

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

PARTNERSHIP MAGAZINE

JUNE 2020

80 PENCE



Photo by Margaret Williams of her garden in Old Town

**The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.**

Dorothy Frances Gurney "God's Garden" (1913)

One in Christ - Together in Mission

**“What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?”**

from the poem ‘Leisure’ by W. H. Davies

Janet French has a small garden in Swindon with a hedgerow and trees behind it. Due to necessary isolation she has time to ‘stand and stare’ and all these photos were taken from her bedroom window where she is observing and recording nature.



Fine dining at this restaurant, very tasty.

This Wood Pigeon is trying to work out how to get to the food beneath his tummy.



So in love with you am I.



Keeping look out - no CCTV needed here.

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: marietai1@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. Geroge Kennedy, Tel. 772589. george.kennedy@mybroadbandmail.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.sotpc.org.uk

Partnership Letter

Christ Church Vicarage

Dear Friends,

God's Big Pentecost Story combined with our own stories such as 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse'

I wonder what stories you have read or been reminded of during the Covid 19 pandemic. At Christ Church with St Mary's we have continued our preaching series on God's BIG story this summer term with recorded services available on our website based on the Barnabas Family Bible by Martin Payne and Jane Butcher, '110 Bible Stories for Families to share' produced by the Bible Society.

On 31st May we will look at the wonderful Pentecost story Acts 2:1-13 before moving on over the next three months through the great stories in Acts about how the Christian church grew through Paul's missionary journeys.

A plug here for the Bible Society's excellent resource 'The Bible Course: 'Explore the BIG story', which is available for the time being virtually. Many of those who have been confirmed in the Partnership over the last few years have joined with me on Wednesday evenings via Zoom doing the course together, which has been great fun.

I have been strengthened and inspired in the personal challenges of the pandemic in feeling somewhat inadequate using Zoom, Microsoft teams and virtual communication, by a beautiful story which our son William, who is exploring ordination in the Birmingham Diocese, gave to Nicola and me. It is called 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse', by Charlie Mackesy, an artist and contemporary Christian storyteller. Please consider buying the book, borrowing ours or listening to it being read beautifully by Tim Uffindell on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81b4i9jQhck&t=1s> , Tim is the son of our great friends David and Kathryn who live in Farnham where David is Vicar. They led our Weekend at Home here in Swindon, 'Ready Steady Grow' 12 years ago. ➤

Charlie starts his book with this unique introduction which sets the scene:

Hello, You started at the beginning, which is impressive. I usually start in the middle, and never read introductions. It's surprising that I've made a book because I'm not good at reading them. The truth is I need pictures, they are like islands, places to get to in a sea of words'.

This book is for everyone, whether you are eighty or eight - I feel like I am both sometimes. I'd like it to be one you can dip into anywhere, anytime. Start in the middle, if you like. Scribble on it, crease the corners and leave it well thumbed.

The drawings are mainly of a boy, a mole a fox and a horse. I'll tell you a little bit about them, although I'm sure you'll see things here that I don't, so I'll be quick.

The boy is lonely when the mole first surfaces. They spend time together gazing into the wild. I think the world is a bit like life - frightening sometimes but beautiful.

In their wanderings they meet the fox. It's never going to be easy meeting a fox if you're a mole. The boy is full of questions, the mole is greedy for cake. The fox is mainly silent and wary because he's been hurt by life. The horse is the biggest thing they have ever encountered, and also the gentlest. They are all different, like us, and each has their own weaknesses.

I can see myself in all four of them, perhaps you can too. Their adventures happen in springtime where one moment snow is falling and the sun shines the next, which is also a little bit like life - it can turn on a sixpence.

I hope this book encourages you, perhaps, to live courageously with more kindness for yourself and for others. And to ask for help when you need it, which is always a brave thing to do.

When I was making the book I often wondered, who on earth am I to be doing this? But as the horse says, "The truth is everyone is winging it," So I say spread your wings and follow your dreams - this book is one of mine. I hope you enjoy it and much love to you.

Thank you, Charlie

continued:

Please let me know which stories have inspired you recently. Be freshly renewed by the great stories in Acts about change and transformation.

Receive as a gift, like Nicola and I have with our family, the message of love friendship and kindness implicit in 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse' written and illustrated by Charlie Mackesy or read alongside his own musical accompaniment by Tim Uffindell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81b4i9jQhck&t=1s>

It really is a wonderful gift which is why I have repeated it twice so that you don't miss it! Please unwrap it for yourself. May you know this Pentecost, whoever you are, wherever you are, that you are unique and infinitely special. Because of this, as God's big story also stresses, you have a vital role to play in giving and receiving love, kindness friendship and hope.

God bless us all with the gift of his Holy Spirit this Pentecost and through this summer term of Learning, Teaching, Praying and Serving, Receiving and Giving,

Keep safe and well,

With our love and prayers,

Simon and Nicola



A demanding infant - a baby starling.

Photo by Janet French.

FAMILY EVENTS

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones of

BATH ROAD

April 27 Janet Limburn, 87 years

CHRIST CHURCH

March 26 Lynda Christine Ashmore, 71 years

April 14 Amedao Christofano Ricciardi, 87 years

May 2 Pearl Enid Elizabeth Rose Stephenson, 92 years

IMMANUEL

April 29 Joyce (Joy) Edith Skinner, 91 years

May 2 Philip Harold Powley, 86 years

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.

Immanuel

Philip Powley FRCS FRCSE An interesting life (1933-2020)



On the evening of Saturday 2nd May, Philip completed this earthly part of the journey of life and he did so in peace. This was sad news indeed, but at the same time - it must be said - it has been a privilege and a joy to have shared part of this journey with Philip.

