

Contact Information:

The Partnership office is open:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday	9:00 – 1:00pm
Wednesday	1.00 – 4.00pm
Thursday	Closed

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 May, please send them to the office no later than 18 April.

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 April 2017

Looking outwards and growing together



During this Emotional month of April we will celebrate: Palm Sunday, the Partnership AGM, and say farewell to Rev. Mike Dilly. We have Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the celebration of the Risen Lord on Easter Day.

On the way we will reflect with happiness on the ministry of Mike Dilly and the work he has done in West Swindon and his wider ministry in care homes, and we will pray for his future roles. We will look back at the work of the Partnership over the last year, the many activities with the schools and young people and our joint Partnership worship. We will pray for guidance for the year ahead for God's work in West Swindon to continue and reach out.

There will be the joy of Palm Sunday with the excitement of Jesus arriving on a donkey in Jerusalem. Then the remembering of the Last Supper and not forgetting the brutality of Good Friday until we arrive with joy and ecstasy on Easter Day.

A month where many changes happen; emotionally, physically and spiritually, the Partnership is evolving and changing and we must embrace it with love, joy and hope, and where there is disagreement may we treat each other with respect, and offer the problem to God in prayer so that we come to peaceful resolution.

Easter brings new life, not just in Nature but within us. The Risen Christ is our hope, our future, our life. It is a period of Re-Creation.

You are our potter.
We are all the work of Your hands
Yet we doubt our muddy clay
And try to hide beneath cracked surfaces.
As Your hands continue to shape us
Open us to re-creation in You.

You are our composer,
We are all the sound of Your voice.
Yet we would rather skip the painful tracks,
block out the noise.
As we join in Your song,
Open us to re-creation in You.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Thanksgiving

12 March 2017 Honey Mea Harvey

Funeral

09 March 2017 Robert Kenelm Saunders

PRAYERS

Please pray for:

Partnership AGM on 09 April

Partnership Schools Work Easter Activities

Mike Dilly's long and happy retirement

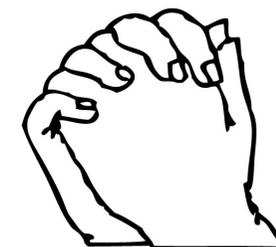
Swindon Community Church meeting at
Bridlewood School Week beginning
02.04.17

Kingdom House Ministries meeting at Red house
community Centre Week beginning
09.04.17

St Andrews Anglican Blunston Week beginning
16.04.17

United Apostolic Church meeting at Christ the
servant Abbey Meads Week beginning
23.04.17

The church of Christ the Servant Abbey Meads Week beginning
30.04.17





United Reformed Church
Statement on the
Past Case Review

We have all made mistakes and we want to learn from those mistakes.

People have been hurt by bullying or abuse in churches in the past.

Things went wrong and people may be carrying the hurt inside them.
We want to learn from the past and do better in the future.

The Past Case Review is a way for the United Reformed Church to listen and to learn.

We truly want to hear about any behaviour which may need challenging, or if you have been hurt in the past by anyone in the United Reformed Church.

If anyone who has had any connection with your church wishes to share something that has happened to them within any United Reformed Church, we would ask them to get in touch with the Past Case Review team.

We want our churches to be safer places, where people can grow without fear.

As a Partnership of four denominations, we have been at the forefront of reflecting on the actions of the past. Over two years ago the Methodist Church instigated a past cases review. The URC now asks us to take stock as well so please prayerfully and carefully read.

The numbers at the bottom are those to contact, however if you would like to speak to someone in confidence locally, please contact your local pastoral lead.

Telephone: 020 7916 8682

Website: www.urc.org.uk/past-case-review

Email: pastcase.review@urc.org.uk

Further resources and information are available online at www.urc.org.uk/past-case-review

You are our Author,
We are all the characters of Your story.
Yet we would rather play a lesser part.
Or rewrite out tricky lines.
As Your word continues to call us.
Open us to re-creation in You

You are our creator,
We are Your chosen creations,
Yet we fear the crossroads
and avoid complicated turnings.
As we search for Your paths,
Open us to re-creation

(Prayer by Alex Young URC Prayerbook)

Blessings - David Hoar

The Easter Paradox

This month - rather later than usual - we remember the events of Good Friday and celebrate the glory of Easter. The injustice and cruelty of the former and the hope and assurance of the latter may help us to make sense of the conflicting and often disturbing events taking place in our world.

