

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the October 2024 issue is

Sunday 29th September

“Everything is possible for one who believes.” Mark 9:23

I cannot believe where this year has gone as it is September already. There is a new freshness in the air. As we move towards Autumn in the early morning there will be cobwebs on the top of the hedgerows. The summer plants are dying back, and the crops will be harvested, all signs that Autumn is on its way. It feels like this has been a long and strange summer break of sorts, at times without much sun, lots of rain, and in my case tinged with a deep sadness.

But then again it is much easier to be negative rather than positive during these uncertain times. Just look at the news reporting, for negativity and gloom seems to sell. It can be a negative world, and that is all we see or feel.

I have heard it said that we all are becoming older every single day, and there comes a point where the goal is not so much winning, as *“looking good while losing.”* And we all must cope with that.

I am sure there have been times when we have all felt like that. When bodies are unable to complete the tasks, our minds have said can be achieved. The aches and pains we carry following the gallant efforts to complete the simplest of tasks. Now all this ties in well with this week’s letter concerning the passage of time, and the effect it has on our lives.

We are living in a time which is challenging and making people anxious. We are also in a time of reflection as we think about harvest and the blessings in our lives. One can be seen as a negative vision of future, whilst the other a positive reflection of past.

I like the following quote taken from Tolkien’s literary work, ‘Fellowship of the Ring’. Frodo said... *“I wish it need not have happened in my time” “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”*

In times of great uncertainty, it is easy to fall back to our old ways of self-criticism and lack of self-worth. The theologian Paul Tillich when writing about grace says.

“Grace strikes us when year after year the longed-for perfection of life does not appear, when the old compulsions reign within us as they have for decades, when despair, I’m just not good enough, I’ll never make it, I wonder if I have what it takes, destroys all joy and courage. Sometimes at that moment a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying, ‘you are accepted’.

Being accepted by others in a positive way is what we all seek. It is the nature of life. It is the positive affirmation that we belong, are valued, and most of all, loved for who we really are. A negative response comes to us when we fail to realize this and try to become something we are not.

When I really think about it, every single change that I had ever gone through in life which has been positive, every single improvement I have made in my character and in my life, has not come because someone, myself or anyone else, was criticizing, being negative, or condescending of my efforts.

It has been because someone has believed in me, encouraged me, looked past my flaws, and saw only my talents, encouraging me to be positive, and make the most of the gift of time, *which is so precious to us all.*

Maybe the positive to be found in our uncertain world, is that we value our time much more. We look to make the best use of our time, knowing we cannot guarantee what will happen to us in the future. And as so often is the case with making any kind of positive change in the world, the best place to begin to change the negativity, ***is always with ourselves.***

*"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things." **Philippians 4:8***

Perhaps the next time you are battling with those negative thoughts, take heart by remembering you have the presence of Christ in your life, and that makes all the difference. For the time I have been given, I will value, and use it well. I will live in a Spirit of Hope.

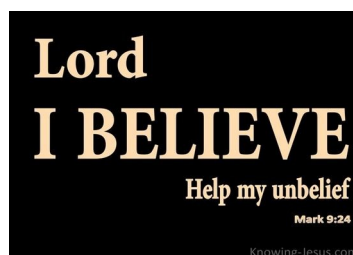
I may wake up tomorrow with aches and pains, and a reminder that I am no longer as I used to be, but in the autumn of my life. But I will wake up still with a smile on my face, as I know I am loved, and cared for by the one who will gather me in and take me home when the time comes. May we all see that wave of light finally break into the darkness at such a time and hear the shepherds voice say, 'you are accepted, and you are mine'.

That is the best positive message of hope to hold on to, despite the negativity of all those who cannot hear or see God in this world.