I am sure you would all agree that the best of adjectives were appropriate to describe him, and yet he would not have liked that at all. Philip was a true gentleman, and a very accomplished surgeon, so highly respected by his colleagues and all medical and hospital staff. He was also held in great affection by his patients and indeed everybody who knew him or simply shared a few

moments in his company. He was a man of faith who had always been a great support to Jenny as Jenny was to Philip. Philip was a truly family man. Philip was a lovely person.

Philip was born in November 1933 in a small village in what was then known as the Belgian Congo, near the Sudan border. He was the third child, and then there would be two others, but sadly there were 3 young deaths. And this was one of the difficulties that Philip knew in life.

There are not many people I know who, when talking of their childhood, could speak of chameleons, giraffes, big bird-eating spiders, hyenas, warthogs, lions, leopards, antelopes, scorpion running up a leg and also Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya... his love of sport (running, rugby, cricket) and the clarinet; Africa and England - all in one sentence. But Philip could! And all this accompanied him all his life, even though in his own words, Philip had a strict upbringing. ►

There was also his medical studies, and living in London, finding accommodation with John Stott (yes - THAT John Stott, rector of All Souls Church). 1955 was the year he "set eyes" on Jenny. And we all know how this first sighting developed: 14th May 1957 his name up on the Board, he was now a doctor, Jenny's birthday and the engagement ring now bought. And when they married, it was John Stott who officiated.

A long journey which included 13 different houses in their life together, settling in Swindon, then Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon Counselling Service and the Prospect Hospice.

The author of a medical book, lectures and talks, bird-watching, gardening, and even bricklaying. In his own words "an interesting life", which included some really amazing times and also some very harsh and sad times. And all this lived with faith in God, shared with Jenny who was always his companion, wife, friend, support, and always the family they formed. His church life. His kindness. So much more could be added, and you each must have your own story.

Even when his health deteriorated, he kept going, and it was a joy to be with him. And as he said so himself: "I now have fewer activities but feel life is worthwhile with Jenny at my side".

We thank God for the life of Philip and pray God's love and support for Jenny and all his family, and the many friends here and in so many different places.

Dear Philip, may you now rest in the Peace of the loving God.

Robert Jordan

Prayer of Saint Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.
Amen.



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

The following message has been received from the CEO of Traidcraft Exchange, and as so many of Immanuel's congregation support this vital charity it is felt that we should share the contents more widely.....

A couple of months ago I was in Mumbai, meeting with our India and Bangladesh teams to discuss Traidcraft Exchange's plans for the future. We didn't know then that the lives of billions of people were about to be turned upside down by the coronavirus. As CEO of Traidcraft Exchange, I wanted to write to share what life is like for the poor people we support in developing countries.

For some communities we work with, the impact of the lockdown has been immediate and devastating.

Migrant workers in Bangladesh and India have been left without work. Not registered for the government support available, and used to living hand to mouth, people are struggling to survive. Many are travelling hundreds of miles on foot trying to get back to their home villages. Our partners have been amazing in adapting our programmes to meet these challenges – running a helpline, linking people up with transport and local support services, and critically, providing food.

Garment factory workers across Asia are also facing extreme hardship. Factories have been closing as orders dry up. Some have not even been paid for work they did back in March. That's why we're calling on UK clothing brands to honour their existing contracts and not to leave workers destitute.

For others we work with, the impact is less immediate but equally serious.

The crunch point for the farmers we support will come when they need to harvest their crops and sell their produce. Without access to transport and many markets closed, will they be able to do this? How will they navigate a completely new set of circumstances? As yet, we just don't know.

We have never faced a pandemic of this magnitude before nor have we had to manage such unprecedented levels of uncertainty. At Traidcraft Exchange, we

are focusing our resources on responding to the immediate needs of communities who are most vulnerable and most affected by this crisis. But we're also turning our attention to how we can support people beyond survival to recover and rebuild their businesses and livelihoods. We wouldn't be able to react so quickly to help those in need without your continued support – thank you; it really is appreciated.

But as we hope to return to some form of normality in coming months and years, this crisis has reminded us that a return to 'the way things were' is simply not good enough.

The coronavirus is shining a spotlight on the huge inequalities and injustices that lie at the heart of our international trading system. People working at the bottom of global supply chains have been living in extreme vulnerability and poverty for far too long.

As we look to recover and rebuild for a different future, we are working hard to ensure that it is a better and fairer world that we create. At this difficult time, let me once again thank you, wholeheartedly, for joining us in this journey.

Charlotte Timson, Chief Executive Officer at Traidcraft Exchange

Mailing address: Traidcraft Exchange 5th Floor, 7 – 15 Pink Lane,
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 5DW UK Telephone: 0191 497 6445



THE RAINBOW

There's a world within the rainbow
Colours to captivate the heart.
Uniting earth to heaven;
And binding the years once apart.

There's a world within a rainbow
Uniting heaven with earth;
Restoring years that were wasted
And causing hope to rebirth.

Through the mists and through clouds,
From the valley to the hill;
The world within the rainbow
Continues centuries still.

There's a world within a rainbow
Strengthening the broken;
Uniting earth to heaven.
It's heaven's special token.

Barbara Furguson

Here are some thoughts which came to me sat at my desk the other day. I think St. Paul says it better but it may be that these words speak to you in our present world situation.

LOVE IS.....

Love is the power which can transform the world.

Love is not only for ones self or just family and friends but for everyone.

Love can drive out fear and feelings of anger and despair.

Love can help overcome those times when we are going through bouts of depression or doubt, or failure.

Love will always seek to see the positive in every situation and then give thanks.

Love will prompt people to take action against the forces of evil and to work for the good of all.

Love has no limits, no barriers, no particular language.

