



West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership



**Annual Report
for the year ending 31 December 2020**

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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 2021

Our Partnership Council Executive propose the following areas of focus:

- Ensure our Trustees and leadership have training and knowledge to lead us.
- Emerge from COVID-19 lockdowns with intact communities and stable finances
- Find areas where we choose to work together, given the possibility that in future there may be no formal LEP here.
- In the Autumn, reflect on Messy Church, our work with Schools and youthwork, and those involved.
- To rebuild respect for those called to serve with our Churches and the denominations within the Partnership.

Prayer for our Partnership

Lord God, we thank you
for calling us into the company
of those who trust in Christ
and seek to obey his will.
May your Spirit guide and strengthen us
in mission and service to your world;
for we are strangers no longer
but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom.
Amen.

The restricted funds are being held against future building related work and the family work funds.

The individual churches and the partnership try to keep 6 months of expenditure as reserves. This is estimated to be £140,000. The current level of reserves is below this.

Our financial controls were reviewed to enable them to continue to be effective and adequate.

Katikama Sebamale Primary School, Luweroo Diocese, Uganda
£1010 was collected in 2020 and this along with £1080 from previous year was transferred to them for their school building work and a piggy bank.

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, Heather Benn, Claire Camm, Janet Clarke, Clive Deverell, Edward Glennie, Sue Green, David Hoar, Steve Kershaw, Jacqueline Kirwan, Angela Mak, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Pete Rogers and Chris Scarisbrick

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. Rev Lis Arnold (CofE) has Permission to Officiate in the parish.

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.

Financial Review

The Partnership's main source of income is the share from the churches. We get a few donations straight to the Partnership. We also collect money from weddings and funerals fees. Virtually all of the fees income is then passed back out to the diocese or clergy, organist, vergers, clerks and the churches for the use of the building. 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. This is where the bulk of our charitable aims are met, however an increasing amount is done by volunteers which is not financially quantifiable. A small amount is then left for general expenses including Hook cemetery maintenance.

The URC SW Synod held funds on deposit relating to the West Swindon Manse, however the Manse was sold in 2020 and this money reverted back to the URC to be split between the URC, Methodists & Baptists, as it was for repairs and maintenance of the property.

Emerge's restricted fund received a second grant from the Wiltshire Community Foundation of £5000 in the early part of the year. This money was used to run the after schools' group, training and workshops for young people with special needs, and covers salaries, expenses and equipment. This fund has now been wound up and voluntary youth work will come under the general fund.

The Family Work restricted fund was used on equipment.

Our building funds, generated from grants, donations and fund-raising events, though consolidated into the Partnership's accounts, are held and administered locally in each of the relevant churches. Responsibility for these funds is delegated to the individual churches' treasurers. For details on these and the churches general funds see the individual Churches' Annual Reports.

In the consolidated accounts the total unrestricted income was £109,279 and restricted was £57,596. The unrestricted income was only down £21k on last year due to church temporary closures.

The total unrestricted expenditure was £129,002 and restricted was £420,795.

The unrestricted expenditure was down £18k on last year, this was mainly due to less building work and church temporary closures.

The reserves being carried forward were £88,058 for unrestricted and £128,040 for restricted.

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>

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 (till Oct) Jacqueline Kirwan	Mary Poole Pat Watson Angela Mak
Elected Members	Gayle Bryon Claire Camm Janet Clark	Peter Gilder David Hoar Pam Ray Edward Poole
Circuit Superintendent Minister, and Circuit Steward (ex officio)	Rev David Perkins Andrew Fleet	
URC Synod Pastoral Adviser	Rev Gerald England	

The PC met 3 times in 2020, in February, March and July, in addition to the delayed Annual General Meeting for 2019, finally held on 13 October. The July and October meetings were virtual (held using video conferencing) During the rest of the year, day to day operations and decision making was delegated to the Partnership Executive, with some major decisions being circulated for email vote. Main PC topics during the year were:

- Safeguarding including a large overhaul of our Safeguarding records.
- Income and expenditure; review of budget planning process
- The sustainability of our activities
- Operations in our buildings during COVID-19 lockdowns and actions to enable opening up safely.

