

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 October, please send them to the office no later than 18 September.

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; Interim Swindon Area Dean:

Revd Capt Clive Deverell
Email: clive.deverell@btinternet.com Tel: 01793 877111
(Anglican Priest and Authorised to Serve in the Methodist Church and URC 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 2017

Looking outwards and growing together



Notes from a Navigator

My children have named me the Navigator, I would hasten to add it doesn't mean I am very good at the job, but this holiday I was chief holder of the map. The map at just two weeks old looks the worst for ware, a little holey, a little wrinkled, and a bit squished from having been folded the wrong way too often.

Navigation is a skill I am told, based on the determination of position and direction. Well, I generally knew where I was on the map (although not always) and I usually knew where we hoped to end up.

Initially, I was a little scared of the map, it could confuse me, and it was frustrating when wrong turns happened, especially when everyone else in my family, of course, knew the right way to go! But I gradually began to love the instruction and help I found in the map.

The thing is, I began to rather enjoy being a Navigator, studying the map to find walks that would be interesting, challenging, or relaxing for us all, and then experiencing the ramble, with its wonderful sights and sounds. Then each evening the joy of making notes on our adventures and discoveries, the delight of reviewing pictures showing the ups and downs of walking together as a family gathering.

My holey, wrinkled and squashed map helped me navigate a fantastic few weeks of walking with my family, but my map is just that, a diagrammatic representation of the land.

What I witnessed as I walked, was the sacred amongst us, with each and every step of the journey. God with us, in the beauty of creation, and in the lives of each and every one we met as we meandered the hills, valleys, and busy streets. Sadly, my Bible is not yet as battered as my map, but as a lifelong learner, a disciple of Jesus, I know I need to improve my navigation skills of God's word. Sometimes, like with my map reading I get a little confused or frustrated at my lack of understanding, I struggle to discern my position or direction, but Jesus offers me these words of advice.

Matthew 11:28-30 The Message (MSG)

28-30 "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

PRAYERS

Please pray for:

Help for those displaced by violence in Syria and Iraq.

Education Sunday celebrated across the Partnership on 10 September

Encounter starting 17 September

St Marys Anglican Rodbourne Cheney Week beginning
03.09.17

Emmanuel URC Week beginning
10.09.17

St Andrews Moredon Methodist Church Week beginning
17.09.17

St Marys Roman Catholic Rodbourne Cheney Week beginning
24.09.17

Prayer for a new student

We hold you, at university,
at the heart of every prayer,
And we ask our God who loves you
Just to hold you in His care.

May He make His presence known
To you in every way He can
And may you know His blessing
As you grow within His plan.

Where your life journeying will lead you
In the future is not clear,
But we pray that God will guard you
From all danger and all fear.

By Millie Carver



From the Registers

Baptism

02 July 2017	Chloe Margaret Turner
02 July 2017	Zachary Desmond Turner
23 July 2017	Evie Frith
23 July 2017	Madison May Whittaker
06 August 2017	Eleanor-Jane Susan Hilliard
06 August 2017	Lara Nase Paul Aan
20 August 2017	Emelie Amanda Peachey
27 August 2017	Ethan Michael Gray



Weddings

01 July 2017	Luke Martin Stephen Hobbs and Louise Garner
29 July 2017	Stephen Matthew Bates and Claire Emma Tyas
12 August 2017	Gareth John Moss and Laura Helen Edmeades
25 August 2017	Daniel Matthew Bissex and Sarah Lynnette Dinsdale
26 August 2017	Michael Duffin and Amanda Jayne Glossop



Funerals

10 July 2017	Mrs Gladys May Lewis-Shand
14 July 2017	Mr Gordon William Goodey



These words are not just for me, they are for all of us. Jesus invites each of us into a relationship of walking, working and learning. Jesus sees our potential, our unique skills and gently he encourages us to use them. With each opportunity to read our Bibles individually and together, Jesus reveals more of himself to us.

The more practice we have reading, communicating our thoughts and questions, the more confident we will be in sharing Jesus with others.

So, let us make notes, doodle, draw, take photos, write poems or music, or do anything else that gives us joy as we walk, work and learn with Jesus. As navigators of his word we will find joy in sharing, inspiring, uplifting and supporting others in their journey.

I look forward to taking every opportunity to gather together this academic year as we seek to discover new ways to deepen our position and direction, in Jesus Christ our Lord. May 2017-2018 be a year of exciting walks with Jesus.

