



Welcome to all the CBC Fellowship.

Here is the CBC Newsletter/diary for February 2025. If you have any comments or contributions, feel free to contact me,

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I have been trying to catch up in the garden – when weather permits. It's a time for clearing up, pruning and getting ready for seed sowing. January can seem to be a dead month but it is actually full of hope. Unseen, under the soil, growth is stirring, sap is rising and buds are breaking out. On walking through Castlefields today, clumps of snowdrops are defying the wet and cold and in sheltered parts of the garden, daffs are in bloom. So if January gets you down, take heart – Spring is approaching fast.

Sometimes in our lives, for many reasons, God may seem very distant. Perhaps illness, loss, work or World events can mar our experience of God, but he is still with us. When the Israelites at last reached the shores of the Jordan River for a second go at entering the land God had promised them 40 years before, their great leader Moses was dead and all could have seemed lost. Joshua was chosen by God to lead the people forward and it wasn't going to be an easy ride but Joshua took on the challenge, being reassured by God – “Strength, courage, don't be afraid, don't get discouraged, God, your God will be with you every step of the way” (Joshua 1:9 The Message). In many of the Psalms, the authors cry out to God in fear, frustration and even anger that things are not turning out well. God does not always resolve their problems but he does assure them that he is in it all with them and will provide an anchor in the storm. In the words of Matt Redmond – *“Oh no, you never let go in every calm and every storm, oh no, you never let go in every high and every low. Oh no, you never let go – Lord, you never let go of me”*.

It has been a blessing to welcome families to the monthly **Big Family Church**, many of whom come through the Toddler group. Thursday mornings are pretty full so Wayne would love to begin another Toddler group on Friday mornings. He will need a team of course to help so please speak to Wayne if you feel able to volunteer. Also, it looks like the Boys Brigade will be taking off on Thursday evenings before too long. Please pray for the way ahead with these two ventures. Wayne will be conducting a 10 week 'Freedom in Christ' course after the morning service in May – if you are interested, have a chat with him. There will be a **'Stay & Play'** session during half term on 20th February, 2.00 – 4.00 pm.

Praise God, we will be having three Baptisms on Sunday 9th February. We are delighted that John, Katie and Isibor have decided to take this next step on their Christian journey, no doubt it will be a really joyful occasion. Also, Katie's three children will be Dedicated at the **Big Family Church** this coming Sunday together with Ephraim so another reason to give thanks to God. The **BFC on Sunday will be preceded by a short 'traditional' service beginning at 10.15 am.**

The Annual General Meeting is on Sunday 16th March following the morning service with reports and the 2024 accounts for review as well as a Safeguarding update.

Deacons/Trustees can be appointed at the AGM – if you would like to nominate someone, forms are available from myself. Speak to one of the existing Deacons about the responsibilities of Deacons.

20/20 Vision – At the Church Meeting last Sunday, Terry explained the financial situation regarding the building plans. We have been truly blessed with the offer of so many gifts from the fellowship, enhanced by the amazing grant of £97,000 from the Benefact Charity. There is still a significant shortfall in funds in order to progress with the new build and further Grants are being applied for. At the March Church Meeting, we will review as to the way forward - we need to keep praying for God's direction and wisdom.

Tenants are now in the Manse, initially on a 6 month lease. We trust they will enjoy their time as our neighbours. **Can we remind you that they will need clear car access through the church car park at all times, please make sure you park sensibly with a clear space through the middle.** The 2025 World Day of Prayer in Calne is on Friday March 7th at St. Edmunds Church, 10.30 am. The theme is 'I made you wonderful', prepared by Christian Women from the Cook Islands. This is an opportunity to join with other churches in the town and unite with thousands across the World in prayer. All are welcome.

Did you know that Calne is a Fairtrade Town and CBC is a Fairtrade church? The Calne Fairtrade steering committee are a group seeking to promote the use of Fairtrade goods and organise Fairtrade events in town. We would love to have more people on the committee and in particular, younger members! Want to know more? – speak to Stan.

Continue to pray, as 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

Regular Activities

- Living Room** - Mondays 10.30am – 2.00pm.
- Coffee Morning** - Wednesdays 10.30am – 12noon.
- Toddler Group** - Thursdays 9.30am – 11.30am (Term Time only)
- Fitness Group** - Fridays 10am-11am
- Evening Prayer** - 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 6.00pm
- Big Family Church** - 1st Sunday of the month (short 'Traditional' service 10.15 am)

Future dates for your information and prayer

- February 2nd** - Dedication of Mia, George, Ivy, Ephraim at the BFC
- February 3rd** - 20/20 Vision group Meeting
- February 5th** - Deacons Meeting
- February 9th** - Baptism Service
- February 9th** - Messy Church, 3.00 at Methodist Church
- February 20th** - Stay & Play session, 2.00 – 4.00 pm.