

A photograph of a man and a young boy standing in the ocean waves. The man, wearing a grey t-shirt and dark shorts, is holding the boy's hand. The boy, wearing red and black swim trunks, is facing away from the camera. They are both smiling and looking out at the water. The waves are breaking around them, creating white foam. The background is a vast expanse of blue water under a clear sky.

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND

***... keeping you in touch
with your church family.
July & August 2025
Summer Edition***

Parish contact details

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

Prayer for July & August

*Dear God and Father, be the centre
of our lives today. You fill all the emptiness of space.
May the sun today be a healthy healing warmth
for us so we, in turn, may become
healers of each other's hurts.*

– Father Charles Flood, SCJ

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 July & August

‘For I know the plans I have for you’, declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’. *Jeremiah 29:11*

This is one of my favourite Bible verses; I’m sure you’ll hear me mention it again sometime! For now, I want to focus on one word: ‘hope’. It seems to me that hope is in very short supply outside the church, and we all need to know the reality of Christian hope.

In the world around us, there is very little hope on offer. Climate change, war, famine, disasters, struggling economies, the ongoing fallout from the pandemic all contribute to a future which looks very bleak.

But we can’t live without hope. If there really is no hope of a better future, then the only alternative is despair. The great thing about the Christian hope is that it is a great deal more than a mild optimism (of the sort we exercise when we hope that our children might get into a good school, or that we might get a particular job). True Christian hope looks to the future with certainty. Christian hope is sure and certain because it is based on God’s promises. A song I used to sing at school had the refrain: God has promised. God never breaks a promise he makes. His word is always true. And God has promised us some wonderful things. He has promised us that we will be raised from the dead (*Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:52*). He

has promised that he will make a new heaven and a new earth (*2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1*). He has promised that he will wipe every tear from our eyes (*Revelation 21:4*). Our past experience, and our knowledge of Scripture, show us that God always keeps his promises, and gives us confidence that he will keep his promises for the future. So, in these uncertain times, no matter the circumstances, let’s remember that we have every reason to hope. Let’s share that hope with our non-believing friends, family and neighbours, especially when they are in despair. And let’s echo Paul’s prayer below, as we pray for ourselves, and for one another:

*May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace
as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13)*



*With prayers and best wishes,
Revd Sarah Errington
(email address see page two)*

Calne Welfare Charities

The current charity is an amalgamation of a number of previous small charities. It currently has three elements: Calne Almshouses, Relief in Need and Advancement in Life. They are run by six trustees and a clerk. The trustees must be Calne residents and include the incumbent (Caspar) *ex officio* and two Town Councillors. They meet about twice a year and deal with matters between meetings by email.



Calne Almshouses – These were founded in 1684, as can be seen on the plaque outside, by the then Vicar of Bremhill and given to Calne Church to run. Originally they housed 8 widows of Calne. These dwellings were very small by today's standards. One room downstairs, probably used for daily life including housing small animals kept for food and a bedroom upstairs reached by a ladder. In the area behind there would have been a communal washing area.

Today they have been converted to 4 'cottages', with the upper rooms accessed by stairs and including a shower. The houses are maintained to a high standard and are subject to strict English Heritage rules. The 8 original oak doors can be seen outside, but are blocked inside to give more usable areas. The properties are accessed by a

common vestibule with the four individual doorbells giving good security. Residents must be Calne (or Calne Without) residents, 2 ladies and 2 men, aged 50+, and must be able to live independently. Replacement of the boiler led to an area becoming available for a communal washing machine, freeing areas in the 4 kitchens. There is an informal arrangement to share the garden with a gardener employed for any 'heavy'-work. Doug looks after all the maintenance requirements and is kept informed by the residents.

Other Charities. If trustees agree there is genuine need for either 'Relief in Need' or 'Advancement in Life'. It is rare for large sums to be given as relief. For Advancement grants, some evidence of self-help is required. The aim is to encourage people, mainly young, to strive to improve their lives by stepping stones such as relevant courses or equipment for future careers. Confidentiality is important, so news of success is only shared with permission. Schemes such as Calne Summer Play are also supported. Funding is from regular benefactors and investments (needed for the Almshouses) and contributions are always welcomed.

