

# NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND

*...keeping you in  
touch with your church family.  
July 2021*



## Parish contact details:-

**Team Rector:**

**The Reverend Bob Kenway**

Email: [rakenway@gmail.com](mailto:rakenway@gmail.com)

Tel: 01249 812340

**Team Vicar:**

**The Reverend Linda Carter**

Email: [lscarter@btinternet.com](mailto:lscarter@btinternet.com)

**Team Vicar:**

**The Reverend Teresa Michaux**

Email: [tmx256@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tmx256@hotmail.co.uk)

**Parish Administrator:**

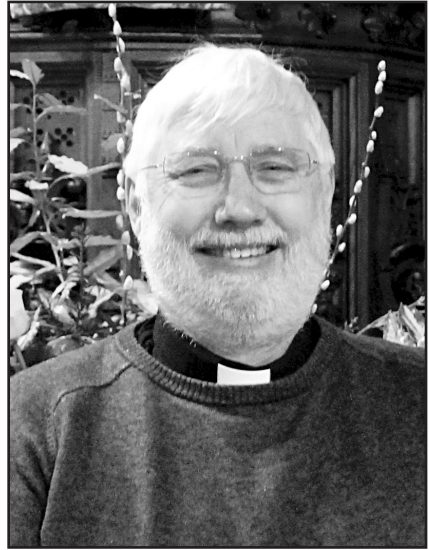
**Mrs. Sadie Kenway,**

Church House,

30 Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU

Email: [calnepcc@gmail.com](mailto:calnepcc@gmail.com)

Tel: 01249 816522



*Church House is closed during the corona virus crisis.*

## *Prayer for July*

*Eternal God and Father,*

*You create and redeem us by the power of your love,*

*Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,*

*That we may give ourselves in love and service*

*To one another and to you,*

*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](http://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 lockdown.***



# Thought for July

I am writing this in the week that celebrates St Barnabas' Day. Who was he and what is he renowned for? One of our lesser celebrated Saints, but in June 2021 perhaps this year he should have a higher place in our memory bank of revering. Barnabas was (according to the book of Acts in the Bible) a man from Cyprus called Joseph, but when the apostles met him, they renamed him Barnabas, which means 'Son of encouragement'. Why did they do this? Because he sold a field and gave the money to the apostles to use for their cause of sharing and helping those less advantaged than themselves. As the Bible puts it - the widows and orphans. Women and children were dependent on the eldest man of the house ensuring that the whole family had food and shelter. If they were bereft of such care they were often reduced to begging. So the apostles did their best for them with what little they had, relying on the generosity of others to do this. They felt Joseph had encouraged them on their mission so much they called him Barnabas.

At the G7 summit in Cornwall political leaders meet to discuss some of the most pressing issues which face us including climate change and the Covid 19 pandemic. The Prime Minister, as leader of the summit, will call on world leaders to act together to make concrete commitments to vaccinate the world against the virus by the end of 2022. I wonder what Barnabas



and the apostles would have to say about this? A tall order indeed. Will they extend generosity towards each other and the rest of the world? Almost every piece of news could be challenged by asking 'where is the generosity in that'?

In a nutshell, to ponder on generosity; to challenge ourselves on our own generosity is something I believe we should do more of. Even if we don't consider our possessions, there is also the question of our generosity of spirit. How willing are we to give of ourselves, our time and our love? Today also, I hear that over the last year we spent on average 3.5 hours a day in front of a computer screen. Can we give more of ourselves outwardly instead of to a screen? We run the risk of becoming more and more insular and in short, selfish. So - as we move towards those lazy, hazy days of summer, how about we each reflect on how we just might take a lesson from Joseph (aka Barnabas) and give more of ourselves to others, by leaving our computers alone, spending more time and energy and love on each other and engaging with charitable causes that can truly help those in need or distress. Enjoy the start of summer and for all those people and homes affected by the wait for outside events such as festivals and weddings I offer you my love and prayers.

