

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

PARTNERSHIP MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2023

£1.00



Photo, Janet French

The First World War Memorial in Christ Church

One in Christ - Together in Mission



**Come and join us at
Bath Road Methodist
Church**

3pm - 4:30pm

October 1st 2023

November 5th 2023

December 3rd 2023

Messy fun for all the family!
Worship, Games, Crafts,
Stories & Tea!



"Messy Church Old Town"
messychurcholdtown@gmail.com

Old Town Partnership of Churches
Bath Road Methodist - Christ Church C of E - Immanuel URC

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Partnership Letter

Bath Road Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

An unexpected task this, Rach is, at the time of writing, struggling with the after effects of Covid and I have been asked to write some thoughts for this month's Partnership Magazine. What thoughts does November awake in you?

For me, the first thought is always of a poem my brother wrote 70 years ago, at the age of 10 when his class was tasked with writing a poem on 'November'.

No flowers, no leaves,
No birds, no bees,
No wonder, November!

Yes, November marks the start of winter: short dark days, fog, rain, sleet and cold. It does start with the bright spot of 'Bonfire night', sadly, no more bonfires but great crowd-pleasing Firework Displays make up for that.

However, for me it is Remembrance Day that dominates my thoughts of November. On Remembrance Sunday I am haunted by the words of the prophets: "Neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3). On Remembrance Sunday it is natural, indeed inevitable, for us to look back to the war years. But sadly war is still with us. People are still dying in conflicts across the world.

On Remembrance Day I catch myself looking with sorrow at the loss of millions of young lives, cut off in their prime, with their promise unfulfilled. Sorrow at the maimed bodies and distressed minds of many of the survivors. Sorrow at the broken hearts of the bereaved, the parents, wives, lovers, comrades, of those who died. Those who died we need to remember were not just members of the armed forces, but a host of civilians, who were caught up in the conflict and whose names do not appear on war memorials.

But I also look back and around with gratitude. Gratitude for the sacrifices made by people of many nations, in ridding humankind of oppressive tyrannies. Gratitude for the sacrifices made in the hope of creating a better world. And I remember with pride: pride at the courage and selflessness of those involved in the wars, however horrible war itself may be. Yet still wars continue ►

Where do we as Christians stand in this situation? Look again at these words of Jesus, Matthew 5:43,44: "You have heard that it was said, "Love your friends, hate your enemies." But now I tell you: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

I wonder how you reacted to those words of Jesus. If you didn't know that the teaching was his, you'd probably dismiss it as absurd. Turning the other cheek, yielding to unreasonable demands, loving (that is to say, being concerned about and seeking the welfare of) your enemies - it sounds impossible. But Jesus is saying - Jesus is saying that our behaviour, our behaviour not others, OUR behaviour, should always be conciliatory, and should never be vengeful. When wronged, we shouldn't instantly be up in arms, demanding our rights, and vigorously sticking up for ourselves. Instead, we should attempt to defuse the situation, to heal wounds, remove bitterness, break down barriers, turn enemies into friends. And is not this highly applicable to our present-day society where we're forever looking for someone to blame, and insisting that heads must roll, as someone is responsible?

A hard task, a tall order - but that's the sort of perfection Jesus encourages us to aim at, the perfection he himself practised. Listen again to his words: John 15.13: "Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends". But he showed that greater love, in that as Paul puts it, Romans 5:8 "While we were still sinners (enemies of God) Christ Jesus died for us."

The people of the past have paid the high price of Humanity's failure to forgive, to reconcile, to seek justice and to share earth's bounties. The present is crying out for the Christian ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation. I have to ask, are you engaged in forgiveness and reconciliation where you are? Do you share what you have with those less fortunate? Because, if we do not practice it in our daily, our personal lives, it is no wonder that the leaders of nation ignore the claims of the poor and needy of other lands and the injustice so created leads to conflict and conflict to all the concerns we have today.

November is a bleak month, but if we Remember Jesus words and follow them and Him, it could be the start of a transformed world!

