

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the November 2025 issue is

Sunday 26th October



Trust is a precious thing, easily lost and difficult to regain. Trust in many institutions, including the Church, has also taken a battering over recent years, quite rightly. The paradox is that for society, or indeed for any relationship to function well, there is a need to trust others. To be successful we need individuals and institutions who have proved themselves worthy of our trust.

In the police and the military, we had an exercise on trust. When blindfolded you had to fall backwards to be caught before you hit the concrete by a colleague. Sense of humour in both organisations could be quite dark at times, so it took all my willpower to do the exercise whilst wondering what if.....? Trusting means stepping out in faith. Once you have found that trust, you can do many things knowing that someone is watching out for you. In desperate situations, in both careers, this became a vital element of doing the job, completing the task, and doing it well..... *together*.

Trust means that I know I am safe with you. Trust means I can be confident that you have my back, which, in turn, sets me free to face challenges and take risks. We need people in our lives that we can trust absolutely, and they can be hard to find.

Our futures are sometimes uncertain but there will always be resurrections. Life will settle down eventually as we accept the situations, we find ourselves in. In all things we have to trust in the God we proclaim, that by faith and trust, we are held in safe secure arms. We have to trust with our blindfolds on as to what our future may hold, but we can learn lessons along the way....

A greengrocer in the last town where we lived published a blog each morning with a variety of uplifting sayings on life in community. One day he posted some words which stood out to me.

'Before you call yourself a Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, or any other theology, learn to be human first. Your assumptions are your windows on the world. Scrub them off every once in a while, or the light won't come in.'

How true that sometimes we cannot see what others around us are experiencing. Our blindfolds remain firmly in place. In past years isolation took a toll on all our hearts and our minds, but for some it remains a constant reality even today. It is therefore important that we see and acknowledge the struggles that many are still experiencing. To make that phone call or visit.....

I have discovered over the last few years how much community and connections matter in life. Too often, we take for granted those circles of connection and community that enrich our lives. And far too often we forget to trust in God for all things.....

Together, we will be stronger. Together, we will be wiser.

May God be with us all this day and all days,

Craig



Image acknowledgements:

<https://esheninger.blogspot.com/2017/04/the-significance-of-trust.html>

<https://www.quotemaster.org/trust%20in%20god>

Forthcoming Services:

5th October
12th October
19th October
26th October

Rev Craig Manley including Holy Communion
Mrs Jenny Colby
Local Arrangement
Mrs Elizabeth Manley



Pastoral News

Thank you Lord for Harvest. Both the Service and the Harvest Meal were celebrated well on September 21st

People were very generous in their giving of food items which will go to the Calne food bank. Thank you for your continuous generosity throughout the year. We pray for all those struggling due to the consistent rise in the cost of living.

We celebrate those within our church family who have had good news about their health and those who have happily moved into their new home.

We pray for:- individuals and families who find themselves in difficult situations; those who are lonely; those still 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.

Throughout October we particularly pray for Lyn Cooper's pastoral group: Glenis Ansell; Carolyn and Andy Cameron; Jenny and Steven Colby; Hilary Eatwell; Doris and Darkie Hadrell; Sue Johnstone; Marion Pitman; Jacky and Simon Purtell; Vera and Stephen Steadman.

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.



Refugee Prayer Focus October 2025

This month let's think about goodbyes. Some people who are homeless have lost friends, parents or children. Homelessness exposes all to the bits of life we would rather not see. Loneliness is a stain that is hard to remove. Let us all pray to God that increasingly goodbyes may become hellos and some people especially the homeless may cease to be 'refugees' and become our friends.

Calne Food Bank

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

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 26 September. We raised a fantastic total of £600. If you weren't able to attend and would like to make a donation, please use this link: <https://cm25.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/CM25032395>

Thank you so much for making this event such a success.

Michele and Derek Gard



Thank you for making our Coffee Morning special

Together, we raised a fabulous

£600.00

Thank you so much to everyone who donated Hxx.

to support people living with cancer.

