

# **CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023**



**Items for future editions can be sent to:**

**Jan Sayers**

**The deadline for the December 2023 issue is**

**Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup> 2023**

*Ministers Musings - Walk in your own shoes as you travel through life...do not try to fill anyone else's.*

This last month I have been thinking about beginnings and endings. The garden fades into a resting phase, feeding, renewing, and replacing nutrients in the soil, cutting back a variety of things. The seasons changing, the warmth behind us, the darkness and cold ahead. A time to pause and think about change. Change will undoubtedly affect us all. But you know, I have found the secret to a good life, is to pay more attention to the beginnings than the endings. When we're young we think everything lasts for ever – life stretches before us in a huge horizon. Some of us view it as a road to walk or a hill to climb, some of us view of it as an open plain to explore. Life is different for us all. But one thing is sure, and that is that everything in life comes to an end.

There's a lovely passage in the Bible (Ecclesiastes 3) about times and seasons: you'll have heard it before. Part of it says....

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to tear and a time to sow.”*

I remember from my childhood how my fathers garden changed from a haven of rich green plants, fruit and vegetables, a vast swathe of beautiful, scented roses, into a patch of earth that housed the biggest bonfire in the street. Many came to our back garden bringing all manner of food to share, Lancashire hotpot, baked potatoes, toffee apples and treacle toffee, dunking apples, ginger wine, roasted chestnuts, fireworks, and sparklers.

Preparations had been ongoing for weeks, the gathering of wood, the making of the guy, it was true sense of community. These days such a communal gathering has been lost in our modern society, yet for us it was a time of wonder and awe, fun and laughter especially for the kids of the street and me. And at the end of the evening just my father and myself staring into the dying embers of the fire as we damped it down was a special moment.

Yet despite knowing the march of Time and the seasons, part of our human nature is to want things to stay the way they were..... for ever!

I wonder where this year has gone to as time seems to be moving so fast at present. We will have bonfire night and Remembrance Sunday and then already we are hurtling towards Advent and onwards to Christmas.

But as each event passes and ends, we look to the future, with hope and I expect just a little excitement. Sometimes we just have to accept the fact each ending is really a new beginning. We do not forget the past, of how it has been, the sacrifices made, the problems we in family, church and community have faced together and what we have all learned in the process. To hold on to our faith that God, can be the only constant, the one who never changes.

So, as we pause and reflect on life, let us stride out together in faith and hope towards the miracle of Christ's birth at Christmas. We give thanks for the gifts we bring to one another, and for new gifts and visions. For the memories of past times, that we look upon with love.

May our present endings now give rise to vibrant new beginnings, and may those beginnings enrich all our lives for ever.

Every Blessing to you all



Craig and Elizabeth



**Forthcoming Services:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> November            **Rev Craig Manley – Holy Communion and Annual Church Meeting**
- 12<sup>th</sup> November        **Rev Craig Manley – Remembrance Service starting at 10.00am**
- 19<sup>th</sup> November        **Local Arrangement**
- 26<sup>th</sup> November        **Mrs Joanne Williams**



**Refugee Prayer Focus November 2023**

Please pray for this month for all those who are refugees , within and outside Gaza, from the fighting and bombing there, who have not only lost their homes but their families and neighbours as well, and have nothing and no one to return to.

**Calne Food Bank**

Please visit their website for details of their opening times - [www.calnefoodbank.co.uk](http://www.calnefoodbank.co.uk)

They are currently asking for:

- |                         |                    |                   |                     |                |                 |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Tinned tuna</b>      | <b>Tinned meat</b> | <b>Tinned veg</b> | <b>Rice pudding</b> | <b>Custard</b> | <b>Biscuits</b> |
| <b>Tinned spaghetti</b> | <b>Treats</b>      | <b>Cereal</b>     | <b>Cereal Bars</b>  |                |                 |

Please make sure that any food donated is in date.

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

**Church Library**

If you have a look in the Library corner of the hall, you will notice that there is a shelf of Advent books. This is not because I have got the weeks muddled up and thought it was Advent already, but because I thought you might just be a bit busy during Advent and would like a chance to sit down with a book before the panic sets in and think about what it's all about.



