

WEST SWINDON AND LYDIARD TREGOZE CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales · Charity number 1141341

Details

Other names	WEST SWINDON AND THE LYDIARDS CHURCH PARTNERSHIP, WSL
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2011-04-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Website	http://wswinlyd.org.uk

Activities

Objects: ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF THE PARTICIPATING CHURCHES

Activities: TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN WEST SWINDON AND LYDIARD TREGOZE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF THE PARTICIPATING CHURCHES.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Swindon

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£82,204	£103,196	-	-
2023-12-31	£177,988	£252,216	-	-
2022-12-31	£269,119	£244,476	-	-
2021-12-31	£187,831	£195,853	-	-
2020-12-31	£166,876	£531,796	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mark Dowling	Chair	2023-05-27
CHRIS SCARISBRICK		2016-04-10
Dr Angela Lilian Mak		2021-03-18
JACQUELINE MARY KIRWAN		2013-05-12
Linda Margery Nicholas		2023-05-18
Neema Mariya		2023-05-18
PAT WATSON		2011-04-12
PETER JOHN GILDER		2011-04-12
Peter Rogers		2022-10-24
Rachel Dowling		2024-04-24
Rev Clive David Deverell		2011-04-12
Rev Mark Tidey		2022-04-25
Rev Shirlyn Toppin		2022-04-25
Trevor Day		2015-10-25
Wendy Dukes		2021-03-18

Accounts

Prayer for our mission

In West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze

Lord God, we thank you
for calling us into the company
of those who trust in Christ
and seek to obey his will.
May your Spirit guide and strengthen us
in mission and service to your world;
for we are strangers no longer
but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom.
Amen.



West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership



Annual Report
for the part-year ending 31 Aug 2024

Contents

Contents.....2
Charitable Objects 3
Administrative 3
Credits 3
Organisation 4
Trustees 4
External Representation.....6
Safeguarding 7
Areas of focus for 2024 reviewed 8
The Community 8
Ministry and weekly services.....8
Children and Young People’s work.....9
Publicity and Communications 9
Financial Review 10
Prayer for our Partnership 12

This is the final report of the partnership as of the date of dissolution 31 Aug 2024.

Signed, on behalf of the board of trustees, by
Chris Scarisbrick, Secretary



the Church of England and a commitment to a gift to our partner school in Uganda. These will be cleared in due course.

After 1 Sept 2024, the restricted funds will be disbursed to the successor organisations according to the wishes of the donors and the trustees decision. The trustees have agreed a scheme for dispersal of the remaining unrestricted assets of the partnership. This will be divided amongst the partners churches succeeding the partnership responsibilities, in proportion to their contributions to the partnership in the year preceding dissolution.

In the case of Westlea Church the decision of the members meeting before dissolution was that the share should be divided equally between Westlea’s last payment to their long-term fixed charities and Holy Trinity Shaw, who will assume pastoral responsibility for the population previously served by Westlea Church.

Financial Review

The Partnership's main source of income is the share from the individual churches, with some income generated from fees for weddings and funerals. Most of the fee income is paid out to cover costs to the diocese or clergy, organist, vergers and clerk as well as for costs such as heating and lighting. We do almost no public fundraising as a Partnership although some is done by the individual churches to support specific causes.

The Partnership's main expenditures are contributions to the parent bodies, this accounting for just over 80% of expenditure, leaving a small amount for general expenses including the maintenance of Hook Cemetery and outreach work. In recent years, including 2024, the Partnership has not directly employed staff and has instead relied on the goodwill of volunteers to continue the work of the charity; this work often goes unnoticed but is acknowledged here and gratefully appreciated by the trustees.

In the consolidated accounts the total unrestricted income was £82,204.42 and restricted was £0. The total unrestricted expenditure was £103,196.44 and restricted expenditure was £0.

The reserves being carried forward were £55,258.27 for unrestricted and £0 for restricted.

Our financial controls and risks have been reviewed by the trustees on an ongoing basis. This enabled us to act/react to changes to both legislation and provision requirements as soon as possible

Going Concern

As of 31 Aug 2024 the Local Ecumenical Partnership will be dissolved. Each individual church community is defining their own future as single denomination churches. The intention is to ensure all activities, assets (including all reserves) and liabilities are allocated appropriately between the successor organisations, before that date. The trustees will then take steps to close the charity.

The charity is not a going concern.

As of 1 Sept 2024 the trustees have ensured occasional donations, legacies and regular giving are re-directed to the successor organisations who have committed and are organised to continue the work previously performed by the partnership. There will be no income apart from a gift aid claim for a legacy and a couple of restricted donations, and interest on deposits held by the partnership until dispersal.

As of 1 Sept 2024 the ongoing financial responsibilities pass to the successor churches. Before dissolution the partnership had a debt to the Bristol Diocese of

Charitable Objects

The purpose of our Partnership is to advance the Christian faith in West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches. In achieving its purpose, the Partnership will engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):

- the celebration of public worship;
- the teaching of the Christian faith;
- mission and evangelism;
- pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved;
- the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs; and
- the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Administrative

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is registered in England as a charity. Charity Reg no; 1141341. Our address is, c/o Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre, Ramlease Drive, Swindon SN5 5PY. The charity registration will be closed once the two new parish charities are set up. At the time of writing this is in progress.

