

## A Prayer for our Partnership

### Partnership Prayer

*Prepared around the Hymn "Lord of the years."*

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world where men disown and doubt you,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us-  
self on the cross, and Christ upon the throne,  
past put behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

**Heavenly Father, We thank you for your love that sought us and saved us, as congregations in Partnership, through Jesus and in the Power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Speak to our hearts and set our souls ablaze, so that we might, know more of you, learn more from you, and delight in sharing you, within and beyond our Partnership. Amen**



## The West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership



All Saints Lydiard Millicent



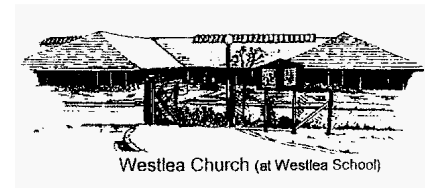
St. Mary's Lydiard Tregoze



Holy Trinity Shaw



Toothill Church



Westlea Church (at Westlea School)

**Annual Report of the Partnership  
for the year ending 31 December 2010**

## Values

We want to affirm a number of distinctive values, which we hold as being of particular importance for our Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP):

- We accept the Lordship of the risen Jesus Christ – alive still today.
- We are Bible-based – accepting Scripture's inspiration and authority.
- We are evangelical – in doctrine and its application to contemporary life.
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the ground of our salvation and model of our mission, inspiring us in service to a materially and spiritually needy world.
- We depend upon the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit – to renew us and impart charismatic gifts for healing, deliverance and other ministries.
- We are committed to a collaborative style of ministry – with all God's People.

## Covenant

We specifically commit ourselves:

- To seek prayerfully to understand more clearly the Vision of God and His calling to grow His kingdom here.
- To discover more from the Scriptures about the theological basis for our unity-in-mission, and its practical consequences.
- To conform ourselves to the values of Jesus, as enshrined in his teaching on discipleship and our 'Declaration of Intent'.
- To share together in missionary outreach to the people that God leads us into contact with through our daily lives.
- To serve all the people of West Swindon & the Lydiards with the same unconditional covenantal love that God has for them.

## Mission Statement

We affirm, together with Churches Together in England that our understanding of the practical outworking of our shared Mission is:

- To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom;
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;
- To respond to human need by loving service;
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society; and
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

## Partnership Office

Our Administrator Brenda Hicks has been with us since June 2008. She keeps the office clean and our work up to date. She has taken on ever more of the administration of weddings.

Dick Gray

## Wider Church

### Deanery Synod

Deanery synod meetings in the past year have brought people from churches in Swindon Deanery together to look at how churches in different communities can be established and grow. We have looked at how we welcome new people, courses on mission and evangelism and the new churches being planted at Pinehurst and Wichelstowe. Archdeacon Alan Hawker and Rural Dean Rob Burles will be missed but churches are looking positively at the changes the Diocesan strategy will bring.

Mary Poole

## Our Goals for 2011

Our Partnership Council has agreed the following goals for 2011:

- Continue our outreach to Children and Young people through our local churches and together via Messy Church and Emerge
- To develop ways to help lay members to contribute to the mission of the churches and Partnership
- To move to ensure our buildings support our Mission activities

### And finally...

We believe this Report gives a clear picture of the life of the West Swindon & the Lydiards Church Partnership, and the ways in which members of the Partnership Council have sought to fulfil the responsibility placed on them as Trustees. This report should also be read in conjunction with:

- The Consolidated accounts of the Partnership
- The Annual Accounts of the Partnership Council
- The Annual Reports & Accounts from each of our Local Churches

This composite Report and associated Accounts are prepared under the guidance of Charities Commission requirements and SORP 2005 recommended practice guidance.

This report will be posted at or below <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report/>  
**Partnership Website:** <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk>

mostly as a result of the regular partnership news being read online, or downloaded. Browse over to <http:WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/webbery> to see the usage graph.

## Buildings and Resources

### Church Buildings

The Partnership Council (PC) devolves the care and maintenance of our church buildings to the respective Local Church Councils whilst still being the legal body charged with their management. So, for example, applications for Faculties to allow work to be done in St Mary's, All Saints or Holy Trinity are brought to the PC/PCC before being sent to the Diocesan Office for approval; work at Toothill Church needs Methodist approval.

