

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

PARTNERSHIP MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2022

80 PENCE



Photo:,Chris Smith

Refugees from Afghanistan before they set off to watch a match at the County Ground in October Swindon v Bradford City, courtesy of Swindon Town Football Club.

One in Christ - Together in Mission



The High Sheriff of Wiltshire

*Requests the pleasure
of your company at a*

**CHARITY CONCERT FOR
ROTARY SWINDON CARES**

FEATURING

THE WESSEX MALE CHOIR

Saturday 26th March, 7.30 pm at Christ Church,
Old Town, Swindon SN1 3HB

Rotary Swindon Cares is supporting
SWINDON DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICE
1175148 Tel. 01793 864984

Tickets are available from
Christ Church Community Centre, Mon, Tues, Fri, 9.15am-12 noon,
Wed and Thurs 1.00 pm-4.00 pm
email: ccooperations@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Swindon Central Library

By email to: rotarynicky@nickyalberry.co.uk

<http://www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk/tickets>

Nicky Alberry, Business West, Park House, Church Place, Swindon SN1 5ED
If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation in favour of
Rotary Club of Swindon Trust Account this would be appreciated.

TICKETS

£10 for Concert only

£20 per person including Reception after the Concert

Unreserved seating

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@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Associate Ministers::

Revd. Daphne Hardwick. T. 693721; daphne@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Revd. Norma McKemey. T. 845917; norma@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Web site: www.christchurchswindon.co.uk

Weekly news items: parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Friends of Christ Church: c/o The Parish Office. email: sec.focc@gmail.com

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

e-mail: parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Due to the Coronavirus, the Parish Office is closed until further notice.

Helen and the Parish Clerk are working from home.

COMMUNITY CENTRE: Manager: Chris Smith, T.617237 or 07582 305760

email: chris@christchurchswindon.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: Stephen Brain, Tel. 524514. email: sbrainstev@aol.com

Web site: www.immanuelurc.org

Weekly news items: immanuelweeklynews@yahoo.co.uk

WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER CHURCHES IN OLD TOWN

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR:

Mr. George 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: margaret@christchurchswindon.co.uk

PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL:

Secretary: Barbara Aftelak, Tel. 792917. email: barbaraaftelak@gmail.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

The Manse
147 Drove Road

Dear sisters and brothers,

Long ago I used to go to Greenbelt when it was at Castle Ashby. A regular there was Tony Campolo, an American preacher, writer and pastor to a number of American presidents. I remember a good many of his challenging talks. One of his talks was about who we aim to please and what we seek for ourselves. The strapline was 'do you seek the titles of man or the testimony of God?'. In other words, were you more interested in the titles and accolades people would bestow upon you that may boost your own ego, or the testimony of God to your humble service?

Recently we have had our Covenant Service at Bath Road. These words are part of that service "Christ has many services to be done: some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both; in some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us." In these words, we are called to reject the 'titles of man'.

What we are called to do is to be disciples of the kingdom, to bring the kingdom in. We do that by making Christ visible to others in all we say and do. Isaiah, and later words used of John the Baptist, tell us how we do that.

"A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.'"

But this is not asking us to do road works or mountain blasting. The ground we are asked to level is the ground of people's being, it is the society in which they, and we, all live. If that is levelled, then the kingdom can come in as it is a kingdom of Justice. Mary tells us that in the Magnificat ""He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty." ➤

We are called to level up our society and our world. This is not a vain and empty promise like some give, but a commitment to kingdom living. Beware though as there is much to level up.

These are some news stories from the first week of 2022:

1. It's 80,000 BC. You are immortal. The world is still frozen in an ice age. You decide to save \$10,000 EVERY DAY, never spending anything 82,021 years later, it's the end of 2021. You still don't have as much money as Elon Musk.
2. The bosses of Britain's biggest companies will have made more money in 2022 by breakfast time on Friday 7th January, the fourth working day of the year, than the average UK worker will earn in the entire year. This means it would take an average Swindon employee 88 years to earn the annual salary of a top CEO.
3. The wealth of the richest one per cent of households is more than 230 times that of the poorest 10 per cent, according to new analysis from the Office of National Statistics. The top 1 per cent of households have wealth of more than £3.6m each and hold 43 per cent of all the wealth in Great Britain. This is compared to the household wealth of £15,400 or less for the poorest 10 per cent.
4. More than half of black children were living in poverty in 2019-20, up from 42% a decade earlier, according to analysis of statistics from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and is more than double the rate for white children, which stands at 26%. The number of black children growing up in poverty has more than doubled since the Conservatives took power in 2010, according to analysis. The data also shows that 61% of Bangladeshi children and 55% of Pakistani children were growing up in poverty in 2019-20. The proportion of white children living in poverty was 26%, up from 24% in 2010-11.