On Good Friday the most honest, generous and open person who ever lived was cruelly executed. Around the cross stood His mother, and a few close friends and family. Beyond them, a crowd jeered. The soldiers went about their grim task. Even the sky was dark.

Yet in the gloom there was hope. Jesus forgave those who were killing him: 'they don't know what they're doing'. He asked His best friend to look after his mother. A criminal who was being executed alongside Jesus had a change of heart and asked Him to 'remember me when you come into your kingdom' - and received the most wonderful promise of paradise *today*. Even the Roman centurion, who had stood watching the condemned man die, testified that 'surely this man was a son of God'.

In other words, at the darkest time there was light, a Light which blazed out on Easter morning. Isn't that paradox – the truth that even in the worst moment there are signs of hope – the deep message of Easter?

Regular activities

2 nd Sunday each month	
Messy Church	08 April 4 - 5:30pm @ Shaw
Every Monday	
After School Youth Group Contact Claire Camm 07981951381	3:30 – 6:00pm @ Holy Trinity Shaw
Every Tuesday	
Bell Ringing	7-9pm St Mary's Bell Tower
2nd Wednesday of each month	
Mothers Union Contact Doreen Henderson 07434377587	12 April 2pm @ St Mary's Stable Room
Every Thursday	
Toothill Tinies	10 -11:30am @ Toothill

LYDIARD PARK

Lydiard Park Heritage Trust has been confirmed as the preferred bidder to take over the running of Lydiard Park and Lydiard House. As a consequence Clive joins the Advisory board for the new trust, which he had agreed with both competing trusts before the decision was made.

Swindon Advertiser reports:

“Their bid for a 50-year-lease on the much-loved site was praised by council officers for the heritage expertise of the core team as well as the record of key trustees in accessing Heritage Lottery funding.”

The thief on the Cross

Luke 23: 32-43

Luke's account of the crucifixion emphasises the mocking of the crowd, *'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'* (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the man who was crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

One Criminal's Taunts

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: *'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.'* He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? And yet, unlike his companion, he failed to see that the cross itself is the means of salvation.

What kind of Messiah was Jesus?

One Criminal's Faith

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: *'this man has done nothing wrong.'* He perceived the truth that Jesus' death was on behalf of all people. In a wonderful picture of grace, *'remember me'*, he confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In what ways have we experienced God's grace?

The Messiah's Promise

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; *'Today you will be with me in paradise.'* Jesus used the picture of a *walled garden* to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of being with Jesus?

'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.' (1 Peter 3:18).

23 April - St George's Day

St George of the Golden Legend

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. He was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23 April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. The Saint charged, and drove his spear into the gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.



Palm Sunday Worship
09 April 2017

Westlea Church 10.00am

with Partnership AGM

Led by the Partnership Executive

and

**Partnership Thanksgiving for
the ministry amongst us of**

Rev Mike Dilly

**Rev Dick Gray will be returning to
take part in the service**



Holy Week Worship 2017 across the Partnership

Palm Sunday 09 April with AGM and Partnership Thanksgiving for the ministry amongst us of Revd Mike Dilly	10:00am	Partnership Service at Westlea	Westlea Church
	4:00pm	Messy Church	Holy Trinity Shaw
Tuesday 11 April	7:00pm	St Mary's Compline	St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze
Wednesday 12 April	11:30am	Midweek Worship	Toothill Church
	7:00pm	St Mary's Compline	St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze
Maundy Thursday 13 April	7:45pm	Holy Communion + washing of feet	Holy Trinity Shaw
Good Friday 14 April	10:00am	Good Friday Worship	Westlea Church
	7:00pm	Tenebrae (service of light and darkness)	St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze
Easter Day 16 April	6:00am	Sunrise Communion	St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze
	10:00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze
	10:00am	Holy Communion	Westlea Church
	10:30am	Family Communion	Holy Trinity Shaw
	10:30am	All Age Communion	Toothill Church

Good Friday Film Night

Joseph Fiennes in 'RISEN' at Highworth Methodist Church

Friday 14 April 2017: - 4.30pm

Admission: Free

Upper Thames Circuit Service

Royal Wootton Bassett Methodist Church,

Rope Yard, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 7BS

on Sunday 23rd April at 6.00pm.