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is a registered data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. Our registration number is Z2669468. The Information Commission registration is due to be closed. At the time of writing this is in progress.

The Partnership is registered to claim gift aid enabling individuals to give tax efficiently either to the general fund or specifically for the primary schools work. The HMRC registration will be cancelled once the successor churches have registered for Gift Aid claims. At the time of writing this is in progress.

Our Bank Account is with CafCash P.O. Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA. Our Independent Examiner is James Gare, Monahan's, Fire Fly Ave, Swindon. SN2 2GA. The bank account will be closed once the financial settlement is achieved and the resources dispersed to the successor churches. At the time of writing this is in progress.

Credits

This report is prepared by Chris Scarisbrick, with thanks to the Partnership Council, its Executive representatives, the leadership teams of St Marys, Holy Trinity, Toothill and Westlea churches

Organisation

Until 31 Aug 2024 the partnership comprises four churches, acting together:

Holy Trinity Church, Shaw (HTS)
St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze (SMLT)
Toothill Church
Westlea Church

Until 31 Aug we are a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership, as described by Churches Together in England. The Partnership is part of the Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church (URC).

Our clergy comprise those who have been duly authorised and appointed by our participating denominations. Rev Canon Capt. Clive Deverell is Vicar of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze (Church of England and Authorised to Serve in the Upper Thames Circuit of the Methodist Church and within the URC) with responsibility across the Partnership. Rev Trevor Day is Assistant Minister (Church of England) working across the partnership. Rev Lis Arnold (CofE) based at St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze, has Permission to Officiate in the parish. Rev Mark Tidey is Assistant Minister (Church of England) working mostly at Toothill. Rev Som Okonkwo continues to serve in the Partnership as part of his Anglican training for ministry. Rev Joseph Ribeiro is a Methodist Minister in the Upper Thames Circuit whose pastoral responsibilities extend to Toothill Church. Rev Neil Fisher is a Curate (CofE) on ministry training placement with us

Trustees

The trustees are the members of the Partnership Council (PC). Anglican Members also constitute the Parochial Church Council (PCC) when needed to conduct Anglican specific business, though the PCC delegates as much business as it can, to the wider PC

The charity trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

The Partnership Council (PC)

The PC is the main governance and representative body. Its responsibilities are Regulatory, Oversight, Governance and External partnerships. Other responsibilities, ministry / mission, buildings, pastoral care and local leadership, are delegated to the Local Church Committees (LCC) / Leadership Teams. A fuller description of the current functions of the PC, PCC and LCCs can be found in the Partnership Constitution (2015) and in draft Standing Orders.

Ministry and weekly services

All ministry and weekly services will continue at St Marys Lydiard Tregoze, Holy Trinity Shaw and Toothill Church. Westlea Church has closed as 1 Sept 2024

Usual Weekly Attendance

Combined attendance numbers at 31 Aug 2024 were not available and will have no ongoing relevance

Children and Young People's work

Primary schools work - "Open the Book"

Open the Book is a bible telling story programme in primary schools and part of Bible Society. This activity will continue to be based at Holy Trinity Shaw, and includes the work of 20 volunteers from across the local churches, visiting 4 local primary schools.

Messy Church

Messy Church will continue to meet at Holy Trinity Shaw.

Publicity and Communications

Our web site <https://WSwinLyd.org.uk> has closed

Areas of focus for 2024 reviewed

It was agreed at a Partnership Council meeting in January 2024 to dissolve the partnership on 31 August 2024. Our goal for the year became

- Work towards a new beginning for our partnership, becoming fit for purpose.

We have made great strides in defining the shape of our new organisations. We have decided on a possible future for each local church, partially defined the work each needs to do to get there, and decided the date of dissolution. We the successor organisations, will start our new beginning on 1 Sept 2024.

The Community

Membership is expressed through the Local Churches, and each congregation is responsible for encouraging regular attendees into membership. Within our different church traditions there are slight differences in understanding of membership, but this causes us no problems apart from explaining to our parent denominations.

A vital focus of the partnership before dissolution has been supporting the communities, congregations and leadership teams in their work to support those communities, during a time of uncertainty and change. The local teams have taken on new responsibilities, those of oversight and governance as well as some administrative tasks, previously the purview of the partnership team.

The 4 local churches have continued to meet for worship, continued to support children’s work, continued to reach out to their communities, and have arranged their structures to continue these activities under different denominational arrangements after 31 Aug. In the cases of St Mary’s and Holy Trinity, as separated parishes within the one CofE Benefice covering the same area as the old partnership. In the case of Toothill church as a wholly Methodist church in the Upper Thames Circuit. In the case of Westlea Church, they have decided to close, have arranged for their missionary and community activities to continue “under new management”; the members have been encouraged to seek alternative worshipping communities as “home” and the leadership team will continue to support this for some time.

