



**The Methodist Church** Salisbury Circuit 26/23

**Amesbury Methodist Church**

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## **Amesbury Methodist Church**

### **Newsletter for November 2023**

#### **Minister's Letter**

The Minister's Letter this month comes from our Superintendent Minister the **Revd Dr Mark Cheetham**

Dear Friends,

I have spent time reading the 'Justice Seeking Church' report recently produced by our Church and building on the journey of 'Walking with Micah'. The excerpt below is taken from the report, and I hope it encourages you to read the report, copies of which are in the vestibule at Amesbury Methodist Church, and seek ways to respond well.

"The last decade has seen enormous change in our society and around the world. The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in over 200,000 deaths in the UK by the end of 2022 and shone a light on pre-existing health inequalities. Mortality was 2.6 times higher in the most deprived than the least deprived areas, and highest amongst Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Black Caribbean groups, and among people with a self-reported disability or a learning disability. And whilst inspiring forms of community solidarity were evident through the pandemic, isolation, addiction, domestic violence and mental ill health also increased. Following the financial crisis of 2008, significant reductions in public spending hit the poorest hardest, leading to an increase in child poverty and a fall in life expectancy amongst the worst off in certain parts of the country.

The pandemic, together with Russia's war on Ukraine, added to inflationary pressures and a rise in international energy prices. Here, significant rises in fuel and food prices have contributed to a widespread cost of living crisis. People are increasingly turning to foodbanks, and churches and community groups have been running Warm Welcome spaces for people unable to afford to eat and heat their homes. The current cost of living crisis is not new for many people but has tipped them over into even deeper catastrophe. Two key political referendums, on Scottish independence and Brexit, were held within a few years of each other. Both issues remain intensely contested and demonstrate deeper fractures and polarisation in society. Many people from minority ethnic groups reported an increase in abuse and hate speech after the Brexit vote. Negotiations to untangle UK and EU relationships are still continuing. Internationally, the last decade has seen sea levels rise and an increase in flooding, heatwaves, droughts and other extreme weather events. The poorest are experiencing the biggest impact of the climate crisis. The world is set to emit enough carbon to exceed the 1.5°C global warming target within the next 10 years, with the planet's average temperature on a trajectory to reach 2.5°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. Urgent and radical action is needed to tackle the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and environmental destruction".

The war in Ukraine has led to the largest movement of refugees in Europe since the Second World War. This has added pressure to an already struggling international refugee protection system but has also raised questions about how different groups of refugees are treated. The #MeToo movement showed the ongoing injustices of misogyny and violence against women and girls. LGBTQI+ people still experience

discrimination and victimisation. Racist violence in this country and the US, as well as evidence of ongoing systemic problems in policing, education, health, and maternity care, has shone a light on the need to confront racism in society and to act on the legacies of slavery and colonialism. We can further add to this with the tragedies and violence unfolding in Israel/Palestine

Such a description of our times can be overwhelming, as we feel buffeted on every side, witnessing or experiencing great need, injustice and oppression. Yet we are reminded by Paul, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21). At a time of such change and great pressures, it is important to take stock, to stand back and discern what God is calling us to do.

In the challenging world described above I pray that the last two sentences, one from the writing of St Paul, the other from the wisdom of those writing the 'Justice Seeking Church' report, offer a way forward.

Every Blessing.

Revd Mark

Rosemary adds: *A Justice Seeking Church* was the topic of worship on Sunday 1st October 2023 at AMC and all members of the AMC Church Council have been given a copy of the report and there are copies out at AMC. It will be on the agenda for our Church Council on 1st November 2023.

