

# **CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER JULY 2024**



**Thank you to everyone who helped with the Pride Event  
in June.**

**Items for future editions can be sent to:**

**Jan Sayers**

**The deadline for the August 2024 issue is**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July**

## ***Ministers Musings***

*Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. **James 3:4***

We have been sharing stories from the beginning of human civilization — for good reason. Stories captivate our attention and build communities by bringing ideas, emotions, and experiences to life in a memorable way.

I remember things from my childhood that really impacted on my life....one of these was reading books. The library was accessible and quite often I lost myself in the stories of others.... entering new worlds and perceptions of life that enabled me to grow. Stories have always been written to pass on a message or understanding of life from the writer's perspective. Written by a former Greek slave, in the late to mid-6th century BCE, Aesop's Fables are the world's best-known collection of morality tales. The fables, numbering 725, were originally told from person-to-person as much for entertainment purposes but largely as a means for relaying or teaching a moral or lesson. One such example is the story below...

A man who lived a long time ago believed that he could read the future in the stars. He called himself an Astrologer and spent his time at night gazing at the sky. One evening he was walking along the open road outside the village. His eyes were fixed on the stars. He thought he saw there that the end of the world was at hand, when all at once, down he went into a hole full of mud and water.

There he stood up to his ears, in the muddy water, and madly clawing at the slippery sides of the hole in his effort to climb out. His cries for help soon brought the villagers running. As they pulled him out of the mud, one of them said: *"You pretend to read the future in the stars, and yet you fail to see what is at your feet! This may teach you to pay more attention to what is right in front of you and let the future take care of itself."* "What use is it," said another, "to read the stars, when you can't see what's right here on the earth?"

*Take care of the little things and the big things will take care of themselves.*

It might appear at present that we are living with the end of our comfortable world as we once knew it. We are looking to the heavens for signs, to see what is going to happen next. These days we all look to the future to see if we can second guess what will happen in the world around us. We become so preoccupied with everything in a chaotic world that we are in danger of missing out living our life well. So much misinformation and conflicting opinions. What we must be doing or not as the case may be.

Even the weather has become remarkably unpredictable for a summer June and July, so my retreats to the garden have not been as often as I would have liked.

However, thinking about the small things in front of me, to live in the moment, I am pondering, you can still garden in the rain for humanity has been doing it for centuries. You do not have to travel to see great wonders.

The world can be wonderfully positive in something so small and simple as a garden. Many creatures are in mine living out their stories every day. The robins, the blackbirds, the wood pigeons, a thrush, cats in the close, the insects and bees and butterflies, a wealth of life being lived to the full. Creation living out life in the present moment, in the small

things *that matter*. They have no care for what is beyond the reality of their daily existence and experience.

Jesus was *'the'* master storyteller. He always assessed the context of his listeners very well. His stories /parables have stood the test of time and are just as relevant and meaningful today as they were over two millennia ago. The little and simple things in the stories of Jesus mattered. The sparrow, the widow's mite, the mustard seed, the yeast, the small children. It seems **'small'** is particularly important to God. According to the verses found in Luke 16:10, "*Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.*"

Therefore, the little or small things you have already, are there to prepare you for bigger things. The key is to trust God while possessing the little things. ***Do not dismiss the small things in your life.***

Small things will develop into a harvest of blessings when you allow God to use them for loving purpose. I encourage you to take some time as you read this letter to think about the ways or places where you could do just a little bit and that it may have a profound impact. You may not have access to a garden, but I bet you could find someone you could reach out to with a phone call. Someone you could show love to by sending them a card or letter. Maybe there is a small task in your church that could use just *a little bit of your time*. There are so many ways your smallest act can impact those around you for the Kingdom of God.

God is looking for people just like you who are willing to make a difference in the places God has positioned you. The best part is, all it takes is *just a little*, but the joy and the rewards can be so much greater for someone else in need.

God go with you....Craig



#### Forthcoming Services:

7 <sup>th</sup> July	Rev Ward Jones including Holy Communion
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Mrs Jenny Colby
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Mrs Michele Gard
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Mr Eric Clifford

## Pastoral News

Delightful news!



Congratulations to Edith who is a GreatGrandma to Amelia, daughter of her grandson Joe.

Congratulations to Margaret and Brian Bassett who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

We pray for members of our congregation who are receiving treatment; waiting for treatment and/or waiting for results of tests and scans.

We pray for young people who have taken exams and now anxiously await results.

Our thoughts and prayers are always with all our church family.

Throughout July 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.

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.

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## **Dates for your diary**

**All are very welcome to come along and join in.**

**Sunday July 7th**

**Fellowship Buffet Lunch**

**Time: 12.30**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Tuesday July 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th**

**Coffee and Chat**

**Time: 10.00am - 11.30am**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Wednesday July 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st.**

**Friendly Spaces**

**Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Sunday August 18th**

**Open Air Service**

**Time: 11.30**

**Venue: 11, The Common, Chippenham Rd, Langley Burrell SN15 4LF**

**Bring a picnic lunch - drinks provided.**

**Saturday August 31st**

**Service for the New Chairman of the District**

**Rev. Marcus Torchon**

**Time: 3.30pm**

**Venue: St Mary's Redcliff Bristol**

**Saturday September 21st**

**Craft Fair, Coffee and Chat**

**Time: 11.00am - 2.00pm**

**Venue: Church Hall**





## Refugee Prayer Focus July 2024

The refugee focus for this month writes itself. Bless the refugees who are being abused and the subject of hate for the sake of votes.

