

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND



*..keeping you in
touch with your church family.
December 2021/January 2022*



Parish contact details:-

Team Rector:

The Reverend Bob Kenway

Email: rakenway@gmail.com

Tel: 01249 812340

Team Vicar:

The Reverend Linda Carter

Email: lscarter@btinternet.com

Team Vicar:

The Reverend Teresa Michaux

Email: tmx256@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Administrator:

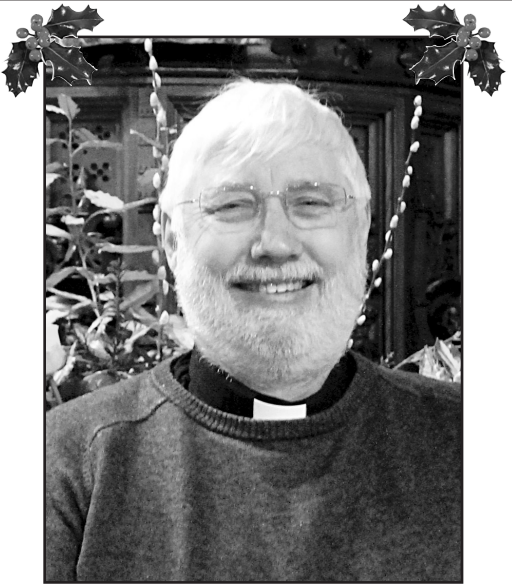
Mrs. Sadie Kenway,

Church House,

30 Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU

Email: calnepcc@gmail.com

Tel: 01249 816522



Church House is now open.

Prayer for 2022

May the Lord make this New Year a happy one;

Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain,

But by strengthening me to bear it if it comes.

Not by making my path easy,

but by making me sturdy enough to tread any path.

Not by granting me unbroken sunshine,

but by keeping my face bright even in the shadows.

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 lockdown.

Friends of St Mary's - FOSM - Update from the AGM

After having to hold the 2020 AGM on Zoom, it was wonderful to be able to get together in person in Church House for the Annual General Meeting of FOSM for the year ending 31st March 2021 and the tea and cake after the formalities was most welcome!



support for the fabulous building of St Mary's church. At the AGM there were three suggestions for how you can contribute to the work of FOSM:

Firstly - please do consider setting up a standing order to pay your membership (£15 for

individuals, £10 for over 60's). Consider though, whether you could contribute more per year, either by paying a higher amount annually or by making a more regular contribution. You don't have to stick to once a year, you could do it every quarter, or even every month, we wouldn't mind!

Secondly - perhaps you could think about making a one-off donation to the value of what you might spend at events throughout the year. All contributions would be most welcome!

Thirdly - what about holding your own fundraising activity? A sponsored something perhaps, or a coffee morning at home with your neighbours?

I really hope that at next year's AGM the Chair's report is full to overflowing with news of fun events and record amounts raised so that we can continue the vital support of St Mary's church. Thank you! Alison Hawes (alison.meardon@sky.com)

Friends of St Mary's (Calne)

Sort Code: 30-91-99

Account Number: 01327350

Alison Hawes

At the AGM we always discuss the events that have happened over the year, the funds that have been raised and the grants that have been made after requests from the PCC. It was a real shame that because of the pandemic there were no events to reminisce about, but we had managed some fundraising through the sale of packs of Christmas cards and through yearly membership subscriptions. We were very pleased to be able to grant two funding requests which totalled £3,589. This covered the cost of urgent repairs to one of the pinnacles on the tower as well as the expenses of an organ company who visited in order to prepare a quote for the repair of the organ.

You may already know that FOSM exists in order to raise funds for the repair and maintenance of the fabric of the building and its chattels, but did you know that you don't have to be a member of FOSM in order to make a contribution? All donations are always extremely welcome and are a great way to show your continuing



O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree



When to put up the Christmas tree? Now there's a question. Growing up my Dad would put it up about a week before Christmas. When I asked if it could be put up beforehand he'd always tell me that growing up before the war his parents never put the family Christmas tree up before Christmas Eve and only then after he and his nine brothers and sisters had gone to bed. He often remarked on the magic of coming down on Christmas morning only to find the whole house transformed with paper chains and lanterns and a Christmas tree which my grandparents had been up most of the night decorating. These days Christmas has become far more front-loaded! And Christmas trees will have been put up in some homes before the end of November.

Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort, is usually credited with having introduced the Christmas tree into England in 1840. However, the honour of establishing this tradition in the United Kingdom rightfully belongs to 'good Queen Charlotte', the German wife of George III, who set up the first known English tree at Queen's Lodge, Windsor, in December, 1800 (there are portraits of them both at Bowood House). In the duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, where Queen Charlotte grew up, it was the custom to deck out a single yew branch for Christmas but at Windsor she decided to

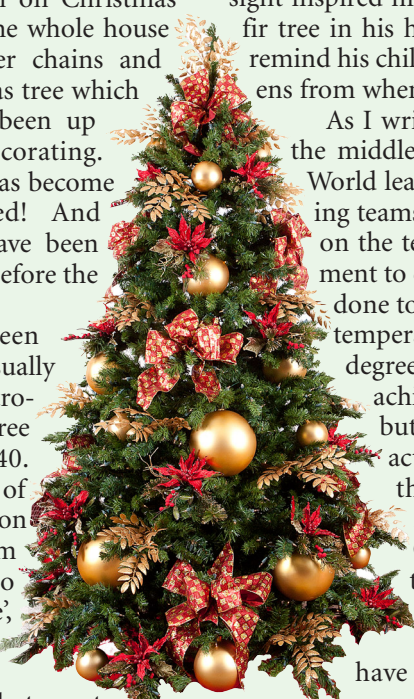
go one better - and so she introduced a whole tree!

Legend has it that Queen Charlotte's compatriot, Martin Luther, the religious reformer, 'invented' the Christmas tree. One winter's night in 1536, so the story goes, Luther was walking through a pine forest near his home in Wittenberg when he suddenly looked up and saw thousands of stars glinting jewel-like among the branches of the trees. This wondrous sight inspired him to set up a candle-lit fir tree in his house that Christmas to remind his children 'of the starry heavens from whence their Saviour came'.

As I write this article we are in the middle of Cop26 in Glasgow.

World leaders and their negotiating teams have gathered to build on the terms of the Paris agreement to deliver what needs to be done to try and keep the global temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees. Whether that will be achieved remains to be seen but we pray that decisive action will follow. Among the international commitments made during Cop26 is a commitment to stop and indeed reverse global deforestation. Trees, as we

have become increasingly aware, are vital stores of Co2 as well as contributing oxygen to the atmosphere (a process known as photosynthesis discovered by Dr Jan Ingen Housz whilst he lived in Calne in the 1800s and where he lies buried -somewhere under the floor of St Mary's church!).





To mark her Platinum Jubilee next year our present Queen Elizabeth is encouraging us to plant trees. The Woodlands Trust have established a tree planting initiative entitled “The Queen’s Green Canopy” (QGC). Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

At times there has been a tendency within Christianity to separate God’s work of salvation from his work of creation. At other times the impression has been given that God is only interested in ‘saving souls’ for his Kingdom when the bible bears witness to the truth and the hope for the whole of creation. The beginning of John’s gospel declares that Christ himself expresses the power of God in creation (‘the Word’):

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being”. Christmas

is a celebration of this truth. Elsewhere the New Testament tells us that through the cross of Christ God is pleased ‘to reconcile all things’ (Colossians 1.20), pointing us to the truth that in Christ there is a ‘new creation’. The cross is a tree that joins heaven with earth.

When asked what he would do if he knew the end of the world would come tomorrow Martin Luther replied “Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree”. So whenever we put up our Christmas tree (whether artificial or responsibly sourced!) in our homes this Christmas maybe we can think also as to how we can plant a tree over the coming year both to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and to make our contribution to reducing Co2 emissions and for all the other benefits that trees bring to the earth and its myriad species.

I wish you all God’s blessings for a joyous and peaceful Christmas

Revd Bob Kenway

★ *advice on how you might plant a tree can be found from the Woodland Trust:*

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/>



Nominate your Calne Tree of the year

Calne in Bloom and Calne Tree Planting Partnership...

have launched its first Tree of the Year Competition

You can nominate a tree in the following categories:

- ★ Historical and cultural value - for instance if the tree is particularly old for its species, or if it was planted to commemorate a person or event.
- ★ Wildlife value - not just birds and animals but bats, insects and other plants and fungi depend on trees for their very existence.
- ★ Townscape’ or visual value - how they contribute to our streets and how that varies with each season.

