

## Goals for 2013

Our Partnership Council propose the following areas of particular focus for 2013:

- Reach out to Children and Young people through our local churches and together via Messy Church, Schools work and Emerge
- Develop ways to help lay members to contribute to the mission of the churches and Partnership
- Engage an external convenor, consult and decide the shape of our partnership, and how it will be managed and work in future. Implement the recommendations.

## Prayer for our Partnership

Almighty God,

As we face a year of continued change we give thanks for your promise to walk alongside us as we travel

Help us to keep our eyes on Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit empower us to contextually share the gospel within our communities and across the partnership, this we ask in Jesus name

Amen



# West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership



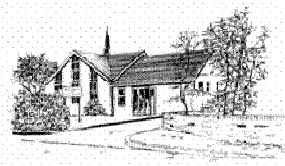
All Saints Lydiard Millicent



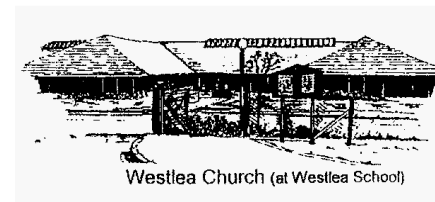
St. Mary's Lydiard Tregoze



Holy Trinity Shaw



Toothill Church



Westlea Church (at Westlea School)

**Annual Report of the Partnership  
for the year ending 31 December 2012**

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This report should be read in conjunction with the reports from the 5 local churches, available at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report>

## Ecumenical team leader's report

The team has worked well together although we have certainly had our differences of viewpoint; not entirely surprising considering our varied backgrounds and denominational histories. We have shared a lot and held an away-day which has enabled us to have time for deeper discussion than is normally possible.

Although we formally added Tricia Roberts to the team in 2011, illness and family pressures have prevented her making as significant contribution to the life of the Partnership as we had hoped.

We try to meet together regularly, although this is often not possible due to holidays and other commitments. We do not always agree on all matters but we have and continue to develop a respect for each other's points of view. It has proved almost impossible to draw together the wider staff team due to their commitments to family and work life.

## Chair of Partnership Council

2012 has been a challenging year for the Partnership.

We have followed through on our goals for 2012 and have continued with both Messy Church and Emerge, reaching out to and changing the lives of many children and young people. Messy Church is developing more slowly than we expected, but we are seeing reasonable numbers. We also reach out to children and young people through work undertaken by ministers and others in schools assemblies. Many of our members work as governors of schools, although we would like to see more church people involved as foundation governors at our church schools.

We have followed through on development of lay people through bible study, theological education and house groups. I believe we have seen more engagement with the work of the Partnership council though there is still much more that we could do.

Changing older buildings to suit 21<sup>st</sup> century needs is never easy and always expensive. Resources have not been easy to find, but it is good to see potential renovation at St Mary's moving ahead, and All Saints looking at ways to use modern technology in an older building. Toothill have fixed some of the fundamental problems with their building and have installed a new audio visual system in the church. Holy Trinity have undertaken some internal restructuring to make the building more usable.

With Anne Carter's unexpected retirement in November we decided that it would be timely to discuss the future and particularly how ministerial needs could be met, and whether in its present form there was a future for the Partnership. This has proved to be a challenging exercise with some clear divisions of opinion within and between the churches becoming apparent. Discussion will continue in 2013.

We held our AGM on a Sunday morning as one of our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday services in April. Most felt that it was an improvement, although not all parts worked as well as hoped; in particular a meal together was poorly supported. We plan a similar AGM in 2013.

It has not yet proved possible to find someone willing to chair the Partnership Council. Such a decision cannot be deferred beyond spring 2013.

## Charitable Objects

The purpose of our Partnership is to advance the Christian faith in West Swindon and the Lydiards in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches. In achieving its purpose, the Partnership will engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):

- the celebration of public worship;
- the teaching of the Christian faith;
- mission and evangelism;
- pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved;
- the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs; and
- the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

## Administrative

West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership is registered in England as a charity. Charity Reg no; 1141341

West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership is a registered data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. Our registration number is Z2669468. The Partnership is registered to claim gift aid so if individuals want to give direct to either the general fund or to the work of Emerge, this can now be done tax efficiently.

Our Bank Account is with CafCash P.O. Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA  
Our Independent Examiner is Steve Fraser, Monahan's, 38 – 42 Newport Street, Swindon SN1 3DR.

