

## 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](mailto:wspartnershipoffice@gmail.com)

**To publicise any News or Events in the next edition of In Partnership covering June, please send them to the office no later than 20 May.**

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](mailto:wspartnershipoffice@gmail.com)  
*The events advertised may not on occasion fully represent the views of the Partnership*

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

### Partnership Team Minister; Swindon Area Dean:

Revd Capt Clive Deverell  
Email: [clive.deverell@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:Trevor.Day@btinternet.com) Tel: 01793 875373 or  
Mobile: 07918 125826  
(Anglican Priest)

### Partnership Youth Worker: Claire Camm

Email: [clairecamm1@gmail.com](mailto:clairecamm1@gmail.com) Tel: 07981 951381

### Partnership Primary Age Schools Worker: Gayle Bryon

Email: [gayleschoolswork@gmail.com](mailto:gayleschoolswork@gmail.com)



# In Partnership May 2018

*Looking outwards and growing together*



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

## **Resurrection ~ What it means for us today**

While I was in the middle of my six-weeks of my “Lenten fasting” [eg *enabling others to give up chocolate and to allow me to take away from them the temptation to eat it; ... by my eating it for them*] a fellow student at STETS [aka: *vicar school 2009-12*] high-lighted an article (written several years ago) about, what Jesus Christ’s Resurrection should/could/might/would mean for us today.

I know it might sound a bit flippant, *about the way I talk about Lent*, but so often it seems that we get very urgent, uptight and almost pious about our “Lenten fasting” ... including those extra things we do during Lent, that otherwise, we wouldn’t normally do.

It’s a bit like, when I was in the Cubs and Scouts, there seemed to be times in the year [*just before we were to receive our next promotion to sixer or patrol leader*] when we would aim to “do a good deed” for someone and then note it in our Log-Books. That’s all very good and plausible ... but what about the rest of the year!?

To live our lives as Jesus has demanded of us ... *to live our lives in a way, for which Jesus died and then rose again for us, to know that we can be forgiven our sins, because of the sacrifice that Jesus suffered for each and every one of us ... is what we need to be doing all the time.*

Oh yes! That highlighted article, to which I referred, is by Father Richard Rohr [*an American Fransiscan Friar of our time*] ... I touched on it at Westlea and Cricklade in mid-April ... It’s broadly about, how we practice Resurrection “Now”. There are Twelve key points, and not surprisingly; they encompass the God’s Ten Commandments and Jesus’s re-affirmation and re-inforcement of those commands in the context of Jesus’s and our time. The following is a sort of pot-pourri of some of the key points ...

Remember that they are for all the time ... not just during Lent ...

- Negativity ... Think and act positively; don’t blame first ... Remember, that when you point the finger of blame, three fingers [*generally speaking*] are pointing back at yourself.  
Seek to change ourselves, before insisting on others changing themselves.
- Say “Sorry” ... and mean it; when you hurt or upset others by your actions.

## **From the Registers**

### **Funerals**

04 April 2018                      Mrs Angelique Louise Evans

### **Marriage Blessing**

13 April 2018                      Raymond Stanley and Helen Wendy Curtin

## **PRAYERS**

### **Please pray for:**

An end to the conflict that has blighted Central African Republic for many years, as violence breaks out between UN forces and armed groups.

Thy Kingdom Come launching on 10 May

Name of Church	Week beginning
The Church of Christ the Servant Abbey meads	06.05.18
St Johns Haydon Wick	13.05.18
West Swindon Local Ecumenical Partnership	20.05.18

## **The Day of Pentecost** (Acts 2)

From prophecy to fulfilment,  
from fear to courage,  
from confusion to conviction,  
from despair to certain hope,  
from head to heart,  
from longing to knowing,  
from weakness to strength,  
from paralysis to power.  
What a difference a day makes -  
The Day of Pentecost  
when the Spirit came  
and everything was different and possible...

*by Daphne Kitching*

## Remembrance100

This year, we all have the chance to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1. On 11 November 2018, people around the country will observe Remembrance Sunday. They will be reflecting on the lives that were changed irrevocably, and those that were lost.



Some 65 million men were mobilised across Europe during World War 1. Nearly a third of them – some 21 million – were wounded. Another 8.5 million were killed and some 7.7 million were taken prisoners of war. All of them had family and friends whose lives were changed forever by the events of 1914-1918.

