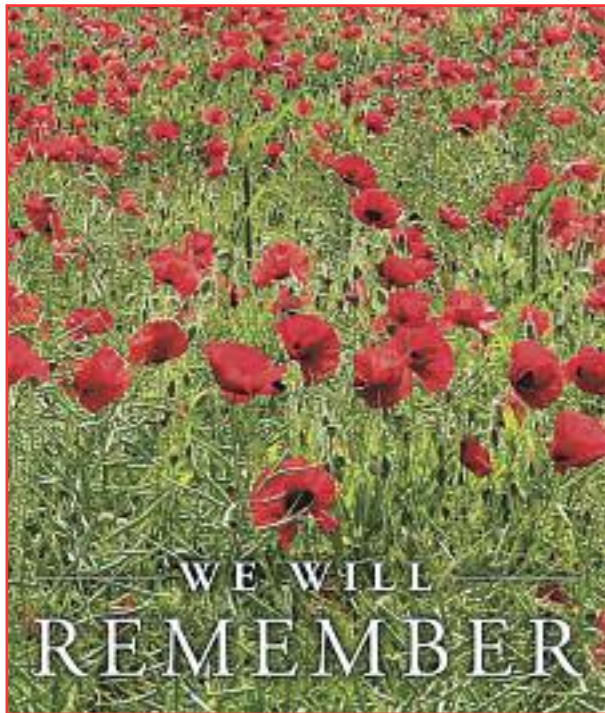


Swindon Old Town Partnership of Churches
Anglican - United Reformed - Methodist - Est. 1969

PARTNERSHIP MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2022

80 PENCE



Remembrance Sunday
13th November

One in Christ - Together in Mission



CHARITY
Christmas
Market

Saturday
19th November 2022
11:00am - 2:30pm

- To be opened by
The Mayor of Swindon
at 11:00am

- Many Charity Stalls

- Refreshments

- Christ Church
Choir will sing in the
Community Centre at
1:30pm and in
Church at 2:00pm

- Christ Church
Handbell Ringers
will perform in the
Community Centre
at 12 noon and in
Church at 12:45pm

CHRIST CHURCH, OLD TOWN

Participating charities retain all proceeds



Your Contacts

BATH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: The Revd. Rach Collins, 147 Drove Road, SN1 3AQ
Tel: 529263 e-mail: rach.collins@methodist.org.uk

Web site: www.bathroadmethodistchurch.org.uk

Newsletter: fortnightly: allison_davies_1@yahoo.co.uk

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

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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. Mon & Fri 9am-1pm
Tel. 522832. e-mail: parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk.

PARISH CLERK: To book an appointment, please phone 07746 415477,
Thursday evening 5.30-8.00pm, Saturday 9.30am-1.00pm or
email: parishclerk@christchurchswindon.co.uk

COMMUNITY CENTRE: Manager: Chris Smith, T.617237 or 07582 305760
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IMMANUEL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, Upham Road

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WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER CHURCHES IN OLD TOWN

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Partnership Letter

Christ Church Vicarage

Dear Friends,

Exploring Gratitude

Many congratulations to all the churches from across our Partnership for making such excellent progress with the A Rocha Eco Awards over the last couple of years. Soon it is hoped we will all have reached Silver level. To reach the Gold award, each of our churches will need to show that they are working with the wider local community and also with partners across the world. Being part of a flourishing Partnership of Churches is surely a great foundation for this. We take Jesus' prayer in John, Chapter 17 as our foundation, especially Jesus' passion that we might be one so that the world might believe. Jesus' ecumenical passion is for the whole created order of which his church, the bride of Christ, is meant to be an example of what can truly happen when people come together, discovering their inherent unity within their diversity.

We have learnt much during our 6 week preaching series at Christ Church with St Mary's about the importance of Gratitude. Gratitude is more than thankfulness, it is not an action, it is a way of being. We can be thankful in the moment, but can express it from a place of shallowness. Gratitude speaks of an inherent appreciation, grounded in a quiet self-confidence and a deep respect for nature and our place in the world.

One of the discoveries from our recent Bristol Diocesan conference, 'Creation Restored: Ministering in a time of climate crisis', was a fresh take on Jesus' family prayer which I would encourage you to use during November in order that we might grow in gratitude personally and together.

The New Zealand Anglican Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.
Amen.

From The New Zealand Book of Prayer, 'He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa'

During November we have the opportunity of facing up to our own mortality at the All Souls service on Sunday 6th November 4.00 pm at Christ Church and at Remembrance Sunday on 13th November.

