

Israeli Society - a woman's perspective: Open meeting at Sarum College, in association with Salisbury Christian Aid Committee: **Ronit Marian-Kadishay** is a member of the Israeli women's group *New Profile* an organisation which aims to find a new way of being - away from the current militaristic culture to one of peace building. **Monday 21st January 2008, 7.30pm at Sarum College, 19 The Close, Salisbury.** Admission is free but donations welcome. All are welcome. Jonathan Plows

Christian Faith and Working Life: Canon David Durston will lead a workshop on Saturday 19th January 2008, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm in St. Thomas's House for participants to explore the relationship between their faith and their daily work. Numbers will be limited so please contact John Cox (332373) to book a place and David (334017) for further information.

A new rota for Saturday morning coffee is on the board at the back of church. Please sign up without delay. Have a word with Jennie Hoare if you'd like to know more about what's involved.

Confirmation next year: We will be running confirmation courses for adults and children in the new year aiming for the dawn service at the cathedral on Easter Sunday. This course would also be open to any adults who are already confirmed but would welcome a 'refresher'. Please speak to David if you are interested.

Mayor's Luncheon on behalf of the Bangladesh Cyclone Disaster. Sunday 27th January 2008. Free Lunch and Entertainment. After the Charter Service here, The Mayor of New Sarum, Councillor Kevin Cardy and his Mayoress, Mrs. Jan Cardy will be hosting a free lunch and entertainment at The Guildhall, Salisbury. You are cordially invited to attend. The luncheon will commence with a Sherry Reception which will precede a Lunch that will be provided by The Shah Jahan Indian Restaurant, together with Indian entertainment. Drinks will be provided by The Mayor who is holding this fund raising charity lunch to support the Bangladesh cyclone disaster relief. *Advance booking is essential, please sign on the sheet on the board. The invitation says "Eat as much as you like, pay as much as you like"*

Christmas Tree Festival 2007: Over 5000 visitors came to see the trees and left £5000 in donations or payment for refreshments. After expenses, £1177.57 has gone into church funds, and two charities, Salisbury District Carers' Support and Hillcote, have each received £1760. (The photograph album is now complete and available to view!)

The Parish Office is being reorganised. With any luck some of this will rub off on the secretary! For the next week (at least) I will be working mostly from home while building work is going on. To contact me either use email as usual, or leave a message on the office number (322537). I'm able to monitor this from home, but it might take a little while for me to get back to you. I'll come in once a day to pick up post and any notes that have been delivered by hand, but best bets for contact are email or phone.

Fairtrade: There is a new list for a new year. Please sign up. New volunteers most welcome, please speak with Margaret Kynaston or just sign up.

The Power of Prayer: With the notice sheet you should get a sample of the new prayer card. This is used by Clergy and others who make pastoral visits, especially to people who aren't able to come to church.

Tickets for the Burns Supper are all sold. There is a reserve list. Phone the office and leave a message if you would like to put your name down.

Prayers for Sudan

Political

Please give thanks in your prayers that the SPLM (Southern Political Leaders) have rejoined the National Government, following their withdrawal earlier in the Autumn. However, they are now claiming that the North has not met a renewed deadline to withdraw all their forces from the South. There has been tension on the demarcation line between the two halves of the country. Please pray for transparent working together by the various groups. The national census has been postponed until April. *Please pray that this will not delay elections planned by July 2009.*

Darfur

The joint UN/ African Union peacekeeping force took up its duties on the 1st January. But at 9,000 troops and police it falls a long way short of its planned strength of 26,000. There is also a serious shortage of equipment. *Please pray for the strengthening of this force and its effectiveness in aiding the humanitarian effort.*