

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER JULY 2023



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the August 2023 issue is

Sunday 30th July 2023

Ministers Musings from the Inside.....

Matthew 10:42

And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

In recent weeks I have reflected on the need to tell everyone of the Good news of Jesus Christ. The Glastonbury summer festival has now been and gone, and as I watched on TV, I recalled those times in the past, when as minister of Pilton, I walked the fields in clerical collar. I recalled the enormous crowds and needs of the people that gathered, and there were **so many people**. The needs of so many can be overwhelming. We think, what can I do? What good will it do? Will anyone even notice or listen to the Good News of Jesus?

I have recently used the following illustration in preaching, but it is very effective in emphasising a simple message. It was of an old man with all the experience of his life walking along the beach at dawn. He noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and throwing them into the sea. Catching up with the young man, he asked what he was doing. The younger man replied that the stranded starfish would die if left in the hot morning sun. The old man said, "But the beach goes on for miles, and there are hundreds of starfish, how can your efforts make any difference at all?"

The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves. "It makes a huge difference to this one," he said.

“And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple -- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Such an exceedingly small act in the grand scheme of things but we so often imagine discipleship as requiring huge sacrifices or entailing great feats of evangelism. Yes, sometimes this may be true. But sometimes it is the small acts of kindness that impact hugely on those who receive them.

Providing a cup of cold water to one in need seems small but may be lifesaving. Acts such as offering a hug, virtual or physical, to someone who is grieving or sad. Listening to the needs and angry recriminations of someone, suffering a broken life in a broken world. A community that serves others in a crisis by lifts to hospital, or foodbank providers. Those who deliver to homes in time of isolation and social exclusion. Financial offerings to help those who do not know where on earth to turn or how they will survive.

Discipleship is not always shouted loudly in the light. It is often those small acts of service and love, ones unnoticed in the blurred lines of light and darkness that makes the difference. Such discipleship often composes of a thousand small gestures of kindness, impacting greatly on those whose day becomes a little bit brighter.

I often hear from those who think that they have nothing further to give to the world in Christ's name. That their work is now done, due to age or infirmity. So perhaps today's letter is meant specifically for you. Serving God has no age limit. We are all called to serve, whatever our personal circumstances.

I remember visiting a lady who was extremely ill in hospital. On seeing me, she became concerned that I was taking the time to visit her, when others needed me more. She was

more worried about my welfare, spiritual and physical, and let me know that, *in no uncertain terms*. She remained a disciple of Christ despite her own condition, hospitalised and bedridden. She still was throwing the starfishes she found back into the sea.

Our calling is simply to care for the small part of community and world that is evident before us. The community in which God has placed us.

When life in Christ becomes difficult to see, or our actions seem to make little difference, even the smallest of gestures can make a huge and unexpected difference to those who receive them. I hope that your heart will be stirred in the wonder of God's love and power, that you seek to make such a difference each day, and begin to see people, and the world, just as Jesus did.

For it is not who's underneath and hidden that counts, *but what we do*, that defines us to a watchful and anticipating world.

God be with you....

Craig



Our Forthcoming Services:

2nd July	Rev Craig Manley including Holy Communion
9th July	Mrs Elizabeth Manley
16th July	Mrs Michele Gard
23rd July	Mrs Joanne Williams
30th July	Rev Craig Manley – this will be our sector service at Corsham



Pastoral News

We give thanks for answered prayer.

We continue to pray for members of our congregation waiting for treatment or waiting for results of tests.

Our prayers are also with those who have to make big decisions about health issues.

Our thoughts and prayers are always with all our church family. Throughout July we particularly pray for Lyn Coopers' pastoral group: Glenis Ansell; Carolyn and Andy; Cameron; Jenny and Steven Colby; Hilary Eatwell; Doris and Darkie Haddrell; Sue Johnstone; Marion and Mike Pitman; Jacky and Simon Purtell.

It is part of our Christian commitment to care for and support each other, so if you have any joys or sorrows that can be shared in our pastoral news please let Ursula know. Thank you.



Refugee Prayer Focus July 2023

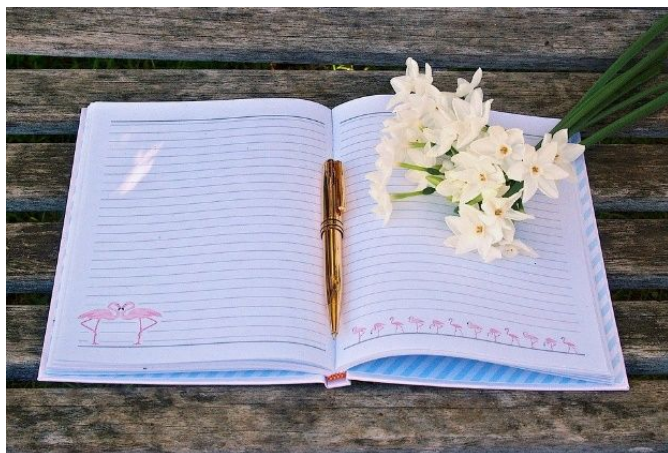
Let us pray for those still affected by the tragedy off the Greek coast and pray that safer routes for refugees can be created to ensure safer journeys for those seeking asylum.

Calne Food Bank

Please visit their website for details of their opening times - www.calnefoodbank.co.uk

We are currently in need of: Small tinned potatoes Small tinned veg Instant mash Small sugars Whole milk
Coffee Toilet Rolls Jam **Please make sure that any food donated is in date.**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOODBANK HAS NOW MOVED TO 1 OXFORD ROAD



Dates for your diary

All are welcome to join in

Wednesday July 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th

Friendly Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Come and join us

Saturday July 22nd

Church Coffee Morning

Time: 11.00am - 2.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

More details in this newsletter see poster.

Friday 15th and Saturday 16th September

Production of 'The Face'

Venue: Calne Methodist Church

Watch this space.

Thank you for supporting our Charity Concert

Jazzy
Feel



The sum of £520 was raised
for Doorway Wiltshire, Action for
Children and Church.



Sunday 9th July

Calne Methodist Church

3.00pm - 6.00pm

An informal church for all ages.
Come and explore the Bible and a
Christian life through crafts, songs, games, drama, activ-
ities and food.

You can be 8 months, 8 or 80.

(Children must be accompanied by an adult please)

All are welcome and there's plenty of opportunity to have
fun and make a mess!

No need to book - just come and join in!

A Calne Partnership of Churches activity



THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EVERYBODY WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR STALL AT THE CALNE CARNIVAL - IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Maree and Bob enjoying the afternoon tea we gave them as a gift at Lucknam Park in June, which they really enjoyed.

