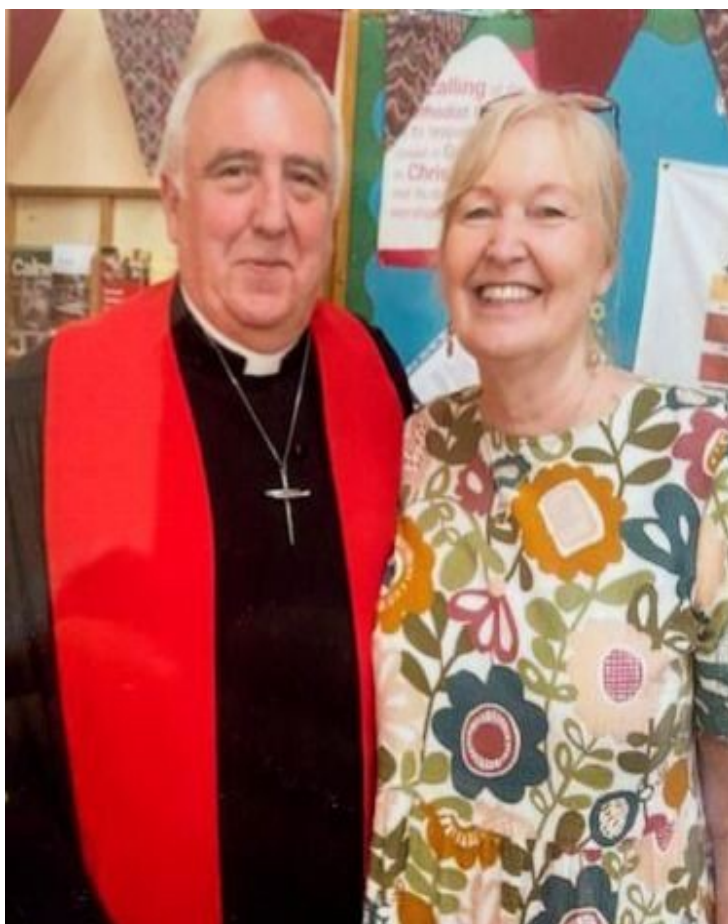


CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the September 2026 issue is

Sunday 30th August

“The test of a preacher is that his congregation goes away saying, not what a lovely sermon, but I will do something!” – St. Francis de Sales

“Preach the gospel at all times, when necessary, use words.” – St. Francis of Assisi
I begin my **final** pastoral letter with the above two quotes.

During my time spent ministering to you, I have written monthly pastoral letters with a distinct message to be addressed within each musing. I know many of you have found them helpful to your challenges and I hope that Rev Will can continue to do this for our section of churches. However, this letter also addresses the relationships I have enjoyed *with all* within the United Area.

I have enjoyed rewarding relationships not just with my own section churches, but I hope with all churches within our Area. As followers of Christ, with many different challenges, together we have grown in faith, built up church numbers, provided fruitful hospitality and shared the love God gave us to our communities.

During my ministry here, I remember the sacrament, joyful baptisms, membership services, church anniversary's, church fairs, Lenten groups, the variety of Christmas events and Christmas worship (my favourite), many, many meetings, (breakfast and others), praying, preaching, fellowship, and friendship. We have said goodbye to both beloved members and ministers who have moved on. I remember all the funerals at which I have celebrated the lives of those who have gone to God's keeping, *the greatest of privileges*.

We learned to work differently together, which involved removing the old way that we did things and embracing a new thing. Creating and planting new expressions. We have laughed and cried together. Mourned those that we love. Consumed far too many cakes and puddings and on a few occasions chips! Throughout my time here we have bonded and grown in wonderful ways. I know that following my long covid and two heart scares, the Lord has blessed me in more ways than I can understand. The Lord present with each of us, revealing what we think is impossible, God makes possible.

I know as a minister, God calls me to a particular place, for a particular period of time. To serve a purpose to a group of people within unique communities. I know that I have not accomplished everything that I had set out to do. But I also know that I have accomplished many things that I had not envisaged. Rev Will, your new Supt, his wife Helen and Issac, have been sent by the Connexion to bring fresh ideas to the circuit and to the relationship with the URC Synod churches and ministry team.

It is time for Elizabeth and I to leave.

I will remember that you will always be a part of me, and I will always be a part of you. We both offer our thanks for your patience, kindness, support, generosity (Such wonderful leaving gifts given by so many) and most importantly the love that you have shown us both.

You are a wonderful group of people serving God and I wish you God's blessings to rest upon you as you are directed down a new path in the new season that you are about to begin. May you continue to grow in faith, hope and love, worshipping the Lord with your whole heart, mind, body and soul. I hope that my sermons have encouraged you to do more for God. That I have preached beyond mere words but through my actions.

