

Ecumenical team leader's report

We added Clive to our number towards the end of 2010 and he has become a valued and lively member of the team. We have shared a lot and held an away day which has enabled us to have time for deeper discussion than is normally possible.

We added Tricia to the team in October but she was almost immediately struck down by a virus that has left her much debilitated and unable to share as fully as we would like. We continue to pray for her restoration to full health and vigour.

We try to meet together weekly, although this is often not possible due to holidays and other commitments. We do not always agree on all matters but we have and continue to develop a respect for each other's points of view. It has proved almost impossible to draw together the wider staff team due to their commitments to family and work life.

Prayer for our Partnership

Almighty God,

We thank you for the freedom to come before you as one Partnership united in Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all five churches, that together we may proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, and bring about healing in your name. Unite us as one people, and equip us we pray, with all we need to become a mission shaped Church.

To Christ be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever Amen.



West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership



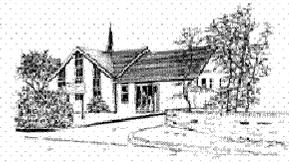
All Saints Lydiard Millicent



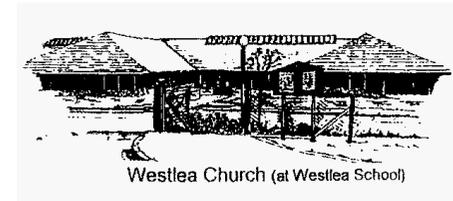
St. Mary's Lydiard Tregoze



Holy Trinity Shaw



Toothill Church



Westlea Church (at Westlea School)

**Annual Report of the Partnership
for the year ending 31 December 2011**

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work of many of our members in Governors of schools, although we would like to see more church people involved as foundation governors at our church schools.

We have followed through on development of lay people through bible study, theological education and house groups. I believe we have seen more engagement with the work of the Partnership council though there is still much more that we could do.

Changing older buildings to suit 21st century needs is never easy and always expensive. Resources have not been easy to find, but it is good to see potential renovation at St Mary's moving ever closer to action, and All Saints looking at ways to use modern technology in an older building. Toothill have fixed some of the fundamental problems with their building and are looking forward to further developments with visual aids. Holy Trinity have changed their entrance which is much better than the old access. They have many further plans but so far lack the resources to make them a reality.

Sue Green has taken over as Partnership Treasurer and Chris Scarisbrick has picked up the reins of Partnership Secretary which has to be fitted around his regular trips to far off parts of the world. I believe that the Council has become more cohesive and friendly and we have been able to conduct our business in a friendly and enjoyable manner whilst tackling some challenging issues.

We finally got the new Common Constitution approved at the start of the year and have now become a registered Charity. We dealt with the changes in Church of England Vicars to "Common Tenure", and considered the impact on Anne's ministry. After receiving input from her churches we have made Anne's appointment open ended, but with a regular 5 yearly review due to be held early in 2012.

We agreed after discussions with the Diocese and Tricia Roberts to license her to be a member of the staff team.

We held our AGM on a Saturday afternoon, but consensus was that this is not a good time, and the 2012 AGM will be held as part of our 5th Sunday worship at the end of April.

As I shall be retiring from ministry within the Partnership in 2013, it seems to me appropriate that I hand over to a new chair in 2012. I would like to thank those who have served on the Council for their energy and support during 2011.

workshops, Greenbelt for The Mix Festival and Npower, Methodist Church, the URC and Highworth United Reformed Church in particular for general youth work, as well as income from our churches and the young people. This money is then used to further the youth work in the area running youth clubs, The Mix Festival and the Crowdy's workshops covering salaries, expenses, running costs and equipment.

Our building funds, generated from grants, donations and fund-raising events, though consolidated into the partnership's accounts, are held and administered locally in each of the relevant churches. Responsibility for these funds is delegated to the individual churches' treasurers.

Issues and trends

The Partnership tries to ensure that it has general fund reserves of around 6 month's costs. To keep to this it has meant that cut backs have had to be made as the funds could not have coped with a large deficit again. Looking forwards the budget for 2012 has been set at a similar level to the 2011 budget, however the signs from the churches are that this may be very difficult to achieve.

Goals for 2012

Our Partnership Council propose the following (continuing, modified) goals for 2012:

- Reach out to Children and Young people through our local churches and together via Messy Church, Schools work and Emerge
- Develop ways to help lay members to contribute to the mission of the churches and Partnership
- Ensure that our buildings are adapted where possible to effectively support our Mission activities

Chair of Partnership Council

2011 has been a year of consolidation for the Partnership.