Geoff Rhodes

FAMILY EVENTS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church

CHRIST CHURCH

IMMANUEL

Sep 3 Roxanna Louisa Varga, Mikaela Rae Varga

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

MARRIAGE

We wish joy and happiness to

CHRIST CHURCH

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones

CHRIST CHURCH

Sep 11 Pamela Olive Hills, 88 years
13 Henry William Fitzsimmons, 93 years
22 Joyce Mary Andrews, 98 years

IMMANUEL

Jul 13 David John Bartlett
Sep 3 Dorothy Joan Forrest

FLOODLIGHTING

September 30th: In celebration of the marriage of Alistair Senior and Naomi Wilcox in Cambridge.

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.

Our ministry in our Care Homes

For many years we have been involved in the care of the residents of the care homes in Old Town and we have been doing our best to go in and give the residents an opportunity to worship together. This has usually happened on a monthly basis and we try to go in pairs and have a worship time in the lounges of these care homes.

In the past we have done this at Quarry Mount, Ashbury Lodge, Kingsmead and Princess Lodge and we even used to go into some other complexes where there were some older residents such as Blackman Gardens, Woodspring Court and The Weavers.

Alas, all this had to stop when the Lockdown happened but now we are starting up again, concentrating on the care homes in our part of the town but we cannot do this without people willing to lead the services. We usually have a hymn or two, a bible reading, a little talk and some prayers as well as a little time to chat with the residents.

It is good to have the same people going to each particular home each month so that the residents get to know them. Is this something which you think you could do? It would mean a commitment of about an hour each month on a day and time agreed with the care home. Two people who have not done this before are now regular leaders at Quarry Mount but we do need volunteers for Ashbury Lodge and Princess Lodge.

If you feel called to this work, please get in touch with me, Margaret Williams or one of the clergy.

Margaret Williams

Last Month's Magazine

Some of you might know that Diana Swann's house suffered from storm damage last month and it happened during the night before the magazine was due to be sent off to the printers electronically. Her router and the electricity in Diana's house were damaged making it impossible to send the magazine material to the printers but after valiant efforts by Diana's son, the magazine was rescued and got to the printers, albeit later than usual and they printed it in time for us all. Our thoughts are with Diana as her house is still drying out!

Margaret Williams

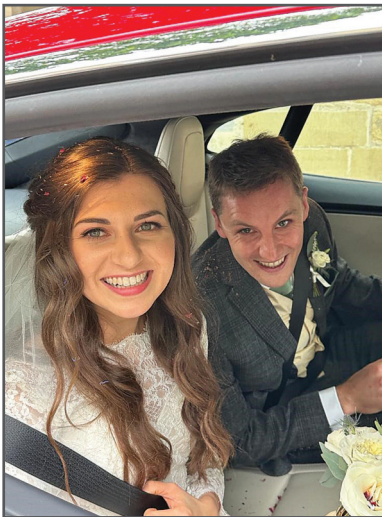
Christ Church with St. Mary's

BIBLES

Some years ago a very generous benefactor donated money to Christ Church with the sole purpose of providing a selection of study bibles for people to borrow. These were housed in the bookcase near the Lady Chapel. Earlier this year many went missing but were subsequently replaced once an insurance claim was granted.

Unfortunately of the 24 replaced, 10 have once more disappeared. This is disappointing, especially as we are unable to make a second insurance claim.

We may be able to replace these with second hand copies so if you would like to 'gift' a bible to our library please contact Rev'd. Daphne Hardwick on 693721 or daphne@christchurhswindon.co.uk



Alistair Senior and Naomi Wilcox tied the knot on 30th September 2023 at St. Andrew the Great, Cambridge.

Wiltshire Historic Churches Ride and Stride 2023 Christ Church with St Mary's

On Saturday 9th September, a very hot day, 5 intrepid people from Christ Church with St Mary's set off to do the 'Ride and Stride'. Taking place between 10am and 6pm on the second Saturday in September, participants in this event are invited to choose their own routes between Wiltshire churches which open to receive them and often provide refreshments.

