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Monday - Friday 9:00 – 12:00pm.
Tuesday 8.30 – 11.30am

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To publicise any News or Events in the next edition of In Partnership covering October, please send them to the office no later than 19 September.

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In Partnership September 2015



GOD'S RECIPE FOR CHANGE

As we begin a new term and season I hope that you've had some opportunity for rest and recreation over the summer. I was very blessed by a day visit to "New Wine" Christian festival at Shepton Mallet with two friends, where we engaged in several very inspiring seminars and wonderful worship along with thousands of other Christians. I offer you some reflections from that day.

The theme which ran through everything we listened to was '**God's recipe for change**' – **how do we 'do mission'?**

The Bible Society talk was on compassion/love and we learnt that the word compassion literally means "**with suffering**". For Christians, Love is the number one value – Love for God, Love for neighbour and love for self. Paul says in 1Cor 13:4-7 **'If I do not have love, what am I – I am nothing?'** But love, as most people know, is not fluffy and romantic (not for long anyway!); love is costly and can be painful. James Catford, Director of Bible Society, encouraged us to: **'Empty yourself and move towards the pain'** – just as Jesus did in coming to Earth, where he would experience all the pains of life and death in order to complete his mission of bringing God's love to us.

Philippians 2: v 5-7 tells us that, Jesus
'who though he existed in the form of God
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
but emptied himself
by taking on the form of a slave,
by looking like other men,
and by sharing in human nature'.

So, if we are to love our neighbour, we need to ask 'who is my neighbour'? Jesus shows us in the story of the Good Samaritan that our 'neighbour' is the one(s) who we would most avoid and least likely want to help or want to help us. These people are therefore strangers to us and we to them. We may 'know' them but we keep them very much at arm's length.

The Bible is full of examples which show God's refusal to devalue the stranger among us – in particular the orphans, widows, foreigners, the poor and the sick. God always speaks up for these people.

27 July 2015 Miss Inge Tark

05 August 2015 Mr Douglas Roy Harris

Confirmation

13 July 2015 Mathew Koelz

Congratulations to our young people who have worked so hard to gain excellent A-level results this year. Let's support them in our prayers as they go out from us to start university life - that the Lord will guide and bless them in every way and strengthen them in their faith (oh, and help their families at home to readjust!):

Michelle Chirimuuta (SM)	Medicine at Cardiff
Hannah Green (HTS)	BioMedical Science at Birmingham
Peter Richardson (HTS)	Religious Studies, Ethics & Philosophy at Bath Spa
Ben White (SM)	History at Southampton

PRAYERS

Please pray for:-

The migrants in Calais who have fled for their lives and are far from their homes.

Emerge

Big Sing for the Goldies 'Sing and Smile' UK charity

September Prayer

Loving Father,
Please help us with all the new things September brings: a new school year, new stages of life, with children moving on or out, new challenges for many as summer gives way to autumn. Help us in this season of change to know the constant reality of Jesus. Thank you for the new life He freely offers to all who turn to Him.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

12 July 2015	Isabelle Jean Hughes
23 August 2015	Summer Amy Honey Hillier
23 August 2015	Gracie-May Lola Tuffy
23 August 2015	Megan Alice Hillier
23 August 2015	Henry Daniel James Hilliard
23 August 2015	Kerrie-Ann Heaven
29 August 2015	Lindsay Gilder
30 August 2015	Louis Paul Woody Young
30 August 2015	Rachel Boydell

Weddings

18 July 2015	Brian Glover & Michaela Tina Sheppard
25 July 2015	Thomas Edward Goldsmith & Mary Elizabeth Matthews
01 August 2015	Paul Alexander Braithwaite & Natasha Jade Bradley
01 August 2015	Ashley William Penfold & Annemarie Bailey
21 August 2015	Neil Adam Jones & Rebecca Sara Day

Marriage Blessing

02 August 2015	Claire and Rob Camm
22 August 2015	Rose and Harry Brookman

Funeral

03 July 2015	Mr Dennis William Davies
07 July 2015	Mr Raymond Higginson

GOD'S RECIPE FOR CHANGE

At the moment the news headlines are full of stories of migrants coming to Europe from far away to seek a better life – free from persecution, fear or lack of opportunity. Are these the strangers, the ones we find uncomfortable, threatening or unwelcome? Or maybe it's those who are 'on benefits'; or those furthest from our age bracket – young or old. 'The stranger' will probably be different for all of us. We all have different prejudices and fears.