Saturday 20th May

Rev Graham Horsley is coming to Highworth Methodist Church to lead a day looking at 'Fresh Expressions' of the church.

We would be delighted if friends from across the circuit would like to join us. Details including timescale will be sent out soon.

For further details from Lou Ashford at

Christian Vision For Men

The Gathering 2017

Lynt Farm SN6 7QZ

From £86 per person

23rd – 25th June 2017

Bookings are now being taken for The Gathering (Christian Vision for Men) to be held 23rd – 25th June 2017. The comedian, Tim Vine, will be in attendance this year alongside Graham Kendrick and many other well-known names.

To Book call 01246 452483

New Wine

United 2017: Week 1 - £150

Saturday 22 July 2017 9:00 to Friday 28 July 2017 23:00

Royal Bath a & West Showground, Shepton Mallet

United 2017: Week 2 - £150

Sunday 30 July 2017 9:00 to Saturday 05 August 2017 23:00

Royal Bath a & West Showground, Shepton Mallet

Day tickets are available, for more information please visit www.new-wine.org/united17

FREE
training
event

Equipping children's & youth leaders/volunteers
in anglican churches across Swindon deanery



"The day was the perfect
tonic for our volunteers.
We left feeling really
encouraged and affirmed."

Alison Grayson (Children's leader)

● Reflect on your work with children and young people.

● Meet others in similar roles from other churches.

● Explore various tools for effective ministry

● Discuss good practice in context.

● be resourced in your role!



St John's Church
Furlong Close
Swindon, SN25 1QP

9.30am-3.30pm

13.5.2017



BOOKINGS: www.bristol.anglican.org/2017/the-key-training-dates-for-2017

INFORMATION / QUESTIONS: daniel.jones@bristoldiocese.org | 0117 906 0100

PARTNERSHIP WORSHIP AT TOOTHILL CHURCH



Midweek Worship Every Wednesday 11.30am

Alternating between Holy Communion
and a short reflective act of worship

Please join us every week

Part of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

The Joy of Easter

Partnership Schools Work

It is through the Resurrection that we can look at the cross and see its wonder, love and joy.

We are called to be an 'Easter' people. Each and every day we are given the opportunity to live our lives to bring joy to each encounter and situation we find ourselves in. Joy is the movement of the spirit: it is loving, compassionate, dynamic and bursting with energy. It is what Jesus offers each of his disciples when he meets them after the resurrection. He offers joy, peace and reconciliation in a personal way and then asks his disciples to pass on these gifts to others. Finding and sharing the joy of Easter is key to our own happiness and to the happiness of others. Our mission is to be 'Easter' people by loving our community and sharing Jesus with them. We have an amazing opportunity this Easter to do just that in our Partnership School Activities and The Easter Tree Holiday Club. Please pray for all of our activities and if you are able please come along and join us sharing the joy of Easter.

'People will know you are my disciples by your love' John 13:35.

There are five key activities we will be sharing:

The Easter Reflection in Holy Trinity Shaw. This is an engaging experience for the children and their teachers to explore the stages of the Easter story.

Eggciting Easter which is a fun and creative experience for KS1 children using large colourful eggs to find clues about the Easter story.

The Easter Cross is a new experience for KS1 children, an open armed cross will be the central focus of this journey through Easter.

One Friday Trail is new for this year and will be used with all the KS2 children in Westlea Primary School. The children will journey through the events of Good Friday reflecting at each stage with a simple activity.