Poetry is a wonderful gift, giving us a fresh perspective. The Gratitude series was inspired by Mary Oliver's poem, 'The Summer Day'.

Who made the world?
Who made the swan and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

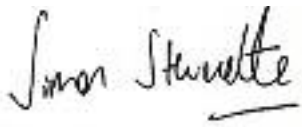
During November, as we grow in deep gratitude for all that God has done, and is doing in us personally and as Christian communities through his son Jesus Christ in the power of his Spirit, may God guide us in giving a clearer answer to the question at the end of the poem: 'Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life? '.

As we do this, we are getting to the heart of Jesus' incredible invitation for us and the whole created order which he loves so much: 'I have come that you may have life, life in all its fullness'.

In the challenges we are all facing with the energy crisis, with the tsunami of loneliness and anxiety following the pandemic, may we know and experience Jesus' abundant life which he desires each of us to know and experience. One way we can do this is to cultivate an attitude of Gratitude!

Please be assured of my friendship and prayers to this end.

Thank you for all your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Sturtevant". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Please note that the next issue of the magazine will be a double one covering December and January.

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.

FAMILY EVENTS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church

CHRIST CHURCH

Oct 02 Aidin Amiri
Amir Reza Ghasemian

IMMANUEL

Aug 14 Amelie Marie Elizabeth Cobden

MARRIAGE

We wish joy and happiness to

CHRIST CHURCH

Sep 30 Floyd Witts Chamberlain and Kirsty James Barrett

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones

CHRIST CHURCH

Oct 9 Betty Joan Hunt, 94 years
Oct 9 Nicholas Hugh Letchet, 65 years
Oct 13 Pauline Wilton, 90 years
Oct 13 Barbara Constantine, 88years
Oct 15 Peter Leonard Moss, 68 years

FLOODLIGHTING

Sep 28 In loving memory of a treasured husband, dad and grampy who would have been 60 on the 28th September. Forever in our hearts. Love, Theresa, Nicholas, Jessica, Francesca, Ellie, Adam and grandchildren Joey, Louie and Isabella.xx

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



Partnership Evening Services at Christ Church

We are very grateful for the support of our Partnership colleagues, The Rev'd. Rachel Collins and The Rev'd. Robert Jordan, also John Cheek from the Lawn Community Church, for this 3-month pilot series. It will be very good to get to know them better. Please pray for their ministry and contributions. There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and learn from their Christian experience.

This series has been inspired by the Fellowship of Faith for all those who want to grow as followers of Jesus which meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm in Christ Church.

Sunday November 6th, 4.00 pm

All Souls Remembrance Service. All are welcome. If you would like a loved ones name read out, please contact the Parish Office, Tel. 522832, email: parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk by Friday 28th October.

Sunday November 13th, 6.30 pm: Informal Worship.

Sunday November 13th, 6.30 pm: Informal Worship.

Sunday November 20th, 6.30 pm: Choral Evensong

led by The Rev'd. Canon Simon Stevenette

We welcome The Rev'd. Robert Jordan who will be preaching.

**Sunday November 27th, Advent Sunday
Partnership Carol Service, 5.00 pm
at Immanuel United Reformed Church**



I was elected chair of the Old Town Partnership of Churches at the November 2018 AGM, taking over from Godfrey Room (Bath Road) and now, after four years, I am pleased that Anne Farrow (Immanuel) will take over from this year's AGM on 19th October.

During my time, we had the 50th anniversary of the OTPC in 2019 and, last month, the end of the 70 year reign of Queen Elizabeth II. These milestones remind me of the mystery of time. The first poem of T S Eliot's Four Quartets, Burnt Norton (published in 1936) begins:


Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present in time future,
And time future contained in time past.
If all time is eternally present
All time is unredeemable.

My hope is that the radicalism and imagination of the original initiative (in setting up the Local Ecumenical Project as it was first called) will remain present in time future. Looking over recent time past, salient events have included:

- The 50th Anniversary celebrations throughout 2019.
- Despite lockdown, the fund raising initiative for the Desai Memorial School in Nairobi, Kenya, raised over £8,200 by the end of 2021, and through leverage by Rotary organisations, increased to an astonishing final figure of £39,000.
- The Partnership joint Confirmation service at Bath Road on 8th May 2022 stands for what the Partnership is.
- The recent re-establishment of Messy Church.
- Without a break, the continuing publication of the Partnership Magazine has been a significant achievement. This is our journal of record. Sincere thanks are due to Diana Swann and Margaret Williams for their tireless diligence and care in ensuring its accuracy and interest.

