

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 July/August, please send them to the office no later than 20 June.

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; 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

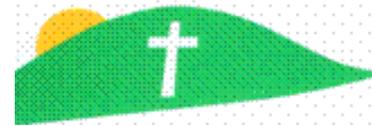
Email: Trevor.Day@btinternet.com Tel: 01793 875373 or
Mobile: 07918 125826
(Anglican Priest)

Partnership Youth Worker: Claire Camm

Email: clairecamm1@gmail.com Tel: 07981 951381

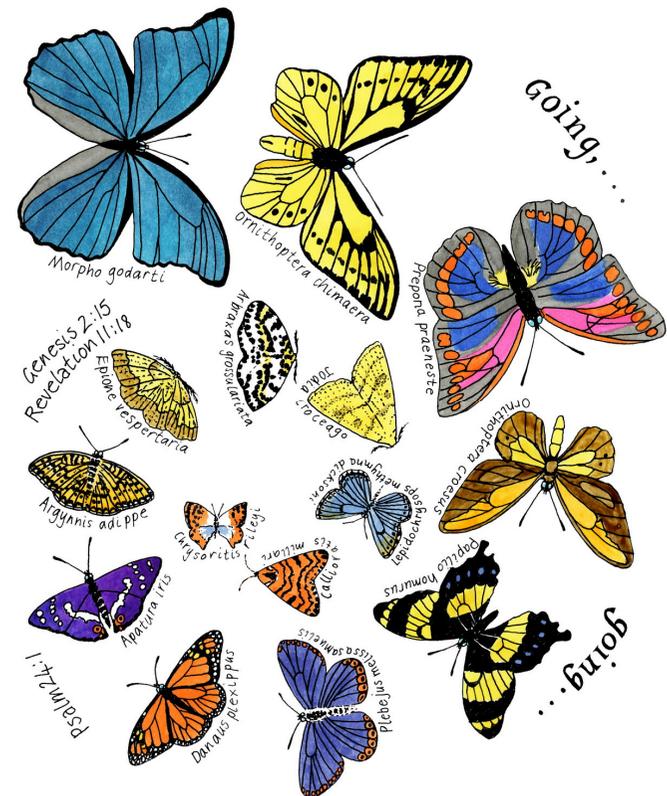
Partnership Primary Age Schools Worker: Gayle Bryon

Email: gayleschoolswork@gmail.com



In Partnership June 2018

Looking outwards and growing together



CHRISTIAN UNITY

So this is the first time I have done an article for the Partnership Newsletter so I thought I would start on a subject that is close to my heart and that is “Christian Unity”

So where do we start

Unity itself is neutral until it is given goodness or badness by something else. So if Herod and Pilate are unified by their common scorn for Jesus (**Luke 23:12**), this is not a good unity. But if Paul and Silas sing together in prison for Christ’s sake (**Acts 16:25**), this is a good unity.

Christian unity in the New Testament gets its goodness from a combination of its source, its views, its affections, and its aims.

SOURCE

Paul tells us to “be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (**Ephesians 4:3**). I take that to mean that the Holy Spirit is the great giver of unity. “In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit” (**1 Corinthians 12:13**).

VIEWS

We are taught by Paul that Church Leaders are to equip the saints “until all of us attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God” (**Ephesians 4:13**). What I believe this is saying is the unity we seek is unity in the truth. Of course, Christian unity is more than shared truth, but not less. Paul also seeks common-mindedness in **Philippians 2:2**, “Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind” (see also **Philippians 4:2**). Everything is to “accord with Christ.” “May God . . . grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus” (**Romans 15:5**).

AFFECTIONS

Unifying love in the body of Christ includes a firm commitment to do good for the family of God whether you feel like it or not “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (**Galatians 6:10**). But, as difficult as it is for diverse people, the experience of Christian unity is more than that. It includes affectionate love, not just sacrifice for those you don’t like. It is a feeling of endearment. We are to have affection for those who are our family in Christ. “Love one another with brotherly

From the Registers

Baptisms

13 May 2018

Sebastian Murley

20 May 2018

Clara Jade Goodrich & Matilda Anne Wilson

Weddings

05 May 2018

Ewen James Lewis and Alison Jane Goulstone

PRAYERS

Please pray for:

the sick and for those who suffer, for all in the nursing homes and hospices of our parish, and for those who are housebound.

