


The Methodist Church Salisbury Circuit 26/23

Amesbury Methodist Church

Minister: The Reverend Steve Hawkes

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www.salisburymethodistcircuit.org.uk/churches/amesbury-methodist-church/



**Amesbury Methodist Church
Newsletter for February 2024**

A Last Letter from Rosemary

"Please help them to continue their journey in a way that will please God." 3 John v 6

Once again Amesbury Methodist Church has had a change of Minister but you who are the Church, the living stones, the Body of Christ here on earth, continue as a community of Christians here in Amesbury.

This short letter from John (have you ever read it?) contains greetings to the Community, then a prayer for good health, after that the main body of the letter with its news, and then the final greetings. The author of this 3rd letter of John writes with love, but he is not afraid of rebuke. In verse 4 the writer tells us that it is the teacher's greatest joy to see someone walking in the truth.

What is the greatest joy for a Minister? To see people wanting to grow closer to God, to see them committed to Jesus and to a particular community, to see a people dedicated to serving its local area and caring for God's wonderful world, and to see lost sheep returning to the fold, and new searchers and seekers coming along and being welcomed, and to see a church love and care for one another, to be able to forgive and be reconciled when there has been a difference of opinion, and to shine with the light of Christ in a needy world.

Walking in the truth is not an intellectual exercise, although God calls us to use our minds as well as our hearts, which is why we have Bible Studies. It is knowledge which fills our minds and love which fills our hearts. Truth is what makes us think and act like God.

The author of 3 John is writing to Gaius and after the opening greetings there are instructions. A group of travelling missionaries are on their way to the Church of which Gaius is a member and John urges Gaius to receive them and to give them every support.

In the ancient world hospitality was a sacred duty. The Greeks did not take money for giving hospitality ... so if the non-Christian world were hospitable, it was even more expected of the Christian world. 1 Peter 4 v 9 says *Practise hospitality ungrudgingly to one another.* And in the Book of Hebrews chapter 13 v 1-2: *Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

In the early Church the Christian home was the place of the open door and the loving welcome. The Christian Church family should always be wide enough to have a place for the stranger no matter their circumstances.

The passage in 3 John goes on to talk about wandering missionaries and he commends them to the hospitality and generosity of Gaius. There is something for us all here ... we are not all called to be missionaries. Or leave home and kindred, and not every Christian is called to be a preacher. But we are all called to ministry, and that ministry may depend on the time it is in our lives. And we are all called to use our time, money, prayers and practical support in the mission of the Church, not as a duty but as delight, as part of our calling.

The letter ends with love and a wish for their peace and well-being.

I have much enjoyed being your Minister and I wish you all well, as you continue the next chapter of your journey with the Reverend Steve Hawkes.

A prayer for Amesbury Methodist Church and all who are part of the community there

Bless this house and those within.

Bless our giving and receiving.

Bless our words and conversation.

Bless our hands and recreation.

Bless our sowing and our growing.

Bless our coming and our going.

Bless all who enter and depart.

Bless this house, your peace impart.

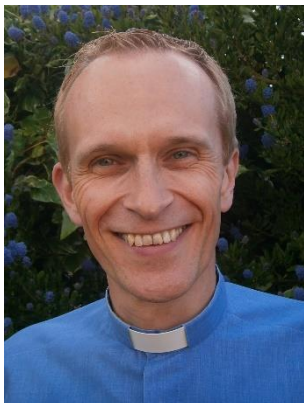
<https://www.faithandworship.com/>

Every Blessing

Rosemary

The Revd Steve Hawkes – Minister of Amesbury Methodist Church from 22nd January 2024

Steve was born in Bristol and lived there until moving to Wiltshire in the late 1980's. He previously worked for a manufacturing company before being called firstly to Local Preaching and then later to ordained ministry. He has two daughters, a son and two granddaughters, and has been a minister in the Salisbury Circuit since September 2015. He came to Salisbury as a first appointment following training at The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham and his passion is making worship to God accessible to all people, and also taking the Good News of Jesus beyond the walls of the church, as the love of God is something worth sharing with all people.



Steve is currently minister at Bemerton and Bourne Valley (as well as previously Fordingbridge and Sandleheath), and is taking on Amesbury and Shrewton from January 2024. He is also a part-time chaplain at Salisbury District Hospital and enjoys the balance of ministry that this provides.

