

## Prayer for our Partnership

Thank You for calling each of us to serve Your Kingdom through this wonderful Partnership. Thank You for using our individual gifts and talents to manifest Your Kingdom here on earth as it already is in heaven. Lord, we are thankful for the freedom to worship You, our God.

Thank You for Your bountiful blessings. Thank You for increasing Your presence, power, anointing, and abundance in our Partnership. You are great and greatly to be praised. You are to be feared above all gods. The earth is Yours and everything in it; the world and all its people belong to You. You laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths.

Lord, no pagan god is like You! None can do what You do. Loving Father, we declare that we will love You with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength. As a Partnership, we confess that we will love one another, as ourselves. As Your children, we proclaim that we have all put on Christ, like putting on new clothes and we will walk in unity and love with one another. It is because of this love that we exhibit for each other that people will know that we are Your disciples. Your Word tells us that if we love You, we must also love our Christian brothers and sisters, too.

Therefore, we declare that we will not look out only for our own interests, but we take an interest in each other's needs. We declare that we will live in harmony with each other and resist division. We will be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

We declare that as a Partnership we will turn away from evil, and do good; we will search for peace and work to maintain it. We confess that we will encourage and build each other up. Above all things, we declare that we will put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Amen



## West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership



**Annual Report  
for the year ending 31 December 2017**

<b>Contents</b> .....	2
<b>Reference and Administrative Details</b> .....	3
<b>Charitable Objects</b> .....	3
<b>Administrative</b> .....	3
<b>Credits</b> .....	3
<b>Organisation</b> .....	4
<b>Trustees</b> .....	4
<b>External Representation</b> .....	6
<b>School and College Links</b> .....	8
<b>Safeguarding</b> .....	9
<b>Areas of focus for 2017</b> .....	10
<b>Youth and Childrens' work review</b> .....	10
<b>Link with Katikama Sebamale School, Uganda</b> .....	10
<b>Structure, communications, mission ownership</b> .....	10
<b>The Community</b> .....	11
<b>Ministry and weekly services</b> .....	11
<b>Childrens' and Youth work</b> .....	14
<b>Occasional Offices</b> .....	19
<b>Partnership Office, Newsletter</b> .....	20
<b>Partnership Financial Review</b> .....	21
<b>Minister's Report</b> .....	22
<b>Objectives for 2018</b> .....	23
<b>Prayer for our Partnership</b> .....	24

This report should be read in conjunction with the reports from the 4 local churches, available at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>

Mark Dowling, when appointed as partnership Chair, agreed to see us through to this separation, with all its pain and heartache. He has done so and now he has stepped down. In this report I can record my own personal thanks to him for his leadership and wisdom.

Our challenge will be to reflect how many others helped deliver each event or activity, in our own church and wider. God is moving, vocations are growing (from litter picking to Emerge...). Let us consider how can we join in and expand what we are doing as part of God's Mission.

Clive

*"Four things to learn in life: To think clearly without hurry or confusion; To love everybody sincerely; To act in everything with the highest motives; To trust God unhesitatingly."*

— Helen Keller

## Objectives for 2018

Our Partnership Council propose the following:

- Continue to work through questions of vision and strategy
- Local emphasis on our relationships with schools (especially around 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of end of WW1)
- Continue to build link with Katikama Sebamale School
- Engage with the Holy Habits initiative, increase discipleship in our congregations.

## Minister's Report

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much"*  
— Helen Keller

It may seem strange to some, but as your only stipendiary minister I have, for the first time, written a single report for our partnership and churches.

This report gives a snapshot of what it means to belong to the local community of the Church. I explore the many different ways in which we engage with one another and the wider community, as we seek to live out our faith in Christ Jesus. I hope that this report provokes you to think more widely, I am having to myself. For many of you this year has been difficult with illness and bereavements, taking a heavy toll in our Churches.

Since I arrived seven years ago, a massive amount of transformation has taken place across the partnership. To my mind, the people of God have been set free to use their gifts - every member ministry showing mutuality through and in our Baptism.

I can think of several examples. This year we have seen a number of people pushing forward with vocational training "the cork is well and truly out of the bottle". We share our buildings with others, our work with younger people has expanded considerably, and we recognise the importance of the opportunities our buildings and our people bring, however old. I am grateful for every piece of work you do, from Pastoral to Leading worship.

We have major challenges ahead, but the words of Helen Keller, remind me very much of the way we work in our Churches; how we host refreshments, tidy, clean and care for our buildings and people. As God's people we have stepped out of our own contexts, and this willingness to work together has transformed our work with younger generations.

