

W E L C O M E T O

Salisbury Methodist Church PARENTS & toddlers

INFORMATION & CONTACTS

Who We Are

Friday Parents & Toddlers at Salisbury Methodist Church is one of the longest established pre-school groups in Salisbury. It is a friendly, supportive group designed primarily for parents & extended family carers that attracts a loyal following of attendees, helpers and supporters. We are delighted to welcome you to the group and hope you find yourself quickly settled in and 'part of the family'.

When we run

We are open every Friday during term-time from 10.00 am - 12.00 pm.

What we do

We are a very relaxed group where it is your choice how you would like to spend the time with your child. You are also welcome to turn up at any time and leave when it suits you.

There are plenty of books, games and toys, and occasionally we will also run a craft activity. At 11.30 we have 'circle time' for singing and stories. Sometimes we invite in a group to do something special such as children's poems. At 11.45 we clear up and



we do appreciate it if parents are able to help the team of, largely, volunteers with this task.

Tea, coffee, juice, biscuits and fruit are available throughout the session and included in the price: **£1.50 per family per session.**

Registration

To register you will need to complete a registration form, and you will then be added to the weekly register. At times the group gets quite busy and we try to restrict the number of families in the hall to around 30. Should you be unable to attend for 2 months, please let us know if you intend to return so that we may keep your name on the register, otherwise your name will be removed at the next new term. This doesn't mean you then can't come, but should the group become too busy, we will need to give priority to those parents and carers who are on the current register.

Pastoral Support

Our family worker, Sue Hart, is available for an informal chat at any time or for a more confidential one-to-one. Our minister, Rev. Malcolm Hickox is also always happy to be contacted. Our aim is always to provide loving, listening support and friendship.

Spirituality

There is a table by the coffee bar, which provides ideas for spiritual exercises you can do with your child. There is also a 'Prayers & Shares' book for you to write prayers and requests for others to pray, or just to share some good news.

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

Whatever your belief, background or family situation, it is natural to want to celebrate the arrival of a new baby with some kind of thanksgiving ceremony, and we would be delighted to discuss different options with you. Sue Hart will be happy to chat to you informally, or if you are considering Baptism, please contact our minister Rev. Malcolm Hickox who will be very happy to have a conversation with you.

Your Responsibilities

During the session, you are responsible for your child's safety and behaviour at all times. When the weather is nice, we do sometimes have the garden open. If you are happy for your child to be outside, you must accompany them and be aware that the garden does have concrete steps, which can potentially be hazardous to children.

We also request that you respect that we are in a church building, which, in line with all public buildings, has a no-smoking policy, and, along with all Methodist premises a no-alcohol policy, which states that no alcohol may be brought onto the premises.

Facilities - changing & buggies

We have toilets and baby changing facilities on the ground floor at the back of the church. These facilities are cleaned by generous volunteers who greatly appreciate your efforts to keep the loos clean and tidy. We particularly ask that you put all nappies into nappy bags (which are provided by the changing table) before placing them in the special bin. This helps to keep the smells at bay, particularly in the summer months.

Buggy parking is sometimes available in Room 1 (please don't change your children in this room), but at other times, please place your buggy snug against the wall in the corridor leading to the hall, avoiding blocking any doors (particularly the fire doors). Overlarge buggies will need to be parked in the hall itself.

Please don't leave valuables or shopping on buggies, but keep it with you. Although it is rare for things to go missing, the church is open to the public, and from time to time we have, unfortunately, had thefts.

Child Minders

Salisbury City Children's Centre has set up a group specifically for child minders. Please contact Jan Slade for more details.

The Listening Place

Salisbury Methodist Church runs a confidential free listening service on Mondays from 5.30 - 7.30 pm and on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10.00 am - 12.00 noon. You can book appointments or simply turn up.

Useful contact details

Family worker: Sue Hart, t. 07710 432076, e. familyworker@salisburymethodist.org.uk

Minister: Rev. Malcolm Hickox, t. 01722 320858, e. minister@salisburymethodist.org.uk

The Listening Place, t. 01722 325294

Salisbury City Children's Centre, t. 01722 323208