

# CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024



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

**Jan Sayers**

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

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

How our gardens and fields change through this busy time of year. Gardens continue to develop requiring weeding, picking, planting, sowing. The farmers work dawn to dusk harvesting and helping one another by sharing equipment and labour.

By now the weather is becoming colder darker in the afternoons earlier so by 7.30 in the evening, our lights are on, and by 8, it is dark outside. The fields around us will have been ploughed, and at times the smell of the manure, is evident as I drive to and through the countryside in the area. The leaves are turning; gold before brown, some pale and lifeless. This summer of mixed blessings and lots of rain, will soon be just a memory. Clear nights, cold winds from the north, Bonfire Night, and other seasonal festivities will replace the joy of light evenings, and wide-open windows.

Winter is coming and this season of change provides a perfect occasion to reflect on where we are in life. To react to change and feel and display love to those around us, especially towards those who have less and to display such feelings throughout the whole of the year.

How much I have learned in ministry regarding our shared lives in the community. I have come to love, Harvest, Carnival, Remembrance, Christmas, Covenant, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. You see Church and community are entwined in celebrations and seasons, remembrance and thanksgiving.

People come to church during festivals to respect and honour those who are no longer with us. For some it may be the first time in many years. They gather at our churches in joy and hope to celebrate our shared lives in community.

They find the church and the gathered community as it always was co-dependant on each other, in so many ways. Shared meals, coffee mornings shared worship, a place of stillness and renewal. A place to contemplate the power of God in the world. To value our rich and varied tradition of sacred space and context. This is life in ministry.

Autumn mists and cooler mornings herald the changing season. Early morning mist decorates spider's webs with jewelled beads of moisture, and the sheep appear on early morning walks as ghostly disinterested figures.

The season marches on and so soon it will be Bonfire Night, as we journey onwards the smell of wood smoke will permeate the air as

the occasional bonfire is lit to signal the gardens' clearance and replanting. I am now part of a long tradition of seasonal cooperation, with the land and all of its people, and I am privileged to play my small part.

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.*

The wisdom found in that reading in Ecclesiastes 3, reflects our collective understanding of God community, nature and ourselves.

*'Moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, that which is, already has been; that which is to be'.* Ecclesiastes 3:11

And as I reflect on the beauty of the people, the towns and villages, our churches and the land they have stood on for centuries I am grateful and at peace.....

May such a peace come to you all.

Stay safe and well

Craig



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#### **Forthcoming Services:**

<b>6<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Rev Craig Manley including Holy Communion</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Rev Maree Farrimond</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Local Arrangement</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Rev Roy Fowler</b>



## Pastoral News

Thank you Lord for Harvest.

Our Sector Service which celebrated Harvest was on September 29<sup>th</sup>. It was wonderful to share the Harvest Meal with members of Bromham, Corsham and Warminster congregations.

People were very generous in their giving of food items which will go to the Calne food bank. Thank you for your continuous generosity throughout the year. We pray for all those struggling due to the consistent rise in the cost of living.

We pray for those who have been in hospital recently and who are still not completely well; for those who are going into hospital for either treatment or an operation;

and for those who care for and support them.

Throughout October 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.



### Refugee Prayer Focus October 2024

Let us pray for all those who are leaving their homes in Lebanon though they have nowhere to go.

Let us pray for a change in hearts and minds.

## 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.

Thank you to everyone who donated something at our Harvest Festival - your gifts will be taken to the Calne Food Bank.



A Message Received On Our Website From Gerald Hird who kindly playing the organ for us at Harvest

Thank you to all who prepared, sang and led the joint Harvest meal today.

I think all were

Moved by the service which was a true spiritual uplifting sharing of praise and prayer.

An army of volunteers helped the occasion and the church was attractively prepared.

Fellowship of this sort can only encourage members in their daily life and service. Praying for your witness and work in your community.

Thank you again- a real privilege to be among you all. Blessings to you all.

