

Contact Information:

The Partnership office is open:

Monday, Thursday & Friday 9:00 – 12:00pm
Tuesday 8.30 – 11.30am
Wednesday 1.00 – 4.00pm

There will always be an up to date message on the Partnership Office telephone giving any changes.

The office number is 01793 874221. The office e-mail is:
wspartnershipoffice@gmail.com

To publicise any News or Events in the next edition of In Partnership covering October, please send them to the office no later than 15 September.

Due to holidays the October issue will be available 09 October

The address for correspondence is:
The Partnership Office, Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre,
SWINDON, SN5 5PY.

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

The Partnership web site is <http://www.wswinlyd.org.uk>

Partnership Team Minister: Revd Capt Clive Deverell
Email: clive.deverell@btinternet.com Tel: 01793 877111
(Anglican Priest and Authorised to Serve in the Methodist Church)

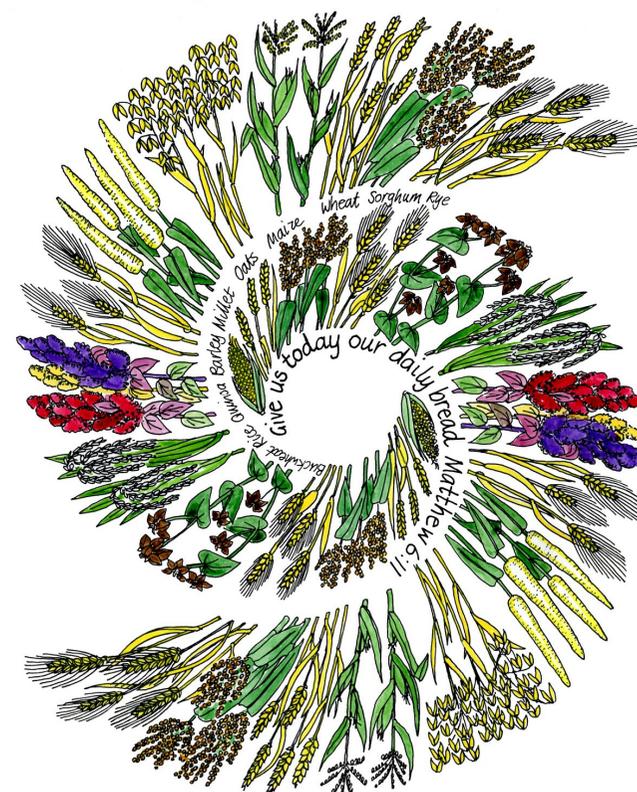
Associate Minister: Revd Trevor Day
Email: Trevor.Day@btinternet.com Tel: 01793 875373 or
Mobile: 07918 125826
(Anglican Priest)

Partnership Youth Worker: Claire Camm
Email: clairecamm1@gmail.com Tel: 07981 951381

Partnership Primary Age Schools Worker: Gayle Bryon
Email: gayleschoolswork@gmail.com



In Partnership September 2016 *Education Special*



Walking on water

Take time to look at the picture.
Picture by Reverend Ally 2016.



When you look at the picture what do you see?

Do you see a small boat floating far away?

Do you see a whole community of people walking and playing on the water?

Do you think about how and why they are walking on the water?

Do you think about why the boat is sailing away?

Can you imagine yourself in the picture?

This picture has fascinated me since I found it a few months ago. It has captured my imagination, my optimism but more than that it has captured my hope.

In my imagination this is the perfect picture of the Church of today. Young and old walking on the water, interacting, reaching out, encouraging, embracing, dancing, praying and playing together. My mind can create an image of something that is not truly present to my senses, something I can glimpse yet not quite grasp. A Church that is walking on water, reaching out and moving with the tide.

In my optimism I believe this picture shows me that life can be amazing. Our world can be a positive place of beautiful and affirming relationships. I see only joy, friendship, nurturing and love in the actions of the figures in the picture. I can believe that this picture is how the world can be. Yet, right now I am just a passive onlooker, a day dreamer, someone who is happy to have found this thought provoking image to spark my aspirations. The problem with my optimism is that it can fade quickly. If I turn away from the picture and look at problems around me I am soon treading water or beginning to sink.

So what about my hope. Where do I put my hope? If I put my hope in Jesus I know that just like the people in the picture things can be better. All I have to do is step out of the boat and walk on the water in community with others. Hope is something active, it is something real when placed in

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

10 July 2016	Grace Caroline Seabrook
10 July 2016	Marnie Elena Rose King
07 August 2016	William Lee Gardner
14 August 2016	Dexter Andrew Youngman
14 August 2016	Robyn Paula Youngman
14 August 2016	Georgia Lilly Kimber
21 August 2016	Max Andrew Frank Cassidy

Weddings

08 July 2016	Robert John Stopford Hartley and Hannah Louise Dann
30 July 2016	Bernie Malcolm Smith and Robyn Nina Hawkins
30 July 2016	Daniel Mark Young & Olivia Claire Keene
06 August 2016	Thomas Joseph White and Laura Beth Jefferies
13 August 2016	Shaun Christopher James Peachey and Sarah Kathleen Robinson

Funerals

17 July 2016	Sharon Pomphrey (Interment of Ashes)
--------------	--------------------------------------

PRAYERS

Please pray for:-

For our local schools using the prayers shown on pages 12 and 13.

