

Contact Information:

The Partnership office is open:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday	9:00 – 1:00pm
Wednesday	1.00 – 4.00pm
Thursday	Closed

There will always be an up to date message on the Partnership Office telephone giving any changes.

The office number is 01793 874221. The office e-mail is:
wspartnershipoffice@gmail.com

To publicise any News or Events in the next edition of In Partnership covering March, please send them to the office no later than 16 February.

The address for correspondence is:
The Partnership Office, Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre,
SWINDON, SN5 5PY.

The editor's e-mail address is: wspartnershipoffice@gmail.com

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

Partnership Team Minister: Revd Capt Clive Deverell
Email: clive.deverell@btinternet.com Tel: 01793 877111
(Anglican Priest and Authorised to Serve in the Methodist Church)

Associate Minister: Revd Trevor Day
Email: Trevor.Day@btinternet.com Tel: 01793 875373 or
Mobile: 07918 125826
(Anglican Priest)

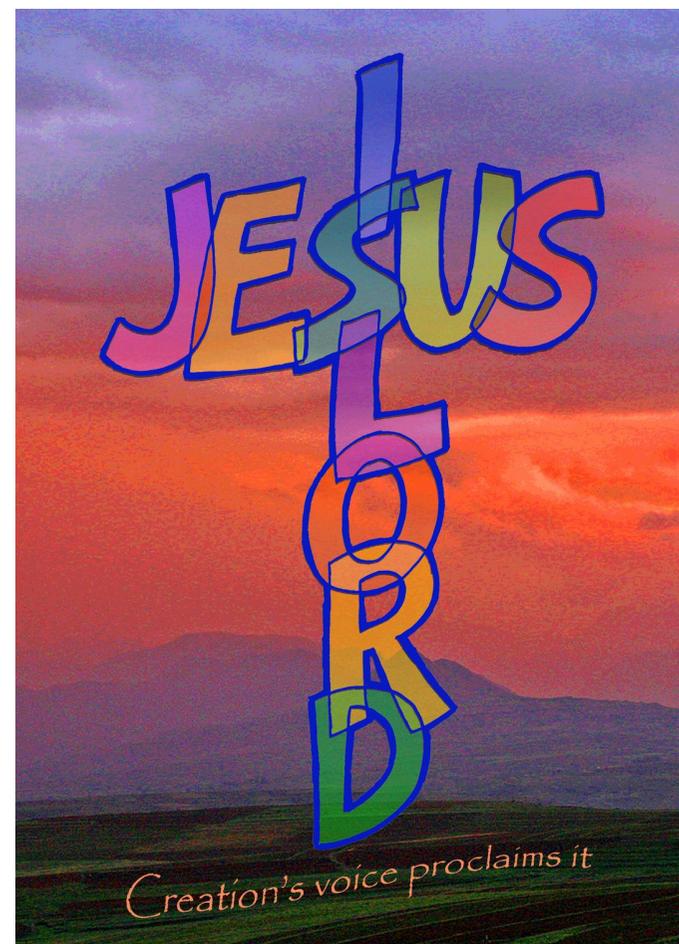
Partnership Youth Worker: Claire Camm
Email: clairecamm1@gmail.com Tel: 07981 951381

Partnership Primary Age Schools Worker: Gayle Bryon
Email: gayleschoolswork@gmail.com



In Partnership February 2017

Looking outwards and growing together



It's a trust issue.

So, I'm starting a new job. Having been unemployed for 2 years this is a big deal for me. Though my unemployed status has puzzled and bothered those around me, I've not been worried. God has been looking after me and my family. He's sent people support and material gifts when we needed such things. I knew He had a plan, even if it wasn't always obvious what exactly He was doing with us.

However, now I'm starting a new job I'm tempted to be a bit worried. What if I can't perform properly in my new role? What if I can't get up every morning reliably? What if I can't remember new people's names? What if the commute wears me out (I'm not as young as I was when I last worked!)

I see a lesson here. I am not a worrier by nature, but I don't like change. When God does something new and opens an unexpected door, though I may be confident in Him and His plan, I'm a bit hesitant about my response, my ability to change with Him and keep up with His pace.

