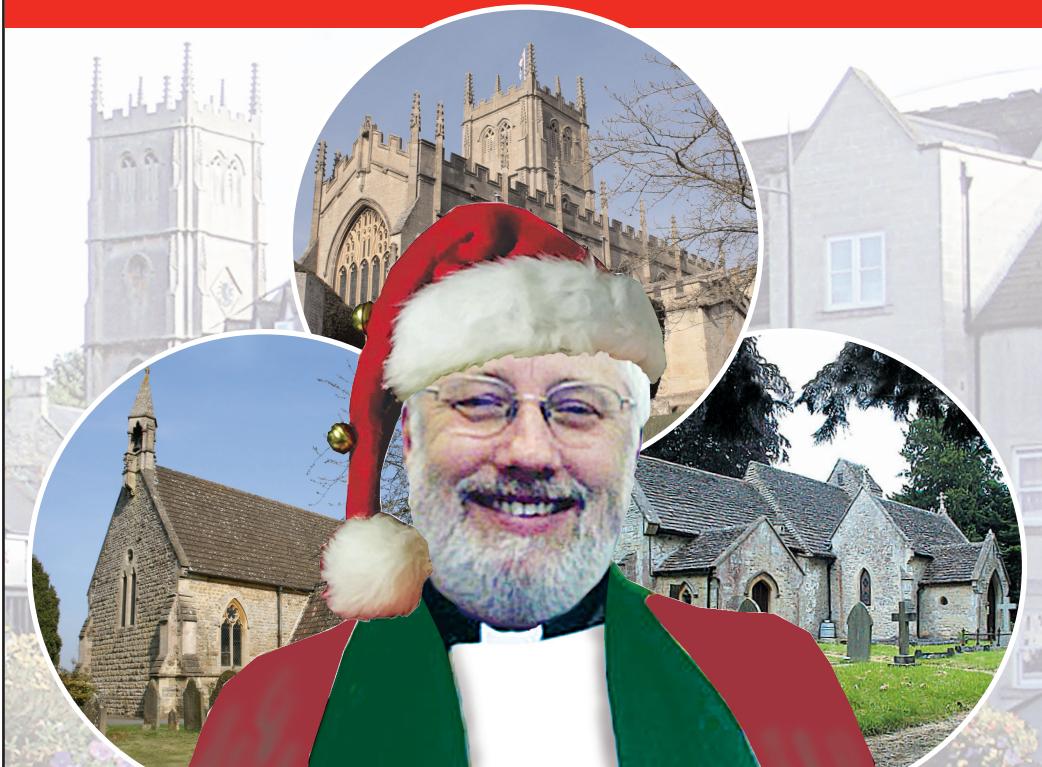


NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND



*...keeping you in touch
with your church family.*
Happy Christmas & New Year

December 2019/January 2020

FREE

Parish contact details:-

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Parish Administrator:

Mrs. Sadie Kenway,

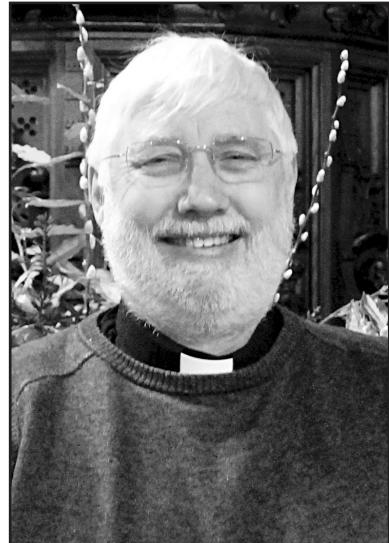
Church House,

30 Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU

Email: calnepcc@gmail.com

Tel: 01249 816522

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



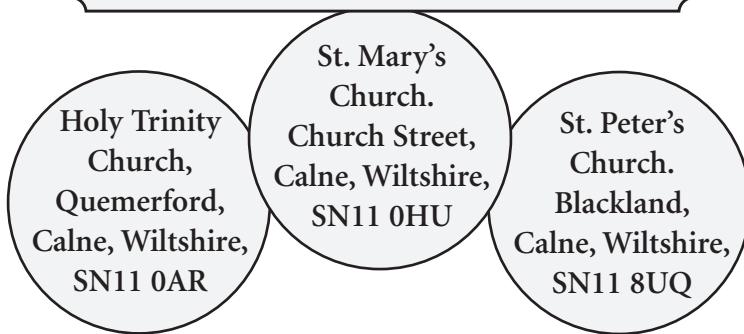
Prayer for Christmas

*God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas,
which is Christ.*

Amen

*(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



Walking with Jesus - Deanery Day 25th January 2020

This isn't a day for 'experts' or especially 'holy' people, but a way of helping all of us to learn from each other's experiences of life and faith. We will explore together what it means to be a disciple, or follower of Jesus - how we 'walk with Jesus' as we deepen our relationship with Him: through prayer, engaging with scripture, and how we help others to become disciples. How does our faith relate to the whole of our lives, throughout our lives? There will be times for listening, and for discussion - and if you've found a book or a painting, or a piece of music (or anything!) that has helped you in your walk with Jesus, do bring it along.

