

Calne Methodist Church Profile



Background

Calne is a market town with a population of approximately 20,000. The heritage quarter and older part of the town are surrounded by new housing developments with more planned. A large proportion of the working community commute to Lyneham, Chippenham, Swindon, Bath and even Reading and Bristol.

Calne Town website - <http://www.calne.gov.uk/default.aspx>

Calne Methodist Church is part of the Wiltshire United Area which brings together Methodist, URC and United Churches extending from Warminster in the south to Calne in the north east and Corsham in the north west.

Wiltshire United Area website - <http://www.wiltsunitedchurches.org.uk/>

Calne Methodist Church is located on the south side of the town and although the building dates from 1876, extensive refurbishments have been undertaken in the last 20 years creating a flexible area fit for both worship and outreach. We have 47 members and 26 adherents covering a wide age range. We serve Calne as well as Heddington, Hilmarton, Cherhill, Derry Hill and the surrounding villages. There is always a warm welcome and this is frequently commented upon by visitors and new members. Communication is very important to us, so that everyone is in touch even if they cannot come on a Sunday. We have an excellent pastoral system and the weekly notices and monthly newsletter are emailed far and wide as well as the hard copies which are also available.

We take an active part in the Calne Partnership of Churches, as well as hosting their Foodbank. Within the Wiltshire United Area our members include the current Area Treasurer and the Safeguarding Lead. We also had a URC minister for a number of years and this helped us to gain an insight into how others within our area worship.

The manse is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac within walking distance of the Church and the town centre. We are a Fair Trade Church and we have our own Church Website. <http://www.calnemethodist.org.uk/>



Summary

At Calne we have taken up the challenge of planning for growth with initiatives centred on our faith which we are seeking to extend along with our established activities. We are active in the community both as a Church and with the other Churches in the town. Groups who use the Church are supported by Church members and over time many have become Church members themselves.

Our worship generally follows a traditional Sunday morning style, but over the course of a year we use a variety of formats and are not afraid to try something new. Members of the Church are involved in not only Church management but in the Partnership of Churches and in the Wiltshire United Area. Our fundraising activities are both for ourselves and others, both locally and further afield.

We seek a minister who will lead us forward challenging us with new insights and supporting our vision.

Our Vision - Planning For Growth

We were challenged by the Methodist Conference to Plan for Growth or Closure and without hesitation we have planned for growth. In our first twelve months since creating this plan we have had a Prayer initiative which has developed into a vital part of our ongoing church life and worship. Another aspect we have initiated has been Bible Study led by our current minister and other members of the church. We are now planning to develop this further in the form of a Book Club over the coming months. Most recently we have had sessions based on the Fruitfulness on the Frontline material from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, which has helped us reflect on what it is to be a Christian in today's society.

We would like to find further ways of promoting what we have begun and to be able to explore ways of going out to those who do not choose to come to us.

Town Community Outreach

We have a long tradition of opening our Church to school groups especially at Advent.

As a church we are active in both the Calne Christmas and Summer Festivals showing our presence in the town centre. We also have a plant stall, at the Annual Calne Duck Race to which many people return year after year.

The Calne Partnership of Churches operates a simple Foodbank working with various agencies to help those in need in Calne and the surrounding area. As well as making donations to the Foodbank members at Calne Methodist Church play an active role in running it. The manager of the Foodbank who liaises with the agencies is a member and other members work in the storeroom which is at the Methodist church.



Fundraising Events

We are an outward looking church and seek to fundraise not only for ourselves but for other charities. Recently a musical concert and afternoon tea led by the SupaNova Ladies Choir which meets at our Church raised money for both the church and Wiltshire Mind. Our Youth Club hosted a Quiz to raise funds for one of our young people who is going to Nepal. Church Funds have been supported by talks given by a Friend of the Church. We have a Traidcraft stall and actively support All We Can and JMA. Members have hosted Macmillan Coffee Mornings and we donate to Action for Children through their boxes and a Garden Party hosted by one of our

members. Highly successful *Craft and Coffee Mornings* are run in the Church with many people coming to them who would not visit a church otherwise. We have a monthly Benevolent Fund collection to support those in our own community who are in need and we often donate the excess of this fund to charities who are currently in the news. Our *Coffee Bar* collections support a wide range of charities, and we have a monthly Benevolent Fund collection to support those in our own community who are in need."

