

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025



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Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the March 2025 issue is
Sunday 23rd February

There is a saying in the Military, *"If you cannot take a joke.... you shouldn't have joined up!"*

This phrase was often used in explanation when being faced with a multitude of dire situations. Dark humour was a way that we dealt with our fears, the challenges and often the loss of friends and comrades.

This was also true in the police, as in most of the emergency services...humour enabled us to cope, to deal with the sights and experiences each day, that most in society would not even contemplate. Having dealt with one grim situation, quite often we would be pitched into another, straight after..... having to attend with a blank piece of paper so to speak, putting the previous job behind us without thinking. Humour is important but can also bring trouble.

A young probationary officer was dropped off at a road junction to stop vehicles and report any offences. He stopped a van for having a defective light. The crusty old driver decided to kick off, the usual, "haven't you any real villains to catch" etc. etc. The officer asked him his name and snappily he replied, "it's on the van". The constable wandered round the van came back and casually asked "and what's your first name Mr. Transit". The driver was not amused and made an official complaint. True story..... www.policeoracle.com

Not everyone is cut out to serve in the military or police, not everyone can serve in the emergency service responders. It can be a harsh environment and humour is our defence mechanism that enables us to deal with whatever comes our way. Observed from the outside it can seem to be irreverent or inappropriate, which is why the close relationship found with partners, teams or military groups is of the uttermost importance. We place our lives in the hands of those we trust on a regular basis.

A relative of mine once related a story regarding military service in Afghanistan when the armoured vehicle he was travelling in detonated a land mine. The vehicle was virtually destroyed, but the crew and passengers survived. Deaf from the blast, in shock, and smoking a cigarette by the side of the road, a friend sat next to my relative and commented, *"You know mate, we have got to get out of this place...its becoming just a little bit dangerous!"* Cue hysterical laughter from the assembled group. A masterpiece of understatement but the laughter lifted the fear of how close the call had been, and ensured that they finished *together*, the patrol that they had started.

Once at a Circuit meeting, the assembled church representatives reflected on what qualities are required to serve Christ in the world. Love, humility, justice, and kindness, were all offered as vital.....and I added *a sense of humour*.....

If God deems that not to be the case, when I finally arrive in that special place, I will be in a lot of trouble. I have lived all my adult life in this way. I have served Queen, Country, and community, in one way or another for over 50 years without a break.

I have done so with humour, optimism, and hope. The experience of service has stood me in good stead within Ministry. Serving God can at times, be a lonely place, without the companions found in the areas mentioned above. But then, I do have God at my side and that always makes the difference.

I meet the challenges of each day with a smile and hope in my heart. Like the military, and the police, I do not know what will come my way, but I do know that God will help me through it. A

smile can light up a room, laughter always dissipates the sadness, confidence removes the fear and doubt. In these times we must meet each day confident that all will be well. The smile you share with the world can cause others to smile in return, brightening both your days. 'Smile at any obstacle, for it is but a bridge'. There is a lot of truth in that quote. I remember my first ever sermon delivered to a small chapel in North East Somerset. Afterwards one of the matriarchal elderly ladies beckoned to me and said, "Good lad, don't talk that theological rubbish, tell us a good story, keep it simple, and leave it to God!"

I had to laugh after years of theological studies, but I have stuck firmly to that advice. We read in the scripture, *there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to weep and a time to laugh.*

We do not know if Micah had a sense of humour, but he did relate what God requires of us.

Micah 6:8 New Revised Standard Version

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Simple sound advice to follow whatever life brings, but when you are able to do it with a smile.....the world will really begin to understand and see, the Good News gospel of Jesus Christ.

Stay safe and well and God go with you all.

Craig



Army Nation

Forthcoming Services:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 2nd February | Rev Gary Gotham including Holy Communion |
| 9th February | Mrs Joanne Williams |
| 16th February | Local Arrangement |
| 19th February | Rev Craig Manley – midweek Holy Communion 10.30am |
| 23rd February | Rev Roy Fowler |



Pastoral News

We give thanks for all the pastoral work done at Warm Spaces and for the Prayer Lunch group.

We pray: for members of our church community who have had to visit the hospital recently; for those who have recurring health issues; for those who have long term health issues and for those who are still waiting for results or action from consultants; for those concerned about family members but feel helpless to provide comfort or assist in resolutions to problems.

Throughout February we particularly pray for all those people in our wider community who come to 'Messy Church'.

As part of our Christian commitment is to care for and support each other I ask that if you have any Joys or Sorrows that can be shared in our pastoral news please let me know. Thank you. Ursula



Refugee Prayer Focus February 2025

This month we should keep praying for the returning hostages from Gaza and Israel, and the families of those who will not be returning. Let us also be thankful for the movement so far.

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.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Singathon for All We Can - we raised £396 and had a jolly good time singing our hearts out. Special thank you to Ursula for organising the singing, Julie for her great work in the kitchen and all those who accompanied the singers.



Lent Group

Advance Notice - Craig and Derek will be running a Lent Group at our Church starting on Thursday 13th March in the hall at 2.00pm for five weeks - ALL WELCOME



Dates for your diary

All are very welcome to come along and join in.

