



Prayer points

- Our people who made a new commitment at the recent Confirmation Service
- Our meetings with the Diocese
- Our Partnership Council
- Our church leadership teams
- All Saints Garden party
- The Emerge Youth project

Contact information

The Partnership office is open on Monday through Friday 1:30pm-3:30pm. The office number is 01793 874221. The office e-mail is: partnershipoffice@btopenworld.com

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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 17th August.

The editor's e-mail address is dick643@yahoo.co.uk
The Partnership web site is <http://www.wswinlyd.org.uk>

In Partnership July & August 2009



Summer time blues?

I know that there may be several among the readers of this magazine that feel quite depressed as Summer comes around and many of the regular activities of our churches take a pause for the Summer Holidays.

We have a partial answer in that the Partnership is running a short Summer Course of Bible Study focusing on some of the less well known characters in the Bible. Come along to Toothill church and share a journey of exploration with others.

Actually at the moment I am feeling very positive about the churches and the Partnership. We have a brilliant staff meeting this week, when we did a great deal of forward planning, at least as far as Lent 2010! We had a very positive discussion and there are many good things that will be happening in and around the Partnership over the coming months.

The Staff team works well together and actually we enjoy getting together for prayer and fellowship, but also actually getting things on the move. Of course there is always a delicate balance to be struck between what we do as a Partnership and what we should do as 5 separate churches with significantly varied mission opportunities.

I am also pleased to recall a very positive meeting with the representatives from the Diocese relating to our vacancy, and there is an open meeting where all will have the opportunity to present views to the team on Sunday evening 19th July 6:30pm @ St Mary's. Please come along if you have a point of view or just to hear other viewpoints.

We also have a prayer meeting for our Youth work on 12th July. We shall need to think about how we continue that work for 2010 and beyond. We are planning to start up a Youth House group for any young people who would like to come together to look at their

Church & the Environment

A good way for churches to make a practical response to the environmental issues that face us is to draw up a tailor-made local church environment policy. A well thought through policy will help you to prioritise your actions and to identify the particular environmental challenges which your church faces. If drawing up an environmental policy from scratch sounds a bit daunting then help is at hand. ISR have produced a model local church environment which is now on the ISR website www.ccisr.org Along with the environment policy there is also a model action plan to help to take action in the light of the policy. It is important to use the model policy only as a starting point for your own policy. Each church needs to spend time shaping and then owning its own policy, but we hope the model policy will help to get things going. Also, if you would like to talk about putting a policy together with somebody from ISR then do contact Chris Durant at the ISR Swindon office.

Simon Topping, ISR Social Responsibility Officer, Swindon and North Wilts.

Finding the right fund for your church project ISR can help

ISR now has access to the massive Grantfinder database of funds, trusts and grant giving organisations.

It can be difficult to know where to start when you are looking for the appropriate funders for your particular church project. ISR can run a search of the Grantfinder data-base which will help to identify the most appropriate funds and trusts for you to approach.

Whilst ISR cannot actually make the grant application, we can supply you, via Grantfinder, with helpful advice and suggestions on how best to put your grant application together.

So if you would like us to do a search for you then contact the ISR Swindon Office:

Tel. 01793 491454

Email: isrswindon@btconnect.com

their calculations on the Gregorian calendar. The resulting gap between the two Easter dates can be as much as five weeks.

All participants at the seminar in Lviv, which included Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant theologians from a variety of European countries, endorsed a compromise proposed at a World Council of Churches (WCC) consultation in Aleppo, Syria, in 1997. The proposal was to keep the Nicaea rule but calculate the equinox and full moon using the accurate astronomical data available today, rather than those used many years ago. Concretely, participants at the seminar expressed the hope that the years 2010 and 2011, when the coincidence of the calendars will produce a common Easter date, would serve as a period during which all Christians would join their efforts "to make such coincidence not to be an exception but rather a rule" and prepare for an Easter date based on exact astronomical reckoning and celebrated by all Christians on 8 April 2012.

Together forever

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat are really good friends.

faith with a possible view to a deeper personal commitment. This will happen starting in September.