Our Treasurer notes that - Along with many other churches, we have seen our financial reserves decline in recent years, but over the past year or so our freewill offering has increased significantly, so we are now once more running with a modest financial surplus. This has not been at the expense of our donations of around £2,000 a year to various good causes. In addition to regular donations to Action for Children and JMA, we pass on the money donated for teas and coffees after Sunday morning services and from concerts to various local charities, and a recent sponsored walk and shared meal raised over £500 for the World Mission Fund.



Fellowship

Women's Fellowship meet weekly to take part in Bible Study or a discussion. They also support the Women's World Day of Prayer.

Holiday at Home has been held on a number of occasions where those who do not get out very much are offered the opportunity to take part in musical activities, crafts, games and lunch.

The local Day Centre for those needing a meal and a chance to socialise meets on our premises once a week and members support the activities in which they take part.

SupaNova is a ladies choir that meets weekly in the church hall and is led by one of our members. This ever growing choir plays an active part in musical activities in the town.

Youth Club meets monthly with a small but dedicated group of young people and leaders.

Silver Street Band was set up in 2015 and has members both old and young who join in concerts and enrich our worship.

We have a weekly prayer lunch and a telephone prayer circle.

Wesley's Kitchen is a team who provide meals three or four times a year for the Church Family, also raising money for charity. These events are very well attended and enjoyed by all.

Worship

We are not afraid to try new things in our worship and enjoy a variety of styles including All Age Worship which we hold monthly and Café Style Worship. Our worship is enhanced through the use of drama, music and technology. There are currently around 30 people attending our worship each week. Although our numbers have declined in recent years we have also had a steady number of new members.



Our Young People's Church join us for the first part of our service and then have a lively session in the church hall using the Roots material as a basis for their sessions. On occasion they lead worship in church which is greatly enjoyed by all. At our monthly Communion Service the young people return to take part. We have eleven young people who could attend this session, but their numbers vary as a result of their other commitments. Our current minister has recently started a Youth Fellowship Group which meets once a month on a Sunday Evening and we pray that this will be something that can continue in the future.

We have two active Local Preachers, one "on note" and three worship leaders. We often have themed preaching for Advent, Christmas and Easter. We work hard to ensure that our worship is Christ centred, relevant, challenging and enjoyed by and participated in by everyone.

Our Church Choir is a small but active group who enhance our worship each Sunday. They are the core of the Area and Sector Choirs who have supported services across the Area.

We have a Messy Church which meets on a Sunday afternoon. This is made up of our Church based children and other families that have no other connection to us. This is an important part of our church life and one that we would seek to develop further in the future.

Church Management Structure

The Church Council meets once a quarter.

Our Stewards group meets every two months with the minister.

Our Annual Church Meeting is held in November, although we will hold additional meetings if they are called for.

The following groups report to the Church Council:

Finance Committee, Worship Consultation, Pastoral, Young People's Church, Silver Street Band, Youth Club, Church Choir, Stewards, Missions, Wesley's Kitchen and SupaNova.

Others support our Church Council without being members or adherents and we value their support as we increasingly find it hard to cover all the positions that need to be filled.

We have taken an active position on Safer Recruitment and have interviewed all those in positions of responsibility with young people and vulnerable adults. We are aware of our responsibilities for GDPR and Data protection.

The New Pastorate

We seek a Minister who will join us in our vision and who can bring new ideas and insights as well as a willingness to take part in our outreach activities and help us develop them further.

We recognise the demands on a Minister's time and feel that where we can make it possible our Minister should not be tied up in admin but be fully involved in the pastoral aspect and outreach of our work. We have a good team of visitors and would expect our Minister to be part of this team. This care also needs to extend to those who we meet in our outreach work.

We are looking for a Minister to lead us forward and for this we need a someone who has energy, insight and who wants to work with us as we continue our journey.