

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

**Amesbury Methodist Church**

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**Amesbury Methodist Church**

**Newsletter for October 2023**

**Our Minister's Letter**

**Mahatma Gandhi wrote over 100 years ago:** *We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a person changes their own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards them. This is the divine mystery supreme. A wonderful thing it is. We need not wait to see what others do.*

He describes that we human beings perceive the world through the filters we impose on ourselves. If we want to see a different reality, we need to work on our filtering, and the world will change. Well, probably not the whole world immediately, but definitely the way we perceive the world around us.

There are several national events in October which invite us to see the world through different lenses. October is Black History Month and also includes United Nations Day (24<sup>th</sup> October) - dates which remind us of our rainbow coloured world and our need to listen to the pain of others and to reflect. The United Nations came into being on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1945. It arose out of the ashes of World War II, with its aim to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of wa”r’, promote “fundamental human rights”, establish conditions for the respect of “justice and international law” and “promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.” We still need the work of the United Nations to serve a world very different from that of 1945.



In July we had the story of the mustard seed in our Sunday lectionary: Matthew 13 v 31-2 “*Jesus put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’*”

This tiny seed has so much potential. That little seed has within it the potential to become the largest of plants, a source of food, and a dwelling place for the birds of the air. This reality reveals the fact that Jesus wants to use each one of us for the building up of His Kingdom. We may feel as though we cannot do much, that we are not as gifted as others, that we will not be able to make much of a difference, but that’s not true. The truth is that each one of us has potential that God wants to bring to fruition. We are all called to act now, to see the world through other’s lenses, to listen to prophets like Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough, to hear the stories of pain in our midst and make sure we do not repeat mistakes of the past. We are called to listen to those whose lives have been blighted by racism and prejudice and on hearing their stories, ask ourselves, what can I do and how can I change? There **are** things we can all do..... We are those mustard seeds, full of potential. We began with Gandhi, and he is often quoted as saying: ***Be the change that you wish to see in the world.*** Think about it. ...

I end with a prayer which was used in a Service on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020 when 75 years of the United Nations was celebrated.

*O loving and gracious Creator*

*Your love embraces all members of the human family,*

*Your care extends to the least of those among us,*

*To all our sisters and brothers in every part of the earth.*

*You call us to mature love and concern for the entire human community,*

*You call us as individuals, as a nation, as a united community of nations.*

*Let us hear this prayer in our hearts and respond with faith and good will.*

*God of compassion,*

*Walk alongside all of your global stewards, who work to create a more just and peaceful world.*

*Equip the United Nations community with a sense of urgency and humility that lets your will be done. Teach the world’s leaders to forgive, to extend welcome across borders.*

*Show the world a new path beyond greed, oppression and division.*

*Bless all our efforts toward uniting peoples and nations.*

*Bless the United Nations as it strives to be an authentic community, as it witnesses to the needs of all, to the rights of all, including mother Earth.*

*Grant us the wisdom and grace to become a true global family and witness your reign on this earth. Amen*

Every Blessing

Rosemary

## Season of Creation



We are nearing the end of the Season of Creation, adopted by many Churches in our world today. The season started on 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on 4th 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 are encouraged to come together to care for our common home. But caring for creation is not just for Christians, it is for each one of us to play our part.

St Francis is one of the ancient saints that many outside the church know about. There is a famous prayer attributed to him:

*“Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”*

Following these words is a good way for us to lead our lives, whatever is our belief system.

These words are also attributed to St Francis:

*“Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received - only what you have given: a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage”.*

And *“Preach the Gospels everyday & only if you have to...use words”.*

In other words what matters is how we live our lives. And, as we come to the end of the Season of Creation, we all need to ask ourselves: what sort of a world are we leaving for the generations that are to come after us?

What can we do to care more deeply for God's creation?

## Carbon Footprint



You might like to find out what is your carbon footprint <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>

Some of us are trying not to fly for climate change reasons but if we have relatives or friends in other countries then it is very hard not to fly, so we can also off set our carbon emissions. Not just the ones we emit by flying.

**What is a Carbon Offset?** A Carbon offset is a way to compensate for your emissions by funding an equivalent carbon dioxide saving elsewhere. Our everyday actions, at home and at work, consume energy and produce carbon emissions, such as driving, flying and heating buildings.

