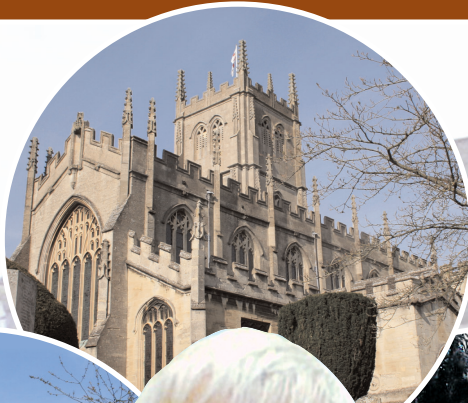


NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND



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

October 2020



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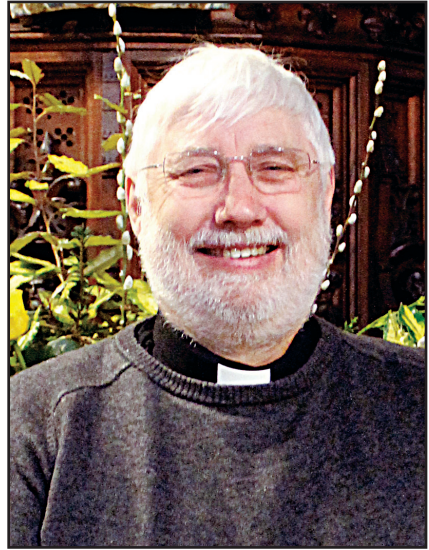
Mrs. Sadie Kenway,

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Church House is closed during the corona virus crisis.

A Prayer for Autumn

*Lord, thank you for walking with us through the seasons of our lives
For the winter when we are held safe in your arms
through the darkness.*

*For the hope of spring as we are filled with new promise and life.
For summer time full of warmth and colour
and for autumn days as the leaves fall to seed new growth.
You are always with us*

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.***

A Life of Surprises - a thought for the month

We have certainly all had our fill of surprises so far this year; a year which began as most years begin, with winter rain and wind to complain about and some with hopes of holidays in the sun later on. All of which changed. Winter turned into spring, and the most glorious spring we might have wished for; but coronavirus happened and suddenly our horizons were diminished and our main hope was for an end to this deadly virus which affected, and still affects, so many people across the globe. Then, perhaps, came other surprises: how we managed to cope with the lockdown and the different ways we found to communicate and keep in touch with those we couldn't go and see. Many, like me, have been so glad to have modern technology giving us the means of seeing and talking to friends and family even from a distance. But I expect, again like me, you have missed the hugs. However, there may have been happy surprises within lockdown, too, and you may have been pleasantly surprised by finding, or renewing, an interest in something creative to occupy your time: baking, perhaps, and as I always make my own bread, the shortage of bread flour at the beginning of lockdown was a major headache, and a sign that others, too, had realised the pleasure and freedom baking your own bread brings.

I have spent a great deal of time reading: something I have always enjoyed, yet often with the nagging feeling that perhaps I should put my book down and go and do something that has long awaited my attention! But lockdown absolved me from guilt feelings, and I have immersed myself in



books. The book of books, the Bible, has itself presented many surprises during this time - I wonder if you have found that, too. The daily lections seemed so often to address the kind of problems we were facing, offering insights into God's presence close beside us; and the Psalms so often echo our own thoughts, as in these verses from Psalm 43: Why are you so full of heaviness O my soul, and why are you so disquieted within me? O put your trust in God; for I will yet give him thanks, who is the help of my countenance and my God.

I have been reading a book by Tom Wright, a former Bishop of Durham and greatly respected writer and New Testament scholar, called "God and the Pandemic", which I commend to you. In it, he reviews how we, as Christians, might deal with the question, "Where is God in the pandemic?" and he suggests the answer



is "Out there on the front line, suffering and dying to bring healing and hope." But that, in itself, poses all sorts of other questions, and it isn't something we might easily apply to ourselves or our own situation. Yes, God suffers with His people, but we want to know how we should be dealing with our own and other people's suffering.



In his book, Tom Wright suggests that, as Christians, we just get on with the job of bringing God's comfort and healing to others through the way we behave one to another. This will be interpreted by each one of us in ways that are possible for us, and the kindness of good neighbours has been another surprise of joy. As I remain at home (mostly) in isolation, I hold the peoples and their suffering in my prayers before God; I pray for God's protection of those I love; and I surrender to God the eventual salvation of the world from this pandemic. We place our hope in God, and in his book, Tom Wright says, "What we hope for includes the wise human leadership and initiative which will ...bring about fresh and healing policies and actions

across God's wide and wounded world." Amen to that.

