



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

PARTNERSHIP MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2019

80 PENCE



**Immanuel United Reformed Church, Swindon
Celebrating 80 years
Foundation stone laid 18th January 1939
Church opened for worship September 1939**

One in Christ - Together in Mission

**Saturday 21st
September 2019
12-4pm**



**Old Town
Autumn Fayre &
Heritage Open Day**

**Christ Church,
Cricklade Road,
SN1 3NB
in the church,
grounds &
Community Centre**

*Stalls, games & bouncy
castle.
Heritage event in church
including tours +
beer tent & food.
Fun for the whole family!*

Contact us at bookonline@cccocswindon.co.uk
or call 01793 617237

Your Contacts

BATH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: The Revd. Mark Barrett, 147 Drove Road, SN1 3AQ
Tel: 529263 e-mail: markrev55@aol.com
Web site: www.bathroadmethodistchurch.org.uk
Weekly news items: marietait1@gmail.com

CHRIST CHURCH with ST. MARY'S, Cricklade Street **St. Mary's**, Commonweal Road (off The Mall)

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette, The Vicarage,
26 Cricklade Street, SN1 3HG. Tel. 529166
e-mail: simon.stevenette@gmail.com

Associate Ministers::

Revd. Daphne Hardwick. T. 693721; daphne.hardwick@gmail.com
Revd. Norma McKemey. T. 845917; mckemeyn@talktalk.net

Web site: www.christchurchswindon.co.uk

Weekly news items: parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Friends of Christ Church: c/o The Parish Office

PARISH OFFICE: at the Community Centre, SN1 3HB. Tel. 522832

e-mail: parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Usually the Parish Office is open Monday-Friday, 9.00am to 1.00pm,
Thursday evening 5.30pm-7.30pm, Sat 10am-12 noon.

COMMUNITY CENTRE: Manager: Chris Smith, T.617237 or 07582 305760
email: chris.smith@cccswindon.co.uk

IMMANUEL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, Upham Road

Minister: The Revd. Robert Jordan, 152 Drove Road, SN1 3AG
Tel. 513039. email: robert.jordan1@btconnect.com

Secretary: David Leadbeater, Tel. 694663. email: davidl1944@live.co.uk

Web site: www.immanuelurc.org

Weekly news items: immanuelweeklynews@yahoo.co.uk

WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER CHURCHES IN OLD TOWN

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR:

Mr. Eric Sparkes, Tel. 530997. email: trezaise1@btinternet.com

MAGAZINE EDITORS:

Mrs. Diana Swann, 58 Sandown Avenue, SN3 1QQ. Tel. 529897

e-mail: d.swann6a@gmail.com

Mrs. Margaret Williams MBE, 39 Sandown Avenue, SN3 1QQ. Tel. 421102

e-mail: margaretwilliams111@gmail.com

PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL:

Secretary: Barbara Aftelak, Tel. 536815; email: barbaraaftelak@ntlworld.com

Chairman: Daniel Pitt, Tel. 521732; email: fdpitt@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer: David Bevan, Tel. 336667; email: david04bevan@yahoo.co.uk

PARTNERSHIP WEB SITE: www.otpc.org.uk

Partnership Letter

The Manse
147 Drove Road

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Recently I came across these words by John Pavlovitz:

“Yes, I am a Christian, but there is a Christian I refuse to be.

I refuse to be a Christian who lives in fear of people who look or speak or worship differently than I do.

I refuse to be a Christian who believes that God blesses America more than God so loves the world.

I refuse to be a Christian who can't find the beauty and truth in religious traditions other than my own.

I refuse to be a Christian who uses the Bible to perpetuate individual or systemic bigotry, racism, or sexism.

I refuse to be a Christian who treasures allegiance to a flag or a country or a political party, above emulating Jesus.

I refuse to be a Christian who is reluctant to call-out the words of hateful preachers, venomous politicians, and mean-spirited pew sitters, in the name of keeping ceremonial Christian unity.

I refuse to be a Christian who tolerates a global Church where all people are not openly welcomed, fully celebrated, and equally cared for.

I refuse to be a Christian who speaks always with holy war rhetoric about an encroaching enemy horde that must be rallied against and defeated.

I refuse to be a Christian who is generous with damnation and stingy with Grace.

I refuse to be a Christian who can't see the image of God in people of every colour, every religious tradition, every sexual orientation.

I refuse to be a Christian who demands that others believe what I believe or live as I live or profess what I profess.

I refuse to be a Christian who sees the world in a hopeless spiral downward and can only condemn it or withdraw from it. ►

I refuse to be a Christian devoid of the character of Jesus; his humility, his compassion, his smallness, his gentleness with people's wounds, his attention to the poor and the forgotten and the marginalized, his intolerance for religious hypocrisy, his clear expression of the love of God.

I refuse to be a Christian unless it means I live as a person of hospitality, of healing, of redemption, of justice, of expectation-defying Grace, of counter-intuitive love. These are non-negotiables."

I can say no more.
In Jesus name,



OLD TOWN FESTIVAL NEWS



Members of the Old Town Festival Committee presenting our 'Charity of the Year 2019' Wiltshire Search and Rescue with a cheque for £1,354.14

A superb amount raised throughout the whole of the Festival week for such a worthwhile Charity.

Volunteers Event – Wednesday 25th September 2019

The Old Town Festival Committee has started to plan for next year's Festival taking place at the beginning of June.