We have followed through on our goals for 2011 and have developed both Messy Church and Emerge, reaching out to and changing the lives of many children and young people. Messy Church is developing more slowly than we expected but we are seeing reasonable numbers. We also reach out to children and young people through work undertaken by ministers and others in schools assemblies and by

Charitable Objects

The purpose of our Partnership is to advance the Christian faith in West Swindon and the Lydiards in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches.

In achieving its purpose, the Partnership will engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):

- the celebration of public worship;
- the teaching of the Christian faith;
- mission and evangelism;
- pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved;
- the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs; and
- the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Goals for 2011

Our Partnership Council 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 ensure our buildings support our Mission activities

Administrative

West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership is registered in England as a charity. Charity Reg no; 1141341

West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership is a registered data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. Our registration number is Z2669468,

The Partnership is now registered to claim gift aid so if individuals want to give direct to either the general fund or to the work of Emerge, this can now be done tax efficiently.

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.

Credits

This report is produced by Claire Camm, Anne Carter, Dave Carter, Clive Deverell, Paul Gardner, Dick Gray, Janet Gray, Sue Green, Brenda Hicks, Gordon Partridge, Jan Partridge, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, David Ratnam, Tudor Roberts, Chris Scarisbrick, Julie Scarisbrick, Craig Tranfield, Pat Watson, and Julian Wright, on behalf of the Partnership Council and Trustees, in accordance with the Charities Statement Of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 (as updated 2008).

Responsibility for the contents is with the Partnership Council.

Church. They will be publishing a Mission statement at the their Annual Church Meeting.

In the meantime these things have helped mission happen;

- God stuff club at Lydiard Millicent School on Wednesday lunch times.
- One off Doug Horley Praise Party.
- Light Party in October where many parents and children from LM School came along.
- Real focus on getting Christmas publicity done well and out early.
- Great Christingle service
- Running Alpha every autumn.
- People going off to Children's Ministry New Wine and Spring Harvest and Green belt where they get fired up and encouraged.
- Appointing a Pastoral visitor because good pastoral work feeds through to good mission.
- Running regular Baptism preparation sessions for the whole Partnership where parents can be informed and ask questions.
- Puppets Alive meets every two weeks involving people from 2 churches in the team. This year 9 people went to the European Puppet Festival in Reading getting good training on all areas of Puppet ministry.

Regular Resources

The Partnership's main source of income is the share from the churches; this was lower than had been budgeted for but not as low as had been feared. We also received some "back" share from HTS from previous years and the usual money from office use and weddings and funerals fees. Most of the fees income is then passed back out to the diocese or clergy, organist, vergers, clerks and the churches for the use of the building. Only a small amount is kept to cover travel expenses. The office income covers office supplies and photocopying costs etc.

The Partnership's main expenditure is the contributions to the parent bodies that support & pay some of the clergy, salaries of our Baptist Minister and administrator and staff expenses. This is where the bulk of our charitable aims are met, however an increasing amount is done by volunteers which is not financially quantifiable. A small amount is then left for manse costs, general partnership expenses including children's & youth work. Some savings were made on some of these smaller costs but we were not able to give the Diocese as much contribution as we should have as we didn't have the income to cover it.

Grant funding

The Partnership also looks after Emerge's finances in a restricted fund. They received grants from Swindon Borough Council and Zurich for Crowdy's

In Partnership

Our monthly magazine “In Partnership” contains news of church and local events and has information and news from the wider church. It is currently produced 11 times each year and is published both as a paper magazine and is always available on the Partnership web site.

Dick will be giving up as editor some time in 2012 and Brenda will be taking over as editor.

Mission and Evangelism

For the most part each church is involved with mission and evangelism in their own communities as despite the relatively close geographical proximity, both the churches and the communities are very different in each area.

Messy Church and Emerge are obviously part of our mission and evangelism but are reported elsewhere.

For many, Christmas is an important time to connect with our communities and we have seen good numbers at our special services over this period. Shaw added a Christmas Eve Crib Service this year which attracted families from local schools. Coffee Stop on Tuesday afternoons also welcomes in those who would like some company and cake for an hour or two and numbers for this have crept up to around a dozen, which is probably at capacity for the style of group it is.

