

# NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND



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

## Parish contact details

**Team Rector:**

**The Reverend Caspar Bush**

Email: [caspar.bush@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:caspar.bush@mardenvale.org.uk)

Tel: 01249 914364 (day off Monday)

**Team Vicar:**

**The Reverend Sarah Errington**

Email: [sarah.errington@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:sarah.errington@mardenvale.org.uk)

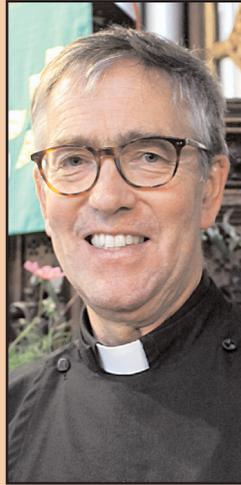
Tel: 01249 263430

**Parish Administration:**

Church House,  
30 Church Street, Calne,  
SN11 0HU

Email: [enquiries@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@mardenvale.org.uk)

Tel: 01249 816522



*Church House is open from 10.00am to 12noon  
on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.*

## *Prayer for June*

*I thank you, God of sun and rain, storm and breeze,  
warmth and chill. I thank you for all of it,  
for the precarious balance of what you hold in your  
all-powerful hands. I pray to be open to this hour's  
weather—and its influence on my day.*

*I thank you for its benefits and blessings.  
Help me feel your presence in the temperature,  
the clouds, the wind, the light.  
May I accept your gifts always.*

*Amen*

### ***Church addresses***

**Holy Trinity Church, Quemerford, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 0AR**

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

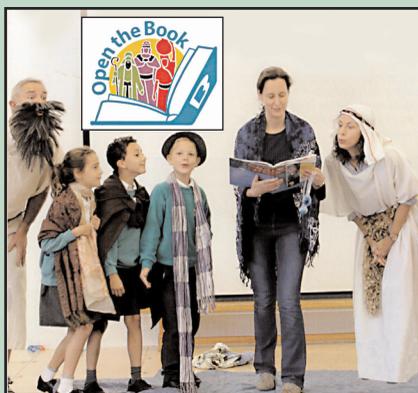
**St Peter's Church, Blackland, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8UQ**

**Website: <https://www.mardenvale.org.uk>**

**Find us on facebook @stmaryschurchcalne**

# A Story-telling Opportunity

There is an opportunity to tell Bible stories that should not be missed. The Calne Open the Book Team tells Bible stories to hundreds of children each week in three local schools. We have been going into Holy Trinity Academy, Marden Vale Academy and St Edmund's Academy for over six years. We get great feedback from both the pupils and the staff at the schools. All of the team are regularly recognised by children around town as people from 'Open the Book'. It is a very rewarding thing to do and also great fun – did I mention we get to dress up! You can find out more about Open the Book at <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/> We would love to have more people join our team. You do not have to commit to doing all three schools; many of the team just do one or two schools each week. Also, you do not have to do every week, we are allowed the occasional



week off! We welcome people of any age – enthusiasm and a loud voice help! The stories are already written for us in material supplied by the Bible Society. We rehearse on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm in the Baptist Church, where all our props and costumes are stored, this normally takes about 45 minutes. On Wednesday mornings we tell the story to the whole school at Holy Trinity Academy and then we do the story later that same morning at Marden Vale Academy, again for the whole school. Then on Thursday afternoon we go into St Edmund's Academy and tell the same story to all the children there.

If you would like to be part of the team in Calne and help with this work, please contact:

Steven Colby on 01249 819097 or email: [stevenjenny.colby@gmail.com](mailto:stevenjenny.colby@gmail.com).

*Steven Colby.*

## Mothers' Union

Calne Mothers' Union met on Tuesday 13th May. The speaker was Doug Edge. He is Clerk to Calne Welfare Charities. He told us of the history of the Alms Houses on The Green and showed some photos of what they were like in the 17th and 18th centuries. He then went on to speak of the other side of the charities' work; of helping those in need in Calne and of supporting young people, encouraging them to

thrive. He gave examples of helping young people with the cost of sports kit.