Membership Summary

Combined membership numbers at 31 Aug 2024 were not available and have no ongoing relevance

After the decision to dissolve the partnership was taken by Partnership Council (on 25 Jan 2024) and ratified by the Partnership AGM and CofE Annual Parochial Church Meeting (on 24 April 2024) most administrative actions to wind up the Partnership’s affairs, were delegated to the Executive committee. All administrative actions to transition the local churches to their single-denominational organisations, were to be taken by the respective local church committee and leadership teams.

Clergy (ex officio)	Rev Canon Capt. Clive Deverell Rev Trevor Day Rev Mark Tidey Rev Joseph Ribiero Rev Som Oknonwro Rev Neil Fisher (from July 24)	
Partnership Council Chair	Mark Dowling	
Treasurer	Neema Mariya	
Secretary	Chris Scarisbrick	
Churchwardens, Synod reps and LLMs (ex-officio)	Wendy Dukes Dr Angela Mak Pat Watson	Jacqueline Kirwan Peter Rogers Linda Nicholas
Elected Members	Rachel Dowling	Peter Gilder Chris Scarisbrick
Circuit Superintendent Minister, and Circuit Steward (ex officio)	Rev Shirlyn Toppin	
URC Synod Pastoral Adviser	Rev Gerald England	

The PC met on 2 occasions in 2024, in January and April (the AGM for year 2023), and one virtual “meeting” was held by email correspondence in July. Between meetings, day to day operations and decision making was delegated to the Partnership Executive.

Main PC topics during the year were:

- Safeguarding, transition of responsibilities (and records) to the new denominational structures
- Income and expenditure; plans to dispose of the financial assets of the partnership
- Other actions to dissolve our LEP, the transition or closure of the various legal and regulatory registrations.

The Partnership Executive or parts of it, met 15 times in 2024, before dissolution on 31 Aug, using video conferencing facilities or face to face.

Apart from the Executive, appointed Sub Groups handled specialist areas of work on behalf of the PC, and gave reports on progress. The groups were:

- Local church committees and leadership teams

- Messy Church team
- Open the Book team
- St Mary's Futures group, ensuring the sustainability and continued community interest in the historic building at St Marys Lydiard Tregoze.

As of 31 Aug 2024 the PC no longer needs to meet routinely. The members elected at AGM for 2023 (in April 2024) were aware of this and that they may be called to act as a Joint Council in actions resulting from the building sharing agreements that pertain. The sharing agreements are independent of the ecumenical partnership and are likely to persist for some time. Change to the agreements is being organised by the participating denominations.

The Executive will continue to meet occasionally and conduct concluding business of the partnership, specifically the settlement and disposal of the assets of the partnership. This activity is still ongoing at the time of report.

Risks

There are no risks to the Partnership as it has no ongoing activities or responsibilities, apart from the pending settlement and distribution of the shared resources between the successor organisations.

Induction and Training of Trustees

There is no formal training process for trustees, however all PC members are formally inducted and made aware of their role and responsibilities at the first PC meeting after the AGM, and through discussion and briefing before and at meetings.

External Representation

Anglican Deanery and Diocese

During 2024 the Partnership and Anglican authorities held several discussions to determine the future of the successor churches.

Future representation to the Deanery and Diocese will be conducted through the successor Anglican Churches, St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze and Holy Trinity, Shaw. It is conceived that the existing CofE parish may be split into two parishes sharing the single benefice.

Baptist Area

During 2024 the Baptist area ministers and the WEBA and BUGB organisations were informed of our decision to dissolve the ecumenical partnership. We believe

there are no outstanding actions and no successor churches to have a relationship with the Baptist organisations.

Methodist Circuit

During 2024 the Partnership and Methodist Circuit held several discussions to determine the future of the successor church. Toothill church will continue as a Methodist only Church and, in its own right, will join the Upper Thames Circuit.

URC

During 2024 the URC Synod pastoral Advisor and SW Synod authorities were informed of our decision to dissolve the ecumenical partnership. We believe there are no outstanding actions and no successor churches to have a relationship with the URC organisations.

Safeguarding

As of 31 Aug 2024 we have 73 people trained and available to work with children or those who may be at risk, at the time of reporting. We have had no incidents of safeguarding concern in 2024.

In doing our work of safeguarding the Partnership Council have followed the advice and guidance of the United Reformed Church Synod Safeguarding Officer. According to section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, the PCC have given due weight to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

Ongoing responsibility for safeguarding is passed to the safeguarding coordinators at St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze, and at Holy Trinity Shaw, with the supervision and assistance of the Bristol Diocese, and by the safeguarding coordinator at Toothill Church with the supervision and assistance of the Upper Thames Circuit.