Toothill Tinies continues to thrive with an average of 18-20 carers and 20-28 children each week. Sadly the Community Café have decided to return to the Community Centre from the beginning of 2012, but we have had 3 ½ years of close association with them and their customers.

Parade services at Toothill also give us good connections with families in the community, sometimes more than tripling our congregation.

Shaw and All Saints both hosted Light Parties around Halloween. There have been a variety of other social events to connect with our communities. Following on from our Pentecost Mission that we did two years ago we have continued monthly coffee mornings around the community. These are a great way for people who we are getting to know and “regulars” can meet. It’s easy to do friendly “fringe” mission.

Following on from All Saints Nympsfield weekend in May 2011 they have thought a lot as a church about their values and what they do “inside” and “outside” the

Organisation

The Church Partnership comprises five churches:
All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent (ASLM)
Holy Trinity Church, Shaw (HTS)
St Mary’s Church, Lydiard Tregoze (SMLT)
Toothill Church
Westlea Church

The Partnership is recognised by the Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church (URC), 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.

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)	Revd Tudor Roberts
United Reformed Church Minister	Revd Dick Gray
Baptist Minister	Revd Anne Carter
Team Minister (Church of England)	Revd Clive Deverell
Associate Team Minister (Church of England)	Revd Patricia Roberts

Whilst the Revd Patricia Roberts is now formally a member of the Staff team, she has been hit with an illness that has prevented her from taking on much activity within the partnership.

Trustees

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 Partnership Council (PC)

The members of the Partnership Council who are willing and able to serve as trustees are the officers of the Partnership.

The Ecumenical Staff Team	As above	
Partnership Council Chair	Revd Dick Gray	
Partnership Council Vice Chair	Lesley Franklin (R) Now Vacant	
Churchwardens (ex-officio members of the PCC co-opted to PC)	Craig Tranfield Simon Belcher	
Senior Steward	Mark Dowling	
Treasurer	Sue Green	
Secretary	Chris Scarisbrick	
Elected Members	Pat Watson Janet Clark Craig Tranfield	Peter Gilder Julie Scarisbrick Chris Scarisbrick Dave Carter Ruth Kiddle (R)
Other co-opted members	Mary Poole (Deanery Synod) David Ratnam (Diocesan Synod)	

(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, Ministry / Mission, Pastoral care and local Leadership, are delegated to the Local Church Committees (LCC) / Leadership Teams. A fuller description of the current functions of the PC, PCC and LCC's can be found in the Partnership Constitution (2011) and in draft Standing Orders.

The PC met 4 times in 2011 January, April, July, and October in addition to the Annual General Meeting on 19 March. Main PC topics during the year were:

- Emerge development and appointment of Imogen Kershaw
- Income and expenditure; property refurbishments; review of budget planning process
- Continuation of Anne Carter's Ministry and conversion to open ended employment status
- Youth activity reports
- Messy church
- Building developments

Most baptisms at All Saints take place within the main morning service and at St Mary's in separate services just for baptisms. Such services also take place at Toothill and Shaw when requested.

There was a baptism by immersion at All Saints Church by Anne Carter as part of the Confirmation service as well as at Toothill during the year.

Marriage Preparation

Marriage and wedding preparation takes place yearly at Toothill Church with participation for all the clergy in the team and other helpers. All couples getting married across the Partnership and in Purton get sent an invite. Last year we did two sessions, on Wednesdays and at the weekend. Material covered includes relationship, communication and finance as well as looking at the marriage service itself. There is a mixture of teaching and participation and testimony from people in the partnership. As with at the baptism preparation good refreshments help the event go well, and the feedback we get back is positive.

Most clergy do individual interviews with each couple as well as this course so I think we can say that couples seeking a wedding in this partnership are well prepared.

Partnership Office, Newsletter

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. She is now active in preparing service sheets for several churches and printing the church and partnership magazines.

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.
- 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, 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.

- 21st October Youth & Children's Work training day

Local Church activities

There is much more that happens in each of our local churches. Their local activities are well described in their local Annual Reports, copies of which can be obtained from the Partnership Office.

Occasional Offices

All Saints saw a reduction, to 7, in the number of weddings it took last year, and at the time of writing a small rise for the coming year. There were 2 services of Thanksgiving for many years of marriage. At St Mary's we had 21 Weddings of which 4 were remarriages of one individual within the relationship. It is always a joy to take a church wedding and the feedback we get is very positive.