I have appreciated the pleasant surprise brought by the services of worship from across the Benefice which came to us on YouTube, but that which I miss most is the Holy Sacrament. That, and being unable to hug family or friends, is what hurts most, and I don't doubt many of you feel the same. But take heart, this will all pass, and, please God, we shall emerge with the willingness and ability to build up a new and better place in which to live, and move, and have our being. May the God of surprises surprise us all with the better times ahead.

Revd Lois Cater



Heart for Calne

Christians with a heart for prayer meeting in unity to pray for the town
On Saturday 17th October Rachel hopes to host a Zoom prayer meeting

Please contact Rachel on 07725 882586

HfC contacts Marina Stewart 817897: Adrian Bray 07519 518738

Dates in October

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting 4th October after service
at St Mary's church.**

18th October - St Luke the Evangelist

28th October - Simon and Jude Apostles

St Luke's Day this year falls on Sunday 18th October

A Blessing For A Meeting on Zoom

In the place where eye contact is impossible
The silent lexicon of non-verbal cues extinct
May this not be the crowd without the wisdom
Despise our isolation, our social distance

May we give thanks for this awkward digital blessing

May we be admitted, May we not be muted
May our distorted sound and scrambled words
Finally align, May they catch up with our
pixelated vision

May travelling this unfamiliar landscape



Neither lose us, nor completely exhaust us
And may our bandwidth always find room
For patience, gentleness and the peace
that bypasses misunderstanding

May every meeting open and close with
a poem,

A joke or a steadying moment of silence
Some brief transfiguration in time, to remind us
Of who we were, before all this,
And who we may be again

May our agenda always be kindness,
The waving hand, our ecstatic benediction
And may there never be any other business,
For ever and ever. Amen.

Martin Wroe

St Luke's Day this year falls on Sunday 18th October

There is often a spell of sunny weather at this time of year around the feast day of St Luke, which according to another piece of folklore is often known as **St Luke's Little Summer**.

How did the legend of St Luke's summer come about? The story goes that St Luke did not get as much attention as other saints' days around this time of year, so to avoid being overlooked he produced warm sunny days before winter arrived. St Luke's late summer was widely recognised until we adopted the



more recent term "Indian summer" from North America. A spell of relatively quiet, settled weather is common in October, when high-pressure systems bring clear blue skies and warm sunshine. These fine spells were also known as a "goose summer", which is believed to be the root of the word "gossamer". Folklore also cautions that autumnal storms arrive soon after St Luke's fine spell of weather. This is, after all, the time of year when storm tracks are invigorated on fast jet-stream winds that race across the Atlantic.



Sponsored Swim by Sue Groom, Archdeacon of Wilts.



Our Aquadeacon is on the final stretch of her epic swim to raise money for a spinal injuries charity. The Archdeacon of Wilts, Sue Groom, planned the 6.5 km swim before lockdown but could only get a little practice. Post-lockdown in mid May, Archdeacon Sue has been making a 2-hour round trip to the swimming lake where she swims for 2 hours, 3 times a week.

She says: "On Sunday I managed to swim 5 km in the lake for the very first time and this afternoon, in glorious sunshine, I swam another 3.4 km. I now feel fit enough to tackle the 6.5 km on the river Arun in just 12 days' time."

"Thank you very much to all those who have already been so generous in sponsoring me. So far you have donated £750 towards my target of £1,000."

"If you have not sponsored me yet and are able to do so, please give to help Aspire support those with spinal injuries. Thank you."

By the time you read this the sponsored swim will have taken place, but you can still give to Aspire via <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sue-groom3>

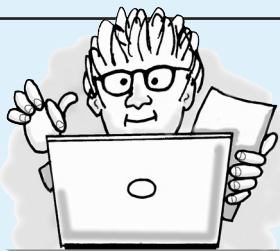
We can't sing in Church - but we can sing at home!

Come, ye thankful people, come
Raise the song of harvest home
All is safely gathered in
Ere the winter storms begin
God our Maker doth provide
For our wants to be supplied
Come to God's own temple, come
Raise the song of harvest home

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