

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

PARTNERSHIP MAGAZINE

MAY 2022

80 PENCE

Official Opening of the Platinum Jubilee Memorial Garden at Christ Church




The Mayor of Swindon,
Councillor Gary Perkins
and Mrs. Perkins

Robert Buckland MP
and Simon Stevenette,
Vicar of Christ Church.

Robert Buckland with
Ian Handy the architect
behind this project.



One in Christ - Together in Mission

MESSAGERS FOR  Compassion

OUT OF THE ASHES

JAZZ R&B AND BLUES WITH GOSPEL ROOTS



Sunday 15th May 2022

Christ Church, Swindon

Doors 6pm, starts at 6.30pm

Tickets - £10 (to include beer, cider and snacks)

Purchase tickets online:

<https://ccocswindon.co.uk/page/tickets>

Or in person from: Community Centre @ Christ Church

Email: ccooperations@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Tel: 01793 617237

 www.outoftheashes.co.uk  [facebook.com/outoftheashes](https://www.facebook.com/outoftheashes)  twitter.com/outoftheashes  [youtube.com/channel/UCz1155v1e](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz1155v1e)

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WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER CHURCHES IN OLD TOWN

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Partnership Letter

The Manse
147 Drove Road

Dear sisters and brothers,

The evening before writing this I went to Bath Theatre Royal to watch a production of Michael Morpurgo's 'Private Peaceful', a play set in the First World War. The play is a reminder of the worst elements of war, where young men were plucked from their everyday lives and thrust into the most unimaginable horror. Here they were treated as little less than cannon fodder and their sufferings and deprivations were ignored or used against them.

Though this scenario presented to us in the play is over 100 years old, there is little or nothing that has changed as warfare is begun by the powerful and the wealthy to get them more wealth or more power but it is not fought by those who begin it.

Read this conversation from Erich Maria Remarque's book 'All Quiet on the Western Front' about the cause of war.

"This is said mostly by one country badly offending another," answers Albert with a slight air of superiority.

Then Tjaden pretends to be obtuse. "A country? I don't follow. A mountain in Germany cannot offend a mountain in France, or a river, or a wood, or a field of wheat."

"Are you really as stupid as that, or are you just pulling my leg?" growls Kropp, "I don't mean that at all. One people offends the other--"

"Then I haven't any business here at all," replies Tjaden, "I don't feel myself offended.".....

"True, but just you consider, almost all of us are simple folk. And in France, too, the majority of men are labourers, workmen, or poor clerks. Now just why would a French blacksmith or a French shoemaker want to attack us? No, it is merely the rulers. I had never seen a Frenchman before I came here and it will be just the same with the majority of Frenchmen as regards us. They weren't asked about it any more than we were."

"Then what exactly is the war for?" asks Tjaden.

t shrugs his shoulders. "There must be some people to whom the war is useful."

"Well, I'm not one of them," grins Tjaden.

"Not you, nor anybody else here."

"Who are they then?" persists Tjaden. "It isn't any use to the Kaiser either. He has everything he can want already."

"I'm not so sure about that," contradicts Kat, "he has not had a war up till now. And every full-grown emperor requires at least one war, otherwise he would not become famous. You look in your school books."

"And generals too," adds Detering, "they become famous through war."

"Even more famous than emperors," adds Kat.

"There are other people back behind there who profit by the war, that's certain," growls Detering."

Even after reading it, we just feel that makes less sense than we thought it might have made at the beginning. War is not inevitable, nor is it desirable although it happens with amazing frequency. War is being waged beyond Ukraine. There are wars in Syria and Yemen and other parts of the world have been raging for a very long time but we didn't even pick it up or notice it on our newsfeeds often, but what we do as a nation is sell the arms to regimes that use them on their own or other people so we make money out of it.

It always strikes me as strange that we always have the money for wars yet we don't seem to have the money to support the pension triple lock, the NHS, our education system or the needs of those who are vulnerable. Nor do we have the money to end homelessness and poverty in this country, nor the money to fund Macmillan nurses, Marie Curie Care, the British Heart Foundation, nor research to cure things like cancer, MND and MS. They all must have flag days and coffee mornings.

How I long for the day when all these things that give life are fully funded and before we go to war the politicians and the generals must come out and shake their tins for a Flag Day and bake their cakes for a coffee morning. You see thinking like that truly means to be a fool for Christ because my view of what should get me called a fool by many, yet the politicians and the generals who rush to war are not called so.

