

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER JUNE 2025



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the July 2025 issue is

Sunday 29th June



Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Elizabeth and I have been talking recently about the future, the various permutations of life that we may someday experience. Our vision of the future will no doubt be different from the reality of our ministry, calling and mission in what the Lord has in mind for us both. Because when all said and done, we have no idea about what will be, or where we will go. Most people want to make plans to establish an order of what they *hope* will become reality in life’s journey. We do this because it makes us feel more secure, yet the reality is, we have no influence to predict what will become of us. We will do all the right things to care for ourselves and the ones we love, but there will never be any guarantee that our actions alone, will make things right.

A member within my congregation once told me about how I had given them some broad beans seeds for growing in their garden. The seeds were planted out and in the green house but became scorched. Moved to the garden they then had to endure the strong winds which battered the plants into a weak submission. The beans now looking deeply sorry for themselves, weak and failing, were eventually moved out of general sight resting between garden shed and greenhouse, to end their days without human interference.

It was later reported that the plants had blossomed and grown. They were strong and productive. Nature has reclaimed the natural order of things, and God’s creation is nurturing God’s purpose in all living things. Pentecost is approaching and always stirs within us our vision of what we have done, what we are doing and what we could do for God in the future. We reflect and ponder what our new calling should be when we hear the Spirit’s voice within us. This is also true for our area churches, the URC Synod, and indeed for the whole Methodist Conference. Changes perhaps we would have never considered before any period of perceived wilderness and isolation are becoming real.

There are lessons to be learned by each one of us as we bring our own stories to mind, as we sing our own personal song in praise of God. The lesson of the bean shows that in life everything must undergo trials and hardship, extremes of things that batter and reduce all to a weakened state.

Then when all hope seems gone, the mystery of God, Spirit, and Saviour, produces results that we could have never imagined from our lowest point of hopelessness.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah was clearly not one of the more popular preachers of his day. It is unlikely that his diary was full of engagements or that he was invited to leadership meetings planning the next wave of revival. In fact, in his times of dejection, he sat alone, lamenting the day of his birth, and describing himself as a "man of strife and contention" whom everyone cursed. Yet Jeremiah wrote some beautiful words describing restoration, showing the people that there would be a "future and a hope" when they sought the Lord with all their heart.

We often lose sight of that promise in times such as these. We struggle to maintain the wonderful visions we had when things were going well. My first foray into church worship, was as a six-year-old, dressed in a tweed suit of short pants and jacket, complete with a tweed dickie bow, singing solo this old chorus from the top tier of the Church anniversary staging; *My Lord knows the way through the wilderness; All I have to do is follow. My Lord knows the way through the wilderness; All I have to do is follow. Strength for today is mine always, and all that I need for tomorrow; My Lord knows the way through the wilderness; All I have to do is follow.*

In our current wilderness of uncertainty and doubt, there is a truth in the simple words of that chorus. We would do well as, individuals, churches, and circuit to heed and adopt such an ethos. It is simple, just follow where He leads. Follow through storms and sunshine, through deserts and abundance, life and death, happiness, and sadness. He alone knows the way, the future, the beginning, and end. And he is with us during our isolation and dejection. This hope is not for our own consolation and strength. It is meant to be shared! Like Jeremiah we must proclaim this living hope in our word and deeds! As Peter records, "Always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who calls you to account *for the hope that is in you* yet do it with gentleness and reverence." 1 Peter 3:15

In our own lives, our struggle in living well for God, though we fail sometimes, God is patient with us, working in us to bring about the best for our lives. Even in the most desperate of times, new life and growth can be just around the corner in God's own time, Just like the beans.....

God bless you and keep you, may you always hold that hope in your hearts.

Craig

Forthcoming Services:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1st June | Rev Craig Manley including Holy Communion |
| 8th June | Mrs Jenny Colby |
| 15th June | Derek Gard |
| 22nd June | Local Arrangement |
| 29th June | Sector Service at Bromham Methodist Church |



Refugee Prayer Focus June 2025

“God of grace and glory

Open our eyes that we may see the world through your eyes,

Open our ears so that we might hear cries for justice with your ears, open our hearts that we might share your compassion

Open our minds that we might discern your truth, open our mouths that we might speak your word. Embolden us with your spirit that we might respond to all we see and hear, put into practice all that we are learning from you, and be messengers of your grace and glory. Amen.

Rachel Deigh, mission partner, Sierra Leone

Taken from the 2024 – 2025 Methodist Church 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.

Pastoral News



We express our deepest sympathy to Marion and her family, Stephen, Kate Ellie and the grandchildren of Mike Pitman who passed away on May 16th. Marion extends an invitation to Mike's funeral which is Tuesday June 3rd at Holy Trinity Church at 11.15am and afterwards at Wellington Barn. Mike will be greatly missed by family and friends.