This year also gives us the chance to remember but also to pray and work for peace.

There are many ways in which you, your community, church or school can get involved. And, over the coming months, we'll be keeping you in touch with ways in which you can join in. But here are a few big dates for your diary.

**4 August 2018:** One hundred years on from a national day of prayer called by George V, this will be the first day of 100 days of prayer across the country, running until Armistice Day in November. Every day there will be prayers and actions for peace. You can sign up to take part and spend just a few minutes of your day, adding your prayers to those of tens of thousands more.

**11 November 2018:** there will be Remembrance Services around the country. Many will be followed by Peace Parties.

Lots of organisations are working hard to provide you with the resources you need to stage your local event.

### There will be:

- Ideas and prayers for 100 days of peace from 4 August to 11 November 2018.
- A guide on how to hold a peace party for your community
- A short video based on Revelation 21:3-4, verses about peace, to show at your Remembrance Day event
- A pocket-sized booklet to give to all those attending your Remembrance event, including a special prayer written by the Archbishop of Canterbury
- Ways in which your young people can get involved



Lying ... Don't! Even the whitest lie can have devastating effects on others and communities. A small white lie multiplied just five times is at least 16 times as bad as the first lie.

- Our relationship with God ... needs to be built on rock and not the soft sand of a once a week position in the front pew of our local church. The hard rock of living our lives as Jesus has commanded ... lives of love, kindness, peace, forgiveness and a close encounter with God through regular prayer ... and then ... take our place in that comfortable [maybe!] pew at our local church.
- Service ... As the RAF Chaplains' motto says ... *although theirs is in Latin* ... aim "to Serve"; not "to be served"
- Seek Justice ... and where we see injustice, shout about it and have that necessary honest conversation with the perpetrators.
- And above all LOVE one another with a pure heart ... fervently.

All very obvious ... of course ... yet, all so often, very forgotten and ignored!

*Gracious Lord, shield us from the temptations of envy, greed, anger, hatred and bitterness ...and from our weakness to speak the truth and to speak out against injustice. Give us courage in the face of opposition, when we know that there is work to be done in the name of Christ. Look with compassion on those, who at this time are suffering for their faith and turn the hearts of their persecutors. Amen*

Trevor



**Holy Trinity Church Shaw 4.00 – 5.30pm**

**2nd Sunday of each Month**

This is an opportunity for all the family to enjoy being creative together, to celebrate God through craft activities, stories and song and to share a light meal together. Above all to have fun. Including a light supper, worship, craft, stories and plenty of fun!

## Regular activities

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month</b>	
<b>Messy Church</b>	13 May 4 - 5:30pm @ Shaw
<b>Every Monday</b>	
<b>After School Youth Group</b> Contact Claire Camm 07981951381	3:30 – 6:00pm @ Holy Trinity Shaw
<b>Every Tuesday</b>	
<b>Bell Ringing</b>	7-9pm St Mary's Bell Tower
<b>2nd Wednesday of each month</b>	
<b>Mothers Union</b> Contact Jean Brock 01793 539456	09 May 2pm @ St Mary's Stable Room
<b>Every Thursday</b>	
<b>Toothill Tinies</b>	10 -11:30am @ Toothill
<b>Home Group</b>	
<b>HTS</b> led by Sue Green Contact Sue on 01793 872056 for details	Thursday 7.30pm
<b>TOOTHILL</b> led by Rev Jan Partridge Contact Jan on 01793 534992 for details	3rd Monday of each month 2.30pm
<b>WESTLEA</b> led by Pete Gilder Contact Pete on 01793 878823 for details	Alternate Tuesdays 8pm

## URC - Safeguarding Training Days 2018

### Adults at risk with The Geese Theatre

This will not be the usual sort of training day. It will enlighten, and challenge, you – in a good way! The Geese Theatre will do a variety of drama productions, using masks, and there will be an opportunity to ask them questions both in, and out, of role. It will also enable you to gain a deeper understanding of the responsibilities that we all have in safeguarding adults at risk, particularly around the area of recruiting volunteers and paid staff, and how our own values, attitudes and experiences contribute to our approaches to safeguarding.

#### Date and venues:

**15th May - Emmaus House, Sleep Lane, Bristol BS14 0QN**

there is parking for 17 cars on site so car sharing is advised.