St Mary’s fundraising months

Name of Church	Week beginning
Rodbourne Cheney Baptist Church	03.06.18
St Marys Anglican Rodbourne Cheney	10.06.18
Emmanuel URC	17.06.18
St Andrews Moredon Methodist Church	24.06.18

A prayer for the lonely and lost

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for loving us. So many people feel lonely and isolated and unloved today. In a culture that values I above all things, help us to look beyond our i- phones and i- pads and selfies. Help us to see with your eyes, to love with your heart; to reach out to the lost and lonely and marginalised with your compassion. Help us to reflect your Kingdom values and, by the way we live, enable your love to be experienced by all who so need you.

In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

World Cup Fever

The former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*

This month sees the start of the World Cup in Russia; a truly global event watched by billions on television. Yet this competition illustrates some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the World Cup themselves. For us the prize is the eternal life, God's gift of relationship with him for now and eternity through Jesus. But there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the World Cup you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is underserved and is not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win the World Cup, they have to train hard beforehand. Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we train ourselves to say no to the wrong things in our lives. As we build up our *godly muscles* we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

With Father's Day 17 June in mind

Inside Fatherhood - Today's fathers tell their stories

By David Atkinson, with reflections by Mark Chester,
BRF £6.99



What does fatherhood look like today? Ten fathers tell their moving, real-life stories: from stepdad to absent dad, through widowed, adoptive and midlife dad, to losing-it and stay-at-home dad, they sit in their kitchens and bare their souls to writer David Atkinson, himself the father of two young daughters.

It's easy to believe that today's dads are in crisis, weighed down by economic pressures, shifting family dynamics, mental stress and emotional strain. But for all the challenges of modern fatherhood, Mark Chester believes we are living in 'a golden age of fatherhood'.

affection" (**Romans 12:10**). "Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart"

(**1 Peter 1:22**). "All of you, have . . . sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind" (**1 Peter 3:8**).

AIMS

The ultimate aim of such Christian unity is the glory of God. Hence Paul prays, "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (**Romans 15:5-7**).

Well that is my view but some if not all of you will have a different view, the important thing is that we respect each other, we love each other and we love our God. For the greatest commandment is, as stated in

Matthew 22: 37-40

37Jesus declared, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind **38**This is the first and greatest commandment. **39**And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. **40**All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments."

Finally I should say that I have cut and paste a lot of this but it is a true reflection on what is on my heart

Steve Kershaw

News from around the Partnership

Holy Trinity Shaw: No bad news. Small numbers but blessed with those able to take services. Lots of work getting done in church.

Westlea: At the leadership meeting challenges came out of Thy Kingdom Come with the opportunity to reflect on what to do within the community to be more active, pray more as a church and engaging with the school. Tuesday house group went for a walk – very good. Did litter picking for the community.

St Mary's: 2 members went on the New Wine worship leaders training day brought back lots of information. Some members are attending Confirmation classes.

Toothill: People volunteered to help out doing various jobs which eases the load. We have a new secretary. 8 people having first aid training here at Toothill. We had a good Easter.

Regular activities

2nd Sunday each month	
Messy Church	10 June 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 June 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	3rd Monday of each month 2.30pm
WESTLEA led by Pete Gilder Contact Pete on 01793 878823 for details	Alternate Tuesdays 8pm

Organ Celebrations

Stratton Methodist Church
Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret, SN3 4NH
Saturday 16th June 4-7pm

Celebrating 80 years of organ music at Stratton Methodist Church. A variety of music from a range of organists will be entertaining us. For more information please contact 01793 822015.

Any money raised will be donated to the MHA, Stimulating Minds Project

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/>

SING A MUSICAL IN A DAY!

Saturday 29 September 2018 at 10am

Cricklade United Church, Calcutt St, Cricklade, Swindon SN6 6AZ

On Saturday 29 September 2018 at Cricklade United Church we are offering the opportunity to sing a musical in a day!