The Partnership Executive met 10 times in 2020, mostly using video conferencing facilities.

Appointed Sub Groups handled specialist areas of work on behalf of the PC, and gave reports on progress. Most of the meetings in 2020 were virtual. The groups were:

- Local church committees and leadership teams
- Emerge Management team
- Messy Church team
- Primary Schools work team
- The “Veg Patch” – our worship programme planning group
- St Mary’s Conservation group, managing the day-to-day activities according to our Heritage Lottery Fund grant for conservation works.

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 membership trends in some churches

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

We have identified four risks that are beyond our direct control.

- 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.
- The inability for some of our denominations to post clergy to LEPs.
- Denominational reluctance to support Single Congregational LEPs such as ours
- Covid-19 pandemic causes our inability to meet in person and possible consequences to finances

All risks are monitored within the Partnership's governance processes.

Induction and Training of Trustees

There is no formal training process for trustees, however all PC members are formally inducted and made aware of their role and responsibilities at the first PC meeting after the AGM, and through discussion and briefing before and at meetings.

In 2020 we have been challenged in several areas about the responsibilities and delegations that exist in our decision-making bodies. It has consumed significant effort, and has been uncomfortable at times. We will make special efforts in 2021 to ensure our responsibilities are clear.

External Representation

Anglican Deanery and Diocese

Revd. Captain Clive Deverell stepped down as Area Dean in February 2020. Sincere thanks and best wishes to Clive.

Also thanks to Revd. Raymond Adams who took on Acting Area Dean.

A new Area Dean has been appointed in January 2021 The Revd. Trudie Wigley. Please remember her in your prayers

The Conservation Project Board (professional specialists plus St Mary's clergy and lay members) have met regularly on Zoom to oversee the project. New appointments have also been made to co-ordinate and support our Volunteers Guides and Stewards, and to undertake copywriting for various published items.

Continued work to secure matched funding gifts has helped to keep the finances on track, and the Project has repaid £20k of the £30k generously loaned from the Partnership. The balance (2 x £5k) will be repaid in the first half of 2021.

Despite the severe disruptions faced during the year it was still possible to open the Church to visitors on Heritage Open days in September, and on some Sunday afternoons for private prayer.

The Project Board's thanks go to the Partnership and everyone who has worked hard and served to keep things going during an exceptional period. NLHF has noted this!

Pastoral and Occasional Offices

2020 has been the most challenging year of traditional Ministry

Baptisms/Thanksgivings, Dedications, Marriages/Weddings, Funerals

Have all been impacted by Covid 19, taking funerals and working with the bereaved has been our biggest piece of occasional office work in 2020, even then limited by the context.

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. However, this has been impacted by Covid 19 and the rules around visiting we hope to return to some form of norm in the future.

Partnership Office

Our admin office is no longer staffed. We can be contacted electronically, but appointments must be made to visit the office. This is partly as a response to COVID-19 shutdowns, but also driven by long term financial pressures. Most of the day-to-day administrative burden will fall on our clergy

Our web site <https://WSwinLyd.org.uk> is somewhat static, but a helpful central point of information. During the year we migrated to using secure encrypted communications to the web site. This is almost invisible to our users, but a wise precaution.

calls within the Diocese with Lucy Moore and the Church Army researchers where we fed back our observations.

- Sent out a monthly 'Messy Church at Home' sheet to families. This contains a link to a follow-up Zoom call and encourages families to make something they can share on screen with everyone.
- Met face to face in relaxed socially distanced sessions outside St Marys in August and September.
- Provided 4 families with activity packs at Christmas which were followed up with a virtual Christingle service on Zoom.

Feedback from families has been patchy but the team as a whole has gained in great deal through keeping in touch with one another and we have also learnt some new technological skills.