Funerals at Church have slightly increased in number (7) but the number of people requesting a clergy person to take a crematorium funeral has dramatically decreased. Those there were surprisingly mainly pre-retirement. We have worked hard at follow up and one widower and his sons now regularly attend.

Feedback at Deanery level suggest the reduction is universal and that a secular funeral arranger in Swindon who can still do "religious" services but charges less than the clergy is doing a lot of the services.

At All Saints, Baptisms have increased in number (to 10) and are always high at St Marys Church with over forty this year. (See Baptism Preparation). We had a wonderful Partnership confirmation service last year at All Saints with candidates from across the Partnership and Purton. Two candidates from All Saints and 9 from St Marys were prepared centrally.

Baptism Preparation

All Saints Church has continued to prepare and organise baptism courses about every 3 months, to which St Mary's church also sends parents seeking baptism for their children.

The course material, written by Tricia Roberts, takes participants through why they are getting their children baptised, and also explains what a thanksgiving service is as well as a dedication service. With a crèche full refreshments and a band of helpers the morning soon goes by. Everybody gets a course pack with all the written material, and there is ample opportunity for participation. At each session we have adults talk about their experience of bringing children for baptism, or their reasons for delaying this until the child is ready and having a service of dedication.

The Standing Committee met 5 times in 2011, 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 2011:

- Emerge Management team

Risks

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

- ◆ Risk of financial commitment, particularly with 3 full time clergy. Reserves cover approx 6 month's stipends 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.

External Representation

Swindon Churches Together

At present there is no formal representative of the Partnership designated for Swindon Churches Together (SCT). However, Dick Gray is on SCT as the URC representative.

Anglican Deanery and Diocese

The Swindon Deanery has met 3 times in the last year. These meetings are a mix of information sharing often with outside speakers, discussion in small groups and deanery business. Attendance is good and all the parishes in the Deanery send at least one representative. It is stimulating to hear about new initiatives and the challenges churches face, many of these are not so different from our own. In

discussion times others have liked hearing about the Partnership youth work and want to encourage us to see it continue.

For 2012 the Swindon Deanery will be concentrating on developing our Diocesan Strategy 'Releasing the Energy':

- The Growth Programme – commitment, influence, partnership and numbers
- Good Leadership
- Generous giving
- Ministry teams and deployment

'We are the Diocese, we are the Deanery' – building trust, friendship and prayer together as partners in mission.

The Diocese of Bristol is committed to the growth of the Church and the Kingdom of God. As such, it is seeking to encourage its parishes and ministers as they play their part in God's mission. That encouragement takes a number of forms.

As an ecumenical partnership, West Swindon and the Lydiards has developed a particular relationship with Revd Chris Dobson, the Diocese's Ecumenical and Global Partnership Officer. Chris has come to the Partnership several times in 2011, working closely with the ministry team and leading a retreat for All Saints Lydiard Millicent exploring the church's vision for growth.

Not only is it through the Diocese that stipendiary clergy like Clive Deverell and Tudor Roberts receive stipends but it maintains and improves the homes in which they live. In 2011 the Diocese completed a five year programme of upgrading for all clergy housing, including Lydiard Millicent Vicarage. However, maintenance and upgrading is ongoing and in 2011, £30,000 was spent on the two properties in the Partnership.

More and more of the clergy that the Diocese supports are unpaid. Revd Tricia Roberts was licensed to the staff team as a self-supporting Associate Minister in June 2011. Bishop Lee, Acting Area Dean, Canon Michael Johnson and Chris Dobson worked with the Partnership to ensure she was integrated into it and was properly resourced.

Training and development is an important part of the support offered to all ministers. For example, in 2011 Revd Tudor Roberts participated in Voyage, a nine month pilot of a leadership development programme that the Diocese is offering. He also attended the "Leading your Church into Growth" conference.

Finally, the Diocesan Board of Education is working to support almost 50 church schools across the Diocese. In autumn 2011, an extension to Lydiard Millicent

Normal Sunday Attendance

	2011		2010		2009		2008		2007	
Church	Adult	Child								
All Saints	78	20	80	20	77	19	87	20	81	20
St Mary's	71	15	46	6	39	8	47	5	53	10
Holy Trinity	26	5	28	6	28	7	33	10	34	11
Toothill	31	5	29	7	36	6	40	10	23	4
Westlea	23	11	22	12	22	12	22	11	22	11
Total	229	56	205	51	202	52	229	56	213	56

Joint Partnership Worship

Several joint Services were organised again in 2011. The 5th 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 5th Sunday.

