



# **West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership**



**Annual Report  
for the year ending 31 December 2019**

<b>Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Reference and Administrative Details</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Charitable Objects.....	3
Administrative.....	3
Credits.....	3
<b>Structure Governance and Management</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Organisation.....	4
Trustees.....	4
External Representation.....	6
Safeguarding.....	8
<b>Areas of Focus for 2019</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Community.....	9
Ministry and Weekly Services.....	10
Day Group for Jesus.....	13
Children and Young People's Work.....	14
Schools Work.....	16
Messy Church.....	19
Oliver Tomkins / Katikamu Sebamale link.....	20
St Mary's Conservation Project.....	21
<b>Pastoral and Occasional Offices</b> .....	<b>22</b>
Partnership Office, Newsletter.....	23
<b>Financial Review 2019</b> .....	<b>23</b>
Focus for 2020.....	25
Prayer for our Partnership.....	25

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

## 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

This report is prepared by, and with thanks to Gayle Bryon, Ian Bryon, Claire Camm, Janet Clarke, Trevor Day, Clive Deverell, Sue Green, Lyn Morgan, Paul Gardner, Rev Gerald England, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Chris Scarisbrick, Rec Teresa Townsend and Rev Rachael Wilson.

## 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 a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership, as described by Churches Together in England. 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. Rev Rachael Wilson is a Methodist Minister, working part time at Toothill and Rev Teresa Townsend is a CofE Curate working with Clive.

The CofE parish was reorganised, on 1 Feb 2018, with some boundary changes. The name of the new parish is West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze.

## Trustees

The trustees are the members of the Partnership Council (PC). Anglican Members also constitute the Parochial Church Council (PCC) when needed to conduct Anglican specific business, though the PCC delegates as much business as it can, to the wider PC

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, buildings, 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 LCCs can be found in the Partnership Constitution (2015) and in draft Standing Orders.

- For each church to take greater responsibility for the schools within its vicinity.

## Prayer for our Partnership

Lord God, we thank you  
for calling us into the company  
of those who trust in Christ  
and seek to obey his will.  
May your Spirit guide and strengthen us  
in mission and service to your world;  
for we are strangers no longer  
but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom.  
Amen.

and maintenance (£421). At the end of 2019 the amount held was £35,362. The Manse is in the process of being sold and when that happens this money will be added to the proceeds and split between the URC, Methodists & Baptists. Emerge's restricted fund received a grant from the Wiltshire Community Foundation of £5000 as well as other local income. 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. The Family Work restricted fund was used on equipment, a Summer Fun Day and trips. 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. For details on these and the churches general funds see the individual Churches' Annual Reports. The restricted funds are being held against future building related work and the youth & family work 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 no longer manageable so we are trying to find ways to increase giving or get grants to enable our mission work to continue. Our financial controls were reviewed to enable them to continue to be effective and adequate.

Katikama Sebamale Primary School, Luweroo Diocese, Uganda  
£2065.10 had been collected in 2016/8 and £500 had been given to them. In 2019 we collected a further £235 and transferred £720 to their bank account. There is still a further £1080 to give to them.

## Focus for 2020

Our Partnership Council propose the following areas of focus:

- Stabilise our long-term finances
- Resolve outstanding Safeguarding concerns from partner overseeing denominations
- Conclude the Holy Habits initiative and ask each fellowship to focus on growth discipleship in our congregations.

Clergy (ex officio)	<b>Revd Capt. Clive Deverell</b> <b>Rev Trevor Day</b> <b>Rev Rachael Wilson</b> <b>Rev Teresa Townsend</b>	
Partnership Council Chair	<b>Steve Kershaw</b>	
Treasurer	<b>Sue Green</b>	
Secretary	<b>Chris Scarisbrick</b>	
Churchwardens and Synod reps (ex-officio)	<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>(till November)</b>	<b>Peter Gilder</b> <b>David Hoar</b> <b>Rev Jan Partridge</b> <b>(till March)</b> <b>Pam Ray</b> <b>Edward Poole</b>
Circuit Superintendent Minister, and Circuit Steward (ex officio)	<b>Rev David Perkins</b> <b>Andrew Fleet</b>	
URC Synod Pastoral Adviser	<b>Rev Gerald England</b>	

