

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the November 2026 issue is

Sunday 25th October

Dear friends,

One of the joys of having a toddler, especially one who has just started nursery, is that they are a great sharer of germs. As I write this, the three of us are all at home coughing, sneezing! It has meant that I haven't been able to do all the things I had planned to do, which is a shame – though I'm sure many will be relieved to not also receive a sharing of these germs!

I'm sure there will be some who would think, with it 'only' being a cold, that I should just plough on. It is an idea common in our society that we shouldn't allow such things to stop us being productive, and we must carry on regardless.

It has reminded me of when I was preparing myself for superintendency chatting with other Supers and my Chair of District at the time, and they all said that one of the good things of being Superintendent is that you have the opportunity to shape the culture of the Circuit.

In the Gospels we hear Jesus' invitation to come to him and rest. Elsewhere, he says that he has come that we may have life in all its fullness. These two statements should help shape the culture we wish our Circuit to demonstrate. We are called, as the people of God, not to conform to the ways of the world, but to the ways of God's kingdom – a kingdom of life and renewal. When our society becomes obsessed with work and productivity, we must clearly demonstrate an alternative worldview where people can listen to their bodies, or the bodies of their loved ones, and promote rest and well-being. When our society is setup in such a way that some people can't afford to stop in order to rest, we need to be challenging this injustice as loudly as we are able.

Our world is suffering the effects of our lust to consume all the earth's resources. Maybe, the first step we need to take is to reclaim Sabbath rest as part of our pattern of living. This doesn't have to mean becoming legalistic about what can or can't happen on a Sunday, but instead developing and promoting a rhythm of work and rest for our good, the good of our neighbours, and the good of our planet.

Therefore, as we enter the season when there will be more bugs going around, please hear me that, whoever you are, whether ordained or lay, whatever role you hold in church, if you feel under the weather I do not expect you to press on. If you need to rest, please rest – with no guilt. The Church and God's kingdom will still continue. I will do my best to model this. May we be a community shaped by the culture that seeks to allow us to be restored and renewed that we may experience that life in all its fullness.

The hymn, 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind' includes the verse:

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Peace,

Will



Pastoral News

Thank you Lord for Harvest. The Flower Festival, Service and Meal which were celebrated September 17- 20th. Thank you to all who were involved in creating this celebration for our 150th year.

People were very generous in their giving of food items which go to the Calne food bank. 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 whether it be a successful operation, good scan results or correct diagnosis.

We pray for:- individuals and families who find themselves in difficult situations; those who are lonely; those who have long term health issues; those waiting on results of scans; those waiting for broken bones to mend and for all who care for and support people in these various situations.

Throughout October we particularly pray for all those who come to Warm Spaces. 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.

Our next Pastoral meeting is October 8th 10.00am in the church hall. It is a joyful thing that our congregation is growing. Meeting the needs of our church community requires an appropriate number of pastoral leaders. If you would like to become a pastoral leader please speak to any member of the team. Freda, Vera, Julie, Miriam and Ursula.

Forthcoming Services:

4th October	Mrs Michel Gard
11th October	Mr Arthur Sara
18th October	Local Arrangement
25th October	Rev Christine Fowler

Calne Food Bank

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



Refugee Prayer Focus October 2026

Please continue to pray for refugees across our world and focus on the fact that people do not flee their homes lightly. Refugees leave their countries for a variety of reasons. They are often escaping war, persecution and other situations which make staying impossible.



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

October 2026



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

Tuesday 6th 13th 20th & 27th

Coffee and Chat

Time: 10.00am - 11.30am

Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday October 7th 14th 21st & 28th

Warm Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Thursday October 17th

Poetry Afternoon

Time: 3.00pm

Venue: Church

Including refreshments

Thursday October 22nd November 12th & December 3rd

CHAT - Ladies Group

Time: 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Venue: To be decided (contact Ursula)

Sunday 1st November

Annual Church Meeting after the service – please join us and help shape the future of our church.

Saturday November 21st

Craft Fair 11.00 am - 2.00pm Please see Poster in this newsletter

Saturday November 28th

Turning on of Calne Christmas lights.

Come and join the choir singing

Thursday 11 December

Festival of Nativities and Christmas Karaoke

Friday 11 December

Nativity Play (see Poster in this newsletter)

Sunday December 13th

Carols by Candlelight Service

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Calne Methodist Church

Saturday January 16th

Singathon

Time: 10.00am till 4.00pm

Venue: Calne Methodist Church Hall



A **BIG** thank you to everyone who helped make the Flower Festival, Harvest of Talents and Harvest Lunch such special occasions. I am truly grateful for all your time, hard work, wonderful displays and support. We also send our love and prayers to all those who were unwell and unable to join us—you were very much in our thoughts.

