

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 March, please send them to the office no later than 15 February.

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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; Swindon Area Dean:

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(Anglican Priest and Authorised to Serve in the Methodist Church and URC Church)

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

Partnership Youth Worker: Claire Camm

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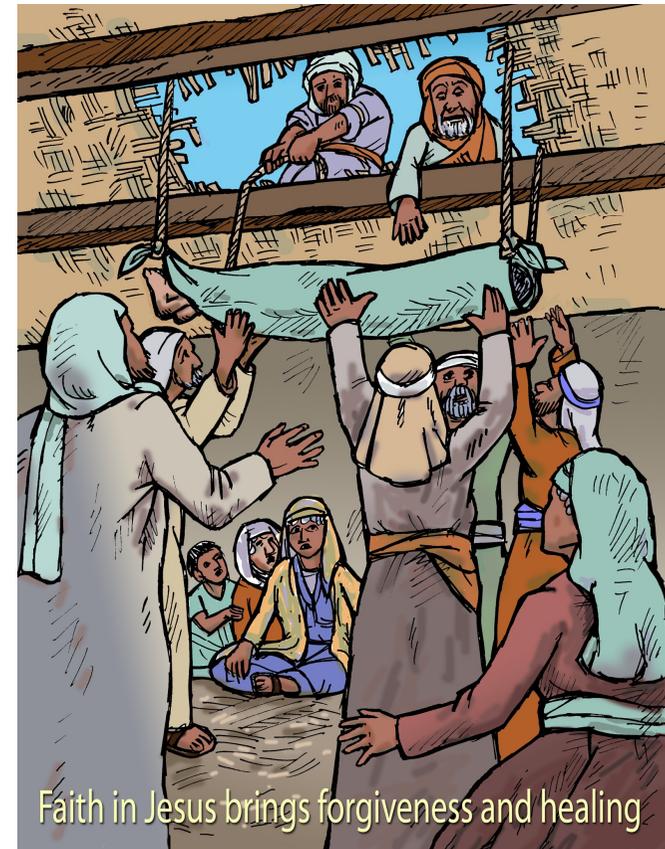
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Email: gayleschoolswork@gmail.com



In Partnership February 2018

Looking outwards and growing together



Faith in Jesus brings forgiveness and healing

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership
Baptist • Church of England • Methodist • United Reformed Church
Registered Charity: 1141341

The big plan

At the end of January your leadership teams and church committees met to pray together. We've not done that recently - must be serious.

We originally intended to meet and discuss the future of our partnership, maybe even figure out a vision - God's plan. I think the leadership have realised we face many issues and challenges. I could list everything but I'm sure you know we're finding fewer and fewer people to support the activities we organise. We are facing money challenges too. Our 4 denominations also face money problems, and the reasons are the same as ours. Reducing income, increasing expenses doing what we want to do. Tricky.

During the planning discussions for our leadership meeting it became evident that we had a good understanding of the problems we face, but not much clue what God's plan actually was. Praying it is then. Anyone been in that situation before?

The bible slot...Onesimus was a slave in the household of a Christian leader called Philemon. Onesimus ran away. We don't know why, he may have been a naughty boy, its possible his owner was cruel or unjust. Shameful being a church leader being cruel to his slave. By our standards, shameful having a slave at all, but let's stick to Onesimus' story. He ran away and headed off to the bright lights of the big city. Do you think he recognised he had many problems, and not much of a plan?

In the fullness of time our hero ran into an evangelist. Perhaps they reminded him of his old owner's belief. However it came about, Onesimus became a Christian. He became a very useful helper to the evangelist and his friends. At some point Paul (for it was he) wrote to the Church run by Philemon intending to send Onesimus back to his owner. The letter is fascinating. And short (shorter than this article). Do read it.

Long version - Paul wanted Onesimus, who had clearly repented of his behaviour, to throw himself on the mercy of his owner and put right the wrong he'd caused. Likewise he wanted Philemon to accept Onesimus as a brother in Christ, not primarily as a slave, though that was his

From the Registers

Funerals

03 January 2018 Sheila Constance Povey

19 January 2018 William Arthur Swatridge

PRAYERS

Please pray for:

The people of Syria and those who've fled to neighbouring countries.

