

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 September, please send them to the office no later than 20 August.

The address for correspondence is:
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SWINDON, SN5 5PY.

The editor's e-mail address is: wspartnershipoffice@gmail.com
The events advertised may not on occasion fully represent the views of the Partnership
The Partnership web site is <http://www.wswinlyd.org.uk>

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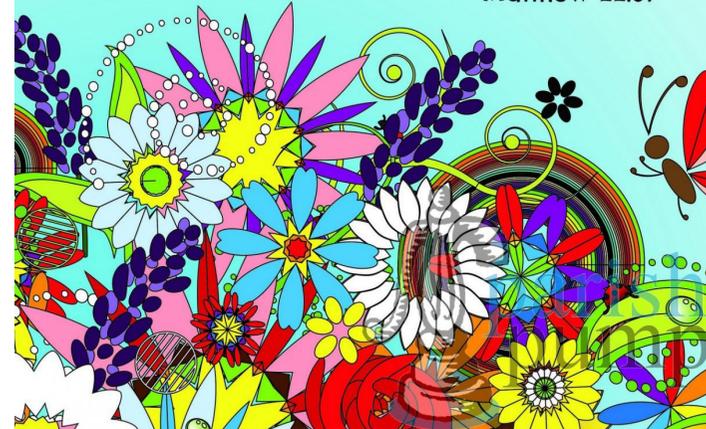
In Partnership July/August 2018

Looking outwards and growing together

SUMMER

a time to reach your neighbours

Matthew 22:39



West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership
Baptist • Church of England • Methodist • United Reformed Church
Registered Charity: 1141341

When trouble strikes

When trouble strikes, what is your reaction? Do you 'hunker down' or 'head for the hills'? Or maybe, do you take the path of keeping going but trusting in Jesus to give you strength, courage and comfort, rather than relying on your own resources?

It takes a long time to learn this pathway, but I think that I am, at last, beginning to understand it. The trouble is that sometimes when we are 'going through it', it's not always easy to pray, to attend church or get together with other Christians; all of which activities keep the fire of our faith burning. Then we can become drained of spiritual energy and begin to rely on our own resources again, becoming depressed and vulnerable to temptation.

Over the last year I have discovered two ways of 'connecting to God' which have become extremely important to me, both in maintaining and developing my awareness and understanding of God. I offer them here as potential helps – there are many others out there too.

The first is the HTB Bible in One Year app: www.bibleinoneyear.org. You can download the app onto your device or receive daily emails with the readings and commentary for that day. There is also an audio commentary. The commentary is written by Nicky and Pippa Gumbel, Vicar of HTB and pioneer of Alpha. All the Bible readings for that day are given so you don't need to have a Bible with you – great if you're travelling or on holiday. I have completed a whole year using the app and feel that my Bible knowledge and understanding has grown a lot; my faith has definitely been deepened.

The second is listening to Christian worship music via Youtube. There is so much Christian music you can play and download for free on a smartphone or tablet. Often when I am cooking or ironing I play music through Youtube and instead of spending that time worrying about whatever is causing me anxiety, I am lifted into God's presence by the Holy Spirit through music. I often play Christian music through this means before starting Bible reading as a way to draw me into God's presence and away from distractions. Some songs which I have recently discovered, which I have grown to love are:

“New Wine” (Hillsong)

“So Will I” (Tori Kelly)

“Be Still my Soul” (Kari Jobe)

“It is Well” (Kristene di Marco)

From the Registers

Baptisms

03 June 2018	Victoria Peggy & Darcey Elizabeth Hewer
10 June 2018	Esme Sofia Shurmer
24 June 2018	Ronnie John James

PRAYERS

Please pray for:

refugees around the world:

God of rescue,

We thank you for your love – a love that knows no walls.

We cry out on behalf of refugees around the world: protect them as they travel; keep them safe from danger and ill-treatment; comfort and heal them in their distress.

May they find safe places to stay, with all the provision of food, water, shelter and clothing they need.

Move the hearts of political leaders around the world; give them a sense of compassion and justice; and help us all to create a world in which no one has to be a refugee.