Easter Gardens and Resurrection eggs will be used to share the Easter Story with Reception children.

Please see below a timetable of all the sessions we are sharing. All of the activities need significant adult support and I am extremely grateful to everyone who has already signed up to help. Please let me know if you would like to come along and observe or help at a session.



EXPLOSIVE STORIES,
UNEXPECTED RESULTS...

ROUGHSHOD

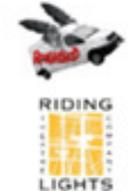
REACTIVE

THURSDAY 4th MAY - 7.30pm

TOOTHILL CHURCH
Dunwich Drive, Toothill, Swindon, SN5 8SX
Free entry (retiring donations welcome)
More info: 01793 874221

Admission by ticket only

Children must be 12 years and over



The Other Mary

The Easter story in the Gospels is full of wonderful cameos. Among them, one stands out for me for sheer emotional power and deep insight. It's the story of Mary Magdalene.

Jesus had rescued her from a life of depravity ('seven devils' is the Bible's phrase). For this she repaid Him with the most powerful adoration and love. She stood beside His mother, the 'other' Mary, at the foot of the cross as Jesus was crucified. On Sunday morning she went with other women disciples to the tomb to anoint His body. When they arrived they found the tomb was empty. They were told, by someone they took to be an angel, that Jesus of Nazareth wasn't there because He had 'risen'. The other women left, but a distraught Mary waited outside the tomb, weeping.

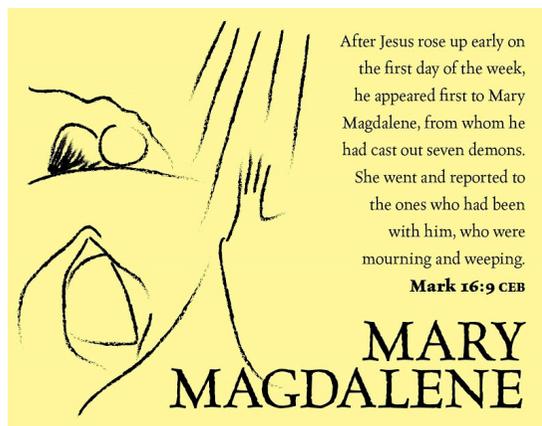
A man appeared, whom she took to be the gardener. 'Why are you weeping?' He asked. 'What are you looking for?'

'They have taken away my Lord,' she replied, 'and I don't know where they have laid Him'.

The man then spoke one word, which changed her life for ever. 'Mary', He said, using the familiar form of her name. 'Teacher!' she cried, and made to embrace Him.

'Don't touch me,' He said. 'I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go and tell the others'. She did, and became the first person after the resurrection to say, 'I have seen the Lord'. She would see Him again, of course, in the upper room with the other disciples, but then never again on earth, until she saw Him in His ascended glory, not as the carpenter's son but as the Son of God.

It really is some story!



Easter Schools Work Dates 2017

3/4/17	Easter Reflection HTS Shaw Ridge	9.00 – 12.00pm
4/4/17	Easter Reflection HTS Brook Field	9.00 – 12.00pm
4/4/14	Eggciting Easter Hazlewood at Toothill	1.00 – 3.00pm
5/4/17	Easter Trail Westlea KS2	8.30 - 3.30pm
6/4/17	Easter Reflection HTS Peatmoor	9.00 -12.00pm
6/4/17	Westlea KS1 Easter Trail	1.30 - 3.30pm
7/4/17	Eggciting Easter Brook Field	9.00 – 12.00pm

As well as the sessions in school we are planning a two day holiday club entitled **The Easter Tree** on Wednesday 12th April and Thursday 13th April.

The idea is to share the Easter Story in craft, drama, dance and song. The two days will culminate in a wonderful service of celebration led by the children. **The Easter Tree Service** will be at 2.30pm on Thursday 13th April and I hope you will all be able to come along to join with the children and their families as we Celebrate Easter in a new way.

We will need lots of adult volunteers to make this a special time for the children and their families.

