

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the November 2023 issue is

Sunday October 29th 2023

When I was very young one of the very first things, I bought for my family in 1977 was a set of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. They were light brown books, slightly bigger than an A4 size with glossy slick pages and beautiful illustrations. The books had red spines with gold lettering, binding the books beautifully, and they were crafted in a leather like material. They were the latest thing in information retrieval, and flow....*and they did not even have a battery!*

We had the whole collection of about 12 books, A-Z, plus the Indexes. They had pride of place in a new bookcase in my first home. They were always available whenever anyone needed them to look some vital piece of information up.

I could not really afford them, and took them on credit, but if the truth be known we were targeted by an unscrupulous salesman homing in on young military families with his slick patter and sales talk.

I thought they would be a great investment but, in a world, changing rapidly, they were probably out of date quite quickly, as the information therein never changed.

Initially, everything we wanted to know was found within those pages and books.

How many of you have in your possession a smart phone or, at least, some kind of computer at home, that you use to connect with the internet? We live today in a world of interactive connectivity. We have come to expect that everyone has it and assume everyone can use it. We expect things instantly, e-mails, phone calls, messages, directions, meeting links, facetime calls.

On occasions our connectivity can become slower due to the increasing demand around us. I sometimes have to wait an incredibly long time for a computer to access or do the simplest of things. An unacceptably long time, but which is in reality, only a minute or so, on most occasions. I could not believe how slow this machine was becoming.

Yet in 1977 it would have easily taken me much longer to find the right volume and look up the information that I was seeking.

Back in those times I was used to it, it was the normal state of affairs. But in today's world it has become annoying and inexcusable. And if am feeling this way, I am sure that you all have had similar experiences of *the impatience of waiting*.

Some of the younger generations have no recollection of a time when you could not immediately look up a new place for a meal out, or instantly have one delivered to your home. To immediately read recommendations and reviews, easily source directions, invite friends to join the event and all within the span of a couple of minutes, and on such a small device held in the palm of your hand.

Whether we all want to recognize it or not, it is a quite different world today, from the brave new world I encountered in 1977.

Our society's response to demand is now, "Don't wait! I want things as quickly as you can bring them to me." That is how our culture is wired, but it goes against God's blessing to us in our lives, because God's blessing comes through times of waiting.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, "*God, has set the right time for everything*".

Are you in a time of waiting? Perhaps waiting for an answer to something? I have understood that it is necessary to take a complete break from ministry as Elizabeth and I, seek refuge away from phones, computers, churches, and people. We do this to recharge and renew ourselves, so that when we return, we will be refreshed with a different perspective from where we both had been before this break. The patience shown in doing nothing at all, equips me to serve more effectively when I return.

Perhaps for a short while we all should take some time out, to just sit and be. It is amazing what you will see and learn, ***when the world comes past you***, rather than ***you*** rushing to keep up with the world. In so doing you just may find the answers you seek...Stay Safe and well.

Craig

Forthcoming Services:

8 th October	Mrs Elizabeth Manley – Harvest Festival
15 th October	Rev Ward Jones
22 nd October	Mrs Jenny Colby
29 th October	Sector Service at Bromham Methodist Church



Pastoral News

Thank you, Lord for Harvest.

Our Harvest Service and Meal are October 8th when we are able share in good food and good company. Our giving of food items goes to the Calne food bank. Thank you for your continuous generosity throughout the year. We pray for all those struggling due to the consistent rise in the cost of living.

We continue to pray for those who have health issues and are awaiting test results, and for those who care for and support them.

Throughout October we particularly pray for Vera Steadman's pastoral group: Ursula and Edward Barham; Eleanor Bujalska; Molly Green; Jean Hadrell; Margaret and Richard Heath; Jill Salisbury and Stephanie Tucker.

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.



Refugee Prayer Focus October 2023

Dear Lord, we ask you to keep us focussed on our prayers for refugees; it is so difficult to keep praying when the situation for refugees all over the world seems to get worse all the time. So we ask you to help us keep going in the face of indifference from governments and political expediency among those tasked with finding a solution. We pray for a just solution to be found.

Calne Food Bank

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

They are currently asking for:

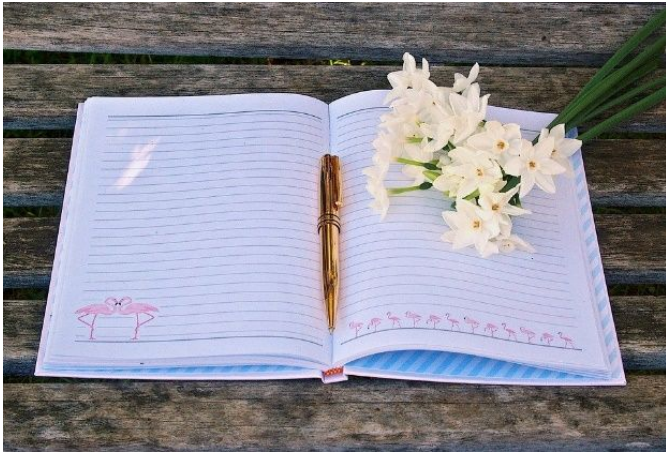
Tinned tuna	Tinned meat	Tinned veg	Rice pudding	Custard
Biscuits	Tinned spaghetti	Treats	Cereal Bars	Cereal

