



Prayer points

- ECC Standing Committee 12th January
- ECC Goals for 2009 meeting 18th January
- ECC Meeting 26th January
- Marriage preparation weekend course 31st January
- Praying together in church and Partnership
- Remix and after school club
- Our staff team

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.
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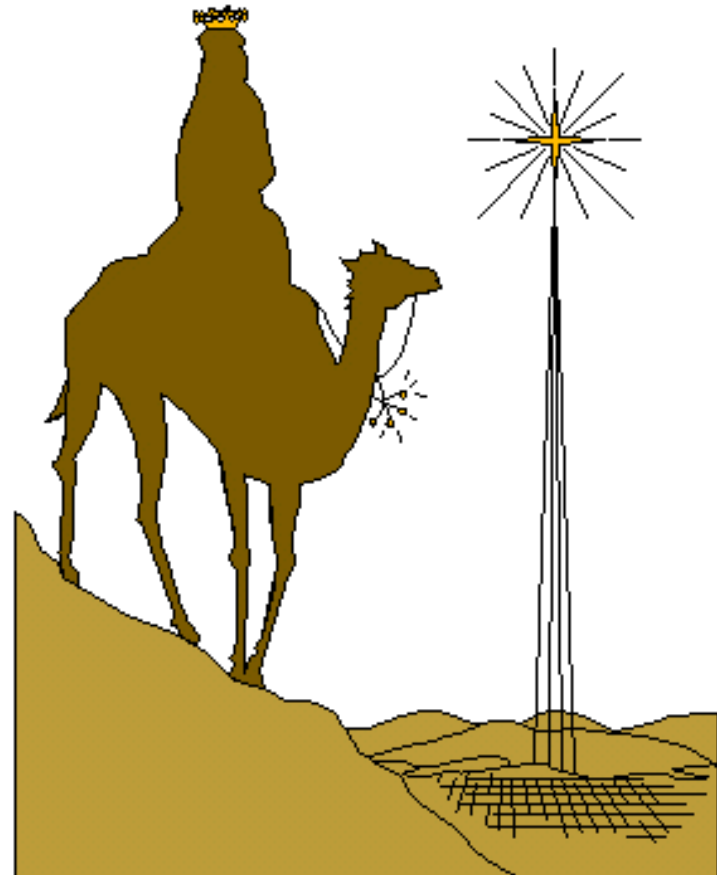
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For items for the next edition of Partnership news please send them to the office or to Dick Gray no later than 27th January.

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

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

In Partnership January 2009



2009: A YEAR OF FOREBODING?? I HOPE NOT!!

It's customary at the turn of a new year for magazine articles to try to peer into the crystal ball and try to work out what might happen in the next 12 months. I need hardly tell you that the predictions for 2009 do not make happy reading! Because of the deepening economic slowdown we are all expected to be poorer by the end of 2009 than we are at the beginning. As one paper headline put it: "Boom then Bust!"

In the light of this Church leaders and the Queen have responded with the archetypal Christian messages:

- Life is more than materialism, so seek solace in the spiritual side to existence. Seek first the kingdom of heaven as your treasure;
- Build your relationships with the people who really matter to you. Look to God as your friend and guide through the tough times.
- Think about those (even) less well off than yourself, such as those being made redundant. The happiest people are those who aren't totally taken up with their own welfare.

These are indeed fine sentiments, and of course I agree wholeheartedly. It's so much what you might expect Christian leaders to say in a Recession that it's like water on a duck's back? But what more can be said? I think that a stronger response would be to entitle 2009 as a **Year of Christian action** – to feel less sorry for ourselves and more determined that we are going to work alongside others to counter the economic downturn with Spirit inspired action for others, both locally and globally.

You will know that I chair both the Swindon Churches Social & Economic Group and the Hope Swindon Planning Groups. There are several campaigns we are supporting in 2009 which would be worthy of a New Year resolution to support. Here they are:

days, but never got the breaks. If you want to be encouraged, you need to hear this stuff. And you may get the chance.

After the gig, we (the Swindon crowd) chatted to Peter (Memory) Banks, the keyboard player and one of the main songwriters. He is interested in playing in Swindon. I am working on arranging it. Look out for announcements; you are in for a treat. Find out more from their compilation double CD "Der Kommissar the CBS years" from Amazon at £5, or from www.AfterTheFire.co.uk direct. Or come and find me, I will lend you some fabulous music in whatever form you require. I can even sing most of them.

Chris Scarisbrick

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I support the metric system - every inch of the way!

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The probable reason some people get lost in thought is because it is unfamiliar territory to them.

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One must live in the way one thinks, or end up thinking the way one has lived.