It's not too late to donate.

Simply scan this QR code with your phone to donate to your host's Coffee Morning.
It's easy, quick and secure. Thank you.



Scan me to donate

FR Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan Cancer Support, a not-for-profit charity, is registered with the Charity Commission (1138761) and the Office of the Charity Commissioner (1138761). Macmillan Cancer Support is a registered charity in England and Wales (1138761) and in Scotland (SC019107) and the Isle of Man (1138761). Macmillan Cancer Support is a registered charity in Northern Ireland (MAC20225). Thank you for your support.



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

Tuesday 14th 21st & 28th

Coffee and Chat

Time: 10.00am - 11.30am

Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday 1st 8th 15th 22nd & 29th Warm Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Thursday October 2nd 9th 23rd 30th and November 6th

Exploring Your Faith See poster for more details

Time: 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Venue: Alan Bristow Room

Saturday October 4th

Poetry afternoon See poster for more details

Time: 2.30pm

Venue: The Church Hall

Thursday October 9th and 30th

CHAT (Come Hear and Talk) Ladies Group

Time: 2.00pm - 3.30pm

Venue: The Manse

Friday Evening November 14th

Saturday Afternoon November 15th

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

Venue: Methodist Church See poster for more details

Thursday November 20th

Pudding Night

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: The Church Hall

Thursday November 27th

Talk by Neil Parkinson - Working and Training with Police Dogs

Time: 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Venue: The Church Hall

Sunday November 30th

Sector Service and Advent Meal

Time: 10.30pm then 12.15pm

Venue: Church and then Church Hall



**Sunday
12th October**

**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

AUTUMN PROGRAMME AT CHURCH

2 nd October	Exploring your Faith Week 2
4 th October	An afternoon of Entertaining Poetry 2.30pm
9 th October	Exploring your Faith Week 3
12 th October	Messy Church 3.00pm
23 rd October	Exploring your Faith Week 4
30 th October	Exploring your Faith Week 5
6 th November	Exploring your Faith Week 6
9 th November	Messy Church 3.00pm
14 th November	Eclipse play 7.00pm
15 th November	Eclipse play 3.00pm
20 th November	Pudding night. 7.00pm
27 th November	Talk. Working and training with a Police Dog. With Neil Parkinson Retired police officer
29 th November	Calne Christmas lights turn on.
30 th November	Advent Meal
14 th December	Messy Church 3.00pm

More details to follow in the Church Magazine and Notices.

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

Togetherness

Togetherness, like a tapestry of hope,
Weaving threads of compassion, bound by a common goal.
In this nation, diverse and strong,
The power of unity can right the wrong.

Let our hearts beat as one, in perfect harmony,
Embracing differences, celebrating diversity.
For in the tapestry of our land,
Countless colours and cultures, hand in hand.

It starts with a smile, a helping hand,
A simple act of kindness that can span.
Across the boundaries of race and creed,
We unite, fulfilling a shared need.

Through trials and triumphs, we shall persevere,
Side by side, casting aside fear.
For where there is solidarity, there is hope,
A brighter future, where all can cope.

Oh, what wonders can be achieved,
When together we believe.
In the power of unity, we rise,
A nation united, a force to surmise.

Through education and understanding,
We build bridges, fostering demanding.
Make way for progress, free from division,
A symbol of strength, for generations to envision.

Let the walls crumble, let biases fade,
In togetherness, a nation is made.
For beyond the boundaries of skin and race,
Lies the potential to thrive and embrace.

So let us come together, hand in hand,
For in unity, we shall withstand.
The challenges that lie ahead,
A nation built on love, not dread.

For togetherness is the key,
To unlock the potential we all see.
With open hearts, let's strive and be,
A nation united, prosperous and free.

