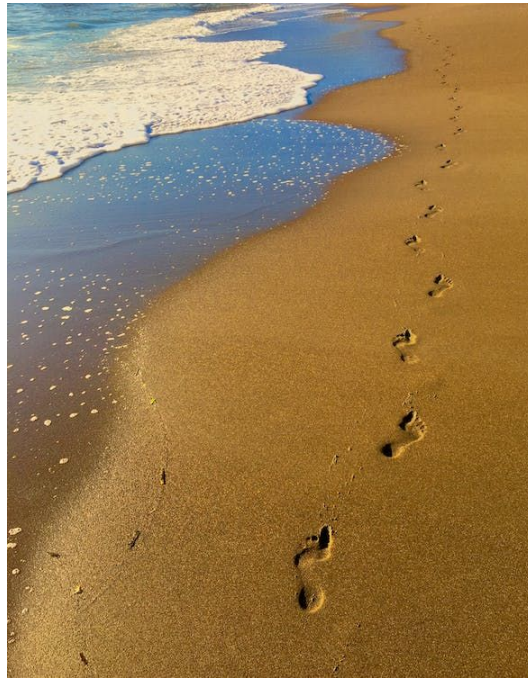


CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the September 2023 issue is

Sunday 27th August 2023

Ministers Summer Musings

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” Corrie Ten Boom

What a state the world is in at present. Everywhere you look there are none of the usual signs of summer, only the darkening clouds of rain, extreme winds and storms that linger threateningly in an atmosphere of gloom. It made me recollect a saying, *“Stop the world I want to get off.”* It comes from the stage production of, *“Stop the world I want to get off”?*

The production is set against a circus background and concentrates on the life of a clown named ‘*Littlechap*’. The story reveals his life, from the moment of his birth until his death. Each time something unsatisfactory happens in life, he calls out ‘*Stop the world!*’ addressing those present around him, namely the audience who are watching. He allows his growing dissatisfaction of life to constantly search for something better than he already has. Only in his old age does he realize that what he always had, the love of his wife, which was more than enough to sustain him. His wife dies, and only then does he come to terms with his own selfishness. Finally, to save his grandchild, dying at birth, he intervenes, allowing ‘*Death*’ to take him instead. Life and death and life, beginning the cycle, once more.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

There is a lot of imagery in that short passage about Littlechap. Imagery of life and love, of love and sacrifice and the constant cycle of living which we all know so well. The world goes on with or without us! I am sure you have heard of that pearl of wisdom before. It is also very true, but *what we do in the world* makes all the difference.

This ‘*summer*’ has undoubtedly been different to date. Our usual holidays may not have been possible due to financial restraints and if we managed to enjoy one, it was either extremely hot abroad, or extremely wet in the UK. The things we look forward to may have been put on hold. Job losses, financial difficulties, illness, numerous protests, famines, hunger, country threatening country, storms and winds out of season, climate change, crops ruined, political conflicts, confusion over the right way to talk, act, and even respond to others by the correct title.....***Stop the world I want to get off!!!***

Like Littlechap, we may ask, *‘Is this all there is?’* There must be something better, surely! We all need hope, especially people who are in the midst of turmoil in their lives, and that is our world at present. One thing that almost all people have in common when life is bleak, is that they are grasping for something to give them hope. Hope that things will get better in the future. Hope for healing and wholeness. And perhaps, hope that God will be with them while they are going through such turbulent times.

C. S. Lewis said this... *“Hope is one of the Theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people*

think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.”

The future can be a scary thing, with so many uncertainties. Who knows what tomorrow might bring? When we have faith in Christ, however, we have hope not only in this life, but in the next. The future, while uncertain, can be entrusted to God, and it is God that will help us through all things. The Bible has a lot of things to say regarding hope. Perhaps written for us in these strange times is **Romans 15:4**. *For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

We remain hopeful of better times but in God that wish becomes a certainty. ‘*Only when our greatest love is God, a love that we cannot lose even in death, can we face all things with peace.*’ John Piper hits home with that quotation, for it is peace we are all seeking at this time. When we understand and believe that all will indeed be well, that we will have such a peace, the worry about the world starts to fall away, *for we and it are in God’s hands. ‘We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.’*

It is said that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks.

When the storm hits, it sets its wings, so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm. When the storms of life come upon us, we can rise above them by setting our minds toward God. The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God’s power to lift us above them. And in the hope of that reflection, I intend to enjoy what is left of this summer at peace with my God.

May God be with you all, this day, and all days. Stay safe and well.... **Craig**



Our Forthcoming Services:

13th August **Mr Derek Gard**

20th August **Our Preaching Team will be leading worship at Langley Burrell**

27th August **Mrs Jenny Colby**

Pastoral News



Congratulations to Vera and Stephen who on August 17th celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

We give thanks for holidays, giving many a chance to change their routine.

We also pray for those who find this time of year difficult.

We pray for those receiving examination results and for those continuing their studies during the holiday season. We wish them every success.

We continue to pray for Glenis, Craig and Gary.

