

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the May 2024 issue is

Sunday 28th April



Well Lent and Easter have been and gone and now its onwards towards Pentecost. What a wonderful journey we are all undertaking, and the pace shows no sign of slowing. It seems that from Advent onwards, time and my life, have been moving at great speed. However, the journey has been richly filled with blessings from all manner of people and places, and for that I thank God.

You know some would say that Easter has passed but I wonder how many people know that there are fifty days in Easter not one. Easter is a Season and not just a Sunday.

The church in fact celebrates not one, not two, but seven full Sundays of Easter. That's 7 Sundays, plus 43 weekdays – for a total of 50 days of Easter celebration. And the great Easter truth is that we are all renewed, here and now, by the power of the resurrection.

But “here and now” is easier said than done. As Christians we should always be ‘Easter people’ but it's very easy to make Easter, a Sunday to remember, rather than living out such a truth every day.

Most of us struggle with the question, “How can I be the kind of person that God wants me to be?” We struggle because despite our good intentions and high ideals, we continually fall short of what we want to be and to become.

Most of us made New Year's resolutions that lasted about a week. We keep turning over a new leaf because the old ones won't stay turned over.

The pages of history are littered with the stories of men and women who dreamed big dreams and failed to accomplish them.

So, is there a way out of the constant cycle of defeat? For the Christian the answer is yes.

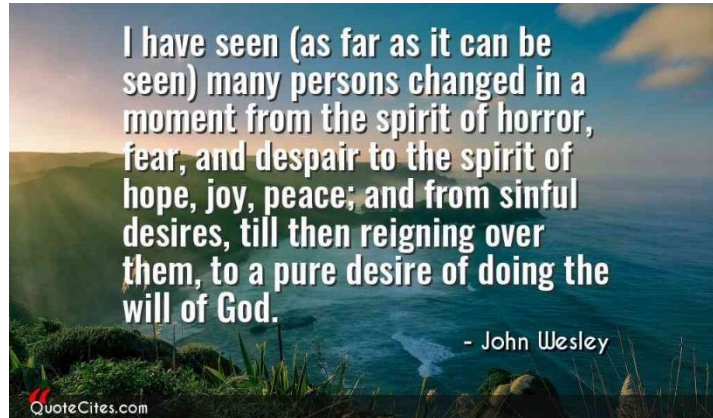
We try once again and continue to travel towards Pentecost. Towards a power that changes all things, even following those times, like Peter, when we have failed God.

Look at Peter, his constant failings, and then following the resurrection of Jesus, the belief, the hope, the certainty and the great and wonderful things that he achieved in the name of Jesus Christ.....

Only a true follower of Christ, can cherish the hope of Easter, found in the resurrection of Jesus, because only they can understand what such certain hope means.

Know now, that in Christ, there *is always hope for us all!*

Every Blessing
Craig



Forthcoming Services:

14th April Mr Joseva Vakacokaivalu
21st April Rev Roy Fowler
28th April Local Arrangement



Refugee Prayer Focus April 2024

We can only hold up our hands to God for forgiveness and supplication for the poor souls caught up in the fighting in Gaza, all those refugees wherever they come from, who are suffering through no fault of their own. I can also tell you that this is the primary topic for prayer among our guests at Warm Spaces.
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.

Pastoral News



We give thanks for the food and friendship enjoyed at the Spring Lunch.

We pray: for all those in education starting the new term after Easter being particularly thoughtful about those in an exam year; for those finding life especially hard at the moment and who are unable to join us for Sunday worship; for those both young and old who have long term health issues and for those caring for them especially if they are a working parent.

We particularly think of Michael Burns who is seriously ill in hospital and of Eileen at this difficult time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our church family.

Throughout April we pray for Miriam Crighton's pastoral group: Kay Bibby, Janet Boswell, Julie Gibson, Becky Legge, Robin Legge, Edith Pearson, Jason Butler-Henderson and Sam Butler-Henderson. Graham Spyer, Jana, Anatoli, Stefan and Anastasia.

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. Thank you.



**Sunday
14th April**

**Calne Methodist Church
3.00pm - 6.00pm**

A relaxed and informal church with a warm welcome for everyone. Crafts, songs, games and a chance to make a mess and enjoy tea together.

No need to book - just come and join in!

Children must be accompanied by an adult please.

A Calne Partnership of Churches activity

Following Easter Sunday



Now the picture is complete,
now the story is fully told.
The jigsaw is finished:
the trinity of grace -
the cradle, the cross, the rising -
dovetail together.
The cradle of the birthing;
our God come amongst us,
in flesh to share the life we lead.
The cross of sacrifice:
our God loving us to death.

The rising of hope:
our God embracing us to eternity.
Our new day rises in resurrection light,
the long wilderness walk of Lent behind,
the darkness of the Cross ended.
We approach you now, loving God,
with renewed joy in our song,
and strengthened hope in our hearts.
Anon.



Dates for your diary

All are very welcome to come along and join in.

Tuesday April 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th

Coffee and Chat

Time: 10.00am - 11.30am

Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday April 10th, 17th and 24th

Friendly Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

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.