The Easter eggs are in the shops so as we move from Christmastide towards Holy Week we need to be prepared to turn over more tables.

Every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

FAMILY EVENTS

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones

CHRIST CHURCH

Nov 27 June Campbell, 81 years
Dec 10 Doreen Rosaline Mack, 85 years
Dec 11 Adrian Downing, 77 years
Jan 6 Keith Williams, 68 years

IMMANUEL

Nov 15 Bernard Phillips, 73 years
Dec 12 Leslie Alfred Aylett, 90 years
Dec 12 Anita Margaret Palmer, 82 years

FLOODLIGHTING

Dec 6 In loving memory of a beautiful and loving wife, Pam Benfield.
Jan 30 Remembering, with love, my dear Mum and Dad, Phyl and Harry Dyer, on their wedding anniversary.
Feb 3 In celebration and thankfulness for 15 years of marriage and God's continued blessing on us. *Martin and Wendy Hiscock*

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. email: parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk Tel. 522832

CHURCH MAGAZINE: If you are experiencing difficulty in getting your magazine, you can always purchase one from Rose Earle, Newsagent, Newport Street, who kindly sells them for us throughout the year.

The Partnership Magazine – Monies collection 2022

Dear Magazine readers,

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their subscription for 2022, i.e. 80p per issue and £8 for an annual subscription for 10 issues. This remains good value.

We are pleased to say that the price will stay the same for 2022 i.e. 80p per issue and £8 for an annual subscription for 10 copies. This remains good value.

Subscriptions are now due for 2022 and this year there will be three ways to pay as follows:

1. By sending a cheque for £8 payable to the Partnership of Churches to George Kennedy, 31 Vasterne Close, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4EZ.
2. By paying your magazine distributor £8 either in cash or as a cheque payable to the Partnership of Churches. The distributor will then forward the payments to George Kennedy as above.
3. By Bank Transfer to the Partnership's bank account the details of which are:
 - Account Name – Swindon Old Town Partnership of Churches
 - Account No. – 00193543
 - Sort Code – 30-98-41

If you decide to pay by this last method please email both George Kennedy (george.kennedy@mybroadbandmail.com) and David Bevan (david04bevan@yahoo.co.uk) to let them know that you have paid.

If you do not wish to subscribe, you can buy individual issues at one of our Partnership churches or from Rose Earle's shop in Newport Street. Thanks are due to Rose for continuing to offer this service.

If you still have difficulty obtaining or paying for the magazine please contact either Daniel and Caroline Pitt (01793 521732) or George Kennedy (01793 772589).

With best wishes and thanks. *The magazine team*

Immanuel

Council for World Mission Devotional Book 2022

Dear Colleagues and friends,

We are pleased to inform you that the electronic copy of Sundays with CWM Devotional Book 2022 - Quarter 1 is now available.

This is CWM's quarterly devotional (attached) intended as a resource for personal, family or congregational gathering to worship God. Moreover, as part of the 40th anniversary celebrations of Training in Mission, the compilation of meditations are written by former TIM participants, most of whom are upcoming young leaders of our member churches. You may also download the copy from this link: <https://www.cwmission.org/resources/prayer-books/>. Please feel free to disseminate this to your networks and contacts.

We would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to all those who have contributed to this issue under the initiative of the CWM 2022 Devotional Team, composed of Rev Nikotemo Sopepa, Ms Fuata Varea- Singh, Rev Dileep Kumar Kandula and Mr Aaron Lee.

Please feel free to reach out to us through this email, should you be interested in contributing to the upcoming editions. The CWM 2022 Devotional Team may also approach you for contributions.

Thank you and a blessed year to all of us.

Best regards,

MARIA FE (Peachy) LABAYO
Programme Associate, Research and Capacity Development

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**Saturday 1st October 2022
in Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London.**



We are still here after 50 years. What does that say to us? And what is God saying to us? What opportunities does it give us to reflect on our story, on who we are, on what we stand for, on who we follow – and to share that with others?