For 2 Community bids endeavouring to gain lease hold of Lydiard Park

Thank You

Jan and Gordon Partridge would like to thank you for all your greetings and for making their 50th Wedding Anniversary Cream Tea Celebration such a memorable occasion

Driven by your faith, could you offer the unique services of friendship, hospitality, encouragement, support, care and a patient listening ear to someone leaving prison?

We are looking for people who want to put their faith to work by volunteering to be a mentor for someone who has been through the prison system but is wanting positive change as they return to life outside. We firmly believe that this is work that the church is called to do. MentorMe's staff team provide free, fun, engaging, high quality training and supervision to ensure that each of our mentors feels well supported and part of a team. Mentors need to be reliable, understanding, patient, and empathetic but we do **not** need them to feel that they are experts in this area - life experience and a good sense of humour are the only requirements!

Are you interested? Why not come and find out more?

Training Sessions with a view to becoming a mentor

Saturday 24th September

Saturday 1st October

10am to 4pm

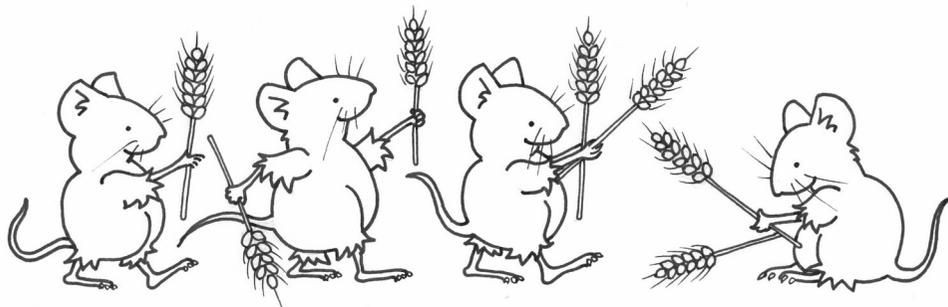
(both sessions must be attended)

Drinks provided but please bring your own lunch

Freshbrook Evangelical Church, Worsley Road, Swindon. SN5 8NU

To book a place email alison@mentormeuk.org 01179 685 676

MentorMe is a partner of the Sixty-One group of Bristol based charities, churches, businesses and individuals who have come together to work co-operatively to help ex-prisoners lead meaningful lives that are free from crime. www.sixty-one.org



Jesus. In the picture you can see it in the way the people are looking to each other. You can see it in their touch and embrace. And if we could hear their voices we would hear it in the words they speak of Jesus.

In the gospel accounts it is just Peter who steps out of the boat and walks on the water. The other 11 disciples or however many were present in the early hours of that morning stay in the boat. They see Jesus walking towards them but they think he is a ghost, they are frightened. Jesus tells them to *'take courage'* but Peter is the only one who responds by asking *'If it's you Lord tell me to come to you on the water'*. Jesus simply replies *'come'*.

Peter on hearing the word *'come'* uses his little bit of faith and steps onto the water. He optimistically walks towards Jesus but gets distracted by the weather, takes his eyes off Jesus and begins to sink. He calls out a little prayer of *'Lord save me'* and Jesus responds as an encouraging friend by reaching out his hand and offering reassurance. *'Why did you doubt?'* Jesus quizzically asks Peter. Just like Peter I easily get distracted and doubt. I constantly need the hope of the encouraging friend and the helping hand of the true guide.

The story of Peter walking on water is both amazing and uplifting because a little faith is enough, a little faith can make you walk on water and hope in the encouraging friend pulls you back up when you slip down. I always wonder if the other disciples wished they had stepped out of the boat that morning? Staying in the boat may have been comfortable but would they rather have got a bit wet and risked all to *'come'* and *'walk on the water'*.

The mind blowing thing about the picture drawn by Revd Ally is that all the people seem to have stepped out of the boat together. They have a sense of calling that is about togetherness, community, love and action. They have taken courage and stepped out onto the water to celebrate life in community on the ever changing tide. The encouraging hand of hope is offered to each other, while the boat freely drifts on the open sea. Their hope is safe and secure in the knowledge and love of Jesus.

Imagination and optimism have become a reality in the hope Christ offers. Our exciting adventure is to walk on the water together, with Christ as our hope.

Christ our ever present guide and helping hand.

So let's enjoy getting our feet wet!

