

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 April, please send them to the office no later than 22 March.

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

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

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

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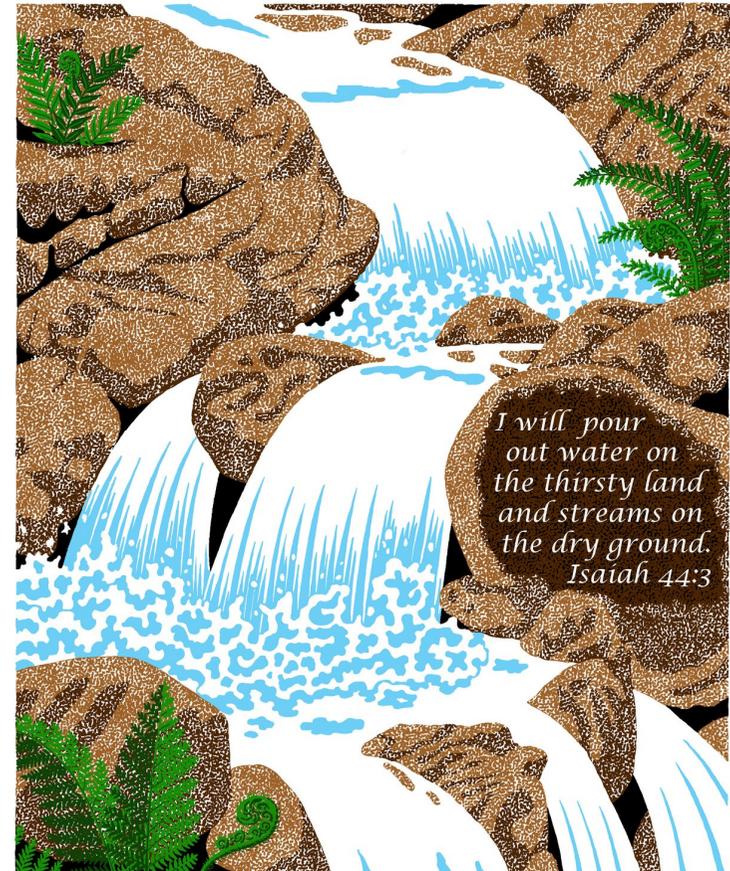
Partnership Primary Age Schools Worker: Gayle Bryon

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In Partnership March 2018

Looking outwards and growing together



West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

Baptist • Church of England • Methodist • United Reformed Church

Registered Charity: 1141341

Spring!

What does it mean for you? Daffodils, Tulips, preceded by Crocuses and Snowdrops. Lambs in the fields, blossom on the trees, or AGM'S.

For me, the Magnolia flowers bursting forth from the silky enclosures in which they have grown, colourful and pointing upright, are a sure sign of spring and warming temperatures, for which I am grateful.

When in Scotland recently, whilst all the moorland was covered in snow which was beautiful, the comment I heard more than once was that in a month or two the heather would turn the mountains a beautiful pink and purple. New hope, new life, flourishing in same context. Signs of new growth and new hope are signs of not only Spring, but a healthy Christian community.

In February, the Church of England voted overwhelmingly to push forward with formal conversations with the Methodists regarding unification.

Some signs of change are obvious like the mountains of Scotland, or formal conversations between denominations, others are less visible.

In our own context, within each community and across the whole we need to look carefully for the signs of hope, encouragement, and growth of the activities of God, in our midst. On the Feast of the Epiphany, I was at Toothill Church. After talking about the gifts given to Jesus and how the gold was all that was needed for the families' flight and extended stay in Egypt, I felt God prompting me to pray that the Christian Community in Toothill would be surprised this year.

I believe wholeheartedly, God will answer that prayer.

Praying for new hope and new life is paramount for us as a Christian community and we all have a part to play in supporting and encouraging each other.

What would it be like for us to pray a blessing on each other that we might be surprised by God this year? Please can I invite you to join with me in praying this blessing on each other.