My thanks are also due to Revd Simon Stevenette, Revd Robert Jordan, and Revd Mark Barrett, for their energy and commitment to the Partnership, and for their advice and encouragement. I thank Barbara Aftelak, whose work as secretary for many years has been much valued. ►

Finally, I pray that the eternal power of the Holy Spirit, which transcends time, will be with Anne Farrow and the new team, including the Rev'd. Rach Collins, our new minister at Bath Road, and Andrew Enow as the new OTPC secretary.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Pitt". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Our thanks go to Daniel for his support of the Partnership over the past four years when he has been our chairman. He has guided us through our meetings and has enthusiastically supported all the ideas and projects we have attempted in spite of the fact that his chairmanship saw us through a time like no other because of the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown. The chairmanship of the Partnership rotates between the three denominations so now it is the turn of Immanuel to provide that person, so Ann Farrow will take over this role and we are confident that she will be an excellent chairperson.

The Open Door, Swindon.

Have you heard about the Open Door at Swindon? This is an organisation which exists for a very select number of our community, adults with learning disabilities. It is based at St Barnabas Church at Gorse Hill and provides a place where all those who attend can engage in activities and meet one another in a safe environment. They have a choir started by Sheila Harrod and they appeared on Points West television some time ago because, like a number of voluntary organisations, Open Door needs funds and needs those funds desperately if they are to keep going. One of the ways you can support them is to patronise their cake stall which they hold every Thursday and Saturday at Swindon Market in the town. You can find other ways to help them on their Facebook page.

Bath Road

All services start at 10am.

November 6th Holy Communion, The Rev'd. Rach Collins,
13th Remembrance Sunday, The Rev'd. David Gray
20th Pulpit Exchange, The Rev'd. Simon Sevenette
27th Morning Service taken by the Worship Leaders

Open House - Mondays 10.30 am to 12 noon

Open House is now back and has been running successfully for a few weeks. It is on Mondays 10:30am to 12 noon. Please feel free to come along. We are also looking for volunteers to help run it. All you need to be able to do is make tea and coffee and cut up a cake or two. If you are able to help, please let me know. Thanks Keir. 07749726446.

Bath Road Church Community Breakfast

9.00 am to 11.00 am

Saturday 12th November

£1.00 for a bacon roll with tea or coffee

All are welcome



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 hour listening to a speaker or doing an activity.

November 3rd Oberammergau - Martin, Keir and Gary
November 17th Christmas Card making - Janet Hunt
December 1st Chatting/Life stories - Janet Hunt
December 15th Mince Pies and merriment - Brenda Hewitt

ORGANISERS; Brenda Hewitt, Tel. 683926 and Janet Hunt, Tel. 521934

Visit to Kathryn and Adrian Read

Margaret Jones and I had a glorious drive in the Autumn sunshine to see Kathryn and Adrian Read. As always they made us very very welcome and Kathryn had made us a beautiful strawberry jam Victoria sponge, mouthwatering! Both were bearing up well.

We chatted away for over 2 hours and then burst out with laughter as we oldies struggled to remember names (I know it is an old age thing for which I have a gold star). We had given up remembering one name and then Kathryn quietly uttered the magic name of a much loved past preacher and Epworth Court resident, Enid Osborne. More laughter.

Adrian had composed a great professional looking album of their 3 weeks' cruise to Norway last Spring, including the Northern lights in all their glory. God's creation at its best.

Sarah and Thomas are doing well. Sarah is doctoring and now studying for a teaching diploma. Thomas has moved up in his IT career and is about to pick up his parents old car as Adrian and Kathryn now have a new all electric Kia car of which, believe it or not, Kathryn had found 5 just down the road. Adrian had been waiting for a VW since last November and had just been told they will start building it next April! Again one up to Kathryn. Our thoughts and prayers go with them.

We had a beautiful drive home along the old Pershore Road. They both again said how much they appreciated visits.

God bless, *Eric Sparkes*

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH Sunday 20th November @ 12.30pm.

A roast meal and dessert will be served and any dietary requirements will be catered for.

If you would like to join in the lunch, please sign up on the sheet downstairs by the kitchen hatch by Sunday 13th November.