Partnership Emerge and Schools work

The church of Christ the servant Abbey meads	Week beginning 04.02.18
St Johns Haydon Wick	Week beginning 11.02.18
West Swindon Local Ecumenical Partnership	Week beginning 18.02.18

Advance Notice

Holy Trinity Shaw - 10.30am

Easter Day: 01 April 2018

The service at will be led by the **Reverend Ruth Whitehead**, who is the URC Moderator for the South Western Synod.

Ruth was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament back in 1993, and as Moderator for the South Western Synod, she covers churches both big and small, from Cornwall to Wiltshire.

We are looking forward to welcoming her to Holy Trinity at Easter, I am sure it will be a blessed time of worship and praise at this most special festival.

Public Affirmation of Faith and Confirmation

Sunday 17 June 2018

St Paul's Covingham

The service at will take place late afternoon/early evening.

If anyone wishes to be confirmed the first meeting will take place at 3.00pm on Sunday 15th of April at the Stable Room next to St Mary's. Further details please contact Clive.

PILGRIMS' FRIEND SOCIETY

QUIZ & SUPPER

In Aid Of The Framland Pilgrim Home, Wantage

5:30pm Saturday 3rd March 2018
at Hanney Chapel,
Main St., East Hanney, OXON. OX12 0HX

**Supper includes; jacket potato & filling,
 dessert and tea /coffee**

£8 per Adult £4 per Child (up to age 10 years)
£20 per Family (2 adults & 2 children)

Tickets available on the night but to aid catering, please reserve in advance
 from: Dave Pepler, 9 Hunters Close, Grove, OXON. OX12 0PX
 01235 766863 dave.a.pepler@gmail.com
 Cheques to be made out to 'Pilgrim Homes'

Pilgrim Homes
 175 Lower Bridge Road, London SE1 2AL
 Tel: 020 7633 1400 Fax: 020 7633 1415 Email: info@pilgrimshomes.org.uk
www.pilgrimshomes.org.uk
 Pilgrim Homes is a registered charity formerly known as The Ageing Pilgrims Society
 Incorporated in England. Charity No. 242266. Reg. No. 44637




80 years of Organ Music

Saturday 03 March 2018

4.00pm – 7.00pm at Stratton Methodist Church

A variety of music from a range of organists will be entertaining us, whilst an afternoon tea is enjoyed.

Entry is free and any money raised from sale of refreshments will be donated to the MHA, Stimulating Minds Project.

For more information please contact 01793 822015.

Spring Harvest 2018

Skegness 02-06 April 2018

Minehead One: 03-08 April 2018

Minehead Two: 08-12 April 2018



Spring Harvest comes together each year, through the dedication and commitment of many different people, from a number of different organisations across the church. The theme this year is 'Only the Brave' exploring what it means to be a determined disciple and follower of Jesus.

Booking is now available for Spring Harvest 2018!

To book for Minehead and Skegness call 0330 100 9330 or visit

www.springharvest.org/book/

status. You read it, Paul does not instruct, but he clearly expects Philemon to accept Onesimus back. Do you think Onesimus was nervous, do you think he really thought this was going to turn out well for him? Book of Philemon doesn't say, it's just the middle bit of the story. However it does provide us with some principles.

For Onesimus, keep the faith, make restitution, ask for forgiveness...I'm guessing, pray...

For me, keep the faith, remind myself that God does have a plan, stick close to Him. So I'm going to pray, turn up to worship with my brothers and sisters and try to change the world around me into a better place. Easy to say, not so easy to achieve. Good job God's got a plan for that stuff too.

Please join me. Pray for the leadership of your church, our partnership and the denominations we're part of. We all could do with a vision and helpful guidance. Knowledge of the plan would be nice.

There is an interesting ending to the Onesimus thing. About 40 years later a bishop called Ignatius wrote a letter to a local church, and referred to one "Onesimus, a man of inexpressible love, and your bishop". Hmm. Clearly God had some sort of plan. He just didn't let on at the time.

Chris Scarisbrick

Welcome Teresa

We are really pleased to announce that after the completion of her ordination training course in June 2018, Teresa Townsend will serve her curacy of approximately 4 years as a self-supporting curate in the West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Ecumenical Partnership and Parish.



Teresa is currently a Licensed Lay Minister in the Parish of Wroughton. We look forward to being present at her Ordination at the end of June.