We should not forget that St Mary's too are in good heart and working out how to be a church whilst not having their own minister. Again there are positive signs and a few challenges that they are overcoming. Please pray for them.

So there are lots of good things happening or planned.

I wish those of you who are going away a great and refreshing holiday, and to those who are not, enjoy the excellent summer weather that is forecast. Sunshine does refresh the parts that others cannot reach. So does God!

Be blessed as you continue your journey of life and faith.

The colour for us should be orange not blue!

Dick Gray

Lunch Bunch

No meetings July & August
Next session September 8th

Did you know?

Cereal just as good as any sport drink...

Next time you return from the gym or a long run or whatever, reach for the wholegrain cereal and some skimmed milk. They are just as good for you after strenuous exercise as are the far more expensive sports drinks you can buy.

Researchers at the University of Texas have found that wheat flakes and skimmed milk do just as good a job at rehydrating and re-energising the muscles. Cereal and milk are also equally good at replenishing your blood sugar and insulin levels, and even better at protein production. The milk helped reduce lactic acid levels in the blood – these cause stiffness after exercise.

Dates for your diary

Summer Bible Study

The Partnership will be holding a summer course Bible Study course which will focus on some of the lesser known characters in the Bible. The course will be for the 6 Wednesday evenings at Toothill Church at 7:30pm starting on July 22nd and finishing on August 26th.

The course will be led by the ministers and others.

Characters for study include Jacob, Elisha, Tamar, Hosea, Joanna & Susanna, and Aquila & Priscilla.

We hope that many will be able to join us for one or more of these sessions. They will be independent, so you can come along to such sessions as you are able.

Open Evening at Shaw Church Tues 7th July, 7.15 – 8.00 pm

For all parents and those interested in finding out more about the project to come and chat to me and the volunteers at Remix. There will also be videos and performance by some of the young people. *(For more info contact Claire)*

Prayer Evening at All Saints, Lydiard Millicent Sun 12th July, 6.30 – 8.00

For adults and young people across the Partnership of West Swindon and The Lydiards to come and join in praying for the young people, the leaders and the work we do – we will also be praying for the future of the project and sharing communion outdoors (if the weather is dry!) This will be an interactive prayer evening with different stations around the Church. *(For more info contact Claire Camm/Tudor Roberts)*

Bread

The head of a retreat house received a complaint about the bread that was served for supper. “People on retreat should not make a fuss about such trivial things,” he said. “St Benedict would have eaten it with delight.”

“Yes, father, but it was fresh then.”

Chocolate and numbers

Eating chocolate can help you solve maths problems, a new study at Northumbria University has found. This delightful news comes because compounds found in chocolate, called flavonols, have been found to increase the mind’s ability to do mental arithmetic. Flavonols are part of a group of chemicals called polyphenols. They work by increasing the flow of blood into the brain. Dark chocolate contains the highest quantities.

So next time you need to sort your finances, do it with chocolate! It won’t increase your bank balance, but it may help you figure out where all the money went...

Common Date for Easter

The hope that all Christians will be able to celebrate Easter on the same day in the future was reaffirmed by an international ecumenical seminar organized by the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, 15 May.

The problem is just about as old as the church itself: As Christianity started to spread around the world, Christians came to differing results on when to commemorate Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, due to the different reports in the four gospels on these events. Attempts to establish a common date for Easter began with the Council of Nicaea in the year 325. It established that the date of Easter would be the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox. However, it did not fix the methods to be used to calculate the timing of the full moon or the vernal equinox.

Nowadays the Orthodox Churches use the 21 March of the Julian calendar as the date of the equinox, while the Churches of the Western tradition – that is the Protestant, Anglican and Catholic Churches – base

Walk for Water, Lydiard Park, Saturday 20th June

At 2pm we gathered, a motley crew – sorry, diverse group – the young and slightly more mature, parents, children, grandparents, dogs - outside the Stable Rooms next to St Mary's Church, ready for our second annual Walk for Water. The 3-4 mile course around the park was chosen to reflect the distance that someone in the developing world might have to walk to collect water. To underline this we had the option of carrying bottles of water for the second half of the course. It has to be said that this was greeted with far more enthusiasm than is usually the case if you ask your offspring to carry a bottle of drink home from the corner shop, and quite how so much of the water ended up all over the children at the end of the walk, is left to your imagination.

