

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER JULY 2026



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the August 2026 issue is

Sunday 26th July

Forthcoming Services:

- 5th July** **Local Arrangement – due to holidays there will not be any zoom for this service.**
- 12th July** **Mr Steven Colby- due to holidays there will not be any zoom for this service.**
- 19th July** **Rev Craig Manley – this will be Craig’s last service with us**
6.00pm Partnership of Churches service at St Edmund’s
- 26th July** **Mrs Ruth McGregor**
5.00pm Tea and Cake followed by Area Farewell Service for Rev Craig Manley at 6.00pm

Calne Food Bank

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



Refugee Prayer Focus July 2026

We pray for the UN Refugee Agency and all the work they are doing for displaced families across the World.



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 Rev. Craig and Elizabeth Manley. May the Lord shower them with blessings in retirement. Their final service together is July 19th 10.30am. Their Farewell Service from Wiltshire United Area is July 26th at Calne Methodist Church. Starting at 5pm with tea and chat, followed by the Service at 6pm.

Quotes from the Flock. Thank you for:

“the lent courses” “inspiring sermons” “appreciating the choir”

“taking on a theatrical challenge” “your cheerful colours”

“visiting me when I needed it”

“the church being in a better place than when you arrived”

“your gift at taking a funeral service” “sitting and chatting with me at Warm Spaces”

“loving and caring for me warts and all”

“your smiles” “keeping our minds alert about discipleship”

“ YOU WILL BE GREATLY MISSED”

Throughout July we pray particularly for Julie Gibson’s Pastoral Group: Margaret and Brian Bassett, Tina Evans, Doris and Darkie Haddrell, Jean Haddrell, Sue Johstone, Eileen Kimber and Jill McCondach.

In the past two newsletters a request for people to become a pastoral leader has been issued. As yet no-one has come forward so our pastoral team remains two people short. As a result our groups at present are larger so we ask for your patience if we - Freda, Miriam, Julie, Vera and Ursula do not contact you as often as we would like. However please feel free to contact us if you need us. We are very grateful to those people who do make valuable visits to members of the church congregation and to those at Warm / Friendly Spaces. They are a great support to the pastoral team. The invitation still stands; if you would like to consider being a pastoral leader please speak with Ursula.

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.



**Sunday
12 July**

**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



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



JULY 2026

Dates for your diary

All are very welcome to come along and join in.

Tuesday 7th 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 July 2nd and 23rd

CHAT - Ladies Group

Time: 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Venue: 3 The Old Dairy

Sunday July 26th

Area Farewell Service for Rev. Craig and Elizabeth

Time: 5.00pm Afternoon Tea – 6.00pm Service

Venue: Calne Methodist Church

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.

Thursday September 17th to Sunday 20th

Harvest Flower Festival of Talents

Time: Various

Venue: Calne Methodist Church

See Newsletters for more details

You are invited to the Farewell Service for
Rev Craig Manley and Mrs Elizabeth Manley



at Calne Methodist Church on Sunday 26th July.

There will be Tea and Cake at 5.00pm followed by the
service at 6.00pm

**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

<p>Every Sunday 10.30am</p>	<p>Morning Worship - All Welcome followed by coffee/tea and fellowship</p>
<p>Every Tuesday 10.00am - 11.30am</p>	<p>Coffee Morning - All Welcome</p>
<p>Every Tuesday 7.30pm</p>	<p>SupaNova ladies choir led by Ursula Barham. New singers welcome.</p>
<p>Every Wednesday 10.00am - 4.00pm</p>	<p>Warm/Friendly Spaces Hot drinks and snacks, light lunches, games and activities, fun and friendship. All welcome - no charge.</p>
<p>12.30pm - 1.00pm</p>	<p>Prayer Lunch in the Alan Bristow Room</p>
<p>1.30pm - 3.30pm</p>	<p>Knit and Natter and other crafts!</p>
<p>3rd Thursday of the month 2.00pm - 4.00pm</p>	<p>CHAT - Come Hear and Talk. Currently meeting at the Manse - 38 Horsebrook Park.</p>
<p>2nd Sunday of each month 3.00pm - 6.00pm A Calne Partnership of Churches activity</p>	<p>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!</p>

An Invitation to Contribute... A Poem, Not Money

What might serve as another marker of this, the church's anniversary year? How about something that everyone might be able to contribute toward, and no one is asking for money?

The IDEA

You've probably seen at a church craft fair, or even bought, one of the single authored poetry books on sale. The intention now is to produce a multi-authored book of poems in which every poem has been composed by a member of the church, including adherents, past and present, and even the children of church families.

So, everyone indicated above is invited to contribute one or two poems – no more – of their own composition. These will all go into a book that's intended to display the breadth of talent there is within the church for creating poetry.