Led by Christian Music Ministries - Conductor Annie Routley – we are intending to put on Jarius' Daughter composed by Roger Jones. The day starts with tea/coffee at 10am and is followed by workshops culminating in a performance at 6pm.

Singers and musicians of all levels are all welcome. The performance is free and all are invited to come and see and hear the finished event.

We ran a similar day last year and it was a great success, much enjoyed by all who participated.

Further details nearer the time or by telephoning 01793 751020 or 01793 750556

Remembrance100 – marking the end of World War 1

On Sunday, 4th August 1918 King George V and Queen Mary joined members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords for a special service at the Church of Saint Margaret, Westminster. The King had asked that 4th August 1918, the fourth anniversary of the declaration of war, should be observed as a National Day of Prayer.

One hundred days later the war ended.

Remembrance100 has been set up by HOPE, a UK Christian mission charity, in partnership with Christian denominations and ministries, including military chaplaincies, to help churches bring communities together to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1.

On 4th August 2018 churches across the country will start 100 days of prayer, peace and reconciliation. Church leaders, Christian charities, chaplaincies and ministries from Britain and the Commonwealth are providing prayers and suggestions for peace-making activities to be included in a book called *100 Days of Peace and Hope* for Remembrance100, as this season is being called. The book can be used by individuals, churches and schools.

HOPE is also publishing a commemorative booklet called *Silence* for churches to give away at Remembrance Services.

Here are a few key dates:

4th August: this will be the first day of 100 days of prayer, running until Armistice Day in November. The book *100 Days of Peace and HOPE* will be available from Remembrance100, with daily prayers and thoughts, plus peace-making ideas for communities to use each weekend.

21st September: the United Nations International Day of Peace and the launch of 2018 Peace Awards.

5-9th November: schools will mark a week of peace before the Remembrance weekend.

11th November: there will be Remembrance Services around the Commonwealth. Many will be followed by Peace Parties.

December: Peace Awards ceremonies will be held.

As details become available, the resources will be available on www.remembrance100.co.uk.



Strawberry Tea

St Mary's Church Lydiard Tregoze

Every Sunday afternoon
03 June - 29 July 2018
Not on 01 July 2018
FUNDRAISING FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's Stable Room and outside
2.00pm - 4.30pm
£3.50 each

**Join us for tea and strawberry scones,
and enjoy the summer sunshine
at St Mary's on these afternoons.**

Please contact Partnership Office on
01793 874221 for more details
West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

My Journey to West Swindon – Teresa Townsend

I am delighted to write a piece for the June newsletter, about myself and my faith journey, prior to arriving as Assistant Curate in the Partnership at the start of July, which will follow my ordination as a Deacon at Bristol Cathedral on Saturday 30th June.

I have been married to Nic for twenty-eight years and we have three children in their twenties. I was born in Wroughton and have lived here most of my life. From singing in the choir, confirmation, marriage and the baptisms of my children, the church in Wroughton has been a central part of my life. As the children grew up, I became more involved in the children's and youth work and have been involved in leading worship for some years.

It was about ten years ago, that I felt God was calling me into a more specific role and I began discerning what that might be. Whilst I had always been a Christian, it was when I read the passage from Luke's Gospel (ch22) about being sifted as wheat and strengthening others, that I committed my life fully to God through Jesus Christ and I knew I would never be the same!

During my discernment process I became a Licensed Lay Minister in February 2011. Even then, I knew it wasn't quite what I was being called to, but I didn't feel confident about the nagging sense it might be to ordained ministry; it was only in 2015 that I finally admitted and voiced my feelings. From that time, the process has been swift; I am now at the end of my two years of training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon.

You may wonder why the West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Partnership has been chosen for my curacy. The practical reason is because my curacy will be a part-time role having been sponsored for non-stipendiary ministry. This means that I will continue to live in my home in Wroughton and work for three days a week as a part-time primary school teacher in Swindon. However, putting aside those practicalities, I feel I am coming to a partnership that will enable me to continue growing as a disciple of Christ and develop my knowledge and understanding of different traditions. Through our conversations, shared worship, prayer and collaboration, I hope and pray that I will be sent out, in four years' time, as a priest of the Church of England, committed to working ecumenically and with a heart further focused on building God's kingdom here on earth.