Gayle Bryon

Regular activities

2nd Sunday each month

Messy Church **11 September**
4-5:30pm @ Shaw

Every Monday

After School Youth Group **3:30 – 6:00pm @ Holy Trinity Shaw**
Contact Claire Camm 07981951381

Every Tuesday

Coffee Stop **1:30 – 3:00pm @ Holy Trinity Shaw**
Bell Ringing **7-9pm St Mary's Bell Tower**

2nd Wednesday of each month

Mothers Union **14 September**
Contact Doreen Henderson 07434377587 **2pm @ St Mary's Stable Room**

Every Thursday

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

Time to Pause, Reflect and Pray

Remix youth group, our partnership weekly youth outreach will not reopen as usual in September following the summer break. Over the last year our leader numbers have reduced making it difficult to continue to run the group we were offering. In some ways this is a negative thing, but it is now becoming apparent that this is a blessing as it is giving the leadership time to pause, reflect, pray and strengthen our volunteer base. I believe that this will lead us to move in another direction – still reaching out to young people in our community, being and sharing Christ to and with them and their families – but in a way which is right for the present time.

Please pray with us that the seeds of new life which God is already planting will take root, flourish and grow over the next few weeks, months and years. Our God is an awesome God!

Claire, Tasha and Mavis

If in principle you would be interested in being part of this holiday (no firm commitment necessary yet but a deposit will be required at some time) please let me know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Paul Holloway, Circuit Steward. 01793 784479 or
p.d.holloway@btinternet.com

10 Day Pilgrimage

A comprehensive 10 day pilgrimage based in Jerusalem & Galilee.

7th - 16th November 2017 (so plenty of time to save up)

Cost: £1,795 (incls. full board, flights, air-conditioned coach for all trips, local guide, entrance into sites and all gratuities). Travel insurance extra if needed.

Anyone interested please simply contact me by email, debbie.hodgson@methodist.org.uk, or phone 01793 829335, for more information.

Volunteer with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA)

Since November 2014, BGEA have released two evangelistic My Hope films, The Cross and Second Chance. They have been received by over 17,000 churches, leading to hundreds of men, women and children alike giving their lives to Jesus Christ.

Seeing what God has done, we are determined more than ever to partner with more local churches to reach our nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This November a third evangelistic film will be released for churches in the UK – with three UK testimonies.

To maximise our coverage, we are looking for people who are called by God to help us spread the message. In the South West region, we have a number of voluntary positions available - a Regional Prayer Coordinator, Regional Administrator and a number of Area Church Relations Coordinators.

We would be so grateful if you could spread the word across the Christian community and advertise these vacancies for us.

If you are interested in obtaining details or application forms, or would like to discuss, please email us at myhopevolunteering@bgea.org.uk or call me on 07751 401300.

Joe Farnand - South West Regional Coordinator

Proposed Circuit trip to Oberammergau in 2020

Last Chance to Register your Interest!

In 2000 I organised a church pilgrimage/holiday to Austria and Bavaria to see the Passion Play that is performed every 10 years by the residents of the small Bavarian Village of Oberammergau. Several people have asked me whether I would be prepared to organise a similar trip to see the play when it is next performed in 2020.

Why mention this now when we are only part way through 2016, you may ask. Well there are a few reasons. Firstly, the play which is performed about 3 times a week throughout the summer (from memory from June to September I believe) gets booked up a long time in advance (with large numbers of tickets being taken by tour companies and operators) so to have any chance of getting seats for preferred dates it is necessary to apply in very good time. Secondly, the trip will, like most such trips, not be cheap, especially if there are several of one family wishing to come, so the sooner we start saving the better!

Michele and I have just returned from a holiday in Austria and whilst there I took the opportunity to speak to the director of the hotel that we regularly stay in, to ask whether he would be prepared, at a discounted rate for a fairly large party, to accommodate us. Not only was he happy to confirm that he would be prepared to do so but he also said that he would also be able to obtain the tickets for the play and to arrange coach transport for the party while we were staying at the hotel. That would only leave me to organise coach transport to and from the airport in the UK and also to organise the flights.

My suggestion at this stage is that if I can get some indication of the numbers of people who would be interested, then I could attempt to get some idea of the costs likely to be involved. I anticipate a coach from here to either Heathrow or Gatwick, flights to and from the UK to (preferably) Innsbruck or Munich, 7 days accommodation at Hotel Seespitz, Seefeld in Tyrol Austria and seats for a performance of the play.

I anticipate that some people may not know about the play, suffice it to say that it is a wonderful re-enactment of our Lord's Passion leading up to his crucifixion. If you put Oberammergau Passion Plays into Google you will find numerous websites which give information about the play, its history etc. and www.seespitz.at will take you to the Seespitz Hotel website. Seefeld itself is ideally placed to get to a host of interesting places in the Tyrol and Southern Germany.

Comedy Soiree with Tony Vino

Wednesday 07 September 2016, 7pm
Oliver Tomkins School, Beaumaris Road
Toothill SN5 8LW.

A light meal will be serviced at 7.30pm.

Admission free if you bring a non-Christian friend.



"This is the perfect opportunity to bring someone who might like to come along for the Alpha discussions that follow. The comedy evening will include an invitation to Alpha with no obligation. So bring your friends.

West Swindon Alpha



The format of each evening is a social time with a light meal. Then we will have a talk on an aspect of the Christian good news, mostly video presentations. This is followed by discussion in small groups.

Past experience suggests these evenings are powerfully used by God to convict and save people. Please pray for those you know who need to know God, and look for opportunities to invite them along. And come with them, obviously!

