

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND



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

March 2026

Lent Edition

Parish contact details

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The Reverend Caspar Bush

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Team Vicar:

The Reverend Sarah Errington

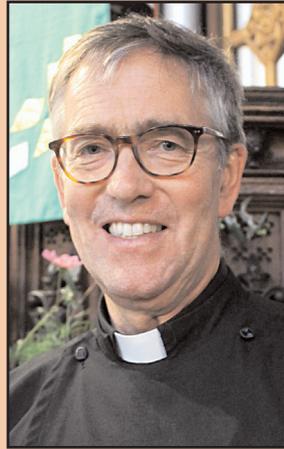
(Not available at the moment)

Training Curate:

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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 March

(Prayer for Lent)

Servant Christ,

*help us to follow you into the desert
with you to fast, denying false luxury,
refusing the tempting ways of self-indulgence,
the way of success at all costs,
the way of coercive persuasion.*

Servant Christ, help us all to follow you.

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 March

I wonder how easily you can think back to the world before social media? I had to look it up, but the first mainstream platforms like MySpace and Facebook first appeared in 2003/4. Though some of us were rather later adopters than others.

There are elements of social media that are a bit like the Wild West, including content on or over the edge of criminal. And over the years some content has had utterly terrible consequences in terms of how it has influenced people into horrendous and tragic behaviours. Australia has banned it for under 16s, and many other countries are considering the same.

Yet we know it also can be a really positive thing. My own extended family has a Whatsapp group called Bush Telegraph of my own three siblings, and our combined fourteen children and ten in-laws – which is the most lovely way to share news and photos of new babies and other things.

Facebook now is famously ‘only for middle-aged people’, but is still a valuable place to go for community groups and local news. And it’s here where only in late January this year a new page was created called *St. Faithful’s, Havnot* – a fictional parish church created simply for amusement, gently parodying the Church of England’s local parish life. There are elements of Vicar of Dibley here, including the slightly chaotic world of the organist’s woes, tea rotas,

fundraising events, church council meetings, bell ringers, why the P.A. system doesn’t work properly and many others. Plenty of irony, but often a lot of tenderness too.

And, in my view, it manages to create a space for some thoughtful input on real faith matters too, not least in its ‘statement of doctrinal certainty’ (available as a tea-towel – honestly!), which includes:

- **God is love** – what this means in practice is under review
- **Jesus is the Son of God** – precisely how this works is a mystery we have decided not to simplify for administrative convenience
- **Being right is not listed among the Fruits of the Spirit**
- **Doubt is not the opposite of faith** – indifference is
- **Questions are welcome** – answers may be provisional
- **St. Faithful’s remains firmly committed to humility, curiosity, generosity of spirit, and the belief that God is almost certainly doing something larger than our current explanations**

It’s really worth a look!

With my prayers, and very best wishes

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



The Church Watchers

There are normally three of us with two helpers and we are there in the church between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Wednesdays and between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on Fridays. We show people around the church and point out items of interest. Such as the Parish Chest with three different locks on it, to be opened together by three separate key holders for security. The Chest has been here since the period of the Reformation, and was there to keep the records of Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths. The surprise is that it was made around 1534, well before the Spanish Armada came to England, and was a useful repository for records in those days. I like it because it is really old and part of our history.

How old is the Church? There are signs of Norman work in one wall, but I think there would have been a church standing here from before 1066. There was also a King's Hunting Lodge in the same grounds during Saxon times.

The main builders to change things were the Victorians. They improved and increased in size the striking stained glass window at the west end of the Church. To facilitate this, the roof had to be raised to allow for the extra height.

As Church Watchers, we do not know how people perceive our talks, but occasionally we get tips waved at us and I point them to the gift box by the door. The work is varied because people react in different ways. Sometimes I tell them about the Crypt – to which we do not have

access, because the Victorians dumped rubble down the stairs to the Crypt, blocking it – so we don't know exactly who lies there. I hope Ingenhouz lies there, as there is a plaque dedicated to him in St Edmund's Chapel.

Sometimes the weather is so bad no one turns up, but we keep each other company very well; other times people arrive in groups of 10 or larger, just as we are packing up to go home at the end of the shift. We have had German and French visitors – the former once was an organ maker in Germany and had heard about our wonderful organ and wanted to see it for himself. The latter party were French Huguenots who were camping nearby; not forgetting a few Australians come to see where Mum and Dad were christened and/or married.

It is all good stuff and we would like more visitors if possible, please, because that is the challenge.

Charles Boase



Points of Interest in St Mary's Church

If you stand looking at the large door on the West Wall from inside the church, to the right are two long metal plaques – detailing some of the Benefactors of this Parish and what they gave to help support our community. Many of the names are still in common parlance today and will be familiar.

