



# In Partnership October 2008



The Partnership of West Swindon and the Lydiards  
Baptist • Church of England • Methodist • United Reformed Church

This last month has been a time of great turbulence. In the Caribbean and in the southern part of the USA hurricanes with various names have wreaked havoc. Lives that have been built around the stability of home have been swept away in one night. On the Global stock markets millions have been lost and Banks that have been a “solid rock” for years have changed hands. Meanwhile for most of us just keeping up with the fuel bill, being able to afford to fill the Car with petrol, and not having your bank card bounce back at the Supermarket checkout are every day challenges.

It would be glib to say “Well the answer to all this I trust in Jesus”. People who genuinely do trust in Jesus have been rocked by all the above. In Los Angeles a youth worker from one of the big Churches was killed in the recent Metro link train crash. Whatever we might think about big banks, they employ people and some of those workers are Christians who know and love Jesus.

So where God is in all the turmoil, where can we find foundations that will not be rocked? I think that when times are hard it does force us to look to the things about God that circumstances cannot change. If you read Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s book “The cost of Discipleship” you learn something of a faith forged at the worst time of the Nazi domination of Germany. As Bonhoeffer said “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die”. It may be that many of us will have to restructure our lives over the next decade, and to be a Christian will be tough. But its at such times we rediscover what are the true foundations of our faith.

When I was doing a baptism on Sunday I reassured the 4 year old Child that the font would not move if she touched it, as it was built of solid material. “Its built on solid rock” someone shouted at. Great I said what a reminder as you are baptised that our faith is built upon the rock of Christ.

The foundations that I keep going back to are the death and resurrection of Christ, the reliability of scripture, the faithfulness of God, the spiritual refreshment I find in worship and in taking bread and wine. The list could go on and yes in tough times I would add that its Church as a living community, its the friendship of colleagues and family and friends, these are the foundations I fall back on.

If your experience is similar share it with someone in the queue at Asda’s or Sainsbury’s you might be surprised how ready people are to hear “Good News”  
Tudor Roberts

## Prayer points

- REMIX Youth club and G2G
- New evening services at All Saints every week
- Praying together in church and Partnership
- Community work

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> October.**

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

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

## National Quaker Week

**October 4th to 12th 2008:** Opportunities to find out about the experiences, beliefs, worship and work of Quakers - exhibitions in several libraries and the Health Hydro; articles in the local paper; members of Swindon Friends (Quaker) Meeting speaking in the early morning "Faith slot" on local radio. Contact: Elspeth Wollen (01793 845625) for further information

## Swindon Climate Action Network (SCAN)

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October** curry night at Planet Bollywood, Gorse Hill. Book a table and raise funds for SCAN. Book now on 435577.

## Growing Together

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** Swindon Interfaith Group will be holding a Celebration on the theme of 'Growing Together' at the Pilgrim Centre at 7 pm, all welcome.

## West Papua The Pacific's forgotten tragedy

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** Friends Meeting House, Eastcott Hill. 7.30pm Swindon & Marlborough Amnesty International group. Emma 01793 638097

## Dreaming of a Holy Night

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December** Graham Kendrick's 'Dreaming of a Holy Night Tour'. Evening performance fully booked. Tickets are still available for the matinee at 3.30pm. Phone the Wyvern on 01793 524481 to book.

We need a choir for both performances – if you are interested in taking part contact Barbara 01793 536815

## Dates for your diary

# LUNCH

# BUNCH

Enjoy a time of meeting friends over lunch at Toothill church from  
12 noon

EVERY SECOND TUESDAY

October 14th

November 11th

December 9th

## Partnership Reflective Prayer Group

If you are interested in attending when you are available then please reserve in your diaries. If not, and want to come off this mailing list, then please let me know. Please feel free to invite others also, including from other churches or none!.

The aim is to provide opportunities to pray in more experimental and generally relaxing ways. Using maybe music, art, visual aids, exercises, simulation, silence, meditation, scripture.

Each session will be led by different people.

The venue will vary also, and be notified nearer the time.

The dates: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 7.30pm (Shaw Rectory)  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November (Quiet Day)

## River of Life - A day for prayer

Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup> at Toothill Church

Drop at any time between 10.30 and 4.00 (come and go as you please.)

Come and take the opportunity to stop and reflect in prayer.

## PARTNERSHIP SOCIAL EVENT

# DANCE NIGHT

Led by: "TIME IS  
TIGHT TRIO"

Featuring Music from all eras, but especially the  
60s and 70s

For dancing of all sorts for ALL ages!  
Also for your pure enjoyment to listen!

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
**7 – 9.30PM**  
**AT HOLY TRINITY SHAW**

**FREE. BRING & SHARE SUPPER**

No Tickets needed – but please try to sign up to help the organisers (St. Mary's Church) to plan arrangements.

