

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

PARTNERSHIP MAGAZINE

JUNE 2023

£1.00



King Charles III
whose Coronation took place
on the 6th May 2023.

One in Christ - Together in Mission



The Friends of Christ Church AGM

Demonstration of the
organ by Tim Eyles
the Director of Music



L. to R:
Vicar: Simon Stevenette,
Caroline Pitt the retiring
Chairman of The Friends
and Chris Smith the
Community Centre Manager.

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Partnership Letter

Christ Church Vicarage

Dear Friends,

Celebrating community, faith and service.

On the eve of the Coronation, I received an email from the Dean of Westminster Abbey, the Rev'd. Dr David Hoyle, in response to my good wishes and the prayers of our Old Town Partnership:

Thank you Simon, it is kind of you to write. It is busy, fascinating, challenging, breath-taking , complex...I could go on. Do sustain those prayers please. Best wishes for your own celebration.

I trust you had a special Coronation weekend. Thank you for all you did to support our Partnership and community celebrations which went so well. 200 people used the Daily Prayers for the Coronation of King Charles III in the month leading up to the Coronation from Easter Sunday.

We have received many appreciative comments for the Partnership of Churches Thanksgiving for the Coronation service on Friday 5th May. The service was professionally recorded by Matt Collins and is available on this link via the Christ Church YouTube channel; <https://bit.ly/OldTownCoronationService>

In my sermon I suggested that the Coronation service was the most ecumenical in the last 1000 years. The service and the whole weekend showed our King's profound ecumenical vision and his passion for the renewal of the whole of creation. The service reminded me of the Swindon Youth for Christ strapline 'Anchored to the rock, geared to the culture'.

The ceremony began with the King telling a chorister that 'I come to serve, not to be served.' The gauntlet glove given to the King was the same as the one given to his Grandfather in 1937. Yet on 7th May it was given, for the first time by a faith leader from beyond Christian tradition, Lord Inderjit Singh aged 90 who movingly said on the national news: 'Four of us from different religions are presenting things. This is like the Magi coming to the infant Jesus bearing gifts. A Sikh, a Muslim, a Jew and a Hindu.' ►

Our diversity sends out a very important message that we are a multi-religious, multi-cultural society and the respect that was given to other faiths is official recognition of that fact’.

At the heart of the Coronation service, before King Charles and Queen Camilla were crowned, King Charles III was anointed privately behind screens with sacred oil, the symbolism for which has roots in the Old Testament. The oil came from the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem where the King’s grandmother Princess Alice of Battenburg is buried. The outward and visible act of anointing signifies an inward grace. We continue to pray that God would bless and set apart King Charles to serve all the peoples of our nation and Commonwealth with humility and joy.

As we look forward to our Old Town Partnership’s 54th Birthday Celebration at Immanuel Church Upham Road on Pentecost Sunday 28th May 10.30, we rejoice that we will be led by our Partnership Messy Church. It will be very special to welcome at that service those adults and young people from Bath Road Methodist Church, Christ Church and Immanuel, who will have been confirmed the previous week at St. Mary’s, Purton into the life of the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. We praise God for the unity we know in our diversity.

This celebration weekend following on from the Coronation reminds us all, whatever age we are, of our lifelong vocation to live a life of faith and service, celebrating community. This was very evident at Christ Church and St Mary’s at the Sunday worship the day following the Coronation when people of all ages accepted the invitation given at the 1662 Prayerbook Communion, the Informal Communion at St Mary’s, All Age worship and Evening Communion at Christ Church to come forward and receive anointing with Chrism oil on their foreheads with the Sign of the Cross with the words: “Jesus light shine in you and through you to others”, to which people responded “Amen”.

This sacramental act went very deep. We have received many moving testimonies since, for example from our Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Troughton who remarked that she was moved as much by our All Age worship as she was by the Coronation service which she had attended at Westminster Abbey on behalf of our County. We look forward to seeing how God answers that prayer in the days which lie ahead.

