



**Swindon Old Town Partnership of Churches
Anglican - United Reformed - Methodist
Est. 1969**

PARTNERSHIP MAGAZINE

JUNE 2019

80 PENCE



**Partnership Confirmation Service
Sunday 19th May
at Christ Church**

One in Christ - Together in Mission

Swindon Old Town Partnership of Churches
Anglican - United Reformed - Methodist



Saturday 29th June 2019 "Summer Celebration"

2.30p.m. - 5.00p.m.

Partnership Garden Party

Immanuel Church Upham Road
Family fun for all,
meet friends
old and new.



Arrive and leave
at your leisure.

One in Christ | Together in Mission

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WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER CHURCHES IN OLD TOWN

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Partnership Letter

The Manse
152 Drove Road

Peace to you,

*"Imagine you are busy planting a tree, and someone rushes up to say that the Messiah has come and the end of the world is nigh. What do you do? The advice given by the rabbis in a traditional Jewish story is that you first finish planting a tree and only then do you go and see whether the news is true. The Islamic tradition has a similar story, which reminds followers that if they happen to be carrying a palm cutting in their hand when the Day of Judgement takes place, they should not forget to plant the cutting."*¹

I was very impressed by Martin Palmer's words to the Partnership in the service on January 20th. I then bought one of his books and the words above are the beginning of the Preface.

I have no doubts in my mind at all that Climate Change is one of the most urgent matters that we as a human race are facing (or not facing) and our faith has lots to say about this, it challenges us not to be mere observers of what is happening. We are called to action, both on a personal level and as churches. We cannot look away - it is urgent. Climate Change IS happening at a rate never seen before.

"A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches" (Genesis 2) - The Bible begins with the river watering the garden and the Bible ends with the river of life: "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22). Healing of the nations... is this what is happening? I decided to try and find out.

The first week of May I looked through the newspapers to find titles that would guide my thinking on this - and titles I found, in abundance; here are just a few examples:

- We are full of bright ideas to solve ecological problems. So let's act on them.

- Killing off animals and plants now threatens humanity itself, UN experts warn in an urgent call for action. Up to a million species facing extinction in the world's sixth mass die-off – as big a risk as climate change, say scientists.
- Loss of biodiversity is just as catastrophic as climate change.
- Human society under urgent threat from loss of Earth's natural life: Scientists reveal one million species at risk of extinction in damning UN report.
- China is the world's worst polluter but largest investor in green energy. Its rise will have as big an impact on the environment as on the world economy or politics (The Economist)
- World must undergo huge social and financial transformation to save future of human life, major report finds - 'It's time to rethink how we grow food, travel and look after the countryside: it may mean hard choices but the rewards are enormous.'

I admit it, these sound rather apocalyptic in the traditional sense of the word, but in the biblical sense they don't: In Revelation 21 it says that "the Holy City, the new Jerusalem comes down out of heaven from God...", the sad thing is that we might discover that without clean water, clean air, clean earth there will be nothing to come down to. I don't believe in Apocalypse as destruction, I believe it is about the new creation with God at its centre.'

Our word 'ecology' refers to 'the rules of the house' (gr: oikos), the same root we find in economy... our home, our planet, our environment. And we have been called by God to be carers, responsible for all this. There are things we can do as individuals - find an environmentally friendly energy provider, we can cut down on the use of plastic bags at the supermarket, we can sow seeds in some part of our garden which are bee and butterfly friendly and leave patches of grass uncut - small things which add up. Our churches can also make sure we are environmentally aware of our energy, as we replace lighting, opt for LED, make sure the money in investments stands up to the ethical test.

There is an organisation which our churches are involved in, which invites us to aspire to being better and helps churches see how this can be achieved: Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project (<https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk>). The possibility of the Bronze, Silver or Gold plaque environmentally friendly church.

All this to answer the question of how are we being faithful to God's plan for creation by taking the current Climate Change disorder seriously. So let's not despair, let us do it, and if you go back to the first paragraph of this letter this month, it's to plant the tree and then go and see if the Messiah is coming. The challenge is before us and we can all do something - what we can, now.

God bless our work for Creation - because God saw what was done and thought it was good - we can work with God so this stays true.



PS: If you can, please take a look at this link - the photos speak so clearly:

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/07/the-future-of-life-on-earth-lies-in-the-balance-a-picture-essay?CMP=fb_gu&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3cUIInxa0aob1ULrJb3JEag2kTgjjT3Pjj3gK1m6IUfd0UIzFgWTAn3JA#Echobox=1557220102

Quotation, opening paragraph of my letter: 'Martin Palmer with Victoria Finlay: Faith in Conservation, The World Bank, page XIII -



**The Old Town Partnership has a new website:
www.otpc.org.uk**

Celebrating 50 years of working together, It contains photos of events and fund raising appeals we have shared together over the years.