As well as an opportunity to raise money through sponsorship for water projects (the money raised goes to the charity Samaritan's Purse), this was an excellent opportunity to get some fresh air and exercise and enjoy each other's company. The walk was done in two loops, with a break in the middle, and on good paths, so the youngest amongst us were able to retire to their buggies when needed.

Many thanks go to Heather Benn for organising the walk and also providing us with wonderful refreshments. Hopefully, we will do it again next year, so why not think about joining us?

Ginnie Heads

Children

Are the school holidays proving a strain?

Children are a great comfort in your old age... and they help you to reach it faster, too!

All Saints Garden Party Saturday 11th July 2 – 5pm Manor House Garden

Featuring:

Cream teas; Cake stall; Barbecue; Lucky Dip; Plant stall
Tombola; Second hand toys; Craft stalls;
Skittles and other games; Stocks and sponge throwing

Art Competition: Our Wonderful World

Entries for all ages no larger than A3 on any medium
50p per child and £2 per adult to enter

Lydiard Has Talent

An opportunity for anyone to take to the stage for up to 3 minutes
(juggling, singing, dancing, poetry recitation, stand-up comedy,
drama, mime all welcome)

10% of the money raised at the garden party on 11th July will be going to the Swindon Food Bank which is a ground-breaking concept designed to help individuals and families in crisis by providing allsaints-online.org.uk

The church will be open for people to look round and admire the flower displays and the art competition entries. The bell tower will be open so you can go up and see where the bells are rung and perhaps have a go. There will be various stalls including cakes, plants, tombola, cream teas, and barbecue and throw a sponge at someone in the stocks! Entertainment will be provided by members of All Saints Church in a "Lydiard has Talent" style show

Please let your friends know and pray for good weather!

www.allsaints-online.org.uk

Calling all Men for Breakfast July 4th 8:00am Toothill Church

The All Saints Men's Group has now moved location for its monthly Meeting to the wonderfully equipped Toothill Church.

Meeting every first Saturday of the Month, in term time, at 8.00am the basic format is a cooked breakfast, a Bible Study and then the opportunity to pray in small groups, ending by 9.30am. All we ask for is some money to help pay for the food and the use of the building and yearly to pay the CVM membership.

It's an opportunity for fellowship as guys together, a time to look at God's word and then pray into each others lives. The food gives people a chance to relax, and the atmosphere is normally relaxed and friendly.

We have now been running for over a year. We are linked with CVM, Christian Vision for Men, who seek to equip men in their Christian walk and to reach other men with the good news of the Gospel. www.cvmen.org.uk

We have also tried to branch out a bit by getting involved with the Filling station project on the streets of Swindon as well as doing social things as well.

We now want to open this group up to the whole Partnership and see where we go from there. If you would like to come, why not give it a try on Saturday July 4th at 8.00am at Toothill church. It helps to know numbers so please phone or e-mail Tudor

Please note we do not meet in August, so the next meeting after July 4th will be September 5th

New Wine

2-8 August 2009

Royal Bath and West Showground, Somerset
Details: <http://www.new-wine.org/> or talk with the Tudors



Church Sound Engineer Training

Next available dates
20th June & 25th July

audiomsg training day is packed with easy to understand information and plenty of hands on training designed especially for Churches.

Course Content

- Basic Principles of Sound
- Microphones and their uses
- The Sound Desk
- Mixing Techniques
- Optimising System Performance

Held at audiomsg HQ, Swindon, the course is suitable for all levels interested in sound engineering and from all different church backgrounds.

Cost: £25 per person including lunch

Places are limited so book early!
Tel: 0845 22 68 569
Email: info@audiomsg.com

Fri 28th – Mon 31st Aug 2009
Cheltenham Racecourse

Fancy a weekend of top musicians, speakers, worship and events? Join us at Greenbelt at the end of August.
Come and camp, or travel in on a daily basis if you don't fancy camping.

Don't worry about the cooking... you can do it yourself over a gas ring, or you can buy from an enormous assortment of food outlets – Indian, Chinese, burgers, falafel and much much much more... Sometimes someone in the group offers to cook a meal for several folk...

