


The Methodist Church Salisbury Circuit 26/23

Amesbury Methodist Church

Minister: The Reverend Dr Mark Cheetham
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www.salisburymethodistcircuit.org.uk/churches/amesbury-methodist-church/



**Amesbury Methodist Church
Newsletter for September 2024**

Final Minister's Letter from Steve

Dear friends.

I have to say that I am probably as surprised to be writing this letter as you will be to be reading it. When I started in January of this year as your minister in Amesbury, I fully expected that to continue for a considerable time. But God sometimes has other ideas.

In his book *Habits of the Heart*, sociologist Robert N. Bellah describes three attitudes people have towards their work. The first group treats it as a job. When we do this, we see it strictly as a way to make money and to pay the bills. But if our main focus is on what we receive from our work, we'll most likely come to resent it. The second group approaches work as a career. Here our motivation will be higher, but our focus is on advancement and prestige. That means, however, when our career isn't going well it can feel like our self-worth is on the line. The third group sees their job as their calling. Now, logically speaking, if there's a 'calling' there must be someone making the call, right? That someone is, of course, God. We are not the 'caller', we are the 'call-ee', and any work that has meaning, that can be a blessing to people, and fulfils God's purposes, is a calling.

I answered God's call to ministry (even though I initially thought that God must be totally 'out of his mind') and was fortunate enough to be stationed to the Salisbury Circuit, back in 2015. I then had an awareness that God was leading me in the direction of Hospital Chaplaincy and, as I'm sure many of you know, I became a part-time chaplain at Salisbury District Hospital, which is something I've been doing now for 7 years. God continues to call us all, and I have had an increasing awareness that God is continuing to call me towards Healthcare Chaplaincy. I tried to ignore God's call to ministry initially – but God tends to win in the end. And the same is happening now when it comes to chaplaincy.

Our lives are, of course, lived in seasons, and to be fruitful we have to recognise the season we're in and maximise it. 'How can I tell when a season is ending?' we might ask. Well, perhaps because the grace that accompanied that season will lift, and what was once rewarding will start to feel a little less so. The Bible says a successful man or woman is like a tree planted by streams of water 'which yields its fruit in season'. We can only be fruitful in our season. That's where blessing and success occur. We can't just do it whenever we want to; it has to be in our appointed time. When the right season comes, it's effortless for a tree to produce what's stored within. And there's fruit within all of us that will be produced when we understand what season of life, we're in.

A career, of course, is something we choose; a calling is something we receive. A career is something we do for ourselves; a calling is something we do for God. A career promises status, money, and power; a calling generally promises difficulty, suffering, and the opportunity to be used by God. A career may end with retirement and lots of toys; a calling doesn't end until we die. A career can be disrupted by any number of events, but God enables us to fulfil our calling even in the most difficult circumstances. For some people in Scripture obeying the call of God meant living in slavery, being captured and sent into exile, or being put to death. Their career trajectories didn't look promising, and yet they fulfilled their calling in extraordinary ways.

Having spent many hours in prayerful reflection, and having asked God to show me the path I need to follow, it has become clear to me that everything has been put in place for me to serve God through Hospital Chaplaincy in the next season of my ministry. Therefore, from 1st September 2024 I will serve as a minister in the Salisbury Circuit for 50% of my time (with pastoral oversight of Bemerton and Bourne Valley), and as a Chaplain at Salisbury District Hospital for the other 50% of my time. From September 2025, I will transition into full time Healthcare Chaplaincy, as I firmly believe this is where God is calling.

Our fellowship in Amesbury is also entering into a new direction ordained by God, and I am convinced that God is lining everything up for a bright future, as a new season is about to unfold.

With every good wish.

Steve.