## SERVICES OF WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER 2023

**Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup> 10.30am** Worship led by the Reverend Rosemary Fletcher – A Service for All Souls Day – see details in the October newsletter

**Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup> 10.30am** **Worship** led by the Reverend Rosemary Fletcher to include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> 10.30am** **Remembrance Sunday** – Worship led by Susan Holmes

**Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am** **All Age Worship** led by Gabby North of the Leprosy Mission



*My name is Gabby, and I have worked in the charity sector since I graduated from The University of Southampton in 2018. After working for Christian Aid and Safe Families, I was very excited to join the Leprosy Mission team in April this year, and have the privilege of visiting churches and groups to share about the work of The Leprosy Mission, and to say a huge thank you to the amazing people that make our work possible through their prayers and support. I currently live in Southampton with my cat, and attend my local Methodist Church where I am a worship leader.*

**Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup> 10.30am** **Christ the King Sunday** Worship led by the Reverend Rosemary Fletcher

**Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am** **Advent Sunday - Worship** led by the Reverend Rosemary Fletcher to include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

**We extend a warm welcome to all and invite you to stay for refreshments, which will be served after the morning service.** We usually take the Offering by having a plate in the Vestibule on your arrival to church and the welcome Steward brings it up in the first hymn where the offering is dedicated during the Service. You can set up a Standing Order: HSBC, Amesbury Methodist Church, Sort code: 40-08-25 Account No: 61117300

## Prayers



### **A prayer commended by the Archbishop in Jerusalem:**

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children – for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### **A prayer from the Methodist Peace Fellowship**

Oh Jerusalem, how we long for all peoples to be gathered up under the wings of peace and yet your heart is shattered and your sides pierced by swords of grief.

Beloved city, may mercy and justice walk in your streets and markets, show us how to look into each others' eyes with love and equity so that all humanity might die to violence and live to trust our neighbours once again. Amen.

### **A prayer for Peace in Israel and Gaza from Ely Cathedral**

Heavenly Father, we pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel. We pray especially those who have died, those who are grieving, the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies. Strengthen and support the work of all relief organisations. We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May they be touched by a spirit of compassion and kindness. Amen.

### **A prayer for Remembrance Sunday – November 12th 2023**

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. Amen.

### **November 19th 2023 – A prayer for the Leprosy Mission <https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/>**

Almighty Father, the giver of life and health, look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy. Stretch out your hand to touch and heal them as Jesus did during his earthly life. Grant wisdom and insight to those who are seeking the prevention and cure of the disease; give skill and sympathy to those who minister to the patients; reunite the separated with their families and friends; and inspire your people with the task set before The Leprosy Mission, that it may never lack either the staff or the means to carry on its healing work, in accordance with your will, and to the glory of your holy name. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**22nd November** is the day when the Roman Catholic church remember St Cecilia, the patron saint of composers, music, musicians, organ builders and singers. We give thanks for **Ann Atkins**, who plays the organ for us each week. St. Cecilia is also the patron of Church music because, as she was dying, she sang to God.

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of music and for those who are gifted as musicians. Let our music be a witness to your majesty and love and remind us that you are present in beauty and creativity. May your presence and beauty be found in every note and may the words that are sung reach the hearts of your people so they will draw closer to you. May your Spirit guide us through every measure so that we might be the instruments of your peace and proclaim your glory with glad voices. Amen.

**November 26th 2023** – Prayer for Christ the King Sunday <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer/morning-prayer-contemporary-sunday-26-november-2023>

Eternal Father whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven  
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### **Advent starts in our Churches on December 3rd.**

Here is a meditation to help us prepare for the Season of Advent  
[https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent\\_Celtic\\_Christian\\_Celebration.htm](https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent_Celtic_Christian_Celebration.htm)

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts,  
That the God who breathed this world into being,  
Placed stars into the heavens.  
And designed a butterfly's wing,  
Is the God who entrusted his life  
to the care of ordinary people,  
became vulnerable that we might know  
how strong is the power of Love.  
A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp.  
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.