It was wonderful to have a Partnership Big Lunch at our Community Centre for 92 guests from many different backgrounds and cultures. The delicious meal was prepared and served by 12 adults, all of whom are new to Christian faith in the life of the Partnership over the last 3 years. ➤

Please can I encourage you to read, as a gift from God, the St Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3;14-21 substituting your name for the word 'you' which appears six times. The only chance we have to solve the huge challenges facing Planet Earth in the years ahead is the ecumenical vision based around working together, building bridges and shining as Christ's ambassadors. We look, for example, in playing our part, with the Harbour community, in the focus throughout June across our country in supporting refugees with the theme 'Compassion'. With this in mind we are called to look for God's presence in every person and situation we enter. In this spirit strangers become guests, friends and fellow travellers on the way.

The music was outstanding at our Partnership Thanksgiving for the Coronation service. Do listen to it on YouTube ! The Partnership Choir sang at the end of my sermon 'The mountains shall bring peace', a newly commissioned anthem by the Royal School of Church Music based on Psalm 72 composed by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange. The words are these;

Give the King thy judgement, O God and thy righteousness unto the king's son.

He shall judge thy people with righteousness and thy poor with judgement.

The mountains shall bring peace to the people and the little hills, thy righteousness.

Praise ye the Lord. Sing upon the lord a new song and his praise in the congregation of saints.

Let Israel rejoice in him that made him :

Let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.

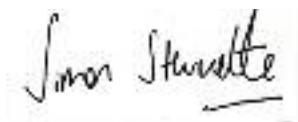
Let them praise his name in the dance:

Let them sing praises to him with thew timbrel and harp.

Amen

God save the King! God save us all. In the time left to us may we live lives of celebration, with others in community, overflowing with faith, joy and service.

Every blessing and a joy-filled Pentecost. It's the presence of the spirit Lord we need, for the moving of your Spirit Lord we pray.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Simon Sturtevant". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

FAMILY EVENTS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church

CHRIST CHURCH

April 30 Ariella Roma Sutton

MARRIAGE

We wish joy and happiness to

CHRIST CHURCH

April 21 Carl John Sharpe and Amber Jane Rigley

May 20 Steven Robert Zak Pursey and Catherine Louise Forty

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones

CHRIST CHURCH

April 2 Michael Scott, 91 years

April 29 Doreen Joy Lamb, 88 years

May 7 Marjory May Austin, 88 years

FLOODLIGHTING

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

May 21st In loving memory of Daniel Collict, 27th February 1983 to
21st May 2021. Forever missed and in our thoughts every day.
Sonja, Alan and the Collict family.

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 for floodlighting. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to 'Christ Church PCC' and post it 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, 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.



Great Western Hospital Brighter Futures fundraising event

On 24th June Immanuel and Christ Church Choirs, once again, will come together to sing at the Charity Event at Immanuel raising funds for Brighter Futures.

The music will include items by Mozart, Rutter and Tallis.

Choirs from all around the area will each be singing their style of music in half hour slots all day. You are welcome to come and listen. There is a small entry fee for the charity. Approximate time is 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Brighter Futures is the charity for Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which includes Great Western Hospital and community health sites in Swindon. With your help we can fund that extra special level of care in order to make a real difference to patients, their families and our staff who treat them. We improve the hospital environment, fund ground-breaking research, support the development and training of hospital staff and provide state-of-the-art equipment. You can direct your support specifically towards any project, ward, department or fund (for example the Cardiac Suite, Special Care Baby Unit, Children's Ward or A&E) and we will ensure that your donation is used to help patients in that area. Thank you for making a difference for patients at Great Western Hospital.

Partnership Coronation Celebration



l. to r. The Rev'd. Norma McKemey, Ailsa Palmer, Alex Davies-Spratt

Bath Road

All services start at 10am

04	June	The Rev'd. Rach Collins, including Annual General Meeting
11	June	Local arrangement
18	June	The Rev'd. Andrew Bird - Holy Communion
25	June	Rev'd. Rach Collins, United Service with St. Andrew's, Moredon and Rodbourne at which the closing worship from the Methodist Conference in Birmingham will be streamed.

The livestreams of our services are now on YouTube instead of Facebook.

You'll be able to watch them at
www.youtube.com/@bathroadmethodistchurch,
where the livestreams will start at 10am.

Open House - Mondays 10.30 am to 12 noon

Please feel free to come along.

Bath Road Church Community Breakfast

9.00 am to 11.00 am

10th June

£1.00 for a bacon roll with tea or coffee

All are welcome.