SERVICES OF WORSHIP September 2024 - Please pray for all those leading worship

Sunday 1 st September	Revd Anna Bishop – Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th September	Revd Dr Mark Cheetham
Sunday 15 th September	Mrs Susan Holmes – All Age Worship
Sunday 22 nd September	Mr Bernard Robert
Sunday 29 th September	Mr Dan Bishop



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

The Archer Songsters

The Archer Songsters have been meeting for many years in the church hall on Tuesday afternoons. The group was founded by our much-missed and dear friend Liz Rose and it grew because of her enthusiasm, commitment and dedication. In her honour and to create a lasting legacy we shall now be known as 'The Rose Singing Club'.

We would be thrilled to see any new members. We feel the new name describes our activity and ethos. We are a group of people who just love to sing a wide variety of songs to some live music without the pressure of performance and we would love to welcome any people who enjoy music, friendship and fun and want to feel uplifted by the joy of singing. Tea drinking is a vital part of each session. For more information contact Trudi Raney 07923468411 or Linda Dale 07816998141 or just come along to the church hall on Tuesday 3rd Sept at 2.00 p.m

Linda Dale

The Craft Club

Following the Summer break, the Craft Club starts again on Wednesday 4th September. We meet on alternate Wednesdays at 2.00 in the middle hall for up to 2 hours where we chat and share our news and views.

Everybody is welcome. Do join us and bring your knitting, sewing or other hobbies. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available. Contact Ruth Williams for further information on 01980 761415

An Evening with John Bell – Annual Lecture 2024 | RSCM



An Evening with John Bell – Annual Lecture 2024

The limitless resources of local church music

The tendency to suspect scarcity rather than surfeit runs deep in church music. Where there is no permanent musician, few music readers or an 'ageing' congregation, pessimism regarding the future often runs deeper than hope.

In this lecture, John Bell will challenge such negativity, drawing on the experience of the Iona Community of which he is a member, and local churches throughout the world who have moved from scarcity to surfeit.

Please note: under-18s must be accompanied

You can book to attend in person or to watch the recording which will be available from Wednesday 25th September.

John Bell is a minister of the Church of Scotland and a Fellow of the RSCM. Most of his working life, he and colleagues in the Iona Community have developed innovative strategies in music and worship for a wide range of churches. He has co-authored over fifteen volumes of hymns and songs, several collections of choral music, and numerous liturgical publications.

[Online Booking \(https://civi.rscm.org.uk/form/rscm-annual-lecture-2024\)](https://civi.rscm.org.uk/form/rscm-annual-lecture-2024)



Fairtrade Fortnight is 9th to 22nd September this year.

What is Be the Change all about?

You can be the change simply by committing to choose Fairtrade as often as you can. When farmers receive fairer pay and a fair say, they can drive positive change in their communities.

We also know that every year hundreds of committed campaigners go one step further, finding creative ways to bring the Fairtrade message to their area.

Following the recent UK election, **we're making a special effort to get politicians on board**, because if they commit to be the change in their roles as our representatives, we can make real progress in our mission to **make all trade fair**.

So, whatever you do, take the opportunity to ask your MP to get involved too.



Former MP for Colne Valley Jason McCartney opens the Fair and Funky Fairtrade schools conference in 2023.

We appreciate not everyone will be able to run their own event or initiative, so please do not feel any pressure to get involved. We appreciate any support you can offer, including simply picking up a few extra Fairtrade products whenever you can.

Is a fair tax system achievable or desirable?

“In the run-up to the UK Election in July, the two main parties were eager to promise no rises for some of the nation’s major taxes. In the face of the NHS, state education, law and order, pollution of waterways, border security, etc all needing large injections of finance, how can such tax promises be made? Is there a Christian response to taxation and what might those principles be? Is it possible to have a tax system that satisfies everyone?”

On behalf of the Circuit Justice and Peace group, Michael King will enable a conversation about tax, with inputs from a short Rowan Williams’ video re “Just Taxation”, on:
 Wednesday 25th September at Bemerton Methodist Church, 7.30 - 9.00pm.

All are very welcome.

