



In Partnership November 2008



Autumn is in the air, and it is time to begin to think about Christmas. The clocks have gone back and nights are long and dark.

The winter is a time when many people become depressed and anxious, and it is a time when we as Christians should take action. Are there people in your neighbourhood who find it difficult to get out when the weather is bad? Are there lonely people living nearby?

Christ's command for each of us is to love God first and as a result to love those who are around us. There is so much that we could do if only we had the time to do so. Perhaps this is a time to consider whether there is someone nearby who would welcome a visit or even an invitation to come to our place.

Christmas can be a time when lonely people feel very alone, and would welcome a friendly gesture, even just a note on a card dropped through the letter box.

As the credit crunch begins to bite for many of us, let us focus on what should be all about and that is celebrating God's gift to us of Jesus, the one who came to show us how to live.

One of the greatest gifts that each of us can offer to others is our friendship and care. It costs nothing apart from time, but it shows perhaps more than anything else a Christian heart in actually being an agent of sharing God's love with someone who really needs to know they are not alone.

In our busy lives, help us to find time for one another.

Dick

Dates for your diary

LUNCH

BUNCH

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

EVERY SECOND TUESDAY

November 11th

December 9th

river of
life

a prayer day
at Toothill Church
on Saturday November
1st

from 10.30am - 4.00pm

come and go as you are able
and take the opportunity to
stop and reflect in prayer

Prayer points

- Wisdom about church building maintenance and developments
- Praying together in church and Partnership
- Community café at Toothill
- Our church ministers

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

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 26th November.

The editor's e-mail address is dick643@yahoo.co.uk

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

the same level as us and we soon jelled as a group as we shared various birding experiences.

Each day started and finished with worship. Sometimes this was just for us and sometimes we joined other worshippers either at the St Cuthbert's Centre or at the Anglican Church. At various points in the day we joined together for "Story Time" when we were read sections from Simon Barnes' "How to be a bad birdwatcher". Although an atheist he has a remarkably spiritual attitude to birds. We then set off to explore the birdlife of all the different habitats on the island, four walks in all.

All in all it was a great way to spend my birthday, doing something I enjoy with other Christians who feel the same. And what was the highlight for me? Well there were various special moments: the barn owl catching and eating its tea only a short way away; the gannets as they shot like torpedoes into the sea after fish, the starlings weighing down the power lines only to take off and soar around this way and that like smoke before roosting for the night (a real Bill Oddie moment). Yes all these were special but what will stay with me is the lone Red wing that we watched as it struggled against the wind to touch land after flying in from Scandinavia. It virtually fell from the sky at our feet exhausted from its journey and immediately started to feed oblivious to us a few feet away. It is a thrush like bird, I sometimes see them in the local fields in late winter, but to me it summed up the miracle not only of God's creation, but also his protection and care for even the most insignificant of creatures. I went away with my heart singing.

Janet Gray

**DAY OF REFLECTION
("QUIET DAY")
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22ND
9.30am – 4pm**

ALDBOURNE METHODIST CHAPEL

Led By Revd Derek Collins, Methodist Superintendent,
Swindon & Marlborough Circuit.

"Discovering the presence of god's spirit in surprising
people, places, and events."

The event is free. Bring your own packed lunch, or enjoy lunch at a local pub! Drinks provided – donations welcome. Please register at Partnership Office

**All Saints Church Lydiard Millicent
Maggie's Cottage Refurbishment Project
New Creation Band Worship Evening
Sunday 16th November 6 30 pm**

Everyone is welcome. You will be able to sing along with modern worship songs played by the 6 piece band. The music will last about an hour with a short interval for a wine/coffee. Donations from the evening will be for Maggie's Cottage refurbishment fund. Please invite all the folk you can to come along with you. We very much look forward to New Creation coming and a full church.

Eileen Sawyer

Children's Worker Training

Sat Nov 29th 9.30 -12.30

On Saturday morning 29th 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 29th: 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 30th

John Hardwick will lead the Partnership Service at Shaw

Christmas Care

24th December 2pm until 28th December

Queens Drive Methodist Church

Are you able to help as a volunteer or can you donate money or needed items?

Meeting for volunteers 13th or 19th November at 8pm.

Donations of money, food, sleeping bags, blankets, towels, toiletries, good warm clothing, shoes are welcome.

Donations received Sat 13th or 20th 10am-3pm or 17th & 19th 7pm-9:30pm.

More details www.christmascare.co.uk

Are you doing anything exciting for your 60th birthday?

This was a question I was often asked over the last few weeks and I had an answer ready.

