

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER MARCH 2025



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Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the April 2025 issue is

Sunday 30th March



It has been a trying time for me over the last couple of years recovering from not one but two debilitating illnesses. I have **not** been incapacitated very often in life but had more than my fair share of sporting injuries in my younger days. Such periods of enforced rest and recuperation often bring with it a chance to review the past, to look towards the future, perhaps with a different perspective?

After many years, our area looks to review and change what we have had in the past. So many people have given so much of their precious time, to provide a link to our town's communities and churches.

May I voice my personal thanks on behalf of all in our communities for the work people carried out on our behalf, in love, in friendship and with patience. But sometimes illness, increasing age, lack of able people and resources, will eventually bring about enforced changes. Endings and hopefully new and *different* beginnings.

Perhaps therefore I have thought this month to speak about balance.... about maintaining that equilibrium, of harmony and peace within life and work. Someone once said, ***“the key to keeping your balance is knowing where you lost it.”*** I'm still pondering that one but I kind of think Bruton Methodist Church in Somerset springs to mind...an unforgiving wet stone church floor and slick leather shoes may reveal some indicators, ending in a broken kneecap!

In this month of March, the season of Lent figures prominently in church life. March days often point to the many meanings of balance.... days of preparation for new life and new growth. Lent honours the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for a ministry that led to the cross. He didn't retreat to the desolate place to escape his calling but went to steady himself and find his own centre within it. How can we begin to understand what is needed in our own spiritual ministry?

I think, it starts with acknowledging where we “lost” our balance in the first place. For me that's an easy one, but if I was more honest, maybe I had begun to lose some of the balance in my life before that accident, and through the two illnesses that followed.

The questions for each of us to consider must be, do we *really* emulate, in our behaviour, the one who called us to serve in the first place?

I recently discovered a well-known quote about balance which says, ***“A well-developed sense of humour is the pole that adds balance to your steps as you walk the tightrope of life.”***

I smile as I read that and look at my father's walking stick that helped me on a lantern journey of healing and wholeness in the past, with the words of my grandparents echoing in my ears.... **More haste less speed...**

It simply means that you make better progress with any task if you don't try to do it too quickly.

Slow down, reflect on who we are, and where we are going.

Consider and give thanks for the spring...and the new life that is once again almost upon us. Have you noticed the early signs of spring this year? There are hopeful signs of new life. Beneath the earth, the spring bulbs, having rested in the cold and frozen earth, are now drawing life from the soil made fertile with last year's remains, and they seem so far on this year. Our spiritual life mimics nature and requires change and removal for new life to appear.

Almost Spring.... almost there..... But in Christ, **certain...** that we too are blessed with the gift of new life.

Go Well!But go with God.

Craig and Elizabeth

Forthcoming Services:

2 nd March	Rev Craig Manley including Holy Communion
9 th March	Worship Leaders
16 th March	To be confirmed
23 rd March	Mr Derek Gard
30 th March	Sector Service at St Aldhelm's in Corsham



Refugee Prayer Focus March 2025

Let us pray for all those small charities struggling to maintain their fundraising work in these difficult times, and the many projects and individuals who depend on them.

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.



Pastoral News

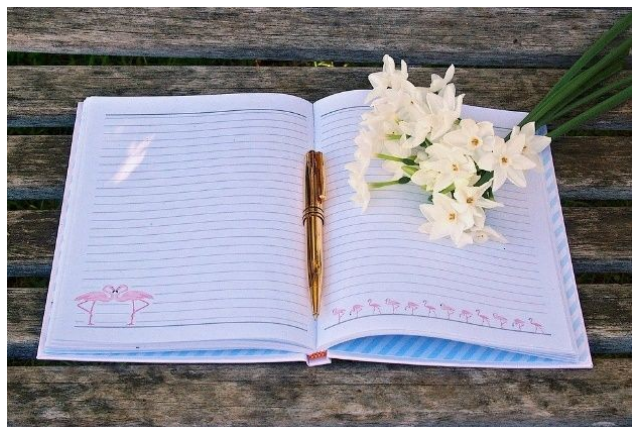
Congratulations goes to Lewis Cameron for being selected to be part of the GB U17 American Football Squad this season. Well done Lewis.

