



# NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND

***...keeping you in  
touch with your church family.  
February 2024***

## Parish contact details:-

### Team Rector:

**The Reverend Caspar Bush**

Email: [caspar.bush@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:caspar.bush@mardenvale.org.uk)  
01249 914364 (day off Monday)

### Team Vicar:

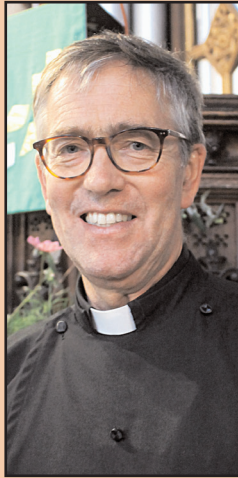
**The Reverend Teresa Michaux**

Email: [tmx256@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tmx256@hotmail.co.uk)  
Tel: 07963 399645

### Parish Administration:

Church House,  
30 Church Street, Calne,  
SN11 0HU

Email: [enquiries@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@mardenvale.org.uk)  
Tel: 01249 816522



*Teresa is available on Tuesday to Friday mornings and Sunday  
Church House is open 10am to 12noon Mondays,  
Wednesdays and Fridays.*

## *Prayer for February*

*Let us not turn from the world, but be engaged within it.  
Where there is injustice let us strive for  
equality and dignity.  
May our actions be based on Gospel values,  
our motives be to serve God alone,  
and through him to transform this world.  
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](http://www.parishofcalneandblackland.org.uk)**

**Find us on facebook @stmaryschurchcalne**

## A Thought for February

Easter falls early in 2024 (on 31st March), and that means Lent begins with Ash Wednesday in the middle of this month—on 14th February. So you could choose to take your nearest and dearest out to a Valentine's meal with a big ash cross on your forehead!

The season of Lent actually has quite a lot going on in it. Traditionally it's a time of self-examination and



penitence, and the concept of giving something up for Lent relates to self-denial, of course. But also during Lent, in the story of Jesus' own life there is the dramatic turn to the cross and the intensity for us of reliving the Passion of Christ in Holy Week, and our own consideration of what discipleship might cost us. In between—this year it falls on Sunday 10th March—is Mothering Sunday; celebrating our mothers whether they have died or are still with us, and paying attention too to those among us for whom the whole issue of motherhood is difficult.

One of the characteristic features of the world we inhabit is how relentless

is the pace of life and the flow of information from every direction. Most of us are almost instantly connected with the world all the time. I remember when my daughter was a teenager, on one occasion being full of anguish because her best friend hadn't replied to a message. 'When did you send it?' I asked. She looked at her phone. '17 minutes ago!'

We all surely benefit from a conscious disconnecting from the world from time to time, and if it feels like we haven't done that for a while, what better time than Lent (or whenever you might happen to be reading this)? 'What's keeping you busy?' is quite a useful question to ask ourselves; 'Which of those busy things really matters?' might be a helpful follow up, because it's possible to spend a lot of our time busy with things that in the end are not that important. I hope this



Lent might offer you a moment to reflect on which are the really important things for you, and to appreciate them in a fresh way.

*With my prayers and very best wishes  
Revd Caspar Bush (Team Rector)*

## South Wall of the Sanctuary. Stained glass window

**T**his window, of stained painted glass and lead, in two panels, was assembled in 1869 by Ward & Hughes. When the light shines through it, it provides a wonderful uplifting image bringing delight to the eye with lovely clear colours.

The stonework of this window illustrates a pair of cinquefoil headed lights under a flattened Tudor arch, with splayed reveals, hollow chamfered jambs and mullions, and a splay below over a narrow sill.

The left-hand panel depicts the figure of Mary Magdalene with flowing yellow hair, kneeling looking up at the figure of Christ in light. Her hands are raised in supplication. She is clothed in a blue tunic over which is a worn red cloak. The background shows a garden of three trees and flowers with hills of blue and green. The inscription

below reads: TOUCH ME NOT FOR I AM NOT. At the base of this light and of the adjacent panel within 3 arches are designs of stylised triple leaved foliage.



The right-hand panel depicts Christ. He stands looking down upon Mary Magdalene with light illuminating her face, his right hand raised in blessing. He has a nimbus (halo) around his head and is bearded with long hair. He wears a red tunic. Over his left shoulder, part of a white, blue and gold edged stole shows, which falls to cover his body from the waist down. The

back ground continues the depiction of the garden in light. The inscription below reads: NOT YET ASCENDED TO MY FATHER.

*Information gleaned from NADFAS record of Church furnishings by Charles and Serena Boase.*

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## Mothers' Union

**C**alne Mothers' Union met on Tuesday 9th January. Members and guests enjoyed home made soup, bread, cheese, cake and tea or coffee. This was followed by our AGM. We looked at the accounts and decided on which MU charities our giving should go to this year. We reviewed the programme for 2024 which members were happy with;

then we had a time of sharing blessings over the last year, which included church, family and MU. We showed our appreciation to those who had prepared the lunch and we look forward to our February meeting on Shrove Tuesday 13th February which will include pancakes.

*Jenny Colby, Branch leader.*



# Bellringing is FUN and...

If you are able to climb stairs you could join the team! It is a great activity for: people of all ages, from children 12+ to older adults. For individuals, couples, families. For people of all faiths and none. You don't need to be musical, mathematical or strong.