Water is on tap, not far from your tent. Mobile toilets are not bad, and tickets for showers are available if you book your time.

Adult tickets cost £88, a family of 4 can go for £231. Festival starts Friday tea time, though its helpful to arrive, or get someone to grab tent space for you, much earlier than that. Events finish late Monday night, and many people stay overnight and strike camp on Tuesday morning. You can book tickets on line as individuals but all then camp together if we wish – its much less complicated than booking for Spring Harvest (prices go up after 31st July)

Its quite a lot of fun to camp in a group, but then have the freedom to choose what parts of the programme to go to.. sometimes with others or sometimes alone if your interests are different.

A variety of folk from the Partnership will be going – including Dave and Anne, the Kershaws, Claire Camm, Janet Clarke and others. There is more info on the website, including the musicians and speakers and lots more. Or come and talk to some of us who have been before – last year was the first time I have been, but I'm looking forward to this year!

Anne Carter

Details: <http://www.greenbelt.org.uk/>.

Toothill Church Holiday at Home
Tuesday 4th August 2009 10.00 am – 4.00pm

Toothill Church is hosting a 'Holiday at Home' day on Tuesday 4th August as our Partnership social. A warm and sunny invitation to 'Senior Friends' who may not have a holiday this Summer or who would enjoy fun and laughter at Toothill Church, sunshine guaranteed.

The theme of this 'Holiday at Home' will be 'Going on a Cruise', so come dressed for visiting some hot far away places. Lunch will be served at half distance.

Please ask at your home church if you need transport for this event.

Tickets for this 'Holiday at Home' will be available from Your 'Partnership Travel Agents' Dave's Carter and Hoar soon.



Jericho took 'It's a Knockout' more seriously than most.

GETTING TO KNOW THE BIBLE

How did you get on last month? I hope the quiz wasn't too easy and that you had to check the Bible for some of the answers. Why not make a point of reading the whole story for each question.

- The answers are:
- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1. Matthias | 7. Paul commanded the spirit of divination to leave her |
| 2. Gamaliel | 8. Agabus |
| 3. Saul | 9. Viper |
| 4. Corinth | 10. Julius |
| 5. Eutychus | 11. Jupiter and Mercury |
| 6. Dorcas | 12. Isaiah |

This month I think you will find the quiz a little harder. Good luck!

1. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" is a well known passage, but who was Jesus speaking to?
2. According to the Psalmist, "the entrance of thy words giveth.....". What's the next word?
3. On which mountain did the angel of the Lord appear to Moses from the burning bush?
4. What was Abraham's name before he was given a new name?
5. Which king was forced to throw Daniel into the lions' den?
6. Name one of the rivers that flowed out of Eden?
7. What was the second plague in Egypt?
8. Who wrote "The King of the Jews" above the cross?
9. Ruth appears in the book of Ruth and also in one other book. Which one?
10. What colour was the priest's robe of the ephod?

BibleQuizzes.org.uk

Other Local Events

STREET PASTORS SWINDON

Its that time of year again, and we are recruiting for our next training course in September.

You may recall receiving an information pack which included a DVD, application forms and a poster.

Why not show it in church or circulate it to your home groups. It's a great tool.

Street Pastors are now part of Swindon's Club Land, and to continue the growth of this important ministry we need more volunteers.

If you did not receive a pack they can be obtained on line at www.streetpastorsswindon.org.uk, or by calling The Rev. Paul Rush



"...and we used to grumble about not understanding archaic church language!"

I do not understand it either!

West Swindon & the Lydiards Emerge youth project

During 08/09 the emerge youth project has engaged with approx 150 young people each week in schools, after school youth café, Remix youth club, G2G, at The Base on Saturdays and in holiday workshops. We made a lot of new contacts at the Mix Festival also. The project is set to continue into a new school year and in September we will welcome a new band, the core of which will be Rebecca (singer) and Kevin (guitarist/drummer) who will engage in the project with teaching singing/music/songwriting. Also we will welcome Ivyna, a young woman from Brazil who will work specifically with Claire, her skills being in different types of dance (contemporary, jazz and street). She is also an experienced youth worker and evangelist.