There are many ways in which people can get involved with this event, whether it be distributing posters and leaflets around Swindon, helping with set-up and close down, or marshalling at the Family Fun Day and Bowls Concert.

If you would like to find out more, why not come along to our Volunteers Event on 25th September 2019 at Christ Church Community Centre 7.30pm.

For further information please contact swindonoldtownfestival@gmail.com

FAMILY EVENTS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church

CHRIST CHURCH

- June 23 Emily-Rose Barbara Maureen Campbell
June 30 Ruben John Dunn, Beau India Dyminski, Lily-Rose Jones
Olivia-Noelle Lincoln, Lydia Louise Peart
July 28 Rosie June Hall, Ava Laura Higgs, Mia Claire Higgs,
Pia Olive Thomas, Ocean Iris Savory

MARRIAGE

We wish joy and happiness to

CHRIST CHURCH

- Aug 3 James Carl Coles and Emily Grace Roberts
Aug 4 Alexander John Newbold and Lauren Ashley Martin
Aug 10 Gefan Zhang and Wenli Chang

RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS

- July 13 Robert and Gillian Peyman

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones of

CHRIST CHURCH

- July 2 Linford Allen, 70 years
July 8 Jeannie Yee, 83 years
July 9 Robert Muir, 44 years
July 31 Anita Eunice Ferguson, 92 years
Aug 4 David Cox, 72 years
Aug 4 Adriana Cuthbert, 87 years
Aug 7 Irene Dawes, 84 years
Aug 11 Christine Davey, 90 years



**Partnership Garden Party
Saturday 29th June
at
Immanuel United Reformed Church**

We couldn't have chosen a better day to hold our Garden Party (other than perhaps have asked for it to be a little cooler!) and there was a really great turn out to mark the 50th anniversary of our churches in Old Town working together.

The day wasn't about worship though, it was about socialising and enjoying each other's company in the garden at Immanuel. That said, it was only the bravest of souls who ventured out to enjoy the lovely surroundings of Immanuel's lawn and rose garden. Although the organising committee had thought to erect gazebos, most of us preferred to stay indoors and enjoy the shade offered by the church hall! Refreshments were served all afternoon and there was so much home-made cake that the morning congregation the next day were able to enjoy the bonus of a slice of cake with their after service coffee!

An added bonus for Immanuel's congregation was that former ministers Bob Ellis and Michael Hodgson were both in attendance and it was a real pleasure to be able to meet up and chat over old times. These events don't happen 'at the drop of a hat' and thanks are due to the organising committee with its representatives from Bath Road, Christ Church and Immanuel. They had thought of everything it seemed: musicians to keep everyone entertained with gentle background music; all manner of games and activities for those who had the energy; and for the rest of us a cooling ice cream that was really very welcome!

As well as thanking the folks who planned it all, we ought to add a word of thanks to the stalwart members of our Buildings and Grounds committee who managed to get the grass cut and the garden looking lovely despite the issues of a broken mower to contend with!

Steve Brain

See photos on next page



Partnership Garden Party held at Immanuel on Saturday 29th June



Enjoying the warmth
under cover outdoors



Barbara entertaining
with her saxophone



Making the most of the sun:
Gary and Louise with Robert Jordan,

Enjoying tea, cake and chat indoors



Bath Road

Thank you for your prayers



My granddaughter Florence was born on 1st June. Unfortunately, she had to be rushed to intensive care in Bristol as she wasn't breathing and there was no apparent brain activity. She was on life support while the team tended to her every need and kept her brain cool to avoid any further damage.

Florence is now 3 months old and we are very glad to say that she is well, there is no brain damage and she is expected to do very well.

I am sure the prayers to support her, our family and the team caring for her made all the difference. Thank you everyone.

Ceri Gardiner



Please join us for
**COFFEE AND
CAKE**

**SATURDAY 28th SEPTEMBER
10.00 am to 12 noon
at Bath Road Methodist Church
EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

MOPS (Mix of People) returns again after the summer break. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 10.30 am in the Crossland Room at Bath Road Church. Sometimes we have a speaker, sometimes we just chat amongst ourselves and enjoy a cup of coffee. Do come and join us. You will be made very welcome. **This month we meet on Thursday 5th and Thursday 19th September.**

BETTY HOWELL
24th May 1924 - 7th June 2019

It was a shock to all of us when we learned of Betty's death, and many of us, her family and her friends have still not got used to the fact that we will not meet her again in this world. Betty was such a friendly person that her circle of friends was ever widening, from Bath Road church members to Welsh society members, work colleagues and neighbours and I think this was because she always took an interest in whatever they were doing, regardless of age. Betty never acted like one would expect a 95 year old would act!