### Finance

The PC carries the responsibility of handling payments for:

- Our share of contributions to the Sponsoring Parent Bodies via: the Bristol Diocese, The Upper Thames Methodist Circuit, The West of England Baptist Association and the United Reformed Church. These payments contribute towards the cost of the full time stipendiary clergy and wider ministry.
- Ministerial and church fees for weddings and funerals
- Staff Expenses
- Salary for Partnership Administrator
- Stipend for a Baptist Minister
- Expenses incurred during a pastoral vacancy
- Support for Partnership-wide Youth work

More detailed information about Partnership Finances is in the Annual Accounts and Financial Statement.

For 2010 the Partnership made a significant loss that was greater than planned. The causes are shown in the accounts, but primarily related to the costs of recruiting a new minister, starting messy church, and larger than expected contributions to our denominations. However our churches have largely met the contributions requested; that is a significant step forward. For 2011 the budget is for a significant loss as churches are unable to meet the increased costs of running the Partnership. We cannot continue to run at a deficit as our reserves will be exhausted in 2 years and we shall be forced to reduce our activities. That means making staff redundant unless we are able to find additional income.

Dick Gray

## Organisation and Trustees

The Church Partnership comprises five churches:

**All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent**  
**Holy Trinity Church, Shaw**  
**St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze**  
**Toothill Church**  
**Westlea Church**

The Partnership is recognised by the Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church, and serves over 30,000 people living in West Swindon, The Lydiards and associated rural areas. It looks to the Swindon Churches Together as its Sponsoring Body for guidance and oversight.

**Our Bank Account** is with CafCash P.O. Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

**Our Independent Examiner** is Steve Fraser, Monahan's, 38 – 42 Newport Street, Swindon SN1 3DR.

The Ecumenical Staff Team of Ministers comprises those who have been duly authorised and appointed by the four participating denominations.

Team Vicar (Church of England)	<b>Revd Tudor Roberts</b>
United Reformed Church Minister	<b>Revd Dick Gray</b>
Baptist Minister	<b>Revd Anne Carter</b>
Team Minister (Church of England)	<b>Revd Clive Deverell</b>

Whilst the Revd Patricia Roberts is not formally a member of the Staff team, and does not wish to be so for the time being, it would be remiss to fail to recognise the very significant role that she played in supporting St Mary's and in putting together both a Baptism preparation policy and education session, and also the work that she does in relation to organisation of the Marriage Preparation course and the organisation of marriages in the Partnership.

## Committee Structure

The trustees are the members of the Partnership Council (PC) (Article 8 of the Constitution). Anglican Members also constitute the Parochial Church Council (PCC) when needed to conduct Anglican specific business. The members of the PC are the Partnership's Trustees for Charity Commission purposes.

### The Partnership Council

The Ecumenical Staff Team	<b>As above</b>	
Partnership Council Chair	<b>Revd Dick Gray</b>	
Partnership Council Vice Chair	<b>Lesley Franklin (until January 2011)</b> <b>Vacant</b>	
Churchwardens (All are ex-officio members Of the Partnership council)	<b>John Ridsdale</b> <b>Lesley Franklin (until January 2011)</b> <b>Debbie Fleet (until August 2010)</b> <b>Ginnie Heads</b> <b>Simon Belcher</b>	
Senior Steward	<b>Mark Dowling</b>	
Treasurer	<b>Revd Dick Gray</b>	
Secretary	<b>Lesley Franklin (until January 2011)</b>	
Elected Members	<b>Pat Watson</b> <b>Janet Clark</b> <b>Craig Tranfield</b>	<b>Peter Gilder</b> <b>Julie Scarisbrick</b> <b>Chris Scarisbrick</b> <b>Dave Carter</b> <b>Ruth Kiddle</b>
Co-opted members	<b>Mary Poole</b> <b>David Ratnam</b>	
Deanery Synod Representatives	<b>Mary Poole</b>	

(A) Appointed during year (R) Resigned during year

We are recognised by Churches Together in England as a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership. The PC is the main governance and representative body. Its main responsibilities are broadly grouped as Regulatory, Oversight and Governance. Other responsibilities are devolved to the Local Church Committees (LCC) / Leadership Teams - in the areas of Partnership, Ministry / Mission, Pastoral care and Leadership. A fuller description of the current functions of the PC, PCC and LCC's can be found in the Partnership Constitution (2006) and in draft Standing Orders.