Liz King - 07843 723484



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 26th November
10.00am to 1.00pm

at

BATH ROAD
METHODIST CHURCH

Craft stalls • Bric-a-brac • Jigsaws • Books
DVDs • Children's Games • Cake Stall
Food and lots more...

FREE ENTRY

Something for Everyone!



Join us for our next

**OLD TOWN COMMUNITY
CRAFT FAYRE'S**

AT

**BATH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH
SWINDON**

Saturday 10th September & Saturday 12th November
From 9:00 - 12:00
Set up from 8:30

Tables are free - A donation will be gratefully accepted
Contact Sharon to book your table :
07791 557352 / sharonvatcher@aol.com

Made with PosterMyWish.com

Christ Church with St. Mary's

From the Stevenette family...

Thank you for all your continuing support, encouragement, kindness and prayers as, on 6th October, we entered the 25th year of our ministry across the Old Town Partnership since I became Vicar of Christ Church with St. Mary's on 6th October 1998. We look forward to celebrating all that God has done through us all as partners together in the Gospel in a year's time. To this end, using the language of weddings, with which we have become very familiar in recent months, please 'save the date'! Friday 6th October 2023, 7.30pm Celebration Service and party in Christ Church and the Community Centre. All are welcome.

With our love and prayers, *Simon and Nicola*

Fellowship of Faith

It has been very exciting to see the growth of Fellowship of Faith at Christ Church over the last three months. This has been organised by James and Alex Spratt, Simon Giles and Ali Stanton who have been baptised and confirmed at Christ Church over the last year. It is open to anyone who wants to grow in the Christian faith and meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, 7.00pm - 8.30pm in Christ Church. The next meetings are on 2nd and 16th November.

Advent Sunday - 27th November

The Rev'd. Simon Taylor, the Director of Ministerial training in the Bristol Diocese, will be the preacher at our 10.00 am Holy Communion Service. For those unable to be present, you will be able to access Simon's sermon on the Christ Church You Tube afterwards.

Looking ahead...

We are very pleased to announce that Simon Taylor has also accepted our invitation to lead our 3 hours at the Cross at Christ Church on Good Friday 7th April 2023 at 12 noon. Simon is a very creative and gifted communicator with a huge amount of spiritual wisdom to share with us.

Prayer Board at Christ Church

Did you know that there is a Prayer Board at the back of Christ Church? There are papers and pens available for anyone to write a prayer request and pin it on the board; you may do this anonymously or you may add your name. Then once a month these prayers are taken down and gathered and each request is prayed for when we meet as a healing prayer group. People often come into church to spend a few quiet moments with God and they frequently write a prayer for the prayer board. We sometimes have a prayer written in a language with which none of us is familiar, so then we just hold up the person who has written it in our prayers as God knows what they have written even if we do not know!

Margaret Williams

Richard Jefferies statue in the Town Gardens



Caroline Pitt took a walk in the Town Gardens and has sent us this photo of the sculpture of Swindon icon Richard Jefferies which can be found near the steps at the back of the Rose Garden. It was created by Darren Scott from a tree that had been condemned due to rot. The piece shows the author with a bird perched on his outstretched fingertips, and a squirrel is at his feet while another peeps from the stump of the tree.

The wording underneath the statue says:

This beautiful tree sculpture by local artist Darren Scott, was commissioned by South Swindon Parish Council. It represents Swindon nature writer, Richard Jefferies, whose passion for the natural world has led him to be described as “the

first and truest nature conservationist.”

Born on a small farm at Coate, Jefferies wrote countless words about the world around him and our relationship with it all. The farm is now a museum dedicated to him and to everything he loved. www.richardjefferies.org

“Earth is always beautiful - always. We are always trying to find the statue in the rude lock. Out of the vast lock of the earth the mind endeavours to carve From “Field and Hedgerow”.

New defibrillator installed



I. to r. Margaret Williams, a member of Christ Church congregation, Chris Smith, Community Centre Manager and Chris Watts, South Swindon Parish Councillor.

Thanks to South Swindon Parish Council and an anonymous donor, Christ Church has received funding of just over £2000 to install a publicly accessible defibrillator on the entrance wall to the Community Centre @ Christ Church.

This is a vitally important piece of kit for anyone who suffers a cardiac arrest as it can be used to send a shock through the heart which increases the chance of it being restarted.

A sudden cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival increases significantly from around 5% to 75% if they receive good CPR combined with therapy delivered by a Heart Defibrillator within the first 3 minutes after a cardiac arrest.