Gayle

21 September - St Matthew

21st September is the feast day of St Matthew the evangelist, and his call by Jesus is described without any embellishment in chapter 9 of his Gospel. It was a bold step for Jesus to call a tax collector, someone so hated by the people. And it was an equally bold step for Matthew to respond – to turn from the security and profit of his lifestyle and step out into the unknown.

From earliest times, he was regarded as the author of the first of the four Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew is in correct, concise style, very suitable for public reading.

His usual emblem as an evangelist is a man, because his genealogy emphasised the family ties of Christ. In art, he has been represented as either an evangelist or as an apostle. As an evangelist, he has been depicted sitting at a desk, writing his gospel with an angel holding the inkwell. In the Middle Ages he was even given a pair of spectacles.

Matthew was martyred by a sword or a spear, some think in Ethiopia.

Regular activities

2 nd Sunday each month	
Messy Church	10 September 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 Jean Brock 01793 539456	13 September 2pm @ St Mary's Stable Room
Every Thursday	
Toothill Tinies	10 -11:30am @ Toothill
Home Group	
HTS led by Sue Green Contact Sue on 01793 872056 for details	Thursday 7.30pm

Ride and Stride

This year's Wiltshire Historic Churches 'Ride and Stride' event will be held on **Saturday 09 September**. Cycle, walk, jog, drive, horse-ride, or use a mobility scooter.

By taking part, you are helping to preserve Britain's rich heritage of churches, chapels and meeting houses. Each county trust relies on your efforts and generosity to support these historic buildings.

Entry Forms and Sponsorship Forms are available from Wendy on 01793 877111. There will be someone at Toothill Church all day to mark cards for those taking part, however entry to the church will be restricted because of a private activity.

Gospel Choir

A **Christian concert** is being planned for **Friday 13th of October**. **St Joseph's College** have kindly agreed for this to be staged at the College and to manage its promotion and organisation.

Leading Christian singer/songwriter, **Paul Field**, has accepted our invitation to play this event as has leading Christian Gospel singer, **Geraldine Latty**.

Blunsdon Methodist Church closing

The final service is to be held at Blunsdon Methodist Church on Sunday 15th October at 3pm.

Mustard Seed Appeal - bringing hope to those in debt

This Harvest, the Archbishop of Canterbury is asking churches to support the Mustard Seed Appeal, set up last year to respond to the desperate growing debt problem that so many in the UK are facing.

At present, about 600,000 families are spending more on repaying debts than on food. One in four adults have less than £500 saved to cover an emergency. Nearly nine million adults are over-indebted, but only one in six are currently seeking help.

The impact of financial distress can be devastating, creating stress and anxiety, hardship and hopelessness. Relationships, family life and mental health suffer as people become stuck in a spiral of debt and end up spending more of their income on paying back loans. Without support, people become vulnerable to loan sharks and pay-day lenders.

In 2016 the Archbishop of Canterbury's Mustard Seed Appeal was set up to respond to this desperate need and to launch the Just Finance Foundation. Archbishop Justin's vision for a fairer financial system is inspired by the parable Jesus told where a tiny seed grows into something big. Your donation is helping to sow seeds of hope.

The money that is raised through the Mustard Seed Appeal will help to fund the Just Finance Foundation's two streams of work. The aim is to both help people already in financial crisis, and to create a new generation who can manage money wisely.

More details at: <https://www.cuf.org.uk/mustard-seed-appeal>



Garden Fete

Saturday 9 September

12.00 – 4.00pm

Prospect Hospice Gardens, free park and ride

With plenty for everyone, our traditional fete is held in the grounds of the hospice and is our opportunity to welcome the community to come to us, enjoy a variety of stalls, games, refreshments and family entertainment in the hospice gardens.



Run the Rainbow

Saturday 16 September

Lydiard Park Swindon

Registration: £12/£20

Suggested sponsorship: £100

Join our most colourful fundraiser of the year! Grab your friends, family or colleagues and come down to Lydiard Park for this special 5k run, which is suitable for everyone. Throughout the run brightly coloured powder paint will be thrown at you, so you'll finish covered in all the colours of the rainbow! Don't worry - you don't have to run. You can walk, skip, dance or anything in between, as long as you're having fun.

