

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND



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

Lent Edition

Parish contact details

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The Reverend Caspar Bush

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Team Vicar:

The Reverend Sarah Errington

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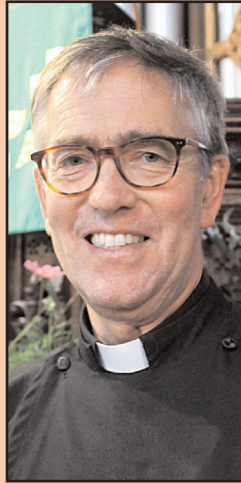
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30 Church Street, Calne,
SN11 0HU

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

Prayer for March

*Dear God, during this Lenten season,
open my heart to the needs of others.
May I reflect your love and compassion
in my actions, serving those who are
suffering or in need. In Jesus' name, I pray.
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 March

I write this with a smattering of snow-drops appearing in various places, but when otherwise winter is still very much in charge, even if the after-



noons are staying a little lighter for longer. Perhaps I might try to cheer you up with something about our new electoral rolls?! You may have read about this elsewhere, but this is an important moment in the six-yearly cycle of our list of what is effectively people who would like to be formally connected with one of our churches in this low-key way.

Every six years all existing lists of names are wiped clean and we're required by Church of England rules to make a new roll in every parish. I'm keen to encourage anyone who feels any sort of affinity to church at all to sign a new electoral roll form. The only requirements are that you are aged 16 or older, are baptised, and that you live in the parish (the ecclesiastical parish, that is) – if you're not sure which parish you live in you can look it up on the website achurchnearyou.com. It's also possible to join the roll if you live in another parish, but regularly come to the church whose roll you wish to be on. And if you are involved in two different churches you can be on the roll of both parishes, so

long as you only vote in one.

One of the glories of the being the established church in England is that everyone is a parishioner (actually whether you like to be or not) of one parish or another – anyone can approach their local church to be married, baptised or in the event of a funeral. You don't need to be on the electoral roll for those three things, but for the people who do all the work in our churches it's a real encouragement that others in the parish who we may not see in church very often nonetheless chose to sign up to join. If you choose to give us your email address as well as your postal address, then we can keep in touch with you about special events and services, and other things affecting the life of the church. For all electoral roll members there's no cost involved, and it means you can participate in elections for church officers (or indeed, become a church officer or a member of the church council).

At one level this might all sound a bit dry. But at another level it's nothing less than a connection with the worldwide-and-throughout-history body of Christ – the tragically fallible, but also God-inspired collection of people who affirm the love of God, the presence of God with us, the saving grace of God in Jesus – all of which has the capacity to direct us into the way of peace, wholeness, forgiveness and mercy. Do get in touch with your electoral roll officer if you have any queries: Calne & Blackland – Liz Roberts (e.are@btopenworld.com).

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

Haven't quite got round to it yet.

Not long ago in St Mary's Church a group of us gathered to take part in a Church of England course called 'Grave Talk'. The name didn't really appeal to any of us but we knew what this was about and were pleased to be led for the evening by Rev Annie Church. The subject was ... all the practical things surrounding our death. The one thing that we know will happen to all of us.

Coffee and cake went a long way to warm us up and relax us for the subject. We were helped with the discussion cards on our tables with subject starters such as, "Have you ever been to a good funeral?"; "Have you written a will? Where is it?" and "What would you like or not like to happen at your funeral?"

Topics like Powers of Attorney came up and the super practical issue of hav-

ing a folder with everything in it: passwords, wishes and general instruction, all together in one place to make life easier for whoever will be dealing with our affairs. That's another discussion point as well!

It's not easy to talk about death, dying and funerals, but this little course gives us permission, so to speak, to do just that.

If we neglect these subjects we can be unprepared for one of the most significant events we'll ever have to face and we risk leaving those we love – or indeed don't love – all the issues to sort out.

Annie is happy to run another course in the spring or summer. Do tell Ann Stiff in the Church Office if you are interested in joining next time.