This report is produced by in accordance with the Charities Statement Of Recommended Practice (SORP) (as updated 2008). Responsibility for the contents lies with the Partnership Council.

## Credits

Thanks to: Claire Camm, Janet Clarke, Rhian Cockwell, Wendy and Clive Deverell, Janet and Dick Gray, Sue Green, Brenda Hicks, Nicola Hoar, Nicky Iddon, Jan and Gordon Partridge, Mary and Ed Poole, Tudor Roberts, Julie and Chris Scarisbrick.

## Organisation

The Church Partnership comprises five churches:

All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent (ASLM)  
Holy Trinity Church, Shaw (HTS)  
St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze (SMLT)  
Toothill Church  
Westlea Church

We are recognised by Churches Together in England as a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership.

The Partnership is recognised by the Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church (URC), and serves over 30,000 people living in West Swindon, The Lydiards and associated rural areas. It looks to the Swindon Churches Together Sponsoring Body for guidance and oversight.

The Ecumenical Staff Team of Ministers comprises those who have been duly authorised and appointed by the four participating denominations.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Team Vicar (Church of England)              | Revd Tudor Roberts                           |
| United Reformed Church Minister             | Revd Dick Gray                               |
| Baptist Minister                            | Revd Anne Carter<br>(resigned November 2012) |
| Team Minister (Church of England)           | Revd Clive Deverell                          |
| Associate Team Minister (Church of England) | Revd Patricia Roberts                        |

## Trustees

The trustees are the members of the Partnership Council (PC) (Article 8 of the Constitution). Anglican Members also constitute the Parochial Church Council (PCC) when needed to conduct Anglican specific business.

The charity trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

### The Partnership Council (PC)

The PC is the main governance and representative body. Its main responsibilities are broadly grouped as Regulatory, Oversight and Governance. Other responsibilities, Ministry / Mission, Pastoral care and local Leadership, are

## Financial Review

The Partnership's main source of income is the share from the churches, this was lower than budgeted, but about what had been expected, and the usual money from office use and weddings and funerals fees. Most of the fees income is then passed back out to the diocese or clergy, organist, vergers, clerks and the churches for the use of the building. Only a small amount is kept to cover travel expenses. The office income covers office supplies and photocopying costs etc.

The Partnership's main expenditure is the contributions to the parent bodies who support & pay some of the clergy, salaries of our Baptist Minister and administrator and staff expenses. This is where the bulk of our charitable aims are met, however an increasing amount is done by volunteers which is not financially quantifiable. A small amount is then left for manse costs, general partnership expenses including children's & youth work. We were not able to give the Diocese as much contribution as we had pledged but are hoping to make up some of the shortfall in 2013

The Partnership also looks after Emerge's finances in a restricted fund. They received grants from Npower, BMW, URC and Highworth UR Church for general youth work as well as income from our churches and the young people. This money is then used to run the youth groups, training and the Crowdy's workshops covering salaries, expenses, running costs and equipment.

Our building funds, generated from grants, donations and fund-raising events, though consolidated into the partnership's accounts, are held and administered locally in each of the relevant churches. Responsibility for these funds is delegated to the individual churches' treasurers.

The Partnership tries to ensure it has general fund reserves of around 6 weeks costs. Looking forwards the budget for 2013 has been modified from 2012: the amounts that the churches reckon they will be able to give have been used; there is no Baptist Minister stipend to be paid although there is still Baptist pension shortfall to be paid and any manse costs have been assumed will be covered by the URC from the rent received by them for the manse.

festival to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, which attracted over 600 people through the door that weekend, and involved many schools. The Ukelele Group have had a number of opportunities to represent St Mary’s including Lydiard House Christmas Carols.

delegated to the Local Church Committees (LCC) / Leadership Teams. A fuller description of the current functions of the PC, PCC and LCC’s can be found in the Partnership Constitution (2011) and in draft Standing Orders.

The members of the Partnership Council who are willing and able to serve as trustees are the officers of the Partnership.