The PC met 6 times in 2019, January, March, May, July, September and November in addition to the Annual General Meeting on 4 April. Main PC topics during the year were:

- Safeguarding including a large overhaul of our Safeguarding records.
- Income and expenditure; review of budget planning process
- The sustainability of our activities
- Approving foundation governors and candidates for ordination
- Messy Church
- Our link with the school in Uganda
- Activities supporting our Holy Habits discipleship series.
- Remembrance

The Partnership Executive met 8 times in 2019, 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 2019:

- Local church committees and leadership teams
- Emerge Management team
- Messy Church team
- Primary Schools work team
- The "Veg Patch" – our worship programme planning group

- St Mary's Conservation group, managing the day to day activities according to our Heritage Lottery Fund grant for conservation works..

### **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 membership trends in some churches

The PC considers that these risks have been mitigated to the best practicable extent. There are two risks that are beyond our direct control.

- 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.
- The inability for some of our denominations to post clergy to LEPs.

All risks are monitored within the Partnership's governance processes.

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

There is no formal training process for trustees, however all PC members are formally inducted and made aware of their role and responsibilities at the first PC meeting after the AGM, and through discussion and briefing before and at meetings.

## **External Representation**

### **Anglican Deanery and Diocese**

Swindon Deanery Synod meetings enable member churches to meet together, pray and share good news stories. There have been changes on a diocesan and deanery level; we now have two new Archdeacon's and several new while several new clergy have been appointed. We were delighted that Teresa was ordained priest and Angela Mak was licensed as a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM). Meetings in the last year have demonstrated the Anglican churches commitment to key areas.

- Education. The Deanery Synod met at the new Deanery CE Academy school in November. A prayer day was held in June, led by Clive, Norma and Teresa and welcomed a wide number of people from across the town to pray in the various areas of the school before it opened to pupils.

Toothill lost significant people through bereavement and although generally the number of funerals done by the ministers has reduced, we are grateful for the new North Wilts Crematorium situated in the Parish. It reduces the delays that families have experienced over the last few years when Kingsdown was full to capacity.

### **Pastoral 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".

## **Partnership Office, Newsletter**

Our bi monthly magazine "In Partnership", contains news of church and local events and has information and news from the wider church. It is produced 6 times each year and is published both as a paper magazine and on the Partnership web site at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/news/>

Our web site traffic increases year on year.

Each local church is responsible for local publicity – this is through their Monthly Magazines, Weekly Notice Sheets, Christmas cards etc.

### **Local Church activities**

There is much more that happens in each of our local churches, well described in their local Annual Reports, available online at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report>

## **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 which 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 (£3,012) and is to be used for repairs

UK, Poland, Switzerland and Lithuania. St Marys was actively involved in supporting the RBL Lydiard Park Field of Remembrance, with over 250 primary school children taking part in acts of remembrance.

The match fund raising is very close in achieving its target, with continued fund raising throughout 2019. The shortfall now stands at £11400.

On the 21 September, volunteers from Good Gym gave their full support to the corporate volunteer programme of the conservation project.

During 2019 the church has been opened & stewarded on virtually every weekend throughout the year from January to December including public bank holidays.

Furthermore, the church was open and stewarded on Fridays throughout November by Arts Society volunteers. This has resulted in over 4400 visitors to the church from all over the world, impacted by the church being closed during the week when internal conservation works were in progress.

## Pastoral and Occasional Offices

2019 has been an exciting and challenging year of ministry.

### Baptisms/ Thanksgivings and Dedications

A number of these took place across the Partnership, from small to large celebrations we thank God for the opportunity to walk alongside families and help them grow in faith as a Partnership we endeavour to encourage our baptism families to try Messy Church especially if they have older children. This year, the whole breadth of the Partnerships understanding of Baptism has been revealed from infants to adults, by full immersion and by events around a font.