As local churches and as the URC, marking our 50th year can help us to plan for the future – not only to keep pursuing our ecumenical vision, but also to plan for how we will continue to be an active, engaged and faithful Christian presence in our communities and in new ones. Not least, marking our Jubilee will be an opportunity to give thanks.

On the afternoon of Saturday 1 October 2022, in Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London, where the Uniting Assembly of the URC took place in October 1972, a chance to give thanks and to celebrate the five decades of the United Reformed Church. We want as many people as possible from across the denomination to attend.

Several venues, including United Reformed Church House, local URCs and buildings of ecumenical partners, will be available for people to visit during the day, to offer activities, information, workshops, reflection, discussions, singing, catering and other support for visitors before the service.

This is a free event and we will be asking nearer the time for a confirmation of numbers.

Book your tickets through the Eventbrite booking system here: bit.ly/urc50.

Poem reflects on Channel crossing tragedy

In response to the deaths of 27 people who died while attempting to cross the English Channel, Roo Stewart, United Reformed Programme (URC) Support Officer for Church and Society, offers '27' a reflective poem and suggestions for action.

'27'

27 people – and more – have lost their lives
in search of a better one:

27 children and adults at sea.
Others were content to take their money:
an empty promise, a false hope,
set adrift on a flimsy inflatable boat.
Anyone with a shred of compassion is horrified
at the loss. And we are.

27 children and adults at sea.
Yet, undeterred, more gather on beaches,
the dangers behind them more pressing
than the dangers they know are ahead.

27 people did not choose this, did not ever wish
for a life – or death – like this:

27 children and adults at sea.
Thoughts and prayers won't be enough
to stop persecution and end exploitation:
Generosity, be our guide.

The URC General Assembly calls for an approach to immigration that treats every individual, whatever their status, with humanity, dignity, respect and fairness.

URC Youth backs ban on conversion therapy

The United Reformed Church (URC) Youth Executive has condemned practices known as ‘conversion therapy’ – sometimes called ‘reparative therapy’ or ‘gay cure therapy’ – as unethical and potentially harmful.

The Youth Executive, the URC’s decision-making body made up of young people and adults, expressed the view through the UK government’s consultation on the practice, and echoes the sentiment of the emergency resolution agreed at the URC’s Assembly Executive, held from 22-24 November, which called on members and Ministers to refuse to offer, or to participate in offering, conversion therapy in any form.

The government is currently consulting on proposals to ban conversion therapy in England and Wales, and the URC has urged that the plans be strengthened to ensure greater protection for potential subjects of conversion therapy.

Reuben Watt, URC Youth Assembly Moderator says: “According to Stonewall, 9% of LGBTQ+ people aged 18-24 have been pressured to access or change their sexual orientation, and I am sure some of those have links to a faith group. It is up to us to make a stand, to protect our friends and family who we love the most.”

Peter Pay, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, 1946-2021

It is with deep sadness that the United Reformed Church (URC) announced the death of Peter Pay, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, a former Synod Clerk and an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher who was a member of Salisbury URC. He became Moderator of the URC General Assembly, with the Rev’d Clare Downing, Moderator of the Wessex Synod, in 2020, and remained an active lay preacher.

Mr Pay had been living with a malignant brain tumour for some time and had bravely continued with his commitments until he was forced to step back towards the latter part of the 2021. He died on 18 December.

The Rev’d Clare Downing, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, said: “Peter has been a valued colleague and friend in various capacities over the years. His clear thinking and ability to ask pertinent questions has been a real asset to the life of the United Reformed Church. He brought a serious mind, tempered by a well-developed sense of humour to dealing with difficult issues. He will be much missed within Wessex Synod, the wider URC, and ecumenical partners.”

Bath Road

Services at Bath Road in February

6th	10.00 am	Common Worship, Rev'd. Mark Barrett
13th	10.00 am	Worship Leaders
20th	10.00 am	Rachel Browning
27th	10.00 am	Eric Hewitt

A new booklet 'More From My Headmaster's Study'



The first booklet of Matthew Cammish's sermons proved to be very popular and we had many requests for a sequel - indeed we have been chased hard for the next edition by some!

