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wspartnershipoffice@gmail.com

To publicise any News or Events in the next edition of In Partnership covering September, please send them to the office no later than 18 August.

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SWINDON, SN5 5PY.

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

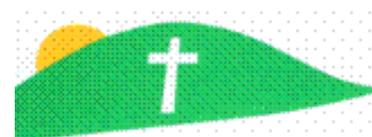
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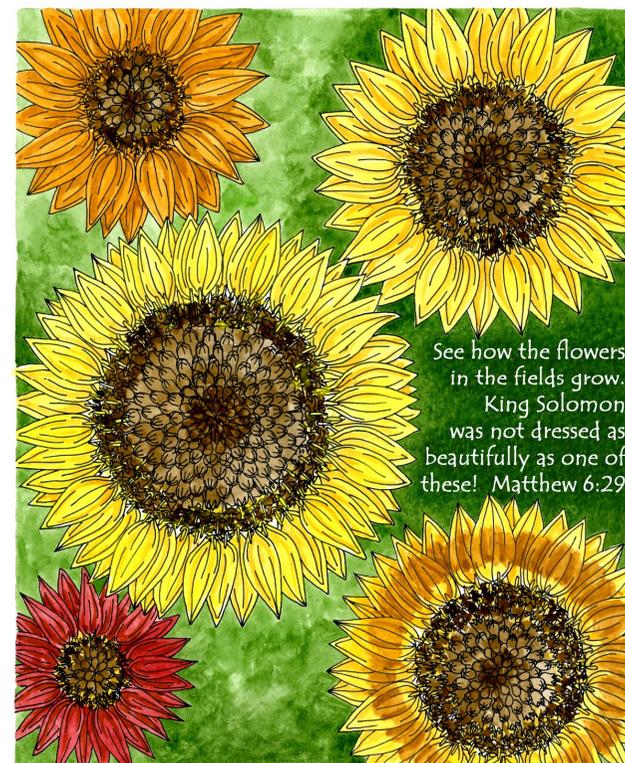
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In Partnership July/August 2016



I find myself increasingly drawn to the mystic tradition, particularly the concepts of the Divine presence and transformation. Spiritual leaders like Richard Rohr and Thomas Keating (I can't recommend reading their material highly enough) remind us that this is not a trendy new age phenomenon, rather it is found at the root of all major faith traditions, including Judaism. It was practised by the "Desert Fathers" and later the "Church Fathers" in early Christianity (Google them).

Karl Rahner (March 5, 1904 – March 30, 1984), was a German Jesuit priest who is considered one of the most influential Catholic theologians of the 20th century. The Second Vatican Council was much influenced by his theology and understanding. He said "In the days ahead, you will either be a mystic (one who has experienced God for real) or nothing at all." Richard Rohr repeats this quote in one of his retreat talks I am listening to, which encouraged me to look for more of them.

Two in particular struck me, resonated with me, and challenged me. I am still working through the questions, and wondered whether you might like to consider them also (of course it is fine if you would rather not). I am in no way pointing fingers (other than to myself), nor sitting in judgement (not even on myself), nor am I making comment or drawing conclusions in any way. I am simply asking questions of myself, reflecting on them, and hoping God will provide some insight.

The first quote from Karl Rahner is...

The number one cause of atheism is Christians. Those who proclaim Him with their mouths and deny Him with their actions is what an unbelieving world finds unbelievable.

My questions are...

How do I look when I peer into that mirror? I am mindful of the hurting, wounding and breaking that is felt across West Swindon and Lydiard Millicent at our parting. I am mindful of the past, but more mindful of the future. If I fail to reach out to my Brothers and Sisters at All Saints, in forgiveness, reconciliation and love, what chance do I have of loving my enemies, doing good to those who hate me, or praying for those who ill-treat me (Luke 6:27-28)? As I repeat the Great Commandment am I any more than a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal (I Cor 13:1). As I profess the second which is like it (Matthew 22:37-39) what will my neighbours make of me, will the communities I live in believe me. If I fail to reach out in love, then all my work, witness, ministry and mission count as nothing (I Cor 13:2-3).