Heavenly Father, help us to see you at work, encourage us to prayerfully support each other, and this year inspire and surprise us we pray. Amen

Clive



From the Registers

Baptism

18 February 2018 Jack Thomas Murphy

Weddings

03 February 2018 Mark Yates-May and Reyna Talinio Cristobel

15 February 2018 Dean William Stainer and Samantha Audrey Oakey

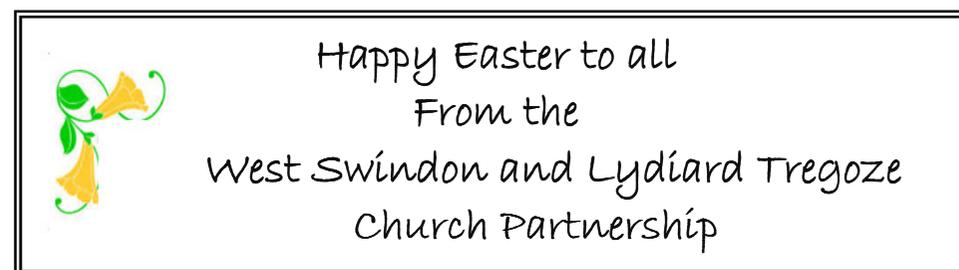
PRAYERS

Please pray for:

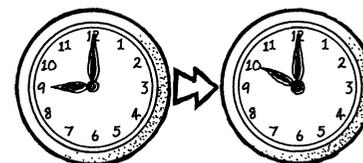
The people of Syria as Violence has escalated, putting millions of innocent lives at risk.

Partnership Easter Schools Work

Name of Church	Week Beginning
Rodbourne Cheney Baptist Church	04.03.18
St Marys Anglican Rodbourne Cheney	11.03.18
Emmanuel URC	18.03.18
St Andrews Moredon Methodist Church	25.03.18



Finally don't forget....



Sunday 25 March 2018

Women's World Day of Prayer –

Friday 02 March – 1.30 pm

Methodist Church, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett

West Swindon is no longer participating in this event but you are welcome to join the above event in Royal Wootton Bassett.

The Women's World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.

RISE Theatre presents

ROMERO, HEARTBEAT OF EL SALVADOR

Date: Friday 16th March, 7 for 7.30pm

Venue: St Joseph's Catholic College, SN3 3LR

Tickets £10 (£5 for students)

A new, original play about the life of Oscar Romero. Tickets available on-line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre.

Suitable for adults and children aged 11+

It Takes Two- Building a lasting Marriage

Wednesday 21 March

Steam Museum, Swindon SN2 2EY

7.30pm – 10.00pm

Tickets from £4

Juggling work, family life, finances and a host of other issues mean that building a vibrant and lasting relationship can sometimes be challenging.

It Takes Two is an event for anyone who wants to invest a little more in their relationship. Whether your marriage is in good shape or things are difficult right now, whether you have been married for many years or you've just got together, this event will help make a difference in your relationship. To book Tel: 02920810800 email: cff.org.uk/ittakestwo

Christian Aid Week 13-19 May 2018

During Christian Aid Week, people come together from all walks of life to step out in support of the world's poorest communities.

For more than 60 years, our amazing supporters have organised thousands of fabulous Christian Aid Week events. From holding house-to-house collections, sponsored walks and church collections, to taking part in Big Brekkies, abseils and quiz nights, this support makes our work possible.

Regular activities

2 nd Sunday each month	
Messy Church	11 March 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
2 nd Wednesday of each month	
Mothers Union Contact Jean Brock 01793 539456	14 March 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

**PARTNERSHIP WORSHIP
AT
TOOTHILL CHURCH
Midweek Worship 2018**



**Every Wednesday during Lent
11.30am**

Please note:

**Wednesday 28 March 2018
will be the last Wednesday service
until later in the year**

Part of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

**GERALDINE
LATTY**
IN CONCERT



**SATURDAY 28TH APRIL
7PM**

Daytime workshop tickets
also available

For tickets and information, please contact
Adrian Foster - 07979 438700

The Beacon Centre
Sheldon Road Methodist Church
Chippenham
SN14 0DU

Bishop's Bill to put mothers' names on marriage certificates passes first stage

A move to end the "historic injustice" of excluding mothers' names from marriage certificates has passed its first parliamentary stage in a Private Members' Bill brought by the Bishop of St Albans, Dr Alan Smith.

The bill, which also includes provision to modernise registration with electronic registers, received its Second Reading in the House of Lords.

In his speech, the Bishop described the origin of the present practice of naming only the father on marriage certificates as "archaic and unchanged since Victorian times, where children were seen as the father's property, and little consideration was given to mothers' roles in raising children."

