



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 November 2024

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

All Saints day offers us a moment in time when we remember the people we love and have known who have died. Remembrance Day offers us a similar moment in time to pause and know the sacrifice so many made and make for our living in relative safety. Amid the quietness of November there are occasionally times when we simply want to speak out loud, once more, the names of the saints in our lives.

Some of us may need to grieve the deaths of loved ones whose deaths we have not adequately grieved. Our society gives us very little help grieving. Our church try's but recognises that it cannot help everyone, well enough. So, for some of us November becomes a time when we feel more able to let go just a little more.

We may even find ourselves thinking about our own lives, which will end one day, and what they will add up to...who will care when we are gone...who will remember us...whose saints are we?

Being a saint isn't complex; it is simple, I think; just not very easy. Jesus, in the beatitudes in the Gospel of Luke, says blessedness or sainthood is about sharing in the poverty, hunger, sadness, and persecution of life in this world. It seems to me Saints are people who manage to share in the poverty, hunger, sadness, and persecution of the world. Our personal saints are those who share in the things Jesus teaches; to be a saint to someone else, means managing to be with them at the places of pain and hurt.

This is not a complex thing to do but it is hard, because we so badly want to make things better. We want to cover over the pain...to laugh away the grief. Who wants to touch the hurt within another? Who wants to put their hands in the wounds? Who wants to sit with another in grief and despair? Who wants to taste another's depression and sadness?

We want to make each other feel better. We are in such a rush to make someone who is hurting feel better...to reassure each other that everything will be okay. But sainthood is about poverty, hunger, and weeping. The greatest gift we can give the world is not to hide from the poverty, hunger, pain, and oppression of our world. The greatest gift we can give one another is to be willing to share another's pain and grief—even to stare into the depths without trying to make it better...to be there without trying to fix things.

This is sainthood. It is not complex...it is just not easy. Together we face the pain and the beauty of our grief. Let us open our hearts to the need of our world and our lives as we sing & pray and worship & serve.

We may not always be sure about what comes next, but we might at least keep an open mind. Might there be a loving reality at work in our world and life even if we cannot perceive it? And should we not do our best to do what we can?

I once knew a man in his late 80s who was an agnostic or an atheist most of his life. He told me that in the later years of his life, he began to conclude that human beings are no more likely to have evolved accidentally than a motorcycle accidentally assembling itself. He became convinced that there must be something like a God and that the nature of God must be love.

Faith did not come naturally to him, but he kept an open mind for 80 some years, did what he could, and he eventually knew.

It is sometimes suggested – explicitly and subtly – that believing in something greater, other, beyond, eternal is a sign of weakness. Some will feel that it is a form of denial rooted in our fear of death...that it is an illusion we have invented to avoid facing the almost intolerable pain that we must someday die.

But, when we mourn the loss of our loved ones and remember that we too are mortal, I want to suggest that living in the possibility of eternity may not be a sign of weakness but an act of courage. It takes great courage, I think, to live as though our lives matter eternally...even if they seem very ordinary to us. It takes courage to live believing that what I do with my life matters beyond this lifetime, even when so much of what I do seems pointless. It takes courage to risk the possibility that we are loved eternally.

Our goal is to join our lives to the saints who have gone before us and the saints who will live in generations to come, to join our lives to them and to do so perhaps not knowing things with certainty. In our community, individuals may fail, but the community is going in a Godward direction. If you can't pray, you still belong to a community which prays. If you can't find love to serve and care in yourself at a particular moment you still belong to a community that loves and serves. You are carried towards the God who is forming you to be like him. May this and every comfort rest with us now and always.

Every Blessing

Rev Mark

SERVICES OF WORSHIP November 2024

Sunday 3rd November	Rev C King – All Souls Service including Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th November	D Bradberry
Sunday 17 th November	Rev Dr Mark Cheetham
Sunday 24 th November	Rev P Kabonde – All Age Worship



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

Our Zambia Link:

November is the month when the rainy season in Zambia begins. We join our prayers with the prayers of people in Zambia that there will be a good rainy season. Last time, there was a drought, and people are still suffering the ill effects – shortage of food and of water and shortage of electricity, because most of Zambia's electricity comes from hydro-electric power, which needs the dams to be full and the rivers flowing strongly.

The Rev Rosemary Fletcher had to delay her visit to Zambia due to ill health. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to hearing about her rescheduled visit in the new year.