Regular activities

2nd Sunday each month	
Messy Church	11 February 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	14 February 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
TOOTHILL led by Rev Jan Partridge Contact Jan on 01793 534992 for details	3 rd Monday of each month 2.30pm
WESTLEA led by Pete Gilder Contact Pete on 01793 878823 for details	Alternate Tuesdays 8pm

Insanity

Doctor: 'Has there been any insanity in your family?'

Woman: 'I'm afraid so. My husband sometimes thinks he's the boss.'

Easter Holiday Activity Day

Friends Reunited!



Come along and join the fun.

Thursday
5th
April

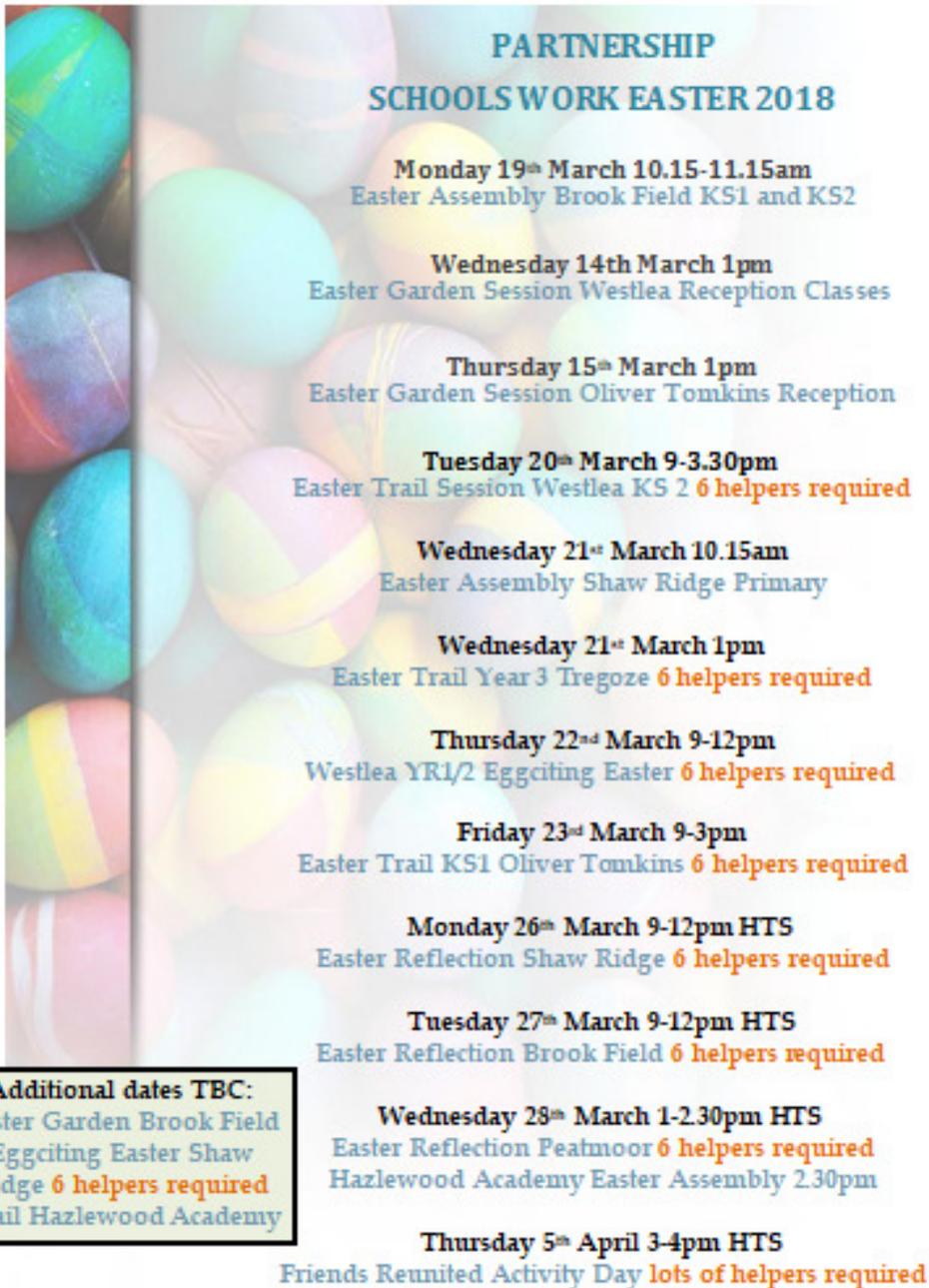
A day of stories, crafts, singing, cooking and games for children in Reception – Year 9.