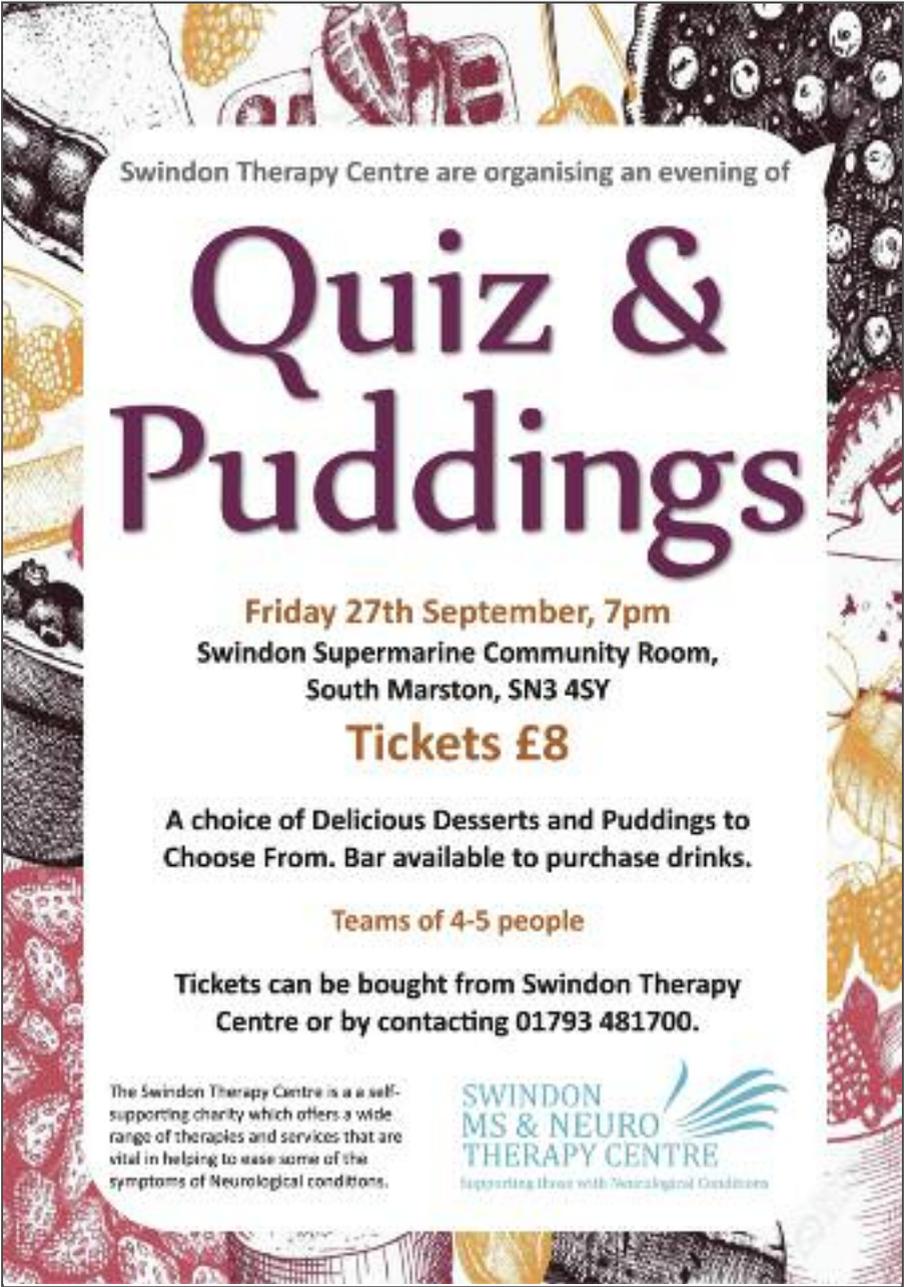


Originally from the valleys of Wales, Betty loved all things Welsh and her homemade Welsh cakes (made on the old family bakestone!) were legendary. She was a tremendous support to Tom her husband through his illness before he died and she was immensely proud of her family. It was fitting that there was a Welsh hymn sung in the Welsh language at her funeral service and, of course, the service ended with the singing of "Guide me O Thou great Redeemer" to the tune Cwm Rhondda. I am sure that Betty and Tom were singing with us in the heavenly realms.

We send our love to Peter and Janet and Pamela and to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Swindon MS & Neuro Therapy Centre offers support and a range of therapies to anyone affected by a neurological condition. For many people it is a lifeline and makes a huge difference to people's lives. We are totally self-funding so we are always running fundraising events. *See next page.*

If anyone would like to support us on 27th September, please contact me or the centre directly. Louise Walker, Tel. 01793 876333 or Swindon Therapy Centre, Tel. 01793 481700. **We would like anyone interested to let us know before the day so we can ensure we can accommodate them.**



Swindon Therapy Centre are organising an evening of

Quiz & Puddings

Friday 27th September, 7pm
Swindon Supermarine Community Room,
South Marston, SN3 4SY

Tickets £8

**A choice of Delicious Desserts and Puddings to
Choose From. Bar available to purchase drinks.**

Teams of 4-5 people

**Tickets can be bought from Swindon Therapy
Centre or by contacting 01793 481700.**

The Swindon Therapy Centre is a self-supporting charity which offers a wide range of therapies and services that are vital in helping to ease some of the symptoms of Neurological conditions.

**SWINDON
MS & NEURO
THERAPY CENTRE**
Supporting those with Neurological Conditions

Methodist President and Vice President 2019-2020

The Rev'd. Barbara Glasson and Clive Marsh were inducted as President and Vice-President as the first item of business at the Methodist Conference on Saturday 29th June 2019.

Barbara's ministry with the Bread Church, working with diverse people in Liverpool, Touchstone, a Methodist inter-faith project in Bradford, and with people who have experienced abuse following the Past Cases Review, shows her work with 'prophetic communities for transformation'.



The Rev'd. Glasson said: "It is a privilege to be elected to serve as President. My interest is in enabling and honouring Connexional communities that are courageous and rooted in prayer. God is transforming the old and calling us into new things that are a joyful outcome of our Methodist inheritance. I believe that if the Church is authentic and inclusive it will also grow numerically and spiritually."