MOPS

(MOPS stands for Mix Of People)

1st and 15th June

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.

1st June: 'Quilts with a secret message'. Gwen Knight

15th June: Music, Janet Hunt

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

AGCM—Sunday 4th June

The Annual General Church Meeting will take place during All-age Worship on Sunday 4th June, starting from 10.00 a.m..

Church Heating

During last week's annual inspection, cracks were found in core boiler components. Edward Bays has attempted to source replacement parts with no luck - we are waiting on a response from a lone supplier in Scotland but signs are not looking promising.

We are faced with replacing our church heating before the end of September. Members of P&FC are meeting Edward Bays in the next fortnight to discuss a gas boiler replacement as a baseline, however David Sinclair, rightly, also has started to look at a variety of Eco alternatives. One may prove successful, or a combination of gas and renewables. We should accept that a full eco solution may not be possible due to the configuration of our site and with renewable options still very much in their infancy.

As for what will be the ultimate cost and how we will pay, I prefer to dwell on the outcome - we'll have more economical heating fit for purpose for the next 20-30 years. We have something like £25k in our Reserves which is a good start but we need to be prepared for a bill somewhere in the £35k-£40k range. We will inevitably be approaching Methodist Circuit and District at some point. So how do we manage in the meantime?

Hot water is unaffected. Thanks to careful planning when the toilet block was refurbished, our hot water comes from a different source.

Isaiah 41:13 - For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Regards,
Steve, Property & Finance Committee Chair

A narrow escape!



On Thursday afternoon at MOPS we had an interesting talk from Eddie and Helen Thomas. They went to Pakistan in 1967 for two and a half years. It was early in their married life together and they had their four month old baby (Peter) with them. It was fascinating to hear about the dam and barrage building that Eddie was involved in, the culture, politics and religion of the country and their life style while they were there. We also learnt something about how the irrigation infrastructure and the country overall has changed in the last fifty years.

Afterwards, Brenda and I headed back to the car park at the top of Eastcott Road as usual. Waiting to drive out of the car park, I saw the front of a building (latterly In 2 Trim) fall to the pavement and across the road. We had walked there just moments earlier. Luckily nobody was hurt, and neither were any cars damaged. I called the police and some pedestrians cleared the debris from the road. We were advised not to wait for the police, so we headed off home, very thankful for our own narrow escape and that nobody at all was hurt.

I went back later in the evening to take the attached photo. Please take care as it seems that more could fall down at any moment, and it may not be so well timed next time!

Janet Hunt

Photo by Janet Hunt

Christian Aid (CA) Quiz

The quiz was held on Saturday 20th May and we had five teams competing. Disappointingly, nobody from Christ Church was able to come, but there were plenty from Bath Road and Immanuel. Thank you to everybody for their support. We hope you enjoyed the evening.

There were ten rounds on a range of topics, including one on the CA theme this year – peas. Due to a shortage of questions, or possibly knowledge, this was expanded to include some other foods. We also had a challenging picture round. Noel had photographed various buildings, murals and sculpture around the town and everybody was asked to identify where and what they were. It's surprising how difficult this proved. Even people who drove the same routes repeatedly and recognised the image sometimes found it hard to identify the location. If you would like to give the picture round, or indeed all the rounds, a go, please contact me. I will happily make the photos, questions and answers available to you, preferably in exchange for a small donation to CA.

We raised a total of £230.50 on the night. Many thanks to everyone who helped during the evening, asking questions, marking the answers, and providing refreshments.

Janet and Noel Hunt

Email: janethunt21@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 01793 521934

A wonderful resource in our midst.

I have recently discovered that John Farrow (married to Anne Farrow, our new Partnership Chair) is experienced in giving talks on a range of subjects. This includes the Wilts and Berks Canal, National Trust properties, where he acts as a room steward, and holidays in many countries such as USA, Russia, New Zealand and Singapore. I guess I can't be the only person who will find this useful. I am sure there are other groups meeting in Swindon which are also seeking entertaining speakers.

