Salisbury Methodist Church
St Edmund's Church Street Salisbury

Newsletter

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

Psalm 19:1

No. 423 **November 2026**

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The November Newsletter was produced by
Rachel and Simon Clarke.
Items for the December Newsletter should be sent to Rachel Clarke
no later than Friday 20th November 2026
email: **newsletter@salisburymethodist.org.uk**
Material for consideration should be as follows:
An A4 Word or other editable text document (in Aptos font size15pt 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 November

Sunday 1st November	10:30 am	Revd Dr Mark Cheetham HC
	4:30 pm	Revd Dr Mark Cheetham All Souls
Sunday 8th November	10:30 am	Revd Dorothy Pipet Remembrance
	3:00 pm	Mrs Fi Waddingham Little Blessings
Sunday 15th November	8:00 am	Revd Dr Stephen Maunder HC
	10:30 am	Revd Ross Meikle AA Church Anniversary
	3:00 pm	Salisbury District Hospital Perinatal Loss Service
Sunday 22nd November	10:30 am	Revd Dr Mark Cheetham
Sunday 29th November	10:30 am	Revd Dr Mark Cheetham Advent 1
	6:00 p.m	Revd Katharine Robinson Advent Carols

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

Dear Friends,

What if faith begins not with us finding God, but with the discovery that God has already found us?
We search, pray, read Scripture, attend worship and engage in a variety of activities and hope that somehow, we might draw a little closer to him. There is truth in all these things. Yet the Christian story begins somewhere else. It begins with God.

Before we seek God, God is already seeking us. Before we notice God, God is already present. Before we take a step towards him, he has already taken a step towards us. This is one of the central insights of the Wesleyan tradition. John Wesley spoke of God's prevenient grace, the grace that "comes before". It is God's loving action already at work in our lives before we are fully aware of it. I wonder if this changes how we think about faith.

Many of us spend a great deal of energy trying to find God or wondering what he wants us to do. We assume the challenge is ours: to look harder, define the path more clearly, pray better, or believe more strongly. Yet perhaps the first question is not, *How do I find God?* Perhaps the first question is, *How is God already finding me, and where is he leading?*

I often speak about attention because attention shapes our experience of the world. What we notice affects what we value. What we value shapes how we live and what we do.

Yet Christian attention is not simply an exercise in mindfulness, self-awareness, or time management. Christian attention begins with grace. Grace awakens attention. We do not discover God because we have finally learned to pay attention well enough. Rather, we begin to pay attention because God is already reaching towards us.

The Gospels are filled with examples of this reality. Jesus encounters people where they already are: at fishing boats, on dusty roads, in tax booths, around dinner tables, and beside wells. Again and again, we see God entering ordinary moments and transforming them into places of encounter.

The woman at the well is perhaps one of the most beautiful examples. Jesus meets her in the middle of an ordinary day. The conversation is honest, personal, and deeply revealing. Yet what strikes me most is that the encounter is initiated by Jesus. He comes looking for her, and she responds.

In a story shaped by water, we are reminded that grace is often like water itself. It flows towards us before we understand its source. Grace holds. Grace sustains. Grace helps us see what God has always seen.

While dissonance reduces life to what is visible and measurable, grace reveals who we are in the sight of God. Grace tells a larger story, one in which we are not defined by our failures, our achievements, or the labels others place upon us. We are known and loved by God.

Grace forms us within that story, and invites us to participate in God's forming of others too. This is what we mean by resonance: participating with God in the truth he already sees. As we attend to God's resonance and lean into the flow of grace, we begin to discover our own unique experience of God's grace, lived out alongside others in Christian community.

The story of the woman at the well has led me to reflect on a simple question, what if truth is not being found out, but being found? The fear of being being found out is something we are all no doubt familiar with. We worry that if others saw the whole truth about us, our failures, disappointments, insecurities, and struggles, we might be rejected.

Yet in Christ we discover something different. We encounter the God who knows us completely and still comes towards us in love. This is the nature of grace. Grace is not merely forgiveness offered after we have finally found God. Grace is God's loving presence already at work before we realise he is there.

Perhaps that is why some of the most significant moments of faith are moments of recognition rather than discovery. We suddenly realise that God was present in a conversation, a challenge, an unexpected kindness, a request or question we could not shake, or a longing we could not fully explain.

Looking back, we recognise that God was already there. The invitation of faith, then, is not first about striving. It is about noticing.