Don't want to offend anyone but I don't like the song "Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart". I think it's the tune that grates on me, but there is much helpful in the words...

And it has to be said, if He can keep firm hold of my hand while I was unemployed and keep me safe and happy, He can probably be trusted to help me out in a new job. I'm trying to convince myself, by keeping saying it...

I guess we're all familiar with [Proverbs 3:5-6](#) which says

Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

That's more like it.

If you've lost someone recently, trust Him even if it hurts at the moment.
If you've made changes to your life for the new year, trust Him even if it you can't see far into the future.

If you are looking to start a new job or a new family, trust Him even if you're nervous.

If you're being prompted to take on something new, trust Him even if you're not sure you can handle it

If you're stuck in a rut, trust Him even if you can't see how to change for the better.

You've got company, I'm nervous too.

Chris Scarisbrick

FROM THE REGISTERS

Weddings

07 January 2017

David Kevin Payne and Kayley Anne Thompson

Funerals

24 January 2017

Mr Andrew Barrie Gash

PRAYERS

The Katikama Sebamale school has asked us to :

Pray for this New Link to flourish.

Pray the high and persistent drought ends.

Pray for the school 's programme of renovation of the existing buildings and roofing.

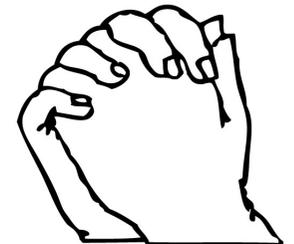
Pray for Wilberforce, the head teacher, as he has been unwell for the whole of November.

Please also pray for:-

Partnership Review of Youth and Children's work

Faith Picture Services and Lent Course

Schools Work



14 February Saint Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

To-morrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime
And I a maid at your window
To be your Valentine.

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

The rose is red, the violet's blue
The honey's sweet, and so are you.
Thou are my love and I am thine
I drew thee to my Valentine.



...and yet the Church Mice still put it about
that they were poor

Regular activities

2 nd Sunday each month	
Messy Church	12 February 4 - 5:30pm @ Shaw
Every Monday	
After School Youth Group Contact Claire Camm 07981951381	3:30 – 6:00pm @ Holy Trinity Shaw
Every Tuesday	
Bell Ringing	7-9pm St Mary's Bell Tower
2nd Wednesday of each month	
Mothers Union Contact Doreen Henderson 07434377587	None in February 2017 2pm @ St Mary's Stable Room
Every Thursday	
Toothill Tinies	10 -11:30am @ Toothill

Partnership Office Hours From 01 February 2017

The office will be closed every Thursday

Hours will be

Monday, Tuesday and Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm

Wednesday 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Doing Lent Differently

Our Messy church has signed to the **40 acts challenge**, perhaps you are planning to do the same as an individual or a small group.

Between Ash Wednesday and Easter it might be good for our waistlines to give up sugar, or good for our brains to cut back on our 'screen time', it's helpful to take up these more traditional challenges. However with **40 acts** as a daily reminder I hope I won't be alone in finding ways to act more generously during the 40 days of Lent.

Now I have registered I shall be sent a small challenge every day via email to encourage me to give creatively and generously to those around me.

This may mean leaving a £1 coin in a supermarket trolley or leaving an encouraging note for someone. I sometimes find it difficult to be generous so I'm hoping that practising this challenge will help me to change a little in my willingness to give; I shall be more than happy with a 50% success rate in challenges met.

As the pupils of St Edmund's School say on the website 'small acts of love and kindness leave less room for fear and hatred'.

Our Messy Church in West Swindon has also registered and will be able to use resources for a session on Messy Generosity; this will include a challenge chart for families to take home.

It's possible to sign up and access resources as an individual or a group on the website **40acts.org.uk** so if you haven't done so already how about signing up?

Mary Poole

Orient Express Coffee Afternoon

Saturday 25th February 2017

2.00-4.00pm at Toothill Church

There will be an Orient Express Coffee Afternoon with coffee/tea and biscuits at 50p, plus memorabilia of the Orient Express and other Steam Trains. Also there will be goodies on the table in connection with the Orient Express. All are welcome.