SALISBURY CIRCUIT DATES 2024 AND 2025

Sunday 18th August – Holiday Club Service @ SMC 10.30am

Wed August 21st -Monthly Ecumenical Prayers for Justice & Peace in the Trinity Chapel of Salisbury Cathedral 12noon – 12.30 (always 3rd Thurs)

Sunday September 1st 3.00pm District Welcome Service for the Reverend Rachel Bending – new District Chair – at SMC - Preacher: The Reverend Dr Jen Smith of Wesley’s Chapel, City Road, London

Sunday September 8th 4pm Circuit Service at Bell Street United Church, Shaftesbury, SP7 8AL To celebrate Tisbury, Shaftesbury and Motcombe joining the Salisbury Circuit

Wednesday September 11th – 7.30pm Circuit LPWL Meeting @ Bemerton Church

Saturday September 14th 9.00am to 6pm – Wiltshire Ride and Stride / Dorset Ride and Stride/
Hampshire Ride and Stride

Tuesday September 17th – Circuit Meeting 7.30pm @ Bemerton

Saturday September 21st Representative Synod at Winchester

Sunday September 22nd – Bemerton Methodist Church Harvest Festival

27th – 29th September - Woodfalls MC Jigsaw Puzzle Festival

Sunday, 29th September 10:30am Tisbury Methodist Church Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch.

Sunday 29th September – Harvest Supper 4.00pm @ Morgan Vale & Woodfalls Village Hall, Redlynch,
Salisbury SP5 2HU

Sunday, 6th October 10:30am Bell Street United Church Harvest Festival followed by lunch and auction

Sunday October 6th – 10.30am Harvest Festival @ Shrewton

Wednesday October 9th – **Circuit Justice & Peace Group – bring your own lunch 12.30 – meeting starts @ 1.00pm Bemerton Methodist Church**

Our Zambia Link:

Leaders of the Council for World Mission visited Zambia in August, particularly because the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) is one of the leading missionary-sending churches. There are UCZ ministers serving in the Caribbean and in the UK, where the Revd Teddy Siwila serves in Wolverhampton and the Revd Dr Peggy Kabonde (who is coming to Amesbury in November) serves in North Wiltshire.

The UCZ has far fewer ministers per church member than British Methodism, but the activities of UCZ congregations are led by lay people, which is why the UCZ can send ministers to work in other countries.

Our friends in the UCZ in Lusaka during the long dry season (and following a drought in the rainy season) are suffering water shortages and also frequent power cuts, so our prayers are asked for them as they go through these hard times.

Plans are beginning for people from St Andrew's UCZ, Lusaka, to visit England in 2025, and we hope that will include a visit to Amesbury; pray that this visit will happen.

September is the month when schools begin the final term of the school year, leading to school leaving exams in December. Pray for pupils and teachers preparing for those exams.

Our prayer link with the Girls' Brigade and the congregation of St Andrew's, Lusaka, continues. Pray for them as they pray for us.

Cecil King

Saturday 14th September 2024 Wiltshire Ride and Stride

Amesbury Methodist Church is taking part and fundraising for this year's Ride and Stride – for the second time. We need people to be on a rota to sign in participants as they come to the Church and show them where the facilities are and offer a drink and biscuit. Rosemary and James are cycling on this day. Participants may cycle, walk, drive mobility scooter or horse ride! The goal is to visit as many churches in Wiltshire as possible. Half the money raised goes to the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust (WHCT) to the Church of your choice, so for Rosemary and James this is Amesbury Methodist Church. You can give to them in cash or cheque made payable to WHCT Ride and Stride (address below) or online at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/rosemary-fletcher-1723194864369>

