

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND



*...keeping you in touch
with your church family
September 2020*

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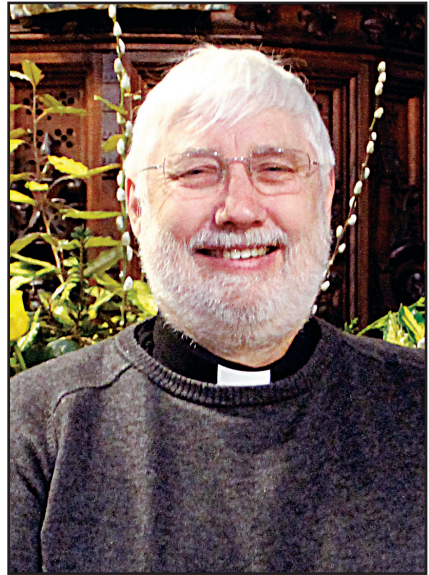
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A Prayer for the Feast St Michael and All Angels

*Everlasting God, who has ordained and constituted in
a wonderful Order the ministries of angels and mortals:*

*Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels
always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your
appointment they may help and defend us*

here on earth;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen

Church addresses

Holy Trinity Church, Quemerford, Calne, London Rd, Wiltshire, SN11 0AR

St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 0HU

St. Peter's Church, Blackland, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8UQ

Website: www.parishofcalneandblackland.org.uk

Find us on facebook @stmaryschurchcalne

***Look out in both these places for information about online
worship and services during the corona virus pandemic.***

Thought for September

The last time I wrote an article for the Parish newsletter I referred to Calne as 'a place of 'discovery''. This is what I had noticed on the road sign as you enter the town and of course refers to the two famous people who are linked to the town - Joseph Priestley who 'discovered' oxygen here whilst working at nearby Bowood House and then shortly afterwards, Jan Ingenhousz who built on the work of Priestly and 'discovered' photosynthesis. Little did I know then that Calne would continue to be a place of discovery but now recently that has been for me one of self discovery. I have found things about myself that have surprised me - sometimes they were scary but others exciting and a revelation. During this lockdown period I have been heartened by the generosity of many people especially whilst volunteering at the FoodBank each week. I have discovered there is a heightened sense of community amongst Calne people and a real sense of pulling together at this time. I have learnt much about me and others that I didn't know existed. I have had to rely on God and been persistent in prayer. Little did I realise how prophetic those thoughts would be!

Now the whole world is experiencing things about itself that they didn't know existed - it too is on a voyage of discovery. People have discovered a depth of loss, grief and confusion very often facing an uncertain future - and, we hope, eventually a new start. We are all, in various ways, coming through a state of bereavement. Many have lost loved ones, health, jobs, businesses, relationships. Even us luckier ones can feel we've lost our bearings, lost the things which gave our lives meaning. Life may never be the same again, but what will our new lives look like?

After Easter I was given a series of reflections which looked at the stories of



Jesus's resurrection in the four Gospels. And I found a link between the situation of Jesus's disciples then, and our situation now. The disciples too had been bereaved, had seen all their hopes and expectations overturned - they like us had been thrown into grief and confusion. When Jesus rose again, their lives were transformed and renewed as well. Together with these reflections came a series of paintings that interpreted that particular story and I discovered that this also brought life and colour to a familiar passage enabling me to see it in a new light.

As we ease out of lockdown and move back towards 'normal' life - whatever that may look like - can we, like them, know a resurrection - a resurrection in our family, church and community lives? What can we learn from this experience? When Jesus rose, his body was transformed, different in some way, and his disciples didn't always recognise him. But once a connection was made - by Jesus calling Mary by name, or in breaking bread before a meal - then they did recognise and know him, and saw that his body still bore the scars of the cross.

There has been much change to grapple with since the beginning of lockdown and we have now opened up Holy Trinity

church each Saturday for private prayer and in August have started a Morning prayer service each Sunday at St Mary's church. As our church life, indeed all aspects of our lives, pick up again, we can't expect to go back to exactly the way things were before. At least for the foreseeable future, many things will be 'the same but different', a 'new normal' and we will bear the scars from this time. There'll be a temptation to mourn what we feel we've lost, to cling on to the past - 'if only we could still do that'.

When Mary Magdalene met the risen Jesus in the garden, her first instinct was to embrace him - but he told her not to hold on to him. I too have discovered that I long to cuddle my grandchildren but for now that's not possible. It wasn't possible for Mary to cling to him, for everything to be as before, because Jesus would only be around for a little while before ascending to his Father. She and the other disciples had to find a new way of relating to Jesus, the way open to us now. A better way, as Jesus

can now be present with any and all of us, anywhere, any time.