Dr Smith continued: "As we approach the centenary of the Representation of the People Act, it is only right that we consider how existing legislation excludes or does not recognise the contributions made by women. This Bill allows for this important and symbolic change to be made.

"It's important to note that this Bill would allow mothers' names to be included when registering all marriages, not just those that take place in Church of England Churches."

Dr Smith said there was popular support for the change in Parliament and across society. Many who were getting married themselves or whose children are to marry will, he said, have been "shocked" to discover the continuing exclusion of mothers' names.

Dr Smith also made clear that the Bill covered other matters relating to marriage registration, namely the modernisation of the system for recording marriages, moving away from a paper-based to a digital system for record keeping.

Marriage advice

'I'm in a terrible fix,' moaned Mark. 'I'm in love with both Susie and Maria and I don't know which to marry.'

'No problem,' said Sean. 'I know you're not a Catholic, but call in at St Patrick's on the way home tonight, kneel down and ask God for help.'

Next morning Sean found Mark grinning from ear to ear. 'It worked. It's a miracle,' Mark enthused. 'I walked in, knelt down and there it was written in red across the altar cloth: AVE MARIA! So, I will!'

Lent Talks : a new collection from Radio 4 in book form

Whether Lent for you is six weeks of restorative reflection, or a blur of busyness, Radio 4 carries talks during Lent from a wide range of

BBC
RADIO



speakers, all *with something to say and set our minds thinking*. Some of these are now available in book form from SPCK.

James Runcie (Grantchester writer) speaks about Mystery (*'... Whether we appreciate the*

story of the Passion as divine revelation, or simply as poetry or metaphor – it is the archetypal presentation of the ultimate 'mystery drama': the mystery of what it means to be alive).

After **Anne Widdecombe** on Goodness, there's **Giles Fraser** on Sacrifice (*'... Here was the idea that one might do something for other people, even to the point of giving up your own life*').

Alexander McCall Smith contributes a talk on Abandonment. And the selection ends with a contribution from **Bishop Nick Baines** on Vision (*'... If we don't know who we are, we can't know where we are going.'*)

This brief book has something for everyone as we journey towards Easter. Worth looking out for.

Ed Poole

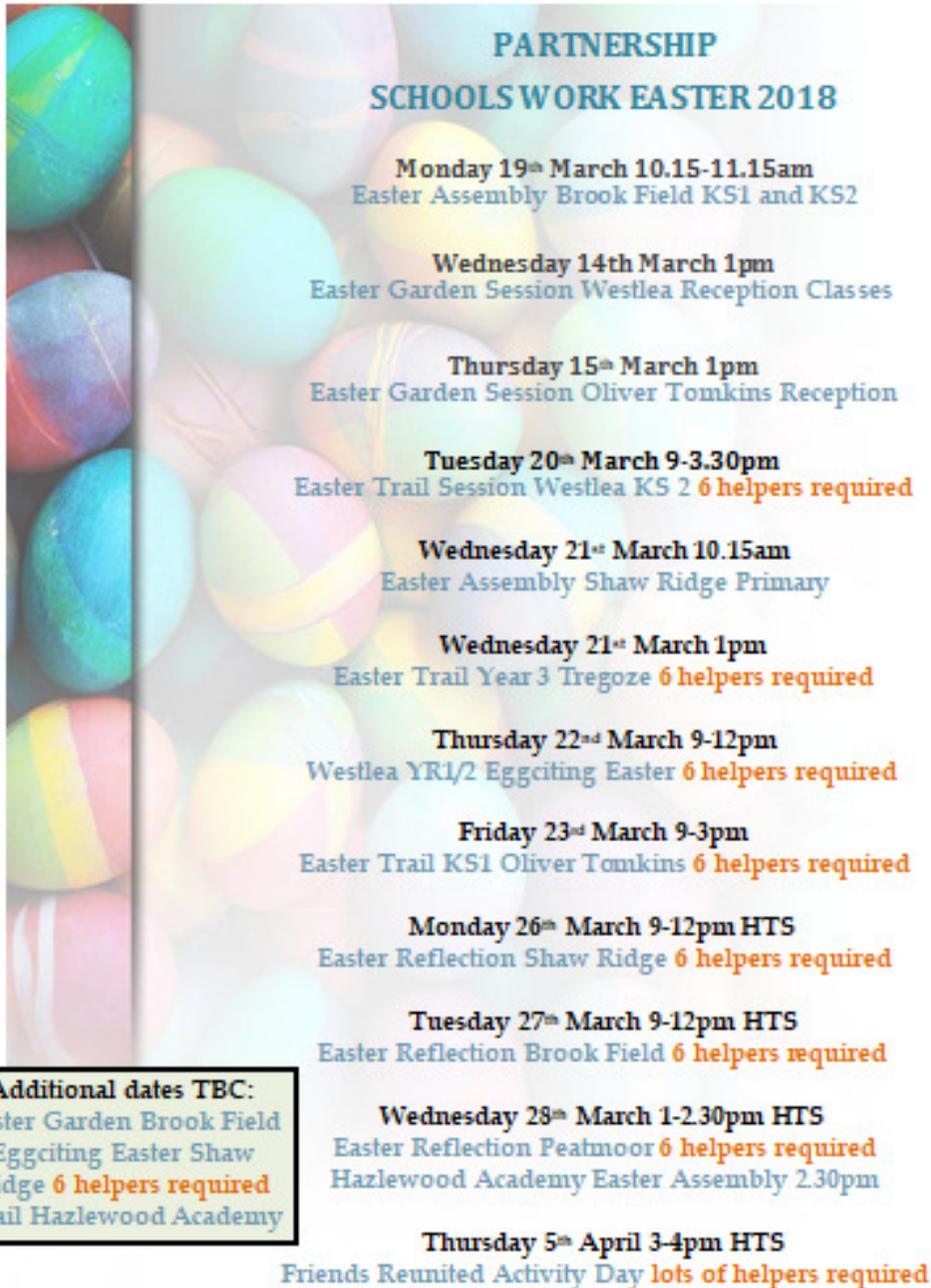
Not too late for a Lent Course! Start today.