School Governor involvement and relationships built with the building of a new school.

Tudor Roberts

## Mission Strategy/ Alpha

We continue to find that on the whole mission works better within our local communities. At Toothill the Community Café continues and a new addition to this in 2010 was the addition of Clivey Credit Union being available for an hour the same morning. A relatively small but faithful group of people are now saving on a regular basis and knowing that if a crisis occurs they will be able to borrow money should they need it.

At Easter the National Childbirth Trust, who had been using Toothill Church as a venue for a Toddler group suddenly closed and a group of mums approached us to partner with them to run a playgroup. With the help of a grant for £1200 from the Baptist Union they were able to buy equipment and open within weeks of the closure of the previous group. They now regularly get 18 children with their Mums or Dad's. Several members of the church help regularly with this, as does Doreen. We hope increasing links can be made with the church, as when several families came to Carols by Candlelight.

In Shaw a much valued group is Coffee Stop, who provide friendship and support for some who have no other connection with the church, but appreciate a place just to come and chat. It has resulted in firm friendships and much practical support when folk are ill.

Anne Carter

## Publicity and Communication

- We advertise monthly in the local Link Magazine, which includes information about our Partnership, the Office telephone number, web address and email address.
- We especially promote our major festivals of Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Cards are produced and delivered by some local churches. This year we produced joint information leaflets, through the Partnership Administrator. These show all the special Services and Events of this period.
- We also have our monthly magazine "In Partnership" which contains news of church and local events.
- Generally each local church is responsible for its own publicity – this is through their Monthly Magazines or Weekly Notice Sheets. Our web sites are becoming more comprehensive and traffic is building up,

## Common Events

This year we've had lots of opportunities to socialise across the partnership: music evenings, both gospel and the other sort, the Mix community festival, a "Songs of Praise" flower festival and summer fayre, a harvest festival of crafts and hobbies.

We've also held rather a splendid Lent course and a very successful peripatetic prayer day. (Well Clive's arrived, so it must have worked)

If there were any themes emerging this year, they are reducing numbers attending, and the understandable tendency for folk to support events run by or at their own local church, and not so well support events run by other churches. It's possible that our socialising and interest in events is primarily local. If this is the case we can rely on our Partnership Council to encourage such events, and our Partnership Council reps to challenge us (nag, even!) to step outside our local comfort zones.

Chris Scarisbrick

## Church & Schools

Links with local schools continue to grow, with increased connections with Brookfield and Shaw Ridge in particular this year, in addition to Toothill School and Oliver Tomkins. We (Dave and Anne – often with Rusty the puppet) took 25 assemblies, 4 visits of about an hour to explain aspects of our faith, or church life, led 2 services for Oliver Tomkins Infants, and made over 200 Christingles with younger children. It has been a real privilege to work in these settings and to see the interest shown by the children and staff. The wonder on their faces when you explain what a Christingle is all about and then light them, or when they connect with a story or song in Assembly is well worth the time and effort in keeping the connections open.

Anne Carter

Over the past year I have gone into Tregoze School, Peatmoor School, Lydiard Millicent C of E School, St Mary's Purton C of E School, and Oliver Tomkins Infants and Junior. The encouraging thing here in Lydiard Millicent has been the increase in RE lessons and visits to church which both Tricia and I do, and Heather Benn, Tricia and I being asked now to go in every week to Lydiard Millicent School, where in the last 7 months we have been assisted by Doreen. Links with Lydiard Millicent are also good because of

The PC met 3 times in 2010 January, May, and October in addition to the Annual General Meeting on 18 March. Main PC topics during the year were:

- Emerge take over from, Ncounter and transfer of Claire Camm to our staff team
- Income and expenditure; property refurbishments; review of budget planning process
- Youth activity reports
- Start up of Messy church
- The Anglican vacancy

The Standing Committee met 5 times in 2010, at intervals between PC meetings – to plan agendas and follow up on PC decisions.