James Catford told us that in order to 'love our neighbour', the stranger, we need to remember that they are beloved of God, as we are. Jesus said 'Whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers, you did it for me'. We must '**empty ourselves and move towards the pain**'.

Our second Seminar was given by two deaf women in sign language, (translated into spoken word by a third woman) and part-mimed. This was a very different experience and powerful in impact. The theme was the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well. What struck me afresh in the way the story was brought alive was that Jesus took great trouble to build relationship with the woman. She was clearly an outcast to her own people and by cultural laws, should have been a 'stranger' to Jesus, yet he showed her respect, friendship and trust. At the end of the encounter, He told her he was the Messiah – something he rarely revealed. Again, what came through in this talk was that Jesus '**did not cling to his equality with God, but emptied himself**'; he came down to 'our' level.

The third seminar was given by Tearfund and told of transformative work in Uganda, where villagers are being asked to consider 'what they have in their hands' - what can they give/do to help transform their community? Amazing stories were told of what individuals and groups had achieved with very little outside help. Tearfund are now encouraging churches in the UK to do the same thing and learn from the experience of churches in Uganda; to consider what 'we have in our hands' which can transform our community and help build God's Kingdom on earth.

The two ideas seem to me to link together- reaching out to the stranger in relationship and finding out what they need; then considering what we both have in our hands which can be offered to bring change.

So often we feel helpless and overwhelmed by the needs of our communities/the world. Yet the mission Jesus has given us, our

GOD'S RECIPE FOR CHANGE (continued)

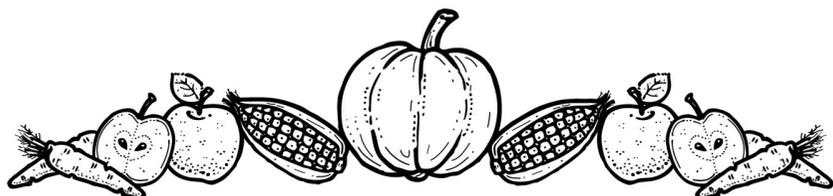
number one reason for existing as church is to engage with those who don't know Jesus.

How do we start? How do we not get overwhelmed? These three ways were repeated throughout all that we experienced at New Wine. I think God was trying to get through to us!

- 1) **Ponder the word of God NOT the problem:** Allow God's transforming Word to take root in our hearts (1Cor: 13; Rom: 12; Isaiah: 58). These 3 passages speak most strongly of God's heart and our mission.
- 2) **Genuine mission is only possible through relationship:** This is costly and can be painful, but this is God's way and so must be our's. *'Empty yourself and move towards the pain.'*
- 3) **Offer the gifts we have, no matter how small** – remember the boy with the five loaves and two small fish. Here are a few ideas:
 - Do you have a few hours per week/month?
 - Do you have a gift of art/cooking/repairing things?
 - Do you love gardening?
 - Do you enjoy looking after children or making things?
 - Do you have a room in your house you don't use much?
 - Do you have some spare money?

The list is endless, but the idea is that we think about what **we** have that could be offered to God; we pool all the ideas and the rest is up to Him.

Claire Camm



Sponsored Walk

In aid of Pilgrim Homes. Meeting at Buscot Weir car park please bring good walking boots or shoes and a picnic to be eaten en-route.

**10.30am Saturday 12 September
at Buscot, Nr Faringdon, OXON SN7 8DA**

For sponsorship forms and further information please contact Dave Pepler on 01235 766863 or via email on dave.a.pepler@gmail.com

Faith in the Family

How can we best live out our faith within our families?

For many of us, the reality is that the pressures and busyness of modern family life often make it easy for faith to take a back seat.

As couples, we want to grow together in our walk with God, but often find this difficult to put into practice. As parents, we long to nurture our children's faith, but often feel we are failing in the task. And sometimes, we feel as if there's little that our family can do to make a difference to others – to bring God's love to those in our community.

Who is the conference for?

If you are passionate about seeing your own and other families thrive in their relationship with God and each other, this conference is for you.

It's a unique opportunity to come together as parents, couples, youth and children's workers, and church leaders to explore how to establish vibrant, active and energetic faith right at the very heart of family life in our nation.

Information and booking

WHEN: Saturday 21 November

WHERE: Renewal Christian Centre, Lode Lane, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2JR

TIME: 10am – 5pm (registration and refreshments from 9am)

Lunch and refreshments are provided throughout the day.