For more information contact : Telephone: 01793 816161

Email: fundraising&events@prospect-hospice.net

Pilgrim Homes

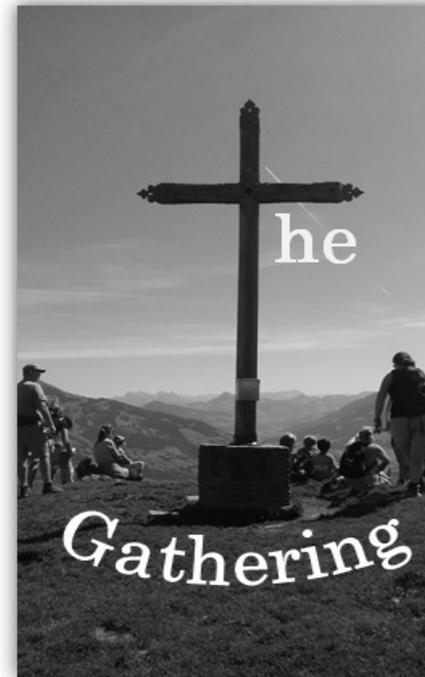
Saturday 23 September

Meeting at 10.30am

Radley Railway Station, Foxborough Road, Radley, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3AE

Sponsored Walk in aid of the En-suite Project for the Framland Pilgrim Home, Wantage. Sponsorship forms available from Dave Pepler on dave.a.pepler@gmail.com

New in the Partnership



The Partnership Council would like to invite you to our first **Gathering**.

The idea of our Gathering is to bring together everyone who has a heart for our Partnership Children's, Youth and Family work.

Our first Gathering takes place on Sunday 17th September from 5-6.30pm at HTS.

Please come along to pray, enjoy fellowship, share stories and ideas.

We hope that by gathering together we will be able to develop a holistic and creative approach to our mission to the children, youth and families of our community.

As we are Gathering over tea time food will be provided, please just let us know that you will be coming along by emailing Mary, Gayle or Claire.

After this first Gathering we would encourage you to stay to our new reflective worship called **Encounter** which takes place at 7pm.

We look forward to sharing with you all.

New in the Partnership

As I sit here looking out of the window of our holiday apartment, listening to the birds sing sweetly outside, watching the clouds scudding across an Austrian sky touching the tops of the wooded hills that surround the Wildschönau valley, my thoughts turn to our new venture in the partnership called:



We are fortunate as a family that we can have this time away to walk, usually downhill, through alpine meadows and shaded forest paths, past streams and waterfalls. We have seen breath-taking views, dramatic thunderstorms and amazing sunsets.

As we walk my thoughts frequently turn to one of my favourite hymns:
*“O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder, consider all the works
Thy hand hath made”*

The second verse seems especially relevant:

*“When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!”*

So, what’s this got to do with “Encounter” I hear you ask?

Well at the last Partnership Praise I attended we sang this hymn but Clive had left the second verse off the song sheet as he hadn’t got enough room to fit it in.

Isn’t this often what our lives are like?

Our lives are so full of stuff, we’re so busy with work, church, family, friends that we don’t have space in our lives to enjoy the world around us or more importantly spend time in God’s presence. Aren’t we too often like Martha spending time doing when sometimes we need to be

Revd Canon Angela Overton-Benge

Angela is leaving the Swindon area at the end of September 2017. She has obtained a House-for-Duty job, with additional work as a prison chaplain, in the Diocese of Carlisle.

Her desire was to get the chaplaincy on a good footing, and converted to a charity, before thinking about working towards retirement. These aims have been achieved, so it is time to move on.

You are all invited to a farewell social where light refreshments will be provided, (no alcohol allowed).

The social is as follows:

Venue: The Church of Christ the Servant, 4 Elstree Way, Abbey Meads, Swindon SN25 4YX

Date: Friday 15 September 2017

Time: 7.00 for 7.30 pm

Parking: There is a car park, or street parking in the area.

As Angela is leaving the Swindon area at the end of September 2017. Many people have expressed a desire to go to her induction in Cumbria. This is in the evening of

Thursday 5th October, probably about 7.00 pm.

Venue: St Michael and All Angels, Main Street, Bootle, Cumbria, LA19 5TH.

We will be hiring a coach to go up there. The distance is about 262 miles and takes approx. 5-6 hours by road.

In view of this, we thought it best to have an overnight stop, and travel back on the Friday. There is a Premier Inn in Barrow-in-Furness which may be able to accommodate us. The cost involved will be a share of the coach/driver plus one night’s accommodation. We obviously do not know how much this will be yet, until we have some definite numbers.

