

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND



***... keeping you in touch
with your church family.
September 2025***

Parish contact details

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Tel: 01249 914364 (day off Monday)

Team Vicar:

The Reverend Sarah Errington

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Tel: 01249 263430

(available on Sunday, Tuesday,
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Training curate:

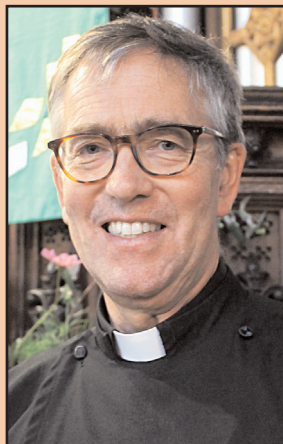
The Revd Carly Taylor

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Parish Administration:

Church House, 30 Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU Tel: 01249 816522

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

Prayer for September

*O Lord, you mark the journey of life with change.
Once again, we witness your creation moving from
one season to the other. Change is your instrument of
growth that brings us to a deeper relationship with you.
May your Word be the lantern that guides the roads
of change in our lives.*

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 September

The term is over: the holidays have begun

You're probably wondering if you read that heading correctly! But as I write it, it's true: it's the end of July, school term finished last week, and most of you are enjoying your holidays. But you won't be reading this until September. If term time hasn't begun yet, it will do very soon. You may well have that sinking feeling which comes when it's time to go back to work, or college, or school. So why am I writing about the holidays?



Well, for a start, I hope you've enjoyed your holiday, and that you've thanked God for it! Secondly, I want to ask you to reflect for a moment on the best holiday you've ever had. How did it match your expectations of it? How did it exceed them?

The following paragraph comes from C S Lewis' *The Last Battle*. Aslan, the lion, says to the children:

"The term is over: the holidays have begun. The dream is ended: this is the morning." ... And for us this is the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the

beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before. (From *The Last Battle*, Lions edition, 1980, pp 171-172.)

You may already know that the children to whom Aslan is speaking have died and gone to heaven. C S Lewis had a great point: heaven will be a thousand times better than the best holiday we've ever enjoyed.

Bits of the Bible are like a travel brochure: they give us glimpses of what heaven will be like. But whereas travel brochures can make the dingiest hotel and the grottiest beach sound like Paradise, the Bible tells us the truth. We can completely trust what it says. Why don't you get your Bible out (or use the internet!) and read through Revelation 21:1-4 & 22-27?

I hope that such a vision encourages you, and makes you want to echo the song of the angels from earlier in the book of Revelation:

'Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!'

(Revelation 7:12)

*With prayers and best wishes,
Revd Sarah Errington
(email address see page two)*

Calne Bike Meet

At almost exactly 9.15am on the day of the Calne Bike Meet, the doors of St Mary's were open to visitors for quiet prayers, morning prayers, private prayers, tea, coffee and cakes, the 12 noon Communion Service and generally to chat over refreshments or seek quiet away from the bustle of the town. The visitors filled the tables, some back pews and

the West Door steps wall.

Everyone was served by magnificent crew – Enid, Jill, David, Jill, Alison, Shirley,



Kevin, Kathryn, Sophie, Jane, Rosemarie, Joanna and Tim.

The day would not have been the success it was without the crew working so hard and cheerfully and I cannot thank them all enough for their efforts. Also thanks to Maggie, Chris, Deirdre, Carrie and Tonya who, although unable to join us gave 'supplies' to the refreshments. Donations for refreshments on the day amounted to £437.00.

Kathy Moore



Ride and Stride, 13th September 2025

Join us on a bike, on foot or on horseback to help keep Wiltshire's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses looking beautiful and open for the future. Choose your own route and travel at your own pace - enjoy the day. This annual event is organised by Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and raises funds for work on churches in Wiltshire. Half of the money you raise for Ride & Stride goes to the church of your choice and the other half to the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, enabling us to make grants to local churches to help with urgent repair and maintenance costs.

For more information contact:
Stan Annis 01249 817211
or stanannis@aol.com



Church Altar Cloths

Altar Cloths are used in the Christian Liturgy as a sign of reverence as well as decoration. Their use is to protect the altar and the sacred vessels. Seen as a symbol for the shroud of Jesus Christ since the 2nd Century, and thus usually made of white linen. Although an alternative interpretation used two cloths and compared them with the body and soul of Christ. Altar linens are usually composed of a corporal (square cloth in linen or cotton, starched, on which is placed the body of Christ), a pall, (a drape of fabric, squared, adorned with fine embroidery, with which the chalice and paten are covered, in order to protect them from dirt, dust and insects), and a hand towel (or manuterge/lavabo towel). According to the Bible the Jews used altar cloths at the time of Exodus. This practice dis-



appeared when the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in AD70.

