



West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership



**Annual Report
for the year ending 31 December 2018**

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This report should be read in conjunction with the reports from the 4 local churches, available at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>

Focus for 2019

Our Partnership Council propose the following areas of focus:

- Publish an agreed vision for our mission here, generate a strategy that aims at that goal. Look for actions resulting from these discussions.
- Stabilise our long-term finances
- By engaging with the Holy Habits initiative, increase discipleship in our congregations.

Prayer for our Partnership

Thank you for our community here. For each heart and mind that fills the presence of our town we thank You. Only You truly know what we are setting out to accomplish. We have an idea, a vision, hints and daily instructions. We have talents abilities and time to work. However only You can see in perfect detail the end of every beginning. Every project, every season, every life. Nothing is ever in vain, for even mistakes and missteps are used for good.

Your righteousness transcends all our efforts and understanding. Forgive us for our pride. The pride that puffs us up and the pride that threatens to unqualify us. Strengthen our confidence in who You have made us to be. Set us free from comparison in order to work together efficiently.

Bless our church today, as well as the lives of those we will encounter this year. Ready us to make every moment count.

In Jesus' Name
Amen

(by Meg Bucher, Crosswalk.com)

and how we explain it. These sessions have gained some really positive feedback from leadership teams, probably because we are spending a reasonable amount of time on one subject. The subject warrants extensive and thoughtful discussion. The joint leadership forum appears to be a space where people feel at liberty to speak what is on their hearts and that can only be a good thing.

We suspect our biggest impact in 2018 has been on our relationships with children, young people, their families and schools. The Executive and wider Partnership have simply tried to give those involved the room to express themselves and give encouragement where it can. The number of volunteers that help out, clearly demonstrates the importance that individual members give to this area of service.

We were encouraged by a letter from Uganda, enclosing pictures of a classroom concrete floor, that we paid for. We are intending to deepen our relationship with this school too, in 2019, by sending people to visit, and more money for their work. We are excited to see how this will be spent and look forward to hearing more positive impact it will have on the children.

The whole Partnership has continued to focus on supporting growing discipleship in our congregations. We look forward to hearing about and seeing results from the increased commitment, it's a long-term plan.

All Churches have benefited from the variety of styles that each individual brings to worship and it is great to see services being taken by people of each Church within the partnership at a Church that is not their home. It is however incumbent on all of us to support these individuals as their training and simple preparation of services takes a lot of time and effort.

It has not been all plain sailing, the Executive have been looking at the finances of the Church and its clear 2019 will be a difficult year, difficult decisions will need to be taken. The Executive are preparing and collating information so that possible scenarios can be discussed at the Partnership Council. We will always seek Gods guidance as to the direction we should be taking and value your prayers for the gift of discernment for all of us with leadership responsibilities.

Charitable Objects

The purpose of our Partnership is to advance the Christian faith in West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze 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 Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is registered in England as a charity. Charity Reg no; 1141341. Our address is the Partnership Office, c/o Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre, Ramleaze Drive, Swindon SN5 5PY

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze 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 enabling individuals to give tax efficiently either to the general fund or to the work of Emerge. Our Bank Account is with CafCash P.O. Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA. Our Independent Examiner is Steve Fraser, MHA Monahan's, 38-42 Newport Street, Swindon SN1 3DR.

Credits

This report is prepared by, and with thanks to Gayle Bryon, Ian Bryon, Claire Camm, Janet Clarke, Trevor Day, Clive Deverell, Andrew Fleet, Sue Green, David Hoar, Steve Kershaw, Lyn Morgan, Jan Partridge, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Peter Roslyk, Chris Scarisbrick, Graham Stockill, Richard Williams, Sarah Wilmott, Rachael Wilson.

Organisation

The partnership comprises four churches, acting together:

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

We are a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership, as described by Churches Together in England. The Partnership is part of the Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church (URC), and looks to the Swindon Churches Together Sponsoring Body for guidance and oversight.

Our clergy comprise those who have been duly authorised and appointed by our participating denominations. Rev Capt. Clive Deverell is Team Minister (Church of England and Authorised to Serve in the Upper Thames Circuit of the Methodist Church and within the URC) with responsibility across the partnership and posted at St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze. Rev Trevor Day is Assistant Minister (Church of England) working across the partnership. Rev Rachael Wilson is a Methodist Minister, working part time at Toothill and Rev Teresa Townsend is a CofE Curate working with Clive.

The CofE parish was reorganised, on 1 Feb 2018, with some boundary changes. The name of the new parish is West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze.

Trustees

The trustees are the members of the Partnership Council (PC). Anglican Members also constitute the Parochial Church Council (PCC) when needed to conduct Anglican specific business, though the PCC delegates as much business as it can, to the wider PC

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 responsibilities are Regulatory, Oversight, Governance and external partnerships. Other responsibilities, ministry / mission, buildings, pastoral care and local leadership, are delegated to the Local Church Committees (LCC) / Leadership Teams. A fuller description of the current functions of the PC, PCC and LCCs can be found in the Partnership Constitution (2015) and in draft Standing Orders.

of £5k to the Diocese and £4k to the Methodists and HTS had a new kitchen and electrical repairs.

The reserves being carried forward were £124,539 for unrestricted and £738,776 for restricted. The restricted funds are being held against future building related work and the youth & family work funds.

The individual churches and the partnership try to keep 6 months of expenditure as reserves. Using reserves to fund increased requests from the denominations is no longer manageable so we are trying to find ways to increase giving or get grants to enable our mission work to continue.

Our financial controls are being reviewed to enable them to continue to be effective and adequate. We've spent significant effort this year trying to get ahead of financial projections to aid our planning.

Katikamu Ssebamale Primary School, Luweero Diocese, Uganda. £1049.83 had been collected in 2016/7 and a further £1015.27 was collected at Partnership services in 2018. £700 is being taken out to the school by a Diocese and Partnership member who were travelling out there. We will try to get bank account details to enable further transfer of funds, securely.

Report by the Partnership Executive

It's not always practical for Partnership Council to gather in person to take necessary action. The Partnership Executive Committee is a smaller group with close ties in the individual Churches leadership. We find we can get together, often with little notice, to react to emerging issues, as well as looking longer term at the substantial items that affect the Partnership. The Executive Committee does not make decisions, but does background and preparatory work, then recommends to the Partnership Council when decisions need to be made. We prioritize issues for the Partnership Council to address. And in all these matters we report to the Partnership Council.

Our major areas of focus for 2018 were:-

- Continue to work through questions on strategy
- Increase local emphasis to our relationships with schools
- Continue to build link with Katikamu Ssebamale School
- Increase discipleship in our congregations - engage with the Holy Habits

In many ways we have been successful, the Executive have driven discussions in joint leadership meetings as we have discussed our strategic view, our mission

Financial Review

The Partnership's main source of income is given by the churches. We get a few donations straight to the partnership. We collect money from weddings and funerals fees, though virtually all is then passed back out to the diocese or clergy, organist, vergers, clerks and the churches for the use of the building. We do almost no public fundraising.

The Partnership's main expenditures are contribution to the parent bodies, the administrator salary, the schools worker salary and staff expenses. An increasing amount is done by volunteers, and this is not financially quantifiable. This is where the bulk of our charitable aims are met. A small amount is then left for general partnership expenses including Hook cemetery maintenance.

The URC SW Synod holds funds on deposit relating to the West Swindon Manse, the money received is from rental income (£8,262) and is to be used for repairs and maintenance (£314). At the end of 2018 the amount held was £32,640. We have indicated to the URC that they could sell the building. It may take some time.

Emerge's restricted fund received a grant from the URC SW Synod as well as other local income. This money is used to run the after-schools group, training and workshops for young people with special needs, and covers salaries, expenses and equipment.

Some of the Family Work restricted fund was used on equipment and training.

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. For details on these and the churches general funds see the individual Churches' Annual Reports. In the consolidated accounts the total unrestricted income was £130,370 and restricted was £797,144 (this includes an accrual of £615,00 for the HLF grant). The unrestricted income was down £26k on last year mainly due to the 2017 legacy.

In the consolidated accounts the total unrestricted income was £164,981 and restricted was £98,542. The unrestricted income was down £35k on last year mainly due to the 2017 legacy and Family Work donation.

The total unrestricted expenditure was £151,775 and restricted was £112,941. The unrestricted expenditure was up £19.2k on last year. There was an increase

Clergy (ex officio)	Revd Capt. Clive Deverell Rev Trevor Day Rev Rachael Wilson Rev Teresa Townsend	
Partnership Council Chair	Steve Kershaw	
Treasurer	Sue Green	
Secretary	Chris Scarisbrick	
Churchwardens and Synod reps (ex-officio)	Sue Green Steve Kershaw Jacqueline Kirwan	Mary Poole Pat Watson
Elected Members	Gayle Bryon Claire Camm Janet Clark Wendy Deverell	Peter Gilder David Hoar Rev Jan Partridge Pam Ray
Minutes secretary	Will be Graham Stockill in 2019	
Circuit Superintendent Minister, and Circuit Steward (ex officio)	Rev David Perkins Andrew Fleet	
URC Synod Pastoral Adviser	Rev Gerald England	

The PC met 5 times in 2018, February, May, July, September, and November, in addition to the Annual General Meeting on 29 April.

Main PC topics during the year were:

- Safeguarding including an update to our Safeguarding Policy and procedures.
- Income and expenditure; review of budget planning process
- The sustainability of our activities
- An external review of our youth and children's work, and the actions that resulted from it.
- Approving foundation governors and candidates for ordination
- Messy Church
- Our link with the school in Uganda
- Implementation of the Data Protection Act 2018
- Our activities in conjunction with national Thy Kingdom Come initiative
- Our plans for Holy Habits discipleship series.
- Remembrance – the Centenary of the Armistice

The Partnership Executive met 8 times in 2017 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 2018:

- Local church committees and leadership teams

- Our church leadership teams met together several times to consider our vision for the future of our local mission
- Emerge Management team
- Messy Church team
- Primary Schools work team
- The “Veg Patch” – our worship programme planning group
- We set up a management group to supervise the conservation work at St Marys church, if a Heritage Lottery Fund grant was agreed.

Risks

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

- Risk of financial commitment, particularly relating to denominational contributions. Reserves cover approx. 6 month’s normal expenditure
- Limited resources available for work delegated to the Partnership Executive.
- Communication, 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.

The PC considers that these risks have been mitigated to the best practicable extent.

There is one risk that isn’t so well mitigated.

- Unpaid voluntary contributions cannot be quantified in the report, but are substantial, almost all of our activities depend heavily on volunteer goodwill, time and effort.

This aspect of our work is under review. All risks are monitored within the Partnership’s governance processes.

Induction and Training of Trustees

There is 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

Anglican Deanery and Diocese

Swindon Deanery Synod meetings enable member churches to meet together, pray and share good news stories. There have been changes on a diocesan and deanery level; we now have a new Bishop of Bristol and Archdeacon while several new clergy have been appointed, including our own curate Teresa

are still popular and in December the three weddings by candlelight were very special.

Funerals

This year 3 out of the 4 Churches lost significant people through bereavement and although generally the number of funerals done by the ministers has reduced, we are grateful for the new North Wilts Crematorium situated in the Parish. It reduces the delays that families have experienced over the last few years when Kingsdown was full to capacity.

Pastoral Home Visits & Communion

It is always a special time, to be with those who are no longer able to get out of their homes and it’s been a privilege to be able to share Holy Communion with several people. When asked, “where is your church” our answer is usually... “where-ever we are together”.

Partnership Office, Newsletter

Our long-time administrator Brenda retired in 2018. We celebrated her faithful years of service with gifts, over coffee and cake. It is fitting we acknowledge here, our grateful thanks to her.

We appointed Graham Stockill to assist us in the office.

Our monthly magazine “In Partnership”, contains news of church and local events and has information and news from the wider church. It is produced 11 times each year and is published both as a paper magazine and on the Partnership web site at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/news/>

Our web site traffic increases year on year.

Each local church is responsible for local publicity – this is through their Monthly Magazines, Weekly Notice Sheets, Christmas cards etc.

