

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024



Thank you to everyone who supported the plant stall - we raised over £230 for Church Funds

Items for future editions can be sent to:
Jan Sayers
The deadline for the July 2024 issue is
Sunday 30th June

Ministers Musings

1 Peter 2:10, NIV: "Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

We often need encouragement, and that is certainly true in our challenging times. We need to receive positive encouragement from our families and friends. We especially need it in our Christian life. Quite often living as a faithful witness to Jesus Christ, in a society that does not recognize or accept Him, can bring adversity and conflict into our life. The text recorded above is taken from 1 Peter 2: 2-10.

Peter speaks of God's people as, "living stones". He reveals how Christ, the Living Stone was rejected by most of humanity and that Jesus Christ is the living cornerstone; the foundational, positioning rock upon which the Church was built.

Its structure and way, indeed our structure and way are determined by Him. Peter is being really specific about what it means to live as God's *set apart* people. Christ is the foundation stone of the spiritual lives we reveal to the world around us.

Elizabeth tells a story about travelling on a fairly crowded coach to attend my graduation day at theological college. She sat on a seat with the one next to her vacant. Having taken out her book, Marcus Borg's "**Jesus**", (and if you have seen the front cover the word **Jesus** is very visible printed in bold red letters), *she spent the journey alone on a crowded train, as no one wanted to sit on the seat next to a Christian.* She was different and set apart.

As followers of Christ, we also have a different outlook on the world; one based on hope and not gloom. On certainty not on insecurity. On God's power working through us and not on our own understanding or skills.

This is the key to Peter's encouragement. It is not a half-hearted claim that things will just "get better." Peter knows that suffering is a reality for Christians who witness to Christ then; as it is today.

Both Elizabeth and I, in past and present pastoral conversations, have been asked regularly, 'Why is this happening?' 'Why does God allow it to happen?' It is the question that never seems to go away and also the one we cannot ever answer satisfactorily.

Medical advancement has eradicated much of the disease that used to decimate society. We are protected from much of the suffering that occurred in the past. We have become competent in reducing pain and extending life expectancy; but with such wonderful things, comes the expectation that we should not have to suffer, at all. So, when things go wrong, we end up asking “Why?”.

Perhaps we will never have a truthful answer to that question.

But I can say this with certainty, and with the hope and encouragement that Peter is talking about; God is neither distant, nor unconcerned about our suffering. God knows God’s people. God knows about suffering and loss. In our own suffering and fear it can encourage us to know that God has been there before us.

Living faithfully in these times also means living with some of the questions we ask remaining unanswered. It was certainly true for the disciples. It is certainly true for us. We like them walk in hope and in faith, in light not in darkness, never alone, always loved, grounded on a cornerstone, immovable and true.

So, look at the world again but with new eyes. Hear the birdsong, feel the rain and the sun. Recognize the first shoots of spring and new life. The world is now as it has always been, beyond our control.

Be thankful, contented, and smile.....you are living stones, **set apart** and loved beyond measure.

God bless you and keep you.

Craig



Forthcoming Services:

2 nd June	Rev Craig Manley including Holy Communion
9 th June	Mrs Elizabeth Manley
16 th June	Mr Derek Gard
23 rd June	Local Arrangement
30 th June	Sector Service at Corsham



Refugee Prayer Focus June 2024

Let us pray that the election campaign does not bring further anti- Refugee feelings and words. Help us to remind ourselves of how as a country we have welcomed refugees in the past and speak out if we need to.

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 soup Biscuits Toilet Rolls**
Please make sure that any food donated is in date.

CAN YOU HELP

Stephanie Yeboah is looking for permanent accommodation.
She is looking for a room/ bedsit within Calne on a permanent basis.
If you can help or want more details, please speak to Ursula Barham or Derek Gard.
Thank you in anticipation.
Derek

Pastoral News



Congratulations to Kerensa who is celebrating her 30th Birthday this month.

We pray for:- our minister Craig who has now taken on responsibility for the congregation at Warminster; pupils who are continuing with their exams and young people looking for work; members of our church family who are undergoing treatment, who find themselves in difficult situations and for those who care for and support them.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our church family.

Throughout May we particularly pray for Eleanor Bujalska's pastoral group: Pauline Appleby, Yvonne Brett, Caroline Foster, Michele and Derek Gard, Beverley and Philip Messam, Jill McCondach, Maisie Price, Jan and Rob Sayers, Angus and family, Mitty and family.

