



# **In Partnership**

## **March 2008**



## Easter

I am not sure what image comes to your mind for Easter. Is it the chocolate Easter eggs, or the Easter bunnies, or Simnel cake?

For me Easter has become associated with the only time of the year when I get up really early to join a few others for our Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday morning. Praising God and watching the sunrise at the same time, seems to evoke for me the reality of God in a way that nothing else has ever done.

Easter should be one of the great Christian festivals, when we remember the miracle of the risen Jesus Christ who had conquered death, and was seen alive, albeit not always easily recognised, but many people.

We may not be able to see the risen Jesus in the flesh, but there is no doubt for me that each of us can meet the risen Jesus any time we choose, as he is with us and willing to guide and talk with us about whatever we need to discuss.

Easter is the time to remember that nothing is impossible for God, and if we are "in Christ" then we are also "in God", and so for us too nothing is impossible.

Easter is also a traditional time to remember loved ones who have passed on, to remember their lives and their contributions to our lives. Long may they be remembered.

So let us rejoice the Eastertide, and give thanks to God for his great blessing on the human race, the gift of Jesus for us, to show us the way, and to be our eternal companion and guide.

**Dick Gray**

## Contact information

The Partnership office is open on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30am-11:30am and on Friday from 1:30 pm until 3:30 pm.

The office number is 01793 874221. The office e-mail is:

[partnershipoffice@btopenworld.com](mailto:partnershipoffice@btopenworld.com)

The address for correspondence is:

The Partnership Office, Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre, SWINDON, SN5 5PY.

**For items for the next edition of Partnership news please send them to the office or to Dick Gray no later than 26<sup>th</sup> March.**

The editor's e-mail address is [dick643@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dick643@yahoo.co.uk)

The Partnership web site is <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk>

## Vacancy

**The Centre for Youth Ministry** is a consortium of training and youth work agencies committed to creating and providing courses, resources and research in Christian youth work and work with children and families.

We want to add to our small National Office Team, based in West Swindon, someone who is adaptable, resourceful in the face of the unexpected, and competent in basic IT and communication skills. You should be able to work confidently with:

- word-processed documents, spreadsheets and data entry. (Currently we use Microsoft Office 2007 – particularly Word, Excel and Access.)
- Microsoft Outlook and the internet
- telephone enquiries
- and be willing to assist in the overall work of the Charity

The post is part-time, 12-16 hours a week, preferably on the mornings of at least four working days. The normal commencing salary will be up to £14,000 pro rata depending on relevant experience. CYM makes a contribution (currently 6.5% of gross salary) to a personal pension plan. At present the post is temporary – until 31 August 2008 – but it is hoped that funding will be available to make it permanent from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008.

**How to apply:** Do not send a CV before reading further details of the vacancy and completing an application form. These are available from:

Rachael Williams, Centre for Youth Ministry

Trinity business Centre, Stonehill Green

Swindon Wilts SN5 7DG

admin@centreforyouthministry.ac.uk

Informal enquiries are welcome: please phone Rachael Williams

**Closing date for applications is Thursday 13 March 2008**

**Interviews week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> March**

## Partnership Quiz Night

**7 30 pm Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall**

Everyone is warmly invited to our Partnership Quiz hosted by All Saints. Quiz questions are as usual, from easy to harder questions, on a variety of subjects suiting all - TV, sport, gardening, music, cooking, historical, geographical, biblical and general knowledge - brain teasers, with answers always on the tip of some one's tongue ! Your team may win a prize.

If you come on your own there will be plenty of teams glad of your brain power. We will form into teams on the night. Coffee/tea and nibbles are served.

Voluntary donations are invited please, for our refurbishment funds for Maggie's Cottage - so we can have our own loo and meeting room.

We look forward to welcoming YOU and your friends.

## All Saints Day of Prayer Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Lent is a time for Christians to focus more fully on God and perhaps a time of giving up something so we can learn again how important he is in our lives.

A special time of focus at All Saints will be a full day of prayer on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March. The day will start at sunrise (6.30am) and then be divided into hour long sessions when we can pray for one another and for our world. You are invited to join us for part of an hour, an hour or even longer. You might also like to lead a session in a style of praying that helps you most.