Amen.

Gideon Heugh

Name of Church	Week beginning
St Marys Roman Catholic Rodbourne Cheney	01.07.18
Swindon Community Church meeting at Bridlewood School	08.07.18
Kingdom House Ministries meeting at Red house community Centre	15.07.18
St Andrews Anglican Blunsdon	22.07.18
United Apostolic Church meeting at Christ the servant abbey meads	29.07.18

Westpoint Christian Festival Exeter

Thursday 23rd to Sunday 26th August 2018.

Westpoint is a fantastic opportunity for churches from across the UK and further afield to gather together for times of worship, teaching and lots of fun.

In the summer of 2017, thousands of people from all walks of life gathered in Devon to encounter God and enjoy friendship together. In 2018, thousands will gather again, so whatever your age and whatever your church, Westpoint is for you and is an event not to be missed.

Though run by Commission, Westpoint is for anyone and everyone who wishes to know Jesus more and build community with other churches. Commission is an international family of churches led by Guy Miller and his team. We work together to care for and plant churches, raise leaders, reach the nations and work with the poor.

<http://www.westpointevent.org/>

For further information:

Telephone: 01202 612130 Email: events@commission-together.org

Ticket information: www.westpointevent.org

Sing a Musical in a Day!

Saturday 29 September 2018 at 10am

Cricklade United Church, Calcutt St, Cricklade, Swindon SN6 6AZ

On Saturday 29 September 2018 at Cricklade United Church we are offering the opportunity to sing a musical in a day!

Led by Christian Music Ministries - Conductor Annie Routley – we are intending to put on Jarius' Daughter composed by Roger Jones. The day starts with tea/coffee at 10am and is followed by workshops culminating in a performance at 6pm.

Singers and musicians of all levels are all welcome. The performance is free and all are invited to come and see and hear the finished event. We ran a similar day last year and it was a great success, much enjoyed by all who participated.

Further details nearer the time or by telephoning 01793 751020 or 01793 750556

Coming up in September....

A very important change in the Partnership will be announced.

“You can change”

Yesterday the **Bible in One Year** message was all about ‘change’. I found that it spoke to me and thought it might be helpful for others too, so have reprinted it below.

‘There was a woman who lived on the streets near Holy Trinity Brompton church. She would ask for money and react aggressively to those who refused. When she died, Nicky Gumbel (Vicar) took the funeral and he discovered afterwards that she had inherited a large fortune. She had acquired a luxurious flat and many valuable paintings, but she chose to live on the streets with her plastic bags full of rubbish. She could not bring herself to leave behind the life she knew and she never enjoyed her inheritance. Some people are afraid of change, while others believe change is not possible. Yet the wonderful news is that **with God’s help we can change.** This change is key to spiritual life, growth and transformation. ‘This seems to be a relevant message not just to us as individuals, but corporately as a church partnership.

In a book, **‘Landmarks’***, which some of us are following on Ignatian spirituality, St Ignatius talks about ‘The Law of Detachment’. That is, becoming free of those things which we hold on too tightly, fearful of what change may follow if we let go. They may be good things, positive things which have served us well in the past; but are now things which are keeping us bound up and full up, unable to be free to receive the new thing God wants to fill us with and move us onto. Ignatius offers us the following questions to ponder which can point us to what attitudes or activities might be preventing our growth and transformation:

What are we holding on to too tightly?

What are we fearful of changing?

What do we feel we need desperately to keep for our well-being?

These are the things which will be restricting us from seeking the fullness of life God desires for us.

Let’s pray for open hearts, minds and spirits to receive transforming power.