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It is with great sadness that we share news of the death of two people known to us in various ways. Sylvia Hawthorn, one of our friends from Warm, Friendly Spaces, who had a wonderful sense of humour and always had something interesting and informative to chat about. And David Stranks a local preacher, retired teacher, husband of Rev. Pam Stranks. We pray for all in their bereavement at this time. May God hold them in the palm of his hand and comfort them.

We continue to pray for all those struggling due to the continual rise of the cost of living; for those who have health issues and those waiting for test results; for those with Covid and for all the family members and friends who care and support them. Our prayers are also with those who have sought advice from clinicians but have not had satisfactory answers.

Throughout November we particularly pray for Miriam Crighton's pastoral group: Kay Bibby; Janet Boswell; Jason and Sam Butler-Henderson; Julie Gibson; Becky Legge; Robin Legge; Edith Pearson; Graham Spyer and Brian Tovey.

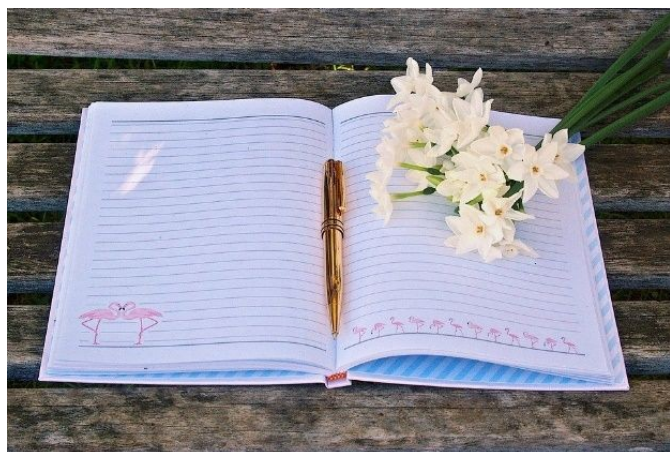
It is part of our Christian commitment to care for and support each other so if you have any joys or sorrows that can be shared in our pastoral news please let Ursula know.

## **Calne Christmas Lights**

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November we have a stall at the switching on of the Calne Christmas Lights. As last year Supa Nova have kindly agreed to sing Christmas carols and songs on our stall while we give out our Christmas leaflet. If you can help with this to sing or to give out leaflets please sign the sheet that will be in the hall shortly.

## **Christmas Card Tree**

Our Christmas card tree will be ready to receive your Christmas Cards to our church family on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.



## **Dates for your diary**

**All are very welcome to join in**

**Wednesday November 1st  
8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th  
Warm Spaces  
Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm  
Venue: Church Hall**

### **Wednesday 8th November**

**Family History Talk with Simon Purtell**

**Time: 7.30am**

**Venue: Church Hall**

### **Wednesday 15th November**

**Molly's Pudding Night**

**Time: 7.30pm**

**Venue: Church Hall**

### **Wednesday 22nd November**

**Faster, Higher, Stronger - Olympics Talk with Edward Barham**

**Time: 7.00pm**

**Venue: Church**

**See Church Events leaflet for important details**

### **Sunday 26th November**

**Church Meal for Advent**

**Time: 12.15pm after morning service**

**Venue: Church Hall**

### **Wednesday 6th December**

**Christmas Spice and All Things Nice**

**Time: 7.30pm**

**Venue: Church**

**See Church Events leaflet for more details of all the above**

Sunday 17th December it is our Carols by Candlelight Service 6.00pm



**Christmas Spice  
and all  
Things nice**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6th 2023**

**CALNE METHODIST CHURCH**

**7.30PM**

**Be Entertained By**

**Singers - SupaNova and Juss 4 singing  
Instrumentalists - on organ, recorder and piano**

**Admission FREE**

**Your DONATIONS welcome  
towards our two nominated charities**

**Doorway Wiltshire Ltd.**

**A local charity for the homeless  
and**

**Action for Children**

## Remembrance Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am



When the worship consultation meeting met it was decided that we ought to allow time for people to attend the minute silence at the war memorial in the town.

**For this reason, the service on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November will start at 10.00am and finish to allow enough time for Craig and those who wish to, to walk to the war memorial. Michele Gard will remain at our church and lead those who wish to remain in observing the silence.**

**To reiterate the service on the 12<sup>th</sup> will start at 10.00am not 10.30.**

**“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. We will remember them.”**

Do you like heroic tales of mystery, romance, religious faith, hard work and military service?