Our June meeting is an evening one. We will be meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th June in Church House. Terry and Ros Mills will be speaking to us about Calne Baptist Church – Past, Present and Future. All are welcome to our meetings.

*Jenny Colby  
Branch Leader*

*Rector's Notes for June – see Page 4.*

# Thought for June

**T**his is a big month for the Marden Vale Benefice as we prepare to welcome Carly Taylor, the first training curate based here for over 20 years, to be ordained deacon in Salisbury Cathedral on Sunday 29th June. We have booked a coach, so please call Ann in the office if you'd like to

book a place. Carly has prepared some Ember cards, to help us pray for her – these are available in church, and below Carly explains what they are all about.

*With my prayers, and very best wishes  
Caspar Bush, Team Rector  
(email address see page two)*

## Ember Cards – what are they and why are they shared?

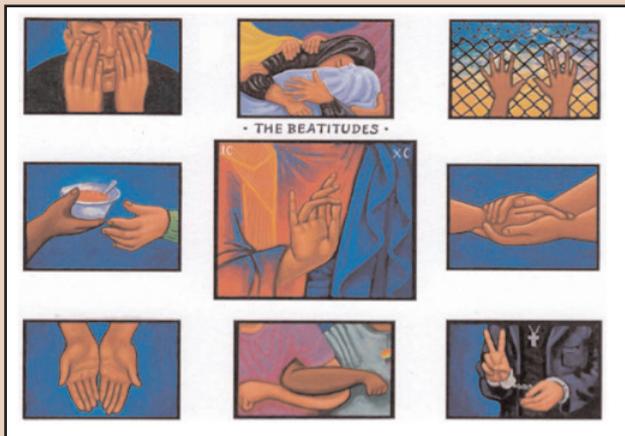
**E**MBER Days in the Church date back to the 4th century. These were days set apart to pray and fast for farming, and especially harvest. Over time the connection to agriculture has dimin-

ished, and Ember Days which occur in March, June, September and December are used to pray for people exploring new ministries in the church, whether lay or ordained.

**Ember cards** were probably first used to communicate news of a person's upcoming ordination, at a time when communication was less easy. Today Ember cards are sent out to friends, family, and parishioners, to ask for prayers in the time leading up to ordination.

For my card, I've chosen an image of the beatitudes, by iconographer Kelly Latimore. The Beatitudes, recorded in Matthew's gospel, are the words Jesus proclaimed at the start of the Sermon on the Mount. We're given a glimpse into the heart of Jesus, of his compassion and love.

Jesus lived out the Beatitudes in who he chose to spend time with, who



he called to be disciples, and in people he healed – often living on the margins of society.

Jesus' promise of blessings for all who are poor in spirit, meek, mourning, for the persecuted and for peace-makers, feels connected to some of the words the Bishop will speak in my ordination service, about being a deacon:

'They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.'

Please do pray for me in the weeks

leading up to my ordination. As I become more aware of what I am about to move into, I really value being held in prayer, knowing this calling is only possible in God's strength and not my own.

*With my prayers and all good wishes*  
Carly Taylor

Please pray for all those to be ordained this Pentecost, among them

**Carly Taylor**

to be ordained Deacon  
by the Bishop of Salisbury

at Salisbury Cathedral  
10:30am on Sunday 29th June 2025

Please also pray for Danny, Noah and Beth,  
for the Revd Caspar Bush,  
and the people of The Marden Vale Benefice  
where Carly will serve her curacy.