Please note date changed from 21 January due to unforeseen circumstances.

Gospel Choir

As a part of the Circuit discussion in 2016 towards being 'outward looking, some raised the vision of developing a Gospel Choir. We have had discussions with North Wilts Circuit who are keen to join us in this venture.

After much prayer we were led to Jim Eddings, a talented musician who loves the Lord. He has agreed and is excited about exploring with us the potential of a Gospel choir.

In February Jim will visit Highworth, Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade churches during their morning worship to talk about the choir and encourage interest. He may well contribute to the worship with some 'gospel' on these occasions.

We invite folk who are interested in being a part of this exciting venture from all our churches and from other denominations to come to a Workshop on Saturday 25 February 2017 at Christ the Servant, Abbey Meads from 11.00am to 4.00pm. The workshop is at no cost - drinks will be provided for the day and participants are invited to bring their own lunches.

Children are welcome but under 13s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

A love of music and enthusiasm – but no particular expertise – required!!

Please join us

Spring Harvest 04 – 14 April 2017

Theme this year is 'One for All'
There are still nearly 400 units left at Minehead One and over 250 at Skegness. For more information please call Butlins on 0330 100 9330 and they will help find accommodation to suit you.



Mobilising our Front-Line

The Bishop of Swindon, the Rt Revd Lee Rayfield, reflects on a nut which our Archbishops are once again trying to help churches crack.

In his address to Diocesan Synod in December, Matthew Frost asked us what one thing we might do as a diocese to best equip Christians to be disciples in every sphere of life, not just in church life. My instinctive response was to inscribe a tattoo on the forearm of every church member - lay on the arms of the ordained, priest on everyone else! You may think this is crazy but the reality is that we have struggled for decades to overcome the sacred/secular compartmentalisation of most Christian discipleship.

The need for Christians to see themselves as priests in the workplace was spelled out 70 years ago, in *Towards the Conversion of England*. Dorothy Sayers, the novelist and playwright, flagged up the importance of all Christians recognising their vocation within secular life. She argued that if Christians behaved as though 90% of their life was irrelevant to their faith, why would anyone be interested in belonging to a church?!

The Archbishops' Task Force on Lay Leadership, of which Matthew Frost is a member, has recently identified four obstacles to the whole people of God finding their vocation as disciples and Christian leaders in the whole of life. our culture. There is inadequate theology and vision, a weak lay voice which is not being heard or acted upon, unhealthy relationships between clergy and lay people and, lastly, a lack of resources and support.

There is no proverbial silver bullet for the Church of England. Matthew Frost highlighted two critical shifts needed to release the ministry of the whole people of God. The first is for lay and ordained people to work together so that lay people are confident to follow Jesus and live out the gospel in every sphere of life. The second is for lay and ordained people to be convinced they are equal partners in mission – complementary in gifting and vocation, mutually accountable in discipleship, and of equal worth and status.

So many words – what might churches do now to begin to clothe them with flesh? How about a 7 minute slot in every service where a member of the congregation shares what it means for them to give a lead as a follower of Jesus from Monday to Saturday? God on Monday has a nice ring to it...

Read Bishop Lee's full article at www.bristol.anglican.org

Sir Cliff's faith 'even stronger' after ordeal

Sir Cliff Richard has said that after nearly two years facing false sexual assault allegations, his faith in God has become 'even stronger'.

Sir Cliff was speaking in a recent interview with Steve Allen on LBC. He said that learning to forgive his accuser was for him the turning point that helped him release 'all that hate and anger'. And the support of friends who believed in him and stood by him was of critical help.

During the two year ordeal, "I found I was talking to God a lot more, praying. I felt the need to forgive this person, who I am sure I have never met, because I found myself being filled with hate. I wanted to get revenge, and I thought, 'I don't think I'm going to survive this if that's the way I'm going to feel.' So by forgiving him... it released me of all that hate and vengeance. Forgiving is not a simple thing to do, but when I look back, my God, that was the best simple thing I have ever done."

The singer said he felt he has become a 'stronger person', and even now, at 76, has no plans to retire. Instead he plans to downsize his career and make it 'more compact'.