#### **Dates for your Diaries**

- Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup> Amesbury Methodist Church Council 7pm
- Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> is National Safeguarding Sunday
- Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am Catherine Wilson will be baptised and confirmed and received into membership of Amesbury Methodist Church.
- Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am at AMC Dedication of Pastoral Visitors will be included in the Service
- Tuesday November 28<sup>th</sup> Girls' Brigade Christmas Fair from 6.15pm
- Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am Thanksgiving for Lauren's baby Amare Rusila Ruby
- Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> at **4pm** Carol Service

#### **The Amesbury Food Bank**

[sam@salisbury.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:sam@salisbury.foodbank.org.uk)

We are now suggesting that we bring items for the Food Bank whenever we remember and leave them in the collection point in the Church or in the foyer.

**List of current most needed items:** Long Life Fruit Juice, UHT Milk, Tinned Soup, Tinned Fruit, Tin of Ham/Spam/Curry, Tinned Potatoes, Instant Mash Packet, Rice Pudding/Custard, Bar of Chocolate, Sponge Pudding.

**STOP PRESS:** Sam of Salisbury Foodbank which includes the Amesbury foodbank writes: *"Amesbury has become so successful now that it has been chosen to be our flagship foodbank for this new era in our foodbanks"*

## Bible Study at Amesbury Methodist Church

We meet for Bible Study at Amesbury Methodist Church on Thursdays at 2.30pm until 4pm. We are currently looking at Isaiah and then the next book will be Ephesians. All are welcome.



## ECO Matters

### Our Prayer for a Just and Fair Future

Great Spirit, heavenly Father, source of life and love. We rejoice and give thanks for your bountiful planet. Great plains, verdant forests, deserts of rock, sand and ice, mountain ranges, rivers and oceans: ecosystems to meet the needs of all your creatures.

We mourn our separation from you, each other, ourselves and all creation,

We have forsaken your calling to be custodians:

When we drill for oil, gas and minerals, despoiling the earth, poisoning the waters and fouling the air with climate changing gases;

When we fell ancient trees, over-exploit the oceans and techno-farm food, destroying soils, traditional food systems and indigenous communities;

When we desecrate your world with trash where nothing in nature is intended to go to waste;

When we live lavish lifestyles and turn our other cheek to poverty, injustice, war, famine and unbearable human suffering;

When world leaders and multi-national corporations put profit before the wellbeing of people, communities and a flourishing planet.

We pray that our words, our pilgrimage and our actions may be a witness to world leaders, encouraging and inspiring them to make radical commitments at the forthcoming climate talks. Commitments that will restore the earth and lead to justice for communities confronted by the climate crisis. And may they lead us onto a new path for a sustainable future where we live in harmony with all life.

Open our senses to all we encounter and be with us that we may walk in safety. Awaken us to our true nature, to live in peace with you, each other and all creation. By restoring harmony and balance we too will be restored to wholeness. **Amen.**

*Prayer by Bishop Geoff Davies, South Africa's 'Green Bishop'. Bishop Geoff, or also known as the Green Bishop, and his wife Kate are founders of the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute*

### Southampton District of the Methodist Church Environment Policy

We are mindful of Jesus' words (Luke 12:54): *You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?*

In this present time, we recognise that we do not fulfil the sense of Psalm 104 (v31):

The glory of GOD - let it last forever! Let GOD enjoy his creation.

We should address the excesses highlighted by the prophet Micah (6.7):

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

And seek to live lightly (Micah 6.8):

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

This environmental policy provides a framework for the District to walk humbly and do justice, guided by the Eco Church questioning and the Steps towards the Net Zero Carbon of Action for Hope. The District invites Circuits, Churches and members of our communities also to follow these steps. As, for example, with safeguarding, equality, diversity and inclusion, we consider creation care to be fundamental to our Way of Life, and thus be embedded within the dealings of our worship, meetings and councils; we treasure the value of 'twos and threes' for enabling this mission. The District shall also employ its mechanisms of guidance, resources and grants to aid circuits and churches in these steps.

#### **Action for Hope step 1: Assess where you are.**

Bases of self-assessment of carbon emissions are provided by Climate Stewards for individuals and churches. These also provide a means for ethically offsetting carbon emissions.

