

**CALNE METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2024**



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the March 2024 issue is

Sunday 25th February

Ministers Musings.

2 Thessalonians 3:3-5 (New Revised Standard Version)

But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will go on doing the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

The above passage reminds me of the first time I tried to test God. I had sat through a morning service in church, where the preacher, having physically ripped up his sermon notes said to the amazed congregation, this message is for someone here. Once he had finished his sermon, several people, and even Elizabeth were turning and looking directly at me. So began my acceptance of the call to preach God's word to the world. Once back at home, Elizabeth took the dog out for a walk, and I sat on the bed alone wondering what I had just agreed to do. I took up a bible closed my eyes and opened it at the above piece of scripture. *I have not tried to test my God again.*

At the start of any new year, we often reflect on what we could change in our lives and practices. What we take up or what we give up. Many look at those jobs in the garden or house that have been neglected for some time. Elizabeth has already started the spring cleaning and I looked around my study which is a mass of papers, books, services, and pastoral letters, sent to all manner of people and places. Historical information taking up valuable space on my once tidy desk and shelves.

Every now and then we all need to regroup, discard some old thoughts and practices, and make some space for the new in our future. That time has come this year. As I look to the future, I consider what is the world going to be like? What have we all learned in the past year? Personally, I have found nature, and my garden a great help in bringing some inner peace, some perspective, and clarity on my life.

I have seen more people willing to connect with church in a variety of ways. Community working hard to be more like Christ in acts of selfless love, compassion, and sacrifices such as the warm space projects. We have changed so much in our churches and community in recent years, perhaps now really evaluating what we feel is important in life.

A priest Fr. Timothy Radcliffe wrote, *"Even when I cannot get out to join the community in prayer, God remains present, as St. Augustine wrote, 'in my deepest interiority.' However lonely I feel, I am not alone, for at the core of my very being...is Another."*

I do feel God has been present with me on my life journey especially from that service when I really listened and followed God's call on my life.

My faith has become more important and focussed. When times are tough, we need to find the courage to hope which often can be difficult to accomplish. It helps me if I take some quiet time alone and picture Jesus alongside me smiling, listening to my thoughts, watching me working the earth, writing the sermons and messages, just listening just to me.

That small act of reflective practice, Jesus present, and listening to my needs, removes any fear of the future. It removes the doubts of what may be. Reality tells us that so much of

our time is spent worrying about things that may never happen. For living under the weight of the "what if's" of life is an extremely hard place to dwell.

Jesus once said, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

I imagine Jesus smiling as he said those words....and that is a comfort, a certainty of love and hope, within my life. The scripture verse at the beginning of this letter is the foundation of my testimony, my calling and faith.

The world has changed, as have I, so the question to be asked of you all, in these challenging times is, *"Will you continue to follow me in hope, whatever lies ahead."*

For it is a smiling Jesus who is asking it...and a world that is ever watching to see how brightly your light shines.

'And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will go on doing the things that we command'.

May the peace of God go with you,

Craig.



Forthcoming Services:

4 th February	Rev Craig Manley - Holy Communion
11 th February	Local Arrangement
18 th February	Mrs Michele Gard
25 th February	Mr Derek Gard



Pastoral News

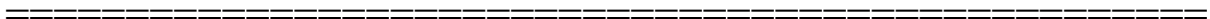
We give thanks for all the pastoral work done at Warm Spaces and for the Prayer Lunch group.

Congratulations to Stephanie celebrating her 70th birthday and Darkie celebrating his 90th (both on the same day) this month.

We pray: for members of our church community who are in hospital and those who have recently been in hospital and are slowly recovering; for those who have long term health issues and for those who are still waiting for results or action from consultants; for those concerned about family members but feel helpless to provide comfort or assist in resolutions to problems.

Throughout February we particularly pray for Ursula Barham's pastoral group: Margaret and Brian Bassett, Lyn Cooper, Miriam Crighton, Gina and Jamie Hutchings, Elizabeth Manley, Kerensa McCondach, Lynda Rumming, Marianne and Sean Seager, Kim and Keith Whiston, Joanne Williams.