Do you know someone whom you would describe as 'a rock'?

St. Peter is one of the most famous apostles and is remembered this month on 29th June along with St. Paul. Jesus chose Peter as 'the rock' on which His Church would be built. His legacy continues to this day when we are thankful for people in our lives whom we would describe as 'a rock', solidly dependable and always there for us in our times of need. So spend a few moments this month to think who your rock is and thank God for him or her.

FAMILY EVENTS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church

CHRIST CHURCH

April 28 Rhys Ferris

CONFIRMATION

We welcome into the family of the Church those who were confirmed at the Partnership Confirmation Service at Christ Church on Sunday 19th May

Millie Buckland, Steve Cox, Keira Embling,
John and Mary Eveness,
Dee Francis-Cox, Keiran Fricker-Brown, Margaret Groombridge,
Phil Mansfield, Pat Pearce, Jackie Rule, Erica Stross,
Izabela Thomas-Kimber, Sarah Young

MARRIAGE

We wish joy and happiness to

CHRIST CHURCH

May 4 Benjamin Richens and Charlene Brown

FLOODLIGHTING

June 1 In celebration of the marriage of Kate Pitt and Michael Betz

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones of

CHRIST CHURCH

April 1 Raymond John Morse, 85 years
April 12 Arthur Comley, 72 years
April 17 Nancy Livingstone, 75 years
April 18 Brian Farr, 88 years
April 18 Andrew Garrett, 57 years
April 20 Margaret Ellen Adams, 87 years
April 26 Kelly Jobanputra, 39 years
May 17 Martin Lee, 73 years

IMMANUEL

Apr 9 Michael Waite, 82 years

Christ Church with St. Mary's

Reflections on Life and Love

In the 1950s I am in my twenties and have three small daughters, 2 years, 4 years and 6 years. We have just managed to buy a small cottage, price £500, with a 100% mortgage. We have no bathroom, no car, no washing machine, no T.V. or telephone. Our lives revolve around the Unitarian Church. It's a family-friendly church and we have social evenings, potato pie suppers, beetle drives, dances on New Year's Eve and always a pantomime which we all appear in. We have friends, family, fun and lots of love.

In the 2010s I am in my 80s and have been a widow for over 30 years. I still have three daughters, now in their 60s, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. We have cars, washing machines, wet rooms and en suites. My daughters are my happiness. They make sure I am well, we have holidays together, theatre trips and meals out. They are my life and life is love. Thanks be to God.

Elsie Ashworth

**TEA/COFFEE and CHAT at the Goddard Arms,
Tuesday 4th June, 2.30pm to 4.00 pm.**

ONLY £1, INCLUDING UNLIMITED REFILLS.



You can have a small dessert for an extra charge of £1.50. We meet in the side room of the Goddard Arms on the first Tuesday of each month. We meet informally and all are welcome whether you belong to a church or not.

FLOODLIGHTING

If you would like to sponsor the floodlighting of Christ Church in celebration of a birthday, wedding anniversary, special occasion, to advertise your Company, or in memory of a loved one, the minimum gift per evening is **£30.00**.

Cheques to be made payable to 'Christ Church PCC'. Please write to the PARISH OFFICE, COMMUNITY CENTRE AT CHRIST CHURCH, SWINDON, SN1 3HB at least a week before the date of the floodlighting. GIFT AID:

If you are a UK taxpayer and wish Christ Church to reclaim the tax, you may Gift Aid your donation. **Please note:** If you would like the floodlighting to be in the magazine for the appropriate month, we will need to have your request by the 12th of the preceding month.



FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH ANNUAL LECTURE

Saturday 22nd June, 7.30 pm
Christ Church, Old Town.

Free to members. £5 for non-members:
Refreshments available

WIRELESS WOMEN

SPEAKER: LEONIE THOMAS PHD

Although we might imagine the early BBC as a hostile place for women, and recent pay scandals have done nothing to challenge that idea, in reality, the expertise, influence, and social networks of women were a vital part of creating the Corporation we know today.

In this talk, we hear about (and sometimes from) the women who changed radio - from the first Head of the Talks Department, Hilda Matheson, to the first black woman employed by the BBC, Una Marson; from Schools Director, Mary Somerville to documentary maker Olive Shapley, and the BBC's first war correspondent, Audrey Russell. Women were pioneers of new formats, new technologies and new ideas about what Britain should hear. This talk brings their histories to the fore and asks how we can keep women visible in the media of today.