Love is the language of all who seek to speak and act in caring and sharing everything which helps to build a better world.

A World where everyone knows that they are wanted, needed, valued and loved.

For to **Love** is to live the true message of all creation.

♥ Geoff Gleed - 20th April 2020

The Knots Prayer

Author Unknown

Dear God,

Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots, cannots and the do nots.

Erase the will nots, may nots, might nots that may find a home in my heart.

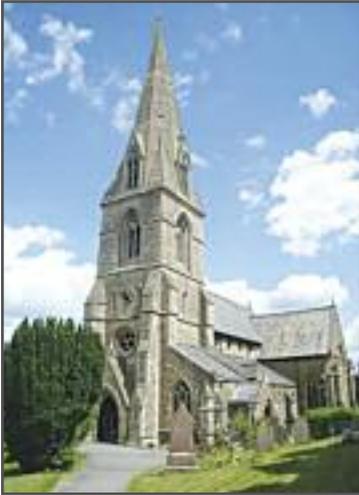
Release me from the could nots, would nots, and should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all, dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart, and my life all of the 'am nots' that I have allowed to hold me back. Especially the thought that I am not good enough.

Amen

Sent in by a reader from Bath Road Church

Christ Church with St. Mary's



The style of journalism was very different in the 1800s as you can see from an extract from the Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette reporting on the laying of the foundation stone of the new church at Swindon on the 13th June 1850.

Reuters wasn't established until 1851 and photography would have been in its infancy, so there was very little to fill a newspaper. To give you a flavour of the style of reporting, the opening paragraphs are printed below ...

Friday last was a great and a grand day for the good Old Town of Swindon. It was a day which witnessed one of those beautiful and soul-stirring sights which, happily for our Church in this country, have of late years been by no means of unfrequent occurrence – the assemblage of a whole body of parishioners met with one harmonious purpose to raise a Temple to God's honour and as a means to their own salvation.

Those who are in any way acquainted with Swindon need scarcely be told that since the formation of the Great Western Railway a gradual increase has been taking place in the population of the Old Town; until of late years the increase has become so great as to render the parish church altogether incapable of affording accommodation to the resident members of her communion.

It was in the year 1847 that the new incumbent, the Rev. H. G. Baily, deeply sensible of this deficiency, first directed the attention of his parishioners to the consideration of some means by which additional accommodation might be procured.

Vestries were held to take the serious subject into consideration and a committee was appointed to procure plans and estimates for altering and enlarging the old church; but it was found that the ancient edifice was so

inconveniently constructed that any attempt to alter its present arrangement so as to meet the requirements of the parish, would fail. It was then that Mr. A. L. Goddard so handsomely came forward and offered to contribute £1000 towards building a new church; his father also offering a site for it and for the burial ground. The parishioners were not slow in adopting the suggestion.

A design for a new church was speedily obtained from Mr. Gilbert Scott, the eminent architect; and a resolution was carried in vestry to raise the necessary funds above the £1000 on the credit of the church rates. This mode of raising the money was, however, afterwards defeated by an opposition which many of our readers will remember. But the zealous and indefatigable Vicar was not to be deterred from a work which he had so much at heart, and with a zeal worthy of the case, the rev. gentleman at once applied himself to an endeavour to obtain the necessary funds by voluntary contributions, backed by the praiseworthy exertions of the principal inhabitants, and by a hearty unity of purpose on the part of his parishioners generally, he has succeeded in raising a sum of money amounting to £5000; a sum which, although far short of what will be necessary to complete the undertaking, has been considered by the committee as sufficient to justify them in at once commencing the good work.

Friday last, then, was the day fixed upon for laying the foundation stone; and a more gay appearance than the town presented can scarcely be conceived. A hundred flags and banners of all colours and of all nations waved from the windows of the principal houses; many an old Union Jack that had floated over a very different scene was there unfurled; whilst mottoes of various descriptions, emblematic of the general unanimity which pervaded all classes, reminded men of that "peace and goodwill" which is the "foundation stone" of every Christian virtue. One flag especially attracted our attention. It was an immense one, bearing upon it the motto, "Church and Queen," and hoisted on a staff of 40 feet high; erected on the lofty mansion of Mr. Bradford (the Churchwarden), it was seen for many miles round. But besides these decorations, the houses were dressed out with laurels and flowers of every hue; garlands were hung across the streets; music lent its charms; open hospitality reigned in almost every house; business was suspended; and all seemed to vie with each other in making the day one of cheerful festivity. And such indeed it was in the best sense of the word.

The full article runs to 7 pages of A4, painstakingly typed out by Caroline Pitt. If you would like to read this, please contact the Parish Office.

‘THE OLD LADY ON THE HILL’: UPDATE

As presaged in last month’s magazine, the book about the history of Christ Church and St Mary’s, ‘The Old Lady on the Hill’, is being revised and updated. This is being carried out by Mark Bridgeman, son of Pam and Brian the original author (with Teresa Squires).

With help from the congregation, Mark is updating the existing chapters. Chapter 6 covers Modern Times till 2001 and includes Simon’s arrival and the first Alpha Course. Chapter 6 also mentions the launch of The Friends and there is plenty more to say about this, including the Skyline Appeal and the work on the spire.

A first draft has been provided by Daniel Pitt, the last chair of the Skyline Appeal, and Caroline Pitt, current Friends chair. Chapter 7 deals with events at St Mary’s. Tim Eyles, Director of Music, is updating chapter 8 about the organ and the choir, including the recording of 3 CDs and the major overhaul of the organ; Charles Vince has made a contribution about being a choir boy. Brian Harris is updating chapter 10 about the bells, including the time when the bell tower was closed for the spire work. There will also be reference to the Mothers’ Union branch which had lasted for 113 years when it was finally closed in December 2019.

