

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the September 2025 issue is

Sunday 31st August

"No God - No Peace

Know God - Know Peace.

So, it is finally summertime . . . I finally stop and smell the roses. Really, we have planted roses in a raised bed near the back door, and wait to enjoy fully the fruits of our labours. The self-seeded hollyhocks near to the door have also bloomed in our holiday absence and the perfume is strikingly fragrant in the stillness of the evening or first light.

In the midst of the general busyness of life, I try not to miss out on the summertime moments of joy: a beautiful sunrise, flowers bursting into bloom, eating chilled watermelon on a warm and sunny day. The smell of a real barbecue, the heat of the summer sun, the distant drone of a lawnmower, the cry of birds circling high in the blue sky... or a day at the beach or a lake.

We must all take an opportunity at this time to stop and look around us, to really look around at the beauty within creation. To slow down, to breathe deeply, ***and enjoy life***. Even if just for a moment . . .

Don't you remember those moments in which time seems to stand still. Such moments become memories which give us the ability to face the difficulties and struggles within our lives with a renewed vision and hope.

Memories of standing on the beach watching the sand swirling back and forth, washed away by the tide, only to come back and start all over again?

It is very much like life, with its endings and beginnings... as the tides of life swirl around us pulling first this way and then back again. But we find the strength and resilience to hold fast through it all, ready to begin again.... just as the sand remains.....

I also love to stare at the embers of our log fires within the darkness of evening, the flames casting dancing shadows around the room.

It is in those moments of stillness, we can learn something about self-reflection, about the value of quietness, and the beauty of simple things found within God's creation.

The summer can be an odd time in the life of the church. During the summer, church members usually take weeklong vacations or short notice breaks. Church attendance can be sparse every now and then. Undoubtedly, summertime has a different rhythm than other parts of the year.

Perhaps we should consider our own spiritual rejuvenation during this time. To slow down....and stop, to pause, and really look around to experience the wonder, power and simple beauty of God's creation. To seek out new ways to breathe in and enjoy the goodness of summer..... while praying and thinking about our calling to serve God in this world.

Sir John Lubbock, (scientist), once observed, *“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.”*



Preston Weymouth July 2025 (0400 approx.)

Even in the darkest of nights.... beauty and peace can be found and experienced.

St Ignatius of Loyola, (Patron saint of soldiers), taught us that every moment of our lives can be an invitation to experience God. Let us all take up this spiritual challenge and be attentive of God's presence in our lives this summer, wherever we may be.

Every Blessing to you and may God be with you.

Craig and Elizabeth

Forthcoming Services:

3rd August	Rev David Gray including Holy Communion
10th August	Rev Roy Fowler
17th August	Mrs Elizabeth Manley – this will be at Langley Burrell at 11.30am
24th August	Mrs Jo Williams
31st August	Sector service at Warminster United – please speak to a steward if you need a lift.



Refugee Prayer Focus August 2025

“Refugees”!!

“Geneva convention”!?

“Famine?”

Starvation!!

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.

Come, Hear And Talk C H A T

CHAT is a group for women where we can come and spend time with others sharing thoughts; passions; concerns in a relaxed atmosphere.

The CHAT venue is at The Manse, 38, Horsebrook Park Calne SN11 8EY.

We are led by Elizabeth Manley and Ursula Barham. We begin and end with Christian prayer. All other conversations are generated from those present. We meet every three weeks on a Thursday. The next three scheduled meetings are August 7th, August 28th and September 18th.

If you would like to join us simply turn up between 2.00pm -3.30pm.

Pastoral News



Congratulations to Jan and Rob who celebrated their Sapphire Wedding Anniversary in July. A good time was had by all who celebrated with them. Best wishes to all others who have a Wedding Anniversary or celebrate a Birthday during August.

We give thanks for holidays, giving us a chance to change our routine. We pray for those receiving examination results that will determine their next decisions and for those continuing studies during the holiday season.

As we come towards the end of the Methodist Year we would like to thank all those who have given and prepared the flowers for our Sunday Services during the last twelve months. You may ask, 'What do we do with the flowers after the service?' Often they are taken to a member of the congregation who may be unwell in some way so they can be cheered up a little. If you know of someone who would like to receive the flowers please speak to either the Steward on duty, Lynda, or Ursula. The flowers may also be placed in the front vestibule so passers-by can view them or in the Hall for Friendly Spaces people to enjoy.

We pray for those finding life complicated, especially who are vulnerable in whatever capacity, mental, physical and spiritual. We pray for reassurance and for compassion from others.

We continue to pray; for those who have had treatment and are recovering; for those who are receiving treatment and those awaiting test results. We pray for the church and our church family. Throughout August we particularly pray for Vera Steadman's pastoral group: Ursula and Edward Barham; Eleanor Bujalska; Molly Green; Jean Hadrell; Margaret and Richard Heath; Stephanie Tucker and Carol West.

It is part of our Christian commitment to care for and support each other and to rejoice with one another, 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 August 5th 19th and
26th**

Coffee and Chat
Time: 10.00am - 11.30am
Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th

Warm Spaces Free food and drink for all
Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Venue: Church Hall

Thursday August 7th and 28th September 18th

CHAT (see article for more information)
Ladies Group
Time: 2.00pm - 3.30pm
Venue: The Manse

Sunday August 17th

Outdoor Service and Picnic Lunch
Time: 11.30pm
Venue: Langley Burrell

Saturday September 14th

Coffee and Craft Fair
Time: 11.00am - 2.00pm
Venue: Methodist Church **See poster for more details**

Sunday September 21st

Harvest Festival Service / Harvest Meal
Time: 10.30am / 12.15pm
Venue: The Church

Friday Evening November 14th

Saturday Afternoon November 15th

Production of 'Eclipse' about Herod's last days.
Venue: Methodist Church



Sunday August 17th

Everyone Welcome

Our Church Service on August 17th
is our annual Outdoor Service with Picnic.
Elizabeth Manley will be leading Worship.

Venue : 11, Chippenham Road, Langley Burrell SN15 4LF
The home of Ursula and Edward.

Time: 11.30am Service. Please note the later start time.

Picnic: Please bring your own. Tea, coffee and squash provided.

Transport: If you would like to come but do not have your own transport please speak with a Steward or Ursula. If you are driving and have space for other passengers also speak with a Steward or Ursula. There is ample parking space on the field at the front of the house.

Our friends from Bromham will also be joining us. If you would like to invite any family or friends please feel free. Pets are welcome as long as they are kept under control. Finally, if the weather is wet the service will be at Silver Street Church 11.30am -followed by the picnic.



Afternoon Tea

Church Charity Concert

Many thanks to all who took part in the concert.

To Julie and Anita for preparing the food and

to a number of you who made cakes. All delicious!

Grateful thanks to those who came and supported us

as our audience. Once expenses were paid our final total

to split between Doorway Limited and the Nasio Trust

amounted to £690.60. An amazing sum for our Afternoon

Tea Concert. Thank you so much for your generosity.



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

**14 September
12 October**

**9 November
14 December**

2026

**11 January
8 February
8 March
12 April
10 May
14 June**

**12 July
No session in August
13 September
11 October
8 November
13 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

EXPLORING YOUR FAITH



A six-week course intended to give people an opportunity to explore the significant aspects of Christian faith and to anchor them in their experience of life.

At all points there is a chance to discuss, reflect and question in a context of a small group.

The sessions are open to everyone, there is no cost, and the sessions are held in the hall of Calne Methodist Church, Silver Street. Calne.

The Rev Craig Manley will be leading the course, with the help of others.

The first session is on Thursday 25th September at 7.30pm. Each session will finish by 9.00pm.

The dates of the other sessions are: -

2nd October

9th October

23rd October

30th October

6th November.

If you have any questions about this course or wish to register to attend, please contact Derek Gard in person at the Church on Wednesdays between 10.00am and 4.00pm.

For those who attend the Methodist church and wish to become members of the church this course is the pathway to membership.

Fish Wordsearch

Can you find the names of fish hidden in this puzzle?

Q	U	W	E	R	M	I	N	N	O	W	A	S	D	F
W	P	T	Y	U	I	O	P	P	L	F	C	A	R	P
E	L	U	G	H	J	K	L	K	L	O	Z	X	I	
R	A	Z	F	P	F	H	E	I	T	B	D	N	K	K
T	I	X	W	F	G	E	D	U	B	C	S	N	M	E
Y	C	C	E	A	E	R	O	O	A	S	D	F	G	H
U	E	V	R	S	H	R	C	S	A	R	D	I	N	E
M	U	B	T	D	T	I	F	A	Q	E	W	Y	T	J
U	A	N	Y	F	J	N	G	I	A	S	D	F	G	Y
L	A	C	U	G	K	G	H	S	S	A	L	M	O	N
L	S	N	K	H	L	X	J	D	Q	C	B	N	M	K
E	D	M	I	E	L	C	K	F	S	D	R	T	Y	J
T	F	N	O	J	R	V	S	E	A	H	O	R	S	E
F	G	Q	O	K	Z	E	N	W	S	X	C	A	D	E
H	A	D	D	O	C	K	L	A	I	U	O	Y	D	E