Accordingly, we are producing another one called 'More From My Headmaster's Study', containing another twelve sermons. Dr Richard Teal, the ex-President of the Methodist Conference, has written the

introduction and Dame Kate Bingham has kindly consented to the use of some words by her father Lord Justice Bingham.

If you would like a copy of this second booklet, which is free of charge, please contact Martin Robins, email: martinrobins@btinternet.com

Carol singing at the Co-op

We had fun singing at the Co-op and raised £135.25 in aid of the Methodist organisation, Action for Children. Many thanks to everyone for their support and donations. *See photo on inside back cover.*

Janet Hunt

MOPS **(MOPS stands for Mix Of People)**

DATES: the first and third THURSDAY of the month
TIME: 2.30 to 3.30pm
PLACE: Crossland Room at Bath Road Methodist Church
ORGANISER: Janet Hunt Tel: 01793-521934 and
Brenda Hewitt Tel: 01793 683926

The usual format is to spend the first half hour chatting and the second half listening to a speaker or doing an activity.

February	3rd	A Deacon's role, Stephen Roe
February	17th	Planning ideas for the summer
March	3rd	Easter Card making, Janet Hunt
March	17th	The Rev'd Tony Barnes - A topic of Tony's choice

Five famous quotes from Desmond Tutu

The recent death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu was mourned around the world. Here are five of his more famous quotes, which show why he was so especially honoured for his justice and reconciliation work in South Africa.

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”

“Don't raise your voice, improve your argument. Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right.”

“Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened.”

“Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another.”

Christ Church with St. Mary's

Our Bible verse for 2022

Arise, shine for your light has come
and the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

Isaiah 60, verse 1

Ailsa Palmer preached an excellent sermon at Christ Church at the Watchnight service and she ended with some words which we would do well to note!

I have some practical words of advice as we look to follow Jesus into 2022, some of which I took from words that Michael Ramsay, a previous Archbishop of Canterbury wrote.

Five words of encouragement

Firstly: Thankfulness - thank God often and always. Count your many blessings; you will find many in the unnoticed cracks and crevasses of your life. Thankfulness is a soil in which pride does not easily grow.

Secondly: Confess – Sadly as time passes the habit of being critical about people and things grows more than each of us realise. Confessions are God's means of drawing us close, keeping us near, and protecting our wayward hearts.

Thirdly: Be humble – Humility brings us nearer to Jesus. Do not worry about status. Our status is to be near Jesus wherever he asks us to go with him.

Fourthly: Laugh - Use your sense of humour, laugh at things and at yourself. Take time to celebrate.

Lastly: Commit – commit yourself to a plan of action. What new habits do we need to put in our daily routine, maybe there are ones we need to lay aside? What relationships do we need to repair? Amen.

As Michael Ramsay put it:

“Through the coming year people will thank God for you. And let the reason for their thankfulness be not just that you were a person whom they liked or loved, but because you made God real to them.”



Congratulations to Swindon Town Football Club on reaching the third round of the FA Cup and playing so well against the mighty Manchester City, top of the Premier League by 10 points.

This is the first time Swindon has reached the third round for ten years. It was a great privilege for me to be there with Hugo, cheering on the team with 15,000 fans, people of all ages in a packed out County Ground. There was a wonderful atmosphere with lots of humour, including the chant 'who are you, who are you?' to a team of international players to the value of £450 million. The roar when Harry McKirdy scored Swindon's goal was memorable. The match was televised live on ITV in front of millions. As the coverage ended the cameras panned up over Old Town with the beacon on the hill, Christ Church, shining brightly which looked very beautiful.

This is my 30th year in Football League chaplaincy, serving for 6 years at Bristol Rovers when I was Vicar in Keynsham and now for 23 years with Swindon Town since I became Vicar at Christ Church. It was very good to have the Chief Executive Rob Angus and the new Chairman, Clem Morfuni, at the Swindon Town Club Carol service held at Christ Church; they have both been very supportive.

One of our goals for the year is to increase the ethnic diversity of Swindon Town fans. As a result, I have taken three groups from the Harbour Project, including guests who have moved to Swindon from Afghanistan, to the Swindon Town games. After 3-0 defeat and a 0-0 draw, great joy ensued on 1st January when our guests enjoyed Swindon score 5 goals and beat Northampton 5-2.

