

# NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND

*... keeping you in touch  
with your church family.  
October 2024*

## 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:**

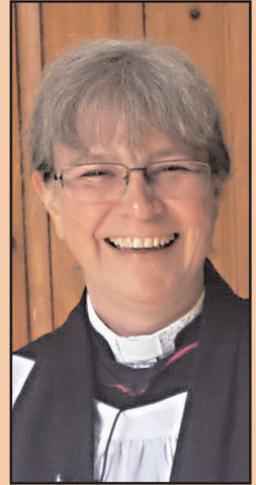
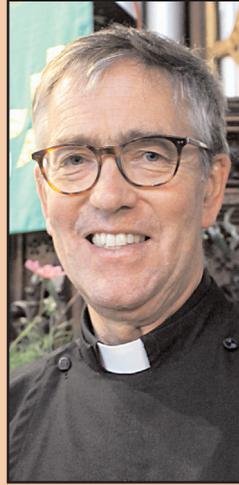
Church House,

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 October*

*Almighty God, who inspired Luke the physician  
to proclaim the love and healing power of your Son:  
give your Church, by the grace of the Spirit  
and through the medicine of the Gospel,  
the same love and power to heal;  
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**

# Thought for October



## A Season for Remembering

**Y**ou might think I'm a little bit ahead of the game here, because of course Remembrance Sunday is still a little way off in November.

But what I wanted to write about here is a different opportunity for remembering which is happening in five of the six churches in our benefice. This is particularly to remember our family members who have died – whom we still love, but see no longer. There's a very long-standing tradition of inviting the families of those for whom we have done a funeral to a special service, but this year we wanted to broaden out the invitation to others too.

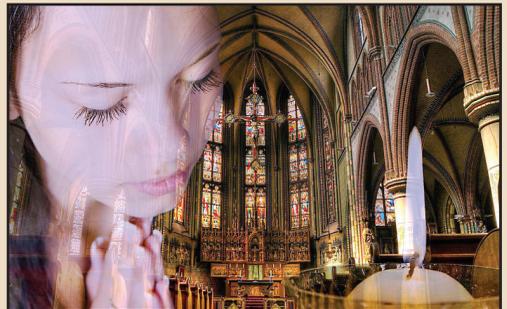
Amongst us there'll be huge variety in the ways we grieve for our loved ones. Some of us adjust to their death quite quickly, especially if they've lived to a good age and been very much ready to die. But for others of us, it's a great deal harder.

However, the process of grief is for you, and wherever, and whenever your loved one's funeral was, this is an invitation to come to a special Remembering Service. We'll sing some well-known hymns, and listen to a reading and a poem or two. The centrepiece of the service is the chance to come up and

light a candle for your loved one, and to hear the name of your loved one read out – whoever it is you'd like to remember. Perhaps they lived and died at the other end of the country, or even in another country. Or maybe in this, or the next-door parish. Whoever, or wherever, please know that you are warmly invited to come and remember them in your parish church. It's not about wallowing in despair. But it is an opportunity to acknowledge our grief, and to be reminded that our loved ones are safe in God's safe keeping. The dates of the services in this parish are these:

At Holy Trinity Church – Sunday, 20th October at 6.00pm

At St Mary's Church – Sunday, 3rd November at 3.00pm



It would help us if you could let us know in advance if you intend to come. Please contact Ann our administrator on [admin@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:admin@mardenvale.org.uk), with the name of your loved one, and the church service you'll be attending. But if you don't get round to it, please just come along on the day.

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

## September PCC Meeting: Same-Sex Blessings Approved in Our Churches

**A**t its September meeting, the PCC voted to permit the blessing of same-sex relationships in our churches. We are well aware that not everyone in our congregations is happy about this, but a large majority of the PCC was in favour. We hope that this will signal to people in faithful, life-long, same-sex relationships that they are most welcome in our churches, and that we will be pleased to offer prayers of blessing for their relationship. Church of England rules mean that at the moment we can only do this in the context of a regular service, and when this is planned we will make sure congregations know about it in advance. Please contact Caspar if you'd like to know more.

The Parochial Church Council is effectively the management commit-

tee of the parish. It is a co-operation between the Rector, the Church Wardens and elected representatives. Anyone who is on the electoral roll of the parish can apply to be part of the PCC.

We talked about a variety of other matters – the fabric of our buildings, Christmas arrangements and cover for the post of Director of Music. The subject of re-ordering the fabric of St Mary's was also on the agenda and we agreed to share progress so far with our congregations. Don't get too excited, but the longest journey starts with a single step!

The next meeting is on 20th November and if anyone is interested in joining the PCC new members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which takes place on Sunday 6th April 2025.

---

## Diocesan News from Grapevine

**R**evd Canon Roger Powell and Revd Jane Curtis have been announced as the new part-time Assistant Archdeacons working with the Ven Alan Jeans, the Archdeacon of Sarum. This follows the departure of the Archdeacon of Wiltshire, Sue Groom, earlier this year. Roger and Jane will be extending their Rural Dean roles to take on additional responsibility as Assistant Archdeacon.

Revd Jane Curtis is Vicar of St Bartholomew and All Saints Church in Royal Wootton Bassett and Rural Dean of Calne.

Revd Canon Roger Powell is Rector of The Ridgeway Benefice (three rural parishes on the Marlborough Downs), Rural Dean of Marlborough and an honorary Canon of Salisbury Cathedral.