West Swindon Church Partnership

Balance Sheet

as at 31.Aug.24

£	Current account activity	Savings account activity	Total - both accounts
Opening Balance	54586.37	21,663.92	
Plus: Income	71293.47	10910.95	82204.42
Less: Expenditure	103196.44	0	103196.4
Closing Balance	22683.4	32,574.87	
Total			55,258.27

£		
Represented By:		
Bank Statement at 31.08.24	22683.4	32,574.87
Plus: Cash in Hand at 31.08.24	0	0
Plus: Outstanding Deposits	0	0
Less: Outstanding Payments	0	0
Total	22683.4	32,574.87

West Swindon Partnership
Current account activity 1.1.24 - 31.08.24

Date	Total Income	Receipt £	Expenses£
28.12.23	Balance brought forward	54586.37	
29.12.23	Katikamu St.Mary's	324	
29.12.23	Katikamu St.Mary's	293	
02.01.24	FP Chipperfield Trace	748	
02.01.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
17.01.24	Transfer from St.Marys	3000	
22.01.24	FP toothill Church	1000	
26.01.24	St.Marys Lydiard	2000	
29.01.24	Westlea Church	750	
29.01.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
09.01.24	TalkTalk		34.5
10.01.24	DD Daisy (Telecom)		66.54
15.01.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
17.01.24	Holy Trinity Shaw Solar Panels		2000
22.01.24	DD URC Trust		128
29.01.24	Clive Deverell expenses (oct-dec)		1017.16
29.01.24	St.Marys fee (oct-dec)		135
29.01.24	HTS fee (oct-dec)		99
29.01.24	Bristol DBF (oct-dec)		197
29.01.24	Claire Beaton organist		110
29.01.24	Pat Watson verger		45
29.01.24	SO BAPTIST WEBA		185
29.01.24	Balance brought forward	60069.17	
01.02.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
22.02.24	Rudler Funeral	609	
26.02.24	Marc Wedding	200	
27.02.24	St.Marys Lydiard	2000	
28.02.24	Westlea Church	750	
27.02.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
27.02.24	Bristol DBF	8000	
09.02.24	TalkTalk		34.5
12.02.24	DD Daisy (Telecom)		66.54
15.02.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
20.02.24	DD URC Trust		128
28.02.24	SO BAPTIST WEBA		185
29.02.24	Balance brought forward	72599.13	

01.03.24	Pearce Funeral	227	
01.03.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
20.03.24	HTS Laptop	353	
22.03.24	HTS Repayment of Loan	15859	
22.03.24	Toothill Church	500	
22.03.24	Interest to date	31.39	
22.03.24	St.Marys Lydiard	2000	
22.03.24	Westlea Church	750	
22.03.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
22.03.24	Tregoze Bellringers		110
22.03.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
22.03.24	Claire Beaton Organist		110
22.03.24	Verger- Pat Watson		45
	DD URC Test		128
21.03.24	PAYMENT TO THE DIOCESE		7500
21.03.24	Roots Subscription		313.6
21.03.24	Stewardship		120
21.03.24	Stewardship		840.8
25.03.25	Baptist Web		185
31.03.24	Balance brought forward	84352.12	
01.04.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
05.04.24	Stewardship Refund	642.5	
11.04.24	Laptop St.Marys	353	
12.04.24	Wedding Reason AC	748	
22.04.24	Toothill Church	500	
26.04.24	St.Marys Lydiard	2000	
29.04.24	Westlea Church	750	
29.04.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
02.04.24	Mark Dowling Laptop		10
02.04.24	E&S Youth Payment Refund to EG		2000
05.04.24	Mark Dowling Laptop Repayment		1049.99
05.04.25	Clive Deverell Reimbursement		887.06
09.04.24	Talk Talk		72
12.04.24	SC White Minuteman Press		24
15.04.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
24.04.24	DD URC Trust		128
24.04.24	Stewardship		325.8
29.04.24	Baptist WEBA		185
30.04.24	Balance brought forward	86048.77	
1.05.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	

20.05.24	DeMarco	500	
24.05.24	Toothill Church	500	
24.05.24	Westlea Church	750	
24.05.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
29.04.24	St.Marys Lydiard	2000	
01.05.24	Pat Watson Cemetry		200
01.05.24	Christine Rogers		180
01.05.24	Insurance		35
01.05.24	Talk Talk		37.5
15.05.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
20.05.24	DD URC Trust		128
24.05.24	Stewardship		40.8
28.05.24	Baptist WEBA		185
29.05.24	Transfer to ST.Marys		5000
29.05.24	Pat Watson (Hook)		200
29.05.24	Online Transfer (Hook Cemetry)		20000
31.05.25	Balance brought forward	65177.47	
1.06.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
03.06.24	Henry Funeral	228	
26.06.24	Interest to date	39.48	
	Toothill Church	500	
	Westlea Church	750	
	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
	St.Marys Lydiard	2000	
	Talk Talk		37.5
	Monahan's Accounting Service		2400
	Monthly Account Fee		5
	DD URC Trust		128
	Bellringers		330
	Stewardship		675
28.06.24	Baptist WEBA		185
30.06.24	Balance brought forward	66324.45	
1.7.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
4.7.24	Katikamu ST.Marys	215	
4.7.24	Online Transfer from ST.Marys	2,000	
5.7.24	MJ SLY Rumming Memorial	35.1	
5.7.24	Swindon Deanery	1300	
22.7.24	Toothill Church	500	
29.7.24	Westlea Church	750	
29.7.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	