***Blessings in Christ,
Claire***

*Landmarks by Margaret Silf (pub Darton Longman & Todd, 1998)

Regular activities

2nd Sunday each month	
Messy Church	08 July & 12 August 4 - 5:30pm @ Shaw
Every Monday	
After School Youth Group Contact Claire Camm 07981951381	Last one 16 July 2018 None in August 4:30 – 6:30pm @ Holy Trinity Shaw
Every Tuesday	
Bell Ringing	7-9pm St Mary's Bell Tower
2nd Wednesday of each month	
Mothers Union Contact Jean Brock 01793 539456	12 July & 08 August 2pm @ St Mary's Stable Room
Every Thursday	
Toothill Tinies	10 -11:30am @ Toothill
Home Group	
HTS led by Sue Green Contact Sue on 01793 872056 for details	Thursday 7.30pm
TOOTHILL led by Rev Jan Partridge Contact Jan on 01793 534992 for details	3rd Monday of each month 2.30pm
WESTLEA led by Pete Gilder Contact Pete on 01793 878823 for details	Alternate Tuesdays 8pm

What happened when one person prayed for a baby...

When did you start praying for the children of your friends? Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, thanks God that someone prayed for him before he was even born – in the hope that he would one day become a Christian.

The Archbishop told the story during a recent short film on the Thy Kingdom Come initiative. He said that after he had become a Christian, he had 'learned that there was a particular person who prayed for me every week – since I was conceived – that I might become a disciple of Christ.'

He concluded: 'I cannot tell you how grateful I am to them.'

The film can be seen at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_AMDXsDkAc

News of Christian films coming to UK cinemas

God's not Dead: A Light in Darkness

is due to open on 13th July.

This is a sequel to *God's not Dead* and *God's not Dead 2* which played in UK cinemas four and two years ago.

Samson is scheduled to open on 21st September.

You may like to plan a sermon series on Samson to coincide with the film's UK cinema release.

You can watch both trailers by visiting

www.thechristianfilmreview.com

Final cinema details and performance times will be on cinema websites the Tuesday before each film opens.

Glyndebourne - Saul has a one-off Event Screening at 120 cinemas across Britain including Swindon's Regent Circus Cineworld on Thurs. 26th July only at 6.30pm.

Handel's oratorio is turned into an amazing baroque opera telling Saul's story from the death of Goliath to his own demise at Mount Gilboa. It includes Handel's famous funeral march and will be a spectacular evening filmed at Glyndebourne's glorious opera house in the Sussex downs.

"It's a knockout that brings the work blazingly alive" - Daily Telegraph

For details and to book go to:

www.glyndebourne.com/tickets-and-whats-on/events/2018/watch-saul/

Children's Activity Days
Wild and Woolly Yarns



Tuesday 31st July 10am-2pm

↳ Wednesday 1st August 10am-2pm

St Mary's Church, Lydiard Park

Children in Reception – Year 9 are welcome to come along
and enjoy stories, crafts, singing, cooking and games.



For more information and to book places please phone the
West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership Office
on **874221** or email gayleschoolswork@gmail.com

A decorative border surrounding the text, featuring a repeating pattern of red strawberries with green leaves and small white flowers on a green vine.

Strawberry Tea

**St Mary's Church
Lydiard Tregoze**

Every Sunday afternoon
08 July - 29 July 2018
FUNDRAISING FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's Stable Room and outside
2.00pm – 4.30pm
£3.50 each

Join us for tea and strawberry scones,
and enjoy the summer sunshine
at St Mary's on these afternoons.

Please contact Partnership Office on
01793 874221 for more details
West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

Emerge Youth Project news

Emerge Summer Show

"The Wizard of Oz"

Sat 7th July @ 4pm, Shaw Church



Family (4): £4.00

Adult: £1.50

Child: £1.00

(inc refreshments)

The main focus at Saturday club this term has been preparing for our end of term Summer Show, "The Wizard of Oz", see details above. All the young people have taken part in script-writing and set design and are performing in dance, music and drama sections. They have also been involved in discussions about the charity focus for the Show, which is **TWIGS Community Gardens**. This is a therapeutic garden project at Cheney Manor, helping people overcome stress, depression and other health issues. They also have an associated café, 'The Olive Tree' which one of our young people has recently started working at. The fundraising aspect of the emerge project is an extremely important part of what we do, empowering the young people through helping others and raising their awareness of community and world issues. Christian teaching and reflection fits well into this area of our programme. Over the last academic year we have raised £905 for three different charities – Comic Relief; Guide Dogs; and Tearfund's Toilet Twinning. Over the 10 years of emerge we have raised in the region of £7,000.

