

CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2026



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the October 2026 issue is
Sunday 27th September

Dear friends,

Having finished my appointment in Sussex a little bit earlier than usual, I've ended up with 6 weeks off which has meant that this week takes me back to my school days returning after the long summer holidays. As with those days there is that mix of emotions – excitement at seeing familiar faces and making new friends, apprehension about the year to come and what it will hold. This sense of the unknown is as much for church members welcoming a new minister, as it is for the minister themselves. We have the added dimension of this also being a new circuit with new terminology to learn, new patterns of working to develop, new roles and responsibilities to embrace.

I am excited to be working with the new Circuit Leadership Team as together we seek to discern God's vision for our calling at this time. We are determined that we don't want to only be focused on organisational business, but on encouraging us all to think about our discipleship and the living out of our faith. The responsibility for this discernment isn't only for the few, but each of us have a part to play, so please do contact us with ideas, concerns, dreams.

The beginning of this new Circuit will also generate a range of emotions from excitement as to what is now possible, to grief at what has been left behind, and even uneasiness for those who don't think of themselves as 'Methodist'. All those emotions are valid, and we will seek to hold them all in our plans and working. I apologise now that we may not always get it right!

For those who aren't aware, though a cradle Methodist, my life and ministry has been overtly ecumenical – working and worshipping in Baptist, Anglican, URC, Salvation Army, Orthodox, and Roman Catholic settings. Though I come as the Methodist Superintendent, I hope to bring something of that rich diversity, and continue to build those links beyond this particular branch of the Christian family.

However we are feeling about the New Year and the new Circuit, we remember the supposed final words of John Wesley, 'Best of all is God is with us.' We hold onto that hope that whatever happens, whatever we face, whatever unexpected twists and turns appear in our journey together, God will be the ever-present reality with us. God is our fortress and refuge from the storms of life, God is the one who plants our feet in the open spaces of delight, God is the one who leads us by the still waters of refreshment, God is our encourager, and God is the one who welcomes us home.

So may we journey on together in that joy and hope.

Peace,

Will



Pastoral News

September brings us the new Methodist Year. We share every blessing with all who are beginning new ministries at this time. We especially say prayers of encouragement and joy for Revd. Will Fletcher, with Helen and Isaac, as he begins his new post here in the Wiltshire United Circuit.

The Welcome Service is at Melksham Methodist Church at 4.00pm. The family will be living at the Melksham Manse.

We congratulate all those who have received their exam results; especially Michael who is at Chippenham College and has achieved a Merit for his level 2 Media and can now go on to level 3, and to Lewis who is at SGS College Bristol and has passed his first year of Sport and Exercise Science BTEC with a Distinction.

We pray for all our Young People starting their new school year, especially those beginning at a new school. We also pray for their parents and teachers as the new term begins.

We pray for: Julie Gibson who has broken her arm; may the healing process go well, and Marion Pitman who has moved to Hayward Care Centre; may she settle quickly; a few members of Friendly Spaces who are experiencing difficult times; families who also find themselves in difficult situations; those who are lonely; those who have long term health issues; those waiting on results of scans; those waiting to have important consultations and for all who care for and support people in these various situations..

Thank you for all prayers given, those hanging on our prayer tree, those in our prayer book, those spoken at prayer lunch and those shared for prayer nine.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our church family and community. Throughout September we particularly pray for Freda Ackroyds's Pastoral Group: Miriam Crighton; Caroline Foster; Molly Green; Maisie Price; Jan and Rob Sayers; Graham Spyer; Vera and Stephen Steadman and Doreen Watt.

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.

Forthcoming Services:

6th September	Rev Ruth Whittard including Holy Communion 4.00pm Welcome Service for Rev Will Fletcher at Melksham United
13th September	Mrs Jo Williams
20th September	Rev Will Fletcher – this will be our Harvest Festival
27th September	Mrs Elizabeth Manley

Calne Food Bank

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



Refugee Prayer Focus September 2026

Please pray for courage for the refugees of our world. For refugees around the world, courage is often a daily necessity. It is the courage to face unknown journeys, learn new languages, navigate unfamiliar systems, or simply to wake up each morning and step into an uncertain 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



September 2026

Dates for your diary

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

Tuesday 1st 8th 15th 22nd & 29th

Coffee and Chat

Time: 10:00am - 11.30am

Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday 2nd 9th 16th 23rd & 30th

Warm Spaces

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Church Hall

Thursday September 3rd and 24th

CHAT - Ladies Group

Time: 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Venue: 3rd Hayward Centre: 24th The home of Lyn Elliot

Saturday September 12th

Coffee and Craft Fair Please see Poster

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

Saturday November 21st

Craft Fair Please see Poster

Sunday December 13th

Carols by Candlelight Service

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Calne Methodist Church



Wiltshire United **Methodist** Circuit

Goodbye Area! Hello Circuit!

