

# CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER MAY 2025



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

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the June 2025 issue is

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

***“All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”***

Julian of Norwich

The Black death swept through Europe with terrifying speed, leaving in its wake a staggering death toll and severe economic disorder. The time was the Middle Ages. During her lifetime, Julian experienced the first and second waves of the Black Death in England. She was an English anchoress and mystic who lived from 1343 to sometime after 1416 and spent much of her life in seclusion. As an anchoress, Julian lived in a sealed room attached to St. Julian's Church in the city of Norwich, where she sought to devote herself entirely to prayer and union with God.

Perhaps there is something truly relevant for us to understand today. Julian was someone who was secluded and in isolation, very literally, with one window into the church and one window into the public life. Julian had said that it was Christ in a vision that told her, *“All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”* But what does that mean when faced with life's trials?

Malcolm Muggeridge once said, "Every happening, great and small, is a parable whereby God speaks to us, and the art of life is *to get the message.*" I think we must do that by really listening to others, by being fully present, and by paying attention to whom God puts right in front of us. All three of these things must take precedence over any 'to do list' or personal agenda and needs.

Living in the present moment is something positive psychology is now claiming can be good for our well-being. But just how do we find God in the present moment? I am now convinced that when we pause, stand still, and sit down away from the whirlwind of life, *God finds us!*

It is helpful to note that the prayer below by Mother Julian helps us in that respect. *“Lord, let not our souls be busy inns, that have no room for thee or thine, but quiet homes of prayer and praise, where thou mayest find fit company. Where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away, and wide, sweet spaces kept for thee; where holy thoughts pass up and down, and fervent longings watch, and wait, thy coming.”*

I grew up in a village, (at that time in Lancashire), named Rainhill, the home of the Rainhill trials and Stephenson's 'Rocket' railway engine. A replica railway engine still sits in the village station. At the end of the village was a place called Loyola Hall, a spiritual place of retreat. I knew little about it until I entered Ministry, but Ignatius of Loyola instructs us to ***"Find God in all things"***. *When you really look*, it is easier to do than you think, despite some of the things we now see, and experience, in the world.

We often live our lives pre-occupied with the fact that there are other tasks waiting for us, *demanding our attention.*

We realize that we can never keep up as we would like to. However, we can choose to focus on what is only before us, to simply live in the moment we are in, and not the moments we can do nothing about, other than worry. Sometimes saying “*God is here*” is the best way into an understanding that God dwells not just within you, but alongside you, in every moment, mundane or beautiful.

I remember the words of Jesus: *“So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own”* **Matthew 6:34**

Regardless of how difficult some moments may feel, we are never alone, even though it sometimes feels like it. If we actively seek and ask for it, we can always find strength in any given moment. Our task is simply to stay in the present, the gift God continues to give us, to trust and to find strength by relying on God’s grace.

As Scripture reminds us,

***“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me”***. **Philippians 4:13**

God places people in our path. Every moment of every day is a gift. Remember that no matter, what any given moment brings, you can always know peace. Peace is known even within the eye of a hurricane.

***“All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”***

The peace of the lord be with you, **Craig**.



#### Forthcoming Services:

4 <sup>th</sup> May	Rev Craig Manley including Holy Communion
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Elizabeth Manley – Church Anniversary Service
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Michele and Derek Gard
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Derek Gard



## Refugee Prayer Focus May 2025

**Please pray for all those still affected by the earthquake in Myanmar last month. We should pray not only for those affected, suffering from hunger and homelessness, but also those trying to help, through money, food, care and anyway they can.**

### 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.

### Pastoral News



We pray for those in our church family, who for whatever reason, have not been able to join us on a Sunday for either the Morning Service or Messy Church.

We pray for the partnership of churches and give thanks for the evening service at the end of April.

We pray for:- individuals and families who find themselves in difficult situations; those making crucial decisions ; those who are lonely; those who are in hospital; those who have long term health issues and receiving chemotherapy and for those who care for and support them.

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 May we particularly pray for all those who come to friendly spaces

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 May 6<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Coffee and Chat**

**Time: 10.00am - 11.30am**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Church Anniversary Service (with celebratory refreshments)**

**Time: 10.30pm**

**Venue: Methodist Church**

**Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Plant stall at Calne Duck Race**

**Time: 10.00am onwards**

**Venue: The Wharf**

**Sunday June 1st**

**Super Summer Meal**

**Time: 12.30pm**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Charity Concert Tickets £8**

**Time: 3.00pm**

**Venue: Methodist Church**

**Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Outdoor Service**

**Time: 11.30pm**

**Venue: Langley Burrell**

**Friday Evening November 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday Afternoon November 15th**

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

**Venue: Methodist Church**



**Sunday**

**11<sup>th</sup> May**

**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

29<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Churches in the Wiltshire United Area,

As we move nearer to the end of the church year we wanted to update you on the plans for the end of Rev Peggy Kabonde's time with us and the changes that will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September when we have three instead of four ministers in the Area.

