

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

PARTNERSHIP MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2023

£1.00



A Welcome Sign of Spring

One in Christ - Together in Mission

Bath Road Church Christmas Displays



Sunbeams Toddler Group



Bow Court Penguin



The Brownies



MOPS



Junior Church

Your Contacts

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St. Mary's, Commonweal Road (off The Mall)

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WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER CHURCHES IN OLD TOWN

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Greetings to you.

It's midday and it is NOT raining, quite the contrary – the sun light is pouring through the window of my office and that is such a good feeling.

I would like to ask a question but would prefer you to think about the response rather than shout it out loud. Here it goes: What is more important to you – to be good or to be perfect? I know that Matthew 5.48 challenges us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. But is that a possible aim for us humans? Having thought of this a great deal, I feel this gives me an “inferiority complex” because I don't think I come even near to be perfect. What do you feel?

While thinking about this, I followed a reading of Genesis 1 and just at its final verse I read: “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day” (Gen 1:31). and these words were so helpful.

God who created, and continues to create, saw what happened and described it as ‘very good’, not perfect, but very good. And that was enough for God and a lesson to us. Soon after this God invites us humans to be co-workers with God so that which was described as very good can continue to be very good. This is what God wants us to be part of! and I find that wonderfully challenging.

What came later was not always a contribution to the ‘very good’ and sometimes what happened was that the very good became very bad – what has been done to the environment, what has happened to the distribution of the earth's resources so that all people can share them, what has been done so that education and health are available to all people everywhere....none of that seems to fit the ‘very good’ category does it?

And here we are, still early on in 2023. Some of our New Year resolutions might still be alive or there is still time to do things in a better way – we can still do things in a way that may not be perfect but yes, very good. We will never be perfect but we can be better and aim at being very good – co-workers with God.

So I would hope that each and all of us can come together to contribute to making this world a better place in what we do, what we say and also what we don't do or what we don't say. ►

In the words of St Teresa of Avila, 'Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.' So let us be good because we will not be perfect (yet).

God bless and keep us all in the love and grace which only God can have.



**Bath Road Methodist Church and friends
singing carols at the Co-op.
Thank you to everyone who helped us raise £128
for Action for Children.**

FAMILY EVENTS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church

CHRIST CHURCH

Nov 27 Ethan David Colin Jackson
Dec 10 Sachin Prajabati and Smaranika Tripathy
Dec 18 Fariba Roozeh Ahvazi, Zahra Ansari Shoushtar,
Ramin Ansari Shoushtar

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones

CHRIST CHURCH

Nov 1 Kenneth Grenville Mundell, 102 years
Nov 27 Foumi Pead, 97 years
Dec 8 John Kenneth Jarvis, 85 years
Dec 9 Patricia Mary Pearce, 81 years
Dec 28 Margaret Beaupré Harber, 89 years
Dec 28 Geoffrey Robin Ricketts, 89 years
Dec 31 Derek Arthur Tilley, 89 years

2023

Jan 1 Maurice Leighfield, 91 years

IMMANUEL

Oct 30 Gillian (Gill) Jane Wells
Nov 20 Catherine (Cath) Thomson
Dec 12 Dorothy (Dot) Waddington

FLOODLIGHTING

Dec 8 In loving memory of my dear daughter Maureen on her birthday from Nancy Self.

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

The Partnership Magazine – Monies collection for 2023

Dear Magazine readers,

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their subscription for 2023.

To cover the increasing costs of producing the Partnership magazine, it has been necessary to increase the cost to £1 per issue or £10 for an annual subscription of 10 issues. This remains very good value.

Subscriptions are now due for 2023 and there will be three ways to pay as follows:

1. By sending a cheque for £10, payable to the Partnership of Churches, to George Kennedy, 31 Vasterne Close, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4EZ.
2. By paying your magazine distributor £10 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 method please email both George Kennedy (kennedygeorge62@gmail.com and David Bevan (david04bevan@yahoo.co.uk) to let them know that you have paid. Please use "Mag" and your surname as the reference.

If you do not wish to subscribe, you can buy individual issues at one of our Partnership churches.

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

With best wishes and thanks. *The magazine team*



PARTNERSHIP OF CHURCHES LENT SERIES 2023

Venue: Christ Church, 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Theme:

Who is Jesus? Christian Mission today, Jesus then and now.

The programme for the evening will be:

Start 7.00 pm, 15 minutes worship, 40 minute talk,

Refreshments for 20 minutes, 40 minutes of question and answer,
finish 9.00 pm.

