

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER MAY 2024



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the June 2024 issue is

Sunday 26th May

“God has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.” ~ Martin Luther

Have you noticed that recently when the sun dared to come out, the whole world looked much better. Perhaps it is due to the amount of rain we have endured over the winter months. But the plants that have been hardy enough to survive the deluge, most definitely, look much greener to me.

In our gardens, we move towards the summer, with the sun in the sky and warmer temperatures we can begin to craft our plants and vegetables that measure up to our own satisfaction. A time when God does really make all things new!

I recently read about a person who loved fountain pens....no electronics, media stuff, tablets, or keyboards just a good old-fashioned pen, with a nib, and the liquid ink which was placed into the fountain nib chamber *not* the modern cartridge. Good no nonsense stuff! He was not averse to the modern medium of computers, he just preferred to write in a different way, these days perhaps out of sync with the world around him. He wrote of how he had damaged the nib of his beloved pen and tried to repair it himself, but to no avail. The cost of a replacement was prohibitively expensive as the pen was no longer in production. Eventually with regret, he managed to source a suitable replacement that balanced well in the hand and wrote beautifully *to his satisfaction*. I know exactly what he was talking about.

I also prefer to write things down with a pen. My diary is made of paper and bound, not an electronic calendar or app. For me, there is something unhurried and wonderful about writing in this way. No rush, just deliberate definite strokes, made with much thought to create words and sentences.

My mother hated talking on telephones. When she was alive, I would occasionally receive a beautifully written letter telling me about events, family news, local happenings, hopes and dreams. Now she has gone I wished I had kept some of those letters. What happened? When did we lose all this beautiful craftsmanship, both in the pens and the creation of the written word?

Is our society so advanced that everything becomes disposable? Tablets, computers, mobile phones or even faith? It is easier these days to upgrade than to repair, out with the old and in with the new!

This month sees the church celebrate Pentecost, a new beginning but one out of something very old, and sustainable. And dare I declare to a postmodern society, something irreplaceable, unique, a gift beyond price.

We sometimes need to hold on to the traditional and valued ways because they have been tested and found not to be wanting. The disciples were waiting together in Jerusalem. They were leaderless and visionless. Suddenly, “like a mighty rushing wind” the Holy Spirit arrives and changes everything. We too can feel just like the disciples. Those moments when God seems so distant from us.

But technology will come and go, pens will be broken, wonderful people will be lost to the march of time, but the hope that is found and celebrated this month all over the world, can never be lost. With such a powerful companion great things can be achieved, lives changed, just as the disciples evidenced. So, within our shared community, which is undergoing uncertain and challenging changes, we strive together for a future grounded in hope and love. Neither the world or our lives can ever be deemed disposable, they too are irreplaceable, unique and a precious gift which God has given to each of us.

As the sun shines and you begin to see the world in a different way than you have done over the last few months let us remember we are made anew once more, by the breath of that wonderful Spirit!

God be with you always.....Craig



Forthcoming Services:

12 th May	Worship Leaders
15 th May	Prayer and Holy Communion at 10.30am with Rev Craig Manley
19 th May	Mr Derek Gard
26 th May	Mrs Michele Gard



Refugee Prayer Focus May 2024

The recent local and by-elections have demonstrated how refugees can be used in the political arena. Let us pray that when the word 'refugee' is used by politicians it will not be synonymous with 'illegal immigrant' and that where there are existing good community relations this can continue.

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 pray for those in our church family, who for whatever reason, have not been able to join us on a Sunday for either the Morning Service or Messy Church.

We pray for those who are travelling, either to and from holiday or going to visit sick relatives.

We pray for families who still find themselves in difficult situations; for those making crucial decisions ; for those who have long term health issues and receiving chemotherapy and for those who care for and support them.

Thank you for all prayers given, those hanging on our prayer tree, those in our prayer book, those spoken at prayer lunch and those shared for prayer nine.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our church family.