Other developments include participation in the ‘Ride and Stride’ for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, various rambles and expeditions, and chaplaincies and community involvement. There will be a description of the recent reordering inside Christ Church and the building of the Community Centre.

The appendices will be useful reference documents. There will be an updated list of churchwardens and the Chairs of the Friends of Christ Church and of the Old Town Partnership of Churches. The list of lay ministers and the ordained staff, curates, associate ministers etc., with their dates at Christ Church and St Mary’s is quite a big story. One reason for this is that Christ Church has provided really good opportunities for staff training and many people who have spent time here have gone on to other positions.

The major changes in the Christ Church building over the last few years have helped the core purpose of the building in many ways. They have helped us to continue to grow and develop as a worshipping community. This will be emphasised in Simon’s foreword. Christ Church and St Mary’s are not museums and are there for the purpose of worshipping God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.►

This purpose will be a thread running through the whole book. It has not changed over the whole 160 years and even before that at Holy Rood. That the church is the people and not the buildings is particularly true during the lockdown in 2020 when all church buildings are closed.

Mark is looking for stories from members of the congregation about particularly important memories for them over the last 20 years. These can be sent by email to mark.bridgeman@talk21.com or, during lockdown, they can be recounted by telephone to Caroline Pitt (01793 521732) who will type them up and send them to Mark.

Mark is already an accomplished author with two recent books to his credit, which are recommended as a good read, probably more exciting than 'The Old Lady on the Hill' reprint! 'The River Runs Red' contains stories of murder, myth and mystery from the past in the Perthshire area of Scotland, and 'Blood Beneath Ben Nevis' does the same for the Fort William area. Life was even less certain and more uncomfortable in those days! Both books are available from the usual outlets and Waterstones online. It would be good to support Mark by purchasing these books. ■

Do you know your hymns

Give us a sense of humour, Lord. Give us grace to see a joke and to pass it on to other folk.

Dentist's Hymn	> Crown Him with Many Crowns
Weatherman's Hymn	> There shall be showers of blessings
Contractor's Hymn	> The Church's One Foundation
Golfer's Hymn	> There is a Green Hill Far Away
Politician's Hymn	> Standing on the Promises
Optometrist's Hymn	> Open My Eyes That I May See
Gossip's Hymn	> Pass It On
Electrician's Hymn	> Send the Light
Estate Agent's Hymn	> I've got a Mansion Just Over The Hilltop
Shopper's Hymn	> Sweet Bye and Bye

Sent in by a reader from Christ Church

‘DAILY HOPE’ - Freephone 0800 804 8044.

Daily Hope is a free telephone service that offers hymns, prayers and services such as morning and evening prayer.

Justin Welby welcomes us to the Daily Hope Line and we can also access various sections by pressing certain numbers on our phone. While we are not told that “Your call is important to us”, we are given a warm welcome and a sincere thank you for phoning the Daily Hope Line. A welcome that made me feel I was joining a community that would care for me and pray for me.

There are seven different titles to choose from. Selections included are:

- Hymns we Love – with short talks about the chosen hymn.
- Hymn Line – hymns on a loop.
- Prayer Line – specific to the Coronavirus pandemic
- Church of England weekly service.
- Traditional morning and evening prayer.
- Government advice line.
- Mothers’ Union mid-day prayers.

The sections I have listened to are not over long, just about 15-20 minutes, so are well able to be fitted into a daily routine.

After listening to the hymns, prayers and services, I really feel uplifted in spirit. I have been given reassurance that God understands my feeling of isolation and loneliness and reminded that God wants to bless me with his Peace, his Presence and his Love. I am comforted and so enabled to face each day with confidence, knowing that God is with me – whatever and however I am feeling.

I would ask you, please do try joining with this telephone community. It’s great, it helps and reaffirms that God is with us and that God is great.

May God bless us ALL.

Rosemary Williams

P.S.

By the way, I do have lovely neighbours who keep an eye on myself and others and give us flowers and a fish supper on Fridays.

EASTER REDISCOVERED

Upon seeing this work of art at Christ Church
- a very personal account



One day, just before Good Friday, after I had spent some quiet time sitting on the bench in the new Garden of Remembrance, I decided to walk home via Queens Park. As I rounded the corner of Christ Church, I saw a gentleman working on the green facing the car park entrance. Intrigued at what was happening, I stood and watched for a few minutes. Suddenly I realised that he was arranging a crucifixion scene ready for Good Friday, and resolved to come back the next day to see how it looked when finished.

The next time I saw the scene I could only think, wow! This is brilliant! Absolutely brilliant! Of all the various depictions of the Crucifixion that I have ever seen, none of them had provoked such a deep and visceral reaction in me.

This Crucifixion hit me right in the heart. The way in which Christ was represented was RAW, BRUTAL, EXCRUCIATINGLY PAINFUL. The pain from the figure of Christ hit me full on in the chest. I could feel the pain, the anguish. I could see and feel the awful isolation and rejection that surrounded the figure on the cross. It was the way in which Christ's legs and knees were pointing to his right side – his head also, so that his body was not straight but twisted. This did not show me the sanitised versions of Christ on the cross that I had seen over many years. This scene was awesome, brilliant, but so true and so full of extreme pain. ►

It was made even more impactful by the beautiful setting in which it stood: the lovely green grass, elegant trees and the beautiful bush behind the cross, egg-shaped, with a smooth outline, nothing sharp or hard, such a contrast to the agony being enacted in front of it.

A slight wind blew down the hill; the cross trembled and I felt so troubled that, already nailed to a cross, Jesus still had to suffer more pain, this time from nature. Even nature had to have its say. I felt again that visceral pain, that feeling that everything on earth was rejecting Jesus.