### Marriage/Weddings

Each of our 10 weddings and blessings during 2019 were different and uplifting. We had one cancellation due to the scaffolding, but all others were pleased with the way the church was decorated to hide the scaffolding poles and boards, with many guests taking photographs as they entered the church. It's also great to see some of our married couples again, when they return with their children for Baptism.

### Funerals

- Our Deanery supported a group of educational specialists, including Gayle, who went to Uganda in February; it had a significant impact on them and they have shared their experiences with us over the year.
- Learning and Developing lay leadership. The two courses Growing leaders and Bridgebuilders finished in the summer and a new course of Growing Leaders is beginning in 2020.
- Church growth. A new church plant at the old Swindon Pattern store was established in December 2018 but is yet to move into its planned base, meeting instead in The Platform until it is ready.
- Community. At each Deanery Synod we have reflected, in 2019, on the road to Emmaus. This has been very worthwhile coming from our different contexts.
- Prayer. In all 3 meetings of Synod members have learnt about the needs of our diverse area and prayed for one another.

Synod meetings are open to all and give Anglicans of all backgrounds the chance to learn from and support one another.

Revd Capt Clive Deverell, in addition to being Vicar of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze, is also Area Dean. His work means holding the Deanery clergy and Churches together, taking responsibility for those Parishes in vacancy, and with the Deanery Lay Chair, producing a dynamic programme for Deanery Synod. He also sits on the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and is on the Diocesan Synod.

### Baptist Area

During the 2019 year I have attended several Baptist area events on a Sunday evening including the AGM at Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church on May 12th. Many events have been happening and the Baptist Home Work fund has been funding as many projects as possible. Baptist's have been working in South Sudan and have produced a DVD about the project which they are hoping every church will use. I hope to attend some evenings in 2020 but Messy Basics will clash with some.

Janet Clarke

### Methodist Circuit

The Methodist Circuit now has only 2 ordained ministers and after an extensive consultation process we are looking at new ways of working to enable mission and ministry to continue effectively. We are currently evaluating the future needs for lay ministries across the Circuit with the intention of having workers in place for January 2021. We are also hoping to work towards team ministry as a way to

enable ministers to use their particular gifts more fully. Our focus is on God's mission in all the areas covered by the Circuit and in helping local churches to share the love of Christ in each location.

### **URC**

I am pleased to report that the links with the URC remain strong. Although there is limited involvement in terms of ministerial provision, the Partnership relies on the ongoing support of the Synod with regards property management of the manse (in the process of being sold), as well as the implementation of the Partnership Safeguarding policy.

With human resources under increasing pressure, it is gratifying to note that David Hoar from Toothill church attends the Synod meetings along with myself, and always feed back any information that might be of benefit to the Partnership as a whole.

The Synod is under increasing pressure with regards ministerial deployment, and unfortunately this trend is set to continue.

In spite of the demise of Swindon Churches Together, the Sponsoring Body, which looks after LEP's in the Swindon area continues to meet fairly regularly, and will provide support and advice whenever needed.

Revd. Gerald England

## **Safeguarding**

The number of people we have working with children or those who may be at risk varies, but at the time of reporting was 79. We have had no incidents of safeguarding concern in 2019.

Over the last year or two, we had been getting behind in keeping records of updated training etc. We believe we are still effectively safeguarding those in our care, but we were less confident we could show it. Towards the end of the year the safeguarding lead from the United Reformed Church, whose policy we follow, helped us to define an action plan to catch up. We assembled a team of local safeguarding coordinators and intend to complete our paper evidence by the end of June 2020.

## **St Marys Lydiard Tregoze NLHF Conservation Project -Report 2019**

Stage 2 of the external conservation repairs works by Ellis & Co have been successfully completed at St Marys with roof repairs to the St John Chapel, the south aisle roof, and external grounds works were completed by the end of May 2019.