Matt Starking

LIFE! A creation poem

There were no witnesses
to what was about to happen.
There was water and there was earth;
Inert matter rained from the skies.
Heat scorched the land, dried the seas.
The world was aglow. Smoke choked the air.
Sometimes.
What air was this? What land? What seas?
Tremblors rumbled the roiling soil, mixing.
Waves lapped the land, mixing.
Some things sank; others bubbled up.
Then, a time of cooling; ephemeral peace.
A surge of combinations and reactions; slime in motion.
Accidental shapes; random splitting.
A chaining of stuffs; an attraction of likes.
A growth that outgrew others,
encompassed others.
Circling and twisting it became two.
And so it was.
Two became four, and grew.
Life began; or something like it.
Not like us
But us nonetheless.
Submitted by Derek Gard

MY JOURNEY TO BAPTISM

My journey all began thanks to the Methodist Church and their 'Warm Spaces'. The kindness and generosity is so welcoming and has become a regular, weekly, social occasion for me and my mother. I have met some lovely people at 'Warm Spaces' and this is where I met John. John was baptized on February 9th 2025 and he kindly invited me to witness and record his special day at Calne Baptist Church. I was very moved by the whole service. The emotions I felt made me want to attend Church the following Sunday and again, I felt the love and community spirit within the room. The peace and comfort I felt in my heart was overwhelming. My journey with our Lord and Saviour had begun.

From this moment on I attended church every Sunday. I did the 'Freedom in Christ' course which helped me learn about having faith and what it meant. I truly felt a change within me, a purpose and a realisation that faith was all I needed to help carry me through my life. I witnessed many baptisms throughout the year, each one brought tears and joy and a knowing that I would soon be having my day. August 24th was chosen and this was my Testimony.....

I'm so grateful to be here today and to be baptized into the family of the church.

Until recently having faith hadn't entered my life at all.

I've been fortunate in life to of worked around the world and then to volunteer in later life, especially helping animals.

There have been many hurdles too but I overcame them and looking back I know that God carried me through each and everyone of them.

One of those times was when I was about 18. I had a motorbike accident where my scarf got caught in the back wheel and I was lifted off the seat and ended up sitting crossed legged on the road, it truly was a miracle I didn't break my neck. It all happened so quickly and my boyfriend didn't even realise I'd come off, he carried on without me. But I felt something lift me off the seat, I truly believe divine intervention played a part that day.

Another time was recently when I woke up in the night. I looked at my clock and it was 3.33am. I said a prayer, had a cup of tea then went back to sleep. In the morning as I was scrolling through facebook I came across someone talking about Jeremiah 33.3. On seeing this number again I picked up my bible and read the verse and it said "call to me and I will answer you, I will tell you wonderful and marvellous things that you know nothing about". I felt like God had spoken to me with that verse and that having faith will teach me so much. It was an overwhelming moment.

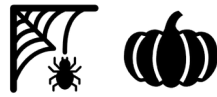
In February this year, John Bray invited me to his baptism which completely changed my life. That was the day I found my true purpose, to follow Jesus and believe and know that having faith was all I needed and I'm always happy to tell others and guide them, as John did for me. So "Thank you John, I will always be grateful"

I'd like to end my Testimony with this video of the song 'In Christ Alone'. The power in the words and pictures are perfect and express the love I have for our Lord Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father. Everyday I am grateful and I tell the big guy this everytime I pray.

For those of you reading this who do not go to Church or have not been in a while, I pray this is a guiding light.

Janine.

HALLOWEEN JOKES



Why don't ghosts like rain?

Because it dampens their spirits.

Why did the skeleton go to the party alone?

He had no body to go with.

What kind of makeup do witches wear?

Mas-scare-a!

What did the ghost ask the other?

"Do you believe in people?"

What is the ghost's favourite ride at the amusement park?

The roller-ghoster!

What do Italian ghosts have for dinner?

Spook-hetti!

What did the mommy ghost say to the noisy young ghost who kept interrupting?

"Spook when you're spooked to."

What do ghosts wear when their eyesight gets blurry?

Spooktacles.

What are a monster's favourite pets?

Creepy crawlies.

What did people say when the Headless Horseman started dating a zombie?

He's lost his head!