

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND



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

*April 2019
Easter Edition*

FREE

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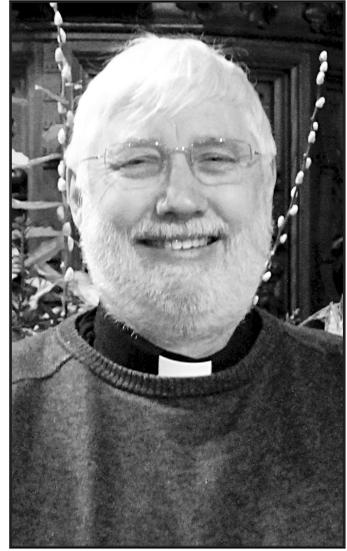
Church House,

30 Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU

Email: calnepcc@gmail.com

Tel: 01249 816522

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



Our family of Churches in the Parish

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

When I survey the wondrous cross

40 years ago at a restaurant on the shores of Galilee (Lake Tiberias) I dined on fish taken from the lake. The fish in question was Tilapia known more popularly today as "St Peter's fish" since it is said to be the fish that Peter supposedly caught with a coin in its mouth as recorded in Matthew's gospel. I write supposedly since, whilst Jesus sends Peter to catch the fish, Matthew (in 17:24-27) never records whether he actually catches it!

Today when we think of the main symbol of Christianity we would normally picture the cross and as we approach Holy Week and Easter the cross becomes our chief focus, looming even larger in our

thoughts and prayers. But in the early years of the Christian Church the more prevalent symbol was the fish. When you read the gospels, fish and fishing are never far away. After all Jesus' first disciples were fishermen. In those early years the fish became a useful symbol for identifying who was a follower of Jesus because to claim discipleship was high risk for a movement of people who were being persecuted. The Greek word for fish is Ichthus - letters which in the Greek alphabet became an acronym for 'Jesus Christ Son of God'.

Of course the cross has always been fundamental to an understanding of who Christ was and is. But it wasn't used as a

public symbol until after the conversion to Christianity of the Roman Emperor Constantine in the 4th century. The cross then became 'a two-edged sword', for what began as a symbol of shame, humiliation and suffering (Romans only crucified those deemed criminals-remember the thieves either side of Jesus) became in another generation just another symbol of oppression and imperialism (think of how the cross was used as a symbol by the crusaders between the 11th and 15th centuries).

This Lent we have been looking at climate change and its impact on the earth, upon God's creation, our human responsibility for this and of our need to act to mitigate its effects. We might wonder where the cross stands in relation to this, after all isn't the cross all about human redemption? Unfortunately, at times the emphasis on individual salvation in the Christian Church has obscured God's purpose for the whole of creation of which we are a part.

For so long we have viewed the creation as simply the backdrop to God's purposes for humanity as though God had no purpose for the whole of it. That's certainly how we as human beings have treated creation in relation to our own needs and purposes. But the New Testament is clear: "in Christ there is a new creation" (2 Cor. 5.17). In the opening chapter of the letter to the Colossians Paul writes of Christ as follows: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all

creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible". The cross, the wondrous cross, stands at the heart of creation as the tree of life stands in the middle of the Garden of Eden in the Book of Genesis.

There are many different representations of the cross and one of my favourites is the Celtic cross which has a circle behind it. The circle represents the earth reminding us that God's redemptive purpose is for the whole of creation. That's why our final event in our Lenten series (Monday 8th April) is worship in the Celtic tradition for Celtic Christianity re-connects us with God's concern with all he has made and with all he sustains. For all of it is his gift.

In the dawn of Easter morning some of us gather outside St Mary's and light a fire from which the new Paschal candle is first lit and carried into a darkened church. The candle is placed in the crossing of the church which is itself shaped as a cross. There in the darkness one of the most ancient of Christian songs is sung known as the Esultet. For me this is one of the most moving moments of Easter day and it includes the following words:

*Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,
ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad,
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.*

Rev. Bob Kenway

*Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!*



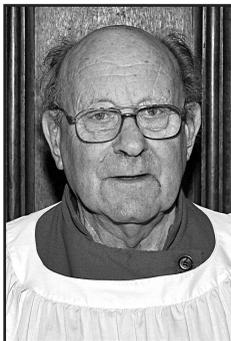
St Mary's Organ - *A treasure worthy of attention.*

Our organ at St Mary's is very special. It was given to the church in 1908 by the Harris family. That means that it is over 100 years old and has done great work in those years. Just think of all the brides who have left to the thunderous sound from the organ and all the processions on special occasions that have been similarly accompanied. Then think about all the hymns that have been sung and the voluntaries that have been played.



