

## Pastoral Letter

Rev Mark

As I write this letter, China is about to enter a New Year. Tens of millions of Chinese people take this opportunity to return home. It is said to be the largest annual mass migration of human beings on the planet. Vast numbers leave the cities where they work and return to the villages and towns of their birth. Major cities and roads are eerily empty, like scenes from a post-apocalyptic movie. No disaster had struck, the people simply go home.

2,000 years ago, there was an annual migration of Jewish people to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover festival. The numbers were hardly of modern Chinese standards, but people came in their thousands from all parts of the Mediterranean World and converged on Jerusalem. Among their number was a man called Simon, who was from Cyrene, which is modern day Libya.

Have you ever wondered what kind of day he thought he was going to have that Friday, as he made his way into the city? Without warning, the Roman soldiers conscripted him to carry a cross, on which one of three prisoners was to be crucified. The condemned man seemed to have been beaten so badly that he simply could not carry it for himself. Simon would have carried, not the whole cross, but the crossbeam, the upright being firmly in position at the place of execution.

So here we have this man arriving in the city from a distant country, presumably to celebrate Passover, and he finds himself walking to Calvary in the footsteps of Jesus. I wonder if he found himself complaining about the turn of events, and how he seemed to be in exactly the wrong place at the wrong time.

I invite you take a picture in your mind's eye of this scene. What do you see? Simon provides us with a visual representation of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. How do we represent this or similar scenes to those we worship with? Best Wishes, Rev Mark

Church

The Methodist

## Salisbury Circuit

(26/12)

Registered Charity no. 1134362

[www.Salisburymethodistcircuit.org.uk](http://www.Salisburymethodistcircuit.org.uk)

### Circuit Plan

March 2024 – May 2024



**Superintendent Minister**  
**The Rev'd Dr. Mark Cheetham**

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## Preaching Appointments

	March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	March 10 <sup>th</sup>	March 17 <sup>th</sup>	March 24 <sup>th</sup>	March 31 <sup>st</sup>	April 07 <sup>th</sup>	April 14 <sup>th</sup>	April 21 <sup>st</sup>	April 28 <sup>th</sup>	May 05 <sup>th</sup>	May 12 <sup>th</sup>	May 19 <sup>th</sup>	May 26 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Amesbury</b> 10:30	Hawkes HC	Wright AAW/CA	Liversidge	Robert	Maunder HC	Hawkes	A.Bishop HC	Ings AAW	Holmes	Hawkes/ M.Jones HC	Butler Christian Aid	Burton AAW	New
<b>Bemerton</b> 10:30	A.Bishop	@ St. M	Newton	Hawkes	Fletcher HC	B. King	Hawkes	Waddingham	Maunder HC	Ensor	Hawkes HC	Irish	Taylor
<b>Bourne Valley</b> 10:00	Holmes	Cheetham	Hawkes	Maunder	Ensor HC	Spencer	Leslie	Hawkes HC	Liversidge	M. King	Robert	Barrett HC	B. King *
<b>Pitton</b> 11:00	C of E	C of E	Coates HC	C of E	C of E	C of E	C of E	Coates HC	C of E	C of E	C of E	Coates HC	C of E
<b>Quidhampton</b> 10:30	Taylor/Martin HC					Martin/Taylor HC				Taylor/Martin HC			
<b>Salisbury</b> 8.00	Cheetham HC	Fletcher HC	Cheetham HC	Davies HC	A.Bishop HC			Fletcher HC				Hawkes HC	
<b>10:30</b>	Cheetham/ M.Jones HC	New	Cheetham	Taylor	Cheetham HC	Robinson	LA	Holmes	Richter	Butler Christian Aid	Luscombe HC	M. King	Leslie
<b>15.00</b>		C.King MB					C.King MB				C.King MB		
<b>Sandleheath</b> 10:45	Ensor	C. Jones	C of E	Irish	C. Jones HC	Holmes	Burton	C of E HC	C. Jones	Leslie	D. Bishop	C of E	C. Jones HC
<b>Shrewton</b> 10:30	Waddingham	Robinson	Ings	D. Bishop	Hawkes HC	M. King	Spencer	Fletcher HC	Hawkes	Davies	Liversidge	Hawkes HC	LA
<b>Winterslow</b> 10:00													
<b>Woodfalls</b> 10:00	@ St. B	@ St. B HC	@ St. M	De Ville HC	@ St. M HC	@ St. B HC	Newton	@ MV Café	@ St. M HC	@ St. B	Richter HC	@ MV Café	@ St.M HC
<b>16:00</b>	@ St. M FC	@ St. M Evs				@ St.M FC		@ St.M Evs		@St. M FC		@ St. M Evs	

### ABBREVIATIONS

C	Covenant Service
CA	Chapel Anniversary
GD	Gift Day
HC	Holy Communion
LA	Local Arrangement
MB	Mixed Blessings
MWoL	Methodist Way of Life
P	Parade Service
WL	Worship Leaders
WC	World Church
*	Transport Required

### ABBREVIATIONS cont.

HF	Harvest Festival
AA	All Age Worship
OWW	One World Week
CS	Circuit Service
GCM	General Church Meeting
JMA	Junior Mission for All
<b>NEXT PLAN June - August 2024</b>	
STEWARDS: Info to your minister by Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> April 24	
PREACHERS: Update Chrestos by Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> April 24	

### AVAILABILITY

Any date unable to fullfill, please find an alternative substitute and notify steward concerned –

### MINISTERS' DAYS OFF

Mark Cheetham – Friday  
Anna Bishop – Friday  
Steve Hawkes - Saturday

### CIRCUIT DATES

**Circuit Meeting**  
**6<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm @ SMC**

**Local Preachers & Worship Leaders**  
**Meeting**

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