



NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND

*... keeping you in touch
with your church family.*
October 2025

Parish contact details

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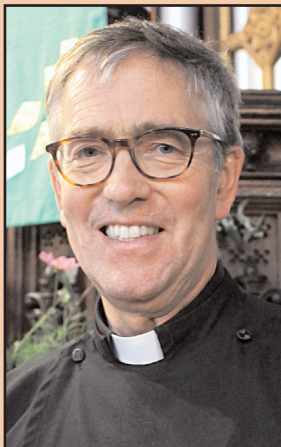
The Revd Carly Taylor

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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 October

*This day, Father,
may my eyes be opened to see the beauty
in all that is ordinary – yet special – around me.
May the glory of all that you have made remind me
of your presence and lead me closer to you.
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

For the pragmatic reason that my mother-in-law gave us a packet of sunflower seeds that had come free with a magazine, this year my wife Alice and I have had the simple pleasure of watching quite a good number of sunflowers grow in various spots around our garden. What was striking was how they flowered entirely independently of each other. One or two flowered in mid/late July. Others showed the faintest hint of a flower, and then stayed like that for weeks,



until their time was ready. At the time of writing (mid-September) we still have just one left, its head now beginning to droop. Also, from somewhere in my consciousness I thought all the sunflowers would face the sun, whereas ours were a maverick bunch and seemed to face a variety of directions.

It struck me as an mildly interesting analogy with how we ourselves all operate at our own level/timing. Some of us are keen to rush on. Others prefer a more measured approach. Some people might be perceived as more handsome specimens than others, or are larger or smaller. Some flower together with others, and some are individualistic to the point they just want to do their own thing!

Of course for human beings to do well we have rather more factors to take into account than sunflowers. As far as we know sunflowers are not in competition about which flowers first - the processes just unfold according to circumstances. Whereas for we humans, some have all sorts of advantages in life given to them, while others may have to battle against all sorts of difficulties just to survive.

The idea of human flourishing is one which I think practically every person knows within themselves is of fundamental importance. But it raises challenging questions: how much am I concerned that not just my family and I but every person (and indeed every part of creation) has the possibility of flourishing? Is it possible that in attending to my own flourishing, I negatively affect someone else's? How should we apply this challenge to the issue of those seeking asylum in our safe country, whilst also taking into account this country's limited resources?

Christian teaching of course includes the call to love our neighbour as ourselves, to 'love the foreigner residing with you', and even to love our enemies (however we might define them). That might not make those big political decisions any easier, but starting from the point of loving and valuing all people regardless of how like us they are sounds like the sort of approach Jesus would take. In the letter to the Colossians we read this: 'clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience ... Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love'

*With my prayers and best wishes
Caspar Bush, Team Rector of the
Marden Vale Benefice*

Remembering Services 2025

Services in Calne to remember
those we love, but who have died

Well known hymns and readings
and the chance to light a candle

Holy Trinity Church – Sunday 19th Oct at 6.00pm

St Mary's Church – Sunday 2nd Nov at 3.00pm

To submit the name of your loved one to be read out
in this service, please write on the list in the Church,
or send to admin@mardenvale.org.uk

Saint Luke's Little Summer

This refers to enjoyable, summerlike days that happen around October 18. This is known as Saint Luke's Little Summer in honour of the saint's feast day.

Around this time, there is a brief period of calm weather, usually mild

and the leaves are starting to turn colours. Saint Luke is the patron saint of physicians and artists, he was also called Saint Luke the Evangelist, author of the Gospel According to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, a companion of St Paul the Apostle.

Calne Mothers' Union

In August Calne Deanery Mothers' Union met for a service to celebrate Mary Sumner Day (the founder of Mothers' Union) with a service in St Mary's. We were inspired by the talk given by Rev Katie Minshall and £118 was raised for the Mothers' Union Summer of Hope Appeal.

Our September meeting was led by

Jane Wells who kept us in order as we played the Christian Aid World Trading Game, which was challenging but fun.

Our October meeting is on Tuesday 14th at 2.00pm in Church House. When Dave Sandberg will be speaking to us about the Blue Bus. All are welcome at all Mothers' Union meetings.