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| The Ecumenical Staff Team                                    | <b>As above</b>  |  |
| Partnership Council Chair                                    | <b>Revd Dick Gray</b>  |  |
| Partnership Council Vice Chair                               | Vacant   |  |
| Churchwardens (ex-officio members of the PCC co-opted to PC) | <b>Craig Tranfield (R)</b><br><b>Simon Belcher (R)</b><br><b>Jill Winson (A)</b>   |  |
| Churchwarden (not PC)  | <b>David Burch</b>   |  |
| Senior Steward   | <b>Mark Dowling</b>  |  |
| Treasurer  | <b>Sue Green</b>   |  |
| Secretary  | <b>Chris Scarisbrick</b>   |  |
| Elected Members  | <b>Pat Watson</b><br><b>Mike Watson</b><br><b>Tish Vass (A)</b><br><b>Janet Clark</b><br><b>Peter Gilder</b><br><b>Nicola Hoar (A)</b> | <b>Dave Carter (R)</b><br><b>Gerry Hambridge (A)</b><br><b>Steve Kershaw (A)</b><br><b>Julie Scarisbrick</b><br><b>Chris Scarisbrick</b><br><b>Gill Ganley (A)</b> |
| Other co-opted members                                       | <b>Mary Poole (Deanery Synod)</b>  |  |

(A) Appointed during year (R) Resigned during year

The PC met 6 times in 2012 January, March, May, July, October and December in addition to the Annual General Meeting on 29 April. Main PC topics during the year were:

- Income and expenditure; property refurbishments; review of budget planning process
- What is the future since Anne Carter’s resignation and Dick Gray’s impending retirement.
- Youth activity reports
- Messy church
- Building developments

The Standing Committee met 4 times in 2012, at intervals between PC meetings – to plan agendas and follow up on PC decisions.

Appointed Sub Groups handled specialist areas of work on behalf of the PC, and gave reports on progress. They included for 2012:

- Emerge Management team

### **Risks**

The Partnership has a number of risks to its activities which have been assessed at either PC or Standing Committee. These include:

- ◆ Risk of financial commitment, particularly with 3 full time clergy. Reserves cover approx 6 month's stipends and expenses.
- ◆ Ongoing financial commitment to Baptist Pension Scheme shortfall.
- ◆ Organisational risks due to limited deployment of Staff for a large part of the year,
- ◆ Limited resources available for work delegated to the Officers and the Standing Committee.
- ◆ Organisational and accountability risks relating to the Partnership's Policies and Procedures
- ◆ Structural risks due to the Partnership's Ecumenical nature, and membership trends in some churches.
- ◆ Unpaid voluntary contributions are not quantified in the report, but are substantial, and almost all of our activities depend heavily on voluntary work.

The PC considers that these risks have been mitigated to the best practicable extent. They are monitored within the Partnership's governance processes.

### **Induction and Training of Trustees**

There is at present no formal process for training of new or existing Trustees. However new PC members are made aware of their role and responsibilities through discussion and briefing before and at meetings.

## **External Representation**

### **Swindon Churches Together**

At present there is no formal representative of the Partnership designated for Swindon Churches Together (SCT). However, Dick Gray is on SCT as the URC representative.

### **Anglican Deanery and Diocese**

The Deanery Synod has met 3 times in 2013 to discuss a range of topics relevant to all Anglican Churches in the Swindon Deanery. Meetings are a time of learning, sharing and being challenged to build God's kingdom in our local area. Key points have been:

- How we apply our faith to the wider community through chaplaincies, partnerships and community groups.
- How we engage with young people and families particularly in those parts of Swindon that are growing numerically.

## **Partnership Office, Newsletter**

Our Administrator Brenda Hicks has been with us since June 2008. She keeps the office clean and our work up to date. She has taken on ever more of the administration of weddings. She is now active in preparing service sheets for several churches and printing the church and partnership magazines.

### **Publicity and Communication**

- We advertise monthly in the local Link Magazine, which includes information about our Partnership, the Office telephone number, web address and email address.
- We especially promote our major festivals of Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Cards are produced and delivered by some local churches. This year we produced joint information leaflets, through the Partnership Administrator. These show all the special Services and Events of this period.
- Generally each local church is responsible for its own publicity – this is through their Monthly Magazines or Weekly Notice Sheets. Our web sites are becoming more comprehensive and traffic is building up, mostly as a result of the regular partnership news being read online, or downloaded. Browse over to <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/webbery> to see the usage graph.

### **In Partnership**

Our monthly magazine "In Partnership" contains news of church and local events and has information and news from the wider church. It is currently produced 11 times each year and is published both as a paper magazine and is always available on the Partnership web site. Brenda has taken over as editor.

## **Mission and Evangelism**

For the most part each church is involved with mission and evangelism in their own communities as despite the relatively close geographical proximity, both the churches and the communities are very different in each area.

Messy Church and Emerge are obviously a key part of our mission and evangelism but are reported elsewhere.