Noticing God's presence. Noticing God's activity. Noticing God's love. Noticing the ways in which grace is already at work in the ordinary circumstances of our lives and then responding to his invitation.

As we move through the coming weeks, perhaps we might create a little space for that kind of noticing.

Instead of beginning with the question, *What should I do?* perhaps we start with a different one, how is God meeting me here and does he call for a response? For the good news of the Gospel is not that we have finally managed to find God.

The good news is that, through grace, we discover that God has been reaching towards us all along, helping us to see what he has always seen, and inviting us to participate in the life and love he is already bringing into being.

Best wishes

Jo

Pastoral News

By the time you read this, we will have changed our clocks and will be experiencing the increasingly shorter daylight hours that come with the approach of winter. For some, the prospect of hunkering down indoors, perhaps with a good book in front of a warming fire, is an attractive proposition. However, for the more vulnerable, the frail and housebound, it can be a difficult and challenging time, with the darkness bringing fear and anxiety. May we all be aware of those in our community who would appreciate a visit or phone call to brighten their day.
We hold in our thoughts and prayers all those known to us who are worried and anxious, those struggling with ill health, caring for loved ones or facing other difficult issues:
God of compassion and grace,
May they know that they are loved,
still precious in your sight,
and feel your arms support them in the day and through the night.
Amen

November is the season of remembrance and our All Souls Service this year is on Sunday 1 November at the slightly later time of **4.30 pm.** All are welcome. (See previous Newsletter for more details). We shall also be supporting the SDH Chaplaincy Team at the Perinatal Loss Service at SMc on Sunday 15 November at 3 pm.

It was a joy to be in church for the recent All Age Parade service where we were able to share something of what our young people experienced at 3Generate (the annual Methodist children and youth gathering), and to celebrate recent achievements of the Scouts. We give thanks for all those young people who took part with such confidence, enthusiasm and humour and to all the adults who give their time and energy to encourage them and to make such activities possible.

We look forward to the Church Anniversary service on 15th November and will be inviting folk to wear name labels on that occasion. A great opportunity to put names to faces and to perhaps make new connections within our church family!

We're delighted that Helen Boyd was approved as a Pastoral Visitor at the October Church Council and she will be joining the team in the near future.

Get Connected: The next session for help with your phone, tablet or laptop is on Tuesday 17 November, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm. These free sessions are open to all, so do encourage any friends or neighbours to come along if they need friendly guidance and support.

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

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Regular Giving and Gift Aid

Thank you to everyone who donates to Salisbury Methodist Church, either through their bank via regular standing orders, through the 'on line' Stewardship account or via our collection box and the card machines in the Welcome area and by the hall. As you are aware SMc relies on your generous donations to keep our Church financially solvent.

Tax payers can increase their donations to SMc, at no cost to themselves, via the Gift Aid Scheme the government operates, this increases any donations by 25%. This year we have claimed £17000 back from HMRC via this scheme, this is a very valuable source of 'free' money.

If you do give via standing order, are a tax payer, and have not filled in a Gift Aid form, please see Sue Gilbert, she is in Church most weeks and has the forms on her – or contact Sue via e mail giftaid@salisburymethodist.org.uk and she can arrange for a form to be available for you.

If you give in cash or via our card machines, you may wish to consider changing to a regular standing order through your bank account – this is easy to set up using our bank sorting code of 08-92-99 and account no 65592317, again Sue can provide a standing order form if you wish.

All donations are much valued for the work of this Church.

With thanks, Sue Gilbert Gift Aid Secretary

In the silence of a midwinter dusk, there is a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen. You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment. - *Frederick Buechner*

Saving Items Ending in Landfill

We all support our local charity shops but what about those items which are not good enough for charity shops?

It is very easy to throw these items away and harder to find places to take them to but here are two more ideas: -

Cotswold Outdoor

William Russel's House, 9 Queen Street, SP1 1EY Salisbury, 01722 410659

Collect for recycling

All outdoor equipment – such as walking books, anoraks, etc etc

Just take them along to their shop

And

H and M

H&M Salisbury,. 28-30 Old George Mall, SP1 2AF.