It is:

- Enjoyable and satisfying - experience new achievements
- A gentle work out - physical exercise with mental stimulation no bingo wings!
- An easy way to make friends - be part of a team and community
- Boosts soft skills: teamwork, leadership, co-ordination, concentration and listening.
- An all-weather activity which can fit in with your other commitments
- Full of variety - a centuries old skill, using new technology, with endless choices and places to visit
- Makes you community's soundscape - Sundays, weddings, special occasions.

- Produces a fabulous emotion stirring sound for people to enjoy.
- It's the ultimate heavy metal. Church bells are the loudest unamplified and heaviest musical instrument in the world - and they're metal.

If you want to know more send an e-mail to [calne@sdgr.org.uk](mailto:calne@sdgr.org.uk). Or speak to one of the bellringers in Church.



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## When you Pray...



God wills all persons to be saved.

Pray for the whole world. Bid this very earth to become a heaven.

Pray especially to be freed from the evil of greediness.

Pray to recognise others who are in need.

For there is no such thing as 'my bread'.

All bread is ours and is given to me,

To others through me and to me through others.

For not only bread but all things necessary

For sustenance in this life are given on loan to

us, With others and because of others,

and for others and to others through us.

*Meister Eckhart (1260-1329) Mystic and Prophet*

# Oh, Christmas Tree

**A**fter Epiphany the Christmas decorations have to come down. For St Mary's Church that means removal of the Christmas tree. Andy Miller leads the team putting the Christmas tree up and down each year and here you see the best bit with a tall Church Warden capable of sawing branches without cutting lights.

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make our churches look beautiful for the festive season.

In this picture we see Jonathan Billings and Simon Hopkins.



## Announcement from Revd. Teresa Michaux.

**I**t is with mixed feelings that I announce my retirement as Team Vicar from the Marden Vale benefice. I have very much enjoyed journeying with you all over the last six years and want to thank you for the privilege and joy of sharing your lives with me. John and I have been thinking a lot about our future and have reached a stage in our lives where we would like to spend more time together and with our family, and look forward to exciting holi-



days further afield. We love living in Calne and this amazing community, so the good news is that you are not getting rid of us completely as we have recently bought a house in the town. After a rest from ministry for about 6 months I will be contacting Bishop Andrew in order to kindly seek Permission to Officiate at services as and when needed.

My last service will be at St Mary's on Sunday 7th April

## Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer

Mothers' Union members are invited to share in the Salisbury Diocesan Wave of Prayer on Monday 5th February. Our slot is 11.50 - 12.10 and we will meet for

a service in Church House. The service is arranged by the Diocesan Chaplain. Please come along if you can.

*Jenny Colby (Branch Leader)*

# Dates for your diary

**2nd** - Candlemas Monday

**5th** - 11.50-12.10, Church House Mothers' Union

Wave of Prayer.

**7th** - PCC meeting, 7.30pm

**13th** - Shrove Tuesday and MU meeting at Church House

**14th** - Ash Wednesday

**16th** - **Cameo**. 2-4pm in Church House.

Lent groups are due to be starting during February and in some cases details are still to be finalised, but they will include:

**15th** - 7.30pm Zoom meeting Led by Steven and Jenny Colby.

**15th** - 7.30pm Led by Casper venue yet to be arranged.

**20th** - 2.00pm Led by Enid at home of Graham and Jenny Spencer.

7 Bream Close, Calne SN11 9UF, Tel; 01249 811835.

**21st** - 11am Led by Teresa in Church House

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## Focus for Prayer

**Please remember to pray for...**

- The process of appointing a new person to the post of Team Vicar.
  - All who have suffered because of extreme weather events
  - All of us looking forward to the Spring, especially farmers and gardeners.
  - Victims of injustice throughout the world.
- The new Bible study prayer groups as they begin in various places around the Benefice, using the Pilgrim series Lent Course.
- Teresa and John Michaux as they prepare to retire and move house

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### 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](mailto:cbp.news.editor@gmail.com)**



# Regular Activities in the Parish

\*Please check Web Site or Parish Notices for Zoom Link.

Day	Time	Place	Activity
Sunday	8.00am	St. Mary's	Holy Communion.
	9.30am	St. Peter's	Holy Communion (BCP) – 4th Sunday of the month.
	10.00am	St. Mary's	Parish Eucharist, (4th Sunday of the month; Morning Prayers).
	10.00am	Holy Trinity	Family service (1st and 3rd Sunday of the month).
	10.45am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion (4th Sunday of the month).
	3.00pm	Holy Trinity	Family Service (5th Sunday of the month).
Tuesday	10.00am	Church House	SMUF's parent and toddler group. Only during term times.
	Various	Various or Zoom	Parish Prayers – Please check notices for relevant information.*
Wednesday	10.00am	St. Mary's	Holy Communion (Mothers' Union Corporate Service 1st Wednesday of the month).
	3.30-5.30pm	Church House	Wednesday Club for 4–11s. Only during term times.
Thursday	6.30-7.00pm	St. Mary's	Christian Meditation.
Friday	8.30 am	Zoom	Morning Prayers - Whole Benefice*
	2.00 to 4.00 pm	Church House. (Downstairs)	Cameo – Come And Meet Each Other. 3rd Friday of the month only. You'll be welcomed with a cup of tea... plus board games and time to chat.
	7.00pm	St. Mary's	Choir Practice.
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing	Please contact Jane Ridgwell for further information.

If you wish to make a donation to the Parish of Calne and Blackland you can use this QR code

