

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

PARTNERSHIP MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2023

£1.00



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One in Christ - Together in Mission



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Christ Church
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Partnership Letter

Immanuel Manse
152 Drove Road

Greetings to you all, after a month off, September marks the beginning of activities all around, including lots of what goes on in the Church. And this is what I would like to reflect on – BEGINNINGS.

Having lived most of my life in the Southern Hemisphere, summer holidays were January/February, where was also the beginning of the year (at least the year measured in our Christian culture). Then had to adapt to a new way of considering beginnings: Yes, New Year still happens in January. And yet there are other “beginnings”. The beginning of classes tends to be in September, or October at University. After the summer break, there is the beginning of most of our activities at Church, when groups meet again, or the choir comes back to enhance our worship after a month break. And the truth is that all breaks are necessary, we all have to stop for a time to then be able to get back to things. It is healthy to do this.

Of course there are other “New Years” that people in our wider communities celebrate: The Chinese New Year, the Jewish New Year, the Islamic New Year, the Gregorian New Year just to mention some. There are many more. Do we know when our neighbours who don't follow our celebration, celebrate their New Year? Wouldn't it be a good way of getting to know people who live close to us?

And yet, there are many beginnings we are faced with during our life. And the Bible picks up quite a few of them:

- *Genesis 1 – the beginning of all beginnings: In the beginning God created*
- *Revelation 21 – the new heaven and new earth.*
- *Then we are confronted with the development of our faith, when we read in 2 Corinthians 5: In Christ we are a new creation.*
- *And the wonderful new opportunity we read about in Ezekiel 11: put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. ►*

- *The challenge for our every day life as we read in Colossians 3: put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and is in all.*
- *And the words we hear each time we gather and celebrate Communion: Drink, this is the blood of the New Covenant (Matthew 26)*
- *And a final example taken from Romans 6: just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

This is a reminder of the many new beginnings we are given by the love and grace of God. We experience a new beginning when we need, we are not limited to an “only” once experience. Isn’t this wonderful?

And then there are those new beginnings when school finishes and its either a job or off to university. The new opportunities that come with a move, be it moving house, or moving country. The move away from an abusive relationship which brings hope, or the hopeful new beginning of people leaving their country in search of new opportunities, such as refugees because they have been experiencing horrors that they didn’t create which have diminished life. The new beginning of retiring from a job, a marriage, or the birth of a child, or death.

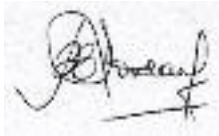
So many times in life we face a new beginning and that can bring on fear, apprehension, excitement, sadness, hope.... A new beginning means also the leaving behind what was before. It’s a journey that often leads to the unknown. New beginnings happen to us all, not just to some.

So we are invited to be empathetic to others experiencing new beginnings in the certainty that we too will go through something similar at one time or another. In faith we live each moment because through all this we can also affirm: *“We are not alone, we live in God’s world...we are called to be the Church, to celebrate God’s presence...to love and serve others... In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.”* (United Church of Canada)

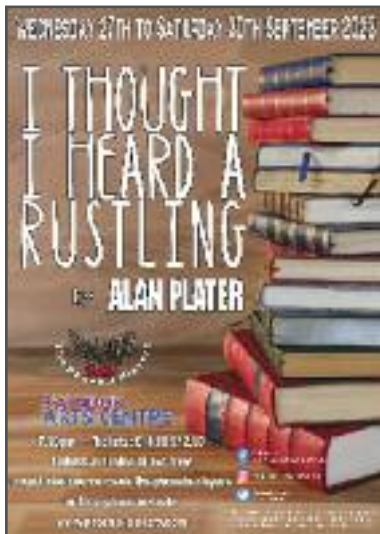
As God was with the first beginning, God is with us at each of the beginnings that follow. Isn’t that a wonderful experience even if at times a rather daunting one. Let us share what comes with the spirit of new beginnings. ➤

As God was with the first beginning, God is with us at each of the beginnings that follow. Isn't that a wonderful experience, even if at times a rather daunting one. Let us share what comes with the spirit of the new beginnings.

God bless,



Robert Jordan



**The Phoenix Players
Swindon Arts Centre
Wednesday 27th to
Saturday 30th September**

**I THOUGHT I HEARD A RUSTLING
by Alan Plater**

I Thought I Heard a Rustling is a gentle comedy set in the Eastwood Road branch library and is about a very serious topical dilemma; would you rather live in a town with twenty seven supermarkets and one library or a town with twenty eight supermarkets and no library?

