



NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND

***Christ is risen,
He is risen indeed
Hallelujah!***

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

April 2026

Easter Edition

Parish contact details

Team Rector:

The Reverend Caspar Bush

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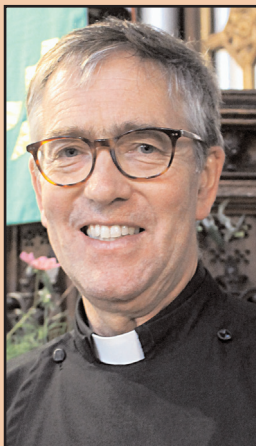
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Team Vicar:

The Reverend Sarah Errington

(Not available at the moment)



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*Church House is open from 10.00am to 12noon
on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.*

Prayer for April

*O Risen Christ, who has said,
'blessed are they that have not seen and yet
have believed':*

*Mercifully grant that this benediction may be
ours, so that walking by faith and not by sight,
we may evermore rejoice in thee, and confess
thee as our Saviour, our Lord and our God.*

Amen



Church addresses

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

Website: <https://www.mardenvale.org.uk>

Find us on facebook @stmaryschurchcalne

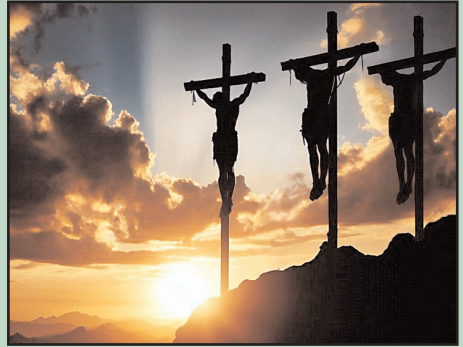
Thought for April

Even though there are wonderful signs of spring all around us, at time of writing the world is witnessing very grave and shocking events in the Middle East, with the deeply unpredictable USA flexing its considerable military muscles against Iran. The fall-out is having consequences around the world.

It's an extreme example of events utterly beyond our control that have the capacity to make people's lives miserable. Some of these are political events, some are extreme weather events or other natural disasters. But you know it's a big one when even we in the comfortable West wake up with a sense of dismay. I'm sure Christians of many denominations have been consoled by Pope Leo's rebuke to the various justifications of this war 'War is never holy; only peace is holy.'

Some of the events of Holy Week have a similar capacity to shock us and cause us dismay. When we know how the story ends, it's possible for it to lose some of its impact. But Good Friday imagined as it must have felt to the disciples has some resonance with the tumultuous events in the Middle East.

The disciples had become convinced that Jesus was the Messiah, the one who would bring a whole new order of God's justice and peace to their world. So much life and light – the presence of God in Jesus bringing healing and joy even in a world under Roman oppression. Then in the space of less than 24 hours came his arrest, trial, torture



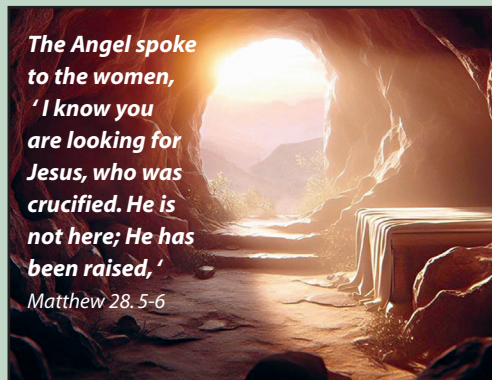
and death. Hard to imagine the shock and horror, the bleakness and sheer emptiness the disciples must have felt, as their world fell apart, and they wondered what it had all been for.

That sort of darkness can affect any of us who are enduring really difficult times. Noticing the suffering of Jesus won't make our suffering go away, but it can be a real comfort that God knows what it's like for us.

And after Holy Week, something life-changingly wonderful is on the way! Easter Day is God's response to death and destruction. New, indestructible, resurrection life! Of course there are all sorts of signs of it even today, in the lives of people motivated by compassion, kindness, love, joy and peace, and the love of Jesus.