Or do you prefer darker stories of disease, poverty, tragedy, petty criminality and illicit sex?

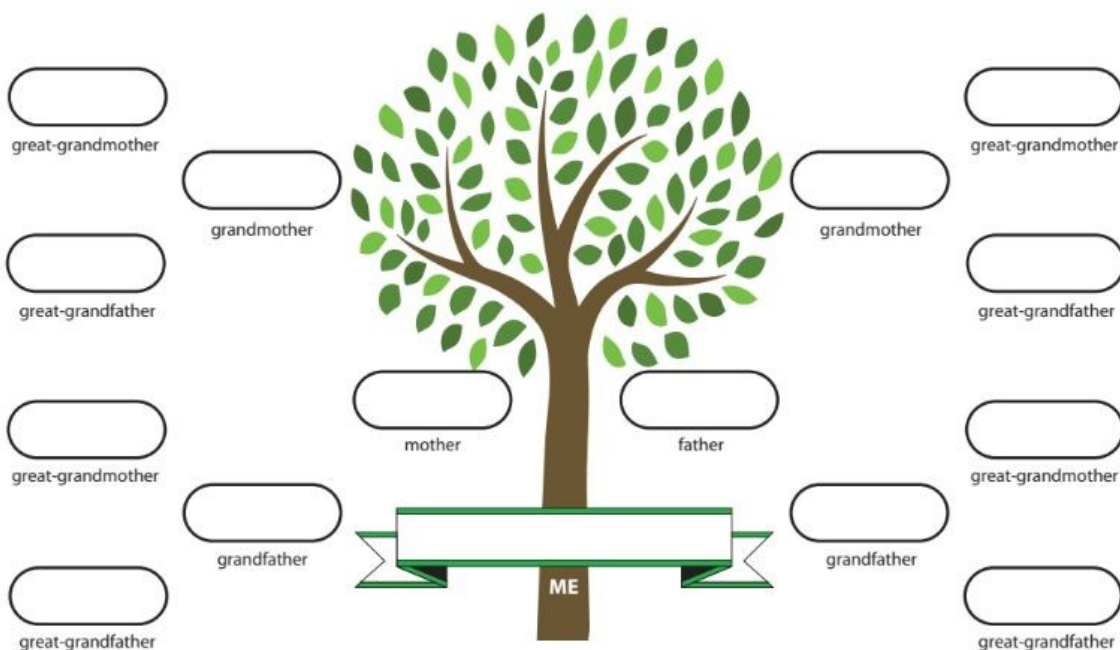
All these and more can probably be found in the history of your own family.

To find out how to start exploring your family tree, and what you might uncover when you do so, come along to the Church Hall at 19.30 on Wednesday 8 November, when Simon Purtell will be giving a talk on:

## FAMILY HISTORY

How to do it and what you may discover

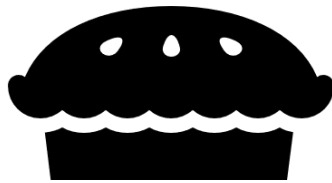
# Family Tree



[www.FreeFamilyTreeTemplates.com](http://www.FreeFamilyTreeTemplates.com)



**MOLLY'S PUDDING NIGHT – WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 7.30pm**



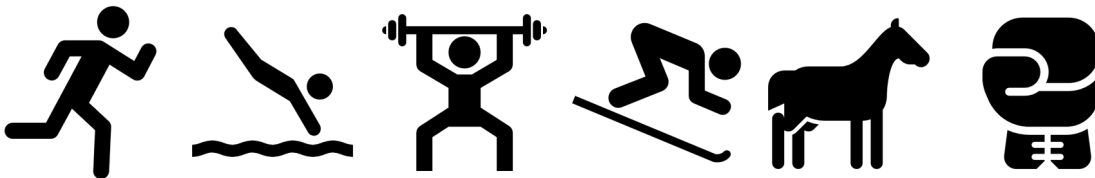
**Forget the diet, don't worry about the waist measurement,  
Theres never too much sugar, cream, custard, ice cream!  
For one night only indulge yourself on this feast of puddings.  
Please put your name on the notice board in the hall if you will be attending.**

**Donations on the night in aid of church funds.**

**Also if you can provide a pudding for the night to share with others please speak to Molly or Derek. They would be most grateful.**

**Derek 30/10**

**WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 7.00pm**  
**FASTER-HIGHER-STRONGER, TALK BY EDWARD**  
**BARHAM**



A talk by Edward Barham on the first 40 years of the modern Olympic games.