With passing swipes at professional northerners and pompous local councillors, Alan Plater's play has warmth, affection and humour and is a celebration of the written word, suggesting as a basis for negotiation that books are a good idea. It was first performed at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East in January 1991.

Tickets can now be purchased at www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-phoenix-players
Further information about our group can be found on our website:
www.phoenix-players.com

FAMILY EVENTS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church

CHRIST CHURCH

June 25 Beatrix Ophelia Bradley
July 30 Emily Alice Bennett
Aug 6 Faraz Falahi , Harry Sweetman
Aug 13 Ariella Joy Pidgeon and Rosalie Jane Pidgeon
Aug 27 Caspar Marcel Stevenette

MARRIAGE

We wish joy and happiness to

CHRIST CHURCH

June 23 Charlie Daniel Kitching and Lucy Sloane Jeanette Joyce Ingram
Aug 26 Luke Terence Byrne and Susannah Ellen Francis Hardwick
Sep 9 Eddy Mark Sproule and Lucy Ann Finch

BLESSING OF MARRIAGE

July 8 Thomas Fischer and Katherine Hasler

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones

CHRIST CHURCH

June 13 Nigel Edward Robinson, 85 years
20 Celia Anne Moore, 83 years
July 19 Antonia Raimonda Pompilia Ricciardi, 87 years
24 Rosemary Elizabeth Lake, 63 years
29 John Chambers, 85 years
Aug 6 Helen Pudwell, 85 years
Aug 8 Patrick Thomas Williams, 90 years

FLOODLIGHTING

July 7 To mark National Action Mesothelioma Day
July 15 For Cynthia Lund - Happy heavenly birthday, Mum. Miss you loads. Always in our thoughts and our hearts. Love Chris, Maria, Viv, Kate, Hil, all your grandchildren and great grandchildren
Sep 1 Robert 'Bob' Humerick. Treasured memories of Bob on his birthday, so dearly loved. *José, Susan and family.*
Sep 24 To remember Geoffrey and my love for family in Heaven and on Earth. *Margaret.*

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

Please note: If you would like the floodlighting to be in the magazine for the appropriate month, we will need to have your request by the 12th of the preceding month.

Remembering the genius of JRR Tolkien

Fifty years ago, on 2nd September 1973, JRR Tolkien, the fantasy writer, poet, scholar and educator, died. He was best known for his novels *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Born in Bloemfontein and descended from a family that originated in an area that was then East Prussian and is now Russian, Tolkien – always known as Ronald – thought of himself as unmistakably English. He was brought up in the Birmingham area after the death of his father, who had stayed in South Africa while his wife and children visited England.

Ronald's mother then died when he was 12 and he was raised by aunts, uncles and a guardian who was a Roman Catholic priest, Father Francis. Tolkien later became a devoted Catholic and insisted that his fiancée, Edith Bratt, join him in that faith. She did so, reluctantly, and they had a long and extremely happy marriage. His beliefs were a significant factor in C S Lewis's conversion to Christianity.

Tolkien had a longstanding fascination with language and became an acknowledged expert in both linguistics and mythology, which led to his writing his two most famous works – and several others. Despite assumptions by some, none were intended as children's books, and *The Lord of the Rings* was never a trilogy – it was printed in three volumes for cost reasons.

The huge success of his writing led to unexpected fame. He and his wife eventually moved to Bournemouth and lived there until she died in 1971. He was then given rooms in Merton College, Oxford. He said in an interview shortly before his death: "A pen is to me as a beak is to a hen."

Since 2003, The Tolkien Society has organised Tolkien Reading Day which takes place on 25th March in schools around the world. ■



Ride + Stride 2023

Saturday 9th September between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

This is an opportunity to visit some of our beautiful ancient churches and chapels that aren't always open.

The event, run by the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, is sponsored and the idea is to visit as many places of worship as you can. You can travel on foot, by bike, on horseback or on a mobility scooter. Visit as many or as few churches as you wish, planning your own route and going at your own pace.

Money raised will be split between your own church and the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, who give grants to maintain and repair historic churches.

Our four churches will be open to provide refreshments and toilets for those taking part. If you can help to welcome people for an hour or so, please contact your organiser.

If you would like to take part in Ride + Stride, full details and a sponsor form can be downloaded from the WHCT website, or speak to your organiser, details below.