More information will follow from the Prayer & Pastoral Care Team at All Saints.

## Partnership wide services & events

### Partnership Communion

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 6:30pm at St Mary's Lydiard Tregoz

### Holy Week meditations

17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March 12:30pm at Toothill

Light lunch included

### Sunrise Service on Easter Morning

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 6:00am at St Mary's Lydiard Tregoz

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Joint Service

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 10:30am at Holy Trinity Shaw

### Partnership Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 12 March 2008

7.45pm at Toothill Church

Bring and share snacks from 7:15pm

### Hope 08

Watch this space for more information.

Are you making your contribution to the million hours of kindness?

### The Big Ask

The Climate Change Bill will be discussed in the House of Commons in April. In order to encourage MPs to vote for an effective Bill, a group of charities has agreed on 3 important points to raise with MPs:

- The target should be an 80% reduction by 2050 (60% is not enough)
- Emissions from international flights should be included (they haven't been included in any targets up to now)
- There should be annual targets (we must start now and keep going to have any chance of achieving the 2050 target)

I have some cards from Friends of the Earth that we can use to send to MPs. Please ask if you want some EdGlennie.

If you want to know more, read the Spring 2008 Tear Times or visit <http://www.tearfund.org/Campaigning/>

### Day out for children

#### Longleat 17<sup>th</sup> May

The PILOTS organisation is holding a large scale event at LONGLEAT on Saturday May 17th called "Pilots On Safari" - contact the Pilots Desk at Church House (0207 916 8637) for more information and a pack. Also see our South west youth website (address below).

ALL Children's groups associated with our churches are invited to be "Pilots for the DAY" AND to join in the fun!

The closing date is not far off so If you are interested in taking your group to LONGLEAT on 17th May then *call Sylvia at the Pilots Desk - 0207 916 8637 NOW!*

[www.urcsouthwestyouth.co.uk](http://www.urcsouthwestyouth.co.uk)

[www.urcsouthwest.org.uk](http://www.urcsouthwest.org.uk)

To give you an idea of the drama production, think more *Jesus of Nazareth* with Robert Powell than Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. This superb BBC drama, with all the questions it raises, could be used in schools. The Bible Society is working on that, which gives you an idea that this production is aimed at prime time main stream audience, all of whom are going to be challenged about Jesus and whether he rose from the dead or not. Some churches may invite people to discuss what they have seen, or even set up a big screen showing (in the pub?), while others will advise on Notice Boards and websites the [www.rejesus.co.uk/passion\\_resource](http://www.rejesus.co.uk/passion_resource) .

Whatever we do, let's make good use of the opportunity being presented for public discussion. Ours is not a private religion and we invite everyone to have their own opinion. Evangelisation is about sharing the good news of Jesus in our own generation. What happened in Jesus' last week in Jerusalem is a challenge to all of us, and what better opportunity do we all have to stop and think about it? The discussion starts on Palm Sunday 16th March and ends on

## Other Local Events

### Women's' World Day of Prayer

Friday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at St Peter's RC Church, Carronbridge Road SN5 7ES. This year the service has been prepared by the women of Guyana and the theme is "**God's wisdom provides new understanding**". The speaker is Clare-Marie Burchall and all are welcome. There is disabled access and ample parking.

### Healing and Wholeness Service

Highworth Methodist Church  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 7.45pm  
Led by Rev John Wiltshire  
All are very welcome  
Refreshments will be served afterwards.  
(The next service is planned for Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April)

### **Jumble Sale & Nearly New Bric a Brac Sale Saturday March 29th from 1.45pm - 4pm. at Holy Trinity Church Shaw**

St Mary's Church & The Lydiards Branch of Mother's Union Lydiard Tregoze are having A Jumble Sale & Nearly New Bric a Brac Sale on Saturday March 29th from 1.45pm - 4pm. at Holy Trinity Church Shaw.  
Items for sale can be brought to Holy Trinity Church from 1pm. onwards.  
Please do support this Fund Raising Event.

**Spring Harvest** accommodation available for all 6 Weeks of the Main Event 2008 at Butlin's Skegness and Minehead in March and April.