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

05 June 2016 Victoria Jesca Mensima Bondah

05 June 2016 Hugo Sebastian Xavier Row

Weddings

02 June 2016 Bradley James Lower & Annabelle Grouvel

25 June 2016 Richard Daniel Steinmann & Nicola Jane Hall

PRAYERS

Please pray for:-

Pray for peace, stability and reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of Congo – that those affected by war and conflict will find hope and strength from God. May they know Jesus as their refuge and strength.

Time Travellers Activity Day at St Mary's on 28 July

Jan and Gordon's Golden Wedding Anniversary

Time Prayer

Father,

We are all so busy. We rush here and there, trying to meet deadlines, trying to fit more and more into our already full days. So often we seem to run out of energy and time. Sometimes we wonder what it's all about.

Help us, Lord to recognise that we *have* time. You have given us every day of our lives. Help us to choose wisely how we use our life time. Help us to spend time with you first; to learn your ways; to encounter the living Jesus in the Bible and in prayer. And everything else will fall into place.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

NSPCC SWINDON

The NSPCC Swindon Service Centre in Old Town is facilitating an innovative new programme called Pregnancy in Mind working with expectant and new parents through pregnancy and into their first year of parenthood to equip them with skills that support their mental wellbeing. Peer supporters are key to the success of this programme providing reassurance and a friendly face to support parents in the programme, helping them feel comfortable in attending sessions and encouraging them to make use of the skills they have learned once baby is born. Do you have approximately 4 hours per week for up to one year's commitment to this programme and would enjoy interacting with expectant parents on transition to parenthood? The centre is also looking for volunteers to help with driving and occasional crèche work..

Full training opportunities will be offered including supervision, travel allowance. DBS and references required. For further information please contact Jan Davidson on 01793 683100 or email nspccswindon@nspcc.org.uk

Christine Senior: Monday-Wednesday 0900-1700
NSPCC, Unit 5 Little London Court, Albert Street, Swindon SN1 3HY
01793 683100

The Queen's 90th Birthday Weekend

West Swindon & Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership celebrated the Queen's birthday with a series of events over the weekend.

The Toothill Cream Tea, held on Saturday 11 June, proved to be very popular with around 50 guests. All particularly enjoyed the singing and waving flags. Very like the 'Last night of the Proms'.

The services at Toothill Church and St Mary's on the 12 June were very well attended and everyone received a free gift to keep, in commemoration of this special time. At St Mary's Strawberry teas were available and the Bell tower was open too.

Some were lucky enough to receive 'The Servant Queen' a glossy book produced by Bible Society, HOPE and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity to celebrate The Queen's 90th Birthday.

It uses her own words to describe the central role of her Christian faith.

For copies visit: info@biblesociety.org.uk

The second quote from Karl Rahner is...

Grace is everywhere as an active orientation of all created reality toward God.

My reflections are...

Wow! Lord help me to experience the reality of that, not in my head, not in my heart, but in my belly, in my soul, at the deepest innermost part of me, and let me be transformed by it. Lord help me to let go of my ego, let go of everything that comes between You and me. Lord help me to recognise your endless love and grace, help me to receive it, to let it flow in and through me, help me to become one with it. I know I cannot love anybody, not even myself or my family, without you, for you alone are love, and all love comes from you. On my own it is impossible to love my neighbours, let alone my enemies, but you make it possible (Matt 19:6). Lord your advocate, your spirit, that is present in all creation, present at Jesus baptism, present at Pentecost, present in everyone I know and meet, present in my neighbours and my community, is the same spirit present in all my brothers and sisters at All Saints. May your spirit so guide and inspire me to recognise that reality, and through real transformation enable me to reach out to them in love.

My hopes and prayers are...

That the Spirit of God will help me (John 14:1) to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ as much with my actions as I do with my mouth, that I and the church universal might be credible, that the world might find us believable. Amen.

Mark Dowling

Life choice

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his mother for the reason of his distress, he gulped: 'Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver.'

