

# **CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024**



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

**Jan Sayers**

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

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

I remember when my sister last came to visit us whilst we lived in Somerset. It was for the first time in years. Now Elizabeth and Olivia are trouble when together, and enjoyed the time mostly by constant talking, and of course planning all kinds of wonderful but mad adventures for the future. A good time was had by all, with me retreating to the garden for some peace. It was like having two eight and half year-old girls chattering and oblivious to anything remotely serious and grown up.

When the time came for Olivia to leave on the bank holiday Monday, we ventured to the railway station to await her train. On arrival the girls took a seat on the platform, still talking and unaware to the things I thought necessary to be considered for the imminent journey.

Is this the right platform, have you your tickets, your phone? What carriage are you in? These were just some of the things that I would be finding the answers to before *I sat down*. The station was, as usually expected, busy for a bank holiday afternoon, with three trains arriving in the station within a period of fifteen minutes. It was therefore important to be on the right platform, and around the right space on the platform, where the carriage she was traveling in would be likely to stop.

The right platform, *and train*, would ensure that the journey would be the correct one undertaken. Amongst so many people, the best place on the platform would ensure entry to the train would be just that little bit easier to achieve. I studied the electronic information boards, ticket, and platform markings, confirming that we were in just about the right place for the correct train and carriage.....and the girls just continued to talk oblivious to the need for any of these things to be done. They had handed over care and responsibility for the journey to me, trusting that I would ensure that all would be well.

As I waited, I watched one of the high-speed trains glide quietly into the station. I have to say it was a thing of beauty. Streamlined and futuristic magnificent, designed coachwork and lines. I was amazed at just how far trains have developed, but then again trains have not sparked my interest and imagination in the past few years. The '*Station Master*' Martin, from my church, would have been so pleased at my thoughts, *sensing a possible conversion moment*.

You know that all our journeys undertaken in life require trust to be placed in another. In this case the driver of the train, or myself ensuring that the start of the journey was correct. Perhaps rail staff to give assistance, information, and direction. Once the train had left the station, with my sister onboard, my

responsibility ended, and was passed to another. During the relevant changes of trains, she managed to end up on a wrong train, but still somehow arrived at the correct destination, and just an hour or so later than planned. You see God was watching closely that day.

To put one's trust in God requires faith, and also confidence, that all our journeys are the correct ones. We may sometimes end up travelling by a slightly different route than the one we intended. With God in the equation, we will always arrive at God's intended destination, but with diversions, and different encounters and experiences, that we had not originally envisaged.

There are so many different experiences, events, and ideas that we face in any given journey that we only remember, or pay attention to, the ones that touch a story that is rooted in our own narrative and understanding. Some of our early encounters of pain and trauma become the stories that we often use to make sense out of the rest of our lives. Some of our experiences of joy and blessing, on the other hand, will also become stories through which we give meaning to other things that happen to us.

I do like the verse from Judges 18:6 *“And the priest said to them, ‘Go in peace. The journey on which you go is under the eye of the Lord.’”* It is such a comfort, and a strength, to know that God is present with you now, at this very instant, whatever you are doing and wherever you are going. That all will be well....hold on to that! And in the case of my sister....I smile that God was forced to have *both eyes open* that day! Stay safe and well... **Craig.**



<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/new-way-working-life-work-journey-cecile-alper-leroux/>

## Forthcoming Services:

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	<b>Rev Craig Manley including Holy Communion</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Rev Craig Manley and Mrs Michele Gard</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Rev Marcus Torchon – The new Bristol District Chair</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Worship Leaders</b>



## Pastoral News

We pray for many in our church community who recently, for what ever reason, have been seriously unwell .

We continue to pray for all those struggling due to the uncertainty of the cost of living; for those who have health issues and are receiving

treatment; for those with Covid and suffering the after effects and for all the family members and friends who care and support them.

Throughout November 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 and 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.

In a quiet moment you may like to reflect on these words of a song by Estelle White:

O the love of the Lord is the essence of all that is here on earth,  
All the beauty I see he has given to me and his giving is gentle as silence.  
Every day, every hour, every moment  
has been blessed by the strength of his love.  
At the turn of each tide he is there at my side  
and his touch is gentle as silence.  
There have been times when I've turned from his presence,  
and I've walked other paths, other ways;  
but I've called on his name in the dark of my shame,  
and his mercy was gentle as silence.