For every minute that passes without defibrillation a sudden cardiac arrest victim's chances of survival decrease by between 10% & 12%. A simple calculation shows that the victim's likely maximum chance of survival in reality is between 8 and 10 minutes after the cardiac arrest occurring. With the current Ambulance target response time of 8 minutes, time is of the absolute essence and acting quickly with appropriate therapy, essential.

If someone were to have a cardiac arrest on our site, the only possible chance of survival for them is to receive a shock to the heart by use of our new defibrillator. ➤

Having a defibrillator on site is a necessity for a site the size of Christ Church with more than 1000 visitors coming through the Church, Community Centre and Burial Ground each week. Whilst you associate heart attacks with older people, regrettably 12 children under the age of 18 and many more young adults, die in the UK each week from Cardiac Arrest.

The South Swindon Parish Council donated £1000 through their local community grants scheme. Chris Watts, Chair of South Swindon Parish Council said 'We are delighted to be able to support Christ Church to purchase a defibrillator and we would like to encourage other local Community Centres to follow suit. This is a life saving device and you can't put a price on someone's life'.

Chris Smith, the Manager of Christ Church Community Centre, said, 'This is something we have been thinking about for quite a long time now and, following a recent First Aid course, it reminded me how important these devices are. Prior to having this device, the chance of survival for someone having a cardiac arrest was virtually 0%. We have a lot of older people through our site each week and I can't quite believe how we have never had one until now. I'm so grateful for the funding support that we have received to potentially save someone's life'.

The defibrillator can be used by anyone in the community and is accessible in an emergency by calling 999 for the code to the locked yellow storage box. Whilst training isn't necessary as you will be talked through how to use it by the emergency services, it is highly recommended that people take a basic First Aid course where using a defibrillator is explained and demonstrated.

Chris Smith
Community Centre @ Christ Church
Development Manager

Tel: 01793 617237 Mob: 07582 305760

Email: chris@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Web: www.ccccswindon.co.uk

November Diary

- 01 Tues 2.30 pm Tea & Chat at the Goddard Arms Hotel
- 02 Wed 10.30 am Christ in Quiet with Holy Communion
7.00 pm to 8.30 pm Fellowship of Faith in Christ Church.
Exploring Christianity and supporting one another.
- 05 Sat 7.30 am Christ Church Morning Prayer followed by
1.00 pm fellowship breakfast in the Community Centre.
to 5.00 pm Christ Church site, Swindie Makers
Market.
- 06 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, 1662 Holy Communion
9.00 am St. Mary's, Holy Communion
10.00 am Christ Church, All Age Service
3.00 pm Messy Church at King William Street School
4.00 pm All Souls Service of Remembrance at Christ Church
6.30 pm Christ Church, Holy Communion
- 09 Wed 10.30 am Christ in Quiet with Holy Communion
6.30 pm Healing Prayer Group
- 13 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
9.00 am St. Mary's, Holy Communion
10.00 am Christ Church, Family Holy Communion
6.30 pm Informal Evening Worship led by John Cheek
- 20 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, Choral Evensong
- 23 Wed 10.30 am Christ in Quiet with Holy Communion
- 26 Sat 7.30 pm Rotary Concert in Christ Church, *see page 22*
- 27 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
9.00 am St. Mary's, Holy Communion
10.00 am Christ Church, Family Holy Communion
- 30 Wed 10.30 am Christ in Quiet with Holy Communion

Daily Morning Prayer details are overleaf.

Morning Prayer at Christ Church

9-9.30 am Monday, Tuesday and Thursday in the Lady Chapel
apart from the first Saturday when it is 7.30 am.

9-9.30 am Wednesday and Friday, virtual Morning Prayer

Telephone 0800 260 5903 to join by phone

Use this Passcode 69404 36078

Call Stephen 07885b217077 if you would like to join and need advice.

World Cup Football in Qatar

As many of you know, Margaret Williams and I share the same birthday, 21st July, which means we are now in our 143rd year! We have shared so much together over the last 24 years with many joys, challenges, encouragements and the occasional sorrows.

We want to assure you that we will stay the best of friends, whatever happens, especially on Tuesday 29th November at 8.00pm when the two countries of our birth, Wales and England play a vital match in the first phase of the World Cup. Please join us in praying for the success of the World Cup, safety for all involved and, above all, strength for all those working for human rights, inclusivity and social justice in Qatar.