The 5th Sunday morning Services in 2011 were:

- 30th January
- 29th May
- 31st July
- 30th October

The joint Services in 2011 were as follows:

- Ash Wednesday
- Easter Sunrise
- 8th June confirmation service
- 5th November Memorial service for bereaved

Partnership events

As we engaged on several fronts with our buildings we limited our activities this year. However those that we did organise were great.

- 26th March Annual meeting
- 21st May Mix Festival
- 14th October Duggie Dug Dug praise party

Ministry and weekly services

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	Mr Mark Dowling Mrs Rachel Dowling Mr Gordon Partridge
Anglican Reader	Mrs Di Benbow
Non-Stipendiary Ministers	Revd Mike Dilly (Baptist) Revd Jan Partridge (Methodist retired)
Other Groups	All Saints All Age Worship Team St Mary's Worship team Holy Trinity Shaw Worship team Westlea Leadership Team Local Church Home Group Members St Mary's Ukulele ladies All Saints Puppets alive

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.

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.

Primary School was completed, made possible by increasing the amount of Glebe land leased to the Local Authority.

In terms of benefits of the Diocese to a cross denominational group, the Diocese put in over £100k in direct costs (clergy stipends and housing) and gave access to a wide range of resources to the Anglican leadership in the Partnership by way of leadership training, mission support, ministerial support and community links with local primary schools.

On a local political and community scale, the Swindon Church Audit, led by Bishop Lee, revealed over £6m worth of voluntary effort by church members in the borough and Church leaders have been using that as leverage in Local Authority and media. Bishop Mike sits in the House of Lords.

Baptist Area

Anne continues to meet with the 'Swindon Cluster' of Baptist Ministers bi-monthly, and also with a group of women ministers from West of England Baptist Association (WEBA) and a bit wider afield in Bristol a couple of times a year. Occasions such as these provide opportunity to share concerns and joys, and to gain fresh insight and inspiration. WEBA also run the Partnership payroll for Anne and Brenda. The Baptist Union is a good resource for a practical and legal matters as well as offering some financial support towards ongoing ministerial training and development.

Methodist Circuit

As part of the Upper Thames Circuit we have a place on the quarterly Circuit Meeting. Ron Brock has been one of our representatives for many years. Jan is a member as a minister, and Gordon as Treasurer of Toothill Church. Each of the Partnership churches could send a representative

The Upper Thames Circuit is also part of the Great Western Federation (this includes the Chippenham Circuit and the Swindon and Marlborough Circuit) which tries to co-ordinate mission activities and other things which are better when done together, such as supporting a person to co-ordinate the Churches Action on Poverty in the area. The Declaration of Intent has been to all the churches in the Partnership now, and has travelled to every church in the Federation's area over the last 2 years; whilst this has been fraught with some difficulty it has raised the awareness of the Federation to all the congregations.

There have been several attempts to set up meetings between the Circuit Staff and the Partnership Staff in order to strengthen the relationships, but this has, so far, not been possible. As part of the Circuit we are able to use the clergy and Local Preachers in our pulpits, this is usually at a minimum 'to fill in the gaps' it would be good to invite the Circuit Superintendent to our churches. When local

preachers are in our churches they are usually very much appreciated by the congregations.

We also have the training facilities for Local preachers and for Worship Leaders. There are also other training facilities available in the Bristol District, such 'Safe from Harm' and for leaders of youth work.

The Methodist District and the Circuit together with the URC Area and Anglican diocese financially support the Willows Counselling Service, as do several of our churches and the services of the Willows is there for everyone to access.

URC

We have a non Stipendiary Minister in Dick Gray. We can also tap into all trainings offered by URC. In the past year that has included a day on Evangelism led by Paul Stokes, and Tudor went to an assertiveness training run nationally. We have been in contact over various matters with Jan Murphy our Youth and Children's development officer and Westlea is looking at working with her over the "Child Friendly Church" award.

Dave Hoar has just started second year of the URC "Training for Learning and Serving" Foundation Course.

Westlea took part in the URC's "Growing Healthy Churches" programme and completed the Church Health Check, where it looked at the vision and mission of the church and reflected on what it does and what it could do.