As part of our Christian commitment is to care for and support each other I ask that if you have any Joys or Sorrows that can be shared in our pastoral news please let me know. Thank you. Ursula





Refugee Prayer Focus February 2024

This has been such a dreadful few weeks for refugees that it is difficult to provide a focus. I suggest that we all resolve to spend at least ten minutes clearing our minds and focussing on one issue that has caught our attention recently and bring it before God. Who knows we might receive guidance about what to pray for, and maybe something we could do.

Calne Food Bank

Calne Food Bank – Please visit their website for details of their opening times - www.calnefoodbank.co.uk

They are currently asking for: **Tinned meat Tinned veg Rice pudding Pasta Sauce Cereal Bars**
Please make sure that any food donated is in date.

Bath Half Marathon

I hope no one will mind me drawing your attention to this. Bath Half Marathon is on Sunday, 17th March.

Lily Pinniger is running in aid of the British Heart Foundation, in memory of her Gramps, Peter Pinniger. If anyone would like to make a contribution I am sure the BHF will have a link, or if you prefer I can pass on any donations to Lily.

Eleanor

World Day of Prayer Service Friday 1st March 2024 at 10.30 am

This Service is held annually all around the world, hosted (usually) by the women of different nations. This year it is our turn to arrange the service in Calne, which will therefore be in the Methodist Church.

The service is written and prepared this year by the women of Palestine. There is a list prepared at least five years in advance, of countries who have responsibility for planning. It is therefore simply coincidence that the women of Palestine have prepared this particular service, and it should have no special relevance to the present situation there. It will naturally contain reference to the every day lives of the women who have prepared it.

Please come and support us on 1st March, men as well as women: this will be an ecumenical church service not a political event and we look forward to sharing the worship with you and members of the other churches, as we share with those who have prepared it for us.

Eleanor and Ursula



Dates for your diary

All are very welcome to come along and join in.

Tuesday February 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th
Coffee and Chat
Time: 10.00am - 11.30am
Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday February 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th
Warm Spaces
Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday 28th February
The First Forty Years of Photography with Edward Barham
Time: 7.00pm
Venue: Church Hall

Friday 1st March
World Day of Prayer
Time: 10.30am
Venue: Calne Methodist Church
See article in this newsletter

Saturday 9th March
Craft and Coffee Event
Time: 11.00am - 2.00pm
Venue: Church Hall

Saturday 13th April
Raising funds for Holy Trinity Church Roof
Concert with SupaNova
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Holy Trinity Church
Tickets: £6 in advance £7 on the door. Contact 01249 819097

Friday May 17th and Saturday May 18th
Rings of Fire - A Musical
Time: Friday Evening 7.30pm; Saturday Matinee 3pm.
Venue: Calne Methodist Church

Resolutions

By Margaret Bassett

It's time again, I'm thinking hard of problems and solutions.

I scan the list and read aloud my New Year's resolutions.

I'll try to eat more healthily, I'll eat more fruit and veggies

Cut out the tea and chocolate, stop nibbling on cheese wedges.

I'll eat a carrot or some nuts, instead of cakes and biscuits.

Drink lots of water clear and bright in place of wine and whiskies.

I'll exercise, I'll walk, I'll jog, I'll take up meditation.

I'll not get cross and I won't swear - (except in sheer frustration).

I promise I won't lose my rag, when Brian says, "Speak more clearly".

I won't yell, "Where's your hearing aid?" I mean that most sincerely.

I'll finish all those stories I was writing long ago.

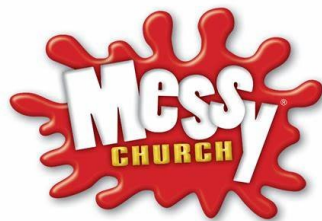
And all the bits of knitting and the things I've tried to sew.

I'll try to be more organised, send birthday cards on time.

I'll read more books, trace my roots and learn to go online.

Well that's my list, I've read it through, I've done it all before

And every year I fail myself it ends up in the drawer.



