



**Welcome to all the CBC Fellowship.**

**Here is the CBC Newsletter/diary for September 2023.** If you have any comments or contributions, feel free to contact me,

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Welcome to CBC's September Newsletter.

Back to school! Best wishes to all those returning to school, starting a new school, college or apprenticeship. May God bless you and protect you as you journey on.

Do you like beautiful pottery? We spent a few days in Sussex in August, staying at lovely self-catering converted stables. Even the coffee cups were special – modern Royal Doulton (only £80 for six!), we were very careful with them! Have you ever tried your hand at making pottery? I did some at school as we were blessed with a potter's wheel but it is an art and I failed!

There are many references to potters and clay pots in the Bible – of course, they would have been the main vessel for everyday use in those times. In Jeremiah 18, God tells Jeremiah that his chosen people, Israel, are like a lump of clay that can be re-formed if it doesn't meet the Potter's expectations. What a lovely representation of God's care and love not only for Israel but for us all. We are like the clay and our lives can sometimes get twisted and distorted by our circumstances or bad choices but the great news is that God can and will re-shape us if we submit to him. Paul reminds the Corinthian church and us that we may be vulnerable clay vessels but with God's truth and love in our lives, He can shine through if we allow Him. Of course, each clay vessel individually produced by a craftsman is unique and every one of us is unique in God's eyes because He is the craftsman and knows us individually. Each one of us has a unique part to play in establishing His Kingdom – something we pray every week in the Lord's prayer. We may not all be 'Royal Doulton' but we are all equally valued by a loving God.

I remember Sam telling us about the Japanese art of Kintsugi – broken pottery that is put back together with gold, ending up more beautiful and valuable than it was originally. We may think sometimes that our lives, or the lives of others, are beyond help but if we allow God to remake us, we can end up like Kintsugi and become beautiful and valued.

During August, we have had some great teaching on Sunday mornings. Last week, Helen Paynter reminded us of the Israelites' 40 year sojourn in the wilderness as they were too afraid to enter the Promised land of Canaan that God had promised them. Forgetting how God had provided for them after leaving Egypt, they paid the price by remaining nomads in the desert until the next generation took the plunge and entered the Promised Land. What

a great lesson for us as we go forward with the re-building plans. It is scary and unfamiliar territory but believing in God's promise for us and future generations, let us trust Him and move forward with faith. We all have a part to play no matter how small, don't be left out!

### **Some dates for your diaries:**

6<sup>th</sup> September - Alpha course begins at Station Hill Baptist Church. Please pray for all those attending, that God will richly bless the sessions. We are still able to book people in for this, contact me if you are interested – soon.

10<sup>th</sup> September – Messy Church at Methodist Church, 3.00 pm.

16<sup>th</sup> September – Heart for Calne Prayer, 10.00 am, venue to be confirmed. Calne churches meeting together once a month to pray for the town. Everyone is welcome.

17<sup>th</sup> September – Church Meeting following shared lunch after the Morning Service.

24<sup>th</sup> September – Licensing of Caspar Bush, new Rector, at St. Mary's church, 3.00 pm.

26<sup>th</sup> September - Special Church Meeting, 7.00 pm. to consider the BU Consultation.

### **Prayer Needs**

Ministerial Vacancy – Please pray for wisdom as we move forward.

Re-building plans – Continue to pray for God's guidance in decisions to be made and for all those involved to be sustained and strengthened as the work-load increases. Also, pray for Lindy, Manse tenant, that she will find alternative accommodation in good time.

Archaeological work begins in the Manse and Church gardens this month.

Young People – The start of a new school and college term.

Adrian and Julie Bray – Their health has improved although not 100%. Their latest Newsletter is available to read on request.

Individuals highlighted on the church Prayer Chain. Let me know if you would like to be included on the Prayer Chain email list.

Should you have a prayer need, please let me know. All requests are treated confidentially.

**Urgent contact Numbers:** 01249-814499, 07979-652783

01249-814923, 07746-494196; 01249 812018, 07963 941354

### **Regular church activities**

Every Monday apart from Bank Holidays – 'The Living Room', 10.30 am – 2.00 pm

Every Wednesday - Coffee Morning, 10.30 – 12.00

Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Evening Prayer times, 6.00 pm

Home Groups every Monday and Thursday evening (restarting September)

### **Speakers during September**

**3<sup>rd</sup> September - Martin Smith**

**10<sup>th</sup> September - Gary Woodall**

**17<sup>th</sup> September - Jo Williams**

**24<sup>th</sup> September - Chris Smith**