Thanks to Arline Stovell who is the Christ Church with St. Mary's parish organiser and all the people who welcomed visitors to Christ Church or St Mary's.

I think all five of us participants enjoyed visiting other churches and talking to their welcomers. And we created some fantastic statistics!

Carol Simmons visited 21 churches on foot and walked 18 miles in 8 hours.

Chris Smith visited 38 Swindon churches by bike, 42.3 miles in 5 ¾ hours and just got to kick off at Swindon Town (and they won too!)

Steve Cox cycled to 41 churches in 51.6 miles in 7 hours.

Daniel Pitt cycled round 11 churches, 16 miles, 4½ hrs.

Caroline Pitt visited 15 churches using 7 buses and walking about 5 miles in 5½ hrs.

The total amount sponsored and collected in was £916.00, plus Gift Aid, which is brilliant. Half will be returned, £458. Of this £367.75 will be for Christ Church with St Mary's and £90.25 for St Mark's, as Carol asked that her sponsorship money proceeds should be shared. Thank you to everyone who sponsored us.

Last year's Ride+Stride 2022 raised £53,669 for Wiltshire's Churches.

The Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary and support to Wiltshire churches and chapels over the next year. In the last ten years the Trust has made grants to Wiltshire churches and chapels of all denominations totalling £820,238. Nearly £10,000 was contributed by Christ Church people between 2000 and 2015, and we have contributed more since then.

Caroline Pitt

WHCT 'RIDE & STRIDE'



Steve Cox and Chris Smith enjoying a welcome break.

Daniel and Caroline Pitt and The Rev'd. Geoffrey Gleed



Carol Simmons and Arline Stovell, the Parish Organiser for 'Ride & Stride'

. REMEMBRANCE

The War Memorials in Christ Church and Commonwealth War Graves in our Burial Ground. *Photo: Janet French*



When you visit Christ Church do you ever wonder about any of the young men named on the various war memorials around the church or interred in the burial ground? A booklet produced by Janet French and me on behalf of The Friends of Christ Church can be found in the Remembrance Corner in

the south west corner of the church by the font which gives some information on these young men, including photographs of the Commonwealth War Graves in the burial ground. As we approach Remembrance Sunday, I have just chosen some names at random to tell you what we know about their military service.

First World War memorial in south west corner lists 84 names

Among them-

Baden, F. (Frank) Private 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Killed in action 19 July 1915 aged 19 years. Worked in no 14 shop GWR Works. Son of Frank Baden 60 Kingshill Road. Buried Pink Farm Cemetery, Helles (including Gallipoli), Turkey.

Pearce, F.S. (Frederick Stanley) Able Seaman RNVR. Assumed killed in action 3 September 1918 aged 22 years. Son of Harry & Ellen Pearce, 1 Broome Manor Lane. Commemorated Vis-en-Artios Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Beneath this memorial

A plaque remembering Vince Phillips Sgt SAS 22nd Regiment, Member of Bravo Two Zero Patrol. Killed in action during Gulf War January 1991 aged 36 years.

Lady Chapel – Madonna and Child Window

Goddard A.M.A. (Ambrose Michael Andrew), LAC RAF Volunteer Reserve. Died 16 July 1944 aged 19 years. Son of Lt Col A & Mrs Goddard (Seabrook, Kent). Buried Metis Beach (United Church) cemetery Quebec, Canada. ➤

Old Boys of the former Boys School in Bath Road Roll of Honour in South Transept

Gray, Douglas Signaller Royal Navy. Presumed killed in action 23 September 1943 (Atlantic). Son of Alfred and Nelly Gray, Swindon. Commemorated Plymouth Naval Memorial.

In the Burial Ground

We have a total of 27 Commonwealth War Graves. 12 are WW1 and 15 are WW2 also 7 more servicemen are remembered on family graves.

