shadows as darkness once more threatens to take over.

- She has witnessed the barbaric crucifixion of her beloved Lord
- She has stood at the base of the cross

and now all that she has left of him, his body, has been taken and in her fragility, she utters... “They have taken my Lord away, and I don’t know where they have put him”.

If we pause for a moment.... are there senses in which those words, if not Mary’s experience up to this point, find an echo for you? The sense that somehow God in Christ has been taken away and you don’t quite know where he is.

- Was it there, if you can remember it, on 9/11 when worship took place on the Sunday afterwards and preachers such as I struggled to find words to express Easter resurrection in a Good Friday world.
- It was there in the response to mass carnage of the First World War, and to the Holocaust in the second world war.
- It is there is Gaza and Iran and Beirut and Ukraine and in all those other unmentioned places where violence reigns.

At these times it may seem to many that the Lord has been taken away, and we don’t quite know where he is. That our God of grace and peace and justice is missing.

- And is it there within a culture where either faith in Christ can be derided and seen as foolishly unimportant, or a culture in which some seek to take away our risen Christ for use in a political battlefield of their own making. As means of hatred of other people whose faith may differ, or who look different.
- And it may well be there in our own lives, at times when we may not quite know where Christ is to be found within us...we may live with lives of silence as if Christ has been taken from us.

But then in Mary's journeying, there in the garden of hope as the darkness begins to lift into the dawn, Mary finds herself to be in a place no longer of shadows, but of Good News.

Unexpectedly one whom she thinks is the gardener asks her questions and calls her by her name.

Only when he speaks her name, only when she is touched by his living word is she able to know that her Lord has not been taken away, he is there with her, standing alongside her in her grief, and once again she ready to move her from the shadows into the promise of life in all its fullness.

But before that she is asked "for whom are you seeking".

David Ford in his commentary on John's Gospel reminds readers of the opening question of Jesus to those who seek him at the very beginning of his ministry... "for what are you looking?".

That question is no longer the one for Mary. For her the 'what' had been a tomb and a body. But the presence of the risen Lord transforms the question into one of life and not death. "Who are you seeking?", "for whom are you looking?".

Who are you seeking this Easter morning? Are you seeking one who has been taken away? A historical Christ crucified? A story? A 'what'. Are you seeking one used by politicians and rabble-rousers for their own ends?

Or are you seeking the one who has not been taken from us, but who in the midst of grief and joy, doubt and assurance, meets us at break of dawn to call us and re-call us by name...



*Belinda Kasudi tends her urban farm.*

### **Cone garden prayers**

Cone garden planters enable urban farmers in Nairobi to grow dozens of plants stacked in small spaces.

To create your own cone garden of prayer, use three plant pots, cake tins, or other containers of increasing sizes. You can decorate the outside of the containers. Fill with soil or sand and stack them.

Gather twigs and place these in the soil or sand at each level. Hand out coloured gift tags and invite participants to write or draw two things they wish to pray for:

1. Write a prayer for your community, a cause close to your heart, or a loved one. Attach it to a twig on the bottom layer.
2. Write a prayer for your global neighbours. This could be for urban farmers in Dagoretti, for all people living in extreme poverty, or for another situation on your mind. Attach it to a twig on the middle layer.

For the top layer, invite participants to write or draw an action they can take in response to the situations they have named.

Pray over your cone garden for God's help with these commitments to act. If you're using soil, you can plant seeds such as salad leaves around your prayers and actions.



## SALISBURY CAR PARKING CHANGES – THE FACTS

	NOW		IN FUTURE
<b>EVERY DAY</b>	8am – 6pm (weekdays & Saturdays)  10am – 4pm (Sundays)	<b>WHEN MUST I PAY TO PARK?</b>	7am – 7pm (every day)
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	£1.90 all day flat rate	<b>WHAT MUST I PAY TO PARK?</b>	Same charges as any other day (eg, £5.90 for 3 hours at Salt Lane car park)
	No time limit on Sundays	<b>HOW LONG CAN I STAY IN SHORT-STAY CAR PARKS?</b>	3 hours maximum, with no return permitted within 4 hours

### How unfair is that!

and don't forget 50% of all Wiltshire Council's Pay & Display revenue comes from Salisbury!

It's **not too late** to resist these proposals and suggest modifications. Send your comments to the Public Consultation by 5<sup>th</sup> May (even if you previously wrote to your Councillor about this).

### How can I comment on the proposals via the Public Consultation?

- quote Reference: HKB/TRO/Parking
- e-mail to [trafficorderconsultations@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:trafficorderconsultations@wiltshire.gov.uk)