Please continue to remember all of our sports clubs in your prayers, including all those connected to Swindon Town Football Club and the Community Trust who do so much hard work for our town. Our aim as Football Club Chaplains is to be pastorally proactive and spiritually reactive which means to show God's love and respond to people's questions.

Statistics supplied by Janet French show that in 1910 we beat Manchester City in an FA Cup match 2-0. However, in another FA Cup match in 1930 we lost to them by 10 goals to 1. Between 1910 and 2022, playing against Manchester City, we won 5, drew 3 and lost 15.



The Friends of Christ Church Charity Christmas Market raises £4000...

The Market, held on 20th November was a great success with lots of footfall. Just over £4000 was raised which was an excellent amount considering there were fewer stalls.

The Friends' raffle raised £230 with generous donations of prizes from the Co-op Old Town, Swindon Town Football Club, Barnes Travel, McCarthy & Stone, Arline Stovell, Angela Ruck and Christine Senior.

The Trustees would like to thank the organisers, helpers, stewards, the stallholders, Tim Eyles and the choir and everyone who came along to make the day such a success.

The Friends' support specific projects for the maintenance and enhancement of the fabric of the church and its churchyard. Currently we are supporting the work in the former Rose Garden to create a beautiful, peaceful and safer garden that is a fitting memorial for those generations of Swindonians whose ashes are buried there and a comfort to visitors.

Membership of the Friends is open to all and the current annual subscriptions are single £5, family £10 and for life membership £75. Download an application form from Christ Church website, email sec.focc@gmail.com or phone me 01793 694466.

Trustee and Hon. Secretary

Altar Flowers at Christ Church.

Are you a flower arranger? Or maybe you just enjoy having and enjoying flowers in your home? During most of the year we enjoy seeing floral arrangements on the High Altar at Christ Church and these are put there by a dedicated group of people who do it on a rota basis. If you would like to be included on this rota, then please let me know. We do not have any flowers there during Lent so you would not be required to be on the rota until after Easter and your turn would only come around twice or three times a year as usually the flowers will last for two weeks provided they are kept watered. We would love to hear from you.

Margaret Williams

God's Plan for Aging

from an email sent to The Rev'd. Daphne Hardwick

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So, if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it is all in your own best interest and a further example of God's care.



The Trustees of Swindon United Charities are inviting applications for a ground floor one bedroom flat at the almshouses adjacent to Christ Church. Applicants should be single, in housing need, aged 50 and over and have lived in the Borough of Swindon for a minimum of three years.

For further information and an application form, please contact the Clerk to the Trustees, c/o the Parish Office, parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk Please note there are no parking spaces allocated to the almshouses.

Christingle Service

As a result of our Christingle Service, we have been able to send £245 to The Children's Society so well done to all those who took our collecting boxes and supported this worthy cause. *Margaret Williams*

Watch your water bill, you may have a leak!

We opened our water bill before Christmas and were horrified to find it had gone up by five times. We contacted Thames Water who sent someone out and confirmed that we had a leak. It was somewhere between the water meter under the pavement and the stop cock inside the house. We worried that they would have to dig up the front garden or even inside the house! Fortunately the two chaps who arrived in mid-January dug up the pavement outside the garden. They found a leak from the pipe near the water meter, and were able to repair it. Now our water consumption has gone back to normal levels.

Thames Water said they will not charge us money for the wasted water. But we remain concerned from an eco viewpoint that they do not seem to have a system which notices such large leaks. It is up to all of us to keep an eye on our bills!

Caroline and Daniel Pitt

February Diary

Walking for Health group starts from Christ Church every Monday at 10.30 am

01	Wed	10.30 am	Christ in Quiet, often with Holy Communion
05	Sat	7.30 am	Christ Church, Morning Prayer followed by Fellowship Breakfast
06	Sun	8.00 am	1662 Holy Communion
		10.00 am	All-Age service
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion
09	Wed	10.30 am	Christ in Quiet, often with Holy Communion
		7.00 pm	Healing Prayer Group
12	Sat	9.40 am	Come and Sing workshop: Carl Jenkins 'The Armed Man' Registration from 9.40 am. Any queries, Tel. 634250.
13	Sun	9.00 am	St. Mary's, Holy Communion
		10.00 am	Christ Church, Family Holy Communion
16	Wed	10.30 am	Christ in Quiet, often with Holy Communion
20	Sun	8.00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
		10.00 am	Informal Holy Communion
		6.30 pm	Choral Evensong
23	Wed	10.30 am	Christ in Quiet, often with Holy Communion
27	Sun	9.00 am	St. Mary's, Informal Holy Communion
		10.00 am	Christ Church, Family Holy Communion
		12 noon	Holy Baptism



Margaret's Seville Orange Marmalade is now available.