Steps for **reducing your footprint** in order of how effective they are:

- 1: **Avoid:** for example, cycle or walk when you can, instead of driving. Use trains when you can!
- 2: **Reduce:** improve your energy efficiency by investing in your own renewable energy, such as solar panels. Check if there are any financial incentives on offer in your area.
- 3: **Substitute:** if its financially viable choose a 100% renewable energy tariff.
- 4: **Offset:** only as a last resort! One suggestion is the World Land Trust (<https://worldlandtrust.org/>), which buys up areas of rainforest and other wildlife habitats to actively prevent deforestation. Their website has an easy-to-use link to calculate the carbon impact of individual flights and donate an appropriate amount.

### Southampton Methodist District – an Eco District

The Southampton District intends to become an Eco District. A number of webinars have been arranged, most imminently:

- **Lament, Hope and Wisdom:** Reflecting theologically on the environmental crisis. Mon. 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct., 7-9pm.
- **Why be an Eco District?** Understanding the Benefits, Challenges & Impacts. Mon. 13<sup>th</sup> Nov., 7-9pm.

Book tickets for the webinars through [sdmc.org.uk/resources/eco-church](https://sdmc.org.uk/resources/eco-church)

### Prayers for our World

A friend said that she did not know how to pray as the tragedies unfolded in Morocco and then Libya.

There will be appeals for money from various Aid Organisations, but these prayers are offered to help us, as these awful situations have unfolded before our eyes.

### **A prayer for those affected by the earthquake in Morocco from Christian Aid**

God, our refuge in times of trouble,  
You told us to pray always and not to lose heart.  
We pray for our neighbours in Morocco.  
We pray for you to comfort those affected by the earthquake.  
For those who have lost loved ones, homes and all they know.  
Bring solace in their grief, healing in their pain and help in their time of need.  
Let those in need know they are not alone;  
May your light shine through the darkness.  
And bring hope and strength.  
We pray for provision for communities  
who now face an uncertain future.  
Open our hearts,  
May they be full of compassion.  
Draw close to those who need you today.  
In the name of Jesus. **Amen**

### **A prayer from Christian Aid for those affected by the floods in Libya.**

Lord Jesus, you're familiar with grief, you know what it is to weep with those who are suffering.  
You're close to the broken-hearted and comfort those who mourn.  
Devastating flooding has led to losses beyond measure for the people of Libya.  
With so many thousands affected, help us to see beyond the numbers to real communities and families whose lives have been upturned.  
We pray that you would strengthen those who are still fighting to survive, and the rescue workers trying to save them.  
We pray that you would console those who fear the worst as they wait for news.  
We pray that you would be with all who are traumatised and deeply grieving.  
Show us, Lord, how to serve you by helping our neighbours in Libya.  
When we are daunted by the scale of the disaster, inspire us with your Spirit that we may know how to make a difference.  
We thank you for the work of aid agencies on the ground and for all who give what they can to help save lives and support survivors.  
You're close to the broken-hearted Lord. Be close to the people of Libya, we pray. **Amen**

**We are having a voluntary retiring collection at AMC in worship on Sundays 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October for the work of Christian Aid. Gift Aid envelopes , 2023,are available.**

## October is Black History Month.

This year, 2023, marks the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush to the UK.

A prayer marking the start of the month has been written by Norman Mullings MBE, part of Harlesden Methodist Church in North London. Norman arrived in Britain from Jamaica in 1958. Recorded at the Windrush monument on London Waterloo Station, you can watch and download a video of the prayer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-V0A91BEp4>

Loving God, as we prepare to celebrate Black History Month and the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Windrush with 500 black people from the Caribbean on it, we remember that these people were invited to assist in the rebuilding of this country, after the devastation of the war. We give you thanks for all they accomplished and all the ways they have enriched our society. We pray that you will open the hearts and minds of those who still believe that black people are inferior to white people. Father God, we pray that you will help us all to realise that we are all your children, and that one day we will all have to answer to you. Give us the grace to treat one another as we would wish to be treated, with respect and grace and kindness, now and always. **Amen.**



### SERVICES OF WORSHIP IN OCTOBER 2023

- **Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>** - Worship led by the Reverend Rosemary Fletcher with the Reverend Margaret Jones to include the Sacrament of Holy Communion
- **Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup>** - Worship led by Steve Irish
- **Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>** - Worship led by Dan Bishop
- **Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Worship led by the Reverend Rosemary Fletcher – All Age Worship. World Church Sunday and JMA Sunday.
- **Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup>** - Worship led by the Reverend Rosemary Fletcher – For All Souls Day
- **Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup>** - 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

## **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 10.30am World Church Sunday and JMA Sunday - All Age Worship**

We will remember World Church Sunday on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and in our World Church Sunday service, we also celebrate JMA (Junior Mission for All). **Junior Mission for All (JMA)** was created so that children and young people would be able to learn about and support the mission of the Church in a fun, creative and engaging way. It is also about sharing the insights of God's people all over the world with children in our churches.