Lent is already well underway (it began on 14th February), but as it stretches ahead throughout most of March, you may well be interested in visiting [#LiveLent – Let your light shine](#). Especially if you have not yet got around to following any Lent course yet!

LiveLent is the Church of England's 2018 Lent campaign and resources for churches. It follows the Gospel of John, offering a short daily reading, a pause for reflection and prayer and a challenge to act. The Archbishops describe the course as "giving you an opportunity to explore what the gift of Jesus and the challenge of Jesus mean for you, in the context of your daily life.

"God offers us life for the sake of others. The light He gives us in Jesus Christ is not to be hidden but to shine – it's a gift to be lived and shared. Indeed, the more we share it and let it shine, the brighter it burns."

The aim in 2018 is to encourage people to journey from Lent and Easter into Pentecost and Thy Kingdom Come. (visit <https://www.churchofengland.org/lent>)



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

was adopted in 1926. It could be argued that this action slowed down the recognition of women's ministry in Baptist churches by many decades.

Records from local historians report that 'after the First World War the services at the (Little Tew) Baptist chapel were conducted by the two Miss Gates, who lived in the Manse. The Revd Edith Gates became the minister in 1918, with her sister acting as organist'. Her ministry was so active that a school-room was built ... in 1925, replacing two derelict cottages adjacent to the chapel. A study of Oxfordshire Baptist chapels in 1977 recorded a conversation with a 95 year old lady remembering the 300-400 strong congregations who gathered to listen to the Revd Edith Gates on Sundays.

By Mary Taylor regional minister with the Yorkshire Baptist Association.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is the result of four years of work by the EU to bring data protection legislation into line with new, previously unforeseen ways that data is now used.

Currently, the UK relies on the Data Protection Act 1998, which was enacted following the 1995 EU Data Protection Directive, but this will be superseded by the new legislation. It introduces tougher fines for non-compliance and breaches, and gives people more say over what companies can do with their data. It also makes data protection rules more or less identical throughout the EU.

The EU wants to give people more control over how their personal data is used, bearing in mind that many companies like Facebook and Google swap access to people's data for use of their services.

The current legislation was enacted before the internet and cloud technology created new ways of exploiting data, and the GDPR seeks to address that. By strengthening data protection legislation and introducing tougher enforcement measures, the EU hopes to improve trust in the emerging digital economy.