We will begin the day with worship, and end it by gathering around the Lord's table. My prayer is that it will be a special time of learning and growing together as a deanery.



Debbie Orriss is Discipleship Coordinator for Salisbury Diocese, with over twenty years' experience of ministry as a Church Army Evangelist, including enabling adults in ministry and mission. She is passionate about people growing in faith, discovering how much God loves them.

More MU News

At the November Mothers Union meeting the speaker was Meg Atkinson from SASRA - Soldier's and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association, a registered charity founded in 1838. She is a lady of 70 who has served with the military but is now employed by SASRA and serves at Buckley Barracks and Brize Norton. She goes around the Barracks and the Hangars with, what she calls her 'morale bag' containing sweets and chocolate bars to give out to the soldiers and airmen and God opens doors for her to chat to people about the Christian faith. She describes herself as 'God's Rep'. Her talk was both interesting and entertaining. The December meeting is



Meg Atkinson

on Tuesday 10th December and starts with prayers at 1.50pm. The theme is Christmas Favourites and members and friends are invited to bring a piece of Christmas literature to share; or an item which has a Christmas memory or special significance. All are welcome to the meeting. On Sunday 8th December two new people will be enrolled at the 10am service

at St Mary's Church. We look forward to officially welcoming them to the group. Just a reminder that Mothers' Union Membership is open to any baptised person who is in support of marriage and family life.

Jenny Colby, Branch Leader.

(Thought for the Month on pages 4 and 5).

Every heart prepare him room...

I'm writing this in the week after Remembrance Sunday. I know that when Remembrance Sunday has passed that Christmas is not far behind. As I look at my diary I can see quite a few days that say 'carol service', 'children's nativity', 'Christingle' etc. The last quarter of the year is probably the busiest in the Church's calendar. More people attend church in the last couple of months than come in the rest of the year. And as I greet people at the door I'm often regaled with the phrase 'it's your busy time vicar'.

It is always a privilege to welcome people to church whether they come regularly or only a couple of times in the year. Maybe it's a one off visit and we're unlikely to see them again. It matters not. What does matter is the quality of the welcome. Will people experience a genuine welcome - not a sense that they're just visitors or strangers passing through but that they matter! They matter above all because they matter to God, because God loves them as he loves

us all. In his eyes there is no distinction between regular and visitor, we are just his people made in his image. We who count ourselves as regular members of the worshipping community are called by God to express that love by how we welcome each other in his name.

In our pre-Advent course we have been reflecting on what it means to be a welcoming community. And it has to be a whole community that makes the welcome. It's not just the vicar's job. The sidesmen and women and the vicar may give the greeting but it's the community that makes the welcome. And that's why we need to reflect prayerfully about how we make that welcome. What language and gesture do we use to convey that welcome? Telling someone who is visiting the church for the first time 'I usually sit there' (as I hear still happens) is not an encouraging response!

Most of us probably think that as a church community we are welcoming - and those of us who have a strong friendship group within that community



will experience that. But we need to put ourselves in the shoes of those for whom coming to church for the first time, to a place where they are not known is a BIG deal. And as a Christian community we should be putting their needs before our own.

Gervase Phinn a retired school inspector from Yorkshire and a born story teller shares some very funny stories about school nativities. I like the one where Joseph and expectant Mary enter Jerusalem and begin looking for an inn to stay. They get to the Inn and Joseph asks, "Do you have a room for us to stay"? and the Inn Keeper says, contrary to all expectation, "Of course, come in we've got plenty of room"!

The Christmas story is a story where there is no room for the Christ child, no room in the inn. Jesus' birth in an out-house alongside all the animals says something powerful about where God is to be found. Both the stable and the cross point to where God is to be found: among those forsaken. It is from outside, from being unwelcomed, that God offers his welcome to the world. God's welcome is pure and simple-unconditional! That's the good news of Christmas.