Have a box in their store where they collect all clothes and textiles

Those things good enough for Charity Shops are donated to charity, but they take anything and the rest are used as follows:

- **Repurposing & Recycling** Converted into other products like cleaning cloths or industrial insulation.
- **Textile-to-Textile Recycling** Broken down back into new textile fibres.
- **Disposal / Energy Recovery** Items that cannot be worn or recycled are disposed of, prioritizing energy recovery.

Further details on their website.

The Reverend Rosemary Fletcher

Worship

November is the start of the very busy season in the worship life of the church running through to the Covenant service at the start of January. Please keep all who are involved in the preparation and delivering of services in your thoughts and prayers. At a rough count on a "normal" Sunday there are at least 12 people in addition to the preacher working to ensure that the time before, during and after the service runs as smoothly as possible. Over the next few weeks there will be occasions when this number is considerably more. On the first Sunday in November, we will hold our annual All Souls service. Details of this are in the October newsletter. On the following Sunday Revd Dorothy will lead our Remembrance service, this will include a 2 minute silence at 11:00 am. Sunday 15th will be our Church Anniversary, This will be led by Revd Ross Meikle. Please see the end of this article for more information about Revd Ross. The last Sunday in November is Advent Sunday, and we are pleased that Revd Katharine Robinson has again agreed to lead an Advent Carol Service. We know from feedback received that many of you enjoy the opportunity to sing Advent carols at this service thus allowing Christmas carols to be sung at their appropriate place in the church calendar.

Revd Ross Meikle: - Revd Ross is the Missioner for Young People at Salisbury Cathedral, with a brief to engage with and represent the interests of young people. He is a writer and storyteller and regularly leads services for young people at the cathedral. Previously Ross served in the Diocese of Oxford, where he served as Assistant Curate at the Benefice of Witney, then as Vicar of Redlands Parish Church, in Reading.

Jim Gillings Worship Team Leader

A Prayer for All Saints' Day November 1st

Eternal God, your people of all the ages live and praise you without ceasing. In our communion with you, we have communion with generations past and generations yet unborn. Before your throne we are one with a great multitude which no one could number, and in praising you we join with people from every nation. Grant to your church on earth that, as we celebrate the communion of saints, we may be inspired by their example and enter with them into the joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for All Souls' Day November 2nd

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

Rosemary Fletcher

Salisbury Listening Place welcomed the Mayor of Salisbury, Cllr Jenny Bolwell, to its Annual Open Evening on Tuesday 22nd September. Addressing a packed audience, Leah and Jasmine from Alabare spoke about 'Engaging with Homeless People in Salisbury'. Leah shared her experience of homelessness, stressing that it can happen to anyone for many reasons. She became homeless after her landlord issued a Section 21 notice that he required her rented property for a relative. Despite the landlord saying that she had been an exemplary tenant, Leah could not find suitable alternative accommodation.

The evening continued with an interactive role-play session contrasting unhelpful ways of engaging homeless people with more appropriate approaches. Thanking the speakers, Rev Cecil King noted the strong connection with the approach taken by Listeners at the Listening Place: treating people with respect, remaining non-judgmental, listening carefully and truly hearing what they say. Leah and Jasmine then offered practical advice about support available through Alabare and other agencies.

During the Q&A session, the Mayor described her own experience of homelessness as a young teenager, which continues to shape her compassion, understanding and support for homeless people.

Salisbury Listening Place is based at Salisbury Methodist Church, St Edmunds Church St, SP11EF. This free, confidential service is open to everyone. Sessions run on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon, and on Mondays from 5 to 7pm. Drop in or book an appointment by calling 01722 325 294 or emailing salisburylisteningplace@gmail.com.

A warm welcome awaits.

For more information, visit www.thelisteningplace.org.uk

Salisbury 800

2027 will be a special year of celebration for our city as we commemorate 800 years since the Charter Market was granted to Salisbury by King Henry lll.

The main events will be:

A Grand Procession through the city on July 25th, followed by live entertainment.

A V.I.P. will be presented with a book containing The People's Story from local residents.

The Market Traders will be given a banquet in the Guildhall in appreciation of their contribution to the life of the city.

800 trees will be planted by local people or groups. These can be applied for and will be registered.

The Guildhall will host a Floral Showcase.

Each local child aged between 9 month and 18 years will be given a commemorative medal.

Sponsorship has been obtained to fund events and local businesses are very involved.

There will be more publicity nearer the start of the year but there should be events to attract most people.