After 40 years, the Wiltshire United Area (Methodist/United Reformed Church) has now been dissolved and in its place, we have the Wiltshire United Methodist Circuit.

This has come about because the Charity Commission said that we were unable to service two charities ie the Methodist and United Reformed Church. On learning of this, it has taken two years and much hard work by the Area, including Jan and Derek, to unravel the complexities of our processes and finances to get us to where we are today.

Our new circuit incorporates Bradford on Avon United Church*, Bromham Methodist Church, Calne Methodist Church, Corsham St Aldhelm's, Devizes St Andrew's*, Market Lavington United Church*, Melksham United Church, Steeple Ashton Methodist Church, Warminster United Church*, Wesley Road United Church*, Westbury Methodist Church, Whitley Methodist Church and Winsley Methodist Church.

These are served by a Methodist Superintendent Minister (Rev Will Fletcher) and a team of lay preachers and supernumerary (retired) ministers – Rev Peter Bennett, Rev Maree Farrimond and Rev Peter Whatton.

Two United Reformed Church (URC) Ministers *(Rev Gary Gotham and Rev Tracey Lewis) cover the United Churches marked * above. There will be a Covenant and Partnership Agreement which means the United Reformed Churches in the old Wiltshire United Area (Holt, Monks Chapel and Westbury URC) are included in the quarterly preaching plan. These are also served by the two URC ministers.

So how does this affect me? You may ask. Most church members will not notice too much of a difference day to day. However, our new Minister, Rev Will Fletcher, is now looking after five churches as well as undertaking Superintendent duties. This means that we won't have him taking a service every month as Craig did or attending every activity or event we run. We are blessed at Calne to have an active and responsive group of people volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents to run the church. We need to pray for and support them as they take on their responsibilities in the new Circuit.

It may be helpful to just give a brief explanation of some of the terms that you might hear used in the Circuit.

A Methodist Circuit is the basic organisational unit of the Methodist Church in Britain: a group of local churches served by a team of ministers and lay preachers, working together for worship, mission, and pastoral care. This structure is central to how Methodism operates. The Circuit is responsible for the payment of ministers and employed staff, maintaining, buying and selling circuit property (usually manses), the management of Circuit funds and investments, and for the general welfare of the ordained and employed staff in the circuit. .

A Superintendent Minister is appointed to lead a Methodist Circuit, providing oversight of its ministers, churches, governance and mission. This role is described in the Methodist Church's official guidance as a "vital role in the life of the Methodist Church", responsible for both practical leadership and spiritual oversight.

Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) is the core group responsible for the strategic direction, mission, and day-to-day operations of a Circuit including finance, property, staffing and support, safeguarding, mission and discipleship. The CLT is made up of volunteers and paid ministerial/lay staff. It provides collaborative leadership, pastoral care, and support to the group of local churches that make up the Circuit.

Circuit Meeting is the central governing and decision-making body for the Circuit. It meets 3-4 times a year and all churches in the circuit are represented.

The Preaching Plan is the official rota which shows who is leading and preaching at every service across the Circuit, usually covering a quarter (three months) at a time. It is a core part of Methodist organisation and worship life.

Bristol Methodist District (the District) is the regional grouping of Circuits. It covers a vast area of over 7,500 square miles, spanning Gloucestershire, Greater Bristol, large parts of Somerset, and Wiltshire.

Synod is the governing council of the District. It serves as a vital bridge between the national Methodist Conference and Circuits.

The Methodist Conference: The central governing body that makes rules and oversees the entire Methodist church.

Michele Gard
Circuit Manager

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

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

Thursday 17 September: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Friday 18 September: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Saturday 19 September: 10.00am – 12 noon

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.

Our Harvest Festival will end the Flower Festival and Harvest of Talents 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. You need to sign up for the lunch please.

To continue our 150th Celebrations and make these events a spectacular success
We need your help!

STEWARDS for the Flower Festival and Harvest of Talents - 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. Please sign up on the sheets in the hall

DISPLAYS Are you able to provide a flower display, produce for display or a display of your talents? Please let Lynda Rumming or me 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 me.

HARVEST LUNCH – With Julie out of action and Caroline away, I will be leading the preparations for the Harvest Lunch. I cannot do this on my own. Can you help after the Concert on Saturday to set up? Can you help to set out food on the day? Can you make a fruit crumble? Can you help clear and tidy up? Please either sign up on the sheet in the hall or speak to me.

Many thanks
Michele Gard

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

All at Calne Methodist Church – All very welcome

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: 10.00am – 4.00pm Saturday: 10.00am – 12.00pm
Saturday 19 September	Harvest Concert and Ploughman's Tea	3.00pm
Sunday 20 September	Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch	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 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!