£1.50 or £2.00 per jar, according to size.
Tel. 421102

All proceeds will go to Christ Church funds.

**Keep this date - Saturday 2nd April 2022 at St. Mary's
Mindfulness and Spiritual Growth: A quiet Day with Tim Stead.**

For further information and to book. contact the Parish Office.
More details will be in the March magazine.



New image for Swindon-based Choir

The award-winning and ever popular Swindon-based Wessex Male Choir is marking its 20th anniversary this year with a new image.

Choir chairman, Andy Entwistle, said, "Our first 20 years have been enormous fun and we have enjoyed a lot of success, singing to audiences locally, nationally and internationally, in a variety of theatres, auditoriums and stadiums like Wembley and Twickenham, up a mountain in the Dolomites, in bars (and cathedrals!) in Ireland and even in a salt mine in Poland.

For our next 20 years or so, we wanted to change things a little. We enjoy a much lower age profile than a lot of more traditional male choirs and we felt that our new logo better represents our choir.

They will feature in the High Sheriff's concert at Christ Church on 26th March.

Saving the Planet via Kitchen and Bathroom in 2022

As world leaders wake up to the crisis of global warming and plan emergency measures before it is too late, each of us can make a difference right now, beginning in our own homes.

Start in the KITCHEN

:25% of the world's food is thrown away. One supermarket discovered British households waste seven million tonnes of food waste every year, partly because most of our fridges aren't cold enough. Keeping the fridge temperature at a maximum of 4 degrees will help food last longer and save waste.

Vast quantities of greenhouse gases are released by animals reared to supply us with red meat and dairy products. Cutting down on quantities and conserving leftovers would help.

Conserving electricity by washing clothes at 30 degrees and replacing power-hungry tumble driers with a clothes line or old-fashioned clothes-horse would have the added advantage of reducing soaring power bills.

According to the Good Housekeeping Institute, "many mainstream detergents are brimming with synthetic chemicals like phosphates, chlorine and bleach that pollute our waterways, damaging delicate ecosystems, and may irritate sensitive skin." Plant-based and eco-friendly alternatives are now readily available and work well in the washing machine and dishwasher.

Don't forget the BATHROOM

Annual increases in UK water consumption would be curbed, if we were to shower rather than bath. Exchanging the shower head for a water-saving type, which regulates or aerates the flow, would save both water and cash.

Spending less time in the shower needn't be a hardship. Daily shampooing may actually be counter-productive - it's best to let some oils remain in the hair, so they can act as moisturisers. Biodegradable body wash is available in bulk, from which re-usable containers can be filled.

Eco-friendly toothpaste is now on the market, some of it in plastic-free containers. More water can be saved by turning the tap off as we brush. Beware wet-wipes which may be 'flushable', but aren't biodegradable, because they are part-plastic. Eco-friendly alternatives are now available. ■

Saving the planet needn't cost the earth.



Phoenix Returns

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

**Lloyd James BSc (Hons) ATT
I have 20 years experience with
accountancy firms from one of the
big four to local practices and
HMRC.**

Telephone 01793 827620

Email:

phoenixreturns@mail.com

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 MARCH MAGAZINE
by SATURDAY 12th FEBRUARY, 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, Swinton SN1 3DF
Telephone: 01793 522797

CHAPEL OF REST

The Broadway, Whitworth Road,
Swinton SN2S 3BL
Telephone: 01793 522745

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

A group from Bath Road Methodist Church who sang Carols at the Co-op to raise money for Action for Children.



Shoppers at the
Charity Market



Charity Market at Christ Church
l. to r. Caroline Pitt, Father Christmas,
The Mayor of Swindon, Councillor Garry
Perkins and the Mayoress,

DEACONS *for* DIAMONDS



Come and view our superb range of new, bespoke and second hand diamond rings.

DEACON & SON (SWINDON) LTD

Established 1848

www.deacons-jewellers.com

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