Local Church activities

There is much more that happens in each of our local churches, well described in their local Annual Reports, available online at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report>

Liaison role for Lifepath. All these activities support the development of our external mission and encourage us to partner with others where possible.

Evaluation of our success in 2018:

- We have worked with all our local schools this year, each has a different level of engagement according to their individual needs.
- We are at capacity in terms of responding to the requests from schools for assemblies, lessons, experiences and Church visits.
- We have a committed core of regular volunteers who support school sessions. We have been blessed with just the right number of helpers at each session this year.
- Our new 'Open the Book' has been received well by Shaw Ridge Primary and it provides a great model for sustainable team work.
- New Christmas and Easter experiences, and RE sessions were resourced and undertaken. Positive feedback was received from the schools and volunteers.
- Gathering meetings have been extremely well attended demonstrating our corporate commitment to our Children, Family and Youth ministry.

New Aims for 2019:

- To develop volunteers who can independently deliver educational programmes and missional holiday activities.
- Develop new initiatives which engage the whole family.
- Explore using music to develop regular contact with children and young people.

Pastoral and Occasional Offices

2018 has been an exciting year of 'ministry' in the "pastoral" or; encompassing the "occasional offices".

Baptisms/ Thanksgivings and Dedications

A number of these took place across the Partnership, from small to large celebrations we thank God for the opportunity to walk alongside families and help them grow in faith as a Partnership we endeavour to encourage our baptism families to try Messy Church especially if they have older children. This year, the whole breadth of the Partnerships understanding of Baptism has been revealed from infants to adults, by full immersion and by events around a font.

Marriage/Weddings

Each of our 10 weddings during 2018 were different and uplifting. It's also great to see those married couples, again, when they return with their children for Baptism (as we will be seeing, several times during 2019. Weddings at St Marys

Townsend. Meetings in the last year have demonstrated the Anglican churches commitment to key areas.

- Education. The new Church of England Secondary School at Wichelstowe will open in September. Synod heard from its Principal Linda Culling and discussed its priorities.
- Young People. Our Deanery supported a group of young people (including 3 from Swindon) to visit Uganda during the Summer. For most of them this was their first experience of travel outside the UK and had a significant impact on them.
- Learning and Developing lay leadership. Two new courses Growing leaders and Bridgebuilders started in the Autumn hosted at Toothill.
- Church growth. A new church plant at the old Swindon Pattern store was established in December. It will aim to attract and grow in discipleship new Christians who are under 40. This is part of a wider Diocesan strategy.
- Community. Deanery Vice Chair David Cain led a moving tribute to all those from Swindon who died in the Great War, this was combined with learning about the life of a current army chaplain.
- Prayer. In all 3 meetings of Synod members have learnt about the needs of our diverse area and prayed for one another.

Synod meetings are open to all and give Anglicans of all backgrounds the chance to learn from and support one another.

Revd Capt Clive Deverell, in addition to being Vicar of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze, is also Area Dean. His work means holding the Deanery clergy and Churches together, taking responsibility for those Parishes in vacancy, and with the Deanery Lay Chair, producing a dynamic programme for Deanery Synod.

Baptist Area

Our engagement with the Baptist community continues to be sparse. One of our members attended the WEBA (the West of England Baptist Association) AGM, where much attention was given to the 72 project. Baptist churches have been focussing on the New Testament passage where Jesus sent out 72 disciples to spread the good news.

The association is suffering from falling rolls, and so falling income, but usually the local churches pay their own ministry costs. Some churches that had been supported by Home Mission fund are now self-supporting. The funding issues with the pension scheme continue, but have improved.

We send our subscription to BUGB (the Baptist Union of GB), and a contribution to the Home Mission fund. We receive interesting and encouraging monthly

newsletters from BUGB and a fortnightly one from WEBA which we circulate among the trustees. We continue to struggle to find people to engage with the local group meetings and activities, though we did join in with the national “Thy Kingdom Come” initiative, also supported by Baptists.

Methodist Circuit

Over the last few years a lot of effort has been made on both sides to strengthen the relationship between the Partnership and the Circuit. This has worked through representation from both sides at Circuit and Partnership meetings, preaching and leading worship, and involvement in monthly meetings of presbyters. The relationship has been strengthened further since September last year when Rev Rachael Wilson was appointed to work as a Methodist minister within the Partnership, with specific focus at Toothill. As communication continues to increase between us it is hoped that the mutual support and encouragement will grow in ways that enrich both the Partnership and the Circuit.

URC

Our ties with the United Reformed Church (URC) remain strong especially as we have adopted and are implementing the Safeguarding Policy of the URC. As our representative at the South West Synod David Hoar attends the Synod meetings along with Rev Gerald England who is the URC Pastoral Advisor and a regular attendee at Partnership Council meetings.

David, with others, offers his skills in mentoring others including one of those on the Growing Leaders course, who will soon be assisting to lead worship. The closeness of all denominations working together at grass roots level works well within our Partnership and this can only be good for the future.

Safeguarding

We have 92 DBS-checked volunteers working regularly or occasionally with those who might need safeguarding, a significant increase, due mostly to growth in the primary schools team. We continue to make slow progress implementing safer recruiting procedures and regularly refreshing training. We continue to be challenged to effectively support our volunteer workers, primarily because those supporting are generally themselves volunteers.

In 2018 we updated our safeguarding policy, merging the safeguarding of children and adults at risk. Further implementation process changes will be needed.

This year we have reacted effectively to a couple of false alarms and complaints, that did not involve harm to anyone at risk. We have had no safeguarding issues of major concern.

Some families have left as their children have grown into teenagers and new families have joined, this means that in our planning of activities we have to consider the needs of toddlers as well as those starting secondary school. Several teenagers help run activities and are a valued part of the team.

Messy church is funded by our Church Partnership but we invite families to make a donation towards the cost. Volunteers give generously with time and materials. This enables our costs to stay within the budget of £250 we have been given.

For the year ahead we hope to integrate more Holy Habits into the life of Messy Church through our monthly activities and especially through growing friendships and encouraging families to continue to pray and share stories of faith at home.

Schools Work

In 2018 our aim was that we would continue to support our local primary school children’s spiritual development and religious education by working collaboratively and creatively with teachers to enhance the RE Curriculum through Collective Worship, lessons, experiences, and visits to our Churches.

We are extremely thankful for the invitation schools have shown us over the year to become part of their communities and the opportunities we have been given to support the childrens RE education. As Christian visitors in our local schools we hope that in all that we have done the love of God has been evident in our lives. It has been wonderful to be able to share with children and teachers from all different faith backgrounds as we have continued learning to live out our faith in community. Our ministry has enabled us to continue building long and lasting relationships between our Churches and our schools.

Running holiday club and workshop days enabled us to have great fun sharing Bible Stories in creative ways. This year we extended our age limit to enable secondary children to continue being part of our holiday club family. It was wonderful that some of Claire’s young people were able to join us. Our adventure to the Rumming’s farm in the summer was a highlight of the year.

Gayle continued to be the paid Schools Workers (10 hrs), supported by a team of 32 volunteers across the year. People have been extremely generous with their time, gifts and skills. An estimated 500 volunteer hours have gone into the planning, preparation and delivery of our school sessions and holiday clubs. The budget has mainly been spent on craft materials and the Christmas Bible Society Christmas Books.

Gayle has actively been involved in the Diocese Engaging Younger Generations Meetings, attending Mentoring Training, and has recently taken on the Schools

We have a mixture of children from mainstream and special needs schools. In the autumn term we based some of our activities on the film 'The Greatest Showman' and thinking about what it means to be unique, loved and special to God.

Then it was time for the Christmas show put together by the young people, around the theme of using our talents to bless others.

Looking ahead, the Monday club young people have helped plan our programme for next year, this includes many new creative activities.

Messy Church

West Swindon Messy Church meets once a month at Shaw and is part of a global network of Messy Churches. Each Messy Church may meet at a different time or place but they share similar aims. We work as a team of around 13 people from each of our Partnership churches to meet those aims:

We aim to be Christ Centred. Our common interest in crafts and games is a springboard into a deeper understanding of God, of each other and of his world.

Each Messy church session includes a short celebratory act of worship linking our theme with activities done. Over the year more helpers, parents and young people have taken part in this and everyone engages with the interactive prayers.

We aim to be hospitable. Having a meal together is an important part of the Messy Church experience and it is when families sit and chat together that new friendships are made.

We aim to be creative. Most of our sessions are based on those provided by the Messy church magazine but we like to develop some of our own ideas too. Memorably we have created balloon powered cars, cooked flatbreads and created some wonderful collages. Adults create alongside the children and everyone enjoys making something special.

We aim to develop Christian habits particularly of prayer and generosity and as a Church contributed to the Shoebox appeal.

Over the past year we have welcomed 21 families to at least one Messy Church session. Some are part of our wider church family others have more tenuous links with our churches. It was encouraging to see several regulars take part in the Christmas nativity at Shaw.



Areas of focus for 2018

In 2018 we said we would:

- Continue to work through questions of vision and strategy
- Local emphasis on our relationships with schools (especially around 100th anniversary of end of WW1)
- Continue to build on our link with Katikamu Ssebamale School
- Engage with the Holy Habits initiative, increase discipleship in our congregations.

Questions of Vision

We have convened several meetings of all of the leadership teams across the partnership, to consider updating a vision for our mission. The sessions have been encouraging and educational as we begin to find out more about the local situations faced across our area. We have many similar challenges and though our local priorities may differ, we are getting close to agreeing a vision and some mission statements. We will continue to work on setting this out and will look for actions as a result in 2019.

Relationships with Local Schools

Our West Swindon Schools Together WW1 Commemoration was a huge project to plan, prepare and deliver, but it was worth all the hard work when our schools came together at Lydiard Park Academy to remember the ordinary people of our community whose lives were changed forever by WW1. The story of Victor Newman, our local young WW1 Soldier was poignantly brought to life by the LPA Students and the joint choir sang with great emotion. The feedback from all the schools was that the Commemoration was a special and moving event for all their pupils.

Our 'There but not there' figures and WW1 Stations at St Marys enabled those who visited to take a moment of quiet, to commemorate, contemplate and pray. Visitors commented that the figures were thought provoking and that it was helpful to find a tranquil space to reflect peacefully.

At the Opening of the Field of Remembrance every school in West Swindon came to take time to remember and reflect. Remembrance poppies were planted by all the children and teachers, adorned with personal and loving remembrance messages. Approximately half of those present at the service were children and young people which is an encouraging sign of respect and a message of hope for the future.

All our schools will be offered some soil from the 'Field of mud, seeds of hope' instalment during our Easter activities. As the children plant and watch the poppy

seeds grow, we will encourage them to pray that peace and hope will flourish in their lives and around the world.

We re-authorised our Foundation Governors at Oliver Tomkins CofE School. There are vacancies on the governing body, and we are still looking for people to help.

Link with Katikamu Ssebamale School, Uganda

We were very encouraged to receive a letter from the Luweero Diocese letting us know the school we are partnering have appointed a new head teacher. We also received photographs of the newly concreted floor and plastered walls of the classroom, that we paid for. All in all, excellent news. We will send a small delegation of visitors to Uganda in 2019, carrying a contribution from the further funds we have collected. We hope to deepen our relationship with the new head and find out much more about the school situation, learn from them, and possibly find more specific ways in which we can help. It is important to us that the money we send abroad is wisely used, by people that we know. It is equally important that the school in Uganda gets the most benefit from what help we can offer.

Primary schools in our area are particularly interested in the link, and we intend to send cards and greetings from our local children, to those in Uganda.

Holy Habits

In the summer of 2018, we began introducing the “Holy Habits” initiative. Holy Habits are ten activities that Acts 2:42-47 shows us were practiced by the early church, and which are relevant today in helping to develop Christian discipleship. Each theme is called a “Habit” with a two-month focus, encouraging an in depth understanding and application. Over the summer Sunday sermons introduced the Holy Habits concept. The first spiritual theme “Worship” was presented in Sunday services over November and December. Over 2019 six more Holy Habits themes will be presented throughout the partnership: these will include “Biblical Teaching” and “Prayer”. Mostly presented during Sunday services other activities will include a monthly Bible Study group and a Holy Habits focus in home groups.