I have nominated St Edmund’s Oak in St Mary’s churchyard which was planted in 1981 to honour St Edmund of Abingdon who was Vicar of Calne from 1222-1233. Why don’t you nominate it too?! You can do so online:

<https://www.calne.gov.uk/tree-comp/>

Mothers' Union

Calne Mothers' Union met on Tuesday 9th November. We had a very interesting talk from Rev Christopher Mattock, who is the lead Chaplain at Great Western Hospital in Swindon. He gave us the history of Hospital Chaplaincy since 1951 and spoke of all the changes that have happened in society which have affected Chaplaincy. He then spoke about his role at GWH. Much of his work is with Palliative care and supporting family and staff. He also spoke about his work with parents of still born babies or neonatal death; he is asked to take many services of Naming and Blessing, some Baptisms and between 15 and 20 baby funeral services a month. Another statistic which stuck in my mind is that between 3200 and 3500 people go through A&E at GWH each day.



Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th December at 2pm when the speaker will be from The Rise Trust. The January meeting is on Tuesday 11th January. Meeting at 12.30 for lunch of Soup and Cake followed by our AGM. New members and visitors are welcome to any of our meetings.



Quote for the coming year.

Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.

Pope John XXIII.

Focus of Prayer and Reflection in December and January... for

- Safe and enjoyable celebrations at Christmas and New Year
- Families who have not been able to meet often in the past year.
- People who have suffered a bereavement since last Christmas
- For each of us to find a spirit of understanding and compassion for others
- Everyone who will work at Christmas and New Year to care for others or to provide important services.
- People who are living in poverty at a time of year when they are surrounded by conspicuous consumption.
- People living with war and conflict.

NINE YEARS TO ZERO - from Grapevine

The Church of England launched a wide-reaching Consultation with the aim of getting carbon zero by 2030. Lists of actions are being proposed by the National Working Group on Net Zero in a plan to give tools to measure carbon footprints and frameworks across many sectors of the Church.

The Salisbury Diocesan Environmental Group will contribute to the Consultation (deadline February 2022), and it is hoped that it will emerge as the official CoE Route Map to Net Zero in the near future.

Some of the points already made to the Group:

- The CoE must get its money out of Fossil Fuels now; Salisbury Diocese has been pro-active in decarbonising its investment as a diocese.
- Go online and see what Banks are up to with investments in Fossil Fuels; moving bank accounts sends a message especially when you tell them why.
- Become an Eco Church, and make it a fixed item on the PCC agenda.
- Fast - Traditionally Christians didn't eat meat on a Friday, and in Lent and Advent. If we make it a regular part of our discipleship what a difference in terms of greenhouse gases. Fasting also reminds us of the pain of the planet - cutting consumption is critical to tackling Climate Change.
- Ask our Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods to keep Climate on their agendas, and include Carbon reporting in Annual Parish Church Meeting reports.

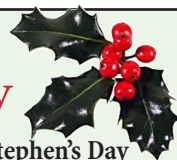
“We need to make sure our children and young people have a life-giving planet where they can live their faith in action, rather than a dying planet created by people who talked a lot yet failed to match their actions to their words”.

Homelessness

There are many different types of homelessness, it's not just rough sleeping - there are people trapped in temporary accommodation or hostels and shelters. Hidden homelessness, also known as sofa surfing, is virtually impossible to count. People staying at friends or relative's homes are out of sight and often don't consider themselves to be homeless.

Locally, services for people who are homeless are provided by organisations like Doorway Drop in Centre. and Unity House Hostel, both based in Chippenham, but providing services to those in need in North Wiltshire. Doorway recently moved to new premises to increase services to 4 days a week.

For more information go to:
www.doorwayproject.org.uk



Dates for December and January

Saturday 4th December -
Wooten's Memorial Service at St Mary's - 4pm

5th December - **Toy Sunday** -
collecting gifts for families in need.

Saturday 18th December - **Calne Choral
Christmas Concert** at St Mary's - 7.30pm

Admission Free. Retiring collection.

19th December - **Christmas Carol Service**
at St Mary's - 6pm

Christmas Services

Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve
4pm. **Crib Service.**

*Outside at St Mary's depending on
weather conditions.*

11.30 pm. **Midnight Mass**
at St Mary's

Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day

8am - **Holy Communion**
at St Mary's

9.30am - **Holy Communion** at St Peter's

10am - **Holy Communion** at St Mary's

10.30am - **Holy Communion**
at Holy Trinity

Sunday 26th December - **St Stephen's Day**

10am - **United Benefice Eucharist**
at St Mary's

27th December - **St John's Day -
Apostle and Evangelist**

28th December - **Holy Innocents**

6th January - **Ephiphany**

10th January - **Baptism of Christ.**

25th January - **conversion of St Paul**

*These arrangements could change due to
pandemic restrictions. For up to date details,
please check our website at
www.Parishofcalneandblackland.org.uk*



**The Editorial Team would like to thank all our readers for their support
and to wish them all a very joyous Christmas and a very Happy New Year.**

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