Regular activities

2nd Sunday each month

Messy Church **10 July & 14 August**
4-5:30pm @ Shaw

Every Monday

After School Youth Group **None in August**
Contact Claire Camm 07981951381 **3:30 – 6:00pm @ Holy Trinity Shaw**

Every Tuesday

Coffee Stop **1:30 – 3:00pm @ Holy Trinity Shaw**

Bell Ringing **7-9pm St Mary's Bell Tower**

Remix Youth Group **None in August**
Contact Claire Camm 07981951381 **6:30 – 8:45pm @ Holy Trinity Shaw**

2nd Wednesday of each month

Mothers Union **13 July & 10 August**
Contact Doreen Henderson 07434377587 **2pm @ St Mary's Stable Room**

Every Thursday

Toothill Tinies **10-11:30am @ Toothill**

Parking at Lydiard Park

Regular worshipers at St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze please apply to the Church Warden for parking permits.

Please contact Pat Watson or Jacqueline Kirwan
at St Mary's Church

An Invitation to a Healing Workshop

and Healing Meeting with Ian Andrews

The Fathers Arms Church, Liden invites you to spend time studying and practising the release of Heaven's healing power. Ian Andrews' prophetic call is to see the healing ministry restored and fully functioning in the body of Christ so that everyone can minister in the healing gift. There is a strong focus by Ian to equip and release the anointing so that people have the confidence, knowledge and faith to move ahead in praying for people and seeing them healed. Ian's vision is to see healing taking place outside of the church and onto the streets and in the workplace, demonstrating the love of Father God in real, practical and life-changing terms.

We are holding a one day workshop on the 2nd July at the Upper Stratton Baptist Church, Green Road, Swindon, Wiltshire. SN2 7JA. We start at 2.30pm – 4.30pm. There will be a break for tea and a generous supper. The evening session will begin at approximately 6.30pm.

There will be opportunities for anyone to receive prayer for healing, so please invite any friends you feel would benefit. Please email Chris Bailey at the address below if you would like to book a meal. There is no charge for attending or for the meal. However there will be an opportunity to bless Ian and Rosemary and their worldwide ministry with an offering.

Please call Chris Bailey to book meal and for any further information you may require. 07771667765 email: aandcbailey@talktalk.net

Every Blessing Neil and Ruth Smith FATHER'S ARMS CHURCH
LIDEN

The Methodist Church

launches updated resource

The first major update to *Called By Name*, considered one of the Methodist Church's 'most important' publications, has just been released. This fully illustrated book of hymns, prayers, Christian art and images from contemporary life was originally published in 2005. It has served as a key resource in helping both lifelong and new Methodists understand the distinctive meaning of the Methodist Church.

Called by Name is available from www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

Creating Connections

...with The Chaplaincy Team at New College Swindon

We are looking for new Volunteers, to join our team of ordained and lay people. We're committed to offering pastoral and spiritual care to Students and Staff, of all faiths and none, and also arrange special events, with some worship and tutorial input. Based in Student Services, we have a dedicated Sacred Space for use with Students and faith groups.

Our Volunteers are normally in College one day each week for a couple of hours during term time. With 3000+ Students around, it's flexible, very varied and always interesting! Also a good a good opportunity to build new skills, part of continuing development.

If you are interested, or know of others, please contact Ed Poole at New College (07721 303105). Then maybe call in for an informal chat?

Engaging Younger Generations...

ed.poole@newcollege.ac.uk

Reading Party

02 August 1.00pm
Lydiard Park, Swindon
£6.50

One of the reading parties planned for this year will take place at Lydiard House. The book to be discussed is 'The curious incident of the dog in the night-time' by Mark Haddon, which is set in Swindon. Meet to visit house & garden at 1 pm, and/or gather for discussion at 2.30, followed by cream tea. Open to all.

Church Army Quiet Day

Monday 08 August 10.00am - 4.00pm
St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

This will be a Quiet day for the whole Church Army Community, an ideal opportunity for supporters and possible new members. The day will be made up of some input, silence and activity, using the stunning Church of St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze and the grounds and surrounds of Lydiard Park.



