

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER MAY 2026



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the June 2026 issue is

Sunday 31st May

Psalm 27:14 - "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

Do you ever fear the telephone call in the night? The ones that waken you from the deepest of sleep. The ones when you know something is terribly wrong. If you are anything like myself, you will find that the call comes to your mobile, which is next to the bed.

As I open the cover, immediately displayed is the photograph of the person calling, and you kind of know who it is, that is in trouble. Christmas 2018, I had one such telephone call from my niece, and I knew before any words were spoken that my mother had died. There is never a nice call in the silent hours, the stillness is always broken by bad news, and then comes the waiting.

My last such phone call recently during the quiet hours when I was told that my granddaughter had been admitted to hospital from university. In these times it is much more intense and difficult to accept because she is alone. No family can be with her. For myself it was hard as I wrestled with that fact, that all things were beyond my control. At that time the country was in lockdown, no travel allowed and no way to stay in touch, to provide comfort and hope.... just that period of waiting.

As I waited for news, I stared out of the bedroom window and noticed that a wonderful night sky was continuing on its silent journey. The moon was nearly full, and the light was so bright it illuminated the room. The clouds were floating so high, fluffy, and white, wispy pockets, travelling slowly across the face of a huge moon.

Quite quickly they passed out of sight to reveal an inky black sky populated with a blanket of crystal bright stars. A myriad of lights shining brightly in the darkness.

I realized how small and insignificant we are in the great scheme of things. How little control we have over things on earth when we look to the heavens. And yet the God we worship, cares for each one of us, in a manner we do not understand or deserve.

I waited and I prayed. I prayed and I waited. I waited alone, looking for hope. I found it in knowing God holds all things in power and grace. More confidently I waited. The news updates came in sporadic bursts throughout the night until morning broke and still we waited for answers and some good news.

It must have been just like that for the worshiping people so long ago. They had witnessed so much of the ministry of Jesus Christ yet understood extraordinarily little. They had seen miracles, wonders, the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, and now they waited for his return. And they waited....and waited...and still they waited. We still await his return today.

The art of waiting can never be mastered. It brings with it so many feelings. frustration, helplessness, confusion, anger, impatience.

We have all been there. From supermarket queues, to parcel and letters arriving. To waiting for the wonder and excitement of Christmas day, but in all these situations there is a conclusion.

The parcel arrives, the letter is delivered, we pass through the checkout, Christmas and all its wonders come and goes.

Yet to wait with hope in your heart for something that does not arrive as expected, is quite something. And the people of God having been doing that for centuries. That is quite extraordinary and affirming. We wait with expectation, but also accepting that the conclusion, may never appear in *our lifetime*. We faithfully wait to see things more clearly when the time is right, when we fully understand what Jesus was really talking about.

R. Norton when writing about loss and the fragility of life vowed never to waste another day of life. His mantra became:

T: Today I: Is M: My E: EverythingTIME.

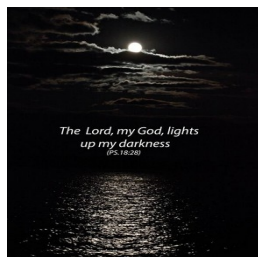
"No more tomorrows. Today is the day."

It will never be convenient to be and live how we know we should. If it were convenient, everyone would be living at a much better level than we are. There would be no internal conflict. Instead, most of us continue to wait for someone or something outside of ourselves, to wake us up or to show us the right way.....

This is that wake-up call. There is no time...the time is now. Who knows the hour when the Christ returns? We are waiting but we must also live life as if there is no tomorrow. Live it in hope with a smile on our face. Living life this way will make such a difference, not just to ourselves but to others around us. They will see exactly what the good news can do. Changes in life are often just a phone call away, so the moments we have, we should use well, just as Jesus taught us.

