

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND



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

Pentecost May 2021



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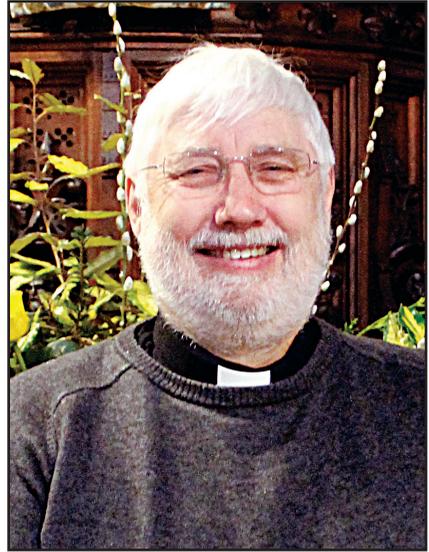
Mrs. Sadie Kenway,

Church House,

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Church House is closed during the corona virus crisis.

A Prayer for Pentecost

*Lord God Almighty, pour upon us your Spirit,
and set us on fire with love for you,
that we may bring forth the fruits of love,
joy and peace, and live to the praise of your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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.parihofcalneandblackland.org.uk

Find us on facebook @stmaryschurchcalne

***Look out in both these places for information about online
worship and services during the corona virus lockdown.***

Thought for May

No, it is not (at the time of writing!) one of the four stages on the Government roadmap. It is Pentecost (or Whit Sunday), when the Christian Church marks the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which Luke describes in Acts 2.

Religious observance in ancient Israel, as in all other religions, set aside special holy days and festivals as part of the rhythm of life and worship. The first of these feast days was the Sabbath and is rooted in the account of creation when God rested on the seventh day. Not only did God rest, but God 'blessed the seventh day and hallowed it' (Gen 2:3).

There is so much more which could be said about the wisdom of Sabbath rest, which extends far beyond what is often a rather narrow and individualistic reading, encompassing the wider community and agricultural environment. Current concerns about mental health, wellbeing in the workplace, social justice, the climate crisis, soil degradation and the sourcing of raw materials for new technologies surely resonate? Perhaps now is an opportune time for a closer reading of Exodus 20 and 23, Leviticus 19, 23 and 25, and Deuteronomy 15?

All of which brings us back to Pentecost, otherwise known as Shavuot or the Festival of Weeks. The word 'Pentecost' is derived from the Greek word for 50, *pente*. Leviticus 23:16 says: 'You shall count until the day after the seventh sabbath, fifty days; then you shall present an offering of new grain to the Lord.' The original establishment of the celebration encouraged the people to 'count' seven weeks of seven days from Passover until the day after the seventh Sabbath, or the fiftieth day.

Further on in this passage, verse 22 says: 'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the alien: I am the Lord your God.'

Can you see the direction of travel from thanksgiving for the harvest to justice? Here we see an ethical obligation to the land (don't overharvest to the point of depletion), and to the poor and landless by providing for them. The Israelites knew what it was to be poor and landless. They had experienced oppression and deprivation. Out of this experience follows the imperative to show justice, compassion and generosity.



Bishop Karen Gorham reminds us that 'the gift of the Holy Spirit is never for personal gain...but always for the blessing of others.' My favourite memory of Pentecost Sunday was several years ago when the children joined the priest for the laying on of hands. The gentle power of the Spirit was very evident as they prayed for the adults in that congregation. May we who enjoy freedom and abundance remember the roots of Pentecost Sunday and resolve to alleviate the suffering of those oppressed by poverty and injustice, not from a position of power, but of love.

Revd Linda Carter

'A Good Year' edited by Mark Oakley p114

Return to Church

Calne and Blackland PCC made the decision on 6th April to reopen St Mary's and Holy Trinity Churches again for services. You will need to book - www.stmarysbookings.co.uk or phone 07713962635

Please keep to safety protocols and come prepared to wear a face mask

The pattern for the coming weeks will be:

St. Mary's - Parish Eucharist Sundays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd,
& 30th May 9.30 am

The St. Mary's services will be live streamed for the time
being on

www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchcalne



Holy Trinity - Parish Eucharist Wednesdays

5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th May 10.00 am

Family Service - Sundays 2nd (10.00 am) & 16th (3.00 pm)

To book - steven@mardenvale.org.uk or phone
01249 819097

Sundays 9th and 23rd - Family Service on Zoom @ 10.00 am

Meeting ID 777 199 3235 Passcode 819097

St. Mary's church is open for private prayer (10.00 am to 12.00 noon)

On Wednesdays and Fridays

Join Parish Prayers (prayers for the local community as well as the parish)

First Tuesday of the month 6.30 to 7.00 pm on Zoom

Meeting ID 777 199 3235 Passcode 819097

For details of the Meditation sessions held on Thursdays from

6.30pm contact Kevin Wells - wells4millst@hotmail.co.uk

or phone 01249 248986

Dates for May

1st May - Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles

14th May - Saint Matthias, Apostle

19th May - Saint Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury

Sunday 23rd May - Pentecost (Whitsunday)

Sunday 30th May - Trinity Sunday

Update from Sudan

(edited from Grapevine)

Sudan has now fulfilled all conditions for its huge historic external debt to be cleared, so that the country can access World Bank grants and low-interest loans.