Mary Parker

Southampton Regional Theology Forum of the Methodist Church

Thursday, November 5, 2026

at 10 am in **Romsey Methodist Church**

Our discussion will be led by **Damian Heywood,** who is a retired teacher of English and Drama, has led the Christchurch u3a Shakespeare group since 2015. He has watched all 38 plays, in cinema style, to enjoy the 'stage not page', and to analyse how actors and directors interpret Shakespeare's words.

Damian's title and introduction are: Shakespeare: Rebel or Reactionary?

This will be a morning-only meeting. We start with a welcome drink available from 9.45, and the discussion will be in a cafe-style environment, aided by the products of a Swedish Bakery, thanks to the help of our local zero-waste shop and cafe, Lemon and Jinja. We also hope to have a table of books for sale through the Oasis Christian Centre (https://oasisromsey.co.uk/). The meeting closes at 12.00.

Rosemary Fletcher

Action for Children - Christmas Craft Stall

Penny Symonds will be having a Christmas-themed craft stall in the Hall after the service on **Sunday 29th November, Advent Sunday.**

There will be lacy and felt decorations, felt gingerbread people with candy cane arms and legs, little novelty gift bags, etc, all beautifully made by Penny.

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

Monica Gillings

Carol Service Readers

As last year SMc will be holding 2 Carol services, Advent Carol service on Sunday 29th November and Christmas Carol service on Sunday 20th December, both at 6:00 p.m. We shall require a number of readers at each service. If you would like to read at one of these services, please talk to me at church or email jim.gillings@salisburymethodist.org.uk giving your preferred date.

Jim Gillings Worship Team Leader

Fairtrade Shop updates

Milk and dark chocolate Advent calendars are now on sale in the shop, along with **packs of Christmas cards** supporting Transform Trade's work with producers around the world. Transform Trade have also brought back a new, limited edition Traidcraft Christmas catalogue, so do pick one up to see what's on offer. More Christmas chocolate will be arriving soon, and we have good supplies of olive oil, dates, nuts, biscuits etc – great gifts for family and friends!

Peach and Ginger jam – still sadly unavailable but True Origin are 'currently working with the supplier to get the stock here ASAP. Further supplies of Orange Marmalade are also awaited.

Shop takings for the last 4 weeks totalled approximately £540, plus £369 from the September Cathedral stall.

Monica Gillings (on behalf of the Fairtrade Team)

Our Zambia Link:

In November, people in Zambia expect and pray for the rains to begin, but this year the forecast (because of El Nino) is that Southern and Eastern Zambia will suffer drought. That would be disastrous, because of the lack of food and because Zambia depends on hydro-electric power, which needs the Zambesi and Kafue rivers to be full.

We are asked to pray that people in drought affected areas will be provided with seeds for drought resistant food crops such as sorghum and millet.
Also, pray for increased work to get Zambia harnessing more solar power as well as hydro-electric power.

As a result of the August elections and the Government's treatment of opposition leaders and campaigners before and after the elections, Zambia is as bitterly divided as it has ever been. The Government claims that opponents have committed treason, planning violent overthrow of the government. But Zambia's Government has faced unprecedented condemnation internationally for the conduct of the August election and for repression. Join the churches in Zambia in praying for justice and reconciliation.

The United Church of Zambia (UCZ), with which we are linked, is a national church and is called to be a model of unity between people of different languages, regions and political parties. Pray for the UCZ's witness. On 21st November, the UCZ will have nationwide prayer meetings, people interceding together for reconciliation, health and hope for all Zambia's people.

November 1st, in the UCZ will be Environment Sunday, when each congregation is asked to plant trees and to pray for the healing of our planet.

The week 16th to 22nd November is Children's Awareness Week, when each congregation is asked to focus on children's ministry and welfare.

As we pray in support of our UCZ partners, we are invited to have renewed care for the environment and for children.

Pray especially for our linked congregation – St John's, Mtendere – and for the minister, Revd Mwaka Phiri, and her family, and for Deaconess Majorie Mvula and her family. St John's congregation pray for us in their daily prayer meetings, as we pray for them and rejoice in our partnership in Christ.

Cecil King

Sarum College

Upcoming course: Thinking Theologically about Conflict and Peace

led by Jayme Reaves on 11th November (appropriate date!) and costs £70 including refreshments and a two-course lunch. The booking link is here: https://www.sarum.ac.uk/short-courses/thinking-theologically-about-conflict-peace/

Anna Bishop

Ecumenical Prayers for Justice and Peace

in the Cathedral Trinity Chapel
12 noon All are welcome

Third Wednesday of every month

Next date

Wednesday 18th November

Poetry Group

in Room 1 at 10.30am.