Bath Road

David Sinclair phone 07768 775288 email: .sinclair302@btinternet.com

Christ Church and St Mary's

Arline Stovell phone 07716 394754 email: royandarline@gmail.com

Immanuel

Liz Gleed phone 07768 120364 email: liz.gleed@gmail.com

Please note new phone numbers for Liz and Arline.

Immanuel

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

3rd	September	Morning Worship, The Rev'd. Robert Jordan
10th	September	Morning Worship, The Rev'd. Jonathan Edwards
17th	September	Holy Communion, The Rev'd. Robert Jordan
24th	September	Morning Worship, The Rev'd. Tony Barnes

Immanuel Tuesday Tea & Chat

These will take place on Tuesday 12th September and Tuesday 10th October both at 2.30pm. Donations of cakes would be appreciated.

50 NOT OUT!



The Rev'd. Geoffrey Gleed is celebrating his 50 years as Organist and Choirmaster of Immanuel this year.

**The 10.30am service on
Sunday 17th September will include a
recognition of this milestone.**

The service will be followed by a buffet in the hall and there will be a cake for Geoff to cut. All are welcome!

A record of the day will be included in the October magazine.

Brighter Futures Fundraising

An update on the recent 12 hour concert held here at Immanuel a couple of weeks ago in aid of the GWH charity: we've heard that the day raised a massive total in excess of £2,000. So congratulations to the organisers and all those who took part.

What can I say about my Sabbatical?

Well, the truth is that I can say a lot, but this is not the place or the time, so will share just a few thoughts.

May-June-July were the months in which I was able to do so many different things, things I have never done before, in places I had never been to before. It was wonderful and I am so grateful for this opportunity. My plan was to research Religious Art and the way it expressed the values of its time and challenged us today to ratify those values or find a different way forward. I had a plan of places to go to and art to see. And it all went wonderfully. I saw all I had planned to see and so much more, and was able to go to the places I wanted to go, plus an extra. And when the Sabbatical had finished there were two places left on the list, one of which I hope to have gone to before you read this, so that only leaves one place on the list.

It all began in Spain: Bilbao, Madrid and Valencia, from there off to Prague, then Munich, from there to Strasbourg and Colmar, a train journey to Ghent and then off to Berlin and a last minute arranged visit to Leipzig. Once back in the UK, it was St. Ives and then North Somerset and the Exmoor National Park area, even a short visit to St Aidan's Church in East Acton in London. I still have to get to Cookham and finally Coventry. It was not only paintings and sculpture, there were wonderful buildings which spoke loud and clear and asked complicated questions. I came across historical figures who changed history: Jan Huss in Prague, Martin Bucer, Gutenberg and Albert Schweitzer in Strasbourg, Bach, Mendelssohn and Schuman in Leipzig... And even mugged by two vicious seagulls in St. Ives who flew off with the best part of my Cornish pastie.

So far (and I still have a few more to do) I have 2200 photos, some of which have become 10 power-points, on different topics – from Adam and Eve to Crucifixions, Windows, Organs and Pulpits from different places to Street Art... And I guess a couple of other power-points will be added to this list. Far from including all the photos I took, but just a way of sharing with others what I saw. So if there is an interest in seeing them, just let me know (I promise I will not bore you too much!)

It was a time when I asked many questions and found some answers. A time to think of what the church has been, is, and what it could be doing different or also what it should continue to do. Questions about myself and what needs changing, and what I'd like to keep doing. ➤

So much I never ever imagined I would see, do, think.. I kept on asking myself "Robert, are you really here? Are you really seeing this?" And it was true.

I thank God for this gift and the United Reformed Church for offering me the opportunity and Immanuel and Highworth URC for their support and kindness all the way through this time.

By the way – it is good to be back!



Errata from last month's magazine

On page 20 of the July/August edition, in the article on other churches using Immanuel building for worship, it was wrongly titled "Other faiths worshipping at Immanuel church"; this should have read "Other denominations worshipping at Immanuel church". Many apologies.

Robert Jordan.

Music for Dementia and Thank You Day Tony Christie's 'Thank you for Being a Friend' "Starring" role for Muriel Baker

You may well have seen the recent media coverage regarding the release of this song - some of the footage was filmed at the 'Singing for the Brain' group which Muriel attends weekly in West Swindon. If you watch the video on YouTube you will see Muriel entering the Community Centre, along with Tanya one of her carers. Then a bit later she is sat with the rest of the group - she is the only one with a hat on!

