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www.salisburymethodistcircuit.org.uk/churches/amesbury-methodist-church/

Newsletter for November 2025

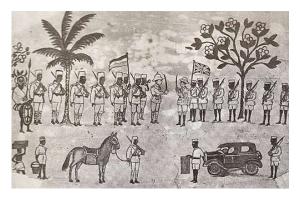
Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

November is traditionally a month for remembering. In the liturgical year of the church, the 1st of November is set aside for All Saints Day when we remember all the faithful followers of Jesus throughout church history, and on the 2nd of November, All Souls Day, we call to mind our loved ones who have gone before us and give thanks to God for all that they meant and will go on meaning to us.

In November we also remember those who fought and gave their lives for the freedoms which we enjoy today. Much to my surprise, I have very recently discovered that my New Zealand grandfather served in France using his engineering skills as a tunneller in the trenches and latterly to reconstruct bridges. On arrival in England, he was initially stationed to Larkhill, and before his departure to New Zealand in 1919, he was stationed to Bulford, where the Bulford Kiwi is and where the connections to New Zealand live on in many road names.

His story serves as a reminder to me, that people from many nations served, and continue to serve in our armed forces, and whilst we remember them at the 11th hour on the 11th month, it was not until the 14th of November that the very final hostilities ceased near Mbala in the Northern Province of Zambia. Distances are great in Africa, so it took 3 days for news of the armistice to arrive, and a further 10 days for the German General, Paul von Lettow Vorbeck to lay down his arms and surrender at Chambishi, an event which was recorded in a drawing, (artist unknown).



You may have heard of the book "Through the valley of the Kwai" written by a young officer by the name of Ernest Gordon. In World War 2 Ernest was a prisoner of war and was building the Burma-Siam railway. The death toll was astronomical and the men in the camp had resorted to the attitude of the "survival of the fittest" due to the inhumane conditions they were living in. One day after a day's work, a Japanese guard counted the shovels and found one to be missing. The guard became enraged, and the prisoners were lined up and ordered to stand there until someone owned up to stealing it. No one owned up to it, so the guard threatened to kill them all, then one man stepped forward, and incriminated himself. The guard took him away and killed him; later, the shovels were counted again. No shovel was missing - an innocent man had sacrificed his life to save others. The news that an innocent man had willingly sacrificed his life had a huge impact upon the prisoners, who began to treat each other like brothers. Later, Ernest returned to meet one the former guards from the camp, Takashi Nagase, to offer forgiveness to him.

Over two thousand years ago, another innocent man stepped forward, for us and sacrificed his life upon the cross to save us. Jesus said, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

May we aspire to live sacrificial lives day by day as we follow in the footsteps of our brother Jesus; may we hold the memories of those who have gone before us, service men and women, and all our beloveds, with care and prayerfulness and may we live with thankfulness for all those who "serve to save" in our world today.

Lord, teach me to be generous, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to look for any reward, save that of knowing that I do your holy will. (Attributed to St Ignatius of Loyola)



With love and blessings Dcn. Selina

Prayer pointers for this month:

- For those who are bereaved, and long for people to reach out to them
- For all those who serve in our armed services and their families
- For the leaders of the nations that they may be people of peace and justice
- For the holy innocents of war
- For our Army Chaplains and the responsibilities that they carry



Our Zambia link:

On 24th October Zambia celebrated the 61st anniversary of the nation's independence and sixty years of peace, stability and development. The celebration was preceded, on 18th October, by a national day of prayer, praying especially for reconciliation.

In 1964, on Independence Day, few people gave Zambia any chance of peace or prosperity or real political and economic independence. In five of the countries bordering Zambia there were wars. Landlocked Zambia, a thousand miles from the sea, had no good route to the coast to export the copper on which the economy depended - only a long dirt road to Dar-es-Salaam. There was no university, and there were very few secondary schools for Africans; nearly all skilled professional jobs were done by foreigners.

The borders of Zambia – formerly Northern Rhodesia – had been drawn by European politicians in Berlin in 1885, with no regard to or knowledge of the people who lived there. So, Zambia was an artificial creation with more than 70 different languages spoken and people's primary loyalty being to their extended family and home area.