Joanna Childs

The Light Church (From Grapevine)

Bishop Andrew has commissioned the team planting The Light Church in Calne Deanery, and Tom Morgan as the Lead Minister. The Light Church is a partnership between Pattern Church in Swindon and Calne Deanery which sees a number of local residents who currently travel into Swindon to worship begin to worship locally. Tom said: "We are utterly convinced that Jesus changes everything for everyone who puts their faith in Him. We want to play our part, along with every other local church, in giving everyone the opportunity to



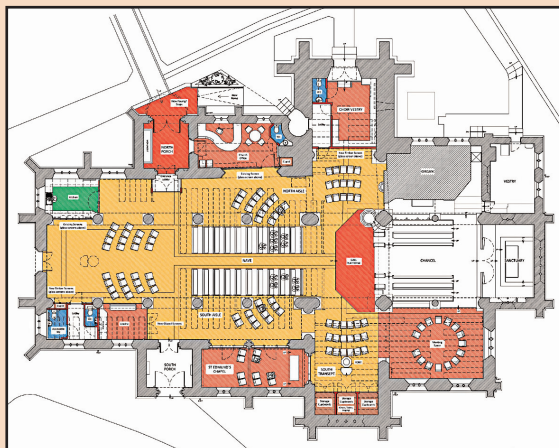
explore faith in Jesus whatever their background or story because there is always hope in Jesus!"

Notes from building group

St Mary's Improvements and Reordering Project

The first priority was to agree scope of whole project, this is a long-term view.

1. Two Toilets and Crèche area.
2. Kitchen.
3. Access to the building (glass entry doors, ramp, paths).
4. Adaptations to be able to leave the church unlocked (eg CCTV).
5. Raised dais at the main crossing.
6. Rationalising pews for flexible use of building.
7. Move font to south transept.
8. Enclose St Edmund's Chapel with glass screens.
9. Move choir vestry to (eg) bottom of tower.
10. Move office from Church House.
11. Decorate Church interior.
12. Refurbish the organ.
13. Lighting and electrical distribution system.
14. Audio Visual System.
15. WiFi.
16. Heating controls and replacement boilers.



Above: The plan of the Church showing the various areas which will involve the changes and improvements. For further information see exhibition at back of the Church.

The second priority was to identify elements to be included into phase one. It was agreed that items 1–5 of the above list should be in phase one.

Toilets and Crèche area. Drainage for the toilets would need to be planned earliest as archaeological input would be required. It was agreed that two toilets should be planned – one with disabled access.

Kitchen. There should be consultation with the church members who use the kitchen to agree the scope of this part of the project.

Access to the building (glass entry, doors, ramp, paths). It was agreed that for phase one, access improvements would be limited to the North Door.

Adaptations to be able to leave the Church unlocked. This would be a crucial element in allowing the Church to be left unlocked during the day.

Raised dais at the main crossing. This would involve the permanent removal of some of the front pews.

Funding will be achieved in a variety of ways, including major grant applications. The timescale of the changes will depend on funding. There are many other considerations for a time when progress is made on phase one of the work. The organ needs to be addressed separately. It cannot be left until a future phase as there are pressing needs for repair.

Richard Aldhous

Wall Tablet: Ernle Family, St Mary's

The marble architectural memorial on the north wall above the old wooden parish chest was commissioned by John Ernle in memory of the Ernle family. John Ernle, 1620–1697, Baronet, Chancellor of the Exchequer and private Secretary to Charles and James II, was the eldest surviving son of Johannes Ernle. He was elected MP for Wiltshire in the First Protectorate Parliament. He was elected MP for Wiltshire again in 1660 for the Convention Parliament. In 1661 he was elected MP for Cricklade in the first Cavalier Parliament. He was knighted on the 4th April 1663. In 1671 he was the Commissioner for Accounts for the Commission for Loyal and Indigent Officers. He was Controller of Store Keepers Accounts from 1671–1680. John Ernle was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer on 2 May 1676 and consequently named Privy Councillor.

