

  
**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/](http://www.salisburymethodistcircuit.org.uk/churches/amesbury-methodist-church/)



**Amesbury Methodist Church  
Newsletter for April 2024**

**Minister's Letter**

Dear friends.

At the time of writing this letter – we are about to enter into Holy Week. Having journeyed throughout the season of Lent (beginning with Ash Wednesday), we are now looking towards Maundy Thursday, where we remember that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples (along with Peter's initial protest at this), before then celebrating the Passover with a final meal with his disciples. During the meal, Jesus acknowledged that one of the 12 WOULD betray him. We then move into the sadness and despair of Good Friday (along with the predicted betrayal of Judas), before we are able to shout those words aloud on Easter Morning – **Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!** By the time we get there, with all of these mixed emotions, we will probably be exhausted! But it is a time of jubilation, a time of celebrating that Jesus has risen from the dead – with the tomb being found empty!

The empty tomb, of course is one of the reasons we give and receive Easter Eggs. If one of the things we have given up during the season of Lent happens to be chocolate – it's even more of a celebration when we're able to enjoy that little bit of indulgence by having the taste of chocolate on our lips once again!

A few years ago (many may well remember) – manufacturers started putting the sweets INSIDE of the Easter Eggs. But that was WRONG! And I'm very glad that they stopped doing that. The tomb was empty and therefore the egg should be empty too, and I came across a story a little while ago that explain this rather well. It reminds us that death is not the end – in fact death is just the beginning.

Jesus said in John 11, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die'.

The story is told of a nine-year-old boy named Philip who suffered with Down's Syndrome. In Sunday school the other children made fun of him because he was different. The Sunday before Easter, the teacher gave each of the children a plastic egg and asked them to look for symbols of new life, like seeds and leaves, and then place them inside the egg. The idea was to open their eggs on Easter Sunday and discuss what they had found.

When the children gathered, they had collected all sorts of things like flowers, butterflies, and rocks. But when the teacher opened Philip's egg it was empty.

One child said, 'That's not fair, he didn't do it right!' But Philip tugged at the teacher's sleeve and said, 'I did do it right. It's empty because the tomb is empty. That's why we have new life.'

The class gasped - and from then on Philip rose to a new level of respect and became part of the group.

But Philip's family knew his time was short - too many problems for one small body. So that summer he died. As the class of eight-year-olds faced the reality of death, they marched up to the altar - but not with flowers. Together with their teacher, they each placed an empty plastic egg on their friend's tiny coffin.

Why is the resurrection of Jesus so important? For two reasons: 1) His resurrection guarantees ours. 2) If we live long enough, we will experience the heartache of losing someone we love.

Easter guarantees that we WILL meet them again - alive, immortal, and just like Jesus!

With every good wish for a very Happy Easter!

Steve.

### **SERVICES OF WORSHIP APRIL 2024**

**Please pray for all those leading worship**



**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am – Worship to be conducted by the Reverend Steve Hawkes**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am – Worship to be conducted by the Reverend Anna Bishop (Holy Communion)**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 10.30am - Worship to be conducted by Mrs Janet Ings (All Age Worship)**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am - Worship to be conducted by Mrs Sue Holmes**

**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



**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](mailto:revdsteve@outlook.com) or 01722 334833 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/>

### **Our Circuit Zambia link**

Zambia is in a national emergency, because of the drought which has affected ¾ of the country, including the main food producing areas. And this at the same time as the cholera outbreak which has killed hundreds of people and infected tens of thousands. Pray for the people of Zambia and that food aid will be given.

The congregation of St Andrew's United Church of Zambia (UCZ) in Lusaka, whose Girls' Brigade are linked with our Girls' Brigade in Amesbury, pray for us, as we pray for them. In the month of March, St Andrew's held a Mothering Week, celebrating and supporting mothers, and also held Youth Week, including the enrolment service for new members of the Girls' Brigade.

A word from St Andrew's Facebook page:  
 No amount of regret changes the past.  
 No amount of anxiety changes the future,  
 but any amount of gratitude changes the present.

We give thanks for all we enjoy, and pray for our sisters and brothers in Zambia who do not have as much as we do but whose faith and love inspires 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.

**For more details** Tel: 07938 711049 E-mail: [amesburymethodisthall@gmail.com](mailto:amesburymethodisthall@gmail.com)

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>09.00 – 14.00 BH</b> Wiltshire Citizens Advice <b>13.30 - 16.00 MH</b> The Alzheimer's Support Group <b>19.30 – 21.30 BH</b> Scottish Country Dancing	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>11.00 – 13:00 BH</b> Line Dancing with Julie <b>11.00 – 13.00 MH</b> The Salisbury Food Bank <b>14.00 – 16.00 MH</b> The Amesbury Archer Songsters (16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> April) <b>18.00 – 20.00 ALL rooms</b> Girls Brigade
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>9.00 – 14.00 MH</b> Wiltshire Citizens Advice <b>14.00 – 16.00 MH</b> Craft Group (meet on 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> April) <b>17.30 – 19.00 BH</b> Line Dancing with Julie <b>18.00 – 19.00 MH</b> Amesbury Town Band	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>11.00 – 12.30 BH</b> Line Dancing with Julie <b>13.00 – 15.00 MH</b> The Salisbury Foodbank
<b>FRIDAY</b>	No Bookings – Cleaning	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>10.00 – 12 noon MH</b> Coffee morning

BH = Back Hall, MH = Main Hall

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April: Church Funeral Mr Tony Hallett

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April: 14.00-17.00 Larmona Tamsyn – birthday party

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April: AMC Youth Group 19.00-21.00

Amesbury Methodist Church CCLi licence no 206298.

# WORLDWIDE APPEALS — April 2024

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.



## Marfa Rabkova Belarus

### JAILED FOR EXPOSING STATE BRUTALITY



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Marfa Rabkova, a coordinator of the volunteer network of prominent human rights NGO Viasna, is behind bars for

documenting human rights abuses.

She was arbitrarily detained in September 2020 after exposing the brutality of law enforcement officers against peaceful demonstrators following the disputed presidential elections the previous month. The human rights defender was initially

charged with 'training and other preparation of people for participation in mass riots', 'incitement of racial, national, religious or other social hatred or discord committed by a group' and 'membership of a criminal organisation', for which she faced the prospect of up to 12 years in prison.

In November 2021, Marfa was charged with additional counts, bringing the total to 11. The following September, she was sentenced to 15 years in prison; the Supreme Court later reduced the sentence by three months on appeal.

Amnesty considers Marfa a prisoner of conscience.

### > APPEAL

Urge the minister of foreign affairs to immediately and unconditionally release Marfa Rabkova.

> Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Vladimir Makei  
Lenina str, 19  
220030  
Minsk  
Belarus  
✉ mail@mfa.gov.by  
✉ @BelarusMFA

**Salutation:** Dear Minister

Chargé d'Affaires  
Dmitry Shchepachev  
Embassy of the Republic of Belarus  
6 Kensington Court  
London W8 5DL

**Salutation:** Dear Chargé d'Affaires

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

For more information about the Salisbury branch  
please call Tony Miller 01722 322791 - [www.salisburyai.com](http://www.salisburyai.com)