Although sad to be leaving I remember the psalms and God's future plans for us both,

"Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again, my Saviour and my God!" (Psalm 42:5-6)

As I sit down, I am **still called** to follow a man who knew all about challenge, pain, hurt and sadness. A divine man, when at the end of his strength and life, still forgave the world in an act of selfless love. A life that gave us all the hope of something far greater than our understanding of existence within this world.

Jesus once said, *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"*

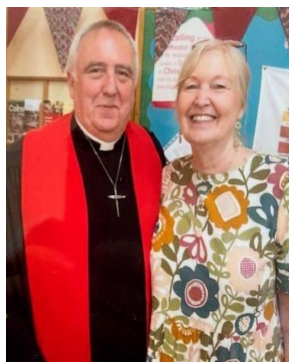
I imagine Jesus smiling as he said those words....and that is a comfort, a certainty of love and hope, within my life. Here we stand in hope as we grow into God's new purpose for mission and ministry. Together we have spent our time well in this place, may it continue to be so for yourselves with Will, Gary and Tracey.

'Be assured, the Spirit of God is alive and well Today. As she blows through our communities, hear her whisper a challenge, "Bring everybody to the table—everybody."

"Trust each other." "Don't be afraid to fail!" "Take a risk!" "Be open to whatever comes next." "View the future with curiosity and hope." "Step out in faith toward whatever direction God will lead you next." "Believe in each other; believe in God.' ©Amy Butler, 2021

May God bless you and always keep you safe.

Craig



Forthcoming Services:

2nd August Rev Gary Gotham and will include Holy Communion

9th August Mrs Jenny Colby

16th August Mr Derek Gard and Mrs Michele Gard – this will be our outdoor service at Langley Burrell – please note this starts at 11.30am and is followed by a picnic – see details in the newsletter

23rd August ` Mr Eric Clifford

30th August Mr Derek Gard

Calne Food Bank

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



Refugee Prayer Focus August 2026

We pray for refugees everywhere especially thinking about how they are affected by
Climate change.



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



Pastoral News

We give thanks for holidays, giving us an opportunity to change our routine. We give thanks for the ministry of Rev. Craig and Elizabeth. And for all the fun and fellowship we have shared. We pray for those receiving examination results that will determine their next decisions and for those continuing studies during the holiday season.

We pray for those finding life complicated, especially who are vulnerable in whatever capacity, mental, physical and spiritual. We pray for reassurance, understanding and for compassion from others.

We pray for our church, the formation of the new circuit and our church family. Throughout August we particularly pray for Vera Steadman's pastoral group: Ursula and Edward Barham; Kathy and Andrew Flescher; Molly Green; Jean Hadrell; Margaret and Richard Heath; Stephanie Tucker; Joe Watkins; Valerie Williamson and Carol West.

Another request for anyone who feels they could be a pastoral leader. Please would you speak with a member of the pastoral team.

It is part of our Christian commitment to care for and support each other and to rejoice with one another, so if you have any joys or sorrows that can be shared in our pastoral news please let Ursula know. Thank you.



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



AUGUST 2026

Dates for your diary

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

Tuesday 4th 11th 18th & 25th

Coffee and Chat

Time: 10.00am - 11.30am

Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday 5th 12th 19th & 26th

Warm Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Thursday August 13th

CHAT - Ladies Group

Time: 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Venue: 11, Langley Burrell

Sunday August 16th

Outdoor Service Led by Michele and Derek Gard

Time: 11.30pm

Venue: Langley Burrell. Home of Ursula and Edward

Picnic Lunch after the Service, please ask a steward if you need a lift.

Thursday September 17th to Sunday 20th

Harvest Flower Festival of Talents

Time: Various

Venue: Calne Methodist Church

See Newsletters for more details

Saturday September 19th

Concert

Time: 3.00pm followed by ploughman's

Venue: Calne Methodist Church

Sunday December 13th

Carols by Candlelight Service

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Calne Methodist Church

150th Anniversary - Programme of Events and Dates for the Diary

All at Calne Methodist Church - All very welcome

Sunday 16 August	Annual Outdoor Service By kind invitation of Ursula and Edward Barham. 11 The Common, Langley Burrell, SN15 4LF	11.30am Followed by picnic lunch – please bring your own lunch. Hot and cold drinks provided.
Saturday 12 September	Coffee and Craft Fair Craft stalls, homemade cakes and more. Refreshments, light lunches with Fairly Traded tea and coffee.	11.00am – 2.00pm
Thursday 17 September – Sunday 20 September	Flower Festival: The Harvest of Talents Church open to view flower displays.	Thursday & Friday: 11.00am – 3.00pm Saturday: 11.00am – 2.00pm Sunday: 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Saturday 19 September	Harvest Concert and Ploughman's Tea	3.00pm
Sunday 20 September	Harvest Festival	10.30am
Saturday 21 November	Christmas Coffee and Craft Fair Craft stalls, homemade cakes and more. Refreshments, light lunches with Fairly Traded tea and coffee.	11.00am – 2.00pm