First Friday of every month

Next date

Friday 6th November

The subject will be **work**.

Harnham Card Sale

The annual Harnham Card Sale organised by Katharine and David Callard– will be held at **St George's Hall, Harnham** (plenty of parking and on the R5 bus route) on **Saturday October 24th 2026** – so please come in the morning from **10.00am until 11.45am** and buy your cards for Christmas and birthdays etc for the next 12 months. Cards in aid of the South Sudan/Sudan Medical Link and refreshments in aid of the Salisbury Women's Refuge. Let us try and make a record amount of moneys raised for these good causes.

David and Katharine have had, as one of their many retirement projects, recycling and re-making cards out of cards and they happily accept cards you no longer want!

OR

You could maybe learn from them and start your own card business for your own favourite charity! They raised over £4000 for the Sudan / South Sudan (the Salisbury Diocese link Diocese) Medical Link last year.

Rosemary Fletcher

Our two lunch time organ recitals in aid of Christian Aid raised a magnificent total of £1480.00, thanks to wide support from across Salisbury and beyond.

Barbara Hickman

Kairos Palestine II conversation Dec 2

Schlafen auf (or Sleepers Awake!) was composed by J S Bach for Advent and will be sung again in many places this Advent. It was also the message given by Father Fadi Diab, Anglican priest from Ramallah (West Bank) to the Methodist Conference in Telford in June when he spoke to the Kairos Palestine II document - a moment of Truth: Faith in a time of genocide. He gave a wake-up call to Methodists there and elsewhere to respond to this cry from Christians in Palestine to Christians in the West (ie UK) including us in the pews at SMc with *costly solidarity* rather than silence. Some of you already have copies of this small booklet and I have plenty more if others would like one. The Revd Pat Clegg, Anglican priest from Harnham, will lead a conversation at SMc on Wednesday Dec 2 at 2.30 pm in room 1 followed by tea. All are welcome - you don't need to be a Methodist to attend - the same booklet has been shared widely: to members of General Synod of the CofE, to members of the Quaker Yearly meeting etc, also to John Glen from whom I have had a thoughtful response. Barbara Hickman

Written on the palm of your hand

Prayer for children

Living God, we bless you for the gift of life
in the very being of children:
innocent joy playing at the waves' edge
and in the marketplace – piping and dancing – energy and laughter,
carrying water and sharing bread.
Thank you for family hopes that children embody; help they can give as well as receive:
care for small sisters and brothers,
answers to the prayers of their elders,
giving meaning for whole communities:
a generation growing, flourishing like olive trees.

Loving God, in your presence we rage
at fragile lives lost,
lies politicians tell,
our own complicity;
we grieve for wickedness, waste, hunger and fear, homes no longer there, children killed while carrying water and bread – stories too hard for us to bear – denying our common humanity.

How can we believe that you take sides –
giving orders to starve, harm and destroy –
a God of genocide?
No! We believe in your constant love,
that we are all your children, and
that each child's name is written on the palm of your hand.

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Amnesty International Write For Rights 2026

We will be participating in this at SMc on November 22nd and November 29th. SMc have taken part in this event for many years - it used to be organised by Barbara Hickman – and we are continuing this vital work.

Your Words Have Power

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Write for Rights. Since 2001, millions of people around the world have come together with a simple but powerful belief: that ordinary people, wherever they are, can help change someone else's life. Together, they have helped secure the release of people unlawfully detained, reunite families, challenge abusive laws and remind countless individuals that they have not been forgotten.

As we prepare to celebrate the 78th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December, it is more important than ever to raise our voices to defend human rights. Amnesty International's annual Write for Rights campaign proves that hope can prevail, even in the darkest of times. This year has seen serious global challenges, from the rise of authoritarianism in many countries to increasing numbers of people displaced by the climate emergency. But your messages can bring about real change – especially when they are combined with millions of others around the world during the annual Write for Rights campaign. Your words offer comfort and support to those whose rights are being abused, and collectively pressure encourages authorities to act.

We write a card to the person who is detained and a letter to those detaining them so there are two actions for each person but all will be made clear if you come and join us after Church on 22nd and 29th November. You can write to different people each week – but it also doesn't matter if you write to the same person again!