JMA is part of the Methodist Church's mission programme. Children and young people raise funds for JMA to support the Methodist Church's **World Mission Fund** and **Mission in Britain Fund**. And we will have an opportunity to give to the World Mission Fund in this Service.

I invite you all to bring something or wear something for this service from either your country of birth or from a place where you have lived/worked a long time. Do not worry if this is England, you can still bring something along! Let us make it as colourful as ever and enjoy our varied cultures and heritages.

### **A Prayer for World Church Sunday**

We pray that we might seek abundant life for all humanity; that we might work for peace with justice and freedom; and that we might be prepared to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God's kingdom may come on earth as in heaven. **Amen.**

## **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 10.30am - A Time to Remember – All Souls' Service**



We are conscious of the long and sad journey of bereavement, and we invite you and your family and friends to come to the above service.

**This Service will be a chance for all those who have been bereaved to come together and remember and give thanks for the life of their loved one(s)**

If you would like the name of your friend or relative read out in the Service, please let me know by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and the name(s) will be included in the prayers during the service. Please feel free to come alone or come with a friend or bring with you anyone else who has also been bereaved recently. All are welcome.

*“It has been traditional in Ireland to regard the dead as very close to those who are living. Peig Sayers, a traditional storyteller who lived on the Great Blasket island off the Kerry coast was once asked where heaven was. In reply she said it was just a few inches above the head of the tallest man on the island. Heaven and earth, like life and death were one in the traditional way of thinking. Whether or not Peig realized it, her belief about heaven’s closeness to earth is very similar to the thinking of the great medieval mystic known as Meister Eckhart. When he was asked where the soul goes after death Eckhart said, ‘No place. Where else would the soul be going, where else is the eternal world? It can be nowhere other than here.’ We have somehow managed to lose that sense of the nearness of eternity and to forget that once the soul is free of the body, time and space, distance and separation are meaningless.” (From Sr Stanilaus Kennedy: *Now is the Time*)*

*God our Father, as we remember those who have gone before us this November, give us the comfort of knowing that they have gone only as far as you, and you are very near. Amen*

### **Dates for your Diaries**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am Amesbury Methodist Church Pastoral Committee at AMC

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October - Autumn Fair at Amesbury Methodist Church from 10.00am to 12 noon which will include a Raffle, Cake Stall, Gifts Stall, Craft Stall, Tombola organised by the Girls Brigade and a Christmas Stall – come and shop early for Christmas!

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November Amesbury Methodist Church Council 7pm at AMC.

### **News**

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 the Mayor of Amesbury, Cllr Monical Devandran, met with the leaders of the local Churches at the Roman Catholic Church of Christ the King in Amesbury.



Here they are pictured with the Mayor. Mike Perry, Barry Davis, Rosemary Fletcher and Fr Saji. Fr Darren was not able to attend.



## Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust – 2023 Ride and Stride



On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, on one of the hottest days of the year, Rosemary and James set off on their bikes and cycled for about 40 miles and visited 32 churches. Here they are at Amesbury Methodist Church. Thanks to Liz, Gillian and Ivor for staffing the AMC table and offering hospitality to riders and striders.

The website remains open for 6 months so there is still time to give and also look at all the photos of the churches they visited.

Half the money raised goes to Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and the other half to Amesbury Methodist Church. They have so far raised over £570.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Rosemary-Fletcher8>

### 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 in the collection point in the Church or in the foyer.

#### **Here is the list of requirements for October.**

Most needed: 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



## Bible Study at Amesbury Methodist Church

We resume Bible Study at Amesbury Methodist Church on Thursdays at 2.30pm until 4pm.

We meet in the Quiet Room each week. We are currently looking at Isaiah and then the next book will be Ephesians. All are welcome.



## Recycling at Amesbury Methodist Church and Salisbury



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.



In Salisbury, if you ever go to Boots or Superdrug you can recycle old makeup and other such products. Example container opposite.

Check with your own local chemist shops to see if they recycle anything - and please let us know!



### Printer Cartridges

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

## 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..

We also remember **Linda Turner** who still awaits her appointment at Southampton General Hospital. As at 28<sup>th</sup> September, Linda has been admitted again to Salisbury District Hospital. We remember Linda in our prayers.

We remember those not able to worship with us on Sundays due to age or ill health – **Tony Hallett**, and **Hazel Terry**. It was good to see **Evelyn Ayres** and **Barbara Coleman** in church recently.

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.