Rev Peggy's final service will be on 10<sup>th</sup> August and her Area leaving service is being planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> August, details of which will be sent out once they are finalised.

After much discussion the three new sectors that will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September are listed below and we are still working on additional resources to support the ministers when they begin working with the new sectors.

**North**  
**Minister Rev Craig**  
**Manley**

Calne Methodist  
St Aldhelm's  
Bromham Methodist  
Melksham United  
Whitley Methodist

**Central**  
**Minister Rev Gary**  
**Gotham**

St Andrew's/Marston  
Trinity Market Lavington  
Monks Chapel URC  
Steeple Ashton Methodist  
Bradford On Avon United

**South**  
**Minister Rev Tracey**  
**Lewis**

Westbury Methodist  
Westbury URC  
Wesley Road United  
Winsley Methodist  
Warminster United  
Holt URC

We are grateful for your support and patience during this reorganisation and hope that we can all continue to work together to engage in God's mission in the Wiltshire United Area.

God's Blessings to you all  
The Wiltshire United Area Executive

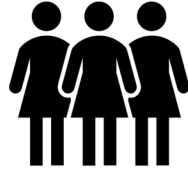
## **DUCK RACE PLANT STALL**

**SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY**



Please sign up on the poster in the hall if you can provide plants or help on the stall on the day.





## 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, May 15th, and June 5th.

Venue: The Manse

38 Horsebrook Park Calne SN11 8EY

All are welcome. For further information please telephone Elizabeth Manley on 07807532437

Just a line to say I'm living,  
that I'm not among the dead  
Though I'm getting more forgetful,  
and mixed up in my head;  
I've got used to my arthritis,  
To my dentures I'm resigned.  
I can manage my bifocals,  
But, Oh God, I miss my mind.  
For sometimes I don't remember,  
At the bottom of the stairs  
If I was going up for something,  
or if I just came down from there.  
And before the fridge so often,  
my poor mind is filled with doubt--  
Have I put the food away . . .  
Or come to take some out?

There are times when it is dark  
And my nightcap's on my head  
I don't know if I'm retiring,  
or just getting out of bed;  
So if it's my turn to write you,  
There's no need in getting sore,  
I may think that I have written  
And I don't want to be a bore.  
Please remember that I love you,  
And I wish that you were here;  
But now it's nearly mail time,  
So I must say goodbye, my dear.  
Now here I stand beside the mailbox,  
With my face so very red,  
Instead of mailing you my letter,  
I have opened it instead!

**Thank you to John from Friendly  
Spaces for sharing this poem with  
us.**

## POETRY EVENINGS

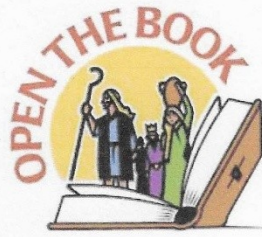
I, and my fellow presenters would like to thank all of you and your friends and acquaintances who came to the Poetry Evening on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April. The start was a bit creaky, and I was slow to realise I ought to use the microphone Derek had set up. But, all in all, the evening was judged a success. Feedback from our audience – written and spoken – told us that. And, as Jan announced in church, you contributed £120.00 to church funds in appreciation.

That was only the second poetry evening, and we are still learning, which means that at the next Poetry Evening, in the Autumn before the clocks change, we'll be heeding the feedback.

Publicity will come out earlier to allow you to plan ahead. We will accept ideas for poems to present. There will be more (voluntary) interaction with the audience, and seating and audio arrangements will be improved.

It's not too early to be thinking ahead. If you would like to hear a poem you know and like, or would like to present it yourself, just tell Derek Gard, Ned Barham, my wife Vera, or myself, and we will "make it so".

Looking forward to seeing you (dv),  
Stephen Steadman



## **Open the Book!**

### **A story-telling Opportunity**

There is an opportunity to tell Bible stories that should not be missed. The Calne Open the Book Team tells Bible stories to hundreds of children each week in three local schools. We have been going into Holy Trinity Academy, Marden Vale Academy and St. Edmund's Academy for over six years.

We get great feedback from both the pupils and the staff at the schools. All of the team are regularly recognised by children around town as people from 'Open the Book'. It is a very rewarding thing to do and also great fun – did I mention we get to dress up! You can find out more about Open the Book at

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/>

We would love to have more people join our team. You do not have to commit to doing all three schools; many of the team just do one or two schools each week. Also, you do not have to do every week, we are allowed the occasional week off! We welcome people of any age – enthusiasm and a loud voice help! The stories are already written for us in material supplied by the Bible Society.

We rehearse on Monday afternoons at 2:30pm in the Baptist Church, where all our props and costumes are stored, this normally takes about 45 minutes. On Wednesday mornings we tell the story to the whole school at Holy Trinity Academy and then we do the story later that same morning at Marden Vale Academy, again for the whole school. Then on Thursday afternoon we go into St. Edmund's Academy and tell the same story to all the children there.