A District has particular responsibilities to its own buildings, offices and land. In our case this is predominantly at the manse. We are making an assessment of the manse and garden using the Eco Church guidance; this has included a current Energy Performance Certificate (D). This assessment will inform future modifications.

#### **Action for Hope step 2: Green your energy.**

The District will develop proposals for the infrastructure of the District manse to improve its energy efficiency and reduce its carbon footprint.

The District will also provide guidance to aid circuits and churches in achieving the same goals. District grants, which are available to share the costs of projects with churches and circuits, have an emphasis on mission and so are well suited to Eco Church principles.

#### **Action for Hope step 3: Travel Smart.**

The District seeks to install an electric charging point at the District manse and its regular meeting venues at appropriate times. The District will also provide guidance to aid Circuits to reduce the carbon footprint of staff travel.

The planning of District meetings and events will continue the use of on-line meetings to enable face-to-face interactions without the need to travel. When it is necessary to meet in person the choice of locations and timings will be influenced by the options for public transport, and guidance will continue to be provided for travel to District events.

#### **Action for Hope step 4: Go for Gold.**

The Southampton District greatly values the Eco Church surveys as a means of stimulating individuals and communities along pathways that walk humbly and do justice. Accordingly it commits to the Action for Hope targets:

1. To have 50% of its churches registered with Eco Church by 2026.
2. To have 50% of its churches registered with Eco Church having achieved a bronze award by 2026.
3. To have 20% of its churches registered with Eco Church having achieved a silver award by 2026.

Southampton District commits to attaining a Bronze Eco District award level in 2023, and targets a Silver level in 2026. The District will provide resources, guidance and training to Circuits and Churches for their Eco church journeys

### Action for Hope step 5: Live light.

The District recognises that the lifestyles of its communities are a substantial part of the overall carbon footprint of the church. It has therefore sought to provide appropriate guidance and training in conjunction with the Learning and Training Network.

In its own events it will promote the three 'Rs' (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) for materials and LOAF (Local, Organically grown, Animal friendly, Fairly traded) for foodstuffs.

### Action for Hope step 6: Celebrate together.

Creation Care can evoke love, passion and commitment, all of which enable these other steps on the road of Action for Hope. The District will therefore enable sharing events, indoors and outdoors, as sources inspiration. It will also promote intergenerational events such as Forest Churches.

### Possibilities for funding

Information about District grants is available on the [District website](#).

## Recycling at Amesbury Methodist Church

### Recycling candle wax

Linda Turner had a clear out of our candles at Amesbury Methodist Church and when Rosemary was visiting her brother in St Albans, she left them all on the door step of a St Albans friend, Rona. Here is what Rona says:

"St John's Parish Church in Southdown, a district of Harpenden, in Hertfordshire, is a Bronze EcoChurch. One of their activities is collecting candle wax for recycling, and every so often Rona, her church's eco-rep, cycles over to Southdown with a pannier full of candle remnants. On this occasion the load included some candles from Amesbury Methodist Church. Rona enjoys the excuse for a cycle ride, especially on a sunny October day. She also likes visiting St John's; the church is usually open and she likes its architecture and calm welcome. St John's put it well on their website: **'Welcoming everyone warmly and providing reverent and relaxed worship and inspiration to live and share God's love'**"

[St John's Church Harpenden \(stjohnsharpenden.org.uk\)](http://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

Rosemary asks: is there anywhere in Wiltshire who operates a similar system?



**Mobile Phones** If anyone has an old mobile phone lying around, please do give them to Rosemary, to pass on to Paul Butler at Salisbury Methodist Church. He collects them for the Christian Aid appeal.



And please bring your postage stamps for collection in the foyer at Amesbury Methodist Church; we raise funds for the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) through these.



## Printer Cartridges

Please bring any unwanted Printer Cartridges into church for the Girls' Brigade to collect and raise funds for Girls' Brigade

## Recycling in Salisbury

### Five Minutes for the Planet / Eco Tip for November 2023

#### Clothes

The fashion industry, one of the most wasteful on the planet, would have us believe that we need to keep buying the latest clothes. Most of us keep our clothes for a while, but what do you do when you are tired of them, or maybe the clothes are getting tired!

The obvious answer is to donate them to a charity shop (of which there are plenty) if they are in good condition, but if they are less than perfect:

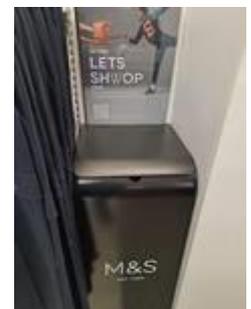
In every Marks and Spencer's store (pictured here below is the box in Salisbury M and S or M&S as per their own designation?) where you can leave clothes, etc., you no longer want or need. They have a partnership with Oxfam. And this includes items that are not good enough for charity shops!

Why? What can they be used for? **Items that Oxfam can't sell are also put to use; whether they are recycled into mattress stuffing or carpet underlay, they just won't end up in landfill.**

Over 7.7 million items of clothing have been prevented from ending up in landfill by donating your unwanted clothes to Shwopping, the award-winning partnership between M&S and Oxfam. The value to Oxfam of Shwopping is immense and has generated over £5 million for the charity Oxfam since Shwopping launched in April 2012.

So, have a sort out of your wardrobe and drop the items in the box in an M&S, or if they are good enough quality, donate to a local charity shop!

**And the Reverend Anna Bishop** is collecting bras for a charity that repairs and reuses them for people in Africa who cannot afford them, so do bring in any of yours you no longer need, for the collection box at Amesbury Methodist Church.



## PASTORAL NEWS



**If anyone who is no longer able to come to church would like to receive Holy Communion at home, then please just ask Rosemary Fletcher as she will be able to bring it to you. For those who have access to the internet, there is always a service on <https://salisburymethodist.org.uk/>**

We continue to remember **Linda Pillay** as she undergoes further treatment. Linda's sister Queenie died in October and we pray for Linda in her bereavement too.

We also remember **Linda Turner** who still awaits her appointment at Southampton General Hospital.

We remember those not able to worship with us on Sundays due to age or ill health – **Tony Hallett, and Hazel Terry. And we also remember Evelyn Ayres and Barbara Coleman**

If you would like your name included here please let Rosemary know and, if you would like to be included in prayers in church, please also let Rosemary know.

**A Prayer from <https://www.faithandworship.com/>**

At the dawning of each new day  
let it begin with you,  
our Saviour and Redeemer.  
In our weakness  
be our strength.  
In our stumbling  
be our guide.  
In our brokenness  
be our healing.  
In our darkness  
be our light,  
at the dawning of this  
and every new day.

At the closing of each day,  
let it end with you,  
our life and our Salvation.  
In our anxiety  
be our peace.  
In our doubting  
be our truth.  
In our pain  
be our comfort.  
In our restlessness  
be our sleep,  
at the closing of this  
and every new day.

### **Girls' Brigade**

**Tesco StrongerStarts Scheme:** During October, November & December 2023, 1<sup>st</sup> Amesbury Girls' Brigade have been selected as one of the charities to receive the money from the 'StrongerStarts' scheme that Tesco run. If you, your family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, passing acquaintances or children shop in Tesco in Amesbury or Durrington, please help us by asking for and depositing your blue coin in the box labelled '1st Amesbury Girls' Brigade'. Please spread the word far and wide! Many thanks,

*Anthea Herrett Co Captain*



### **Our Circuit Zambia Link**

Zambia celebrates 59 years as an independent nation on 24<sup>th</sup> October this year. To give thanks for that, there is a display in Salisbury Methodist Church from 16<sup>th</sup> October to 20<sup>th</sup> November about Zambia, about the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) and about our link congregation, St John's UCZ, Mtendere.

Pray that the rains will arrive in November. As we heard at Holiday Club in August, these rains are essential after 6 months with no rain, so that the crops will grow, so that the rivers and lakes will be replenished and so that Zambia will have enough electric power from the hydroelectric schemes on the Zambesi and Kafue rivers.