I am very much looking forward to joining you and ask that you may pray for me and for my family as we come closer to my ordination. My prayers and best wishes are with you also.

Teresa

The Habits are broad in their scope and in their implications so such flexibility is catered for.

It will be possible to weave Bible Society resources, the Methodist Church "Bible Month" materials on the book of Jonah and many other source materials into the overall framework. The Holy Habits theme from Pentecost to September is "The Adventure of Christian discipleship" and how well messages from the book of Jonah and other sources can be integrated into this general theme.

There is not a prescription that house groups and congregations will receive nothing but a diet of Holy Habits in their Christian teaching, worship and preaching.

There is not a requirement that House Groups will solely use the Holy Habits materials. The reason for extending Holy Habits **over a period of two years** is to allow the flexibility for other Christian teaching and experience to be woven into the mix.

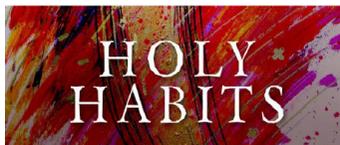
There is an expectation that Church services in their own way will allow congregations to reflect on, explore and grow stronger in the disciplines of Christian discipleship and to look at how these can be expressed in vibrant and meaningful Christian living.

There is an expectation that House groups, fellowships and congregations will be given adequate opportunity to explore the excellent materials that have been produced through the Bible Reading Fellowship to accompany Holy Habits and benefit from the fact that these materials have already been trialled in other Circuits with positive and inspirational responses.

We are doing this because we believe that, through doing so, God will speak to us individually, as fellowships and as the family of Christ.

Please Pray that the Holy Spirit will:

- **Inspire us** as we study Scripture together;
- **Guide us** through the way in which we engage with the Holy Habits book;
- **Prompt us** to embrace excellent resources that come alongside it;
- **Remove misunderstanding** and misconceptions that can get in the way of God's leading;
- **Enable us** to be ever open to the Spirit's leading rather than the ways of 'mankind';
- **Show us** the changes we must make and the actions in our lives that will bring us closer to Jesus
- **Make us** better disciples of Jesus, living out the habits of his disciples in a way that makes a difference



**UPPER THAMES CIRCUIT with
THE NORTH WILTS. CIRCUIT &
The WEST SWINDON & LYDIARD
TREGOZE PARTNERSHIP & OTHERS**



September 2018 to June 2020

HOLY HABITS

“I don’t like the idea of the churches pursuing Holy Habits” Its sounds prescriptive!”

“Good grief! Doing Holy Habits for the next two years is bound to bore our pants off... surely we will be sick of hearing about it by the time it finishes.”

“It sounds as though Holy Habits is going to be a straight-jacket that, far from exciting us into new and inspiring things with Jesus, will stop us growing as Christians.”

If any of the above are thoughts you have had then please be assured that this is not what “Holy Habits” is about.

“The call to Christian discipleship is a call to adventure. Holy Habits explores this adventure through a rich mix of biblical material and inspiring stories. The life-giving, transforming role of ten habits seen in Acts 2 are re-imagined for personal and community life today.” Andrew Roberts, author of the book: Holy Habits.

Holy Habits is not a scheme, it is not a programme, it is not a course.

Holy Habits is an opportunity to focus on the habits and disciplines of the early Church and find ways of strengthening these in our Christian lives.

It is Christ-led in that the habits we are considering is what Christ taught his disciples and how the early Church worked these out in their daily living. It is an opportunity to learn from their experience.

It is Holy Spirit led in that the Habits are broad and allow for exploration and engagement as the Holy Spirit is leading.

There is not a prescription that preachers shall follow a week by week reiteration of each Holy habit at the expense of allowing the Spirit to move in their hearts and to express the Word that the Lord is giving to them for each particular congregation.

Announcing our new Diocesan Bishop

I am delighted to let you know that The Very Revd Vivienne Faull, currently Dean of York, has today been announced as the 57th Bishop of Bristol.