More information at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/Alpha>

Operation Christmas Child 2016 – time to pack those shoeboxes!

Earlier this year, thousands of children in Liberia were delighted to receive Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts, especially following that country's widespread trauma over the Ebola crisis.

The Operation Christmas Child yearly campaign is all about providing some joy to deprived children in the developing world. "A simple Christmas shoebox gift is a 'treasure chest' for a child who has never received such a gift before. It is a powerful symbol of hope that someone, somewhere, cared enough to pack a gift meant just for them." If you could send a shoebox, go to:

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2016

SPONSORED CYCLE, WALK OR HORSE-RIDE AROUND WILTSHIRE'S CHURCHES AND CHAPELS TO RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR OWN CHURCH AND THE WILTSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Welcome to Wiltshire Ride + Stride. This is an annual national sponsored event, organised locally by County Historic Churches Trusts. Wiltshire Ride + Stride (or its predecessor the Great Cycle Ride) has been going since 1984 and has raised well over £1million for the county's churches. 50% of the money raised goes to the participant's chosen church and the other half to the County Historic Churches Trust.

It takes place on the **second Saturday in September** between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00p.m.

Participants may be cyclists, walkers, horse-riders or drivers of mobility scooters.

All denominations are welcome.

Visit as many churches as you like, planning your own route.

Seek sponsorship from friends, relations and colleagues, so much per church visited or a lump sum.

WHAT TO DO TO JOIN IN

Download a sponsorship form and notes for participants, *or*

Contact Wendy Deverell on 01793 877111

Please sponsor those taking part including Clive

Holy Trinity Shaw will be open and Toothill Church regrets it will be unable to open for this year's Ride and Stride. However you can still mark it on your list as visited even though it is not open.

Camp Service

There will be a Camp Service at Braydon on Sunday 18th September. The theme will be outreach – with a need to expand God's Kingdom, to increase our enthusiasm by bringing us together to increase, enliven and uplift our desire to take the wonderful spirit of Jesus further into our communities.

Thoughts will be centred around the Good Samaritan and the road to Emmaus. Gates will open at 12.30pm for a hog roast (thus enabling folk to attend their usual morning service before coming for lunch). The tent celebration service will follow at 2.30pm for approximately two hours, depending on how the Spirit leads. Seating will be provided. Young, talented musicians, along with those who have extreme talent on piano and electric organ will accompany, with choral voices to lead our singing.

The venue will be the recreation ground or playing fields behind the old Methodist Chapel in Brinkworth village (postcode SN15 5AG) where new amenities have recently been put in place, so electricity, toilets, kitchen and ample parking are all available to us. The location will be signposted on the B4042 approximately 4.5 miles from Royal Wootton Bassett, heading towards Malmesbury. Posters and fliers will be distributed within the Circuit. Local churches of other denominations have been invited to join us, along with youth groups, young farmers' clubs, vintage and veteran machinery clubs, etc. so we anticipate a joyous union, an uplifting of spirits and a will to join in raising the profile and presence of Jesus in our lives and to carry it forward into the lives of others.

We are honoured that the Chairman of the District, Rev Dr Jonathan Pye, will be joining us, as will Rev Keith Osborn, Rev Rachael Wilson and Rev David Perkins who in particular, will act as the service leader and master of ceremonies for the day.

Please come and join us and we ask you to try, wherever possible, to invite someone you know who possibly hasn't found our Lord as yet, to come and share in the fun and uplifting of spirits on this special day and maybe our Lord will fill those hearts yet empty, with the wondrous spirit that has been found by us. On behalf of the Braydon Methodist Chapel and the organising committee.

Phil Neville (Steward)

Prospect Hospice

It is again that time of year when we start promoting our Garden Fete which takes place on Saturday 3 September within the grounds of the hospice. Information for the event can be found on our website here: www.prospect-hospice.net/gardenfete

Also, this year we will be running our Make a Will month throughout September. Four solicitors from across the area have agreed to support our Make a Will month by waiving their fee for writing or amending a will, in exchange for a donation to Prospect.

This is a fantastic response from our local community, and we're very grateful to all the solicitors agreeing to take part. We would love it if you would please also help us with promoting this initiative.

More information can be found here: www.prospect-hospice.net/makeawill

Synod Quiet Day



Synod Quiet Day
Awakening the senses
Led by Revd Sue Henderson Wednesday 21
September 2016

Central URC, Bath BA2 4BA

10.00am 4.00pm; Cost £5.00

Any queries to Sue on 01225 767793 Email: sue@suehenderson.co.uk
To book contact Dinah Firmin 01823 275470. Bookings no later the
Tuesday 13 September 2016

Paul Field in Concert

Well known singer/songwriter Paul Field will be in concert at the New Room, Broadmead, Bristol, BS1 3JE on Friday, September 30th at 7.30pm. Put this date in your diary now for what is sure to be a fantastic evening.

Confirm your faith and your membership of our West Swindon Partnership of Churches

Our next confirmation service is planned to be held in Holy Trinity, Shaw at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23rd November 2016. It is an opportunity for those, who have not yet made their commitment to become full members of our churches to join us on that special evening in November.