**28th June - Immanuel, Upham Road, Wilshire SN3 1DH**

There will be a 15 minute tea/coffee break in the morning and afternoon with biscuits and cakes. Lunch is also provided.

Booking via Dinah Firmin at Synod Office

[secretary@urcsouthwest.org.uk](mailto:secretary@urcsouthwest.org.uk)

A grant has been obtained for these days so there will be no charge. Places will be limited owing to size of venue so please book as soon as you know you are able to attend.

## Summer Gospel Concert

**Saturday 9th June 2018**

**Victoria Rooms, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1SA**

**Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30 performance**

***Tickets are £10 for adults, £7 for concessions, and children under 12 free.***

This is the third time WEBA have advertised this Gospel extravaganza! Most recently it had to be postponed due to the unseasonal snow in March.

So if you thought about it, but didn't get a ticket, you have another chance!

The Bath Community Gospel Choir, Gospel Generation Community Choir, and the wonderful Geraldine Latty will all be performing.

Book now at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/gospelgenerationcommunitychoir](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gospelgenerationcommunitychoir)

## The Joy of Easter 2018

### Easter Schools Work 2018 - Continued

Easter Gardens were made with Reception children in three schools and they are all growing well.

Eggciting Easter sessions were run for 240 children in 4 different schools.

In Oliver Tomkins we spent a whole day with KS1 exploring Easter Feet: dusty feet on Palm Sunday, stamping feet in the temple, praying feet in the garden, hurt feet on the cross and cuddled feet at the Resurrection.

Five schools had the 'Sounds of Easter' Assembly which was a brilliant way to explore the Easter story and to involve children in the story telling.

The Easter Reflection at Shaw was visited by three schools and we had a special time with each and every class.

Our Easter Celebration straight after school on Maundy Thursday for families was an exciting new venture which gave us the opportunity to meet some new families.



Peter is such a great character to learn about, he is passionate, has a strong voice, loves Jesus, yet he wobbles and lets Jesus down, but ends up being the Rock, the one on which the Church is built. Jesus loves Peter for who he is and can see the great potential in him. What a brilliant story to be able to share with the children and each other, Jesus loves us for who we are and see's great potential in us. I hope we can all follow Jesus's calling on our life to follow him, this way, that way, forward and backwards, in fact all over West Swindon and beyond, sharing God's love with everyone.

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### Eve and leaves

Adam bit the apple and, feeling great shame, covered himself with a fig leaf. Eve, too, felt shame and covered herself with a fig leaf. Then she went behind the bush to try on a maple leaf, a sycamore, and an oak.

## New Wine – United 18

Week 1: July 28, 2018 - 9:00am - August 3, 2018 - 11:00pm

Week 2: August 5, 2018 - 9:00am - August 11, 2018 - 11:00pm

Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet

**Half week tickets are being sold for Week 2 this year.**

The mission of New Wine is to see local churches playing their part in changing nations.

The church was established on the promise of change – of hearts, families, communities, cities – that the entire history of humanity and the earth itself would be changed by those swept up in this movement of God. The reality of change is rooted in the reality of God's promise that he will work in and through our lives. This is a cause for celebration!

To book for either or for more information visit <https://united.new-wine.org/>

## Vibrant Christianity in Multifaith Britain

By Andrew Smith, BRF, £7.99

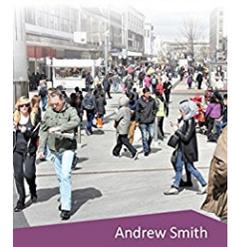
Andrew Smith tackles the big questions about interfaith relations in contemporary Britain.

Drawing on wide-ranging personal experience, deep friendships and extensive biblical reflection, he comes to challenging conclusions about the way all Christians are called to relate to their neighbours of other faiths.

He mines the teaching and example of Jesus and finds no conflict between loving our neighbours of all faiths as ourselves, and loving God with all our strength, mind and heart.

Exploring the meaning of dialogue, witness and evangelism, Smith is forthright about ulterior motives and the need for transparency. 'It's really important that we hear this news that our calling is to love our neighbour and then to serve them unconditionally as an end in itself... What people make of our serving is between them and God,' he argues, and then adds a further challenge: 'Before we can critique or reflect on other cultures... we need to be ready and willing to do the same with our own, which is a much more difficult task.'

