



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 March 2024

Minister's Letter

Dear friends.

Firstly, I have to say that it's an absolute honour to now be the Minister at Amesbury. I'm aware that ministerial oversight has been a bit of a 'rocky road' for a number of years and for a number of reasons, but I have been very impressed with the way in which everything works well within the life of the fellowship despite all of the challenges you have faced. Thanks, of course, has to go to Rosemary, who worked really hard with you over the past 18 months, and built some wonderful relationships. But the next phase in the life of the Body of Christ in Amesbury has indeed begun.

It's a great regret, for me, that I didn't get to meet and to work with Liz Rose, as it seems that her passion and energy was second to none, and everyone is not just missing her as a wonderful and dedicated disciple of Christ, but as a very hard-working and faithful member of the fellowship. I hope and pray that the Service of Thanksgiving that will be held at AMC on Friday 22nd March at 11am will be a time of celebrating Liz' life and remembering the happy times shared together. Please do keep Pete and the whole family in your prayers.

So, we are now in the season of the Church Year known as Lent. And at the risk of 'teaching my grandmother to suck eggs' as the expression goes, Lent is a period of 40 days during which we remember the events leading up to and including the death of Christ (not including Sundays, as each Sunday is a mini-celebration of Easter). The 40-day period is called Lent after an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. This is because of the time of year when it happens, as this is when the days start to get longer, as we approach Summer. It is a time of reflection and of asking for forgiveness, and when we prepare to celebrate Jesus's resurrection at the feast of Easter, which comes at the very end of Lent. Some of us joined together at AMC on Wednesday 14th February for our Ash Wednesday Service, which is the very first day of Lent. We're reminded that we came from dust, and to dust we shall return. This year Lent begins on 14th February and ends on that glorious Easter Morning when Jesus had risen from the dead, on 31st March 2024.

As you may already know, I am providing a Lent Course ONLINE this year, and the hope is to therefore make it accessible to the largest number of people. I can also make the video available as a file that can be watched in a group, therefore enabling fellowship, sharing and discussion.

If you are able to access the Internet and would like to watch the video's, please just type in to Google – YouTube Revd Steve Worship – and my channel should be the top item in the search. I will be putting videos onto the channel at the beginning of each week.

The course is all about 'How to be Unsuccessful' and explores how success is measured in the secular world through money and assets, but in the Christian world these things are of no value. It's more about our relationship with God through Christ and the fulfilment that brings.

Bless you all

Steve.

SERVICES OF WORSHIP FEBRUARY 2024

Please pray for all those leading worship



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

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

Sunday 17th March 10.30am Worship conducted by Valerie Liversidge - Passion Sunday

Sunday 24th March 10.30am – Worship conducted by Bernard Robert - Palm Sunday

Thursday 28th March – Maundy Thursday – 3pm – Revd Dr Mark Cheetham

Friday 29th March – Good Friday

Sunday 31st March 10.30am - Easter Sunday – Worship to be conducted by the Reverend Stephen Maunder to include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 7th April 10.30am – Worship to be conducted by the Reverend Steve Hawkes

Sunday 10th April 10.30am – Worship to be conducted by the Reverend Anna Bishop to include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 17th April 10.30am Janet Ings – All Age Worship

Biography of Bekkie

REV BEKKIE WRIGHT

Minister: Empingham, Oakham & Uppingham

I joined the ministry team in the Stamford Circuit in September 2020 as a brand-new probationer minister. I completed the first part of my formal training through the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham in summer 2020.

Having been stationed (or placed) in the Stamford Circuit, I bring with me all the joy which comes from a mixture of starting something new whilst continuing to respond to a call from God which I have felt for many years.

I strongly believe in the practice that I call purposeful discipleship. Embedded from the very beginning of Methodism, it is the deliberate response to God's love, which asks us to challenge ourselves in a way that enables us to get to know both God and ourselves more deeply. As Methodists ways that we do this include applying scripture to our lives and sharing our stories with each other in community. As a result, I enjoy hearing people's stories of their faith journey.



Hobby-wise I do cross-stitch sewing and lace-making. I am planning to have a go at horse-riding: watch this space to see how that goes!

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, including for the current world situation.



Mothering Sunday March 10th 2024

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross, drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, **Amen**

Prayer for Lent

This is love.
Not that you spoke words of comfort,
walked with the unclean and unloved,
shared wisdom, bread and fish,
brought healing into lives and challenged the status quo.
This is love.
That you spoke the word of God,

walked a painful road to the Cross,
shared living water, bread of life,
brought Salvation to the world and died for the sake of all.
This is love.
It is a seed
sown in the ground,
which germinates, blossoms, and spreads its sweet perfume.

