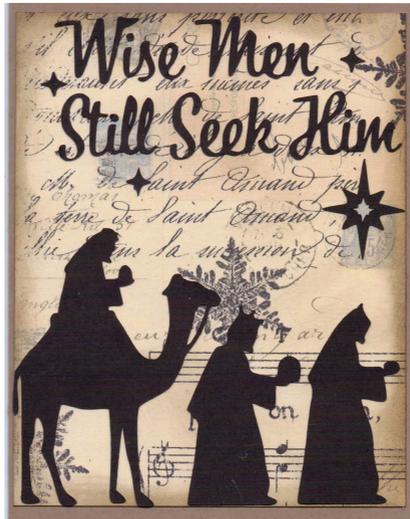


Newsletter for the Parish of Calne and Blackland



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

January 2019
Free, please take one.

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

Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:30 to 12:30

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

The kings, Lord, brought myrrh, frankincense and gold.

Lord, we have nothing of our own to bring;

we bring you what you have given:

our lives for your life. Amen

Editorial Note : You will notice that the Newsletter looks a little different this month. This is because Alex Grenfell, who usually deals with layout and illustration, is unwell. We hope that he will be fit and healthy again very soon.

Church addresses

Holy Trinity Church, Quemerford, Calne

London Road, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 0AR

St. Mary's Church. Calne

Church Street, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 0HU

St. Peter's Church. Blackland

Blackland, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8UQ



A Thought from the Archive

Blwyddyn newydd dda

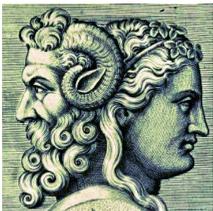
...not Russian, but Welsh, for 'Good New Year' !

It means very much like the English greeting 'Happy New Year', for no New Year can be really happy unless it brings with it true goodness. Since all true goodness comes from God, the Welsh greeting could mean something more - perhaps

'May God go with you'.

The history of the naming of the month of January makes interesting reading. It is named after the Roman god JANUS. The ancients believed that he was the god who presided over all beginnings. Doors and gates were under his special care. In old carvings and sculpture he is depicted as having two faces, one at the front and one at the back of his head. This made it possible for him to look both ways at once – a useful gift for the guardian of a gate.

At the beginning of a new year, no doubt we too shall look both ways. We shall look back – at lost opportunities, unfinished tasks, the void left by departed loved ones, and much else. But we shall also cherish the memories of joys, successes, fulfilments and untold blessings. Yet we must at the same time look forward – to new tasks, new challenges, new opportunities, and, with a mixture of exhilaration and apprehension, to the unknown. As we do so these words come to mind at the turn of the year ...



"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown', and he replied:

Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

(1978 – by the Revd Goronwy Maddox, Curate of Calne & Blackland)

The importance of Prayer

January 1995 was a really busy time for Jane and I with so much happening in our lives. We had recently had our third child, Nina; we were about to take on the franchise at Calne Post Office; I was church warden and we were having an extension built to our house! To say we were busy is actually an understatement.

We had to move out of our house in Mill Street whilst the building work was being completed which was an added complication. Fortunately, the vicar at that time, Alan Woods, was going on holiday to South Africa for 3 weeks and offered that we could 'house sit'. So it was that we packed our bags and the children and set up temporary home at the vicarage.

One evening there was a knock on the vicarage door and, when I answered it, there stood a member of our congregation. He asked how we were getting on and could he have a chat with me. I was tired and have to admit I nearly said no, but I asked him in and prepared a cup of tea.

He said he knew how busy we were but he was looking to set up a bible study group and he thought I might benefit from becoming part of the group. Initially I thought he was mad. I explained all that was going on and that there was simply no time to join a group. He was quite persuasive and asked that I 'give it a try'. So it was that we met weekly for just over an hour in a friend's house, and that continued for 20 years! It was one of the best decisions I have made, and I thank God for the persistence of that parishioner. As well as learning more about the bible it created a great sense of fellowship between the group. Of course the membership of the group changed over that time but was always good.



After 20 years it was time for change and so it was that Jane and I formed our own study group, and that continues today.

I think there are a number of lessons to be learnt here. Firstly, prayer should be the basis for our decision making. Our visitor at the vicarage had prayed before the visit. Secondly, we may not think we have time for studying (or church), but God always provides. Thirdly, we should brave helping others, it was brave of our visitor to come knocking. Finally, the bible is worth a closer look!

If you want to find out more about study groups in our parish contact Kevin Wells.