Vibrant Christianity  
in Multifaith Britain





# Thy Kingdom Come

10<sup>th</sup> May – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018

The West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership are joining the global wave of prayer.



## Pledge2Pray

- as an individual
- as a family
- as a church
- as a community



There will be a prayer activity each day across the Partnership. Please refer to the timetable of events and join in all you can. Everyone will be given some personal prayer resources so that wherever we are for the 10 days of TKC we can be praying with our brothers and sisters.

## The Joy of Easter 2018

### Easter Schools Work 2018

One of my favourite memories of this year's Easter activities was the arrival of Peter (otherwise known as the Rev Captain Deverell) to the beach on Lake Galilee during Westlea School's Easter Assembly. Peter made a dramatic entrance, bursting through the hall door, with soaking wet trousers, as obviously he had just jumped out of his boat, and in his exuberance to tell us all about meeting Jesus he made a number of teachers jump out of their skins and frightened a small child sitting in the front row! The impact was great, Peter the Rock, had most definitely arrived in Westlea. We then had a wonderful day with the whole of KS2 as they visited the Easter stations, discovering Peter's diary, reflecting on his part in the story and collecting an item to help them remember all they had learned.



At our Partnership Easter Holiday Club 'Friends Reunited' we were blessed to have Peter come along to tell us more of his story, he even cooked us all fish finger wraps which we enjoyed eating on the beach by Lake Galilee! He shared with us how Jesus had told him to look after his sheep and we had a wonder day of arts, drama, and games exploring Peters journey with Jesus. We had a fabulous number of children and young people who worked beautifully together in mixed aged teams, which was a joy to behold.



We discovered some new helpers with wonderful gifts, I would like to give Maddy a special mention for helping as a young leader for the first time. She was super at leading games after lunch and supporting her group all day long. The simple things are often the best and the most enjoyable, so with a slight adaption of words 'when I was young and just begun, the day I went to sea' was a huge hit with everyone (if a little physically tiring). We enthusiastically did all the actions and sung our hearts out as we followed Jesus 'this way, that way, forward and backwards over Lake Galilee, sharing God's word with everyone and that's the life for me'.

Above is just a snapshot of two of our Partnership activities of Easter, here are some of our other activities:

## The Joy of Easter 2018

### Tenebrae Service Good Friday 2018

The first time I had heard of a Tenebrae service was last year. So I attended a service whilst away in Cornwall which was interesting, but it could not have prepared me for the Tenebrae service at St Mary's Tregoze this year... I don't think anything could have prepared me for the impact this service would have on me.

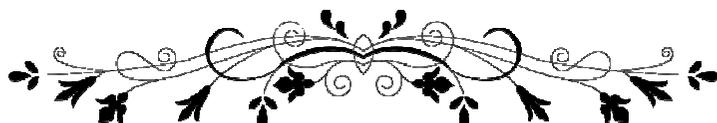
Sitting in the fading light of the church with my feet still tingling from the intimacy of the Maundy Thursday feet washing at HTS the night before. Which always makes me want to, on the one hand, run away, because how could God want to wash our feet? My feet? But then on the other hand like Peter I think, please wash all of me! Don't miss a spot!!

Shadows flickering and lengthening from the 7 candles fill the stone walls with a warm glow. The Christ candle in the centre stands tall as the reading of the gospel of Matthew is said out loud. With potent meaning and symbolism, beautiful music is played between each scripture section as it is read out loud. The story follows the journey of Christ leading up to the crucifixion and is told in parallel to the candles being extinguished, one by one as the world rejects the light of the world and the son of God submits and with a loud bang! the darkness is complete.

Even though I knew it was coming, the bang of the church door still made me jump! It powerfully brought home the agony of death, the earthquake, the ripping of the temple curtain, the tomb stone closing out the light. And yet the light of Christ is only hidden and not extinguished. The Christ candle remains lit, but is hidden from the world (behind a screen).

It is now quite dark as dusk bleeds into night, but the Christ candle is revealed from its hiddenness, as the hope of the world, that guides us in the darkness. We know that Sunday is coming as we head out of the church into the night in silence. I was glad for the silence, because for me it emphasised how Saturday must have been such a dark and lonely place for the disciples left behind! In that moment, for the first time, Saturday seemed a long time to wait for Resurrection Sunday.