If you would like to be part of the team in Calne and help with this work, please contact Steven Colby on 01249 819097 or email [stevenjenny.colby@gmail.com](mailto:stevenjenny.colby@gmail.com).

Steven Colby

## SUNNY DAYS

We've certainly been fortunate in having many sunny days recently. I for one hope you have been able to enjoy them. It's brought back a memory for me of past house group meetings. When Jacki ( a friend but like a sister to me ) and I arrived in Calne in 1990 we quickly became part of Joyce Green's and Mary Lomas' house group. Long story very short on a sunny day Jacki introduced an ice cream recipe. Who remembers the ice cream evenings raising funds for Missions?

The recipe that Jacki loved was the ice cream Christmas pudding. Delicious on a warm day.

Ingredients:-

1/2 pint milk; 1/2oz cornflour; 1oz plain flour; 1oz castor sugar; 1 medium egg; 1oz butter; 1/4 pint of double cream; 2oz raisins; 2oz currants; 2oz glace cherries; 1oz blanched almonds; 1tsp cinnamon.

Method:- Gently heat milk. Put cornflour, plain flour, sugar and egg into a bowl - blend thoroughly. Pour warmed milk into the same bowl - stir well. Return the mixture to the pan cook slowly over a low heat. Stir until it thickens. Remove from heat, beat until it is a smooth custard, add the butter stirring until completely melted and blended. Place in fridge until completely cold. Next whip the cream lightly, chop the cherries and almonds, then add to the cold custard plus the raisins, currants and cinnamon. Spoon everything into a 1 1/2 pint pudding basin. Freeze for two hours. It's now ready to enjoy. If not required immediately leave in freezer for up to a month maximum. Allow to thaw slightly for 45mins to an hour. If you wish to make it look like a Christmas pudding - stand basin in warm water before turning it and decorate it with a cherry and angelica.

Jacki also really appreciated poetry which led me to thinking to say thank you again to Stephen Steadman for organising two most enjoyable poetry evenings. The most recent one in the last week of April raised £120 for church funds. Thank you Stephen and all the people who read poems. I now share with you this poem of Stephen's to keep going the theme of food.

### AVOCADO

O Avocado, luscious pear,  
example of a food most rare.  
Your full ripe flesh a creamy paste  
of delicate, elusive taste.  
O Avocado, pear most fair,  
whose subtlety, beyond compare,  
makes all other foods despair  
of ever coming anywhere  
close to making us declare:  
'Upon the tongue - with the right dressing -  
whose taste buds can deserve such blessing?'

# **Calne Methodist Church**

## **1876 -2026**

### **150 Year Anniversary**

We are in the process of organising our Anniversary Year.

There are three strands to our Anniversary.

1. Celebration - events
2. Commemoration - Worship
3. Evangelism – Increasing our numbers.
4. Property – Maintaining and upgrading our property.

#### **Some highlights**

We will be celebrating our actual anniversary on the Weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> May with a worship celebration.

We will be inviting our previous ministers back to lead worship during the year.

A Flower Festival

The musical Jonah Man Jazz

A celebration Lunch

Christmas Tree Festival

A Poetry day

Leaflet to give away about our anniversary.

A new hymn to be commissioned.

Redecorate the premises.

A new Kitchen

All this in addition to our normal highlights such as coffee and crafts

#### **How can you help?**

Your prayers for those organising the anniversary.

Your written memories of the church, whether old or new

Help

Derek Gard

I thought for the May magazine that this sonnet would be appropriate. To all the darling buds of May. Derek

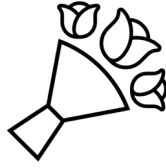
**Sonnet 18: Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?**

**By William Shakespeare**

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;  
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:  
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.



# Spring Quips



**Why are waterbeds so bouncy?**

They're filled with spring water.

**Which month of the year is the shortest?**

May. It only has three letters.

**Did you hear about the pregnant bedbug?**

She's having her babies in the spring.

**What did the flower say when he found out it was allergy season again?**

"You've got to be pollen my leg."

**What do gardeners wear on their legs?**

Garden hose.

**How can you tell the weather's getting warmer?**

There's a spring in people's steps.

**What do you call an emergency in spring?**

May Day.

**What is a flower's favorite kind of pickle?**

A daffo-dill.

**Why is the letter A like a flower?**

Because a B comes after it!

**How do you plant a kiss in spring?**

With two lips.

**When is it impossible to plant flowers?**

When you haven't botany.

**Why couldn't the little flower ride a bike?**

It didn't have any petals.

**Did you hear about the flower who went on a date with another flower?**

It's a budding romance.



**JOYFUL JULY  
CHARITY CONCERT with  
AFTERNOON TEA**

**Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup>**

**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**



## **Fellowship Buffet Lunch 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025**

**12:15 In Church Hall**

**Ham, Coronation Chicken  
Cheese  
Salads / Jacket Potatoes  
Coleslaws  
+  
Pavlova / Fruit Salad  
+  
Tea/Coffee**

Sign-up sheet available in Church Hall

Any profit from donations will be split between Church funds & our nominated charity.

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



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