Saturday, October 17th, from 2:00 till 4:00 pm

A Date for your Diary

The Autumn Poetry Afternoon

FREE ENTRY

Come and be **entertained** while enjoying **free** refreshments by:

- A light-hearted **quiz** – with prizes;
- **Dramatized** poems acted out before your astonished eyes;
 - The chance to present your **own**, or **favourite** poem,
or let us present it for you;
 - A **Mystery** session;
- And, of course, a **medley** of poems chosen by our presenters.

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

September's Grace

The summer days begin to fade,
As cooler breezes gently blow,
Across the hills that God has made,
Where golden lights and shadows go.

The leaves put on their fiery crown,
Before they drift upon the air,
And softly, quietly flutter down,
As nature kneels in evening prayer.

Lord, as the changing seasons turn,
And harvest yields its plenteous store,
Give us a faith that still can burn,
To serve and love You more and more.

Submitted by Derek Gard

Property News



This month will see two windows in the toilet block replaced with double glazing PVC units following a window being broken and the frames rotting.

The work on the new Sound and Audio Visual system will start this month ahead of schedule, (150 vision plan) following the failure of the sound system. We thank you for your patience whilst we are using the portable system.

A new Cleaning firm, Always Sparkling has been appointed and will start work on the 4th September.

We are progressing well with the rest of the 150 Vision plan and will be going to the Circuit meeting later this month to ask them for financial assistance to support our mission.

We are still on schedule for most of the work to commence early in the new year.

A big thankyou to the property committee and all those people who help with the upkeep and maintenance of the property.

Derek Gard Ursula Barham

Property Committee Convenors



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**

Made with AI

Calne Methodist Church

Flower Festival & Harvest of Talents

Thursday 17th – Saturday
19th September

Get Involved!

Create a Display or Sponsor an Arrangement!

Calling individuals, businesses and organisations
who would like to make a flower arrangement
or display showcasing your talents or business
or are willing to sponsor a display.

Contact Michele at:

calne.methodist.church@gmail.com

*Set-Up Day: Wednesday 16 September

A decorative border at the top of the poster featuring a variety of flowers including sunflowers, roses, and daisies, interspersed with colorful triangular bunting flags in shades of blue, yellow, and orange.

Calne Methodist Church

Flower Festival & Harvest of Talents

A small orange and black butterfly is positioned to the right of the main title.

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

A detailed illustration at the bottom of the poster depicting a harvest scene. It includes a large wicker basket filled with pumpkins, apples, and grapes, a bunch of wheat stalks, a blue ball of yarn, a wooden bowl with knitting needles, a heart-shaped patchwork quilt, and several ceramic pots, all surrounded by various flowers.

All Welcome!

Calne Methodist Church

Harvest Concert

Saturday 19 September • 3.00pm

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



ALL WELCOME!

WARM SPACES



Hi Everyone

I am asking all of you to think if you could help with Warm and Friendly Spaces.

This last month have seen Elizabeth leave us for pastures new and Julie sadly injured and out of action for a while.

We could do with people to help us at Lunch time. 12.00am until 2.00pm. And also, in the afternoon. If you were able to help with the preparation of food, we will provide you with the necessary training. Or just help with being a friend and clearing up at the end of day.

You do not need to volunteer every week, we organise a rota, and any time you can give would be appreciated.

Warm/friendly Spaces is a vital part of our church life in helping the church family and the local community.

If you require any further information or just want to chat about what it involves speak to Derek Gard.

Thank you for considering this.

Derek



September Puns

1. What is a tree's least favourite month?

Sep-timber

2. How many seconds are there in one year?

12 of them: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd, April 2nd, May 2nd, June 2nd, July 2nd, August 2nd, September 2nd, October 2nd, November 2nd, and December 2nd.

3. What did the tree say to autumn?

Leaf me alone.

4. What do it you call a cold day in September?

Septem-brrrrr.

5 What did the detective in the Arctic say to the suspect?

Where were you on the night of September to March?

6. What does October have that September does not have?

An extra day.

7. Why did Humpty Dumpty have a great fall?

To make up for his miserable summer. (American joke!)

8. In September, you pick me when I'm good and ready.

In October, you cut me intentionally to make me look worse.

In November, you trash me like you never knew me.

What am I?

A Pumpkin Jack-o-Lantern

9. A man born in March has his birthday in September. Although he was orphaned as a young child he grew up and married his father. How is this possible?

He was born in the town of March, about 25 miles north of Cambridge, England. He grew up to be the mayor of his town and performed the wedding ceremony for the head of his local church.

10. If you have to schedule a meeting with a person or people you do not like, here are some days to tell them, no manner what year...February 30th, April 31st, June 31st, September 31st, November 31st

11. What did October say to August?

Wake me up when September ends.

12. What do trees do in September?

Turn over to a new leaf.