Thursday 10 December - Saturday 12 December	Festival of Nativities Church open to view nativities	Thursday & Friday: 11.00am - 3.00pm Saturday: 11.00am - 2.00pm
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

Regular Activities

check website for details: calnemethodist.ddns.net

Every Sunday 10.30am	Morning Worship - All Welcome followed by coffee/tea and fellowship
Every Tuesday 10.00am - 11.30am	Coffee Morning - All Welcome
Every Tuesday 7.30pm	SupaNova ladies choir led by Ursula Barham. New singers welcome.
Every Wednesday 10.00am - 4.00pm	Warm/Friendly Spaces Hot drinks and snacks, light lunches, games and activities, fun and friendship. All welcome - no charge.
12.30pm - 1.00pm	Prayer Lunch in the Alan Bristow Room
1.30pm - 3.30pm	Knit and Natter and other crafts!
3rd Thursday of the month	CHAT - Come Hear and Talk. Currently meeting at the Manse - 38

2.00pm – 4.00pm	Horsebrook Park.
2nd Sunday of each month 3.00pm – 6.00pm A Calne Partnership of Churches activity	Messy Church An informal church for all ages. Explore the Bible and a Christian life through crafts, songs, games, drama, activities and food. No need to book – just come and join in!

You are invited to the Welcome Service for
Rev William Fletcher and Mrs Helen Fletcher



at Melksham United Church on Sunday 6th September.



The service will be at 4.00pm led by Rev Dr Marcus Torchon
and will be followed by a Faith Tea



PLEASE NOTE
Messy Church
is taking
its Summer Break.

Our next session will be on
Sunday 11 October
3.00pm at Calne Methodist Church

A Calne Partnership of Churches activity

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We were delighted to welcome new members, Eileen, Jan, Lorna, Andrew, Kathy and Val who had joined us from other churches. Craig also confirmed Lynn and welcomed her as a new member. Welcome to the family – love and blessings to all of you.



Derek was also presented with his long-service certificate for completing 40 years as a Local Preacher. Congratulations Derek!



CALNE BIKE MEET

For the first time, we opened for the Bike Meet providing parking, storage and refreshments. We opened from 10am – 4pm and saw a steady stream of bikers throughout the day. We provided a cool and quiet sanctuary from the busyness of the town centre. We welcomed groups from Ebbw Vale, Wolverhampton, Weymouth and a local couple from Bradford on Avon. Although, not a fundraiser, we took £91 in donations, storage and refreshment charges.



Derek and Michele Gard



Calne Methodist Church

Flower Festival & Harvest of Talents



Thursday 17th - Saturday 19th September

Opening Times

- **Thursday: 10.00am - 4.00pm**
- **Friday: 10.00am - 4.00pm**
- **Saturday: 10.00am - 12 noon**

A Celebration of Creativity and Community

Beautiful floral displays & handcrafted talents to enjoy

Light refreshments available



All Welcome!

Flower Festival and Harvest of Talents, Harvest Concert and Harvest Festival

Our next big event will be the **Flower Festival and Harvest of Talents**. This will run from Thursday 17 September – Saturday 19 September. Opening times will be:

- Thursday: 10.00am - 4.00pm
- Friday: 10.00am - 4.00pm
- Saturday: 10.00am - 12 noon

If you can help steward, we would love you to sign-up on the sheets on the noticeboard in the hall. These will be available later in the month. Steward slots will be 2 hours and we need at least two people per session. We are also looking for those who'd be willing to serve teas and coffees and/or bake a cake to serve.

Are you able to provide a flower display, produce for display or a display of your talents? Please let Lynda Rumming or Michele know. We will be setting up and decorating the church on Wednesday 16 September so will need your contributions by then.

If you are not able to do a flower arrangement yourself, could you make a donation to cover the cost of flowers so an arrangement could be done on your behalf? Again, please speak to Lynda or Michele.

The Harvest Concert will be on Saturday 19 September at 3.00pm. Tickets are £8 for adults and £5 for children and will include a ploughman's tea. Tickets are available from Ursula – please let her know any allergies/dietary requirements.

The Flower Festival and Harvest of Talents will end with our **Harvest Festival** on Sunday 20 September and will be led by our new minister, Rev Will Fletcher. The service will start as normal at 10.30am and will be followed by a Harvest Lunch Buffet. Nearer the date, you will be asked to sign up for the lunch.