If you think you would definitely like to come to this, please let me know as soon as possible. We can then go ahead with hiring the coach and rooms.

Please contact Marion for more information on

Tel: 01793 618986

Email: scchaplaincy@btinternet.com

Fruitful Fields

For the future of the circuit, Andrew Fleet has agreed to do the 'Fruitful Fields' presentation at Highworth Methodist Church on Wednesday 20th September at 7.30pm. This will be open to all members and will take place the week before the future of the circuit is discussed at the Circuit Meeting.

Macmillan Support



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 £29.5 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

SYFC Quiz Night

14 October 2017

7.30 – 10.00pm

Meadowcroft Community Centre, Addison Crescent, SN2 7JX

£5 per person

Bring your own bottle

A charitable night what will include fun, food and faith stories from the work of Swindon Youth for Christ

Advance Notice Saturday 18th November

Toothill Church does Strictly Come Dancing

From 2.00pm – 4.00pm in Toothill Church.

Come and dance or just listen to a selection of music and songs from all decades.

Tea/ Coffee and Biscuits 50p - Glitter ball and prize to be won. Contact Debbie 01793 321677 for further information.

more like Mary sitting at the feet of the Saviour, hanging on his every word?

It is this thought which has led Veg Patch to the idea of having a quiet meditative style Partnership worship to give us as a worshipping community time to listen and make space for God.

We will meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month starting at **7 pm on 17th September at Holy Trinity Shaw.**

Psalm 46:10 *"He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.'"*

So why not join us in a time of reflective worship to do just that, to be still and know that He is God. To consider in awesome wonder all the works His hand has made, that our souls can sing How great He is!

Together let us **E N D O U N T E R** the Living Lord, spend time in his presence and listen to his call on our lives, our partnership and our community.

Every blessing

Ian (for and on behalf of Veg Patch)

"The Kingdom of God is...."

Theme for the Partnership during October 2017

For the past couple of years, we have had a partnership-wide worship theme during October. The aim is to have each of our four congregations taking part, so that we are sharing together in worship even though we are apart in location. It has been a great way to bring us together, and at the same time allowing each congregation and worship leader to interpret and use the theme appropriately, enabling all of us to be "similar but different".

The theme this year is based on "The kingdom of God is...", from the parables told by Jesus, and the main readings will be taken from the Gospel of Matthew.

There will also be a shared liturgy for each Sunday.

More details to follow in the October newsletter. Please pray for each of the congregations, the worship leaders and for our Partnership as we seek to serve God and our communities through our worship and witness.

Mark Taylor

**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

Farewell Letter from the Bishop of Bristol

Dear brothers and sisters,

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore to send out workers into the harvest field.” Luke 10:2

As a convert to the Christian faith, my passion has been to see people come to faith in Jesus Christ. In parish ministry, I sought to lead churches where people could hear the Good News, deepen their faith and transform their communities. I have tried to encourage our churches to do the same in their tradition and their context.

Our society is in desperate need of God. Like the crowds Jesus encountered, people are “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd”. As I retire, the Church of England is rediscovering its mission to the nation. The harvest *is* plentiful and we have hope for the future. But we must face our challenges if that harvest is to be reaped.

The particular challenge I want to leave you with is to pray for, resource and release a new generation of workers into the harvest field and specifically those to lead our churches.

A growing and hopeful Church needs ministers, lay and ordained, with a deep faith who can lead in a changing and diverse world. It needs a wide variety of people and gifts to lead in different ways.

But it also needs *more* ministers: the workers *are* few and are getting fewer.

As a Church, we have underinvested in praying for and seeking out this new generation. We have also underinvested in funding their training and ministry.

In this Diocese, our previous approach to Parish Share, the way we resource ministry, intensified this. As parishes did not receive clear and equitable direction on how much to give, many unintentionally deprioritised their responsibility to fund ministry.

The gap between Parish Share and ministry costs widened to £1m. To redress the balance, all parishes are now being asked to give at new levels to provide the ministry we need, both now and into the future.

+Mike



Retirement of Bishop Mike

Bishop Mike will retire as the 56th Bishop of Bristol at the end of September

Get involved

There are many ways everyone can get involved in the process of discernment for the next Bishop of Bristol. Whatever your background and whoever you are, we want to hear from as many people as possible.