Hazel Davis





## Thy Kingdom Come

# 10<sup>th</sup> May – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## Time table of prayer events



Date	Prayer Activity	Venue and time
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Launch Event</b> Prayers of our Community	Holy Trinity Church Shaw 7.45pm
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Morning Prayer</b> Pray as a Partnership	Holy Trinity Church Shaw 8.45am
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Prayer Safari</b> Pray 'n' Walk Together Toothill – Westlea – Shaw – St Marys	Start at Toothill Church at 10am. A guided time of walking and praying.
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Messy Church</b> Pray as a family	Holy Trinity Church Shaw 4pm
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Global Prayers</b> Pray for the world	Pray wherever you are using the resources you have been given.
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Evening Prayers</b> Pray with the sound of bells	St Marys Church 7-9 pm
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Walk in your community</b> Pray and share	Local Church arrangements
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Toothill Tinies Pray with little people	Toothill Church
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Friday Club Pray with energy	Toothill Church
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Weekend Prayers</b> Pray with friends and family	Get your friends and family together to pray
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Partnership Service</b> Pray and Celebrate	Westlea School 10am

## Raise funds for a trip to Kampala, Uganda in July / August 2018.

**Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th May**

A group of young people from the diocese, from areas that would be designated as areas of urban deprivation, are taking part.

The trip is a prototype for future visits and is organised in conjunction with Dan Jones and three youth workers from Sea Mills, Eastville and Pinehurst in Swindon.

If it proves successful and valuable for the young people involved we would hope to be able to repeat it on a wider basis for young people from other areas of the diocese who would not normally have the opportunity to do a trip like this.

Without the help of the wider diocese they may not be able to raise the money they need for this trip. We are planning a sponsored cycle ride for Saturday the 5th May and Sunday 6th May where we will try to visit as many churches as possible within the three deaneries that the young people have been drawn from. Currently we have raised just over £8,000 and need to raise another £16,000 before August so this is a significant time for us. We will be cycling 80 miles from St Andrew's Church, Avonmouth and ending up at the Pinehurst Academy on the Sunday afternoon. On the way we will be visiting 31 different churches. The Partnership churches en-route are:

Church	Time Arrive / Leave	Distance (Running total)	Cycling time (Running total)
St Mary's, Lydiard Tregoze	10.44 / 10.55	1.7 miles(28.7)	9 min(2.54)
Holy Trinity, Shaw	11.01 / 11.10	1.1 miles(29.8)	6 min(3.00)
Toothill Church	11.22 / 11.25	2.0 miles(31.8)	12 min(3.12)

Please come out to greet us and cheer us on when we arrive at three of your churches from around 10.45 am on Sunday 6th May, and pose for a photo to prove we were there that would be great and then send us on with a prayer.

Also please visit Virgin Giving page <<https://bit.ly/2FDB4YR>> where you can read more about the trip and if appropriate arrange a small fund raising event or coffee morning for them.

Please find out about the team and pray for them by reading the following news article on the diocesan website <<https://bit.ly/2Hqu2Zg>>.



The project provides hope and develops self-esteem in young people and families living in and around Zaslowya in the Republic of Belarus, an area severely affected by fallout from Chernobyl. It brings young people to England for recuperative holidays, sponsors children in the town and provides medical and educational aid.

## Saints Alive



**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.30pm**  
**St Lawrence's church, Lechlade**

**A celebration of Pentecost**  
**With words and music by Roger Jones**

With singers, actors and musicians from local churches,  
directed by Gordon Land

Retiring collection in aid of church restoration and maintenance fund

## Christian Aid Week in Purton

### Sunday 13 May to Sunday 20 May

Purton in Christian Aid Week has a range of exciting events:

#### Sunday 13 May

9am - Cafe Church Big Brekkie

Purton Methodist Church, Play Close, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 4DP

#### Wednesday 16 May

12pm onwards - Christian Aid Lunch

Purton Methodist Church, Play Close, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 4DP

#### Saturday 19 May

8.30am onwards - Cakes and Plants Sale

Top Shops, 113 Pavenhill, Purton SN5 4DB

#### Sunday 20 May

12-2.30pm - Lunch Party - Bring and Share!