Tuesday February 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

Coffee and Chat

Time: 10.00am - 11.30am

Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th

Warm Spaces Free food and drink for all

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Saturday February 22nd

Ladies Wot Dance

Time: 2.30pm - 4pm

Venue: Church hall

Including refreshments

Friday March 7th

World Day of Prayer Service

Time: 10.30am

Venue: Catholic Church

Saturday March 8th

Coffee and Craft Fair

Time: 11.00am - 2.00pm

Venue: Church and hall

Thursday March 20th

The Making of Casablanca an illustrated talk by Edward Barham

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Including refreshments

Thursday April 24th

Poetry Evening

Time: 7pm

Venue: Church hall Including refreshments

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**‘I MADE YOU WONDERFUL’
FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2025 CALNE CATHOLIC CHURCH
10.30AM
ALL ARE WELCOME**

**This prayer day used to be known as
WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Still women led, Still a global Ecumenical Movement
This year the service has been prepared by Christian women from the
COOK ISLANDS**



**The family duo illustrate the vital role women play in keeping
their heritage and traditions alive.
Women honour God with skilfully woven hats from strands of rito, the
young coconut leaf.**

If you require transport please contact Ursula

PROPERTY UPDATE



Carpet in Vestibule

We have placed the order with the carpet company in December and they were hoping to start the work in January. Unfortunately, they are still waiting for the carpet to be delivered from the factory. They hope the work will commence now in February.

The work will include new door jams.

De-Humidifier

The Church Council agreed last year to the purchase of a larger dehumidifier to replace the portable one that we use in the church. The new one will be plumbed into a drain at the rear of the church. We went to purchase this item last week and the model we decided on was out of stock, we are waiting for it to become available and again hope to have this completed soon.

Damp to rear corridor adjoining the Vestry.

We have had quotes for this work and decided on a local firm, Sovereign Damp, who did the work to the front of the church in 2023. Whilst conducting the work which will cost approximately £4,000, they will also look under the floor outside the vestry to make sure the floor joists are ok. This work will commence on Thursday 6th February and take a week to commence. They will remove all the plaster up to the damp line, Approximately 4 feet in the corridor and in the Alan Bristow and Vestry. They will treat the wall with a damp proof barrier and replaster.

Blinds in the Kitchen

Two new blinds for the kitchen have been ordered. Again, we had expected the work to be done this month, but the factory that makes them have missed this time scale. We expect the work to be completed now in February. We have applied for a grant to cover this cost.

Dishwasher

Last week the dishwasher in the kitchen stopped working. We are currently exploring options to replace it.

Property Meeting

The next property meeting is on Thursday 6th February at 11.30am.

Ursula and Derek

Ladies wot does Dance - Concert

Saturday 22nd February 2025

2.00pm until 4.00pm

Calne Methodist Church Hall

Light Refreshments provided.

Donations on the day.



Enjoy this joyful expression of dance. Ladies wot does dance are a small group of mature ladies from Cherhill, Calne and Midsummer Norton (Somerset) We love to dance and have fun to different types of music.

We have danced at care homes and have done dance shows for charity. Our dances encompass genres from the 1920s, Broadway Rock and roll and Latin.

Our next show in the Calne Methodist Church on the 22nd of February, will include a mixture of all these. We look forward to seeing you.

Volunteers Wanted



WARM SPACES – Wednesdays

Can you spare some time to help on the occasional Wednesday.

We are looking for people who are good at listening, enjoy a chat and want to help the local community.

We have three time periods on the day. From 9.30pm until 12.00 midday. 12.00 midday until 2.00pm and 2.00pm until 4.15 pm. You do not have to volunteer all day or every week.

Any training if required will be provided.

If you are interested or want more information, please speak to Derek.

Messy Church – 2nd Sunday Monthly

We are looking for someone to help in the kitchen to help prepare Sunday tea. The hours are from 4.00pm until 6.00pm. If you are interested or want more information, please speak to Michele.

VALENTINES JOKES



How do vampires know if they had a successful Valentine's Day?

If it's love at first bite.

Did Adam and Eve ever have a date?

No, they had an apple.

Why shouldn't you fall in love with a pastry chef?

He'll dessert you.

What did the gardener say to their date?

"I dig you."

What did one triangle say to the other on Valentine's Day?

"You're acute."

Why are my feet cold on Valentine's Day?

Because you knocked my socks off.

Are you on the internet?

Because I'm feeling a connection.

When should you ask someone out on a coffee date?

When you like them a latte.

A poster for a Spring Crafts Cakes & Coffee Event. The background is a light cream color with a decorative border of green ferns, white daisies, and purple flowers. The text is in blue and black. The main title is in large blue letters. The date and location are also in blue. The time is in blue. The details of the event are in black.

SPRING CRAFTS CAKES & COFFEE EVENT

**SATURDAY 8th MARCH, 2025
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 TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THIS EVENT

**PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE HALL IF YOU CAN MAKE A CAKE/S OR HELP ON THE
DAY.**

WE ARE NOW COLLECTING ITEMS FOR THE TOMBOLA TOO.



An informal church for all ages and all the family.
Have fun and explore the Bible through crafts, songs,
games, drama, activities and food.

**Sunday afternoons at Calne Methodist Church
from 3.00pm - 6.00pm**

Dates for 2025

12 January

9 February

9 March

13 April

11 May

8 June

13 July

No session in August

14 September

12 October

9 November

14 December

All are welcome - no need to book - come and join in!

A Calne Partnership of Churches activity

Children must be accompanied by an adult please

For more information, contact Michele Gard on calne.methodist.church@gmail.com