Professor Clive Marsh's 35 years as a Methodist has profoundly shaped his work. He has sought to help people think creatively about how faith, life and popular culture interweave and what happens to theology as a result.

Clive has taught in theological colleges and universities and is currently Head of the University of Leicester's Vaughan Centre for Lifelong Learning and an International Research Consultant at the Queen's Foundation. He is a church member, local preacher and tutor in the Leicester Trinity Circuit. Clive was also Faith and Order Committee Secretary from 2000-2007.

On hearing of his election, he said: "It is an honour to be elected Vice-President. I have a deep commitment to encouraging others in learning, no matter what their stage of life or what previous experience they have. My calling as a Methodist leads me to prompt people to think creatively about their life experience and the world around them, in developing a practical, theologically-informed faith." ■



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2019

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in and contributed to the 2019 Christian Aid Week.

The total raised by the Partnership churches was £4,688.31. This was made up as follows:

Bath Road	1282.64
Christ Church and St. Mary's	2068.67
Immanuel	1337.00

The total collected at the Railway Station was £476.70 and the overall total in Swindon was £11,082.35.

For comparison the total collected by the Partnership churches in 2018 was £6,156.22 made up as follows:

Bath Road	1436.40
Christ Church and St. Mary's	2953.14
Immanuel	1766.68

The total collected at the Railway Station in 2018 was £673.02 and the overall total in Swindon was £13,123.83.

In 2018 Christian Aid was one of the nominated charities at the Christ Church Beer Festival and this contributed £587.43. The other reason for the reduction in the amount collected is a reduction in the number of house-to-house collectors available. Last year across the Partnership churches 57 collectors collected a total of £3,653.36 whereas this year 45 collectors collected £2,525.83.

One reason for the reduction in the amount collected at the Railway Station was that we were only able to collect on 4 of the 5 days as we had less collectors available this year.

One piece of good news is that Jebbeh, the lady featured in the Christian Aid Week materials and in our May magazine, has successfully delivered a baby boy who, after some initial treatment, is now doing well. Jebbeh has also been provided with a new home through Christian Aid.

Thank you again for everything you have done.

George and Dorothy Kennedy

Immanuel

Immanuel at 80

Oh no! Not another history of Immanuel! No, don't worry, it's not..... as I am sure that most of you reading this will already know that it was back in 1939 that the then Victoria Street Congregational Church closed its doors (odd name really since its frontage was on Bath Road next to what is now the Museum), and moved down to a new site in the new estate being built in what is now Walcot West.

So this year, eighty years later, it seemed only right and proper that we should celebrate an eightieth birthday - after all, few, if any, recall the old 1860s chapel up in Old Town and no-one can actually remember the official opening on September 13th 1939. What's more, if we wait for our 100th anniversary, few of us around today will be left! So 2019 was set to be a year to mark a special anniversary.

Back in January we had invited our Synod Moderator, Rev'd. Ruth Whitehead to lead our service on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the laying of our foundation stone. Sadly, illness precluded her from being with us that day but we are delighted that she has freed her diary to take our service on Sunday 3rd November - a date for your diaries.

During the year we have invited past ministers to join us and it has been a great pleasure to have had Martin Camroux and Bob Ellis to lead services, and Michael Hodgson was able to join in the fun of the Partnership Garden Party in June.

Our photo shows The Rev'd. Bob Ellis standing by the foundation stone laid on the day that he was born, the 18th January 1939. ►



Then on September 14th and 15th, almost on the anniversary date itself, one of our national Moderators will be here in Swindon to meet us and lead our worship. For those unused to the ways of the United Reformed Church, every two years two Moderators are elected by our General Assembly: one is always a member of the clergy and the other a prominent member of the laity. On September 14th Derek Estill will be here in Swindon and we invite all the partnership to join us for a "Meet the Moderator" session; come along to Immanuel between 2.30 and 5.00 and join us for a cup of tea and slice of cake and find out what our Moderator does. Then, the following day at 10.30 a.m. , Derek will lead our worship (a joint Partnership Service) and afterwards there will be a 'bring and share lunch'.

Derek is very much aware that this year also marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of our Partnership here in Old Town and is looking forward to hearing what goes on and how we work together.

It's all very fine to celebrate an anniversary, you say, but what of Immanuel today and in the future? As for today.... life carries on the same much as it always has: despite an aging congregation, Immanuel is still very active in all manner of ways; over the years, the massive community use of our buildings still bears witness to our role in the life of the local scene, and in terms of outreach to the Third World, since the 1980s through a succession of Harvest Appeals, we have raised well over £110,000 for a wide range of projects. This year we intend to raise sufficient funds to purchase four emergency boxes for 'Shelter Box'. Locally each month we continue to provide 20 kilos of assorted gifts for the local foodbank; the list could go on...

Yet turning to the future, paradoxically, for all that life carries on as normal, the past eighty years have seen massive changes in Immanuel, our outlook, our worship, even our buildings ...in fact change is in our very lifeblood. Just consider how 47 years ago we happily moved from being Congregationalist to settling into the URC; how, together with our partners, we have been at the forefront of ecumenism in the country. Change (although sometimes uncomfortable) is in our DNA. So what does the future hold for us? Clearly I don't have a crystal ball but the current challenge we are investigating is how Immanuel might become an Eco (green) church. We are accustomed to recycling, but now there is talk of solar panels, ground source energy, phasing in new-style more efficient lighting and sourcing our energy in greener ways... Immanuel isn't 80 years old, its 80 years young!