Throughout this difficult time the Messy Church organisation has provided constant inspiration and is starting to encourage groups to think and pray about what re-opening will mean. www.messychurch.org.uk

Oliver Tomkins CE Primary Link with Katikamu Sebamale School, Uganda

In the last year, Clive Deverell and Rahel Dams have acted as Foundation Governors at Oliver Tomkins school. The School has been like us heavily impacted by Covid 19 and will look at doing more in 2021.

St Marys Lydiard Tregoze NLHF Conservation Project

The final phase of the internal conservation started in January 2020. Despite the impact of Covid-19 was completed before Easter, to finish work on the newly discovered niche and other areas.

Contractors continued to work on site within the limitations of Covid-19 restrictions. Refitting the Vestry and installing new heating and lighting systems were among the achievements. A new improved sound system was also now installed; and the font pedestal has also been lowered to floor level, making access a little easier for future baptisms!

So, the physical work on the conservation is almost complete – with new noticeboards, display cabinets and interpretation panels to be fitted in early 2021. The newly opened up welcome area by the main door will look very different! That leaves the community-based project activities to complete - important links with the many Visitors to the Church, and activities with local Schools. These have been delayed in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions, but hopefully now taking place in 2021.

Deanery Synod February 2020 – key notes

Growing Leaders - Phill Harrison led evening meetings one a month and a full day session. 31 people signed up with much diversity in ages and background.

Exploring Christianity - Some 13 people are attending the present course. There is a requirement to write essays and this can lead to the appointment of further LLMs and in some cases the ordained ministry.

Deanery Synod July 2020 – key notes

£3000 raised for our Uganda links

Bishop Viv's address - Much pain but also steadfastness in the Diocese. She reflected on Job, and how he found hope in facing up to reality and facing his emotions honestly with God. "Job's "resurrection" was a signal of new life."

We will have to face up to the challenges and changes, and be responsive and sensitive to the poverty of many, the despair hiding behind closed doors, and the desolation of the young as a result of the pandemic.

Diocese struggling from considerable loss of income during the pandemic.

Much praise for the way in which churches have responded to the changed world, reaching out to their members, and adapting to virtual contact and worship.

A question to pose is how do Christian communities react with our neighbours and those who have never known Jesus?

Archdeacon Christopher - There is a possibility of money being available for digital equipment – Chris Priddy in the diocese is the contact.

Transforming Church - The Diocese is launching a wide-ranging engagement and listening exercise, '**Transforming Church. Together**' This process will help us to understand what we do well, what we can change for the better and how we can create a positive way forward together in the way of Christ. The aim is to obtain responses from as many people as possible, not just those involved in leadership.

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/transformingchurch/> is the link to fill in the questionnaire and find out more about Transforming Church.

Diocesan Synod

The Covid 19 situation meant that the last two Synods were held on line, the one we met in person in early March focused on DAC and environmental issues. The first online we focused on prayer, with Bishop Viv leading us. The second we received feedback from General Synod, the HTB plants and Mission areas within the Diocese. Most importantly, it passed a negative budget for 2021, which in the long term is unsustainable so decisions will need to be made in due course about how to balance the books post covid.

Baptist Area

During 2020 WEBA sent out a survey to churches asking for age profile of the group, what had helped the group – we chose following Holy Habits, how we deliver the gospel to over 65's or minority ethnic groups and how we developed leadership skills. We sent the response sheet from Westlea church back to WEBA. Westlea might be the only church in our partnership where membership has increased over lockdown. One question on the survey asked about help required to deliver the Christian message and we chose 'Availability of suitable training resources and ideas that would assist us.'

During 2020 several Baptist churches began live streaming services on YouTube. Chipping Sodbury Baptist church has done this. Leadership teams seem to be meeting in some churches many of the churches were collecting items for the 'box of hope' project and they are still doing this as we go through 2021. As well as food and games these now contain pens and exercise books. The scheme works with local schools. Gorse Hill Baptist in Swindon is part of this scheme. Gorse Hill has also recorded many sermons from 2020 which can be downloaded or borrowed on CD.