St Mary's Church, Church End, Purton, SN5 4EB

## Circuit Service - Holy Habits launch

### Sunday 20 May 2018

4.30pm followed by the Holy Habits launch service at 5.30pm.

St Joseph's Catholic College, Swindon

Please save the date in your diaries. This will be a joint event with North Wilts and will start with tea at 4.30pm followed by the Holy Habits launch service at 5.30pm.

There will be car parking on site.

## The Greatest Story Ever Toured

Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7DG

Friday 25 May 7pm

Tickets £6 - (£4.50 for concessions) and include interval refreshments.

Join in an entertaining evening of comedy, discovery and music as you journey through the Bible. Hosted by Paul Kerensa (stand-up comedian and scriptwriter for Miranda and Top Gear) and Andrew Ollerton (author and presenter of The Bible Course) with music provided by Sound of Wales.

Tickets will go on sale from mid-April for 'The Greatest Story Ever Toured'. The Swindon event will be at Bible Society HQ on Friday 25 May, with doors opening at 7 pm.

Please save the date and come and share our passion for the Bible with laughter and learning along the way.

## 10 May - Ascension Day

### 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

## The Royal Wedding 19 May 2018

On Monday 27th November 2017 His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales was delighted to announce the engagement of his son Prince Harry to Ms. Meghan Markle.

The wedding will take place at St George's Chapel, Windsor on Saturday 19 May. The service will begin at St George's Chapel at midday and will be conducted by the Dean of Windsor, The Rt Revd. David Conner.



The Most Revd. and Rt Hon. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, will officiate as the couple make their marriage vows.

At 1pm, following the service, the couple will travel around Windsor in a horse-drawn carriage, providing an opportunity for members of the public to see them and join in with the celebrations.

The couple are incredibly grateful for the goodwill shown to them since the announcement of their engagement and are keen that as many people as possible benefit from this generosity of spirit. The couple have therefore asked that anyone who might wish to mark the occasion considers making a donation to charity, rather than sending a wedding gift. The list of charities can be found at [www.royal.uk/wedding-charity-donations](http://www.royal.uk/wedding-charity-donations)

[www.royal.uk/wedding](http://www.royal.uk/wedding)



*...I wonder if I could have a quick word with the flower arrangers at the end of this service...?*

## Acting Archdeacon of Bristol

Revd Canon Michael Johnson has been appointed as the Acting Archdeacon of Bristol.



He will take on the role for the next 12 months when a permanent appointment will be made.

Before his retirement last September, Michael was incumbent of Wroughton for more than 20 years. For some of that time he was Area Dean of Swindon and chaplain to the hospice for North Wiltshire.

Since he retired from parochial ministry, he has been involved in mentoring clergy, vocations discernment, reviewing parishes in vacancy and serving on the Bristol Diocese DAC.

After a brief spell in the Mission to Seafarers, the merchant navy and an off licence chain, Michael was ordained in the London Diocese. After serving two curacies as was normal then, in Primrose Hill and Hampstead, he went to work in a team ministry in south west London, and was responsible for a congregation and all the work with children and young people.

For more than 20 years he was incumbent of Wroughton, a lively church and community and had the opportunity to work with no less than six curates. In recent years a Year of Discipleship led to the initiation of a Sunday afternoon service, Church at 4, held in the church hall in the centre of the village (the church is up a hill on the edge) attended by families with children, and many people who are new to church as well as a renewed impetus for the church to be more obvious in the community.

He promoted the idea of a single deanery for Swindon and was its first Area Dean, founding the deanery on a commitment to prayer and worship. He was also chaplain to Prospect Hospice which is situated in Wroughton. Since he retired from parochial ministry he has been involved in mentoring clergy, vocations discernment, reviewing parishes in vacancy and serving on the Bristol Diocese DAC.

Michael is looking forward to the new challenge of being Acting Archdeacon of Bristol.

## Giving an answer

Thursday 17 May - 7.30-8.45pm

King's Christian Centre, 26a King William Street, Swindon, SN1 3LB

The Christian Institute is holding a meeting in Swindon called Giving an answer. The meeting will aim to encourage Christians to be confident and effective in applying their faith to the challenges of today's culture. The speakers will cover a range of topics including; Family, Gospel Freedom and Gender Ideology.

For further information about the meeting, please contact The Christian Institute on 0191 281 5664.