Each of the fellowships are being encouraged to think of creative, imaginative and engaging ways to develop the habits not just on a Sunday but in our daily lives as well.

Each habit builds on the one before to help us grow spiritually as individuals, church fellowships and as a Partnership, that we can be more open to the Spirit, more centred on God and more able to share his love with others. Motivating the need for mission within the churches with a common sense of unity in the Partnership.

Members were involved in a global service of prayer against gender based violence. We ended the year with an Advent service.

Our members have been very active in the support of St Marys Church and are involved in church cleaning, flower arranging, serving drinks after Sunday services and providing refreshments when required. We contributed sandwiches to the “Filling Station” for the homeless in Swindon, and provided shoe boxes for Samaritans Purse

Children and Young People’s work

All of our local churches support children and young people on Sundays, and some midweek groups. These are described further and reported in the local church annual reports at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>, here we consider our joint efforts

Emerge

Monday club (after school) and Saturday club have continued apace, well supported by a steady team of committed volunteers.

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 year we have raised over £1000 for different charities – Comic Relief; Guide Dogs; Tearfund’s Toilet Twinning and locally, Twigs Community Gardens. Over the 10 years of emerge we have raised in the region of £7,000.

This year we lost one volunteer young person to University, but another has joined us. 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.

Relationships with families have strengthened over the year through our weekly contacts and through community meals and events (eg, Christmas Show, Easter Feast)

The summer workshops were great fun, with 18 young people attending overall. This included two new girls whose families contacted us through Aiming Hi. The young people enjoyed learning about the trees in Lydiard Park, using a ‘Tree I-dial’ which they made to help identify them. We also did lots of arts and crafts, eg tye-dye bags; T-shirt printing; Mosaic tiles; clay sculptures; cookery. Games in the park were led by one of our young people who is training to be a Leader with us.

- 1 April Easter Sunrise at St Mary's
- 1 April Easter Day at HTS
- 29 April, Partnership AGM, at HTS
- 20 May Partnership Pentecost Service at Westlea with Steve Henderson
- 17 June, Ecumenical Joint Confirmation at St Paul's Covingham
- 1 July, Evening Welcome Service for Rev Teresa Townsend at St Mary's
- In August we shared morning service between 2 of our churches each week.
- 2 Sept Methodist Circuit service and welcome to Rachael, at Toothill
- 22 October Communion at Toothill
- 4 November Memorial service at St Mary's
- 25 November Toothill's 40th Anniversary
- 2 December Advent service at St Mary's
- 16 December Nativity festival at HTS
- 17 December Nativity workshop "Travelling Together", and service at HTS
- 18 December Open Air Carols in Lydiard Park
- 30 Dec Carols with Communion at St Mary's

We have tried a variety of new things as others have faded. The continued impact of the Parking Charges impacts greatly on the evening attendances for Partnership Worship in the Park.

"Encounter" continues after a successful start in 2017, on the 3rd Sunday of the month at HTS.

Holy Habits launched during 2018, it has proved a successful way of new thinking and discipleship; breaking away from the standard Weekly Lectionary for Readings and prayers ... it's provided a fresh look at "how we can do church".

St Mary's and Westlea continue to hold regular prayer meetings.

Mother's Union

2018 has been a very challenging year for Mother's Union with reduced membership due to ill-health We have had some excellent speakers, some entertaining and others informative.

Members attended Lady Day Service at Christchurch, where we had the opportunity of meeting our World Wide President Mrs Lyn Tenby. A Deanery quiet morning was held at St Marys, on the theme of "Following in the footsteps of Mary Sumner. We celebrated the 60th wedding anniversary of one of our members with cake and wine. A Wave of Prayer service followed by lunch was well attended.

The Community

Membership is expressed 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, but this causes us no problems.

Membership Summary

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
St Mary's	69	67	66	73	75	76	74	70	59	73
Holy Trinity	30	27	28	28	33	31	36	42	38	40
Toothill	31	28	35	34	36	32	39	42	40	39
Westlea	31	31	31	27	30	31	26	26	27	28
Total	161	153	160	162	174	170	175	180	164	180

(Figures before 2013, adjusted to reflect altered organisation)

Ministry and weekly services

The worship rota is arranged across the Partnership. Clergy, Local Preachers Lay Ministers and our team of trained lay people lead services and preach in their 'home' church, in the other partner churches and some across the Methodist Upper Thames Circuit. The Circuit also contributes worship leaders.

Denominationally Appointed Ministers	
Rev Capt. Clive Deverell	CofE Minister. Authorised to Serve as Methodist. Authorised URC Minister
Rev Trevor Day	CofE Assistant Minister
Rev Teresa Townsend	CofE Curate (from June 2018)
Rev Rachael Wilson	Methodist Minister (from Sept 2018)

We are grateful to the following members of the Partnership who are authorised by our denominations to lead services across our churches:

Denominationally Authorised Ministers	
Rev Jan Partridge	(Methodist Circuit Supernumerary) - pastoral training
Rachel Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
Mark Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
David Hoar	URC Lay Preacher

We have four people attending the Exploring Christianity course, and several others who have been exploring whether to become candidates for Ministry in the Church of England. Two more are continuing their training to be Lay Preachers in the Methodist Circuit.

Locally Appointed Ministers		
Claire Camm	Youth Work manager	
Gayle Bryon	Schools Work manager	
Mary Poole	Messy Church Leader	
Lay worship leaders		
Heather Benn	Sue Green	Mary Poole
Gayle Bryon	Stephen Kershaw	Mark Taylor
Ian Bryon	Jacqueline Kirwan	Pat Watson
Janet Clarke	Angela Mak	Sarah Wilmott
Wendy Deverell	Ed Poole	Richard Williams

Other Groups:	
Westlea Leadership Team	Holy Trinity Shaw Worship team
Local Church Home Group	Worship Enabling Group
Team Toothill	St Mary's Ukuleles
St Mary's Worship team	

Our partnership's 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 Free-Church styles.

Messy Church is a missionary congregation aimed at families with young children. It is lay-led and resourced from the other "Sunday morning" churches.

Partnership activity "Encounter" (monthly study and exploration of faith) at Holy Trinity Shaw

Toothill have been hosting weekly worship on Wednesday mornings (from this year onwards after Easter, only during Lent and Advent).

We continue to meet for Morning Prayer on Fridays at Holy Trinity (during School time); our book for reflection this year was "City of God; Faith in the Streets" by Sara Miles, then later in the year "Return to Love" by Marianne Williams.

Administrative and Support	
Mrs Brenda Hicks	Partnership Administrator (to Aug)
Mr Graham Stockill	Partnership Administrator (from Sept)
Mr Steve Kershaw	Partnership Chair
Mrs Sue Green	Partnership Treasurer
Mr Chris Scarisbrick	Partnership Secretary and Safeguarding Coordinator

Usual Weekly Attendance

	2018		2017		2016		2015		2014		2013		2012	
	Adult	Child												
St Mary's	63	9	68	10	57	9	59	12	72	12	69	12	85	12
Holy Trinity	32	4	33	8	34	8	36	8	36	16	27	3	25	5
Toothill	24	7	25	8	29	9	25	5	27	5	28	4	32	7
Westlea	24	5	22	5	26	6	24	7	25	9	23	9	24	10
Total	143	25	148	31	146	32	142	31	160	42	147	28	166	34

Figures adjusted to include Messy Church other non-weekly services etc

Joint Partnership Worship

Several joint Services were organised in 2018:

- The Gathering - termly sharing session around youth and children's work
- Encounter - monthly reflective worship at HTS
- 28 January Covenant Service at HTS with Ruth Whitehead
- 14 Feb Ash Wednesday at Toothill
- 25 Feb Partnership Come Together at HTS
- 25 March, Palm Sunday at Toothill with Gerald England
- 26-28 March ~ Compline at St Mary's
- 29 March ~ Maundy Thursday "Washing of Feet" at HTS
- 30 March Good Friday at Westlea (10am), Holy Hour (2pm) at Toothill and St Mary's Tenebrae (7pm)



West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership



**Annual Report
for the year ending 31 December 2018**

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This report should be read in conjunction with the reports from the 4 local churches, available at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>

Focus for 2019

Our Partnership Council propose the following areas of focus:

- Publish an agreed vision for our mission here, generate a strategy that aims at that goal. Look for actions resulting from these discussions.
- Stabilise our long-term finances
- By engaging with the Holy Habits initiative, increase discipleship in our congregations.

Prayer for our Partnership

Thank you for our community here. For each heart and mind that fills the presence of our town we thank You. Only You truly know what we are setting out to accomplish. We have an idea, a vision, hints and daily instructions. We have talents abilities and time to work. However only You can see in perfect detail the end of every beginning. Every project, every season, every life. Nothing is ever in vain, for even mistakes and missteps are used for good.

Your righteousness transcends all our efforts and understanding. Forgive us for our pride. The pride that puffs us up and the pride that threatens to unqualify us. Strengthen our confidence in who You have made us to be. Set us free from comparison in order to work together efficiently.

Bless our church today, as well as the lives of those we will encounter this year. Ready us to make every moment count.

In Jesus' Name
Amen

(by Meg Bucher, Crosswalk.com)

and how we explain it. These sessions have gained some really positive feedback from leadership teams, probably because we are spending a reasonable amount of time on one subject. The subject warrants extensive and thoughtful discussion. The joint leadership forum appears to be a space where people feel at liberty to speak what is on their hearts and that can only be a good thing.

We suspect our biggest impact in 2018 has been on our relationships with children, young people, their families and schools. The Executive and wider Partnership have simply tried to give those involved the room to express themselves and give encouragement where it can. The number of volunteers that help out, clearly demonstrates the importance that individual members give to this area of service.

We were encouraged by a letter from Uganda, enclosing pictures of a classroom concrete floor, that we paid for. We are intending to deepen our relationship with this school too, in 2019, by sending people to visit, and more money for their work. We are excited to see how this will be spent and look forward to hearing more positive impact it will have on the children.

The whole Partnership has continued to focus on supporting growing discipleship in our congregations. We look forward to hearing about and seeing results from the increased commitment, it's a long-term plan.

All Churches have benefited from the variety of styles that each individual brings to worship and it is great to see services being taken by people of each Church within the partnership at a Church that is not their home. It is however incumbent on all of us to support these individuals as their training and simple preparation of services takes a lot of time and effort.

It has not been all plain sailing, the Executive have been looking at the finances of the Church and its clear 2019 will be a difficult year, difficult decisions will need to be taken. The Executive are preparing and collating information so that possible scenarios can be discussed at the Partnership Council. We will always seek Gods guidance as to the direction we should be taking and value your prayers for the gift of discernment for all of us with leadership responsibilities.

Charitable Objects

The purpose of our Partnership is to advance the Christian faith in West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze 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 Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is registered in England as a charity. Charity Reg no; 1141341. Our address is the Partnership Office, c/o Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre, Ramleaze Drive, Swindon SN5 5PY

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze 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 enabling individuals to give tax efficiently either to the general fund or to the work of Emerge. Our Bank Account is with CafCash P.O. Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA. Our Independent Examiner is Steve Fraser, MHA Monahan's, 38-42 Newport Street, Swindon SN1 3DR.

Credits

This report is prepared by, and with thanks to Gayle Bryon, Ian Bryon, Claire Camm, Janet Clarke, Trevor Day, Clive Deverell, Andrew Fleet, Sue Green, David Hoar, Steve Kershaw, Lyn Morgan, Jan Partridge, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Peter Roslyk, Chris Scarisbrick, Graham Stockill, Richard Williams, Sarah Wilmott, Rachael Wilson.

Organisation

The partnership comprises four churches, acting together:

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

We are a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership, as described by Churches Together in England. The Partnership is part of the Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church (URC), and looks to the Swindon Churches Together Sponsoring Body for guidance and oversight.