Biography:

Leonie Thomas is a PhD researcher at the Universities of Exeter and Bristol. Her doctoral project, entitled 'Wireless Women: Listening-in to Forgotten Female Voices at the BBC', explores the influence of women writers on early BBC radio programmes. Leonie has published in the academic journal, *Media History*, and spoken at conferences from Edinburgh to Montreal. She has recently made two radio programmes for BBC Radio 4: *Women War Correspondents: 'Witnessing the Worst'* and *'New Year Solutions'*, which offered suggestions for reducing your carbon footprint. Finishing her thesis on a farm, Leonie has gained new skills in lambing and weeding. ■



Betty O'Grady 1921-2019

Although being nearly 98 years old, Betty O'Grady was very forward thinking and embraced modern technology. Being an independent lady, it was with reluctance that she left her apartment to live in Orchid Care Home but, once there, she entered into as many activities as she could; when visiting her we would often find that Betty was not in her room but was partaking of some activity or another.

Having worked in the post office for most of her life and having enjoyed that work, Betty found new interests in retirement and was so pleased that it enabled her to see her daughter Elizabeth and family more often.



She also enjoyed holidays, travelling abroad with a group of us from Christ Church, visiting Egypt, Morocco, Spain and Cyprus, to name but a few. Her friendship with Ken Trenerry brought a new dimension to both of their lives and meant that retirement was certainly a time of life which they were both able to enjoy and embrace.

Our sympathy goes out to Elizabeth and her family. *MW*



With Trinity Sunday in mind:

How can God be One and Three at the same time? Perhaps the Father is like the sun in the sky – dazzling in majesty and glory, whose light, Jesus Christ, illumines all mankind; and whose invisible warmth, the Holy Spirit, brings us to life. Sun, light and warmth – eternally the same, but eternally different. - *Anon*

Partnership Ramble



7 people and one small dog travelled on Easter eve to Avebury on the bus. We walked round the stones and headed up the hill to the Ridgeway. It was a beautiful sunny day and the skylarks sang as we pressed on. We had a delightful picnic in our usual place and then walked on and down the hill into Marlborough where we refreshed ourselves before getting another bus home. Well done to Daniel for another successful ramble.



LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

by
CHARLES VINCE

on
Wednesday 19th June, 1.00pm.
at **Christ Church**

*Music by Bach, Elgar, Vierne, Howells,
Boelimann, Thiman and James Hook*

Refreshments will be served from 12.30 pm

RETIRING COLLECTION IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS



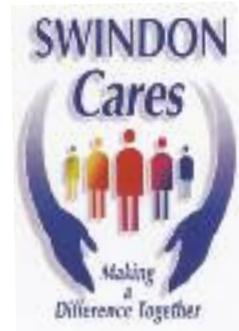
**The High Sheriff of Wiltshire
David Scott**

CHARITY CONCERT FOR SWINDON CARES

*Raising monies for
The Night Shelter*

**Saturday 8th June, 7.30 pm
at**

Christ Church, Old Town Swindon



FEATURING

*Ten in a Bar and The JTP Trust Concert Choirs
and
The Kentwood Show Choir*

**Tickets available from
Christ Church Parish Office
and**

Swindon Visitor Information Centre at the Central Library

Tickets £6

Children under 14, accompanied by an adult, free

Unreserved seating

BEER FESTIVAL AT CHRIST CHURCH

10th/11th May

nearly £12,000 raised for the Roof Appeal



Year 7 of our annual beer festival has turned into our busiest one yet with 350 people on site on the Friday and at least 850 on the Saturday.

The weather certainly helped with sunshine forecast and more than 100 tickets purchased in the final week before the event.

There was a real buzz around the place, everyone is always so complimentary about how well the event is organised, how welcome people are made to feel, what a great venue we have for the event and what a fabulous atmosphere we have created.

In keeping things local, we were delighted that Arkells head brewer Alex Arkell could officially open the event for us. Arkells have always been a big supporter of our festival so it was great to give them a bit of publicity.

Photo: l to r: Chris Smith, Simon Stevenette and Alex Arkell

We had 46 beers and 30 ciders this year, with even more pints drunk than ever. Favourite beers were the 'Yabba Dabba Do' by the Little Ox Brewery and 'Marcus Aurelius' by the Milton Brewery. Sloe Gin cider was the most popular for the second year running.

After the festival itself we ran a pizza and a pint event at Sunday lunchtime with Christian singer Ishmael. This was a bit of fun, with a nice family atmosphere and further enhanced the event.



As well as supporting the Swindon Food Collective, Christ Church roof appeal was our big fundraising effort this year as we aimed to generate the final funds required to complete our full roof repairs.

I am delighted to confirm that we have been able to raise approximately £12,000 this year which has completely blown me away.

I want to finish by saying a huge thank you to all of the sponsors (too many to mention individually) who have supported us and all the people who gave up their time to volunteer, not just during the event but in the months of preparation in the lead up. It is impossible to run the event without the support of so many.