If you are thinking about being [or have already decided to be] 'confirmed' in November [or perhaps later in the future], then during Sep-Nov 2016, there will be several short evening sessions of bible-study, discussion, preparation, fellowship and fun.

If you are in the 12-15yr age group, Vanessa Parfitt and Trevor Day will be organising the sessions and you should contact Trevor by Email Trevor.Day@btinternet.com [or real-mail or telephone via the Partnership Office] providing your Name, and the name of a parent/guardian with their address, telephone contact number and email address. Our first evening session will be from 7pm on Wed 7th September at a location, yet to be agreed.

Those of you in the 16yr+ age group [there is no upper age limit], should contact Clive Deverell at clive.deverell@btinternet.com [or via the Partnership Office].

If you would like to discuss 'confirmation' and what it broadly means before-hand, please do not hesitate to contact any member of your ministry teams anyway. Blessings to you all.

Revd Trevor Day

Back to School - facing that first Day

No matter how old we are, we can probably remember our first day at school – being left at the door, meeting children we did not know, separated from the adults we did know and had trusted since the day we were born. But on the other hand, there was the excitement: a big step along the road of life, new friends to make, another adult to become important in our lives. Yes, quite a lot to handle when you're rising five!

Education Sunday

11 September 2016

Our four Churches will be praying for our local schools together.

Every day, around 8.4 million children attend one of over 24,000 schools across England. There has never been a greater diversity of school provision in England. Children attend schools maintained by a local authority, church schools, sixth form colleges, academies, free schools and independent schools. There are also pupil referral units, nurseries and grammar schools. Children are educated in many different contexts, from the age of 3 to 19.

In 2014, there were around 450,000 full-time teachers working in state-funded schools across England. Approximately 3 out of 4 of these teachers are female. There are around 240,000 teaching assistants. Together with the number of support staff, there are around 1.3 million people working in schools. This is across 17,000 primary and 8,000 secondary schools.

1.6 million free school meals are eaten every day by pupils at lunch. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 now all receive a free school meal every day. According to a survey conducted by Kellogg's in 2014, 85% of schools now run a breakfast club and around a quarter of schools offer a completely free breakfast for children before school.

Since they were first established in 2000, over 4700 schools have opened or converted to be academies. An academy is an independent, state-funded school which receives its funding directly from central government, rather than through a local authority. The day-to-day running of the academy is with the headteacher but academies are often members of academy trusts or chains, which offer them advice and support.

The purpose of an education is to prepare children for adult life, to create a new generation of informed, responsible young people who have had a balanced education at school. Moreover, church schools in particular seek to provide children with a spiritual and personal experience of the Christian faith, and recognise the needs and talents of all in their community.

Around 30% of schools in England are church schools. These schools are predominantly supported or run by the Church of England and the Catholic Church, although there are over 70 Methodist schools and increasing number of free schools being opened with a Christian ethos.

have never thought the presence of violence in the scriptures a problem per se, because I have never read my scriptures as an instruction manual from God. More a reflection of a historic real-world human struggle for faith, in which faith is discovered. And the difference between good religion and bad religion – like the difference between good and bad people – has little to do with who is right and who is wrong about God and absolutely everything to do with how each religious tradition manages its own propensity for violence.

And it is here that the language of sacrifice is especially tricky. I have no time for the idea that Jesus is sacrificed on the cross to appease an angry God. If that's true, then God becomes the enemy of humankind and I am against him. No, Jesus absorbs the violence that comes from us not from God. He receives our blows, our punishments, our disdain. And, despite his innocence – or, rather, precisely because of it – he refuses to answer back in kind. No more an eye for an eye.

In other words, the sacrifice of the cross is the non-violent absorption of human violence. The offer of love in return for hate, even to the point of death. This is the horrendous price that peace is sometimes asked to pay. This is what makes the eucharistic sacrifice life-giving and not some historical death cult. And this is the sacrifice that Father Jacques was celebrating as he died. He died as a priest, doing what priests do. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

PILGRIM HOMES
SERVING OLDER CHRISTIANS

Sponsored Walk, in aid of the En-suite Project for the Framland Pilgrim Home, Wantage
Meeting at 10:30am, Saturday 10th September 2016
Buscot, Nr. Faringdon, OXON. SN7 8DA

Bring a picnic (to eat en-route)

A 5½ mile circular walk partially along the Thames Path

Park at Buscot Weir car park
OS Grid Ref 163 SU 231977
Post code SN7 8DA

Sponsorship forms available from Dave Pepler via email - dave.a.pepler@gmail.com
Please note:- Good walking shoes or boots recommended as the route crosses some uneven ground.
Dogs to be kept on a lead and children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Pilgrim Homes is a registered charity (formerly known as 'The Aged Pilgrim' Society) and member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. Charity No. 1042086. 60, Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB2 3RQ

PILGRIMS' FRIEND SOCIETY
All proceeds go towards the support of the Framland Pilgrim Home
Pilgrims' Friend Society Registered Charity Number 242266

An article about Father Jacques Hamel

By Giles Fraser (in "The Guardian")

When I was first ordained a priest, I would say my prayers every morning in front of three undistinguished stained-glass windows. And every morning, I would argue in my head with the theology those windows were promoting. On the left, Abraham held up a curly knife, preparing to cut the throat of his son who is strapped to an altar. In the middle, Christ hanging on the cross, dripping blood. On the right, a priest, in full liturgical kit, stood behind an altar, hands outstretched over bread and wine. The coloured glass was insisting that these three scenes were intimately connected, that the mass/holy communion/eucharist, whatever you call it, is essentially a sacrifice – and not just some stylised community get-together.