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Live your life in such a way that when your feet hit the floor in the morning, Satan shudders and says, "Oh no....she's/he's awake!!!"



If Carlsberg did live gigs...After The Fire (featuring Rob Halligan) live in Hemel Hempstead

They're not dead. After The

Fire are back, with some new members but the same high energy show. They were fabulous. The music we know and love from the 70s and early 80s played with enthusiasm and humour. Yes it was loud (for a church), but you could hear every word...mostly cos of 50 lead vocalists.

We sang along, we Cha'd and Wa Oh Oh'd to Der Kommissar led ably by Zoe from Swindon (16 – happy birthday!) on lead vocals we O-o-o-Oh'd and O-oh, O-oh O-o-Oh'd to Starflight (I guess you had to be there.)

The audience weren't always in tune, which was evident when Rob leapt around in the audience with the lead vocal mic, letting us all share. But much enthusiasm was on show. We clapped and danced in the shadows like maniacs. Ok, old and arthritic maniacs, some of us, but maniacs anyway.

We squeezed two encores out of the boys, by much raucous stamping (I hope St Johns Boxmoor survived), and despite the desperate shouting they didn't play Pilgrim or even Joy. So they owe us.

If you don't know ATF, if you were not at college "when they were alive" (overheard in the bar in the interval), in the late 70's or early 80's, or if you are too young in years or in the faith, to have had the pleasure, I will explain. They are a New Wave (post punk) keyboard-led high-energy pop band with attitude, think Elvis Costello with Christian faith. Their lyrics are glorying to God, optimistic in relationships and challenging to the status quo. Subtle, they are not. They are probably the only band who nearly burned down Greenbelt. They were bigger than U2 in the early

1: Town wide Prayer for the various social & political needs of Swindon.

The first of these will be on **19th January**, at Upper Stratton Baptist Church. From 7.30pm onwards. Various local church leaders will inform us on specific prayer needs, and then we'll pray in small groups.

2: Meeting with the Swindon Interfaith Group on "Faith and Money".

This is the third in a series of gatherings to share our thoughts across different faith groups on topical issues. It will be 7.30pm on **28th January**, at the Pilgrim Centre. I will be one of several giving input, on the moral problems of dealing with the Recession by encouraging people to spend once again.

3: "Emerge" Community Festival at Shaw.

On the afternoon and evening of **May 16th** our young people are to hold, with the full involvement of adults, a major community festival. This will use Holy Trinity Shaw as its basic venue, but hopefully spread out into the grassy area behind the church and shopping mall area too! The aim is for fun activities with music, dance, drama, puppets, food, & games. The afternoon more geared towards younger people and families. The evening more towards secondary age youth, with a concert by "Collective". Contact Claire Camm for more information.

4: "The Noise" community action campaign.

Swindon Youth for Christ have run a special weekend of community action projects across Swindon for several years. This year they want adults and full churches involved too! The nominated weekend is **June 6th, 7th**. S.Y.F.C. will hold special meetings to help churches see how they can bless their communities through special projects such as litter picking, graffiti removal, garden clear ups, painting, etc. There will even be a DVD based information pack! Contact Simon Halls at SYFC.

5: "Countdown to Copenhagen" campaign.

In **autumn 2009** there will be a crucially important meeting at Copenhagen of world leaders to approve a new programme to combat Climate Change and protect our planet environmentally. A great deal of lobbying is needed to push our delegates towards tough standards on carbon emissions etc. You can join the campaigns by registering with Tear Fund or Christian Aid, and supporting Swindon wide marches and petition signing. This replacement for the Kyoto Treaty is vital for saving our planet from destruction!

6: One World Week central Swindon celebration.

It is planned that on **Sunday October 18th** there will be a huge town centre celebration of One World Week. We hope at the Brunel Centre Big Screen area. The aim is for a multi cultural Christian Service, featuring music, dance etc from various Christian communities in Swindon: Polish, Chinese, Goan, Brazilian, Indian, Afro Caribbean. A celebration of our unity in Christ, with a strong mission intent. Revd Paul Rush is lead minister on this.

I'm well aware that with my departure for the Golden Cap **after March 1st** the Partnership will need to devote much energy to internal 'maintenance' matters, but my strongest hope is that you'll prayerfully commit to looking outwards in 2009 beyond personal issues and church survival to a positive movement forward for God and His Kingdom. Involvement with the passions of other Christians in our town on these kind of ventures of faith could be one of your best ever decisions for the New Year!