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 October 4th, 11th, 18th
and 25th**

Warm Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Come and join us

Sunday 8th October

Harvest Festival Service and Meal

Time: 10.30am

Wednesday 11th October

Games Night with the Partnership of Churches

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Church and Church Hall

Wednesday 25th October

Film night and Supper ' The Greatest Showman'

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Church

See Church Events leaflet for important details

Wednesday 8th November

Family History Talk

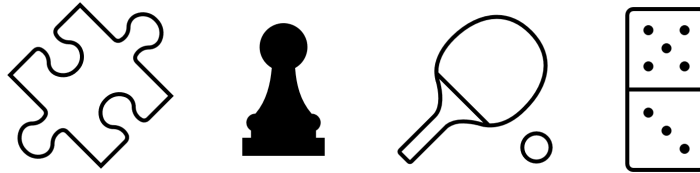
Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Church Hall

Partnership Games Night

Wednesday 11th October 2023 7.30pm.

Calne Methodist Church Silver Street



Calne Partnership of Churches invites you to a games evening at the Methodist Church on Wednesday 11th October at 7.30pm

Board games galore, table tennis, carpet bowls. Buckaroo! Operation, Ludo, snakes and ladders, chess, draughts, dominoes, cards. What ever is your games passion, come along and share in the fun.

No Cost, No Booking required.

Coffee tea and biscuits.

All are welcome to share in the fun.

IN REMEMBRANCE



For this remembrance time, I asked Julie if she could knit some poppies for us, to make our remembrance personal to our church. She has produced these beautiful poppies with a pin for people to wear.

The Worship consultation meeting decided that a small donation (Minimum suggested £2) should be made for each poppy which will go to SSAFA the forces charity.

In 1919. SSFA became the Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA) Following the founding of the Royal Air Force in 1918, SSFA'S president, Queen Alexandra suggested the organisation should change its name to the Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA)

SSAFA still provides support wherever it is needed in the UK and worldwide. Our volunteer network reaches into every county of the UK and 11 countries around the world, operating on or near to the UK's overseas bases.

The poppies will go on sale from Sunday 22nd October.

ADVANCED NOTICE - MOLLY'S PUDDING NIGHT – 15th November



Do you have a sweet tooth?

Do you need a sugar rush?

Do you have cravings?

What's your favourite pudding?

Crumble, Trifle, Treacle, Apple, Syrup, Tarts, Chocolate, Custard, and cream.

Satisfy all your pudding desires!

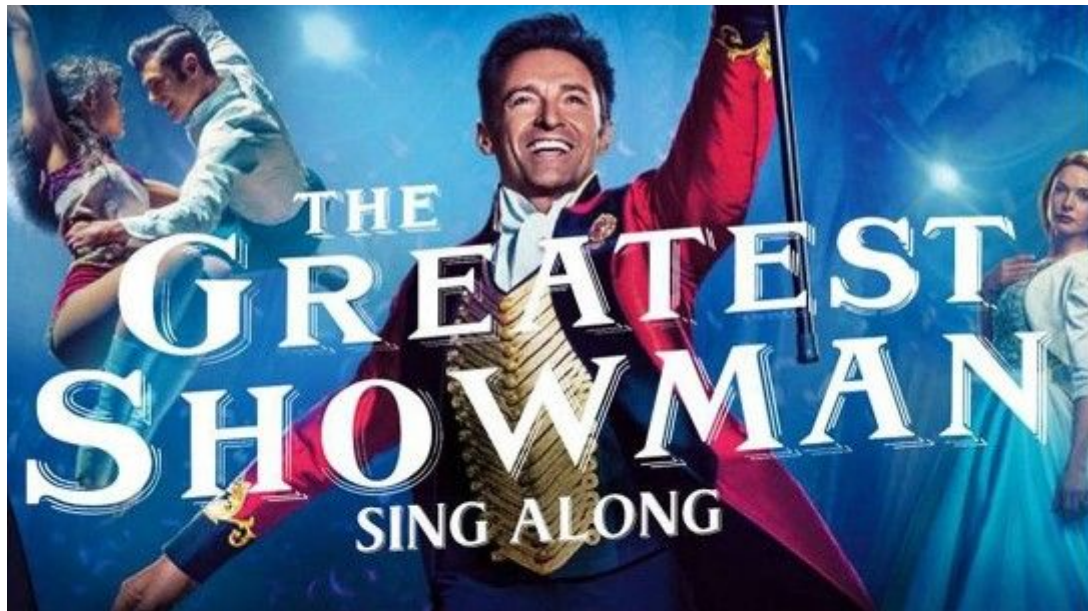
You are all invited to Mollys Pudding Night on the 15th of November.