## An Autumn Prayer

The Church is full of people  
in the Autumn of their years.  
Some have led colourful lives  
leaves bronzed and golden  
through exposure to the elements  
their appearance the centre of attention.  
Others have been exposed  
to more extreme conditions  
branches bowed and scarred.  
Some go unnoticed,  
yet stand tall and steadfast  
against wind and rain.  
All have a story to tell  
all can offer support and shelter  
for saplings which grow beneath their leafy canopy.



From [https://www.faithandworship.com/Prayers\\_Autumn.htm](https://www.faithandworship.com/Prayers_Autumn.htm)

We give thanks for the work of our 4 continuing Pastoral Visitors: Ann Buckland, Gillian Clarke, Mari Fautley and Linda Turner. **And thank you to Elaine Bloom for offering to be a Pastoral Visitor. This is good news indeed. Thanks too to Catherine Wilson for offering to become our Church Council Secretary.**

**Thank you also to those who have joined our cleaning rota recently in response to the request in the last newsletter.**

**Congratulations to Jonathan and Matthew Ivess-Mash on their GCSE results.**

**Jonathan** is now studying A-levels in, Geography, History, Philosophy, and Politics at Bishop Wordsworth School in Salisbury and **Matthew** A-Levels in Classical Civilisation, Business Studies and Geography at Beechen Cliff State Boarding School in Bath. We wish them both well for their continuing studies.

We remember all those young people who have started new schools this term: Jayden Annan, Franklin and Collins Mamphey, Leon Newton, as well as Matthew Ivess-Mash.

We remember Catherine's son Adam Brittain who has started at the University of Manchester studying Linguistics and German.

## Circuit Justice and Peace Group

The Circuit has voted to become an **Eco Circuit**, and Jim Gillings, a member of Salisbury Methodist Church, has been appointed our Circuit Eco Champion. He will be helping churches consider becoming Eco Churches. Salisbury Methodist Church has been awarded the Bronze Award and is working for the Silver Award. Our Circuit Eco Fair on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September is being held at Amesbury Methodist

Church – see the details in the September newsletter and do come along and bring others with you! The Amesbury Methodist Church Council, which meets next on 1<sup>st</sup> November, will be discussing Amesbury Methodist Church signing up to become an Eco Church, which means we start an eco journey together.

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** who 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.

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

### Regular Hall Bookings and weekly activities

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 contact Booking Secretary: Liz Rose,**

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

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>10.00 - 12 noon MH</b> Ukrainian Hub <b>13.30 - 16.00 MH</b> The Alzheimer's Support Group (not on 23 <sup>rd</sup> October) <b>19.30 – 21.30 BH</b> Andover Scottish Dancers	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>11.00 - 13.00 BH</b> Line Dancing (not on 31st October) <b>11.00 - 13.00 MH</b> The Salisbury Food Bank <b>14.00 - 16.00 BH</b> Amesbury Archer Songsters <b>18.15 – 19:30 All Rooms</b> Girls Brigade (not on 24 <sup>th</sup> October)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10.00 - 13.30pm BH</b> Pre-Natal Yoga class <b>14.00 - 16:00 MH</b> Craft Hub (meet on 11 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> October) <b>17.30 - 19.00 BH</b> Line Dancing with Julie (not on 25 <sup>th</sup> October) (16:30-19:00 on 4 <sup>th</sup> October) <b>(18.00 - 19.00 MH</b> Amesbury Town Band	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11.00 – 12:30 BH</b> Line dancing with Julie (not on 26 <sup>th</sup> October) <b>13.00 - 15.00 MH</b> The Salisbury Foodbank <b>14.30 - 16.30 The Quiet Room</b> Bible Study
<b>FRIDAY</b>	No Bookings - Cleaning	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>10.00 – 12 noon MH</b> Coffee Morning
<b>BH = Back Hall, MH = Main Hall.</b>			

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October:** 13.00 – 16.00 MH Children's Party

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October:** 10.00 – 12 noon BH Autumn Fair

### **Our Circuit Zambia link (AMC GB are in the process of joining this link)**

October is the hottest month in Zambia, and the month in which we shall celebrate the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Zambia's Independence Day – 24th October, 1964. In the United Church of Zambia (UCZ), the special Sunday in October is on 8<sup>th</sup> October, when we shall observe Widows, Retirees and Orphans Sunday. The Bible, in the Old and New Testaments, urges us to care especially for widows and orphans, and, in Zambia today, this is especially important because of the ravages of HIV/AIDS leaving very many orphans. We are grateful for the several UK based charities supporting orphans in Zambia, especially helping children get through school. Widows, retirees and orphans are the neediest people in Zambia, and at St John's, Mtendere – our link congregation – the Community Development and Social Justice group led by Mukupa Chanda works to help such people in our neighbourhood.