At St Mary's as elsewhere across the partnership, mission is contextual. Great efforts are made to ensure the building is open as often as possible from Easter to Harvest. We have concentrated on building relations with staff and visitors to the house and park

Open air festivals are popular, locally as well as nationally. Our work in the garden of remembrance during Nov is greatly appreciated. This last year we had a flower

question about having them on key Festival Sundays such as Pentecost or Advent. Occasionally these occur other than on a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday morning Services in 2012 were:

- 29<sup>th</sup> January
- 29<sup>th</sup> April (Also AGM)
- 29<sup>th</sup> July
- 30<sup>th</sup> September
- 30<sup>th</sup> December

The joint Services in 2012 were as follows:

- Ash Wednesday
- Easter Sunrise
- 20<sup>th</sup> May confirmation service at St Mary's Purton
- 4<sup>th</sup> November Memorial service for bereaved

### **Local Church activities**

There is much more that happens in each of our local churches. Their local activities are well described in their local Annual Reports, copies of which can be obtained from the Partnership Office.

## **Occasional Offices**

Baptisms and weddings continue to be a real privilege to take with numbers as ever increasing at St Marys. The wedding preparation courses run at Lydiard Millicent School have received excellent feedback and are ways to prepare everyone together, including couples coming from St Marys Purton. Each couple receives a resource pack written by a number of people, edited by Tricia Roberts, collated by Brenda and made available on the marriage preparation weekend. Thanks are due to Tricia, Brenda and all who contribute to these courses not just the clergy but the refreshment crew, those who welcome and those setting up and taking down chairs and tables.

A few baptism preparation courses were run earlier in the year but the majority of preparation has been done individually, with people encouraged to come on courses like Alpha if they are able to do so.

Funerals continue to take place, but the number is reduced compared to the past. There are a number of reasons for this, mainly the perceived unavailability of local clergy across the whole deanery. Undertakers in the first instance tend to go to their "friendly" often retired clergy. This has impacted our income.

- How we meet the challenges of growing churches at a time when paid clergy have become fewer in number.

Underpinning our discussions is a willingness of lay and ordained people to work together in mission while serving our local areas which gives us all hope for the future.

Ed Poole is Joint Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod which supports the local implementation of 'Releasing the Energy' the Bristol Diocese Strategy 2010 – 15. A consultation is now in progress looking ahead to 2013-15 and beyond, stimulated by factors such as the recent population growth. Several new clergy appointments have strengthened the stipendiary team this year, with more to come.

### **Baptist Area**

WEBA run the Partnership payroll for Brenda. Anne continued to meet with the 'Swindon Cluster' of Baptist Ministers during 2012. The local Baptist churches have decided not to carry on meeting regularly and to rely on email communications in between occasional more open meetings. With Anne's resignation undoubtedly we will find it more of a challenge to be so involved with our Baptist colleagues.

### **Methodist Circuit**

We have enjoyed an increase of communication this year between the Upper Thames Circuit and the Partnership, with the staff meeting together several times. Some of the clergy have also enjoyed leading worship in the Upper Thames circuit churches. The churches have also enjoyed having the ministers and Local Preachers who have come to us and led worship.

We have 3 members of the Partnership who are Upper Thames Local Preachers and one Supernumerary minister (retired) all of whom are qualified and able to lead worship in the churches of the area.

The Great Western Federation (3 Methodist circuits working together) continues to do things together when it is productive, such as supporting The Willows by requesting funding from the Bristol District, as has the URC area and many local churches. Also Churches action on Poverty. More recently this has included training for those who need to know about 'Creating a Safer Space.' This is essential for those who are involved with caring for children and vulnerable adults.

We wish to thank Ron Brock for faithfully attending circuit meetings for so many years.

## URC

The URC provides the Partnership with a Non-stipendiary Minister, Revd. Dick Gray. His relationship with the URC is wide-ranging as Treasurer for the South Western Synod and a member of the URC Trust. His extensive knowledge and contacts within the URC and other denominations are used by the Partnership. Janet Gray is URC Synod Pastoral Adviser covering Wiltshire and Swindon. Through her the Churches and clergy are made aware of, and have attended, events and trainings run by the URC.

The Partnership makes use of the URC Synod's Youth and Children's Work Officer for help with "Safe to Grow" trainings and other information. Westlea is currently working towards the URC's "Child Friendly Church Award". When Janet retires another Adviser will be appointed, who will work closely with the Partnership on any future URC Ministry.

Currently, David Hoar, having completed the two foundation years of "Training for Learning and Serving" is working towards being an accredited Lay Preacher with the scheme.