Stage 2 of the internal conservation project was completed by mid October 2019 with Jane and her team working in the Nave, St John Chapel and the South Porch. The scaffolding has been removed and the conserved wall paintings, Tudor barrelled ceiling & decorated corbels, polychromy and South Porch are on view to all. During the summer there has been up to 14 student trainees (from 10 different countries) working on the conservation of the Royal Coat of Arms, polychromy to the St John Chapel, assisting on the Monpesson Monument and the wall paintings in the nave.

"You will be able to stand in the door way of the South Porch as pilgrims did & look across to the wall paintings on the north wall of the Nave which include Thomas Becket & St Christopher and newly discovered 13<sup>th</sup> century patterned wall painting. You will see the newly discovered niche in which there was a statute of St Christopher. When opening up this niche Jane has discovered part of a stone head which was most probably part of the St Christopher statue. Then turn around and look at the conserved Christ the Crown of Thorns wall painting in which the representation of Christ has been described as unique.

The final phase of the conservation works commenced on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to the end of March 2020. The church is closed for the final phase of the works which includes work to the pews & timberwork as well as installation of the new heating and lighting and fitting out the vestry.

Jane coming back to in early February for 6 weeks to complete work on the St Christopher niche, St John Chapel and South Porch.

The new sound system will be installed during this period.-

As present the works are progressing well with no unexpected delays, the church should reopen for Easter week.

Successful preview launch on the 14 January 2020 of the Artist in Residence exhibition at Swindon museum and art gallery, which will run from the 14 January to 6 March 2020. It is based around the work of our two artist in residence Felicity Cormack & Judith Thomson who have been drawing and sketching the project and the life of the church during 2019.

In the month of July we had 3 very well attended performances by Prime Theatre and very successful conservation in action days in July & September with a number of our primary schools with 200 attending and a further one in November with 60 attending. On 17 August there was family fun day "conservation in action" at St Mary's. In September St Marys took part in the Heritage Open Days on Saturday 14 & 15 September 21 & 22 September with over 350 visitors from the

Christ. This year a pilot project is looking at areas of growth in discipleship including:

- Messy Basics – understanding what the bible has to say about God’s love
- Social and environmental concern
- Growing young leaders

In West Swindon we have opted to pilot a Messy Basics discipleship course but can report growth in the other areas too. In the Summer holidays we undertook a litter pick around Shaw and we continue to contribute to the Shoebox appeal and Swindon food collective. We also have a group of young people who help lead activities and are an invaluable part of our team. As we all discover ‘doing’ is a part of learning to be a disciple.

In 2020 we face the challenge of completing the Messy Basics course, celebrating 10 years of meeting, reviewing our safeguarding checks, and reaching out further into our communities. We believe that as a praying team of disciples we can achieve these things.

#### Oliver Tomkins CE Primary Link with Katikamu Sebamale School, Uganda

In the last year, Clive Deverell and Rahel Dams have acted as Foundation Governors at Oliver Tomkins school. We have been able to build a stronger link with the school in Uganda as a result of Gayle’s visit there last February. As a consequence, the school raised money for the link, as we did ourselves and the Bishop of Luweero and his wife visited the school in October 2019 with other members of clergy from Kampala. The school has benefitted, not only from our own school’s team coming in, but also from the Open the Book team from Freshbrook Church. Both Oliver Tomkins Infant and Junior schools have been graded as Good by Ofsted during the year. There are vacancies on the governing body.