Ecumenical Joint Confirmation

Thursday 15 June 2017

Ecumenical Confirmation and
Public Affirmation of Faith Service

will take place at

**7.00pm at
Toothill Church**



Preparation Course starts Sunday

30 April 2017 3.00pm

in St Mary's stable room

Please call Clive on 01793 877111 for more information

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

“Looking outwards and growing together”

Starting Sunday 26th of February 4.00pm at Holy Trinity Shaw



What is *Faith Pictures*?

Faith Pictures is a short course designed to help Christians talk naturally to friends, neighbours and colleagues about what they believe. The heart of the course is about helping people to identify a single picture or image that embodies something of their faith. This is because the kinds of communication which best stick in the mind are concrete and rooted in story.

The course aims to be accessible and light-hearted, without jargon or inflexible methods. It has a number of emphases not always found in faith-sharing courses. These include the avoidance of one-size-fits-all models and the importance of honesty and listening. Each session contains a short video and encourages discussion in pairs and as a whole group.

Who is it for?

Any adult, growing, new Christians, of any Christian background. May well suit older youth too. Small groups. 'It is for people of any Christian tradition and none. It has been designed to appeal particularly to people who would normally run a mile from courses on faith-sharing.

looking forward to having another Duke of Edinburgh Award student, Emily, come to volunteer alongside Lindsay who is now doing her Gold Award with us.

We are very grateful for all our volunteers' commitment and energy, without which we could not run these activities on behalf of the partnership. Please pray for us with our youth outreach and for the review team as we seek God's will for all of us regarding his youth and children's work which we carry out on his behalf.

Claire Camm

Epiphany Concert of Live Classical Music St Alban's Church, Watchfield

04 February 2017 7.30pm

Tickets £5 to include a glass of wine

An Evening with Epiphany



Epiphany" is the collective name for a group of highly talented professional musicians, all of whom play with well-known groups and orchestras and who come together from time to time to tour and perform, both nationally and internationally. This is an ideal event to which you could invite your non-Christian friend and music-lover. The "Sound Portraits" in part two of the concert are improvised arrangements specially tailored for individual volunteers (no pressure at all).

Epiphany will also be leading worship at the morning service on Sunday 5th at St Alban's Church.

God's army

Dewey was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the minister was standing at the door, as he always is, to shake hands. Suddenly he grabbed Dewey by the hand and pulled him aside. The minister said sternly "Dewey, you need to join the Army of the Lord!"

Dewey replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." The minister retorted: "Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" Dewey replied in a whisper: "Well, I'm in the secret service."

Emerge Report Jan 2017

The term so far has been one of new growth in different areas of the project.

We finished the Autumn term on a really high note with an excellent end of year show led by the young people from Monday and Saturday groups, focussing on the theme of refugees. This included drama and songs from the musical 'Joseph'; animated music and video of the Nativity & Bible readings; carols; ending with the children's reflections on 'what it would be like to be a refugee', followed by a moving video from contemporary 'real life' refugees who attend the 'Harbour Project' in Swindon. Our audience were encouraged to write their name and a prayer or hope for 2017 on a paper chain which were linked together with others which refugees at the Harbour Centre had made.

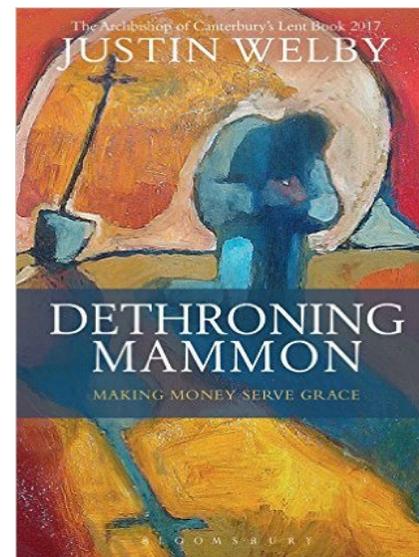
We raised £187.50 for the work of the Harbour Centre through tickets sold and through stalls after the show. It was lovely to welcome all the families of the children plus a good number from our churches, which resulted in a pretty full church and a lovely community feel.