In order to make an organ pipe sound, air must be allowed to enter when the key or pedal is depressed. There is a valve at the base of the pipe which must be opened on command. The pipes sit on a wind chest with the valves inside. Various methods are used to open the valves and let air into the pipes. In the early days (and sometimes today) the valves were opened using a mechanical system of wooden rods and levers called trackers, connecting the keyboard to the pipe. The organ is said to have 'tracker' action. This restricted the distance between the pipe and the keyboard. The more valves opened, the greater the force that needs to be applied to the key.

In 1845 a system was invented which allowed the valve to be connected to the key using lead tubes, in which the air was at pressure; the longer the pipe the slower the response. This system is called tubular pneumatic and was used when the organ at St Mary's was built in 1908. The recent heating up-grade in the church has not been kind to the organ because the joints between the lead tubes and the wooden wind chest were sealed using a substance like sealing wax. Wood is not stable and expands or contracts with changes in temperature and humidity, creating leaks in the system. This system was rarely used after 1920 when the development of electricity was applied to organ building. The valve can be opened using a magnet that



required just a thin conducting cable and is called 'electro-pneumatic'. As the keyboard is connected to the pipes with a flexible cable it can be positioned any distance from the pipes and is moveable; there is no delay in operation.

When our organ at St Mary's was built it had 5 manuals (or keyboards). It was repaired and reduced to four manuals in the sixties, when other alterations were also performed and further work was done about 15 years ago.

I have been playing on this organ for about the last 40 years. During that time it has never been in full working order. At one stage very little of it worked; it was gradually coaxed back into operation, but it is generally agreed to be a difficult instrument to play.

It is important to have a clear idea of what you require of an organ. First and foremost the needs of the style of worship must be considered. We have a mixture of styles at St Mary's, predominantly 'choral', with weddings and funerals needing to be catered for. There is a good opportunity to increase the use and improve the popularity of the organ by arranging regular recitals and concerts.

The instrument is spoken of as an organ of 'special interest' and is quite well known in the organ world. Those who drool over the workings of an obsolete and inefficient operating system are few in number. Most church organists - and congregations - want a reliable instrument able to fulfil all the duties required in the church. Unfortunately our organ is feeling its age and recently has had to have some 'days off'. To perform well in all areas and to be 'fit for purpose' the organ needs to be brought up to date. We are currently waiting for expert advice about what the best course of action may be, however, one thing is certain - it will be expensive!

David Beavan (organist, St Mary's)

What do I need to know about the Annual Parochial Church Meeting?

The Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM) is required to be held annually between 1st January and 30th April each year under the Church Representation

Rules, amended 2008, Part II paragraphs 6-13. It is a formal occasion and these rules are set out by the Church of England of which the Marden Vale Benefice is a part.

At the meeting there is a variety of important business that needs to take place, this includes:

- Receiving reports on the past year and discusses the business of the Church.
- The vicars report on the past year
- A report on changes in the electoral role
- Financial reports for the year up to 31st December in the previous year
- The annual fabric report on the church buildings and their contents
- Reports from a variety of parish organisations
- Plans for the future
- Election of the Parochial Church Council members for the coming year
- Appointing various parish officers: sidesmen, representatives to the Deanery Synod, approval of those working with children in the parish
- Appointing the Church Wardens

Anyone who is elected to the PCC automatically becomes a trustee of the parish and has a legal responsibility under the Charities Act for the overview of the conduct of the parish, including its financial solvency. It is important that all PCC members attend PCC meetings regularly to ensure that all is well with the organisation for which they are a trustee. It is also important that all members of the congregations should support the Church wardens and PCC in their responsibilities, both with practical solutions to difficulties, new ideas

and with prayer.