Cuppa and Company

At a church meeting in 2017 it was commented that there was 'not enough for people who live on their own'. 'Cuppa and Company' began in January 2018 to provide a place for people to come and chat in an unstructured and friendly way. It is a place of meeting for anyone, men or women, and any age and you do not have to live alone. Numbers have ranged between 2 and 8 people attending so please come along and give us a try – we might be just what you need. We meet in Church House, 30 Church Street Calne from 2.30 – 4.00pm every Thursday; Tea and coffee, biscuits and cakes are there to be enjoyed and there is no charge. If you would like to know any more please contact Jenny Colby

New Style Men's Breakfast

The next men's breakfast will be on Saturday 5th January starting at 9am at the Farmhouse Café, 20, Phelps Parade. Future dates will all be on 1st Saturday of the month at a variety of venues. Contact Kenneth Addison for more information.

Forthcoming events in the Parish

Mothers Union

On January 8th the Mothers Union will meet at 1.00 pm for Lunch In Church House, downstairs, to be followed at 2.15 pm by the **A.G.M**

Soup-er Lunch

Friday 18th January 12.30 to 1.30 pm in Church House, downstairs followed at 2.30 pm by **CAMEO** – “come and meet each other” a cup of tea to welcome you.... board games, a time to chat, then tea, scones, cakes and goodies before a 4.00 pm finish

Messy Church

Sunday 20th January in Holy Trinity Academy 3.00 to 5.00 pm
Fun, friendship, food for all the family

This month the theme is “**joseph and his coat of many colours**”

LPA meeting Tuesday 22nd January, 7.00 pm in Church House downstairs

PCC meeting Thursday 24th January, 7.30 pm in Church House upstairs

St Mary's Church Watch – Why do so many people visit churches?

One official report estimates that over 40 million people visit the 16,000 Anglican churches in England annually. How do you reconcile this extraordinary figure with the precipitous fall in Sunday Church attendance to roughly one million?, mass media incessantly stating that we live in a post-Christian and totally secular society, massive government and legislative emphasis on multi-culturalism, often at the expense of our age-old Christian culture and, finally, a generation that doesn't find Christianity 'cool'?

Perhaps a more useful question would be: **Who** are these trend defying, church visiting masses?

Well, there are the architecture and history buffs, who often know more about St Mary's Church than the Church Watchers and guides. Then there are those who are interested in organs, stained glass, church bells, specific artefacts and monuments. Occasionally we are entertained by people seeking confirmation of theories about ley lines, green men and pre-Christian links.

In a deeply fragmented society, we meet the many ancestor hunters, asking to connect with distant family members who were baptised, married and/or had their funeral service at St Mary's.

Many visitors are local Calne people (not necessarily Anglicans), who will occasionally tell you; "I've often wondered what it's like in here. It's beautiful!" Others are newly arrived residents in Calne, checking out their parish church. We meet and greet tourists from every part of the UK and the globe. Explaining our history and purpose is often linguistically challenging. The number of these visitors is likely to increase in the future, following the launch of the Great West Way tourist initiative. St Mary's Church is by far the oldest building in Calne and we plan to install CCTV in March 2019 enabling the church to remain open much more.

This is good news for everyone especially for our most important visitors: those seeking a quiet place to pray, to gather their thoughts and at a time of confusion, to seek comfort after grief, or to simply recalibrate themselves, knowing that many generations of Calne people have done so before them.

We always need more church watchers and guides. If you would like to meet new, and often fascinating people, and you can spare one hour or more each week, please contact Mike Rawle (usually to be found in St Mary's Church between 2-4pm on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Mike Rawle.

A 17th Century Nun's Prayer

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am getting older and will one day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen

On the Lighter Side

The guest of honour at the Christmas dinner said: "You have been giving your attention to a turkey stuffed with sage. Will you now please give your attention to a sage stuffed with turkey."

Editorial Team:-

Jack Robinson, Sue Twyman and Jane Ridgwell.

Illustration, computer 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.

Regular Activities in the parish

Day	Time	Place	Activity
Sunday	8:00am	St. Mary's	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St. Peter's	Family service - Second Sunday of the month Holy Communion other Sundays
	9:15am	Holy Trinity	Family service - First Sunday of the month only.
	10:00am	St. Mary's	Parish Eucharist
	10:45am	Holy Trinity	Morning Prayer – First Sunday of the month. Holy Communion other Sundays
	3:00pm	Holy Trinity Academy	Messy Church – twice a term - check notices for dates.
Tuesday	10:00am	Church House	SMUFs parent and toddler group. NOTE only during term time.
	6:30pm to 7:00pm	Various	Parish Prayers – check notices for location
Wednesday	10:00am	St. Mary's	Holy Communion (Mothers' Union corporate Service first Wednesday of the month).
Thursday	2.30pm to 4.00pm 6.30-7pm	Church House St Mary's	Cuppa and Company Christian Meditation
Friday	12:00pm	St. Mary's	Holy Communion
	2:00pm	Church House	CAMEO – Come And Meet Each Other. NOTE only 3 rd Friday of the month
	7:00pm	St. Mary's	Choir practice
	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
Saturday	9.00am	Various	Men's Breakfast. (1 st Sat)

For more information please see
www.parishofcalneandblackland.org.uk/