I want to say thank you to each and every one of you for the support you give the Church you are a part of, the leadership roles you undertake, the prayers you make, all this for our community's sake. So, my thanks to my family, our Wardens, Steve, Sue, Doreen, Jacqueline and Pat, our stewards and senior leaders inc. Chris. You have enabled me to continue to take wider roles. My thanks to those in formal roles, Mary, Jan, Trevor, Claire, Gayle, Rachel, Ian, David and Brenda.

At the beginning of February 2018 the formal separation of Lydiard Millicent from the parish and partnership will take place. It has been a time of sadness for us all.

## Charitable Objects

The purpose of our Partnership is to advance the Christian faith in West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze 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.

## Administrative

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is registered in England as a charity. Charity Reg no; 1141341. Our address is the Partnership Office, c/o Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre, Ramleaze Drive, Swindon SN5 5PY

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

The Partnership is registered to claim gift aid enabling individuals to give tax efficiently either to the general fund or to the work of Emerge. Our Bank Account is with CafCash P.O. Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA. Our Independent Examiner is Steve Fraser, MHA Monahan's, 38-42 Newport Street, Swindon SN1 3DR.

## Credits

Thanks to: Gayle Bryon, Claire Camm, Janet Clarke, Rahel Dams, Trevor Day, Clive Deverell, Wendy Deverell, Andrew Fleet, Sue Green, Brenda Hicks, David Hoar, Steve Kershaw, Mary Poole, Chris Scarisbrick

## Organisation

The partnership comprises four churches, acting together:

- Holy Trinity Church, Shaw (HTS)
- St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze (SMLT)
- Toothill Church
- Westlea Church

We are classified by Churches Together in England as a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership. The Partnership is part of the Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church (URC), and looks to the Swindon Churches Together Sponsoring Body for guidance and oversight.

Our clergy comprise those who have been duly authorised and appointed by our participating denominations. Rev Capt. Clive Deverell is Team Minister (Church of England and Authorised to Serve in the Upper Thames Circuit of the Methodist Church and within the URC) with responsibility across the partnership and posted at St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze. Rev Trevor Day is Assistant Minister (Church of England) working across the partnership.

During 2017 our partnership comprised one district of the Anglican parish of West Swindon and the Lydiards. The second district All Saints Lydiard Millicent. The parish will be reorganised into two, along those lines, on 1 Feb 2018. The two districts have their own District Church Council (DCC) meetings to conduct Anglican business. We meet together occasionally for full Parochial Church Council (PCC) meetings, though most functions are effectively delegated to the DCCs.

## Trustees

The trustees are the members of the Partnership Council (PC). Anglican Members also constitute the District Church Council (DCC) when needed to conduct Anglican specific business, and we nominate representatives to the Anglican Parochial Church Council (PCC).

The charity trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

### The Partnership Council (PC)

The PC is the main governance and representative body. Its responsibilities are Regulatory, Oversight, Governance and external partnerships. Other responsibilities, Ministry / Mission, Pastoral care and local Leadership, are delegated to the Local Church Committees (LCC) / Leadership Teams. A fuller

## Partnership Financial Review

The Partnership's main source of income is the share from the churches. We get a few donations straight to the partnership. We also collect money from weddings and funerals fees. Virtually all 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. We do almost no public fundraising.

The Partnership's main expenditures are contribution to the parent bodies, the administrator salary, the schools' worker salary and staff expenses. This is where the bulk of our charitable aims are met, however an increasing amount is done by volunteers and this contribution is not financially quantifiable. A small amount is then left for general partnership expenses including Hook cemetery maintenance.

The URC SW Synod holds funds on deposit relating to the West Swindon Manse, the money received is from rental income (£8,439) and is expecting to be used for repairs and maintenance (£304). At the end of 2017 the amount held was £24,568.

Partnership looks after Emerge's finances in a restricted fund. In 2017 they received grants from the URC SW Synod as well as income from our churches, other donors and the young people. This money is used to run the after schools group, training and workshops for young people with special needs, and covers salaries, expenses 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.

In the consolidated accounts the total unrestricted income was £164,981 and restricted was £98,542. The unrestricted income was up £34k on last year mainly due to a legacy and a donation for Family Work in Toothill.

The total unrestricted expenditure was £132,639 and restricted was £114,723. The unrestricted expenditure was up £4.5k on last year. There had been a large increase of £13k to the Diocese but this was reduced by lack of building work at Toothill and the Manse which inflated 2016 figures

The reserves being carried forward were £170,512 for unrestricted and £30,005 for restricted. The restricted funds are being held against future building related work and the youth group funds.

The individual churches and the partnership try to keep 6 months of expenditure as reserves. Using reserves to fund increased requests from the denominations is manageable in the short term but would not be sustainable in the long term without increased giving.