Thank You for Being a Friend' -

Thank You Day Anthem by Tony Christie feat Sting, Nile Rodgers

Brighter Futures Fundraising

An update on the recent 12 hour concert held here at Immanuel a couple of weeks ago in aid of the GWH charity: we've heard that the day raised a massive total in excess of £2,000. So congratulations to the organisers and all those who took part.

8th August 2023: Tea and Chat

Our August Tea and Chat had a special flavour to it...not only did we enjoy a cream tea instead of just biscuits with our cuppa, but as you see below, one lady had something to celebrate....

100 not out!!

Nancy Self is certainly the shortest of Immanuel's members but what she lacks in stature she certainly makes up for in personality! She is perhaps one of the most cheerful and the 'bubbliest' in our congregation and invariably wears a lovely smile on her face.

In August she received a special card from His Majesty the King marking her 100th birthday and she will be celebrating in style as there is to be a special lunch on the day itself. Ever ready to seize the opportunity to have a bit of a party (or at least enjoy a slice of cake) her friends at Immanuel took the chance to do that at the August Tea and Chat.

And seeing that she is such a bubbly character, one of our number made sure we had containers of soap suds so the church hall was filled with lots of bubbles ... a 'first' for Immanuel I think!

Geoff's Jottings:
Just one or two statistics for you to consider.



A large study carried out by Kings College London revealed that The United Kingdom ranked 18th out of 23 countries for the proportion of the population that say they believe in God.

Just 15% of all weddings in England and Wales now involve a religious ceremony. That's the lowest ever.

It is estimated that there are 22,000 pieces of plastic in the world's oceans per human. That's 171 trillion in total.

Whilst I was working for a company as Personnel Manager some years ago, a member of staff sent a retirement card addressed to ALL the employees. After he had left, I held onto the card because the words inside went like this:
*'You were thoughtful, caring and kind.
You were sensitive and understanding.
You helped me cope in more ways than words could ever say.
I don't know what I would have done without you –
You were there when I needed you most.
If there were more people like you in the world then it would be a better place.
And so for all you each did for me, I'm ever so grateful.
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.*

Some beautiful words I'm sure you would agree.

It got me to thinking.

Could that be said of me?

Could it be said of my Church?

Oh! What about this for one final thought!

'The world at its worst needs the church at its best.'

Look after yourselves.

God Bless.

Geoff Gleed

Sunday 17th September 2023

Whilst launching the Harvest Appeal Project for this year, the 10:30am service will also include recognition of Geoff Gleed's 50 years as Organist and Choirmaster of Immanuel. The service will be followed by a small buffet lunch and celebratory cake in the hall.

A record of the day will be included in the October Partnership Magazine.

IMMANUEL HARVEST APPEAL for 2023 is VOICE4Girls. Launch date: 17th September.

Sheila Cannell the Chairman of the Trustees of the UK charity 'Scottish Love in Action' that works with VOICE4girls in India will be addressing the congregation at Immanuel on Sunday 17th September. Sheila has been involved with 'Scottish Love in Action' for many years and will be talking about VOICE4girls which she has visited on trips to India.

VOICE4Girls is an NGO that works with adolescent, marginalised girls and boys in India. The girls are at risk of dropping out or being removed by their parents for early marriage or labour. VOICE conducts activity-based camps in government and low-cost private schools. Through these camps, the girls acquire problem solving, decision making, negotiation, and communication skills.

Programmes for the girls includes a succession of modules when the girls learn about puberty, menstrual health, basic rights, and safety from violence; then topics such as education, future planning, gender and sexuality, consequences of early marriage and pregnancy, nutrition, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health. Finally they are trained on leadership skills and enabled so they can teach younger girls in their schools about topics such as safe and unsafe touch, importance of education, support system, and basic health and well-being.

After hearing many stories of bravery and resilience, VOICE realised that it was not enough to work with girls in isolation. VOICE has now developed a programme that works intensively with adolescent boys which aims to build gender ambassadors working to create a gender-equal world. The boys learn about mental health, puberty, menstruation, violence, and fundamental rights. They then delve further into topics such as rights and responsibilities, gender and sexuality, mental health and sexual and reproductive health.

Immanuel is hoping to raise £2,500 which will enable VOICE to deliver their programme to 300 girls and boys. ■

Faith is not walking on water (In the light of Matthew 14:31)

Peter, did you truly believe that faith
was walking on the waters of that lake?

