

# **CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER JULY 2025**



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

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the August 2025 issue is

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

Isaiah 12:4

*And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.*

We tend to use the following phrases in our sacrament of Holy Communion. In the Latin it reads '*Sursum corda*'! Lift up your hearts! '*Gratias agamus*'! Let us give thanks to the Lord our God! Perhaps we should especially ask God to help us in our thanksgiving, to ask God for the grace to rejoice in all things, with a spiritual joy, to have a living faith commensurate to our calling.

*Therefore, my people shall know my name. Therefore, in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I."* **Isaiah 52:6**

I recall a funny story of the raw army recruit standing at attention on the parade ground. The drill instructor yells, "Forward, march!" And the entire ranks begin to move, all except this one raw recruit.

He is still standing there at attention. So, the drill instructor strolls over to him and yells in his right ear, "Is this thing working?" "Yes Sir, shouts the recruit. The drill instructor then walks around the recruit to the other ear and yells, "Is this thing working?" "Sir, yes, sir!" the recruit yells. "Then why didn't you march when I gave the order?" bellows the Drill instructor. "*Sir, I didn't hear you call my name.*"

I think that maybe some of us are a little like that recruit. We think that *although we are called*, God is speaking to *other people*. We continue standing around waiting for God to specifically point at us and call our names. The Great Commission given by Jesus on the day of his ascension is a comprehensive instruction to everyone. It has everyone's name on it.

"Go! Make disciples! Teach!" It is your mission and my mission. Perhaps we may think, "How can I do what Jesus did? I am not him. I have not the skills nor the power to do such things." But it is also far easier to watch others do the difficult things, and to then give praise and offer thanksgiving for what they have achieved in God's name. So many people in churches only want to worship and that is it.

They do not wish to be involved in the hard and time-consuming stuff, just to watch, and do their own thing. After all, is it not easier this way?

A story records that Leonardo da Vinci had started to work on a large canvas in his studio. For a while he worked at it, choosing the subject, planning the perspective, sketching the outline, applying the colours, with his own inimitable genius. Then suddenly he stopped working on it. Summoning one of his talented students, the master invited him to complete the work. The horrified student protested that he was both unworthy, *and unable*, to complete the great painting which his master

had begun. But da Vinci silenced him. *"Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?"*

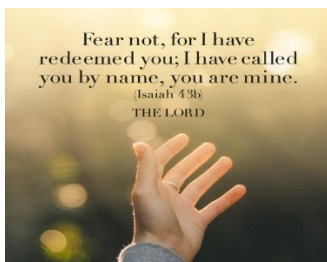
Jesus began to spread the Good News over two thousand years ago. This was done by what he said and did, and ultimately by what he suffered. He illustrated his message and left us to finish the picture. Will his life not inspire us to finish the picture?

This is truly the message of Good News. *We all have work to do.* We are now the body of Christ in the world. We are his hands, voice, feet, heart, eyes. Through the Spirit, he lives within us, empowering us to continue his saving work in the world. *So, the ending is also the beginning.* I really do love the words found in the Hymn entitled, 'Hymn of promise'....

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

For those things alone let us, 'Lift up our hearts and give thanks to the Lord our God'.

Stay safe and well.....**Craig**



#### **Forthcoming Services:**

<b>6<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Rev Craig Manley including Holy Communion</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Jenny Colby</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Local Arrangement</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Derek and Michel Gard</b>



## Refugee Prayer Focus June 2025

This month let's try to focus on all those who perpetrate and all those who encourage victims of hatred to retaliate in the States where they are now shooting and bombing each other.

### 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 give thanks for the education that is provided in this country. We pray for all the young people who we have seen grow up through our church who now have: completed University Courses and now go on to Masters degrees, PhDs, or look for work in their chosen profession; for those awaiting exam results so they can further their education or take up positions in a work place.