Our financial controls were reviewed and found to be effective and adequate.

**Marriage/Weddings:** Each of our 10 weddings during 2017 were different and uplifting. It's also great to see those married couples, again, when they return with their children for Baptism [as we will be seeing, several times during 2018].

**Remembrance:** This year, for the second time, in November we were responsible for leading the worship on behalf and with the Royal British Legion for the opening of the Poppy Field of Remembrance in the walled-garden at Lydiard Park. It was one of only seven such "poppy fields" throughout the United Kingdom. Over 20,000 fallen service-men and women were remembered by name [and some with photos] by a small poppy-cross. Our Field of Remembrance remembered specifically those who died during the more recent conflicts of Iraq and Afghanistan. Every day a short service of remembrance and 2 minutes silence took place in the garden at 11am and 2pm. We closed the garden on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov'17. 2018 will be especially poignant since it is the centenary of the end of the WW1 conflict. Thank you to Paul, Jacqueline and Andrew for their support throughout that time.

## Partnership Office, Newsletter

Our Administrator Brenda Hicks prepares service sheets for several churches and edits and prints the partnership magazine.

### Publicity and Communication

- In 2017 we stopped our monthly advertisement in the local Link Magazine, due to budget constraints.
- We promote our major festivals of Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Brenda produced joint information cards showing all the special Services and Events of the Christmas period.
- Generally each local church is responsible for its own publicity – this is through their Monthly Magazines, Weekly Notice Sheets, Christmas cards etc.
- Our web site traffic increases year on year.

### 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 produced 11 times each year and is published both as a paper magazine and on the Partnership web site at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/news/>

### Local Church activities

There is much more that happens in each of our local churches. The local activities are well described in their local Annual Reports, copies of which can be obtained from the Partnership Office or available online at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report>

description of the current functions of the PC, DCC, PCC and LCCs can be found in the Partnership Constitution (2015) and in draft Standing Orders.

Clergy (ex officio)	<b>Revd Capt. Clive Deverell</b> <b>Rev Trevor Day</b>	
Partnership Council Chair	<b>Mark Dowling (R 9/17);</b> <b>Steve Kershaw (from 11/17)</b>	
Partnership Council Vice Chair	Vacant	
Treasurer	<b>Sue Green</b>	
Secretary	<b>Chris Scarisbrick</b>	
Churchwardens and Synod reps (ex-officio members of PCC and DCC, co-opted to PC)	<b>Sue Green</b> <b>Steve Kershaw</b> <b>Jacqueline Kirwan</b>	<b>Mary Poole</b> <b>Pat Watson</b>
Elected Members	<b>Gayle Bryon</b> <b>Claire Camm</b> <b>Janet Clark</b> <b>Wendy Deverell</b> <b>Mike Dilly (R 4/17)</b>	<b>Peter Gilder</b> <b>David Hoar</b> <b>Rev Jan Partridge</b> <b>Richard Williams</b>
Minutes secretary	<b>Brenda Hicks</b>	
Circuit Superintendent Minister and Senior Steward (ex officio)	<b>Rev Keith Osborn (R 7/17)</b> <b>Rev David Perkins</b> <b>Andrew Fleet</b>	
URC Synod Pastoral Adviser	<b>Rev Gerald England</b>	

(R) - Stepped down during year

The PC met 6 times in 2017, January, March, May, July, September, and November. This was in addition to the Annual General Meeting on 9 April and a full PCC meeting (the Annual Parochial Church Meeting APCM) on 20 April.

Main PC topics during the year were:

- Safeguarding
  - Income and expenditure; review of budget planning process
  - The sustainability of our activities
  - An external review of our youth and children's work, and the actions that resulted from it.
  - Approving foundation governors and candidates for ordination
  - Messy Church
  - Our parish boundaries, still under discussion with the CofE Deanery leadership
  - Setting up the mechanisms for our link with the school in Uganda
- The Partnership Executive met 9 times in 2017 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 2017:

- Local church committees and leadership teams
- Emerge Management team
- Messy Church team
- Primary Schools work team
- The “Veg Patch” – our worship programme planning group
- An external consultant worked with an internal group to review the youth and children’s work across the partnership.
- Planning to address mission, growth, internal communications

### **Risks**

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

- Risk of financial commitment, particularly relating to denominational contributions. Reserves cover approx. 6 month’s normal expenditure
- Limited resources available for work delegated to the Partnership Executive.
- Communication, 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. There is one risk that isn’t so well mitigated.

- Unpaid voluntary contributions cannot be quantified in the report, but are substantial, almost all of our activities depend heavily on volunteer goodwill, time and effort.