AT

ST MARY'S CHURCH

LYDIARD TREGOZE

Please come along to the

Partnership Flower & Music Festival

and

enjoy the beautiful sights and sounds

*including the Lydiard Park Academy choir,
Organ recitals and St Mary's Ukuleles.*

Entry for 'Times & Season' concert on Saturday 02 July at 7.30pm is £5 available on the door

For a small charge a Strawberry Tea will be available 2.00 - 4.30pm



Entry for the flower and music festival is by programme for a suggested donation of £2 per adult



Partnership Prayer and Praise

St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Sunday 31 July 2016

5.00pm

The theme will be "On the Beach"

28 August 2016

5.00pm

The theme for August is "Hymns and Songs of Great Faith"

Fellowship time 4.00pm in the Stable Room where refreshments will be available before the service

Everyone is Welcome

This is an opportunity to Pray and Praise together

Mothers' Union 140-Year Celebration

St Mary's Church, Stable Room

10 August 2016

2.00pm

To celebrate 140 years of the Mothers' Union, the St Mary's Branch would like to invite the Senior Citizens of the Partnership to Afternoon Tea in the Stable Room, 2.00 pm on 10 August 2016.

For more information, and to book a place, please contact:

Secretary, Jean Brock 01793 539456, or

Branch Leader, Doreen Henderson 01793 871190 or 07434 377587

Why celebrate 140th, rather than wait for 150th? In the first book of Samuel he marks an unlooked for victory against the mighty Philistines by erecting a stone, naming it "Ebenezer" meaning "stone of help" as a permanent reminder of the leading and guidance of God "Thus far has the Lord helped us".

Over the past 140 years, Mothers' Union has faced, and will continue to face, many challenges. Family life is under increasing pressure and the call on charitable resources is higher today than ever before. But we can look at how we are meeting these challenges and say, like Samuel, "Thus far has the Lord helped us."

www.mothersunion.org

15th July - St. Swithun

(or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day

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

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

22nd July - St Mary Magdalene

patron of repentant sinners

It is easy to understand the popularity of Mary Magdalene over the centuries: she is the patron saint both of repentant sinners and of the contemplative life.

Jesus drove seven demons from Mary, who came from near Tiberius in Galilee. She became his follower to the bitter end. She followed him to Jerusalem and was present during the crucifixion, standing heart-broken at the foot of the cross. Her love for Jesus did not end there, for she went to the tomb to anoint his body on the Sunday morning.

Such faithful, humble devotion was richly repaid: it gave her a unique privilege among all mankind: she was the first person to whom the Risen Lord appeared on Easter Sunday morning. She thought he was the gardener at first.

Mary Magdalene has sometimes been identified with the woman who anointed Christ's feet in the house of Simon (Luke 7:37). Over the centuries many artists have painted this scene. Mary Magdalene's feast has been kept in the West since the 8th century. England has 187 ancient churches dedicated to her, as well as a College in both Oxford and Cambridge.



Celebrating services for older people in Swindon



Come and find out about services for older people in Swindon and learn how to stay safe, secure, healthy and independent in your own home.

Free tea, coffee and cakes

Where: Community Centre@Christ Church, Cricklade Street, Old Town, Swindon, SN1 3HB

When: Tuesday 5th July 2016, 1pm to 4pm

Organised by Bluebird Care, this free event will feature stalls and displays from a range of charities and organisations working with and for older people. The day will be about celebrating older people and their contribution to society. In addition to the many stalls, visitors will be able to enjoy music from local pianist Lisa Williams and the Cantanti Choir. Refreshments will also be available.

