CALNE METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026



Items for future editions can be sent to:

Jan Sayers

The deadline for the December 2026 issue is

Sunday 30th November

Remember, remember the 5th November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot.
I see no reason
why gunpowder treason
should ever be forgot.

The part of Sussex where we've just moved from takes Bonfire Night very seriously. Many of the towns and villages would have Bonfire societies who would spend all year fundraising and organising for the big night. There would be flaming torch-lit processions through the streets, and often effigies of the Pope or more current leaders would be carried to the bonfire site to be burned. I only went once to one of the smaller celebrations. The main one happens in Lewes, site of 17 Protestant martyrdoms under Queen Mary, where tens of thousands of people attend.

I must admit to being somewhat uncomfortable with the whole thing. The day marks a moment where the religious and political divisions in our nation were laid bare. We see what happens when people become so focused on winning and being right, that compromise becomes a dirty word. It should be a day of relief that the plot was foiled, but also lament that we had allowed things to go so far. To mark the day with burning effigies risks cementing the mindset of division.

Just a few days afterwards, our nation will fall silent to remember the horrors that unfolded, and continue to unfold, when we fail to learn the lessons of history and leaders continue to bully their way into more and more power. We remember the courage and sacrifice, sometimes of whole generations, to overcome the violent passions of a few. Again, it should be a day that, in remembering, leads us to work for a world where tolerance, peace, and community, are the norm.

Yet we know this isn't currently the case. This year, as we remember, we do so in a climate of division and uncertainty. There are conflicts still raging. Divisive elections have been, and will be, happening which will have consequences for us all – whether we have a vote or not. In our own society there is a rise in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, and would-be political leaders seeking to stoke fears and divisions for their own gain. We have been warned to stock up on essentials due to instability in the world and climate. As we remember horrors past, there is concern we may experience horrors in our present.

However, towards the end of the month we have a different day to mark. The Sunday before Advent is known as Christ the King Sunday. It is a day to remember Christ as the King of all creation. Christ did not become King by physical might, but by sacrifice. He does not rule by fear and violence, but humility and love. As citizens of his kingdom, we are called, whatever the situation in our world, to follow his example of humility, sacrifice, and love. We also hold onto the hope that the day is coming when Christ will return and the whole earth will be filled with the glory of God, wars will cease, proud empires put to flight, and all will live in peace and security for ever.

Peace to you all,

Will

Forthcoming Services:

1st November	**Rev Will Fletcher including Holy Communion and followed by our Annual Church Meeting**
8th November	**Mr Derek Gard**
15th November	**Rev Anne Dove**
22nd November	**Rev Wendy Tucker**
29th November	**Rev Ward Jones**

Calne Food Bank

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



Refugee Prayer Focus November 2026

Please continue to pray for refugees across our world especially as we head towards a time of storms and bas weather.

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

November, traditionally the month of remembering.

Let us remember and pray for:- those who have family members in the armed forces; people from our congregation who have had to leave us and live elsewhere due to health issues; the many who find themselves in financial difficulties knowing the situation is only going to continue; the people who rely on Calne food bank; members of our community who struggle with constant pain and relentless health issues; for those who have lost loved ones recently and who come to terms with the emptiness that brings; and for those families who have lost loved ones in body, mind or both as a result of fighting in wars and conflicts around the world.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our church family. Throughout November we pray particularly for Ursula Barham's Pastoral Group: Freda and Bob Ackroyd, Glenis Ansell, Carolyn and Andy Cameron, Jenny and Stephen Colby, Lyn Elliot, Jan James, Gina and Jamie Hutchings, Elizabeth Manley, Kerensa McCondach, Marion Pitman, Lynda Rumming, Clifford Upex, Ruth Whittard and Jo Williams.

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.



November 2026
Dates for your diary
you are welcome to
come along and join in.

Tuesday 3rd 10th 17th & 24th
Coffee and Chat
Time: 10.00am - 11.30am
Venue: Church Hall

Wednesday November 4th 11th 18th & 24th
Warm Spaces
Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Venue: Church Hall

Thursday November 12th & December 3rd
CHAT - Ladies Group (ask Ursula for more details)
Time: 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Venue: 3 The Old Dairy

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 Singers Singing 3pm till 5pm

Thursday December 10th
Festival of Nativities and Christmas Karaoke
(see Poster in this newsletter)
Venue: Calne Methodist Church

Friday December 11th
Nativity Play (see Poster in this newsletter)

Sunday December 13th
Carols by Candlelight Service
Time: 6.00pm
Venue: Calne Methodist Church

Saturday January 16th 2027
Singathon
Time: 10.00am till 4.00pm
Venue: Calne Methodist Church Hall

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 – C**ome **H**ear and **T**alk. 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!



MESSY CHURCH

8th November

6th December

3.00pm – 6.00pm

Calne Methodist Church

A relaxed and informal church with a warm welcome for all ages.