Give thanks to God that Zambia has been an independent democratic peaceful nation for 60 years, despite the big problems it was born with.

There have been setbacks – times of economic hardship, the AIDs pandemic, devastating drought, leading to the failure of electricity generation from Kariba Dam, some corrupt government, crop failures, the COVID pandemic.

There has also been huge expansion in schools and universities, great improvements in road links especially to previous isolated areas and, for some people, higher living standards.

Christian churches have multiplied, and the number of church worshippers has increased enormously.

Give thanks for Zambia and for the United Church of Zambia. There are four United Church of Zambia ministers serving as circuit ministers in British Methodism; Zambia sends ministers to us – a rapid change from 40 years ago, when Britain was sending ministers to Zambia.

Continue to pray for the United Church of Zambia, as they continue to pray for us.

Cecil King

SALISBURY CIRCUIT DATES 2025

Sunday November 9th – Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church Motcombe

Wednesday November 19th - Ecumenical Prayers for Justice and Peace in the Cathedral Trinity Chapel 12 noon All are welcome

Advent Sunday 30th November 2025 – we move to year A of the Lectionary – Matthew- and as in previous years here, we have an opportunity for further study of the Gospel by the Reverend Dr Kenneth Padley, who is an excellent scholar.

Booking for this is on the Cathedral website.

An Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew Talk
Wednesday 12 November 2025
Event Information

Date Wednesday 12 November 2025

Price Adult tickets £10, Student tickets £5, Under 18 Free
Timings7pm

Doors open 6.30pm

Location Salisbury Cathedral - North Transept

A talk with Canon Kenneth Padley exploring the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew's gospel is the longest account of the life of Jesus. Heavily influenced by Judaism, the evangelist portrays Jesus as the one who fulfils yet transforms Jewish expectations of a Saviour / Messiah.

The Church year which begins at Advent 2025 will source most of its Sunday gospel readings from St Matthew. This evening is an opportunity to get ahead of the lectionary by diving into the priorities and values of the first evangelist. Some of the most famous stories and sayings of Jesus are only found in the first gospel: the star-led wise men, parables of wheat and tares, sheep and goats, wise and foolish virgins, and many details of the crucifixion and resurrection are only found in Matthew. This evening will explore why these were important for Matthew and what they might mean for us today.

Booking Details

We are trialling a charge for this event. This is to cover the costs of the evening and support future adult learning opportunities at the Cathedral. If you would like to attend but cost is an issue, please contact <u>k.padley@salcath.co.uk</u>

Adult tickets: £10 Student tickets: £5 Under 18: Free

An Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew

12 Nov 2025 | 19:00

SERVICES OF WORSHIP November 2025 - Please pray for all those leading worship

Sunday 2nd November Rev Christopher Jones- Holy Communion

Sunday 9th November Michael King

Sunday 16th November Deacon Selina Nisbett - All Age Worship

Sunday 23rd November Gwen Leslie

Sunday 30th November Deacon Selina Nisbett - First Sunday in Advent



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

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN A POSADA THIS ADVENT!

Posada is a South American tradition, and the Spanish word means "lodging place." It commemorates the search for shelter by Mary and Joseph. In a Posada, the figures of Mary and Joseph and the donkey travel between different homes, who symbolically offer a lodging place to them. There are prayers to share and activities for children to participate in.

The Posada box is taken during the first Sunday of Advent by the 1st host who invites the 2nd host on the list for

simple hospitality. Hospitality and prayers from the box can be shared together in homes, in a café, in a care home, or wherever you feel most comfortable. The 2nd host then takes the box and invites the 3rd host to collect the box, and the figures continue their journey until they are finally brought back to church on Christmas Eve where the baby is added.

Posada gatherings only ever involve the host and those who are next on the list, so a very small number.

Should you wish to participate, you will be invited to put your name and contact details on a sheet before the start of Advent.



THE BENEFITS OF DOING A POSADA

Doing a Posada

- makes the coming of Christ much more visible
- it offers space for stillness and prayerful reflection
- the shared hospitality strengthens the bonds between people in our church
- it is intergenerational, and builds links between age groups in the church

(People sometimes document the Posada through photos, so that others can see where Mary, Joseph and the Donkey have been!)

