

# CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026



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

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the May 2026 issue is

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*  
*Hebrews 11:1*

The above quote from the scripture is perhaps much more than a definition of what faith is, *but a summary of what faith does*. I wonder how many times you have had doubts within your life. Doubting the weather forecasters, the scientific explanations of the effectiveness of the medical treatments, or even how your future may turn out.

In recent months I have talked more to people about trusting in God, rather than explaining why things happen in life. For example, no one can guarantee that I, or themselves will be alive tomorrow, next week, or next year. Most of us will not worry about such a statement, we just live life and hope for the best.

Doubt often brings anxiety, and with that comes stress, all of which are harmful to our bodies and minds. I learnt how to trust in God, *for all things*, a very long time ago, and with that came a peace that has never left me. I have spoken about it in sermons, about trust, faith, or in my own testimony. I can say with certainty it is what enables me to do the things I do for God. *I have learned to just trust!*

It is not a remarkable piece of teaching, as so many find it so difficult to do, or understand, as the world around them grips them with uncertainty in the reality of living, but it is the most effective way to find the peace that Christ talked about and brings to us today.

There is a wonderful story of Jesuit philosopher, John Kavanaugh. In 1975 he went to work for three months at the “house of the dying” in Calcutta with Mother Teresa. He was searching for an answer about how best to spend the remaining years of his life. On his very first morning there, he met Mother Teresa. She asked him, “*And what can I do for you?*” Kavanaugh asked her to pray for him. “*What do you want me to pray for?*” she asked. And he answered with the request, that was the very reason he had travelled the thousands of miles to India, “*Pray that I have clarity.*”

Mother Teresa said firmly, “*No. I will not do that.*”

When he asked her why, she said, “*Clarity is the last thing you are clinging to and must let go of.*” When Kavanaugh said, “*You always seem to have clarity,*”

She laughed and said, “*I have never had clarity. What I have always had is trust. So, I will pray that **you trust God.***”

In everyday life we believe things, believe people, trust people. Faith simply means trusting! Trusting somebody. Putting our trust in something or somebody. I once read.....*‘Faith in others is central to the whole of ordinary life. You are feeling poorly so you go to your doctor. He gives you a prescription in handwriting you cannot read. You take it to a pharmacist you have never seen before. He gives you a chemical compound you do not understand. Then you go home and take the pill according to the instructions on the bottle. All of that is trust, it is a display of faith!’* So how does faith in God work? What does trusting in God involve? C. S. Lewis once said, “*You never know how much you really believe anything, until its truth, or falsehood, becomes a matter of life and death to you.*”

And believe me it is that important to you today. We know that God is worthy of our trust because God has already proven it. It is also important to remember that faith gives us hope. Sometimes our lives as Christians are not easy. Some of the people in the Bible who demonstrated faith had extreme challenges. Some of them even died. Trusting God does not mean our lives on earth will always go smoothly. But it does mean that we have a future hope for something greater and with that knowledge comes a peace that does not ever fade away.....

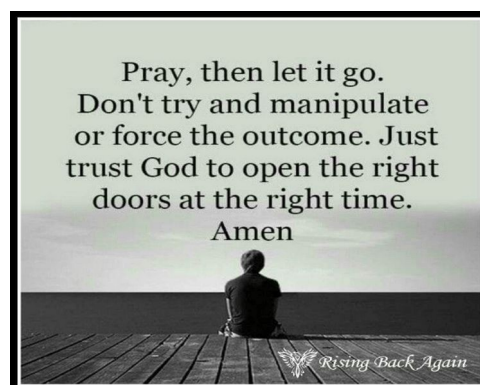
John Wesley was once walking with a troubled man who expressed his doubt as to the goodness of God. He said, "I do not know what I shall do with all this worry and trouble." At the same moment Wesley saw a cow looking over a stone wall. "Do you know," asked Wesley, "Why that cow is looking over the wall?" "No," said the man who was worried.

Wesley said, "The cow is looking over the wall because she cannot see through it. That is what you must do with your wall of trouble—look beyond it and avoid it." Faith, trusting in God, enables us to look past our circumstances and focus on Jesus Christ. In the midst of these uncertain times, we who know Christ, can still proactively practice faith. And even when our world is turned upside down, we can trust that God is in control.