Throughout May we particularly pray for Lyn Cooper's pastoral group: Glenis Ansell; Carolyn and Andy Cameron; Jenny and Steven Colby; Hilary Eatwell; Doris and Darkie Hadrell; Sue Johnstone; Marion and Mike Pitman; Jacky and Simon Purtell; Vera and Stephen Steadman; 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.



Dates for your diary

All are very welcome to come along and join in.

Tuesday May 7th, 14th and 28th

Coffee and Chat

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE AND CHAT ON 21st May.

Time: 10.00am - 11.30am

Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday May 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th

Friendly Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Saturday 11th May

Calne Duck Race

We have a Plant Stall

Time: 10.00am onwards

Venue: On the Wharf

Friday May 17th and Saturday May 18th

Rings of Fire - A Musical

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

Venue: Calne Methodist Church

Sunday May 19th

Church Anniversary

Time: 10.30am

Venus: Calne Methodist Church

Preacher: Derek Gard

Saturday June 1st

Calne Pride Event

We have a stall handing out leaflets about our church

Time: 1.00pm onwards

Venus: The Recreation Ground Anchor Road



**Sunday
12th May**

**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

DO YOU NEED A WATER BUTT?

I have access to 3 barrels. As-new and with lids that latch. They are the 210 l / 45 gal type but these are clean and not used for oil, etc. 575 mm diam and 900 mm high.

Regards,

Richard

Pride Event 1st June at the Recreation Ground in Anchor Road

We have been asked to have a presence at this event and so we will be giving out leaflets about our Church services and events.

If you can help with this please sign up on the list in the hall.

**“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

bristol

Gloucestershire
Wiltshire
Somerset

Methodist
District

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

*New
District Chair*

Reverend Doctor Marcus Torchon

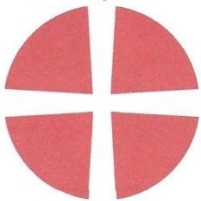
3.30PM
SATURDAY
AUGUST 31ST
2024

AT ST MARY
REDCLIFFE
CHURCH, BRISTOL
BS1 6RA

WITH REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS
AT FAITHSPACE METHODIST COMMUNITY
REDCLIFFE BS1 6PB

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They Should Have Asked My Husband

You know, this world is complicated and imperfect and oppressed
And it's not hard to feel timid, apprehensive and depressed.
It seems that all around us tides of questions ebb and flow
And people want solutions but they don't know where to go.

Opinions abound but who is wrong and who is right?
People need a prophet, a diffuser of the light,
Someone they can turn to as the crises rage and swirl,
Someone with the remedy, the wisdom, the pearl...

Well, they should have asked my husband, he'd have really gone to town.
With his thoughts on immigration, teenage mothers, Gordon Brown,
The future of the monarchy, house prices in the South,
The wait for hip replacements, BSE and foot-and-mouth.

Oh, they should have asked my husband, he can sort out any mess,
He can rejuvenate the railways, he can cure the NHS
So any little niggle, anything you want to know
Just run it past my husband, wind him up and let him go.

Congestion on the motorways, free holidays for thugs,
The damage to the ozone layer, refugees, drugs,
These may defeat the brain of any politician bloke,
But present it to my husband: he will solve it at a stroke.

He'll clarify the situation, he will make it crystal clear,
You'll feel the glazing of your eyeballs and the bending of your ear.

Corruption at the top, he's an authority on that,
And the Mafia, Gaddafi and Yasser Arafat.

Upon these areas he brings his intellect to shine
In a great compelling voice that's twice as loud as yours or mine,
I often wonder what it must be like to be so strong,
Infallible, articulate, self-confident and wrong.

When it comes to tolerance he hasn't got a lot,
Joy-riders should be guillotined and muggers should be shot,
The sound of his own voice becomes like music to his ears,
And he hasn't got an inkling that he's boring us to tears.

My friends don't call so often, they have busy lives I know,
But it's not every day you want to hear a windbag suck and blow.
Encyclopaedias! On them we never have to call,
Why clutter up the bookshelf when my husband... knows it all.

By Pam Ayres

Submitted by Brian Bassett



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

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**