We also hope to welcome new volunteers from West Swindon churches to work in the project, particularly in Remix. We will say “goodbye” to Bekah (who started 3 years ago as a youth volunteer from G2G and is now off to university) and we’ll also possibly lose another helper. It’s a great way for young people (over 16) to experience serving God and working in a team, so please encourage young people you know to get involved.

We will face financial challenges in the coming year due to some of our funding coming to an end, so we would ask for prayer for that too. We are holding two special evenings this term where you can find out more about what we do:

Earth-bound

At a village costume party for children, a police officer was stationed at the door, with instructions not to admit any adults. Then an excited woman came running up to the door and demanded admission. “My child is in there as a butterfly, but she has forgotten her wings!”

“Can’t help it,” replied the officer, “orders are orders. She’ll have to stay a caterpillar.”

Church Services in the Partnership

All Saints, Lydiard Millicent

Date	Time	Form
5 th July	8:00am	Communion
	10:30am	Morning Service
	6:30pm	Evening Worship
12 th July	8:00am	Communion Prayer Book
	10:30am	Communion
	6:30pm	Youth Prayer
19 th July	8:00am	Communion
	10:30am	All age worship
	6:30pm	Service and meeting with Diocesan reps at St Marys
26 th July	8:00am	Communion Prayer Book
	10:30am	Communion
	6:30pm	Evening Worship
2 nd August	8:00am	Communion
	10:30am	Morning Service
	6:30pm	Evening Worship
9 th August	8:00am	Communion
	10:30am	Family worship
	6:30pm	Evening Worship
16 th August	8:00am	Communion
	10:30am	All age worship & Communion
	6:30pm	Communion
23 rd August	8:00am	Communion Prayer Book
	10:30am	Communion
	6:30pm	Evening Worship
30 th August	8:00am	Communion
	10:30am	Joint Morning Service
	6:30pm	Evening Worship

St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
5 th July	10:00am	Morning service
	6:30pm	Communion
12 th July	10:00am	Communion
	6:30pm	Youth Prayer @ All Saints
19 th July	10:00am	Family Service
	6:30pm	Service and meeting with Diocesan reps at St Marys
26 th July	10:00am	Communion
2 nd August	10:00am	Morning service
	6:30pm	Communion
9 th August	10:00am	Communion
16 th August	10:00am	Communion with Bishop Mike
	6:30pm	Evening service
23 rd August	10:00am	Communion
30 th August	10:30am	Joint service at Lydiard Millicent
	6:30pm	Evening service

Toothill

Date	Time	Form
5 th July	10:30am	Morning service
12 th July	10:30am	Communion
	6:30pm	Youth Prayer @ All Saints
19 th July	10:30am	Family Service
	6:30pm	Service and meeting with Diocesan reps at St Marys
26 th July	10:30am	Morning Service
2 nd August	10:30am	Morning Service
9 th August	10:30am	Communion
16 th August	10:30am	Family Service
23 rd August	10:30am	Morning Service
30 th August	10:30am	Joint service at Lydiard Millicent

Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
5 th July	10:30am	Family Service
12 th July	10:30am	Morning Service
	6:30pm	Youth Prayer @ All Saints
19 th July	10:30am	Communion
	6:30pm	Service and meeting with Diocesan reps at St Marys
26 th July	10:30am	Family Service
2 nd August	10:30am	Family Communion
9 th August	10:30am	Family Service
16 th August	10:30am	Communion
23 rd August	10:30am	Family Service
30 th August	10:30am	Joint service at Lydiard Millicent

Westlea

Date	Time	Form
5 th July	10:00am	Family Communion
12 th July	10:00am	Family service
	6:30pm	Youth Prayer @ All Saints
19 th July	10:00am	Family service
	6:30pm	Service and meeting with Diocesan reps at St Marys
26 th July	10:00am	Family service
2 nd August	10:00am	Family communion
9 th August	10:00am	Family service
16 th August	10:00am	Family service
23 rd August	10:00am	Family service
30 th August	10:30am	Joint service at Lydiard Millicent