



Welcome to all the CBC Fellowship.

Here is the CBC Newsletter/diary for March 2024. If you have any comments or contributions, feel free to contact me,

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

How the weeks are hurrying by, if only the weather would keep up! In spite of unremitting rain, Spring flowers and blossom are well on the way and birds are searching out nesting places. The resilience of nature against all odds is perhaps a lesson to us to persevere in times of uncertainty with Christ at the centre of our lives to guide and strengthen.

I wonder how you view the period of Lent, 40 days before Easter focussed on Christ's experience of being tempted in the desert in preparation for his Ministry. Perhaps you have given something up for Lent, chocolate seems to be a favourite! Many years ago, when we were living in London, the Bishop of Southwark, suggested giving up the Sunday roast and having a simple meal instead. This is something we took on board and although the real reason was to help us focus on the suffering of Christ, it was actually a blessing and something we have continued through the years. Having, in those days, church in the morning and evening plus a Sunday School class on Sunday afternoon, it released us from rushing around preparing food and getting indigestion, giving more time for reflection on what was really important (don't worry though, if you are invited round for Sunday lunch, you won't get sandwiches – they are exceptions).

Regardless of what we may or may not abstain from, as we look towards Easter and beyond, may the life, Ministry and sacrifice of Jesus be real to each one of us as individuals and as a church looking to serve Christ and show his love to those in our community. Christ's love for us and the World was forged through his suffering as he experienced the same pain and sorrow that affects us personally and the World. We have two examples in the Gospels of him weeping - for the mourners at Lazarus' grave and the city of Jerusalem - but I guess there were many other times that he wept for the needs of those who reached out for his help and for those who passed by. Ultimately, his life was taken through pain and anguish on the cross for you and me, whether we recognise that or not, and his resurrection broke through the fear of death, giving us life in all its fullness. Christ did not promise his followers a pain free life, that would be too easy and stop us perhaps from empathising with the World, but what he does promise is his continual presence no matter what, and his ultimate victory over pain and sorrow.

As part of Lent, we are following a course to deepen our understanding of Poverty in this country and abroad and lead to action to help alleviate the suffering caused by Poverty in

people's lives. You are welcome to join us on Monday evenings at 7.30 pm in the church for these sessions which will finish on Monday 25th March.

When you receive this, Wayne Lawther will officially be Calne Baptist Church's Minister – Hooray! His first service with us on Sunday 3rd March will be our Covenant Service with Communion, followed by a shared lunch. We are thankful to God for this new beginning. God has taught us much over the months since Sam left and we look forward to what he has in store as we move forward. Please pray for Wayne and his family during this transition period.

We have been reminded by two of our Sunday morning Speakers recently of the importance of prayer both individually and corporately. This is something everyone can do so we do encourage you all to place Wayne, the Trustees, the 20/20 Vision group, Church plans and activities, the fellowship and the Calne Community before the throne of God, that His will be done and His Kingdom come.

20/20 Vision

Much is progressing behind the scenes and there are regular meetings with the Project Manager who has been very helpful. Please pray for wise decisions to be made with God focussed minds and for protection on all those involved. Also pray for Lindy, our Manse tenant who is due to leave in March, that she will find suitable alternative accommodation.

Regular activities during March

- Living Room - every Monday 10.30 am – 2.00 pm
- Coffee Morning - every Wednesday 10.30 am – 12 noon
- Evening Prayer - 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 6.00 pm.
- Lent Course - Every Monday evening at 7.30 pm at the church until 25th March.

March Dates for your information and for praye

- 3rd March - Covenant Service with Communion followed by shared lunch
- 10th March 3.00 pm - Joint Messy Church at Methodist Church
- 12th March - Deacon's meeting
- 24th March - Church AGM and Church meeting following morning service.
- 28th March 7.00 pm - Maundy Thursday – Communion Service
- 29th March 10.30 am - Good Friday Joint Service at **Methodist Church, Silver Street**
- 31st March 10.30 am - Easter Sunday 'Jesus is Risen, He is Risen indeed' All Age Service

Please continue to pray for all aspects of the work at CBC, we move forward under the banner of Christ.

“To you alone, O Lord, to you alone, and not to us, must glory be given because of your constant love and faithfulness.” Psalm 115:1