MOPS has a full programme organised up to Christmas but I look forward to meeting John and inviting him to come and talk to MOPS in the new year. Thank you John for coming forward. *Janet*

Talks by John Farrow farrow684@btinternet.com

I was a Government research chemist before joining one of the Research Councils in Swindon in the late 1970s. When I retired, I went on a Swindon College tour guide training course and am now a National Trust tour guide at Ashdown House and Avebury stone circle. I also joined the Swindon Branch of the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust and was Branch Secretary for over 15 years. I help maintain and restore the Canal at Royal Wootton Bassett and give talks about the Canal and a variety of other topics.

I usually talk for about 50-60 minutes but most talks can be expanded to allow a tea break in the middle, if requested. I have my own lap-top and projector and can bring a screen, if needed. I do not charge for talks but any donation towards the restoration of the Wilts and Berks Canal is appreciated (cheques to "Swindon Canal Restoration").

"The Wilts and Berks Canal"

Canals and waterways are the most used recreational resource in the country with the majority of users not on boats. John is an active supporter of the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust which aims to restore the Canal for the benefit of the whole community in the next twenty years. The Canal originally ran over 50 miles from Semington, south of Melksham, to Abingdon on the Thames with a major branch from Swindon to the Thames and Severn Canal at Latton. John will pictorially describe the current status in the context of the past and plans for the future. The talk can be expanded to include an overview of all the Canals in Wiltshire. ►

“The Cravens and Ashdown House“

For over 15 years, John has been a National Trust guide at Ashdown House which stands in woods between Ashbury and Lambourn, 8 miles east of Swindon. It was built as a hunting lodge in the 1660s by William Craven, reputedly to enable his close friend Elizabeth, sister of Charles 1, (known as the Winter Queen), to get away from the plague in London. John will give background to the Craven family and give pictorial descriptions of the House and the people associated with it.

“Avebury through the Ages“

Avebury is regarded by Which? as the second best World Heritage site to visit. For the last ten years, John has been a volunteer taking tours around the Henge and has also been a volunteer in the Manor House. He will give a pictorial history of the site including reference to the stones, the village and the Manor House.

“The Regents and other London Canals“

John lived in London for over 11 years, including a period within half a mile of the Regent’s Canal, London’s hidden waterway running from Paddington to the Thames near the Isle of Dogs. He will give a brief history of the Canal and other London waterways and show what can be enjoyed today.

Other subjects he covers are:

“Droitwich and its Canals”

“The Durango and Silverton Railway and how I got there from Las Vegas”

“China and the 2009 solar eclipse”

“Yellowstone and some other National Parks of the USA ”

“Moscow to St Petersburg by boat”

“British Canal Wonders”

“New Zealand”

“Visiting Indonesia to see the 2016 Solar Eclipse”

“Heritage Colorado Railroads”

Christ Church with St. Mary's



Our congratulations to Nicola and Simon Stevenette on the birth of their first grandchild, Caspar Marcel Stevenette, born to parents Tom and Rae on Wednesday 10th May weighing 6lbs.15oz.

Nicola and Simon are delighted to share the news of the birth of their granddaughter Freya Jean Angela Stevenette at the Great Western Hospital on Thursday 18th May 5.30am, weighing 6 lbs 5 oz. Many congratulations to Rob and Katy. They are all doing very well.

Thank you for your prayers





We are delighted that Will Stevenette will be coming to Christ Church, with his wife Elise on Sunday 18th June to preach at our 10am service. Will is an Ordinand training at St Mellitus College, Nottingham. He has recently written an article on Julian of Norwich as part of his studies and we look forward to hearing more about this when he joins us on the 18th June. Please come to find out more about this great Saint Julian ((c.1343) and to hear what it is like training for ministry in the 21st century!

Congratulations to the team from Christ Church who won an award from the DAC for their work on the Jubilee Memorial Garden.

A certificate was awarded to Stephen Grosvenor, Ian Handy, Michael Palmer and Daniel Pitt at a special ceremony on 10 May at St Michael's Church, Highworth, attended by the Bishop of Bristol, the Rt. Rev'd. Viv Faull, the Archdeacon of Malmesbury, the Ven Christopher Bryan and the Archdeacon of Bristol, the Ven Neil Warwick. Other award winners came from Chippenham and various parts of Bristol.

The team are now consulting and fund-raising on the final phase of the refurbishment.