At Holy Trinity Church Shaw 10am-3pm

Registration: 9.45am-10am

Pickup: 3pm (Celebration and refreshments for parents and children)

For more information and to book places please phone the Partnership office on **874221** or email gayleschoolswork@gmail.com



PARTNERSHIP
SCHOOLS WORK EASTER 2018

Monday 19th March 10.15-11.15am
Easter Assembly Brook Field KS1 and KS2

Wednesday 14th March 1pm
Easter Garden Session Westlea Reception Classes

Thursday 15th March 1pm
Easter Garden Session Oliver Tomkins Reception

Tuesday 20th March 9-3.30pm
Easter Trail Session Westlea KS 2 **6 helpers required**

Wednesday 21st March 10.15am
Easter Assembly Shaw Ridge Primary

Wednesday 21st March 1pm
Easter Trail Year 3 Tregoze **6 helpers required**

Thursday 22nd March 9-12pm
Westlea YR1/2 Eggciting Easter **6 helpers required**

Friday 23rd March 9-3pm
Easter Trail KS1 Oliver Tomkins **6 helpers required**

Monday 26th March 9-12pm HTS
Easter Reflection Shaw Ridge **6 helpers required**

Tuesday 27th March 9-12pm HTS
Easter Reflection Brook Field **6 helpers required**

Wednesday 28th March 1-2.30pm HTS
Easter Reflection Peatmoor **6 helpers required**
Hazlewood Academy Easter Assembly 2.30pm

Thursday 5th April 3-4pm HTS
Friends Reunited Activity Day **lots of helpers required**

Additional dates TBC:
Easter Garden Brook Field
Eggciting Easter Shaw Ridge **6 helpers required**
Trail Hazlewood Academy

Diary of a Momentous Year: February 1918: How long, O Lord, how long?

If there had been radio or television in 1918 the British public would have been more aware that events in northern Europe and the middle East were changing the history of the modern world. Of course, people knew – it was all over the newspapers – that Russia now had a Bolshevik Government, following the Revolution, and that British forces (including the eventually world-famous ‘Lawrence of Arabia’) were now deeply involved in a war to free the Arab peoples from Ottoman rule. But that all seemed far away, and there were more immediately pressing things to worry about at home.

The first, and for most people the worst, of these was the very effective German blockade. ‘Britannia rules the waves’ didn’t seem very true when German submarines, the dreaded U-boats, could operate with impunity around our shores. During February, a British troopship carrying American soldiers was sunk off the Irish coast, and even more blatantly a hospital ship was sunk in the Bristol channel, both by German submarines. The city of Dover, in Kent, was shelled by the guns of a U-boat. The whole thing seemed to be getting out of hand – certainly the toll of freight ships sunk was drastically affecting food and other supplies in the shops.

The result of this was that the civilian population, whose war-time fears had hitherto largely concerned their loved ones at the front line, now felt the effects of war at close hand. Over the previous two years they had gradually become aware, largely through the bombing raids by Zeppelins on British towns and cities, that in modern warfare everyone is vulnerable. By the end of 1917, the Germans had largely abandoned Zeppelin raids, mainly because they had already lost the greater part of their fleet, but the threat of raids by aircraft was very much in people’s minds. The shelling of Dover was a reminder that modern war knows no borders.

Not surprisingly, February 1918 saw many tentative attempts to gather support for a peace-making programme, largely encouraged by US President Wilson. Politicians were talking peace at last, and there had been cease-fires agreed in several long-lasting disputes in eastern Europe, and the middle East. But for anxious British people, some resolution of the apparently endless conflict with Germany was the main topic of their prayers.

14 February ASH WEDNESDAY

- mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 – 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.



'He gave us eyes to see them' - Water

Open the door of any church and the first thing to greet you is the font. As you enter the porch to turn that door handle, there may be a holy water stoup set in the wall: both reminders of the sacrament of baptism that marks the beginning of the Christian journey.