During Advent we send out a 'posada' (Spanish for inn) around the community. Each night a family or an individual plays host to a crib with knitted nativity figures. Anyone can sign up to host. It's a little act of hospitality, a little bit of connecting with neighbours. There are of course many who receive no hospitality at Christmas and who experience not a loving bond of family or community but who instead experience isolation and loneliness. These are the very people we need to look out for and respond to in whatever way we can.

Whatever will be the result of the general election, whatever party will form a government next, I hope and pray that as a country we may act more hospitably to one another. We have become increasingly fractured and fractious and if there is to be any healing for this precious earth we need to take our cue from the babe in the manger. As the carol puts it "Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let every heart prepare him room and heaven and nature sing!"

Wishing you all God's welcome this Christmas

Revd. Bob Kenway



Christmastide Services



Sunday 22nd December

- 8.00 am St.Mary's Holy Communion
- 9.15 am Holy Trinity Family Service
- 10.00 am St.Mary's Parish Eucharist
- 10.45 am Holy Trinity Carol Service
- 3.00 pm St.Peter's Carol Service
- 6.00 pm St.Mary's Carols by candlelight

Tuesday 24th December

- 4.00 pm St.Mary's Crib Service
- 11.30 pm St.Mary's Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December

- 8.00 am St.Mary's Holy Communion
- 9.30 am St.Peter's Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)
- 10.00 am St.Mary's Parish Eucharist
- 10.45 am Holy Trinity Holy Communion

Sunday 29th December

- 8.00 am St.Mary's Holy Communion
- 10.00 am St.Mary's United Benefice Eucharist



Forthcoming events in the Parish

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 7th December at 9.00am in "Infusions" café, High Street

Saturday 4th January at 9.00am in Marden café, Mill Street

Information and bookings, contact Kenneth Addison tel: 814843

PCC meetings

Wednesday December 4th and Tuesday January 21st at 7.30 pm
in Church House (upstairs)

A Christmas sale by the Wednesday Club

A sale after the 10am service in St Mary's on December 8th will include Christmas table decorations, cakes and sweets, as well as a raffle. This will be in aid of Mary's Meals, who provide a daily meal in a place of learning to some of the world's poorest children, which allows them access to the education which might one day give them freedom from poverty.

Mothers' Union

Tuesday December 10th at 1.50 pm in Church House for prayers, followed by
Branch meeting "Christmas Favourites" - see article on page 3

Tuesday January 14th at 1.00pm in Church House, lunch followed by AGM

Heart for Calne

Christians with a heart for prayer meeting in unity to pray for the town
on Saturday 14th December, 9.15 to 10.45 am in St. Edmunds Church Hall
on Saturday 18th January, 10.00 to 11.00 am at 16A, Horsebrook Park

Ladies' Lunch

NO MEETING in December
on Wednesday January 15th, 12.00 for 12.30 in "Divine" café, Church St.

Soup-er Lunch

Friday 20/12/19 and 17/1/2012:30 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.

On Friday December 20th in Marden House, Christmas party, all welcome
on Friday January 17th, back to the usual format in Church House



Discipleship Day

Saturday 25th January in Marden House 10.00 am to 3.30 pm
"Walking with Jesus" is the theme, details in the article on page 3

The Mothers' Union Raffle

Christmas is coming and with it comes the Grand Mothers' Union raffle with a hamper of goodies as the prize. This year all proceeds from the raffle will go to supporting the Baby Bundles project which, in conjunction with Spurgeon's charity provides needy parents with a box of essentials for their new borns. The bundles include things like nappies, baby toiletries and a

treat for Mum. More information can be found on the MU noticeboard at the back of St Mary's. The raffle will start on December 1st in St Mary's and will, as in previous years, come to St Peter's and Holy Trinity. Tickets will be £1 and the draw will be made on Sunday 22nd December.

Carrie Keller

The Flagpole

You were probably pleased to see the Union Flag flying for Remembrance Sunday. Last year it was not possible to do this because the old flagpole was unsafe. We now have a new flagpole, thanks to donations from Calne Town Council and FOSM.

Contactless Giving

We now have a contactless giving terminal in St Mary's Church. It is just on trial and is intended to capture donations from casual visitors. This may be especially useful over the Christmas period, when we see a lot of

different people at the special service. The terminal is very easy to use and gives a choice of donating £3, £5 or £10; just choose the amount of your donation and place your card on the terminal. That is all that is needed.

Healing Prayer Training Afternoon.

On 15th October a group of people from across the Deanery gathered together in Church House for a very valuable training afternoon on the subject of healing prayer. It was led by Brenda

Munden from the Bristol Diocese. It was very useful to practise a short prayer "Jesus Christ bring your healing to (X's) needs now. This avoids the need for people to explain their problem.

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