*It is unexpected, but extraordinarily convincing, that the one absolutely unequivocal statement in the whole gospel of the Divinity of Jesus should come from Doubting Thomas. It is the only place where the word God is used ... without qualification of any kind, and in the most unambiguous form of words .... And this must be said -- not ecstatically, or with a cry of astonishment -- but with flat conviction, as of one acknowledging irrefutable evidence: '2 + 2 = 4,' 'That is the sun in the sky,' 'You are my Lord and my God!' **Dorothy Sayers***

**Amen!**

Stay safe and well, Craig.



Amen <3

### **Forthcoming Services:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> April**      **Rev Ward Jones with Holy Communion and Hot Cross Buns at 9.30am**
- 12<sup>th</sup> April**      **Mrs Jenny Colby**
- 19<sup>th</sup> April**      **Mr Clive Illman**
- 26<sup>th</sup> April**      **Mrs Elizabeth Manley**
- 26<sup>th</sup> March**      **Partnership service at 6.00pm here**

## Pastoral News



Grateful thanks to Caroline, Julie, Jacky and the team for all their hard work providing a delicious Spring Lunch which was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to those who once again this last month have given of their time and prayers for others, whether these people are our family and friends or our neighbours in Christ in places around the world in such great need.

We pray for those who are struggling with life in general; for those who have experienced the frustration of hospital appointments being cancelled; for those finding life especially hard at the moment; for those who are unable to worship with us on a Sunday.

We continue to pray for young people in education: those taking exams, those making decisions about further education and those completing their course and are now looking for work.

Our pastoral groups change once again as we thank Lyn Cooper very much for all the care she gave her pastoral group and the dedication she gave to the work on the property committee over many years. We wish her well in her new place of worship.

We wish Kay Bibby all the best as she moves to Newbury to be nearer her family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our church family. Throughout April we pray particularly for Ursula Barham's Pastoral Group: Freda and Bob Ackroyd, Jenny and Stephen Colby, Lyn Elliot, Gina and Jamie Hutchings, Elizabeth Manley, Marion Pitman, Kerensa McCondach, Lynda Rumming, Ruth Whittard and Jo Williams.

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](http://www.calnefoodbank.co.uk)



### Refugee Prayer Focus April 2026

We pray for all those suffering as a result of the many wars that are destroying our planet and ask that you will help us to find ways to make peace with each other.

Amen



We now have a Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61587367784182>

I am happy to give permissions for people to post but you need to have a Facebook profile. Most of our events and activities are already posted. We just need to promote it and get people to follow us.

Michele Gard



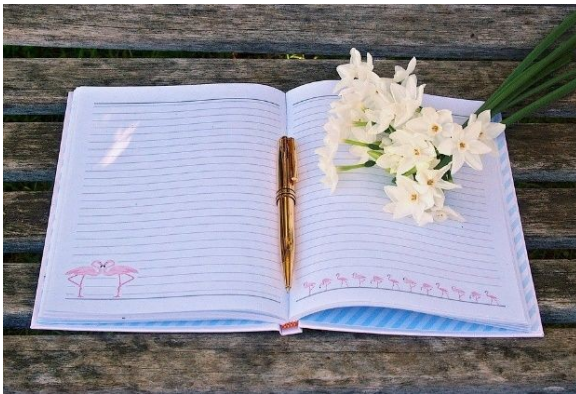
**Sunday  
12 April**

**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.



**April 2026**

**Dates for your diary**

**All are very welcome to  
come along and join in.**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Coffee and Chat**

**Time: 10.00am - 11.30am**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Warm Spaces**

**Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Final Lent Group**

**Time: 2.30pm**

**Venue: Church Hall**

**Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup> & April 30<sup>th</sup>**

**CHAT - Ladies Group**

**Time: 2.00pm - 3.30pm**

**Venue: 9<sup>th</sup> The Manse; 30<sup>th</sup> 3 The Old Dairy SN11 0EB**

**Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Poetry Afternoon**

**Time: 2.30pm - 4.30pm**

**Venue: Calne Methodist Church**

**Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Calne Spring Sing**

**Time: 10.00am onwards. Venue: Town Hall and St Mary's**

**Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm and Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> 3pm**

**Production of Jonah Man Jazz with Heddington School Choir**

**Venue: Calne Methodist Church.**

**Tickets Adults £8: Children 4yrs and over £1.**

**Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Calne Partnership of Churches Service**

**Time 6pm**

**Venue Calne Methodist Church**

**Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Calne Duck Race**

**Plants for the stall will be welcomed**

**Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Church 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend**

**See Newsletter for details**



# Calne Methodist Church

## A Church for Calne, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Programme of Events and Dates for the Diary - 2026

