

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND



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

*November 2019
Remembrance Sunday Edition*

FREE

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,

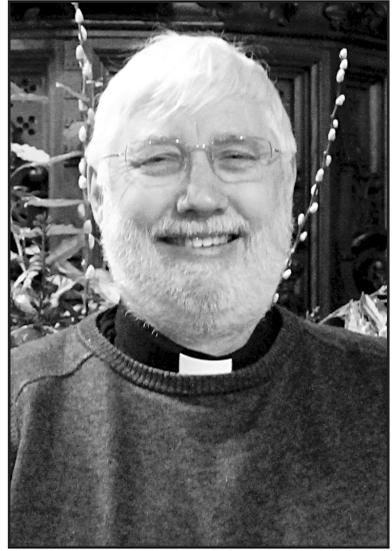
Church House,

30 Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU

Email: calnepcc@gmail.com

Tel: 01249 816522

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



Prayer for the month

*They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

*(If you have a favourite prayer please send it to the editors for inclusion
in a future newsletter.)*

Our family of Churches in the Parish

Holy Trinity
Church,
Quemerford,
Calne, Wiltshire,
SN11 0AR

St. Mary's
Church.
Church Street,
Calne, Wiltshire,
SN11 0HU

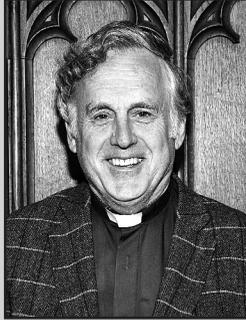
St. Peter's
Church.
Blackland,
Calne, Wiltshire,
SN11 8UQ

Thought for the month

In putting the needs of the Nation first, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force have forgone some of the life enjoyed by those outside the Armed Forces. So, at the very least, British soldiers should expect the Nation and their leaders to treat them fairly, to value and respect them as individuals, and to sustain and reward them and their families. This "Military Covenant" exists between the Nation, the Services and each individual. It has perhaps its greatest manifestation in the annual commemoration of Armistice Day, when the Nation keeps covenant with those who have made the ultimate sacrifice-giving their lives in action.

We will listen again to the haunting bugle-call, 'The Last Post.' It's the Regimental Final Bugle-Call that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind this piece? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

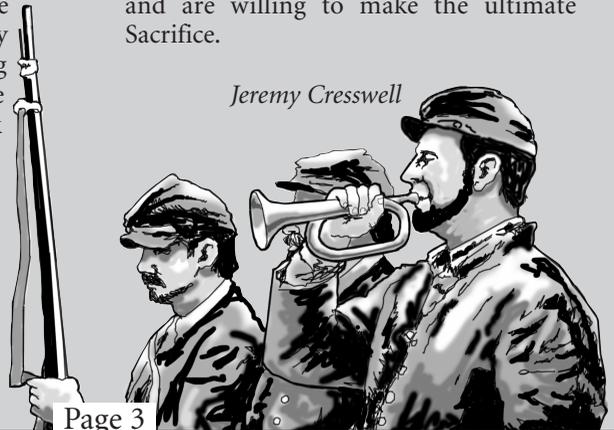
The Last Post began in 1862 during the American Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.



When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually an enemy soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

The wish was granted. The haunting piece, we now know as 'The Last Post' used at military funerals was born: a mark of respect to those who have fought bravely and are willing to make the ultimate Sacrifice.

Jeremy Cresswell



Remembrance



November 11th has always been a very special part of my life as a military grandchild, child, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, wife and finally mother-in-law.

Both my grandfathers served in the First World War, my mother's father came home, my father's father died at the Battle of Passchendaele on 20th September 1917 aged 34, when my father was only two years old. I visited my grandfather's grave on Locre cemetery Belgium in 2017 on the 100th anniversary of his death. It was a very emotional day, but I count myself lucky that he has a grave, as many soldiers don't.

My mother lost a brother and her first husband in Burma where they are both buried. My father served in the Royal Army Medical Corp during WW2, working on hospital trains and in prisoner of war camps. After the war he became part of the Territorial Army until his retirement. Three members of my close family are on the Bath War Memorial.

I married Richard in 1985, he has served in the RAF since the age of 22 and although retired from full-time service is still part of the RAF Reserve. He has seen service in the Falkland Islands, North Iraq, Turkey and twice in Afghanistan. We have lost many friends in various conflicts over our married life.



Last year on the 100th anniversary of WWI, as a personal act of remembrance, I wrote out the names of all the men on our war memorial on crosses to plant in our own Field of Remembrance. Not just their initial, but their full name, age and when and where they died. It was very sobering, so many young men, brothers, cousins, fathers and sons.

Last year we also acquired four "There But Not There" Silhouettes. We attributed a single name to each one and wrote the story of that individual's life and death. It was very thought provoking, and some of the congregation found it quite unsettling sitting next to an empty space. This year, being the 75th Anniversary of D Day, we hope to do the same for servicemen who fought in WWII.

Being a part of Remembrance at St. Mary's is a real privilege for me; to honour the men and women in conflicts long past and more recent who have all served and died for our freedom. As the years go past, the old veterans are falling in number, but the younger veterans of more recent conflicts are growing. We must continue to remember them all.



