

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND



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

Parish contact details

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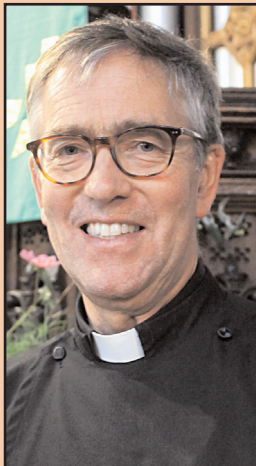
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(available on Sunday, Tuesday,
Wednesday and Thursday)

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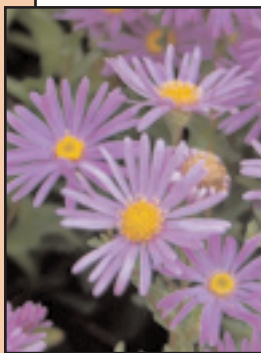


Parish Administration:

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 September

*Let us pray: O Lord, you mark the journey of life
with change. Once again we witness your creation moving
from one season to the other. Change is your instrument
of growth that brings us to a deeper relationship with you.
May your Word be the lantern that guides the roads
of change in our lives. We ask this through
Christ our Lord. 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 September

“Do not worry about anything, but with everything by prayer and supplication with THANKSGIVING, let your requests be known to God.”

(The Bible - Philippians 4:6)

This verse is just one of many in the Bible which exhort Christian believers to give thanks to God for all the good things with which he's blessed us. Many of us find it much easier to worry than to give thanks! There's so much to worry about – the extreme heat of this summer, leading to wildfires,



water shortages, potential food shortages as crops have suffered from drought, and the thought that this is all just going to get worse as the impacts of global warming become ever greater. There are so many forces in our world over which we have no control, but which threaten our lives and/or livelihood – not just the weather, but cost of living, world conflict, natural disasters; aspects of our own health and economic circumstances. I'm sure you can add all kinds of other issues and problems to the list!

But if we obey Paul's advice from Philippians, and make a point of thanking God for all that he does give us, and even for what we anticipate that he will give us, before it arrives, then we will experience the consequences, which Paul describes in the following verse: the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

On a corporate level, Christians give thanks every time we celebrate Holy Communion together, because we use some form of Eucharistic Prayer, which is a posh phrase for a “prayer of thanksgiving”. During the next few weeks, we'll also be holding our annual Harvest Thanksgiving services. Despite all the worries and concerns of our lives, we have much to thank God for – summer holidays, friends and family, food, clothing and shelter, to name but a few. And something I've discovered recently is that it is impossible to be anxious and thankful at the same time! So practising gratitude is good for us, mentally and physically, as well as spiritually!

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

Ride and Stride, 12th September 2026

www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk

Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, local contact: Stan Anniss

Half of the money you raise for Ride+Stride goes to the church of your choice and the other half to the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, enabling us to make grants to local churches to help with urgent repair and maintenance costs. Join us on a bike, on foot or on horseback to help keep Wiltshire's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses looking beautiful and open for the future.



Mothers' Union

Mary Sumner Day and 150 Years of Mothers' Union was celebrated on 10th August in St Mary's Church. Friends from Derry Hill and Trowbridge Mothers' Union branches joined Calne branch for a very enjoyable service with an inspirational talk from Suzanne Watters the Diocesan MU Treasurer and a Trustee.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 8th September at 7.30pm. Rosie Ringrose is the speaker and her talk is titled Married to the Cloth. All are welcome at MU meetings.

Jenny Colby
Branch Leader

What is Michaelmas?

It is a Christian festival celebrated on September 29th to honour the Archangel Michael and all angels. Saint Michael is known as the leader of God's army who defeated Satan. The day celebrates good winning over evil.

The word comes from "Michael's

Mass". It marks the end of the harvest, the start of autumn, and the turning of the seasons. It is also a Quarter Day. In Britain and Ireland, it is one of the four traditional "quarter days" when rents, debts, and school fees were paid.

Bike Meet at St Mary's

The day was a success from the moment the doors were open to receive visitors. Some came to morning prayer, others for private prayer, a time of quiet, a look around a wonderful grade 1 listed building, or for tea, coffee, cake and a chat.

The day started quietly, but soon filled with guests, at the tables inside and out, in the back pews, and on the West Door step walls. The 12 noon communion service was well attended, by bikers, regulars and annual visitors. I can-

not thank the magnificent 'crew' enough. Jill, Joanna, Kathryn, Jane, Alison, Maggie, Shirley, Enid, Jill, David, Kevin, Merrick and Viv. Always cheerful and warmly welcoming to all and worked really hard.

Thanks also to Carrie, Liz, Jenny, Chris, Rosemary, Tamara, Eve and Keith who although unable to join us donated supplies. I hope I haven't left anyone out.

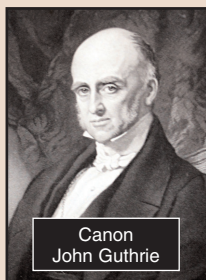
*Thank you,
Kathy Moore*

Schism at St Mary's 1865-1868

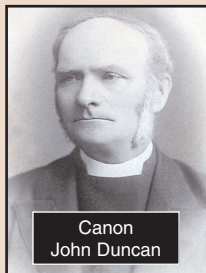
During this period, St Mary the Virgin at Calne, the parish church, did not have a rector. The vicar 1835-1865, whose tenure ended with his death, was Revd Canon John Guthrie. In his youth a keen and able cricketer, he married well second time round. Both he and his wife founded schools, his aimed at remedying the deficiencies of working class education. He was seen as representing the low church, evangelical tradition within the Church of England. He would have been hard for any successor to follow. But when his successful ministry ended, the bishop of Salisbury replaced him with the perpetual curate at Lyneham, Revd John Duncan, who was more high church, emphasising vestments, ritual and liturgy. It seems likely this represented the influence of the Oxford Movement. He too was interested in education, founding St Mary's School, Calne in 1873.