This aspect of our work is under review. All risks are monitored within the Partnership’s governance processes.

### **Induction and Training of Trustees**

There is 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**

### **Anglican Deanery and Diocese**

This has been a year of transition within the Swindon Deanery. Several parish clergy have left and after over 20 years in office Bishop Mike retired in September 2017. To inform the diocese about the background and skills needed in the next bishop a deanery-wide consultation was held and members of our church partnership presented their views. As a result of input a statement of need has been created which can be viewed at:

Gayle would like to give heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who have helped in 2017. It has been an immense privilege, and at times an overwhelming experience to be able to share our faith with so many children.

### **Prayer** (written after the Children and Youth Work Review)

May God give us the grace to grow together as a Partnership, and help us to develop every member ministry, where each person feels valued, and respected.

May God give us the wisdom to encourage, and empower each other by sharing our stories, vision, and creating opportunities to learn together.

May God give us the freedom to take risks, accept failure, and to persevere when it gets tough.

May God give us the love to work together as a team, a community who communicate openly, and care for each other.

May God give us the courage to ‘go fishing’ wherever we are called, even when it may mean huge sacrifices.

Amen

### **Children’s and youth work aims for the year ahead**

- Get to know families better, engage with them and find out how we can support them; link them to other church activities.
- Encourage young people to take more leadership of groups and participate in decision-making.
- Engage more people in the church partnership in joining with us in our mission.
- Develop joint work to support transition of young people to secondary school.

## **Occasional Offices**

Across our West Swindon Partnership, 2017 has been an exciting year of ‘ministry’ in the “pastoral”, encompassing the “occasional offices”.

**Baptisms/ Thanksgivings and Dedications:** A number of these took place across the Partnership. We thank God for the opportunity to walk alongside families and help them grow in faith. We endeavour to encourage our baptism families to try Messy Church especially if they have older children.

**Home Visits & Communion:** It is always a special time, to be with those who are no longer able to get out of their homes and it’s been a privilege to be able to share Holy Communion with several people. When asked, “where is your church” ... our answer is usually... “where-ever we are together”.

- To develop positive relationships between our Churches and schools.

The teachers in our local schools are committed to supporting their children's RE education and are very welcoming of new learning opportunities. There is often a limited time for RE teaching and it is therefore vitally important that the learning experiences we offer are creative, memorable and meaningful for the children. The wonderfully high adult ratio we aim to offer with our RE Teaching sessions and Experiences is what makes our sessions special for everyone who takes part. The opportunity to be in a small group means the children are supported, listened to, valued, and encouraged. We are continually amazed at the children's enthusiasm to engage with activities and their ability to think deeply about faith. On the few occasions it has been possible to step back to observe sessions, it is moving to see the interaction between our volunteers and the children.

At Remembrance and Christmas, it was wonderful to be involved with schools coming together to support their community. The Opening of the Garden of Remembrance with a joint choir from three of our schools and children from all our local schools planting crosses created a real feeling of unity at this poignant time. At Christmas LPA had invited the primary schools to come and share in their Carol Concert, it was fabulous to be in a packed St Marys twice in one day to hear youthful exuberant singing.

Leading Assemblies and Collective worship across our schools is a great responsibility. It requires a huge amount of thought and preparation to attempt to create a spiritual space within the school day that gives everyone present time to engage, reflect and respond. It is difficult to assess the impact of assemblies, but sometimes there are moments of pure silence, sometimes there is joyous laughter, and sometimes children or teachers say just a few words as they leave the hall that let you know they were listening and thinking.

Our activity days have allowed us to explore our faith more deeply with the children and families who attend. We have developed a real family atmosphere to the days, where children and adults of all ages share together joyfully in a loving community. At Easter our story sharing of the Last Supper was extremely moving, and a memory to be carried forever. For many families our activity days are their main connection with our Churches, we hope to be able to continue to develop these relationships and find more ways of coming together with our community in 2018. Taking part in Carly's baptism service and seeing her continue to grow in her faith has been a most beautiful blessing this year.

[www.bristol.anglican.org/documents/statement-needs/](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/documents/statement-needs/)

When the Area Dean Rev. Simon Stevenette stepped down, Clive Deverell took up this role. In addition several members of the Deanery Leadership Team stood aside after several years' service with new members serving. The Deanery Synod has continues to meet 3 times a year with additional meetings if needed.

The overall emphasis within the Diocese has been on encouraging growth in some important areas.