At the end of 2020 grants were distributed to churches with planned activities to advance the gospel. Gorse Hill received £10,000. Baptist churches were still producing newsletters with a whole year summary in the December issue informing folk about the listening project now on video, coronavirus guidance and the prayer days. Baptist churches all join together to pray for their missionaries the last one was January 31st, 2021. Each Baptist church supports a missionary linking them into work back home.

In summary, everyone is working flat out making resources, packing boxes of hope, recording listening to God videos, or working on ideas to relieve poverty.

WEBA churches will all support Fairtrade fortnight, Spring Harvest, Christian Aid week and the Christian Resources exhibition in 2021 just as they did in 2020. They are still following the '72' Listening, Looking, Living and Learning.

Methodist Circuit

Our relationship with the Upper Thames Circuit has seen some strains this last year. The proposed withdrawal of the Circuit from the LEP is significantly delayed. With the installation of a new Circuit Superintendent Minister and the complexity of shared buildings we now understand this will take several years to implement. It has caused awkward questions for all of our parent denominations and no answers are yet evident. We intend to keep being and doing partnership, and to explore new ways to partner even if our LEP may not have formal existence in future.

Pete, Clive, Heather, Gill and Liz. We welcomed Marie from HTS and Ann and Judith from ASLM which helped replace members who had stepped down (Gayle and Sue). The new members had a brief taste of our COVID-19 secure filming set up at HTS before we went into further lockdowns where they gamely rose to the challenge of tackling home filming! Here is one of our first home filmed assemblies as a new team together. [Double Your Money Open the Book Assembly](#) I hope you enjoy spotting some familiar faces/voices and promise Edward (the rich man) is not nearly so scary in real life!

The Open the Book Team have received a lot of positive feedback from schools saying how important and valuable these assemblies have been to learning in the pandemic and how they would like to continue receiving these assemblies for as long as possible. Even before lockdown Peatmoor and Westlea schools had expressed a desire for an in person OTB assembly so naturally we were very pleased to be able to offer the weekly online assemblies to them. Looking ahead to 2021 the team and churches need to be thinking how we might "go back" when in person teams are able to return to schools, perhaps in late summer or September. Could the current team be expanded or new teams formed to serve Peatmoor and Westlea schools? What would the other schools and our Freshbrook friends like to see happen? And what is a sustainable way forward for all?

If you would like to find out more about Open the Book, the [Bible Society/Get involved/Open the Book Website](#) is a good place to start or you could talk to an open the book team member or school contact at your church and watch Gayle's [Open the Book Partnership Promotional Video](#). We would welcome new members to join us and can provide a happy team environment both virtually and we hope soon in person!

Messy Church

After the March lockdown the Messy Church team wanted to ensure that we continued to meet in some way. Fortunately, the worldwide Messy Church team has worked hard to support groups meeting across the globe and helped with resources that have enabled us to contact families at least monthly. As a result we have:

- Fulfilled our commitment to collect data for the Messy Church Discipleship Project. Material was adapted and sent to families, it included recordings taken in leader's gardens and You-tube links. We took part in two Zoom



Open the Book Assembly. Little did any of us realise the challenges that lay in the months ahead.

Heather's first recollection of helping make an "online" Open the Book Assembly was early summer when Gayle organised for the team to work together with Freshbrook Open the Book Team to create weekly online assemblies that schools could use in their classrooms and send home for children to use at home with their families. Gayle started by producing these at home in lockdown using her family as the actors and learning how to use the Movavi editing programme.

Gradually she got both OTB teams involved in filming and working together to produce these. And so, we went from one partnership and friends OTB team giving one in person monthly assembly at Shaw Ridge School to working with our Freshbrook friends OTB Team to produce weekly online assemblies for 8 primary schools across West Swindon! These are Peatmoor, Brookfield, Shaw Ridge, Tregoze, Hazelwood Academy, Oliver Tomkins, Westlea and Millbrook.