Appointed Sub Groups handled specialist areas of work on behalf of the PC, and gave reports on progress. They included for 2010:

- Constitution Group (Update for new CTE Constitution and preparation for Charity Registration) – group meetings and development work
- Emerge Management team
- Staff consultative group

## Risks

The Partnership has a number of risks to its activities which have been assessed at either PC or Standing Committee levels. These include:

- ◆ Risk of financial commitment, particularly with 3 full time clergy. Reserves cover approx 6 month's stipend and expenses.
- ◆ Organisational risks due to limited deployment of Staff for a large part of the year, Limited resources available for work delegated to the Officers and the Standing Committee.
- ◆ Organisational and accountability risks relating to the Partnership's Policies and Procedures
- ◆ Structural risks due to the Partnership's Ecumenical nature, and membership trends in some churches

The PC considers that these risks have been mitigated to the best practicable extent. They are monitored within the Partnership's governance processes.

## Induction and Training of Trustees

There is at present no formal process for training of new or existing Trustees. However new PC members are made aware of their role and responsibilities, through discussion and briefing before and at meetings. Further attention will be given based on the provisions of the new Constitution. Arrangements will also be made in relation to the requirements for the Partnership's Charity Commission registration.

## Review of 2010 Goals/Tasks

### Equip and Encourage

Support, develop and affirm church members in their contribution to church and community life

Equip and encourage (with Tudor)

Early in the year we once again held a Lent course, which this time was lay led, travelling round the different venues and allowing those leading to choose a person to focus on but then lead in whatever style they wanted. It was sad that for some weeks attendance was low, but it's the nature of events that get added to an already busy schedule.

There have been a number of events and courses which have helped to equip and encourage the members and friends in our churches. For practical reasons many of these take place in the local congregations, but some have happened across the Partnership. Holy Trinity, Shaw and Toothill Church both had courses for developing our spiritual life and understanding of the Bible: Growing up in Christ was helpful to many, and was especially well received by Toothill. Old Testament challenge was part of the Sunday Morning teaching, and gave an overview of the Pentateuch - the first 5 books of the Bible, helping people discover some of the background to the life of Jesus.

At All Saints we have used both "Just Looking" and Alpha as ways of introducing people to the Christian Faith. Tricia has ensured that there is a good balance of Lay leadership in the course and people have grown in faith as they have helped lead specific parts of Alpha. In addition we continue to use Freedom in Christ, a 13 part discipleship course that like Alpha has an away day structured into its programme. The present Freedom in Christ Course is wholly lay led by those who have already done the course and the training on how to lead.

In preparing for a mission in May 2010 we used a variety of people from the Diocese of Bristol in pre mission training days. These helped people see evangelism as a task that we can all engage with by simply knowing our own personal faith story.

In a similar way we have put on each year a day in training for Healing Prayer ministry with people like Lin Button, Meadgate church and then this year Harnhill. These one off events often give people the encouragement they need in the ministry they are doing already in Church. Likewise taking people off to Children's Ministry or New Wine gives people opportunities to hear how others are doing stuff in their churches and receive good training as well. Most of our Children's workers have done the Diocesan KEY

### Child Protection

We've had no child protection issues this year. We've continued to look at bolstering our record keeping so that we can be sure not just that children have been protected, but also that we will be able to show that in decades to come. We have not finished this work, and are looking at how we can make the various records as secure as possible.

We continue to audit child protection in local churches. So far we have come across several different ways of doing things in detail; this is fine, because the systems seem to work. We will be making suggestions to share best practice. One task for next year is to make sure we have proper job descriptions for all existing roles, and documented appointment and regular review processes. Sounds dull, but its important to be able to show we do it right.

We have not run child protection training courses this year and are sourcing updated material which we think will be suitable for initial introductory training, and also refresher courses. We know there is a bit of a training backlog, though we have not infringed our policy yet. We intend to run weekday evening and weekend sessions shortly. Watch for dates.

Chris Scarisbrick

### Constitution & Charity

We need to register as a charity in our own right. At the moment our local churches can use a parent denomination to gain the advantages (Gift Aid text rebates). This cannot continue. We have written (and approved on 30 Jan 2011) a new constitution, which includes all of the legal stuff the Charity Commission wanted us to add. Our registration will take some time now the paperwork is complete, but I'm aiming to have it completed by our AGM in March 2011.

Our Partnership Council will become Trustees of the charity, therefore taking on a more formal and public role, they already had a legal responsibility for almost everything anyway. Please support your Partnership Council rep.