This again was a BRUTAL, RAW, but BRILLIANT happening – but wonderful as well. And yet, after looking at this sculpture, I could see and feel that something wonderful was happening because then the sun shone and it seemed as if a bright white light came shining out from this tin Christ, out into the world. Shining rays appeared to be coming from behind the figure as well, also reaching out into the world. The Light of Christ – Christ the Light of the World enveloping me and, indeed, everyone. He truly was offering me – all of us – a chance to accept him as our Redeemer, our Saviour and life-long friend and companion until he comes again in glory to take us home – his home forever.

I have visited the scene not a few times, but many since then, and still it affects me very deeply – more so than any other representation of the Crucifixion ever has.

So much comfort from such a powerful image still affects me enormously. I have also discovered that if I stand slightly to the right of where I usually stand, that the right hand of Jesus appears to be resting on the top of the cross on which the man who scoffed about Jesus was nailed. My reaction to this was that Jesus was saying, “You, too, can be with me in Paradise this day.”

As the poster on our notice board says, “You are never too messed up to turn to Jesus”.

That means me and also you, in fact everybody. Alleluia, Amen.

Rosemary Williams

Sculptures by Gervin Senior.

Joyce Skinner (known as Joy)
10th December 1928 - 29th April 2020



We were sorry to learn of Joy's death at the end of April. She was totally committed to the Mothers' Union and, with the support of her husband Bert, spent much of her time promoting its work at Christ Church. She was very proud that she saw the centenary of the branch.

Joy was branch leader of the Mothers' Union branch at Christ Church with St Mary's for 13 years from 1993 to 2006 and Bert brought her to afternoon branch meetings in her wheelchair. It was under Joy's leadership that the Mothers' Union began providing tea for Hilliers Bereavement Service. She retired after the centenary celebrations in 2006 and intended to wind up the branch then, but to her delight it was reprieved for a further 13 years by Caroline Pitt until the branch finally closed in December 2019.

The centenary of the Christ Church branch was celebrated with a service and party on Saturday 1st July 2006, which was attended by local and MU dignitaries. All branch members were given a coaster with the MU logo on, which Joy organised, and a splendid cake was shared.

Joy was a stalwart of MU in the Swindon Deanery as well. She was Deanery Secretary from 2002 to 2004 and attended Deanery meetings until her retirement as branch leader in 2006. She was responsible for insisting that half of the MU Diocesan meetings were held in Swindon, and they were held at Queens Drive Methodist church for many years.

Joy also acted as secretary to the Christ Church PCC for some years, and she helped to run the 11.30 Sunday morning matins service at Christ Church.

Most recently Joy and Bert attended Immanuel Church as it was nearer to their home in Burford Avenue. One of the attractions to visitors to their home was the enormous apple tree in the garden, which was the source of many puddings round the parish.

Joy and Bert were married for 33 years, and when Bert died in 2013, Joy moved to the newly-opened Princess Lodge Care Home, built on the site of the old maternity hospital in Okus Road. ►

Christ Church held a monthly service in Princess Lodge and as soon as Joy became a resident, she attended and looked forward to it immensely. Regular visitors from Christ Church were Margaret Williams and Karen Harris with Holy Communion and Immanuel visitors included Jenny Powley. Joy looked forward to receiving her copy of the Partnership magazine delivered by Caroline.

Janet French, who has been leading these services recently with Norma Mckemey, remembers how Joy was always fully engaged with singing the hymns and sometimes doing the readings as, indeed, she always did when receiving Communion personally on a monthly basis. In her room at Princess Lodge, her bible was always evident as was a little model church given to her by her son. Janet says that she will always remember Joy's smile, something that all those who visited her will also remember.

Joy had three sons, Neil, John and Keith and two stepdaughters, Sue and Elizabeth.

Joy is remembered with much affection, a lovely lady who didn't let her ill health stop her from doing anything, and we send our condolences to her family.

Caroline Pitt and others

TRINITY SUNDAY - 7th JUNE

Celebrating our God who is Three Persons

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are of the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

THE STORY OF THE RAINBOW

Once upon a time, all the colours in the world started to quarrel, each claiming that they were the best.

GREEN said: 'Clearly I am the most important. I am the sign of life and hope. I was chosen for grass, trees and leaves.'

BLUE interrupted: 'You only think about the earth, but consider the sky and the sea. Water is the basis of life.'

YELLOW chuckled: 'You are all so serious. I bring laughter, gaiety and warmth into the world. The sun is yellow.'

ORANGE started to blow his own trumpet: 'I am the colour of health and strength. I serve the inner needs of human life.'

RED could stand it no longer. He shouted out: 'I'm the ruler of you all, blood, life's blood. I am the colour of passion and danger.'

PURPLE rose up to his full height. He was very tall and spoke with great pomp: 'I am the colour of royalty and power.'

INDIGO spoke much more quietly than all the others, but just as determinedly: 'Think of me. I am the colour of silence and peace.'

And so all the colours went on boasting, each convinced they were the best until suddenly there was thunder and lightning and torrential rain. The colours all crouched down, close together in fear.

THEN RAIN SPOKE: 'You foolish colours, do you not know that God loves you all and made each of you for a special purpose, unique and different. Come now with me and we will stretch you across the sky in a great bow of colour so that you remember to appreciate each other.'

'This is a reminder of God's promise, that he is with you, and a sign of hope for tomorrow.'

(Adapted from an Indian legend)



CELEBRATION

An article by Martin Palmer publicised in 'Faith Initiative'

About five years ago, when I was Secretary General of the Alliance of religions and Conservation (ARC) we helped Christian, Hindu and Muslim colleagues in East Africa produce a rather extraordinary document. We had been invited by UNESCO and the Kenyan Government's education department to create a faith-based Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Toolkit. Typical rather long-winded UN terminology but essentially ESD is an international education programme for schools on environment and sustainability.