Our new found joy was overshadowed for a while with the news of Gayle's redundancy later that summer. Gayle continued to train, recruit, encourage and steer the OTB work until her handover to Heather in November. Heather became the Open the Book Team Leader for the Shaw Ridge Team and took on the role of Coordinator for the online assemblies, organising the filming, editing (with help from Tim at Freshbrook Church) and sending of the weekly assemblies into the schools.

As the pandemic pushed us into 2 further lockdowns, we had to think of new ways to film alone at home. The team have learnt how to film with our phones, how to use green screen technology to place a scenic background behind someone, how to send footage via WhatsApp and We Transfer and lately how to film using zoom! This has been a steep learning curve for everyone but has also allowed our confidence to grow and honed our miming and technology skills!

Gayle also made provision for non-open the book schools work, decentralising that work to each local church who now have "responsible church contacts" to steer this for each of the schools they serve. Within the partnership these are Clive, Angela, Rachel, Edward and Stephanie.

In the Autumn, Gayle got everyone involved in the wonderful Advent calendar initiative, both from across the partnership and from other local churches. This was a blessing not just for the children and schools but to everyone in the churches who got involved and then used the calendar personally through advent.

Gayle also made a short Open the Book promotional video (see below) to help raise awareness in our churches of what the Open the Book teams have been doing, usually do and how we really need your help going forward. Happily, this resulted in 3 new members joining the existing Shaw Team of Edward, Stephanie,

The circuit look forward to Sept 2021 and the new Super. In preparation they have asked our leadership to meet with the Circuit leadership to chat about mission priorities.

URC

SW Synod cancelled the meetings for March and October and was conducted by Zoom for the principal people only.

The URC left it up to each church to decide to open when government allowed and gave out a set of guidelines to follow which were updated regularly according to government policy. URC also allowed Communion in the Zoom services by its churches as well as producing a recorded weekly service which goes out every Sunday at 10.00 am. Guidelines on how to look after a closed church were also sent out to prevent water leaks and waterborne diseases from occurring and to ensure weekly checks are made on the empty buildings.

Safeguarding

The number of people we have working with children or those who may be at risk varies, but at the time of reporting was 74. We have had one minor incident of safeguarding concern in 2020. It was an issue of inappropriate behaviour, no-one was at risk. We consulted with our URC safeguarding advisor and the issue was dealt with privately in a meeting with them and one of our community. It was unnecessary to refer this any further and we believe the matter is closed.

Despite not being able to meet in person for much of the year, we have been able to continue working with our children and vulnerable communities, if online. During lockdowns we have continued to improve our documentation tracking, though at a reduced rate.

In doing our work of safeguarding the Partnership Council have followed the advice and guidance of the United Reformed Church Synod Safeguarding Officer. According to section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, the PCC have given due weight to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

Areas of focus for 2020, reviewed

- Stabilise our long-term finances - Our outgoings have been reduced considerably by making the staff redundant and will enable budgets to be made to balance once the churches incomes have stabilised after the conservation work and Covid-19. Partnership reserves are currently just under 6 months of planned expenditure, which is at a prudent level.
- Resolve outstanding Safeguarding documentation concerns from partner overseeing denominations - During lockdowns we have continued to improve our documentation tracking, though at a reduced rate. We're not done with this
- Conclude the Holy Habits initiative and ask each fellowship to focus on growth discipleship in our congregations. All those Churches within the Partnership who were involved in Holy Habits completed it during 2020, the Day group for Jesus has been a direct result and at least one person is on a vocational path. Churches are more confident in setting their own agendas, some working individually others as a pair.
- Each church to take greater responsibility for the schools within its vicinity. Gayle did a fabulous job since July handing over to Heather and recruiting 3 new Open The Book volunteers. She continued to support and train the team and made an excellent handover.
- As individual churches we consider how we may wish to work together, given the possibility that in future there may be no formal LEP here. During 2020 we have found ourselves coping with circumstances none of us could have predicted. We have shared resources fairly well, our worship-at-home service sheets, pre-recorded resources and online meetings have been well received. The challenge to the future existence of our LEP has changed shape and schedule during 2020. We anticipate further challenges to our common life in 2021, so will continue with this as one of our focus areas.