There are plenty of ways to get involved in the campaign. You can write a letter, send a card, post on social media, sign a petition, draw a picture or take a photo – feel free to get creative. You can also join events hosted by local Amnesty groups throughout the UK. Find out more at amnesty.org.uk/

Rosemary Fletcher and James Rowley will be organising events at SMC after church over coffee on Sundays November 22nd and 29th – as they did in 2024 and 2025.

Cards will all be provided (thank you Katharine and David Callard) and suggested wording for letters are there to make it easy for you. Rosemary and James will post off the letters / cards for you but you are welcome to take home the information and do them at home if that is easier for you and if you take them away on November 22nd you can either post them yourselves or bring them back on November 29th or you can take them home and post them yourselves.

Since 2001, when Write for Rights started, more than 50 million actions have been taken, while over 100 people featured in the campaign have seen a positive outcome to their case. Last year two of the people we wrote to and about were acquitted.

The 2026 Write for Rights booklet includes 11 people / groups, and we will chose 6 for SMc, but you are welcome to have a booklet and write to them all in your own time at home!

The Write for Rights 2026 booklet features the stories of Indigenous communities trying to protect the environment, journalists targeted for exposing corruption, protesting students facing arbitrary detention and many others. You can take action on all of their cases or focus on just a few. Whatever you do will help raise the profile of the people in question, boosting their chances of protection and justice. For each case we have suggested an action, including:

• Sending a message of solidarity to let them know you're thinking of them.

• Writing a letter appealing to those with the power to stop the abuse.

• Getting creative to make your voice heard (we've included some ideas to inspire you).

• Going digital and using social media to show your solidarity online or contact the authorities.

Messages Every message you send during Write for Rights will make a difference, and we only ask people to take action where we believe it will have significant impact. Every year, those featured in the campaign tell us the most powerful messages they receive are the personalised, handwritten cards from people around the world. (Amnesty International)

Further details on https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/impact/2026/10/write-for-rights-turns-25/

An Introduction to the Gospel of John

Tue 17 Nov 2026 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm at Salisbury Cathedral

John's gospel includes some of the best known and most evocative passages in the Bible. It represents a literary tradition distinct from Matthew, Mark and Luke, and contains unique theological emphases.
The Church year which begins at Advent 2026 will source most of its Sunday gospel readings from St Mark – but also has many excerpts from St John. This evening is an opportunity to get ahead of the lectionary by immersing ourselves in the ideas and values of the fourth evangelist.
Some of the most famous stories and sayings of Jesus are only found in the fourth gospel: the wedding at Cana; the Samaritan at the well; the seven 'I am' sayings; the raising of Lazarus; the washing of the disciples' feet; the resurrection encounters of Mary Magdalene and 'doubting' Thomas. This evening will explore their original significance and enduring message.
This talk has an entry charge to help support learning and reflection at the Cathedral. If you would like to attend but cost is an issue, please email chancellor@salcath.co.uk.

This event is organised by Salisbury Cathedral.
Tickets are available online or through the Cathedral Box Office, open Monday–Friday 10am–4pm.
For visitors with access requirements, or if you require an essential companion to accompany you, please contact the Cathedral Box Office to book your tickets.
Email: Boxoffice@salcath.co.uk. Tel: 01722 656 555.

Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.- *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Community Project Celebration

This is a celebration of our Community project with the Museum and artist James Aldridge.

We shall be serving local dishes from Afghanistan, Tunisia, Sudan, Albania and Ukraine and showing our collaborative artwork!

Monday November 9th

at 3.30 pm.

at Bemerton Methodist Church

Prayer for the work of Amnesty International for November 2026

Lord Jesus, You experienced in person torture and death as a prisoner of conscience. You were beaten and flogged and sentenced to an agonizing death though you had done no wrong. Be now with prisoners of conscience throughout the world. Be with them in their fear and loneliness, in the agony of physical and mental torture and in the face of execution and death. Stretch out your hands in power to break their chains. Be merciful to the oppressor and torturer and place a new heart within them. Forgive all injustices in our lives and transform us to be instruments of your peace, for by your wounds we are healed.

Prayer written by Dr Cedric Poole

Rosemary Fletcher

Prayer for Remembrance Sunday November 8th, 2026

Ever-living God we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rosemary Fletcher

Christian Aid News

Real People

On a Wednesday evening, around seventy people gathered in St Francis' church to learn about Christian Aid's work in South Sudan.