Booking essential, signing on sheet in church hall from the 29th October or email Derek

If you are willing to make a pudding, please let Molly know.

Donations on the night for Church Funds.

Molly and Derek 29/09



Wednesday 25th October at 7.00pm

Calne Methodist Church

Sausage and Mash followed by
the *Greatest Showman* film singalong.

Tickets: £10 - booking required.

Sign-Up Sheet on noticeboard in hall or
email: michelegard@btinternet.com



ALL WELCOME!

10th September

8th October

12th November

10th December

**Sunday afternoons at Calne Methodist Church from
3.00pm - 6.00pm**

An informal church for all ages.

*Come and explore the Bible and a Christian life through crafts,
songs, games, drama, activities 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

For more information, contact Michele Gard

Messy Church teatime

Messy Church needs someone to help by setting up the tea, while the parents and children are in the church for worship. Jill McCondach has been doing this faithfully since we started, but is not able to continue through the winter.

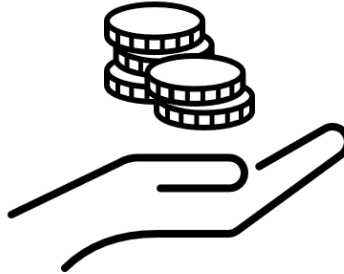
You would need to be there between about 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm and the task is putting the food, which will be already there in the kitchen, out in the hall. (it is usually a sandwich and snacks meal). We use paper plates, but there will be some washing up at the end.

**You would also need to make tea and have juice to hand, before they all come out of church ravenous, so putting out the beakers and cups and saucers
It will be noisy and messy, but lots of fun!**

If you are at all interested feel free to talk to Jill, who knows it all.

Eleanor

Charitable Giving



In the last financial year as a church, we made donations to various charities amounting to £1,222. This included Doorway (Chippenham based homeless charity), DEC Earthquake appeal, Action for Children, and the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church.

When the finance committee met, they agreed to ask the Church Council (Meeting 12 October) to agree on the two charities we support for the coming financial year. The suggestion is one home charity and one overseas. This will then be put to the AGM on the 5th of November.

If you have a suggestion of a charity, you think we should be supporting please let a steward or a member of the church council know. It will then be taken to the church council for discussion.

In addition, the finance committee will also propose to the church council that we donate a total of 20% of the proceeds of fundraising events such as Concerts to our chosen charities. We will also continue to send the collection at the Christmas Carol Service to a charity.

Finance Committee OCT/23

PROPERTY UPDATE



Doors

The contractors have advised that the glass has been made, and they are waiting for the frames to arrive. They have provisionally booked the 19th and 20th of October for the installation.

Once this has been completed a small new drain will be installed in front of the doors to take the water away from the building.

Lights

The property committee have agreed work to replace the lights in the hall, and vestibule, with more energy efficient units. New emergency lights to replace the existing ones were highlighted by our fire safety survey and this will also be done.

Boiler in Kitchen

A repair may be possible to the boiler, and we are exploring this option with a contractor. If this is unsuccessful, we will look to replace it.

Decorations

We had hoped that the Community Payback team would have undertaken this, but they have been unable to attend over the last few weeks. The property committee is exploring other options to get this work done.

Damp

The damp work is now completed at the front of the church bar the decoration of the wall and skirting.

The contractors used their damp meters around the church and found all damp levels to be within accepted levels.

We have asked them to take a look at the area in front of the vestry, which in the past as caused concern.

Property committee Sept/23

THE GAME OF ANN

Have Fun



Fill in the blanks

1	ANN _ _ _ _ _	Famous Scotch song
2	_ ANN _ _	Pennant
3	ANN _ _ _	A plant that blooms only one year
4	_ ANN _ _ _ _ _	Stuffed spaghetti
5	ANN _ _ _ _ _	In the year of our Lord
6	_ _ ANN _ _	Irish airport
7	ANN _ _ _ _ _	Capital of Maryland
8	_ ANN _ _	Fish eating bird
9	ANN _ _ _ _ _	Annual recurrence of a date
10	_ _ ANN _ _	Procedural expert
11	ANN _ _	To incorporate territory
12	_ ANN _ _ _ _	Irish song
13	ANN _ _ _ _ _	Extermination
14	_ ANN _ _ _ _	Man - eater
15	ANN _ _ _ _ _	Proclaim
16	_ _ ANN _ _	A wrench
17	ANN _ _ _	Yearly entries in a journal
18	_ ANN _ _	An artillery piece
19	ANN _ _ _ _	Ring shaped
20	_ ANN _ _ _ _	Carthaginian General

Answers in the November Newsletter



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS CAKES & COFFEE EVENT

SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER, 2023
METHODIST CHURCH AND HALL
SILVER STREET, CALNE
11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

TRAIDCRAFT GOODS - FAIRLY TRADED PRODUCTS
Including Christmas Cards/Wrap and Gift Ideas
CARDS, BOOKS, JEWELLERY & CRAFTS,
HOMEMADE CAKES, PRESERVES & MUCH MORE
TEA, COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS