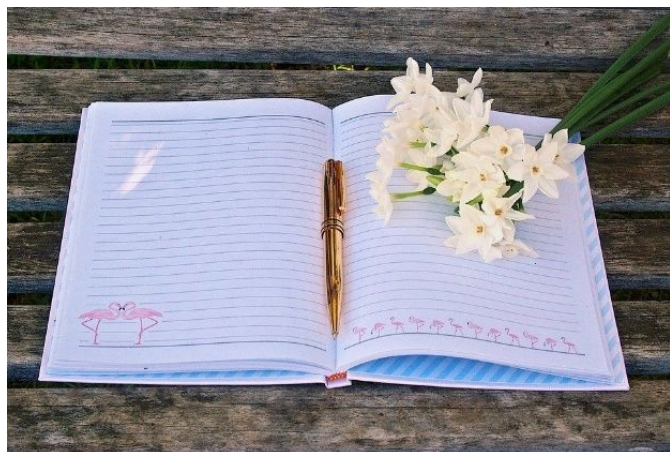
We pray for all of our church members who have been in hospital recently and are now recovering or receiving further treatment. We continue to pray for those struggling with difficult health conditions and those who are housebound.

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.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our church family and community. Throughout July we particularly pray for Ursula Barham's pastoral group: Margaret and Brian Bassett, Lyn Cooper, Miriam Crighton, Gina and Jamie Hutchings and family, Elizabeth Manley , Kerensa McCondach, Lynda Rumming and Joanne Williams 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 July 1<sup>st</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Coffee and Chat**

**Time: 10.00am - 11.30am**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Area Picnic! Great fun! Great venue!**

**Time: 3.00pm - 5.00pm**

**Venue: Monks Chapel - Please ask a Steward if a lift is required**

**Thursday July 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Ladies Group**

**Time: 2.00pm - 3.30pm**

**Venue: 3 The Old Dairy**

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

**Church Charity Concert Tickets £8**

**Time: 3.00pm - 5.30pm**

**Venue: Methodist Church See poster for more details**

**Thursday August 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Ladies Group**

**Time: 2.00pm - 3.30pm**

**Venue: The Manse**

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

**Outdoor Service and Picnic Lunch**

**Time: 11.30pm**

**Venue: Langley Burrell**

**Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Coffee and Craft Fair**

**Time: 11.00am - 2.00pm**

**Venue: Methodist Church See poster for more details**

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

**Saturday Afternoon November 15<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Venue: Methodist Church**



**Sunday**

**13<sup>th</sup> July**

**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**



# **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**

WE BELIEVE – this was part of the recent Worship Leaders service in June

We believe in one world, full of riches meant for everyone to enjoy;  
We believe in one race, the family of humankind,  
learning how to live together by hard way of self-sacrifice;  
We believe in one life, exciting and positive which enjoys all beauty, integrity and science;  
Uses the discipline of work to enrich society; harmonises with the life of Jesus,  
and develops into a total joy.  
We believe in one mortality, love, the holiness of sharing the sorrow and joys of others;  
of bringing together people as true friends;  
of working to get rid of the root causes of poverty and injustice, ignorance and fear;  
love, the test of all our thoughts and motives;  
love, guiding us; controlling us; assuring us; of God's forgiveness;  
and giving us confidence under his Spirit's control.  
We believe in Jesus, and the Bible's evidence about him;  
whose life, death and resurrection prove God's lasting love for the world;  
who combines in himself life, love, truth, humanity, reality and God;  
who saves, guides, and unites all people who follow his way.  
We believe in the purpose of God, to unite in Christ everything, spiritual and secular;  
To bring about constructive revolution in society, individuals and nations;  
and to establish world government under his fatherly direction.

This piece of prose is attributed to Students of the  
Indian National Urban Industrial Mission Course - taken from a book titled  
'A Word in Season' compiled by Donald Hilton.