Every Church may send a representative to the bi-annual Synod meetings although at present only Dick and Janet go. This will need attention when they retire in 2013 so that contact with the URC is maintained. Both Janet and Dick are also on the Partnership Sponsoring Body due to their roles within the URC.

## **School and College Links**

Ed took on the role of Team Leader of the Chaplaincy at New College during the year, with an ecumenical team of 3 others, serving students and staff in a very diverse community. The Chaplaincy role includes pastoral care, bridge building, and some worship and education activities. The weekly Christian Union now has 2 active groups, based on our Sacred Space room. A lunchtime visit from the 'Uganda Fire' Choir was a highlight, and we benefit from ongoing active support from Bristol Diocese and Swindon Deanery

As a partnership of 5 churches we are in regular contact with over 8 schools for assemblies RE lessons, visits to churches and Easter, Harvest and Christmas services. A small number of people from Toothill including Anne and Dave Carter (when they were in the team) regularly go to their local Primary School and some visits to Oliver Tomkins and other schools near Shaw. Clive Deverell has excellent links with Oliver Tomkins and has used St Marys well for visits from schools as well as involving Lackham College with the St Marys Flower Festival. A number of people from the Partnership serve as school governors, with Andrew Bourne head of governors at Peatmoor school.

There is also Team Toothill and Shaw's Worship Enabling Group who lead worship from time to time.

## Weekly Services

The worship rota is arranged across the Partnership. The Staff Team and Local Preachers all lead services and preach not only in their 'home' church but also in the other partner churches and some lead worship in churches in the Methodist Circuit. The Methodist circuit also contributes worship leaders.

Every Sunday there is a Partnership 8am Holy Communion at All Saints Church, which typically includes two Book of Common Prayer Services, one Free Church Service and one Common Worship Service each month.

Some Sunday evenings All Saints & St Mary's Church hold an Evening Service, typically taken from Book of Common Prayer, Songs of Praise, Partnership Communion and Evening Prayer. Both services have a regular and faithful congregation with attendees coming mainly from the host church.

Our main Services take place on a Sunday Morning with each of our Churches having a thriving and enthusiastic congregation, several with crèches, children's and young people groups also being provided. The communion services generally vary between Anglican order and a Free-Church style.

## Normal Sunday Attendance

|              | 2012  |       | 2011  |       | 2010  |       | 2009  |       | 2008  |       |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Church       | Adult | Child | Adult | Child | Adult | Child | Adult | Child | Adult | Child |
| All Saints   | 55    | 17    | 78    | 20    | 80    | 20    | 77    | 19    | 87    | 20    |
| St Mary's    | 85    | 12    | 71    | 15    | 46    | 6     | 39    | 8     | 47    | 5     |
| Holy Trinity | 25    | 5     | 26    | 5     | 28    | 6     | 28    | 7     | 33    | 10    |
| Toothill     | 32    | 7     | 31    | 5     | 29    | 7     | 36    | 6     | 40    | 10    |
| Westlea      | 24    | 10    | 23    | 11    | 22    | 12    | 22    | 12    | 22    | 11    |
| Total        | 221   | 51    | 229   | 56    | 205   | 51    | 202   | 52    | 229   | 56    |

## Joint Partnership Worship

Several joint Services were organised again in 2012. The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Services have become a regular fixture now, and are supported by all churches. There is a



## The Community

Membership of the Partnership is through the Local Churches, and each congregation is responsible for encouraging regular attendees into membership. Within our different church traditions there are slight differences in understanding of membership.

### Membership Summary

|              | 2012       | 2011       | 2010       | 2009       | 2008       | 2007       | 2006       | 2005       |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| All Saints   | 104        | 116        | 114        | 120        | 123        | 126        | 123        | 118        |
| St Mary's    | 74         | 70         | 59         | 73         | 69         | 76         | 80         | 87         |
| Holy Trinity | 36         | 42         | 38         | 40         | 42         | 37         | 37         | 55         |
| Toothill     | 39         | 42         | 40         | 39         | 37         | 35         | 34         | 41         |
| Westlea      | 26         | 26         | 27         | 28         | 25         | 25         | 25         | 24         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>279</b> | <b>296</b> | <b>278</b> | <b>300</b> | <b>296</b> | <b>299</b> | <b>299</b> | <b>325</b> |

## Ministry and weekly services

In addition to Staff Team of Ministers, we are grateful to the following members of the Partnership who assist with the leading of worship in our churches:

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Methodist Local Preachers | <b>Mr Mark Dowling</b><br><b>Mrs Rachel Dowling</b><br><b>Mr Gordon Partridge</b>  |
| Non-Stipendiary Ministers | <b>Revd Mike Dilly (Baptist)</b><br><b>Revd Jan Partridge (Methodist retired)</b>  |
| Other Groups              | <b>All Saints All Age Worship Team</b><br><b>St Mary's Worship team</b><br><b>Holy Trinity Shaw Worship team</b><br><b>Westlea Leadership Team</b><br><b>Local Church Home Group Members</b><br><b>St Mary's Ukulele ladies</b><br><b>All Saints Puppets alive</b> |

During the past year Heather Benn, Tricia and Tudor Roberts have helped do the Wednesday assemblies at Lydiard Millicent School, and Dave and Anne Carter and Ed Koppoe came to help the All Saints team do an Easter Holiday Club at the school.

Schools work across the partnership continues to be maintained. Following Sue's resignation there are no foundation governors at Oliver Tomkins from the Partnership apart from Clive, this is an area of concern going forward. Assemblies and school visits remain, with visits to Toothill, St Marys All Saints and Holy Trinity. Teams are still going into schools. After the valuable work that Anne did lay folk are stepping in.

### Foundation Governors, Lydiard Millicent

The Foundation Governors for LM School are Debbie Butler, Sharon Thomas and Tudor Roberts. Links between School and Church continue to be very good especially with RE work being done by Tricia Roberts and Lisa Trinder head of RE at the school. Something that worked really well recently was an open forum for Year 6 when they tabled questions on Creation, Heaven and Hell, angels and whether ghosts exist, to name a few of the interesting topics.

### Foundation Governors, Oliver Tomkins

Nigel Howarth (Chair)  
Peter Firth (Vice-chair)  
Mrs Horton

Rev Clive Deverell  
John Maxwell

And at the time of reporting, there are 4 vacancies

## Child Protection

We have had just one item of concern this year. It was a matter of our procedures not being clearly followed, and has been dealt with adequately. The procedures and policy have been clarified. No children were in danger, and no further actions are required. As planned we introduced a new policy and procedures manual, with some new sections, some clarified, and some merely re-organised. During the year we have had 26 people trained or be retrained in child protection.

We have received new Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks on 14 people during the year (inc. renewals), and have in total 105 CRB-checked volunteers working regularly or occasionally with children.

Our policy for the protection of Vulnerable Adults has been approved. Implementation is ongoing. There have been some training opportunities this year, and more will be planned.

## Goals for 2012

Our areas of particular focus in 2012 were:

- Ensure that our buildings are adapted where possible to effectively support our Mission activities
- Reach out to Children and Young people through our local churches and together via Messy Church, Schools work and Emerge
- Develop ways to help lay members to contribute to the mission of the churches and Partnership

### **Ensure our buildings support our mission activities.**

#### **Holy Trinity, Shaw**

The building work in the summer of securing off the kitchen end of the building and moving the youth room entrance to the servery has meant that the children and young people that use the building have a safer environment. It has meant that the building has the potential to have more community use whilst other parts are used. Already the preschool have introduced a toddler group, the youth have been able to meet whilst there has been a keep fit group in the hall and a slimming group is using the building in the daytime.

Heading to the future it is hoped to make the building even more part of the community and welcome more groups into it and there is signs of this happening.

#### **Toothill**

The church is a gathering of people, but our building is a resource not only for us but also for the Partnership. In addition, two other church groups have worshiped in our building on Sunday afternoons.

We have continued, with our limited resources, to make improvements to our worshiping environment begun last year with the stabilisation of the floor and the setting up of the projector screen. We now have a fixed projector and dedicated computer for the projection of hymns and other material to enhance our worship, for which we owe a debt of gratitude to David Carter who masterminded the project and his son and other helpers. New chairs mean that we are now sitting much more comfortably, and we are grateful to those who responded to the special appeal. We've repaired the roof, replaced some tiles and improved lighting in the foyer.

Our mandatory 5-yearly inspection of the property took place in the summer and overall we were complemented on the standard of the building and the worshipful

Alpha ran over the Autumn term led by Anne Carter Jill Winson and Tricia Roberts. A number of people came along and lay people as well as clergy helped run and lead the sessions. Other courses have been run over the last 5 years including "Start" by Anne and now Tricia is running "Christianity Explored" and Clair Camm has run "Youth Alpha" at Emerge.