This is an event for **all ages**, and I hope and pray very much, that you will commit to journeying with Mary, Joseph, the donkey and with one another, this Advent.

May God bless you all. Dcn SELINA

Church Treasurer

We are delighted to inform you that Nana Konadu has agreed to become our new treasurer from the 1st of November. She can be contacted on amesburytreasurer@gmail.com We are extremely grateful that she has agreed to take on this extremely important role within our Church and wish her well. We also extend a sincere thank you to Lauren who has stepped down from serving in this role for several years.

Hall Bookings

For all bookings or enquiries contact Opal Webber the Community Hub Administrator who can be contacted on 07938711049; or by email amesburymethchurch@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.

For more details Contact the Stewards

	09.30 – 12.30 BH Afghan Community Hub		11.00 – 13:00 BH Line Dancing with Julie
MONDAY	13.30 - 16.00 MH Beyond Dementia (formally The Alzheimer's Support	TUESDAY	11.00 – 13.00 MH The Salisbury Food Bank
WIONDAT	Group)	TOLSDAT	14.00 – 16.00 BH The Amesbury Archer's Songsters
	19.30 – 21.30 BH Scottish Country Dancing		18.15 – 20.15 ALL rooms Girls Brigade
WEDNESDAY	10.00 – 11.00 BH Pre-Natal Yoga		11.00 – 12.30 BH Line Dancing
WEDNESDAY	13.30 – 17.00 MH The Amesbury Bridge Group (every 3 rd Wednesday)	THURSDAY	with Julie

	17.15– 20.15 BH Line Dancing with Julie		13.00 – 15.00 MH The Salisbury Foodbank 14.00 – 16.30 QR Bible fellowship (6 ^{th, 20th} November)
FRIDAY	Cleaning at 6.00 pm	SATURDAY	10.00 – 11:30 MH Coffee morning

BH = Back Hall, MH = Main Hall, YR = Youth Room, QR = Quiet Room

Amesbury Methodist Church CCLi licence no 206298.



WORLDWIDE APPEALS – November 2025

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.



LAWYER ARBITRARILY DETAINED

Ahmed Souab, a 68 year-old lawyer and human rights defender, has been arbitrarily detained since 21 April 2025 for his work defending victims of human rights violations and the legitimate exercise of his right to freedom of expression. He now faces trial based on unfounded terrorism charges—solely for comments he made criticizing the lack of due process and violations of fair trial rights in the so-called "conspiracy case" trial, in which he represented several defendants. Tunisian authorities must immediately release Ahmed Souab, drop all charges against him, and end the misuse of terrorism-related legislation to silence peaceful dissent and opposition voices.

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

President of the Republic Kais Saied Route de la Goulette Site archéologique de Carthage, Tunisie Email: <u>contact@carthage.tn</u> Twitter: @TnPresidency – Facebook

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you to express my grave concern regarding the arbitrary detention of lawyer and human rights defender Ahmed Souab, 68, solely for peacefully expressing his views and exercising his duties as a human rights lawyer. On 21 April 2025, Tunisian authorities arrested him after a press conference where he criticized due process violations and executive interference with the judiciary in the "conspiracy case" trial which saw mass sentencing of dissidents and political opposition figures. Authorities held Souab for 48 hours in incommunicado detention, without access to his lawyer or his family. Two days later, his pre-trial detention was ordered and on 28 April, the investigative judge rejected the formal release request his team had filed and subsequently referred him to trial.

Ahmed Souab is being prosecuted for the comments he made concerning the lack of due process in the socalled "conspiracy case" trial, in which he served on the defence committee. Yet he is facing trial on unfounded charges of forming a terrorist organization, supporting terrorist acts, spreading fake news, making threats, and using telecommunications networks to insult or disturb others.

The comments, which are critical of the procedural violations in the trial, fall within his right to freedom of expression and are protected under both Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, to which Tunisia is a state party. His arrest and prosecution therefore appear to be a reprisal for his legitimate criticism of the judiciary and his role as a defence lawyer.

I urge you to ensure the immediate release of Ahmed Souab as he is detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights.

Yours sincerely,