## Areas of focus for 2019

At our previous AGM , we said that in 2019 we would:

- Publish an agreed vision for our mission here, generate a strategy that aims at that goal. Look for actions resulting from these discussions.—**Although meetings have been held by the Leadership teams no one encompassing mission statement has been agreed, although each Church has their own**
- Stabilise our long-term finances—**Thanks to Sue Green our long term Finances have been stabilised, assuming no major changes.**
- By engaging with the Holy Habits initiative, increase discipleship in our congregations.—**We have seen several individuals taking up worshiping roles or leadership roles in running groups such as the Day Group for Jesus. We continue to learn about how to talk about our own relationship with God and how to listen to others who maybe seeking God and taking them on that journey**

## 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 us no problems.

#### Membership Summary

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
St Mary’s	61	69	67	66	73	75	76	74	70	59
Holy Trinity	25	30	27	28	28	33	31	36	42	38
Toothill	31	31	28	35	34	36	32	39	42	40
Westlea	34	31	31	31	27	30	31	26	26	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	161	153	160	162	174	170	175	180	164

(Figures before 2013, adjusted to reflect altered organisation)

## 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
<b>Rev Teresa Townsend</b>	CofE Curate (from June 2018)
<b>Rev Rachael Wilson</b>	Methodist Minister (from Sept 2018)
<b>Rev Lis Arnold</b>	CofE Ordained Minister (PTO) (from Dec 2019)
<b>Mrs Angela Mak</b>	CofE Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) (from Sept 2019)

We are grateful to the following members of the Partnership who are authorised by our denominations to lead services across our churches:

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

Hazel Davis was successful in candidating for ordained ministry within the Church of England and began her training in September 2019. Two more are continuing their training to be Local Preachers in the Methodist Circuit.

- 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.

## Messy Church



West Swindon Messy Church continued to meet throughout 2019. Each month a keen group of helpers provide a wide range of crafts and games, a celebration time that includes prayer, singing and a story (often dramatized) and a simple meal together. It is truly a Partnership event: helpers are from each of our 4 churches and most families who come have some link with a church or with Oliver Tomkins our church school. Links between children attending Messy Church and the holiday events run by Gayle Bryon are steadily increasing. Messy church is a growing global network, each one is different and reflective of local need. Supported by BRF there is a concern to grow disciples of Jesus

I have continued to coordinate our Schools Work with my paid 10 hours a week and additional voluntary hours. A team of 30 fantastic volunteers have given their time, gifts and skills generously to ensure we serve our schools well. I estimate that our activities have required over 500 hundred hours of volunteer support in planning, resourcing and running of the sessions. We have been in contact with over 2,000 children over the year.

#### Evaluation of our success in 2019:

- We have engaged with all our local schools in a variety of different ways.
- We are at capacity in terms of responding to the requests from schools for assemblies, lessons and experiences. Toothill Church have run their own Christingle session for Hazlewood Academy.
- We have strengthened our relationship with Katikamu Primary School. Oliver Tomkins School Council will be in regular email contact.
- We have maintained a great team of committed volunteers who support school sessions.
- We have enjoyed our first year of Open the Book. It is a great way to share Bible stories with children and teachers and it provides a great model for sustainable teamwork
- We have developed new Christmas and Experiences which have worked well in schools and at HTS.
- We have developed new RE lessons in collaboration with our schools.
- Gathering meetings have continued to be well attended. Our Fish & Chip Supper at the end of the summer term was a wonderful way to share fellowship.

In order to make our schools work sustainable in 2020-2021 and beyond, changes need to take place in our planning, resourcing and delivery of sessions. It is imperative that by September 2020 each of our Partnership Churches is responsible for their local school/s work as we continue to develop and grow together.

#### Aims for 2020:

- To develop a priority plan for each Church to meet the needs of their local school/s.
- To support volunteers to become leads for activity and workshop days.
- To develop a library of session plans and resources for churches to use with their school/s.
- To support Churches in setting up additional Open the Book Teams.
- To offer mentoring and support to each of our Partnership Churches as they seek to serve their local schools.

#### Partnership children's and youth work aims for the year ahead

Locally Appointed Ministers		
<b>Claire Camm</b>	Youth Work manager	
<b>Gayle Bryon</b>	Schools Work manager	
<b>Mary Poole</b>	Messy Church Leader	
Lay worship leaders		
<b>Heather Benn</b>	<b>Sue Green</b>	<b>Mark Taylor</b>
<b>Gayle Bryon</b>	<b>Stephen Kershaw</b>	<b>Pat Watson</b>
<b>Ian Bryon</b>	<b>Jacqueline Kirwan</b>	<b>Sarah Wilmott</b>
<b>Janet Clarke</b>	<b>Ed Poole</b>	<b>Richard Williams</b>
<b>Wendy Deverell</b>	<b>Mary Poole</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.