In the church water is a symbol with two faces. One is the face of an enemy for it can be a destructive power. We can think of the engulfing water of the flood, consuming the earth, and the image of the Christian immersed and drowning in the water of baptism, dying to the old way to be raised to the new life of the spirit. But water is also a friend and an ally – a sign of life and refreshment, of washing and cleansing, of starting anew. We recall this twofold aspect when we cross ourselves with the water of the stoup or are sprinkled with water as we renew our baptismal promises at the Easter Vigil.

Around 1330 Andrea Pisano created a series of 28 glorious bronze panels for the south door of the 11th century baptistery in Florence. One of them depicts that crucial moment of the baptism of Jesus. He is up to his waist in the river. An angel kneels at one side with a towel, while John the Baptist stands at the other, pouring water on the head of Jesus as the Holy Spirit descends like a dove.

The baptism itself becomes a door – a door through which Jesus must pass to begin his ministry as the anointed one, and a door through which others must enter as they seek to follow. Jesus will go on to call disciples fishing in the water of the Sea of Galilee, just as he will tell a Samaritan woman about water that will gush up to eternal life. Jesus calls us and offers us this water – to be washed and refreshed by it: a door that will open out for us into a life of joy and service.



Hebion

Friday, February 9, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Highworth Methodist Church

Vicarage Lane
Highworth SN6 7HG

Gospel Music
with a distinctly
Jewish flavour,
with ministry
In word and song

Featuring:

Simon Elman
Chrissy Rodgers
Helen Shapiro

ADMISSION:

FREE BY TICKET ONLY

A freewill offering
will be taken

Contact:

01793 201703



Free Lent Activity Day
Wednesday 14th February

Count your Blessings!

A day of stories, crafts,
singing, cooking and games.

All children
Reception - Year 9
are welcome to
come along.



At Holy Trinity Church Shaw 10am-3pm

Registration: 9.45am-10am

Pick up: 3pm (Celebration and
refreshments for parents and children)

For more information and to book places please phone the

Partnership office on 874221

or email gayleschoolswork@gmail.com

Church Services in the Partnership St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
04 February	10:00am	Morning Service
11 February	10:00am	Communion
18 February	10:00am	Family Service
25 February	10:00am	Communion followed by Baptisms

Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
04 February	10:30am	Communion & God.com/SS
11 February	10:30am	Communion
11 February	4:00pm	Messy Church
18 February	10:30am	Morning Service & God.com/SS
18 February	7:00pm	Encounter
25 February	10:30am	All Age Service
25 February	4:00pm	Partnership Come Together

8.45am Morning Prayer on Fridays during term time.

Toothill

Date	Time	Form
04 February	10:30am	All Age Service
Weds 07 Feb	11:30am	Midweek Worship
11 February	10:30am	Communion
Weds 14 Feb	11:30am	Midweek Communion
18 February	10:30am	Morning Service
Weds 21 Feb	11:30am	Midweek Worship
25 February	10:30am	Morning Service & AGM
Weds 28 Feb	11:30am	Midweek Communion

Westlea

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

Ash Wednesday Worship

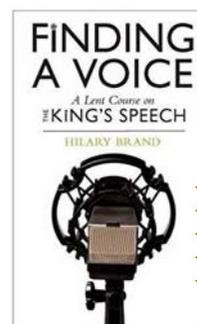
14 February at Toothill Church 11.30am

And every Wednesday during Lent

Partnership Lent Study

Toothill Church

Tuesday evenings: 7.30pm to 9 pm



The Partnership Lent Study will follow the Lent course "Finding a Voice" based on the film "The King's Speech". The study guide is written by Hilary Brand. It is not necessary to purchase the book but if you do its ISBN is 975-0-232-52893-0. There is no need to have seen the film in advance. (But if you have you will know how it all ends!)

The course will run over 5 sessions on Tuesday evenings in Lent from 7.30 to 9 pm preceded by tea and coffee. The sessions will incorporate excerpts

from the film, bible study and questions.

The session details are as follows.

- 20 Feb - The stuff of nightmares and the power of friendship
- 27 Feb - Chasing the dream or fulfilling the calling
- 6 Mar - Pressing forward and breaking through
- 13 Mar - Poisonous words and profane responses
- 20 Mar - Eloquence for evil and stammering for good

For more information please contact Pete Gilder (petegilder@gmail.com or 878823)