Pray for pupils in school preparing for school leaving exams at Grades 7, 9 and 12. These exams are at the end of November and during December, at the end of the school year.

Pray too for the ministers and deacons in training at the UCZ University who are completing their courses before starting ministry in January.

At St John's UCZ, Mtendere, the congregation give thanks for growth in numbers this year and for full resumption of church activities after the Covid restrictions. One new project the Chelston Consistory has recently started is eye screening through the Community Development and Social Justice group.

This is a much needed provision. Continue to pray for the people of St John's, as they pray for us.

*The Reverend Cecil King*

## **Concert in aid of Alzheimer's Support Group**

Our Amesbury Mayor, Councillor Monica Devendran, is keen to support local charities, and one of these is the Alzheimer's Support Group which meets at Amesbury Methodist Church every Monday afternoon. The group is affiliated to Wiltshire Alzheimer's Support who provide support and advice to 2,500 people in Wiltshire every year. Harry Theobald represented them at the concert. The money raised will help the local group here in Amesbury. We were delighted to host this event on Friday September 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Reverend Rosemary Fletcher welcomed everyone to the event as did the Mayor. The evening began with a wonderful concert by the Amesbury Soul Singers, and soul was the word! The renditions of various songs (some well-known and some new to the audience) truly did come from their hearts. Conductor Ross was very enthusiastic, and all the soloists and the whole Choir sang beautifully.

After an hour's concert we then adjourned for delicious refreshments kindly donated by local restaurant "A Date with Thyme". Members of Amesbury Methodist Church (Mari and Pat) served tea and coffee and squash, and Rita and Mauren organised a raffle. There are many people to be thanked and in addition to the Mayor we must thank Liz Rose from Amesbury Methodist Church and Jeff Coy from the Roman Catholic Church of Christ the King who helped with all the publicity and organisation, and who did so much to make the evening a success.

Then there was a short quiz with James Rowley (husband of the Reverend Rosemary Fletcher) as Quiz Master - a role he played in May at AMC for the Christian Aid Quiz. There were 11 teams of about 6 in each team. The quiz lasted about an hour and fun was had by all even if not every team scored highly!! The evening raised the wonderful total of £830 – very impressive. Thank you one and all.



The Soul Singers with the Mayor and Rosemary

## **AMESBURY METHODIST CHURCH ECO FAIR - SAT. 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPT. 2023**

Christian Churches across the world have been encouraged to mark the Season of Creation, which starts each year on 1<sup>st</sup> September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on 4<sup>th</sup> October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology, beloved by many Christian denominations. Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common world. As part of our response to this, a group from the Circuit Justice and Peace Group organised an Eco Fair at Amesbury Methodist Church on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September. We hoped that people from the other churches in Amesbury and the Circuit, and also the local community would come along and be prepared to spend some money on various stalls and also recycle some household unwanted bits and pieces such as greetings cards, stamps, printer cartridges, spectacles, pens, bras, mobile phones and other electronic goods, **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle being a good motto.** Meanwhile, there were opportunities to learn about climate change and what we can all do to work for climate justice.

We were delighted that the Mayor of Amesbury came and opened the event at 10.00am and in the attached picture the Mayor Councillor Monica Devendran is pictured with the organising committee: The Reverend Rosemary Fletcher (Methodist Minister for Amesbury), the Reverend Anna Bishop (a Methodist Minister from Salisbury) along with her 11 year old daughter Grace and Jim Gillings (the Eco Champion of the Salisbury Methodist circuit). Amesbury Methodist Church are working to becoming an Eco Church and this event was part of their mission to become more environmentally aware and alert the local community to issues involved with climate change, climate justice and care of the environment. Stalls included:

Extinction Rebellion bringing to our attention the science of climate changes and the need for climate justice,

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Clothing Exchange

Greetings cards made from old cards in aid of the Diocesan Sudan Medical Link (Amesbury is in the Anglican Diocese of Salisbury. See picture.