Blessings in Christ,

Stephen

In Prison My Whole Life

(cert 15) 90 Mins UK Documentary

A FILM BY MARC EVANS

Tuesday **20 January** at 7.45pm

The Friends Meeting House (Eastcott Hill, Swindon)

www.inprisonmywholelife.com

The 90-minute film profiles **Mumia Abu-Jamal's** case through the eyes of 25-year-old William Francome, born on the day of Abu-Jamal's arrest. 'In Prison My Whole Life' was directed by Marc Evans and produced by Livia Firth and Nick Goodwin Self. The acclaimed actor Colin Firth is the film's executive producer. The film also features interviews with writers Alice Walker and Noam Chomsky, as well as musicians Mos Def, Snoop Dogg and Steve Earle.

*This is the first ever **Amnesty International** film and one of the first **MySpace** films. Will's journey, combined with incisive footage, cool graphics and a punchy soundtrack by **Massive Attack** and **Snoop Dog** - all crafted with style and energy by award-winning director **Marc Evans** (*My Little Eye*, *Snowcake*, *Trauma*) creates a film that will appeal to a broad cross-over audience.*

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Man drives, but it is God who holds the reins.

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When we have nothing left but God, then we become aware that
God is enough.

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God is pleased with gratitude; he gets so little of it.

Other Local Events

2nd – 10th January – Robinson Crusoe

This year Immanuel Dramatic Society will be performing Robinson Crusoe from Friday 2nd - Saturday 10th January 2009.

Performances are at 7.30 p.m. Monday - Saturday with matinees on the 3rd and 10th at 2.30 p.m. No Sunday performances.

Tickets cost £6 for adults and £5 concessions.

16th January - AN EVENING WITH C S LEWIS

7.30pm St Margaret's Church, Stratton

Tickets £5 (in advance 01793 822793) or at the door. Presented and written by British Actor David Payne, this evening will enlighten and entertain with pivotal occurrences from C S Lewis' life. For more information on this theatre production -

www.davidpaynedrama.com

28th January - 'Do we worship money?'

A joint meeting of Swindon Inter-Faith Group and Swindon Churches Social and Economic Group to discuss the moral issues arising from the use and abuse of money will be held at 7.30pm on 28th January in the Pilgrim Centre. Further details: Margaret & Vernon

Hope 08 Swindon Prayer gathering

Monday 19th January 2009 7:30pm - 9pm

@ Upper Stratton Baptist Church,

Green Road, SN2 7JA [www.usbc.org.uk]

Please come and join us as we pray together as one church for our town. Event organised by the Hope Swindon Team & Swindon Churches Together.

www.swindon.hope08.com

EMERGE PROJECT

The emerge project goes from strength to strength, and we welcomed Fernando this year to the team.

Activities have included:

- Remix group for 11-16 year olds on Tuesday evening averaging 35 each week of whom $\frac{3}{4}$ are not from any church. A team of 8 runs
- The Base Performing Arts at Purton Stoke
- Schools Out club at HT Shaw with a small number of people twice each week
- G2G for 14+ who want to take commitment further on Sunday evenings
- Schools lunch clubs at Bradon Forest and Greendown
- The Festival in Lydiard Park

Dates for your diary

LUNCH

BUNCH

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

EVERY SECOND TUESDAY

January 13th

February 10th

March 10th

Church Services in the Partnership

All Saints, Lydiard Millicent

Date	Time	Form
4 th January	8:00am	Communion
	10:30am	Morning Service
	6:30pm	Evening Worship
11 th January	8:00am	Communion Prayer Book
	10:30am	Communion
	6:30pm	Evening Worship
18 th January	8:00am	Communion
	10:30am	All age worship
	6:30pm	Communion
25 th January	8:00am	Communion Prayer Book
	10:30am	Communion
	6:30pm	Evening Worship

St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
4 th January	10:00am	Morning service
	6:30pm	Partnership Communion
11 th January	10:00am	Communion
	6:30pm	Prayer book
18 th January	10:00am	Christingle
	6:30pm	Communion Prayer Book
25 th January	10:00am	Communion
	6:30pm	Songs of Praise

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A boy was watching his father, a minister, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"Why, God tells me," replied his father contentedly.

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

Church Services in the Partnership

Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
4 th January	10:30am	Communion Service
11 th January	10:30am	Morning worship
18 th January	10:30am	Communion Service
25 th January	10:30am	Family Parade Service

Toothill

Date	Time	Form
4 th January	10:30am	Family service
11 th January	10:30am	Communion
18 th January	10:30am	Morning worship
25 th January	10:30am	Morning worship

Please note the changed time of services!!

Westlea

Date	Time	Form
4 th January	10:00am	Communion
11 th January	10:00am	Family service
18 th January	10:00am	Morning Service
25 th January	10:00am	Swap service

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In this year of remembering Darwin: If evolution is true, why do mothers still only have one pair of hands?

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For 2009, I'd like to be the ideal mother, but I'm too busy raising my kids