Give thanks for the visit to Zambia of Revd Helen Everard from Fleet URC, which has strengthened our link with UCZ Lusaka Presbytery and pray for the development of more links between congregations here and congregations in Lusaka.

Pray especially for our minister, Revd Godfrey Gama, in his ministry at St John's, Mtendere, and as chair of Chelston Consistory. Pray for St John's congregation as they pray for us.

The Reverend Cecil King

### **Exploring 300 years of Methodist Social Justice**

**Saturday 4th November 2023**, 10.30am – 5pm, Online: Zoom – or in person in Oxford. More details from Anna Bishop <[revannabishop@gmail.com](mailto:revannabishop@gmail.com)>; and Barbara Hickman <[thehick@btinternet.com](mailto:thehick@btinternet.com)>

**Church for Change is a one-day conference**, which arises from conversations around the Methodist Church's work in social justice projects, as highlighted by the 2021-22 'Walking with Micah' project, and its subsequent report to Methodist Conference (2023), 'A Justice-Seeking Church'. This Report recommended six Principles of Justice. From these, this conference uses the Report's Priorities of Justice, as well as its Justice threads through British Methodist history to explore themes of Race, Leadership, and Relationships. It will be held both in-person (at Oxford Brookes' Harcourt Hill campus) and virtually (via Zoom).

**Host:** Rachel Lampard

**Keynote Speakers:** Professor Pippa Catterall - Professor of History and Policy at the University of Westminster; John Cooper - Director of The Fellowship of Reconciliation, whose members include The Methodist Peace Fellowship.

**Contributors:** Revd Dr Tim Macquiban, Dr Munyurangabo R. Benda, Dr Clive Norris, Revd Dr Jill Marsh, Revd Mark Rowland, Professor Bev Clack, Professor William Gibson

**Sessions:** Inequality & Poverty; Recognising & Owning our Church's part in Injustices; Pursuing Peace Relationships.

Thank you to **Sammy Guy** for putting this newsletter together – please send her items for the November 2023 newsletter on or before 15<sup>th</sup> October 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 — October 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.



## MAN SENTENCED TO DEATH OVER TWITTER POSTS

On 9 July, the Specialized Criminal Court sentenced 54-year-old retired teacher Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi to death for his peaceful online activity on Twitter and YouTube. The charge sheet cited several tweets based on which Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi was convicted, including posts in which he criticized the Saudi King and Crown Prince and Saudi's foreign policy, called for the release of detained religious clerics, and protested increased prices. The death sentence against Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi, who has a total of just 10 followers on both of his anonymous Twitter accounts is a marked escalation in the kingdom's crackdown on any form of dissent. Amnesty International calls on Saudi authorities to quash Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi's conviction and release him immediately and unconditionally.

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

**Waleed Mohammed Al Smani**  
Minister of Justice  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
Postal Code 11472  
P.O.Box 7775  
Email: [minister-office@moj.gov.sa](mailto:minister-office@moj.gov.sa)

Your Excellency,

I am alarmed to learn that on 9 July, the Specialized Criminal Court sentenced 54-year-old Saudi retired teacher **Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi** to death on trumped-up terrorism-related charges solely to his peaceful online activity on Twitter and YouTube.

According to his brother, Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi was arrested on 11 June 2022 by State Security forces as he sat with his wife and children in front of their house in al-Nawwariyyah neighbourhood in the city of Mecca. He was kept in solitary confinement in Dhahban prison near the city of Jeddah for four months, during which he was not allowed to contact his family or access a lawyer. Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi was allowed to contact his family only when he was moved to al-Ha'ir prison in Riyadh, about four months after he was arrested.

During questioning, interrogators asked Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi about his political opinions and his views on other imprisoned Saudi nationals, including religious clerics Salman al-Awda and Awad al-Qarni, both of whom were detained in 2017 and face the death penalty for their political views.

According to the verdict and charges sheet reviewed by Amnesty International, Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi was convicted under articles 30, 34, 43 and 44 of Saudi's counterterrorism law including for posts in which he criticized the Saudi King and Crown Prince and Saudi's foreign policy, called for the release of detained religious clerics, and protested increased prices, all of which are views protected under his right to freedom of expression. He is not accused of any violent crime.

I urge you to ensure that Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi is released immediately and unconditionally, and that his conviction and sentence are quashed. Pending his release, we urge you to ensure his access to the adequate medical care he requires.

Yours sincerely,

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

For more information about the Salisbury branch  
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