Childcare for children under 5 will be provided during the conference. Advance booking is essential.

ONE PERSON CAN CHANGE A LIFE



Register now for the 2015

SMASH DASH



On Sunday September 6th from 9am The second SMASH DASH will take place around a 11.5 mile course (or 5 miles if you prefer) that runs through the beautiful Wiltshire downs, around Barbury Castle. You can enter as an individual, a family or a team and you can Bike, Run, walk or do it just for fun.

For competition junkies there will be fabulous prizes including a prize for completing in the most style. For the rest of us it's just a grand day out and a chance to raise some money for your favourite charity, SMASH.

SMASH gives young people the chance to become everything they can be, sometimes when no one else believes that they can

Registration fee £5 per person or £10 for a family

Find out more at www.smashdash.co.uk

To register for the event email register@smashdash.co.uk



www.smashyouthproject.co.uk

Charity No: 1107900

Regular activities

2nd Sunday each month

Messy Church 13 September
4-5:30pm @ Shaw

Every Monday

After School Youth Group 3:30 – 6:00pm @ Holy Trinity Shaw
Contact Claire Camm 07981951381

Every Tuesday

Coffee Stop 1:30 – 3:00pm @ Holy Trinity Shaw

Bell Ringing 7-9pm St Mary's Bell Tower

Remix Youth Group 6:30 – 8:45pm @ Holy Trinity Shaw
Contact Claire Camm 07981951381

4th Tuesday each month

Lunch Bunch 22 September
Noon @Toothill

2nd Wednesday of each month

Mothers Union 09 September
2pm @ St Mary's Stable Room
Contact Doreen Henderson 07434377587

Every Thursday

Toothill Tinies 10-11:30am @ Toothill

When the sun goes edgewise – and daytime equals night

September 23 is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere) The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.

Ride and Stride

This year in addition to all those ride and striding in anticipation of his return on Monday the 14th of September, Clive will be walking from St Paul's Covingham to St Mary's via a number of Churches. If you would like to join him for a little walk you will be welcome, also if you wish to sponsor him his form is at the back at St Mary's Church Lydiard Tregoze.

This year's sponsored Ride and Stride is on 12 September at 10.00am.

Sponsorship forms, lists of participating churches and instructions can be downloaded at: www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/ride-and-stride/ where there are also details of registering online sponsorship at Just Giving.

Ride and Stride is an annual national sponsored event, organised locally by County Historic Churches Trusts. Wiltshire Ride + Stride (or its predecessor the Great Cycle Ride) has been going since 1984 and has raised well over £1 million for the county's churches. 50% of the money raised goes to the participant's chosen church and the other half to the County Historic Churches Trust.

Please register your intention to participate with Wendy Deverell on 01793 877111.



On the 18th October you are invited to think about The Sower and what it means to be companions in community. How are we to walk alongside our brothers and sisters in our local communities showing God's love?

On the 25th October our final service of the series will focus on what it means to be an ambassador for Christ by looking at what the Kingdom of God is like. How we are to live our lives using our gifts, time, possessions and money for the Kingdom?

A Resource Package has been put together for the four Sundays which has been distributed to all Worship Leaders and Junior Church Leaders. The aim is to have our whole Church family included in learning about Stewardship.

In St Magnus Cathedral on Sunday morning the service was all about being welcoming and inclusive. A powerful message of 'love' for all God's people was resounding around the beautiful building and hopefully out into the streets of Kirkwall and beyond. God's love is what it is all about, so I pray that we will all commit to our unity of Stewardship Services knowing that 'we love because God first loved us'.

With Kindest regards on behalf of the Partnership Worship Planning Meeting Team

Gayle Bryon

Baptists Together Vacancies



Administration Assistant (Part time)

£19,000 per annum (full time equivalent)

25 hours per week (flexibility available for the right candidate)

Finance Assistant, Support Services Team

Up to £21,000 per annum

35 hours per week (flexibility available for the right candidate)

Both based in Didcot

Further details and an application form are available on the BUGB website at: www.baptist.org.uk/jobs/ The closing date is 8 September 2015.