Cheers (pun intended)

Chris

Community Centre @ Christ Church, Tel: 01793 617237
Email: chris.smith@cccswindon.co.uk

The Joy of Gilbert & Sullivan

**Swindon Gilbert & Sullivan Society present
an evening of celebration containing a full concert performance of
'TRIAL BY JURY'
and selected highlights from other operas.**



**Friday 28th June, 7.30 pm
at Ramsbury Memorial Hall
and
Friday 5th July, 7.30 pm
at
Christ Church, Old Town,
Swindon**



Tickets £10

further details available from
david.stephenson333@ntlworld.com Tel. 01793 695685

ALL PROFITS TO PROSPECT HOSPICE

Bath Road

The annual eggstravaganza took place on Easter Sunday.



The annual egg rolling down the church ramp once again received a high number of entrants. Proving that age (nor a much-cracked shell) is not a barrier, Milo Thacker won this year's competition for first over the line - *photo below.*

The egg that rolled the furthest went to an adult, Allison Davies; there were other eggs destined to roll much, much further but sadly they had to be disqualified for safety reasons once they exited the course through veering onto Bath Road itself!

Head judge, James Lewis, made a popular choice, awarding Evie Monis first prize for her fab-u-lous-decorated egg - *photo below:*



Congrats to all and see you all next year for the next round.

Steve Sparkes



Church Family Lunch



The church family is making a concerted effort this year to spend more time together socially, to deepen and extend our contacts and relationships across the rows and aisles..and beyond. To that end, Adrian King organised an excellent curry evening last month at the Lalbagh in Rodbourne Road, which was well-attended by around 25 people, from 13 years old upwards...

...and on Sunday 12th May, Helen Dixon arranged for around 40 of us to meet up for Sunday lunch at The Kings Arms, Wood Street.

There are many more events planned over the next few months so keep an eye out in our weekly notice sheet, in the Partnership Magazine and on our soon-to-be-working-again church web site.

Steve Sparkes

The old and the young

I have recently returned from a holiday to see my family in Staffordshire. Thankfully, I am still able to do this through the help I get with the railway assisted travel.

I want to share with you a special day that we had visiting Rode Hall and Gardens in Cheshire with my stepdaughter, also called Margaret. After a light lunch, we had a tour of the gardens that were ablaze with tulips, azalea and rhododendrons; the bluebells looked like a carpet underneath the trees and the birds were singing. All this we had time to enjoy and appreciate, sitting on a seat absorbing the sights and the sounds, reflecting on the wonder of nature.

On returning home, my first thought was to put the washing in my machine. Then the next day, number one on my list was a visit to the hairdressers to have a shampoo and set, followed by a visit to the Old Town Library.

On this occasion, when I arrived at the library, there was a little girl in front of me, about 3 years old, and her daddy was holding the three books that she had chosen. I started chatting to her and she told me that her favourite book was 'Winnie the Pooh'.

After the family had left, it was my turn. Being visually impaired, I rely solely on audio books and I have become a familiar figure to the librarian. She is always so helpful and researches the audio books that are available, telling me the story line, so that I can make an informed choice.

As I know her so well, she said to me, 'Will you do me a favour?' I replied, 'Yes, if I can.' I was informed that the library had recently joined Facebook and they wished to put me in as the 'Face of the Week'; she had been waiting until I came into the library to ask me if I would agree to it and she told me that I would only have to stand a few seconds for her to take my photo.

I told her that I wouldn't be able to see it because I am not on the internet, but she assured me that my friends would be able to show it to me, so I agreed. In a way I felt quite pleased to have been asked and immediately decided to tell all my friends about it. I was amazed how quickly it was on the internet because Eric Sparkes was able to show it to me as soon as I got home.

We are so lucky in Old Town that we have a library to go to which provides facilities for young and old and where we all receive a warm and helpful welcome.

Margaret Jones

Bath Road MOPS meet on the 6th and 20th June, 10.30 am in the Crossland Room.



Series: ‘The Way Things Were’
this month by Shirley Cripps
Nursing in the Arctic

In the late 1970s, I joined the Northern Nursing Service (Outpost Nursing) and was posted to Fort Good Hope in the Sahtu Region of the Northwest Territories, Canada. Fort Good Hope is a settlement covering approximately 18.5 sq. miles. In 1970 it had a population of 400 Indian and Métis people. The population now is 570. The Indians are from the Dené nation and their language is Slavey, nicknamed the Hareskin because of their use of fur. The community, founded in 1805 as a fur trading post, is situated on the Banks of the McKenzie River, 20 miles south of the Arctic Circle, just on the tree line.

It was a bit of a culture shock, moving from the busy metropolis of Vancouver to the Arctic Circle with 24 hours of either day or night light. Temperatures in the winter months were -40° F or lower. During the 24 hours daylight period, the average temperature was 62° F, but there were some spells of hot weather when the temperature rose to 95° F and plants grew before your eyes.