SERVICES OF WORSHIP FEBRUARY 2024

Please pray for all those leading worship

Sunday 4th February 10.30am The Reverend Philip Richter to include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 11th February 10.30am Michael King

Sunday 18th February 10.30am All Age Worship – the Reverend Denise Binks

Sunday 25th February 10.30am – Moira Burton

Sunday 3rd March 10.30am – The Reverend Steve Hawkes to include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 10th March 10.30am – Church Anniversary and All Age Worship – the Reverend Bekkie Wright



INTRODUCING THE REVEREND DENISE BINKS who is taking the Service on 18th February 2024

I grew up in a non-Christian family in Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, attending Neville Parade Methodist church from a very young age; I felt secure in their welcoming, loving community and through them began to encounter the love of God. In 1976, during a Lay Witness Weekend I made a step of faith, gave my life to Christ, and opened my heart to the Holy Spirit. I became a member of the church and was immediately asked to be a junior steward. I loved attending Sunday worship and sharing in Bible Fellowship with all my adult friends.

When I married my husband, Alan, in 1980 we moved to Darlington where I heard the call to become a Local Preacher, quite a radical idea for someone so quiet and shy!

Our children (David & Susan) arrived in the early 1990's, and we moved to Fleet in Hampshire for Alan's work when Susan was just 9 months old. I had always had an understanding that God would one day call me to be a minister but as the time passed thought I was 'getting away with it'. Then one day as I walked into a church that I had witnessed going through a time of renewal, I heard God saying 'I want you to do this'.

I enjoyed candidating and talked about 'holding the idea of the call lightly in my hands' ready to be told that I had not been accepted. It was at the last conversation, before a decision was to be made that I realised how much it all meant to me. Ministry is not always easy, but that moment of recognition of the privilege of serving God in this way has never left me.

I studied at Sarum College in Salisbury and was stationed into the Yeovil and Blackmore Vale Circuit in September 2015. My ordination service was in Birmingham in 2017. I feel blessed to live in Shaftesbury where I have 'pastoral charge' of four churches: Bell Street United Church, Shaftesbury (LEP with URC); Tisbury Methodist Church; Vale Methodist Church: Sturminster Newton & King's Stag.

I have a heart for mission and outreach into our community; discipleship and preaching and have learned so much from working with others, lay and ordained. I am looking forward to being transferred, along with Bell Street United Church, Tisbury and Motcombe Methodist churches into the Salisbury Circuit in September 2024 where I will also take responsibility for Sandleheath Church.



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

MONEYS RAISED

You will recall that Rosemary and James cycled on Saturday 9th September (the hottest Saturday of 2023!) in aid of **Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and Amesbury Methodist Church**. They raised **£700**, half of which is going to WHCT, and the other half comes to AMC.

The amount of moneys raised in December 2023 for Action for Children was £155.

The Quiz and Raffle on Saturday 20th January 2024 in aid of the Fund for Human Need raised £240
Thank you to all who came and all who donated raffle prizes!

Prayers, including for the current world situation.



Prayer for February 2nd (Candlemas)

Dear friends: forty days ago, we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Candlemas marks the end of the Christmas season, now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory.

Today we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God. Amen. (from Common Worship)

Prayer for Racial Justice Sunday – February 11th, 2024

<https://ctbi.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday-2024/>

God of all,

You have named each and every one of us as Your child.

Remind us that we are God breathed, beloved.

And imbued with beauty and dignity.

As we gather in Your presence on this Racial Justice Sunday

In different communities around the country,

Unify us in Your love.

And join our different and distant voices into one song of worship to You. **Amen**

Prayer for Ash Wednesday – February 14th, 2024 <https://www.faithandworship.com/>

Confession and Forgiveness

In the blazing light of your love

our failings are illuminated

our failure to give, our failure to love

our failure to follow, our failure to serve

our failure to be the people you would have us be.

Forgive us and renew us.

You know our nature know our failings

Enfold us in your arms that we might daily know your forgiveness and healing love.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness. Psalm 103.8

Prayer for Lent <https://www.faithandworship.com/>

Forty days alone, a wilderness of thoughts,

tempting and inviting thoughts,

which could so easily have distracted you

from your task, your mission, your vision.