## Pastoral Care & Occasional Offices

### Marriage Preparation

Once again in 2010/2011 we held two Marriage Preparation Courses at Toothill Church. Although initially couples are a bit fearful of coming to these days we have found that almost universally they find them helpful and fun. Couples are invited to attend from across the Partnership, and we include St Mary's Purton & North Swindon. We very much value the support of couples from within the Partnership who give their time to host this event and to share some of their story - reflecting on what helps to build a good marriage (and we are looking for further contributions in the years to come if anyone is interested).

Tricia Roberts

### Baptism Preparation

Demand for infant baptism across the Partnership remains high and we have tried to find a way in which we can welcome families as they come to bring their children for baptism but at the same time take time to think about what the promises that they make in these services mean. The Baptism Preparation Course is an opportunity for families to reflect together on what it means to bring up their children in the faith. We try to offer hospitality and it is wonderful when members of the various churches give up time to look after children in the crèche or just to greet and mix with those who attend. This year we have had three or four courses and have struggled to keep up with the demand for baptisms. As we move into the New Year we are looking at ways of developing this ministry at All Saints and St Mary's especially.

Tricia Roberts

### Funerals

Overall, the number of Funerals conducted by the clergy at the Kingsdown Crematorium has remained low in 2010.

### Confirmation

We continued our collaboration with Purton on our joint Confirmation Services. These are held annually, with the most recent, in June 2009 being at Shaw. Sadly the planned Service in June 2010 was cancelled due to lack of candidates.

course for those working with children and young people and most felt this equipped them well for the tasks they do.

HTS have been developing a Pastoral Care group this year – valuing people's gifts and using them in a more structured way for the benefit of the whole community. As a follow up from this a Pastoral Skills course has begun which was opened up to any in the Partnership who wanted to come. There are 9 people currently doing this, from ASLM, TH and HTS.

Late in the year a group of folk attended a Faithworks seminar in Bristol considering the churches response to the Big Society. We look forward to thinking through the implications of what was learnt.

### Emerge 2010

Jan – Dec

The emerge project had face-to-face contact with 70+ (mainly unchurched) young people aged 11-16 each week, through: Remix youth club; After School Youth Cafes; TGIF discipleship group; school lunch clubs; special needs workshops; social events and Soul Survivor Trip.

Over the year we welcomed 40 new young people into the emerge project. 18 of these only stayed for a "season" but the 22 who remained (as well as the other 28 young people in the project) have become regular attendees and we have witnessed steady personal, social and spiritual growth amongst them. We welcomed 4 new volunteers in September, Doreen Mbabazi (gap year student), Tasha Robertson (drama volunteer), Imogen Kershaw (volunteer) and Marie Chorley (volunteer); saying "Thanks and Goodbye" to Nicki Badcock after 3 years service, as she left us to become a Mum.

The closure of the "Base" performing arts studio in May was disappointing but we gave thanks for the huge blessing of 3 years of regular groups held there with young people of all abilities learning new skills in dance, drama and singing, growing significantly in self- esteem and social and life skills.

All activities have been located at Holy Trinity Church, Shaw since from May 2010, when Claire also moved her office base there, coming under the employ of WSEP. A particular highlight of the year was our second "Mix" Community festival in May where 400 people attended, taking part in a wide variety of creative workshops and performances. The festival was a fantastic team effort this year with 30 young people taking on volunteering roles and all our five churches involved in supporting the festival and running activities.

The challenges for the future of the project are funding for the work and finding the “right person” to be our next gap year student.

Claire Camm

## Children in the Partnership

Other parts of this report have highlighted the work being done in/with Schools whether taking assemblies, taking lessons, hosting visits to the church buildings, acting as governors, running after school clubs and in numerous other ways. In addition to this there are the toddler groups which go under a number of names/titles, but in essence reach out to young children and their parents/carers at various times in the week.

And then there is the work done faithfully week by week with the children in the various churches on a Sunday Morning.

**All Saints** - All Saints have a regular group of around 20 children and young people each Sunday who attend J-Club (3-10yrs) and Ignite (11-15yrs) and also run a crèche for babies and toddlers. They are blessed to have a wonderful team of dedicated people to help run these groups who play, share, care, teach, worship and pray with the children, showing them God's love and protection.