Sunday 11th February 3.00 - 6.00pm

No need to book, just come and join in.

Children must be accompanied by an adult please.

A Calne Partnership of Churches activity.

Meet a Member of the Congregation - Jan Sayers

In the past we have had this item in the newsletter as a way in which we can connect with each other and I thought it was time to revisit this, so here is my life so far.

I was born in Croydon, Surrey in 1958 the youngest of three children, my sister being 17 when I was born and my brother 14. As a family we attended Parchmore Methodist Church, where my sister's wedding was the last service before it's refurbishment in 1969. We then moved to Norbury Methodist Church where my Mum helped to run the Guide Company and my Dad was the Group Scout Leader for the Scout Group attached to the Church, so my life was a very busy but happy one. After, a very happy time at primary school I went to Selhurst Grammar School For Girls as my Mum had before me and then followed my sister onto Southlands Teacher Training College in 1977.

While at college I became penfriends with an SAC stationed at RAF Laarbruch in Germany and when I completed my degree in 1980 Rob and I were married in Norbury and started our married life at RAF Uxbridge, where I also started my teaching career. Postings to Maastricht in The Netherlands, RAF Innsworth and CDA Thatcham followed and while overseas I taught at an International School, which was a super experience. After we married my parents retired to live in Bradenstoke and so when our son Matthew was born in 1986 we were keen to be near them and eventually we were posted to RAF Lyneham. Whilst there I taught part time at Cherhill Primary School and when I had Rebecca in 1988 I continued to do supply teaching there and at Lyneham Infant School. During our time at Lyneham we were active members of St Andrew's Methodist Church. I was a Sunday School Teacher with Pam Boole for a while there too.

As the children grew older Rob and I decided that the constant movement of service life was not for us and so when Rob came out of the RAF we moved back to Surrey where Rob became a policeman. This however wasn't meant to be and we returned to Wiltshire in 1991 and I started teaching at Wroughton Junior School when Matthew started at Infant School. I continued to work there until I retired in July 2019 by which time I was SENCo at the Infant School too and despite its ups and downs I loved almost every minute of it and I wouldn't have done anything else.

Here at Calne I thoroughly enjoy being a member of the Church Choir and Supa Nova as well as attending Warm Spaces on a Wednesday. Having checked up I appear to have been a steward since at least 2010 and I still really enjoy being able to help with the life of our church whenever I can. I am also a member of the Wiltshire United Area Exec. Church life is very important to me and I feel blessed to be a member of our church which is filled with such wonderful people.

Our family are a constant delight to us both, we are very proud of our son Matthew who is now working in IT and with his wife Nina has given us our wonderful granddaughters Maisie and Harriet who we see whenever we can. Our daughter Rebecca is now a head of year and the head of the humanities department at a secondary school in Swindon and we are very proud of her achievements. Since retiring together in 2019 Rob and I have had many adventures in our motorhome Margo with our delightful Border Terrier Monty by our side. However, we have accomplished all of this as a team, supporting each other along the way, so that all our successes are joint ones.

IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR LIFE SO FAR IN THE NEWSLETTER PLEASE LET JAN KNOW.



Spring Lunch

7th April 2024

12:15 In Church Hall

Chicken Casserole*
with
Jacket Potatoes
+
Dessert
+
Tea/Coffee

(* Vegetarian Option Available)

Sign-up sheet available in Church Hall

Any profit from donations will be split between Church funds & our nominated charity.

**** Please advise Caroline of any food allergies**

The poster features a light beige background with a decorative border of green ferns, white daisies, and purple flowers. The text is centered and uses various colors and bolding to create a visually appealing layout.

SPRING CRAFTS

CRAFTS, CAKES & COFFEE EVENT

SATURDAY 9th MARCH, 2024

**METHODIST CHURCH HALL
SILVER STREET, CALNE**

11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

**CRAFT STALLS,
HOMEMADE CAKES & MORE.
FAIRLY TRADED TEA & COFFEE
REFRESHMENTS**