## Refugee Prayer Focus November 2024

Please pray for those who return to warm and happy homes and find only rubble; for those who return to families and find only bodies; for those who have no hope.

## Prayer Lunch

There is a short time of prayer every Wednesday at 12.30 pm in the Alan Bristow Room. The prayer meeting is open to all, and before the meeting everyone at Warm Spaces is asked of any concerns they would like to be prayed about. The meeting is entirely confidential. Afterwards you are invited to join everyone at Warm Spaces for lunch.

If you have any questions, please speak to Edith, Vera or Eleanor

## 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 vegetables Tinned tomatoes Instant noodles Small Pasta Sauces**

Please make sure that any food donated is in date.



**Dates for your diary**  
**All are very welcome to come along and join in.**

**Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**Coffee and Chat**

**Time: 10.00am - 11.30am**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Wednesday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Warm Spaces Free food and drink for all**

**Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Saturday November 23rd**

**Afternoon Concert 'Christmas Spice and All Things Nice'**

**Time: 3.00pm**

**Venue: Church**

**Refreshments included.**

**Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Japan with Michele and Derek**

**Time: 7.30pm**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Wednesday December 4th**

**Poetry for all with Stephen Steadman**

**Time: 7.30pm**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Refreshments included**

**Saturday December 7th**

**Christmas Craft Event**

**Time: 11.00pm**

**Venue: Church**

**Refreshments included.**

**Sunday December 15th**

**Advent Lunch Time: 12.15pm Venue: Church hall and**

**Carols by Candlelight Time: 6.00pm Venue: Methodist Church**



**Sunday**  
**10th November**  
**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

**Annual Church Meeting on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November following the Service.**  
**Please read the items below so that you can make an informed decision at this meeting.**

At the ACM it is your opportunity to select the charity you would like our donations from events to go to for the next year. Or if you have a suggestion you can let the Church Council Secretary (Jan) know.

This year we held our January and February services in the hall to save energy and make sure we were all warmer and we would like to do this again in 2025.

The timings of services from June to August 2025 – the suggestion has been made that during these months we should start our services at 9.30am. This would enable ministers to do a service at another church as well as ours, other churches that don't normally join us on zoom to worship with us and that people could attend church and then make the most of the rest of their Sunday.

Same Sex Marriages – the Church Council previously agreed to accept the idea of having Same Sex Marriages in our Church but did not progress this matter any further. Following the invitation to take part in the Calne Pride Event in June the Church Council decided that we would like to register the Church to be able to hold Same Sex Marriages.

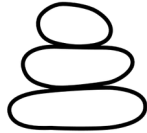




Relax and Enjoy  
**MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT**  
and  
**AFTERNOON TEA**  
WITH A LITTLE  
**CHRISTMAS SPICE**  
**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23rd 2024**  
**CALNE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**3.00PM - 5.30PM**  
All Donations gratefully received  
**RAISING FUNDS**  
FOR  
This year's charity -  
to be decided at our Annual Church Meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Come to the meeting and make a suggestion



## A Hymn/Prayer for Remembrance Sunday



*May be used as a prayer or sung to the music, Finlandia, by Jean Sibelius*

Grant peace, O Lord, across our strife-torn world,  
Where war divides and greed and dogma drive.  
Help us to learn the lessons from the past,  
That all are human and all pay the price.  
All life is dear and should be treated so;  
Joined, not divided, is the way to go.  
Protect, dear Lord, all who, on our behalf,  
Now take the steps that place them in harm's way.  
May they find courage for each task they face  
By knowing they are in our thoughts always.  
Then, duty done and missions at an end,  
Return them safe to family and friends.  
Grant rest, O Lord, to those no longer with us;  
Who died protecting us and this their land.  
Bring healing, Lord, to those who, through their service,  
Bear conflict's scars on body or in mind.  
With those who mourn support and comfort share.  
Give strength to those who for hurt loved-ones care.  
And some there be who no memorial have;  
Who perished are as though they'd never been.  
For our tomorrows their today they gave,  
And simply asked that in our hearts they'd live.  
We heed their call and pledge ourselves again,  
At dusk and dawn – we will remember them!