Did you really think that the Teacher
was interested in such a useless and unnecessary faith?

What contribution to humanity would it be
that a legion of women and men
walked on the waters of lakes, seas, and rivers?

You sunk because you really didn't grasp
that Jesus' call was the calling to a faith
that manifests in the boat's community,
in the trusting and prayerful waiting of those who know how to resist and
never, ever in a "isolated salvation".

You sunk because you doubted the One who said:

"I'm here, do not fear, keep up your spirits".

You sunk because, seeing the waves and the wind,
you believed it was safer to be out of the boat,
forgetting that in the boat were your friends,
your family, your journey mates.

Your faith would have expressed itself fully and truly in that boat,
staying close to your gathered community,
trusting the Teacher's soon arrival,
ignoring those horrendous words: "if it's you..."

Whoever believes that faith demands aquatic walks
or any other such ridiculous demand
has completely lost the centre of
what gospel spirituality is about.

The wind, the waves, lose their power,
calm comes and all is serene
when the community is complete,
including the Teacher, in the same boat.

Whenever we doubt
remind us brother Peter,
that wanting salvation in isolation
will certainly end up with us sinking.

Gerardo C Oberman (Argentina)

Bath Road

All services start at 10am

3rd	September	Holy Communion, The Rev'd. Rach Collins
10th	September	Morning Worship, Eric Hewitt
17th	September	Morning Worship, Geoff Rhodes
24th	September	Morning Worship, Alex Scott

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

9th September

£1.00 for a bacon roll with tea or coffee

All are welcome.



MOPS

(MOPS stands for Mix of People
7th and 21st September)

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.

September 7th The Importance of Story Telling, Margaret Williams
September 21st Stephen Roe

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

Wedding of Sarah Read and Michael Sutcliffe



Saturday 15th July was a very happy day in Bromyard Rd. Methodist Church, Worcester when Sarah Read and Mike Sutcliffe were married. The ceremony was conducted by The Rev'd. Katherine Pickering. A short address was given by The Rev'd. Latika Singh and some of the prayers were led by the The Rev'd. Ajay Singh. Two of the bridesmaids were Sharon and Shekinah Singh with Thomas Read one of the ushers - the Read and Singh families in particular thoroughly enjoyed meeting up again on such a happy occasion.

Sarah is starting paediatric training in September. Her first hospital is Warrington for six months. She is in the Liverpool area for her training, about half of which will be at Alder Hey and the Women and Children's Hospitals, the rest could be anywhere from North Wales to Blackpool.

Dear Friends,

I thought it was time I explained my story. As you know, I had a fall a while ago which has taken away my confidence. This has resulted in me needing more support.

I just wanted to say a BIG THANK YOU to all my friends who have helped me in so many ways. Without you all walking by my side, I would not have been able or lucky enough to enjoy the following events.

1. Friends from Ukraine - An uplifting music event

At the end of June, I was taken to the home of Barbara and Steve Aftelak to be entertained with afternoon tea and music by a group of Ukrainian musicians who had been staying with them. They were a mixed age group and proved to be wonderful musicians. In the beginning, the man who was the leader explained to us in Ukrainian how they came over from Ukraine and one of the young girls acted as interpreter. They had brought their instruments with them and they finished with a group of little children singing. It was a very, very happy afternoon.

2. Garden event.

Fast forward 2 weeks and once again I found myself in a garden having tea. We had been invited by Janet and Noel. They had erected a large gazebo and when they closed the sides up it looked as though we were looking out of the window at the garden itself. The cakes were all homemade by Janet and Noel and I especially liked the scones, clotted cream and jam. 20 of us sat down to the meal but the two and a half hours just flew by and the conversation flowed.

3. Wedding

A week later I found myself with Gwen and Eric motoring up to Worcester. We were off to a special occasion, the wedding of Sarah Read and Mike Sutcliffe. Some of you will remember the Reads. Catherine and Adrian moved away. Since that time, their daughter Sarah has become a Doctor of Paediatrics in Liverpool and now here we were to see her become a wife. All the way up we had been looking at the clouds, watching for rain. We got there, pulled up in the church car park and the heavens opened but fortunately only for a very short time. The church had been beautifully decorated with Sunflowers and wild flowers.

We were lucky enough to have a seat right at the back of the church alongside the entrance where the couple came in so we had the first view of the bride who looked beautiful. They were preceded by Catherine accompanied by her son Thomas. Both Catherine and Adrian looked very proud parents.