**Holy Trinity Shaw** – found it necessary early last year to suspend Sunday School due to lack of numbers, but God.com continued to meet. Now as 2010 finishes and 2011 starts it has been possible to start Sunday School up again with a small number of children.

**Saint Mary's** - Junior Church continued to have good attendance by around a dozen children, in spite of a long period without a minister, thanks to the faithful input from the team of leaders and helpers. The age range of the children is wide and their backgrounds very varied, which makes for a challenging but very rich and enjoyable experience for all involved.

**Toothill** – for some time now there have not been any children of Sunday School age in Toothill, but over the last few months a small number of younger children have been coming, and the crèche area has been ‘reopened’. Over the coming year we hope this will continue to grow and become the foundation of a re-established work with the children.

**Westlea** – Attendance has been very good in both Sunday Club and Godzone (secondary school age) with 15 young people on the register. Our

## Chair of Partnership Council

2010 has been a challenging year for the Partnership but there have been some good things happening.

For me one of the key things for 2010 was the preparation for and appointment of our new Team Minister Clive Deverell. However due to earlier commitments I was unable to be at his licensing service. Tudor was also unable to attend due to have knee surgery performed and taking him out of commission for almost 2 months. We were extremely grateful to Revd Tricia Roberts who stepped in to keep All Saints going for that period.

I well remember a very windy day in May when we held the Mix Festival in and around Shaw church. It was well attended by the community, and I think an enjoyable day for all.

We also took over from Ncounter the emerge project and Claire Camm joined the staff of the Partnership and has, I think, had a very successful year supported by Ivyna and Doreen who have both contributed a great deal to our work.

We were able to get started with Messy Church meeting monthly at Holy Trinity Shaw. It got off to a slow start, but is now developing into an important aspect of mission for many. I would like to thank all those who have helped with running.

I was at the end of the year able to hand the Treasurer's role over to Sue Green. We also welcomed Tina Wheeler as treasurer of All Saints. Chris Scarisbrick has done a great deal of behind the scenes work to get our updated Constitution ready for registration with the Charity Commission. He also looks after our web site which is widely visited and used.

We said farewell to Lesley Franklin at the end of the year when they moved to Gloucestershire. Our thanks to both Lesley and Dave for all the work they have done in the Partnership and at St Mary's over the years they have lived in West Swindon.

Dick Gray

## Ecumenical team leader's report

There is not a great deal to add to what is above.

We have had a good year working together and it has been good to see Anne restored to full health and vigour enabling her to work at her usual pace, even if she does take on too many responsibilities in her life. It has been good to work with Tudor too, as I value his ideas and insights. We have very varied gifts and bringing them together gives us a richness that is a real blessing. We do not always agree on all matters but we have and continue to develop a respect for each other's points of view.

Dick Gray

Every Sunday there is a Partnership 8am Holy Communion at All Saints Church, which typically includes two Book of Common Prayer Services, one Free Church Service and one Common Worship Service each month.

Some Sunday evenings All Saints & St Mary's Church hold an Evening Service, typically taken from Book of Common Prayer, Songs of Praise, Partnership Communion and Evening Prayer. Both services have a regular and faithful congregation with attendees coming mainly from the host church.

Our main Services take place on a Sunday Morning with each of our Churches having a thriving and enthusiastic congregation, several with crèches, children's and young people groups also being provided. The communion services generally vary between Anglican order and a Free-Church style.

### **Joint Partnership Worship**

Several joint Services were organised again in 2010. The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Services have become a regular fixture now, and are supported by all churches. There is a question about having them on key Festival Sundays such as Pentecost or Advent. Occasionally these occur other than on a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday morning Services in 2010 were:

- 24<sup>th</sup> January Westlea
- 30<sup>th</sup> May St Mary's
- 29<sup>th</sup> August Toothill
- 31<sup>st</sup> October All Saints

The joint Services in 2010 were as follows:

- 17<sup>th</sup> February Ash Wednesday
- 4<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunrise
- 7<sup>th</sup> November Memorial service for bereaved
- 10<sup>th</sup> November St Mary's Clive's licensing

### **Partnership events**

We did not choose to organise too many joint events this year as the leadership team were feeling under significant stress. However those that we did organise were great.