- Growing children's and youth work. Dan Jones (Diocesan advisor) has been available to help create a long-term strategy; he has also conducted a review of the work we do within West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze.
- Links with Uganda and in particular with Luwero Diocese and Kampala. Trips have been organised and our own partnership is supporting a primary school.
- Investing in Growth demands a financial contribution from us all and churches are encouraged to adopt the Parish Giving Scheme.
- Renewal and Reform initiative is country wide and encourages churches to work on new ideas for growth. They provide help and financial support to invest in the numerical and spiritual growth of churches.
- The role of lay people in growing faith within our communities was underlined by Matt Frost a member of the Archbishop's Council. He encouraged all churches to see that lay people and their witness at work, home and leisure is the greatest resource the Church possesses.

The year ahead will be an interesting and challenging one; new church schools are planned and Swindon is still expanding. Synod meetings will reflect this and recognise the need for prayer for changes that lie ahead.

Clive is Area Dean for Swindon, and also sits on the Diocesan Advisory Committee (which examines and grants faculties for CofE property etc). He continues as an Initial Vocation advisor and is acting as a work consultant and mentor. Trevor's wider responsibilities also include: chaplaincy with Sea Cadets [Swindon] and Air Cadets [West Swindon & Marlborough], chaplain to the Royal British Legion [Swindon], coordination of voluntary chaplaincy at Bristol Cathedral.

### **Baptist Area**

Baptist churches in the WEBA area joined together for a series of network meetings in various locations in 2017. All were very well attended, focus was on the sending out of the 72 disciples. More network meetings will happen in 2018, this year focussing on 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Training days were held, several partnership people attended one in Cirencester. Fundraising has supported folk in



Africa. Clevedon Baptist church has opened a Coffee Stop running from their church and outside into the shopping precinct. A visit is recommended.

### **Methodist Circuit**

There has been good partnership between the Methodist Circuit and the Partnership with Superintendent Keith Osborn and Circuit Steward Andrew Fleet contributing to the Partnership Council, representation of the Partnership on the Circuit Meeting and Local Preachers from the Circuit continuing to lead worship in our churches. In particular it has been valuable for the Circuit and Partnership to share experience of working with lay employees in the context of the Partnership's vision for mission and ministry.

As an authorised to serve Methodist Minister Rev Clive Deverell has been integral to the Circuit and its leadership team. The mutual sharing of ministerial and mission experience between Partnership and Circuit and prayer to this end has enhanced our work for the Kingdom.

### **URC**

At our last AGM in April 2017, Clive was Authorised to serve as a URC Minister. Recently the URC held a Wiltshire Area Gathering, the speaker was David Lawrence of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, the subject for the day was the URC programme, Walking the Way, and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus today.

Walking the Way is a daily devotional which you can sign up to and will come to your computer daily. It consists of a bible reading, reflection on what it means today and a prayer.

David Lawrence spoke about what it means to be a Christian in today's world and how we can use our daily lives to spread the 'Good News' He gave us various ideas we can use daily in our work place or leisure time and challenged us to make changes to the way we worship. Do we have to keep to the same format each week? No! Why not change things around? Add drama, songs (apart from hymns and religious songs) do prayers in a different way, change the order of Communion.

As an educational day it was superb and if a similar day comes up with any denomination attendance is highly recommended.

## **School and College Links**

### **Oliver Tomkins CofE Schools**

Staff and pupils at Oliver Tomkins have worked very hard during the last year. The atmosphere in the school is one of purpose and caring for each other. Pupil Premium has had major successes. The school was awarded the Achievement

- Producing a take-home sheet that reminds families of other church services and suggest faith related activities they can do together

Being a Church rather than a children's or young people's group remains our challenge for the year ahead. As a team we think and pray about:

- How to keep in touch with families and remain aware of their pastoral needs
- How to develop the older young people and link them in with church groups
- How to welcome new families of varying backgrounds and ages
- How to ensure we publicise ourselves effectively

These challenges are those every church faces and it has been encouraging to meet and pray with others across our Church Partnership who work with children and families. As with the Messy Church movement as a whole we aim to remain flexible and open to where God is leading us in the year ahead.

### **Schools Work**

2017 has been a year of friendships. We have developed deeper fellowship with each other, closer relationships with our schools, and greater connections with local families. It has been wonderful to see children showing great respect, care, and friendship with each other, as they express their thoughts and beliefs through creative learning activities.

During the year we have engaged with all seven of our local primary schools through assemblies, RE lessons, visits to our Churches, RE Experiences and festive seasonal learning activities. We have had contact with thousands of children through our various activities. Schools are increasingly interested in RE sessions and experiences for their children. The new Swindon RE Curriculum has offered us an excellent opportunity to develop new lesson plans in collaboration with teachers. We have had new volunteers join the team for one or more activities this year to support the increased demand for sessions.