May the God of hope fill us with joy this Easter.
Every Blessing
Gayle

The Great Lydiard Park Easter Egg Trail

Sunday 16 April 2017
10am – 4pm (last admission 3pm)

The trail begins at the Coach House activity Centre and travels round the lakes, woodlands and lawns. Clues are hidden around the park to claim an Easter surprise.



All age worship *survey*

As a partnership, we care about the families who worship at our four churches. To help us serve and support our families better, we are asking parents and guardians for their views (and their children's too) on the all-age worship currently on offer across the partnership.

My hope is that our churches can become better worshipping communities who value and nurture young and old as they gather together to worship God as a church family.

If you would like to comment, please go to the website link below and complete the online survey.

Please submit responses by 23 April 2017

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AllageworshipWestSwindon

Thank you

Rev Clive Deverell

The Real Easter Egg 2017



The new look Real Easter Egg 2017 range has been launched, and churches are being asked to encourage people to support this unique way of sharing the story of Easter.

This year a 24 page Easter story-activity book, illustrated by Alida Massari, is included in the Original, Egg Hunt and Dark eggs. The Special Edition has an Easter traditions booklet inside. The Sharing box, with 30 eggs, comes with 30 colour-in posters.

The whole range can be ordered online at (with free delivery) or from Traidcraft, Eden.co.uk, TLM trading.com, Embrace the Middle East. Christian bookshops and some cathedrals also have stocks. You can also buy the blue Original egg from Tesco, Waitrose and Morrisons.

Advance Notice

Saturday 6th May 2017

Toothill Church 2.00 – 4.00pm

There will be a Coffee/Cake Afternoon to celebrate 40 years of Toothill Church organist Mrs Nicola Hoar's Contribution to the church. Please come and celebrate this occasion.

There will be music contributions from the Toothill Music Group as well

Sunday 28 May 2017

Thy Kingdom Come Lydiard Park 2.00pm

A Special afternoon with prayer activities and stations in the Walled Garden at Lydiard Park starting at 2pm and culminating in an open air service of Prayer and Praise with Keith Osborn. Will be held in Church if raining.

Toothill Tinies

At the end of last year one of the children who attends the Toothill Tinies group on Thursday mornings had to have a Nebuliser because she has Cystic Fibrosis. This set off a chain of fund raising events and included Toothill Church Christmas offerings to be donated to raise funds towards the cost of a nebuliser.

We had the pleasure of being able to present a cheque for £400 to the Asthma Relief Charity, Swindon (on behalf of the local Cystic Fibrosis group). The reporter and photographer came from the Link Magazine so we look forward to an article in the next issue.

Thanks to Becky and her team for the hard work in fund raising.

Gordon Partridge

Plea for Foundation Governors

As you may be aware, there has been recent local press coverage of the new Church of England Secondary school to be built at Wichelstowe. I felt that this was an ideal opportunity to remind our local churches of the role of Foundation Governors in supporting Christian values and ethos in primary schools.

Here, at Oliver Tomkins Schools, we currently have 6 vacancies for Foundation Governors. Church schools rely on Christians taking an active role in developing the Christian ethos and character of the school. Our current Foundation Governors are Clive Deverell and Rahel Dams and Nigel Howarth from Gateway Church. The school would very much appreciate having more Christian input on governance matters. There is an application process and certain criteria have to be met along with the support of the church leader. If anyone is interested or would like further information or a visit to the school, please contact me via Mrs Tina Oliver (clerk to the governors) at the school.

Ben Fleckney - Chair of Governors



*...I wish that was my Sunday attendance figures
- but it's actually the age profile of my congregation!*



Partnership Prayer and Praise
Partnership Prayer and Praise

Looking outwards and growing together



“Hymns and Songs from the Psalms”

At

St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze SN5 3PA

30 April 2017

5.00pm

Refreshments in the Stable Room at 4.30pm before the service

Everyone is warmly welcome to join in with this opportunity to meet and worship together.

Partnership youth work – Spring 2017

Group work

We have had a busy and fruitful term with the two emerge groups on Mondays and Saturdays. Our volunteer base has grown over this term across the groups to 9 regulars (inc 3 from outside the Christian community) plus a few other occasional helpers from the partnership. Our new DOE student is settling in under Lindsay's mentoring and is popular with the children.