"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." Mark 9:23

Peace be with you,

Craig



Forthcoming Services:

1 st September	Rev Craig Manley including Holy Communion
8 th September	Mrs Elizabeth Manley
15 th September	Mrs Jenny Colby
22 nd September	Mr Derek Gard
29 th September	Rev Craig Manley – this will be a sector service here at Calne



Pastoral News

We congratulate all those who have received their exam results.

We give thanks for our minister Craig, our Local Preachers and Worship Leaders. May they be showered with blessings as the new Methodist year begins.

We pray for all our Young People starting their new school year, especially those beginning at a new school. We also pray for their parents and teachers as the new term begins.

We pray for the life of Michael Burns who sadly died 16th of August. He led a very full Christian life. He gave his support in many ways to a lot of organisations, one being how much he did for the Credit Union and Foodbank here in Calne. Thank you Michael. You will be greatly missed. Our love and sympathy go to Eileen and Matthew at this difficult time. The funeral is 4th September 2.00pm at Leominster Methodist Church. Further details are in the notices week beginning 1st September.

We give thanks for those who have had successful operations. May they continue to recover to full health. We pray for those waiting on hospital appointments; for those who have been ill recently and still not fully recovered. We continue to pray for those who have long term health issues and for those who care for and support them.

Throughout September we particularly 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.



Refugee Prayer Focus September 2024

The prayer focus for this month is from the Handbook: ' Eternal God of Shalom, we pray for all working for justice and reconciliation in the Holy Land.

Gracious Spirit of Salaam, we pray for wisdom and tolerance among all people for whom Israel and Palestine are Holy.

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, pour your inclusive healing love on people who are frightened, oppressed, bereaved or defiant. We pray so earnestly for a just and equal sharing of the beautiful, divided and scarred land. Amen.

Elizabeth Rundle, supernumerary presbyter, Southampton District. From the Methodist Prayer Handbook

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 vegetables Tinned tomatoes Instant noodles Small Pasta Sauces

Please make sure that any food donated is in date.

Michael Burn's Funeral

We were all so sad to hear of Michael's passing and our thoughts and prayers are with Eileen and Matthew at this sad time. Even after he had moved to Leominster Michael continued to be the Wiltshire United Area's Treasurer and so will be missed right across the Area.

Michael's funeral will be on the 4th September at 2pm at Leominster Methodist Church, Green Lane, Leominster, HR6 8UQ followed by burial at Humber Woodland Burial Ground HR6 0NE.

People are welcome to the service and refreshments afterwards.

The service will be live streamed <http://livestream.phx-web.co.uk/michael-ronald-burns/>

We will also be streaming the service at church if you would like to join us there.



Sunday
8th September
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

150 Years Old in 2026



The Church will be celebrating its 150th anniversary during 2026 and we are in the process of starting to consider how we celebrate and commemorate this amazing achievement.

I intend to hold an open meeting on Thursday 26th September at 7.30pm to consider how we proceed.

Attendance does not mean that you will be expected to organise anything, sit on a committee, or be committed to anything. Its an opportunity to discuss ideas and the direction our celebrations and mission will take.

This evening will be a fun time, (It will even include coffee, tea and bickies) a time to let our imaginations fly, a time to let the Holy Spirit direct us and a chance for you to have input in the direction our church will take.

I need your contribution to help me organise how we proceed.

Please put this date in your diary.

Thank you.

Derek

Autumn Programme of Events September to October 2024



Please find further details of Autumn programme below. Further details, including costs, timings and more details will be available in our weekly notice sheets, monthly magazine, Autumn Brochure and Web site.

21-Sep Coffee and Craft Morning

29-Sep Harvest Festival and Lunch – Sign-up sheet in Hall

09-Oct Ladies Wot does dance.

We are a group of mature ladies who started dancing together about 2years ago, for exercise and fun. We combine with another small group of ladies from Midsummer Norton and have done 3 shows for charity, two in Compton Bassett and one in Chillcompton Somerset . We cover a mixture of music and dance from different generations. Refreshments included.