On Mondays, we have welcomed Maddy onto the Leadership team and it's been great to watch her steadily growing in confidence. We have said 'goodbye' to Lindsay this term as she finishes her 3 years of DOE Award Scheme with us and heads off to new horizons. We are very grateful for all her support. Developing leadership skills has always been a fundamental aim of the emerge project and it's very gratifying to know that we have played a part in young peoples' growth in this area; as well as benefiting ourselves as a project from their support.

A Plastic Revolution

The recent Blue Planet II series exposed just how much plastic waste is an issue in our seas. The Prime Minister has called plastic waste '*one of the great environmental scourges of our time.*' The best estimates suggest 10 million tonnes of plastic ends up in our oceans, contaminating and killing sea life. How should we view this issue from a Christian perspective?

When God created the universe, He saw '*everything He had made, and indeed, it was very good.*' (Genesis 1:31). He calls us to share in His care of creation: '*Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the ground.*' (Genesis 1:28). Our rule over living creatures is not an excuse to exploit them in a selfish way. As those who made in the image of God, we are entrusted to care for them with responsibility and trustworthiness.

Why do the sea creatures being killed by plastic matter? Because of human rebellion against God (see Genesis 3), our relationship with God and His creation was damaged. No longer do we live with living creatures in harmony and interdependence. Yet after the flood, when Noah rescued the animals in the ark, they are included in God's everlasting promise to protect the earth: '*I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that was with you.*' (Genesis 9:9,10). This also points to God's cosmic plan to restore all creation to Himself.

What is our response to be? Where is God calling us, as His people in this time and place, to make a stand in protecting His creation? Time for a plastic revolution?

Funeral preparation

Not long after I arrived to be curate at a small church in a village, the phone rang, and a man asked for the minister. He wanted to know which Scripture verses applied to funeral services. I gave him several references, and he jotted them down. 'But what about the "ashes to ashes, dust to dust" part?' he asked. I read it to him slowly. Then, intending to offer him some sympathy, as well as to take the funeral for him, I gently inquired who had died. He sighed. 'My daughter's rabbit.'

70 years of the National Health Service

The National Health Service began operating 70 years ago, on 5th July 1948, when Sylvia Beckingham, 13, was admitted to hospital in Manchester to be treated for a liver condition.

It was the climax of a hugely ambitious plan by Labour Health Secretary Aneurin Bevan to bring good health care free to all at the point of delivery. The health service would be available to everyone and financed entirely from taxation, which meant that people paid into it according to their means.

It was based on a report by William Beveridge in 1942. The problem with it remains the huge increase in costs resulting from, among other things, advances in medical science, drugs and machinery.

As Andy McSmith wrote in *The Independent* ten years ago: "It seems no amount of money will satisfy the infinite demand for better NHS care." Within a few years prescription charges were introduced, as well as a charge for dental treatment. The current prescription charge is £8.80 per item, and dental charges are huge.

Saving the NHS seems to be a national preoccupation in the 21st century. The Christian Medical Fellowship is campaigning to emphasise the vital and radical need for Christians within it.

National Day of Prayer

Saturday 4th August

Praying for peace from 4 August to 11 November

One hundred years on from a National Day of Prayer called by King George V, this will be the first day of 100 days of prayer across the country, running until Armistice Day in November.

Every Day there will prayers and actions for peace. You can sign up to take part and spend just a few minutes of your day, adding your prayers to those of tens of thousands more. For more information contact the HOPE office on: **01788 542782**



Relationships with families have strengthened over the year through our weekly contacts and through community meals and events (eg, Christmas Show, Easter Feast) and we hope to hold a joint late summer BBQ in conjunction with primary school families which Gayle is linked to.

Additionally, Gayle and I have met to plan other initiatives including a 'Pilgrimage' session for some local primary schools year 6, preparing to move up to secondary school.