2.7.24	Ink Cartridge Chris Scarisbrick		39.99
2.7.24	Clive Deverell Expenses (April-June)		922.86
2.7.24	Hook Cemetry		200
5.7.24	Organist		110
5.7.24	Verger		45
5.7.24	Bellringers		120
5.7.24	Verger		45
5.7.24	Verger		45
5.7.24	Claire Beaton Piano		220
15.7.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
22.7.24	URC Trust		128
24.7.24	Stewardship		400.75
24.7.24	HTS		2068
29.7.24	Baptist WEBA		185
31.07.24	Balance brought forward	67979.95	
1.08.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
21.8.24	Online Transfer from ST.Marys	2,000	
22.8.24	Toothill Church	500	
27.8.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
22.8.24	Hicks Funeral	609	
22.8.24	Hicks Funeral (double payment)	609	
5.8.24	St.Marys Lydiard		1836
5.8.24	Bristol DBF		5000
15.8.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
20.8.24	URC Trust		128
23.8.24	Stewardship		460.75
27.8.24	St.Marys last payment		20,000
28.8.24	Bristol DBF		2500
28.8.24	Hook Cemetry		200
28.8.24	Insurance		89.8
28.8.24	HTS last payment		20000
28.08.24	Baptist WEBA		185
31.08.24	Balance brought forward	22683.4	

Date	Total Income	Receipt £	Expenses£
28.12.23	Balance b/f	21,663.92	
04.01.24	Westlea Transfer (partnership share)	7,016.82	
29.01.24	Balance b/f	28,680.74	
28.02.24	Balance c/f	28,680.74	
12.03.24	Westlea Transfer	192	
28.03.24	Interest to Date	174.62	
28.03.24	Balance c/f	29,047.36	
23.04.24	Westlea Transfer	281	
30.04.24	Balance c/f	29,328.36	
29.05.24	Balance c/f	29,328.36	
17.06.24	Westlea Transfer	395	
26.06.24	Interest to Date	184.51	
30.06.24	Balance c/f	29,907.87	
29.07.24	Balance c/f	29,907.87	
27.08.24	Westlea Transfer	2,667	
30.08.24	Balance c/f	32,574.87	

West Swindon Church Partnership
Balance Sheet
as at 31.Aug.24

£	Current account activity	Savings account activity	Total - both accounts
Opening Balance	54586.37	21,663.92	
Plus: Income	71293.47	10910.95	82204.42
Less: Expenditure	103196.44	0	103196.4
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Total			55,258.27

£		
Represented By:		
Bank Statement at 31.08.24	22683.4	32,574.87
Plus: Cash in Hand at 31.08.24	0	0
Plus: Outstanding Deposits	0	0
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29.12.23	Katikamu St.Mary's	293	
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02.01.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
17.01.24	Transfer from St.Marys	3000	
22.01.24	FP toothill Church	1000	
26.01.24	St.Marys Lydiard	2000	
29.01.24	Westlea Church	750	
29.01.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
09.01.24	TalkTalk		34.5
10.01.24	DD Daisy (Telecom)		66.54
15.01.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
17.01.24	Holy Trinity Shaw Solar Panels		2000
22.01.24	DD URC Trust		128
29.01.24	Clive Deverell expenses (oct-dec)		1017.16
29.01.24	St.Marys fee (oct-dec)		135
29.01.24	HTS fee (oct-dec)		99
29.01.24	Bristol DBF (oct-dec)		197
29.01.24	Claire Beaton organist		110
29.01.24	Pat Watson verger		45
29.01.24	SO BAPTIST WEBA		185
29.01.24	Balance brought forward	60069.17	
01.02.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
22.02.24	Rudler Funeral	609	
26.02.24	Marc Wedding	200	
27.02.24	St.Marys Lydiard	2000	
28.02.24	Westlea Church	750	
27.02.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
27.02.24	Bristol DBF	8000	
09.02.24	TalkTalk		34.5
12.02.24	DD Daisy (Telecom)		66.54
15.02.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
20.02.24	DD URC Trust		128
28.02.24	SO BAPTIST WEBA		185
29.02.24	Balance brought forward	72599.13	

01.03.24	Pearce Funeral	227	
01.03.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
20.03.24	HTS Laptop	353	
22.03.24	HTS Repayment of Loan	15859	
22.03.24	Toothill Church	500	
22.03.24	Interest to date	31.39	
22.03.24	St.Marys Lydiard	2000	
22.03.24	Westlea Church	750	
22.03.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
22.03.24	Tregoze Bellringers		110
22.03.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
22.03.24	Claire Beaton Organist		110
22.03.24	Verger- Pat Watson		45
	DD URC Test		128
21.03.24	PAYMENT TO THE DIOCESE		7500
21.03.24	Roots Subscription		313.6
21.03.24	Stewardship		120
21.03.24	Stewardship		840.8
25.03.25	Baptist Web		185
31.03.24	Balance brought forward	84352.12	
01.04.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
05.04.24	Stewardship Refund	642.5	
11.04.24	Laptop St.Marys	353	
12.04.24	Wedding Reason AC	748	
22.04.24	Toothill Church	500	
26.04.24	St.Marys Lydiard	2000	
29.04.24	Westlea Church	750	
29.04.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
02.04.24	Mark Dowling Laptop		10
02.04.24	E&S Youth Payment Refund to EG		2000
05.04.24	Mark Dowling Laptop Repayment		1049.99
05.04.25	Clive Deverell Reimbursement		887.06
09.04.24	Talk Talk		72
12.04.24	SC White Minuteman Press		24
15.04.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
24.04.24	DD URC Trust		128
24.04.24	Stewardship		325.8
29.04.24	Baptist WEBA		185
30.04.24	Balance brought forward	86048.77	
1.05.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	