O God, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Happy Easter!
With my prayers,
and very best wishes
Caspar Bush,
Team Rector
(email address see
page two)



The Angel spoke to the women, 'I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has been raised,'
Matthew 28. 5-6

Project 2026 Update

On 7th March there was a wonderful coffee morning at St Mary's Church. It included lots of coffee and cakes, Calne Singers and Tower Tours among other attractions. The total raised was £835, which was a wonderful contribution to the project. Also during the morning the 'fundraising thermometer' was updated to show our total raised as £327,000. This is about half of what we need, so there is still work to do, but we are hoping for some grants to make a major contribution to that, plus donations from Calne residents as a

result of the 'Tenner for the Toilets' appeal.

We have recently heard from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (the church equivalent of the planning department) to say that they approve the outline plans in principle and asking for more information. Organisations such as the Victorian Society and English Heritage will be consulted as part of the process. So much work has gone into the planning to date and there will be more as details are sorted out to everyone's satisfaction. But the important thing is that we are moving forwards!



The team is now appealing to the town to give 'A Tenner for the Toilets'. See a picture of the postcard above. We need

people to deliver to as many addresses in Calne as possible. Please help if you can!



An Easter Tale



Gentle breezes puffed up the last remaining leaves to dance in the air. Herbert blinked his black beady eyes, sniffed and unravelled from the tightly-curved prickly ball he had spent the last few months in. Stretching forwards and back so his prickles almost touched, he gave a shake and listened to the rumblings in his tummy. A nice beetle or two or an earwig would be just the thing to fill his craving for food after a long hibernation. The sun was sending out weak rays between scurrying clouds, the birds were singing and everything felt joyful. Herbert took his first tentative steps, it was daylight, not his usual time to forage, but needs must. He spotted the clump of primroses by the



den display, but overriding this was a strange peculiar smell. This was not unpleasant but somehow, he knew it was chocolate...

He'd heard tell of someone carrying a large cross on his back around the town, and people gathering to cry and support him. He'd smelt the burning of last year's palm crosses and the giving out of new ones on Palm Sunday. He'd heard about the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday. He'd heard about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. There were a few humans around, so he carefully tiptoed off to his favourite place behind the choir stalls. It was Easter Day. He loved listening to the timbre of the voices saying the service and the singing, that was incredible. After a lull at what seemed the end of the service, he heard the sounds of many of the congregation's feet moving towards him, he shrank down, attempting to make himself invisible. Suddenly the sounds of Handel's Messiah rang out. Telling the story of the last days of Jesus, where he was betrayed, tried, crucified and buried. The sounds were amazing, emotions ran high, the humans really were involved with what they were singing, it was beautiful. Eventually the humans left, clutching what looked like eggs, picked out from a basket held by the man in a long white robe. The smell was overpowering. When the basket was put down, one of the eggs rolled off under the cupboard where the sound system was stored. Herbert, curious to find out exactly what



vestry door and daffodils nodding in the breeze. Perhaps a juicy slug could be found there. Yes, there was, hurrah! First delicious morsel. As he explored further, he was pleasantly surprised by the rows of daffodils leading up to one of the doors of the church. They led you on. Keeping under the yew trees, Herbert gradually made his way to one of the doors. He remembered at Christmas the singing and wondered if it would happen again. Peeking into the open door he quickly rolled up into a ball and jettisoned himself down the ramp. He could smell moss and flowers that appeared to come from a gar-



it was, picked his way carefully to it, hiding behind the kneelers and underneath the pews, grabbing the odd woodlouse on the way. Yum!

Serena Boase

Flowers in Church

I wonder what helps you worship when you come into Church? Candles, bells, altar linen, music, silence, stained glass. Other people also worshipping, evidence of the historic use of this sacred building?

All of the above have their place and I'm sure you may well have other things that really help you focus. For me? I also need flowers and foliage, I always have. The delight of the changing seasons within God's creation is exemplified by new fresh buds bursting in the spring, the abundance of flowers in the summer and then berries and coloured leaves in the autumn.