### Is the course for you?

- Yes, if you are involved in a church-based community activity like a lunch club or toddler group and want to think through how to develop new activities .
- Yes, if you are in a non-church group like a community association or school Parent Teacher Association and want to play a bigger part.
- Yes, if you are a church leader who wants to promote more community outreach from your church.
- Yes, if you feel called to start up a new group or activity, in or out of the church.

The course has been written with Christians in mind. It uses biblical material and is founded on Christian values. People of other faiths, and those of none, will be very welcome, provided they feel they can work constructively with this approach.

### Why not come to a one-off taster session?

Please let me know if you would like to book a place at the following taster session.

**7.30pm Wed. 1<sup>st</sup> October**  
**at the United Reformed Church, Penhill Drive.**

Yours,  
John Saunders,  
Church Community Worker,  
United Reformed Church, Penhill Drive, Swindon, SN2 5LJ  
01793 724219, mob. 07828 041152  
Email: [john.saunders@surefish.co.uk](mailto:john.saunders@surefish.co.uk)

## Other Local Events

# Helping Build Up Communities

### What is in your Community Work Toolkit?

What do you know about different styles (or models) of community work being practiced and what knowledge do you have of the dynamics of group life?

What skills do you have to find out what really needs doing, to bring out the best in others and to get things done?

What attitudes do you have towards a range of people who are different from you? Can you take into account other people's opinions and weigh up your own values in the face of new situations and dilemmas?

### What is in the course, Valuing Community Experiences?

1. The need for community and community work
2. Models of community work
3. Discerning needs and opportunities in the community
4. Linking faith and community work
5. Group work
6. Working with a community group
7. Discrimination, equality and power
8. Evaluation and reflection
9. Communication
10. Developing self esteem and confidence



### Children's Worker Training

Sat Nov 29<sup>th</sup> 9.30 -12.30

On Saturday morning 29<sup>th</sup> November from 9.30-12.30 there will be a session on '**Creative Communications**'. This is essentially an ideas/ training session for any involved in children's or all age meetings. He is a very dynamic and innovative person and we look forward to having his input.. (this session is adults only – if you would like us to try to organise a 'creche' so you can come then please let Anne know. ) Please take a flyer and book your place with Tricia Roberts (Tudor's wife )– Cost £5 See <http://www.johnhardwick.org.uk/> for more information about him and what he does.

### Primary Age Praise Party

Sat Nov 29<sup>th</sup>: 3.30 – 5pm

In the afternoon he is in action again with a praise party for the children.. This is a free event aimed at children aged 5-11, who must be accompanied by a responsible adult. He is great fun, but brings through that a very thought provoking message using song, puppets, and many other interactive skills. No charge... but all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Further information on posters and flyers can be downloaded from <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/youth/JohnHardwick/>

### Sunday Nov 30<sup>th</sup>

John Hardwick will lead the Partnership Service at Shaw

### Safe to Grow Training

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October at Holy Trinity Shaw 9:30-11:00am.

Basic & Refresher training

All people working in the Partnership Churches with children and young people are obliged to do this training. Including children's advocates, youth group leaders, children's club leaders etc.

## Church Services in the Partnership

### All Saints, Lydiard Millicent

Date	Time	Form
5 <sup>th</sup> October	8:00am	Communion
	10:30am	Harvest Festival
	6:30pm	Evening Worship
12 <sup>th</sup> October	8:00am	Communion Prayer Book
	10:30am	Communion
	6:30pm	Evening Worship
19 <sup>th</sup> October	8:00am	Communion
	10:30am	All age worship
	6:30pm	Evening Worship
26 <sup>th</sup> October	8:00am	Communion Prayer Book
	10:30am	Morning Service
	6:30pm	Evening Worship

### St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
5 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am	Morning service
	3:00pm	<b>At Oliver Tomkins</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am	Communion
	6:30pm	Evening Service Prayer book
19 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am	Family Service with TEAR Fund
	6:30pm	Communion Prayer Book
26 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am	Communion
	6:30pm	Songs of Praise

## Church Services in the Partnership

### Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
5 <sup>th</sup> October	10:30am	Family Communion Service
12 <sup>th</sup> October	10:30am	Morning Service
19 <sup>th</sup> October	10:30am	Communion
26 <sup>th</sup> October	10:30am	Family Service

### Toothill

Date	Time	Form
5 <sup>th</sup> October	10:30am	Morning Service
12 <sup>th</sup> October	10:30am	Communion
19 <sup>th</sup> October	10:30am	Family Service
26 <sup>th</sup> October	10:30am	Family Service

Please note the changed time of services!!

### Westlea

Date	Time	Form
5 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am	Harvest & Communion
12 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am	Family service
19 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am	Morning Service
26 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am	Swap service