Our clergy comprise those who have been duly authorised and appointed by our participating denominations. Rev Capt. Clive Deverell is Team Minister (Church of England and Authorised to Serve in the Upper Thames Circuit of the Methodist Church and within the URC) with responsibility across the partnership and posted at St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze. Rev Trevor Day is Assistant Minister (Church of England) working across the partnership. Rev Rachael Wilson is a Methodist Minister, working part time at Toothill and Rev Teresa Townsend is a CofE Curate working with Clive.

The CofE parish was reorganised, on 1 Feb 2018, with some boundary changes. The name of the new parish is West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze.

Trustees

The trustees are the members of the Partnership Council (PC). Anglican Members also constitute the Parochial Church Council (PCC) when needed to conduct Anglican specific business, though the PCC delegates as much business as it can, to the wider PC

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 responsibilities are Regulatory, Oversight, Governance and external partnerships. Other responsibilities, ministry / mission, buildings, pastoral care and local leadership, are delegated to the Local Church Committees (LCC) / Leadership Teams. A fuller description of the current functions of the PC, PCC and LCCs can be found in the Partnership Constitution (2015) and in draft Standing Orders.

of £5k to the Diocese and £4k to the Methodists and HTS had a new kitchen and electrical repairs.

The reserves being carried forward were £124,539 for unrestricted and £738,776 for restricted. The restricted funds are being held against future building related work and the youth & family work funds.

The individual churches and the partnership try to keep 6 months of expenditure as reserves. Using reserves to fund increased requests from the denominations is no longer manageable so we are trying to find ways to increase giving or get grants to enable our mission work to continue.

Our financial controls are being reviewed to enable them to continue to be effective and adequate. We've spent significant effort this year trying to get ahead of financial projections to aid our planning.

Katikamu Ssebamale Primary School, Luweero Diocese, Uganda. £1049.83 had been collected in 2016/7 and a further £1015.27 was collected at Partnership services in 2018. £700 is being taken out to the school by a Diocese and Partnership member who were travelling out there. We will try to get bank account details to enable further transfer of funds, securely.

Report by the Partnership Executive

It's not always practical for Partnership Council to gather in person to take necessary action. The Partnership Executive Committee is a smaller group with close ties in the individual Churches leadership. We find we can get together, often with little notice, to react to emerging issues, as well as looking longer term at the substantial items that affect the Partnership. The Executive Committee does not make decisions, but does background and preparatory work, then recommends to the Partnership Council when decisions need to be made. We prioritize issues for the Partnership Council to address. And in all these matters we report to the Partnership Council.

Our major areas of focus for 2018 were:-

- Continue to work through questions on strategy
- Increase local emphasis to our relationships with schools
- Continue to build link with Katikamu Ssebamale School
- Increase discipleship in our congregations - engage with the Holy Habits

In many ways we have been successful, the Executive have driven discussions in joint leadership meetings as we have discussed our strategic view, our mission

Financial Review

The Partnership's main source of income is given by the churches. We get a few donations straight to the partnership. We collect money from weddings and funerals fees, though virtually all is then passed back out to the diocese or clergy, organist, vergers, clerks and the churches for the use of the building. We do almost no public fundraising.

The Partnership's main expenditures are contribution to the parent bodies, the administrator salary, the schools worker salary and staff expenses. An increasing amount is done by volunteers, and this is not financially quantifiable. This is where the bulk of our charitable aims are met. A small amount is then left for general partnership expenses including Hook cemetery maintenance.

The URC SW Synod holds funds on deposit relating to the West Swindon Manse, the money received is from rental income (£8,262) and is to be used for repairs and maintenance (£314). At the end of 2018 the amount held was £32,640. We have indicated to the URC that they could sell the building. It may take some time.

Emerge's restricted fund received a grant from the URC SW Synod as well as other local income. This money is used to run the after-schools group, training and workshops for young people with special needs, and covers salaries, expenses and equipment.

Some of the Family Work restricted fund was used on equipment and training.

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. For details on these and the churches general funds see the individual Churches' Annual Reports. In the consolidated accounts the total unrestricted income was £130,370 and restricted was £797,144 (this includes an accrual of £615,00 for the HLF grant). The unrestricted income was down £26k on last year mainly due to the 2017 legacy.

In the consolidated accounts the total unrestricted income was £164,981 and restricted was £98,542. The unrestricted income was down £35k on last year mainly due to the 2017 legacy and Family Work donation.

The total unrestricted expenditure was £151,775 and restricted was £112,941. The unrestricted expenditure was up £19.2k on last year. There was an increase

Clergy (ex officio)	Revd Capt. Clive Deverell Rev Trevor Day Rev Rachael Wilson Rev Teresa Townsend	
Partnership Council Chair	Steve Kershaw	
Treasurer	Sue Green	
Secretary	Chris Scarisbrick	
Churchwardens and Synod reps (ex-officio)	Sue Green Steve Kershaw Jacqueline Kirwan	Mary Poole Pat Watson
Elected Members	Gayle Bryon Claire Camm Janet Clark Wendy Deverell	Peter Gilder David Hoar Rev Jan Partridge Pam Ray
Minutes secretary	Will be Graham Stockill in 2019	
Circuit Superintendent Minister, and Circuit Steward (ex officio)	Rev David Perkins Andrew Fleet	
URC Synod Pastoral Adviser	Rev Gerald England	

The PC met 5 times in 2018, February, May, July, September, and November, in addition to the Annual General Meeting on 29 April.

Main PC topics during the year were:

- Safeguarding including an update to our Safeguarding Policy and procedures.
- Income and expenditure; review of budget planning process
- The sustainability of our activities
- An external review of our youth and children's work, and the actions that resulted from it.
- Approving foundation governors and candidates for ordination
- Messy Church
- Our link with the school in Uganda
- Implementation of the Data Protection Act 2018
- Our activities in conjunction with national Thy Kingdom Come initiative
- Our plans for Holy Habits discipleship series.
- Remembrance – the Centenary of the Armistice

The Partnership Executive met 8 times in 2017 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 2018:

- Local church committees and leadership teams

- Our church leadership teams met together several times to consider our vision for the future of our local mission
- Emerge Management team
- Messy Church team
- Primary Schools work team
- The “Veg Patch” – our worship programme planning group
- We set up a management group to supervise the conservation work at St Marys church, if a Heritage Lottery Fund grant was agreed.

Risks

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

- Risk of financial commitment, particularly relating to denominational contributions. Reserves cover approx. 6 month’s normal expenditure
- Limited resources available for work delegated to the Partnership Executive.
- Communication, 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.

The PC considers that these risks have been mitigated to the best practicable extent.

There is one risk that isn’t so well mitigated.

- Unpaid voluntary contributions cannot be quantified in the report, but are substantial, almost all of our activities depend heavily on volunteer goodwill, time and effort.

This aspect of our work is under review. All risks are monitored within the Partnership’s governance processes.

Induction and Training of Trustees

There is 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

Anglican Deanery and Diocese

Swindon Deanery Synod meetings enable member churches to meet together, pray and share good news stories. There have been changes on a diocesan and deanery level; we now have a new Bishop of Bristol and Archdeacon while several new clergy have been appointed, including our own curate Teresa

are still popular and in December the three weddings by candlelight were very special.

Funerals

This year 3 out of the 4 Churches lost significant people through bereavement and although generally the number of funerals done by the ministers has reduced, we are grateful for the new North Wilts Crematorium situated in the Parish. It reduces the delays that families have experienced over the last few years when Kingsdown was full to capacity.

Pastoral Home Visits & Communion

It is always a special time, to be with those who are no longer able to get out of their homes and it’s been a privilege to be able to share Holy Communion with several people. When asked, “where is your church” our answer is usually... “where-ever we are together”.

Partnership Office, Newsletter

Our long-time administrator Brenda retired in 2018. We celebrated her faithful years of service with gifts, over coffee and cake. It is fitting we acknowledge here, our grateful thanks to her.

We appointed Graham Stockill to assist us in the office.

Our monthly magazine “In Partnership”, contains news of church and local events and has information and news from the wider church. It is produced 11 times each year and is published both as a paper magazine and on the Partnership web site at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/news/>

Our web site traffic increases year on year.

Each local church is responsible for local publicity – this is through their Monthly Magazines, Weekly Notice Sheets, Christmas cards etc.

Local Church activities

There is much more that happens in each of our local churches, well described in their local Annual Reports, available online at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report>

Liaison role for Lifepath. All these activities support the development of our external mission and encourage us to partner with others where possible.

Evaluation of our success in 2018:

- We have worked with all our local schools this year, each has a different level of engagement according to their individual needs.
- We are at capacity in terms of responding to the requests from schools for assemblies, lessons, experiences and Church visits.
- We have a committed core of regular volunteers who support school sessions. We have been blessed with just the right number of helpers at each session this year.
- Our new 'Open the Book' has been received well by Shaw Ridge Primary and it provides a great model for sustainable team work.
- New Christmas and Easter experiences, and RE sessions were resourced and undertaken. Positive feedback was received from the schools and volunteers.
- Gathering meetings have been extremely well attended demonstrating our corporate commitment to our Children, Family and Youth ministry.

New Aims for 2019:

- To develop volunteers who can independently deliver educational programmes and missional holiday activities.
- Develop new initiatives which engage the whole family.
- Explore using music to develop regular contact with children and young people.

Pastoral and Occasional Offices

2018 has been an exciting year of 'ministry' in the "pastoral" or; encompassing the "occasional offices".

Baptisms/ Thanksgivings and Dedications

A number of these took place across the Partnership, from small to large celebrations we thank God for the opportunity to walk alongside families and help them grow in faith as a Partnership we endeavour to encourage our baptism families to try Messy Church especially if they have older children. This year, the whole breadth of the Partnerships understanding of Baptism has been revealed from infants to adults, by full immersion and by events around a font.

Marriage/Weddings

Each of our 10 weddings during 2018 were different and uplifting. It's also great to see those married couples, again, when they return with their children for Baptism (as we will be seeing, several times during 2019. Weddings at St Marys

Townsend. Meetings in the last year have demonstrated the Anglican churches commitment to key areas.

- Education. The new Church of England Secondary School at Wichelstowe will open in September. Synod heard from its Principal Linda Culling and discussed its priorities.
- Young People. Our Deanery supported a group of young people (including 3 from Swindon) to visit Uganda during the Summer. For most of them this was their first experience of travel outside the UK and had a significant impact on them.
- Learning and Developing lay leadership. Two new courses Growing leaders and Bridgebuilders started in the Autumn hosted at Toothill.
- Church growth. A new church plant at the old Swindon Pattern store was established in December. It will aim to attract and grow in discipleship new Christians who are under 40. This is part of a wider Diocesan strategy.
- Community. Deanery Vice Chair David Cain led a moving tribute to all those from Swindon who died in the Great War, this was combined with learning about the life of a current army chaplain.
- Prayer. In all 3 meetings of Synod members have learnt about the needs of our diverse area and prayed for one another.

Synod meetings are open to all and give Anglicans of all backgrounds the chance to learn from and support one another.

Revd Capt Clive Deverell, in addition to being Vicar of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze, is also Area Dean. His work means holding the Deanery clergy and Churches together, taking responsibility for those Parishes in vacancy, and with the Deanery Lay Chair, producing a dynamic programme for Deanery Synod.

Baptist Area

Our engagement with the Baptist community continues to be sparse. One of our members attended the WEBA (the West of England Baptist Association) AGM, where much attention was given to the 72 project. Baptist churches have been focussing on the New Testament passage where Jesus sent out 72 disciples to spread the good news.

The association is suffering from falling rolls, and so falling income, but usually the local churches pay their own ministry costs. Some churches that had been supported by Home Mission fund are now self-supporting. The funding issues with the pension scheme continue, but have improved.

We send our subscription to BUGB (the Baptist Union of GB), and a contribution to the Home Mission fund. We receive interesting and encouraging monthly

newsletters from BUGB and a fortnightly one from WEBA which we circulate among the trustees. We continue to struggle to find people to engage with the local group meetings and activities, though we did join in with the national “Thy Kingdom Come” initiative, also supported by Baptists.