The first reads:

Benefactors for Religion and Education

The Parish Church is endowed with lands in Northfield 3a.3p. and in Abberd 1l.28p: The rents are applied by the Churchwardens to Church purposes.

Caroline B S Guthrie, in the year 1865, left £1,000 to endow the Curacy of Trinity Church.

Walter Finamore, in the year 1557, gave 40 shillings a year for the education of the poor.

Robert Forman, in the year 1646, gave an estate called Clotly.

John Bentley, in the year 1660, founded a free school.

William Woodroffe in the year 1664 gave 50 shillings a year.

Thomas Stratton Stretch in the year 1847 left £100 to The Boys School.

Caroline B S Guthrie, in the year 1865 gave The Guthrie School.

Cecilia M Merewether in the year 1874 left £200 to the Calne Church Schools.

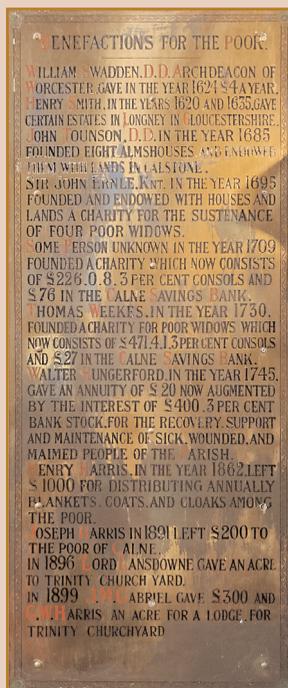
Ellinor M Gabriel, gave in 1887 to St Marys School the Francis Gabriel endowment of £1,000 and an endowment of £100 for the Organ in this Church.

P.F.E.P. Murray gave to St Mary's Church in 1887 the Murray Endowment of £200.

To the Guthrie and Quemerford School in 1890 F.M.G. Gabriel gave 2 houses.

In 1891 E.F.M. Murray gave a house. In 1898 they gave a house and £200 to St Mary's School.

Serena Boase



The 106th Archbishop of Canterbury

Following the Confirmation of Election, during which Sarah Mullally legally becomes the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, her Installation will take place at Canterbury Cathedral on Wednesday, 25th March 2026, the Feast of the Annunciation. This will mark the start of her public-facing duties as Archbishop of Canterbury. Between her Confirmation of Election, (28th of January at St Paul's Cathedral) and her Installation, Archbishop Sarah will pay homage to The King, meet with the Prime Minister, and meet with the leaders of other Christian denominations and other faiths in the United Kingdom. She will also co-preside at the Church of England's General Synod in London in February.

Historically known as an enthronement, the Installation marks the symbolic start of the Archbishop of Canterbury's public ministry in the Church of England and across the Anglican Communion. Rooted in cen-



turies of tradition, the service will look forward with the hope of Jesus Christ – and celebrate the diversity of the Church of England, the nation and the Anglican Communion today. Archbishop Sarah will be installed on the Cathedral Chair (Cathedra) as the Diocesan Bishop of the See of Canterbury, the oldest diocese in the English church. Following this, she will be installed on the Chair of St Augustine as Primate of All England, which also symbolises her ministry in the Anglican Communion.

Calne Mothers' Union

Calne Branch of Mothers' Union met on February 10th and shared a service for the Wave of Prayer. This was followed by a talk from Jan Sayers about Pocket Patchwork. She showed many items that she has made such as brooches, spectacle cases and necklaces. Also many items that she has applied patchwork onto, such as cushions, tea towels and draught

excluders. We all enjoyed being shown and making the start of an appliqué patchwork.

Our next meeting is on 10th March and the speaker is Rev Jeremy Cresswell, who will be speaking about the Diocesan link with Sudan. All are welcome to Mothers' Union meetings

*Jenny Colby
Branch Leader.*

Dates for your diary

- 4th** 2.00–3.30pm Bereavement Café at St Mary’s Church
6th 10.30am “World Day of Prayer” service at St Mary’s Church
8th 6.00pm Bowood Chapel Evensong
10th 2.00pm Church House Mothers’ Union meeting
15th Mothering Sunday
17th Patrick – bishop, missionary, patron of Ireland
19th Joseph of Nazareth
25th The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary
7.30pm PCC meeting in Church House
28th 7.30pm Calne Choral Spring Concert at St Mary’s Church
29th Palm Sunday (BST begins, clocks “spring” forward one hour)
-

Focus for Prayer

Please remember to pray for ...

- All affected by flooding; Families, Business, Farmers and Growers.
 - Organisations working to prevent knife crime.
- Those negotiating to bring an end to the war in Ukraine, others to maintain the fragile ceasefire in Gaza.
 - Project 2026 and the people working on it.
- Anyone anxious because of debt and organisations working to help them.

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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£10

Donate

£20

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Choose your own amount