



Welcome to all the CBC Fellowship.

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

Jenny Woods – secretary@calne-baptist.org.uk Telephone – 01249 814499

“Glory to God in the heavenly heights, peace to all men and women on earth who please Him” – so proclaimed the angels to the Shepherds announcing the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. This could have been a disturbing message for the Shepherds, and who would fault them for thinking perhaps they were dreaming – why was an angel host bothering with such as them, poor and insignificant? Mary would, perhaps have had similar thoughts when the angel greeted her thus: **“Good morning, you’re beautiful with God’s beauty, beautiful inside and out, God be with you”**. Even before his birth, Jesus disturbed the norm, challenging attitudes and actions. His message of light, hope and reconciliation reached the lonely, the outsider and marginalised as well as the so-called acceptable strata of society. This wonderful message is just as real to us today, Jesus reveals himself to all and sundry, there is no distinction with God. Christmas is of course a time of celebration for the birth of the Saviour of the World – a World that needs to hear his message more than ever. May God bless you richly on your ongoing journey with Him and may you know His peace and joy whatever your circumstances.

The Alpha course we shared with Station Hill Baptist Church in Chippenham has ended and we are most grateful to them for their hospitality. Over 12 weeks, many were introduced to the relevance of Christian beliefs in their lives with the opportunity to ask questions in a relaxed setting including food! I am sure this will have a lasting impact and those who attended from Calne were really blessed. We hope to keep ties with the Calne group by offering follow up discussion and friendship times in the New Year. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to encourage and guide them on their journey.

Calne Partnership of Churches stall – a respite from rain helped to make this a success at the Town’s Lantern Parade, although it was pretty chilly! Passers by had the opportunity to dress in nativity clothes and take a ‘selfie’ and 400 Christmas books were given out to children plus information on Christmas services at the Town Churches was distributed. It was good to work with other Calne churches and we pray that it will help to make the Christian message more relevant to our community as Christmas approaches.

Ministerial Vacancy – At the November Church Meeting it was agreed to ask a prospective candidate to come and ‘Preach with a View’ at our morning service on **January 7th 2024**. If you wish to know more about our progress in this respect, please speak to a Deacon. On **Monday 8th January**, there will be Special Church Meeting (7.00 pm) for the

Membership to decide if we wish to proceed with the application. We trust that as many as possible will come on 7th Jan to meet the candidate and on the 8th for the Special Church Meeting. In the meantime, please pray for God's wisdom and direction in this important aspect of our church leadership.

Re-Building Project – This is ramping up with various jobs being carried out by Contractors in preparation for the demolition and building work. This means added pressure on the 20/20 Vision group with additional meetings and appointments plus the necessary admin. Continue to pray for the project as it progresses and for the health and well-being of all those involved. Also, our church neighbours who will be impacted as the work progresses.

Adrian and Julie Bray - There is recent news from Adrian and Julie. If you have not received this, please ask to see their latest Newsletter and pray for them especially at this time of the year when Christmas celebrations will be very different for them.

December dates for your diary

December 3 rd	Advent Sunday and Gift Service (Rise Trust)
December 8 th	Film Night, 6.30 pm A Film – Polar Express, B film – Shaun the sheep
December 10 th	Messy Church at Methodist Church, 3.00 pm
December 17 th	Carol Service, 6.00 pm. followed by refreshments
December 24 th	Midnight Service at CBC, 11.30pm. Methodist church joining with us.
December 25 th	Morning Celebration, 10.30 am.

Prayer – We continue to pray for the serious situation in Israel and Gaza, for peace and reconciliation, and the conflict continues in Ukraine with the added effect of harsh winter conditions making life even more difficult.

Pray for families and individuals in Calne who will be struggling to cope in many ways and for members of the church who are poorly or housebound.

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 am – 12.00 noon

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday – Evening Prayer times, 6.00 pm.

Home Groups every Monday and Thursday evening

Speakers during December: 3rd – Andrew Caplen, 10th - Gary Woodall, 17th – Martin Smith, 24th – David Morrell – 31st Martin Smith