We pray: for members of our church community who have been in hospital recently; for those receiving treatment; for those who have long term health issues and for those who are caring for them; for those concerned about family members but feel helpless to provide comfort or assist in resolutions to problems.

Thank you for all prayers given, those hanging on our prayer tree, those in our prayer book, those spoken at prayer lunch and those shared for prayer nine.

Throughout March we particularly pray for Miriam Crighton's Pastoral Group: Kay Bibby, Janet Boswell, Julie Gibson, Edith Pearson and Graham Spyer.

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



Dates for your diary

All are very welcome to come along and join in.

Tuesday March 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th
Coffee and Chat
Time: 10.00am - 11.30am
Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday March 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th
Warm Spaces Free food and drink for all
Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Venue: Church Hall

Saturday March 8th
Coffee and Craft Fair
Time: 11.00am - 2.00pm
Venue: Church hall

Lent Course
March 13th, 20th, 27th, April 3rd and 10th
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Church

Thursday March 20th
The Making of Casablanca an illustrated talk by Edward Barham
Time: 7.00pm
Venue: Church Hall
Interval refreshments
Donations to Nasio Trust and Doorway

Thursday April 24th
Poetry Evening
Time: 7.00pm
Venue: Church Hall
Including refreshments

Saturday April 26th
Calne Spring Sing
Time: 11.00am onwards
Venue: Calne Town Hall, Library and others around the Town
A variety of Choirs/ Singing Groups to entertain you Free Event

LENT STUDY COURSE



LIFE SOURCE

A 5-session course on prayer for lent

Based on Robert Warren and Kate Bruce study course.

13th March – Source of Life -Prayer as relationship

20th March – Source of Joy- Prayer as enjoying God

27th March - Source of Light- Prayer as Listening

3rd April - Source of Wholeness- Prayer as honesty

10th April - Source of Love- Prayer as care

2.00pm at Calne Methodist Church

All are Welcome.

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

From the Treasurer...

Back in January 2024 I expressed concern that our regular income from freewill offering was going down (because several long-standing and generous members of the congregation had either died or moved away) and that our regular expenditure was going up (because of inflation). I observed that if our increased expenditure were not matched by an increase in freewill giving, we would have to either make up the shortfall with ever-increasing amounts of fundraising or else face the prospect of our limited financial reserves being rapidly eroded until they ran out.

My concern had been prompted by the fact that in the year to August 2023 our freewill offering added up to £21,287, whereas in each of the two previous years it had totalled over £24,000. I am now very pleased to be able to confirm that the corresponding total for the year to August 2024 was £24,476, a significant increase on the previous year, and that this increase in freewill giving is being sustained in the current financial year. Nevertheless, the fact that our income from freewill offering is back to the level of four years ago needs to be looked at in the context of price inflation of around 20% over the same period.

I recognise that many of you have already increased your regular donations to the church, and I never cease to be amazed by the generosity of your freewill offerings. Nevertheless, can I please urge everybody who makes regular donations to the church to review the amount they give with a view to increasing it if they are able to do so, especially if they have not changed their monthly Standing Order for some time.

If you are not currently doing so, please consider making your freewill offering via a Standing Order or by regular or irregular payments direct to the church bank account.

You can also make your freewill offerings by cheques, payable to Calne Methodist Church, left in the collection plate at church. You can now also make a freewill offering using the card reader which is left by the collection plate. Whilst we will, of course, accept cash donations in the collection plate at Sunday services, please make your donations by another method if possible.

If you are a UK taxpayer and do not already allow us to claim Gift Aid on your donations to the church, please contact Derek Gard, our Gift Aid Secretary, so that we can claim Gift Aid on your donations from HMRC.

Simon Purtell

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
to
An Entertaining Evening
On
THE MAKING
Of
CASABLANCA

Edward Barham
Reveals the True Story of the Cast
and of the Production

Calne Methodist Church Hall
Thursday March 20th 2025
7.00pm

Interval refreshments

All donations gratefully received for our nominated
charities: Nasio Trust and Doorway

Please invite your friends to come along with you to this
interesting and captivating evening.

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