## **X;site**

Saturday January 26th saw St. Paul's Church, Covingham, invaded again by children from across Swindon eager to be part of the **X:site** event. Lights, music, banners, and beautifully created gazebos for prayer or time out greeted the ever expanding hordes of youngsters who make up the various red, green and yellow teams.

The theme this time was One Way with the story told from Daniel chapter 1 of how the young men from Judah chose to live by God's rules rather than enjoy the food and wine of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian court. This put them in a potentially dangerous situation and made them stand apart from all the others because they wanted to be obedient to God. We wanted the children to understand that God will be with us whatever the situation and that as followers of him sometimes we have to make difficult decisions that show others we are different.

Lianne, Lee and Richard led us in upfront games, activities, songs and the mad messy quiz "Drainpipe of Doom". One of the new lively songs, "I've got a very big God", involves some fairly torturous actions (for adults that is!) The Soul Doctor chose Tom, the band drummer, to tell us of when he had to make a difficult decision for God. We also had a quiet reflective time where we were all invited to bring a cobblestone to the front to build a cairn to remind us that we are on a journey with God, we are travelling in the right direction, that others have been before and we are not alone.

In their small groups the children planted a tray of cress seeds in the outline GOD so that when the seeds sprout again they will be reminded that God is with them. It is brilliant to realise that over 17 churches are represented in all the many areas of work at the **X:site** event, from the sound and lighting technicians, band members, admin folk, those organising refreshments to small group leaders, core team and the bubbling members of the junior **x:perts** team who work so hard and connect in a very special way with the youngsters. New friendships are being formed,

## **The Passion**

As I understand it, the key reason the BBC drama department have spent millions commissioning The Passion, detailing the last week of Jesus' life, is simply because it is a good story. Nothing more. Having said that, though, the mere retelling of the Gospel narrative is a deeply moving experience which raises lots of questions in the mind of the viewer about the characters involved, especially Jesus and what he came to do.

So what are we to do? Worry that the BBC gets criticized for promoting the Gospel? Ignore the fact that millions of people will be challenged about Jesus? Complain to the Times about the colour of his hair? Debate the textual interpretation of Mark 16 verse 1?

A small representative Think Tank has been working with Andrew Graystone from the Churches Media Council to consider these questions for the wider Church. First of all we recommend all Christians everywhere welcome this production and don't criticize the finer points. The small section of film we were privileged to see leads us to commend the BBC for an excellent piece of drama which clearly follows the Gospel narrative. It illuminates the power struggles, relationships, expectations and questions about the resurrection. It is very moving and may touch our nation. Certainly we need to be ready for a conversation.

All advisory material for churches can be found at [www.churchesmediacouncil.org.uk/passion](http://www.churchesmediacouncil.org.uk/passion) . The public conversation is to be resourced by ReJesus, as it works on behalf of all the Churches in Britain and Ireland. The ReJesus team is working hard to see what interesting material – like actors' interviews, video clips and further resource information – can be placed on [www.rejesus.co.uk/passion](http://www.rejesus.co.uk/passion) . Please point people to these two main web resources, the first of which faces the church audience, the second of which faces the public at large.

## Safeguarding Children in Faith Communities

**Target Group:** Members of Faith Groups & Communities  
30 Delegates Maximum

### Aim

To help faith groups/communities ensure that they meet their legal and moral requirements in relation to safeguarding children and young people.

### Objectives/Learning Outcomes

1. To define the types of abuse.
2. To summarise the impact of abuse on children & their families.
3. To clarify what to do if there are concerns about a child being abused.
4. To develop safe practice within a Faith Group/Community.
5. To construct a child protection policy.
6. To list the roles of the statutory agencies.
7. To explain how to make a child protection referral.
8. To define what you need to do if you have a concern about any individual.

**Saturday 8 March 2008, 0900 - 1630**

Swindon Police Station, Gablecross

**Facilitated By:** Anne Eagan, Qahir Sheikh, Mike Selbie, Steph McQuade and Geoff Wood

- There is no charge for this course
- Refreshments and lunch will be provided

**Please note that for this course applications must be made directly to:**

Christine Mister, LSCB Training Administrator, Swindon Local Safeguarding Board, c/o Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH. Telephone 01793 463803.  
Email [cmister@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:cmister@swindon.gov.uk)

experiences shared and it is wonderful to see God at work in so many ways, not just in the lives of the children.