We are followers of the Prince of Peace. We must make our voice heard, we must join those myriads of voices protesting against war in all its aspects. It is not a denial of patriotism, whatever that truly means, But it is the bringing in of the Kingdom which is our home here as it is in heaven.

Every blessing,



**Confirmation Service
Sunday 8th May, 10.00 am**

Our Partnership Confirmation Service will be on Sunday 8th May, 10.00 am at Bath Road Methodist Church with the Bishop of Bristol, The Right Rev'd. Vivienne Faull, the Rev'd. Mark Barrett and the Rev'd. Robert Jordan confirming the candidates. All are welcome to come to this service..

PARTNERSHIP QUIZ NIGHT



**Saturday May 21st, 7pm
at
Bath Road Methodist Church**



£5 including a drink and cake
(please book in advance)

Teams of up to 6 people or join a team on the night

Tickets from:

| | | |
|----------------|--------|---------------|
| Lindsey Miller | 535855 | Immanuel |
| Mike Palmer | 635112 | Christ Church |
| George Kennedy | 772589 | Bath Road |

FAMILY EVENTS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church

CHRIST CHURCH

- Mar 27 Lily Mason, Ava Elizabeth Mason, Milla-Rose Jean Woodward.
Apr 17 Tobias Cheshire-Brown, Dean McCulloch, Keelen McCulloch, Kiara McCulloch and Amelia McCulloch who renewed her baptismal promise. Aisha Murfin, Behbood Mozaffari, Duski Nabi, Zanyar Salehi.

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones

CHRIST CHURCH

- Mar 12 David Arnold Truman, 86 years
Mar 20 Michael John Smith-Bishop, 74 years
Mar 21 Rosemary Gladys Olive Thorn, 76 years
Mar 27 Leslie Charles Baxter, 89 years
Apr 2 John Robert Barrat, 89 years
Apr 6 Joan Griffiths, 77 years
Apr 9 David Christopher Warren, 95 years

IMMANUEL

- Mar 14 Valerie (Val) Ann Carter, aged 77 years

FLOODLIGHTING

- May 4 In loving memory of David Rebbeck on his birthday, love from Pat, Jon, Jen and families.

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**. Please visit www.christchurchswindon.co.uk/flood to book and pay. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to 'Christ Church PCC' and post it to: Parish Office, Community Centre at Christ Church, Cricklade Street, Swindon SN1 3HB. Requests should be made 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, at no cost to you, by providing your name, the first line of your address and your post code. Thank you for supporting Christ Church and its work in the community.

Immanuel

**Services at Immanuel
10.30 am every Sunday**

Geoff Gleed's Jottings

Here are just a few things that I thought I might share with you:

Old Immanuel Member

The Reverend Dr. Paul Pells was an old friend who sadly died very recently aged 72. He grew up in Immanuel and was sent from our church to train for the ministry. A number of us from Immanuel attended his Ordination in Liverpool. Paul served the majority of his ministry in the Toxteth area of Liverpool. He was also the Director of Ministerial Training for the Mersey Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Here's a Thought

Over 25% of American churchgoers have not returned to worship since the start of the Covid pandemic. There are no statistics available for UK churches but I suspect the figure is about the same.

We need to focus

Bishop Mike Royal, General Secretary of the Ecumenical Body of Churches Together in England, comments in the April issue of REFORM (the national issue of the United Reformed Church):

"My hope in the coming years is for The Church to focus on the things that are RELEVANT to people today. I was taught to read with my Bible in one hand and the Newspaper in my other".

Kindness and Caring

I read recently that the 'Big Issue' magazine is focusing on a Celebration of 100 people who have given people HOPE in 2021. And amongst those people is a certain Lou Macari (remember him?). He has dedicated his life to helping people who live in poverty and has set up 'single living Pods' for homeless people to stay in and live in safety in Stoke-on-Trent, where he now lives.

And Finally, a couple of quotes as food for thought:

'Love looks through a telescope - Envy looks through a microscope.'

'Faith helps us to face the music even when we don't like the tune.'

Christianity on the brink as majority religion

According to a first-look of the Census, the proportion of Christians in England and Wales is almost below half of the population for the first time, census figures reveal.

There has been a large increase of people who have no religious faith with 51% of the English and Welsh population holding Christian faith. The 2011 census recorded 59.3% were Christians, but by 2019 this fell to just over half, according to the Office on National Statistics (ONS).

Fewer than half of men, at just 47.4%, say they are Christians, with 54.9% of women confirming Christianity in the census. In Wales, as many people say they have no religion as are Christian.