20.05.24	DeMarco	500	
24.05.24	Toothill Church	500	
24.05.24	Westlea Church	750	
24.05.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
29.04.24	St.Marys Lydiard	2000	
01.05.24	Pat Watson Cemetry		200
01.05.24	Christine Rogers		180
01.05.24	Insurance		35
01.05.24	Talk Talk		37.5
15.05.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
20.05.24	DD URC Trust		128
24.05.24	Stewardship		40.8
28.05.24	Baptist WEBA		185
29.05.24	Transfer to ST.Marys		5000
29.05.24	Pat Watson (Hook)		200
29.05.24	Online Transfer (Hook Cemetry)		20000
31.05.25	Balance brought forward	65177.47	
1.06.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
03.06.24	Henry Funeral	228	
26.06.24	Interest to date	39.48	
	Toothill Church	500	
	Westlea Church	750	
	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
	St.Marys Lydiard	2000	
	Talk Talk		37.5
	Monahan's Accounting Service		2400
	Monthly Account Fee		5
	DD URC Trust		128
	Bellringers		330
	Stewardship		675
28.06.24	Baptist WEBA		185
30.06.24	Balance brought forward	66324.45	
1.7.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
4.7.24	Katikamu ST.Marys	215	
4.7.24	Online Transfer from ST.Marys	2,000	
5.7.24	MJ SLY Rumming Memorial	35.1	
5.7.24	Swindon Deanery	1300	
22.7.24	Toothill Church	500	
29.7.24	Westlea Church	750	
29.7.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	

2.7.24	Ink Cartridge Chris Scarisbrick		39.99
2.7.24	Clive Deverell Expenses (April-June)		922.86
2.7.24	Hook Cemetry		200
5.7.24	Organist		110
5.7.24	Verger		45
5.7.24	Bellringers		120
5.7.24	Verger		45
5.7.24	Verger		45
5.7.24	Claire Beaton Piano		220
15.7.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
22.7.24	URC Trust		128
24.7.24	Stewardship		400.75
24.7.24	HTS		2068
29.7.24	Baptist WEBA		185
31.07.24	Balance brought forward	67979.95	
1.08.24	FP TMD&JBD	140	
21.8.24	Online Transfer from ST.Marys	2,000	
22.8.24	Toothill Church	500	
27.8.24	Holy Trinity Shaw	1250	
22.8.24	Hicks Funeral	609	
22.8.24	Hicks Funeral (double payment)	609	
5.8.24	St.Marys Lydiard		1836
5.8.24	Bristol DBF		5000
15.8.24	Monthly Account Fee		5
20.8.24	URC Trust		128
23.8.24	Stewardship		460.75
27.8.24	St.Marys last payment		20,000
28.8.24	Bristol DBF		2500
28.8.24	Hook Cemetry		200
28.8.24	Insurance		89.8
28.8.24	HTS last payment		20000
28.08.24	Baptist WEBA		185
31.08.24	Balance brought forward	22683.4	

Date	Total Income	Receipt £	Expenses£
28.12.23	Balance b/f	21,663.92	
04.01.24	Westlea Transfer (partnership share)	7,016.82	
29.01.24	Balance b/f	28,680.74	
28.02.24	Balance c/f	28,680.74	
12.03.24	Westlea Transfer	192	
28.03.24	Interest to Date	174.62	
28.03.24	Balance c/f	29,047.36	
23.04.24	Westlea Transfer	281	
30.04.24	Balance c/f	29,328.36	
29.05.24	Balance c/f	29,328.36	
17.06.24	Westlea Transfer	395	
26.06.24	Interest to Date	184.51	
30.06.24	Balance c/f	29,907.87	
29.07.24	Balance c/f	29,907.87	
27.08.24	Westlea Transfer	2,667	
30.08.24	Balance c/f	32,574.87	

Accounts



West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership



**Annual Report
for the year ending 31 December 2023**

Contents

Contents.....2
Charitable Objects 3
Administrative 3
Credits 3
Organisation 4
Trustees 4
External Representation.....6
Safeguarding 8
Areas of focus for 2023 reviewed 9
The Community 9
Ministry and weekly services.....10
Children and Young People’s work.....13
Pastoral Report 15
Publicity and Communications 16
Financial Review 17
Focus for 2024.....18
Prayer for our Partnership 18