Please continue to pray for the congregation of St Andrew's, Lusaka, as they pray for us. Pray especially for the minister, Rev Theresa Matimba, and her family. And pray for a bountiful rainy season from now until April so that the people of Zambia will have enough to eat and drink and a reliable supply of electric power.

Give thanks for Zambia's 60 years of independence, celebrated on October 24th.
Pray for sufficient rain in this coming rainy season.

In worship on 20th, people will have been reminded of our identity in Christ and what that means in our daily lives; let us faithfully live in Christ.

Pray for the minister, Rev Theresa Matimba, and for the officers and girls of St Andrew's Girls' Brigade, as they pray for us

Cecil King

Church Hall Events and Bookings

Booking Secretary: Helen Artt

Tel: 07938 711049 E-mail: amesburymethodisthall@gmail.com

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.

Hall Bookings

MONDAY	<p>09.30 – 12.30 BH Afghan Community Hub</p> <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</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 Council – Community Workshops</p> <p>14.00 – 16.00 MH Craft Group (meet on every other Wednesday starting on 13th November)</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

Upcoming Events – Diary Dates

Saturday 7th December; Pre-Christmas Amesbury Baby & Children’s Clothing and Toy exchange 11.00 – 15.00.

This event helps support local families and recycles and reuses clothes and toys. The Event will also include attendance by Project Prom Salisbury. They are available to answer questions and be a drop off point for dresses suites and accessories that have been outgrown or are no longer needed. The team at PP work tirelessly every year to make sure every teenager, who might not otherwise be able to attend their school prom, due to family finances or other reasons, can feel amazing and enjoy one of the most special evenings of their school life.

- **Saturday 14th December Amesbury Community Soul Singers** are performing a Christmas Choir concert at **7.30pm**. Information on how to obtain tickets to follow
- **Monday 16th December Afghan Hub Celebration** of end of term activities to include an exhibition of Art & Photography inspired by collaboration with Avon Valley Academy and will include a variety of dishes and teas **10.00 – 12.30pm**

SALISBURY CIRCUIT – Diary DATES 2024

Friday November 15th – Story Telling & Supper evening at Sandleheath Uniting Church – 6.30pm

Sunday November 17th – 10.30am SMC Church Anniversary

Sunday November 17th – 3 Gen Circuit Service 4.00pm at Amesbury MC

December 6th – 8th - Woodfalls MC Nativity Festival

Tuesday December 10th Festive Tea at Bemerton 5.00pm followed by Community Carols 6.00pm with Rev.S Hawkes

Sunday December 15th – 10.30am Carol Service at Shrewton

Sunday December 15th – Carol Service at Sandleheath Uniting Church – 6.00pm

Monday December 16th 7:30pm St John’s Church, Tisbury Village Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December Amesbury Methodist Church carol service at **4.00pm**

Five Minutes for the Planet!



Church Eco Champion – Catherine Wilson

I have recently agreed with George to pick up the Eco work at AMC and to continue with our goal of achieving the Silver Award from A Rocha. I would like to thank George Watts for his contribution as Eco Church Champion over the last year at AMC.

“A Rocha UK’s Eco Church programme equips churches in England and Wales to care for creation. It provides a framework to support your church and its leadership to take practical action on caring for God’s earth.”

A Rocha has several key areas of focus for Churches as they progress through the changes required. The survey covers five key areas of church life:

- Worship and teaching.
- Buildings
- Land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

The activities to advance our efforts require volunteers and a “green team” of helpers to work together to make things happen.

To support AMC in caring for God’s creation, please get in touch with me at catherine.wilson@btinternet.com or in church on Sundays.

We need 3 or 4 volunteers to ensure we have a broad range of ideas, ages, opinions, and experience.

Catherine Wilson



Blister Packs again!

Recycling blister packs is the issue that seems to come up again and again. It’s probably due to our demographic as a church! Until a few years ago, when I began to need regular medication, I had no idea of the how the little mountain of blister packs would build up.

Superdrug used to take them, but their box has now disappeared and not been replaced. Because of the evident demand, we as a church have looked at providing our own recycling point, but it would come at a significant cost.

However, there is an organisation called Terracycle that will take your blister packs and convert them into re-usable plastic. You do have to buy one of their returnable, postage-paid collection bags, and all the details are here:

<https://zerowastebag.co.uk/>

Their large size waste bag costs £39, but at nearly 60 cm (two feet) square, it will hold an awful lot of blister packs! – *Paul Butler SMC*

RECYCLING @ AMC



The aim of 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.