Through Janet Gray as URC Synod Pastoral Adviser the partnership is in contact with our ecumenical partners through such organisations as Swindon Churches Together. Dick Gray is also the local Ecumenical Officer for the URC. Between us we have a wide contact base both within the URC and ecumenically both locally and at a higher level.

Schools Links

As a Partnership we are now in regular contact with at least 8 schools for assemblies, lessons, visits to churches and occasional services. It is a delight to have so much contact and now we want to see more people from our churches involved in this work.

Ed Koppoe from Toothill co-leads an after-school club at Oliver Tomkins Infants. Children from Brookfield and Toothill also make Christingles at Christmas and then enjoy an act of worship with the candles (glow sticks!) lit. The opportunities are amazing and we are blessed by contact with the schools, and their staff too.

Claire Camm has continued to offer and provide training events which were well supported. A good percentage of those leading youth and children's work at St Mary's attend the October day.

Our Lent course Rich Inheritance, was predominantly lay led.

We will continue to encourage people to accept, give thanks for, grow and use the gifts God has given them as endeavour to build the kingdom of God.

The Community

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

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
All Saints	116	114	120	123	126	123	118	116
St Mary's	70	59	73	69	76	80	87	98
Holy Trinity	42	38	40	42	37	37	55	57
Toothill	42	40	39	37	35	34	41	42
Westlea	26	27	28	25	25	25	24	25
Total	296	278	300	296	299	299	325	338

junior church worked very hard to present the Nativity to the congregation. Once again we raised funds for the Toybox charity during lent. A big thank you is due to the all the wonderful folk who lead the children's work in Westlea Church.

Lay development

Lay development is not and will never be always centrally organised, most takes place within our Churches subtly, for instance the Alpha Course at All Saints had a great deal of Lay leadership people being given the opportunity to grow and develop their leadership skills. Many people have the opportunity to lead home groups, prayer groups, committees and serve on leadership teams. From the training of how to administer Communion at St Mary's to our ever growing musical groups, lay development is taking place.

At All Saints we ran the first part of the Theological course from St Pauls Onslow Square in the Summer term of 2011 with people learning about Eschatology, the work of Christ and the nature of God. It is hoped to repeat this with greater participation across the Partnership and the launching of track two which will be on the Bible.

Considerable work has been done to encourage Home Groups. In autumn 2011 all ASLM groups did a joint study on Colossians and a number of people joined home groups as a result of this focus time. There are now home groups meeting on nearly every day in the week and the Men's group on Saturday continues to give opportunity for guys to get together and study the Bible and pray for each other.

All the Ministry teams at All saints continue to function very well and are a vehicle for equipping and encouraging, e.g.:

- Worship and Music Team have gone to Trinity Cheltenham for training on worship.
- Children's and Youth ministry team regularly meet and go to training events.
- The Pastoral Care team meet regularly and they have plans for a New Wine Training day in the autumn of 2012.

This year began with the Pastoral Course led by Anne and myself, and was greatly appreciated by all those who attended and Sue Jones has taken up her role at All Saints with Gusto and I know other teams continue to benefit from the training.

Heather Benn, Tudor and Tricia Roberts plus the God Stuff team lead assemblies and offer Religious Education (RE) lessons regularly into Lydiard Millicent School. The God Stuff lunch time clubs are great and are building relationships and giving children a chance to discover about God in a relaxed and fun setting. Tudor and Heather have done assemblies at Peatmoor, and recently Tudor has gone in with two All Saints Church parents of children at Shaw Ridge School who want to begin doing assembly work.

Clive, as a governor of Oliver Tomkins, has been into School regularly, also conducting assemblies there. In addition he has conducted school assemblies at Tregoze, and Shaw Ridge. We regularly receive School visits and have developed a growing link with the music and drama departments at Lydiard Park Academy. The Nativity Festival gave us an opportunity to involve schools in a new way; the displays in St Mary's were amazing.

Foundation Governors, Lydiard Millicent

The foundation governors for Lydiard Millicent Church of England School are Debbie Butler, Sharon Thomas, and Tudor Roberts.

The school recently received an outstanding SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) report for the Diocese of Bristol, reflecting the way in which the Christian ethos of the school is maintained and new ventures have been forged between church and School. With a new School building opened by the Bishop of Swindon the school is going from strength to strength. Teaching of RE at the school is of a high standard and all the foundation governors are involved with monitoring this. There is very good co-operation between church and school with assemblies in school, and RE visits in Church with Tricia Roberts doing a lot of these sessions when the children come to visit All Saints.