Jenny Colby, Branch Leader

Anglican Vestments

Visiting different churches, the array of church vestments worn by the clergy can be confusing. The basic idea of the Anglican Vestments is to symbolise order, office, and role or function.

The basic white overgarment is known as either a Cassock, Alb or Surplice. Signifying the righteousness of Christ. These white robes are worn by clergy, (as well as choir members, altar servers, etc) who always wear the surplice over a cassock.

The Black Garment, also a Cassock, is technically not a vestment but everyday garb. Worn under a white surplice you can sometimes see other colours, often associated with colours of the cathedral church or the bishops' canons (assisting people).

The Eucharistic Vesture known as a Chasuble or Dalmatic is a piece of material, cut in a round or diamond shape, with an opening in the mid-



At a church service on 21st September 2025, the Revd Jeremy Cresswell wore this chasuble when he was given a special gift for his 50 years of service in the Anglican Ministry.

dle. Priests wear this over a cassock-alb during Eucharistic services.

Scarves, also known as Stoles or Toppers are signs of order and office. A priest's stole hangs vertically over each shoulder. A deacon's stole hangs diagonally from the left shoulder and is secured on the right hand side. A deacon or priest wears these for non eucharistic offices at times or when not serving at the altar in a particular service.

Lay ministers, readers, or choir members sometimes wear a cassock-alb or cassock and surplice with no stole (some use a blue reader's scarf, which isn't considered a stole).

The cincture is a belt for an alb or cassock. These come in band or rope alternatives. The colours of the over vestments worn change with the church seasons to match the altar cloths but this is not essential.

Serena Boase

A thought from St Teresa of Ávila

A Carmelite nun, born 1515, Ávila, Spain – died 4th October 1582; canonized 1622; feast day 15th October.

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he

looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Spend a Penny!

Sponsored Hymn Tunes for Project 2026

Starting on 1st October, Mary Pilcher-Clayton is setting out to play ONE THOUSAND hymn tunes. She will do this in St Mary's Church at times when the church is open (usually Wednesdays 11.00am – 1.00pm and Fridays 2.00pm – 4.00pm). Mary will play on the Church piano and will be playing tunes from the 'orange hymn book' (*Complete Anglican Hymns, Old and New*). This hymn book contains 978 hymns, but the extra 22 will come from alternative hymn tunes for hymns numbered 1–200 in the book. Mary will be delighted to have the company of singers during these times, but people are also very welcome to come along just to listen. Mary is grateful to all who have already sponsored her for this marathon endeavour and the proceeds will be going to the fund for Project 2026, aim-



ing to improve the facilities in St Mary's Church – toilet, kitchen, level access, children's facilities, and many other improvements to make St Mary's Church more hospitable and welcoming. Please speak to Mary if you would like to sponsor her.

Visit Light Church at Lyneham



**THE LIGHT
CHURCH**

*Are you looking for something different on
Thursday evenings?*

*Then Autumn Worship Nights may just be
what you want.*

*23rd October and 20th November, 7.30pm –
9.30pm. Come for as little or much as you can.*

Join with others to worship Jesus.

*Whether you are exploring faith for the first time
or you've followed for years, everyone is welcome
at St Michael and All Angels Church,
Calne Road, Lyneham, SN15 4PR.*

Come dressed warmly.

www.light-church.co.uk

Dates for your diary

- 5th** Choral Evensong for CMAF, 6.00pm.
- 14th** Mothers' Union meeting, Church House. Talk about the Blue Bus, 2.00pm.
- 18th** Feast Day of St Luke, Apostle and Evangelist.
- 19th** Harvest Service at St Mary's Church.
FOSM AGM (more information to follow).
All Souls/Remembering, Holy Trinity Church, 6.00pm.
- 26th** Calne Partnership of Churches Service at Calne Baptist Church, 6.00pm.
- 28th** Feast day of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles.
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Focus for Prayer

Please remember to pray for ...

- Peter and Barbie Reynolds – Released from detention in Afghanistan
... *Praise God!*
 - An increase in tolerance in our society and between nations.
 - Giving thanks for our changing seasons, the onset of autumn and for those who fear the cold.
 - Project 2026 and all the changes planned for St Mary's Church.
-

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).
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*
	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***

£5

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£10

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£20

Donate



Choose your own amount