

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND

Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along a beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord God.

...continued on page 7.

***... keeping you in touch
with your church family.
August 2026***

Parish contact details

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The Reverend Caspar Bush

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Telephone:

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Team Vicar:

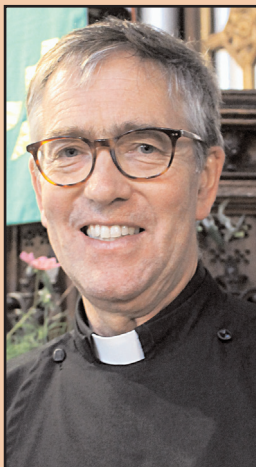
The Reverend Sarah Errington

(available on Sunday, Tuesday,
Wednesday and Thursday)

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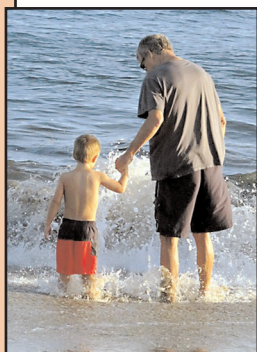


Parish Administration:

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Email: enquiries@mardenvale.org.uk

*Church House is open from 10.00am to 12noon
on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.*



Prayer for August

*Lord, give me wisdom in my conversations
this August. Help me to speak with grace,
clarity, and understanding.*

*Guard my mouth from harmful
words and let my speech
bring peace and encouragement.
Amen.*

Church addresses

Holy Trinity Church, Quemerford, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 0AR

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 0HU

St Peter's Church, Blackland, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8UQ

Website: <https://www.mardenvale.org.uk>

Find us on facebook @stmaryschurchcalne

Thought for August

I'm writing this at a time when there is truly a feast of sport to enjoy on our televisions, if not first hand for the very dedicated. Wimbledon is coming to its climax, and the football men's World Cup is slimming down its field in the knockout rounds via some tense penalty shoot-outs.

Strangely sidelined for the casual viewer were the F1 British Grand Prix, as well as international men's and women's cricket, and international rugby from the southern hemisphere.

I wonder if you think of yourself as a sports fan? The word is obviously a shortened form of fanatic, which Dr Johnson in his 18th-century dictionary described as struck with a superstitious frenzy! The Latin *fanaticus*, where the word comes from means inspired by a god, or mad...

In the World Cup, we've seen some

tion. England fans in recent years have sung Neil Diamond's *Sweet Caroline* to celebrate victories, but this year it's Oasis' *Wonderwall* that's become a regular fixture. Harry Kane has described singing it with his teammates at the end of the Croatia match along with the huge crowd of fans as 'one of my favourite moments in an England shirt'.

Watching it from my armchair at home, everyone involved seems caught up in the huge emotion of the moment, a sort of welling up of celebration. And singing, typically with arms raised, is the way it's expressed. It's really easy to make the link with the informal, charismatic part of the worldwide Church, where worshipping God with heartfelt singing and arms raised is absolutely standard practice – but in this case caught up in the wonder of God's goodness.

In the traditional style of our local Church of England churches, we don't typically go in for quite that level of emotion! But if a fan is a person who has an intense admiring interest in something, then we certainly qualify, the object being God, our loving Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, made known to us in Jesus Christ. 'Sing to the Lord a new song, all the earth; declare his glory among the nations' says the psalmist. Or alternatively come along and sing some great older songs – it's good for the soul!

With my prayers, and very best wishes

*Caspar Bush, Team Rector
(email address see page two)*



amazing fan behaviour, from the standard face paint, costumes, and flag waving, to Scotland fans parading through the streets of Boston to the swirl of bagpipes, and Norway's incredible longboat rowing celebra-

What about a Pilgrimage?

(from Grapevine and British Pilgrimage Trust)

A pilgrimage – even a small one – is a commitment to take time out from the ordinary concerns of everyday life and to engage thoughtfully and mindfully with our spirituality. So as we walk, we commit to listening deeply to one another, to the world around us and to the person we might call God.

You are invited to come on a pilgrimage. Three days – walk as much or as little as you like – as we make the journey from Wareham to Salisbury, following the likely route over which the body of Saint Edward was carried 1000 years ago from his original resting place at the Priory Church of Lady St Mary in Wareham to the Abbey at Shaftesbury.

A pilgrimage is not just about the destination; it's about making the most of the journey. And so, as we walk, we will just have time to have a chat, but there will also be little bits of ritual along the way: there will be times of sharing the collective wisdom of the group and there will be times of walking in silence – a chance to reflect on our place within the creation that surrounds us.

Pilgrimage has been described as 'extroverted mysticism.' This journey is an invitation into deep connection and hopefully it will be fun, too.

Message Hilary Bond,
hilary.bond@mac.com, If you would
like to know more.

If you are Interested in a more local

pilgrimage there are some options:

St Aldhelm's Way: This pilgrimage starts at St Aldhelm's church, Douling near Shepton Mallet where Aldhelm died in 709 and ends after approximately 74 miles at Malmesbury Abbey. The route uses existing footpaths.

The Athelstan Pilgrim Way is a new 100-mile walking and cycling route, linking all 36 historic churches in North Wiltshire Deanery. The route has been developed by the North Wiltshire Mission Area, a Church of England initiative in the Diocese of Bristol. The route takes in some of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the historic churches range from Bremilham, the smallest church in England, to Malmesbury Abbey, a popular visitor attraction. The route takes its name from the first King of a united England, Athelstan, a Christian ruler who chose Malmesbury as his capital and was buried in Malmesbury Abbey after his death in AD 939.