Introduction to 'Stewards of the Kingdom'

A series of 4 services on the theme of Stewardship for the West Swindon and Lydiard Church Partnership for October 2015

October 4th **Co-workers of creation**

October 11th **Waiters for the world**

October 18th **Companions in community**

October 25th **Ambassadors for Christ**

At the time of writing this piece for the newsletter I am in Orkney with Ian and the children and we are enjoying visiting all the historical sites this special island has to offer. It has been eye opening to think and contemplate the world of ancient people. Christianity arrived in Scotland in the 4th Century, once embraced by the people it became 'a way of life', an engagement with God in all aspects of daily life.

Engagement with God in all aspects of life is exactly what stewardship is about and why it is so important that in October we spend time together as a community of Christians to give it some thought, prayer and action through our Sunday morning worship and beyond.

In our series of services entitled 'Stewards of the Kingdom' we will focus on different aspects of Stewardship. At our Partnership Worship Planning meeting the scripture reading of 1 Peter 4 verses 10- 12 was chosen as the thread to weave the four services together.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen

Stewardship starts at Creation and so that is where our series of services will commence. On the 4th October you are invited to look at Genesis to explore God's gift of creation. How are we called to be co-workers in caring for this amazing world?

On the 11th October you are invited to look at the story of The Feeding of the 5,000 and think about being waiters for the world. How are we to share the earth's resources and live our lives generously?

Toothill Church Craft & Hobbies Coffee Morning

Saturday 26th September,

10.30am - 12.00pm.

Toothill Church

Come and see the hobbies of the church members, bring your own hobbies along also to show, it maybe knitting, stamp collecting, scrap booking etc. Along side this there will be craft items to make, ranging from card making to flower arranging, for you to take home.

Coffee/tea & cake will be available for £1.50.

For more information please call Debbie on 01793 321677.

Swindon Big Sing for Goldies UK

Saturday 26 September 2 – 4pm

Holy Trinity Church Shaw

On Saturday 26th September from 2pm -4.30pm at Holy Trinity Church Shaw we are holding a Swindon Big Sing for the Goldies 'Sing and Smile' UK Charity. Currently we have about 60 'Goldies' coming along to sing some of their favourite Golden Oldie songs. The Goldies will also be entertained by a joint choir from Brook Field and Westlea Primary Schools and the fabulous Thamesdown Ladies Choir. The founder of the Charity, Grenville Jones (Choir master of Bath Male Voice Choir, who you may recognise from Last Choir standing or Children in Need) will be introducing the event. The Major of Swindon and MP Robert Buckland will also be joining in the musical celebrations.

If you haven't heard of Goldies UK please take a look at their website (www.golden-oldies.org.uk). The charity runs 9 Singing sessions in Swindon in which I am involved running a session at George Tweed Gardens. Goldies UK is not a choir but a fun singing session which aims to brighten the lives of all who attend. I know I always feel uplifted after singing with my group for an hour.

It should be a fun afternoon for everyone involved but to make it a truly marvellous afternoon for the 'Goldies' I need some help. Firstly I would be extremely grateful for offers of home made cakes for the Goldies to consume during the afternoon. Secondly I would like to have a team of happy smiling people to help serve tea, coffee and cake.

If you are able to offer help by making some cakes or serving please let me know by email gayle.bryon@ntlworld.com or Tel: 638276.

Flowers at Holy Trinity Church, Shaw

Would anyone like to help a lovely young lady, and her carer, arrange flowers at Holy Trinity Church, Shaw, fortnightly, on Tuesday mornings from 11.00am – 1.00pm?

If you are interested please contact Rose on 07946 564896.

Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Appeal 2015.

As part of this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign, the charity Samaritan's Purse is launching a nation-wide search for anyone who has ever packed a shoebox with them. It wants to hear from them.

Samaritan's Purse UK Executive Director Simon Barrington explains: "Where and when did they pack it? What they included, was there something particularly special they remember about their experience? We want to hear their stories of the impact it's had on them and why they got involved." There is also encouragement for everyone who has ever done a shoebox to get involved in this year's campaign.

Tell us your story and help us to find everyone who has ever packed a shoebox! Go to www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/yourshoeboxstory



Shoeboxes for Christmas 2015 will be collected the week of Nov 16. If you would like to help organise a local appeal and collection please let your Partnership Council rep know ASAP.

Avebury Chapel

**Thursday, 10th September
19.30, Avebury Parish Church**

The South Western Synod of the United Reformed Church is in the process of discussing the future of Avebury Chapel. There is no longer a regular worshipping community, and the URC are considering the best way forward for the building. At present it is uninhabitable and needs money spent on it if it is to be used again in any capacity.