Since Christmas I have been busy with various exploratory meetings and activities; seeking God's path for how we can continue the work of youth outreach in different ways since the demise of Remix last term. So far, I have had good discussions with Dave Clarke, Schools and Youth work Manager, Swindon Youth for Christ and with members of the Chaplaincy team at New College. With SYFC I have begun to work alongside their team in Lydiard Park Academy, supporting the CU, running PSHE lessons on sex and relationships and on the dangers of pornography. We are also in discussion about running a West Swindon-based outreach session with their mobile youth bus.

Along with Gayle, Mary and others from the partnership I have begun a far-reaching review of our partnership youth and childrens' work, under the leadership of Dan Jones, Diocesan Youth and Childrens' Officer.

The Monday and Saturday clubs continue as before with a good group of young people with special educational needs, ranging in age from 12-19. We had 3 new referrals into these groups in December through Aiming Hi (Swindon Borough Council's Short Breaks team). It's been great to see the young people settle quickly and begin to express themselves and make new friends. We will also welcome 3 new volunteers this term to work in these groups (2 of whom are completely new to the emerge project). Additionally we are really

**Starting on Thursday 2nd of March 7.00pm
for 7.30pm at Toothill**



In his first full-length book Justin Welby looks at the subject of money and materialism. **Designed for study in the weeks of Lent** leading up to Easter, *Dethroning Mammon* reflects on the impact of our own attitudes, and of the pressures that surround us, on how we handle the power of money, called Mammon in this book. Who will be on the throne of our lives? Who will direct our actions and attitudes? Is it Jesus Christ, who brings truth, hope and freedom? Or is it Mammon, so attractive, so clear, but leading us into paths that tangle, trip and deceive?

Archbishop Justin explores the tensions that arise in a society dominated by Mammon's modern aliases, economics and finance, and by the pressures of our culture to conform to Mammon's expectations. Following the Gospels towards Easter, this book asks the reader what it means to dethrone Mammon in the values and priorities of our civilisation and in our own existence.

In *Dethroning Mammon*, Archbishop Justin encourages us to use Lent as a time of learning to trust in the abundance and grace of God.

Church Services in the Partnership St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
05 February	10:00am	Morning Service followed by Baptism
12 February	10:00am	Communion
19 February	10:00am	Family Service
26 February	10:00am	Communion

Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
05 February	10:30am	Communion & God.Com/SS
12 February	10:30am	Communion
12 February	4:00pm	Messy Church
19 February	10:30am	MS & God.Com/SS
26 February	10:30am	All Age Service
26 February	4:00pm	Partnership Prayer and Praise
8.45am Morning Prayer on Fridays during term time.		

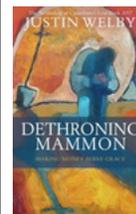
Toothill

Date	Time	Form
05 February	10:30am	All Age Service
Weds 08 Feb	11:30am	Midweek Worship
12 February	10:30am	Communion
19 February	10:30am	Morning Service
Weds 22 Feb	11:30am	Midweek Worship
26 February	10:30am	MS & AGM

**Ash Wednesday
01 March 2017
Holy Communion
At Toothill Church 11.30am**

Westlea

Date	Time	Form
05 February	10:00am	Morning Service
12 February	10:00am	Family Service
19 February	10:00am	Communion
26 February	10:00am	All Age Service



Lent Course 2017 Dethroning Mammon: Making Money Serve Grace

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book 2017

**Starting Thursday 02 March 2017
7pm at Toothill Church**

Intended as a companion for lent, this is Archbishop Welby's first book and a call for Christians to examine who it is that sits upon the throne of their lives.

See page 7 for more details

Faith Pictures

**From 26 February to 02 April 2017, 4pm at Holy Trinity Shaw
Except 12 March 6.30pm at Holy Trinity Shaw**

Faith Pictures is produced by Church Army, a mission community of people who are transforming lives and local communities. Its members are committed to sharing the Christian faith through words and action in a variety of contexts across the British Isles and Ireland. The 6 week course is about helping people to identify a single picture or image that embodies something of their faith. This is because the kinds of communication which best stick in the mind are concrete and rooted in story.

See page 6 for more details