Saturday 14 March	Coffee and Craft Fair	11.00am – 2.00pm
Saturday 11 April	Poetry Afternoon	2.30pm – 4.30pm
Friday 24 April	Sea Shanties and Jonah Man Jazz – a musical performance with Heddington School, SupaNova and Calne Methodist Church.	6.00pm
Saturday 25 April	Sea Shanties and Jonah Man Jazz – a musical performance with Heddington School, SupaNova and Calne Methodist Church.	3.00pm
Saturday 16 May	Lions Club Duck Race We will be organising our usual plant stall. Plants welcome. Please speak to Jan Sayers.	10.00am – 1.00pm
Saturday 23 May	<b>150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend</b> Display of Church History, arts and crafts and refreshments available	Church open all day

We would love to hear from you if you have photographs and/or memorabilia from past Church events and activities that you would be willing to share. Also, if you would like to display items of Christian art. Please speak to Derek Gard 07872 076059 or [derekgard57@btinternet.com](mailto:derekgard57@btinternet.com).

Sunday 24 May	<b>150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Service</b> Followed by celebration buffet	10.30am RSVP required for buffet
Saturday 6 June	Coffee and Craft Fair	11.00am – 2.00pm
Saturday 20 June	Guitar Concert by Andrew Hearst	3.00pm
Saturday 27 June	Calne Carnival	All day

Saturday 25 July	Calne Bike Meet	All day
Sunday 26 July	Area Farewell Service for Rev Craig Manley at Calne Methodist Church	5.00 pm Tea 6.00pm Service
Sunday 6 September	Circuit Welcome Service for Rev Will Fletcher at Melksham United Church	4.00pm
Saturday 12 September	Coffee and Craft Fair	11.00am – 2.00pm
Thursday 17 September – Sunday 20 September	Flower Festival: The Harvest of Talents	

If you would like to decorate a window or provide a floral arrangement, please speak to Derek Gard 07872 076059 or [derekgard57@btinternet.com](mailto:derekgard57@btinternet.com).

Saturday 19 September	Harvest Concert and Ploughman's	3.00pm
Sunday 20 September	Harvest Festival Followed by Harvest Lunch	10.30am RSVP required for lunch
Saturday 21 November	Christmas Coffee and Craft Fair	11.00am – 2.00pm
Saturday 28 November	Calne Town Council – Christmas Festival and lights switch-on	All day
Sunday 29 November	First Sunday in Advent Service Followed by Advent Meal	10.30am RSVP required for meal
Thursday 10 December – Sunday 13 December	Festival of Nativities	Church open to view nativities

If you have a nativity, you would be willing to display, please speak to Michele Gard on 07841 020291 or [michelegard@btinternet.com](mailto:michelegard@btinternet.com).

Thursday 10 December	Christmas Karaoke – come and sing your favourite Christmas songs and carols. Wear your Christmas Jumper or fancy dress.	3.30pm – 4.30pm 6.00pm – 7.00pm
Friday 11 December	Nativity Play	4.30pm – 5.30pm
Sunday 13 December	Carols by Candlelight	6.00pm

Full details of the above events including booking requirements, tickets and costs will be published in our newsletter, weekly notices, website and posters on our hall notice boards. Sign up if you would like to receive our weekly email or monthly newsletter.



Saturday, 11th. April, 2:30 pm

**Poetry in the Round**

Informal café style tables w drinks & nibbles

**You'll be Entertained by**

- **Live Poems -Trad-Mod & Brand New**
- **A \*Mystery\* Section**

**And Joining in>>>**

- **You could present your own poem**
- **Try our QUIZ: easier than last time!!!**
- **And Vote on Competition Entries**

Make a note of the date and time. It's All  
FREE

**If You Intend Entering the Competition  
to Write a POEM (25 lines or fewer)**

To commemorate 150 years of  
Our Calne Methodist Church

**The Deadline Approaches**

Get it to Stephen Steadman by hand or email by

**Weds. Midnight April 8<sup>th</sup>**

Stephen.d.steadman@gmail.com



# Calne **Methodist** Church



## Jonah Man Jazz and Sea Shanties

with Heddington School and SupaNova

**Friday 24 April at 6.00pm**

**Saturday 25 April at 3.00pm**



Tickets: £8 for adults £1 for children  
*(includes performance, refreshments  
and mini fish and chips)*

[calnemethodist.ddns.net](http://calnemethodist.ddns.net)



**PLEASE SEE URSULA FOR TICKETS**



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### **Car Washing**

I'm offering to do car washing to help raise funds for **Vision 150**. If you would like your car washing please contact me to arrange a convenient time.