Charles Henrywood, 2009

## We who Remain

We are indeed the Lucky and unlucky ones.  
As we are the ones who have lived to tell the  
tales of those we once knew.

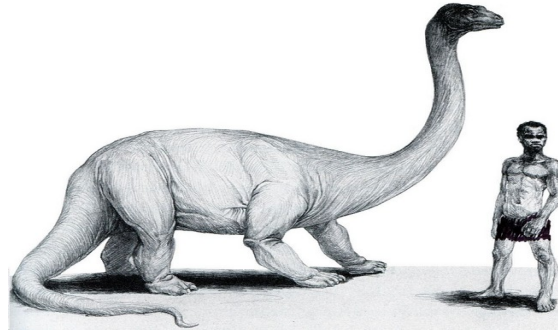
We are the ones who carry those scars of  
things seen, done and lost.  
We are the ones who must never let those  
who are not here be forgotten by the new.

We are the ones who will never need to be  
reminded that "We will remember them"  
As we are the ones who will always remember  
those we forever call friend.

*Written by Anthony Devanny, Warrant Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> class of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Yorkshire  
regiment- (recently amalgamated in to the 1<sup>st</sup> Yorkshire Regiment)- Veteran  
of three tours of duty in Afghanistan whilst he was waiting to return to duty*

Submitted by Brian Bassett

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 – Talk –  
Extraordinary Animals with Derek Gard**



What you probably don't know about Derek is that since he was a very small boy, he has been fascinated by mystery animals. He is a member of the CFZ Trust (Cryptozoological society), and this illustrated talk explores the probability of mystery animals existing.

So, if you want an interesting night travelling around the world and letting your imagination fly, this is the talk for you.

Refreshments provided, donations for church funds.

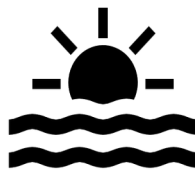
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 pm  
Talk - Japan  
with Michele and Derek Gard**



Earlier this year Michel and Derek traveled to Japan for a very special holiday. They would like to share with you an illustrated talk about the gardens and culture of this unique country.

Don't worry this isn't a 1000 pictures of their holiday but an insight into the land of the rising sun.

Refreshments provided, donations for church funds.



## November jokes

Some people drink deeply from the well of knowledge. Some just rinse and spit.

Why did the chicken cross the road? Because it finally accepted it would never escape the stereotype.

Why are people suddenly fearful of AI? For years, most organisations I deal with have employed AI: An Idiot.

Car & Driver says that 95% of electric cars are still on the road. The remaining 5% made it all the way home.

In America, a man has been found guilty of stealing 2000 erasures and 150 bottles of Tippex from the office supply cupboard. Sentencing, the judge said, "I have no alternative other than sending you to a correctional facility."

Why did Karl Marx despise Earl Grey tea? Because all proper tea is theft.

My new job in Cyprus is going well. I have to look out for people who fall asleep in a nightclub. It's called, eye a nappe.

### **GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:**

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always Catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year-old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandma's lap.



# **CHRISTMAS CRAFTS**

## **CAKES &**

## **COFFEE EVENT**

**SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**METHODIST CHURCH AND HALL**

**SILVER STREET, CALNE**

**11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.**

**TRADICRAFT GOODS - FAIRLY TRADED PRODUCTS  
BOOKS, JEWELLERY, CRAFTS,  
HOMEMADE CAKES, PRESERVES & MUCH MORE  
FAIRTRADE TEA & COFFEE  
REFRESHMENTS**



**PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE HALL IF YOU CAN HELP ON THE  
DAY. WE ARE ALSO COLLECTING ITEMS FOR THE  
TOMBOLA.**





## **Advent Lunch**

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**12:15 In Church Hall**

**Stuffed Turkey Roll\*  
with  
Roast Potatoes & Vegetables  
+  
Christmas Pudding / Trifle  
+  
Tea/Coffee**

**(\* Vegetarian Option Available)**

Sign-up sheet available in Church Hall early November

**\*\* Please advise Caroline of any food allergies**