As Pope John Paul II put it in *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, the eucharist is "the sacrifice of the cross perpetuated down the age. This sacrifice is so decisive for the salvation of the human race that Jesus Christ ... left us a means of sharing in it as if we had been present there". Catholic Christianity, like that of temple Judaism before it, is a religion of blood and altars.

Father Jacques Hamel's throat was slit as he said morning mass, murdered by a teenager claiming allegiance to Islamic State. The sacrificial imagery is unavoidable. And soon after his killing, #JeSuisPretre – I am a priest – began trending on social media, employing the now familiar "I am" prefix as an expression of digital solidarity with yet another victim of global terrorism. It felt unusually fitting in this instance. "I am the bread of life," says Jesus in the first of a series of eight so-called "I am ..." passages in John's gospel. And the bread of life was precisely what Father Jacques believed himself to be distributing that morning on the outskirts of Rouen. He died, as he believed, on his knees – not in supplication to his spotty murderers, but to the author of life itself to whom he was about to return.

Rouen itself is a town soaked in the blood of martyrdom. It was here that another 19-year-old, believing herself to have received visions from God, and believing God to have called her to war, was burned at the stake by the English as a heretic. To some, Joan of Arc was a witness to the one true faith. To others she was a deluded fantasist, using God to inspire acts of violence.

Obviously, it's not just Islam that has a problem with violence. Indeed, arguably, the Bible has more violence in it than the Qur'an – though I

There is not only a need but also a demand for places in church schools in England, as parents recognise the value a Christian education offers their children. By offering a truly holistic education, church schools encourage children to think about their education not only in terms of their academic achievement, but also their own personal development as Christians in the community and the world.

School governors are volunteers who play a vital role in schools, although often behind the scenes. Their primary responsibilities are to hold the headteacher to account, to protect and promote the ethos of the school and to oversee the finances. School governors are often parents or people living in the local community, who give up their time to ensure the smooth running of the school. There are many opportunities to take up places on governing boards in schools, talk to your local school or register your interest here to find out more:

<https://www.gov.uk/become-school-college-governor>

Helen Rodger, Catholic Education Service



"It's Mrs Filby with her hard-as-concrete home-made rock cakes for the Harvest Festival. Let's pretend we're not in."

Summer Term Review 2016

Wedding and Baptism

A fabulous session with Peatmoor Foundation Stage children. Clive did a pretend Wedding and Baptism at St Marys. The children and their helpers all came in their best clothes. I led a whole morning creative follow up session where we created a Bride and Groom, a Wedding Cake and a mobile all about Baptism. The Teacher who up to this point had not really enjoyed Teaching RE said it was brilliant and we now have an open invitation to teach RE in her classroom.

Multi-Cultural Week Peatmoor

Peatmoor Primary School had a Multi-cultural week where they focussed on different countries and faiths. Rania led lessons with Year 3 and 4. The children and teachers described her as 'brilliant'. The Foundation Stage had a wonderful time exploring why Christians would want to remember Jesus by sharing Communion. We explored the Feeding of the 5000 to show how special Jesus was and how eating together is a special time. A Communion Liturgy Box was used to simply explain Communion. We made a paper chain to show how we are all united when we share together and the peace was passed round the circle. We followed up our learning with lots of creative activities. These sessions have been written up for the Diocese make MakeRE Matter in July and Peatmoor have a Certificate for participating.

Prayer Workshops

We ran the Prayer Workshop for Years 3's in Tregoze Primary and Peatmoor Primary School and there are no words to describe this session other than pure privilege. It is a joy to be able to observe all children engaging in prayer activities. Both groups of children were amazing, completely immersing themselves in the activities and freely talking with the adult helpers. Both schools appreciated these sessions and commented on the resources and adult support available to the children.

Church Visits

This term Brook Field Year 3 visited St Marys and Shaw. The new RE Worship leaflet worked well in St Marys. At HTS the children love watching the video of Lindsey being baptised. The baptism video promotes lots of questions. Year 1 from Peatmoor enjoyed their new worksheet and participating in a variety of activities focussing on prayer.

WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT



Macmillan's biggest fundraising event for people facing cancer.

We ask people all over the UK to host their own Coffee Mornings and donations on the day are made to Macmillan. Last year alone we raised

£25 million and this year we are aiming to raise even more.

Hosting your own Coffee Morning is easy. All you have to do is sign up and we'll send you a free Coffee Morning Kit, packed with all the things you need to host a wonderful event. It makes everything from inviting your friends to raising money a piece of cake.