The URC is inviting all who are interested, both from the village of Avebury and other local URC churches to a meeting to discuss the future of the Chapel.

Big Bake 2015

Big Bake is back this year, from 10–18 October.

Big Bake '15 is a nationwide event to get you raising money for children at risk of trafficking around the world – all through the medium of cake:

- baking cakes
- buying and selling cakes at your own cake sale
- eating cakes

It's a high fun, (mostly) high calorie way of raising money for **Tearfund's No Child Taken** 15 campaign to end child trafficking. Lending a hand will be Bake Off star **Martha Collison** and **Tom Herbert** from Channel 4's Fabulous Baker Brothers.

So get planning straight away with your church and friends: sign up for all the latest updates. And while you're at it, order yourself a free copy of the Big Bake Pack.

Or call us now for a copy on 020 8977 9144.

The pack's full of fundraising tips, resources and recipes – including the ultimate choc chip cookie recipe from master chocolatier **Will Torrent**. You have been warned!

So, don't hang about – set the oven to gas mark 5 and fight the evils of trafficking with the inherent goodness of cake*.

14 September Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are his.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE (PREFERABLY VERY MUCH ALIVE)

EMERGE YOUTH VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

We are looking to expand our small team to ensure that we are able to continue our mission to the local young people in the partnership. Please get in touch with Claire Camm.

ESSENTIAL:

- To enjoy being with young people in an informal environment to help them develop social skills, practical and life skills and share the Gospel in appropriate ways.
- To work as part of a team of volunteers to lead Remix (and possibly other youth work sessions with emerge) with accountability to the Partnership Youth Work Manager.
- To welcome young people to the group and provide a listening ear when needed (in accordance with Child Protection policy).
- To treat all young people with equal care and respect, no favourites allowed.
- To help run activities and support other leaders, eg encouraging young people to listen and engage.
- To be willing to channel negative behaviour, with support.
- To be willing to take a lead if and when you are ready.
- To support others in setting up and down activities.
- To attend team meetings and contribute your ideas. (Usually 1 meeting per term).
- To help ensure safety and well-being of young people, adults and yourselves, reporting any accidents or incidents immediately to the Youth Work Manager.
- To undertake training and review sessions as agreed.
- To be committed to the role, to be on time and give advance warning if not able to attend.
- To aim to be a positive influence and role model at all times!

DESIRABLE: some recent experience of children and/or young people

Time commitment: Remix 2.5 hours Tuesday evenings (inc set up and set down) arrive 7.00pm at latest for 7.15pm start, finish at 9pm. Can be weekly or bi-weekly commitment.

Informal interview with Youth work Manager to start followed by references and 3 month trial period.

The Methodist Church 

UPPER THAMES CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT SERVICE



6.00 p.m.

SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2015



HIGHWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

LECHLADE ROAD, HIGHWORTH SN6 7HG

Service led by: The Circuit Leadership Team

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Pye

Chair of the Methodist Bristol District

ALL WELCOME

Light refreshments will be served following the service

Swindon Deanery Visit to Uganda

Meeting 09 September

7.30pm at St John's Haydon Wick

We hope to take a group from different churches in the deanery to meet Christians in our 2 link dioceses – Kampala and Luweero – in Uganda. Come along to St John's Haydon Wick (on corner of Thames Avenue and Westfield Way next to Morrison's) for an information and discussion evening about the trip. Expressing your interest and coming along to the meeting in no way commits you to coming.

Let Sally Robertson know that you might be interested

By email: sally.robertson27@btinternet.com. Phone: 01793 724219

Willows Counselling Service

At Willows we're gearing up for the start of our Autumn courses. Our next Level 2 'Introduction to Pastoral Counselling' kicks off on Oct 5th (10 Monday evenings plus 2 Saturdays). Then our Extended Level 3 Course in Integrative Counselling runs on Wednesdays from September 2nd. Full details can be found from the Training page on our website: www.willowscounselling.org.uk or call us on 426650. You can find us on Facebook as Willows Swindon where you can read about our Saturday workshops and some great articles on health and wellbeing. And for the first time, this year's Swindon Open Studios includes three artists with links to Willows – you can catch them at venue 7 on the trail!