When one of our colleagues attended the international meeting of the ESD programme she was asked, quite bluntly, what possible difference could there be between a 'normal' secular ESD toolkit and a faith-based one. Her response captures for me why we celebrate – indeed why it is at this time so important to celebrate.

She said, "We open our toolkit by saying Thank You, then we look at why in the light of such gratitude we need to protect our planet. The usual ESD toolkit starts by telling us how everything is going wrong and that we are to blame!"

That's it. That is the heart of why we as people of faith celebrate. Why we say Thank You to the awesome magnificence and generosity of Creation, evolution, God – doesn't really matter what you call it, they are all stories of meaning. For example, in Christianity we have a number of different words for the celebration of Christ's Last Supper, the night before he was betrayed and crucified. The oldest word is the Greek word Eucharist which simply yet gloriously means Thank You or Thanksgiving.

I first ran into trouble using the word celebration when in 1985 Prince Philip, then the International president of WWF asked me to bring together representatives of five major faiths (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam) with all the key conservation and environmental groups at an event we held in Assisi, Italy (the birthplace of St. Francis) in 1986. His view was that the environmental movement was obsessed with data – as if anyone was ever converted by a pie chart! – and by trying to scare people into better behaviour towards nature. I suggested that we call this first ever meeting of such different worlds 'Celebration' which he was delighted to agree to. Then we told WWF International! ➤

The outrage we encountered was astonishing! Almost every major environmental and conservation movement rose in fury and denounced us. “Celebrate!!” they roared. “What is there to celebrate when the world is going to Hell in a handcart” – I slightly paraphrase here! But I am not overstating their utter bewilderment about why anyone would want to link, ecology with celebration.

Prince Philip and I stuck to our guns and ‘Celebration’ was its formal title and celebrate was what we did. People came on pilgrimage from all around the world. They created music, they danced, they sang songs, wrote poetry, and they came to celebrate the wonder of life and to dedicate themselves to protecting it. From that first meeting in 1986 has sprung what the UN has described as the ‘world’s largest civil society movement to protect nature’ – the religious environmental movements.

Why?

Well the answer is relatively simple. If something is worth celebrating, it is worth protecting. If it gives joy and delight, then we want to ensure that this will always be part of our lives. If we feel moved to sing, to dance, to pilgrimage, to write poems then we have a relationship with nature which begins to take us out of one bad model and back to a better one.

The bad model is the one which has driven us into the dire state we find ourselves in under the COVID 19 shadow. Namely that the world is here for our use; that we are the Masters of the Universe; that everything that exists has meaning only if useful to us and that we are so clever we can make new things to replace what we have destroyed. Essentially what one can call the ‘we are apart from nature’ model which has been the dominant model for the last two to three hundred years.

The alternative model – one shared by every major faith – stands in opposition to this utilitarian, human-centred model. In this model, we are part of a much Greater Story – or Stories – in which we are just one small part of a much greater purpose behind life itself. In this model we need to see ourselves as servants of nature not masters; as part of the web of life, not viewers of the web of life as created just for us. In other words we need to be part of nature, not apart from nature.

In that concept we therefore need to acknowledge that there is something, someone, some force far, far greater than ourselves as a species, who brings life to life and gives meaning to nature and creation. In such a world picture, it is natural and mentally vital to start by acknowledging the sheer wonder of

what we are part of – not as is often said ‘what we have been given’. We need to start as we did with the ESD toolkit by saying Thank You.

This is why, when I was asked two years ago by the new head of WWF UK, what were the faiths going to do in 2020 given we only had ten years left before the end of the world, I shocked and yet also delighted her by saying we would not join the handwringing, guilt tripping hordes predicting apocalypse unless we did what they said. ‘So what will the faiths do?’ she asked. I said we would hold a party!

Now, let me be frank! I wanted to jolt her and her colleagues out of a particularly troubling mindset. But I also wanted to point out that all faiths ask their followers to live as simply as possible and have periods of fasting or abstinence. But then we party. Think of Lent and then Easter; Ramadan and their Eid ul Fitr; Pansa in Buddhism and then Wesak. We know you cannot ask people to give up things all the time. You also need to party. There is a wonderful Jewish saying that on the Day of Judgement, God will judge you for all the legitimate pleasure you could have enjoyed and did not!

Hence my comment to the head of WWF UK. And it worked. She understood that if you want to move people to do things differently or to ask more of them, then you need not fear, guilt and sin – the usual assumptions of the environmental movement about why we are in this mess and how we can scare people to change. Instead you need to celebrate. And this is what gave rise to the Celebration Earth movement which WWF – both UK and internationally has embraced, as well as groups such as RSPB, Bhumi Movement, Eco-Sikh, Eco-Islam etc. We need to celebrate how astonishing life on earth is and then renew our sense of responsibility to be part of that wonder in how we protect, restore and, perhaps the most difficult, make sacrifices ourselves in order that life can continue to flourish for all creation.

Let me add one other thing about the usual environmental apocalyptic language which frankly paralyses people, not motivates them. I am a historian of religion. I know that whenever any of our faiths starts to use apocalyptic languages; when it claims that only by submission to our dictates can the world be saved, then this inevitably leads to violence. The reason is that usually only a small minority actually join such movements when the founders always assume that everyone will – or to be more precise everyone SHOULD. When this vision fails, the justification to use violence is that ‘we need to wake people up’ and so the terrible cycle rolls out. Let me be clear, celebration is a necessary antidote to apocalypse. ►

And the COVID 19 crisis has only highlighted how vital, how natural, how engaging and invigorating celebration is. If we were not able to celebrate the NHS, where would we be psychologically? Just watch your own feelings when you join in the Thursday night 8.00 p.m. singing, shouting, clapping, banging of anything to hand in celebration of the nurses and ambulance drivers, cleaners and doctors of our hospitals and care homes. Celebration makes it possible to start doing what is right and continue to do it even when this is costly to ourselves, when we have to make sacrifices for the sake of the rest of our community.