Bishop Designate Viv, brings great experience of ministry in the Church of England to her new role. When appointed to Leicester Cathedral, she was the first ordained woman to serve as a Dean/Provost.

In that role Bishop Designate Viv was also incumbent of the parish of St Martin’s, an area with multiple challenges including significant poverty. Together with the Bishop, she worked with other city centre parishes in Leicester to bring new possibilities for Christian witness when the number of worshippers was declining rapidly. As Dean she also acted as the Bishop’s Deputy in a Diocese which then lacked a Suffragan Bishop.

In Leicester, and for a number of years in the Diocese of York, our Bishop Designate has been actively involved with parishes across a wide range of Church contexts and traditions, working hard to build and maintain prayerful and mutually respectful relationships. All this has given her a very good understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing clergy and their congregations, as well as an appreciation of the role a Bishop and Diocese must play in enabling parochial ministry and mission to flourish when resources and commitment are being tested.

Our Bishop Designate is known as a relational person who favours evolution over revolution. Having begun to get to know her since her appointment, I am seeing many of the qualities and experience she will bring to this next season of Episcopal ministry in our Diocese. As the next Bishop of Bristol, Viv will help us to build on what is and has been fruitful while enabling us to make progress in areas where fresh approaches are needed.

We look forward to welcoming her to the Diocese in the autumn. Please hold our new Bishop Designate and her husband Michael in your prayers.

Yours, as ever, in our Great Shepherd

+Lee

**The full transcript of a Sermon, not to be forgotten, by
Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
of the US-based Episcopal Church at the
wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle
St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle
Saturday 19 May 2018**



🏠 And now in the name of our loving, liberating and life-giving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

From the Song of Solomon, in the Bible: *“set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.”*

The late Dr Martin Luther King once said, and I quote: ‘We must discover the power of love, the redemptive power of love. And when we do that, we will make of this old world a new world, for love is the only way.’

There’s power in love. Don’t underestimate it. Don’t even over-sentimentalise it. There’s power, power in love. If you don’t believe me, think about a time when you first fell in love. The whole world seemed to centre around you and your beloved.

Oh there’s power, power in love. Not just in its romantic forms, but any form, any shape of love. There’s a certain sense in which when you are loved, and you know it; when someone cares for you, and you know it: when you love and you show it – it actually feels right.

There is something right about it. And there’s a reason for it. The reason has to do with the source. We were made by a power of love, and our lives were meant – and are meant – to be lived in that love. That’s why we are here.

Ultimately, the source of love is God himself: the source of all of our lives. There’s an old medieval poem that says: ‘Where true love is found, God himself is there’.

The New Testament says it this way: ‘Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God, and those who love are born of God and know God. Those who do not love do not know God.’ Why? ‘For God is love.’

There’s power in love. There’s power in love to help and heal when nothing else can.



Summer Serenade

An evening of music and poetry



Presented by

**Strictly Recorders &
Wentworth Voices**



St Mary’s Church

Lydiard Park

Saturday 14th July 2018 at 7.30pm

Tickets £5 available on the door

All proceeds for St Mary’s Church Conservation
Project

Reckless Abandon

On **Tuesday 19th June @7pm** 4Front Theatre Company are coming to Highworth Methodist Church to put on the play "Reckless Abandon".

For the Waodani people living deep in the Ecuadorian jungle, murder, revenge and death by the spear were a way of life. In 1956, 10 missionaries launched 'Operation Auca' to share God's love with this previously unreached stone age tribe. Stepping into the jaws of death. The world watched on to see how the story would end.

Reckless Abandon tells the story of "Operation Auca" and an inspiring true story of love, forgiveness and fearless faith.

Highworth Methodist Church.

Tickets £10 from Lou Ashford

Email: Louashford231@gmail.com or phone 01793 201703

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.

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

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.

Broadgreen Community Centre

Street Food Festival

Saturday 16 June 2018

11.00am – 4.00pm

Salisbury Street, Gladstone Street & Broad Street off County Road Swindon.

Food stalls, Live entertainment and Bar.

Bishop Michael Curry's Sermon - Continued

There's power in love to lift up and liberate when nothing else will.