The Revd Jane Shaw says: "This has not been without cost, as the floating of the Sudan pound has led to price rises and hardship for the poor.

There has been more fighting on the Sudan/ Ethiopia border at Gadaref, where the ownership of some land along the border is disputed and no resolution in the dispute over the filling of the Ethiopian dam.

South Sudan received the first batch of vaccines: 132,000 doses of the Astra Zeneca vaccine, provided under the COVAX facility, have been delivered to South Sudan; they expect 732,000 doses by the end of June. First priority recipients will be health workers and the over-65's. Yesterday's official launch at State House was postponed, apparently for logistical reasons.

The latest Covid figures for South Sudan are: 10,119 cases (9594 recovered) and 108 deaths. For Sudan, 29,661 cases reported (23,990 recovered) and 2,028 deaths."

Signs of hope: Save The Children Fund has distributed 1.12 million textbooks to



school leaders - they will benefit school children in Eastern Equatoria, Lakes, Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity and Warrap States.

20 women have completed a three month tailoring course in Yambio and been given tailoring machines - they have promised to pass on their new skills to others.

A 2-day peace conference for women in Aweil, including 100 women from across Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal, has ended with calls for stronger representation of women in government posts, at all levels, and for improved services.

River dykes along the Nile are being repaired in Jonglei state to prevent further flooding, as the water levels are rising again.



The Venerable Hedley Ringrose

RIP -1942 - 2021

The Ven Hedley Ringrose died peacefully at home in the early hours of 15th April. We give thanks to God for Hedley's life and ministry and commend him into the loving arms of God that he may rest in peace and rise in glory.

Hedley studied for ordination at Salisbury Theological College and was ordained in 1969. After curacies at Bishopston, Bristol and Easthampstead he was Vicar of St George, Gloucester from 1975 to 1988, during which period he was Rural Dean of Gloucester City; and then of Cirencester until his appointment as Archdeacon of Cheltenham in 1998. In his retirement Hedley and his wife, Rosie, moved to Calne and quickly became valued members of both the church family in Calne and of the local community.

Hedley will be much missed and we send our condolences to Rosie and her family; *please remember them in your prayers.*



Calne Christian Bookshop

Phelps Parade, Calne, SN11 0HA. Tel.: 01249 823265

Calne Christian Bookshop has opened again. All our existing stock, with the exception of Bible Reading Notes and special orders, will be reduced by 20%. This special offer will last until the end of June.

Our opening hours are:

Tuesday-Saturday, 10.00am-1.00pm.

We're looking forward to welcoming you back!

Best wishes,

From Calne Christian Bookshop.

For more information please see
www.calnechristianbooks.co.uk

email: calnechristianbooks@yahoo.co.uk
or see us on Facebook



Calne Mothers' Union

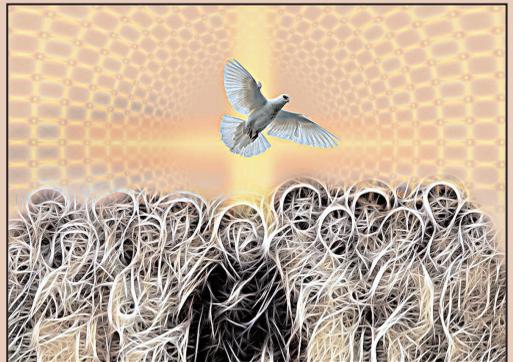
Calne Mothers' Union met over Zoom on Tuesday 13th April. The speaker was Kirsty Gray from Family Wise. She gave us a very interesting talk about the history of the company and what it does. She included some amusing anecdotes about the work of finding beneficiaries to estates, known generally as Heir Hunters; including finding out that one estate they thought was worth about £500, turned out to be worth several thousand.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 11th May at 2pm and will also be on Zoom. The speaker will be Gill Ford from The Childrens' Society. The meeting will be less than one hour and is open to anyone. Church notices will include a link or contact Jenny Colby. (stevenjenny.colby@gmail.com)

The Power of Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-4

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the spirit enabled them to speak.



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