And what will be the first thing we will all do when the lockdown is lifted? We will go to meet our families and friends and we will celebrate.

I can't wait, and the Celebration Earth in mid-September at St. Albans (see our website www.celebrationearth.org) and the many, many local Celebration Earth events around the country will be our chance to not only celebrate our protection of our communities but also of nature itself. So come and join us and celebrate! ■

No plastic please, we're the National Trust

The National Trust is going to get rid of its plastic membership cards. Replacing the five million membership cards with a paper alternative will save 12.5 tons of plastic each year.

The new cards will be made from a strong and durable paper, with a water-based coating. The cards will be recyclable and compostable.

The National Trust also has plans to almost completely remove single-use plastics from its sites by 2022. It has already replaced all disposable food packaging with compostable products. Next, it wants to remove plastic drinks bottles and eliminate plastic packaging from its shops. ■

Bath Road

Junior Church Genesis group during lockdown.

Ten of us meet at 4pm on Sunday afternoons for just over half an hour, using Zoom. Given there are not many in their age group at church at the moment, we've promoted Genelle and Juan into our group which caters for those in secondary schools.

We start with news of the week, anything interesting, birthdays coming up.

Next, we find something out about ourselves - things like favourite food, favourite hiding place at home during hide-and-seek etc.

Now we've finished reading the Book of Acts, I share Gary's thoughts of the week. This follows on from the Sunday worship's bible reading and is e-mailed to me. We have a question-and-answer session about it. Before our sessions we will often watch something on YouTube. This includes one of the great short animations from The Bible Project series and is an excellent production for adults and children alike - I can highly recommend it.

We always have a fun group activity, which during lockdown can be a creative challenge for me or Gary to organise!!! So far we've had scavenger hunts (where we race off to find something from around the house), a physical challenge such as blowing a paper ball across the floor or a Farmyard quiz.

To keep things fun during lockdown, each week the winner receives an awesome mystery prize. It will always be something slightly out-of-the-ordinary to pass the time during lockdown and, until they receive it through the post, the winner has no idea what it might be. One week it was a selection of cherry bakewell-scented bath bombs and soaps, another week it was making London landmarks out of chocolate! Needless to say the group are hooked.

We finish with Gary's prayer for that week.

If you know of any children aged 9-17 who might be interested, please get them to e-mail me. The more the merrier.

How is your group working during lockdown?

Steve

stephensparkes331@btinternet.com

Eric Sparkes sent us this poem, saying “Something to make you smile.” It was sent to him by Gill’s cousin Judith.

Today I am so happy and really quite elated,
For this happy feeling many weeks I’ve waited.
You may ask why such euphoria, and for what?
I’ve just booked that elusive on-line shopping slot.
Now that at last I’ve got it, what on earth do I do?
To tell the honest truth, I haven’t got a clue!

Through fruit and veg and tins I troll,
Oh! joy of joy, there’s toilet rolls,
Bread and cake, flour, rice and jars!
Is Weetabix really cereal bars?
Those baby leeks look rather nice,
One click, they’re ordered in a trice.
My order done, the money sent,
I’m exhausted and now I’m spent.

Our day and slot at last arrive,
The van rolls up, parks on the drive,
Goodies unloaded with much glee.
Is it all there? We shall soon see.
What’s this? Pampers for a baby,
I didn’t order that, well, maybe?

They’ve got it wrong after all these weeks,
Nappies are confused with baby leeks!
Yippee! All here, it feels like first prize,
Now lots to wash and sanitise.

You ask, would I do it all again?
Yes, though at times it was a pain.
With this brand new experience, now I know what’s what,
I just need to find that elusive shopping slot!!

Eric also asked us to point out that the supermarket did deliver a packet of Pampers instead of baby leeks!!

‘Making a Difference’

During the current lockdown, members of Bath Road Church are enjoying a weekly newsletter put together by Allison Davies. It contains snippets contributed by the congregation that range from the amusing to observations on nature and wildlife.

In one of the early Newsletters, Margaret Jones said how much she was missing her audio books now the library was closed. Allison responded to this by ordering on line a book of one of Margaret’s favourite authors and recording it onto discs for her, for which she had copyright permission. This occupied ten discs so was very time-consuming, alongside having two young children to look after and, as a primary school teacher, still going into school to look after care workers’ children. She is currently recording other books for Margaret.

We were pleased to nominate Allison to feature in the BBC Wiltshire Sound slot ‘Making a Difference’.

Allison said, “The school’s value for this term is ‘Compassion’ and the head felt it fitted beautifully into the ‘Making a Difference’ slot. We are using the image of the mustard seed at school to show how something small can make a huge difference, so to me making CDs for Margaret is such a small thing but to her it is a life saver.”

Well done, Allison, and thank you for keeping us all in touch with one another.

Sad news

We were sorry to learn of the death of Janet Limburn, Martin’s mum. Geoff Rhodes writes..... “Her death was not related to Coronavirus so Martin and his sister Jackie were able to spend a few minutes with her. We remember a lively lady who readily made friends with all who met her.

Janet Hunt told us of the death of Irene Howe: “Noel and I very much enjoyed bringing Irene to church and getting to know her over the last 7 years, and will sadly miss her. It is disappointing that the current circumstances mean that we have not been able to say goodbye and will not be able to attend her funeral. Her son Alan was allowed to spend some time with her, wearing full PPE kit, so we are grateful for that.