Come along and meet

Healthwatch Swindon

Bluebird Care Swindon

Wiltshire Farm Foods

Alzheimer's Society

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust

Aster Group

Swindon Dial-a-Ride

Swindon Carers Centre

Age UK Wiltshire

Citizens Advice Bureau, Swindon

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service Prevention

Swindon Seniors Forum

Akcess CIC

SEQOL

Health and Wellbeing Ambassadors

The Samaritans

Care Planning Services

The Hearing and Mobility Store Ltd

Action on Hearing Loss

The Lydiards Link Scheme

...and more

For more information, please call Bluebird Care on 01793 239498

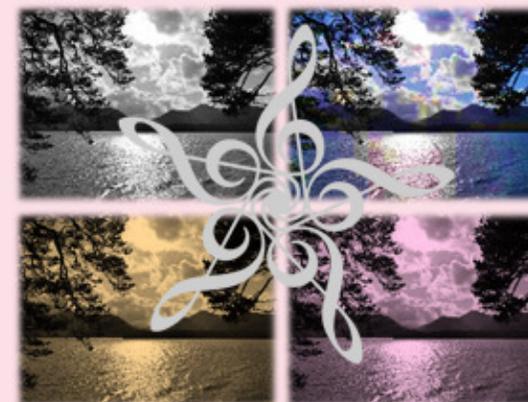
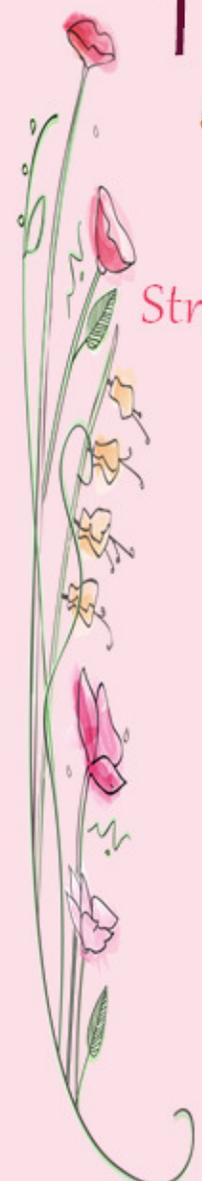
Bluebird Care, Suite E6, Gemini House, Groundwell Industrial Estate, Swindon SN25 5AZ

Times and Seasons

an evening of music from the Church Year

Presented by

Strictly Recorders & Wentworth Voices



St Mary's Church Lydiard Park

Saturday 2nd July 2016

at 7.30pm

Tickets £5 available on the door

All proceeds for St Mary's Church

St Mary's Flower and Music Festival

The Time Travellers Activity Day

St Mary's Church, Lydiard Park
Thursday 28th July 10am – 3pm
For Primary school aged children.



Time Travel for a day and discover the secrets of St Mary's.

Activities to include:
making a stained glass window
designing a heraldry
playing handbells
making a beeswax candle
brass rubbing



To register your child please phone the Partnership
Office on 874221 or email gayleschoolswork@gmail.com

The Battle of the Somme and the comfort of the Cross

On the 1st July 2016 we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and remember those who fought and died during the battle. The Somme was one of the deadliest battles of the First World War. During five months of combat, the total number of men killed, wounded and missing reached over one million.

A century later the battle scars still remain. It's still difficult to make sense of what happened and see God's place in the conflict. It challenges any image of a safe, problem-solving God who protects at all costs from pain and suffering. As Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane demonstrates, God is to be found in the pain: *Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.* (Luke 22:42). God did not take Jesus out of the situation, but was alongside in the agony.

Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy, the chaplain popularly known as 'Woodbine Willie', served at the Somme: *'We have taught our people to use prayer too much as a means of comfort; not in the original and heroic sense of uplifting, inspiring, strengthening, but in the more modern and baser sense of soothing sorrow, dulling pain, and drying tears; the comfort of the cushion, not the comfort of the Cross.'*

He is saying that prayer in itself won't save us from suffering, as it didn't save Christ from the cross. But it does enable us to fight evil in a way that will transform the situation, like Jesus going to the cross.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'



**The Battle
of the Somme**

Come and Celebrate

with

Jan and Gordon

July 30th

2-4pm

Cream tea

**We have been married for 50 years and
would like to invite you to join us at**

Toothill Church

**Please just come we don't want gifts - just your
company!**

Four lessons from Sport

This summer will be dominated by Sport, with everything from Euro16 to the Olympics in Rio. Despite the wide differences in the various sports, there are four things each athlete will have in common: focus, discipline, communication and commitment. Such things guarantee success in our Christian walk, too.