Among them-

Dunn, Raymond Private 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment. Killed in the Warren Point bombing Northern Ireland 27 August 1979 aged 20. He is also remembered at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire on the dedicated memorial to soldiers who died in the Northern Ireland troubles.

Someone's son, husband, father, brother, cousin, nephew or friend – We will remember them.

Christine Senior and Janet French



Photo:
Janet French

Harvest display at St Mary's

The display was created by the New Apostolic Church which meets at St Mary's. The gifts on the tables are donations from both congregations - St Mary's and the New Apostolic Church and were sent to the Swindon Food Collective Harvest Appeal.



NOVEMBER

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](tel:08002605903) to join by phone

Use this Pass code [69404 36078](tel:6940436078)

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

01	Wed	7.00 pm	Christ Church Fellowship of Faith
02	Thur	1.30 pm	to 3.30 pm Community Centre @ Christ Church, Art Group.
04	Sat	7.30 am	Morning Prayer and Men's Breakfast
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 and Baptism Welcome
		3.00 pm	Messy Church at Bath Road Methodist Church.
		4.00 pm	Christ Church, 'Remembering Loved Ones'.000000
		6.30 pm	Christ Church, Holy Communion
06	Mon	10.30 am	Walking for Health, commencing at Christ Church
		7.30 pm	Christ Church Staff meeting in the Community Centre
07	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
08	Wed	10.30 am	to 11.00 am Christ in Quiet Service in Christ Church
		7.00 pm	Christ Church, Bible Encounter Group
09	Thur	1.30 pm	to 3.30 pm Community Centre @ Christ Church, Art Group
11	Sat	11.00 am	Blessing of Marriage, Christ Church
		1.00 pm	Wedding in Christ Church

- 11 Sat 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm Christ Church, Candlelight Concert; 'A Tribute to Queen'
- 12 Sun Remembrance Sunday, Partnership
Christ Church Mission Giving Day.**
- 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
- 13 Mon 10.30 am Walking for Health, commencing at Christ Church.
- 14 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea, Community Centre @ Christ Church.
- 15 Wed 10.30 am to 11.00 am Christ Church, Christ in Quiet Service
7.00 pm Christ Church, Fellowship of Faith
- 16 Thur 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Community Centre @ Christ Church Art Group
- 18 Sat 11.00 am to 2.30 pm Christ Church, Friends of Christ Church Christmas Market
- 19 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
9.00 am St. Mary's, Informal Holy Communion
10.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion, Pulpit exchange
6.30 pm Christ Church, Choral Evensong
- 20 Mon 10.30 am Walking for Health, commencing at Christ Church
- 21 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Community Centre @ Christ Church, Afternoon Tea
- 22 Wed 10.30 am to 11.00 am Christ Church, Christ in Quiet Service
7.00 pm Bible Encounter Group **in Christ Church**
- 25 Sat 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm Christ Church Candlelight Concerts: The Music of Hans Zimmer.
7.00 pm Community Centre @ Christ Church, Comedy Night
- 26 Sun** 8.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
9.00 am St. Mary's, Holy Communion
10.00 am Christ Church, Holy Communion
6.30 pm Christ Church, Informal Evening Worship
- 27 Mon 10.30 am Walking for Health, commencing at Christ Church
7.30 pm Christ Church PCC Meeting in the Community Centre
- 28 Tues 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Community Centre @ Christ Church, Afternoon Tea
- 29 Wed 10.30 am to 11.00 am Christ Church, Christ in Quiet Service
7.00 pm Christ Church, Fellowship of Faith
- 30 Thur 9.30 am Lainesmead School Rehearsal or Carol Service

Immanuel

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

5th November	Worship Leader, Simon Dixon
12th November	Remembrance Service, The Rev'd. Rach Collins
19th November	Holy Communion, Pulpit exchange, The Rev'd. Canon Simon Stevenette
26th November	The Rev'd. Tony Barnes

The morning service on the 12th November will be our Remembrance Service with connection to the Cenotaph.