In 1679 Ernle was elected MP for New Windsor. He was elected MP for Great Bedwyn in 1681. He succeeded to the Estates of his father in 1684. In 1685 he was elected MP for Marlborough. He was re-elected MP for Marlborough in 1689 and 1690. He did not stand for Parliament in 1695 and retired to his country estates. He died in 1697 and was buried in Calne. He made several charitable bequests to the poor of Calne,

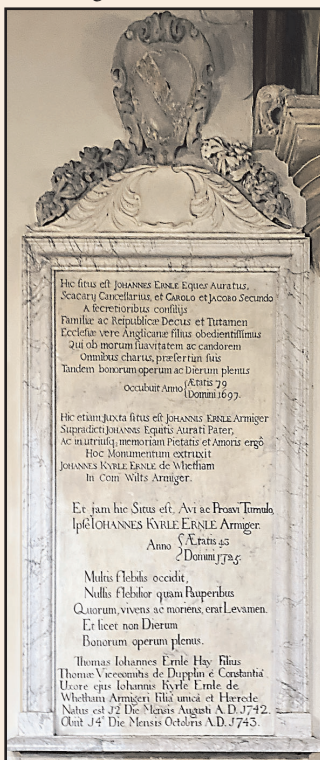
Highworth and Blunsdon. A free school for 5 boys continued in Wiltshire until 1829.

Translation of the wall tablet:

Here lies John Ernle, Baronet, Chancellor of the Exchequer and private Secretary to Charles and James II. He was the ornament and safeguard of his family and the state, and truly the most obedient son of the Church of England, who on account of the charm of his manners and his sincerity was dear to all and especially to his family. He finally died full of days and of good works in the year of our Lord 1697, aged 79. Here also lies nearby John Ernle, Esq., father of the aforesaid John, Baronet and this monument was erected as a memorial to them both out of piety and love by John Kyrle Ernle, Esq., of Whetham in the county of Wiltshire. And now here lies in the tomb of his grandfather and great grandfather John Kyrle Ernle. He died, full of good works although not of days in 1725 aged 43, much lamented, more lamented by none than the poor whose relief he was both in life and death.

Thomas John Ernle Hay, son of Thomas Viscount of Dupplin by his wife Constance, daughter and heir of John Kyrle Ernle, Esq., of Whetham. He was born on the 12th day of the month of August AD1742, died the 14th day of October AD1743

Serena and Charles Boase



Dates for your diary

- 4th** Shrove Tuesday – Pancakes!
- 5th** Ash Wednesday. Holy Communion with ashing 10.00am at St Mary's and 7.00pm at Christ Church, Derry Hill. Start of Lent Groups.
- 7th** World Day of Prayer. Start of Lent Lunches in Church House 12.30 – 1.30pm.
- 11th** Mothers' Union meeting. Lent Reflection with Caspar Bush.
- 25th** Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 30th** Mothering Sunday. Cake stall at St Mary's after 10.00am service.

Focus for Prayer

Please remember to pray for ...

- The changes planned for St Mary's Church and the team working on this.
 - Generosity towards anyone who has less than you.
 - Hope as we see signs of spring and new growth.
- All parts of the world where clean water is not readily available.
- Church members implementing regulations to ensure that the Church is a safe place for everyone.

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



Forty days

In the Christian calendar, the forty days of Lent reflect the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting, praying and preparing himself to do God's work. For us, too, it can be a time of prayer and reflection and renewing our relationship with God.

The Temptation of Jesus

(Matthew 4.1-11; Mark 1.12-13; Luke 4.1-13.)

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).
	10.45am	Holy Trinity	Morning Praise (2nd Sunday of the month). Holy Communion (4th Sunday of the month).
3.00pm	Holy Trinity	Family Service (3rd and 5th 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*
	2.00-4.00pm	Church House (Downstairs)	Cameo – Come And Meet Each Other. 3rd Friday of the month only. You'll be welcomed with a cup of tea... plus board games and time to chat.
	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