Releasing the results ahead of 2021 Census population data, the ONS said: “in 2019, an estimated 51% of the population reported their religion as Christian, making it the most prevalent religious group in England and Wales. “However, numbers identifying as Christian has fallen by 8.3 percentage points since the 2011 Census (when 59.3% identified as Christian.)



Source: Countryway, Issue 89
Arthurrankcentre.org.uk/country-way

Accepted and Desired

We think we are thriving in tough circumstances. However, Isaiah points out that Jesus sprang up like a root out of a dry ground. That's tough circumstances! But somehow depression has arrived, as well as a virus and Christmas. But this is no modern day problem. Job got so depressed he cursed the day he was born. And when Jezebel threatened Elijah he went through the H.A.L.T. syndrome. He was Hungry - He was Angry – He was Lonely – and he was – Tired. But God had a prescription. He changed his diet, told him to rest, let him know he was not alone and sent an angel to minister to him.

These are still the steps out of depression. In order to survive among those who despised, rejected and finally crucified Him, He spent much time in prayer and came back from those visits with His Father, encouraged and empowered.

Daniel tells us that our enemy will speak against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One. But there is an antidote – 'They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Tough times produce strong character that brings God's blessing.

Barbara Furguson, Immanuel.



Due to Covid, please check nearer the time that these events are taking place.

Wednesday 4th May, 1.05 pm at the Wyvern Theatre

Paul Sheehan *baritone*, Paul Turner *piano*

Beethoven 'An Die Ferne Geliebte' Schumann 'Dichterliebe'

Saturday 7th May, 7.30 pm at the Arts Centre, Devizes Road

Owen Trio: Martin Owen *horn*, Miranda Dale *violin*, Paul Turner *piano*

Beethoven 'Les Adieu' piano sonata Op.81a, Ligetti horn trio
(Hommage à Brahms) Brahms horn trio in Eb Op. 40

Bath Road

Services at Bath Road in May (all at 10am):

| | |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 1st | Adrian German |
| 8th | Partnership Confirmation Service |
| 15th | Service taken by the Worship Leaders |
| 22nd | Rev'd. Mark Barrett |
| 29th | Chrissy Whittington |

Bath Road Community Craft Sale Saturday 14th May 9.00 am to 11.00 am

I am organising a craft sale that will be run along side our Community Breakfast Morning in May. We have a lot of talented craft people in our church and thought it might be a nice idea to show off our talents and invite the community in to see what we are about.

So Saturday 14th May 0900 - 1100 set up from 0800..(or night before if needed)

No charge for tables, just a donation would be great to go towards church funds.

I will be emailing Cubs, Brownies, Sunbeams and any other users of our church to see if they are interested, If any house group or individual would like to have a table, please email me (sharonvatcher@aol.com) and I will reserve you a place.

I am hoping that if we find this is a success we can open it up to outside Bath Road in the future and hold one of these once a quarter.

Any questions please let me know

Sharon Vatcher

Bath Road Church Community Breakfast 9.00 am to 11.00 am Saturday 14th May

£1.00 for a bacon roll with tea or coffee
All are welcome





We are taking in a family from the Ukraine. There are 17 of them, a grandmother, an aunt, a mother and father and 13 children. The ages of the children range from 19 years old down to 3 years old. They were originally from Donetsk and fled from there back in 2015. The father is a builder and built them a house just outside Kyiv. They've now had

to leave that behind. They came to the UK because of a sister living in Royal Wootton Bassett. They all had to leave in what they stood up in and brought just 1 rucksack with them.

Our main concern at the moment is to shelter, feed and clothe them. We have the shelter but it will cost quite a lot to feed and clothe them. We are therefore wondering if anybody might like to donate money we can put into a food and necessities fund for them to use on things they like and need. We are respectfully asking people not to donate actual food as we want to give them choices about what they eat rather than relying on what others choose. They arrive with us next weekend. Any help you are able to give us will be gratefully received.

Barbara and Steve Aftelak

Email: barbaraaftelak@gmail.com

Ukraine

Angela and I have registered for the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme to offer space to refugees. It is crucial that guests arriving here, and their hosts, have a community to support them and that they are not left to try and cope alone. We would be grateful if you could let us know:

1. If you, or anyone you know, has registered for the scheme, as it would be very helpful to us to make contact with them.
2. If you are prepared to help us care for any refugees who we may be 'matched' with. Precisely what support may be needed is hard to say at this stage, but it would be good to have a group of people who we know we can call on for support when necessary.