The Friends of Christ Church

The Friends of Christ Church held their Annual General Meeting on 17th May. Caroline Pitt who has been the Chairperson of the Friends since 2016 had given us notice that she would not be standing for re-election for the forthcoming year. While she has been chairperson, the friends have achieved many projects which have included the reorganization of the first part of the Rose Garden which is now the Jubilee Memorial Garden, the refurbishment of the table used at weddings for the Register signing and much work on the organ, to mention just a few.

Caroline was thanked for all her hard work and presented with some flowers. In her place the members were pleased to welcome Chris Smith, the Community Centre Administrator, to be our new chairperson. Thanks were also extended to Christine Senior who is our secretary and to Juliya Kablak, our treasurer, without whom we would not be as efficient.

Following the meeting. Tim Eyles, our organist, gave us a demonstration of the work and improvements which have been made to our church organ.

See photos on inside cover

Margaret Williams

As part of International Organ Day on Saturday 22nd April, a miniature organ was assembled from a kit in Christ Church.

The wooden kit was provided by Orgelkids UK and sponsored by the Friends of Christ Church. The introduction described how music has always been part of human life and led to a demonstration of the origin of pipes by blowing through hollow vessels with holes in.

Several families attended to build the little organ in two separate sessions. The procedure began with the participants laying out two rows of organ pipes, sliders and other pieces in the right order and then slotting them into the assembly. Once assembled a short tune was played on the little organ. The same tune was then played on the main church organ using the right stops to make the same sound.

All the participants got the chance to play the little organ. Several of them were accomplished pianists and we hope they may now have an interest in learning to play the church organ. ■

Beer Festival in Old Town sets new fundraising record on 10th birthday - over £15,000!



Celebrating its 10th year of running, the Old Town Beer Festival's four day event served it's final beers on Sunday after a record breaking event which saw over 1300 people attend. The event also hit a new fundraising total of over £15,000 which will go to support the church and Swindon charities.

The volunteer team, headed by Chris Smith of the Community Centre at Christ,Church, put months of work into making the four day festival the best it's ever been. An overwhelming amount of support from the local community meant that the 1000 pre-sale tickets sold out and then another 500 people attended over the four day period.

It was an incredible turnout and it even beat last year's record which we thought was amazing! Although it's unusual to have a beer festival in a church it means we can engage our community in a really positive, fun and unique event.

The event began with a comedy night in partnership with Old Town Comedy Club which was hosted by Sam Michael and saw some fantastic acts including Andy Gleeks, Dani Johns, Ian Murphy and Graeme Coulam.

The festival showcased an extensive selection of over 80 different types of beers and ciders, offering a diverse range of flavours to satisfy every palate. Attendees have a unique experience as the event takes place inside the main church building and gazebos were put up outside in the grounds.

On the Friday, thanks were given to Los Gatos, Gel Studios and The Hop Inn who sponsored the event.

For the first time, there was not only one but two nights of live music, the first on Saturday evening featuring local bands Jol Rose, Zach FC Trio, What the Pluck and Joli and the Souls. The festival concluded with the fabulous Renewal Gospel choir in concert on the Sunday evening. It was a fitting way to end the festival with such heartfelt singing and dancing in the aisles.

The Old Town Beer Festival not only celebrated the spirit of community but also served as a platform for supporting charitable causes. The £15,000 raised during the event will be distributed among three deserving organisations, a Ukrainian support organisation, Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership, The Veterans Charity and Christ Church itself. These organisations play a vital role in making a positive impact on the lives of individuals locally, and the festival's contributions will help further their invaluable work.

The Old Town Beer Festival at Christ Church fosters community engagement and inclusivity by hosting events that promote open dialogue. With professional security, the church ensures visitors respect the grounds. The festival contributes significantly to the church's funding, allowing it to continue its community work. Feedback is taken seriously and efforts are made to address any concerns.

The organisers have extended their heartfelt gratitude to the Old Town community for their overwhelming support and enthusiasm. With the generosity of attendees, volunteers, and local businesses, the Old Town Beer Festival was able to achieve its dual goals of providing an exceptional experience and raising significant funds for deserving causes.

The Rev'd. Canon Simon Stevenette said, "The Beer Festival stands as a testament to the power of community spirit, highlighting the ability of individuals to come together and make a positive impact on their community. Through their passion for fun, music, and charity, the attendees and organisers of this event have demonstrated the immense good that can be achieved when a community unites for a common cause."