Sarah had four bridesmaids, two of whom were the daughters of Ajay and Latika Singh whom some of you may remember was our minister at Bath Road. Latika has become a minister herself.

Margaret Jones

Matthew Cammish's sermons

The fifth booklet in the series of Matthew Cammish's sermons is now available. It contains an Introduction by Lord Mackay of Clashfern - as have previous booklets. Lord Mackay is a Former Lord Advocate and was Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain.

Copies of the booklet can be obtained from martinrobins@btinternet.com - there is no charge.

Christ Church with St. Mary's

Resources to help people learn more about the Christian faith
www.explorechristianity.info

We have a new resource in the entrance of Christ Church. There are prayer cards for you to pick up with the following titles:

Being Accepted, Looking for God, Worried about Someone, Finding Peace, Wanting Guidance, Wanting forgiveness, Feeling anxious or sad, Feeling alone, Being thankful, Struggling with change, Feeling Hurt, Grieving.

Please use them for yourselves or a friend.

Tales from the 80s and 90s

After one busy weekend in my hotel I found that I had not been quick enough to prepare the tariff with additional bar drinks etc. for a very charming guest, who had stayed a couple of times before whenever a severe electrical storm hit the US Military Airfield, Campbell situated near to us. He was a very learned and distinguished scientist who was 'dispatched' to stay with us while repairing the huge computer the storm had disabled and disrupted, which controlled every take off and landing reducing the airport to a standstill. There was a huge number of tank-carrying helicopters as well as other 'heavys' all on standby to go to any trouble spots in the world should a call come from worldwide American control. This was the Cold War era.

Being a friend, I gave my guest a bill and the calculator that was lying nearby, he smiled and coloured up with slight embarrassment, he said "sorry but I have no idea how it works". I confessed that I was the same and wanted to hug him but did not think our friendship would go to that.

He came 5 times over the years to engage in conversation when time allowed but neither of us ever learned how to use a calculator.

Esmé Swindells

Life Member of the Friends, Christine Senior has clocked up a fantastic record transcribing 50 historic wills relating to Lydiard Tregoze. Here she tells us how she got involved in volunteering for the 100 Wills Project and why it's so compulsive.

Having lived in Swindon for most of my life, I remember coming to the park as a child and adult, bringing my children when they were young to play in the play areas and have picnics. In 2015 I found out about The Friends of Lydiard Park, (can't remember how, possibly via social media or the council website) and decided to join as a life member. I have been interested in local history for many years and enjoyed visiting the house when I could. Since then, I have enjoyed attending the literary talks, Christmas socials and summer outings.

When I read about the 100 Wills Project in 2021, it sounded interesting and as a touch typist something I could do easily at home. I contacted the project leader, Lynda Pidgeon and she emailed me my first will which was for the Rev'd. Timothy Dewell, 1692. Rev'd. Dewell was Rector of St. Mary's, Lydiard Tregoze for 42 years and a close friend of Sir Walter and Lady Johanna St. John of Lydiard Park. At that time the substantial Lydiard Rectory stood just East of the churchyard. You can read about Timothy Dewell in Report no 6 of the Friends of Lydiard Park.

The first few wills were quite difficult to transcribe due to the handwriting and spellings, especially surnames. However, I found it interesting to try and find information online regarding people and places mentioned. As with everything, the more you do, the easier it becomes and you get to recognise commonly used phrases and words of a particular period. The earliest one I have done is Adrian Frye 1603 who was a resident of Lydiard Millicent. Most of the wills I have transcribed recently were written in the 19th century. There were a lot of clergymen in the St John family some of whom appear to have been quite well off!

One interesting and rather long one, was the will of General Frederick St John, second son of Lady Diana Spencer and Frederick St John, 2nd Viscount Bolingbroke who died in 1844. Frederick had a distinguished military career and many adventures, surviving shipwreck and capture by pirates in 1800. You can see his portrait hanging in the State Bedroom at Lydiard House.

The will I have just started to transcribe will be my 50th one and is 13 pages long! ■



The Friends of Christ Church Charity Christmas Market

Date for the diary

The trustees are once again organising this popular annual event on Saturday 18th November 11am-2.30pm. The Mayor of Swindon is opening the event and Christ Church Choir and Hand Bell Ringers will be performing in the Community Centre and church. There will also be the opportunity to visit the ringing room in the bell tower.