Foundation Governors, Oliver Tomkins

Sue Green
Clive Deverell
Nigel Howarth
Nicola Cole
Dorothy Beck
Peter Firth
Donna Bloomfield
John Maxwell

Child Protection

We have had just one incident or concern about protecting children this year. This was adequately dealt with at the time. The incident is well documented and

confidential. No further actions were required as a result. We have received new Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks on 12 people during the year (plus some renewals), and have in total 65 CRB-checked volunteers working regularly with children. During the year we have had a couple of opportunities for people to train or be retrained in child protection.

We are working on a policy for protection of Vulnerable Adults, which we hope will be approved and implemented during 2012.

All Saints - With thanks to the commitment, energy and enthusiasm of a wonderful team, it has been another great year for our children and young people, with all age groups being catered for during our Sunday morning service. We have good links with our local school including regular assemblies, a lunchtime God Stuff club, community pack and wrap for Operation Christmas Child, a Duggie Dug Dug Praise Party and a Christmas experience trail. We have now begun the process of allowing children to take Holy Communion which is on-going. Also, we have joined the Swindon Churches Youth Work Charter which demonstrates our commitment to continually care for and disciple children and young people and explore ways of involving them fully in the life of All Saints.

Holy Trinity Shaw – Sunday school was restarted during the past year. We have a small but enthusiastic group of 4 children. We have studied stories from Matthew's gospel and the Lord's Prayer using a combination of drama, craft and games. We are planning to follow the Biblefresh E100 Challenge topics as used in the morning services.

Saint Mary's - It has been a landmark year for us as we have seen the realisation of a long held dream to be able to run a separate group for our secondary-school-aged children thanks to Doreen Mbabazi and now Imogen Kershaw coming to strengthen our dedicated leadership team. Our Youth Group meets monthly on Sunday mornings, complementing our general Junior Church sessions, which number over a dozen children altogether. Junior Church continues to be a very active, valued and integral part of the whole fellowship.

Toothill – Children attending church last year had been sporadic. The numbers vary from none to about 4. Members of the church are available on a rota basis each Sunday to provide for those that come. As their ages increase from 'crèche' upwards we see this becoming a more regular provision.

It's a different story with Toothill Tinies (Thursdays) where numbers continue to grow with new mums and babies joining. The highest number of children that attended was 28. This was very encouraging and the comments that came from mums were very favourable. They found the church very welcoming, safe and spacious for the children to play. They also appreciated the support given by the church team.

Westlea – Once again attendance has been good across the all age ranges and we have 18 young people on our register. This year we had a record 5 youngsters move up from Sunday Club to Godzone and have had to look at distribution of staff to meet adult to children ratios. One of the older members of Godzone adapted a Christmas storybook to become our Nativity script and all the

financial targets, however, and donations came from a mixture of local corporate and statutory sources, national church bodies, partnership churches, church members and parents. The proportions given by each is roughly the same as the previous year and we give thanks for the fact that local companies greatly appreciate the value of the youth work we are providing for the community; without their funding we could not afford to run the project.

Messy Church

Messy Church continues to 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 which includes singing, stories and prayer to develop 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 Messy Church is a real must in their monthly calendar with some managing 9 out of the 11 possible attendances. The age range of the children has been higher than the previous year which has been good, and although guest numbers were a bit low through the summer and early autumn there was an encouraging increase in November and December – we wait with anticipation to see how that develops this year. 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.

Children's work across 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.

Ensure our buildings support our mission activities.

Holy Trinity, Shaw

After gaining permission a number of improvements have been made. It was therefore with great excitement that we received from the builder the completion of our new entrance. Users are no longer confronted by a large concrete wall but a lobby with accessible light switches! We have also wired the light switches for the hall into it rather than a corridor away. It may sound trivial but makes the building so much more usable. Furthermore, it is no longer a grubby shell of a building as we have taken on commercial cleaners so we now have a fresh image to our local community.

Unfortunately, due to other calls upon the finances we have been unable to afford the modifications to make one end suitable for use by vulnerable people but have made grant requests and await their outcome.

Toothill

In 2010 we set out our vision for changes to our building which would make it a clearer representation of what it says about God, our relationship with him, and our relationship with our community.