We were given a quick rundown on the history of the youngest country in the world, separated by agreement from Sudan fifteen years ago and suffering from the effects of conflict for thirteen of those years. It is two and a half times the size of the UK, with over forty different tribes: the population was around twelve million but there has been no accurate census and over two million are thought to have died in conflict.

It is also one of the world's poorest countries. In Upper Nile province 65% of the population has no secure source of food, malnutrition is rife and the health service is near to collapse. Many people are displaced and living in camps, which no longer receive food aid since the US and UK cut their aid budgets.

And yet we were given a picture of hope through Christian Aid's support of local organisations run by local people. Rev Tut Mai Nguoth, the immensely tall director of the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency in South Sudan, stressed that all these statistics represented real people who needed peace above all else. That peace would begin in small ways, such as children from different tribes going to school together, and by local agencies reaching out: "To begin with we had no Land Rovers to visit these people but we had feet, so we walked there". Now his organisation runs a medical college, training local midwives who can talk to mothers in their own language.

Angelina Nyajima Simon Jal, herself a refugee throughout her childhood, has founded an organisation supporting women and young people. She told us how even small amounts of help can improve a woman's standing in her household and reduce family conflict, encourage girls to stay in school or direct young men into a trade instead of stealing cattle.

We were sent on our way encouraged by Rev Tut's motto: "Do your best, and God will do the rest".

Paul Butler

Prayer for our church anniversary

Give us, O Lord, churches that will be more courageous than cautious,

That will not merely “comfort the afflicted” but afflict the comfortable,

That will not only love the world but will take care of the world,

That will not only pursue peace but also demand justice,

That will not remain silent when people are calling for a voice,

That will not pass by on the other side when wounded humanity is

waiting to be healed,

That will not only call us out to worship but also send us out to witness,

That will follow Christ even when the way points to a cross.

To this end we pray for our own part in all this and offer ourselves in the name of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Amen.

From the Christian Council of Asia

Rosemary Fletcher

Vacancies across the District

We have a couple of new vacancies across the district - in the Dorset South and West and Poole Bay circuits, as well as the district NPNP role.

https://www.sdmc.org.uk/about/current-vacancies/

Darkness comes.

In the middle of it, the future looks blank. The temptation to quit is huge. Don't. You are in good company… You will argue with yourself that there is no way forward. But with God, nothing is impossible. He has more ropes and ladders and tunnels out of pits than you can conceive. Wait. Pray without ceasing. Hope. - *John Piper*

I wonder if you have heard of a man named John the Baptist *(Matthew 3:1-11)*. John had an important job from God which was to prepare the way for a very special person. Many years before John was born, God promised that there would be a messenger who would announce the coming of the long-awaited messiah (or saviour) for God's people. The prophet Isaiah wrote about this man…

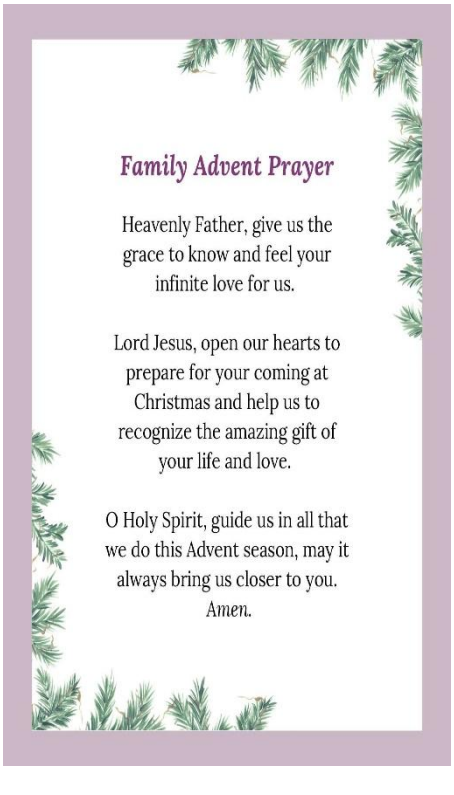
Isaiah was talking about John the Baptist but John wasn't out in the desert with cement mixers building an actual road! Isaiah said that God's messenger would help prepare the hearts of God's people to receive Him. When John began his ministry he moved out to the desert. Now, most people who want to share good news with people don't usually go out into the wilderness where no one lives. But John was pretty different from most people. You see, John wore clothes made of camel hair and ate locusts and honey. He sounds pretty strange doesn't he? The people were so intrigued by John that they would go out to the desert to see him and hear him preach. John preached to the people saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." As they listened to John, the people realised how sinful they were, and they began to realise they needed to change their lives. They said how sorry they were to God and John baptized them in the River Jordan. He told them, "I baptize you with water but there is one coming after me who is much greater than I am. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!"