*Revd Teresa Michaux*

## SAINTS FUN FACTS

Barinabas sold his land and possessions and gave the proceeds to the Apostles. He and Paul undertook missionary journeys together converting many to Christianity. He was also one of the first teachers of the Church at Antioch. They both attended the Council of Jerusalem to deal with the issue of converting Gentiles to Christianity.



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## Retirement of Bishop Nicholas

The Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, will retire on 3rd July 2021, a month short of his 67th birthday. He will have been Bishop of Salisbury for 10 years. "Being the Bishop of Salisbury has been a privilege and a joy", the Bishop said. "In present circumstances, the timing of my retirement has not been an easy decision but it feels right to me and to those I have consulted. The impact of the pandemic is going to be felt for a long time. The Diocese is developing a Mission and Pastoral Plan and we have an agreed financial framework with which to face the future with confidence. We continue to be about Renewing Hope as we Pray, Serve and Grow.



The Bishop's last service in the Diocese will be Evensong in the Cathedral on Saturday 3rd July 2021.

## Calne Deanery Synod

**T**he Calne Deanery Synod met via zoom on Thursday 13th May. We were pleased to be joined by Bishop Nicholas who gave a presentation on the topic, "Our churches and the climate crisis".

Some of you will remember his visit during Lent a few years ago, Bishop Nicholas updated us on the progress that has been made since the Paris Climate Change Conference in 2015. Globally we now face a series of crises: The Covid 19 Pandemic; World Recession and Climate Change.

Bishop Nicholas spoke about the general consensus amongst Christians and



the Faith communities, and the encyclical 'Laudate Si' (Praise be to you) on care for our common home, which was issued by Pope Francis in 2015.

There is further information of the topic on the Church of England Website which is well worth a visit.

If you would like to view a recording of Bishop Nicholas' talk, please contact me at [mary.p\\_c@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.p_c@btinternet.com) (note the underscore between p and c) for the link and password.

*Mary Pilcher-Clayton  
Secretary Calne Deanery Synod*

## Footprints

**O**ne night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along a beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord God.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. 'Lord you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints, I don't understand why when needing you most you would leave me.'

The Lord replied. 'My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.'

*Author unknown*

# Report for Calne Mothers' Union

**C**alne Mothers' Union met on Zoom on Tuesday 8th June at 7.30. We were few in number but after opening prayers we had a very interesting talk from David Goldstone about the history and the work of the Street Pastors in Trowbridge.

Street Pastors work mostly in cities but the work in Trowbridge, Wiltshire's County town was set up 12 years ago in consultation with the police, the local authority and the churches. The volunteers are from 9 churches in Trowbridge. The police were unsure about the role of the Street Pastors but as the crime rate went down within a few months because of the presence of the Street Pastors they became more supportive. David said that when asked why they do it, they reply 'We love God and we love you'. He said many of the young people have never been told they are loved. In this way they help the church see beyond the four walls. They see their role as giving a helping hand to vulnerable people and one thing they do is wait at the station to meet the last



train from Bath and make sure people get taxis to get home safely, particularly young women. They give out water to those dehydrated and flipflops to women struggling in high heels, for which they do not take any money. They are funded by local churches.

David ended his talk with the words from Matthew 25 v40 'As you did it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did it for me.'

Our meeting in July is a garden party on Tuesday 13th July. Please contact Jenny Colby for further details and to book a place. (01249 819097)

## Dates for your diary

### Monday 9th August

Mary Sumner Day Service  
in St Mary's Church 2.00pm  
**Speaker Rev Canon Jane Curtis.**

### Tuesday 14th September

7.30 pm Carrie's Quiz  
All are welcome to MU events.

Jenny Colby Branch Leader.  
jennyc@mardenvale.org.uk

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## Home Communion

**Home Communion** is restarting for those unable to come to church.

Contact Kathryn Miller (01249) 821031 or  
kpmiller@hotmail.co.uk to arrange a home communion visit.



