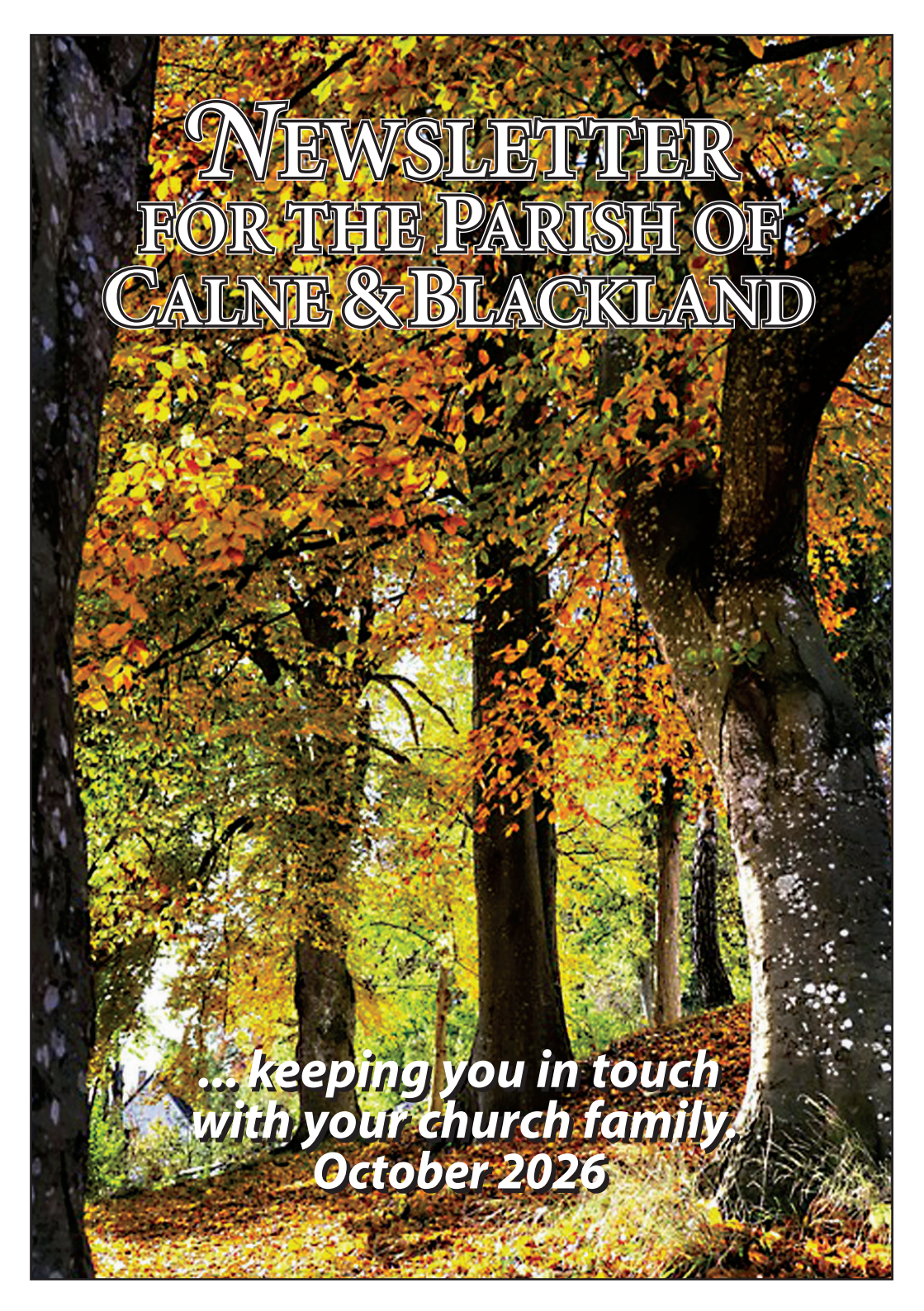




NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND

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

Parish contact details

Team Rector:

The Reverend Caspar Bush

Email:

caspar.bush@mardenvale.org.uk

Telephone:

07931 577662 (day off Monday)

Team Vicar:

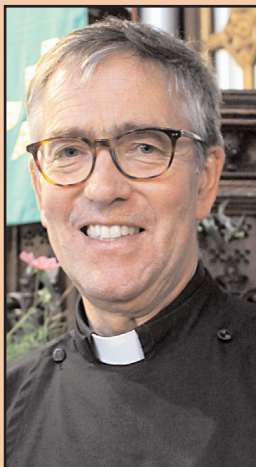
The Reverend Sarah Errington

(available on Sunday, Tuesday,
Wednesday and Thursday)