Yet you emerged, stronger and more attuned

to all that had to be done,

despite a time constraint that to our eyes would have seemed hopeless.

We too live in stressful times.

Demands are made of our time,

that leave so little for the important things of life.

We are easily distracted in the wilderness of our lives,

by every call to go this way or that,

to turn stone to bread leap from mountains, and do all that would keep us from the truth.

We listen to the voices of this world,

and ignore the one who endured all this and so much more,

and emerged triumphant, that we might not have to suffer so.

Forgive us, Father, when we get distracted from our task.

Forgive us those times when we try to be all things to all people and fail to be anything to anyone. Amen.

Prayer for Gaza and Israel

O God of all

Of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, and Ishmael:

Our hearts are broken in pieces at the suffering and murder of your people.

Our voices cry for peace and for justice.

Comfort those who grieve,

Console and heal the injured,

Be close to those in fear,

Restrain with your hand those who perpetrate violence.

Send us your wisdom in all that we say and do,

That our voice may always seek justice, peace and security for all. Amen.

Revd Peter Colwell, Deputy General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Dates for your Diaries

Saturday 3rd February 10.00am – 12.30 at Woodfalls Methodist Church the Reverend Anna Bishop will be hosting “Church for Change” - all are welcome. Ideas as to how to be church in the 21st century. More details later in this newsletter

Tuesday 6th February 10.30am Pastoral Visitors Meeting at AMC with the Reverend Steve Hawkes

Wednesday 7th February 7.30pm Church Council Meeting at AMC Middle Hall

Wednesday 14th February - Ash Wednesday – Circuit Service at Amesbury Methodist Church at 2.30pm, led by the Reverend Steve Hawkes

In the evening of Ash Wednesday there will be services in local Anglican churches and at 7pm in Salisbury, Salisbury MC join with Salisbury URC and St Thomas’s at the URC church this year.

Friday March 1st – World Day of Prayer - Ecumenical Service for Amesbury - 7pm at the Roman Catholic Church of Christ the King- All are welcome.

The Amesbury Food Bank

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 vestibule.

Here is the list of current requirements.

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 completed Ephesians in December 2023.

The 2024 meetings await the Reverend Steve Hawkes’s diary!



ECO Matters

Recycling at Amesbury Methodist Church



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



And please bring your **postage stamps** for collection in the vestibule at Amesbury Methodist Church; we raise funds for the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) through these. Please do bring in yours. Gillian Clarke passes these onwards.



Printer Cartridges

Please bring any unwanted Printer Cartridges into Church for the GB to collect and raise funds for GB. Salisbury Methodist Church are also collecting Printer Cartridges for Amesbury's GB. The collection box is in the Middle Hall.

Thank you for all the Bras which have been collected from Amesbury for the Collection at Salisbury Methodist Church. The good quality ones will be sent to women in African countries where to have a bra gives women dignity and status.

And those which are not good enough to be used in this way, are recycled and raise money for Breast Cancer Research. Salisbury Methodist Church are continuing to collect bras, so if any of you are passing SMC, do take in yours, but the Amesbury collection ended on 21st January 2024.

Also Rosemary emptied the **spectacles box** for the last time on Jan 21st but SpecSavers in Salisbury take these.

Greetings cards

Rosemary's lovely neighbours in Folkestone Road, Harnham (Katharine and David Callard), raised £4,181 in 2023 for the work of the Sudan/South Sudan Medical Link, which is their highest total yet. The Salisbury Diocese of the Church of England is linked with the Sudan/South Sudan Anglican Diocese in Africa. Katharine and David thank those from Amesbury Methodist Church who have purchased their cards in 2023, and those who have donated their old cards. Many more were given in January, and Rosemary took them all to her neighbours.



A Prayer For Recycling

We thank you for the resources of the world, and for the many goods available to us. Grant us wisdom and restraint in our spending and consumption; grant us inspiration in the re-use and recycling of resources. Bless those who collect our waste and those who work to recycle it. Amen.

Living God, Where there is waste, let us bring recycling,
Where there is recycling, let us bring reuse,
Where there is reuse, let us bring sustainability,
Where there is sustainability, let us bring justice,
Where there is justice, let us bring love.