At Amesbury Methodist Church we collect loaf wrappers and pens to support the work of Medic to Medic. There are collection boxes in the Middle Hall to the left of the stage.

You can also visit the Medic-to-Medic website at [Medic To Medic | Supporting Healthcare Students in Africa](#)

You can connect with others locally who support Medic to Medic and find out more through the Facebook page called Salisbury Recycles for Medic to Medic.





PEACE VIGIL

**PERMANENT
CEASEFIRE NOW**



GAZA, ISRAEL

THE WEST BANK

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

LEBANON & beyond

EVERY SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER 2024

Outside Salisbury Library

5:00 - 5:30pm

Bring a Candle & Jar, or just yourself

Everyone is welcome

VIGILS FOR PEACE IN GAZA (and now elsewhere in the region) will continue on Saturdays outside the Library throughout November between 5.00 and 5.30 pm. Those of us who watched the BBC2 programme on ***Life and death in Gaza*** (highly recommended) on Tuesday Oct 15 will know how important it is for those who suffer to know that they are not alone. During November we are asked where possible to bring our own candles in jars and perhaps a message in our own words in large letters to display.

WORLDWIDE APPEALS – November 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.



STOP PRESS : On 30 September 2024, Palestinian surgeon Khaled Al Serr was released from Israeli detention after spending more than six months without charges or trial, half of which was incommunicado detention, under the abusive Unlawful Combatants Law. Dr. Khaled Al Serr was arbitrarily detained by the Israeli military on 25 March 2024, along with other medical staff, from Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis in the occupied Gaza Strip.

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.

POLITICIAN DETAINED OVER SOCIAL MEDIA POST

On 31 July, policemen in plain clothes arbitrarily arrested prominent Egyptian opposition politician Yehia Hussein Abdelhady, aged 71, from a street in Cairo. His arrest came a few days after he published a post on Facebook criticising President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and the army and calling for regime change. On the same day of his arrest, a Supreme State Security Prosecution prosecutor interrogated him over the post and ordered his pretrial detention for 15 days pending investigations into bogus terrorism-related charges and for publishing “false news”. He must be immediately and unconditionally released as he is detained solely for his peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression.

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

Public Prosecutor Mohamed Shawky Ayyad
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Madinat al-Rehab, Cairo, Arab
Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2577 4716
X: @EgyptianPPO

Dear Counsellor,

*I am writing to express my concern over the arbitrary detention of 71-year-old **Yehia Hussein Abdelhady**, a prominent opposition politician and former spokesperson of the Civil Democratic Movement, a political opposition alliance. Authorities are targeting him in relation to his Facebook post published on 22 July in which he wondered how long the military intends to remain silent while Egyptian people live in acute poverty amid the government’s failure and corruption, calling for regime change in the country.*

On 31 July, policemen in plain clothes arrested Yehia Hussein Abdelhady from his friend’s car while both were heading to a political event in Al-Karama political party’s headquarters in Cairo, Egypt’s capital. Policemen neither showed an arrest warrant nor informed Yehia Hussein Abdelhady of the reasons for his arrest. They also refused to identify themselves. On the same day, a Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) prosecutor interrogated him in relation to charges of “joining a terrorist group”, publishing “false news”, “inciting the commission of a terrorist crime”, “misuse of social media”, and “funding terrorism”. Evidence against him by the National Security Agency (NSA), a specialized police force, presented to the SSSP included screenshots of social media posts critical of the government attributed to him. A SSSP prosecutor questioned him about the social media post published on 22 July in which he called for regime change. After interrogations, the prosecutor ordered his pretrial detention for 15 days pending investigations. Yehia Hussein Abdelhady is held in 10th of Ramadan prison and has yet to be permitted visits by his family, amid concerns over his age-related health conditions, including diabetes and a heart condition.

This is not the first time that Egyptian authorities target Yehia Hussein Abdelhady. In 2018, prosecutors initiated criminal investigations against him on charges of insulting the president, disturbing public order, and publishing “false news” in connection with a social media post critical of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. In 2019, authorities arrested him after the Civil Democratic Movement called for the release of its detained members. He was released from arbitrary detention in June 2022 following a presidential pardon, after 42 months of unjust imprisonment.

I urge you to ensure that Yehia Hussein Abdelhady is immediately and unconditionally released and all charges against him dropped as he is being detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression. The Egyptian authorities must refrain from using counterterrorism legislation to target peaceful critics and keeping them in pretrial detention indefinitely.

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