### **Calne Food Bank**

Calne Food Bank – Please visit their website for details of their opening times - [www.calnefoodbank.co.uk](http://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.

### **CALNE CARNIVAL**

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with this event.





**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>  
July**

**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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Wiltshire  
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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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07743398186

**PLEASE READ THIS AND LET DEREK, MIRIAM  
OR JAN KNOW YOUR VIEWS AHEAD OF THE  
NEXT WILTSHIRE UNITED AREA MEETING AT  
THE END OF JULY- AS THIS WILL AFFECT OUR  
CHURCH GOING FORWARD.**

Wiltshire United Area.

The Open Area Meeting that we held in March 2024 was well attended by people from the Area churches.

We did things differently! Rather than an information sharing traditional meeting we got everyone talking and contributing ideas. What does 'wild success' look like for our churches, we asked, and what ideas do we have for helping us move into new ways of doing things to move us towards those ideas of success.

The Open Area Meeting generated around 700 suggestions.

The Area Executive Committee have been reflecting on the suggestions and started to draw together similar ideas and recurring themes.

At the present time we have 4 clergy / staff and 16 churches. While each church is set in a unique context and, through its church life, seeks to serve it's local community, it is clear that some of our congregations have become small and fragile. Conversations about how we best support and enable our churches in their life and mission must surely ask questions about how we group the churches together, whether we can develop mutual support and the sharing of resources between churches, and if closer working together or even joining together could be helpful or 'life-giving.

Part of the conversation has been looking at how we can best use our clergy / staff in the Area so that all of our churches benefit from the support, guidance and encouragement that ministers can offer.

In the Area Exec meeting, we considered two different models of ministry that could be employed : -

1. As we have now – with our ministers allocated to a 'sector' and each church knowing who 'their minister' is. But, with each change in the number of clergy the sectors would be reshaped so that every church received 'ministry' by more churches being added to each minister's responsibility. The advantage of this model is that each church knows who it's minister is and pastoral and leadership relationships can be built.



2. A 'team ministry' approach – where our 4 ministers work together as a team across the whole Area, each identifying where their strengths are and offering these to the churches across the Area. Churches could then work with any of our clergy on projects specific to the church's needs.

The Area Exec then thought about a third option which combines the possible strengths of both of these models – AND call upon the churches themselves to be more involved in setting the priorities for Area / ministry support.

### **A proposal to think about ....**

#### **A 'Basic Offer and team work' model for sharing ministry.**

The Area Churches would be allocated into groups / sectors corresponding to the number of clergy/staff we have.

#### *The Churches ....*

Each group / sector would be asked to form and enable a supportive network of the churches within their group / sector. (How? – their elders / stewards could meet together to share the needs and initiatives of their churches, build awareness and see if there are things that could be shared – eg – Lent Course / membership preparation.) Friendship and cooperation can be built.

Participating in that 'sector network' would mean churches become more aware of one another, can share resources (e.g. people, things, know-how) share ideas, encourage one another and plan to do some things together.

#### *The Ministers ....*

Each sector would be served by one of the ministers ... thus preserving the pastoral and leadership relationships between clergy and churches.

**40%** of the ministers time will be allocated to offering a 'basic offer' to all of the churches in the sector.

The 'basic offer' would mean that each church in the sector can expect their minister to : -

- Lead worship in their church 2x each quarter.
- Attend, chair if appropriate, and offer leadership in their Stewards/Elders meetings and Church Council/Church meetings.
- Communicate with the pastoral visitors to offer pastoral care to members of the congregation.

Another **40%** of the minister's time would be directed to the priorities identified by the 'sector network' meeting. This may mean that the sector network of churches decide they will work on something together and ask the minister to support and enable that project ...

or, that the sector network meeting decides that projects 'a' and 'b' at churches 'x' and 'y' are the priority for the present time and discusses how the minister can help, along with others, to take those things forward. Within this meeting, and time allocation, there would also be reflection on how ministers can represent churches in the local community and enable church members to do so too.

The **remaining 20%** of the minister's time would be allocated to 'team work' across the Area, cooperating with colleagues, offering any 'expertise' to churches in any sector, being available to preach on the plan.

### **AREA Meeting**

The Area meeting would be the gathering of the 'sector network' groups and their constituent churches. Again, with a focus on churches and sectors sharing their thinking about church life and mission and sharing resources.

The task of the Area meeting to hear from the churches and sector network meetings about how priorities are being worked out and worked on .... AND ... consider how resources can be shared and developed across the Area to support the local church life and mission.

e.g. The Area meeting may hear about how the use of Live Streaming worship is supporting the growing of relationships between churches within a sector, how the experience of 'receiving' online worship is and what can be done to build the relationships that make the experience of both giving and receiving fruitful, inclusive and enriching. ... And ... consider, plan and resource, how that could be expanded to serve across the Area churches.

## **FREE GIFT**



**This table from the vestry is no longer required.**

**If you would like it or know of anyone who would please let Ursula know before the end of the month.**

**After that it will then go to a charity shop.**

**Dimension of table top 3ft 6ins.  
The octagonal top can be removed for easy transportation.**

## You

You are a special person

With special work to do.

You are unique from everyone else,

With a job that's especially for you.

It's only you that can be there just now,

When no one else is about,

No one else with your special smile,

Or a word to ease that doubt.

There's no one else in the world like you,

With a special talent to give,

So be sure to use that talent well

And be careful how you live.

By

Jean Haddrell