Bible Track: People from across the Partnership gathered at Lydiard Millicent School to study the Bible using the Bible Track DVDs. This enables participants to study and explore each part of the Bible and do a "Bible Overview" It is planned to continue this with Part two of the course in the Summer Term of 2013

With Anne leaving suddenly at the end of the year, lay development has become suddenly more urgent and task oriented. At Toothill, Holy Trinity Shaw and Westlea lay leadership has had an increased focus. St Marys have set up a communications group. Circumstances may have led to increased lay responsibility, but it's been a good thing.

learn and also be trained in youth work, which also impacts on their future employment options. Parents of children with special needs benefit from often much needed respite through our Saturday workshops and through this project we are able to show the compassion of the church for the vulnerable.

This year, we will continue with the leadership training programme, hold the Mix Community Festival, and hope to run the SEN programme again.

Prayer and trust are the key to our future and we believe that if we 'attempt great things for God, we can expect great things of God'. We have seen too many definite answers to prayer to doubt this.

### **Messy Church**

During 2012, Messy Church reached 17 families with approximately 11 adults and 15 children attending each session. It meets on each second Sunday at Shaw Church. Numbers have been gradually rising throughout the year. The ethos of Messy Church is to reach out to families who are on the edges of our church community. Some families have no, or minimal contact with our Churches and consider us as their "Church". Others value the chance to meet informally. We are therefore achieving our aim of sharing Christ with families in our community, through themed activities, worship and a meal.

Messy Church relies on its helpers and we have 13 including two young people. Every Church in the Partnership is represented and the team is led by Mary Poole, Janet Gray and, until November, Dave Carter. Janet will be leaving in September 2013 and if we are to continue we will need new leaders to plan sessions. This is our main concern, and although we are some way towards addressing the issue, the future of Messy Church is definitely not settled.

Messy Church is run by the Partnership for the community. It is actually reaching out to unchurched families and it would be a shame if it could not continue.

## **Lay development**

Lay development tends not to be centrally organised, most takes place within our local Churches, though during the last year it has been possible to do a number of courses together:

All 5 churches combined over Lent to do the "Welcome Course". Although not a traditional Lent course, it was good to get together from all the churches. Using the course written by Bob Jackson people fed back that it was a useful time and it gave individual churches ideas about how to improve the welcome we give.

environment we had created. The cost of necessary drain repairs was mostly met by insurance.

There is always more we could do to make our building function better and be more welcoming; we have a long term list, but these things can only be done as finance permits.

### **All Saints Lydiard Millicent**

Health & Safety has always been important at All Saints and much work has taken place recently to improve the heating, lighting, audibility, comfort, appearance and general safety within the church building and its grounds.

The greatest change in the last 12 months has been the installation of a projector and screen. This improves the quality of a service by visually enhancing sermons and talks, displaying the words of Hymns and allowing the weekly notices to be visually absorbed before a service.

One of the biggest deficiencies in the building at All Saints is that there is no washroom/toilet. A new architect, Annie Evans, has been appointed and she specialises in the conservation of listed buildings whilst being sympathetic to the needs of an active and modern congregation. At our recent ACM a motion was passed to engage her services to investigate the options for a washroom and servery facility at All Saints. This would allow the membership to open up the church to so much more mission in the Parish and Partnership.

### **St Mary's Lydiard Tregoz**

This year has seen phase 1 of the restoration work at St Mary's, completed. The building is now watertight and we are extremely pleased that the work has been done. Further work by the local authority, has taken place to the surrounding grounds; they are kept well maintained. We were extremely grateful for the grants received from a number of bodies. The highlight of the year was that the wall paintings above the chancel are now conserved so they will not deteriorate any further.

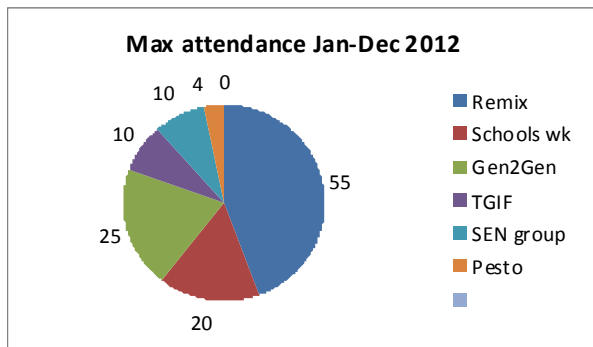
## **Continue with our Children's and Youth work**

### **Emerge**

During this year the emerge project engaged with 92 different young people aged 11-19 through the various groups, plus 10 contacts with over 60's (Gen2Gen). The project continued to thrive and develop with myself as Project Manager (15 hrs pw) and part-time 2nd year university student, Imogen Kershaw, plus a strong

group of adult and youth volunteers, numbering 11 in all, used flexibly over the whole project.