Thanks

Bob

**I should like to express my thanks to all those who helped with our Spring Craft Fair and Spring Lunch.**

**We raised a total of £1077.15 from the fair and £190 (after deducting basic costs) at the lunch.**

**Non of these events would be possible without the assistance of people, too many to mention individually, helping in the background and those "front of house", plus those who attend.**

**But, as I said on 15th March, not only is the money made a help with the ongoing costs of maintaining our Church and running our many activities it is wonderful to hear people say how much they enjoy attending our events in a beautiful location, with a wonderful atmosphere and friendly people.**

**Please do continue to support us .**

**Caroline**

## **Vision 150: Building for the Future**

As you are aware, this May marks a remarkable milestone in the life of Calne Methodist Church: **150 years of worship, witness, and service in the heart of Calne.**

As we look back with gratitude, we also look forward with purpose. Calne Methodist Church continues to grow, both in membership and in the depth of our ministry. Our community work is widely valued, and many people describe us as a lifeline—offering friendship to the lonely, support to the vulnerable, and pastoral care that truly makes a difference.

Our 150th Anniversary gives us a unique opportunity to build on this foundation. That is why we have launched **Vision 150: Building for the Future**, a commitment to strengthening our mission for the next generation. Through Vision 150, we plan to:

- Replace the church floor and recarpet.
- Renew the kitchen and essential appliances.
- Upgrade the sound system, lighting, and electrics.
- Make the Alan Bristow room in a multi-functional meeting space.
- Upgrade the disability access toilets to current specifications and install an accessible shower.
- Decorate the building throughout.
- Recruit a part-time support worker for a one-year pilot.
- Explore secondary double glazing and other steps toward becoming a net-zero church as required by the Methodist Church.

A huge thank you to everyone who has already contributed. We have currently raised over £11,000. Every contribution, large or small, brings us closer to ensuring that Calne Methodist Church continues to be a place of welcome, hope, and Christian love for generations to come.

After Easter, Michele will begin approaching funders for grants towards the projects and we will keep you updated as to our progress.

Michele and Derek Gard

**"The World I Live In," by Mary Oliver**

I have refused to live  
locked in the orderly house of  
    reasons and proofs.  
The world I live in and believe in  
is wider than that. And anyway,  
    what's wrong with *Maybe*?

You wouldn't believe what once or  
twice I have seen. I'll just  
    tell you this:  
only if there are angels in your head will you  
    ever, possibly, see one.

**"spring song" by Lucille Clifton**

the green of Jesus  
is breaking the ground  
and the sweet  
smell of delicious Jesus  
is opening the house and  
the dance of Jesus music  
has hold of the air and  
the world is turning  
in the body of Jesus and  
the future is possible

Submitted by Derek Gard

## **Funny Anniversary Jokes**

My battery died when I was recording my wife giving a toast at her parents' 50th wedding anniversary.

Now I'm never going to hear the end of it.

My wife asked for something shiny that goes from 0 – 200 in five seconds or less for our anniversary.

I bought her a scale. We're still not speaking.

My family just celebrated the 200th anniversary of owning a buffalo farm.

That's right, it's our bison-tenial.

I bought my girlfriend a fridge for our anniversary.

I know it wasn't a great gift, but I loved seeing her face light up when she opened it.

For our anniversary, I gave my girlfriend a small picture of me inside a Walnut.

But that's just me in a nutshell.

I asked my wife if she'd like a new diamond ring to celebrate our anniversary.

"Nothing would make me happier!" She replied.

So I got her nothing.

How do you remember your wedding anniversary?

Forget it once.

It's our wedding anniversary today. My wife and I have been happily married for two years now.

1995 and 2009.



We're throwing a Festival in a Field – and you're invited!

Join us for a Family-Focused Christian Festival.

Eden Bridge Festival  
Sat 22–Sun 23 August 2026  
Bremhill, Wiltshire

Book your free ticket  
[www.edenbridge.love](http://www.edenbridge.love)

Food Trucks  
Bouncy Castles  
Arts & Crafts for kids  
Mix of Fresh Worship Sounds  
Praise & Worship Dance Party  
Café Church on Sunday Morning

Whether you're in church every Sunday, exploring faith for the first time,  
or somewhere in between – come as you are!

EDEN  
BRIDGE  
FESTIVAL