Source: John Polhill (from Eggs and Ashes published by Wildgoose)



Recycling of Pens at AMC

We are in the process of making a link with Medic to Medic and have started by collecting old pens – all sorts of pens but not pencils – so please have a sort out and fill up the Medic to Medic container at AMC in the Middle Hall.

The aim of the Medic to Medic is to guarantee the tuition fees for healthcare students who have academic potential but are in financial need. With this consistency of income, students are able to focus on their studies until graduation. Look at their website

<https://www.medictomedic.org.uk/>

They work with medical organisations in Zambia, Uganda and Malawi.

From February onwards we are also collecting

Dental Recycling and Bread and Bakery packaging for Medic to Medic - containers are in the Middle Hall.

Dental: all brands, including empty toothpaste tubes (not pumps), toothbrushes, interdental/floss picks, dental floss holders, plastic packaging, toothpaste cartons, electric toothbrush heads (but not the body itself.)

Bread and Bakery Packaging: all brands of bakery plastic packaging including plastic trays, zipper bags & plastic packets from items such as (but not limited to): bread rolls, pitta bread, naan bread, bagels, crumpets, muffins, baguettes, garlic bread, sandwich thins, hot cross buns, etc.



The Amesbury Methodist Church Council which met on November 8th, 2023, voted for the church to work towards being an Eco Church and now we have gained a Bronze Award, and also to renew our commitment to being a Fairtrade Church. Please do look out for Fairtrade produce in your local shops. Because Fairtrade symbols also mean that environmental concerns have been taken into account, then there is a link between Eco Church and Fairtrade.



Do look on the website <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/> for more information.

Buying Fairtrade

Buying Fairtrade is easy. There are over 6,000 Fairtrade products from coffee and tea to flowers and gold. When you shop, look for the FAIRTRADE Mark. **The power is in your hands.**



Bananas - look for the FAIRTRADE Mark

Fairtrade works with banana farmers, workers employed on plantations and with the banana trade to create more value for producers and ensure people get a decent price and decent pay for the hard labour that goes into growing this crop.

Bananas carrying the FAIRTRADE Mark have been produced by small farmer organisations or plantations that meet the Fairtrade social, economic and environmental standards. The standards include protection of workers' rights and the environment and payment of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and an additional Fairtrade Premium to invest in business or community projects.

Congratulations.

[Amesbury Methodist Church has achieved an Eco Church Bronze Award.](#)

The good news is that on 17th January 2024 Amesbury Methodist Church achieved an Eco Church Bronze Award, but we need to ensure that this is not just a tick box exercise and that we inculcate care for God's creation as part of our daily stewardship and we now work hard to gain a Silver Award. Our work towards a Bronze Award helped the Circuit gain Eco Circuit Status and the District gain Eco District Status. But remember we are not trying to become more environmentally friendly, just to get awards, but because we believe, as Christians, God wants us to care for the planet he has entrusted to us. There is no Planet B!

- 1 God in his love for us lent us this planet,
gave it a purpose in time and in space :
small as a spark from the fire of creation,
cradle of life and the home of our race.
2. Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty,
life that sustains us in body and mind:
plenty for all, if we learn how to share it,
riches undreamed-of to fathom and find.
3. Long have our human wars ruined its harvest ;
long has earth bowed to the terror of force ;
long have we wasted what others have needed,
poisoned the fountain of life at its source.
- 4 Earth is the Lord's : it is ours to enjoy it,
ours, as God's stewards, to farm and defend.
From its pollution, misuse, and destruction,
good Lord, deliver us, world without end !

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000) Reproduced from *Singing the Faith*
Electronic Words Edition, number **727**
Words: © 1973, Stainer & Bell Ltd, 23 Gruneisen Road, London N3 1DZ
<www.stainer.co.uk>

PASTORAL NEWS

Welcome

We have been pleased to welcome the **Suliafu Family** in worship with us recently – Siselia and Unga, with Jane-Helen and Junior.

Those not able to attend worship



If anyone who is no longer able to come to church would like to receive Holy Communion at home, then please just ask Steve Hawkes revdsteve@outlook.com or 01722 697841 as **he 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 remember those not able to worship with us on Sundays due to age or ill health, including **Barbara Coleman, Tony Hallett, and Hazel Terry**. Tony Hallett was also ill with shingles in December. And is still very unwell at home.