Come and hear this fascinating talk, refreshments provided.

All are welcome. Donations on the night for church funds.

**FUTURE EVENTS – ADVANCE NOTICE**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.30am - Christmas Wreath Making.**



Join Lynda Rumming to learn how to make your own Christmas Wreaths for door and table decorations.

Tickets: £20 including all materials - booking

essential. Please contact Lynda Rumming if you wish to attend. Please bring additional foliage



**ALL WELCOME!**

**10<sup>th</sup> September**  
**8<sup>th</sup> October**

**12<sup>th</sup> November**  
**10<sup>th</sup> 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

## ANSWERS TO THE GAME OF ANN

1	<b>A N N I E</b> L A U R I E	Famous Scotch song
2	<b>B A N N E R</b>	Pennant
3	<b>A N N U A L</b>	A plant that blooms only one year
4	<b>C A N N E L L O N I</b>	Stuffed spaghetti
5	<b>A N N O</b> D O M I N I	In the year of our Lord
6	<b>S H A N N O N</b>	Irish airport
7	<b>A N N O P O L I S</b>	Capital of Maryland
8	<b>G A N N E T</b> _ _	Fish eating bird
9	<b>A N N I V E R S A R Y</b>	Annual recurrence of a date
10	<b>P L A N N E R</b>	Procedural expert
11	<b>A N N E X</b>	To incorporate territory
12	<b>D A N N Y</b> B O Y	Irish song
13	<b>A N N I H I L A T I O N</b>	Extermination
14	<b>C A N N I B A L</b>	Man - eater

15	<b>A N N O U N C E</b>	Proclaim
16	<b>S P A N N E R</b>	A wrench
17	<b>A N N A L S</b>	Yearly entries in a journal
18	<b>C A N N O N</b>	An artillery piece
19	<b>A N N U L A R</b>	Ring shaped
20	<b>H A N N I B A L</b>	Carthaginian General

## **Calne Christmas lights turn on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November.**

The partnership of churches will have a stall at the Christmas festival, allowing people to dress up as the Nativity Characters and take their own photo's. In addition, they will be giving out leaflets advertising all the church's Christmas services.

The Partnership Secretary has sent us this message:

“Can you please highlight over the next 2 weeks the need for volunteers for the stall at the lantern parade which as you know is on Saturday 25 November and we have the stall any time after 11.30 until after the parade is finished.

Please do this by written, electronic, verbal means and if possible, accompanied by trumpets and choirs and anything else to attract people's attention.

Volunteers do not need to attend all day.”

If you can help, Volunteers should contact Steven Colby on [stevenc@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:stevenc@mardenvale.org.uk).

## **Decorating the Church for Advent and Christmas.**



**We will decorate the church on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7.30pm.**

**This will include the tree, four of the windows with the Advent murals and we are inviting groups/ families/individuals to decorate the shelves under the windows with one of the following themes.**

**Stars, Angels, Shepherds, Christmas music, Animals of the nativity, the nativity itself, Christmas flowers and the three kings.**

**If you can help or would like to decorate a shelf, please let Derek know.**

**The shelves can be decorated any time leading up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.**

**Thanks for your help and support.**

**Derek 30/10**

## Car Parking



We have been using the Police Station car park on Sundays since the beginning of December. Can I remind people that they must display a relevant permit.

If you do not already have a permit please let me know and I will produce one for you.

To recap, the Police have agreed to us parking, for the moment it will only be on a Sunday between 10am and 12.30am and parking permits will need to be used.

We need to keep a register of users and permits will need to be used and displayed at the front of your car.

If you would like to take part in this scheme, please let Derek know your name, car make and registration number. Your registration number will be displayed on the permit but no name.

Failure to display a permit could lead to your vehicle being clamped and fined.

Please email me or alternatively let me have your details on a piece of paper on Sundays.

Derek  
30/10/23





# **CHRISTMAS CRAFTS**

## **CAKES & COFFEE EVENT**

**SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

