

A photograph of a robin perched on a snow-covered branch. The robin has a bright orange-red breast and a greyish-brown back. It is surrounded by green holly leaves with white snow on them, and a single red holly berry is visible above the bird. The background is a clear blue sky.

# NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND

*...keeping you in  
touch with your church family.  
**Happy Christmas & New Year**  
December 2024 & January 2025*

## Parish contact details

Team Rector:

**The Reverend Caspar Bush**

Email: [caspar.bush@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:caspar.bush@mardenvale.org.uk)

Tel: 01249 914364 (day off Monday)

Team Vicar:

**The Reverend Sarah Errington**

Email: [sarah.errington@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:sarah.errington@mardenvale.org.uk)

Tel: 01249 263430

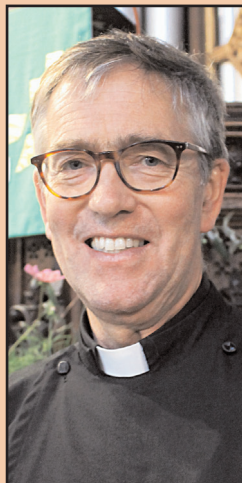
(day's off Monday, Friday, & Saturday)

**Parish Administration:**

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

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

Tel: 01249 816522



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

## *Prayer for Advent*

*God bless this baby, newly born,  
with all the gentle love of heaven.  
A miracle wrapped up and  
fast asleep, reminding us again  
of human hope and innocence.*

*Susan Sayers*



### *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 December

Advent is with us again, the season when most of the population begin the final countdown to Christmas. In the Church, too, we're excited about Christmas, but Advent also has the theme of anticipating the second coming of Christ, this time not humbly and obscurely in a stable, but coming one day in glory as the rightful king of the whole world. In our homes, some of us will be preparing for visitors staying – family members perhaps, coming for Christmas, but not really prepared for till now.

Just before the end of my Duchy of Cornwall farm tenancy in 2015 we had a request from our regional land agent that we entertain our landlord, the then Prince Charles, to tea in our house. It's not the sort of request we could turn down, but it meant we had a lot of tidying and cleaning up to do. You know the story of how members of the Royal Family believe the outside world smells of fresh paint because everywhere they go smells of fresh paint? By the time HRH arrived, our home looked sort of the same, but also very much, well, like it was ready for a royal visit.



Jesus has quite a lot to say in the Bible about being prepared for his return to earth in glory. The challenge is to keep everything about our lives in a state that's pleasing to God; to deal with any metaphorical dirty laundry as it arises,

to keep the clutter that gets in the way of our walk with God down to a minimum. And then not to obsess about when Jesus might actually return, but rather to get on with the work of proclaiming the good news of God's love for the world – in words and deeds. If you knew Jesus was coming tomorrow, or even next month, is there anything you might want to put right in your life? A relationship: an apology, a reconciliation? A message that needs writing? A habit that needs breaking? Some serious praying that needs to be done? Something else you've been putting off that you know you ought to see to?



As we prepare to celebrate the wonder of the first coming of Christ, as we hear once again the extraordinary story of Emmanuel, God with us, coming in our midst as a helpless baby, it's good to remember that when we see Jesus it's going to be as the mighty king of all creation, before whom every knee shall bow. As we hear of the shepherds and wise men kneeling in worship at this the most precious gift from God, may God keep us attentive and ready to receive Jesus again, whenever it happens.

*With my prayers, and very best wishes  
for a joyful and peaceful Christmas*  
Rev'd Caspar Bush  
(Team Rector)

# Christmas Crossword



## Across

- 3. Lightning/spark
- 5. Fast & handsome
- 7. Female predator
- 9. Shooting star
- 10. Wish/want
- 11. Easterly beacon
- 12. Birth place
- 13. Positive
- 15. Sages

## Down

- 1. Season

- 17. Poseur
- 18. Archer
- 19. Rhymes with 'sir'
- 20. Jolly
- 23. Happy
- 24. Announcements

- 2. Saint
- 4. Aromatic
- 5. Like a kebab
- 6. Suffering from a cold
- 8. Animal trough
- 14. Strictly
- 16. Fool's ....
- 18. Once a year
- 20. Delight
- 21. Not dark
- 22. Donkey

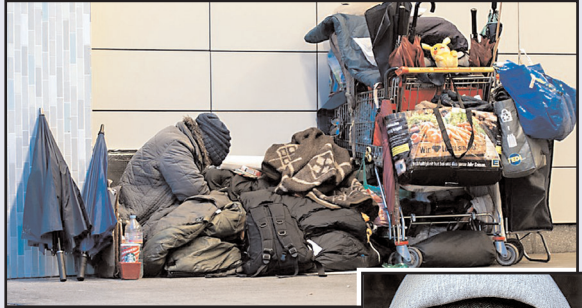
***Answers in January Notice Sheet***

# Homeless at Christmas

**C**an you imagine what it would be like not to have a safe place to call your own? Homelessness and rough sleeping are both on the rise – up by 27% between autumn 2022 and autumn 2023. The reasons for homelessness are usually very complex.