Chris Smith

The Church of England responds to the Bloom Review on how government engages with faith

'Does government "do" God?' That is the title of the Bloom Review, a four-year independent review, which has recently been published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Now the Revd Dr Malcolm Brown, the Church of England's Director of Faith and Public Life, has responded to the Bloom Review.

"Faith is at the centre of people's lives and churches and other faith groups are at the very centre of communities, providing both inspiration and practical support.

"The Church of England alone is involved in more than 35,000 separate initiatives in communities and works to tackle deprivation and promote social cohesion through church schools, chaplaincies in places such as prisons and higher education and in thousands of practical programmes in its parishes.

"We welcome the recognition in the report of the need for religious literacy and a greater public understanding of the major world faiths.

"It is a fact that the majority of people in England Wales identify with a religion, so faith is not a minority pursuit.

"Everyone has a belief-system which guides their lives so it is important to enhance understanding of religions without treating religious people as 'other'. There is, of course, a huge diversity of faith in this country and faiths are not all the same.

"We look forward to hearing how any training and education in the field of religious literacy can be done in partnership with religious communities and from a perspective that sees faiths in the round." ■



ARMED FORCES DAY
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

SWINDON ARMED FORCES DAY

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2023
FROM 11AM

GWR PARK, FARINGDON RD,
SWINDON SN1 5DJ

Fun fair, entertainment, food stalls, kids
activities and more

For traders and stallholder registration please email
april.porter@sky.com

Armed Forces Day Swindon organising Committee



Do you remember the article I wrote about our Champion Jockey/WW2 soldier in the November 2022 Parish Magazine? Just in case you didn't here is a brief recap.....

Tommy Cullinan was born in Ennis, County Clare, Eire May 15 1906. He started as an amateur jockey in 1923 aged 18. In 1927 he became the champion amateur. That year he came to England with Frank Barbour, former owner of the famous horse Easter Hero and he turned professional in January 1928. In April 1928 Tommy won the Irish Grand National on Don Sancho. He also came second in the Grand National at Aintree, Liverpool on a horse called Billy Barton, a horse trained in Wroughton. It was a very eventful race with 41 horses falling or not finishing – even Tommy fell at fence 30 but remounted and completed the race. Only 2 horses finished that day.

In 1930 Tommy Cullinan achieved a unique treble. He won the Cheltenham Gold Cup on Easter Hero, the Champion Hurdle on Brown Tony and the Grand National on Shaun Goinin. The only jockey to ever do this. He is one of only six jockeys to have achieved the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Grand National in the same year.

Tommy died in 1940 and is interred in Christ Church burial ground. His CWGC headstone was very worn and we are pleased to report that finally this month the replacement arrived and has been erected.



Photo, Janet French

**The High Sheriff of Wiltshire's
Charity Concert for Rotary Swindon Cares
has raised around £4500
for Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service**

Dear Christ Church friends

Thank you so much for all your amazing help and support with the High Sheriff's Concert held in Christ Church on the 20th May. I hope you agree that it was an amazing evening of music.

Working with you all is such a pleasure:

Carol, whilst you are new to the "High Sheriff concert team", you were fantastically helpful with selling tickets and promoting the Concert – I do hope you enjoyed the evening.

Diana, thank you for helping promote the Concert in the Old Town Partnership of Churches magazine.

Stephen and Daniel, your technical support with the sound system and the screen is so important – I know both Jill and Janice relied on you both a great deal and every year you respond magnificently. Daniel, you helped me such a lot with setting up in the Church and Community Centre and I am very grateful to you for so much help

Chris, The Reception was lovely, as always, and we had great difficulty getting everyone to leave. it is a fabulous venue and it works so well for us – thank you.

Simon, what a team you have. Thank you for enabling us to use Christ Church each year for the Concert and for the help I get from so many lovely people associated with Christ Church – such a pleasure to do this.

I think that with all your help, we will have raised around £4500 for Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service which is an amazing amount.

Thank you to all of you

Nicky Alberry

JUNE DIARY

To find out the latest information for Christ Church, please sign up for our weekly email from the Christ Church News Desk:
www.christchurchswindon.co.uk/blog/

Alternatively, check our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Christchurchswindon>

Listen to our latest service at a time to suit you from 1.00 pm each Sunday by going to our website and clicking on 'Services'

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.