Gayle has continued to manage our Schools and Children's Mission activities on 10 hours a week, supported by a team of fantastic volunteers.

Key Aims for 2017:

- To resource and develop a programme of creative assemblies, RE teaching, and RE Experiences in collaboration with teachers that enhance the RE Curriculum.
- To develop a committed volunteer team to deliver educational programmes and missional holiday activities.



the Youth & Children's Work Review in Spring 2017, we set up *'The Gathering'*; an opportunity for all children's and youth workers in our churches to come together for creative worship and time of sharing and celebration of what we do. This has met twice so far and been well supported and received.

### **The coming year**

Over the next year Gayle and Claire plan to work in unison to:

- Build up closer links with Crowdy's Hill school and Lydiard Park Academy, to work on the transition of young people from feeder primary schools.
- Link year 7's into Festival Reflection Workshops;
- Encourage and support year 7+ young people in attending partnership holiday workshops led by the team.

### **Messy Church**

Messy Church in West Swindon has continued to meet on the second Sunday of each month at Holy Trinity Shaw.

We are proud to be part of a worldwide movement with nearly 4,000 others around the world, see [messychurch.org.uk](http://messychurch.org.uk) for more news and stories.

Our own Messy Church is made up of a core group of seven families some of whom have been part of Messy Church for over 6 years. Other families who may have baptismal links with St Mary's stay for only one or two sessions. We are fortunate in having 10 regular volunteers from all four of our churches who contribute in many different ways to make it an enjoyable time for all.

In each session we aim to 'be church' for the families who come by playing and making as well as praying and worshipping and sharing a meal together. The food-related activity is always popular as well as some 'big creations' based round a Bible theme; everyone enjoyed the Jacobs ladder made from marshmallows and pretzels.

As well as arranging a fun, interactive session each month we have attempted to look outward from the session itself by:

- Contributing to the annual shoe box appeal
- Taking some older helpers to Messy Church Does Science at Rutherford laboratories Oxford. See: [messychurch.org.uk/science](http://messychurch.org.uk/science)

for All Quality Mark and are now preparing for the next level of achievement. In the summer of 2017 the school was presented with a national Pupil Premium award as a recognition for the excellent provision and intervention the school provides for its pupils. The Deputy Head of the Junior school, Julie Warburton, receives regular requests to support other schools.

The 'bottom building' will have its repurpose building work completed by September 2018 to allow for Early Years to move in.

The next challenge will be Ofsted in the Infants school. Both schools are currently rated Ofsted Good and SIAMS Outstanding.

## **Safeguarding**

We have 81 DBS-checked volunteers working regularly or occasionally with those who may need safeguarding. The numbers are about the same. We have made significant progress this year to regularly refresh everyone's training, though there is more to do. We continue to make slow progress implementing safer recruiting procedures. We continue to be challenged to effectively support our volunteer workers, primarily because those supporting are generally themselves volunteers.

We have had no safeguarding issues of any concern this year.



## Areas of focus for 2017

- Press forward with a youth and children's work review.
- Deepen our link with Katikama Sebamale Primary School, Luwero Diocese, Uganda.
- Review and understand our various internal structures to help communication and improve ownership of our common mission/projects.

We report on these focus areas, here.

### Youth and Children's work review

Our consultant presented us with a lot of encouraging conclusions about our Youth and Children's work, however the report also raised as many challenges, issues and questions for us to consider. It is probably fair to say there were few surprises, but the work has given us renewed focus.

Of the easier issues, we rationalised the role descriptions and job titles for our missionary workers, we unified the contracts of employment (and issued those which were missing) and we made significant changes to the team leading all-age worship at one of our churches.

The work to set out a vision for our partnership, and our structure, communications and joint mission ownership, is not done, and we will keep these challenges forefront in the minds of our leadership teams in 2018 too.

### Link with Katikama Sebamale School, Uganda

£225 had been collected in 2016 and a further £824.83 was collected at Partnership services in 2017. In early 2018 £500 was taken out to the school by a Diocese of Bristol rep who was travelling out there. We plan to use this method to get further money out to them

### Structure, communications, mission ownership

Some progress has been made improving communications with sharing of newsletters and minutes of Partnership Council meetings being copied to the churches' leadership teams as they come out. Veg patch has continued to provide more structure and communication on worship. Small steps have started to be made on understanding the mission and projects of the individual churches and their place in the Partnership but this is ongoing. This has been identified as one of the main issues from the youth work review. We intend to continue working this through.