And what does the Lord require of you but to act justly, to love mercy,  
and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

## Join us on the coach to Salisbury Cathedral!

On Sunday 29th June, our new benefice curate Carly Taylor will be ordained in Salisbury Cathedral, and we are all invited to be part of this very special service, in this amazing building. To that end we have booked a 50-seater coach! It will leave at 8.30am from outside the library in Calne, getting us there in plenty of time for the 10.30am service. Afterwards there'll be time to enjoy a picnic lunch (bring your own!) and soak up a bit of Salisbury atmosphere before the bus leaves Salisbury at 3.00pm. The

price is £15 per person. Please book your place with Ann in the benefice office.

(Contact details on page 2)

*Revd Caspar Bush*

*Team Rector of the Marden Vale Benefice*



# The Church Kneelers in St Mary's

The church kneeler, used primarily for a practical reason to cushion your knees whilst praying, provides a colourful rich addition to any church. Kneeling has been part of worship for centuries, dating back to ancient times. In the early Christian church, kneeling was a common posture for prayer and reverence. As churches evolved, so did the kneelers. Medieval churches often featured stone or wooden kneelers while later designs included cushioning for comfort. The symbolism and meaning evoke a humbling before God. Using a kneeler straightens your spine so your shoulders relax. This can help alleviate back pain and improve overall comfort during prayer.

Sometimes hung on the back of church pews, found in abbeys, priories and cathedrals church kneelers depict various images from nature, Christian motifs and local landmarks and interest. Often referred to as hassocks or cushions they are usually roughly the same size and embroidered in tent or cross stitch. Few kneelers pre-date the 1960s. Moths and church mice have led many older kneelers to be discarded or destroyed. According to Barbara Thomson and Wendy Trewin, who wrote the book *Embroidered Church Kneelers*, the oldest surviving kneelers can be found in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Spanish in

origin, two are dated to around 1700, designed in florid reds and gold, with tassels at each corner. Apparently Wadham College, Oxford, may hold the oldest known kneelers. A Tudor rose adorns one, a coat of arms the other. They are embroidered using Turkey Work, a technique better known for its use in the weaving of rugs and carpets.



The kneelers at St Mary's Church, Calne, were created by Beryl Burlace, a talented local artist and embroiderer and member of the Busy Beavers group. The Busy Beavers were a group of ladies in the parish who made and embroidered the vestments for the clergy, and the altar "frontals, etc," for the three churches in the parish of Calne and Blackland. The kneeler project was begun in the early 2000s, funded by parishioners and with many parishioners joining in, completing the tapestry cushions at home. A wonderful community achievement.

Our church has 3 large kneelers at the altar, 72 kneelers spread amongst the pews depicting 12 different designs. See if you can spot the 12 designs created by Beryl Burlace: Wheat, Lilies, Almond Blossom, Passion Flower, Marigold, Crocus, Flax, Dove, Fig, Pomegranate, IHS, Crown of Thorns.

*Serena Boase,  
(with thanks for help from  
Joanna Childs and Jane Wells.)*



# Dates for your diary

- 8th** Pentecost or Whitsunday  
**10th** Mothers' Union. 7.30pm in Church House  
**11th** Feast of St Barnabas  
**15th** Trinity Sunday – with choral evensong at St Mary's Church  
**24th** Birth of St John the Baptist  
**28th** Founder's Day Service for St Mary's School 10.30am  
**28th** Teddy Bear Parachute Jump at 12.00pm and Launch of fundraising for St Mary's Church project  
**28th** Calne Carnival  
**29th** Carly Taylor's ordination at Salisbury Cathedral and Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
- 

## Focus for Prayer

Please remember to pray for ...

- Everyone taking exams at this time.
  - The changes planned for St Mary's Church and the team working on this.
    - Carly Taylor and her family as she prepares for her ordination and they all prepare to move to Calne.
  - Calne Carnival Day. For the community to join together and for the success of the Teddy Bear Parachute Jump.
- 

### 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)



*Teddy Bear Parachute Jump.  
June 2019.*

# 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).
	3.30-5.30pm	Church House	Wednesday Club for 4–11s. Only during term times.
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