Eco Church / A Rocha

Artisan Woodwork stall – locally made woodwork items

Plant stall in aid of Alzheimer’s Support

Lots of recycling collection points including printer cartridges for Girls’ Brigade fund-raising.

The plant stall added to the total for Alzheimer’s Support from the event on 29<sup>th</sup> September, the Card Stall raised £144 for the Sudan Medical Link, £154.20 was spent on the Traidcraft Stall and the Woodwork stall raised £91.00 towards Amesbury Methodist Church Funds.

A good time was had by all. Thank you to all who helped and all who attended.

Christian Aid (many of the countries with whom Christian Aid work are affected adversely by Climate Change)

Medic to Medic – terra-cycling, recycling of difficult to recycle items

Kindness Naturally

How to make bird feeders and seed bombs - this was outside on the field behind the Church and was organised by 11 year old Grace. See picture

The local food bank – a branch of Salisbury Foodbank

Traidcraft - Fair Trade items - AMC is a Fair Trade Church

Presentation about the new Air Source Heat Pump at Salisbury Methodist Church





**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 from 6.15pm  
@ Amesbury Methodist Church**

### **Circuit Justice and Peace Group**

At the Circuit Meeting on 12th June 2023, and following the recommendation of the Circuit Justice and Peace Group, the Circuit Meeting agreed that each month we would adopt the Prisoner of Conscience which the Cathedral and other local churches are praying for each month.

We are also encouraged to write and take up the cause of the specific prisoner each month. We are now going to receive their details each month and we are encouraging churches to display their details each month and also for preachers to include them in their prayers for the particular month.

The person for whom we are encouraged to pray for and to write about for November 2023 is attached at the back of this newsletter.

## Regular Hall Bookings and weekly activities

**Booking Secretary: Liz Rose**

We have 2 large Halls and a small Meeting Room available for hire: Ideal for Family Parties, Groups, Exercise Classes, Dance Groups, etc. The Kitchen is large, spacious, and well equipped and complies with all Health & Safety Regulations.

**For more details**

Tel: 01980 623541 E-mail: [g4yqv@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:g4yqv@tiscali.co.uk)

<b>MONDAY</b>	<p><b>10.00 - 12 noon MH</b> Ukrainian Hub (27<sup>th</sup> November BH)</p> <p><b>13.30 - 16.00 MH</b> The Alzheimer's Support Group (27<sup>th</sup> November BH)</p> <p><b>19.30 – 21.30 BH</b> Andover Scottish Dancers (20<sup>th</sup> November MH)</p>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<p><b>11.00 - 13.00 BH</b> Line Dancing (21<sup>st</sup> November 08.45 – 10.45 MH)</p> <p><b>11.00 - 13.00 MH</b> The Salisbury Food Bank (28<sup>th</sup> November Youth Room &amp; Vestibule)</p> <p><b>14.00 - 16.00 BH</b> Amesbury Archer Songsters (21<sup>st</sup> November MH)</p> <p><b>18.15 – 19:30 All Rooms</b> Girls' Brigade</p>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<p><b>10.00 - 13.30pm BH</b> Pre-Natal Yoga class (22<sup>nd</sup> November MH)</p> <p><b>14.00 - 16:00 MH</b> Craft Hub (meet on 8<sup>th</sup> and 22nd November)</p> <p><b>18.00 - 19.30 BH</b> Line Dancing with Julie (22<sup>nd</sup> November 16.00 – 17.30 MH)</p> <p><b>(18.00 - 19.00 MH</b> Amesbury Town Band</p>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<p><b>11.00 – 12:30 BH</b> Line dancing with Julie</p> <p><b>13.00 - 15.00 MH</b> The Salisbury Foodbank (30<sup>th</sup> November BH)</p> <p><b>14.30 - 16.30 Youth Room/Committee Room</b> Bible Study</p>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	No Bookings - Cleaning	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>10.00 – 12 noon MH</b> Coffee Morning

BH = Back Hall, MH = Main Hall

### Acknowledgements

Thank you to **Sammy Guy** for putting this newsletter together – please send items for the December 2023 newsletter on or before 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to [sammycsw@yahoo.com](mailto:sammycsw@yahoo.com).