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

We continue to remember **Linda Pillay** as she undergoes further treatment.

Brenda Skinner and **Etti Parker** continue to recover from their recent times in hospital.

We also remember young **Thomas Davies** who is in hospital in Newcastle. His family: Rachel and Robin, Thomas, Lucy and George were part of our community until they moved away last August. We remember them all in our prayers.

God our Father, we bring before you today those who suffer from illness or disability—those whose lives are profoundly affected by their illness.

When they feel fragile and broken,
remind them that you call them by name
and hold them in the palm of your hand.

When they feel devalued, remind them
that they are made in the image of Jesus.

When they are reminded of different times in the past,
lead them to grow in the faith that you love them today, as they are,
in the reality of their lives this day.

When they feel uncertain and fearful about the future,
lead them to that perfect love which casts out all fear.
When situations remind them not of what they can do,
but of what they cannot do, remind them that love never fails.

May all of us, whatever our circumstances, never be so taken up with our own concerns that we do not see or respond to the needs of others, especially those who suffer in our midst. May we live with courage to respond to the challenges that each of us faces. Amen.

Did you know there are regular religious programmes on the Radio?

Monday to Saturday

Daily Radio 2 Pause for Thought 2.45am 5.45am 6,50am and 7.15am – maybe some of those are for those people working shifts or suffering from insomnia.

Prayer for the Day – Radio 4 – Monday to Saturday 5.43am

Thought for the day – Radio 4 – Monday to Saturday 7.48am

Daily Service – Radio 4 LW 9.45am to 10.00am -Monday to Friday

Monday – Radio 4 - 4.30pm Beyond Belief

On every Sunday

Radio 4 -6.05am – Something Understood

Radio 4 7.10am - the Sunday programme

Radio 4 8.10am to 8.50 am – each Sunday – an Act of Worship

Radio 3 – Choral Evensong – usually 3pm – sometimes 4pm

And on television on Sundays

BBC1 10.30am Sunday morning live

BBC1 Songs of Praise - usually 1.15pm sometimes 1.30pm

Bereavements

It has been very upsetting for us all to learn of the death of dear **Liz Rose**. Liz died, aged 74, suddenly but peacefully, at home with her husband Pete at her side on Tuesday evening 23rd January 2024.

Her death has come as a great shock to us all at Amesbury Methodist Church but above all to her beloved family: Her husband Pete, their family in the Netherlands: Christopher and his wife Mulu and their daughter Melanie, and their family in Poole: Son Matthew and his wife Debbie and their twin children, Isabella (Bella) and William. Bella has multiple disabilities. Liz was a much-loved wife, mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, and a dear friend of many. Please also remember Pete, who suffers from serious COPD.

Please uphold all Liz's family in your thoughts and prayers. Liz contributed so much to the community of Amesbury in many different ways and will be missed by many people.

We are very sorry to share that **Ron Hodge**, aged 90, died in Salisbury District Hospital on Saturday January 6th following a major stroke. Ron was a faithful worshipper at AMC and a popular resident at Queen Eleanor Court, where his friends are missing him. We remember his son Tony and his daughter-in-law Judy and his grandchildren, Katie and her husband Josh, Jamie and Millie. And Ron's young great grandson, Maximus (Max).

His funeral will be on Friday 2nd February at 9.45am at Amesbury Methodist Church and will be taken by the Reverend Steve Hawkes. Donations in Memory of Ron are for: The Stroke Association, C/O Will Case and Partners, 31 Salisbury Street, Amesbury, SP4 7AW.

We pray for the family and friends of **Michael Martin**, aged 41, whose funeral is on February 1st. We remember his mother June Turner, and his father John, his brother Andrew and his sister Christine in their loss. Donations in Michael's memory are for the National Autistic Society, 393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG.

Please also remember the **Ivess-Mash family – Wendy and Chris, Sam, Jonathan and Matthew** - on the death of Chris's mother Joy Mash in Cornwall. We also remember her daughter and Chris's sister Julie Mason. Chris's family live in Cornwall, as do Wendy's parents, so a long way from Wiltshire. Sadly, Chris's father died a couple of years ago.