Our Altar Cloths are beautifully embroidered. Look out for the different designs

and matching pulpit cloths. They change with the seasons of the church year. Each season has its own colour: Purple or Blue for Advent, a colour of royalty, preparing to welcome the birth of a king. Purple again for Lent, also symbolising suffering and pain. White, the colour of Jesus' burial garments, but bright and optimistic, time for joy and celebration: for Christmas and Easter, major feast days, Weddings, Funerals. Green for the Season of Epiphany and Ordinary Time, symbolising all living things, renewal and promise of life. Red, the colour of fire, for the Day of Pentecost, Saints Days, Confirmations, and Ordinations.

Serena Boase

Project 2026

The work to make Project 2026 a reality is moving ahead. The grants and funding team have met with an experienced 'bid writer' who will help with putting information together for the Lottery grant. This grant application will be for £250,000, so it is important that we do what is necessary for this to be successful. We are expecting £150,000 to be raised from endowments that the Diocese has agreed to release and

£73,502 has been raised in donations since November 2024. The buildings group are working with the architects to develop detailed plans, which will be needed to apply for a faculty for the work. A faculty is the church equivalent of planning permission and is granted by the Diocese of Salisbury. They will carefully consider all aspects of the project and ensure that historic fabric is not harmed in any way that is not essential.



June 29th the Day of Ordinations

On a very hot June 29th many members of the Benefice travelled to Salisbury to attend the Service of Ordination of Carly Taylor. Most went on the coach but Felicity and I went by car, as we intended to go to Tisbury afterwards, (more about that later).

The Cathedral, in all its splendour, was packed and there was a wonderful atmosphere with a sense of great expectation. It was an amazing service. The Sermon was preached by The Rt Revd Robert Atwell. The subject 'Your task is to make the love of God visible'. It was very good but what stood out was the joke, which was about a person having trouble sleeping, having nightmares that someone was under their bed. After consulting with various professionals to no avail a local vicar was contacted and the solution he was given? Saw the legs off the bed. Success! We were particularly moved by the Bishops, first removing their robes, then washing the feet of all the candidates. A very significant moment.

The whole congregation participated in taking communion, which in spite of the numbers was dealt with in a very orderly fashion.

The service over, people then congregated outside with their various churches for photographs where our folk were congratulating Carly on her Ordination.

We left soon after the service since we wanted to visit St John the Baptist Church in Tisbury for three reasons. The first was to visit Tisbury again since it was Felicity's home for her teenage years. The second was to visit the Church since we were married there 54 years ago on the 31st July. The third was to see a newly completed Stained Glass window above the high altar in the church, which is stunning. (See left). It was produced by Thomas Denny an internationally acclaim-



ed designer. We also found time to have lunch at the very nice Beatons Tearoom.

A number of Sundays later Carly and her family, Danny, Beth and Noah, were welcomed officially into the Benefice and at the end of the service a special cake, made and decorated by Jenny Reynolds, was cut by Carly. The cake was enjoyed by all.

We all take great pleasure in welcoming Carly and her family into the fellowship of our Benefice with our prayers that they will find happiness and friendship as they make their new home in Calne.

Alex and Felicity Grenfell



Dates for your diary

- 4th** PCC at Church House, 7.30pm
 - 8th** Celebration of the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - 9th** Mothers' Union Games Evening and Social, Church House, 7.30pm
 - 12th** Launch event for Young Voices Choir, 5.15pm
 - 13th** Ride and Stride event for Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust
 - 21st** Celebration of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
 - 29th** Celebration of St Michael and All Angels
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Focus for Prayer

Please remember to pray for ...

- Everyone facing new challenges at this time of year; students going on to further training, people starting new jobs, children starting school.
 - The changes planned for St Mary's Church and the team working on this.
 - For farmers and market gardeners, working on this year's harvest.
 - People who are feeling the impact of climate change.
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Did you know ...?

That you can get a card to give you free entry to Salisbury Cathedral. This is available to regular worshippers at churches in the Salisbury Diocese. You need to complete a form, which you can find at: <https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/worship-and-music/congregation/#1>. You need to get the form signed by a member of the clergy or someone on the PCC. Then it needs to be scanned and returned. The information is on the form. You can then pick your card up when you visit the Cathedral next time.

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).
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*
	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