The GDPR will apply in all EU member states from 25 May 2018.

Edith Gates: A Baptist pioneer

A century ago, Edith Gates was the first woman to be recognised as being in pastoral charge of an English Baptist church. What do we know about her?

A hundred years ago Blyth Spartans Ladies FC won the Munitionettes Cup at Ayresome Park in front of a crowd of 22,000.

In 1918 women workers on the London bus and tram systems went on strike for equal pay. In 1918, the Representation of the People Act enfranchised 8.5 million women over 30.

After the upheaval of the Great War, doors to change were opened that impacted every area of life, including women's calling and ministry to Baptist churches.

Edith Gates was the first woman to be recognised as being in pastoral charge of an English Baptist church: Baptist Union handbooks record her pastorate as starting in 1918, at the close of the war. Even then she was first described as the church secretary, then as the pastor – somehow she did not fit into existing categories.

Her pastorate at Little Tew and Cleveley, Oxfordshire began when she was 35. (She was born on 22 March 1883.) We know nothing about the start of that ministry or through what process the church called her to the role of minister, but having passed the First Examination of the Baptist Union and being recommended by the Oxfordshire Association, she was enrolled as a probationer in 1922 along with another woman, Maria Living-Taylor.

She then studied for her Second Examination at Havelock Hall, the Baptist Women's Training College. Little Tew and Cleveley was her only pastorate, lasting from 1918-1950.

At this time the church received a grant from the Sustentation Fund, the forerunner to Home Mission. This became a point of contention. In the early 1920s a Baptist Union committee was charged with considering the matter of women in ministry, after the first three names has already been added to the accredited list.

But they gave with one hand and took away with the other. Whilst affirming 'that it would be contrary to Baptist belief and practice to make sex a bar to any kind of Christian service' the committee and then Baptist Union Council bowed to a number of practical issues. Matters of finance, expediency and embarrassment were cited and a separate list of women ministers, with different and lesser conditions and benefits,

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

11 March Mothering Sunday and Mother Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church.

People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.

The unexpected effect of celebrity vicars

Celebrity clergy such as the Revd Richard Coles and the Revd Kate Bottley have helped the Church of England, by making it appear more accessible, and thereby boosting the number of trainee clergy up to a ten-year high.

Such is the belief of a number of church leaders, such as the Bishop of Repton, the Rt Rev Jan McFarlane. 'With Richard and Kate being on *Strictly Come Dancing* and shows like that, they've just come across as human people who happen to have a strong faith.'

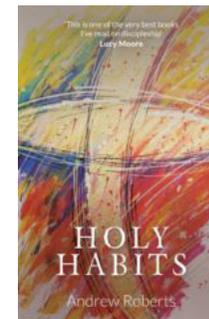
And so, while in 2016 there were 476 new trainees; last year there were 544 new trainees. New priests are also getting younger; last year 28 per cent of trainees were under 32.

Holy Habits – missional discipleship resources for churches

Edited by Andrew Roberts, Neil Johnson and Tom Milton, BRF, £4.99 each

Holy Habits describes itself as 'an adventure in Christian discipleship': a new resource based on Luke's portrait of the early church in Acts 2:42-47. The ten practices – or habits – that Luke describes in Acts 2 'are as relevant and potentially transformational today as they were for the early Church'.

Holy Habits consists of an Introductory Guide and ten booklets, one for each of the habits. Ranging from Worship and Prayer, Serving to Fellowship and Breaking Bread, the series is aimed at helping people (and groups) explore the 'holy habits' and then practice and sustain them over their lifetime. 'Let God be at the heart of all this, let this be centred on Jesus, let this be Spirit-filled and let's see where the adventure takes us.'



Billy Graham – a godly man with a simple message

We are joining with Christians around the world thanking God for the legacy of evangelist Dr Billy Graham who died on 21 February 2018.

Billy Graham came to the UK in the mid 1940s to set up British Youth for Christ. Alongside the impact of the massive stadium events he led, YFC has had a lasting impact on the spiritual life of our nation.

Half a century later, I was invited to lead YFC's ministry. I spent 28 years in all, working as an evangelist with YFC, sharing the same message Billy Graham took to millions worldwide: the cross changes everything, and the decision to follow Jesus Christ is the best decision anyone can ever make. It's a simple message, with a direct invitation.