Email:

sarah.errington@mardenvale.org.uk

Tel: 01249 263430



Parish Administration:

Church House, 30 Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU Tel: 01249 816522

Email: enquiries@mardenvale.org.uk

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



Prayer for October

*O God of Creation, you have blessed us with
the changing of the seasons.*

*May the harvest from the fields remind us of the
abundance we have been given and bounty we
are to share with others.*

*May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your
great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal.*

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

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 October

It's easy to look at the way our world is at the moment and see a level of impatience, blame, and anger that feels greater than it has in the past, somehow. Our political scene is more polarised - tribal, even. The gap between the super-wealthy and everyone else is bigger than ever. The prospects for our younger generations seem bleaker than previous generations. And the apparent increasing pace of climate change makes us uneasy and uncertain about the future. In a world where so often instant reactions to things are expected, there has never been a greater need for humans to pause, reflect, build bridges, and look for the positive things in life we can contribute.

One of the September Sunday Bible passages recently was from the story of Jonah. It works whether you think Jonah was an actual person in a real giant fish, or if it's a made-up account by a gifted story-teller to make a point (like the story of the Prodigal Son). After being spat out by the giant fish, Jonah gets on with his God-given assignment to call the wicked people of Nineveh to repentance. To Jonah's amazement, the people of Nineveh do repent. So, amazingly the passage says God changed his mind about the calamity he was going to bring upon them. You might have thought Jonah would be delighted that his preaching had been so effective. Not a bit of it! The people of Nineveh are enemies of Jonah's people – turns out he was looking forward to them being destroyed. So

we read (or paraphrase) 'Jonah was angry [that God had decided not to destroy them] and said to God 'I knew you were going to do that!'

One of the Unique Selling Points of the Christian faith is the enormous emphasis on forgiveness. God's forgiveness of us when we ask for it, and the chance to wipe the old slate clean. And



the call on us to exercise forgiveness towards other people, to make the first move in restoring relationships, making peace, healing rifts. That's easier where minor issues are involved. It's a huge deal when we're talking about serious harm that someone might have suffered. Forgiving someone who has wronged us, is not the same as forgetting all about it – often, of course, there are consequences that need to live on after the forgiveness. But still, forgiving is the first step towards restoring ourselves, as well as our relationships, and releasing just a bit of the tension in our world.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

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

Are you Grieving?

Maybe you know someone else who is grieving? It may be that someone you love has died recently or it may be much longer ago - there is no time limit for grief and it is a different journey for everyone.

But... if the answer to the above questions is 'yes', then maybe a visit to our Bereavement Café might help a little. We meet in St Mary's Church on the first Wednesday of the month from 2.00pm – 3.30pm. Tea, coffee and homemade cakes are provided for your enjoyment. We are there to listen to you if you'd like to talk about anything at all. Sometimes

talking about your loved one might appeal but you don't have to. Sometimes cake and company can be a touch of balm. We are not professional counsellors but friendly ears in a safe space, ready to listen and spend time with you.

You can come for as long or short a time as you like. You can come on multiple occasions or just once. You can light a candle if you'd like to. There are no rules, just acceptance of you as you are.

The bereavement café is open to anyone whether Church is their 'thing' or not.

Joanna Childs

Bereavement Support Team

Experiencing grief following the loss of a loved family member, partner or friend can be an exhausting and difficult time. The first point of support from our parish churches to those who are grieving comes from the clergy and lay ministers who visit families and lead funeral services. The local congregations and communities around our churches play a key role in praying and caring for those who are finding their way through grief.

Also, once a service has happened in the Benefice, we have a team of volunteers who send a card to a key contact a few months after a funeral or interment of ashes, to let families know that we remember their loss, we care about them and we are available for ongoing support. The cards contain an invitation to the

monthly Bereavement Café (see separate article about this) as well as a keepsake bookmark with contact details so that we can be contacted via the Team Office (01249 816522) at any time. If you are struggling, please get in touch or visit the café and we will do our best to help.