Michele Gard

Donations at the Festival and Harvest Lunch raised over £300 – thank you to all who gave so generously







The new sound and upgraded AV system has now been installed. It is going to take me a few weeks to get to grips with it. Please bear with me and let me know if you can hear everything, especially if you use the hearing loop. I hope to have Zoom up and running for Sunday 11 October. Again, those on Zoom will need to let me know how it sounds.

I will run a training session for everyone who wants to know how it works after service on Sunday 11 October. Please let me know if you will be staying for this.

Michele Gard

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

All at Calne Methodist Church - All very welcome

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 2.00pm – 4.00pm	CHAT – Come Hear and Talk. Currently meeting at the Manse – 38 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!

A SECOND REMINDER

Saturday, October 17th, 2:00 – 4:00 ish

The Autumn Poetry Afternoon

Free entry plus: free refreshments; a light-hearted quiz;
dramatized poems; a mystery session; and
a medley of poems to lift your spirits.



MESSY CHURCH

Dates for the Diary

11 October

8 November

6 December

Calne Methodist Church

3.00pm – 6.00pm

Children must be accompanied by an adult please.

A Calne Partnership of Churches activity

VISION 150 UPDATE

As you know, over the last six months, we have been holding special events and fundraising for our Vision 150 project. In the last month, we presented our project to the Circuit Meeting for its support. We are delighted to tell you that the Circuit Meeting awarded us a grant of £75,000 towards Vision 150.

Together with our own fundraising, we have now raised £125,000 towards the project. Now we have the support of the Circuit, Michele will be submitting other grant applications to get us to our total. The Vision 150 project total has grown so

that we can include secondary double glazing to the church and the development of our vestry and the Alan Bristow room.

If you haven't supported the project and would like to make a donation - please speak to Derek or Michele.

Derek and Michele Gard

The weight of the world is heavy tonight

The weight of the world is heavy tonight,
My hands are so weary, my vision is dim.
I've run out of answers, I've run out of might,
And all that I have left is a whisper to Him.
Lord, I am empty, my spirit is dry,
The road feels too long and the shadows too deep.
You know every struggle, You hear every sigh,
You watch over me when I'm broken to sleep.
I surrender the striving, the stress, and the care,
I layout my burdens right here at Your feet.
I don't have the strength for another long prayer,
But I know in Your presence my soul is complete.
For You are the fountain that never runs dry,
Your grace is sufficient when forces are gone.
You lift up the weary, You hear when they cry,
And breathe in the darkness the hope of the dawn.
So speak to my storm and command it be still,
And pour out Your spirit to quiet my soul.
I rest in Your promise, I trust in Your will,
Your strength is made perfect when I lose control.

Submitted by Michele Gard

FESTIVAL OF NATIVITIES

Our final event of our 150th Anniversary Year is our Festival Nativities. I am looking for nativities and nativity characters to display. Do you have an unusual nativity? Do you have a nativity from another country

Michele Gard



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High-Backed Chairs for Sale

Green or Terracotta • £25 each

As part of our **Vision 150 project**, we are developing the Alan Bristow Room into a flexible meeting space. We therefore need to find new homes for its James Spencer high-backed chairs.

Chair details

- **Colours:** Green or terracotta
- **Upholstery:** Hard-wearing and washable
- **Price:** £25 per chair
- **Collection only:** Buyers must collect; delivery is not available



Interested? Please get in touch with Michele Gard to reserve your chair(s).

michelegard@btinternet or 07841 020291

Halloween Jokes – Spookeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!



- **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's a ghost's favourite drink?**
Boo-berry juice.
- **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's a ghoul's favourite drink?**
Anything with boos.
- **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!

All Souls' Day by Frances Bellerby

At the end of the month, it will be Halloween. Lots of fuss, pumpkins, dressing up for small children and lots of sweets given out. But what we sometimes forget is that Halloween is the eve of All Souls (or Saints) day. This is a poem that deals with remembering those who we love and are no longer with us. (Derek)

Let's go our old way
by the stream, and kick the leaves
as we always did, to make
the rhythm of breaking waves.

This day draws no breath –
shows no colour anywhere
except for the leaves - in their death
brilliant as never before.

Yellow of Brimstone Butterfly,
brown of Oak Eggar Moth –
you'd say. And I'd be wondering why
a summer never seems lost.

if two have been together
witnessing the variousness of light,
and the same two in lustreless November
enter the year's night...

The slow-worm stream - how still!
Above that spider's unguarded door,
look – dull pearls... Time's full,
brimming, can hold no more.

Next moment (we well know,
my darling, you and I)
what the small day cannot hold
must spill into eternity.

So perhaps we should move cat-soft
meanwhile, and leave everything unsaid,
until no shadow of risk can be left
of disturbing the scatheless dead.

Ah, but you were always leaf-light.
And you so seldom talk
as we go. But there at my side
through the bright leaves you walk.

And yet – touch my hand
that I may be quite without fear,
for it seems as if a mist descends,
and the leaves where you walk do not stir.



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS CAKES & COFFEE EVENT

**SATURDAY 21st NOVEMBER, 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**