Partnership activity "Encounter" (monthly study and exploration of faith) at Holy Trinity Shaw

One of the initiatives to grow out of Holy Habits has been the 'Day Group for Jesus' sessions run by Pete Rogers and Edward Glennie which meet fortnightly.

A growing number continue to meet for Morning Prayer on Fridays at Holy Trinity (during School time).

Administrative and Support	
<b>Mr Graham Stockill</b>	Partnership Administrator
<b>Mr Steve Kershaw</b>	Partnership Chair
<b>Mrs Sue Green</b>	Partnership Treasurer
<b>Mr Chris Scarisbrick</b>	Partnership Secretary and Safeguarding Coordinator
<b>Mrs Maricon Alojado</b>	Manager and supervisor for Claire and Gayle

### Usual Weekly Attendance

	2019		2018		2017		2016		2015		2014		2013	
	Adult	Child	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C
St Mary's	55	9	63	9	68	10	57	9	59	12	72	12	69	12
Holy Trinity	31	8	32	4	33	8	34	8	36	8	36	16	27	3
Toothill	24	3	24	7	25	8	29	9	25	5	27	5	28	4
Westlea	24	4	24	5	22	5	26	6	24	7	25	9	23	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>24</b>	143	25	148	31	146	32	142	31	160	42	147	28

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

### Joint Partnership Worship

Several joint Services were organised in 2019:

- The Gathering - termly sharing session around youth and children's work
- Encounter - monthly reflective worship at HTS
- January Covenant Service at HTS with Rachael Wilson and Bishop Viv
- March Ash Wednesday at Toothill
- Maundy Thursday "Washing of Feet" at HTS
- Good Friday at Westlea (10am), Holy Hour (2pm) at Toothill and St Mary's Tenebrae (7pm)
- Easter Sunrise at St Mary's
- April, Partnership AGM, at Toothill
- May, Partnership Pentecost Service at Westlea with Mike Dilly
- June, Ordination to Priesthood Celebration Service for Teresa at St Mary's
- Sept Education Sunday at Toothill with Rachael Wilson and Gayle Bryon
- Nov Memorial service at St Mary's
- Nov Christ the King at HTS
- December Nativity workshop and service at HTS
- December Open Air Carols in St Mary's
- Dec Carols with Communion at Toothill with Gerald England

Our aim is to work collaboratively with our schools to support Collective worship, RE Lessons, visits to our Churches and offer experiences at key festivals. The schools are committed to providing their children with excellent Religious Education Experiences and are always keen to explore new opportunities. This year our new experiences were Christmas through the Keyhole and a Multi-sensory Easter, both sessions were fun to resource and exciting to share with the schools. At HTS and in Hazlewood Academy we used Easter Explored, it worked brilliantly, the children enjoyed meeting 'Peter' and discovering the Easter story through his eyes. Our Open the book rehearsals are full of laughter. Props and outfits are made by our gifted and skilled team members. The children are absorbed by the stories and our Year 6 helpers enjoy being dressed up. The Deputy Head is great at picking up on the theme of the story and encourages the children to continue reflecting on what they have heard. Our Prayer Workshop, Bringing Church to school, Pilgrimage sessions, Eggciting Easter and Christingles remain popular activities with our schools.

The Diocese Mentoring Course finished at the beginning of the year. As a mentor I have been trained to offer advice and support to churches who hope to serve their local school. The Inspire Conference was led by the mentor team, 6 of our Partnership volunteers attended the training day to gain new knowledge and skills. Lifepath 2019 at Malmesbury Abbey saw over 600 hundred children from across Wiltshire spend a day exploring the Christian faith through the life of Eilmer. Westlea School and Oliver Tomkins were among the Swindon schools who were able to attend the day. It was wonderful that five Partnership volunteers were able to support this event and had the opportunity to serve our schools with volunteers from the wider Christian community.

