

**CALNE METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2024**



Items for future editions can be sent to:
Jan Sayers
The deadline for the April 2024 issue is
Sunday 31st March

Philippians 4:19 *And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

Quite often, this time of year is a little depressing for so many people. It is often cold, and this year remarkably wet and windy. But in fact, as I write this letter it is a rather untypically bright and still February day. The threat of snow and yet more rain has not yet gone away, and I find myself thinking back to the days of Advent and Christmas when our churches were beautifully decorated and everyone was in a happier, more joyous place, filled with expectation!

I sure we all on the windy, cold, and wet days we have at present, try to keep warm and cosy. In a rare moment of down time, I dare to ponder the seed catalogues looking forward to the coming of spring.

But we are still in winter, with freezing temperatures, cold biting rain, some sleet and snow with dreary heavy grey skies. This leaves some of us eager for the spring to come, which this year is still three weeks away, but we are nearly there.

You know I do enjoy winter and the unique beauty it brings. I love the chilly days, not often spent at home, but when I can, I love a hot mug of tomato soup, perhaps poured over a bowl of chips, a cosy fire, and a hotpot or scouse simmering in the oven. These simple things make my world a contented place. In the spirit of winter, there are always things to treasure and enjoy.

“How many lessons of faith and beauty we should lose, if there were no winter in our year!” writes Thomas Wentworth Higginson, a minister. How true that the changing seasons always remind us of our own life cycles, of life and death and the changes that appear. Changes which just like the seasons are always beyond our control, in God’s hands only.

“And perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go,” writes Paul in 1 Corinthians.

The beauty of winter and such companionship is that we journey through change together, experiencing the wonders of a world not seen or experienced at other times.

Winter is the time for comfort, for decent food and warmth, for the touch of friendship and a gentle talk beside the fire. It is the time for home.

Our church is a home for all travellers in life, one that provides warmth and comfort, and hope for the coming spring, both *in life, and in season.*

One of the things that I love about winter, is knowing that it is hiding something beautiful in its depths. Inside the icy tree bark, or underneath the frozen ground, change is waiting. Just when it looks like all is dead and cold, the chilly curtain of winter will close and colourful spring will arrive dancing, with transformation and vibrant activity.

But you know we are all so changeable. For as soon as spring arrives, we will long for the summer. For me winter with the crisp covering of snow, frost, and mist is quite wonderful. Creation seen in the shimmering cobwebs, or in the perfection of snowflakes in a carpet of untouched pristine beauty.

So it is in life, whatever we are dealing with, we must learn to find the beauty *in all the seasons of our lives.* The beauty found in Christ is that we do not ***ever journey alone!***

Hold fast dear friends for spring is indeed coming.....
God's blessing to you all.

Craig and Elizabeth



Forthcoming Services:

3 rd March	Rev Craig Manley - Holy Communion
10 th March	Mrs Jenny Colby
17 th March	Mr Derek Gard
24 th March	Worship Leaders
29 th March	Rev Craig Manley – Good Friday
31 st March	Rev Craig Manley – 9.30am Easter Sunday including Holy Communion



Pastoral News

We give thanks for prayers answered and for improvement in some of our members health.

We pray: for the family of Bryan Tovey who died recently; for those in our own community who still find

themselves in difficult situations; 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 March we particularly pray Vera Steadman's pastoral group: Ursula and Edward Barham; Eleanor Bujalska; Molly Green; Jean Haddrell; Margaret and Richard Heath and Stephanie Tucker.

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 from Ursula



Refugee Prayer Focus March 2024

This country used to be known for receiving refugees with kindness and generosity, particularly during the Second World War. Why have our public attitudes changed so much? Pray that during the run up to the next general election, whenever it is, all Christians speak out against the use of refugees as political footballs. May we be as open to those fleeing persecution and starvation as our grandparents were. Let us identify with those looking for safety, as some of us have done with our Ukrainian friends, and lift them all up to God. Let us pray for ourselves, that our attitudes may continue to be open and welcoming.

Eleanor

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.



Sunday 10th March 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.



Dates for your diary

All are very welcome to come along and join in.

Friday 1st March

World Day of Prayer

Time: 10.30am

Venue: Calne Methodist Church

Tuesday March 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th

Coffee and Chat

Time: 10.00am - 11.30am

Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th

Warm Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Saturday 9th March

Craft and Coffee Event

Time: 11.00am - 2.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Sunday 7th April

Spring Lunch

Time: 12.15pm

Venue: Church Hall

Sign up on the sheet in the hall please

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



OPEN AREA MEETING

WESTBURY METHODIST CHURCH

26TH MARCH AT 7.00PM

Please come and share your views about the future of our Area. As an Area we don't have enough members to have an extra minister, so our human resources are stretched thin and we need to look at ways forward with this.

If you need a lift or have ideas to share please let Jan know.

Meet the Member

This month Molly Green has kindly shared this about her life so far.

I was born in Hawling village in 1947, retired to live in Winchcombe in 2004 and then moved to live in Calne in 202

My family came from Leicester in 1946 to work on farms in the area, except for my Dad whose career was spent in the Royal Navy. Dad was the one who influenced me the most. He said, "Work hard, tell the truth and always have faith in the Lord."

When I was three I started Sunday School. We had a lovely Sunday School teacher, Mrs Olive Richards. She made the stories of Jesus come alive. You felt as if you were there. We had songs like "You in your small corner and I in mine" and lots more.

In April we had our Anniversary. We all loved that. We were all, boys and girls, dressed in smart new clothes; some said poems, some of us read from the bible. Best of all we were given a book. My first one was "If Jesus came to my house and knocked upon the door" by J G Thomas. There were twenty to twenty five children who came. Happy Days.

In August we had our Sunday School outing – great excitement – off to the seaside, For some it was like having a holiday. In 1964 a Methodist Youth Club was started and we went to the Albert Hall and saw Sir David Frost. We also saw Buckingham Palace.

We preformed a short play at the Everyman – World Without Men. We didn't win the competition. Shame! But we did win the shield at the Circuit Eisteddfod.

Bryan and I have been married fifty six years. We have a daughter Rachel and a grandson Dan. Rachel remarried eight years ago to Philip. He has three sons who we love. At their blessing they asked me to read Romans 12: 9-21. I thought it was just right.

The hymn I like most is "Let all the world in every corner sing."

Thank you for this Molly we are blessed to have you as part of our congregation here at Calne.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR LIFE 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**

A poster for a Spring Crafts event. The background is a light cream color with a decorative border of green ferns, white daisies, and purple flowers. The text is centered and uses various colors and fonts.

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