Wednesday 1st March	The Rev'd. Jonathan Edwards, Pilgrim Centre
Wednesday 8th March	The Very Rev'd. the Dean of Bristol, Mandy Ford
Wednesday 15th March	The Rev'd. Susan Durber, Regional Minister, United Reformed Church
Wednesday 22nd March	The Rev'd. David Gray, Methodist Superintendent Minister.
Wednesday 29th March	Dr Eric and Marguerite Holliday, Holy Rood Roman Catholic Church, Deacon/GP and Psychotherapist
Wednesday 5th April	The Rev'd. Dr. Cathy Okoronkwo, Vicar of St Barnabas, Gorse Hill and All Saints Ferndale, Racial Justice Adviser

The Desai Memorial Primary School an update from Mike Welsh, Chair, Desai School Trustees

This School is in Kawangware a slum area in western Nairobi about the same size as Swindon. Many children never go to school and Desai ensures over 400 get a full Primary education from 3-14 years at which point they take the Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE).

The children's homes are made out of corrugated tin and are 10' by 10'. There is little electricity in the area, water has to be bought, and there is one toilet for 15 houses.

The Trust which runs the School includes its twin School, Goddard Park Primary in Swindon, as well as local Swindon residents and Broad Hinton Primary School. This raises £650 each month to pay for the staff, all of whom live in the slum area.

The Old Town Partnership of Churches kindly raised money last year for Desai. Together with Rotary, these funds are helping to expand the school by creating a Day Care Education Centre and this will help raise attendance and achievement. We are facing a number of challenges as always but specifically at the moment:

1. The Janes Organisation in Nairobi (Osha Vishwal) has provided daily meals over the last few years to tenacity slum area schools, but stopped this overnight in October. The children are desperate for this.
2. The School building is twenty years old and the classroom floors are in need of urgent repair.
3. The Grant for the Day Care Education Centre needs local Rotary Club support.
4. We need to set up simple but regular communication by taking over redundant early iPads from local schools.

I'm travelling to Nairobi on Sunday 15th for one week (at my own expense) to advance these challenges. I will let everyone know of the outcome on my return.

Mike Welsh, *Chair Desai School Trustees*



Fairtrade Fortnight 27th February – 12th March 2023.

This Fairtrade Fortnight, join us in spreading a simple message: choose Fairtrade now and help save our favourite foods.

It comes with a sombre reminder. Did you know cocoa, bananas and coffee could soon be much more difficult to find on our shelves?

Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink.

But here's the good news...

More of us choosing Fairtrade means extra income, power, and support for those communities as they work to build sustainable and prosperous futures.

So not only is choosing Fairtrade best for people and planet, it could help save everyday treats like chocolate, bananas and a hot cuppa!

The Language of Love

Valentine's Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply offering flowers and a card? Jesus says: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). How can we express love like Jesus in our everyday relationships to our partner, children, neighbours or work colleagues?

Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, 'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry' (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? How often do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before somebody's finished speaking? Listening takes time; don't rush it!

Christ Church with St. Mary's

ALONE AT CHRISTMAS



Well, we did it again, we managed to pull off another fantastic event for people who would otherwise have been on their own on Christmas day. Following Covid lockdowns, we had to pause the event for a couple of years but we resumed for the 5th time this Christmas Day when more than 100 people enjoyed the meal.

Thank you so much to all those who helped on the day, the many donations, the advance support, the Christmas Eve help in setting up, peeling vegetables, wrapping presents etc., the taxi drivers and the kitchen team. It wouldn't have been possible without all of you, so thank you to each and every one of you.

I would like to extend a personal thank you to my colleague Jenny who took on extra responsibility in the few days before, as I was unwell, and also for taking a lead on the day. I would also like to give a big thank you to the kitchen team of Simon, Aidin, Ali and Lyn; cooking for over 100 people is no mean feat.

Best Wishes
Chris

Chris Smith, Community Centre @ Christ Church Development Manager

Charity Christmas Market November 2022

The Trustees of The Friends of Christ Church organised another successful Christmas Market on 19th November, the thirteenth since its inception.

The event was opened by the Mayor of Swindon and Father Christmas. Swindon Lions brought along their sleigh as an added attraction. Although footfall was down as were takings for many of the 29 local charities and organisations taking part, the overall proceeds exceeded £4,300.

The Friends' raffle raised £240 and thanks goes to all those who donated prizes. Thank you also to the organisers, helpers, stewards, stallholders, hand bell ringers, choir members 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. 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 the Christ Church website email sec.focc@gmail.com or phone 01793 694466.