For Fans of Pop Music!

NOW

**that's what I call
Church Architecture, 2026!**

- courtesy of Hugo Bush -

- 1. Font you want me - The Pewman League**
- 2. In the Nave - The Village Keble**
- 3. Vestry in a bottle - Sacristina Aguilera**
- 4. Disco 1534 - Pulp(it)**
- 5. Bad monstern - Lady Chapel Gaga**
- 6. We all live in a yellow altar screen - The Service Sheatles**
- 7. Money for nothing fixing the church roof. - Spire Straits**

Crisis and Resilience Fund

This fund is run by Wiltshire Council and replaces the Household Support Fund, it is designed to provide more flexible financial support to residents experiencing hardship. There are four funding streams: crisis payments, housing payments, resilience services and community coordination.

A Crisis Payment is a discretionary payment to help with essential costs if you are experiencing a financial crisis. Wiltshire residents age over 16 may be able to get help if they are struggling to pay for things like:

- food

- energy or fuel
- essential household items
- other urgent living costs.

Crisis Payments are usually one off, short term payments. They are not intended to provide an alternative source of income. The amount awarded depends on individual circumstances.

All Crisis Payments are awarded at the Council's discretion.

Applicants must complete the Crisis payment application form at:

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/Crisisandresiliencefund>

Calne Baptist Church

The old Baptist Church in Castle Street was demolished a number of months ago and now they are making good progress in the construction of the new church. Just in case you don't go in that direction, here is a photo of progress in mid July.



150 Years of Mothers' Union

Mary Sumner Day is celebrated on 9th August each year. This year is the 150th Anniversary of Mary Sumner starting Mothers' Union in Hampshire.

Mothers' Union began in 1876. Mary Sumner, the wife of a rector in Hampshire, formed a group to support mothers from all backgrounds in bringing up their children. After delivering a speech in 1885 to the Portsmouth Church Congress, she inspired many women present to go back to their parishes and set up similar groups.

Over time, the groups that met as Mothers' Union became embedded in their communities. They forged strong links with local people and the Anglican Church. They worked to support one another and give a voice to disadvantaged women while addressing wider societal issues. Driven by Mary Sumner's passion for the role of women in bringing about a better society, the groups proved very popular.

By 1892, membership had reached 60,000 in 28 dioceses, which was to grow to 169,000 members by the turn of the century. In 1893, annual general meetings were organised, and, in 1896, Mothers' Union Central Council was formed.

Mothers' Union is a women-led, international Christian movement dedicated to ending poverty, violence and social injustice in communities in the UK and around the world.

Active for 150 years, with over 4 million members in approximately 84 countries, we work with people of all faiths and none, transforming lives, strengthening families and communities, and advocating for meaningful change.

Rooted in kindness, faith and compassionate action, we strive to create a better future where everyone has the opportunity and resources to thrive. (From Mothers' Union Website)

In Calne we will be celebrating 150 years with a special service in St Mary's Church on Monday 10th August at 2.00pm. The speaker will be Suzanne Waters who is Diocesan Treasurer for Salisbury Mothers' Union. There have also been celebration services at St Paul's Cathedral, London and Salisbury Cathedral. Please join us at St Mary's as we celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union. The service will be followed by tea and cake.

*Jenny Colby
Branch Leader*

Dates for your diary

- 5th** 2.00 – 3.30pm Bereavement Café at St Mary's Church.
6th Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord.
10th 2.00pm Mary Sumner Day Service, St Mary's Church.
15th Celebration of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary.
24th Feast Day of St Bartholomew.
31st Bank Holiday.
-

Focus for Prayer

Please remember to pray for ...

- Anyone enjoying summer holidays and relaxation.
- Young people preparing to move to a new school or college.
- Our local councillors and their work for the community.
- People who have financial difficulties and organisations that support them, for example Christians Against Poverty.
- People who are experiencing domestic abuse.

...From front cover.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand, he noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. 'Lord you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd

walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints, I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me.'

The Lord replied. 'My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.'

Editorial Team:

Jane Ridgwell and Jack Robinson.

Illustration, Graphic Design and Layout: Alex Grenfell.

And finally ...

If you organise any groups or events in the parish and would like them to be included in this newsletter then get in touch with the editors.

We would also love to have articles about the different groups in the parish to spread the word more widely and encourage people to come along.

Please email or give copies of items to us in plenty of time for the next newsletter, the deadline is 10th of the preceding month.

email: cbp.news.editor@gmail.com



Regular Activities in the Parish

*Please check Website or Parish Notices for Zoom Link.

Day	Time	Place	Activity
Sunday	8.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion (NOT 4th Sunday of the month).
	9.30am	St Peter's	Holy Communion (BCP) – (4th Sunday of the month).
	10.00am	Church House	Sunday Club for 4–11s. (1st Sunday of the month)
		St Mary's	Parish Eucharist (4th Sunday of the month; Morning Praise).
	10.00am	Holy Trinity	Family Service (3rd Sunday of the month).
	10.45am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion (4th Sunday of the month).
Monday	10.00am	Church House	Mary Makers Craft Group
Tuesday	10.00am	Church House	SMUF's parent and toddler group. Only during term times.
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion (Mothers' Union Corporate Service 1st Wednesday of the month).
Friday	8.30 am	Zoom	Morning Prayers – Whole Benefice*
	6.30pm	St Mary's	Choir Practice.
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing	Please contact Jane Ridgwell for further information.

***IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A DONATION
to the Parish of Calne and Blackland you can use this QR code***

£5

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Donate

£20

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Choose your own amount