We developed our youth training programme with ASDAN (national accredited award system). 12 young people took part in a performing arts award run by Natasha Robertson (Volunteer). Additionally, our oldest youth (five 17/18 year olds) started on their own training programme in the Autumn to enable them to become Adult leaders Autumn 2013. This involved them helping regularly on the Special Needs workshops between February – June and beginning a structured training programme in September 2012, with an adult Mentor.

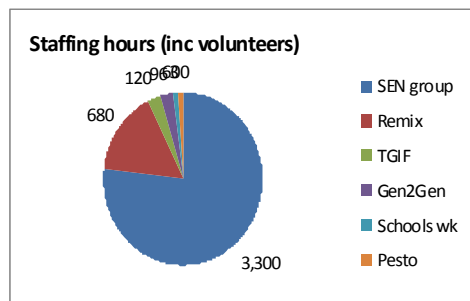


During the year we were told that the Greendown School and Bradon Forest lunch clubs would be closing, which meant a big loss of contacts for us. This is one of the ways in which young people access the other parts of the project. However, our numbers have not really suffered substantially and we welcomed 16 new young people to Remix over the whole year. We hope to re-start a lunch club at Bradon, possibly with SYFC in year ahead. TGIF group also was put on hold at the end of 2012 as some group members had either moved on to university or other things, leaving an unviable group. (We hope to restart this later in 2013).

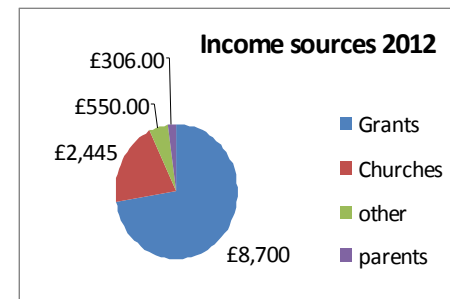
The Pesto group started in October 2012. All groups are 2 hours in length, apart from SEN group (5 hours); School lunch clubs (1 hour). All groups include planning time. This year, we started a partnership prayer initiative for youth and childrens' leaders, attended by 11 leaders from across the partnership to support one another.

### Resources

Approx 84% of our income last year was spent on staffing our youth groups and supporting Church Sunday groups; training; meetings; admin & communications; developing new projects/community liaison. The remaining 16% was spent on resources and equipment.



Income was again sourced mainly through grants outside the partnership, mixture of corporates and church denominational bodies. Our private donor income increased as did our parental contributions, making Remix a self-supporting group in expendable resources. Our grant income was down £5,000 on previous year, due to npower grant being reduced and missing funding round of Zurich. This meant that we had to use approx £2,800 of our reserves to balance our budget. We aim to increase our grant income this year. We have shown that we are able to maintain a consistently high level of funding from grant making bodies outside of our local churches; providing we can maintain and increase this, then we will be financially viable for the future. We will consider more partnership working with SYFC possibly to share a placement student. We also have a crop of new young volunteer leaders for the future due to the extensive training programme we've been running.



### Outcomes & aims for year ahead

The emerge project provides a safe place, a loving community to many young people, some of whom are grappling with difficult personal lives. We are adding value to the work of the partnership churches by showing the church in action at the centre of the community. We are providing valuable social work but also spiritual formation for the youth (11-18) who are often the most difficult for the church to reach. This provision, together with our contact with local over 60's through Gen2Gen, meets with one of the partnership's charitable goals. The summer festival (which will go ahead this year) provides the churches with a further means of outreach, connecting with over 400 people of all ages. I don't feel, however, as a partnership that we are really working to make the most of its potential.

Young people view the project as their church and through our weekly discussions at Remix, termly celebrations and Pesto/TGIF groups they are given many opportunities to explore and develop faith. One of our young people will be attending the partnership confirmation course this Spring. Several young people are moving into careers in childcare for which I am able to provide good references for them. The emerge project has become a major training placement in the partnership for youth & childrens' work, enabling training sessions with outside trainers as well as running in-house sessions for our older youth, our leaders and wider partnership leaders.

Parents of children we work with have commented how grateful they are that the church is providing this facility, not just to 'entertain' but to give opportunities to