Christine Jensen

(Trustee and Hon Secretary)



New Year's Day Walk



After a three-year gap, the New Year's Day walk took place again this year, led by Daniel Pitt.

19 walkers and one dog started from Christ Church walked through Old Town, down the old railway track and along the canal to Beaven's Bridge where we toasted the New Year in traditional style. To avoid mud and speeding cyclists, we returned along Mill Lane (now closed to through traffic) and Westlecot Road to the Community Centre where we relaxed with tea and mince pies kindly provided by Liz Day.

Daniel and Caroline Pitt





Thank you to everyone at Christ Church for their support in raising funds for the British Heart Foundation by bringing their used postage stamps to church.

When cutting the stamps from the envelope, please leave at least a 1/4 inch/6 mm margin around them,

In the UK, every 3 minutes a family loses a loved one to heart and circulatory disease and every pound raised will help to fund life-saving research.

Angela Wirdnam

**Tea & Chat, Tesday 7th February
2.30 pm
at the Goddard Arms Hotel**



All are welcome to this monthly event



As a result of the Christingle Service at Christ Church we were able to send £160.60 to The Children's Society so thank you to all who contributed. *Margaret Williams*



I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kindness and support during Pat's illness and Covid. The Church magazine dropping through the letterbox was just brilliant. The cheery telephone calls were another lifeline.

We considered ourselves fortunate to have moved to Banks Place just before Covid and we were very well cared for during that difficult time.

If anyone was thinking of moving to a Retirement Development, I can recommend Banks Place and there is a one bedroom flat for sale. Price- £229,500 ono. The development telephone number is: 01793 815223 if you would like more details. Thank you again.. *Frances Poel*



Art Group

2nd February - 6th April 2023

£100 for 10 weeks

Every Thursday - 1:30-3:30

**Community Centre @ Christ Church
in the Garden Room**

To book your place, please contact 01793 617237
or email: ccooperations@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Attendees will need to provide their own supplies.

Indian hospitality



January 15th 2023 was the day when we at Christ Church were transported to India, and what a wonderful time we all had! Nitin Shinde (one of our church wardens) and his family, wider family and Indian friends from many parts of the UK came to worship with us at our Communion Service. They taught us some of their worship songs in their language, Marathi, the words of

which Janet French put on the screen both in English and Marathi!

Following the service we were invited to a delicious meal in our Community Centre. Verity Maples had made a huge cake iced to look like the Indian flag and we were delighted that Manda, Nitin's mother, was well enough to come to cut the cake, assisted by another elderly member of Christ Church!

After the meal we heard a little of our Indian friends' stories, how some of them came to faith and their testimonies were so interesting. They then entertained us with some Indian dancing and encouraged those of us who were able to have a go. Simon, our vicar, was really into this! Simon also announced that he hoped this would be the first of other meals together in our centre after church, the next one being a typical English Roast and will be around the time of the Coronation so watch this space!

Many, many thanks to Nitin and his family and friends for their generous hospitality.

Photo: Janet French

Margaret Williams

John Jarvis



John Jarvis was a long standing member of Christ Church, in fact he has worshipped at Christ Church all his life, having been a choir boy from a young age and as an adult he was crucifer and carried the cross before the choir as they processed at special services. He was very much a Swindonian, having lived in Old Town all his life apart from when he did his National Service and for a short time when his work took him to Cwmbran in South Wales but even then

John returned every Friday to attend his scout group meeting.

Yes, many people will remember John because of his great interest in scouting; he ran the 18th Swindon Scout group before becoming District Commissioner in this area. Many young people in Swindon will have known John through this as was evident by the number of the scouting fraternity who attended his funeral. At that service, two of his close friends from scouting, Roger Reeves and Kelvin King spoke of John's passion for the movement and recalled some of the Gang Shows they were in when John would never learn his words so he had to have them written inside his hat and always took his hat off to read them when it was his turn to sing or speak!

At church, John was a member of a home group and came on many church holidays, the first of which was to the Holy Land. Most of these holidays were not without incident where John was concerned but they all provided us with much laughter and enjoyment and John was always willing to help whenever he was asked.