At the Saturday SEN group we have been using 'The Lion King' as our stimulus for music and discussion and we will be exploring this further in drama next term, culminating in our end of term show. We have looked at the theme of kingship and what qualities make a good king, with reference to Jesus, the 'Servant King'. We have also discussed the nature of sacrifice, what it means to be unselfish and take responsibility; again with reference to Jesus' actions. This will link into exploring the Easter story more fully in another session. The children have shared their sadness over family bereavements and it's been good to allow time for them to express their feelings in a supportive group where others in the group have had similar experiences.

At Monday group we have talked about 'life purpose' and what or who inspires us; coming up with our own 'mission statements' as well as critiquing those of famous people. We have thought about Lent as preparation for Easter and some of the group have enthusiastically embraced the '40 Acts of Generosity' scheme which Messy Church have been doing. We also decided to take up one of these actions together – to raise money for a charity – and on 25th March children, parents and volunteers from Sat and Mon groups held an event in Lydiard Park in aid of Comic Relief. It was great to see the young people enthusiastically embracing this challenge and we had a really fun day, raising £265.00 (plus gift aid), which we were extremely pleased with.

Schools work

This term I have partnered with Swindon Youth for Christ in Lydiard Park Academy, working with year 9's and y 10's to run 5 x PSHE sessions on sex and healthy relationships and the dangers of pornography. It has been good to re-establish a link with the school and to see many of the young people who were attending Remix. I am in the process of developing further work there.

or perhaps even hand it over to them!

Beginning with the end in mind is not just the second habit of highly effective people, it might just be a better way of becoming the person God sees us being. Lent seems an appropriate season to reflect on our epitaph and create some other wise practices.

Read Bishop Lee's full article at www.bristol.anglican.org

The trees that remind us of Easter

Yew trees are linked with Resurrection, which makes them extra special around Easter time. Yew trees exemplify on-going Life. They are probably the oldest living organisms in Europe, with one in the churchyard of Fortingall, a thatched Perthshire village, thought to be as much as 5,000 years old – which made it already about 3,000 years old on the first Easter!

For centuries, yews have been revered as sacred, and it is easy to see why: yews are dense, dark evergreens, with bright red poisonous berries, and they have the most amazing power to regenerate. Cut a yew back, and it will regrow. Drop a branch and it can form new roots. Beams made of yew have even been known to sprout again, long after they have been built into houses.

Some people believe that yews began as cuttings from the original Tree of Life, some of which were taken to the British Isles in the dawn of the world.



Starting with the end in mind

In his book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey's second habit was 'Begin with the end in mind'. At the risk of being morbid I wonder how many of us have mentally penned our obituary – what we would like to be remembered for.

Several years before training for ordination, I read *God of Surprises* by the Jesuit priest Gerard Hughes, which explores spirituality and Christian faith. It was an introduction to the spiritual exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola, a Spanish knight who had a profound conversion after being wounded in battle. Published in the mid-16th century, Ignatius' spiritual exercises remain a treasury for reflection on our lives and their meaning.

I vividly remember the first exercise set by Hughes: write your own obituary. Readers were encouraged not to hold back on any hopes or aspirations and dream big. The exercise had an impact I was not properly aware of at the time. Only later did I realise that many of my musings did not express the fullness of who God had truly called me to be. Well below the surface, some of my defences had been breached in relation to what was possible for the future. In recent years I have done more work on an epitaph as a result of an exercise in *The Power of Full Engagement* by Jim Loehr and Tony Schwartz. Their exercise involved identifying three people who I have most admired and respected and identifying the qualities which resonate with what I value.

Thinking about yourself, what might be the qualities which you most want others to see in you? Perhaps patience, courage, and integrity, or maybe compassion, generosity and resilience. You may especially value vision, rigour and honesty, or humility, determination and concern for the poor. Take a moment to check your own top three.