TROUT CARP MINNOW PIKE COD HADDOCK
MULLET PUFFERFISH PLAICE MACKEREL
SEAHORSE RAY SARDINE HERRING SALMON

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PRAYER. A POEM

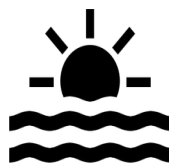
A quiet moment, breath held deep,
A conversation whispered, secrets to keep.
Not words of demand, but a humble plea,
A heart laid bare, for all to see.

In times of trouble, a guiding light,
In moments of joy, a shared delight.
A reaching out, a trusting gaze,
Through shifting paths and winding ways.

A simple faith, a gentle hand,
To understand, to make me stand.
A listening ear, a peaceful space,
In prayer, I find a saving grace.

Submitted by Derek Gard

Summer Jokes



What kind of water cannot freeze? Hot water.

Why does ice cream always get invited to the party? It's cool.

Why did the robot go on vacation? He needed to recharge his batteries.

Why did the teacher jump into the pool? She wanted to test the water!

What did the ocean say to the lifeguard? Nothing, it just waved.

What part of the fish weighs the most? The scales.

What kind of tree fits in your hand? A palm tree!

Where do sheep go on vacation? The Baaa-hamas.

What do you call a snowman in July? – A puddle.

What does a mermaid use to call her friends? A shell phone, of course.

Why did the detectives show up at the concert at the beach?
Something fishy was going on.

Why did the banana wear sunscreen at the beach? It refused to peel.

Why don't mummies go on summer vacation? They're afraid to relax and unwind!

What did the air conditioning say to the man? – I'm your biggest fan.

What do you get when you combine an elephant with a fish?
Swimming trunks!

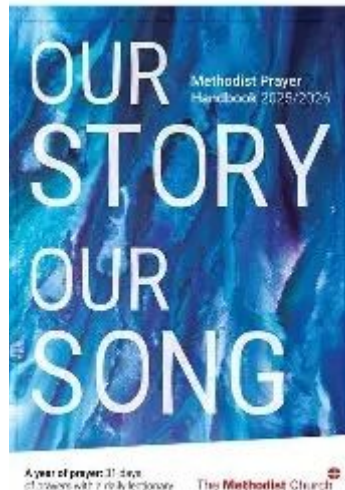
What stroke do sheep enjoy doing? The baaaackstroke.

What did Paddington bear put in the picnic basket? – Just the bear necessities.

What happens when you make an egg laugh? – It cracks up.

Why don't oysters share their pearls? Because they're shellfish

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2025 - 2026



Our Story, Our Song

"O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day" Psalm 96:1-2 (NRSVue)

From ancient times, communities have defined themselves by the stories they tell and the songs they sing about themselves. **Our Story, Our Song** calls upon the Methodist people to join in a soul expedition deep into the heart of our calling, journeying afresh into the story of grace and the vocation that God has placed upon us – learning to live, work, pray and play in ways both true to our roots and open to the presence of God in the songs and stories of others.

Pray with **Our Story, Our Song** to discover:

- **A Shared Story** – exploring the richness of God's love and grace to, with and for us in Christ, learning to live by hope for the future, and rediscovering our story by celebrating our roots.

- **A Shared Harmony** – responding by living in a way that draws others to bring their praise to Jesus and by longing and working for a world transformed.

- **A New Song** – sharing in a soul expedition as we journey with God's Spirit to discover the new songs that God is inspiring within, among and around us.

- **A New Chapter** – rediscovering the gifts of testimony and storytelling as we commit ourselves to hear not only our own voices, but the voice of Christ amongst those who are marginalised, sharing stories of lament, hope, surprise, expectation and festal joy for opening a new chapter in our mission.

Ideal for individual prayer, small groups or church devotions, this new-look Handbook offers:

- a broader variety of prayers
- greater accessibility
- easy-to-use prayer prompts
- guidance to form your own prayers
- QR codes and links to related online content.

The Methodist Prayer Handbook includes prayers for every day of the year together with the daily lectionary for the year.

£4.50 each, £4.15 each for 10 or more.

If you would like a copy of the new Prayer Handbook please let Jan know by 24th August and she will order them, if we get 10 orders the price will be reduced to £4.15



AUTUMN CRAFTS CAKES & COFFEE EVENT

**SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER, 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**