At 4:30pm we meet for our "Remembering our Loved ones" service, where we will name those people who have died in the last year, whose funeral was conducted by Geoff or Robert, but also a time for all present to Remember their loved ones, already departed. All welcome to these services.

My Sabbatical

I have been asked me to share my thoughts on what I discovered during my sabbatical; hoping it might encourage us to live our faith with new a new vision. This month I want to talk about SYMBOLS...

Agreed, Symbols aren't the most protestant of aspects, and as such the Reformation went to great lengths to destroy many symbols, fearing they would lead to paganism. In doing that, the Reformation Churches became excessively rational (lots of words to be understood) and lost much of its emotional and symbolic access to faith.

Visiting really old churches, symbols were used in the architecture to teach long before most people knew how to write or read, and lots of those symbols still are valid today: stained glass windows are a good example – how many stories told there? Think of the bread and cup at communion and how they become an invitation to vital faith moments, even when we don't need words. Think of the time candles were introduced to our churches. Now at Immanuel we light 3 candles each Sunday: Symbols of God's light and presence, the peace candle and our Amnesty candle, which is a commitment to Human Rights. Without turning to symbols the experience of faith is much more difficult, that is why Jesus

Symbols help us on our faith journey, because they allow us to find ways of expression for that which words don't always suffice. Symbols are used the world around, different ones but always seeking to express deep feelings. Some churches have a cross; others have a crucifix. All invite us to think and help us feel a deeper relation with God and with others.

I have quite a few photos on how symbols help us on our faith journey. Next time I share with you, let's think of SILENCE.

Robert Jordan

Be a Barnabas - encourage one another

'You'll never amount to much" said a Munich schoolteacher to the ten-year-old Albert Einstein. Good thing that he did not listen and instead went on to prove his teacher wrong!

Just as children need encouragement, so do God's children. . Paul urged the Christians in his young churches to "Encourage one another". (1 Thessalonians 5:11). In the Upper Room, Jesus used the same word to describe the Holy Spirit, meaning one "called alongside to help".

When we encourage others, we exercise a ministry to each other like that of the Spirit. In Acts we read of Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. We know him better by his nickname Barnabas, which means 'Son of Encouragement' (Acts 4:36). How did Barnabas encourage others?

He was an example of generous giving (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we prepared to be generous to those in need around us?

He later gave encouragement to a new Christian in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and aware of his reputation, Barnabas came alongside Paul and brought him into the fellowship of the Church. Are we ready to help those who are new to the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch and there "saw the evidence of the grace of God" (Acts 11:23). Here was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, are we able to rejoice when we see God doing new things? Are we also willing to encourage others to embrace these things and facilitate change? ■



Geoff's Jottings

USE IT OR LOSE IT!

I popped in to The Lighthouse Bookshop in Highworth the other day to get a couple of things. As far as I'm aware this is now the last remaining Christian resources bookshop in the area. Swindon no longer has any following the recent closure of The Rainbow Bookshop.

Talking with the Manager and a volunteer I was saddened to hear that they feel they will not be financially viable to continue for too much longer unless things change and more people decide to use this facility.

This is a really good "Walk In and Browse" shop full of everything from Prayer Cards and Prayer Books to Bibles, Children's Books, Christian themed cards for all occasions, Hymn Books and Bible Notes and many books written by authors on various aspects of Faith and belief and people's life journeys. In short there's pretty much anything you might want and if it's not there, the bookshop can usually order in single or bulk such as Bibles and Hymn/Song books.

The guys said that, "More and more people are going On Line and we are left with much reduced means. We are very competitive on price."

So friends think about it. This is not really an advertisement, it's ME Geoff Gleed letting you know the score – that just down the road at 40 High Street, Highworth SN6 7AQ (01793 763337) there is an opportunity to browse and buy. Why not enjoy a pleasant trip out with loads of free parking and cafes in this market town and help by supporting the last surviving local Christian Resources shop.