We pray for the church and all our church family. Throughout August we particularly pray for Eleanor Bujalska's pastoral group: Pauline Appleby, Yvonne Brett, Caroline Foster, Michele and Derek Gard, Beverley and Philip Messam, Jill McCondach, Maisie Price, Jan and Rob Sayers, Angus and family, Mitty and family.

It is part of our Christian commitment to care for and support each other and to rejoice with one another, 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 August 2023

Our Refugee prayer focus this month is taken from the 2023 Prayer Handbook: Gracious God, we thank you for the people of Jordan, For the hospitality they have shown to their neighbours, the millions of Syrian refugees living in their country. We pray for both the refugees and host communities, for those working alongside them, such as All We Can's partner in the region, LWF, and for all those affected by closure of schools and limited access to health services.

Neighbourly God, closer than we can imagine, we hold before you the more than 80,000 Syrian refugees, people living in Za'atari refugee camp, as they continue to hope for peace, and to pray for a safe return home.

Come Prince of Peace
Come God of Grace
Come by your Spirit
Amen

Tim Baker, Churches and Volunteers Manage, All We Can

Dear all

My contributions this month are all about Prayer (Please don't turn off!)

1. If you would like a copy of the 2023/24 Methodist Prayer Handbook please let me know by Sunday 13th August. It is called 'Hidden Treasures' and has enough prayers from home and abroad, written by people who know what they want you to pray for, to keep you praying the whole year

The cost is £4.50, or £4.15 if we manage to place an order for at least 10 copies. Don't give me any money at this stage, just give me your name. Please let me know by **13th AUGUST** at the latest. That way we should have our copies by 1st September, the start of the new Methodist Year.

2. And just in case you are beginning to wonder how to manage this prayer thing, there is a new bunch of books about prayer in the Church Library (in the corner of the hall to the right of the double doors) Choose any book and just write your name in the exercise book and the date.

Thank you for being such great pray-ers

Eleanor

Calne Food Bank

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

We are currently in need of: UHT Milk Tinned veg Tinned potatoes Tinned meat Tinned fish Tinned fruit Fruit juice

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 August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th

Friendly Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Come and join us

Sunday August 20th

Church Service

Time: 10.30am

Venue: 11, The Common, Langley Burrell

Bring a picnic

Friday 15th and Saturday 16th September

Production of 'The Face'

Venue: Calne Methodist Church

See poster in this newsletter

Saturday 30th September

Craft Sale

Time: 11.00am - 2.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Sunday 8th October

Harvest Festival Service

Time: 10.30am



August 20th
10.30am

Our Sunday Service will be at Langley Burrell, the home of Ned and Ursula.

The service will be led by Derek, Michele and the team.

The theme linked to Nature is titled 'God is out there'.

You are invited to bring a picnic and enjoy each others company afterwards.

Tea and Coffee will be provided.

Please invite family and friends.

If you need a lift to 11, The Common Chippenham Road SN15 4LF please ask Ursula or a Steward.

Plenty of parking space on the field at the front.

Who knows of a competition for the tallest Hollyhock? This is thanks to Brian who tends our church garden. He kindly gave me the seeds.

Calne Methodist Church

SILVER STREET SN11 0JF

presents

The Face

*In 1937 Melchior Kummel was the first person to climb the sheer North face of the
HEXE, or was he...?*



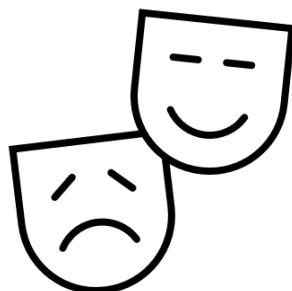
written by Edward Barham
Directed by Hugh Pilcher-Clayton

following the Production
the Director will interview the Playwright

Friday 15th September 7.30pm
Saturday 16th September 3.00pm
Adults £10.00 Children 17 and under £3.00
Contact 01249 812749 or 01249 822453 for Tickets

Includes light refreshments

Advanced notice of events this Autumn



One of the actions highlighted by the Going forward process was that we should do more events and social activities.

So, this Autumn we have put together a programme of various activities.

Below is an outline of what is happening with dates, so that you can put them in your diaries.

Friday 15th September at 7.30pm

Saturday 16th September at 3.00pm

***The Face:** In 1937 Melchior Kummel was the first person to climb the sheer North face of the HEXE, or was he...? A play written by Edward Barham and directed by Hugh Pilcher-Clayton. Tickets, including light refreshments: Adults £10.00, Children 17 and under £3.00. Contact 01249 812749 or 01249 822453 for tickets.*

Wednesday 11th October at 7.30pm

Games Night: Table tennis, carpet bowls, board games. All are welcome. No cost.

Wednesday 25th October at 6.00pm

The Greatest Showman - film night and supper

Sausage and mash followed by a singalong to the Greatest Showman.

Wednesday 8th November at 7.30pm

Family History Talk - A talk by Simon Purtell about how to start researching your family history.