There's power in love to show us the way to live.

Set me as a seal on your heart . . . a seal on your arm, for love is as strong as death.

But love is not only about a young couple. Now the power of love is demonstrated by the fact that we're all here: two young people fell in love, and we all showed up! But it's not just for and about a young couple, who we rejoice with. It's more than that.

Jesus of Nazareth on one occasion was asked by a lawyer to sum up the essence of the teachings of Moses, and he went back and he reached back into the Hebrew scriptures, to Deuteronomy and Leviticus, and Jesus said: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.'

And then in Matthew's version, he added, he said: On these two, love of God and love of neighbour, hang all the law, all the prophets, everything that Moses wrote, everything in the holy prophets, everything in the scriptures, everything that God has been trying to tell the world: love God, love your neighbours, and while you're at it, love yourself.

Someone once said that Jesus began the most revolutionary movement in human history. A movement grounded in the unconditional love of God for the world - and a movement mandating people to live that love, and in so doing to change not only their lives but the very life of the world itself.

I'm talking about some power, real power, power to change the world.

If you don't believe me, well, there were some old slaves in America's Antebellum South who explained the dynamic power of love and why it has the power to transform. They explained it this way: they sang a spiritual, even in the midst of their captivity. It's one that says 'There is a balm in Gilead. . .' a healing balm, something that can make things right.

'There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.' And one of the stanzas actually

Bishop Michael Curry's Sermon – Continued

explains why. They said: 'If you cannot preach like Peter, and you cannot pray like Paul, you just tell the love of Jesus, how he died to save us all.' Oh, that's the balm in Gilead! This way of love, it is the way of life. They got it. He died to save us all.

He didn't die for anything he could get out of it. Jesus did not get an honorary doctorate for dying. He didn't, he wasn't getting anything out of it. He gave up his life, he sacrificed his life, for the good of others, for the good of the other, for the wellbeing of the world, for us.

That's what love is. Love is not selfish and self-centred. Love can be sacrificial, and in so doing, becomes redemptive. And that way of unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive love changes lives, and it can change this world. If you don't believe me, just stop and think or imagine: think and imagine. Well? Think and imagine a world where love is the way.

Imagine our homes and families where love is the way. Imagine neighbourhoods and communities where love is the way. Imagine governments and nations where love is the way. Imagine business and commerce where this love is the way. Imagine this tired old world where love is the way; when love is the way – unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive.

When love is the way, then no child will go to bed hungry in this world ever again. When love is the way, we will let justice roll down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing brook. When love is the way, poverty will become history. When love is the way, the earth will be a sanctuary. When love is the way, we will lay down our swords and shields, down by the riverside, to study war no more. When love is the way, there's plenty good room – plenty good room – for all of God's children.

Because when love is the way, we actually treat each other, well, like we are actually family.

When love is the way, we know that God is the source of us all, and we are brothers and sisters, children of God. My brothers and sisters, that's a new heaven, a new earth, a new world, a new human family. And let me tell you something, old Solomon was right in the Old Testament: that's fire.

Pierre de Chardin – and with this I will sit down, we gotta get y'all married! French Jesuit Pierre de Chardin was arguably one of the great

National Weekend of Invitation

Friday 15th to Sunday 17th 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 15th to Sunday 17th 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.'

50 years ago.

On 6th June 1968 Robert Kennedy, American politician, brother to US President John F Kennedy, was shot and killed. A Senator from New York, and former Attorney General, he was shot in Los Angeles while campaigning for the presidential nomination with a campaign that lasted only 83 days before he was assassinated in Los Angeles.



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

Bereaved Parents Support Day

Saturday 9th June

Highworth Community Centre from 10 am to 5pm.

CARE for the Family are running a Bereaved Parents Support Day at Highworth Community Centre from 10 am to 5pm. The death of a son or daughter at any age is one of the most heart-breaking things a parent ever has to face. These events offer the opportunity to meet others who have been in similar situations and to talk things through, gaining reassurance and hope for the journey ahead.