Romans 12:12 says ***Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer,*** which kind of sums up most of my weeks at present. But in the words of a great hymn, *Can I be dismayed?* Wherever He may guide me, No want shall turn me back; My Shepherd is beside me, And nothing can I lack. His wisdom ever waketh, His sight is never dim; He knows the way He taketh, ***And I will walk with Him.***

God bless you and keep you, stay safe and well... **Craig**



<http://www.upliftlife.org/author/upliftingterfa/p>

Forthcoming Services:

- 3rd May** **Rev Craig Manley including Holy Communion**
- 10th May** **Derek Gard**
- 17th May** **Michele Gard**
- 24th May** **Rev Craig Manley and Rev Marcus Torchon – this is our Anniversary Service**
- 31st May** **Sector Service at Melksham United Church – please let a steward know if you need a lift.**



PASTORAL NEWS

We give prayers of thanks for those who provide the opportunity for people in the community to meet together forming new friendships, for example Tuesday coffee mornings, Friendly Spaces and Chat.

We also give prayers of thanks to Marion who has moved into her new home. We wish her every happiness. We also pray for Eleanor who at present is living with her daughter.

We pray for those who have had to make difficult decisions recently; for those who have had an operation or who are in hospital praying they have a speedy and uncomplicated recovery; for those finding life especially hard at the moment and for those who are unable to worship with us on a Sunday.

We continue to pray for young people in education: especially those taking exams in the next couple of months, those making decisions about further education and those looking to the future of work.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our church family. Throughout May we pray particularly for Michele Gard's Pastoral Group: Glenis Ansell; Carolyn and Andy Cameron; Jacky and Simon Purtell; Vera and Stephen Steadman; Hilary Eatwell and Sue Johnstone.

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.



A wonderful time was had by all who took part in the Sea Shanties and Jonah. Many thanks to Heddington School Choir and Melissa Berry. Thanks to Michele for having the brilliant idea for the interval refreshment. Mini fish 'n' chips! Finally thanks to all who supported us. As you can imagine overheads were quite large. However, we still managed to raise £480 which will go towards the 150th Anniversary Celebration fund.

Calne Food Bank

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



Refugee Prayer Focus May 2026

We pray for the leaders of our world that they may work tirelessly for peace. 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



MAY 2026 Dates for your diary

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

Tuesday 5th 12th 19th & 26th

Coffee and Chat

Time: 10.00am - 11.30am Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday 6th 13th 20th & 27th

Warm Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm Venue: Church Hall

Thursday May 21st & June 11th

CHAT - Ladies Group

Time: 2.00pm - 3.30pm Venue: The Manse

Saturday May 16th

Calne Duck Race

Helpers at the stall will be welcomed

Plants for the stall will be welcomed

Saturday May 23rd and Sunday May 24th

Church 150th Anniversary Weekend

Church open on Saturday from 10.00am till 4.00pm

Saturday June 20th

Concert Guitarist Andrew Hurst

**Time: 2.30pm - 4.00pm Venue: Calne Methodist Church
Light refreshments**

Sunday July 26th

Area Farewell Service for Rev. Craig and Elizabeth

Time: 5.00pm Afternoon Tea - 6.00pm Service

Venue: Calne Methodist Church



**Sunday
10 May**

**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

A Report on the Church's Spring Poetry Afternoon, 11th April

Although attendance was down on recent poetry events — probably due to being too soon after Easter and Calne's traffic problems — those who came thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and we raised £135 for the Church. The wide variety of poems selected by the eight presenters was much appreciated. Two memorable highlights were: Janet Boswell's rendition of Pam Ayres' poem about her first *WonderBra*, and Lynda Rumming's demonstration of *Hula-Hooping* while reciting one of her own compositions.

Vera Steadman's easier quiz proved very successful. However, judging entries for the competition to find a poem fitting for the Church's 150th Anniversary was less so. The audience heard and scored all the entries, but the average scores did not show a clear winner – so, not as much help for the competition's official judges as we had hoped to provide.

There wasn't time for the advertised *Mystery Section* which is being held over until the next event, in the Autumn before the clocks go back. That's when we plan to include at least one *dramatized* poetry reading, and hope to see you there.