Food for Thought:

"GREAT THINGS are done by a series of small things being brought together".
Vincent Van Gogh

"WEEDS are Flowers too, once you get to know them." A.A. Milne

TO THE MEMBERS OF IMMANUEL URC AND HIGHWORTH URC and subject to approval of the members in both churches

Dear Friends,

The long serving faithful Elders of the Church at Highworth – Nanette Maver, Mary Newman and Bryan Elkington – have for some time wished to stand down but there are no current successors. Without Elders the Church would need to close. Since May 2022, the Elders of our two churches have been in discussions, including the Charity Commission and the URC South West Synod, with advice from the Synod solicitor, seeking an “amalgamation” of the two fellowships which would allow Highworth to remain open and serving its community.

Legally, this will be achieved by the members at Highworth voting to close as at 31st December 2023 and the members at Immanuel voting to accept Highworth members into their fellowship, the combined church being named for legal purposes “Immanuel with Highworth United Reformed Church” ((HURC]). At the same time the Synod will issue a licence to (HURC] to operate from the Highworth chapel – one church in two places. (HURC] Elders will be responsible for both fellowships, with practical duties in Highworth managed locally as now. For day-to-day purposes, both churches will keep their existing names. The assets of the Highworth church will be transferred by a legal deed to (HURC].

The substantial Highworth Trust Fund is a separate legal entity and a permanent endowment as to its capital, of which the Managing and Custodian Trustees are the Synod. We have secured agreement from the Charity Commission that the Fund’s legal Objects can be amended so as to be “For the benefit of the ministry of the church in Highworth and Swindon”. We have agreement from the Synod that income drawn from the Fund into the church accounts will be for the (HURC] Elders to manage and allocate to charitable purposes, as now.

These discussions have been characterised by much goodwill on all sides. The Highworth fellowship is small but tenacious and will very much be seeking to continue its mission in this new form.

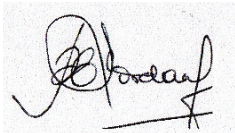
Church meetings seeking agreement will be held after morning services at Immanuel and Highworth on Sunday 5th November and Sunday 26th November, respectively. So as to assure the broadest support, Highworth will also seek proxy votes from those members unable to attend.

If you wish to see the formal resolutions before the meetings or have any questions meanwhile please speak to Don Macarthur (07788 236521; alinod@btinternet.com) for Immanuel or, at Highworth, Bryan Elkington (01793 765079; bryanek90@gmail.com), Secretary, or Keith Salway (01367 253297; ksa 1526 @ btinternet.com), Treasurer.

Copies of the Resolutions will also be available to see in advance at the two churches.

This is a really important decision for both Highworth and Immanuel, and my hope and prayer is that it will encourage us to seek new ways of living our faith, and serving the communities in which we live so that the light of God's love shines in the midst of the shadows, and peace may provide a sense of wholeness in the midst of brokenness.

May the love of God sustain us on the way ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Macarthur', with a horizontal line underneath.

Faith Himalayan Church, Swindon.

In a nutshell, who we are?

Faith Himalayan Church Swindon was initially begun with house fellowship along with members of two households during late 2021. Formally FHCS was established at the beginning of year 2022 with a fresh vision and act upon calling from Our God to serve Him relentlessly and tirelessly. We are a Bible based as well as non-denominational church. It is brand new in the sense of its existence. We are small group of people originally from various part of Nepal. We meet every Sunday in the church and worship Our God. We firmly believe that God has a best plan for each individual those who seeks Him. We are a place of prayer, peace and joy to all who join us. Our community is richly diverse, with people of different ages and backgrounds coming together to worship and serve together. We welcome all individuals seeking God's love and our doors are open to every soul seeking to welcome Jesus into their heart.

Our Vision

Our vision is solemnly winning souls for Christ through the Church's Gospel Ministry, through preaching and teaching ministry. Lives saved, healed, set free, disciplined, equipped, empowered and serving Our God. Grow locally as a body of Christ in collaboration with local churches, communities and display compassion, love, respect and touch the heart and each soul with Christ's Love. "Let all that you do be done in love" 1 Corinthians 16:14. Reach globally as a "Salt of the earth and light of the world".