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.

CALNE CARNIVAL

We will be having a stall at the Carnival again this year - please sign up on the notice in the hall if you can help giving our leaflets about our activities and our ever popular cress seeds.



Dates for your diary

All are very welcome to come along and join in.

Tuesday June 4th, (National Cheese Day) 11th, 18th and 25th

Coffee and Chat

Time: 10.00am - 11.30am

Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday June 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.

Friendly Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Saturday 1st June

Pride Event

Time: 1pm onwards

Venue: The Recreation Ground Anchor Road

Saturday June 22nd

Summer Fair

Time: 11.00am - 2pm.

Venue: Calne Methodist Church

Sunday July 7th

Fellowship Buffet Lunch

Time: 12.30

Venue: Church Hall

Sunday August 18th

Open Air Service

Time: 11.30

Venue: Langley Burrell



Sunday 9th
June

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

**“The best of all is,
God is with us.”**
John Wesley

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED
TO THE
FAREWELL AND
RETIREMENT SERVICE
OF THE
BRISTOL DISTRICT CHAIR
REVEREND DOCTOR JONATHAN PYE
3PM SATURDAY JULY 13TH 2024
AT KINGSWOOD SCHOOL CHAPEL,
BATH BS1 6RA
FOLLOWED BY A TIME OF
REFRESHMENTS

ANY ENQUIRIES AND
TO RSVP PLEASE
CONTACT THE
DISTRICT OFFICE:
07743398186

bristol
Gloucestershire
Wiltshire
Somerset

**Methodist
District**

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Somerset

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO THE
WELCOME SERVICE FOR THE...

*New
District Chair*
Reverend Doctor Marcus Torchon

3.30PM
SATURDAY
AUGUST 31ST
2024

AT ST MARY
REDCLIFFE
CHURCH, BRISTOL
BS1 6RA

WITH REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS
AT FAITHSPACE METHODIST COMMUNITY
REDCLIFFE BS1 6PB

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**Methodist
District**

MEGA THANKS



We the production team and members of cast would like
to thank you all for your support.

We had a successful production of

Rings of Fire

The team from

SupaNova, our own Church, St Mary's and the Baptist Church

all had a fabulous time rehearsing and performing.

The money raised which came to the sum of £1052

is on its way to Prostate Cancer Research

Calne Methodist Church 150th Anniversary 2026

To celebrate and commemorate this fantastic milestone in our churches history we will be forming a committee to organise how we proceed. If you would like to be part of this committee then please let Derek Gard know. (Being on the committee doesn't mean you will be expected to organise everything)

Please give this opportunity careful consideration, we need people with ideas on how we are going to proceed. If you do not wish to be on this committee but have a clever idea, please let Derek know.

What do we do well? Some thoughts!

Well, our flowers are wonderful. Could we do a flower festival?

We feed people well. Could we have a big celebration dinner?

We love our Music. Could we do a special performance?

Our worship is central to all we do could we have a thanksgiving service.

We welcome people well; do we have a plan to attract more people in.

We love our premises; could we have a project to improve our kitchen/premises.

Just a few ideas, please give some thought and prayers to this and if you can help on the committee, please speak to Derek.

DWG

A Poem for Trinity Sunday by Glen a preacher in Eastbourne



For our anxious little realm,
for the fears that overwhelm...

There is a throne.

For mistakes we can't forget
and the sins that still beset...

We have a Lamb.

For our lost and lonely hearts,
for our gnarled and tangled paths...

We have a Shepherd.

For our dry and listless souls
and our thirst for being whole...

We have a Stream.

For regret and ravaged years,
for all sweet and bitter tears...

We have a Father.

For treks through burning sands,
To our home in promised lands,
This hope till all is done:
Our God the three-in-one.



SUMMER FAIR

CRAFTS, CAKES & COFFEE EVENT

SATURDAY 22nd JUNE, 2024
METHODIST CHURCH AND HALL
SILVER STREET, CALNE
11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

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



Fellowship Buffet Lunch 7th July 2024

12:15 In Church Hall

**Cold Meat, Ham / Chicken
Cheese
Salads / Jacket Potatoes
Coleslaws
+
Pavlova / Fruit Salad
+
Tea/Coffee**

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**