

## Calne Methodist Church Profile for 2025



### **A growing and active church with a warm welcome and a social conscience**

#### **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 being built and planned. A large proportion of the working community commute to Lyneham, Chippenham, Swindon, Bath and even Reading and Bristol.

Calne Town website - <https://www.calne.gov.uk/>

Calne Methodist Church is currently part of the Wiltshire United Area (which is in the process of becoming a Methodist Circuit and a URC Grouping) and brings together Methodist, URC and United Churches extending from Warminster in the south to Calne in the northeast and Corsham in the northwest.

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 were undertaken 24 years ago creating a flexible area for worship and outreach. We have 36 members and 15 adherents covering a wide age range. We serve Calne as well as Heddington, Hilmarton, Cherhill, Derry Hill and other surrounding villages. There is always a warm welcome which is frequently commented upon by visitors and new members. Communication is very important to us, so everyone is in touch even if they cannot come in person on a Sunday. We also zoom our services for those who cannot attend. 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 and host the partnership's Messy Church. Within the Wiltshire United Area we provide a valuable lay executive member who is the Safeguarding Officer as well as being the Staffing and Support lead.

We are a Fair-Trade Church, and have our own Church Website, <https://calnemethodist.ddns.net/>

#### **Church Management Structure**

The Church Council meets three times a year.

Our Stewards group meets every two months with the minister and reports to Church Council.

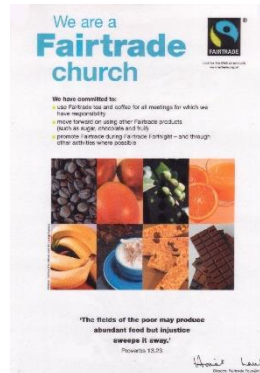
Our Annual Church Meeting is held in November, although we will hold additional meetings if they are called for.

The following groups meet and report to the Church Council:

Finance Committee, Property Group, Worship Consultation, Pastoral Leaders, 150-year anniversary group, Instrumental Wind Trio, Warm Spaces, Church Choir, Missions, Wesley's Kitchen, and SupaNova Ladies Choir. The minister is welcome to attend any of these meetings.

Currently, all church positions are filled.

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



### **Worship is central to all we do.**

Sunday morning services are at 10.30. Additional services are held at other times, including Communion once a month on Wednesdays, partnership services once a quarter in the evening. We share Christmas Eve and Good Friday services with our Baptist friends. We have a children's corner which is regularly used. There are currently over thirty people attending our worship each week, either in the building or online. Services are led by our minister, four of our own Local Preachers, preachers from the area and our team of Worship Leaders. There are various other activities which provided opportunities for us to try new things in our worship, and we have enjoyed a variety of styles including Taizé, Tenebrae and Café Style Worship. We hold an annual outdoor service in August. Our worship has been enhanced through the use of drama, music, and technology. We zoom our services and have wifi available throughout the church. Worship is coordinated by the Worship Consultation Group that meets quarterly.

### **Outreach**

We also host various activities which provided opportunities for fellowship, fun and for outreach to the local community:

A coffee morning is held weekly on a Tuesday. During the fuel crisis, we started a Warm Spaces group on a Wednesday from 10.00am till 4.00pm which has grown from strength to strength attracting on average thirty-five people a week. It now meets all year round providing free food and drink, signposting, a listening ear, and a place for people who are lonely to meet. Activities include: games, jigsaws, magazines and puzzles and a knit and natter group. It also hosts the church prayer group who meet weekly. Communion led by our minister is held and is open to all. Warm/Friendly Spaces is fully staffed with volunteers from the church.

We also host a weekly addiction group and provide a safe space for Family Conferencing when needed.

### **Music and drama are very important to our church way of life.**

Supa Nova, a lady's choir involving members of our church and the local community is led by one of our members and has actively taken part in many of our church events and services.

We have a small church choir that meet on a Friday evening. Calne Town Samba band rehearse here on a Wednesday evening, and we also provide rehearsal space for a local rock band, instrumental wind trio and a recorder group. We have regular events throughout the year including plays, musicals, concerts, poetry readings and talks.

### **Other activities**

Our Messy Church group meet on the second Sunday every month and attracts families with no church connections as well as church families from across Calne.

Our weekly prayer group meets on a Wednesday Lunch time.

We have a stall at community events in Calne (Carnival, Duck Race, Christmas lights) and our successful Coffee and Craft Fayres are held quarterly.

Food is also important to us. We have a small team of people who all have food handling certification. They co-ordinate and provide wonderful lunches on several Sundays across the year as well as catering for our events.

We have a good relationship with a local school who have joined us for a Christmas crafts session for many years. We now offer a Christingle themed session in January because of the busyness of the Christmas period.



### **Our Vision – Going Forward**

Early in 2020 and prior to the Covid Pandemic and lockdowns we decided to look at our mission and question the direction God wanted us to go in. This was prompted, in part, by a property review which identified work that needed to be done to the Church building. Lockdown and the moving of worship onto social media accelerated this thinking.

We agreed to use the Methodist Church Eight Step Process for Mission Planning. We decided on how to proceed, formed a mission working group who created a work and time schedule. We have completed a community audit and conducted a church review. This looked at what is possible and where the Holy Spirit is directing us.

It was clear from the consultation that there was a desire by the church family to engage with this process and reshape our vision for the future. The consultation documents describe a caring people. A community of faith who are resourceful, concerned about the community and wishing to engage with other churches and the wider community. It shows a church that is faithful to Jesus' commandment to love one another. It also shows that we are multi-faceted, value what we do for many reasons, and in the words of one contributor 'we are more than the sum of our parts.'

From this process we purchased new camera and media equipment to continue our online presence because this has been important to our congregation who, for whatever reason, cannot attend in person or live away. We have had people join our worship from Portugal, South Africa, and Australia as well as those who cannot attend for medical or other reasons. A large screen TV and projector is also used for presentations and downloadable media content.

The Going Forward process showed that we wanted to be more outward facing and engage our community. This happened through our warm/friendly space initiative and providing space for community groups who help others with addiction and family concerns. This Autumn we are engaged in an "exploring your faith" course which is open to all the community and will provide a gateway for new members.

We are currently planning for our 150-year anniversary in 2026. Plans include outreach, celebration, worship, growing our membership and improving the property to meet our needs.

## **The New Pastorate**

We seek a Minister who will join with us in our vision and direction, who will bring inspiration, leadership, and guidance and is not afraid to challenge us in an understanding and caring way.

The Minister would need to support our ecumenical work both in the new Circuit and URC Grouping and within the town where we have close relationships with other churches.

We wish to build on our worship in both scope and style. We hope our Minister would work with our worship leaders and stewards to achieve this.

Our pastoral care is strong and led by a church member. It also extends to those we meet in our outreach work. We keep our minister informed of all pastoral care needs and expect them to be involved when needed. Our future vision will be an exciting opportunity. We will look to our Minister to walk with us in pursuit of God's vision for Calne.