The public community buildings in the settlement included a Nursing Station, which was also our home, the Police House, with a cell, (*the photo on the inside cover shows the view from our home looking towards the Police House*) a school, an old people’s home, a church and, most importantly, the Hudson Bay Company which provided us with all our essential needs: a little fresh produce, some tinned goods, clothes and sweet treats, as well as the Post Office.

Native homes were varied: a few ready-made log cabins, some prefab type homes and other more rustic dwellings dotted around the area. The nurses had a vehicle to enable them to visit patients or transport them, if needed, around the 4 miles of dirt road.

Communities throughout the area were of different denominations. In the mid 1900s missionaries travelled up and down the river system and wherever they settled they built a church, mostly Catholic or Anglican with a sprinkling of other faiths later on.

The oldest and most ornate is the church of Our Lady of Good Hope, built by French missionaries in 1865. Outwardly, it is quite plain, but inside the church they painted glorious religious pictures on the tongued and grooved walls of the church, as well as local plants and wildlife and the northern winter night sky. When I was there it was looking grubby after all those years but I am pleased to say it has been renovated and is now a National Historic Site. ➤

The administrative centre of the region is Inuvik (Place of Man) 200 miles from Fort Good Hope and 124 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Access to Fort Good Hope was either by Twin Otter plane twice a week all year, weather permitting, the 'Barge' which transported dry and heavy goods up the River McKenzie once or twice during the summer months, or skidoo over the McKenzie ice road in winter.

There were generally two nurses working in the settlement, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The role of the nurse was interesting. It included day-to-day care of community health: diagnosing and prescribing, suturing and applying casts. We also covered other areas of health: annual chest X-rays, TB care, children's welfare and immunisation programme, maternity deliveries and ante/post natal care.

Part of the remit of working for Health and Welfare, Canada was to provide holiday relief cover anywhere in the zone for stations managed only by one nurse, and I found myself in Sachs Harbour for a few weeks, a treeless Eskimo hamlet on the coast of Banks Island, the most northerly inhabited area with a population of 100. I was there in March. The whole landscape was white, the island and the frozen water, no trees or features to break up the vista. The temperature can go down to -52C.

Hunting polar bear was lucrative, but each settlement was only allowed a specified quota and a government permit was required to hunt and sell them. White fox was hunted for fur and Caribou for food (delicious), and there were piles of Caribou antlers outside many of the cabins.

One bear was shot whilst I was there and this had to be gutted and cleaned. Unfortunately, they decided to do this inside the cabin, using petrol, a risky venture that caused severe breathing problems. Once cleaned, the bear skin was hung outside on a line ready for the market; sold by the inch, it was valuable. I had occasion to give a rabies injection to the young daughter of the policeman who had been bitten by an arctic fox; a very painful procedure, but all was well.

Back to Fort of Good Hope: Unfortunately, the hunting and trapping lifestyle in Fort Good Hope went into decline. There were only a few families who went to the bush for the winter and others who set up camp on the riverbank for fishing during the summer. Those who wanted work had to leave the settlement. Alcohol was a major issue with its attendant problems. One year the Band Council voted in prohibition and it transformed the people; unfortunately it didn't last and was voted out the next year. ➤

One highlight of the year happened when the 'Barge' docked as it brought all sorts of delights, including our provisions for the year. Another favourite was 'Break up' in the Spring when the ice on the river started to break and huge chunks floated by. The Indians were inveterate gamblers and took bets on when the ice would break.

Activities included movie nights, reel-to-reel films of old faithfuls in the school hall or perhaps an evening of drum dancing. One summer, Health and Welfare sent a young lady from the Recreation Department to set up a pop-up swimming pool for the community. The children loved it but there were rules: blow your nose, go to the toilet and jump into a barrel of disinfectant water. The incidence of ear infections that year was almost zero.

Communication was simple: phone access to Inuvik for advice or to request an evacuation for a medical emergency. A doctor visited once a month and the consultants once a year. The surrounding settlements could send messages to each other via the local radio station. Other than 'snail mail', there was no television or news from the outside world.

The experience of working in the North was one of reality and beauty. The reality was the decline of the Indian heritage and way of life, but hopefully things have changed. Beauty: the place is pristine in the Winter, and Autumn brings masses of colourful flowers and plants (used to make dyes), but the glorious sunsets are the best. *See photos on the inside back cover.* ■

We needed a filler for this space in the magazine, and this is it...