Deirdre Aldhous

Modern Day Slavery

What does this phrase mean to you? Slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833 when an Act of Parliament was passed. Unfortunately that was not the end of the story, because we are now facing an epidemic of modern day slavery, where vulnerable people are enslaved by the use of manipulation and threats. It is estimated that there are 136,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK today.

People are deceived into thinking that they will be going to a better life - maybe from abroad, but also from anywhere within the UK. When they arrive at their new workplace they are forced to work in dangerous and unpleasant conditions, maybe as domestic servants, sex workers, at a car wash, in a nail bar, in a factory or on a farm. They are held there by threats against themselves or their families and by fear.

General Indicators of Modern Slavery

Trafficking victims are often lured into another country by false promises and so may not easily trust others. They may:

- Be fearful of police/authorities
- Be fearful of the trafficker, believing their lives or family members' lives are at risk if they escape
 - Exhibit signs of physical and psychological trauma
 - Be fearful of telling others about their situation
- Be unaware they have been trafficked and believe they are simply in a bad job
 - Have limited freedom of movement
 - Be unpaid or paid very little
 - Have limited access to medical care
 - Seem to be in debt to someone
- Have no passport or mention that someone else is holding their passport
- Be regularly moved to avoid detection

What can you do?

In an emergency you can call 999, if the situation is less urgent you can call 101 or alternatively you can contact the

Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700

(for more information go to

theclewerinitiative.org or hopeforjustice.org)

A Tale of Three Pilgrimages

November 16th is an important day in the life of our church. Although he is not our patron saint, the life and example of Saint Edmund, a former Treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral, Vicar of Calne and Archbishop of Canterbury, figures prominently from time to time in our worship at S. Mary's. This day, November 16th, is his feast day, as he died on that day in the year 1240, in the little village of Soisy-Bouy in Burgundy, France while on a pilgrimage to Rome for an audience with the Pope. He had journeyed as far as the wonderful Cistercian abbey at Pontigny before becoming ill and died while attempting to return home to England. His body was carried in great honour back to Pontigny and enshrined there, where it remains to this day, a focus of pilgrimage for Christians from all the towns in this land that had connections, like us, with this holy man.

He was canonised only six years later in 1246 by Pope Innocent IV, a mark of how much he was regarded by the Church as a devout, devoted, humble and yet vigorous Christian soul.

That was the story behind one pilgrimage - what about the other two I hear you ask. There were two pilgrimages from this parish, both at Pentecost, in 1996 and again in 2013. A quick calculation will reveal that the first was on the 750th anniversary of Edmund's elevation to the sainthood, and was organised in Oxford, where St. Edmund Hall is named in his honour. This pilgrimage included people from Oxford, Abingdon, Ware and Canterbury as well as Calne, all travelling independently to Pontigny for the celebrations. The second was, well, because we hadn't been there for a while and felt like going again! Some of the pilgrims from the first event (there are still some survivors

Pontigny Abbey



even now!) were joined by others from St. Mary's and St. Edmund's churches - a happy band of pilgrims on both occasions.

Of course, pilgrimages aren't what they used to be! No, they are a lot easier now than in the Middle Ages, with coaches and comfortable hotels instead of walking, horseback if you were lucky and simple lodgings along the way. Mind you, some modern pilgrims from Calne have cycled all the way there and back! However we did try to maintain a kind of monastic discipline despite the luxury, with prayer being said at regular intervals during the day no matter where we were. I wonder how many other religious services have occurred in a coach on the shuttle train deep under the English Channel!

In the Middle Ages the badge of a pilgrim was a scallop shell, still to be seen today on buildings used as pilgrim hostels both then and now. We were slightly more modern:



However, the banner that hangs in St. Edmund's Chapel in St. Mary's church was carried to Pontigny in 1996 and proudly displayed before St. Edmund's tomb high above the altar.



The life of S. Edmund should be an example to us all - if you wish to learn more about this remarkable man the following texts are to be recommended:

The Life of St Edmund by Matthew Parris, trans. C.H. Lawrence

Allan Sutton Publishing ISBN 0-7509-1129-8

The Servant Heart by Will Donaldson (Grove Spirituality Series) Grove Books Ltd. ISBN 978-1-78827-047-2

Mike Smith

Do you know a 'thin place' ?

*The chapel of St. Michael, Archangel,
Is a thin place, perched on Rame Head.
A promontory wild, from time to time
Struggling in the wave's fury;
A place where earth kisses heaven,
Scarce a hair's breadth distance apart.
Sturdy grey walls in skeletal form
Today benignly watch over ocean's calm.
My son brought me here, that summer's day,
'You'll like this, mother,' he said to me.*



*Angel voices soar beneath the Octagon
Blending Fenland prayer and song.
Medieval craftsmen, gargoyle faces now,
Strove higher, towering heavenwards
With manifold skills, far beyond their time.
Present day man stands awestruck
In the face of such flair, undoubtedly
God given. In this place His praises rise,
Bringing us nearer, beckoning us closer
To Infinite Love and His Eternal Joy.*

*A rain-soaked rutted cart track led us up
On to the chalk downs, just like home.
A green-turfed path, one body wide,
Ran over the French furrowed field.
A marble white wall enfolding a cross, silently
Summoned us nearer to the wrought iron gate.
Entering we beheld over two thousand graves;
Among them, Great Uncle Ernest, late of
The Suffolk Regiment, Eighth Battalion.
Peace restored, mirrored in the farmland he loved.*



Great Uncle Ernest's Grave
Regina Trench Cemetry

Poem written by Jackie Blake from St.Mary's Congregation.