It's a small world!

Following my article in the May magazine about celebrating VE Day in Chandler's Ford in 1945, Gwen Knight phoned me to say that she used to visit a friend in Chandler's Ford and went to a church there, not the main one, but a daughter church, but she couldn't remember the name of it. I was able to tell her that it was St. Martin-in-the Wood and that my father, who was Vicar's Warden and PCC Treasurer at the time, was part of a small group responsible for the fundraising efforts to build it. The site was a woodland area with a stream, and as the foundation stone came from St. Martin-in-the Fields, London, the new church was appropriately named St. Martin-in-the Wood.
D.S.

Our North Wilts Circuit has received this email from the Rev'd. Debbie Hodgson

Dear Everyone,

I am very aware that with McCabe having had to cancel and postpone many of their pilgrimages because of the coronavirus outbreak there will be a huge shortfall in the fundraising arm of the charity 'McCabe Educational Trust' which heavily supports a boys' home in Bethany, a school for the blind in Bethlehem and a boys home in India. Having visited the two projects in the Holy Land, I am aware of the huge difference this money makes to some of the poorest in our world.

So on Thursday I began a fundraising challenge to hopefully raise at least something to help. We know the rainbow is such a sign of hope, so for every £100 I raised I agreed to add an extra colour to my hair. I thought if I could raise £700 over the next few weeks that would be great.

However, 4 days on and more than £700 has been raised, and so 7 colours have been added to my hair. Because of the amazing response, I have decided that I will continue fundraising, and continue to add even more colours for every further £100 raised - until I run out of colours or space to put them. If you would like to take part in finding out just how many colours might be possible, and to see the results so far, you can do so by clicking on this link <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/debbie-hodgson3>

If you would prefer not to donate, as many I know are donating in other ways, please accept my apologies for contacting you.

God Bless, *Debbie.*

A new world after Lockdown?

Recent talk of gradually releasing the lockdown has prompted me to think what might change for good in our society. It will be a tragedy if everything is allowed to return to “normal”, with all the climate-threatening activities being resumed without question, and the injustices of minimum wage and zero-hours contracts applied to some of our most critical workers forgotten in the relief of seeing friends again and replaced by worries about the inevitably increased taxes.

How will homeless people respond to losing the basic provision of a warm bed and food? Southwark Council in London have housed all their homeless and have now promised to find a permanent home for all who are entitled to be here. Will Swindon do the same? Should we be pushing them?

A hymn by Timothy Dudley-Smith (Singing the Faith 684) seems appropriate:

“Here on the threshold of a new beginning
By grace forgiven, now we leave behind
Our long-repentant selfishness and sinning
And all our blessings call again to mind...
and

“May we, your children, feel with Christ’s compassion
An earth disordered, hungry and in pain;
Then at your calling, find the will to fashion
New ways where freedom, truth and justice reign.”.

© Timothy Dudley-Smith

This is my personal view of what might change. What is your hope?

Penny Manders

I was there...

Margaret Gardiner has been looking with interest at the photos of Trafalgar Square on VE night as she was one of those among the thousands of people who had gathered there to celebrate this momentous occasion. Margaret’s father had taken her to London on the train and she recalls that he lifted her up to sit on one of the lions.

Lockdown has given us time to connect with nature. We have received great photos for our magazine, as you can see in this issue.

From My Window - ‘The Weavers’ wildlife!

At many times of the day, my birdbath is in use by birds of all shapes and sizes and I am constantly refilling it.

Usually, the first visitors are pigeons and magpies who sit in it - well it is a bird-bath! Then the smaller birds, having waited their turn arrive, sitting on the wall before venturing on to the birdbath, which most certainly needed refilling after all the splashing and wing flapping of the bigger birds.

Amongst these smaller visitors, the robins and blue tits are fairly frequent - great to see them, but I love seeing the goldfinches with their striking red heads and yellow and white wings. They too come quite frequently for a very short visit, a quick drink and off they go.

Another regular visitor, usually in the evening is the fox, fairly young, I think. He uses the grass outside my flat as a run through, sometimes stopping for a cautious look around and then on his way, probably to Lawn Woods.

Sometimes it’s easy to forget that I live only a few minutes walk from the Old Town Co-op and the bustle of the shops.

“Weavers’ wildlife is fascinating and an experience to treasure, which I appreciate every day.

Marion Howes.



Observing social distancing in a garden in Old Town



Angela Ruck was up early on VE Day decorating her house.



The wildflower garden at Bath Road Church which, thanks to David Sinclair's efforts, is looking so good.



The magnificent Laburnum tree in the garden at Bath Road Church.



Caroline & Daniel Pitt's clematis.



Phoenix Returns

**An affordable professional
accounts and
tax returns service**

Lloyd James BSc (Hons) ATT
36 Weedon Road
Stratton St. Margaret
Swindon, Wiltshire
SN3 4EG
Telephone 01793 827620
Email:
phoenixreturns@mail.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



VISIONVISIT
mobile opticians

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

ADVERTISEMENTS

To advertise in this magazine, please contact Mr. David Bevan telephone 01793 336667; email: david04bevan@yahoo.co.uk

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 JULY/AUGUST MAGAZINE
by FRIDAY 12th JUNE, please.**

Contributions ahead of the deadline are always welcome.

Please note this is a double issue.

**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

DEACONS *for* DIAMONDS



SAME DAY RING SIZING SERVICE ON ALL NEW PURCHASES
Come and view our superb range of new, bespoke and second hand diamond rings.

DEACON & SON (SWINDON) LTD

Established 1848

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