Call to Support Persecuted Syrian and Iraqi Christians

Many Christians in the Middle East face a threat to their survival at least as great as last century when millions were killed in the Armenian and Assyrian genocides. Syrian and Iraqi Christians are desperately fleeing Islamic State territory, where they face being driven from their homes, robbed, enslaved or murdered. The Barnabas Fund is organising rescue operations to enable endangered Christians to escape and re-settle outside of the region and is calling on Western political leaders, who generally are reluctant, to grant visas. First signatories include Lord Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and Canon Andrew White, former Vicar of Baghdad. There is a copy of the 'Operation Safe Havens' petition in St Mary's Church. For further copies and information, contact the Barnabas Fund at www.barnabasfund.org, tel 024 7623 1923.

Bishop's letter for September (continued)

sure that those who would abuse power and trust by inflicting shocking behaviour on others are brought to account.

Not long ago we and other institutions acted with indifference towards these issues. I hope and pray that those days are behind us, but we need to be constantly diligent in watching over those in our care.

Jesus said famously, "Let the little children come to me," and welcomed them safely and healthily. We must do the same. We must be vigilant. All of us.

+Mike

The Cinnamon Trust Appeal



What happens if illness, injury or just the fact that we all get older eventually affects our ability to look after our four legged companions? A large number of elderly or ill pet owners become very worried about their ability to care for their pets, feeling that their only option is to rehome them, this is where our national network of dedicated volunteers step in to offer support enabling them to stay together.

We'll walk the dog for a housebound owner, we'll foster pets when owners need hospital care, we'll fetch the cat food, even clean out the bird cage or litter trays.

We are always seeking new volunteers so even if you can only spare an hour a week we would love to hear from you,

The Cinnamon Trust is the national charity whose wonderful volunteers help people over retirement age and those in the latter stages of a terminal illness by offering all kinds of pet care. We are trying to find some dog walking help for a resident of Swindon and wondered if any of the church family would like to volunteer to help. We urgently need dog walking volunteers in Swindon for a lovely 3 year old Standard Poodle who would love to go for a good walk.

If anyone can help please call during office hours 01736 758707 or via email volunteer@cinnamon.org.uk Please also check out our website for more details at www.cinnamon.org.uk

Exploring Christianity

Would you like to explore your faith, grow in discipleship, deepen your commitment and learn with others? Then 'Exploring Christianity' could be for you.

Exploring Christianity is a course run by the Diocese of Bristol for those interested in finding out more about the Christian faith.

There are no age limitations and no previous experience is necessary. Come with an open mind, your experience and your background.

Swindon's course will be running on Thursday evenings

**Beginning Thursday 24th September 7.30 pm at
Lydiard Millicent Church of England Primary School, The Butts,
Lydiard Millicent, Swindon SN5 3LR**

(convenient both for Swindon residents and those from North Wilts), It will be led by the Revd Tudor Roberts and Richenda Milton-Daws, LLM. If you would like to find out a little more, please contact Brenda Greet at Church House on 0117 906 0100 or telephone Richenda on 01666 824029 if you prefer.

How does it work?

People meet week by week. Each student receives a Study Guide with preparation to complete each week – reading, thinking and reflecting – which is discussed at the tutorial. The tutor will also provide additional activities for the group.

Some students will complete assignments, although this is not compulsory. The course also fulfils the first two years of training for those exploring Licensed Lay Ministry. There are six modules exploring a breadth of areas, including Spirituality and Prayer, the Bible, Christian Ethics and more. Each module costs £50 (£25 if you are not doing assignments) and all six modules are usually completed over a two-year period.

A limited bursary scheme for those students who experience financial hardship is available. Please write to Becky Waring, Adviser for Lay Ministry Development, in confidence.

Find out more

Visit www.bristol.anglican.org/exploring-christianity

For further information about the course, contact Becky Waring:

becky.waring@bristoldiocese.org

To enrol, contact Brenda Greet: brenda.greet@bristoldiocese.org

Or phone 0117 906 0100.

Swindon Commercial Chaplaincy



a Community Interest Company

work that had been undertaken for 174 years. As time has proved over the past 18 months, through God's good grace, we feel this was the right decision.

What do we do? As an ecumenical team, we provide a free chaplaincy service to those who work in Swindon. Some years ago, many companies provided a personnel service, but since the recession, this is often reduced to a disembodied voice on the telephone. Also, there are many lone businesses or retail outlets that cannot provide a large staff. So many of the people who work in them have no one to talk to or express their concerns. This is where we come in.