Some people who are homeless find a place on someone's sofa or have a tent. Sleeping outside is a last resort for most and is a very dangerous activity, especially in the winter when hypothermia is a risk.

If you see someone sleeping outside this Christmas you can contact the rough sleeper team: [roughsleeperteam@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:roughsleeperteam@wiltshire.gov.uk) or ring: 0300 456 0106 and give information about local services, Doorway in Chippenham or Open Doors in Devizes.



## Calne Mothers' Union

**A**t the November meeting of Calne Mothers' Union the speaker was Tim Buckeridge who gave an illustrated talk about the work of Help for Heroes. This is a national charity who help anyone who has been in the forces. They provide help with physical, mental or social needs for as long as the person needs it. He gave examples of people who had been helped by Help For Heroes, which included providing a mobility scooter, paying for someone to have physio and helping someone who had become alcohol dependant. Tim spoke about fund raising events that have

been held locally, including at the Bike Meet, and also about the generous support given by local businesses. We all appreciated what a worthwhile cause this is.

The December meeting is on Tuesday 10th and will be a Christmas Quiz with festive nibbles and some carol singing. The MU meeting in January is on 14th when we will meet for lunch at 12.30 followed by our AGM. If you would like to come for lunch please let Jenny know for catering purposes. All are welcome at MU meetings.

*Jenny Colby  
Branch Leader*

## Calne and Blackland Christmas Charity



**W**aterAid is an international not-for-profit organisation, which makes clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere. ***This year the Parish of Calne and Blackland is supporting this charity at Christmas.*** Special envelopes will be available in the pews over Christmas if you would like to give to this cause.

Go to [www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org) for more information.

# Dates for your diary in December and January

## December

*See the back page for Christmas services in the Marden Vale Benefice.*

- 10th 2.00pm** – Mothers' Union meeting in Church House  
**14th 7.30pm** – Calne Choral Christmas Carol Concert, at St Mary's Church, Admission Children free, £10.00 for Adults, (including refreshments)  
**20th 2.00pm – 4.00pm** – CAMEO in Church House  
**26th St Stephen's Day** – first martyr  
**27th St John**, Apostle and Evangelist  
**28th Holy Innocents' Day**

## January

- 1st** Naming of Jesus  
**6th** Epiphany  
**15th** Marriage Preparation Day in Church House  
**25th** Conversion of St Paul  
**30th** Parochial Church Council Meeting 7.30pm

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## Focus for Prayer

Please remember to pray for ...

- Everyone who is enjoying the company of friends and family.
  - Generosity towards anyone who has less than you.
- All who feel the cold and, and especially those worrying about heating costs.
  - People who will be lonely and sad at Christmas.
- People who are working over the holiday period to keep essential services running.

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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)**



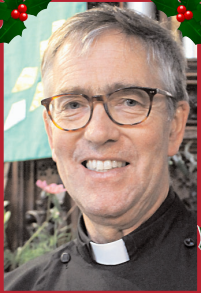
# Regular Activities in the Parish

\*Please check 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	St Mary's	Parish Eucharist (4th Sunday of the month; Morning Praise).
	10.45am	Holy Trinity	Morning Praise (2nd Sunday of the month). Holy Communion (4th Sunday of the month).
	3.00pm	Holy Trinity	Family Service (3rd and 5th Sunday of the month).
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).
	3.30-5.30pm	Church House	Wednesday Club for 4–11s. Only during term times.
Friday	8.30 am	Zoom	Morning Prayers – Whole Benefice*
	2.00-4.00pm	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





*We would like to give you  
a warm welcome to the  
Services at our Churches  
over the Festive Season*



### *Christmas Services*

Sunday – 15th December

3.00pm – St Martin's, Bremhill – Nativity Service

Thursday – 19th December

6.00pm – St John the Baptist, Foxham – Carols

7.00pm – St Mary's, Calne – Blue Christmas

Sunday – 22nd – December

10.00am – St Mary's, Calne – All age morning praise

10.45am – Holy Trinity, Calne – Carols and Communion

3.00pm – St Peter's, Blackland – Carol Service

4.00pm – Christ Church, Derry Hill – Carol Service

6.00pm – St Mary's, Calne – Carol Service

6.00pm – St Martin's, Bremhill – Carol Service

Tuesday – 24th December – *Christmas Eve*

3.00pm – Christ Church, Derry Hill – Crib Service with carols

4.00pm – St Mary's, Calne – Crib Service

6.00pm – Bowood Chapel – Carol Service

9.00pm – St Martin's, Bremhill – Midnight Mass

11.00pm – St Mary's, Calne – Midnight Mass

Wednesday – 25th December – *Christmas Day*

9.30am – St John the Baptist, Foxham – Family Communion

9.30am – St Peter's, Blackland – Holy Communion  
(Book of Common Prayer)

10.00am – St Mary's, Calne – Family Communion

11.00am – St Martin's, Bremhill – Family Communion

11.00am – Christ Church, Derry Hill – Family Communion

The Editorial Team wish all our readers  
a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year