*'Working with emerge has built my confidence and helped me look and get jobs in the right area. I find that I can learn from the children along the way as no session with the children is the same. Each child is unique and different with their own experiences. It is a fun rewarding session every time I come along'.*

### Project Aims:

- To provide a positive, safe and caring environment in the community for young people in West Swindon.
- To provide a programme which facilitates development of relationships to support their emotional, social and spiritual development.
- To enable young people to develop their gifts, skills and relationships through a sustainable programme which meets their needs.

### Group news:

The Monday (weekly) and Saturday (monthly) groups for our young people with special needs have continued regularly throughout the year with 2 new referrals. On Mondays, the young people chose the topics for weekly discussion from the Youth Bible: 'Forgiveness'; 'Death'; 'Eternal life' being among them. During Advent we looked at 24 different scripture verses telling the whole Christmas story which the young people read aloud and discussed. On Saturdays the theme was "Light in the Darkness" and we followed this through the Spring and Summer terms with the story of "The Lion King" and in the Autumn term through the story of "Narnia". These were explored in great depth using video, discussion, drama, music and dance and we produced two shows last year of each for the community. Attached to each of these projects was a charity focus and the young people researched different charities, fundraised and gave presentations on each. This year the groups have raised £775 in total for 3 charities – Comic Relief; Guide Dogs for the Blind; Toilet Twinning (Tearfund). Our end of term shows are always very well supported by families and friends of the young people. It's a great opportunity to connect with the wider family of our little community; it would be lovely to welcome more Church members along to these occasions too.

These two groups continue to provide an essential space for vulnerable young people to make friends; express themselves; grow in skills and explore Christianity and the big questions of life. We also connect with their families and offer support if we can. Aiming Hi, the SBC short-breaks team, as well as Crowdy's Hill school refer young people to the group.

We review and assess sessions and progress of young people as a team each week and are pleased to report that we are clearly meeting all our project aims. Feedback from parents and young people is also obtained annually.

### Working with the rest of the Partnership

Mary, Gayle and Claire continued to meet together to pray and discuss children's and youth work in the partnership, supporting one another in our work. Following

We have tried a variety of new things as others have faded, the impact of the Parking Charges impacted greatly on the evening attendances for Partnership Prayer and Praise in the Park, it was decided in September these would not continue. At the end of the autumn months at HTS we worshipped and looked at women in the bible and launched “Encounter” a more reflective service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at HTS

We looked at “Faith Pictures” as a partnership from Feb to April and met on Thursday evenings during Lent, for shared study on “Dethroning Mammon”, and preparation for Easter. In October we had a common theme in all our services, “The Kingdom of God is...”

St Mary’s and Westlea continue to hold regular prayer meetings. Westlea are reviewing when theirs is held.

## Children’s and Youth work

*Our mission is to ‘facilitate holistic growth in children and young people so that they may experience life in all its fullness’, as offered by Jesus (John 10:10).*

### Emerge project

During the year we engaged with 13 different young people aged 10-19 through the Monday and Saturday youth groups and through holiday and weekend activities at St Mary’s Church and park. We also had wider contact with many families and individuals as a result of our events and fundraising.

Claire regularly joined the Chaplaincy team at New College and gave support in some lessons, with CU and with refugee week.

**Staffing:** Claire continued as Project Manager (12.5hrs pw)

**Volunteers:** Claire was supported by a team of 10 volunteers. The majority of these came from within the partnership; two are contacts from outside with considerable experience and skills in children’s and youth work and one is a non-Christian friend of Claire’s, retired NHS physiotherapist. All have been interviewed, referenced and DBS checked. Training is on-going throughout the year. A student continued working with us on Mondays to complete her Duke of Edinburgh gold award. Another young person started volunteering with us for her DOE bronze award. We also have one young man in our Saturday group who began taking on group helper’s responsibilities.

*‘As a recent volunteer, I have been impressed by the enthusiasm and friendship in the group. The young people are involved in choosing some of the wide range of activities. They participate well in games, cookery, craft work, as well as discussions and Bible reading. They showed great interest in the toilet twinning project which enabled us all to look outwards to the needs of others as well as to count our blessings’.*

## The Community

Membership is expressed 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, but this causes no problems.

### Membership Summary

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
St Mary’s	67	66	73	75	76	74	70	59	73	69
Holy Trinity	27	28	28	33	31	36	42	38	40	42
Toothill	28	35	34	36	32	39	42	40	39	37
Westlea	31	31	27	30	31	26	26	27	28	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	160	162	174	170	175	180	164	180	173

(Historic figures adjusted to reflect altered organisation of the partnership in 2013)

## Ministry and weekly services

The worship rota is arranged across the Partnership. Clergy, Local Preachers Lay Ministers and our team of trained lay people lead services and preach in their ‘home’ church, in the other partner churches and some across the Methodist Upper Thames Circuit. The Circuit also contributes worship leaders.