Perhaps you and your family and friends can discuss these questions together…
What does it mean to prepare for something?
Who do you think John meant was coming after him?
This year, 29th November is the 1st Sunday of Advent when preparations begin.
What could you do to prepare your heart for this very special person?

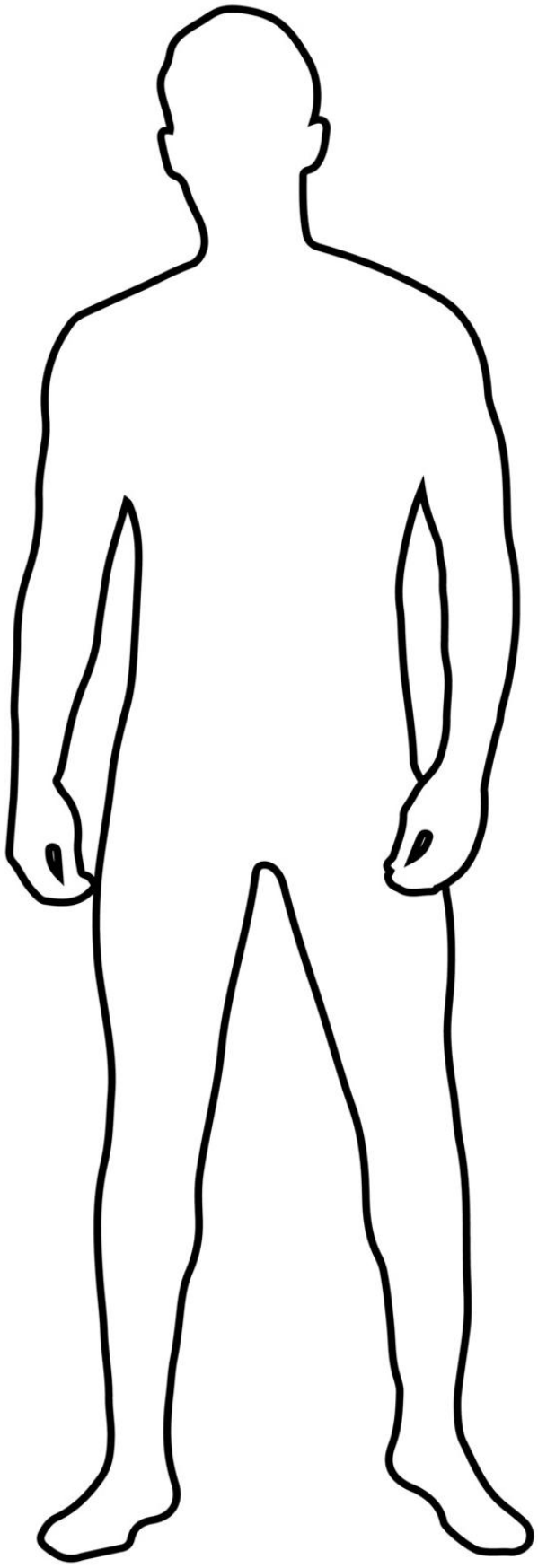
Can you find the words hidden in this grid?

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

Advent
Baptized
Camel
Desert
God
Hearts
Honey
Isaiah
John
Locust
Prepare



With help from the description above, I wonder if you can you imagine how John the Baptist may have looked? On the shape below, draw your version of John.



Compiled by Linda Hayman

City of Sanctuary

OPEN EVENT

Come and learn more about what being City of Sanctuary means

MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER

7:30PM ALL WELCOME

ARRIVE FROM 7PM SARUM COLLEGE

19 The Close, Salisbury SP1 2EE

www.sarum.ac.uk

PARKING IS FREE in Salisbury Carparks from 7pm, at Sarum College on a first come, first served basis and in the Cathedral Close in the evenings.

For further details please contact: sanctuary.salisbury@gmail.com