# Corbels

When your gaze wanders around the high, lofty vaults of the church ceiling, you may be surprised to see some faces looking down at you. These are corbels. Corbels are an architectural feature with a practical purpose. They support the weight of whatever is above them, such as trusses, arches, rooves. A corbel is different from a gargoyle in that a corbel is just one end of a load-bearing stump of masonry, whereas a gargoyle is a waterspout jettisoning water from the roof when it rains. In French, the word for corbel is *corbeau* which means crow. The shape of a corbel when used as a bracket, supporting the weight of a structure above it, is assumed to resemble that of a crow's beak, hence the name. Traditionally materials for carving corbels include wood, stone and metal.

Some were carved into grotesques; frightening faces; humourous or religious faces; dragons and other mythical creatures; foliage. Adding these to the church decoration was thought to help



ward off evil, which was especially important for churches at that time.

Often corbels depicted kings and queens, and other human faces, sometimes the patron who paid for the stone mason and sometimes even the stone mason himself to leave as a cheeky hid-

den reminder. Among the corbels in the Chancel of St Mary's are depictions of crossed sheaves of corn; a chalice with an angular knot on its stem and a vine background; oak leaf decoration with a claw hammer behind; a sponge on a reed with reeds in the background; three nails on an oak branch background.

The Nave corbels all depict male human faces. Some are clean shaven, some bearded, some wearing mitres and decorative headdresses and coronets. Others wear moustaches and different hair styles from around the late fifteenth century.



The South Transept corbels are three male and three female. Two of the women sport long hair and coronets, the other a wimple. Two of the men sport moustaches and long hair, one wears a cap.

Perhaps the one wearing the cap is the master stone mason? The six corbels in St Edmund's Chapel consist of five men and one woman sporting pelleted headbands and crowns, supporting wall posts, four being in the corners. One of the men still has a small amount of pink colour on his lips.

The South Aisle holds 11 plain corbels, on the north side. The North Aisle holds six similar but the easternmost one is in the form of an opened mouth lion or male head. The choir vestry sports another round-faced man (or lion) with large white teeth, dark hair and a protruding tongue. When you have a minute, why not enjoy a walk around to see who or what you can spot!

*Researched & Written by  
Charles and Serena Boase*

# Making Our Churches More Accessible for People with Sight Loss

**T**orch Trust is an ecumenical Christian ministry that focuses on the spiritual support and encouragement of blind and partially sighted people. Torch helps churches to be inclusive by supporting people with sight loss. The following actions aim to help people feel comfortable in our churches.

- Always ask people with sight loss what you can do to make them feel welcome. You may not know that someone has sight loss so be sensitive.
- Ask if the person needs assistance to find their way around, especially where the toilets are and the general layout of the building. You may have to guide someone to their seat.
- Be specific when giving directions – don't say 'over there' or only use gestures. Use the rights and lefts of the person you're talking to, not your own, as they may not know which way you're facing.
- Consider the welcome at the church door with an additional person allocated to guide people

around if needed. Help may be needed at the end of the service, for example getting them a cup of tea.

- If using hymn books or other printed materials see if you can get large print (LP) or braille copies. But don't assume all people with sight loss can read LP or braille, it's always best to ask! Emailing copies of materials beforehand can be a great option for some people.
- When talking to a person with sight loss, begin by saying their name, where possible.
- Don't leave a person with sight loss standing alone, instead invite them to join in with conversations or ask them who they might like to be with.
- Remember for people with sight loss it can be difficult to figure out what's going on in a busy, noisy room.

*There is a lot more advice available if you go to:*

*<https://torchtrust.org/sight-loss-friendly-church/>*

---

## Calne Mothers' Union

**O**nly a few members were present at our September meeting due to holidays, illness or other commitments. Our speaker was Revd Craig Manley, he spoke about a number of personal items which related to his faith journey and to his theme of 'Policing to Pulpit'. It was

an enjoyable meeting with some interesting discussion. Our next meeting is at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 8th October when the speaker will be Jo Higgs, Trustee. All are welcome at MU meetings.

*Jenny Colby,  
Branch Leader*

# Dates for your diary

1st	7.00 – 9.00pm, Grave Talk by Revd Annie Church in St Mary's
6th	6.00pm, Choral Evensong for Calne Music and Arts Festival, St Mary's
8th	2.00pm, Mothers' Union Meeting
12th	7.30pm, Calne Choral Concert at St Mary's Church
18th	2.00pm, CAMEO in Church House and St Luke's Day
19th	7.00pm, Friends of Holy Trinity Quiz Evening
20th	6.00pm, Holy Trinity Remembering Service
27th	6.00pm, Calne Partnership Service at Calne Baptist Church
28th	Festival of St Simon and St Jude, Apostles

---

## Focus for Prayer

Please remember to pray for ...

- Calne Music and Arts Festival; for all who will enjoy the events and all who work to organise this festival.
    - Our local councillors and their work for our community.
  - Progress towards social justice and peace throughout the world.
    - All who fear the cold and the approaching winter.
    - Our world at this time of climate change.
- 

For more information about blessing of same-sex marriages search for 'Together in Love and Faith' by Bishop Steven Croft of Oxford. This pamphlet is available as a PDF download.

---

### 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)**



# 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	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