From Doug Edge, Clerk to Trustees

More information can be found in Calne Library and Heritage Centre. Calne Charities are currently making steps towards becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Website: calnewelfarecharities.org

The Font

In the Church of England, a font refers to the baptismal font, a container used to hold water during the ceremony of baptism. The only use of the font bowl is for the water for holy baptism. Traditionally placed near the main entrance, often to the left of the south door or near the west door, it symbolizes spiritual entry into the church.

Early fonts may have been placed straight on the ground but by the late medieval period, they were often raised on a plinth, sometimes even



steps. During the 13th century, ecclesiastical law required that all fonts have lockable covers. They can be made from stone, wood, metal or other materials. They are often octagonal in shape, connecting the eternal life of faith through baptism to the eight days between Christ's assumption of human sins to his resurrection.

The 15th century octagonal font in St Mary's Church, Calne has a curved base, with panelled sides with quatrefoil heads and a fine cover.

Serena Boase

A Christian Festival in Bremhill

This summer, on the August Bank Holiday weekend, there will be a Christian Festival happening in Bremhill, postcode SN11 9LQ. Starting at 11.00am on Saturday 23rd August and ending at 11.00am on Sunday 24th August.

There will be uplifting worship; children's activities; space for fellowship and prayer, plus food.

It is called the Eden Bridge Festival and this web site will give you more details: <https://edenbridge.love>

Please put the dates in your diary and do get in touch with the organisers if you can help in any way. There is a link on the web site to let the organisers know you want to volunteer.

If you would like to find out more,

either visit the web site or contact me on stevenc@mardenvale.org.uk

Steven Colby



Mothers' Union

Calne Mothers' Union met on Tuesday 10th June at 7.30pm. The speakers were Terry and Ros Mills. Their topic, 'The Calne Baptist Church – Past, Present and Future.' Old photographs and extracts from documents were shared as we heard how the Calne Baptist Church has developed over the years. Looking to the future there are now plans in place to build an entirely new building on the existing site. An exciting and daunting venture. This promoted much discussion as we at St Mary's Church are at the beginning of our

own development project.

Two Christian communities seeking to ensure that our buildings can best help us to serve God and the people of Calne in the years ahead.

Our July meeting is the annual Calne Mother's Union garden party on Tuesday 8th July at 2.00pm. Let's hope the sun shines and we can enjoy the delights of Kathy and David Moore's garden. And whatever the weather there is sure to be delicious cake.

*Alison Keighley
(on behalf of Jenny Colby,
Branch Leader)*

Project 2026

Project 2026 is about the improvements planned for St Mary's Church. This includes installing toilets, improving the catering facilities and improving the space

to allow for performances. You will be hearing a lot about this project in the coming months. This logo has been designed for us to be part of our publicity material. The launch of the project and fundraising was on 26th June at St Mary's Church but there will be many more opportunities to find out about the plans. We will need to raise a lot of money. This will be done by applying for grants, but also by donations.

Whatever your circumstances at this time, please pray. This is a very big task, but God is more than capable of providing all that we need. As ever – 'The Good Lord likes a little help.'



Dates for your diary

July

- 4th Holy Trinity School, end of year service at St Mary's Church
- 8th Mothers' Union Garden Party
- 15th St Swithin's Day
- 19th Calne Choral Summer Concert at St Mary's Church
- 26th Bike Meet in town. Refreshments at St Mary's Church
- 26th Calne Partnership of Churches at St Edmund's – 6.00pm

August

- 6th Celebration of the Transfiguration of Christ
- 8th Mary Sumner Day. Service at 2.00pm, St Mary's Church
- 25th Bank Holiday

Focus for Prayer

Please remember to pray for ...

- Everyone enjoying rest and refreshment at this time.
- The changes planned for St Mary's Church and the team working on this.
- Carly Taylor and her family as Carly settles into her new role in the Marden Vale Benefice and they all make their home in Calne.
- Calne Bike Meet. For the community to join together and for a good welcome to visitors.
- For farmers and market gardeners, who work so hard to bring us good food.

Editorial Team:

Sue Twyman, 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).
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).
	3.30-5.30pm	Church House	Wednesday Club for 4–11s. Only during term times.
Friday	8.30 am	Zoom	Morning Prayers – Whole Benefice*
	7.00pm	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