Over the last few months, we've been finding new ways of relating to one another, of worshipping and praying together. Many have enjoyed our on-line services and Zoom quizzes and murder mystery evenings. We have discovered new ways of keeping in touch with each other to enable people to feel connected. As we go forward, we must look for that new and better way, new things to put our energy and hopes into, to do and to enjoy. As this month we look forward to harvest and all that it can bring, let it too continue to be a voyage of discovery for us all. Regret is natural and normal, but we can't let it stop us from travelling on, knowing that Jesus walks with us. May we all recognize his presence with us day by day and make discoveries about ourselves and others that will continue to amaze.

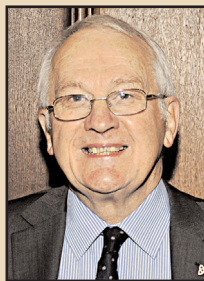
Rev Teresa Michaux

Ride and Stride September 2020

Despite Covid 19 "Ride and Stride", organised by Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, will take place this year on Saturday 12th September, 10.00am to 6.00pm

The aim is, on the day, to visit as many participating churches as you can by bicycle, e-bike or mobility scooter, horse, or walking. You get

friends and relatives to sponsor you for your efforts, the money raised split 50/50 between the "Trust" and your parish. This parish received £428 from last year's event



and, in the past, received donations from the "Trust" for work on its buildings. So, throw off the restrictions of lockdown, get some fresh air and exercise - contact Stan, the local organizer: Tel 817211, or email stananniss@aol.com, who will send you sponsorship form and details of participating churches.

Thank you, and good luck.

Stan Anniss



Heart for Calne

Christians with a heart for prayer meeting in unity to pray for the town
From an email: 'these are the current plans for the rest of the year;
as each months date approaches, please ring the leader to confirm
whether the prayer time will go ahead.'

Saturday 19th September - the Baptist Church hopes to be able to host,
please contact Jenny Woods 814499

Pre lockdown meeting times were 10.00 to 11.00 am
HfC contacts Marina Stewart 817897: Adrian Bray 07519518738

Comments about returning to Church at St Mary's



It was nice to be in church again.

Very well organised, shown hand sanitizers on entry, given my pew number, told of one way system, service sheets in pews.

Basic short morning prayer service with sermon but no hymns.

It was nice to hear the organ again, David Bevan played before and after the service plus some incidental music during the service.

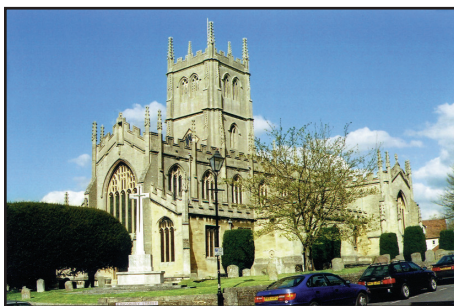
It was good to get back to church, but somehow it was soulless, like everything else these days.

Could not find how to book on line (know now) so was directed to a seat at back of church.

Had to put on one of those awful masks, which fog up my glasses. No service sheet, given one, turns out should have been given a second sheet.

As I arrived at church the bells started to ring. It was a nice morning so I decided to stand outside and listen.

They rang for the permitted 15 minutes and I still had 5 minutes to go in and find my seat.



Note about the bells.

The bells are only allowed to ring for 15 minutes, and only 4 bells to allow for social distancing- but we are delighted to be allowed to announce the start of services with our historic bells.

Dates in September

21st September -
St Matthew the
Evangelist
29th September -
St Michael and
All Angels
(Michaelmas)



Face Masks and Hearing Loss - from Grapevine

AS MASKS become compulsory in shops in England, deaf people are warning that communication will be difficult.

Action on Hearing Loss is advising the general public to make sure they face the person they are speaking to and speak clearly and have also recommended speech-to-text apps, while the group Deaf Connect have produced cards which deaf people can carry round that ask people to remove their mask when they are speaking to them.

Janice Silo from Signs of God, a Christian charity that promotes the use of British Sign Language in Christian settings, spoke to Premier through interpreter Jill Behenner about how she feels about the new rule and how Christians can help: "It's the bane of our lives to be honest. I went to hospital just for a few days recently and everyone I met, all the medical staff, had masks on, which is right. I was squinting, trying to read their lips and then I realised actually I can't read their lips! So they would pull it down and then they'd put it up again and then the next person would pull it down and put it up again and it was very, very confusing."



She gave this advice for when people are in shops or banks:

"Don't jump into thinking, 'Oh, the person is ignoring me'. Or 'they don't have any respect for me' or 'they don't have any respect for the help of others if they ask you to take your mask off. Just wait and see how people react, how they interact with each other. It's about patience really, that's the biggest thing. You can write stuff down as well - that's fine. Sometimes we ask people to write things, writing stuff down is really useful. And also, when Coronavirus is finished and we don't have to wear masks anymore, please continue all the stuff you've been doing, being patient, writing stuff down."

Editorial Team:-

Sue Twyman, 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