Thank you.

Deacon Stephen Roe (stephen.roe@methodist.org.uk)

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

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 2.30pm to 3.30 pm in the Crossland Room at Bath Road Methodist Church.

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

| | | |
|------|------|---|
| May | 5th | Lunch |
| May | 19th | Art - Pam and Margaret |
| June | 2nd | No meeting -Bank Holiday |
| June | 16th | Memories of the Queen's Coronation. Bring your photos, mementos etc. |
| July | 7th | Chatting |
| July | 21st | Lydiard Park |

A Helping Hand for The Harbour Project

On 7th April MOPS invited Kate Linnegar and her colleague Jaz to speak to the group. The Harbour Project supports refugees and asylum seekers (referred to as Visitors) in Swindon with a range of services, including help and advice, translation, social groups, hair cutting, clothing, toiletries and food. Obviously not all of these were possible during the last couple of years. Many services had to move online and parcels were either collected or delivered to doorsteps. Support for lonely and vulnerable people who have escaped danger and trauma by travelling across the globe was also a priority.

We learnt that most of the Visitors are young men in their teens and twenties from countries such as Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and, more recently, Ukraine. They are keen to wear jeans, trainers, hoodies and T-shirts, so these are the clothing items most needed as donations. The other items that would be very welcome are smart phones, tablets and laptops that the Visitors can use to communicate with their relatives as well as the Home Office.

The Harbour Project is the only charity in Swindon carrying out this work, and works closely with Swindon Borough Council. It relies on volunteers, donations and grants to carry on.

www.harbourproject.com.uk

Tel 01793-611682

Suitcases

We are looking for three suitcases we can use to store some of our nativity costumes and our costumes for adults. If anyone has one going spare, so long as the lid shuts, that's good enough for us - please could they get in touch with me. Thank you, *Stephen Sparkes*

Take a walk on the wild side!

How neat do we like our gardens to be? Full of manicured lawns, with immaculate flower beds? Well, yes and no. A recent survey by BBC's Gardener's World magazine has found that more than half (54 per cent) of gardeners now include 'uncultivated areas' in their garden. And some 44 per cent of gardeners have also set up a wildflower area.

Certainly, Nature could use a helping hand just now. In 2019 32 per cent of us saw a butterfly in our garden. By 2020 that was down to 21 percent. By 2021, that was down again to just 16 per cent.

Simple tips to rewild your garden:

Avoid chemical pesticides and herbicides, which also kill 'good bugs', butterflies and bees.

Tolerate as much mess as you can. Leave wood and leaf piles for hedgehogs and invertebrates.

Set aside some room where grass can grow longer and Wildflowers can bloom..

Don't pull up all your weeds – they can be a critical source of pollen for bees. ■

Christ Church with St. Mary's



THE WELSH CONNECTION

Ten years ago when the Euro 2012 Football Championship was being played, England's first match was in Donetsk, Ukraine and I wrote an article for this magazine about the Welsh connection between Wales and Ukraine and because Ukraine is so much in the news at the moment, I

thought it appropriate to write again about this personal connection.

In the late 1870s John Hughes, a steel maker from Merthyr Tydfil in South Wales, answered an advertisement for someone to explore the idea of setting up a steel works in Ukraine. John Hughes visited there, saw the potential and decided to go there with some key workers with the necessary expertise and experience from South Wales and start some steel works. Of course he would need coal to fire the furnaces in the steel works so he would need coal miners to open up coal mines. Eight shipments of equipment went from this country to Ukraine and so steel works and coal mines were opened..

Around the sites of these industries grew up a township of people, many of whom came from South Wales. Life was harsh in those early days, with extremely cold winters and unbearably hot summers but the industry did well. John Hughes was a very paternalistic employer who provided many amenities for his workers including a 12-bed hospital, schools for the children, an Anglican Church dedicated to the two patron saints of England and Wales, St George and St David and an orthodox church for the local people to worship in the way to which they were accustomed. John Hughes was much respected, so much so, that they named the town which had grown up around the steel works Hughesovka.