This all may sound a little daunting and dull, but it is an important event in the year, which should be prepared for thoughtfully and with prayer.

This year our APCM will take place about 11.15am, after the morning service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 28th April and we hope to see many of you there for this very important occasion in the life of our Parish.

Jane Ridgwell, Vice Chair of PCC.

Easter Day Services in the Parish - Sunday 21st April

05.30 St. Mary's - Lighting the Pascal candle & dawn Eucharist

08.00 St. Mary's - Holy Communion

09.30 St. Peter's - Holy Communion

10.00 St. Mary's - Parish Eucharist + Holy Baptism

10.45 Holy Trinity - Holy Communion

(For all other services over the Easter period see the Church notices)

Don't miss the Hallelujah Chorus and egg hunt at

St. Mary's after the Easter Sunday 10am Service.

Have a very Happy Easter



If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter,

...floating a few feet above a field somewhere,
people would come from everywhere to marvel at it.
People would walk around it, marvelling at its big pools of water,
Its little pools and the water flowing between the pools.
People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it,
and they would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it
and the water suspended in the gas.

The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface
of the ball, and at the creatures in the water.

The people would declare it as sacred, because it was the only one,
and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt.

The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come
to behold it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty
and to wonder how it could be.

People would come to love it, and defend it with their lives,
because they would somehow know that their lives,
their own roundness, could be nothing without it.

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter.



So what's all this about Soup Dragons?



Those who remember the children's TV programme will recollect that on a bare cold planet lived the Clangers who were fed by a cheery green Soup Dragon who made green soup, the mainstay of their diet.

The Parish of Calne and Blackland is blessed with many cheerful Soup Dragons, who make delicious soups in a variety of colours and flavours, and they serve these with bread and cheese each Friday during Lent (the Lent Lunches). These lunches are held downstairs in

Church House between 12.30 and 1.30 pm; there is no charge but a donation is welcomed.

This new season of Lent Lunches has already started, but it is not too late to be a part of it—there are still Fridays, 5th and 12th April before Easter. With your donations we will be supporting the Open Blue Bus (featured in last month's Newsletter).

Following Lent the Soup Dragons will be in action again providing Souper Friday Lunches on the third Friday of each month (more about these in the May issue of the Newsletter).

Forthcoming events in the Parish

Mothers Union

The Mothers Union are meeting in St.Mary's Church House on Tuesday March 9th at 1.50 when the speaker will be Revd Dr. Ali Green
On "Small places of Pilgrimage"



Lent Lunches

Lunch of homemade soup, bread and cheese on Fridays 5th and 12th, 12.30 to 1.30 pm
No charge, but donations will go to the Open Blue Bus venture



Cameo - "Come and meet each other"

2.00pm to 4.00pm ...you'll be welcomed with a cup of tea ...board games, and a time to chat and then tea scones, cakes and goodies.
both events downstairs at Church House.



Heart for Calne

...will meet on Saturday 13th at 7, Back Road
10.30 am to 12.00 noon (NB later time)- feel free to come & go during the morning for a relaxed time of chat and prayer

Easter Holiday Club-*Two days of creative play, music and drama on the theme of the Easter Story for children aged 5-11 years.*

9th April at Christ Church Derry Hill; 16th April at St.Mary's Calne-10.00 am to 3.00 pm.
Contact Sadie Kenway calnepcc@gmail.com, Tel.: 01249 816522
or Linda Carter lindac@mardenvale.org.uk

Last Lent Lecture on Monday 1st April at 7.30pm,
Celtic Worship on 8th April 7.30pm at St Mary's Church

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

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	SMUF'S parent and toddler group. NOTE only during term times.
	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). Wednesday Club for 5-11s.
	3.30-5.30pm		
Thursday	2.30pm to 4.00pm	Church House	Cuppa and Company.
	6.30-7.00pm	St. Mary's	Christian Meditation.
Friday	12.00pm	St. Mary's	Holy Communion.
	2.00pm	Church House	Cameo-Come And Meet Each Other NOTE only 3rd 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 (1st Sat).

For more information please see
www.parihofcalneandblackland.org.uk