'The Way Things Were' - *in brief*:

Watching a recent programme 'easyJet: Inside the Cockpit' on ITV, reminded me of my first holiday abroad in 1959. Flying from the UK to Austria, we had to stop and refuel at Luxembourg. When we walked off the plane into the airport lounge, people were lining the perimeter watching us, and we felt like VIPs. Aviation has come a long way in such a comparatively short space of time.

The ITV programme showed us the descent into Innsbruck, with the mountains so close on either side that in poor visibility the plane would have to divert to another airport. In 1959 we were also told that we would have to divert to Munich if the weather was poor, but fortunately it was O.K. and I will never forget the freshness of the air when I stepped off the plane at Innsbruck Airport. *D.S.*

Immanuel

Easter Day

Our floral art team had worked hard in the run-up to Easter to prepare some really beautiful floral art to decorate the church which, on a sun-filled morning and following the redecoration of the church, looked truly glorious.

Roy Lowes who led our worship invited us all to consider the resurrection story afresh. True to long-standing tradition at Immanuel, members of the congregation had brought single blooms or small posies to decorate the empty cross which after the service was taken outside as a symbol for the passing world to see, admire and perhaps ponder on.



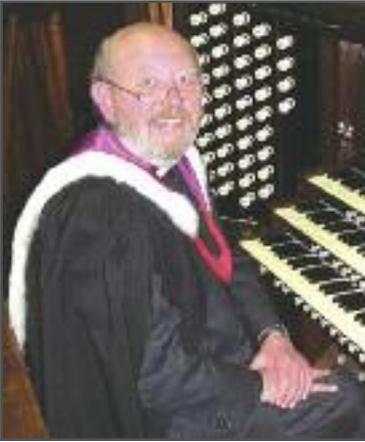
More Churches than Pubs - The Office of National Statistics reports that there are 40,300 churches open to the public and being used for worship: there are now 39,000 pubs, a quarter having closed in the last decade. Open churches also substantially outnumber other key public buildings – supermarkets, post offices, banks, public libraries – so here is a great opportunity for them as vital community hubs where people can meet and work together.

Does this speak to you? *A quote from the Memorial United Church of Christ:* We believe churches are meant for praising God. But so are 2 am car rides, showers, coffee shops, gym, conversations with friends, strangers, etc. Don't let a building confine your faith because we will never change the world by just going to church, we need to be the church.

Immanuel Women's Fellowship

June	5	Members' afternoon
	12	Quiz with John Murphy
	19	Moscow and St. Petersburg - John Farrow
	26	Cream Tea

Anniversaries galore!



Apart from this year being the Partnership's 50th Anniversary and Immanuel's 80th year since it first opened its doors for worship in Old Walcot, we already know that 2019 is the date that Liz and Geoff Gleed celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary, as mentioned in our May edition.

But - did you know that it is also the 25th Anniversary of Geoff's Ordination as a Minister. And what's more it took place this month on the 25th June. (25 and 25!).

Geoff said, "I can't believe it's 28 years ago that I went off to start my training in Salisbury. How time flies."

The National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO) also celebrates its centenary this year. Geoff is Wiltshire Branch Chaplain to the 1100 retired police officers and their families who live in the county.

Do you have a special date that you are celebrating this year?

We are sure there are other folk in our Partnership of Churches who could come up with 'special' events in their lives or a significant anniversary which is remembered particularly this year. If you would like to share a short story with us, then why not write to one of our Editors.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Christian Aid Soup Lunch



A huge 'thank you' to everyone who came along and supported Immanuel's Christian Aid Soup Lunch on Sunday 12th May. It was a lovely social occasion and we managed to raise £146 for Christian Aid. Also a big 'thank you' to Liz and Joyce for the delicious soups they made.

Heaven, here I come!!

Let not your heart be troubled! When we belong to Christ, the first minute after we die we enter immediately into God's presence. Amazing! We shall see Him face to face. It may look like sleep but not from His point of view. Down here we adorn the gospel as flowers adorn a room but up there we will be doing more than sitting on a cloud and singing.

Heaven is pictured in the Bible as a city, a garden, and a home. All three require skill, work and maintenance, so that requires service and it is active, involving lasting accomplishments, unhindered by fatigue and our limited resources. The Bible says we will reign with Christ, exercising leadership and making important decisions, setting goals, devising plans and sharing ideas.

To see the river and the tree of life full of fresh fruit every month, with leaves for the healing of the nations, is a marvellous thing to look forward to. We may say our day's work is done but we can't say our life's work is over. Our days will close with the twilight and open with the dawn, our last breath on earth and our first in heaven! And we will certainly be known and recognised just as Moses and Elijah were recognised when they appeared with Jesus.