Every Wednesday, 10.30 am-11.00 am - Christ in Quiet with Holy Communion

02 Fri	12 noon	Wedding in Christ Church
03 Sat	7.30 am	Morning Prayer followed by fellowship breakfast in the Community Centre.
04 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 and Baptism Welcome
	6.30 pm	Christ Church, Holy Communion
05 Mon	7.30 pm	Christ Church Staff meeting in the Community Centre
06 Tues	1.30 pm	to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea in the Community Centre
	2,30 pm	to 4.00 pm Tea & Chat in the Goddard Arms
07 Wed	7.00 pm	Christ church Fellowship of Faith
11 Sun	8.00 am	Christ Church, Holy Communion
	9.00 am	St. Mary's, Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Christ Church, Family Holy Communion
	12 noon	Baptism in Christ Church
	6.30 pm	Christ Church, Informal Evening Worship

- 13 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea in the Community Centre
- 14 Wed 6.30 pm Healing Prayer at a private address
7.00 pm Bible Encounter Group, Christ Church
- 18 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 Informal Evening Worship
- 20 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea in Christ Church
Community Centre
- 21 Wed 7.00 pm Christ Church, Fellowship of Faith
- 23 Fri 1.00 pm Wedding in Christ Church
- 25 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
9.00 am St. Mary's, Holy Communion
12 noon Christ Church, Holy Baptism
6.30 pm Choral Evensong featuring Christ Church and
St. John the Baptist Church & St. Helen's Church,
Wroughton and Wichelstowe.
- 26 Mon 7.30 pm Christ Church PCC meeting in the Community Centre.
- 27 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea in the Community Centre
- 28 Wed 7.00 pm Christ Church, Bible Encounter Group



Choral Evensong
Sunday 25th June, 6.30 pm
at Christ Church

Featuring the choirs of
St. John the Baptist & St. Helen's Church,
Wroughton and Wichelstowe
and Christ Church

Immanuel

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

4th June	Ailsa Palmer
11th June	The Rev'd. Dr. Martin Camroux
18th June	The Rev'd. Sue Henderson
28th June	The Rev'd. Mark Barrett

Sabbatical:

Robert has now begun his sabbatical and will be away for all of May, June and July. All those who follow him on Facebook will have seen his journey and visits to Bilbao, Madrid and Valencia and at the time of writing he is thoroughly enjoying the museums and art of Prague and the Czech Republic.. Just imagine it all?!



**TEA SERVICE - change of date,
now Sunday 25th June**

Come along and bring a friend. It is a time for fellowship, shared over a cup of tea and sometimes a piece of cake!

Looking ahead, the next dates are 11th July and 8th August. Everyone is really welcome.

Tea and Chat:

Our members and associates are a generous bunch, an amazing £88 was collected from the folk gathered to enjoy tea and chat last week. This will be added to Immanuel's contribution for Christian Aid. The next Tea and Chat will be 13th June.

**PROPHETIC WEEKEND at Lawn Community Church
Friday, 23rd - Sunday, 25th June**

Featuring the SOAR Watchman Wall ministries team

Friday 23rd 7.30 pm - 10.00 pm - Teaching, Worship Ministry
Saturday 24th 10.00 am to 12 noon:
Prayer and proclamation at strategic sites around Swindon.
2.00 pm - 5.00 pm Teaching, Worship, Ministry
Sunday 25th 10.30 am: Worship led by the Prophetic Team

Free admission

For catering purposes, please advise us, if you plan to attend.

This is a weekend open to anyone interested in the prophetic. Please join us for part or all of the weekend!

Lawn Community Church, Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, Lawn, Swindon SN3 1JL

For more information, please contact John Cheek: JCheek2016@outlook.com

**Advance notice:
WHCT CYCLE RIDE - Saturday 9th September 2023**

More details will follow in the July magazine.

The long arm of coincidence(s)

The recent Eurovision contest held in Liverpool brought back memories for me.

Coincidence 1:

Many years ago, in the 1950s, I took my father to visit relatives, Ralph and Norah who lived in Alcester, Warwickshire. They had a photo of Viscountess Katie Boyle on display. Katie had the ability to speak several languages and was a one-time host of the Eurovision contest. Katie was married to Norah's brother Greville Baylis.