In 1878 a man by the name of William Lethbridge left Swansea to be the manager of the steel works in Ukraine with his wife and two daughters; he was my great-grandfather. Tales handed down through the family tell of their life there in those days and of the journeys they made back home to Wales for holidays. Unfortunately William Lethbridge's wife died while on a return visit to Swansea and not long after that William himself died in Hughesovka leaving their two daughters who then returned to Swansea to be looked after by an aunt. One of these girls married my grandfather and she was the grandmother whom I

knew. She told us of the journeys they made, how they would stop at various places to buy souvenirs and their life and leisure activities in Hughesovka. Many of the leisure pursuits they took with them from Wales such as Musical evenings and concerts. They even formed a football team and John Hughes has been credited with introducing the game of football to the country!

By the time of the Russian revolution at the beginning of the last century most of the Welsh people had returned home to Wales. In 1924 the name of the town was changed to Stalino only to be changed again in 1961 to Donetsk which has grown into one of the largest metallurgical centres in the whole of that country.

Many people know about the Welsh who emigrated to Patagonia many years ago but few know about these Welsh people who went to the Ukrainian Steppes and made a great impact on that country. We Welsh get everywhere!



Photo of Ukrainian flag outside Christ Church taken by Hugo Stevenette.



**Tea & Chat at the Goddard Arms Hotel
Tuesday 3rd May, 2.30 pm**

Everyone is welcome to this monthly event and we look forward to seeing you. If you would like to know more, please phone Margaret Williams, 421102.

Platinum Jubilee Celebration

On Sunday June 5th, we will have a celebration Bring and Share Tea from 4 pm in the Community Centre, hopefully with some live music and community singing.

At 6.30 pm we will have a Civic Jubilee Service with Geoff Gleed coordinating the Partnership Choir. I am delighted that Margaret Williams MBE has accepted my invitation to preach. Please share the word around and pass on any suggestions, *Simon Stevenette*

IT'S THE 9TH OLD TOWN

BEER FESTIVAL

Tickets £15
Available from
Community Centre
@
Christ Church

Tickets also
available on
Eventbrite
(Booking Fees Apply)

Friday 13th May 6-11pm
Saturday 14th May 12noon-10pm
Christ Church, Old Town,
Swindon, SN1 3HB

 @OldTownBeerFestival  OldTownBeerFestival.com

“OUT OF THE ASHES”

I am delighted that we have ‘Out of the Ashes’ performing at Christ Church on Sunday 15th May. Doors 6pm, concert begins at 6.30pm. Tickets are only £10 which includes beer, cider, soft drinks and snacks.

“Out of the Ashes” is the creation of a pioneering husband and wife team from Gloucestershire – Penny Lyon and Kevin Washburn. They will be performing with at least a 6 piece band accompanying them. They perform Jazz, R&B and Blues with Gospel Roots for a time of music and ministry. Using music as part of their mission to stand for joy, healing and worth in the church, God has put it on their hearts to energise weary Christians and ailing congregations with a message of love, hope and renewed possibilities. “Out of the Ashes” comments on incisive topics that cut to the heart of the daily experience that most Christians face – bringing hope and energy that God has a plan for us all.

Tickets can also be bought online: <https://ccccswindon.co.uk/page/tickets> or in person from the Community Centre @ Christ Church.

Chris Smith, Community Centre Manager

See poster on inside front cover



Christian Aid Week
15th-21st May
Volunteers required please

This year volunteers are being asked to deliver envelopes only. Recipients will be asked to send their donations by post or donate online therefore volunteers do not need to collect the envelopes. Please do support Christian Aid with the delivery if you are able. Contact the Parish office for further information.

South Swindon Green Trail

Last week I joined many people from our South Swindon Parish to walk the newly constructed Green Trail. It was so encouraging meeting so many people and chatting as we walked this beautiful trail...do check it out. It is a circular trail through South Swindon's green areas and transport history. Here is the link for the map of the Green Trail:

<https://southswindon-pc.gov.uk/south-swindon-green-trail/>

Created in 2022 by South Swindon Parish Council for recreation and conservation, the South Swindon Green Trail roughly follows the boundary of the Parish. The approximately 8 mile / 13 km circular Green Trail goes via Shaftesbury Lake, Coate Water, Croft Wood, East Wichel, Rushey Platt, Cambria Bridge, the Town Centre, Fleming Way, Magic Roundabout and Marlowe Avenue. It explores historical transport links, local history and the natural world of South Swindon and has been designed to be enjoyed as a complete circuit or in sections with alternative routes suggested from each. Information boards are provided at Cambria Bridge Road and Shaftesbury Lake.

You can download and print out a map with abridged notes for each section or read the full guide to each section by clicking the link above.