Barbara Furguson, Immanuel

An Old Town Festival event

PIANO RECITAL by PAUL TURNER

fascinatin' Rhythm



**Thursday 13th June 1.00-2.00 pm
Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon**

**Refreshments from 12 noon
Tickets on the door £5 (music only)**

***Sponsored by
Morris Owen, Accountants
and
The Friends of Christ Church***

Easter 2019



Maundy Thursday:

it was Immanuel's turn to host the Partnership Agape Service this year, and Robert Jordan led a beautifully meaningful communion service based on a liturgy prepared by the Iona Community. In traditional style it followed a simple meal of soup, rolls and biscuits and cheese, with grapes to follow – all prepared by Joyce Harrison and her team of helpers, The Agape Service made a fitting start to the Easter weekend.



Good Friday saw the traditional three-hour service at Christ Church, this year conducted by Revd Liz Griffiths. Entitled “The Reconciling Work of God”, it took the form of six mini services, all of which were thought-provoking, and asked us to see the world differently. With a range of refreshingly new poems and hymns, It was indeed good, on this day called ‘Good’, to be given the chance to be challenged to think and pray in a new light.

Steve Brain



RAISING FUNDS FOR WILTSHIRE SEARCH AND RESCUE

Main Events and Fringe Events

- S**aturday 8 June Tunnels Tour of Old Town - 2 tours from Goddard Arms
- Sunday 9 June 10.45 Entertainment in Wood Street
11.00 Parade starts from Lawn avenue, off High Street
12.15 Family Fun Day - The Lawn
15.00 Open Air Service and Picnic - old Holy Rood Church
- Monday 10 June Quiz at Longs Bar 20.00
- Tuesday 11 June Jazz Nights at The Royal Oak
- Wednesday 12 to
Saturday 15 June The Western Players in 'Perfect Wedding'
Arts Centre 19.30
- Wednesday 12 June Lethbridge 10k starting at Croft Sports Centre
19.00
- Wednesday 12 June Live Music - the 'Big' Jam at The Regent
- Thursday 13 June Paul Turner Piano Recital at Christ Church
Bar open 12.00. Recital 13.00. Tickets £5.00
- Thursday 13 June Nude Foods Cookery Masterclass
The Core Juice Bar 18.00. Tickets £15.00
- Friday 14 June Sparkling Afternoon Tea and Live Entertainment
14.00 Christ Church. Bar open. Tickets £7.50/£5.00
- Saturday 15 June The Bowl Concert 12.00-22.30. Bar throughout.
No alcohol to be brought into the Bowl.

**WE WILL BE TRIALLING A CARD MACHINE FOR THE BAR AT
THE FUN DAY AND THE BOWL. MINIMUM SPEND £5.00**

Remembering D-Day - June 6th 1944

by Canon David Winter

Recently I asked a group of about 30 people, the youngest 36, the oldest 90, what would we be commemorating on June 6th? No one knew, though after a bit of prompting some of the older ones said D-Day.

To be fair, most of them weren't even alive, or were small children when that great turning point of the Second World War took place: the Normandy landings. But as our discussion continued, distant memories on what many historians rate as the greatest sea-borne invasion of military history slowly emerged.

Strangely enough, we remembered or remembered being told about the Doodlebugs which preceded the invasion in the summer of 1944. In fact those horrible missiles and their deadlier counterparts the V2 rockets were, if we had known it at the time, simply the grim overtures to what was to be a staggering feat: the liberation of Europe from Nazi occupation due to the surrender of Germany and eventually the end of the war.

As a choirboy, I had sat amazed at one of the King's National Days of Prayer, the first of which was in 1940 before Dunkirk. Our north London church was packed (standing room only) to pray for peace and the liberation of Europe. Seldom could prayers have been more spectacularly answered.

Of course, it wasn't a walk-over. There are many untold personal experiences. My 19 year-old brother was one of the hundred thousand strong invading force drawn from five nations. Under enemy fire he drove an RAF truck up a beach in Normandy on D-Day plus one.

The film 'The Longest Day' told the story of the bravery of the others who dropped from the skies by parachute or glider. One of these men was Private John Steele an American paratrooper whose parachute caught on the church tower in the village of Sainte-Mère-Église.

Eventually the occupying troops retreated as the Allied forces made their way into Germany. To the horror of the troops the discovery at Belsen confirmed that the Nazi regime was truly evil. ■

Please note

The next magazine will be a double issue covering July and August.
Copy deadline: Wednesday 12th June.