Coincidence 2:

Fast forward to the 1970s and I did secretarial work for Professor Ray Beverton who had retired as Head of the Natural Environment Research Council in Swindon. Ray had a photo on his wall of the Cambridge University Rugby Team and I was reading through the names of its members and among them was Greville Baylis.

Coincidence 3:

On to the 1990s and my younger son David worked for a print firm in Australia, Macmillan Print whose founder had emigrated from Scotland and had a Scottish Thistle as their logo. David joined the firm's Golf Club and became friendly with John Gray whose father-in-law Jim Morrell had emigrated from Swindon to Australia as a £10 'Pom'. He had lived in Old Town, Swindon.

Coincidence 4:

Jim was the drummer in a Jazz Band that gave concerts on board a tour boat taking people around Sydney Harbour. He had enjoyed Acker Bilk's Paramount Jazz Band when they visited Australia and said that when he came to England, he would very much like to meet the drummer, Richie Bryant, but had no idea how to find out where he lived. Well, I did! Richard's mother was a neighbour of mine when I lived in Upper Stratton and I knew that Richard actually lived in Old Town and, to Jim's delight, they were able to meet in The Kings Arms in Old Town. *D.S.*

75 years since the arrival of Windrush



It was 75 years ago, on 21st June 1948, that the passenger ship HMT Empire Windrush docked in London, bringing the first large group of immigrants from the West Indies to the UK.

It was a result of the British Government's invitation to people from Commonwealth countries to settle in Britain and help rebuild the country after

the devastation of the Second World War. The promise was one of prosperity and full employment, and the Windrush – ironically built and launched in Germany in 1930 – carried more than 1000 people, though the figure is often given as 492. In fact, there were probably 492 men from Jamaica, but also men and women from other islands, plus Polish men and women.

Most of the Caribbeans remained to settle permanently, despite mixed reactions. The first of what became known as the Windrush generation were housed temporarily in the Brixton area, where Windrush Square – an open space in front of the Brixton Tate Library – marks their arrival.

The Windrush generation generally defines everyone who emigrated to Britain from the Caribbean between 1948 and 1971, at which point all Commonwealth citizens living in the UK were given the right to remain. In 2018 a scandal emerged involving ineptitude by the Home Office which had resulted in people from this generation being wrongly detained, denied legal rights and threatened with deportation. It was calculated that more than 80 had been wrongly deported.

These people had been living and working in the UK for decades but had never been provided with the official paperwork and the Home Office hadn't kept a record of those granted leave to remain, for which the UK Government apologised, ■

Reflecting faith – the Lectern (part 2)

Why not have a good look at the lectern in your church, to see what it was made from and if it has a particular design.

There seem to be two distinct styles for lecterns, either a 'simple' plain book holder or one in the shape of a bird. Both styles are usually made from either wood or gilt metal (brass).

The bird is an eagle - often holding the world in its talons. The intention being that the eagle is known as the most powerful bird, which can fly the highest and longest without pausing and so can take the Word of God - the Bible that it holds - to all the places in the world.

There are 44 mentions of eagles in the Bible, but just two to include here:

In Exodus after the Israelites have left Egypt and crossed the Red Sea they camp in the wilderness, where they are not surprisingly worried about what will happen next. Shall we say 'there's a bit of grumbling and groaning' going on?

So God calls to Moses with words to encourage them, 'The Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You saw what I, the Lord, did to the Egyptians and how I carried you as an eagle carries her young on her wings, and brought you here to me.'"
(*Exodus 19: 3-5*).

And the second is one to uplift us all when we are in need of support:

Isaiah in chapter 40 is trying to describe how awesome and powerful God is and concludes that even our youth will grow weary in comparison. However, 'those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.'
(Isaiah 40: 30 – 31).

So perhaps as we hear the words of the Bible passage read to us from that symbolic figure we are reminded to both trust in the Lord and to gain inner strength.

This month

As you hear the Bible passage(s) read from the lectern during this coming month, listen not just to the words themselves but reflect on their intention to encourage you. ■

Everything I need to know... I learned from Noah's Ark

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're very old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics. Just get on with the job needing to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Author unknown

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