Stephen Steadman



Calne Methodist Church

A Church for Calne, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

150th 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	150th Anniversary Weekend Display of Church History, arts and crafts and refreshments available	Church open all day
<p>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.</p>		
Sunday 24 May	150th Anniversary Celebration Service 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	
<p>If you would like to decorate a window or provide a floral arrangement, please speak to Derek Gard 07872 076059 or derekgard57@btinternet.com.</p>		
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
<p>If you have a nativity, you would be willing to display, please speak to Michele Gard on 07841 020291 or michelegard@btinternet.com.</p>		
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.





Car Washing – With a 5 Star recommendation

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

Advance Notice

Guitar Concert with Andrew Hurst.

Saturday 20th June – 2.30pm to 4.00 pm. Refreshments provided.

Donations on the day for Calne 150



Andrew Hurst is a multi-instrumentalist specialising in classical guitar, lute and piano. After a decade of study at the Royal College of Music with Charles Ramirez, John Williams and Robert Sutherland, he developed a career spanning solo recitals, theatre composition and Baroque opera continuo. He has performed in ensemble concerts with Jane Ryan of the Julian Bream Consort.

Alongside performing, he maintains a strong commitment to teaching and regularly presents extended improvisation concerts exploring instruments and musical traditions from around the world.”

Further details will be in the June magazine.

Seeing the church is 150 years old I though some age-related jokes would be appropriate.

How is the moon like false teeth?

Both come out at night.

Where can single men over 65 find younger women who are interested in them?

In the bookstore, under "Fiction."

Why should you marry someone older than you?

As your looks fade, so will their eyesight.

Why do retirees smile so much?

Because they can't hear a word you're saying.

What do you call someone who enjoys Mondays?

Retired.

What's the key to a structured retirement?

A rigid nap schedule.

What's worse than middle age?

Knowing you'll grow out of it.

How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?

One, but it'll take all day.

These are not gray hairs! They are wisdom highlights.

You're not getting old; you're becoming a classic.

Old age is a heck of a lot better than the alternative.

One benefit of old age is that your secrets are always safe with your friends ... because they can't remember them!

Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind getting older, then it really doesn't matter.

Now that I've gotten older, everything's finally starting to click for me. My knees, my back, my neck ...

I've decided: Whatever age I am is the new 30.

Don't let aging get you down; it's too hard to get back up again.

When you consider the alternative, old age really isn't so bad.

Aging gracefully is a nice way of saying you're slowly looking worse.

Derek

A Poem for Pentecost

Like tongues of fire

You came like licking tongues
of fire, alighting lightly,
mimicking a devastating
forest inferno that clears

the undergrowth, sweeps through
with great power and might,
makes way for new plants to grow.

But you swept into a room,
into tongues, minds and hearts,
filling them with power
as you cleared out the cobwebs

of fear and uncertainty,
made way for the new, the brave,
the strong, the hope-filled and free.

Oh Holy Spirit, how we need
you now to return in power,
fire up the fading embers
of our hearts, refuel us

inside with holy hope and joy,
increase our love for man and God
provide your wisdom and insight.

— Joy Lenton

Submitted by Derek Gard



Calne Methodist Church

**Come and
Celebrate
with Us**

ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE

**150th Anniversary
Celebration Service**

**Sunday 24 May 2026 at
10.30am**

150 years of worship and service

Silver Street - Calne - SN11 0JA



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

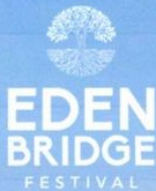
Join us for a Family-Focused Christian Festival.

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

Book your free ticket
www.edenbridge.love

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!





SUMMER FAIR

CRAFTS, CAKES & COFFEE EVENT

SATURDAY 6th JUNE, 2026
METHODIST CHURCH AND HALL
SILVER STREET, CALNE
11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

CRAFT STALLS,
HOMEMADE CAKES & MORE.
FAIRLY TRADED TEA & COFFEE
REFRESHMENTS