Methodist Circuit

Over the last few years a lot of effort has been made on both sides to strengthen the relationship between the Partnership and the Circuit. This has worked through representation from both sides at Circuit and Partnership meetings, preaching and leading worship, and involvement in monthly meetings of presbyters. The relationship has been strengthened further since September last year when Rev Rachael Wilson was appointed to work as a Methodist minister within the Partnership, with specific focus at Toothill. As communication continues to increase between us it is hoped that the mutual support and encouragement will grow in ways that enrich both the Partnership and the Circuit.

URC

Our ties with the United Reformed Church (URC) remain strong especially as we have adopted and are implementing the Safeguarding Policy of the URC. As our representative at the South West Synod David Hoar attends the Synod meetings along with Rev Gerald England who is the URC Pastoral Advisor and a regular attendee at Partnership Council meetings.

David, with others, offers his skills in mentoring others including one of those on the Growing Leaders course, who will soon be assisting to lead worship. The closeness of all denominations working together at grass roots level works well within our Partnership and this can only be good for the future.

Safeguarding

We have 92 DBS-checked volunteers working regularly or occasionally with those who might need safeguarding, a significant increase, due mostly to growth in the primary schools team. We continue to make slow progress implementing safer recruiting procedures and regularly refreshing training. We continue to be challenged to effectively support our volunteer workers, primarily because those supporting are generally themselves volunteers.

In 2018 we updated our safeguarding policy, merging the safeguarding of children and adults at risk. Further implementation process changes will be needed.

This year we have reacted effectively to a couple of false alarms and complaints, that did not involve harm to anyone at risk. We have had no safeguarding issues of major concern.

Some families have left as their children have grown into teenagers and new families have joined, this means that in our planning of activities we have to consider the needs of toddlers as well as those starting secondary school. Several teenagers help run activities and are a valued part of the team.

Messy church is funded by our Church Partnership but we invite families to make a donation towards the cost. Volunteers give generously with time and materials. This enables our costs to stay within the budget of £250 we have been given.

For the year ahead we hope to integrate more Holy Habits into the life of Messy Church through our monthly activities and especially through growing friendships and encouraging families to continue to pray and share stories of faith at home.

Schools Work

In 2018 our aim was that we would continue to support our local primary school children's spiritual development and religious education by working collaboratively and creatively with teachers to enhance the RE Curriculum through Collective Worship, lessons, experiences, and visits to our Churches.

We are extremely thankful for the invitation schools have shown us over the year to become part of their communities and the opportunities we have been given to support the children's RE education. As Christian visitors in our local schools we hope that in all that we have done the love of God has been evident in our lives. It has been wonderful to be able to share with children and teachers from all different faith backgrounds as we have continued learning to live out our faith in community. Our ministry has enabled us to continue building long and lasting relationships between our Churches and our schools.

Running holiday club and workshop days enabled us to have great fun sharing Bible Stories in creative ways. This year we extended our age limit to enable secondary children to continue being part of our holiday club family. It was wonderful that some of Claire's young people were able to join us. Our adventure to the Rumming's farm in the summer was a highlight of the year.

Gayle continued to be the paid Schools Workers (10 hrs), supported by a team of 32 volunteers across the year. People have been extremely generous with their time, gifts and skills. An estimated 500 volunteer hours have gone into the planning, preparation and delivery of our school sessions and holiday clubs. The budget has mainly been spent on craft materials and the Christmas Bible Society Christmas Books.

Gayle has actively been involved in the Diocese Engaging Younger Generations Meetings, attending Mentoring Training, and has recently taken on the Schools

We have a mixture of children from mainstream and special needs schools. In the autumn term we based some of our activities on the film 'The Greatest Showman' and thinking about what it means to be unique, loved and special to God.

Then it was time for the Christmas show put together by the young people, around the theme of using our talents to bless others.

Looking ahead, the Monday club young people have helped plan our programme for next year, this includes many new creative activities.

Messy Church

West Swindon Messy Church meets once a month at Shaw and is part of a global network of Messy Churches. Each Messy Church may meet at a different time or place but they share similar aims. We work as a team of around 13 people from each of our Partnership churches to meet those aims:

We aim to be Christ Centred. Our common interest in crafts and games is a springboard into a deeper understanding of God, of each other and of his world.

Each Messy church session includes a short celebratory act of worship linking our theme with activities done. Over the year more helpers, parents and young people have taken part in this and everyone engages with the interactive prayers.

We aim to be hospitable. Having a meal together is an important part of the Messy Church experience and it is when families sit and chat together that new friendships are made.

We aim to be creative. Most of our sessions are based on those provided by the Messy church magazine but we like to develop some of our own ideas too. Memorably we have created balloon powered cars, cooked flatbreads and created some wonderful collages. Adults create alongside the children and everyone enjoys making something special.

We aim to develop Christian habits particularly of prayer and generosity and as a Church contributed to the Shoebox appeal.

Over the past year we have welcomed 21 families to at least one Messy Church session. Some are part of our wider church family others have more tenuous links with our churches. It was encouraging to see several regulars take part in the Christmas nativity at Shaw.



Areas of focus for 2018

In 2018 we said we would:

- Continue to work through questions of vision and strategy
- Local emphasis on our relationships with schools (especially around 100th anniversary of end of WW1)
- Continue to build on our link with Katikamu Ssebamale School
- Engage with the Holy Habits initiative, increase discipleship in our congregations.

Questions of Vision

We have convened several meetings of all of the leadership teams across the partnership, to consider updating a vision for our mission. The sessions have been encouraging and educational as we begin to find out more about the local situations faced across our area. We have many similar challenges and though our local priorities may differ, we are getting close to agreeing a vision and some mission statements. We will continue to work on setting this out and will look for actions as a result in 2019.

Relationships with Local Schools

Our West Swindon Schools Together WW1 Commemoration was a huge project to plan, prepare and deliver, but it was worth all the hard work when our schools came together at Lydiard Park Academy to remember the ordinary people of our community whose lives were changed forever by WW1. The story of Victor Newman, our local young WW1 Soldier was poignantly brought to life by the LPA Students and the joint choir sang with great emotion. The feedback from all the schools was that the Commemoration was a special and moving event for all their pupils.

Our 'There but not there' figures and WW1 Stations at St Marys enabled those who visited to take a moment of quiet, to commemorate, contemplate and pray. Visitors commented that the figures were thought provoking and that it was helpful to find a tranquil space to reflect peacefully.

At the Opening of the Field of Remembrance every school in West Swindon came to take time to remember and reflect. Remembrance poppies were planted by all the children and teachers, adorned with personal and loving remembrance messages. Approximately half of those present at the service were children and young people which is an encouraging sign of respect and a message of hope for the future.

All our schools will be offered some soil from the 'Field of mud, seeds of hope' instalment during our Easter activities. As the children plant and watch the poppy

seeds grow, we will encourage them to pray that peace and hope will flourish in their lives and around the world.

We re-authorised our Foundation Governors at Oliver Tomkins CofE School. There are vacancies on the governing body, and we are still looking for people to help.

Link with Katikamu Ssebamale School, Uganda

We were very encouraged to receive a letter from the Luweero Diocese letting us know the school we are partnering have appointed a new head teacher. We also received photographs of the newly concreted floor and plastered walls of the classroom, that we paid for. All in all, excellent news. We will send a small delegation of visitors to Uganda in 2019, carrying a contribution from the further funds we have collected. We hope to deepen our relationship with the new head and find out much more about the school situation, learn from them, and possibly find more specific ways in which we can help. It is important to us that the money we send abroad is wisely used, by people that we know. It is equally important that the school in Uganda gets the most benefit from what help we can offer.

Primary schools in our area are particularly interested in the link, and we intend to send cards and greetings from our local children, to those in Uganda.

Holy Habits

In the summer of 2018, we began introducing the “Holy Habits” initiative. Holy Habits are ten activities that Acts 2:42-47 shows us were practiced by the early church, and which are relevant today in helping to develop Christian discipleship. Each theme is called a “Habit” with a two-month focus, encouraging an in depth understanding and application. Over the summer Sunday sermons introduced the Holy Habits concept. The first spiritual theme “Worship” was presented in Sunday services over November and December. Over 2019 six more Holy Habits themes will be presented throughout the partnership: these will include “Biblical Teaching” and “Prayer”. Mostly presented during Sunday services other activities will include a monthly Bible Study group and a Holy Habits focus in home groups.

Each of the fellowships are being encouraged to think of creative, imaginative and engaging ways to develop the habits not just on a Sunday but in our daily lives as well.

Each habit builds on the one before to help us grow spiritually as individuals, church fellowships and as a Partnership, that we can be more open to the Spirit, more centred on God and more able to share his love with others. Motivating the need for mission within the churches with a common sense of unity in the Partnership.

Members were involved in a global service of prayer against gender based violence. We ended the year with an Advent service.

Our members have been very active in the support of St Marys Church and are involved in church cleaning, flower arranging, serving drinks after Sunday services and providing refreshments when required. We contributed sandwiches to the “Filling Station” for the homeless in Swindon, and provided shoe boxes for Samaritans Purse

Children and Young People’s work

All of our local churches support children and young people on Sundays, and some midweek groups. These are described further and reported in the local church annual reports at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>, here we consider our joint efforts

Emerge

Monday club (after school) and Saturday club have continued apace, well supported by a steady team of committed volunteers.

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 year we have raised over £1000 for different charities – Comic Relief; Guide Dogs; Tearfund’s Toilet Twinning and locally, Twigs Community Gardens. Over the 10 years of emerge we have raised in the region of £7,000.

This year we lost one volunteer young person to University, but another has joined us. 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.

Relationships with families have strengthened over the year through our weekly contacts and through community meals and events (eg, Christmas Show, Easter Feast)

The summer workshops were great fun, with 18 young people attending overall. This included two new girls whose families contacted us through Aiming Hi. The young people enjoyed learning about the trees in Lydiard Park, using a ‘Tree I-dial’ which they made to help identify them. We also did lots of arts and crafts, eg tye-dye bags; T-shirt printing; Mosaic tiles; clay sculptures; cookery. Games in the park were led by one of our young people who is training to be a Leader with us.

- 1 April Easter Sunrise at St Mary's
- 1 April Easter Day at HTS
- 29 April, Partnership AGM, at HTS
- 20 May Partnership Pentecost Service at Westlea with Steve Henderson
- 17 June, Ecumenical Joint Confirmation at St Paul's Covingham
- 1 July, Evening Welcome Service for Rev Teresa Townsend at St Mary's
- In August we shared morning service between 2 of our churches each week.
- 2 Sept Methodist Circuit service and welcome to Rachael, at Toothill
- 22 October Communion at Toothill
- 4 November Memorial service at St Mary's
- 25 November Toothill's 40th Anniversary
- 2 December Advent service at St Mary's
- 16 December Nativity festival at HTS
- 17 December Nativity workshop "Travelling Together", and service at HTS
- 18 December Open Air Carols in Lydiard Park
- 30 Dec Carols with Communion at St Mary's

We have tried a variety of new things as others have faded. The continued impact of the Parking Charges impacts greatly on the evening attendances for Partnership Worship in the Park.

"Encounter" continues after a successful start in 2017, on the 3rd Sunday of the month at HTS.

Holy Habits launched during 2018, it has proved a successful way of new thinking and discipleship; breaking away from the standard Weekly Lectionary for Readings and prayers ... it's provided a fresh look at "how we can do church".

St Mary's and Westlea continue to hold regular prayer meetings.

Mother's Union

2018 has been a very challenging year for Mother's Union with reduced membership due to ill-health We have had some excellent speakers, some entertaining and others informative.

Members attended Lady Day Service at Christchurch, where we had the opportunity of meeting our World Wide President Mrs Lyn Tenby. A Deanery quiet morning was held at St Marys, on the theme of "Following in the footsteps of Mary Sumner. We celebrated the 60th wedding anniversary of one of our members with cake and wine. A Wave of Prayer service followed by lunch was well attended.

The Community

Membership is expressed 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, but this causes us no problems.