The next **X:site** event is on Saturday March 29th, 6pm at St. Paul's Covingham. Have a look at our website at [www.xsiteuk.org](http://www.xsiteuk.org), click on Regional then Swindon and you can see some of what we get up to and also download registration forms.

If you would like to experience **X:site** for yourselves then get in touch with the **X:site** cocoordinator [Liannes@scriptureunion.org.uk](mailto:Liannes@scriptureunion.org.uk) who would be only to pleased to invite you to come and see one of the events

### Hello, Hello, Hello, what have we here then?

Wiltshire Police are looking to appoint voluntary chaplains who will respond to the needs of police personnel in the chaplain's local area. Chaplains may be ordained or lay and ideally should be already exercising an authorised ministry within the Church. The chaplains are asked to commit a minimum of eight hours per month to this work. Police chaplaincy offers opportunities for a stimulating ministry with rich leaning experiences for personal development. For further details contact: Rev Dr Richard Armitage, [richard.armitage@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:richard.armitage@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

## Church Services in the Partnership

### All Saints, Lydiard Millicent

| Date                   | Time           | Form                        |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> March  | 8:00am         | Communion                   |
|                        | 10:30am        | Morning Service             |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> March  | 8:00am         | Communion Prayer Book       |
|                        | 10:30am        | Communion                   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> March | 8:00am         | Communion                   |
|                        | 10:30am        | All age worship             |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>7:30pm</b>  | <b>At Lydiard Tregoze</b>   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> March | 6:30pm         | Last Hour                   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> March | 8:00am         | Communion Prayer Book       |
|                        | 10:30am        | Family Communion            |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> March | 8:00am         | Communion Prayer Book       |
|                        | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>At Holy Trinity Shaw</b> |
|                        | 6:30pm         | Evening Worship             |

Morning prayers Monday to Saturday at 9:00am.

### St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

| Date                   | Time           | Form                         |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> March  | 10:00am        | Morning service              |
|                        | <b>6:30pm</b>  | <b>Partnership Communion</b> |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> March  | 10:00am        | Communion                    |
|                        | 6:30pm         | Evening service Prayer Book  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> March | 10:00am        | Family Service               |
|                        | 6:30pm         | Communion Prayer Book        |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> March | 7:30pm         | Maundy Service               |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> March | 10:00am        | Morning Service              |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> March | <b>6:00am</b>  | <b>Sunrise service</b>       |
|                        | 10:00am        | Family Communion             |
|                        | 6:30pm         | Songs of praise              |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>At Holy Trinity Shaw</b>  |
|                        | 6:30pm         | Communion                    |

## Church Services in the Partnership

### Toothill

| Date                   | Time           | Form                        |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> March  | 10:45am        | Communion                   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> March  | 10:45am        | Morning Service             |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> March | 10:45am        | Family Service              |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> March | 7:30pm         | Maundy Service              |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> March | <b>10:00am</b> | <b>Joint with HTS</b>       |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> March | 10:45am        | Family Communion            |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>At Holy Trinity Shaw</b> |

### Holy Trinity Shaw

| Date                   | Time           | Form                       |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> March  | 10:30am        | Communion                  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> March  | 10:30am        | Morning Service            |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> March | 10:30am        | Communion                  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>7:30pm</b>  | <b>At Toothill</b>         |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> March | <b>10:00am</b> | <b>Morning Service</b>     |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> March | 10:30am        | Family Communion           |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>Partnership Service</b> |

### Westlea

| Date                   | Time           | Form                        |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> March  | 10:00am        | Communion                   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> March  | 10:00am        | Family service              |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> March | 10:00am        | Morning Worship             |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> March | 10:00am        | Morning Worship             |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> March | 10:00am        | Family Communion            |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>At Holy Trinity Shaw</b> |

### Holy Week meditations

17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March 12:30pm at Toothill