### Peace by Maya Angelou,

In this poem invoking natural imagery to portray human life against a long span of time, has these lines explicitly denouncing war and calling for peace, in the voice of the "rock" that has existed since early time:

Each of you a bordered country,  
Delicate and strangely made proud,  
Yet thrusting perpetually under siege.  
Your armed struggles for profit  
Have left collars of waste upon  
My shore, currents of debris upon my breast.  
Yet, today I call you to my riverside,  
If you will study war no more.  
Come, clad in peace and I will sing the songs  
The Creator gave to me when I  
And the tree and stone were one.



# **Calne 150 Update -2026**

## **Events**

24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> April – Concert Jonah Man Jazz

23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> May - Church Anniversary weekend. Display, Civic Service, Celebration Meal.

17<sup>th</sup> until 20<sup>th</sup> September - Flower Festival and Harvest Festival

10<sup>th</sup> until 13<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Tree Festival

## **Still to be arranged.**

150<sup>th</sup> Singathon

All our other events

## **Worship**

All previous ministers invited back during the year to lead worship.

## **Evangelism**

Discipleship/faith course starting in September 2025 – Details next month

## **Other**

Leaflet to celebrate our year

A new Hymn to be commissioned.

## **Summer Sports Puns Cricket and Tennis**

I kept wondering why the cricket ball kept getting bigger and bigger.

And then it hit me.

Why are cricket grounds cool? Because they are full of fans!

How do cricket players search for things online? They Google it!

What does a batsman have in common with a magician? They both can do hat tricks!

Why is a cricketer called a superhero? Because he is Bat-man!

I have a friend who is a retired cricket umpire. And he doesn't lift a finger now.

Why did the cricket team need a lighter? Because the team lost all of the matches!

Why don't grasshoppers like football? Because they prefer crickets!

Why did the cricketer bring a string to his game? So that he could 'tie' the score!

What is common between cricket players and car salesmen? They're both good with the pitch.

Why is a bad fielder always free of illnesses? Because he doesn't catch anything.

When is the only time that a batsman likes being 'out'? On a Saturday night!

My wife: Have you seen the dog bowl? Me: Oh, I didn't know he played cricket!

Is your eyesight as bad as your cell phone reception? Because that was a terrible call.

The walls in this tennis factory are so thin, that when I try to get some work done, all I hear is people making a racquet.

Fred is so condescending about my tennis strokes. I can't take any more of his backhanded compliments.

## A Bit of Binder String.

Do'est tha' know Bill Bates as used to work for Grimes up Badgers End  
There's not a tool upon the farm this feller couldn't mend  
From a hayfork to a harvester or any mortal thing  
He'd fix it in a minute with a bit if binder string

One day a Friesian bull got out and raged and tore around  
Nobody dared go near him as he bawled and pawed the ground  
And Boss said "Bill the bull's got out and been and broke his ring."  
An Bill lassoed the beggar wi' a bit of binder string

Bill courted Mabel seven years and then he said "Let's wed  
I've got a table and some chairs and Grandma's feather bed  
There's half a ton of tatties up in the field as I can bring  
And I've made some smashing doormats out of that there binder string!"

"Well" Mabel said "We'd best get wed before they cut the hay  
So they had a slap up wedding on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May  
But Bill found when he got to church he'd gone and lost the ring  
So he married Mabel with a little bit of binder string

Next year a little daughter came to bless the happy pair  
She'd great big eyes like saucers and a mass of lovely hair.  
And Bill, said to the Parson at the baby's Christening  
"Her hair be just the colour of me bits of binder string"

Well time went on an' old Bill died and got to Heaven's Door  
He heard them all a singing there and he was worried sore  
And he said to good St. Peter, "Sir I've never learnt to sing  
Cos I've been so busy mending things with bits of binder string"

St. Peter said "Don't worry Bill the master understands,  
For he has been a carpenter and likes to see folk use their hands  
We're very glad to see you, cos we've lots of folks can sing  
But we need a handy chap like you, hast thou brought thy binder string?"

So Bill he bides in Heaven now, he's very happy there  
He's got a little workshop just behind St. Peter's chair  
And when the Angels play their harps and all the folks do sing  
He's busy mending cherub's toys with bits of binder string.

With thanks to Molly Green who submitted this poem