## National Weekend of Invitation

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Christians challenged to step beyond 'fear barrier' during weekend of invitation

Question: *What scares most Christians?*

Easy: *The thought of inviting their friends and family to church with them.*



But suppose we all got together, and did it as a national initiative? And so it is that the UK's first National Weekend of Invitation was planned. It will take place Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018).

It is hoped that tens of thousands of church members across the country will use the weekend to step beyond the 'fear barrier' and invite their friends and family to church events.

The Weekend is in response to what the organisers call 'The churches' greatest missed opportunity'. For research shows that up to three million people in the UK are actually open to an invitation – which never comes, because most Christians are too timid.

The date for the Weekend has been set to follow the Archbishops' Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative.

Churches can decide for themselves what they will do on the weekend - big or small, for young or old, for a special group or for all. They may choose to invite people to something that's a regular activity, to a special guest event or guest service.'

## 27 May Trinity Sunday

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May we shall be praising God as the Holy Trinity: three in one and one in three. Preachers will be pointing perhaps to the tree with its root, trunk and branches or to a human being with will, heart and mind. Or to symbols of the Trinity with the triangle or three interwoven circles. They are all images inviting us to ponder our world and be led from here to God: words and signs that take us into the mystery of God's glory and being.

That was the experience of an early pope, St Clement, when he was at prayer. He was granted a vision of the Trinity which is the theme of this sketch of 1735 by Tiepolo – a painting for an altarpiece commissioned by the Archbishop of Cologne.

In true Italian rococo style, it is full of vitality and life and colour. But at heart it is the scene of one man kneeling in prayer. He holds no signs of his papal authority for the cherub has charge of his three-barred crozier. It is a moment in worship: by the cherub, the incense is burning on a step. And above the steps, to St Clement's amazement, the altar has burst into life.

We see the risen Christ holding His cross, the dove hovering and ready to alight, and above, God the Father, leaning down to the saint. Clouds and angels surround the scene like the shekinah, the glory of God that shone out in the Temple and on the mount of Transfiguration.

The vision brings to life the signs of the Trinity we see in churches on altar frontals and in stained glass. It calls us with St Clement not just to ponder, but to offer to God the Holy Trinity our wills in service and our hearts in love. The well-known prayer of St Richard of Chichester expresses those three hopes: to know God more clearly, to love Him more dearly and to follow Him more nearly, not only on Trinity Sunday but day by day.

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"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

Charles Wesley

## Church Services in the Partnership St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
06 May	10:00am	Morning Service
13 May	10:00am	Communion
20 May	10:00am	Partnership Service at Westlea
27 May	10:00am	Communion

### Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
06 May	10:30am	Morning Service (Communion)
13 May	10:30am	All Age Service
13 May	4:00pm	Messy Church
20 May	10:00am	Partnership Service at Westlea
27 May	10:30am	All Age Service
<b>8.45am Morning Prayer on Fridays during term time.</b>		

### Toothill

Date	Time	Form
06 May	10:30am	All Age Service
13 May	10:30am	Communion
20 May	10:00am	Partnership Service at Westlea
27 May	10:30am	Morning Service

### Westlea

Date	Time	Form
06 May	10:00am	Morning Service
13 May	10:00am	All Age Service
20 May	10:00am	Partnership Service
27 May	10:00am	All Age Service

## Thy Kingdom Come

Launch 10 May 7.45pm at Holy Trinity Shaw

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that began in the Church of England in 2016. The Archbishop of Canterbury is inviting people around the world to join the movement. The events run 10 May - 20 May with various activities happening each day around the Partnership.



On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May there will be a prayer safari walking between the four churches, stopping for prayer stations and refreshments at each. To take part you can sign up and 'pledge to pray' on the Thy Kingdom Come website; [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)

## Pentecost Partnership Service

**Sunday 20 May 2018**

**Westlea Church 10:00am**

Led by Revd Steven Henderson



*2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

*3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.*  
*Acts 2: 2-3 NIV*

## Public Affirmation of Faith and Confirmation

**Sunday 17 June 2018  
St Paul's Covingham**

The service will take place late afternoon/early evening.

If anyone wishes to be confirmed the first meeting took place at 3.00pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of April at the Stable Room next to St Mary's.

**There is still time to join, for further details please contact Clive.**