We offer a listening ear, give advice where we can, and provide a safe place to offload. For instance, very recently, one of our chaplains has been supporting a young widow following the untimely death of her husband. Or there is another chaplain who has been a listening ear to someone whose parents both need care support because of old age. The person was finding it very difficult to cope. The chaplaincy has been able to discover places where they can obtain advice, and perhaps move forward and bring hope. Other times, it is rejoicing where a business has been able to expand and the chaplains have celebrated with the success of the business. Again, a chaplain who used to be a midwife, was able to reassure a very worried young man whose girlfriend was pregnant, and then rejoice with him at the birth of the child.

These are just snippets of the work we do, but we see it as meeting God in the workplace, and being with those we meet and standing on

Recently, the Revd Canon Angela Overton-Benge came to preach at your church. As she explained, there has been Industrial Mission in Swindon since the coming of the railways, but more latterly, this task was taken on by ISR, (Churches Council for Industry and Social Responsibility). However, since ISR's closure in January 2014, Swindon Commercial Chaplaincy (SCC) has taken up the mantle. We did this because we felt an absolute call of God to carry on the

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Raising a concern quickly, and with the right people about something you have experienced, or seen and heard that is unhealthy or even potentially unhealthy, enables support to be given where needed and can prevent irrevocable damage being done. People often fear that a call to social services results in a child being taken from its parents; that a complaint to the Bishop will lead to a minister losing his or her licence; that contacting the police about domestic abuse means a prison sentence. But where that call comes early enough there is a wealth of support available to prevent the situation escalating.

This relies of course on people – you and I – being willing to voice their concerns, rather than hoping that they won't be the one to have to raise it. This is the culture change we need; the recognition that we must all be willing to raise our concerns early and tell the right people that support is needed. If we let what we fear might be the consequences stop us from acting, we fail to protect the young and vulnerable among us.

If you feel you would like to personally take some further responsibility in all this, I encourage you to visit the Diocese of Bristol website, where you will find two safeguarding awareness training modules, one relating to children, the other to vulnerable adults. These are free to use and for anyone at all who would like to better get to grips with spotting the signs of potentially damaging behaviour. You will need your parish code to access these modules, but this is freely available, again from your PSO, or Leanne Smith.

I think the point is made, but now it rests on all of us to act. On all of us. If you need to, now or in the future, please don't hesitate to pick up the 'phone. Here are some contact details: IICSA enquiry confidential helpline - 0800 917 1000; Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Leanne Smith - 0117 906 0132; Parish Safeguarding Officer – contact your local parish office for the number.

We can persuade ourselves that 'all this has gone too far' when we read about primary school teachers being unable to put sunblock on the children within their care. But to do so, is to start the quick and ready slide into collusion.

So let me conclude where I began. Our churches need to be the safest places for children and adults who are vulnerable. Sadly this is not always the case and it is now down to all of us to do all we can to make

Bishop's letter for September

Making sure the vulnerable are safe in our midst

Back in July, Libby Purves wrote in The Times that, "In the 1980's we failed the young. We still do."

As I visit parishes and talk to parishioners and colleagues, I'm still not sure that the message is getting across. Children and adults who are vulnerable should be able to think of the Church as the safest place to be. Sadly, in times past, we have fallen short of this ideal.

The Church of England, together with other churches, does not come to all this with a clean bill of health. In days gone by, and sadly on occasions still in the present, our resistance to taking these issues seriously has made us collusive with appalling behaviour, with the outcome that too many people's lives have been seriously damaged, if not destroyed.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is very clear, as I am myself, that we have to work with the highest standards of safeguarding: this is a 'zero tolerance zone'. He is equally clear that we must be open and transparent in reviewing our personnel files to ensure that cases overlooked or ignored in the past are identified and appropriate action taken. We shall do all we can to cooperate fully with the Government's Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA inquiry).

The starting point in all this is simple but requires your cooperation. SAFEGUARDING IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL. It is our common responsibility, each and every one of us, to do all we can to ensure that our churches set the highest standards in relation to keeping all in our midst safe. To ignore issues of concern, or information of a sensitive or worrying nature, is truly no longer an option. To do so is to make us complicit with potentially terrible and damaging behaviour and attitudes.

If you have ever encountered abuse in any way, or have some deep anxieties about the behaviour of anyone around you, in church or anywhere else, you really must report it to someone in responsibility, and at the earliest opportunity. Your own Parish/Benefice Safeguarding Officer (PSO) or alternatively, our Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Leanne Smith, would be a good starting point to make a complaint or raise an issue.

holy ground. Very often we find ourselves in the most unlikely places and with unlikely people being asked for prayer and the help of God.