Focus. What is it you want to gain, above all things? Paul said: For me to live is Christ, to die is gain. (Philippians 1:21) That sort of commitment is the Christianity that will survive any persecution and hardship.

Discipline. Just as athletes immerse themselves in everything to do with their sport, surround yourself with Christian riches that will feed your mind and spirit. Deliberately choose good Christian music, read the lives of well-known Christians, and seek out mature Christians for friendship and even mentoring. Christianity is like sport, it flourishes best when it is enjoyed with others!

Communication. What would happen to an athlete if he or she stopped speaking to their own coach, for weeks on end? So this aspect begins with Psalm 46:10: 'Be still and know that I am God.' Fundamental to your faith is your prayer life alone with God. Jesus said 'No branch can bear fruit of itself, it must remain in the vine.' (John 15.4) The Psalms covers every aspect of our walk with God day by day – so if you don't know how to begin to pray, simply begin by praying the Psalms. And read the Bible every day. God speaks to us through the Bible and prayer – keep the lines of communication open!

Commitment. This is nothing more than the resolve to keep going, no matter what the obstacles. Paul had a driving ambition: 'That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death. (Philippians 3:10)

And the final result of all our efforts? 'Our citizenship is in heaven....' (Philippians 3.20).

The Book of Philippians

JOY THAT LASTS!

Church Services in the Partnership St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
03 July	10:00am	Morning Service
03 July	6:00pm	Choral Evensong
10 July	10:00am	Holy Communion
17 July	10:00am	Morning Service
24 July	10:00am	Holy Communion
31 July	10:30am	Partnership Service @ Toothill
31 July	5:00pm	Partnership Prayer and Praise
07 August	10:00am	Morning Service
*14 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:30am 10:00am	Communion @ HTS Communion @ Westlea
21 August	10:00am	Holy Communion
*28 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:30am 10:00am	Communion @ HTS Family Service @ Westlea
28 August	5:00pm	Partnership Prayer and Praise

Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
03 July	10:30am	Holy Communion & God.com/SS
10 July	10:30am	All Age Service
10 July	4:00pm	Messy Church
17 July	10:30am	Morning Service
24 July	10:30am	Morning Service
31 July	10:30am	Partnership Service @ Toothill
*07 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:00am 10:30am	Morning Service @ St Mary's Holy Communion @ Toothill
14 August	10:30am	Holy Communion
14 August	4:00pm	Messy Church
*21 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion @ St Mary's Morning Service @ Toothill
28 August	10:30am	Holy Communion

Toothill

Date	Time	Form
03 July	10:30am	All Age Service
10 July	10:30am	Morning Service
Weds 13 July	11:30am	Midweek Worship
17 July	10:30am	Holy Communion
24 July	10:30am	Morning Service
Weds 27 July	11:30am	Midweek Worship
31 July	10:30am	Partnership Service
07 August	10:30am	Holy Communion
Weds 10 August	11:30am	Midweek Worship
*14 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:30am 10:00am	Communion @ HTS Communion @ Westlea
21 August	10:30am	Morning Service
Weds 24 August	11:30am	Midweek Worship
*28 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:30am 10:00am	Communion @ HTS Family Service @ Westlea

Westlea

Date	Time	Form
03 July	10:00am	Morning Service
10 July	10:00am	Family service
17 July	10:00am	Holy Communion
24 July	10:00am	Swap
31 July	10:30am	Partnership Service @ Toothill
*07 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:00am 10:30am	Morning Service @ St Mary's Holy Communion @ Toothill
14 August	10:00am	Holy Communion
*21 August (Feel free to worship at)	10:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion @ St Mary's Morning Service @ Toothill
28 August	10:00am	Family Service

** We are piloting a different arrangement for August in 2016. So each church will have 2 Morning Services within the month.*