Go to <http://coffee.macmillan.org.uk/> to get your free kit or to find out about a coffee morning near you



"Let All Men Sing"

Want to enjoy a new experience of singing in a top quality choir whilst making new friends and raising money for charity? Then join Swindon and District's own

Swindon Male Voice Choir

We are now looking for new members and we meet on Monday evenings in the New Century Club, Gorse Hill, Swindon SN2 8BU at 7.30pm and would love to welcome you at any rehearsal or, to our open rehearsal on 12 September 2016 also at 7.30pm.

You don't need to be able to read music but if you can that would be an advantage. Full support is given to new members.

For Further Information:

Visit the website: swindonmalevoicechoir.co.uk

Email: swindonmalevoicechoir@msn.com

Telephone (Recruitment Team);

01793 822495

01793 486454



COME & JOIN US
for
MUSIC and a
PICNIC
in the ORCHARD.

Bring your own picnic, a garden chair and be entertained
by a variety of music and song.

September 3rd at Emmanuel Church Haydon Wick.

From 4.00pm until 7.00pm £3 entry fee.

There will be stalls and cakes on sale.

In Aid of Swindon Commercial
Chaplaincy



Collective Worship

Ascension/Pentecost Oliver Tomkins and Tregoze

Curiosity in Shaw Ridge

Teamwork in Brook Field

Responsibility in Brook Field

Servant Queen in Hazlewood Academy

Thankfulness in Hazlewood Academy

Preparing Collective Worship can be a real challenge, only 15-20 minutes to engage the children hearts and minds. So it is the little things that the children want to say to me as they leave the hall that makes me know for some of them it at least made them think, ask questions and want to know more.

Queens Birthday Celebrations

A time for community.

Brook Field Singers had a wonderful afternoon with George Tweed residents, singing and eating together. At St Marys our singers sang 'Unity and Respect' with absolute conviction and I know Clive had a tear in his eye. I was very proud of all the children. Although we didn't get representation from all the schools at this special service, it was a brilliant first step into Community and Church celebrating together and it seemed to please the Bishop!

Pilgrimage Session

A meaningful journey in a special place. Holiness found on a playground walking a dust sheet labyrinth. A time of peace and reflection with some sensational Year 6's.

Flower And Music Festival

A fabulous opportunity to spend time in our schools supporting them with their creations. A day with Tregoze, a morning in Hazlewood Academy, two afternoons with Westlea and a morning in Peatmoor. Tregoze school came to visit on the Friday morning, then numerous singers, recorder players and pianists brought music to the Church. Many weeks of preparation and rehearsals came together in one glorious event.

Gayle Bryon

Local Schools Prayers

As Education Sunday is 11 September we encourage the use of these prayers which have been specially provided for the Sunday itself throughout the month.

August 28th to September 3rd

Lord we thank you for all the schools and learning environments in West Swindon. We thank you for all the dedicated staff who work so hard to provide all the children and young people in their care with wonderful learning experiences on a daily basis. We pray for all staff as they teach their pupils to achieve great academic success, as well as nurturing each and every one of them as an amazing individual's. We pray that you will give wisdom to all Head Teachers, teachers and support staff as they seek to provide an excellent education for every child. May they always ensure that every child matters and go the extra mile for those who are in financial, social or emotional poverty. We pray that every child may receive all the additional support they need in their school and in their family. Lord bless our schools that they may be communities of people who are flourishing and developing. May they learn more of you each day through their learning and exploring together.

September 4th to 10th

Lord we pray that all our schools have a distinctive and welcoming atmosphere where all the children feel safe and secure. We ask that each of our schools have an ethos of care and concern for the individual so that each and every child grows and develops to fulfil their potential. May education be fun and full of exciting surprises. We pray that the children be provided with opportunities to wonder, reflect and connect with God's world. May time be made in the curriculum to paint, to draw, to dance, to sing, to go outside and feel the wind and touch the soil. Lord we pray that we can help to provide a space where the children and adults have time to think, explore, discover and ask questions about faith. Let each school be a haven where children grow in a community of generosity, forgiveness and truth. May all the children be able to dream, aspire to do wonderful things in their life and know true hope. Lord may creativity run riot in our schools, so children may explore their spirituality daily. May our schools be places where your love is taught, where a seed is sown and your hope pervades.

September 11th to 17th

Lord may our schools be places of laughter and friendship. May play and playfulness, fascination and amazement be at the centre of all

Exploring Christianity

Start date: Thursday 22nd September

Lydiard Millicent Primary School, The Butts, SN5 3LR

Thursdays 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm. There is ample parking

If you feel ready to learn more about your faith, you might enjoy an Exploring Christianity course. This is an evening course made up of six ten-week modules: Spirituality and Prayer, New Testament, Questions of Faith, Reshaping Church, Old Testament, Challenging Choices – Christian Ethics.

The format is flexible. You can either study just the modules which interest you, or you can join us for the whole course.

There is the opportunity to gain a Bishop's Certificate if you produce written assignments for each module, but there is no obligation to do this.