Steve Brain

TEA SERVICE in Immanuel Church Hall Sunday 22nd September, 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm

If you enjoy singing some of those favourite old hymns and songs, then come to our Tea Service. It's a simple act of worship where you can enjoy good company and a 'cuppa' in an informal friendly atmosphere. Choose a favourite hymn and we will all sing it! The next one will be on 24th November.



Joint Service with the Romanian Church - Sunday 14th July

During our time together at this service, we learned something of their background and how their church had come together in Swindon, and they learned a little about the URC, our history and way of thinking. The middle of the service gave everyone a chance to mix and get to know one another: so much chatter was going on that Robert and their pastor, Vio, had a major task in calling us to order.

With readings in both English and Romanian, some lively hymns and musical contributions from a male trio singing a Taizé chant in Romanian, a joyful song from their children and a rousing anthem by our own choir, it all made for a service that will long be remembered. Let us hope it won't be the last time we meet in such a way. It has to be said that the language barrier didn't exist!

URC joins thousands at mass climate change rally



United Reformed Church (URC) ministers and workers from across the denomination joined thousands of people at 'The Time Is Now' mass lobby against climate change in Westminster on 26 June. After gathering at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London's Trafalgar

Square, the group joined URC General Secretary, the Rev'd. John Proctor, and other faith leaders, on a march towards parliament. ■

Farewell to Tom!

Tom Wheeler joined Immanuel choir as a little treble (well to be honest he was never really that small!) and transferred to the tenor section when notes in the treble clef became too high to reach; so it was with some degree of sadness that when the choir started its summer break on Sunday 28th July, we bade farewell to him. In September he starts a new and exciting phase in his life when he continues his studies in music at the University of Canterbury.



The Associated Board of Music recently awarded Tom a distinction in his grade 8 singing examination, so he can head off with our best wishes and an excellent qualification already under his belt!

The choir gathered prior to our morning service on 28th July to wish him well in this new chapter of his life and Geoff presented him with a card and token which we are sure he will use sensibly! We know he will be back with us from time to time but the back row of the choir won't be the same without him!

Young URC members make their mark at second Big Speak Out event

Members of URC Youth from around the UK took part in the second Big Speak Out residential weekend organised by the URC's children's and youth work team (CYW).

The event is an opportunity for 11-18-year-olds connected in any way with the United Reformed Church (URC), to explore putting their faith into action. It took place in Derbyshire in early July and was themed 'Making Your Mark'.

Hollywood film Up! – about a 78-year-old widower who ties thousands of balloons to his house in order to travel to South America and complete a promise made to his late wife, Ellie, but inadvertently takes a young stowaway with him – was used by the group in conjunction with readings from the Bible to explore issues such as identity, unexpected heroes, standing up and making your mark, and what God may be calling us to next. ■

Our hardworking Buildings and Grounds Committee organised a working party for Monday 5th August



A team of fourteen turned out, including our minister, to do some of the little jobs in and around the church and grounds that mount up over the year. Thankfully the weather stayed fine and most of the tasks were accomplished by lunchtime. Roses and hedges were pruned, the shed roof was re-felted, lots of weeds met their fate, the cycle

rack was repaired, the front garden tidied up as well as the far (west) side of the church. And inside the church itself, a lot of tidying, dusting and polishing went on.

We may have been a group of OAPs but we still managed to leave the place looking much better than we found it and, as Myra proved, age is no barrier to weeding and tidying the front garden... single-handedly she did a wonderful job and thoroughly deserved her half-time cup of coffee! A great team spirit reigned all morning and it has to be admitted there was much hilarity and laughter. If you're free next time, pop along and join us – its great fun!

Wroughton Choral Society

'Come and Sing'

VIVALDI'S GLORIA

**Saturday 28th September
in Wroughton Parish Church**

An enjoyable day for singers and music lovers generally. Meeting to rehearse in the morning and early afternoon, with the performance taking place at 4.30 pm.

For details phone 521891.

Christ Church with St. Mary's

**TEA/COFFEE and CHAT at the Goddard Arms,
Tuesday 3rd September, 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.



On behalf of the 2019 Swindon Cares Committee, I am writing to thank the Rev'd. Simon Stevenette, Helen Parker-Drabble, Chris Smith, Bernard Oxborrow, Daniel Pitt, James Harris and the congregation of Christ Church for all their help & support for our High Sheriff's

Concert on Saturday 8th June. The Concert was hosted by David Scott, High Sheriff of Wiltshire, and our MC for the evening was Ben Prater from BBC Wiltshire.

This year we were wonderfully entertained by Ten in a Bar, The JTP Trust Concert Choir and The Kentwood Show Choir

The Concert raised around £6,000, which is another huge amount, and the monies will be given to The Swindon Night Shelter to support their work in helping the homeless in Swindon.

Nicky Alberry

New Garden of Remembrance for burial of ashes

We have been given permission to create a new Garden of Remembrance in the South East corner of the church. The new area will be carefully landscaped and will provide space for the burial of ashes for years to come.

Work is underway to prepare the ground for turf. When completed, the garden will provide a tranquil setting for relatives and friends of the departed to sit and remember them. ■



Lunchtime Organ Recital
by
CHARLES VINCE
with
CAROLINE PITT,
Mezzo-Soprano
In aid of church funds

Wednesday 16th October, 1.00 pm at Christ Church
Refreshments available to purchase from 12.30 pm.

