



NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND

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

Parish contact details

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The Reverend Caspar Bush

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Team Vicar:

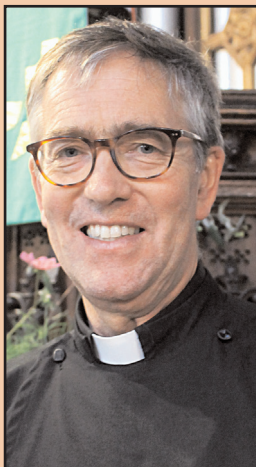
The Reverend Sarah Errington

(available on Sunday, Tuesday,
Wednesday and Thursday)

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Parish Administration:

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

Prayer for June

*May God, the source of all hope,
fill you with all joy and peace
by means of your faith in him,
so that your hope will continue to grow
by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

(Romans 1.5)



Cover picture by Alex Grenfell

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 June - Unusual opportunity

One of the aspects of church life that I think is very important is the opportunity to meet in smaller groups to talk about our shared faith. I know I've mentioned this before, but asking questions is an essential part of any learning, and since heckling during sermons is frowned upon, these small groups offer the perfect place.



During June and July our termly small groups / study groups are meeting again, this time to look at a part of the Bible that most of us know very little about – the books sometimes known as ‘The Apocrypha’, or the deuterocanonical writings. These books don't appear in the standard 66-book Protestant Bible. But they very much are part of the Bible for Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians. Up until the 16th-century Reformation, they were part of everyone's Bibles! For Anglicans today, these books do

appear in our regular pattern of readings, but always with alternatives given from the standard 66 books. The official C of E view is that these books are spiritually valuable for instruction, but not for defining Christian doctrine.

That all sounds terribly dry, sorry! But actually contained in these books are some incredible stories of heroes of the faith from the centuries between the Old and New Testaments – like Judas Maccabeus, Tobit, Judith, Susanna and many others. The whole story behind the Jewish festival of Hannukah is here (also known as the Festival of Dedication, which Jesus himself is recorded as attending in John chapter 10).

Beginning in the first week of June, we have five or six study groups meeting across the Marden Vale Benefice in people's homes and online to look at these writings. In all my years as a Christian, this is the first time I've ever done a study in small groups on this subject. At the time of writing the final details of the groups' dates and venues are still being worked out, but please look at the weekly notice sheet on the benefice website to find out how you can join in a group: www.marden-vale.org.uk

With my prayers, and very best wishes
Caspar Bush, Team Rector
(email address see page two)

Mary Makers

Tonia and I are delighted with how well Mary Makers has begun. We have 15 crafters with a steady 10 to 12 each week. We have had our first workshop given by one of our regular ladies and I am scheduled to do an Iris Folding workshop in a few weeks. Tonia will be doing a watercolour workshop thereafter. There is a warm friendly atmosphere which is inclusive and supportive of their fellow crafters. We are delighted with our progress. *Tamara and Tonia.*



*If you want further information please contact Tamara on **07528604719** or Tonia on **07719788266***

80 Years Service for Valerie Goddard

On 9th May the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers held its AGM in Calne. This involved people from all over the Salisbury Diocese. As part of this day, long service awards were presented to a number of members by Vicki Rowse, Guild Master. One of those presented with a certificate was Valerie Goddard who attends services at St Mary's. Valerie learnt bellringing in 1944 during the Second World War and was taught by her Father at Yatesbury. She was elected to membership in 1946, at the first opportunity after the end of the war and this year marks 80 years of membership. A remarkable achievement.



Calne Mothers' Union

Calne MU met on 12th May and had a very interesting presentation from Marlene Haffenden. She is a member of Bradford-on-Avon MU and is responsible for the five Virtual Babies which she and other MU members take into Clarendon School in Trowbridge on Friday afternoons for students from Year 9 to be responsible for them for the weekend. It was really good to be able to see and handle these babies, one boy and one girl, they weigh over 8 pounds. We were shown the equipment they come with and told how the student is to interact

with the baby when it cries – that it is solely their responsibility and they cannot pass it to another person. The babies are returned to school at 8.00am Monday morning and Marlene can see from the computer programme how the baby has been cared for over the weekend.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th June and will be a Treasure Hunt organised by Jane Wells, please contact her for more details.

*Jenny Colby
Branch Leader*

St Mary's Young Voices

The most significant development this year has been the establishment of St Mary's Young Voices, built entirely from scratch. From no prior provision, we now have a regular group of eight young people rehearsing and singing consistently.



a small but committed volunteer team, though following the departure of Carly and Beth, it would be beneficial to recruit additional volunteers to support the rota.

Outreach has also begun to develop: I delivered a session at Marden Vale School before Christmas and am in discussion with Caspar about further visits before the end of the summer term. We will begin the September term with a "Sing & Social" event to help attract new members.

Their first appearance was at the Harvest Service in October, and they have since sung at first-Sunday services during term time, providing valuable opportunities to participate in worship and begin learning choral traditions. They also contributed to the Carol Service, joined the adult choir for several pieces, and took part successfully in the Spring Sing.

The group enjoys a half-termly social event, which has been important in building enthusiasm and community. We are fortunate to have

*Jemima Palfreyman
Director of Music*

If you wish to know more about Jemima go to St Mary's Website and add 'Meet the Adults' on the Young Voices section.
Her email address:
directorofmusic@mardenvale.org.uk

What is Inclusive Church?



Inclusive Church

Inclusive Church is a network of churches, groups and individuals uniting together around a shared vision.

The Inclusive Church Statement

“We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”

Social and fundraising events

Don't forget that we have a Barn Dance in the Town Hall on 6th June from 7.00pm. This will be a fun evening out, for just £10, which includes a pasty for supper; there will be various fillings and options avail-

able. The music will be recorded, but we have an experienced and exciting caller – in the form of Caspar! At the same time there will be a silent auction of promises. Get your tickets from Church House or Carolyn Burleson-Webb

Teddy Bear Parachute Jump

Once you have got over the excitement of the Barn Dance you can look forward to the Teddy Bear Parachute Jump on the afternoon of 27th June and coinciding



with the Carnival. In the spirit of inclusivity, any fluffy toys can take part, but please don't try to fix your children to a parachute. Both these events are to raise funds for Project 2026.

Dates for your diary

- 1st** Visit of Virgin Mary to Elizabeth.
- 3rd** 2.00 – 3.30pm Bereavement Café at St Mary's Church.
- 4th** 7.00pm Concert at St Peter's, with Argentinian Tango Duo. The tickets were £25 but they are now **SOLD OUT**.
- 6th** 7.00pm Barn Dance and Auction of Promises for Project 2026. Town Hall, £10 including a pasty for supper.
- 20th** Quiet morning at Compton Bassett Church.
- 24th** Celebration of the birth of John the Baptist.
- 27th** Calne Carnival and Teddy Bear Parachute Jump at St Mary's Church.
- 28th** Patronal Festival at St Peter's Church.
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Focus for Prayer

Please remember to pray for ...

- Everyone preparing for, and taking, exams at this time.
 - The success of Calne Carnival day, and the Teddy Bear Parachute Jump.
 - Our local councillors and their work for the community.
 - All who are existing in areas of war or conflict; for those who flee these situations seeking safety and refuge.
-

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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Choose your own amount