If you feel called to Licensed Lay Ministry, however, completion of Exploring Christianity (with assignments) will count towards your training. Your tutors will be the Revd Tudor Roberts, vicar of All Saints Lydiard Millicent, and Richenda Milton-Daws, an LLM from the North Wiltshire Deanery.

For more information and to register, contact Jayne Mathias at Church House – jayne.mathias@bristoldiocese.org – or ring the Ministry Development office on 0117 906 0100. If any of you are considering whether God is calling you to any authorised ministry this is a good course to be on.

Please let Clive know if you are intending to register.

URC : Spirituality

The United Reformed Church Retreat Group is holding a gathering at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham on Saturday 10th September, 10.30 – 3.30, for all who are interested in spirituality, prayer and retreats to discern how we can best support and resource each other on our spiritual journeys. It will be a day of prayer, discussion, sharing inspiration from which we hope to come away with new ideas, energized for the next stage. The event is free (drinks provided, but bring your own lunch) but there is a limit to numbers, so please let me know if you would like to be there (or to get more information) by emailing: ele@urcsouthwest.org.uk

The Upper Thames Circuit



CIRCUIT SERVICE

**to celebrate the 20 year anniversary of
the Upper Thames Circuit and to welcome
Rev. Rachael Wilson to a new phase of ministry
at Christ the Servant, Abbey Meads**

6.30 p.m. - Sunday 4th September 2016

**Church of Christ the Servant, Abbey Meads
Abbey Meads Village Centre SN25 4YX**

Preacher: Rev. Keith Osborn (Superintendent Minister)

ALL WELCOME

learning. We pray that our schools will be communities where teamwork, responsibility and relationships are built up. Let the staff and children know that life is always better when lived in a community where people work together and love each other. Lord we pray that acts of collective worship and assemblies be used to touch hearts and open minds to your presence. May these times of collective celebration and worship be filled with Bible stories that come to life for all who are listening. Lord grant joy to each of our schools. Create teachers who are inspired and inspire. Create children who love to learn. May the vision of education be for 'fullness of life' in you.

September 18th to 24th

Lord our community is diverse. People come from many different countries, they speak different languages and have different faiths. We pray that our schools embrace this diversity and all the amazing opportunities it brings. May children be proud of their heritage, their language, their faith and the colour of their skin. With the technology that is now available to us all the world seems a much smaller place, yet there is still so much poverty, division and injustice. We pray that our schools are harmonious in their message of tolerance and love to all people. Children are like sponges they thirst for knowledge and new experiences. May they soak up the values of acceptance, inclusiveness, justice, compassion and celebrate uniqueness. Lord let your reconciling love flow freely in our schools that all people may know true dignity as we are all one in you.

September 25th to October 1st

Lord as a Partnership we are thankful for the privilege we have been given to serve our local children, youth and their families. We pray that we give due attention, time, prayer, energy and resources to working with all the young people in our reach. You call us to look after and educate the whole person wherever they are on their journey through life. We pray that your holiness will be witnessed in all our encounters with the children and young people of our community. May they come to know your divine love and choose to respond in praise and thanks. As we walk, talk and share our journey may we all learn to live together in communion with you. Lord shower us all with your Glory. Transform us and make us shine brightly and beautifully as you enter and fill our lives.

Church Services in the Partnership St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
04 Sept	10:00am	Morning Service
11 Sept	10:00am	Communion
18 Sept	10:00am	Harvest Family Service followed by Baptisms
18 Sept	4:30pm	Evensong
25 Sept	10:00am	Harvest Communion followed by Baptism
25 Sept	5:00pm	Harvest Partnership Prayer and Praise

Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
04 Sept	10:30am	Communion/God.com /SS
11 Sept	10:30am	All Age Service
11 Sept	4:00pm	Messy Church
18 Sept	10:30am	All Age Service
25 Sept	10:30am	Harvest Morning Service

Toothill

Date	Time	Form
04 Sept	10:30am	All Age Service
11 Sept	10:30am	Communion
14 Sept	11:30am	Midweek Worship
18 Sept	10:30am	Morning Service
25 Sept	10:30am	Harvest Parade
28 Sept	11:30am	Midweek Worship

Westlea

Date	Time	Form
04 Sept	10:00am	Morning Service
11 Sept	10:00am	Family Service
18 Sept	10:00am	Communion
25 Sept	10:00am	All Age Service

Friday 09 September
and every Friday
in
School Term time

8.45am Holy Trinity Shaw
Morning prayer
Lasting no more than half an hour
An opportunity to come close to God before the weekend

Partnership's Got Talent and Harvest Supper.

Saturday 24th September

Toothill Church

On Saturday 24th September at 4.00pm there will be a Partnership Bring and Share Harvest Supper at Toothill Church. Details will be found on posters in your local church. Within the time there will be performances and a quiz and an opportunity to share with each other.

Partnership Prayer and Praise

Sunday 25 September 2016

Fellowship time 4.15pm in the Stable Room
Refreshments will be available before the service at

St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

5.00pm

The theme will be

"Harvest"

Including

Commissioning of Reverend Trevor Day
as

Avon District Chaplain for the Sea Cadets

All uniformed organisations welcome

All Welcome

This is an opportunity to Pray and Praise together