CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2025



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers
The deadline for the October 2025 issue is
Sunday 28th September

I was looking at my garden this week and came to the realisation that it was a reflection of how most of us feel in the busyness of life.

Constant extreme weather conditions, Constant sun and constant rain, in addition to the business of my ministerial life has prevented me from giving the care and attention to my garden that it normally receives. Consequently, it is now looking a bit untidy, tired, overgrown, as plants and grass lawns, at time remain untrimmed. The organisation has been somewhat lost, and the only jobs attended to have been immediate emergencies that demanded my instant attention over the chaotic demands of daily living.

In times of such adversity, it is the unconditional love often shines through brightly bringing hope and restoring some balance. Hope is restored where before was only darkness and challenges, *whatever they may have been*.

All of us can be a little frayed around the edges, burdened down with problems and challenges on a daily basis. But finding evidence of unconditional love, knowing that we are cared for makes such a difference to how we perceive the future.

Hope gladdens the heart, *belonging* reminds us that we are never alone. Trusting all to God proclaims that all will be well, because I am loved beyond measure and nothing this world can do to me will remove that hope, love and faith in a better future, in this world or the next.

I like the saying below because it resonates within me as a truth in life...

"Tell me a fact and I'll learn. Tell me a truth and I'll believe. But tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever."

Native American proverb

I recollect such a tale in a Cherokee Indian youth's rite of passage. A father takes his son into the dark forest, blindfolded where he is left alone.

The boy is required to sit on a tree stump within the forest for the whole night. He must not take off the blindfold until the ray of sun shines through it. He is all by himself. He cannot cry out for help to anyone.

Once he survives the night...he is a man but cannot tell the other boys of this experience. Each boy must come into his own manhood.

The boy was terrified. He could hear all kinds of noise. Wild beasts were all around him. Maybe even some other human would hurt him. The wind blew wildly through the grass and across the earth, and it shook the stump where he was sat. But the boy remained sitting stoically, never once removing the blindfold, for it would be the only way he could be a man.

Finally, after a horrific night, the sun appeared warm and inviting, and the boy finally removed his blindfold. It was then that he saw his father, sitting on a stump next to him, at watch, *the entire dark night*.

We are never truly alone. Even when we do not know it, our family and friends are watching out for us, and the lord our God can always be found, *sitting on a stump beside us*.

Look at the birds of the air, for they do not sow, nor do they reap, nor gather into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they? Who among you by taking thought can add a cubit to his stature? Therefore, take no thought about tomorrow, for tomorrow will take thought about the things of itself. Sufficient to the day is the trouble thereof. Matthew 6

Living to serve God includes trusting God to provide what is needed without living in fear and anxiety.

So, I include this short prayer for our daily living....

Lord, open my eyes so I might see what is already there. Open my heart so I might believe what is already there. Strengthen my faith so I might trust that You are beside me through the dark nights until the warmth of the morning light, for I am yours this day and all days. Amen

Stay safe and well and remember God is with you.... Craig



Forthcoming Services:

7th September Mrs Elizabeth Manley

14th September Rev Roy Fowler – including Holy Communion Rev Craig Manley – this is our Harvest Festival

28th September Mr David Asselborough



Refugee Prayer Focus September 2025

This is the day!

For the new Prayer Handbook

(from the new one) Thanks for the committees of the Methodist Church! Maybe the first time we have thanked God for committees!



Dates for your diary All are very welcome to come along and join in.

Tuesday 9th 16th 23rd & 30th

Coffee and Chat

Time: 10.00am - 11.30am Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday 3rd 10th 17th & 24th Warm

Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm Venue: Church Hall

Saturday September 13th Coffee and Craft Fair Time: 11.00am - 2.00pm

Venue: Methodist Church See poster for more details

Thursday September 18th October 9th

CHAT (Come Hear and Talk) Ladies Group

Time: 2.00pm - 3.30pm Venue: The Manse

Sunday September 21st

Harvest Festival Service / Harvest Meal

Time: 10.30am / 12.15pm

Venue: The Church

Friday September 26th

Macmillan Coffee Morning Time: 10.00am - 12noon

Venue: Home of Michele and Derek See poster for more details

Saturday October 4th

Poetry afternoon See poster for more details

Time: 2.30pm

Venue: The Church Hall

Friday Evening November 14th

Saturday Afternoon November 15th

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

Venue: Methodist Church

Thursday November 27th

Talk by Neil Parkinson - Working and Training with Police Dogs

Time: 7.30pm - 9.00pm Venue: The Church Hall



Pastoral News

September brings us the new Methodist Year. We share every blessing with all who are beginning new ministries at this time. We especially remember Rev.Peggy Kabonde who begins her new post at Canterbury.

We congratulate all those who have received their exam results. Especially Michael and Lewis who did well in their GCSE's. Michael will be going on to Chippenham College to do their chosen course; Lewis to SGS college Bristol doing Sport and Exercise Science alongside the American Football Academy.

We pray for all our Young People starting their new school year, especially those beginning at a new school. We also pray for their parents and teachers as the new term begins.

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; those waiting on results of scans; those waiting to have important consultations 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 September we particularly pray for Miriam Crighton's Pastoral Group: Kay Bibby, Janet Boswell, Julie Gibson, Edith Pearson and Graham Spyer; and in particular remembering Kay as she moves to a new home in Newbury. We send her our love and prayers.