As we prepare for Easter this year, let's give that same invitation to our friends, colleagues and family members. Join us as we pray that churches in every village, town and city will use the unique opportunity of Easter to invite people to find out more about Jesus and discover the power of the cross to transform lives.

Roy Crowne

HOPE's executive director

25 March Palm Sunday: Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to His own people in their capital city, and yet He came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave Him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into His path. They knew His reputation as a healer, and welcomed Him. But sadly, the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put Him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.



Radio 2 on 8.00pm Good Friday : At the Foot of the Cross



A thoughtful programme of music, bible readings, and words for the end of Holy Week, and also to mark the 100th anniversary this year of the end of World War 1.

Introduced by sports presenter Dan Walker, the BBC Concert Orchestra plays excerpts from Karl Jenkins 'The Armed Man', and other WW1 composers; also joined by the London Philharmonic Choir, the BBC Young Choristers of the year, plus grime artist Guvna B (there's a big fan at St Mary's!).

The programme follows the Stations of the Cross, with some contemporary interviews along the way. Even time for some Andrew Lloyd Webber, John Rutter and 'You'll never walk alone.'

You may be surprised by how well this all works together – as we were when we went to the recording at Maida Vale.

Ed & Mary Poole

The story behind the hymn: 'Christ Arose!'

This Easter marks the 144th birthday of this much-loved hymn, sung each year by millions of Christians worldwide. It all began on a little pump organ in the living room of a college professor in Pennsylvania, back in 1874.

Robert Lowry was professor of literature at Bucknell University, and pastor of a nearby church. He had a passion for poetry and music, and explained his 'muse' this way: 'I watch my moods and when anything strikes me, whether words or music, no matter where I am, at home, on the street, I jot it down. My brain is a sort of spinning machine, for there is music running through it all the time. Sometimes the words come and the music follows.'

Easter 1874 was approaching, and on this particular day, Robert Lowry had been meditating on the gospel narratives of the Passion and Resurrection. The angel's words at the empty tomb, 'He is not here, but is risen' kept running through his mind. There was something there... Lowry moved to the little pump organ in his living room and gave himself up to the moment. Soon the words and the music for this joyous Easter hymn just fell into place.

Christ Arose

Low in the grave He lay
Jesus my Saviour!
Waiting the coming day,
Jesus my Lord!

*Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign,
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch His bed,
Jesus my Saviour!
Vainly they seal the dead,
Jesus my Lord!

Death cannot keep his prey,
Jesus my Saviour!
He tore the bars away,
Jesus my Lord!

By Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

Church Services in the Partnership St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
04 March	10:00am	Morning Service followed by AGM
11 March	10:00am	Mothering Sunday Communion
18 March	10:00am	Family Service followed by Baptisms
25 March	10:30am	Palm Sunday Partnership Service with Gerald England at Toothill
30 March	7:00pm	Good Friday Tenebrae

Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
04 March	10:30am	Morning Service
11 March	10:30am	Mothering Sunday All Age Service
11 March	4:00pm	Messy Church
18 March	10:30am	Morning Service Communion
18 March	7:00pm	Encounter
25 March	10:30am	Palm Sunday Partnership Service with Gerald England at Toothill
29 March	7:45pm	Maundy Thursday Communion with washing of feet
8.45am Morning Prayer on Fridays during term time.		

Easter Day: 01 April 2018 Holy Trinity Shaw - 10.30am

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

Toothill

Date	Time	Form
04 March	10:30am	All Age Service
Weds 07 Mar	11:30am	Midweek Worship
11 March	10:30am	Mothering Sunday Morning Service Parade
Weds 14 Mar	11:30am	Midweek Communion
18 March	10:30am	Communion
Weds 21 Mar	11:30am	Midweek Worship
25 March	10:30am	Palm Sunday Partnership Service with Gerald England
Weds 28 Mar	11:30am	Midweek Communion
30 March	2:00pm	Good Friday Holy Hour

Westlea

Date	Time	Form
04 March	10:00am	AGM
11 March	10:00am	Mothering Sunday All Age Service
18 March	10:00am	Communion
25 March	10:30am	Palm Sunday Partnership Service with Gerald England at Toothill
30 March	10:00am	Good Friday Worship

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.