Membership Summary

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
St Mary's	69	67	66	73	75	76	74	70	59	73
Holy Trinity	30	27	28	28	33	31	36	42	38	40
Toothill	31	28	35	34	36	32	39	42	40	39
Westlea	31	31	31	27	30	31	26	26	27	28
Total	161	153	160	162	174	170	175	180	164	180

(Figures before 2013, adjusted to reflect altered organisation)

Ministry and weekly services

The worship rota is arranged across the Partnership. Clergy, Local Preachers Lay Ministers and our team of trained lay people lead services and preach in their 'home' church, in the other partner churches and some across the Methodist Upper Thames Circuit. The Circuit also contributes worship leaders.

Denominationally Appointed Ministers	
Rev Capt. Clive Deverell	CofE Minister. Authorised to Serve as Methodist. Authorised URC Minister
Rev Trevor Day	CofE Assistant Minister
Rev Teresa Townsend	CofE Curate (from June 2018)
Rev Rachael Wilson	Methodist Minister (from Sept 2018)

We are grateful to the following members of the Partnership who are authorised by our denominations to lead services across our churches:

Denominationally Authorised Ministers	
Rev Jan Partridge	(Methodist Circuit Supernumerary) - pastoral training
Rachel Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
Mark Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
David Hoar	URC Lay Preacher

We have four people attending the Exploring Christianity course, and several others who have been exploring whether to become candidates for Ministry in the Church of England. Two more are continuing their training to be Lay Preachers in the Methodist Circuit.

Locally Appointed Ministers		
Claire Camm	Youth Work manager	
Gayle Bryon	Schools Work manager	
Mary Poole	Messy Church Leader	
Lay worship leaders		
Heather Benn	Sue Green	Mary Poole
Gayle Bryon	Stephen Kershaw	Mark Taylor
Ian Bryon	Jacqueline Kirwan	Pat Watson
Janet Clarke	Angela Mak	Sarah Wilmott
Wendy Deverell	Ed Poole	Richard Williams

Other Groups:	
Westlea Leadership Team	Holy Trinity Shaw Worship team
Local Church Home Group	Worship Enabling Group
Team Toothill	St Mary's Ukuleles
St Mary's Worship team	

Our partnership's 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 Free-Church styles.

Messy Church is a missionary congregation aimed at families with young children. It is lay-led and resourced from the other "Sunday morning" churches.

Partnership activity "Encounter" (monthly study and exploration of faith) at Holy Trinity Shaw

Toothill have been hosting weekly worship on Wednesday mornings (from this year onwards after Easter, only during Lent and Advent).

We continue to meet for Morning Prayer on Fridays at Holy Trinity (during School time); our book for reflection this year was "City of God; Faith in the Streets" by Sara Miles, then later in the year "Return to Love" by Marianne Williams.

Administrative and Support	
Mrs Brenda Hicks	Partnership Administrator (to Aug)
Mr Graham Stockill	Partnership Administrator (from Sept)
Mr Steve Kershaw	Partnership Chair
Mrs Sue Green	Partnership Treasurer
Mr Chris Scarisbrick	Partnership Secretary and Safeguarding Coordinator

Usual Weekly Attendance

	2018		2017		2016		2015		2014		2013		2012	
	Adult	Child												
St Mary's	63	9	68	10	57	9	59	12	72	12	69	12	85	12
Holy Trinity	32	4	33	8	34	8	36	8	36	16	27	3	25	5
Toothill	24	7	25	8	29	9	25	5	27	5	28	4	32	7
Westlea	24	5	22	5	26	6	24	7	25	9	23	9	24	10
Total	143	25	148	31	146	32	142	31	160	42	147	28	166	34

Figures adjusted to include Messy Church other non-weekly services etc

Joint Partnership Worship

Several joint Services were organised in 2018:

- The Gathering - termly sharing session around youth and children's work
- Encounter - monthly reflective worship at HTS
- 28 January Covenant Service at HTS with Ruth Whitehead
- 14 Feb Ash Wednesday at Toothill
- 25 Feb Partnership Come Together at HTS
- 25 March, Palm Sunday at Toothill with Gerald England
- 26-28 March ~ Compline at St Mary's
- 29 March ~ Maundy Thursday "Washing of Feet" at HTS
- 30 March Good Friday at Westlea (10am), Holy Hour (2pm) at Toothill and St Mary's Tenebrae (7pm)



West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership



**Annual Report
for the year ending 31 December 2018**

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This report should be read in conjunction with the reports from the 4 local churches, available at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>

Focus for 2019

Our Partnership Council propose the following areas of focus:

- Publish an agreed vision for our mission here, generate a strategy that aims at that goal. Look for actions resulting from these discussions.
- Stabilise our long-term finances
- By engaging with the Holy Habits initiative, increase discipleship in our congregations.

Prayer for our Partnership

Thank you for our community here. For each heart and mind that fills the presence of our town we thank You. Only You truly know what we are setting out to accomplish. We have an idea, a vision, hints and daily instructions. We have talents abilities and time to work. However only You can see in perfect detail the end of every beginning. Every project, every season, every life. Nothing is ever in vain, for even mistakes and missteps are used for good.

Your righteousness transcends all our efforts and understanding. Forgive us for our pride. The pride that puffs us up and the pride that threatens to unqualify us. Strengthen our confidence in who You have made us to be. Set us free from comparison in order to work together efficiently.

Bless our church today, as well as the lives of those we will encounter this year. Ready us to make every moment count.

In Jesus' Name
Amen

(by Meg Bucher, Crosswalk.com)

and how we explain it. These sessions have gained some really positive feedback from leadership teams, probably because we are spending a reasonable amount of time on one subject. The subject warrants extensive and thoughtful discussion. The joint leadership forum appears to be a space where people feel at liberty to speak what is on their hearts and that can only be a good thing.

We suspect our biggest impact in 2018 has been on our relationships with children, young people, their families and schools. The Executive and wider Partnership have simply tried to give those involved the room to express themselves and give encouragement where it can. The number of volunteers that help out, clearly demonstrates the importance that individual members give to this area of service.

We were encouraged by a letter from Uganda, enclosing pictures of a classroom concrete floor, that we paid for. We are intending to deepen our relationship with this school too, in 2019, by sending people to visit, and more money for their work. We are excited to see how this will be spent and look forward to hearing more positive impact it will have on the children.

The whole Partnership has continued to focus on supporting growing discipleship in our congregations. We look forward to hearing about and seeing results from the increased commitment, it's a long-term plan.

All Churches have benefited from the variety of styles that each individual brings to worship and it is great to see services being taken by people of each Church within the partnership at a Church that is not their home. It is however incumbent on all of us to support these individuals as their training and simple preparation of services takes a lot of time and effort.

It has not been all plain sailing, the Executive have been looking at the finances of the Church and its clear 2019 will be a difficult year, difficult decisions will need to be taken. The Executive are preparing and collating information so that possible scenarios can be discussed at the Partnership Council. We will always seek Gods guidance as to the direction we should be taking and value your prayers for the gift of discernment for all of us with leadership responsibilities.

Charitable Objects

The purpose of our Partnership is to advance the Christian faith in West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze 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 Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is registered in England as a charity. Charity Reg no; 1141341. Our address is the Partnership Office, c/o Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre, Ramleaze Drive, Swindon SN5 5PY

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze 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 enabling individuals to give tax efficiently either to the general fund or to the work of Emerge. Our Bank Account is with CafCash P.O. Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA. Our Independent Examiner is Steve Fraser, MHA Monahan's, 38-42 Newport Street, Swindon SN1 3DR.

Credits

This report is prepared by, and with thanks to Gayle Bryon, Ian Bryon, Claire Camm, Janet Clarke, Trevor Day, Clive Deverell, Andrew Fleet, Sue Green, David Hoar, Steve Kershaw, Lyn Morgan, Jan Partridge, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Peter Roslyk, Chris Scarisbrick, Graham Stockill, Richard Williams, Sarah Wilmott, Rachael Wilson.

Organisation

The partnership comprises four churches, acting together:

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

We are a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership, as described by Churches Together in England. The Partnership is part of the Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church (URC), and looks to the Swindon Churches Together Sponsoring Body for guidance and oversight.

Our clergy comprise those who have been duly authorised and appointed by our participating denominations. Rev Capt. Clive Deverell is Team Minister (Church of England and Authorised to Serve in the Upper Thames Circuit of the Methodist Church and within the URC) with responsibility across the partnership and posted at St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze. Rev Trevor Day is Assistant Minister (Church of England) working across the partnership. Rev Rachael Wilson is a Methodist Minister, working part time at Toothill and Rev Teresa Townsend is a CofE Curate working with Clive.

The CofE parish was reorganised, on 1 Feb 2018, with some boundary changes. The name of the new parish is West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze.

Trustees

The trustees are the members of the Partnership Council (PC). Anglican Members also constitute the Parochial Church Council (PCC) when needed to conduct Anglican specific business, though the PCC delegates as much business as it can, to the wider PC

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 responsibilities are Regulatory, Oversight, Governance and external partnerships. Other responsibilities, ministry / mission, buildings, pastoral care and local leadership, are delegated to the Local Church Committees (LCC) / Leadership Teams. A fuller description of the current functions of the PC, PCC and LCCs can be found in the Partnership Constitution (2015) and in draft Standing Orders.

of £5k to the Diocese and £4k to the Methodists and HTS had a new kitchen and electrical repairs.

The reserves being carried forward were £124,539 for unrestricted and £738,776 for restricted. The restricted funds are being held against future building related work and the youth & family work funds.

The individual churches and the partnership try to keep 6 months of expenditure as reserves. Using reserves to fund increased requests from the denominations is no longer manageable so we are trying to find ways to increase giving or get grants to enable our mission work to continue.

Our financial controls are being reviewed to enable them to continue to be effective and adequate. We've spent significant effort this year trying to get ahead of financial projections to aid our planning.

Katikamu Ssebamale Primary School, Luweero Diocese, Uganda. £1049.83 had been collected in 2016/7 and a further £1015.27 was collected at Partnership services in 2018. £700 is being taken out to the school by a Diocese and Partnership member who were travelling out there. We will try to get bank account details to enable further transfer of funds, securely.

Report by the Partnership Executive

It's not always practical for Partnership Council to gather in person to take necessary action. The Partnership Executive Committee is a smaller group with close ties in the individual Churches leadership. We find we can get together, often with little notice, to react to emerging issues, as well as looking longer term at the substantial items that affect the Partnership. The Executive Committee does not make decisions, but does background and preparatory work, then recommends to the Partnership Council when decisions need to be made. We prioritize issues for the Partnership Council to address. And in all these matters we report to the Partnership Council.

Our major areas of focus for 2018 were:-

- Continue to work through questions on strategy
- Increase local emphasis to our relationships with schools
- Continue to build link with Katikamu Ssebamale School
- Increase discipleship in our congregations - engage with the Holy Habits

In many ways we have been successful, the Executive have driven discussions in joint leadership meetings as we have discussed our strategic view, our mission

Financial Review

The Partnership's main source of income is given by the churches. We get a few donations straight to the partnership. We collect money from weddings and funerals fees, though virtually all is then passed back out to the diocese or clergy, organist, vergers, clerks and the churches for the use of the building. We do almost no public fundraising.

The Partnership's main expenditures are contribution to the parent bodies, the administrator salary, the schools worker salary and staff expenses. An increasing amount is done by volunteers, and this is not financially quantifiable. This is where the bulk of our charitable aims are met. A small amount is then left for general partnership expenses including Hook cemetery maintenance.

The URC SW Synod holds funds on deposit relating to the West Swindon Manse, the money received is from rental income (£8,262) and is to be used for repairs and maintenance (£314). At the end of 2018 the amount held was £32,640. We have indicated to the URC that they could sell the building. It may take some time.

Emerge's restricted fund received a grant from the URC SW Synod as well as other local income. This money is used to run the after-schools group, training and workshops for young people with special needs, and covers salaries, expenses and equipment.

Some of the Family Work restricted fund was used on equipment and training.

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. For details on these and the churches general funds see the individual Churches' Annual Reports. In the consolidated accounts the total unrestricted income was £130,370 and restricted was £797,144 (this includes an accrual of £615,00 for the HLF grant). The unrestricted income was down £26k on last year mainly due to the 2017 legacy.