May the best team win. Wouldn't it be wonderful if both England and Wales qualify for the group and meet again in the World Cup final on Sunday 18th December. We can but dream and enjoy the ride.

God bless the Wales and England football teams and all their supporters at home and across the world, especially here in Swindon.

Margaret Williams for Wales. *Simon Stevenette* for England

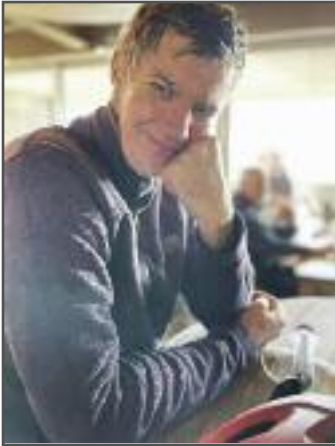
With appreciation

Thank you for your generous harvest donations for the Swindon Food Collective. The Collective is particularly grateful as the need is increasing but the supermarkets have reduced their surplus donations. At the Collective's request the fresh fruit and vegetables were delivered to Culvery Court. Here short-term support is given for homeless adults aged 18 to 65.

Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored our participants Daniel and Caroline Pitt and Elaine Guilding. They raised £373.00. Daniel cycled to 9 churches and Caroline and Elaine walked to 4. Half of the money raised will come back to Christ Church with St Mary's.

“Have a good day” by Ed Quibell



Do you remember Ed Quibell who came to us as a curate at Christ Church in 2003? Many of us receive his regular thoughts for the day by email and now he has put these thoughts together with a thought for every day of the year in a book entitled “Have a good day”. (Ed always ends his thoughts when he sends them by email with the words “Have a good day...much love, Ed”).

Ed came to us for his first curacy and we all knew that he had been diagnosed with cancer when he was 18 years old and had undergone treatment through radiotherapy. However, the massive doses of radiotherapy had affected Ed’s throat, tongue and oesophagus which meant that soon after he began his first post as vicar, he was unable to continue because it had affected his speech.

Now his speech, his hearing and his ability to eat have been severely affected. The foreword to his book tells his story, it is a story which is moving but inspirational, a story which tells of Ed’s tremendous faith in his Lord, a story which is humbling and a story of gratitude in spite of disability.

Margaret Williams

Hardback £13.95 + £2 p&p or
Paperback £12.15 + £2 p&p.

The BEST way to purchase it is directly from Ed.

For a limited time, he can offer a discount on both Hardback and Paperback copies. Please send your order and book style request to:

edsmorningthought@gmail.com

He can take orders big or small and is happy to sign copies if requested.

If you are not able to contact Ed directly, Margaret Williams will be happy to take your order and send to Ed. Tel. 421102.

email: margaretwilliams111@gmail.com



Tea & Chat at the Goddard Arms Hotel Tuesday 1st November, 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.

Tea and Chat with the arm of the law!!!



No, none of us were arrested for being rowdy! The policewoman is a friend of Julie and June from Immanuel and just looked in to say "Hello".

Support a Christian Charity through your Christmas cards

If you are about to buy Christmas cards, you may find it worthwhile to visit <https://www.eden.co.uk/charity-christmas-cards/> as they offer a range of Christmas cards that raise money for various Christian charities.

‘Send a Cow’ changes its name, but not its mission

‘Send a Cow ‘ has changed its name to ‘Ripple Effect’ to reflect the far-reaching impact of its work with smallholder farmers in rural Africa. “For every family we work with, three more families benefit too. As they learn more, grow more and sell more, the benefits are shared with their families, neighbours and communities. Then they do the same,” explains a spokeswoman for ‘Ripple Effect’.

By supporting ‘Ripple Effect’, you could help provide training and resources for ‘Light Mothers’ to shine a light on child hunger in rural Burundi so they can help families break the cycle of extreme poverty. As one mother learns how to fight malnutrition and transform their small plot of land, these benefits are shared with their families, neighbours and communities who then do the same.

‘Light Mothers’ are volunteers who travel to remote areas of Burundi to meet children who are eating just one sparse meal a day and their mothers who are doing all they can to provide for their families. ‘Light Mothers’ are so called as they shine a light on child hunger in their communities and bring hope for the future. They also train local mothers to create vegetable gardens so that they can grow healthy harvests and access food more easily. By promoting good hygiene and sanitation practices, instances of upset stomachs, which also contribute to malnutrition, are reduced too.

More info at: <https://rippleeffect.org>

Ripple Effect was one of the charities chosen by Christ Church for their Mission Giving Sunday on 9th October.