New areas of work are being planned for the Autumn term in partnership with local secondary schools.

Please continue to hold us in your prayers. Thanks.

Claire Camm



When it was Mrs Wilson's turn to do the flower arrangements, she always kept the vicar's hay fever in mind



Summer Serenade

An evening of music and poetry



Presented by

**Strictly Recorders &
Wentworth Voices**



St Mary's Church

Lydiard Park

Saturday 14th July 2018 at 7.30pm

Tickets £5 available on the door

All proceeds for St Mary's Church Conservation
Project



The Gathering

For all those who have a heart for our
Partnership Children's, Youth and Family Mission.

A time to celebrate, pray,
listen, share stories, laugh
and eat together.

**Sunday 22nd July from 5pm-6.30pm
at St Marys**

Church Services in the Partnership (continued) Toothill

Date	Time	Form
01 July	10:30am	All Age Service
08 July	10:30am	Communion
15 July	10:30am	Morning Service
22 July	10:30am	Morning Service
29 July	10:30am	Morning Service
*05 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:00am 10:00am	Family Service @ Westlea Communion @ St Mary's
12 August	10:30am 10:30am	Family Service @ Toothill Communion @ HTS
19 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:00am 10:00am	Communion @ Westlea Family Service @ St Mary's
26 August	10:30am 10:30am	Communion @ Toothill Morning Service @ HTS

Westlea

Date	Time	Form
01 July	10:00am	Morning Service
08 July	10:00am	Family Service
15 July	10:00am	Communion
22 July	10:00am	All Age Service
29 July	10:00am	Family Service
*05 August	10:00am 10:00am	Family Service @ Westlea Communion @ St Mary's
12 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:30am 10:30am	Communion @ HTS Family Service @ Toothill
19 August	10:00am 10:00am	Communion @ Westlea Family Service @ St Mary's
26 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:30am 10:30am	Morning Service @ HTS Communion @ Toothill

15th July St Swithun (or Swithin)

- saint for a rainy day

St. Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

Confession

On the way to church to make his first Confession, my nervous seven-year-old grandson asked me what he could expect. 'Confession is where you tell all the bad things you've done to the priest,' I told him. He looked relieved. 'Good. I don't think I've done anything bad to the priest.'

Church Services in the Partnership St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
01 July	10:00am	Morning Service
08 July	10:00am	Communion
15 July	10:00am	Family Service followed by Baptism
22 July	10:00am	Communion
29 July	10:00am	Communion
*05 August	10:00am 10:00am	Communion @ St Mary's Family Service @ Westlea
12 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:30am 10:30am	Communion @ HTS Family Service @ Toothill
19 August	10:00am 10:00am	Family Service @ St Mary's Communion @ Westlea
26 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:30am 10:30am	Morning Service @ HTS Communion @ Toothill

** We are following the same arrangement as last year for August 2018. Each church will have 2 Morning Services within the month*

29 July 2018
St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze
4.45pm



David Perkins will be talking briefly through each of the Holy Habits giving us more details of our adventure beginning on 2nd September 2018.

Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
01 July	10:30am	Communion God.com/SS
08 July	10:30am	All Age Service
08 July	4:00pm	Messy Church
15 July	10:30am	Morning Service God.com/SS
15 July	7:00pm	Encounter
22 July	10:30am	All Age Service
29 July	10:30am	Special
*05 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:00am 10:00am	Family Service @ Westlea Communion @ St Mary's
12 August	10:30am 10:30am	Communion @ HTS Family Service @ Toothill
12 August	4:00pm	Messy Church
19 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:00am 10:00am	Communion @ Westlea Family Service @ St Mary's
26 August	10:30am 10:30am	Morning Service @ HTS Communion @ Toothill
8.45am Morning Prayer on Fridays during term time.		

**Public Affirmation of Faith and
Confirmation
Sunday 15 July 2018
St Paul's Covingham**

The service will take place at 4.00pm

Come and support the local candidates
at this very important Service.

"I have held thee in the palm of my hand". Isaiah 51:16