- Pray. You may want to consider the following:
 - Give thanks for the ministry of Bishop Mike;
 - Pray for Bishop Lee and the diocesan team during the period of vacancy;
 - Ask for wisdom and discernment for all those involved in the process;
 - Pray for the person who is chosen to take on the role.
 - Prayer resources for use either individually or in your church will be available from the end of August.
- Attend an open meeting to discuss and share your views. There will be a meeting across the Deaneries throughout September and October, where people can pray together, understand the role and process better and then have informed and discerning discussions as part of the consultation. You do not have to be part of a particular Deanery to attend; each one is open to anyone from across the Diocese. There will also be an open meeting at Bristol Cathedral.

Deanery	Date and Time
St Giles, Lea, North Wilts (venue tbc)	Wed 27 Sept - 7.30pm
Toothill Church, West Swindon	Thu 5 Oct - 7pm for 7.30pm,
St Peter Henleaze, Bristol (tbc)	Wed 11 Oct - time tbc
St Andrews Chippenham	Thu 12 Oct - 7pm
Bristol City (venue tbc)	Date and time tbc
Bristol South (venue tbc)	Date and time tbc
Bristol Cathedral	Date and time tbc

If you would like to discuss anything with a member of the Vacancy in See Committee, please contact Oliver Home (oliver.home@bristoldiocese.org) who will be able to put you in touch with the relevant person.

Walking the Way - a season of preparation

For the thirteen weeks starting 4th September 2017 that lead up to Advent Sunday, the steering group for Walking the Way are asking the people of the URC to join with them in praying for Walking the Way as we all begin this exciting journey.

Each Synod has been asked to take responsibility for writing prayers for a specific week and topic so that the prayers can be used for personal and corporate prayer across the URC in the hope that this time of prayer will help us get ready for Walking the Way in years to come.

Here in the South Western Synod we have been given the week beginning October 23rd with the topic: The Emergency Services.

Anyone can contribute a prayer - please send to synodclerk@urcsouthwest.org.uk and I will send them onto the steering group to share across the URC.

Operation Christmas Child 2017 time to pack those shoeboxes!

11,485,662 SHOEBOX GIFTS COLLECTED IN 2016!

A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child.

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."

You can still help share God's love with children around the world even if you don't have time to shop for and pack an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift. You can build a shoebox online. Make it your own by choosing from a list of gifts by dragging and dropping them into your box, then add a personal letter and photo. We'll pack your shoebox and send it for you, for a suggested donation of just £15 + £3 shipping per box. If you could send a shoebox and for more information, go to: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

Church Services in the Partnership St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
03 September	10:00am	Morning Service
10 September	10:00am	Holy Communion – Education Sunday
17 September	10:00am	Harvest Family Service followed by Baptisms
24 September	10:00am	Harvest Holy Communion followed by Baptism
24 September	5:00pm	Harvest Partnership Prayer and Praise with Parade

Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
03 September	10:30am	Holy Communion & God.com/SS
10 September	10:30am	All Age Service-Education Sunday
10 September	4:00pm	Messy Church
17 September	10:30am	All Age Service
17 September	7:00pm	Encounter
24 September	10:30am	Harvest Communion

8.45am Morning Prayer on Fridays during term time.

Toothill

Date	Time	Form
03 September	10:30am	All Age Service
03 September	6:00pm	Circuit Service
Weds 06 Sept	11:30am	Midweek Worship
10 September	10:30am	Education Sunday
Weds 13 Sept	11:30am	Midweek Communion
17 September	10:30am	Morning Service
Weds 20 Sept	11:30am	Midweek Worship
24 September	10:30am	Harvest Parade
Weds 27 Sept	11:30am	Midweek Communion

Westlea

Date	Time	Form
03 September	10:00am	Morning Service
10 September	10:00am	Family service- Education Sunday
17 September	10:00am	Holy Communion
24 September	10:00am	Harvest Festival

We will be Celebrating across the Partnership

Circuit Service

at

**Toothill 6.00pm.
03 September 2017**

Led by
Rev Jan Partridge who
will be celebrating
20 years at Toothill

Please come along and join us

Education Sunday

“Gathered in my name”

10 September 2017

All Partnership Churches
will be celebrating at all
morning services today.

All are welcome

Partnership Prayer and Praise

**St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze
Sunday 24 September 2017**

5.00pm

The theme will be

**“HARVEST”
with parade**



Fellowship time 4.15pm in the Stable Room where refreshments will be available before the service

Everyone is Welcome

This is an opportunity to Pray and Praise together