For the past few years, John has been cared for in a variety of care homes but we remember him as he used to be, the John who loved his church, his scouting, his driving and his friendship. *Margaret Williams*

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 Pass code 69404 36078

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

February Diary

Every Wednesday, 10.30 am-11.00 am

Christ in Quiet with Holy Communion

- 01 Wed 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm Fellowship of Faith in Christ Church. Exploring Christianity and supporting one another.
- 04 Sat 7.30 am Christ Church Morning Prayer followed by fellowship breakfast in the Community Centre.
1.00 pm to 5.00 pm Christ Church site, Swindie Makers Market
- 05 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 Bath Road Methodist Church
6.30 pm Christ Church, Holy Communion
- 07 Tues 1.30pm to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea in the Community Centre
2.30 pm Tea & Chat, Goddard Arms, Old Town.
- 08 Wed 6.30 pm Healing Prayer Group
- 12 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
- 14 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea in the Community Centre
- 15 Wed 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm Christ Church Fellowship of Faith
- 19 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
- 21 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea in Community Centre
- Ash Wednesday**
10.30 am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
7.30 pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
- 23 Thur 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Art Course in the Community Centre
- 26 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
9.00 am St. Mary's, Informal Holy Communion
10.00 am Christ Church, Family Holy Communion
6.30 pm Christ Church Evening Worship
- 28 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea in the Community Centre

Immanuel

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

The Rev'd. Robert Jordan will be taking the services on the 5th, 12th and 19th February. On February 26th the service will be taken by The Rev'd. Roy Lowes.



**Tea & Chat
Tuesday 14th February, 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.

TEA SERVICES

After many months of waiting, the Tea Service are returning to Immanuel. Please book the following two dates: **March 12th and May 21st at 4.00pm.**

A good time, singing well known hymns, having a great tea, and a time to meet other people. Come along, bring a friend.

**CANS, CANS and MORE CANS!
raising money for CANCER RESEARCH UK
Can you help, please?**

Since 2007 I have been trying to raise money for Cancer Research UK, my favourite charity as its aim is to stop cancer developing in the first place.

Apart from the usual ways of raising funds, I had been wondering how to raise money in a different way. I've always been keen to cut down on waste and recycle as much as possible, so I thought 'why not collect used aluminium cans, take them to be recycled AND get money for doing so!' ➤



At first I took them (with a huge amount of help from my cousin Ray) to the TESCO Superstore at Cirencester where you could acquire Clubcard Points by putting the cans in their special bins. We then redeemed these points in the store and put the equivalent amount of cash into the funds. However, this took a lot of time as each can had to be recycled individually and quite quickly became impractical so then we started taking them to Thamesdown Recycling near Cricklade. Here we were able to get £1000.00 per tonne which amounted to £25.00 for the 15 bin bags of crushed cans that we were able to squeeze into the car each trip.

Sadly though, when Covid struck, Thamesdown Recycling could no longer take our cans so we had to look for another alternative. Luckily we found one, even nearer, at European Metal Recycling in Gypsy Lane but unfortunately the rate here was much lower, just £100.00 a tonne. This meant we were only getting £2.50 per car load - a big drop – but at least it was something and we were continuing to recycle loads of cans.

Ray and I soon discovered that many people were willing to collect cans for us, bringing them to Immanuel, already crushed (a very valuable time-saving service for us and one that means we get more cans in the bags!) Then folk started to drop them off at our houses and even the young man who works at European Metal Recycling brings us his cans! People did wonder what we were doing when they saw Ray and I taking them out of the recycling bins at supermarkets but, once we explained, many offered to bring their cans to us as well – and Geoff and Liz said they got some very funny looks when going through the recycling bins at their caravan site - but it's all in a good cause - and so the message has spread. Just occasionally we get other old metal (for example, old radiators) and, sometimes, copper piping - which is even more valuable – so if you can help in any way do please get in touch with me or someone you know at Immanuel.

During the best 3 years we managed to raise many hundreds of pounds and even now, thanks to our good friends at Immanuel and beyond, we are still raising about £400.00 a year.

To date we have not only helped to clean up the environment but together have raised over £3,600.00 for Cancer Research UK – not such a load of old rubbish after all!

Wally Knight

If you think you can help Wally in anyway with this fantastic fund raising project do please get in touch with him at: wknight5219@gmail.com

Bath Road

All services start at 10am.

05	Feb	Holy Communion, The Rev'd. Christine Dutton
12	Feb	Morning Service taken by the Worship Leaders
19	Feb	Morning Service taken by The Rev'd Rachel Collins
26	Feb	Morning Service taken by Eric Hewitt

Open House - Mondays 10.30 am 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 11th February

£1.00 for a bacon roll with tea or coffee

All are welcome

MOPS

(MOPS stands for Mix Of People)

2nd and 16th February

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.

2nd February: Great Railway Journey, Dorothy and George Kennedy

16th February: Flowers made of icing. Carolyn Wallbank

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

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**COPY for the MARCH MAGAZINE
by SUNDAY 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.

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