Swindon Choral Society Concert
Saturday 17th December, 6.00 pm at Christ Church
featuring Wroughton Silver Band and the JTP Trust Concert Choir.
Conductor: Elinor Cooper. Organist: Ian Crabbe.

Details will be in next month’s magazine.

Swindon Choral Society is hosting a ‘Come and Sing’ Workshop singing through the choruses of Handel’s Messiah. It is being led by Brian Kay and will take place on Saturday 25th February at Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon. Registration 9.30am with a run through from 4pm to 5pm of all the choruses.

A Registration form can be downloaded from our website
www.swindonchoral.org.uk
Further information from kath.danswan@tiscali.co.uk



A CONCERT FOR SWINDON
FOOD COLLECTIVE AND FOODSHARE

WILTSHIRE POLICE BAND

with guest soprano **KRISTINA TAKASHINA**

and

THE WESSEX

SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2022, 7.30pm

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available from karen.goddard88@gmail.com

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wessex-male-choir>

Refreshments and Raffle during the interval



A Musical Evening Supporting
Those In Need This Christmas



THE
WESSEX

Immanuel

Services every Sunday at 10.30 am with
Holy Communion on the third Sunday of the month.



A service to celebrate 50 years since the founding of the United Reformed Church

Sadly, in the light of the rail strike, the national celebrations for our denomination's 50th anniversary had to be postponed, but the Swindon and Area URC churches did manage to meet up to mark the occasion....albeit a week earlier. Advance planning meant that 24th September saw a well-attended service at Immanuel to mark the event in which friends from our Partnership were also involved. We were pleased that the Mayor of Swindon, Abdul Amin was able to join us.

Our worship used material prepared for the Jubilee by the URC and included the prize-winning hymn by Stephen Newell and Naomi Sharp. With contributions from the local churches, some rousing singing led by an excellent choir and a thought-provoking sermon by the South-West Synod Moderator, The Rev'd. Ruth Whitehead, our 50th Anniversary was duly celebrated.

In good URC tradition, tea and cake in the church hall afterwards rounded off a very enjoyable festive occasion that was particularly appreciated by many of our smaller churches and chapels in the area. "We must do this more often and not wait another 50 years" was on the lips of quite a few folk as they headed home!

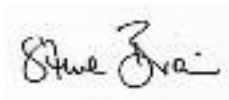


Photo overleaf

For those unable to be present, the service was recorded and can be found on our web-site on the "Recent Events" page (immanuelurc.org)



Celebrating 50 years of the founding of the United Reformed Church

Harvest 2022 Swindon Food Collective and Tools for Self Reliance

Many, many thanks from the Swindon Food Collective for the astonishing amount of donations from our Harvest Service. They were most appreciative particularly for the household and personal hygiene goods. Well done Immanuel, you came up trumps again. Many thanks also for the donations made to the work of Tools for Self Reliance. The total raised so far for our Harvest Appeal this year is £1,212.

THE COST OF LIVING (Brian Bilston)

i I love you more than life itself but I swear I'll love you better
If you let me turn the heating off and you wear another sweater.
I cannot get enough of you - I'm completely in your thrall
when I see you bending over to UNPLUG the telly at the wall.
Yes, you're the only one for me, my sweet and fragrant flower
(if you ditch the daily baths for a weekly 4-min shower)
Which reminds me- Eco-was on thirty, cram as much as you can in.
My cup of love is full for you, it overflows my petal.
So make yourself a brew with me
JUST DON'T OVERFILL THE KETTLE.

Sent in by David Leadbeater

November Diary

06	Sun	10.30 am	Morning Worship
08	Tues	2.30 pm	Tea & Chat in the Hall or Parlour
13	Sun	10.30 am	Service of Remembrance, linking with the nation at the London Cenotaph.
		5.00 pm	Service remembering loved ones.
19	Sat	4.00 pm	A. E. Smith and G & L Evans Remembrance Service
20	Sun	10.30 am	Partnership Pulpit Exchange, Rev'd. Rachel Collins
27	Sun	10.30 am	Advent Service
		5.00 pm	Partnership Service 'Darkness to Light. Readings and Carols for the Choir and congregation.

Book this date:

Monday 19th December, 6.00 pm in the Church Hall

'Carols on the carpet' is back. 45 minutes of Christmas songs and Carols for all the family. We invite you to stay for a 'cuppa' and a mince pie.