After setting our goals that original document concluded "It would be easy to be overwhelmed by the size of the task and downcast at our lack of resource... Yet Anne constantly reminds us we are not dependant on our own resource, and encourages us to have a big vision for we have a great big God. She constantly challenges us to let God's will be done, not ours; constantly reminds us that all things are possible in God".

This last year and a bit (2011) has been proof of that! God has richly blessed us and we have already achieved far more than we could ever have imagined. We have done so much that says God is special, both awesome and intimate; that God loves, invites, and welcomes all people, to both worship and fellowship; so much that says we do too. We thank God for that! The list below includes some of the things we have achieved in making our building more accessible, usable, comfortable, warm and effective.

- Major floor repairs
- New carpet to the sanctuary area
- Rearrange the sanctuary furniture
- Rearrange ancillary rooms to provide more storage space
- Replace some of the old banners with new ones and clean the others
- Raise the cross and install backlighting to it
- Install a new projection screen at a new location

- Provide 40 new upholstered and cushioned chairs (10 with arms)
- Provide new equipment for small children

As we enter 2012 we are just about to install a new data projector and have plans to provide the necessary computer to enable us to project song words, readings and more each week to enhance our worship together. Yes there is more to do, but if last year is anything to go by 2012 promises to be very exciting. Praise God!

All Saints Lydiard Millicent

As well as the annual general maintenance and safety inspections the following took place in 2011:

- Repair to ridge tiles on Nave and Chancel roofs – part of the Quinquennial Inspection (QI)
- Replacement of high level lamps (bulbs) where possible by a qualified electrician to maintain good illumination.
- New lectern microphone to improve quality of announcements and Bible readings.

Projects in hand:

- Repairs to the Ferdinand Askew monument – as a result of Quinquennial (5 yearly) Inspection
- Application to Diocesan Advisory Committee for a multimedia/ projector system
- Temporary portable toilet cubicle in churchyard whilst a more permanent solution being sought- vote to be taken at All Saints' Annual Church Meeting in March 2012.

St Mary's Lydiard Tregoz

In 2011 English Heritage awarded St Mary's a £30K grant towards our high level emergency repair work estimated to cost approx £71,200.

Ongoing fund raising through the year from other grant making bodies, the generosity of the public and congregation has raised monies allied to the expected grant from English Heritage. This means by the end of March 2012 we are less than £3K away from the amount required to proceed and complete the first phase of this exciting project.

The works are anticipated to start during the spring and to be completed by the end of May 2012 in time for the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The works to the oil tank making it secure were completed in October 2011 by Mike Watson, who also continues to maintain Hook Cemetery for as long as required.

Continue with our Children's and Youth work

Emerge – remix activities

This was the 3rd year of the project and again a year of challenge, change and development. In September 2011 Imogen Kershaw became our Placement Student on a 3 year placement for her degree in "Youth & Community work with Applied Theology." This offered us the possibility for the first time of looking ahead for a medium term.

Volunteers at Remix have been a constant group, with two new people joining the team. The team is mixed ages from 20 – 50+, predominantly female, with 6 leaders on average each session, mainly from Partnership churches. This session could not run without such a committed volunteer base. Six young leaders (aged 16-17) completed an ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) award with a trained Assessor from our team. They now help across several of the different groups we run and have shown huge personal growth over the year. The development of youth leadership fulfils our aim to help young people "Discover and Develop skills and Mature" as responsible members of their community.

We have renewed links with Crowdy's Hill Special School, with whom the project has led regular out-of-school workshops at The Base, since 2007. After a very successful February half term workshop, further workshops were requested by the school and will be scheduled when special funding becomes available. We have also started to see small numbers of young people from the School attending our mainstream sessions. Work with special needs groups fulfils our aim to be an inclusive project.

Gen2Gen, a group to bridge the generations, began in February 2011, on the initiative of our Youth Café group who wanted to invite local over-60's to join them after school. This was an interesting development for us as a project, representing deeper involvement with the wider community. More volunteers were drawn into this group to provide specialist activities, e.g. card-making.

We have seen a deepening of spiritual awareness and understanding across the young people, through: our weekly reflections at Remix; greater involvement in fortnightly TGIF group; discussions at the lunchtime clubs. This is very encouraging and shows that we are fulfilling the aim of "Exploring and Maturing in Faith".

Funding for the project became a bit more of a challenge this year as one of our hitherto regular funders, Community Foundation, declined to continue funding us due to our strengthened church links. New funders helped us to achieve our