This exercise was aimed at naming some core values which would assist in fashioning either an epitaph or purpose statement. This in turn would summon us to be the person we desire to be and help fuel changes to make that more of a reality. Loehr and Schwartz describe our deeply held values as a source of 'spiritual energy' to face uncomfortable truths about ourselves and address them. Central to this is creating what they describe as rituals – things we put in place to guide or reinforce our intention to change and in time turn into habits. For example, potential workaholics might create a ritual of turning off our smartphone to give full attention to our friends or family –

Chaplaincy

At New College, where 265 young people from West Swindon currently attend, I have been meeting weekly with other lay Chaplains, college staff and students to pray, discuss and explore future areas of activity. The team is newly formed, so the team leader (Pastor of Elim Church) is putting emphasis on building relationships. College staff have asked the team to become involved with: exam mentoring; tutorial support; joining the 'Prevent'* safeguarding group in college; sharing our faith in RE/Philosophy lessons. There are also key events such as Remembrance Day, Christmas services, Open days etc., where we can have significant input. There are many varied opportunities to share the love of Christ in this community and the staff seem keen for us to support the students, which is great. It has also been a privilege to listen to stressed staff members who have needed to 'offload'! I will soon be starting an online multi-faith Chaplaincy course, produced by chaplains in Bristol Diocese which I'm really looking forward to.

Joint work with Gayle

Gayle and I have continued to support one another this term, meeting to pray and discuss our work and attending one another's sessions where possible and appropriate. We are proposing to plan a joint project in the summer. The value of joint working is something which has been highlighted during the childrens' and youth work review process.

Claire Camm

*'Prevent' is the govt anti-radicalisation strategy

Thy Kingdom Come

promoted by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby

Between 25th May and 4th June, communities and churches around the world are gathering together to pray that their friends, families and neighbours come to know Jesus Christ.

Prayer events of all shapes and sizes will take place across the 10 days, including 24-7 prayer rooms, prayer days, prayer walks and half nights of prayer. Cathedrals, churches and other venues will host Beacon Events, gathering people across towns and cities to worship and to pray for the empowering of the Holy Spirit for effective witness.

Church Services in the Partnership St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
02 April	10:00am	Partnership Communion followed by Baptisms
09 April	10:00am	Partnership AGM at Westlea
11 April	7:00pm	St Mary's Compline
12 April	7:00pm	St Mary's Compline
14 April	7:00pm	Tenebrae
16 April	6:00am	Sunrise Communion
16 April	10:00am	Easter Day Communion
23 April	10:00am	Communion
30 April	10:00am	Communion
30 April	5.00pm	Partnership Prayer and Praise

Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
02 April	10:30am	Communion
02 April	4:00pm	Faith Pictures
09 April	10:00am	Partnership AGM at Westlea
09 April	4:00pm	Messy Church
13 April	7:45pm	Communion + Washing of feet
16 April	10:30am	Easter Day Communion
23 April	10:30am	All Age Communion
30 April	10:30am	Communion
8.45am Morning Prayer on Fridays during term time.		

Toothill

Date	Time	Form
02 April	10:30am	All Age Service
Weds 05 April	11:30am	Midweek Worship
09 April	10:00am	Partnership AGM at Westlea
Weds 12 April	11:30am	Midweek Communion
16 April	10:30am	All Age Communion
Weds 19 April	11:30am	Midweek Worship
23 April	10:30am	Morning Service
Weds 26 April	11:30am	Midweek Communion
30 April	10:30am	Family Service

Westlea

Date	Time	Form
02 April	10:00am	Morning Service
09 April	10:00am	Partnership AGM
14 April	10:00am	Good Friday Worship
16 April	10:00am	Easter Day Communion
23 April	10:00am	All Age Service
30 April	10:00am	Family Service

Ecumenical Joint Confirmation

Thursday 15 June 2017

Ecumenical Confirmation and
Public Affirmation of Faith Service

will take place at

**7.00pm at
Toothill Church**



Preparation Course starts Sunday 30 April 2017 3.00pm in St Mary's stable room.

Please call Clive on 01793 877111 for more information