I feel very blessed to have the responsibility for making sure there are flowers in St Mary's on a general basis. There don't seem to be many rules to keep to, but no flowers in Lent or Advent as we prepare for the festivals of Easter and Christmas, are the main ones. And then the joy of filling the Church. Flowers for Pentecost are red/orange/yellow in representation of the flames of the Holy Spirit.

Couples coming to St Mary's to be married and people preparing for funerals



als sometimes have specific requests, and, of course, they are welcome to bring in their own florists. If this is not their wish then I make sure there is a, hopefully, appropriate, pedestal by the pulpit as per our usual custom.

Sometimes people give money for flowers to mark a specific occasion, a birthday, wedding anniversary or loved one's life.

I hardly need to tell you that St Mary's is a wonderful building with all manner of inviting places to put flowers. If anyone would like to join in and take a turn, please just say!

Joanna Childs

Calne Mothers' Union

We were very pleased to welcome Rev Jeremy Cresswell to speak about our Diocesan Sudan Link. Jeremy gave a very interesting, informative, illustrated talk about the ways in which we, as a Diocese, are able to interact with the peoples of Sudan and South Sudan, Much of this has been in education, but help has also been given in facilitating the digging of

wells for water as well as providing solar panels for electricity.

Civil war in Sudan is causing enormous hardship for its people, with many being displaced and many others facing hunger.

We continue to pray for peace and reconciliation in those two countries.

Rosie Ringrose

Dates for your diary

- 1st** 2.00 – 3.30pm Bereavement Café at St Mary's Church
2nd Eucharist Supper at St Mary's
3rd Good Friday. Choral meditation at St Mary's Church 6.00pm
5th Easter Sunday
14th 2.00pm Mothers' Union (Speaker Rev Carly Taylor)
18th Calne Spring Sing
19th 11.30am Calne & Blacklands APCM
23rd Saint George, Patron Saint of England
25th Mark the Evangelist. 7.30pm PCC meeting Church House
-

Focus for Prayer

Please remember to pray for ...

- All organisations and people working for peace
 - Project 2026 and the changes it will bring to the parish
 - People and business feeling the impact of climate change
 - Our NHS all who work in it and those dependant on its care
 - Financial stability for our community, the nation and the world
 - Anyone who does not have a place to call home
-

Editorial Team:

Jane Ridgwell and Jack Robinson.

Illustration, Graphic Design and Layout: Alex Grenfell.

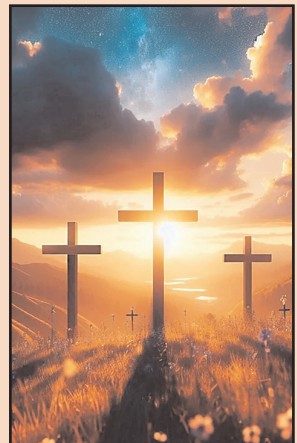
And finally ...

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

*Please check Website or Parish Notices for Zoom Link.

Day	Time	Place	Activity
Sunday	8.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion (NOT 4th Sunday of the month).
	9.30am	St Peter's	Holy Communion (BCP) – (4th Sunday of the month).
	10.00am	Church House	Sunday Club for 4–11s. (1st Sunday of the month)
		St Mary's	Parish Eucharist (4th Sunday of the month; Morning Praise).
	10.00am	Holy Trinity	Family Service (3rd Sunday of the month).
	10.45am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion (4th Sunday of the month).
Monday	10.00am	Church House	Mary Makers Craft Group
Tuesday	10.00am	Church House	SMUF's parent and toddler group. Only during term times.
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion (Mothers' Union Corporate Service 1st Wednesday of the month).
Friday	8.30 am	Zoom	Morning Prayers – Whole Benefice*
	6.30pm	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***

£5

Donate

£10

Donate

£20

Donate



Choose your own amount