The Royal British Legion Opening of the Garden of Remembrance 2019 fell in half term, children and teachers from Oliver Tomkins and Westlea showed great commitment turning out in superb numbers during their half term holiday to sing in the service. Our Remembering Together sessions and services on 11<sup>th</sup> November were attended by five primary schools. The learning sessions gained good feedback from all the schools. The remembrance services in which the children took part leading prayers and readings were very poignant.

Our Partnership activity days have followed our Holy Habits themes, Baking the Bible in the summer was a glorious creative celebration of baking and eating together. It is great to see children and young people coming regularly to our days and bringing friends with them. Our new Friendship Tea initiative brings together Claire's young people with residents of George Tweed Gardens, games, quizzes, singing and food have brought great enjoyment to everyone involved.

danced, sang and made props. We also explored the theme of what makes for good 'family life'. The young people chose to donate the proceeds of the show (£150) to SMASH (Swindon Mentoring and Self Help) which works with children and young people needing support. The Christmas Show, 'Babushka', explored themes of loneliness and seeking Jesus – a beautiful Russian folk-tale which weaves in the Nativity Story in an imaginative and inspiring way. The young people raised an amazing £250 at the show for 'Embrace' to help Syrian refugee families.

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 or they can be referred by parents, subject to interview with Project Manager.

#### **Working with the rest of the Partnership**

Mary Poole, Gayle Bryon and I continued to meet together to pray and discuss children's and youth work in the partnership, supporting one another in our work. We planned and held three meetings for partnership children's and youth workers to come together for creative worship and time of sharing and celebration of what we do.

Gayle and I planned and led three 'Friendship Teas' (see above for details). We also supported each other in our respective children's and youth sessions and holiday clubs. Young people from emerge groups attended some of Gayle's holiday sessions.

#### **Schools Work**

##### **Lifepath over 600 hundred children**

##### **Working with Charlotte on HLF session, conservation hats on – wonderful! Youth!**

2019 has been a year of broadening horizons for our Partnership Schools Work. Our link with Uganda has been deepened through the Diocese Education Visit to Kampala and Luweero in February 2019. Stepping into Katikamu Primary School and all the other schools we visited was an amazing privilege and blessing. Sharing my Uganda experience with our churches and schools over the year in assemblies, services and holiday clubs has been a joy. The Bristol-Uganda Link 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October 2019 enabled us to welcome the Youth Fellowship Choir, Rev Paulson, Canon Frederick, Bishop Eridard and Mama Jane to Swindon. Their presence in our schools was a very special and unique learning experience for everyone involved. Bringing our link schools together at St Francis School to welcome our visitors in song was a great way to connect with a wider community and it was fantastic to be able to continue developing relationships with the wonderful Head Teachers I had travelled with.

"Encounter" continues on the 3rd Sunday of the month at HTS. We tried a new initiative of Holy Habits Going Deeper once a month, but this has not had the take up as expected, so has been discontinued.

We are thankful for the prayerful energy and commitment of Richard Williams, Peter Roslyk and Ian Bryon in encouraging us to continue developing our Holy Habits and being our champions.

Prayer continues to be an important part of our lives within the partnership although specific groups have gone into a period of sabbatical at this time.

### **Day-group for Jesus**

How are we doing?

We started in May 2019, meeting twice monthly at Holy Trinity Shaw, we now have 14 meetings under our belt. Wow, time has flown! Initially, we met on Thursday afternoons and then in September we changed to Monday PM. Mondays was a better day for those attending and those who wanted to come.

Initially there was 3 and 4 of us meeting, but now we have 8 who attend on a regular basis. We come from 4 different churches in the area.

We started studying miracles of Jesus, found in John's gospel and now have moved onto spiritual charisms, looking at Wisdom, Knowledge, Teaching, Service, etc.