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 apart from explaining to our parent denominations.

people to have contact with each other and provided a source of stimulating activity and challenge, as well as boosting their self-esteem through seeing their ideas and photos on the site.

The other main activity which has been developed in lock-down has been a weekly 'Zoom' session at the same time as our normal group session on Mondays. Through zoom, we have been able to enjoy 'meeting up' as leaders and young people each week, sharing noisy chat and also having fun with a weekly quiz which myself and different young people each week have organised and led. This has been extremely successful and parents have told me how much the young people have enjoyed it and that it has reduced their isolation and improved their mood.

Summer: After discussions with volunteers and parents, Claire decided that as a project we would venture into reality and start a 2-hour weekly group session outdoors of 6 max (adults and young people) at Lydiard Park. These began in July and ran through until the end of August. We had 4 adult volunteers (plus myself leading) who alternated, allowing 4 young people (again alternating) to attend. For the young people and families, these sessions were extremely important, as many were not able to go on holiday and other activities and groups were limited. Some of the children were shielding or from families with shielded members, so parents were very reluctant to let them go to more crowded groups or settings. Obviously, our activities were fairly limited compared to normal sessions, due to covid restrictions; however, we were able to provide meaningful and fun activities, as well, of course, as very important socialisation and respite opportunities. All activities were risk-assessed, as per normal. We also continued with the weekly Zoom sessions as not all the children chose to attend the park sessions.

Our last park session was in October and by then it was clear that we could not go back to meeting indoors so we returned to our 'lockdown group' – meeting on zoom and using the website as a means to keep in touch. We had a wonderful Advent, with activity packs which were sent to each child, including an Advent candle. Each week on zoom we lit our candles and completed a craft together from the pack then read part of the Nativity story together and prayed. Our final session was an online Christingle session and carols.

Schools Work

On Friday 20th March the prime minister announced the first closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Easter schools work was cancelled as children (and parents) embarked on their first experience of home learning in the remaining two weeks of the Spring term. That week was the last time Shaw Open the Book Team went in person to Shaw Ridge Primary School with their Monthly

For the summer term we are planning to study the Bible Society Course on the Bible. It's an eight session study and gives a very good overview of the book.

We still study, worship and pray for the first hour and then afterwards we have a time of virtual coffee, tea, biscuits and a chat. Members appreciate the informal nature of the study and chatting afterwards.

With tongue in cheek, if you are thinking of join us, don't just think about it join us! We will love to see you. It doesn't matter if you can only join us once month or every other month, we still love to see you.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

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 group 2020

Following national lock-down the Emerge Project became a virtual youth project, with a recommissioned website as the main tool for communication. This enabled the young people and families to keep in touch with each other each week, with the young people sending me their weekly news and photos of activities to upload. We have also encouraged social interaction through competitions and challenges, such as growing sunflowers; creating artwork; making Easter cards and gifts; and participating in a 6-week charity fundraising challenge with mini-challenges to do each day from 3 categories: 'Be Active'; 'Be Kind'; 'Be Creative'. The young people voted to donate their money raised (£150) to the local wildlife rescue charity 'Oak & Furrows'.

The website also provided weekly creative, educational and physical activity ideas (again often suggested by the young people). Through our 'Thoughts for the Week' webpage we have provided a spiritual focus; each week looking at a theme from a Biblical perspective, with questions to think about and a short prayer. Additionally, we offered all the young people the gift of an appropriate Bible, with choices of different translations and styles to meet their needs. Out of the group, 3 young people were very keen to take up this offer and I was privileged to take these round to them, engaging in positive conversations with parents.