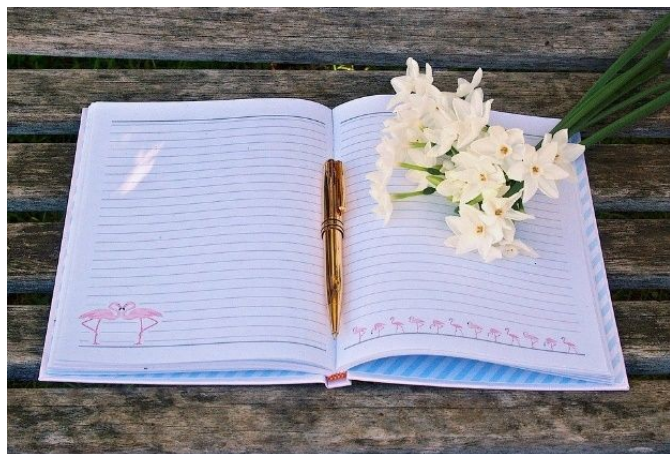
We pray for:- individuals and families who find themselves in difficult situations; those who are lonely; those in the course of moving house; those who have long term health issues and receiving chemotherapy and for all who care for

and support people in these various situations.

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.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our church family and community. Throughout June we particularly pray for Eleanor Bujalska's pastoral group: Pauline Appleby, Yvonne Brett, Caroline Foster, Michele and Derek Gard, Jill McCondach, Maisie Price, Jan and Rob Sayers, Ruth Whittard, 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. Thank you.



Dates for your diary

All are very welcome to come along and join in.

Tuesday June 3rd 10th 17th 24th

Coffee and Chat

Time: 10.00am - 11.30am

Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday June 4th, 11th 18th & 25th

Warm Spaces Free food and drink for all

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Sunday June 1st

Super Summer Meal

Time: 12.30pm

Venue: Church Hall

Saturday June 14th

Coffee and Craft Fair

Time: 11.00am - 2.00pm

Venue: Methodist Church

See poster for more details

Saturday July 26th

Charity Concert Tickets £8

Time: 3.00pm

Venue: Methodist Church

See poster for more details

Sunday August 17th

Outdoor Service

Time: 11.30pm

Venue: Langley Burrell

Friday Evening November 14th

Saturday Afternoon November 15th

Production of 'Eclipse' about Herod's last days.

Venue: Methodist Church



**Sunday
8th June**

**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

Calne Carnival

If you can help handing out leaflets at the Calne Carnival on 28th June please sign up in the list in the hall.



FILLING A NEED

Both Elizabeth Manley and Ursula Barham have been approached to set up a group for women which enables them to talk about issues of personal importance and sensitivity.

We have booked two meeting times:

2.00pm Thursday June 5th.

Venue: The Manse

38 Horsebrook Park Calne SN11 8EY

All are welcome. For further information please contact Elizabeth Manley



JOYFUL JULY CHARITY CONCERT

with
AFTERNOON TEA

Saturday July 26th
3.00pm – 5.30pm

Calne Methodist Church

Featuring:

SupaNova

Reckless Recorders

Silver Street Choir

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join us among old friends and new.

Tickets:- Adults £8. Children Free

**Proceeds to Doorway Wiltshire and the Nasio
Trust.**



Contact Ursula Barham



**PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP ON THE DAY OR TO PROVIDE
CAKES - ITEMS FOR THE TOMBOLA AND CHILDREN'S
TOMBOLA ARE ALSO BEING COLLECTED IN THE BOX IN
THE HALL**

Pentecost



I found this poem whilst looking at resources for Pentecost Sunday, Its by Malcolm Guite, his thoughts about it are:-

Our Mother-tongue Is Love; A Sonnet for Pentecost

Drawn from 'Sounding the Seasons', my cycle of sonnets for the Church Year, this is a sonnet reflecting on and celebrating the themes and readings of Pentecost. Throughout the cycle, and more widely, I have been reflecting on the traditional 'four elements' of earth, air, water and fire. I have been considering how each of them expresses and embodies different aspects of the Gospel and of God's goodness, as though the four elements were, in their own way, another four evangelists. In that context I was very struck by the way Scripture expresses the presence of the Holy Spirit through the three most dynamic of the four elements, the air, (a mighty rushing wind, but also the breath of the spirit) water, (the waters of baptism, the river of life, the fountain springing up to eternal life promised by Jesus) and of course fire, the tongues of flame at Pentecost. Three out of four ain't bad, but I was wondering, where is the fourth? Where is earth? And then I realised that we ourselves are earth, the 'Adam' made of the red clay, and we become living beings, fully alive, when the Holy Spirit, clothed in the three other elements comes upon us and becomes a part of who we are. So something of that reflection is embodied in the sonnet.

Our Mother-tongue Is Love; A Sonnet for Pentecost

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire ,air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation.

Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.

At the last CPC meeting I spoke about a Christian Festival that is being planned for the August bank holiday weekend in Bremhill.

Kim Vale (organising) has now put together a web site for the festival and has asked me to get it circulated round the CPC churches.

She says in her email to me:-

“I made a little website about the festival!

It's not quite finished as the final programme will be informed by the planning group - churches and people who would like to get involved but I think it gives a good idea of what we are aiming for so please feel free to circulate with the Calne Partnership of churches as I would love their involvement in what ever way they would like to participate. Whether they would like to join the planning group or help run anything on the day or contribute financially in some way or just come along and celebrate with us.