In the consolidated accounts the total unrestricted income was £164,981 and restricted was £98,542. The unrestricted income was down £35k on last year mainly due to the 2017 legacy and Family Work donation.

The total unrestricted expenditure was £151,775 and restricted was £112,941. The unrestricted expenditure was up £19.2k on last year. There was an increase

Clergy (ex officio)	Revd Capt. Clive Deverell Rev Trevor Day Rev Rachael Wilson Rev Teresa Townsend	
Partnership Council Chair	Steve Kershaw	
Treasurer	Sue Green	
Secretary	Chris Scarisbrick	
Churchwardens and Synod reps (ex-officio)	Sue Green Steve Kershaw Jacqueline Kirwan	Mary Poole Pat Watson
Elected Members	Gayle Bryon Claire Camm Janet Clark Wendy Deverell	Peter Gilder David Hoar Rev Jan Partridge Pam Ray
Minutes secretary	Will be Graham Stockill in 2019	
Circuit Superintendent Minister, and Circuit Steward (ex officio)	Rev David Perkins Andrew Fleet	
URC Synod Pastoral Adviser	Rev Gerald England	

The PC met 5 times in 2018, February, May, July, September, and November, in addition to the Annual General Meeting on 29 April.

Main PC topics during the year were:

- Safeguarding including an update to our Safeguarding Policy and procedures.
- Income and expenditure; review of budget planning process
- The sustainability of our activities
- An external review of our youth and children's work, and the actions that resulted from it.
- Approving foundation governors and candidates for ordination
- Messy Church
- Our link with the school in Uganda
- Implementation of the Data Protection Act 2018
- Our activities in conjunction with national Thy Kingdom Come initiative
- Our plans for Holy Habits discipleship series.
- Remembrance – the Centenary of the Armistice

The Partnership Executive met 8 times in 2017 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 2018:

- Local church committees and leadership teams

- Our church leadership teams met together several times to consider our vision for the future of our local mission
- Emerge Management team
- Messy Church team
- Primary Schools work team
- The “Veg Patch” – our worship programme planning group
- We set up a management group to supervise the conservation work at St Marys church, if a Heritage Lottery Fund grant was agreed.

Risks

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

- Risk of financial commitment, particularly relating to denominational contributions. Reserves cover approx. 6 month’s normal expenditure
- Limited resources available for work delegated to the Partnership Executive.
- Communication, 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.

The PC considers that these risks have been mitigated to the best practicable extent.

There is one risk that isn’t so well mitigated.

- Unpaid voluntary contributions cannot be quantified in the report, but are substantial, almost all of our activities depend heavily on volunteer goodwill, time and effort.

This aspect of our work is under review. All risks are monitored within the Partnership’s governance processes.

Induction and Training of Trustees

There is 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

Anglican Deanery and Diocese

Swindon Deanery Synod meetings enable member churches to meet together, pray and share good news stories. There have been changes on a diocesan and deanery level; we now have a new Bishop of Bristol and Archdeacon while several new clergy have been appointed, including our own curate Teresa

are still popular and in December the three weddings by candlelight were very special.

Funerals

This year 3 out of the 4 Churches lost significant people through bereavement and although generally the number of funerals done by the ministers has reduced, we are grateful for the new North Wilts Crematorium situated in the Parish. It reduces the delays that families have experienced over the last few years when Kingsdown was full to capacity.

Pastoral Home Visits & Communion

It is always a special time, to be with those who are no longer able to get out of their homes and it’s been a privilege to be able to share Holy Communion with several people. When asked, “where is your church” our answer is usually... “where-ever we are together”.

Partnership Office, Newsletter

Our long-time administrator Brenda retired in 2018. We celebrated her faithful years of service with gifts, over coffee and cake. It is fitting we acknowledge here, our grateful thanks to her.

We appointed Graham Stockill to assist us in the office.

Our monthly magazine “In Partnership”, contains news of church and local events and has information and news from the wider church. It is produced 11 times each year and is published both as a paper magazine and on the Partnership web site at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/news/>

Our web site traffic increases year on year.

Each local church is responsible for local publicity – this is through their Monthly Magazines, Weekly Notice Sheets, Christmas cards etc.

Local Church activities

There is much more that happens in each of our local churches, well described in their local Annual Reports, available online at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report>

Liaison role for Lifepath. All these activities support the development of our external mission and encourage us to partner with others where possible.

Evaluation of our success in 2018:

- We have worked with all our local schools this year, each has a different level of engagement according to their individual needs.
- We are at capacity in terms of responding to the requests from schools for assemblies, lessons, experiences and Church visits.
- We have a committed core of regular volunteers who support school sessions. We have been blessed with just the right number of helpers at each session this year.
- Our new 'Open the Book' has been received well by Shaw Ridge Primary and it provides a great model for sustainable team work.
- New Christmas and Easter experiences, and RE sessions were resourced and undertaken. Positive feedback was received from the schools and volunteers.
- Gathering meetings have been extremely well attended demonstrating our corporate commitment to our Children, Family and Youth ministry.

New Aims for 2019:

- To develop volunteers who can independently deliver educational programmes and missional holiday activities.
- Develop new initiatives which engage the whole family.
- Explore using music to develop regular contact with children and young people.

Pastoral and Occasional Offices

2018 has been an exciting year of 'ministry' in the "pastoral" or; encompassing the "occasional offices".

Baptisms/ Thanksgivings and Dedications

A number of these took place across the Partnership, from small to large celebrations we thank God for the opportunity to walk alongside families and help them grow in faith as a Partnership we endeavour to encourage our baptism families to try Messy Church especially if they have older children. This year, the whole breadth of the Partnerships understanding of Baptism has been revealed from infants to adults, by full immersion and by events around a font.

Marriage/Weddings

Each of our 10 weddings during 2018 were different and uplifting. It's also great to see those married couples, again, when they return with their children for Baptism (as we will be seeing, several times during 2019. Weddings at St Marys

Townsend. Meetings in the last year have demonstrated the Anglican churches commitment to key areas.

- Education. The new Church of England Secondary School at Wichelstowe will open in September. Synod heard from its Principal Linda Culling and discussed its priorities.
- Young People. Our Deanery supported a group of young people (including 3 from Swindon) to visit Uganda during the Summer. For most of them this was their first experience of travel outside the UK and had a significant impact on them.
- Learning and Developing lay leadership. Two new courses Growing leaders and Bridgebuilders started in the Autumn hosted at Toothill.
- Church growth. A new church plant at the old Swindon Pattern store was established in December. It will aim to attract and grow in discipleship new Christians who are under 40. This is part of a wider Diocesan strategy.
- Community. Deanery Vice Chair David Cain led a moving tribute to all those from Swindon who died in the Great War, this was combined with learning about the life of a current army chaplain.
- Prayer. In all 3 meetings of Synod members have learnt about the needs of our diverse area and prayed for one another.

Synod meetings are open to all and give Anglicans of all backgrounds the chance to learn from and support one another.

Revd Capt Clive Deverell, in addition to being Vicar of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze, is also Area Dean. His work means holding the Deanery clergy and Churches together, taking responsibility for those Parishes in vacancy, and with the Deanery Lay Chair, producing a dynamic programme for Deanery Synod.

Baptist Area

Our engagement with the Baptist community continues to be sparse. One of our members attended the WEBA (the West of England Baptist Association) AGM, where much attention was given to the 72 project. Baptist churches have been focussing on the New Testament passage where Jesus sent out 72 disciples to spread the good news.

The association is suffering from falling rolls, and so falling income, but usually the local churches pay their own ministry costs. Some churches that had been supported by Home Mission fund are now self-supporting. The funding issues with the pension scheme continue, but have improved.

We send our subscription to BUGB (the Baptist Union of GB), and a contribution to the Home Mission fund. We receive interesting and encouraging monthly

newsletters from BUGB and a fortnightly one from WEBA which we circulate among the trustees. We continue to struggle to find people to engage with the local group meetings and activities, though we did join in with the national “Thy Kingdom Come” initiative, also supported by Baptists.

Methodist Circuit

Over the last few years a lot of effort has been made on both sides to strengthen the relationship between the Partnership and the Circuit. This has worked through representation from both sides at Circuit and Partnership meetings, preaching and leading worship, and involvement in monthly meetings of presbyters. The relationship has been strengthened further since September last year when Rev Rachael Wilson was appointed to work as a Methodist minister within the Partnership, with specific focus at Toothill. As communication continues to increase between us it is hoped that the mutual support and encouragement will grow in ways that enrich both the Partnership and the Circuit.

URC

Our ties with the United Reformed Church (URC) remain strong especially as we have adopted and are implementing the Safeguarding Policy of the URC. As our representative at the South West Synod David Hoar attends the Synod meetings along with Rev Gerald England who is the URC Pastoral Advisor and a regular attendee at Partnership Council meetings.

David, with others, offers his skills in mentoring others including one of those on the Growing Leaders course, who will soon be assisting to lead worship. The closeness of all denominations working together at grass roots level works well within our Partnership and this can only be good for the future.

Safeguarding

We have 92 DBS-checked volunteers working regularly or occasionally with those who might need safeguarding, a significant increase, due mostly to growth in the primary schools team. We continue to make slow progress implementing safer recruiting procedures and regularly refreshing training. We continue to be challenged to effectively support our volunteer workers, primarily because those supporting are generally themselves volunteers.

In 2018 we updated our safeguarding policy, merging the safeguarding of children and adults at risk. Further implementation process changes will be needed.

This year we have reacted effectively to a couple of false alarms and complaints, that did not involve harm to anyone at risk. We have had no safeguarding issues of major concern.

Some families have left as their children have grown into teenagers and new families have joined, this means that in our planning of activities we have to consider the needs of toddlers as well as those starting secondary school. Several teenagers help run activities and are a valued part of the team.

Messy church is funded by our Church Partnership but we invite families to make a donation towards the cost. Volunteers give generously with time and materials. This enables our costs to stay within the budget of £250 we have been given.

For the year ahead we hope to integrate more Holy Habits into the life of Messy Church through our monthly activities and especially through growing friendships and encouraging families to continue to pray and share stories of faith at home.

Schools Work

In 2018 our aim was that we would continue to support our local primary school children’s spiritual development and religious education by working collaboratively and creatively with teachers to enhance the RE Curriculum through Collective Worship, lessons, experiences, and visits to our Churches.

We are extremely thankful for the invitation schools have shown us over the year to become part of their communities and the opportunities we have been given to support the childrens RE education. As Christian visitors in our local schools we hope that in all that we have done the love of God has been evident in our lives. It has been wonderful to be able to share with children and teachers from all different faith backgrounds as we have continued learning to live out our faith in community. Our ministry has enabled us to continue building long and lasting relationships between our Churches and our schools.

Running holiday club and workshop days enabled us to have great fun sharing Bible Stories in creative ways. This year we extended our age limit to enable secondary children to continue being part of our holiday club family. It was wonderful that some of Claire’s young people were able to join us. Our adventure to the Rumming’s farm in the summer was a highlight of the year.

Gayle continued to be the paid Schools Workers (10 hrs), supported by a team of 32 volunteers across the year. People have been extremely generous with their time, gifts and skills. An estimated 500 volunteer hours have gone into the planning, preparation and delivery of our school sessions and holiday clubs. The budget has mainly been spent on craft materials and the Christmas Bible Society Christmas Books.

Gayle has actively been involved in the Diocese Engaging Younger Generations Meetings, attending Mentoring Training, and has recently taken on the Schools

We have a mixture of children from mainstream and special needs schools. In the autumn term we based some of our activities on the film 'The Greatest Showman' and thinking about what it means to be unique, loved and special to God.

Then it was time for the Christmas show put together by the young people, around the theme of using our talents to bless others.

Looking ahead, the Monday club young people have helped plan our programme for next year, this includes many new creative activities.

Messy Church

West Swindon Messy Church meets once a month at Shaw and is part of a global network of Messy Churches. Each Messy Church may meet at a different time or place but they share similar aims. We work as a team of around 13 people from each of our Partnership churches to meet those aims:

We aim to be Christ Centred. Our common interest in crafts and games is a springboard into a deeper understanding of God, of each other and of his world.