Denominationally Appointed Ministers	
<b>Rev Capt. Clive Deverell</b>	CofE Minister. Authorised to Serve as Methodist. Authorised URC Minister
<b>Rev Trevor Day</b>	CofE Assistant Minister

We are grateful to the following members of the Partnership who lead activities across our churches:

Denominationally Authorised Ministers	
<b>Rev Jan Partridge</b>	(Methodist Circuit Supernumerary) - pastoral training
<b>Mrs Rachel Dowling</b>	Methodist Lay Preacher
<b>Mr Mark Dowling</b>	Methodist Lay Preacher
<b>Mr David Hoar</b>	URC Lay Preacher

We have four people attending the Exploring Christianity course, and several others exploring whether to become candidates for Ministry in the Church of England. Two more are training to be Lay Preachers in the Methodist Circuit.

Locally Appointed Ministers		
<b>Rev Mike Dilly (R 4/17)</b>	Congregational Minister, local pastor at Westlea	
<b>Mrs Claire Camm</b>	Youth Missioner	
<b>Mrs Gayle Bryon</b>	Schools Missioner	
<b>Mrs Mary Poole</b>	Messy Church Leader	
Lay worship leaders		
<b>Heather Benn</b>	<b>Sue Green</b>	<b>Mary Poole</b>
<b>Gayle Bryon</b>	<b>Stephen Kershaw</b>	<b>Mark Taylor</b>
<b>Ian Bryon</b>	<b>Jacqueline Kirwan</b>	<b>Pat Watson</b>
<b>Janet Clarke</b>	<b>Angela Mak</b>	<b>Sarah Wilmott</b>
<b>Wendy Deverell</b>	<b>Ed Poole</b>	<b>Richard Williams</b>

Other Groups:	
<b>Westlea Leadership Team</b>	<b>Holy Trinity Shaw Worship team</b>
<b>Local Church Home Group</b>	<b>Worship Enabling Group</b>
<b>Team Toothill</b>	<b>St Mary's Ukuleles</b>
<b>St Mary's Worship team</b>	

Our partnership's 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 Free-Church styles.

Messy Church is a missionary congregation aimed at families with young children. It is lay-led and resourced from the other "Sunday morning" churches.

Toothill have been hosting a weekly worship meeting on Wednesday mornings. We continue to meet for Morning Prayer on Fridays at Holy Trinity; our book for reflection has been "City of God; Faith in the Streets" by Sara Miles.

Administrative and Support	
<b>Mrs Brenda Hicks</b>	Partnership Administrator
<b>Mr Mark Dowling (till 9/17)</b>	Partnership Chair
<b>Mr Steve Kershaw (from 11/17)</b>	
<b>Mrs Sue Green</b>	Partnership Treasurer
<b>Mr Chris Scarisbrick</b>	Partnership Secretary and Safeguarding Coordinator

### Usual Weekly Attendance

	2017		2016		2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Adult	Child
St Mary's	<b>68</b>	<b>10</b>	57	9	59	12	72	12	69	12	85	12	71	15
Holy Trinity	<b>33</b>	<b>8</b>	34	8	36	8	36	16	27	3	25	5	26	5
Toothill	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	29	9	25	5	27	5	28	4	32	7	31	5
Westlea	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>	26	6	24	7	25	9	23	9	24	10	23	11
Total	<b>148</b>	<b>31</b>	146	32	142	31	160	42	147	28	166	34	151	36

Figures adjusted to include Messy Church other non-weekly services etc

### Joint Partnership Worship

Several joint Services were organised in 2017:

- 1 Jan New Year at St Mary's
- 29 January Covenant Service at Toothill
- 1 March Ash Wednesday at Toothill
- 9 April, Partnership AGM, Palm Sunday at Westlea, Rev Mike Dilly stepping down.
- 11 April and 12 April Compline at St Mary's
- 13 April Maundy Thursday at HTS
- 14 April Good Friday at Westlea (am) and St Mary's (pm)
- 16 April Easter Sunrise at St Mary's
- 4 June Pentecost at St Mary's
- 15 June, Ecumenical Joint Confirmation at Toothill church
- 3 Sept Methodist Circuit service at Toothill
- 22 October Communion at Toothill
- 17 September - The Gathering, a sharing session about youth and children's' work
- From September Encounter – monthly reflective worship at HTS
- 5 November Memorial service at St Mary's
- 3 December Advent service at St Mary's
- 3-11 December Nativity festival at St Mary's
- 17 December Nativity workshop "Travelling Together", and service at HTS
- 20 December Open Air carols in Lydiard Park
- 31 Dec Carols with Communion at St Mary's