Prayer for the situation in Gaza and Israel

O God, we pray for all the children of Abraham in Israel and Palestine and in every country of the world.

We pray for Muslims, Jews and Christians that we will draw on the best of our traditions to guide us away from words and acts of division and discrimination so that everyone may be free to live in safety.

Protect the vulnerable, strengthen the fearful and comfort the grieving.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Dates for your Diaries

Friday March 1st at 7pm World Day of Prayer – for ALL (it used to be the Women’s World Day of Prayer but now it’s a World Day of Prayer for all people and all denominations) – more details further on. It is very fitting that this year it is from Palestine.

This year the service is being held at the Roman Catholic Church of Christ the King in Lord’s Croft Amesbury

Sunday March 3rd - 5.30pm - Circuit Tea at Woodfalls Methodist Church to acknowledge the contribution to the Circuit of the Reverend Anna Bishop and former Circuit Steward Jackie Waddell who retired as a Circuit Steward in December. Anna is now on the staff of Sarum College. All are welcome.

Stewards meeting Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 10.30am at Linda Turner’s home

AGM – after worship on Sunday 7th April

Lent Lectures at Salisbury Cathedral. The Cathedral is delighted to host an ecumenical Lent Lecture programme with speakers from across the churches of Salisbury.

They will be held on Monday evenings during Lent from 19.30 – 21:00pm.

Entry is free and no booking is required. All are welcome.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER –
FRIDAY MARCH 1 2024 7pm Roman Catholic Church Amesbury**



Halima Aziz (born in Hagen, Germany, in 1999) is a passionate Palestinian visual artist and design student based in Germany. Her parents are from Tulkarm and Gaza. She grew up in Palestine but, following the war in 2008, the family moved back to Germany. Halima was interested in art from an early age and started painting professionally in 2017 while participating in an art school project. She paints in acrylic and oil on canvas, or sometimes with watercolours on fine art paper. She enjoys making colourful and eye-catching paintings most of which express specific feelings or have a specific meaning. Halima is mostly inspired by nature, art museums, books or her native Palestine. Through her paintings she is proudly representing Palestinian heritage, identity, life, culture, history and tradition. Her artwork has been exhibited internationally three times.

The artwork: “Praying Palestinian Women”

The artwork, shows three Palestinian women praying together in a peaceful, outdoor space and is aptly named ‘Praying Palestinian Women’. Halima has used motifs and symbols which indicate the origin and cohesiveness of these women: Olive trees are a sign of everlasting and abundant life because they can live for thousands of years. The Palestinian people are deeply rooted in their country and this is underlined by the golden roots of the tree. Poppy flowers are abundant and meaningful as they are a reminder of loved ones who have given their lives for their country. Traditional Palestinian dress such as the tateez (embroidery), thobe (dress) or the white scarf symbolise the people’s creativity and their country’s rich heritage. The keys are a symbol of the hope to return back to Palestine.

CIRCUIT NEWS

The Reverend Anna Bishop has now taken an “Appointment Outside the Control of the Methodist Church” at Sarum College from January 2024. Meanwhile Dan Bishop has been appointed a member of the Connexional Team, as Director of Ministry Development.

The Reverend Dr Mark Cheetham, Superintendent Minister, is on Sabbatical from April 1st to July 8th 2024 and the Circuit Leadership Team have asked the Reverend Rosemary Fletcher to cover the Superintendency.

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 foyer.

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.

ECO Matters

Recycling at Amesbury Methodist Church

Our Church Eco Champion is George Watt



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.

We have made 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 containers 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.



RECYCLING

Medic to Medic have active recycling communities collecting a whole range of items that cannot be collected through kerbside council collections. We have active Terracycle collections (<https://terracycle.co.uk/>). Our recycling programmes add environmental and financial sustainability to our organisation.

From these collections funds are raised for Medic to Medic

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, interdentals/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 aiming to gain a bronze award to start off with, 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.



Meet some of the farmers behind your Fairtrade cup of coffee



Gerardo Carbajal, organic Fairtrade coffee producer in Villa Maria, Colombia

Across the world we drink 2 billion cups of coffee daily, supported by a lucrative global coffee industry worth over \$100 billion. Yet the average non-Fairtrade coffee farmer lives on as little as £1.37 a day.

What makes Fairtrade coffee different?