The link to the event is

<http://careforthefamily.cmail20.com/t/r-l-jrdliia-jhidhyuyk-n/>

Christian Vision For Men

The Gathering 2018

Lynt Farm SN6 7QZ

From £116 per person

22 – 24 June 2018

Bookings are now being taken for The Gathering (Christian Vision for Men) to be held 22 – 24 June 2018. • Live comedy • cool cars • sport • beer festival • live music • huge inflatables • bar games • football cage • axe throwing • relevant Bible teaching • great worship • great speakers • life stories • powerful gospel ministry • 8 lane Scalextric • bonfires and loads more...

To Book call 01246 452483

Bishop Michael Curry's Sermon - Continued

minds, great spirits of the 20th century; a Jesuit, Roman Catholic priest, scientist, a scholar, a mystic.

In some of his writings, he said, from his scientific background as well as his theological one, in some of his writings he said – as others have – that the discovery, or invention, or harnessing of fire was one of the great scientific and technological discoveries in all of human history.

Fire to a great extent made human civilisation possible. Fire made it possible to cook food and to provide sanitary ways of eating which reduced the spread of disease in its time. Fire made it possible to heat warm environments and thereby made human migration around the world a possibility, even into colder climates. Fire made it possible – there was no Bronze Age without fire, no Iron Age without fire, no Industrial Revolution without fire.

The advances of science and technology are greatly dependent on the human ability and capacity to take fire and use it for human good.

Anybody get here in a car today? An automobile? Nod your heads if you did – I know there were some carriages – but those of us who came in cars, fire – the controlled, harnessed fire – made that possible.

I know that the Bible says, and I believe it, that Jesus walked on the water. But I have to tell you, I did not walk across the Atlantic Ocean to get here. Controlled fire in that plane got me here. Fire makes it possible for us to text and tweet and email and Instagram and Facebook and socially be dysfunctional with each other.

Fire makes all of that possible, and de Chardin said fire was one of the greatest discoveries in all of human history. And he then went on to say that if humanity ever harnesses the energy of fire again, if humanity ever captures the energy of love – it will be the second time in history that we have discovered fire.

Dr King was right: we must discover love – the redemptive power of love. And when we do that, we will make of this old world, a new world.

My brother, my sister, God love you, God bless you, and may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love. 🏰

Probably the most talked about sermon of any Royal Wedding.

Church Services in the Partnership St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze

Date	Time	Form
03 June	10:00am	Morning service followed by Baptism
10 June	10:00am	Communion followed by Baptism
17 June	10:00am	Family Service
24 June	10:00am	Communion followed by Baptism
24 June	6:00pm	Choral Evensong

Holy Trinity Shaw

Date	Time	Form
03 June	10:30am	Morning Service God.com/SS
10 June	10:30am	All Age Service
10 June	4:00pm	Messy Church
17 June	10:30am	Morning Service God.com/JC
17 June	7:00pm	Encounter
24 June	10:30am	All Age Service
8.45am Morning Prayer on Fridays during term time.		

Toothill

Date	Time	Form
03 June	10:30am	All Age Service
10 June	10:30am	Communion
17 June	10:30am	Morning Service
24 June	10:30am	Morning Service

Westlea

Date	Time	Form
03 June	10:00am	Morning Service
10 June	10:00am	Family Service
17 June	10:00am	Communion
24 June	10:00am	All Age Service

Public Affirmation of Faith and Confirmation

Sunday 15 July 2018

St Paul's Covingham

The service will take place at 4.00pm
Please note change of date

"I have held thee in the palm of my hand". Isaiah 51:16

St Mary's Fundraising Months

As part of the fundraising months at St Mary's in June and July, we are hoping to have the church open for sunrise so that visitors can see the East Window illuminate and experience the wonder of the church and in the park at this time but we need a further volunteer to help out on each Sunday in June.

The timings for the opening will be from 4.45am until 7.00am on the 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th of June, and if successful, further dates may be looked into.

If you are interested in helping out on any of the dates please contact the church wardens Jacqueline Kirwan on email: jmkirwan@live.co.uk Pat Watson email: mikeandpatwatson@gmail.com or me Mathew Koelz on 07760 157842 or email: mmattyk@aol.com