ADMISSION FREE

Advance Notice - Christmas Charity Market

The Friends of Christ Church will be organising this event again on Saturday 16 November 1030-1430. Offers of help with the setting up on the Friday or on the day would be greatly appreciated.

THE PHOENIX PLAYERS



present
'Round and Round the Garden'

Wednesday 25th to
Saturday 28th September, 7.30 pm
at Swindon Arts Centre
Tickets £12 and £10

Tickets available by telephone: 07517 698083
or email: bookings@phoenix-players.com
Group bookings: 1 free for every 10 booked.
For payment by credit/debit card, please go to:
www.swindontheatres.co.uk



Series: 'The Way Things Were'
this month by Margaret Anderson

Wartime memories

I do remember the war – just!

I was four and a half in September 1939 when, having started school, I was sent home almost immediately so that the building – Clarence Street Infants – could be used for organising the newly arrived evacuees, one of whom became my 'best friend' (with whom I am still in contact).

The years in the Infants and the elementary school were punctuated by air raids – not, of course, on the same scale as in many places but quite bad enough! When the siren sounded, we dashed off to the air raid shelters or home, if we lived near enough. Night time raids weren't much fun either – it really isn't easy to sleep in a Morrison shelter! - but at least we were allowed to go to school later the next morning.



Looking back, I am extremely impressed by our teachers who had to cope with mixed ability classes of at least forty, some of whose families had been badly disrupted by the war. And I do not forget Miss Hill, in charge of standard four, who was an excellent storyteller and loved German fairy tales. Woe betide any ten year old who sneered at their origin – mediaeval Germans were not Nazis, we learned!

At the end of the war, many prisoners of war were put to work on local farms and I got to know the teenager who worked for my aunt. There were very strict rules about 'fraternisation', which was forbidden but, said my aunt, 'How are things ever going to improve if we teach the children hatred?' So she cheerfully ignored the regulations and my cousins and I became very good friends with Walther (and even learnt a few words of German). ➤

In 1945, eight of us – out of forty – passed the 11+ (or the ‘scholarship’ as we still called it) – I often wonder now how anyone could have thought that was fair. I went to Headlands – then housed in the Euclid Street building and part of the College in Victoria Road. (Getting from one to the other between lessons did present problems on occasion!) After the first shock to the system – there were only girls at Clarence Street! – I settled down happily and enjoyed most of the subjects we studied (though having an older brother did help with the maths homework). I loved French and even Latin – perhaps not surprisingly German wasn’t taught then. But in the fourth form I acquired a German pen friend and we wrote for years (her English was excellent) although we never actually met.

In order to study Arts subjects in the sixth form – for the newly introduced ‘A’ levels – I had to go to Commonweal, which was very disconcerting since, of course, the two schools had always been deadly rivals. But it worked out well – we had excellent teachers (does anyone remember Tom Turner and Lorna Davidson?) and there were all sorts of school societies. In 1952 an exchange scheme was set up with a school in Mainz on the Rhine when such things were still disapproved of by many people – understandably I now realise, but, on reflection, how short sighted!

I still didn’t learn any German – that had to wait for many years and is another story – but I learned a lot of valuable lessons. In the end I scraped up some respectable ‘A’ levels and went to University – not very common in those days for a railwayman’s daughter!

Margaret Anderson

JAZZ at **Christ Church, Old Town**



THE VICKI WATSON SEPTET
plays the music of
WYNTON MARSALIS



Friday 4th October - Doors open at 7.00 pm
Adults £10, Children £5

Tickets: Phone Chris on 01793 617237
email: chris.smith@ccccwindon.co.uk
or visit: book-online.co.uk/cccc/tickets/events

WILTSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST



It still isn't too late to take part in Ride and Stride on Saturday 14th September between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

You can either walk or ride on a bike, a horse or mobility scooter. The idea is to be sponsored to visit as many churches as possible, to raise money, half for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and the rest for your own church. The Trust gives grants to help with repairs to older churches.

This is not a race but there are prizes for various categories.

To take part and obtain a sponsor form, please contact your local church representative below. They possibly also need people to welcome riders and striders to your church.

Bath Road	David Sinclair	611931	d.sinclair302@btinternet.com
Christ Church	Arline Stovell	520691	royandarline@gmail.com
Immanuel	Liz Gleed	721364	liz.gleed@gmail.com

More details from your church representative or:

<https://www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk>.

You may not be the only person who finds that packets of biscuits these days are less than easy to open!

TEAR HERE

A biscuit pack can bring great cheer,
But therein lies a trap –
You pull just where it says 'tear here'
And they all land in your lap.....



The Church of England and Methodists inch closer to communion with each other...

The General Synod has recently given its backing to further steps towards bringing the Church of England and the Methodist Church in Great Britain into communion with each other. Members voted in favour of starting work on drafting a series of texts including a formal declaration of a new relationship of communion between the two churches. The texts would include inaugural services to mark this new relationship and practical guidelines on how ministers from each church could serve in the other.

The Bishop of Coventry, Christopher Cocksworth, called the Methodist Church “our close historical cousin and covenant partner”. The Revd Joyce Jones, from the Diocese of Leeds, said: “Our unity is vital for our mission. If people see our two churches separately then they won’t see Christ easily. If they see us loving one another and working together to serve Christ, they are more likely to be drawn to faith.”

Marks & Spencer – celebrating 125 years

The origins of the iconic British retail chain Marks & Spencer (often known as M&S) were laid 125 years ago, on 28th September 1894, when Michael Marks, a Polish Jewish immigrant, acquired his first permanent stall in Leeds covered market and invited Thomas Spencer to become his business partner.