*Thank you to everyone who helped make our Autumn Fair and Harvest Lunch so successful. Not only in terms of fund raising but also as social events.*

***The Autumn Fair raised £846.40 & the Harvest Lunch £330.14***

*A big THANK YOU for your generosity in time as well as money.*

## A Note From Eileen Burns

I would like to thank everyone at Calne Methodist Church for their kind thoughts and cards on hearing of Michael's death. I am pleased that some of the members watched the Liveview of his funeral in church or in their homes. Michael loved the church and the fellowship it provided. We were both sad to leave, but in retrospect it was a good move and I am really glad to be close to Matthew. The donations for Shelter will be forwarded to the charity. If anyone is travelling through Leominster I provide good tea and coffee and clean toilets! It is not a place you stumble through accidentally but if you are coming this way Jan has my address and could let you have it. Thank you again, Eileen



**Sunday**  
**13th October**  
**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.



# Dates for your diary

All are very welcome to come along and join in.

Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Coffee and Chat

Time: 10.00am - 11.30am

Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Friendly Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup>

Entertainment - Ladies wot does dance

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Church Hall

Refreshments included

Wednesday October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Supper and Film Night

Time: 6.30pm Tickets £10 please prebook for Sausage and Mash

Venue: Church Hall

Film: Mary Poppins Returns

Wednesday November 13<sup>th</sup>

Casablanca revisited talk by Edward Barham

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Refreshments included

Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup>

Afternoon Concert

Time: 3.00pm

Venue: Church

Refreshments included donations gratefully received

# Ladies Wot does dance.

## 9<sup>th</sup> October 7.00pm



We are delighted to have the ladies dance group, Ladies Wot does dance joining us on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October at 7.00pm in the church hall.

They say of themselves: -

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

They include our very own Lynda Rumming.

Refreshments included.

Donations on the night for church funds.



# It's Mary Poppins Returns in a food and film night on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 6.30pm



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## **6.30pm Supper and Film**

Sausage and Mash followed by Disney's latest incarnation of Mary in Mary Poppins Returns. Includes singalong.

Delicious Sausage and Mash with Onion gravy. Vegetarian options available.

Tickets: £10 –

Advance booking required please. Add your name to the list in the Church Hall or email Derek Gard. Payment on the night.

Thanks to Michele Gard for organising this.

## **This is Bertie Pig!**



Bertie Pig was born at Warm Spaces over the summer and entered in the Music Festival Pig art competition. He is one of the fifty pigs picked to be exhibited at the Heritage Centre during October to commemorate the fifty years of the Calne Music Festival.

We are immensely proud of him.

With big thanks to Lorna for all she did in decorating Bertie.

If you have a few minutes to spare, then pop along to the Heritage Centre to see Bertie and his friends.

Derek

## **Evie Calne Book Swap box to be installed on Front wall of church.**

We are going to take part by being one of the locations for an Evie book swap box. It will be fixed to the wall adjoining the Noticeboard and people will be able to exchange books.

Below is a copy of a Calne news report that explains the background to the boxes.

### ***New all-weather version of Evie's Book Swap box installed.***

*Published: 15 February 2023*

*A Calne mother has opened a new book swap unit dedicated to the memory of her daughter.*

*Made from an old doll's house, the original book swap was set up by Leanne Hames, from Calne, in 2021.*

*She dedicated it to her daughter Evie, 15, who died in 2020 following struggles with her mental health.*

*After several spells of bad weather, the unit was almost completely destroyed and Ms Hames sought the help of a community group, Calne Men's Shed to replace it. They helped her to build a brand-new unit that would withstand the weather.*

*Ms Hames now wants to expand the book swap project and has spoken to Calne's WordFest about installing more units around the town.*

We will be one of those boxes which has been supplied and installed by Calne Men's shed.

I will keep you informed of developments over the next few months, Derek



## To Autumn

by John Keats

"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells...  
Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?  
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—  
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,  
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;  
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
Among the river shallows, borne aloft  
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;  
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;  
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft  
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies."





## The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Compiled by Max Bowen