Please remember also Wendy's father, Alan Rose, who has had a serious fall; please remember both Alan and Kathleen Rose.

Prayers

May all those who have died rest in peace and rise in glory.

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.

Loving God we pray for the all those who in recent times have known loss, of partner, family member, friend, and now they look ahead with tears, struggling to see beyond their grief. Be close, embrace them in your arms and give them both peace and hope. This life is a gift, memories remain, and no one is forgotten by you, Lord. Amen.

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 now been awarded the Silver Award. The Amesbury Methodist Church Council, which met on 8th November, voted for Amesbury Methodist Church to start the process for becoming an Eco Church and working for the Bronze Award. Achieved in January!

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 to/about and take up the cause of the specific prisoner or cause each month. The situation we are encouraged to pray for and to write about for February 2024 is attached at the back of this newsletter. On Sunday 3rd December Amesbury Methodist Church took part for the first time in the **Amesbury International Write for Rights campaign**. We have received thanks for our participation.

Ecumenical Prayers for Justice and Peace – every third Wednesday of the month 12 noon Salisbury Cathedral - in the Trinity Chapel - next one Wednesday February 21st, 2024.



Church for Change!

Exploring 300 years of Methodist Social Justice

The Salisbury Circuit Justice and Peace Group hosts a screening of “the best bits” from this superb conference that took place at The Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History in November.

Highlights include:

Prof. Pippa Catterall on **changing the public imagination of what is possible and how to build a better society**

Dr Munyurangabo R. Benda on **genocide, forgiveness and the future**

Dr Clive Norris on **developing a practical theology of resistance and ethical action**

John Cooper on **working for peace and non-violent living**

Revd Dr Jill Marsh on **simplicity and inclusion**

Revd Mark Rowland and Prof. Bev Clack on **building a transformational community of diverse people who can disagree positively**

Join the Revd Anna Bishop and others to watch video highlights and share refreshments and conversation at **Woodfalls Methodist Church, Saturday 3rd February 2024, 10am-2pm. Hot drinks provided. Please bring a packed lunch.**



Our Circuit Zambia link



In the new year, the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) opened a TV station based in a Lusaka studio. The station is called “Alithea”, which is the word for “truth” in New Testament Greek. We pray that this TV station will show people how Jesus is the truth and will combat fake news.

Also in January, newly graduated deacons and ministers have taken up their first posts in UCZ ministry. We pray for them and the congregations and consistories welcoming them.

In our link congregation – St John’s UCZ, Mtendere, Lusaka – the new year was prayed in at a service of rededication by the congregation. On Epiphany Sunday – 7th January – the light to the world candle lighting service renewed the congregation’s commitment to bringing the Light of Christ to our neighbourhood and our city.

Our prayers are asked for the people of Zambia – especially health workers and vulnerable people – during the current cholera outbreak; pray for bereaved families.

It is hoped that a person from UCZ Lusaka Presbytery will come to the induction of the new Wessex Synod Moderator. Pray that the arrangements for that visit and the strengthening of our link will go smoothly.

Continue to pray for our link congregation, St John's, and for the minister, Revd Godfrey Gama, as they pray for us. And for the development link with Amesbury GB and St Andrew's Lusaka GB.

The Reverend Cecil King

GOODBYE AND WELCOME - SUNDAY 21ST JANUARY 2024

Rosemary was initially asked to look after Amesbury Methodist Church for 12 months from 1st September 2022 until 31st August 2023. When Fordingbridge Methodist Church made the decision to close, she was asked to stay on until the Reverend Steve Hawkes was able to take over, and this happened on Sunday 21st January, when Rosemary and Steve shared in the Covenant Service together.



Rosemary blesses the congregation for the last time



Derek Fisher, as Senior Steward, makes a speech and presentation on behalf of the community.



A seamless transition. We say goodbye to Rosemary and welcome Steve..

Message from Rosemary: Thank you so much for the privilege of serving amongst you, and for the generous cheque I received on 21st January 2024, and for all the cards and other gifts I was given, and for all the kind things that were said. I wish you all well.

STOP PRESS: CIRCUIT NEWS

The Reverend Anna Bishop has resigned from her Circuit appointment and has taken up a post at Sarum College, maternity cover for 10 months in 2024. We wish Anna well and also uphold the Circuit Leadership Team as they work out the way forward for the Circuit.