This report should be read in conjunction with the reports from the 4 local churches, available at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 24 Apr 2024 and signed, on behalf of the board, by



Chris Scarisbrick, Trustee

Focus for 2024

Our Partnership Council propose the following areas of focus for 2024:

- Encourage one another to keep building the Kingdom of God in difficult times
- Define a date for the dissolution of the LEP
This is now decided to be 31 Aug 2024
- Define a future for the shared work of the partnership (Open the Book, Messy Church etc)
- Implement plans to transition Toothill Church to the Methodist Circuit
- Implement plans to transition St Mary's and Holy Trinity churches to the CofE parish
- Define and implement plans to transition Westlea church to a merger, or assist the members to future spiritual homes and ensure the continuation of Christian ministry for Westlea and Eastleaze.
- Assist denominations in cancelling sharing agreements for the buildings at Toothill and HTS

Prayer for our Partnership

Lord God, we thank you
for calling us into the company
of those who trust in Christ
and seek to obey his will.

May your Spirit guide and strengthen us
in mission and service to your world;
for we are strangers no longer
but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom.
Amen.

Charitable Objects

The purpose of our Partnership is to advance the Christian faith in West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches. In achieving its purpose, the Partnership will engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):

- the celebration of public worship;
- the teaching of the Christian faith;
- mission and evangelism;
- pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved;
- the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs; and
- the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Administrative

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is registered in England as a charity. Charity Reg no; 1141341. Our address is, c/o Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre, Ramleaze Drive, Swindon SN5 5PY

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is a registered data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. Our registration number is Z2669468.

The Partnership is registered to claim gift aid enabling individuals to give tax efficiently either to the general fund or specifically for the primary schools work.

Our Bank Account is with CafCash P.O. Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA. Our Independent Examiner is James Gare, Monahan's, Fire Fly Ave, Swindon. SN2 2GA.

Credits

This report is prepared by, and with thanks to Rev Lis Arnold, Heather Benn, Janet Clarke, Rev Trevor Day, Rev Clive Deverell, Mark Dowling, Rachel Dowling, David Hoar, Neema Mariya, Linda Nicholas, Pete Rogers, Chris Scarisbrick, Rev Mark Tidey, Pat Watson.

Organisation

The partnership comprises four churches, acting together:

Holy Trinity Church, Shaw (HTS)
St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze (SMLT)
Toothill Church
Westlea Church

We are a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership, as described by Churches Together in England. The Partnership is part of the Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church (URC).

Our clergy comprise those who have been duly authorised and appointed by our participating denominations. Rev Canon Capt. Clive Deverell is Vicar of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze (Church of England and Authorised to Serve in the Upper Thames Circuit of the Methodist Church and within the URC) with responsibility across the Partnership. Rev Trevor Day is Assistant Minister (Church of England) working across the partnership. Rev Lis Arnold (CofE) based at St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze, has Permission to Officiate in the parish. Rev Mark Tidey is Assistant Minister (Church of England) working mostly at Toothill. Rev Som Okonkwo continues to serve in the Partnership as part of his Anglican training for ministry. Rev Joseph Ribeiro is a Methodist Minister in the Upper Thames Circuit whose pastoral responsibilities extend to Toothill Church.

Trustees

The trustees are the members of the Partnership Council (PC). Anglican Members also constitute the Parochial Church Council (PCC) when needed to conduct Anglican specific business, though the PCC delegates as much business as it can, to the wider PC

The charity trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

The Partnership Council (PC)

The PC is the main governance and representative body. Its responsibilities are Regulatory, Oversight, Governance and External partnerships. Other responsibilities, ministry / mission, buildings, pastoral care and local leadership, are delegated to the Local Church Committees (LCC) / Leadership Teams. A fuller description of the current functions of the PC, PCC and LCCs can be found in the Partnership Constitution (2015) and in draft Standing Orders.

Financial Review

The Partnership's main source of income is the share from the individual churches, with some income generated from fees for weddings and funerals. Most of the fee income is paid out to cover costs to the diocese or clergy, organist, vergers and clerk as well as for costs such as heating and lighting. We do almost no public fundraising as a Partnership although some is done by the individual churches to support specific causes.

The Partnership's main expenditures are contributions to the parent bodies, this accounting for just over 80% of expenditure, leaving a small amount for general expenses including the maintenance of Hook Cemetery and outreach work. In recent years, including 2023, the Partnership has not directly employed staff and has instead relied on the goodwill of volunteers to continue the work of the charity; this work often goes unnoticed but is gratefully appreciated as it is what enables the Partnership to continue its work.

Against a backdrop of reduced membership and an ongoing cost of living crisis we are thankful to have seen regular giving increase slightly in 2023 over 2022.

In the consolidated accounts the total unrestricted income was £148,108 and restricted was £29,880. The total unrestricted expenditure was £193,853, and restricted expenditure was £58,363.