23-Oct Film and food Michele Gard

A night of bangers and mash (vegetarian option available) followed by a sing along to Mary Poppins 2.

13-Nov Casablanca revisited - Edwards Barham
New facts, New Insights with our friend.
Refreshments included

23-Nov Christmas Concert -Arranged by Ursula Barham

Enter the Christmas season with song, music, words and laughter. Refreshments included.

27-Nov Japan with Derek and Michele Gard
Explore the land of the rising sun with Michele and Derek. Refreshments included.

04-Dec Poetry for all
A night of sharing poetry with original poems and long loved classics. Refreshments included.

07-Dec Christmas Coffee and Craft Fair

15-Dec Advent Meal after Sunday service.

Derek Gard September 2024



Join us for the
Wiltshire United Area
**Summer
Picnic**

Saturday 7th September, 3-5pm
At the beautiful, historic, Monks Chapel,
Monks Lane, Gastard, SN13 9PH

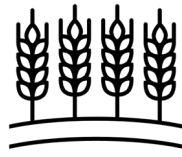
Bring your picnic, a chair or rug, and enjoy this
get together with friends old and new from
across our churches.

Hot and cold drinks and a toilet provided.
And some singing in the glorious sunshine.

All are welcome. Please let Gary
(gary.gothamegmail.com) know numbers
attending from your church by Sunday 1st
September. We look forward to seeing you there.

PLEASE LET JAN KNOW IF YOU ARE GOING OR IF YOU NEED A LIFT

At Harvest Time by Olivia Ward Bush-Banks



A Sower walked among his fields
When Spring's fair glory filled the earth;
He scattered seed with eager hand,
And sowing, thought upon their worth.
"These seeds are precious ones," he said.
"The finest flowers shall be mine;
And I shall reap rich, golden grain,
When these are ripe at harvest time."

"I'll watch their growth with earnest care,
And faithfully will till the soil;
With willing hands each passing day
From morn till setting sun I'll toil.
And when the reaping time shall come,
A bounteous Harvest shall be mine;
I shall rejoice at duty done
When these are ripe at Harvest time."

Forth to his fields at Harvest time,
The Sower bent his steps again;
The Reapers' song sang merrily,
Their sickles gleamed 'mid golden grain.
With joyous heart the Sower cried
"Behold, what precious sheaves are mine;
And labor brings its own reward,
For these are ripe at Harvest time."

O Master! in thy fields so fair
We, too, are sowing precious seed.
And like the Sower we will toil
Till golden grain fulfil thy need.
Then shall we hear thy loving voice,—
"Behold! what precious sheaves are mine.
Let all be safely garnered in,
For these are ripe at Harvest time."

September 2024 - The 30th Anniversary of the Fairtrade Mark in the UK.

As you know, **Fairtrade Fortnight 2024** in Wiltshire has organised free events across five towns in schools, local organisations and public events, with the well-known **Kenyan Fairtrade Tea Farmer Patrick Kaberia Muthaura**. **Patrick will be in Calne from 9-11th September.**

In particular **Patrick** will be talking about **“Faith, Fairtrade and The Climate Crisis” at Calne Free Church on Tuesday 10th September @ 7pm (see Poster in hall)** - His experiences of Fairtrade Tea Farming and the effects of Climate Change in the context of his Christian Faith.
I also attach two other posters where Patrick is speaking and meeting people about Fairtrade in Calne.

For all events (Sept 9th-20th) with Patrick across the Five Towns see <https://www.calnefairtrade.org.uk/ftf2024.html>



29th September 2024
Harvest Celebration Buffet Lunch
12:15 In Church Hall

Coronation Chicken
Salads (Inc Pasta Salad)
Jacket Potatoes

Fruit Crumble
&
Custard or Cream

Tea & Coffee

*If you feel able to contribute, contact Caroline 01249 816231

** Profits to the Church refurbishment fund.

A sign up sheet will be available September

Pension Credit – What's it all about.