Each Messy church session includes a short celebratory act of worship linking our theme with activities done. Over the year more helpers, parents and young people have taken part in this and everyone engages with the interactive prayers.

We aim to be hospitable. Having a meal together is an important part of the Messy Church experience and it is when families sit and chat together that new friendships are made.

We aim to be creative. Most of our sessions are based on those provided by the Messy church magazine but we like to develop some of our own ideas too. Memorably we have created balloon powered cars, cooked flatbreads and created some wonderful collages. Adults create alongside the children and everyone enjoys making something special.

We aim to develop Christian habits particularly of prayer and generosity and as a Church contributed to the Shoebox appeal.

Over the past year we have welcomed 21 families to at least one Messy Church session. Some are part of our wider church family others have more tenuous links with our churches. It was encouraging to see several regulars take part in the Christmas nativity at Shaw.



Areas of focus for 2018

In 2018 we said we would:

- Continue to work through questions of vision and strategy
- Local emphasis on our relationships with schools (especially around 100th anniversary of end of WW1)
- Continue to build on our link with Katikamu Ssebamale School
- Engage with the Holy Habits initiative, increase discipleship in our congregations.

Questions of Vision

We have convened several meetings of all of the leadership teams across the partnership, to consider updating a vision for our mission. The sessions have been encouraging and educational as we begin to find out more about the local situations faced across our area. We have many similar challenges and though our local priorities may differ, we are getting close to agreeing a vision and some mission statements. We will continue to work on setting this out and will look for actions as a result in 2019.

Relationships with Local Schools

Our West Swindon Schools Together WW1 Commemoration was a huge project to plan, prepare and deliver, but it was worth all the hard work when our schools came together at Lydiard Park Academy to remember the ordinary people of our community whose lives were changed forever by WW1. The story of Victor Newman, our local young WW1 Soldier was poignantly brought to life by the LPA Students and the joint choir sang with great emotion. The feedback from all the schools was that the Commemoration was a special and moving event for all their pupils.

Our 'There but not there' figures and WW1 Stations at St Marys enabled those who visited to take a moment of quiet, to commemorate, contemplate and pray. Visitors commented that the figures were thought provoking and that it was helpful to find a tranquil space to reflect peacefully.

At the Opening of the Field of Remembrance every school in West Swindon came to take time to remember and reflect. Remembrance poppies were planted by all the children and teachers, adorned with personal and loving remembrance messages. Approximately half of those present at the service were children and young people which is an encouraging sign of respect and a message of hope for the future.

All our schools will be offered some soil from the 'Field of mud, seeds of hope' instalment during our Easter activities. As the children plant and watch the poppy

seeds grow, we will encourage them to pray that peace and hope will flourish in their lives and around the world.

We re-authorised our Foundation Governors at Oliver Tomkins CofE School. There are vacancies on the governing body, and we are still looking for people to help.

Link with Katikamu Ssebamale School, Uganda

We were very encouraged to receive a letter from the Luweero Diocese letting us know the school we are partnering have appointed a new head teacher. We also received photographs of the newly concreted floor and plastered walls of the classroom, that we paid for. All in all, excellent news. We will send a small delegation of visitors to Uganda in 2019, carrying a contribution from the further funds we have collected. We hope to deepen our relationship with the new head and find out much more about the school situation, learn from them, and possibly find more specific ways in which we can help. It is important to us that the money we send abroad is wisely used, by people that we know. It is equally important that the school in Uganda gets the most benefit from what help we can offer.

Primary schools in our area are particularly interested in the link, and we intend to send cards and greetings from our local children, to those in Uganda.

Holy Habits

In the summer of 2018, we began introducing the “Holy Habits” initiative. Holy Habits are ten activities that Acts 2:42-47 shows us were practiced by the early church, and which are relevant today in helping to develop Christian discipleship. Each theme is called a “Habit” with a two-month focus, encouraging an in depth understanding and application. Over the summer Sunday sermons introduced the Holy Habits concept. The first spiritual theme “Worship” was presented in Sunday services over November and December. Over 2019 six more Holy Habits themes will be presented throughout the partnership: these will include “Biblical Teaching” and “Prayer”. Mostly presented during Sunday services other activities will include a monthly Bible Study group and a Holy Habits focus in home groups.

Each of the fellowships are being encouraged to think of creative, imaginative and engaging ways to develop the habits not just on a Sunday but in our daily lives as well.

Each habit builds on the one before to help us grow spiritually as individuals, church fellowships and as a Partnership, that we can be more open to the Spirit, more centred on God and more able to share his love with others. Motivating the need for mission within the churches with a common sense of unity in the Partnership.

Members were involved in a global service of prayer against gender based violence. We ended the year with an Advent service.

Our members have been very active in the support of St Marys Church and are involved in church cleaning, flower arranging, serving drinks after Sunday services and providing refreshments when required. We contributed sandwiches to the “Filling Station” for the homeless in Swindon, and provided shoe boxes for Samaritans Purse

Children and Young People’s work

All of our local churches support children and young people on Sundays, and some midweek groups. These are described further and reported in the local church annual reports at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>, here we consider our joint efforts

Emerge

Monday club (after school) and Saturday club have continued apace, well supported by a steady team of committed volunteers.

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 year we have raised over £1000 for different charities – Comic Relief; Guide Dogs; Tearfund’s Toilet Twinning and locally, Twigs Community Gardens. Over the 10 years of emerge we have raised in the region of £7,000.

This year we lost one volunteer young person to University, but another has joined us. 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.

Relationships with families have strengthened over the year through our weekly contacts and through community meals and events (eg, Christmas Show, Easter Feast)

The summer workshops were great fun, with 18 young people attending overall. This included two new girls whose families contacted us through Aiming Hi. The young people enjoyed learning about the trees in Lydiard Park, using a ‘Tree I-dial’ which they made to help identify them. We also did lots of arts and crafts, eg tye-dye bags; T-shirt printing; Mosaic tiles; clay sculptures; cookery. Games in the park were led by one of our young people who is training to be a Leader with us.

- 1 April Easter Sunrise at St Mary's
- 1 April Easter Day at HTS
- 29 April, Partnership AGM, at HTS
- 20 May Partnership Pentecost Service at Westlea with Steve Henderson
- 17 June, Ecumenical Joint Confirmation at St Paul's Covingham
- 1 July, Evening Welcome Service for Rev Teresa Townsend at St Mary's
- In August we shared morning service between 2 of our churches each week.
- 2 Sept Methodist Circuit service and welcome to Rachael, at Toothill
- 22 October Communion at Toothill
- 4 November Memorial service at St Mary's
- 25 November Toothill's 40th Anniversary
- 2 December Advent service at St Mary's
- 16 December Nativity festival at HTS
- 17 December Nativity workshop "Travelling Together", and service at HTS
- 18 December Open Air Carols in Lydiard Park
- 30 Dec Carols with Communion at St Mary's

We have tried a variety of new things as others have faded. The continued impact of the Parking Charges impacts greatly on the evening attendances for Partnership Worship in the Park.

"Encounter" continues after a successful start in 2017, on the 3rd Sunday of the month at HTS.

Holy Habits launched during 2018, it has proved a successful way of new thinking and discipleship; breaking away from the standard Weekly Lectionary for Readings and prayers ... it's provided a fresh look at "how we can do church".

St Mary's and Westlea continue to hold regular prayer meetings.

Mother's Union

2018 has been a very challenging year for Mother's Union with reduced membership due to ill-health We have had some excellent speakers, some entertaining and others informative.

Members attended Lady Day Service at Christchurch, where we had the opportunity of meeting our World Wide President Mrs Lyn Tenby. A Deanery quiet morning was held at St Marys, on the theme of "Following in the footsteps of Mary Sumner. We celebrated the 60th wedding anniversary of one of our members with cake and wine. A Wave of Prayer service followed by lunch was well attended.

The Community

Membership is expressed 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, but this causes us no problems.

Membership Summary

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
St Mary's	69	67	66	73	75	76	74	70	59	73
Holy Trinity	30	27	28	28	33	31	36	42	38	40
Toothill	31	28	35	34	36	32	39	42	40	39
Westlea	31	31	31	27	30	31	26	26	27	28
Total	161	153	160	162	174	170	175	180	164	180

(Figures before 2013, adjusted to reflect altered organisation)

Ministry and weekly services

The worship rota is arranged across the Partnership. Clergy, Local Preachers Lay Ministers and our team of trained lay people lead services and preach in their 'home' church, in the other partner churches and some across the Methodist Upper Thames Circuit. The Circuit also contributes worship leaders.

Denominationally Appointed Ministers	
Rev Capt. Clive Deverell	CofE Minister. Authorised to Serve as Methodist. Authorised URC Minister
Rev Trevor Day	CofE Assistant Minister
Rev Teresa Townsend	CofE Curate (from June 2018)
Rev Rachael Wilson	Methodist Minister (from Sept 2018)

We are grateful to the following members of the Partnership who are authorised by our denominations to lead services across our churches:

Denominationally Authorised Ministers	
Rev Jan Partridge	(Methodist Circuit Supernumerary) - pastoral training
Rachel Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
Mark Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
David Hoar	URC Lay Preacher

We have four people attending the Exploring Christianity course, and several others who have been exploring whether to become candidates for Ministry in the Church of England. Two more are continuing their training to be Lay Preachers in the Methodist Circuit.

Locally Appointed Ministers		
Claire Camm	Youth Work manager	
Gayle Bryon	Schools Work manager	
Mary Poole	Messy Church Leader	
Lay worship leaders		
Heather Benn	Sue Green	Mary Poole
Gayle Bryon	Stephen Kershaw	Mark Taylor
Ian Bryon	Jacqueline Kirwan	Pat Watson
Janet Clarke	Angela Mak	Sarah Wilmott
Wendy Deverell	Ed Poole	Richard Williams

Other Groups:	
Westlea Leadership Team	Holy Trinity Shaw Worship team
Local Church Home Group	Worship Enabling Group
Team Toothill	St Mary's Ukuleles
St Mary's Worship team	

Our partnership's 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 Free-Church styles.

Messy Church is a missionary congregation aimed at families with young children. It is lay-led and resourced from the other "Sunday morning" churches.

Partnership activity "Encounter" (monthly study and exploration of faith) at Holy Trinity Shaw

Toothill have been hosting weekly worship on Wednesday mornings (from this year onwards after Easter, only during Lent and Advent).

We continue to meet for Morning Prayer on Fridays at Holy Trinity (during School time); our book for reflection this year was "City of God; Faith in the Streets" by Sara Miles, then later in the year "Return to Love" by Marianne Williams.

Administrative and Support	
Mrs Brenda Hicks	Partnership Administrator (to Aug)
Mr Graham Stockill	Partnership Administrator (from Sept)
Mr Steve Kershaw	Partnership Chair
Mrs Sue Green	Partnership Treasurer
Mr Chris Scarisbrick	Partnership Secretary and Safeguarding Coordinator

Usual Weekly Attendance

	2018		2017		2016		2015		2014		2013		2012	
	Adult	Child												
St Mary's	63	9	68	10	57	9	59	12	72	12	69	12	85	12
Holy Trinity	32	4	33	8	34	8	36	8	36	16	27	3	25	5
Toothill	24	7	25	8	29	9	25	5	27	5	28	4	32	7
Westlea	24	5	22	5	26	6	24	7	25	9	23	9	24	10
Total	143	25	148	31	146	32	142	31	160	42	147	28	166	34

Figures adjusted to include Messy Church other non-weekly services etc

Joint Partnership Worship

Several joint Services were organised in 2018:

- The Gathering - termly sharing session around youth and children's work
- Encounter - monthly reflective worship at HTS
- 28 January Covenant Service at HTS with Ruth Whitehead
- 14 Feb Ash Wednesday at Toothill
- 25 Feb Partnership Come Together at HTS
- 25 March, Palm Sunday at Toothill with Gerald England
- 26-28 March ~ Compline at St Mary's
- 29 March ~ Maundy Thursday "Washing of Feet" at HTS
- 30 March Good Friday at Westlea (10am), Holy Hour (2pm) at Toothill and St Mary's Tenebrae (7pm)