Fairtrade is the only global sustainability label that **guarantees farmers and workers the Fairtrade Minimum Price protection:** companies pay an agreed-upon Minimum Price for the coffee, plus an additional Fairtrade Premium for farmers to invest in their communities and businesses. It takes a lot of expertise to produce the high-quality beans that end up as your favourite cup of coffee. But the life of the smallholder coffee farmer behind your morning brew is far from easy.

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



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/>

The Bereavement Journey, 7 sessions of films and discussion for anyone bereaved anytime. At St Francis Church beginning on March 5th at 2.15pm.

More information – thebereavementjourney.org. To register interest, please contact Revd Mary Terry at mary@st-francischurch.org.uk.

Liz Rose died suddenly but peacefully with her husband Pete at her side in the early hours of Wednesday 24th January 2024, aged 74. There is to be a private cremation for family only and a Service of Thanksgiving will take place on Friday March 22nd at 11.00am at Amesbury Methodist Church. All are welcome. The Service will be conducted by the Reverend Steve Hawkes

Family Flowers only but donations in Liz's memory are for Amesbury Methodist Church

c/o Will Case & Partners Amesbury Office: 31, Salisbury Street, Amesbury, SP4 7AW

Please continue to remember Liz's family in your prayers.

Liz's husband Pete, Their sons and their families:

Christopher and Mulu and Melanie, Matthew and Debbie, Arabella (Bella) and William

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.



AMC has achieved an Eco Church Bronze award.

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 / issue each month. The person we are encouraged to pray for and to write about for December '23 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**.

Ecumenical Prayers for Justice and Peace – every third Wednesday of the month 12 noon Salisbury Cathedral - in the Trinity Chapel - next one Wednesday March 20th 2024.

Our Circuit Zambia link



During the last two months, our prayers for Zambia have been about the cholera outbreak there,

praying for the victims, the bereaved families and the health workers in their work to prevent and vaccinate.

Gina Siatwinda Oliver is the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) health secretary, supporting the church hospitals and clinics; she worships at St Andrew’s UCZ, Lusaka – where the Girls’ Brigade is linked with our Girls’ Brigade at AMC. Our prayers have been and are especially with Gina Oliver. We give thanks that cholera cases are becoming less frequent.

This is the rainy season in Zambia, and prayers are for enough rain for the crops to give sufficient harvest.

The Girls’ Brigade at St Andrew’s UCZ hold their enrolment service in March; we pray that the newly enrolled and all the girls will be faithful to their aim to seek, serve and follow Jesus. Because of the cholera, schools did not open for the start of the new school year until the middle of February, a month late, so we are asked to pray for pupils and staff as they work to catch up the time lost for school work.

Continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in Zambia as they pray for us.

The Reverend Cecil King

Regular Hall Bookings and weekly activities at AMC

Booking Secretary: Helen Artt

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.

MONDAY	13.30 - 16.00 MH The Alzheimer’s Support Group 19.30 – 21.30 BH Andover Scottish Dancers	TUESDAY	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
WEDNESDAY	10.00 – 13.30 BH Pre-natal Yoga 14.00 – 16.00 MH Craft Group 17.30 – 19.00 BH Line Dancing with Julie 18.00 – 19.00 MH Amesbury Town Band	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

BH = Back Hall, MH = Main Hall

Amesbury Methodist Church CCLi licence no 206298.

Russia: international community must pursue those responsible for Navalny's death



Aleksei Navalny was being held in a harsh penal colony 40 miles north of the Arctic Circle
© Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

'His death is a devastating and dire indictment of life under the oppressive and stifling rule of the Kremlin' - Agnès Callamard

Responding to reports of the death in custody of the Russian opposition leader Aleksei Navalny, Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said:

"Aleksei was a prisoner of conscience only for speaking out against a repressive government.

"Aleksei Navalny was denied health care, was kept for prolonged periods of time in solitary confinement and was forcibly disappeared when he was sent to one of the most remote penal colonies, near the Arctic Circle.

"His death is a devastating and dire indictment of life under the oppressive and stifling rule of the Kremlin.

"He paid the ultimate price for being a critical voice, and championing freedom of expression.

"Amnesty International stands with all those fighting for human rights in and beyond Russia's borders.

"As the search for justice begins, it is clear there are few avenues at our disposal. That's why it is crucial that the international community take concrete actions to hold all those responsible to account.

"We must urgently call upon the United Nations to employ its special procedures and mechanisms to address the death of Aleksei Navalny."