- 18<sup>th</sup> March Annual meeting
- 15<sup>th</sup> May Mix Festival

Swop-over Sunday still proves very popular as the two groups join together in the school hall for their meeting. Many thanks to the great team that help run the all the children's work in our church.

We support a Toybox charity project and raised donations for it during Lent in 2010.

Dave Carter

### **Messy Church**

This time last year we were looking forward to the start of Messy Church. We didn't know what to expect, either in terms of attendance or outcome, but believed it was the right thing to do.

We meet at Holy Trinity Shaw on the second Sunday of each month (except August) at 4pm with a variety of craft activities related to the months theme. Then at about 4:45 we move into the worship area for a short time of celebration singing, stories, prayer which develops the theme and then have a light (cooked) meal together and finish notionally at about 5:30, although people rarely leave as soon as that!

Messy church does not aim to bring more people to our churches for the 'normal' services. It does aim to share the good news of Jesus in a variety of ways with those who might not otherwise hear it.

Over the months we have had a number of 'one-off' visitors, but have also been blessed with a number for whom MC is a real must in their monthly calendar. The children that have come have generally been a slightly lower age group than we anticipated but even that has changed a bit over the last couple of months. But it's not just about children – rather Messy Church is for families.

Finally (almost!), thanks to the fantastic team who help lead messy church each month – you have produced some remarkable craft and other activities, not to mention the food etc.

Please continue to pray for us each month as we reach out to those on the messy edge of the church.

Dave Carter

## Appointment of a new minister

Having determined in 2009 that there was a potential vacancy there seemed to be a hiatus in the early part of the year whilst the Diocese deliberated on whether we could have a minister as the Deanery had indicated.

The early part of the year was concerned with refining the vacancy profile to meet the needs of the Diocese and the Partnership. Finally in May we were allowed to advertise the vacancy which we did. The advert did not attract too many candidates, and although we invited 3, only 2 made it to the interview.

The Diocese was pleased to be able to invite Revd Clive Deverell to join the team as a team minister with oversight of St Mary's and with a role to encourage lay ministry within the Partnership.

Clive was duly licensed in November by the Bishop and took up his duties at St Mary's. The Partnership Council allowed Clive 6 months to spend getting to know St Mary's before getting too involved with the Partnership issues. These he will take up at Easter 2011.

Initial impressions are that we made a good choice.

Dick Gray

## The Christian Community and our Worship

### Membership

Membership of the Partnership is through the Local Churches, and each congregation is responsible for encouraging regular attendees into membership. Within our different church traditions there are slight differences in understanding of membership.

### Membership Summary

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
All Saints	114	120	123	126	123	118	116	118
St Mary's	59	73	69	76	80	87	98	104
Holy Trinity	38	40	42	37	37	55	57	57
Toothill	40	39	37	35	34	41	42	41
Westlea	27	28	25	25	25	24	25	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>296</b>	299	299	325	338	346

## Normal Sunday Attendance

Church	2010		2009		2008		2007		2006	
	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Adult	Child
All Saints	80	20	77	19	87	20	81	20	82	24
St Mary's	46	6	39	8	47	5	53	10	50	10
Holy Trinity	28	6	28	7	33	10	34	11	32	10
Toothill	29	7	36	6	40	10	23	4	26	8
Westlea	22	12	22	12	22	11	22	11	21	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>56</b>	213	56	211	65

## Ministry

In addition to Staff Team of Ministers, we are grateful to the following members of the Partnership who assist with the leading of worship in our churches:

Methodist Local Preachers	<b>Mr Mark Dowling</b> <b>Mrs Rachel Dowling</b> <b>Mr Gordon Partridge</b>
Anglican Reader	<b>Mrs Di Benbow</b>
Non-Stipendiary Ministers	<b>Revd Mike Dilly (Baptist)</b> <b>Revd Jan Partridge (Methodist retired)</b>
Other Groups	<b>Westlea Leadership Team</b> <b>Local Church Home Group</b> <b>Members</b>

There is also Team Toothill and Shaw's Worship Enabling Group who lead worship from time to time.

## Weekly Services

The worship rota is arranged across the Partnership. The Staff Team, Local Preachers and our Reader all lead services and preach not only in their 'home' church but also in the other partner churches and some lead worship in churches in the Methodist Circuit. The Methodist circuit also contributes worship leaders.