# End of an Era - from Grapevine

Wiltshire's Revd Catherine Blundell writes with her view:

In England, registering what are now called 'Life Events' was done only by the church until 1837. However, in the early 1800s, Parliament realised that if they wanted to accurately tax or count the population, or pressgang men to fight, they ought to know a bit more about what was going on. Thus was born a hybrid of both church registration for baptisms, confirmation, marriages, and deaths alongside a civil registration process of births, marriages, and deaths.



*The Revd Jenny Taylor finalises the outgoing marriage registers*

Ever since then clergy have had to master the art of recording marriages in registrar's ink and trying not to blot, smudge or misspell entries into what was now a legal document.

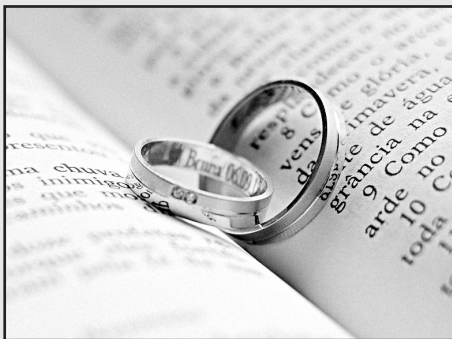
It was also supposed to be done in a very formal way. For example, the registers were supposed to be written up after the couple had married. This would have meant the 'Signing of the Registers' part of the marriage service would take most of the afternoon unless we sneakily filled them in ahead of time. Then there is the fearsome registrar's ink. A blue black substance that stains fingers, clothes and desk tops - permanently!

As well as the language you don't see or hear much anymore. A marriage is 'solemnized', according to 'rites and ceremonies' of the Church of England and the registers ask we record the 'condition' of the couple,

meaning were they single, widowed, or divorced.

Yes, our marriage registers are old, large, fusty smelling and rather archaic, but they are also rather lovely, and it is with a touch of sadness that they are to be replaced with an electronic system which we are assured is easier and more secure.

Thankfully, the marriage service remains unchanged. The bride can still walk down the aisle, the best man can fumble with the rings and there is even a moment to sign the new 'Marriage Document'. This is a boring A4 sized printed piece of paper, but the couples can still pose with pen in hand while the photographer rounds up their nearest and dearest for a formal photo.



God of order and peace, we thank you for the means by which the turnings of our lives are faithfully recorded, and for those who keep the records with diligence. For the means they offer for truth-telling and justice, and the record of memory of generations past. As we prepare to commit these records to the archives, help us to leave the past in your care, and renew our trust in your changeless mercy, that brings us life and wholeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Dates for July

**The pattern for the coming weeks will be:**

**St. Mary's - Parish Eucharist 9.30 am, Sundays**

The St.Mary's services will be live streamed for the time being on  
[www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchcalne](http://www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchcalne)

**Holy Trinity - Parish Eucharist 10.00 am Wednesdays**

You will need to book - [www.stmarysbookings.co.uk](http://www.stmarysbookings.co.uk) or phone 07713962635

Please keep to safety protocols and come prepared to wear a face mask

**Family Service - Sundays 4th (10.00 am) & 18th (3.00 pm) at Holy Trinity**  
for family services book through [steven@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:steven@mardenvale.org.uk) or phone  
01249819097

**2nd and 4th Sundays Family Service on Zoom @ 10.00 am**

Meeting ID 777 199 3235 Passcode 819097

St.Mary's church is open for **Private Prayer** (10.00 am to 12.00 noon)

On Wednesdays and Fridays

**Join Parish Prayers** (prayers for the local community as well as the parish)

First Tuesday of the month 6.30 to 7.00 pm on Zoom

Meeting ID 777 199 3235 Passcode 819097

For details of the **Meditation Sessions** held on Thursdays from  
6.30pm contact Kevin Wells - [wells4millst@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wells4millst@hotmail.co.uk)  
or phone 01249 248986

**3rd July - St Thomas the Apostle**

**22nd July - Mary Magdalene**

**25th July - St James the Apostle**

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**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](mailto:cbp.news.editor@gmail.com)**