Our Mission

Our mission is to help each person at FHCS believe in Jesus, belong to Body of Christ, become a follower and build God's kingdom by fulfilling the Great Commission.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you". Mathew 28:19-20

Warm regards,
Prem Gurung
On behalf of Faith Himalayan Church Family.

Concern over the provision of RE in schools

A group of cross-party peers, MPs and religious educators has criticised the lack of funding for the teaching of religious education (RE). It has called on the Government to address the crisis in teaching and recruitment.

There were 30 signatories to a letter to the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan. They described the current provision of RE as a 'postcode lottery', in which some children receive a well-taught religious education, while others receive "either 'tokenist' RE, or none at all."

The letter went on to point out that half (51 per cent) of the RE lessons in secondary schools are currently being taught by non-specialist teachers. Pupils are now three times more likely to be taught RE by someone with no qualifications at all in the subject. And RE is on track to recruit only 44 per cent of its target by the end of the current recruitment year.

The group is concerned that students who do not receive good RE education "are consequently ill prepared to play their part in our complex religious and non-religious society, with all the opportunities created by its diversity."

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.

Bath Road

All services start at 10am

5th	November	Morning Service, Worship Leaders
12th	November	The Rev'd. Rach Collins, Remembrance Sunday
19th	November	The Rev'd. Canon Simon Stevenette, Pulpit exchange
26th	November	The Rev'd. Tony Barnes

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

11th November

£1.00 for a bacon roll with tea or coffee

All are welcome.



MOPS

(MOPS stands for Mix of People
2nd and 16th November)

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 2.30pm to 3.30 pm in the Crossland Room at Bath Road Methodist Church. The usual format is to spend the first half hour chatting and the second half hour listening to a speaker or doing an activity.

November 2nd

November 16th

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



Old Town Community Craft Fayre

**Bath Road Methodist Church
Swindon**

Saturday 4th November 2023

From 0900—1200

Set up from 0800

Tables are free— Donation will be gratefully accepted

Contact Sharon to book your table

Email: craftfayre.BRmethodistchurch@gmail.com

Looking back on the 2023 cricket season

The 2023 cricket season ended on a jarring note. A widespread review of the game in England found it suffered from racism, sexism, elitism and class-based discrimination.

Older cricket fans will wince. They recall the days when each county side was divided into amateurs and professionals, called Gentlemen and Players. They had separate changing rooms. Gentlemen came from wealthy families, so didn't need the wages paid to the others. You could distinguish them on cricket scorecards, where Gentlemen's names were printed with their initials in front of their surnames, whereas Players' names were the other way round. The team captain was always an amateur.

For centuries, women have played cricket, using a smaller ball, but it wasn't until 1976 that they were allowed to play at Lords, where schoolboys from Eton and Harrow had played for years. Twenty five years later, Ebony Rainford-Brent became the first black woman to play for her country, and was subject to racist abuse. "As soon as I walked into the world of cricket the comments started", she said. ■

Legislation clarifying right of local authorities to support churches clears final hurdle

Legislation clarifying that parish and town councils can provide support to churches for repairs and improvements has cleared its final stages in the House of Lords. A Government amendment to the Bill makes it clear that local authorities can provide grants for parish churches or places of worship, following many years of legal uncertainty. The amendment was introduced after the Bishop of Bristol, Viv Faull highlighted the need for clarification of the law during the Bill's Committee Stage in the House of Lords. Bishop Viv, who is the Church of England's joint lead bishop on church buildings, said: "This amendment brings clarity to the law which will give local authorities confidence to award grants to local church buildings to enable them to serve their communities better. "I have long been in conversation with Government about bringing in this change and have been contacted by both local authorities and church councils who are anticipating this change with enthusiasm and gratitude."

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill recently received its Third Reading in the House of Lords. It will now go to the House of Commons for final consideration ahead of Royal Assent. ■

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