With the government removing the winter fuel allowance from all pensioners other than those who are on Pension credit and the estimate that 800,000 pensioners are eligible for pension credit but do not claim it I thought that the following from Age UK might be interesting and helpful.

What is Pension Credit?

Pension Credit is a means-tested benefit for people over State Pension age who have a low income. It comes in 2 parts: Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit. It's separate from your State Pension.

How much Pension Credit could I get?

Pension Credit comes in 2 parts. You might be eligible for one or both parts.

What is Guarantee Credit?

Guarantee Credit tops up your weekly income to a guaranteed minimum level. This level is currently:

- **£218.15** if you're single.
- **£332.95** if you're a couple.

What is Savings Credit?

Savings Credit is extra money if you've got some savings or if your income is higher than the basic State Pension. It's available to people who reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016. You could get up to:

- **£17.01** extra per week if you're single.
- **£19.04** extra per week if you're a couple.

By claiming Pension Credit, you might become eligible for other benefits too, such as help with health and housing costs. We've outlined these below.

Am I eligible to claim Pension Credit?

There are different eligibility requirements for each of the parts of Pension Credit.

Can I get Guarantee Credit?

You might be eligible for Guarantee Credit if you've reached State Pension age. This is currently 66 for both men and women.

If you've reached State Pension age, you can claim Guarantee Credit if your weekly income is less than:

- £218.15 if you're single.
- £332.95 if you're a couple.

Even if your weekly income is higher than these thresholds, you could still claim Guarantee Credit if you meet one of the following criteria:

- you're a carer.
- you have a severe disability.
- you have certain housing costs, such as service charges.

- you're responsible for a child or young person who usually lives with you.

Can I get Savings Credit?

If you reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016 – or if you're a couple and both of you did – you might be eligible to claim Savings Credit.

There isn't a savings limit for Pension Credit. However, if you have over £10,000 in savings, this will affect how much you receive.

If you're a mixed age couple (meaning only one of you is over State Pension age), you normally have to claim [Universal Credit](#) until you've both reached State Pension age. Then you might be eligible to claim Pension Credit as a couple.

How to claim Pension Credit

To claim Pension Credit, you can either:

- [claim online on GOV.UK](#) (if you already claim State Pension and there aren't any children or young people included in your claim)
- call the Pension Credit claim line on **0800 99 1234** and they can fill in the application for you over the phone (lines are open Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm).

It can be helpful to have the following details to hand before you get started:

- your National Insurance number
- your bank account details.
- information about your income, savings and investments
- information about your pension (if you have one)
- details of any housing costs you have (such as a mortgage, interest payments or service charges)
- your partner's details, if you have a partner.

For further information you can go to

Age UK Advice Line 0800 678 1602

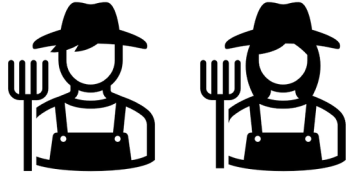
Free to call 8am – 7pm 365 days a year.

Age UK Website

Gov.Uk Website

Derek 09/24

FARMING JOKES for HARVEST



**How do farmers like their hair cut?
In a crop**

**What did the sheep say when it fell in love?
I only have eyes for ewe**

**How do farmers get into space?
With a tractor beam**

**Why was the chicken rushed to the vet at
dinnertime?
It tried to lay the table**

**What did the farmer say when someone stole his cattle feed?
Hay!**

**What do you need to write on bacon?
A pig pen**

**Why did the two farmers have an argument?
One took a fence**

**What do you call someone who only grows
medicinal crops?
Farmer Suitical**

**What do shepherds say when they have a drink?
Shears**

AUTUMN FAIR

CRAFTS, CAKES & COFFEE EVENT

SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER, 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

**PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE HALL IF YOU CAN MAKE SOME
CAKES OR HELP ON THE DAY.**