We also run The Front Room Job Club. It is more than just a job club where people come seeking work or to improve their CVs, it is a place of safety. It is a place where they can be themselves and speak of issues that are troubling them without fear of rejection. A place where people, we hope, feel valued just as our Lord values all. It is open to any one irrespective of their faith or no faith at all. The Front Room meets every Tuesday between noon and 2pm at St Augustine's Church in Rodbourne. If you are unemployed, you are welcome to come along.

Recently, Angela has been taking them through a 'Cooking on a Budget' course. This was received with great enthusiasm, and the practical task of cooking really increased the confidence of some of the members. On that merit, the cooking continues. Also, we have recently been given some laptop computers. This will give an added dimension to the service we offer. They can now spend more time on their CVs and job search without having to queue for the computer.

To carry on this valuable work, we rely entirely on the generosity of people and organisations, as our funding comes from donations and grants. There is now an opportunity for both churches and individuals to become a 'Friend of SCC', not only by giving a donation, but by being a prayer partner. Some of you took a leaflet when Angela was there as you were considering becoming a Friend. Please consider sending in your leaflet if you haven't already done so. If any others would like a leaflet about the Friends scheme, we would love to hear from you. Also, we are always looking for new chaplains. So if you feel this is something you could do, please contact us. You will receive training and have the full support of the team if you do.

Check out our video on YouTube at Swindon Commercial Chaplaincy.com, or see our website at

www.swindoncommercialchaplaincy.com

Email: scchaplaincy@btinternet.com or telephone on 01793 618986.

Church Services in the Partnership

St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
06 Sept	10:00am	Morning Service
13 Sept	10:00am	Holy Communion
20 Sept	10:00am	Harvest Family Service
27 Sept	10:00am	Harvest Communion followed by Baptism
27 Sept	5:00pm	Partnership Prayer and Praise @ St Mary's with parade

Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
06 Sept	10:30am	Holy Communion & God.com/SS
13 Sept	10:30am	All Age Service
13 Sept	4:00pm	Messy Church
20 Sept	10:30am	All Age Service
27 Sept	10:30am	Harvest Morning Service

Toothill

Date	Time	Form
06 Sept	10:30am	All Age Service
Wednesday 09 Sept	11:30am	Midweek Worship
13 Sept	10:30am	Holy Communion
20 Sept	10:30am	Morning Service
Wednesday 23 Sept	11:30am	Midweek Worship
27 Sept	10:30am	Harvest Parade

Westlea

Date	Time	Form
06 Sept	10:00am	Morning Service (Birthday)
13 Sept	10:00am	Family service
20 Sept	10:00am	Holy Communion
27 Sept	10:00am	Swap

Partnership Prayer and Praise

27 September 2015

5.00pm

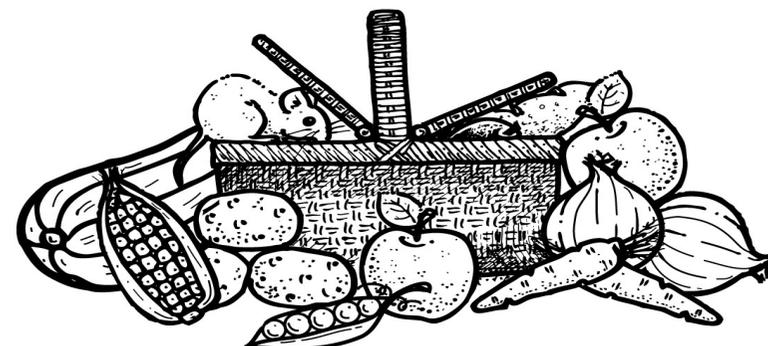
St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze SN5 3PA

The theme will be

"Harvest"

All Welcome

This is an opportunity to Pray and Praise together



Gateway Church invite us to worship with them

Wednesday 9th September, 7:30pm at Gateway, Trinity Centre, Stonehill Green, Westlea SN5 7AR.

To continue building relationship amongst us, we have a great opportunity to gather our churches for an evening of worship on Wednesday 9th September, 7:30pm at Gateway. If you would like to join us we would love to have you be there with us.

We normally keep these evenings fairly relaxed, and they have been a real blessing to us as we face the coming term.