Crafts, songs and games with a bible theme followed by afternoon tea.

No need to book – just come and join in

No Charge – All Welcome

Children must be accompanied by an adult please.

A Calne Partnership of Churches Activity



<u>We Shall Keep the Faith, by Moina Michael</u>



Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,

Sleep sweet - to rise anew!

We caught the torch you threw

And holding high, we keep the Faith

With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red

That grows on fields where valor led;

It seems to signal to the skies

That blood of heroes never dies,

But lends a lustre to the red

Of the flower that blooms above the dead

In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red

We wear in honor of our dead.

Fear not that ye have died for naught;

We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought

In Flanders Fields

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? Could you paint, draw, knit, crochet a nativity scene or character? Please speak to Michele if you have a nativity of interest which you are willing for us to display. Nativities will be required for Wednesday 9 December set-up day. They can be dropped off at the church or I can arrange to collect them. Nativities will be ready for collection on Sunday 13 December.

I will also be putting up a list for a rota to steward the viewing times and refreshments. Thank you

Michele Gard



Nativity Craft Workshops

I will be running two Nativity Craft Workshops on Saturday 14th November from 10.00am – 12 noon and Wednesday 18th November from 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

Come and craft a nativity or nativity characters for our Festival of Nativities. All materials will be provided – just bring your creativity or enthusiasm. Come to one or both sessions. No charge but booking is essential. Please speak to, phone or email me to book your place.

Michele Gard



FESTIVAL OF NATIVITIES – SPECIAL EVENTS



Come and have a jolly, holly Christmas sing! We'll be singing carols and Christmas songs for two sessions. Wear your favourite Christmas Jumper or Christmas Fancy Dress. All ages welcome. Refreshments provided after each session. Donations to Vision 150.

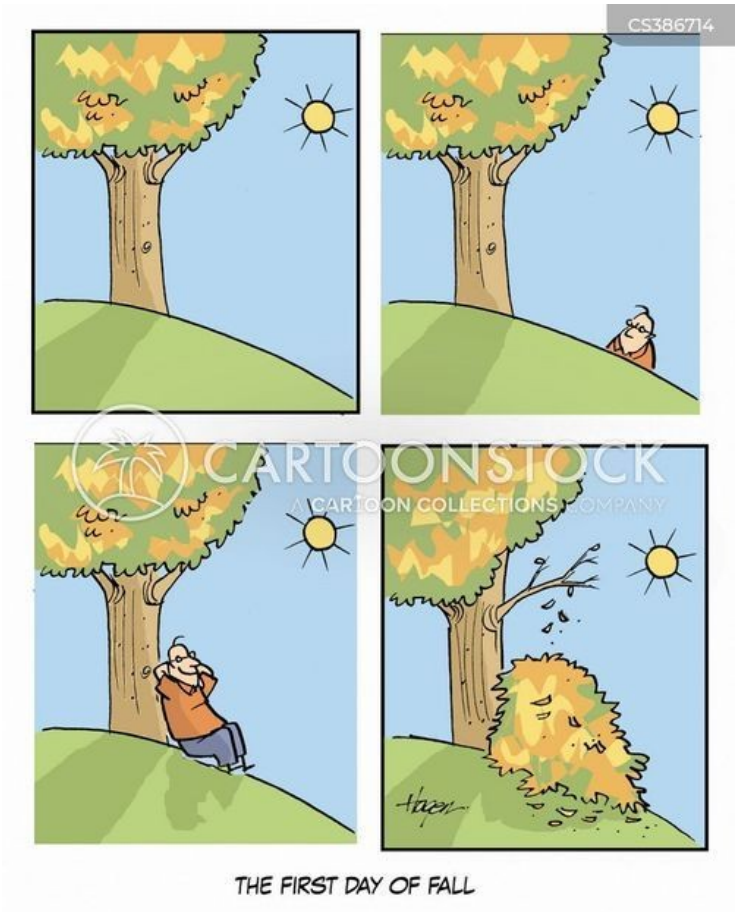


Come and join us for our special Nativity Play. Suitable for all ages. Starting at 4.30pm with refreshments provided after the play. All very welcome. Donations to Vision 150.

If you would like to play a part in our nativity play, please let me know.

Michele Gard


FINISHED, AT LAST!
mariascrivan.com
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CARTOONSTOCK
A CARTOON COLLECTIONS COMPANY
THE FIRST DAY OF FALL

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).



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





Advent Lunch

29th November 2026

12:15 In Church Hall

Stuffed Turkey Roll*
with
Roast Potatoes & Vegetables
+
Christmas Pudding / Trifle
+
Tea/Coffee

(* Vegetarian Option Available)

Sign-up sheet available in Church Hall early November

**** Please advise Caroline of any food allergies**