The format of Study, Worship and Prayer for the first hour and then for the second hour having a time of chat over tea, coffee and biscuits is working well. Members appreciate the informal nature of the study and chatting afterwards. It also means that having a meeting of two halves, if people need to get away and only have time for a quick coffee, then they can do so.

The fellowship and friendship have grown between the members and supporting one another in times of need with hospital visits, bit of shopping here and there, help with GP visits, etc. Plus, we have plans if a member is long term sick then two of us would take prayers and fellowship to them. The Iona Abbey Morning Service is very adept for such purposes.

With tongue in cheek, if you are thinking of join us, don't just think about it join us! We will love to see you. If due to your commitments you can only pop in once month or every other month, then please still join us.

The ethos of the group, is to get to know one another and whether you attend regularly or casually it doesn't matter.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Pete & Edward

## Children and Young People's work

All of our local churches support children and young people on Sundays, and some midweek groups. These are described further and reported in the local church annual reports at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>, here we consider our joint efforts

### Partnership Childrens' and Youth work report

*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 Report Jan-Dec 2019

During the year we engaged with 16 young people aged 10-23 through the Monday and Saturday emerge youth clubs at Shaw Church and through summer holiday activities. We also had wider contact with many families and individuals as a result of our community events.

**Staffing:** Claire continued as Project Manager

**Volunteers:** Claire was supported by a team of 8 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 retired NHS physiotherapist. All have been interviewed, referenced and DBS checked. Maddy continued as our Young Leader on Mondays and Saturdays, growing in confidence and skills through the year. She also assisted at Gayle's Easter Holiday Club.

### **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.

### **Evaluation:**

We review and assess sessions each week and feedback from parents and young people is obtained annually.

Young people enjoy the sessions and use words such as: "**Happy**"; "**Amazing**"; "**Adventurous**"; "**Exciting**" and "**Proud**" to describe how they feel about them. Parents are very supportive of family events and gave the following feedback in 2019 as to what they see as the value of the youth club sessions:

**"My daughter has built her confidence through performing and has made friends;"**

**"Staff are so supportive and listen to the young people";**

**"They can socialise with peers in a safe environment";**

**"They can try new activities which they might not ordinarily choose to do";**

**"A lovely family atmosphere";**

**"Learning to express himself better";**

**"Staff are encouraging, engaging and give up lots of their time, which is much appreciated".**

**"Thank you to everyone involved in Emerge. It has really had a positive impact on our daughter and family life".**

**"It's an inclusive club where I don't have to worry about my daughter fitting in".**

Volunteers are motivated and attend termly meetings to review and plan ahead and agree that we are meeting the above aims.

### **Summary of Activities:**

The out of school Monday (weekly) and Saturday (monthly) groups for our young people with additional needs have continued regularly throughout the year with 2 new referrals. On Mondays we explored themes of: **Internet Safety**; "**The Kindness Project**"; **Transformation**; **Encouragement and Fighting Prejudice**.

We explored the Easter story in dramatic form through the characters of Mary and Martha and Mary the Mother of Jesus. In the summer term we found out about the early Church through Peter's story and Paul's journeys. We also looked at 5 different parables of Jesus and reflected through discussion on their meanings.

In the Autumn Term we looked at the theme of Christmas around the world, with a particular focus on Syria and using resource material from 'Embrace the Middle East' charity. The young people really enjoyed looking at Christmas through different traditions and ideas. We also took part in the Samaritan's Purse Shoe box appeal. Throughout the year we enjoyed our usual blend of craft and cooking, games and social time.

We hosted two Friendship Teas during 2019 where we welcomed Gayle with her 'Goldies' group from George Tweed to join in an afternoon of socialising, crafts, games and singing. (This event was part of our funding bid with Community Foundation).

On Saturdays we held 11 three hour performing arts workshops for young people with additional needs with the same aims as Monday Club (see above). We held two community shows, at end of Summer and end of Autumn terms. The Summer show was a presentation of '**Mary Poppins**' in which the young people acted,