The Bereavement Support Team consists of:

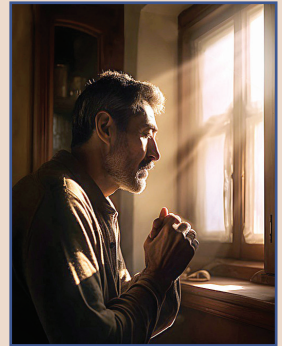
Caspar, Sarah, Liz, Joanna and Jack



Bereavement Prayer

This is the prayer we use at the Bereavement Support Team, perhaps you could pray it too for those who are suffering with grief (people you know personally or on our pew sheet):

*Loving Father, you know all the secrets of our hearts.
Help us to help those who turn to us in their grief.
May we and they know that we can place all our worries and
sadness at the foot of the cross of your dear son Jesus Christ.
We pray that the peace of God that passes all understanding
may enfold all who turn to you.
We ask you to guide us as to how and when to encourage
and support each other. We ask all these things in Jesus' name.
Amen*



Christmas Box Appeal

Apologies for mentioning the C word in October. But here goes...

This year the St Mary's Church Sunday Club are aiming to fill six shoeboxes for the charity, 'House of Opportunity.'

This charity distributes these gifts to children and families in South-East Europe who have very little. This is a chance for the children who attend Sunday Club to develop their understanding that some children are not as fortunate as they are and to put into practice the Christian message of 'loving thy neighbour as oneself'. If you are able to contribute an item for one of these boxes we would appreciate your help.

There are lists of items suggested for each box on a table at the back of St Mary's Church. If you feel able to purchase an item then please write your name next to it to avoid duplication. Items (unwrapped) can be taken into Church House during normal office hours and put in the container outside of Ann's office.

If you would find it easier to give a money donation that can be used for

distribution costs and the purchase of any outstanding items after our November Sunday Club session (Sunday, 1st November) then please pass this on to Alison Keighley at church or Ann Stiff in the office.

We aim to have our shoeboxes packed and ready for collection from Sunday, 8th November. Thank you for taking the time to read this article. Your prayers for us achieving our six completed boxes will be most appreciated.

Alice Bush & Alison Keighley on behalf of the children who attend St Mary's Church Sunday Club.



Remembering Services

As for the last few years, this autumn we have two special services in the parish to remember those we still love, but who have died.

Holy Trinity Church – Sunday, 18th October at 6.00pm

St Mary's Church – Sunday, 1st November at 3.00pm

Each service will feature poems and

readings and well-known hymns, a reading of the names, and a chance to light a candle. Of course, you are welcome to remember a loved one at these services wherever, and whenever, they died. You can add a name to the list in our churches or by e-mailing the office on admin@mardenvale.org.uk

Confirmation 2026

This year there will be a service of confirmation at St Mary's Church with **Bishop Karen** on **21st November at 5.00pm**. Caspar will be running confirmation classes during the autumn. This is for anyone who is interested in being confirmed or for people who were confirmed (maybe a long time ago) who would like a refresher course. People coming for confirmation need to be baptised, but baptism and confirmation can happen on the same occasion if someone is not already baptised. The classes will be on Thursday evenings in October.

Confirmation is:

- **Taking Ownership:** It allows individuals baptized as infants or children to personally confirm the promises made on their behalf by parents and godparents.
- **Laying on of Hands:** A bishop lays hands on the candidate's head and prays for the Holy Spirit to give them strength and commitment.
- **Full Membership:** It marks a step in the lifelong journey of discipleship and allows full participation in Holy Communion (if not already admitted).

Mothers' Union

The speaker at the Mothers' Union meeting in September was Rosie Ringrose. She chose as her title 'Married to the Cloth' and she spoke about her 40 years being married to Canon Hedley Ringrose. She shared about people she had met in all the parishes they had served and about improving her culinary skills as Hedley was often inviting people to dinner. It was a very interest-

ing and inspiring talk. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13th October at 2.00pm when we will have a speaker from the organisation Embrace the Middle East (formally Bible Lands). We hope many people will come and hear about the life-changing work they are doing in the Holy Land.

*Jenny Colby,
Branch Leader*

Dates for your diary

- 1st** 6.00pm Calne Community Business Champions' Event St Mary's
 - 4th** 6.00pm Calne Music and Arts Festival Evensong
 - 7th** 2.00 – 3.30pm Bereavement Café at St Mary's Church
 - 13th** 2.00 Mothers' Union, Church House
 - 18th** 6.00pm Remembering Service, Holy Trinity Church
 - 18th** St Luke – Apostle
 - 28th** Saint Simon and Saint Jude – Apostles
 - 30th** Lumos Concert at St Mary's Church (Various Services)
-

Focus for Prayer

Please remember to pray for ...

- Pour out healing upon the sick, comfort upon the sorrowful, and strength upon the weary.
 - Guide our steps and grant us wisdom to make the right choices in all that we do.
 - All who risk their lives and safety to help others.
 - People who work to care for those in need.
 - Anyone who finds the dark evenings difficult and lonely.
-

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