Thank you also to **Maggie Mudalige**, a friend of Rosemary and James, who proofread this newsletter.

Amesbury Methodist Church CCLi licence no 206298

## WORLDWIDE APPEALS – November 2023

An appeal from you to the authorities can help the victims of human rights violations. You can help free a prisoner of conscience or stop torture. Your message can bring liberty to a victim of disappearance. You may prevent an execution. The victims are many, the violators wide ranging. Every appeal counts.



### HEALTH RISK FOR DETAINED ANTI-TORTURE T-SHIRT PROTESTER

Mahmoud Hussein, a protester who had already spent two years in arbitrary pretrial detention for wearing an anti-torture T-shirt, was re-arrested on 30 August. After his release on bail in 2016, he was convicted of bogus charges and sentenced to life imprisonment in his absence in a grossly unfair trial by an emergency court marred by allegations of torture. He is detained at Badr 1 prison pending his retrial, amid concerns over his health. He must be immediately and unconditionally released as his detention is solely linked to the exercise of his human rights, including by wearing an anti-torture T-shirt.

### TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Public Prosecutor Mohamed Shawky Ayyad  
Office of the Public Prosecutor  
Madinat al-Rehab, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt  
Fax: +202 2577 4716  
Twitter: @EgyptianPPO

Your Excellency,

*I am concerned about the arbitrary detention of Mahmoud Hussein since 30 August, solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression. Security forces stopped him at a checkpoint on his way back from Beni Suef to Cairo. He was then forcibly disappeared for five days, with the authorities refusing to provide his lawyers or family with any information about his fate or whereabouts. It later transpired that he was held at three separate locations including a facility controlled by the National Security Agency (NSA). During this time, he was interrogated while blindfolded without the presence of his lawyer. Security forces also raided his home in Al-Obour city on 1 September, and took his computer, printer, and other personal belongings. On 5 September, he was brought to the North Cairo Public Prosecution for interrogation in connection to a case dating back to protests on 25 January 2014. The then 18-year-old was arrested for wearing a T-shirt with the slogan "A Nation Without Torture" and arbitrarily detained for two years. He was released on bail in March 2016. He was eventually tried in his absence by the Emergency State Security Court (ESSC), on bogus charges including membership in a terrorist group, possession of explosive devices and Molotov cocktails, and incitement to violence. On 26 February 2018, the ESSC convicted him and sentenced him to life imprisonment. According to Egyptian law, as he was tried in his absence he will now stand retrial on the same charges, also in front of an ESSC. Trials in front of ESSCs are inherently unfair, as their verdicts are not subject to appeal, but only ratification by the president.*

*Mahmoud Hussein is currently detained in Badr 1 Prison, where Amnesty International has documented concerns regarding inhumane detention conditions and denial of adequate healthcare to prisoners. Mahmoud Hussein was granted a brief family visit on 14 September, amid mounting concerns for his health given that he had undergone two hip replacement surgeries prior to his detention and needs regular examination and monitoring by specialized medical professionals. He also reported severe pain as a result of his inguinal hernia, for which he needs surgery according to medical advice he received before his detention. He also continues to suffer from panic attacks after being subjected to torture and other ill-treatment during his previous detention.*

*I urge you to ensure Mahmoud Hussein's immediate and unconditional release. His conviction and sentence must be quashed and all charges against him dropped as they stem from the exercise of his right to freedom of expression. Pending his release, he must be granted regular access to his family, lawyers and adequate medical care, including in outside hospitals if necessary, and held in conditions that comply with international standards for the treatment of prisoners.*

Amnesty International–Nobel Peace Prize 1977 UN Human Rights Prize 1978

For more information about the Salisbury branch please call Tony Miller 01722 322791 -  
www.salisburyai.com