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.

Calne Food Bank

Calne Food Bank – Please visit their website for details of their opening times - www.calnefoodbank.co.uk

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 scheduled meeting is September 18th.

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

An Afternoon of Entertaining POETRY

Totally Free!**

Calne Methodist Church Hall Saturday, 4th Oct., 2:30 pm

HEAR POETRY COME TO LIFE

Traditional and Newly Composed
In an informal café style setting
With soft drinks & nibbles

We'll present a variety of poems as usual, plus: BRING a poem! SWAP a poetry book! TRY our QUIZ!

Programmes available on the day. We aim to run for up to two hours, but will forgive early leavers.

**When you have been entertained, please leave a donation for the church.



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	9 November
12 October	14 December

2026

11 January	12 July
8 February	No session in August
8 March	13 September
12 April	11 October
10 May	8 November
14 June	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 by email derekgard57@btinternet.com, phone 07872076059, or 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.

AUTUMN PROGRAMME AT CHURCH

13th September Coffee and Craft Fair

14th September Messy Church 3.00pm

21st September Harvest Meal

25th September Exploring your Faith Week 1

2nd October Exploring your Faith Week 2

4th October An afternoon of Entertaining Poetry 2.30pm

9th October Exploring your Faith Week 3

12th October Messy Church 3.00pm

23rd October Exploring your Faith Week 4

30th October Exploring your Faith Week 5

6th November Exploring your Faith Week 6

9th November Messy Church 3.00pm

14th November Eclipse play 7.00pm

15th November Eclipse play 3.00pm

20th November Pudding night. 7.00pm

27th November Talk.

Working and training with a Police Dog. With Neil Parkinson Retired police officer

29th November Calne Christmas lights turn on.

30th November Advent Meal

6th December Coffee and Craft Fair

14th December Messy Church 3.00pm

More details to follow in the Church Magazine and Notices.

150 Years Old in 2026



Our church here at Silver Street will be 150 years old in 2026.

Thank you for all your ideas for how we celebrate this milestone in our church history.

This is what is planned for next year, Please note these dates in your diary.

14th March Coffee and Craft Fair

24th/25th April Jonah Man Jazz (A musical performance with

Heddington School)

16th May Duck Race Plant Stall

23rd/24th May Church Anniversary Weekend. Display,

Anniversary worship and 150th Anniversary meal.

6th June Coffee and Craft Fair

20th June Afternoon Guitar Concert

27th June Carnival

25th July Bike Meet

12th September Coffee and Craft Fair

17th September until 20th September Flower Festival and Harvest service

21st November Christmas Coffee and Craft Fair

28th November Christmas lights turn on in the town.

10th December until 12th December Christmas Tree Festival

In addition to these events, we are inviting previous ministers back to lead worship, looking to improve the premises, produce a leaflet to give away about our history and future, and aim to increase the size of our congregation and membership.

Derek 31/08/2025

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH ~~ PRESENTS

Music!

SUPANOVA

And Silver Street Trio





Drama!

Silver Street Players performing

ECLIPSE by Edward Barham FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14th 7.00pm

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15th 3.00pm

enjoy wonderful entertainment and delicious refreshments

Tickets:- Adults £8. Children Free

Proceeds to Cancer Research and Church Funds

Harvest Gathering

By Phoebe Cary

This poem is about harvest in the USA and is set at a time when slaves gathered in the harvest.

The last days of the summer: bright and clear Shines the warm sun down on the quiet land,

Where com-fields, thick and heavy in the ear, Are slowly ripening for the labourer's hand;

Seed-time and harvest — since the bow was set, Not vainly has man hoped your coming yet!

To the quick rush of sickles, joyously The reapers in the yellow wheat-fields sung,

And bound the pale sheaves of the ripened rye, When the first tassels of the maize were hung;

That precious seed into the furrow cast Earliest in spring-time, crowns the harvest last.

Ever, when summer's sun burns faint and dim, And rare and few the pleasant days are given,

When the sweet praise of our thanksgiving hymn Makes beautiful music in the ear of Heaven.

I think of other harvests whence the sound Of singing comes not as the sheaves are bound.

Not where the rice-fields whiten in the sun, And the warm South casts down her yellow fruit,

Shout they the labours of the autumn done — For there Oppression casts her deadly root,

And they, who sow and gather in that clime Share not the treasures of the harvest-time.

God of the seasons! thou who didst ordain Bread for the eater who shall plant the soil,

How have they heard thee, who have forged the chain And built the dungeon for the sons of toil?

Burdening their hearts, not with the voice of prayer, But the dull cries of almost dumb despair.

They who would see that growth of wickedness Planted where now the peaceful prairie waves,

And make the green paths of our wilderness Red with the tom and bleeding feet of slaves —

Forbid it, Heaven! and let the sharp axe be Laid at the root of that most poison tree!

Let us behold its deadly leaves begin A fainter shadow o'er the world to cast,

And the long day that nursed its growth of sin Wane to a sunset that shall be its last;

So that the day-star, rising from the sea, Shall light a land whose children will be free!







PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE LIST IN THE HALL IF YOU CAN HELP ON THE DAY OR PROVIDE A CAKE FOR THE CAKE STALL. WE ARE ALSO COLLECTING ITEMS FOR THE TOMBOLA STALL IN A BOX IN THE HALL