PARTNERSHIP DIARY FOR JUNE

01 Sat	7.30 am	Christ Church Men's Breakfast
02 Sun	8.00 am	Christ Church, 1662 Holy Communion
	9.00 am	St. Mary's, Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Bath Road, Morning Service, Adrian German
	10.00 am	Christ Church, All-Age worship
	10.30 am	Immanuel, Holy Communion, Rev'd. Robert Jordan
	6.30 pm	Bath Road, Evening Service
	6.30 pm	Christ Church, Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Immanuel, Evening Service, Rev'd. Robert Jordan
04 Tues	2.30 pm	Tea/Coffee and Chat at the Goddard Arms Hotel
05 Wed	10.30 am	Christ Church, Holy Communion
	6.45 pm	to 8.45 pm St. Mary's, Mindfulness and Meditation
06 Thur	7.30 pm	Bath Road Church Council
08 Sat	9.00 am	to 11.00 am Community Breakfast at Bath Road
09 Sun		Pentecost
	8.00 am	Christ Church, Holy Communion
		Old Town Festival , so no 9 am at St. Mary's, and no 10.00 am or 6.30 pm services at Christ Church, Bath Road, Morning Service, Joyce Barnes.
	10.00 am	Bath Road, Morning Service, Joyce Barnes.
	10.30 am	Immanuel, Morning Service, Rev'd. Robert Jordan
	3.00 pm	Partnership Open Air Service at Holy Rood Church on The Lawn as part of the Old Town Festival.
		NO EVENING SERVICE AT ANY OF OUR CHURCHES
10 Mon	7.30 pm	Christ Church Standing Committee at the Vicarage
12 Wed	10.30 am	Christ Church, Holy Communion
	6.45 pm	to 8.45 pm St. Mary's, Mindfulness and Meditation
13 Thur	1.00 pm	to 2.00 pm Piano Recital by Paul Turner at Christ Church as part of the Old Town Festival
14 Fri	2.00 pm	Afternoon Tea with Prosecco at Christ Church as part of the Old Town Festival
16 Sun		Trinity Sunday
	8.00 am	Christ Church 1662 Holy Communion
	9.00 am	St. Mary's, Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Bath Road, Morning Service, Rev'd. Mark Barrett
	11.30 am	Bath Road Annual General Meeting
	10.00 am	Christ Church, Contemporary Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Immanuel, Morning Service
	3.30 pm	Messy Church at King William Street School

16	Sun	6.30 pm	Bath Road, Holy Communion, Rev'd. Tony Barnes
		6.30 pm	Christ Church, Healing Service
		6.30 pm	Immanuel, Holy Communion, Rev'd. Robert Jordan
18	Tues	7.30 pm	Bath Road Stewards' Meeting
19	Wed	10.30 am	Christ Church, Holy Communion
		1.00 pm	Organ Recital by Charles Vince at Christ Church
		6.45 pm	to 8.45 pm St. Mary's Mindfulness and Meditation
23	Sun	8.00 am	Christ Church, Holy Communion
		9.00 am	St. Mary's, Holy Communion
		10.00 am	Bath Road, All Age Service, Islay Roberts
		10.00 am	Christ Church, Family Holy Communion,
		10.30 am	Immanuel, Morning Service, Rev'd. Martin Camroux
		1.00 pm	Christ Church, Holy Baptism
		6.30 pm	Bath Road, Evening Service, Rev'd. Andrew Wigley
		6.30 pm	Christ Church, Book of Common Prayer Evensong
		6.30 pm	Immanuel. Evening Service, Rev'd. Robert Jordan
26	Wed	10.30 am	Christ Church, Holy Communion
		7.30 pm	Partnership Council Meeting at Immanuel
29	Sat	2.30 pm	to 5.00 pm Partnership Garden Party at Immanuel
30	Sun	8.00 am	Christ Church, Holy Communion
		9.00 am	St. Mary's, Holy Communion
		10.00 am	Bath Road, Morning Service, Rev'd. Trudie Wigley
		10.00 am	Christ Church, Family Holy Communion,
		10.30 am	Immanuel, Morning Service, Rev'd. Bob Ellis
		1.00 pm	Christ Church, Holy Baptism
		6.30 pm	Bath Road, Evening Service, Rev'd. Tony Barnes
		6.30 pm	Christ Church, Choral Evensong
		6.30 pm	Immanuel. Evening Service, Rev'd. Brian Eyles

WEEKLY EVENTS

WALKING FOR HEALTH, every Monday, 10.30 am, starting and finishing at Christ Church, followed by refreshments. Excluding Bank Holidays.

OPEN HOUSE every Monday morning, at Bath Road Methodist Church between 10.30 am and 12 noon. Excluding Bank Holidays.

Come and join us for drinks and a chat.

BRIGHT LIGHTS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP, every Monday during term time, 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm in the Community Centre at Christ Church.

AFTERNOON GROUP every Tuesday, 2.00 pm-4.00 pm in the Community Centre at Christ Church for tea, cake and chat, activities or a speaker.



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by WEDNESDAY 12th JUNE, please.**

Contributions ahead of the deadline are always welcome.

**Please send to: Mrs. Diana Swann, 58 Sandown Avenue, SN3 1QQ
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The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of those held by the Old Town Partnership of Churches.

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