Ten years earlier Marks had opened a market stall in Leeds with the slogan ‘Don’t ask the price: it’s a penny’. Spencer was a cashier from Dewhirst – a wholesale company whose owner Isaac had backed Marks. Spencer’s £300 investment grew to £15,000 by 1903. He died two years later, but his wife continued to fund charitable work in Middlesbrough.

After Marks’ death, the St Michael brand was created by his son in his honour. The store has always been seen as a retailer of British quality goods, and its attitude to its customers was encapsulated in the 1953 slogan ‘The customer is always and completely right.’

In 1998, the company became the first British retailer to make a pre-tax profit of over £1 billion. At present there are well over 900 stores across the UK, including more than 600 that sell only food, but there are plans to close about 100 of them. ■

Step Out Swindon wins a Pride of Swindon Team Award!



The Step Out Swindon Walking for Health Scheme lead 9 walks across Swindon, one of which is based at Christ Church, where it meets every Monday, except Bank Holidays, at 10.30am, walking for about an hour, exploring the local area. After the walk the group returns for refreshment and more chat in the church.

The Scheme is self-funding and the walks are co-ordinated and led by a team of 40 volunteers who give their time and energy to assist in the leading and safe conduct of the walks.

Since they took over the running of the Scheme from Swindon Council in 2017, the volunteer leadership team has increased the number of walks from 6 to 9 and has doubled the number of registered walkers.

Grahame Lee, the Volunteer Scheme Leader, said “The walks would not have continued without the commitment of the volunteers and we are all very proud to have been awarded this recognition by the people of Swindon”.

The Award recognised the Scheme’s commitment to providing opportunities for everyone to walk, no matter their ability, in a group which both improves their health and mental wellbeing as well as offering the opportunity to meet new friends and join social groups.

The Award was presented by the Mayor of Swindon at the Steam Museum in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant and Sheriff of Wiltshire, local MPs and Swindon Councillors and many other volunteers from across the town.

Leaflets are available in Christ Church and Croft Leisure Centre or you can call Grahame Lee on 07932 109209, email: info@stepoutswindon.org.uk. More information about the walks can also be found on the website <https://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder/step-out-swindon>. ■

PARTNERSHIP DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| 01 Sun | 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. Geoffrey Floyd |
| | 10.00 am | Christ Church, All Age Service |
| | 10.30 am | Immanuel, Holy Communion, Rev'd. Robert Jordan |
| | 6.30 pm | Bath Road, Evening Service, David Easter |
| | 6.30 pm | Christ Church, Holy Communion |
| | 6.30 pm | Immanuel, Evening Service, Rev'd. Robert Jordan |
| 03 Tues | 2.30 pm | Tea/Coffee and Chat at the Goddard Arms Hotel |
| 04 Wed | 10.30 am | Christ Church, Holy Communion |
| | 6.45 pm | to 8.45 pm St. Mary's Mindfulness and Meditation |
| 07 Sat | 7.30 am | Christ Church Men's Breakfast |
| | 3.00 pm | Chrst Church, Wedding of John Turner and Laura Jones |
| | 7.15 pm | Christ Church, 'Mamma Mia' film night |
| | 7.30 pm | Immanuel Drama Group Concert |
| 08 Sun | 8.00 am | Christ Church, Holy Communion |
| | 9.00 am | St. Mary's, Holy Communion |
| | 10.00 am | Bath Road, Morning Service and Baptism,
Rev'd. Mark Barrett |
| | 10.00 am | Christ Church, Family Holy Communion |
| | 10.30 am | Immanuel, Morning Service, Rev'd. Robert Jordan |
| | 11.45 am | Immanuel Church Meeting |
| | 6.30 pm | Bath Road, Holy Communion, Rev'd. Mark Barrett |
| | 6.30 pm | Christ Church, Book of Common Prayer Evensong |
| 6.30 pm | Immanuel, Evening Service, Rev'd. Robert Jordan | |
| 11 Wed | 10.30 am | Christ Church, Holy Communion |
| | 6.45 pm | to 8.45 pm St. Mary's, Mindfulness and Meditation |
| | 7.30 pm | Healing Prayer Group at 39 Sandown Avenue |
| 14 Sat | 9.00 am | to 11.00 am Community Breakfast at Bath Road Church |
| | 2.30 pm | to 5.00 pm 'Meet the Moderator' at Immanuel Church.
Derek Estill, Moderator of the General Assembly of the
URC. Come along for an informal chat. Come and go
at your leisure. |