Friday May 17th and Saturday May 18th

Rings of Fire - A Musical

Time: Friday Evening 7.30pm ; Saturday Matinee 3pm.

Venue: Calne Methodist Church

Duck Race Plant Stall

We have a plant stall at the Duck Race in Calne in the morning on Saturday 11th May. Can you help either providing plants or helping to sell them? If so please sign up on the board in the hall.

150 Years Old in 2026



The church here at Silver Street will be 150 years old in 2026.

We are now considering how we are going to celebrate this momentous achievement. In June Derek will be convening a 150-year committee to discuss what we are going to do. If you are willing to take part in this, please let Derek know.

We also need ideas from everyone on how we are going to celebrate this momentous event.

Maybe a Flower Festival, concert, Who we want to lead our celebration service, a commemorative dinner, a civic service, Eisteddfod, etc. who we invite back to join our celebrations.

No idea is too outrageous or too small, so again please let Derek know your thoughts.

Also, we need to think about the spiritual life of the church and our mission. Will we take this opportunity to bring new people to Sunday worship and how we will do this.

Please pray about this and ask God what we should do.

Derek 03/04/24

When it is the season of spring

When it is the season of spring
And the trees are in full bloom
No creature is in gloom
And the nature appears more "living"
When it is the season of spring
And the trees are in full bloom.

When the nature appears more alive
With flowering plants and blooming trees
There are birds singing and buzzing bees
And the sorrowful silence of winter deprives
When the nature appears more alive
With flowering plants and blooming trees.

When the season of spring ends
With summer next to it
The grasshoppers come to sit
And the heat begins to amend
When the season of spring ends
With summer next to it.

[Sravan K Suresh](#)



Spring Funnies



Why can't you tell ducks jokes on Easter? Because they'll quack up.

What kind of shoes do frogs wear to Easter dinner? Open-toad.

Why is everyone so tired on Easter? Because they just finished a 31-day March.

Why is the letter "A" like a flower? Because a bee comes after it.

What's the best thing to drink on Easter? Spring water.

What do you call a dancing chick? Poultry in motion.

What do you call a bunch of rabbits walking away from you? A receding hareline.

What do bunnies say when they come home from work? "Anybunny home?"

Two chicks had an Easter party. It was a shell of a time.

How do dinosaurs celebrate Easter? They don't. They're eggs-tinct.

Want some Easter advice? Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

My life so far..... Edith

When I look back on my life I do seem to have been in a few places, been there, done that, no T Shirt yet! Born in 1933 I grew up a country girl. My father worked on farms working with horses and then on tractors.

During the duration of the war we stayed in one place and I attended the Village Church School. If the siren sounded we were dispatched to the shelters in nearby houses, at home it was under the stairs or the heavy kitchen table when we would hear the planes on their way to places like Southampton, and afterwards see the red in the sky. On the move in 1946 for a short time home was near Weymouth where I was to attend the Technical College in Weymouth for a three year Domestic Science course. Unfortunately a river was close by and we flooded and no way was my mother going to stay there.! This was the winter of 1947 (a time to remember). Home was further away and meant longer to travel . Leaving college at 16 in the July I left home to work in the National Children's Home, now Action for Children in Hampshire. Working in one of the several houses with 20 children, it was like a big family home in a little village and I loved it. Over 6 years altogether I worked in two other places and back to where I started for three years in the Physically Handicapped school. In 1956 I decided I wanted to leave communal living and I found my way to Wiltshire and worked at Cherhill Manor with a family with three children. Brought up in the Methodist Church I have attended wherever I was and I was introduced to the then London road chapel and eventually met my future husband and married in 1959 at Malmesbury Chapel. Lived at Bradenstoke moving to Calne in 1962 when my daughter Yvonne was born, Andrew in 1964 and back to London Road Chapel until 1965 when it joined with Silver Street. Eventually becoming involved in Activities, some of the normal committees, Sunday School. Junior youth club. I became a widow in 1973 and eventually moved from the north to the south of Calne, just around the corner from Silver Street. The children were older and there was the Youth Club for them and I was a steward eventually senior steward. Besides Church activities I was involved in the community with the beginning of the Calne Transport and Organiser for the Calne Day Centre using the Church hall here hired by Wiltshire council as a social activity for seniors initially for those who lived alone. For me they were a challenge. I have gradually relinquished responsibilities and leave it to others to organise and just support. I have had to face over the years some life threatening medical situations but with the great support of the NHS, family and friends, prayers and practical help I am still here. I am blessed to have an extended family the younger ones ranging from seven months to thirty one years and two more to come. I am so grateful to have them.

Musical
Rings of Fire



Written by Edward Barham
Music by Adrian Brind & Gerald Hird

Friday 17th May - 7.30pm & Saturday 18th May - 3pm

Calne Methodist Church
Silver Street

Adults £8 - Under 17 free
Tickets available on the door
Or contact 07805 105695
Email: olddeadtrees@btinternet.com
Light refreshments included

**Raising funds for Prostate Cancer
Research**