Regular Hall Bookings and weekly activities at AMC

Booking Secretary: Vacant as at 24th January 2024

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** please contact our Minister.

MONDAY	9.00 – 14.00 BH Wiltshire Citizens Advice (5 th and 12 th February) 13.30 - 16.00 MH The Alzheimer’s Support Group (Half-term 12 th February) 19.30 – 21.30 BH Andover Scottish Dancers	TUESDAY	10.30 Youth Room Pastoral Committee Meeting (6 th February) 11.00 – 13:00 BH Line Dancing with Julie 11.00 – 13.00 MH The Salisbury Food Bank 14.00 – 16.00 MH The Amesbury Archer Songsters 18.00 – 20.00 ALL rooms Girls’ Brigade (Half-term 13 th February)
WEDNESDAY	10.00 – 13.30 BH Pre-natal Yoga 9.00 – 14.00 MH Wiltshire Citizens Advice (7 th and 14 th February) 14.00 – 16.00 MH Craft Group (meet on 7 th and 21 st February) 14.30 Church Circuit Ash Wednesday Service (14 th February) 17.30 – 19.00 BH Line Dancing with Julie 18.00 – 19.00 MH Amesbury Town Band 19.30 MH Church Council Meeting (7 th February)	THURSDAY	11.00 – 12.30 BH Line Dancing with Julie 13.00 – 15.00 MH The Salisbury Foodbank
FRIDAY	No Bookings - Cleaning	SATURDAY	10.00 – 12 noon MH Coffee morning 10.00 – 12 noon BH Durrington Shoot Meeting (24 th February)

BH = Back Hall, MH = Main Hall

Thank you to **Sammy Guy** for putting this newsletter together – please send her items for the March 2024 Newsletter on or before 15th February 2024 to sammycsw@yahoo.com.

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

PS. It is a small world! Rosemary and James met Maggie in Sri Lanka, when Maggie was serving as a Mission Partner as the College Librarian, where Rosemary and James also worked. Maggie’s late father was the Reverend Lewis Julian who, together with his wife Mary, served for 35 years in Sri Lanka. On returning to the UK, Lewis Julian served in the Andover Circuit and Derek Fisher remembers him with fondness! Maggie married a Sri Lankan, Kit Mudalige, and they live together in Kandy, but the internet means she can proofread our newsletter, one of her skills. Thank you, Maggie.

Amesbury Methodist Church CCLi licence no 206298.

DEMAND AN URGENT CEASEFIRE IN GAZA AND ISRAEL – NOW



Countless lives have been shattered, ripped apart, and upended due to the crisis in Gaza, Israel and wider Occupied Palestinian Territories. In the face of such devastation and suffering, humanity must prevail.

Right now, civilian deaths in Gaza are rising at a staggering rate. The Israeli authorities' 16-year-long illegal and inhumane blockade has trapped 2.2 million people in Gaza, including children, the elderly, and disabled, under relentless bombardment by Israeli authorities. With nowhere to go, they face losing everything.

After horrific attacks in Israel by Hamas and other armed groups that, according to Israeli authorities, resulted in 1,200 people killed and the abduction of civilians, at least 200 hostages held in Gaza also remain in danger, and ongoing indiscriminate rocket fire into Israel places civilians at risk.

Humanitarian pauses of a few days will bring a brief respite. But halting the fighting for a matter of days is nowhere near enough to address the catastrophic suffering or relieve the horrifying harm to civilians. We must act now.

A negotiated ceasefire would:

- Put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the strip
- Allow hospitals in Gaza to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards
- Provide opportunities to negotiate the release of all hostages detained in Gaza
- Allow for independent international investigations to take place into war crimes committed by all parties to help end long-standing impunity, which continues to produce further atrocities

Palestinians and Israelis deserve a future where they can live free from violence and see an end to the fatal human rights violations that continue to destroy so many lives. Challenging the Israeli authorities' system of apartheid over Palestinians is now more urgent than ever.

Urge Rishi Sunak and your MP to call for an immediate ceasefire by all parties and help end the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

The Hon Rishi Sunak Prime Minister: 10 Downing Street London SW1A 2AA

John Glen MP 2 Brown St, Salisbury SP1 1HE