<https://edenbridge-festival-fvjj4pk.gamma.site> “

Can you please circulate this round the churches to encourage their involvement.

Steven Colby,
LLM, Marden Vale Benefice,

June Jokes – Please don't shoot the messenger!

What do you call a snowman in June?

A puddle.

What do you call a striker playing a June match?

A spring forward.

What did August say when June claimed that today is the last day of the month?

Don't July to me!

What do you call someone who doesn't believe it is June yet?

A May-Sayer.

I just asked my teacher what his favourite part about being a teacher is.

He responded with July, and August.

Me and my childhood crush are marrying next year.

Her's is in January and mine in June.

If you have to schedule a meeting with a person or people you do not like, here are some days to tell them, no matter what year.

February 30th, April 31st, June 31st, September 31st, and November 31st.

June is having a tough time with it lately.

I'm pretty sure she's dismayed.

My wife and I just had a daughter and named her June July August.

We call her Summer for short.

Theresa May has asked to delay Brexit until June.

It makes sense, June comes after the end of May.

Why do pirates hate May, June July and August?

Because they don't have Arrrrrs in them!

28. Is there a month between April and June?

May be

Calne 150

HELP

We are hoping to produce a leaflet and a display to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church.

If you have any old photos of the church and its activities, I would love to see them and with your permission copy them to use. If you have dates and names that would help.

Such events as Weddings, Harvest, Easter, Christmas, socials, outings, Sunday School/Young peoples Church or anything else of interest would be welcome.

I will take good care of your photos and return them to you within a few days.

Thank you in anticipation.

Derek

50 Years ago, This was written to celebrate the church's 100th Anniversary.

In the beginning.....

Ron Swan traces the birth of Methodism in Calne

A very brief history of local Methodism tells us that in 1746 the County of Wiltshire was shown as forming part of the Bristol District, When one reflects upon the fact that our sister church at Seend celebrated its BI-Century in 1975, one wonders why it took so long for Methodist influence to reach Calne.

Methodist preachers were unknown in Calne until about 1808. Mr Charles Maggs, a Somerset man, influenced in his early years by Methodist witness in the Radstock and Midsomer Norton Area came to live in Melksham. He visited Calne and was not very impressed by the religious atmosphere. Sometime later Mr Maggs who had a very deep evangelical zeal, contacted a Mr Martin, a Methodist Missionary labouring at Bradford-on-Avon, asking that in the course of his travels he might visit Calne. He readily consented and on his first visit to the town preached in the open air on Market Hill.

It would be a serious omission if nothing more was said about Mr Charles Maggs. He was a loveable, likeable character, who under the guidance of the Holy Spirit was responsible to the introduction of Methodism to Calne. He was a 19th Century Barnabas, for he was described as a man "full of faith and the Holy Spirit". What credentials! He must have gained the missionary zeal from reading about Barnabas as Pauls companion. On his missionary journeys recorded in the Acts of the apostles. Others are mentioned in these early days, but to this man goes the honour of beginning it all.

The men and woman who were influenced by this witness: where did they meet for worship? The first meeting place was a cottage in Curzon Street. William Ash lived there and here the first indoor sermon was preached. So good was the impact however that this place became too small to accommodate all those desiring to worship.

The next building to be used was a weaving shop in Kew lane, situated at the end on Anchor road, Improvisation was a word fully understood by our zealous and enthusiastic ancestors. This can be seen in what is recorded about a simple change made in the premises to house more people for the services. The building consisted of a ground floor room and a room above. By the simple expedient of cutting away the floor of the upstairs room, in the centre and at one end, there were formed side and rear galleries to the room below. The building could then hold a hundred worshippers. In 1811 this was found to be too small. So it was decided to build a chapel at the "Quarry". The exact location of the "Quarry" is not known, but it seems likely that it stood in Wessington Avenue. A society Lady gave permission for these stalwarts to use the stone required for the building.

It was round about this time that the first Methodist Society was formed, consisting of 17 members. John Evans a cooper was the leader, and Thomas Ward, a chimneysweep was responsible for entertaining the preachers who regularly visited the town. By 1814 the membership had grown to 45, and in less that half a century later boasted a strength of 130. There was a fall in membership between 1857 and 1876, but the work at the "Quarry" still went on. It was then that Lord Lansdowne gave the site of the present chapel in Silver Street and where has been maintained a 100 years of witness, worship and mission.

If a fuller history of the years had been given to us, no doubt we would have found inspiration and encouragement in learning of the men and women who toiled and laboured so nobly and faithfully, to build the structure in which we worship today. In days long before Stewardship Campaigns were thought of, these saints of old were possessed of the spirit od Stewardship, and gave of their time, talent and treasure in abundance.

We respect the past; we raise our hats to it; we are grateful for our heritage. Today we worship the same Lord. In this centenary year, may their example kindle in our hearts a scared flame of love and devotion to Him and His Church: that as their Stewardship matched that hour, so ours may match this.



When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beermats and things in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practise a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.

By Jenny Joseph and submitted by Maisie Price