- 15 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
9.00 am St. Mary's, Holy Communion
10.30 am Partnership 50th Anniversary Celebration at Immanuel Church with Derek Estill, Lay Moderator, followed by refreshments and Bring and Share Lunch
No service at Bath Road and Christ Church
3.30pm Messy Church at King William Street School
6.30 pm Bath Road, Evening Service taken by Worship Leaders
6.30 pm Christ Church, Healing Service
No evening service at Immanuel
- 18 Wed 10.30 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
6.45 pm to 8.45 pm St. Mary's, Mindfulness and Meditation
- 21 Sat 10.30 am Kevin Penfold's licensing as a Lay Minister, Bristol Cathedral
12 noon to 4.00 pm Christ Church Autumn Fayre,
- 22 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
9.00 am St. Mary's, Informal Holy Communion
10.00 am Bath Road, Covenant Service, Rev'd. Tony Barnes
10.00 am Christ Church, Family Holy Communion
10.30 am Immanuel, Morning Service
4.00 pm to 5.30 pm Immanuel, Tea Service
No Evening Service at Immanuel
6.30 pm Bath Road, Evening Service, Rev'd. Stephen Skinner
6.30 pm Christ Church, Common Worship Evensong
- 25 Wed 10.30 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
6.45 pm to 8.45 pm St. Mary's Mindfulness and Meditation
- 28 Sat 10.00 am to 12 noon Macmillan Coffee Morning at Bath Road Ch.
7.30 pm Christ Church, Music with Pete Gow and The Siren Strings
- 29 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
9.00 am St. Mary's, Holy Communion
10.00 am Bath Road, Harvest Festival and All Age, Rev'd. Mark Barrett
10.00 am Christ Church, Family Holy Communion,
10.30 am Immanuel, Morning Service, Rev'd. Robert Jordan
1.00 pm Christ Church, Holy Baptism
6.30 pm Bath Road, Evening Service, Rev'd. Tony Barnes
6.30 pm Christ Church 'Songs of Praise'
6.30 pm Immanuel, Evening Service, Rev'd. Robert Jordan

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

Read more about this on page 23.

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.

FLOODLIGHTING

Aug 20 In memory of Martin Berman's birthday

Aug 22/23 In celebration of Stephen and Mary (Harvey) Scott's 50 years of marriage.

Sep 1 Birthday memories of Robert 'Bob' Humerick. Still loved, still missed and very dear. José, Susan and family.

Sep 24 In memory of my wonderful husband Geoffrey, and my mother and father. Missed by us all. *Margaret*

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.



Lawn Treatment and Garden Services

Seasonal fertiliser, weed and moss control, along with scarification and aeration as needed, to keep your lawn looking good.

General garden maintenance: mowing/weeding throughout the year.

Fencing - installation and repairs

Path and patio laying

Shed and base installations

Brian Foster: 07523 319636

David Murphy: 07463 176266

email

tendandcare@btinternet.com

Do you suffer from Macular Degeneration?

We use a unique lens technology, to help those suffering from Macular Degeneration by:

- Increasing the Magnification - giving a larger, clearer image
- Incorporating Prism - to focus the light on a healthier part of the eye
- Special Filters - to enhance contrast and reduce glare, giving more comfortable vision



VISION VISIT
to help you see better

www.visionvisit.co.uk **01793 232 588**

ADVERTISEMENTS

To advertise in this magazine, please contact Mrs. Diana Swann, telephone 01793 529897; email: d.swann6a@gmail.com

Whilst care has been taken, no responsibility can be accepted for statements made by the advertisers, neither can we be responsible for any losses caused by any errors or omissions in the advertisements.

**COPY for the OCTOBER MAGAZINE
by THURSDAY 12th SEPTEMBER, please.**

Contributions ahead of the deadline are always welcome.

**Please send to: Mrs. Diana Swann, 58 Sandown Avenue, SN3 1QQ
email: d.swann6a@gmail.com**

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of those held by the Old Town Partnership of Churches.

Hillier

Funeral Service

A tradition of caring since 1923

- Family run and independent
- 24 hour service every day
- Pre-payment plans
- Hillier Bereavement Care

A caring support service for the bereaved



www.hillierfuneralservice.co.uk



HEAD OFFICE

170 Victoria Road, Swindon SN1 3DF
Telephone: 01793 522797

CHAPEL OF REST

The Broadway, Whitworth Road,
Swindon SN25 3BL
Telephone: 01793 522145

EMAIL

enquiries@hillierfuneralservice.co.uk

Established in 1900, today's Hills Group is a dynamic Wiltshire business that covers a wide area of western and southern England.

The Group's operations remain dedicated to three core activities:

- Specialist waste management services and recycling solutions
- Production and sale of ready-mixed concrete, sand, stone and gravel
- Building high quality new homes and undertaking contract building projects

Working today...
...for a better tomorrow



www.hills-group.co.uk

T: 01793 781200

BRIGHT LIGHTS 'BEACH PARTY'
held at Christ Church on Monday 22nd July
celebrating the first year of this toddler group

Great fun was had by all. The entertainer was a great hit. We all enjoyed the sunshine, sand and water play and the bubbles!!

We start again on Monday 9th September 1.30pm at Christ Church Community Centre. ALL ARE WELCOME.



Everyone enjoyed the
Punch and Judy Show



This tastes good!



Photos by
Janet French

The bubble machine was a great hit!





DEACONS *for* DIAMONDS



DEACONS & SON (SWINDON) LTD
ESTABLISHED 1848

SAME DAY RING SIZING
ON ALL NEW PURCHASES

Items featured subject to stock availability

11 - 15 WOOD STREET, OLD TOWN, SWINDON, SN1 4AN
TELEPHONE: 01793 522072/527530
www.deacons-jewellers.com

B&C MORSE

Painting • Decorating • Property Maintenance

- Local family business
- Interior and exterior painting and decorating specialists
- Wallpaper
- Coving
- Window frames and boards repainted
- Facias and soffits painted or replaced
- Associated building and maintenance work
- Discounts for OAP's
- Competitive rates
- No job too small



For a FREE quotation please call us on: 01793 536867 OR
CHRIS MOBILE: 07754 498760 • BRIAN MOBILE: 07876 074759
EMAIL: chrismorse1974@yahoo.co.uk