JustGiving



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

MONDAY	<p>13.15 – 15.15 BH Spurgeons – Together with Families. Mother and Baby Group</p> <p>13.30 - 16.00 MH The Alzheimer's Support Group (not on 2nd or 9th September)</p> <p>19.30 – 21.30 BH Scottish Country Dancing</p>	TUESDAY	<p>11.00 – 13:00 BH Line Dancing with Julie</p> <p>11.00 – 13.00 MH The Salisbury Food Bank</p> <p>14.00 – 16.00 BH The Amesbury Archer's Songsters</p> <p>18.15 – 20.15 ALL rooms Girls Brigade</p>
WEDNESDAY	<p>09.00 – 14.00 YR Wiltshire Citizens Advice</p> <p>14.00 – 16.00 MH Craft Group (meet on every other Wednesday starting on 4th September)</p> <p>17.15– 20.15 BH Line Dancing with Julie</p>	THURSDAY	<p>11.00 – 12.30 BH Line Dancing with Julie</p> <p>13.00 – 15.00 MH The Salisbury Foodbank</p>
FRIDAY	No Bookings – Cleaning	SATURDAY	10.00 – 11:30 MH Coffee morning

BH = Back Hall, **MH** = Main Hall, **YR** = Youth Room

Amesbury Methodist Church CCLi licence no 206298.

WORLDWIDE APPEALS — September 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.



TEACHER SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS FOR TWEETS

On 29 May 2024, Saudi Arabia's Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) sentenced 47-year-old teacher Asaad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi to 20 years in prison for social media posts criticizing the government's Vision 2030 programme and expressing condolences for the death in prison of a prominent human rights defender. Al-Ghamdi was arrested on 20 November 2022. According to trusted sources, he was held in solitary confinement for the first three months of his detention and has been denied access to adequate healthcare, including for his epilepsy. Asaad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi's brother, Mohammad, was arrested five months prior to Asaad's arrest and sentenced to death in July 2023 solely over his social media posts. The Saudi authorities must immediately and unconditionally release Asaad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi and quash his conviction and sentence.

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

Waleed Mohammed Al Samani
Minister of Justice
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Postal Code 11472, P.O Box 7775
Email: 1950@moj.gov.sa

Your Excellency,

I am gravely concerned that the Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) in Saudi Arabia has sentenced 47-year-old teacher Asaad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi to 20 years in prison, followed by a 20-year travel ban, solely on the basis of his social media posts on X (formerly Twitter) criticizing government policies and expressing condolences for the death in prison of prominent human rights defender and founding member of the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association (ACPRA), Abdullah al-Hamid.

According to court documents reviewed by Amnesty International, al-Ghamdi was charged under the counter-terror law for crimes including "challenging the religion and justice of the King and the Crown Prince" and "supporting terrorist ideology and crimes ... and participating in hashtags for that purpose". All charges brought against him were related to his social media activity. According to trusted sources, among the posts on X considered as evidence against him during interrogation were ones where he criticized projects related to the government's Vision 2030 programme and questioned the absence of projects in Jeddah and expressed condolences for the death of a prominent human rights defender. Amnesty International has already raised concern about the arrest and sentence to death in July 2023 of Al-Ghamdi's brother, 55-year-old retired teacher Mohammad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi, solely for views he expressed on social media.

Al-Ghamdi was arrested on 20 November 2022 following a raid on his home. According to trusted sources, he was held in solitary confinement for the first three months of his detention. Al-Ghamdi suffers from epilepsy, and according to trusted sources he has been denied adequate healthcare in detention for his condition, and as a result he has suffered repeated fainting spells, falls and seizures. He has also been denied treatment for the injuries caused by these seizures.

Al-Ghamdi was denied legal representation for the first 9 months of his detention, during which he was interrogated without a lawyer in violation of his fair trial rights. He was later provided with a state-appointed lawyer who refused to meet al-Ghamdi before court sessions to prepare for his defence.

The Saudi authorities must immediately and unconditionally release Asaad bin Nasser al-Ghamdi and quash his conviction and sentence. Pending his release, they must ensure that al-Ghamdi urgently receives adequate healthcare. I also call on you to stop misusing terrorism charges to criminalize the exercise of the human right to freedom of expression, and to repeal or substantially amend the counter-terrorism and anti-cybercrime laws, ensuring that all laws are fully compatible with international human rights law and standards.

Yours sincerely,

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