Tea & Chat

Tuesday 8th November, 2.30 pm at Immanuel in the Hall or Parlour

A time to meet up with friends old and new and simply enjoy each other's company over a cuppa and some cake. We would love to see you.

Help your hedgehogs this Autumn

With our warmer British autumns, hedgehogs now tend to begin hibernation later – in December or January. In the meantime, it is critical that they build up enough body weight to get them through those lean, bleak weeks of January to April, so now is the time to help them by feeding them.

The hedgehog is carnivorous and, in the wild, lives on a diet of beetles, earth-worms and other invertebrates. But in the winter, the bugs are dead or buried and the worms deep underground, so a hedgehog would appreciate your help! But don't put out milk and bread – both are actually bad for hedgehogs. Instead, they will thrive on tins of dogfood or non-fishy cat-food and water.

The man who gave us the National Health Service

If you use the services of the National Health Service this autumn, spare a thought for the 'presiding spirit' which led to its founding.

Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan was born 125 years ago this month, on 15th November 1897, the sixth of ten children. The family lived in Tredegar, Monmouthshire, where his father was a miner and his mother was the daughter of a colliery blacksmith.

When he was 14, Bevan followed his father and older brother in the mines, but in his spare time spent hours in the local library educating himself. At 19, Bevan joined the Independent Labour Party and in 1919 he moved to London to continue his studies and encountered the works of Marx and Engels. In 1925 his father died in his arms of the miners' disease pneumoconiosis.

In 1926 Bevan was appointed a full-time union official and was soon caught up in the miners' strike that led to the General Strike of May 1926. Bevan became known as a firebrand activist and agitator.

In May 1929, when he was 31, Bevan entered Parliament as Independent Labour Party member for Ebbw Vale. A passionate socialist, he regularly attacked Neville Chamberlain, Lloyd George, Winston Churchill and even his own party's prime minister, Ramsay Macdonald. Bevan's outspokenness caused the parliamentary authorities to suspend him from the House in 1937 and his own party expelled him for a time in 1939.

When in July 1945 Labour was returned to government with a landslide victory, the new Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, offered Bevan a Cabinet position. "I understand that you have much experience of negotiation. I am offering you the post where you will deal with health, housing and the local authorities."

And so, at 47, Bevan became the youngest member of that Cabinet. He oversaw the building of over a million new houses before 1950 and in 1946 the government steered through the National Insurance Act that created the infrastructure of what was to be the Welfare State.

In 1948, the National Health Service Act, which Bevan had seen through Parliament, became law. This allowed people to receive, free at the point of use, medical diagnosis and treatment at home or in hospital. As the writer Brian Brivati observes: "It was the decision to nationalise the hospitals that made the profound

difference in the creation of the NHS. This decision was Bevan's and its implementation was down to his skill, patience and application as a minister. It is the most significant and lasting reform in the history of the Labour Party and it was achieved by one man."

Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan was Minister of Health 1945 to 1951. The National Health Service became operational on 5th July 1948. ■

Celebrating the life of Brother Andrew (1928-2022)

Brother Andrew, the founder of Open Doors, died on 27th September, aged 94.

Famous around the world as 'God's smuggler', he began his ministry in 1957 by smuggling Bibles across the Iron Curtain in a blue Volkswagen Beetle. That trip was the beginning of Open Doors which, more than 65 years later, is now supporting persecuted Christians around the world. The remarkable story of his Bible 'smuggling' was told in his best-selling auto-biography 'God's Smuggler'.

After the fall of the Iron Curtain, Brother Andrew turned his attention to the Islamic World, saying that the rapid spread of Islam posed the greatest challenge yet to the Christian church worldwide. He travelled to the Middle East and South Asia and had private meetings with leaders of several Islamic fundamentalist groups. However, Brother Andrew preached against retaliation – repeatedly declaring 'I sincerely love all Muslims' as a counter to the rising Islamophobia in the west.

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands knighted Brother Andrew in 1993. In 1997 he received the World Evangelical Alliance's Religious Liberty Award, recognising his lifetime of service to suffering Christians.

But Open Doors UK reveals that "perhaps the recognition that pleased him most was the copies of KGB reports, which he obtained after the fall of the Iron Curtain. There were more than 150 pages about him, detailing his work in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Despite this, they were still unable to stop his work." More at www.opendoorsuk.org.

Please note: "Open Doors" referred to in this article is not to be confused with the article on our [local](#) facility "The Open Door" on page 8 which caters for mentally handicapped young people.

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