Hearing a programme on Radio 4, I was fascinated to learn of what are called 'thin places'. The programme referred to a remote chapel in Kent where the visitor is aware of heaven being very close to earth. I thought of several such places myself, and these are three I would like to share. Rame Head is a headland on the south Cornish coast, the Octagon is part of the magnificent Lantern Tower in Ely Cathedral, and Regina Trench Cemetery is near to the village of Courcelette, Somme, France.

Mothers' Union

At the September meeting Maggie Gibb told of her trip to Indonesia. Her friend, Carrie Beckley lived in Calne as a child and worshipped at St Mary's, but has now been in Indonesia for 30 years. Carrie was drawn to work for the Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBF), putting the spoken language of the Maluku islanders into written form. This translation of Matthew's gospel from the Greek text means so much to the islanders. Members were shown a short film about WBF and were interested to learn of Maggie's visit.

In October, Joanna Woodd, a member of MU in Salisbury, gave a talk on the 'Court Cafe' at the Salisbury Law Courts. Joanna was asked by the Chaplain there to set up a cafe and, despite some difficulties, the cafe opened in February 2015, initially serving just tea, coffee and snacks on 3 days a week. Demand increased (including for sandwiches)



and now opens from 9am - 2 pm on 5 days a week, with 25 volunteers, of whom 2 at a time work in the cafe. It is a service greatly appreciated by all who use the Courts. Small profits help fund MU projects such as the 'Holiday at Home', and in purchasing equipment for prisoners' art classes at Erlstoke Prison (some of their paintings are displayed at the Cafe).

Jenny Colby (Calne Branch Leader)

Odette Funeral Director named Funeral Planner of the Year for West England



Charter Funeral Planner of the Year Awards at The Royal Lancaster Hotel, London. The family run business, based in Calne, was again nominated for top funeral planner for West England and for the second year in a row they won their category.

In addition to the Funeral Planner of the Year accolade, the Woodland Trust has dedicated trees on behalf of Odette Funeral Director, which are to be planted locally at Clanger Wood near Westbury in recognition of the company's achievement.

On 21st September Odette Drummond and Sara Jones of Odette Funeral Director attended the Golden

Forthcoming events in the Parish

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 2nd November at 9.00am in Fays Bistro, Beach Terrace
Information and bookings, contact Kenneth Addison tel: 814843



FOSM Coffee Morning

Saturday 2nd November 10.00 am to 12.00 Noon
in St.Mary's Church



All Souls Service

This Service, remembering loved ones now at rest, will take place on
Sunday 3rd November at 3.00 pm in St.Mary's Church

Heart for Calne

Christians with a heart for prayer meeting in unity to pray for the town
on Saturday 9th November 9.15 to 10.45 am
in Calne Baptist Church, Castle Street

Mothers Union

Are meeting on Tuesday 12th November at 1.50pm, in Church House
when the speaker will be Meg Atkinson, a scripture reader

Messy Church

Sunday 17th November 3.00pm-5.00pm at Holy Trinity Academy

Ladies' Lunch

Wednesday 20th November 12.00 for 12.30 in Fays Bistro, Beach Terrace
To book, contact Mary Barker tel: 811533

PCC meeting

On Wednesday 20th November, 7.30pm in Church House



Soup-er Lunch Friday 22nd November 12:30 to 1:30pm

Lunch of homemade soup, bread and cheese...

followed by **Cameo** - "Come and meet each other"

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



Can you give a home to our Posada in December ?

Originally Posada celebrations originated in Mexico where two young people would be chosen to dress up as Mary and Joseph. They would travel around their village telling people about the forthcoming arrival of Jesus, and asking if they would give him a room. Today we do not send two young children around the village, but we send the nativity figures together with a little stable to visit your homes, also known as 'Travelling Cribs'.

They are seeking somewhere to rest each night in December until Christmas

eve when they are welcomed back at our Crib service in St. Mary's. We are looking for some lovely places where they can stay such as a house, care home, shop or even a school? All we ask is that you look after it and arrange to deliver the crib to the next 'home' on the accommodation list.

If you are interested in helping or just want to find out more then contact:

Rev Teresa Michaux

tel 07963 399645 or

email tmx256@hotmail.co.uk



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 (Book of Common Prayer) |
| | 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 |
| | 6.00pm | St. Peter's | Evensong (There will be no evening services till next spring) |
| Tuesday | 9.30am | 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). |
| | 3.30-5.30pm | Church House | Wednesday Club for 5-11s. |
| Thursday | 2.30-4.00pm | 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.parishofcalneandblackland.org.uk