Through the website, therefore, we have been able to continue with the main aims of our project which are: **to improve socialisation; develop skills and confidence; grow in community awareness; explore faith**. Parents have been very supportive and appreciative of the website which has enabled the young

Membership Summary

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
St Mary's	61	61	69	67	66	73	75	76	74	70
Holy Trinity	23	25	30	27	28	28	33	31	36	42
Toothill	31	31	31	28	35	34	36	32	39	42
Westlea	34	34	31	31	31	27	30	31	26	26
Total	149	151	161	153	160	162	174	170	175	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
Rev Rachael Wilson	Methodist Minister
Rev Lis Arnold	CofE Ordained Minister (Permission to Officiate)
Mrs Angela Mak	CofE Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)

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	
Rachel Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
Mark Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
David Hoar	URC Lay Preacher

Hazel Davis is training for ordained ministry within the Church of England. Two have had to stop worshipping with us, in order to continue their training to be Local Preachers in the Methodist Circuit.

Locally Appointed Ministers		
Claire Camm	Youth Work manager	
Gayle Bryon	Schools Work manager (until Dec 2020)	
Mary Poole	Messy Church Leader	
Lay worship leaders		
Heather Benn	Sue Green	Mark Taylor
Gayle Bryon	Stephen Kershaw	Pat Watson
Ian Bryon	Jacqueline Kirwan	Sarah Wilmott
Janet Clarke	Ed Poole	Richard Williams
Wendy Deverell	Mary Poole	

Other Groups:	
St Mary's & Holy Trinity Shaw Worship team	
Westlea Leadership Team	Team Toothill

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

One of the initiatives to grow out of Holy Habits has been the 'Day Group for Jesus' sessions run by Pete Rogers and Edward Glennie which meet fortnightly.

A growing number continue to meet for Morning Prayer on Fridays at Holy Trinity (during School time).

Administrative and Support	
Mr Graham Stockill	Partnership Administrator (until Oct 2020)
Mr Steve Kershaw	Partnership Chair
Mrs Sue Green	Partnership Treasurer
Mr Chris Scarisbrick	Partnership Secretary and Joint Safeguarding Coordinator
Mrs Julie Scarisbrick	Joint Safeguarding Coordinator

Mrs Maricon Alojado	Manager and supervisor for Claire and Gayle
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Usual Weekly Attendance

	2020		2019		2018		2017		2016		2015		2014	
	Adult	Child	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C
St Mary's	23	2	55	9	63	9	68	10	57	9	59	12	72	12
Holy Trinity	20	2	31	8	32	4	33	8	34	8	36	8	36	16
Toothill	24	3	24	3	24	7	25	8	29	9	25	5	27	5
Westlea	27	2	24	4	24	5	22	5	26	6	24	7	25	9
Total	94	9	134	24	143	25	148	31	146	32	142	31	160	42

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

Joint Partnership Worship

We just held one joint services in 2020, our commitment service on Jan 26th. For much of the year meeting together in person was not possible. We continued to circulate written services, share online services, and continued to meet over telephone and video conferencing facilities.

Prayer continues to be an important part of our lives within the Partnership and we believe this has deepened during COVID-19 lockdowns

Day group for Jesus

We started in May 2019, meeting twice monthly at Holy Trinity Shaw and we now have some 35 meetings under our belt. Meeting on Monday's in the afternoon has worked well and 7 of us regularly attend. We are a mixed lively bunch, from Shaw, Westlea and Toothill. The pandemic (plus a medical emergency or two) initially thwarted us, but with thanks to Zoom plus some stents, we were able to resume and carry on as normal.

We have been studying Spiritual Charisms and so far we have studied 27 of them. Learning from the likes of Tim Peake, that a bag of flour and two thunder-flashes (second set with a delay) is not the wisest of counsel.