The FAQs

Must poems be '**religious**'? *No. Any subject is okay. It's up to you.*

How **long** can poems be? *You'll have up to one page (two sides) of the book for your poem(s). A single poem could take all that space.*

Does the **form** or kind of poem matter, e.g. Limericks? *No. Any poetic form is acceptable.*

May **children** contribute? *Yes, if they are part of a church family.*

What will the book **cost**? *Can't tell yet. Need to know how many contributors/pages.*

THE TIMELINE?

If you are interested – even vaguely – tell Stephen Steadman.
A deadline for contributions will be announced later in the year.

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

To Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Calne Methodist Church

Help – It's time to find shelter.
Lost – I need somewhere to stay.
Must – I jog along on my own.
Does – anyone care.

** ** **

We thank you Lord and Master
For the gift of our dear church
Built of strong steel hard rock,
Where those stones are turned to bread
And we forage in that holy place.
And are fed on words from up above
Sacred soul, blessed heart, divine love,
Rebirth.
So gather in this special space
Let His; shimmering light and love,
Take flight; and softly, softly, alight on you.

By Sue Johnstone

Pull the flag high up the flagpole,
Hang the banner on the wall.
We're about to have a party,
Everybody hear the call.
It's a massive celebration,
One hundred and fifty years of praise.
Thank the Lord we can still praise Him.
Everyone your palm leaf wave.

Silver Street Church is Having an Anniversary

If you should chance to visit Calne and to Silver Street you go
You may see a little Church upon your left.
Built of tile and brick and stone, it stands detached and on its own;
A simple Church, quite old – it looks bereft!
No Tower no Spire or Steeple – they're not needed by the people
who just come to worship here and sing God's praise.
No fancy Stained Glass window there, to shine down on us in prayer,
whilst underneath good folk their anthems raise.

For a hundred and fifty years – from 1876 'til now,
this little Church has stood beneath a tree;
On the side of Silver Street, small and solid – tidy, neat.
And in May — it has an anniversary!
One hundred and fifty years of Methodism now.
Come and join the Celebrations here in May;
although it might be your first time
you should keep this thought in mind
once you join us you might feel inclined to STAY!!

By Brian Bassett

WE'RE RECRUITING A CIRCUIT MANAGER

21 hours per week • £20,105 per annum • Fixed-term 3 years • Home-based

The newly formed **Wiltshire United Methodist Circuit** is seeking a highly organised and motivated **Circuit Manager** to provide essential administrative, financial and organisational support across our fourteen churches.

This is an exciting opportunity to help shape the administrative foundations of a new Circuit, working closely with the Superintendent Minister, Circuit Leadership Team, church officers and volunteers.

Key responsibilities include:

- Day-to-day financial administration and bookkeeping
- GDPR and safeguarding record management
- Property administration and Online Suite submissions
- Producing the quarterly preaching plan
- Maintaining the Circuit website and communications
- Preparing agendas, minutes and statutory reports
- Supporting Circuit events and liaising with the District

We are looking for someone who is:

- Self-motivated, organised and able to work independently
- Experienced in administration and financial processes
- Confident using IT, online systems and Microsoft 365
- Able to communicate clearly and work collaboratively
- Supportive of the mission and values of the Methodist Church

Hours: 21 per week, flexible (some evenings and occasional weekends) **Location:** Home-based with travel across the Wiltshire United Circuit **Requirements:** Enhanced DBS, safeguarding training, right to work in the UK, full driving licence and access to vehicle

To download an application pack, please go to the Wiltshire United Area website: <https://www.wiltsunitedchurches.org.uk/job-vacancies-application-forms/>

Closing date: Tuesday 14 July 2026 **Interviews:** Friday 24 July 2026 **Start date:** Tuesday 1 September 2026 or earlier if available

Think

“A very great part of the mischiefs that vex this world arises from words.” Edmund Burke, Letter to a friend

A friend of mine had a poster which reads, ‘Before engaging your mouth make sure your brain is in gear.’ This goes for the written word too, as people who prepare church magazines so often prove.

This will be Father John’s last Sunday with us. The Choir will sing the anthem, ‘Break Forth Into Joy’.

Please place donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you wish to remember.

Our potluck supper will begin tonight at 5pm. Music and Medication to follow afterwards.

Our evening service will be held in the park across from the church. Bring some blankets and come prepared to sin.

The youth group will lead the worship next Sunday when they will teach us a new snog.

The weight watchers’ group will meet in the church hall at 7pm on Wednesday. Please use the large double doors.

I wonder what tablets are available at ‘Music and medication’ and how many people aren’t sure what a new snog might be?

Its amusing when words come out wrong. But damage can also result.

And me? I have my blanket and I’m ready to sin. Just don’t tell Michele!

Derek Gard with thanks to the inspiration of Tom Gordon.