"Yes, Dick and I are off on a Christian Bird watching weekend on Lindisfarne.

The weekend was the brainchild of a URC Minister but was lead by a local Anglican Priest with help from a Baptist so we were a truly ecumenical group!

But what to expect? Would everyone but us be incredibly knowledgeable, slung about with expensive binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras? Would we, as very new amateur birdwatchers feel inadequate? We were soon put at our ease. Yes our leaders were very knowledgeable and able to tell a red throated diver from a black throated diver in winter plumage when all they looked like were tiny dots on the sea often obscured by waves. However their desire was to share that knowledge. Through sharing their scopes we could become intimate with the birds in a non intrusive way. Their joy was in hearing the rest of us express delight and wonder as eventually we picked out and understood what we could see. Most of the other guests were on

Quiz Night

29th November

Christ Church Leisure Centre (Cricklade St) Swindon
A fun night for groups & individuals to compete across the churches.

The aim is also to raise money for the peoples of Zimbabwe - to be sent to Pastor Naboth Mtangadura who I met whilst at Bible College in London. He is in Chinhoyi Zimbabwe and supporting many widows and orphans with HIV/AIDS - at a time of political strife, high inflation and impending starvation of Ethiopian proportions.

Christmas Tree Festival

Friday 5th – Sunday 7th December:

St Sampson's Church Cricklade

Our first Christmas Tree Festival. Trees donated and decorated by schools, clubs and organisations in Cricklade. Each tree will represent a carol. Entertainment by local groups and musicians. Memory tree to add the name of a loved one. Children's corner including storytelling. Guess the carol quiz. Refreshments.

Friday 5th December 7.30pm-9pm – hot drinks

Saturday 6th December 10am-4.30pm – coffee, light lunches, afternoon teas

Sunday 7th December 3pm-5pm – carols at 4pm

Dreaming of a Holy Night

Monday 8th 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 Aftelak

Church Services in the Partnership

All Saints, Lydiard Millicent

Date	Time	Form
2 nd November	8:00am	Communion
	10:30am	Communion
	6:30pm	Evening Worship
9 th November	8:00am	Communion Prayer Book
	10:30am	Communion
	6:30pm	Evening Worship
16 th November	8:00am	Communion
	10:30am	All age worship
	6:30pm	See special events
23 rd November	8:00am	Communion Prayer Book
	10:30am	Morning Service
	6:30pm	Evening Worship
30 th November	8:00am	Communion Prayer Book
	10:30am	Joint service at HT Shaw
	6:30pm	Evening Worship

St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
2 nd November	10:00am	Morning service
	6:30pm	Partnership Communion
9 th November	10:00am	Communion
	6:30pm	Evening Service Prayer book
16 th November	10:00am	Family Service with Bethany Trust
	6:30pm	Communion Prayer Book
23 rd November	10:00am	Communion
	6:30pm	Songs of Praise
30 th November	10:30am	Joint service at HT Shaw
	6:30pm	Communion

Church Services in the Partnership

Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
2 nd November	10:30am	Family Communion Service
9 th November	10:30am	Morning Service
16 th November	10:30am	Communion
23 rd November	10:30am	Family Service
30 th November	10:30am	Joint service at HT Shaw

Toothill

Date	Time	Form
2 nd November	10:30am	Communion
9 th November	10:30am	Family Service
16 th November	10:30am	Family Service
23 rd November	10:30am	Morning Service
30 th November	10:30am	Joint service at HT Shaw

Please note the changed time of services!!

Westlea

Date	Time	Form
2 nd November	10:00am	Communion
9 th November	10:00am	Family service
16 th November	10:00am	Morning Service
23 rd November	10:00am	Swap service
30 th November	10:30am	Joint service at HT Shaw

Other Local Events

Healing and Wholeness service

Highworth Methodist Church

Thursday 6th November

Starting at 7.45pm

Led by Rev John Wiltshire

All are very welcome

Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Brunel Brass in Concert

St Andrews Methodist Church Moredon Road

Friday 28th November at 7.30pm

Tickets £3.50 from Church Members

Proceeds in aid of Willows Counselling Service and Church Funds

The Stand

8th November NEC Birmingham 2pm-10pm.

An event to provoke the church to STAND UP against the injustice of human trafficking and slavery.

Speakers: Andy Hawthorne, Ben Cooley, Steve Chalke, Joseph D'Souza, Baroness Cox, Sean Litton.

There are seats available on a coach at £10, plus reduced tickets at £20 available from Sally Parker.