There are six sections relating to the development of Swindon: Canal Reservoir, Motorway, Railway, Canal, Magic Roundabout and Post-World War Two. You can start and finish your walk at any point: this online guide follows the Green Trail clockwise.

Simon Stevenette

'Thy Kingdom Come', Prayer initiative between Ascension and Pentecost:

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. Christians from 172 countries have taken part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This praying together has been across our diversity and differences as every person, household and church are encouraged to pray in their own way. According to our annual survey findings an astonishing percentage of people said they were praying for family and friends to come to faith in Jesus and a significant number of people join in for the first time. We recognise there is much more we can do together to help "Thy Kingdom Come" be fully in the lifeblood of the Church.

During the 11 days of 'Thy Kingdom Come', it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus.
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness.

After the very first Ascension Day, the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries, Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. Over the years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit'.

We are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks. It has been amazing how many varied ways there have been in which people from every tradition have taken up this challenge. The effects have been remarkable.

It is our prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him. Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, we invite you to take part – along with churches from over 80 different denominations and traditions in nearly 90% of countries (172) around the world "In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." *Archbishop Justin Welby*

There will be opportunities to join in this initiative in Swindon. Please contact Simon or the Parish Office for further details.

The Refugee

All that I was, I no longer am
All that I have, I hold in my hand
My home, my love, my world are all
gone
One among thousands, I shuffle
along.

Only last week I knew who I was
All that has gone, and only because
Someone in a land a long way away
Turned life into hell one terrible day.

He started a war, his heart icy cold
He rained down his hell on the young
and the old
I ran for my life for I had no choice
And nobody heard the fear in my
voice.

Everything's gone, and all that is 'me'
Summed up in a word – the word
'refugee'.

I have no control, no say in my fate
Just one in a crowd, I stand and I
wait.

Waiting for what? The future's
unclear,
For armed men have taken all that I
held dear
Along with my hopes, and all I had
planned
All swept away by the tanks in my
land.

One thing alone puts a smile on my
face
A far nicer stranger has come to this
place;
A bed for the night? A cup of hot tea?
And - best of all - someone who sees
me as me.

Nigel Beeton

May Diary

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--|
| 01 Sun | 8.00 am | Christ Church, 1662 Holy Communion |
| | 9.00 am | St. Mary's, Holy Communion/Morning Prayer |
| | 10.00 am | Christ Church, All Age service |
| | 6.30 pm | Christ Church, Holy Communion |
| 03 Tues | 2.30 pm | Tea & Chat at the Goddard Arms |
| 04 Wed | 10.30 am | Christ Church, Christ in Quiet, often with Communion |
| 05 Thurs | 1.00 pm | to 2.00 pm Organ Recital by Nicoleta Ivascu at Christ Church with retiring collection in aid of Christ Church. |
| 07 Sat | 7.30 am | Christ Church Men's Fellowship, Morning Prayer followed by breakfast in the Community Centre. |
| 08 Sun | 8.00 am | Christ Church, Holy Communion |
| 9.00 am | 9.00 am | St. Mary's, Holy Communion |
| | 10.00 am | Partnership Confirmation Service at Bath Road Church |
| 10 Tues | 2.00 pm | Thanksgiving Service in Christ Church for Marion Gibbs |
| 11 Wed | 10.30 am | Christ Church, Christ in Quiet, often with Communion |
| | 6.30 pm | Healing Prayer Group |
| 13 Fri | 6.00 pm | to 11.00 pm Christ Church Beer Festival |
| 14 Sat | 12 noon | to 10.00 pm Christ Church Beer Festival |
| 15 Sun | 8.00 am | Christ Church, Holy Communion |
| | 9.00 am | St. Mary's, Holy Communion |
| | 10.00 am | Christ Church, Informal Holy Communion |
| | 6.30 pm | Christ Church 'Out of the Ashes' Jazz, R & B Blues with Gospel Roots. |
| 18 Wed | 10.30 am | Christ Church, Christ in Quiet, often with Communion |
| 22 Sun | 8.00 am | Christ Church, Common Worship Holy Communion |
| | 9.00 am | St. Mary's, Informal Holy Communion |
| | 10.00 am | Christ Church Family Holy Communion |
| | 6.30 pm | Christ Church, Choral Evensong |
| 25 Wed | 10.30 am | Christ Church, Christ in Quiet, often with Communion |
| 29 Sun | 8.00 am | Christ Church, Holy Communion |
| | 9.00 am | St. Mary's, Holy Communion |
| | 10.00 am | Christ Church, Family Holy Communion |



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