Michele Gard



20th September 2026
Harvest Buffet Lunch
12:15 In Church Hall

Ham & Cheese
Salads
Jacket Potatoes
Fruit Crumble
&
Custard or Cream
Tea & Coffee

If you feel able to help contact Julie

A sign up sheet will be available Late August

Calne Methodist Church

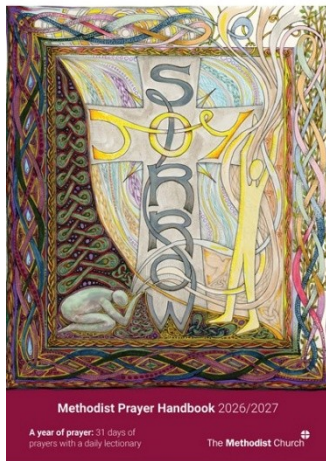
Harvest Concert

Saturday 19 September • 3.00pm

Tickets: £8.00 including ploughman's tea
£5.00 children under 16



ALL WELCOME!



Methodist Prayer Handbook 2026/7

**Please see Jan if you would like a copy.
They will cost £4.99 each.**



Reflection. What is it to you?

Reflection. What is it to me?

To me, it is a look back into yesterday
In search of ancestral wisdom.

To me, it is a beneath the surface consideration
Of my present situation in hope of obtaining
Gratification and a measure of growth herein.

To me, it is a hopeful and visual anticipation
Of a better tomorrow.

To me, it is like consuming a refreshing drink
Of cold water on a hot summer day.

To me, it is a look within in search of my What,
My when, my who, my where, my why, and my how.

To me, it is a careful and prayerful gaze within
That I may uncover the three dimensions of time
And catch the reality of God through Christ.

Curtis Johnson (Submitted by Derek Gard)

Laughter is truly the best medicine! – submitted by Derek Gard

Laughter is truly the best medicine! A good laugh instantly relieves stress by relaxing your muscles, lowering stress hormones like cortisol, and releasing feel-good endorphins that boost your mood and naturally relieve pain.

You can break this "medicine" down into real physical and mental health benefits:

- **Physical Relief:** A hearty laugh stimulates circulation, lowers blood pressure, and even gives your muscles and organs a mild workout.
- **Immune Boost:** It decreases stress hormones while increasing infection-fighting antibodies and immune cells.
- **Pain Tolerance:** The release of endorphins can act as a natural painkiller, making discomfort easier to tolerate.
- **Mental Clarity:** Laughing physically stops distressing emotions like anxiety, anger, and sadness.

So, on that basis:-

- 1) What kind of water cannot freeze? Hot water.
- 2) Why does ice cream always get invited to the party? It's cool.
- 3) Why did the robot go on vacation? He needed to recharge his batteries.
- 4) Where do math teachers like to go on vacation? Times Square
- 5) Why did the teacher jump into the pool? She wanted to test the water!
- 6) Why did the cantaloupe jump into the pool? – It wanted to become a watermelon.
- 7) What did the ocean say to the lifeguard? Nothing, it just waved.
- 8) What part of the fish weighs the most? The scales.
- 9) What kind of tree fits in your hand? A palm tree!
- 10) Where do sheep go on vacation? The Baaa-hamas.
- 11) What do you call a snowman in July? – A puddle.
- 12) What does a mermaid use to call her friends? A shell phone, of course.
- 13) Why did the detectives show up at the concert at the beach? Something fishy was going on.
- 14) Why did the banana wear sunscreen at the beach? It refused to peel.

A guy walks into a lingerie shop and says that his wife has asked for a Texas Preacher bra.

The sales assistant says, “Oh, we don’t get requests for that one so often nowadays,
usually people ask for a Catholic bra, the Methodist bra or the Baptist bra.

“What’s the difference?” asks the guy.

The Sales Lady answers –

“The Catholic bra supports the masses,

The Methodist bra keeps things well balanced and

The Baptist bra lifts things up with enthusiasm!”

So the guy asks – “And what does the Texas Preacher bra do?”

The Sales lady smiles and says, “Simple, it turns a small testimony into a full revival!”

The Forecast – submitted by Margaret Bassett

He said it might be sunny, could see a spot of rain,

But near the coast the winds might reach gale force once again.

By evening there’s a slight chance of ground frost he did warn,

But this should clear up quickly in the sun tomorrow morn.

The outlook though seems promising with temperatures set to rise,

Just gentle breezes by the sea mid cloudless blue skies.

One can’t ignore the weather it’s with us all day long,

It listens to the forecast and then tries to prove them wrong.



AUTUMN CRAFTS CAKES & COFFEE EVENT

**SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER, 2026
METHODIST CHURCH HALL
SILVER STREET, CALNE
11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.**

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