Wednesday 15th November at 7.00pm

Molly's Pudding Night - Dip in and sample puddings on this night of indulgence

Wednesday 22nd November at 7.00pm

Faster, Higher, Stronger - a talk by Edward Barham on the first 40 years of the modern Olympic games

Wednesday 6th December at 7.30pm

Christmas Spice and all things nice - a cornucopia of delights to celebrate the Christmas season. A concert for all.

Saturday 9th December – daytime – time to be confirmed

Christmas Wreath Making - Join Lynda Rimming to learn how to make your own Christmas Wreath.

Further information will appear nearer the events in our notices, magazine and on the noticeboards.

Property Update



Damp to the front of Church

We have now had the damp that was causing problems under the stairs and on the front wall dealt with. Sovereign Damp from Corsham have done a splendid job.

They removed all the defective plaster, the floor in the cupboards and treated the walls with chemicals. They then applied a tanking system to prevent the damp returning. They have plastered and replaced the skirting boards.

We are now allowing the plaster to dry naturally and will then be able to paint the walls.

Porch Doors

We have placed an order with KJM Windows and Conservatories for both wooden doors to be replaced by metal doors (to match the wood). KJM have advised that the doors will be delivered late August and installed in September. The new doors will improve access and not be subject to expansion and contraction like the wooden ones.

We need to put a small drain in front of each of the porch doors but cannot do this until the doors have been installed.

Painting of external woodwork

The Community Payback team have started painting the external woodwork and will eventually move inside to start redecorating the hall and adjoining rooms. They have completed the removal of the old wooden drain to the rear of the hall and replaced it with new boards and gravel. Our thanks go to them.

Flat Roof

A big thankyou to Ursula and her brother, Peter for clearing the vegetation from the flat roof and the other numerous small jobs they do in the church.

Notice Boards

A big thankyou to Ursula and Jan for relining all the notice boards in the hall. They plan to do the same with the boards at the rear of the church in the vestibule.

Fire Protection Plan

Following a report on the fire safety in the church, Ursula has drawn up a plan to do the work highlighted in the report. You will see new notices around the church.

If we have a fire, there is a whistle in the hall on the notice board and at the rear of the church on the notice board behind the sound and camera desk.

If the whistle is blown, we need to leave the premises via the relevant fire exits and assemble in South Place.

A big thanks to Ursula for doing this.

Future work

We are looking to replace the lights in the hall with more efficient and economical lighting.

We are also seeing if we can repair the water boiler in the kitchen and, if not, replacing it.

The Property committee and Going Forward team will meet in the Autumn to review what has been done and what we need to do in the future.

Funding Appeal

A big thank you to those who have generously and kindly supported the Damp and Doors appeal. The total cost of the work is approximately £17,000 which includes a 10% contingency. If you are able to support this work, any donations would be gratefully received. Donations can be paid directly into our bank account or by cash/cheque to Simon. We know it is difficult times for everyone and understand that you may not be able to give. Please support our Autumn events fundraising programme and pray for those who are working hard on property matters. Thank you.

Derek Gard 1/8/2023,

A BIG THANK YOU - to all who supported our recent Coffee and Crafts Event where we made just over £400 for Church Funds. If you missed it there is another chance to join us on 30th September between 11am and 2pm.



Holiday Funnies



What did Jonah's family say when he told them about what happened before reaching Nineveh?

"Hmm, sounds fishy."

What was Moses' wife, Zippora, known as when she'd throw dinner parties?

"The hostess with the Moses."

What did Adam say when he was asked his favourite holiday?

"It's Christmas, Eve."

What do you call a Bible character who just pulled into church?

A parking Lot.

What did pirates call Noah's boat?

"The *arrrrrrk*."

Which nursery song would Jesus have heard the most?

"Mary Had a Little Lamb."

Why did Adam and Eve do math every day?

They were told to be fruitful and multiply.

How do you know that atoms are Catholic?

They have mass.

Please don't shoot the messenger. Derek



I carry a cross in my pocket, a simple reminder to me,
Of the fact that I am a Christian, no matter where I may be.
This little cross is not magic, nor is it a good luck charm.
It isn't meant to protect me from every physical harm.
It's not for identification, for all the world to see.
It's simply an understanding between my saviour and me.
When I put my hand in my pocket to bring out a coin or a key,
The cross is there to remind me of the price he paid for me.
It reminds me too, to be thankful for my blessings day by day.
And to strive to serve him better in all that I do and say.
It's also a daily reminder of the peace and comfort I share,
With all who know my master and give themselves to his care.
So, I carry a cross in my pocket reminding no one but me,
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life if only I'll let him be.

Submitted by Margaret Bassett

AUTUMN CRAFTS

CRAFTS, CAKES & COFFEE EVENT

SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER, 2023

METHODIST CHURCH HALL

SILVER STREET, CALNE

11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

**CARDS, JEWELLERY & CRAFTS,
HOMEMADE CAKES & MORE.
FAIRLY TRADED TEA & COFFEE
REFRESHMENTS**