Tensions within the church seem to have come to a head over the high-church emphasis on spiritual regeneration through baptism. This was a particular concern of the St Mary's curate, new in 1866, Revd G. Purches, but in solidarity with his curate also backed by John Duncan. There were discussions with low church parishioners, but on 7th October 1866 several members of the congregation left the church before the conclusion of the sermon.

An aspect of the schism was also the struggle between "old money", the



Canon
John Guthrie



Canon
John Duncan

landed aristocracy, and "new money" arising from the first craft-based industrial revolution and the exploitation of empire. This resulted in a struggle over the corn laws introduced between 1803-1815. These laws prevented cheap wheat ("grain") from North America entering the United Kingdom, which then included Ireland. It could have greatly mitigated the horrendous Irish famine of 1845-1852. The factory owners also wanted cheap bread for their workers and following a campaign by two industrialists, Richard Cobden and John Bright, it was a Tory government led by Sir Robert Peel which repealed these laws in 1846.

In Calne, new money was principally represented by the Harrises or "Harristocracy", a family of very successful butchers, who employed many workers, all of whom had to be fed, with their families. The factory, which stood where Carnegie Mews now is, manufactured pork products. The pigs came from Ireland, and this is a less-told aspect of Anglo-Irish tensions. The main old money in Calne is that of the family of the Marquis of Lansdowne, owners of Bowood Estate. With estates in County Kerry, too, they would have been aware of the suffering in Ireland. But there would have been other landowning families. It was the industrialist Harrises who led the breakaway of about 90 parishioners to form Calne Free Church. John Duncan left Calne in 1876.

*Stephen Williams, DPhil
A member of the Church Watch Team*

The Merewether Family

As you enter St Mary's Church by the North or South Door, you step over a diamond shaped brass memorial in the middle of the floor, leading up the nave to the altar. This is dedicated to the Merewether Family. In particular a Henry Merewether who died in 1803, aged 67. It also commemorates his wife Mary who survived him until 1828 when she died aged 76.



This commemorated Henry Merewether lived at Castlefield in Calne. His father had lived in Chippenham and was from an industrious and important local family. His eldest son, Henry Alsworth Merewether c1780–1864 was an English serjeant-at-law, Town Clerk of London and author. His second son, Francis 1784–1864, was Rector of Coleorton.

Henry Alsworth Merewether, the aforesaid, was called to the bar in 1809, created serjeant-at-law in 1827, and became king's counsel in 1853. Success on the western circuit meant he was appointed attorney-general to Adelaide, Queen-dowager. Elected as town clerk of London in June 1842, he became High Bailiff of Southwark. Resigning in 1859 he retired to his family seat, Castlefield, in Calne, and died aged 83 in July 1864. A prolific author, he was best known for his major work of three volumes on The History of the Boroughs and Municipal Corporations of the United Kingdom, 1835, written together with Archibald John Stephens. Twice married, his eldest son, another Henry Alworth Mere-

wether, 1812–1877, was Recorder of Devizes and a Bencher of the Inner Temple.

There are three memorials dedicated to the Merewether family. A large marble wall tablet on the East Wall of the South Chapel is also dedicated to the same Henry Merewether who died in 1803.

It states about him: For many years a respectable Attorney at Law of this place. Upright in his profession: social in his manners, loyal to his King: affectionate to his Wife; kind to his Children: faithful to his Friends: He lived beloved: and died lamented. His wife, Mary, is remembered: Her useful life was marked with humble Piety, active charity, general benevolence, cheerful manners: unremitting affection for her Husband: and anxious care for her Children: Who have erected this Monument to record the virtues of their beloved Parents and their Grateful sense of them. The Memory of the just is blessed. I wonder if our children would say the same about us.

The third is a stone memorial to the same couple but shows a discrepancy with the dates. Also on the floor of the West nave crossing.

Inscriptions from monuments to the Merewether Family can apparently be found in the churches of Market Lavington, West Lavington, Etchilhampton, St John Devizes, Chippenham, Marshfield as well as ours in Calne.

Serena Boase

Dates for your diary

- 2nd** 2.00 – 3.30pm Bereavement Café at St Mary's Church.
 - 4th** 5.00 – 7.00pm St Mary's Young Voices, September Sing.
 - 6th** St Mary's Patronal Service
 - 8th** Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - 8th** 10.00am SMUFS starting for a new term
 - 8th** 7.30pm Mothers' Union meeting
 - 12th** Ride and Stride – fundraising for Wiltshire Historic Churches
 - 17th** 7.30pm Parochial Church Council meeting – Church House,
 - 21st** Feast Day of St Matthew – apostle and evangelist
 - 27th** Harvest Festival at Holy Trinity and St Peter's
 - 29th** Feast Day of St Michael and All Angels
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Focus for Prayer

Please remember to pray for ...

- The start of a new academic year for children and students.
 - Harvest time at the conclusion of a difficult year for farmers.
 - The change of the seasons.
 - People who have financial difficulties and organisations that support them, for example Christians Against Poverty.
 - People who are experiencing domestic abuse.
 - Our planet and climate change that we may care for God's creation.
-

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***

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