**A working holiday:
Christ Church Buildings Committee at their meeting in France.**

Window Wanderland

Residents of Lawn, in partnership with Lawn Community Association, are organising our first Window Wanderland.

It is a festival of light and colour, where people transform their neighbourhoods into a magical outdoor gallery of unique displays in their window.

There will be a map and a walking trail on the weekend of 10th - 12th November with the very general theme of remembrance.

www.windowwanderland.com/area/lawn-swindon/



This summer Safe Families is celebrating its 10th Anniversary!

Safe Families is a charity that works with local authorities around the UK offering support, hope and belonging to children, families and care givers. Over the past 10 years, more than 8,000 isolated families have been connected into community by volunteers from churches and community groups across the UK.

Volunteering as a Family Friend for just an hour once a week to have coffee with a mum, dad or carer who may be struggling, a trip to the park with their children or accompanying them to a group or appointment, can make a world of difference to them and their family. Family Friends often become like wider family or neighbours in situations where families feel overwhelmed by their circumstances, supporting them with love, kindness and encouragement.

Some people volunteer as Resource Friends and don't necessarily have direct contact with families but show compassion through donating resources such as cots, toys or clothing. Alternatively, using skills such as gardening or carpentry can also be really significant for families.

As a volunteer for Safe Families since my retirement last year, I've had the privilege of becoming a Family Friend to two families – both of them very different in all kinds of ways. It has been so encouraging to watch them become more confident and take on everyday tasks and activities which others often take in their stride. In supporting both these families, I have been blessed with their trust and reciprocal friendship. It has also been great to get to know and work with the amazing Swindon Safe Families team.

If you think you could offer support and would like to find out more about the work of Safe Families in Swindon, do be in touch with:

Helen Howarth, Community Volunteer Manager
Office: 0333 414 1488 - extension 14
Mobile: 07467 649932

Janice Titcombe



If any of our readers do a voluntary job and would like to tell us about it, we would be pleased to include it in this magazine.

SEPTEMBER

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 Sat | 7.30 am | Morning Prayer followed by fellowship breakfast in the Community Centre. |
| | 10.00 pm | to 4.00 am Street Pastors in Community Centre |
| 03 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 |
| 04 Mon | 7.30 pm | Christ Church Staff meeting in the Community Centre |
| 05 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 |
| 06 Wed | 10.30 am | to 11.00 am Christ in Quiet Service |
| | 7.00 pm | Christ Church, Fellowship of Faith |
| | 10.00 pm | to 4.00 am Street Pastors at the Community Centre |
| 09 Sat | 1.00 pm | Wedding in Christ Church |
| 10 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 | Christ Church, Healing Service |

- 12 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea in Christ Church
Community Centre
- 13 Wed 10.30 am to 11.00 am Christ in Quiet Service
7.00 pm Bible Encounter Group in Christ Church
- 16 Sat 12 noon to 4.00 pm Christ Church Autumn Fayre
- 17 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
9.00 am St. Mary's, Informal Holy Communion
10.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
6.30 pm Christ Church, Choral Evensong
- 19 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea in the Community Centre
- 20 Wed 10.30 am to 11.00 am Christ in Quiet Service
7.00 pm Christ Church Fellowship of Faith
- 21 Thur 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Art Group in the Community Centre
- 23 Sat 12 noon Wedding in Christ Church
2.00 pm Wedding in Christ Church
- 24 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
9.00 am St. Mary's, Holy Communion
10.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
12 noon Christ Church, Holy Baptism
6.30 pm Informal Evening Worship
- 25 Mon 7.30 pm Christ Church PCC meeting in Community Centre
- 26 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Christ Church Afternoon Tea in the
Community Centre
- 27 Wed 10.30 am to 11.00 am Christ in Quiet Service
7.00 pm Christ Church, Bible Encounter Group
10.00 pm to 4.00 am Street Pastors in Community Centre
- 28 Thur 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Art Group in the Community Centre
- 30 Sat 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm Candlelight Concert in Christ Church.
The Best of Hans Zimmer

ADVERTISEMENTS

To advertise in this magazine, please contact Mr. David Bevan telephone 01793 336667; email: david04bevan@yahoo.co.uk

Whilst care has been taken, no responsibility can be accepted for statements made by the advertisers, neither can we be responsible for any losses caused by any errors or omissions in the advertisements.

**COPY for the OCTOBER MAGAZINE
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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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