The reserves being carried forward were £63,808 for unrestricted and £94,682 for restricted. The restricted funds are being held against future building related work and the employment of a Childrens' Worker. Despite advertising a vacancy, we were not able to recruit, and given the forthcoming changes to the Partnership, Partnership Council agreed to delay recruitment until the new structures are in place.

The policy of the individual churches and the partnership is to keep 6 months of expenditure as reserves, which for the group amounts to some £30,000. The total free reserves are £63,808, which is in excess of the required amount.

Our financial controls are reviewed by the trustees on an ongoing basis as is risk. This enables us to act/react to changes to both legislation and provision requirements as soon as possible

Going Concern

As of 31 Aug 2024 the Local Ecumenical Partnership will be dissolved. Each individual church community is defining their own future as single denomination churches. The intention is to ensure all activities, assets and liabilities are allocated appropriately between the successor organisations, before that date. The trustees will then take steps to close the charity. The charity is not a going concern.

We are extremely grateful to Ann Hutchison who co-ordinates volunteers at St Mary's, and importantly to those who take responsibility for the management of our safeguarding across the Partnership.

Thanks also to Rev Trevor Day who leads on the Royal British Legion Field of Remembrance at Lydiard Park, offering a listening ear and opportunities for daily reflection and silence.

We would like give thanks for the passion at HTS as we seek to care for the environment, our desire to make HTS sustainable having now installed Solar Panels, and Westlea for continuing their litter picks.

We thank those volunteers at HTS and Toothill who are involved in 'Welcome Space'. HTS are now offering two sessions a week, and their craft activities have resulted in increased attendance. Toothill Church have also seen numbers grow and attendees enjoyed a very special Christmas lunch. its growth is a real blessing.

Loss

Grief has been tangible for myself, and several others, in 2023, we mourn the loss particularly of Val Hemmens, Mavis McLaughlin, Seth Narthey, Joan Rummig and Milton Shim each of them brought so much to the Churches. We give thanks for their lives and continued inspiration.

New beginnings

We face a new beginning from the summer of 2024. Our efforts must be focused on how we are going to build the Kingdom of God in West Swindon, in so doing we will need to work together more, understand each other more.

God is doing something, look at the vocational growth, look at the changes in demographics in our congregations. There is more to be done, let us pray, study and reach out, to our communities together.

Publicity and Communications

Our web site <https://WSwinLyd.org.uk> is somewhat static, but a helpful central point of information. Each local church is responsible for local publicity – this is through their Monthly Magazines, Weekly Notice Sheets, Christmas cards etc.

Local Church activities

There is much more that happens in each of our local churches, well described in their local Annual Reports, available online at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report>

Clergy (ex officio)	Rev Canon Capt. Clive Deverell Rev Trevor Day Rev Mark Tidey	
Partnership Council Chair	Mark Dowling (from Apr 2023)	
Treasurer	Pam Ray (till Apr 2023) Neema Mariya (from Apr 2023)	
Secretary	Chris Scarisbrick	
Churchwardens, Synod reps and LLMs (ex-officio)	Wendy Dukes Dr Angela Mak Pat Watson	Jacqueline Kirwan Peter Rogers Linda Nicholas Bob Nicholas
Elected Members	Mike Black Janet Clark	Peter Gilder Chris Scarisbrick
Circuit Superintendent Minister, and Circuit Steward (ex officio)	Rev Shirlyn Toppin	
URC Synod Pastoral Adviser	Rev Gerald England	

The PC met 6 times in 2023, in February, April (the AGM for year 2022), twice in July, and in October and November. Between meetings, day to day operations and decision making was delegated to the Partnership Executive.

Main PC topics during the year were:

- Safeguarding, the continuing catch up of our Safeguarding records.
- Income and expenditure; review of budget planning process
- Handover of partnership financial administration to a new treasurer
- The sustainability of our activities
- Discussions leading to plans to dissolve our LEP.

The Partnership Executive met 8 times in 2023 using video conferencing facilities or face to face.

Apart from the Executive, appointed Sub Groups handled specialist areas of work on behalf of the PC, and gave reports on progress. The groups were:

- Local church committees and leadership teams
- Messy Church team
- Open the Book team
- St Mary's Futures group, ensuring the sustainability and continued community interest in the historic building at St Marys Lydiard Tregoze.

Risks

The Partnership has a number of risks to its activities which have been assessed at either PC or the Executive. These include:

- Risk of financial commitment, particularly relating to denominational contributions. Reserves cover approx. 6 month's normal expenditure

- Limited resources available for work delegated to clergy and to the Partnership Executive.
- Communication, organisational and accountability risks relating to the Partnership's Policies and Procedures
- Structural risks due to declining membership and attendance trends in some churches

The PC considers that these risks have been mitigated to the best practicable extent.

We have identified two risks that are beyond our direct control.

- Unpaid voluntary contributions cannot be quantified in the report, but are substantial, almost all of our activities depend heavily on volunteer goodwill, time and effort.
- The inability for some of our denominations to post clergy to LEPs and in some cases denominational reluctance to support Single Congregational LEPs such as ours

All risks are monitored within the Partnership's governance processes.

Induction and Training of Trustees

There is no formal training process for trustees, however all PC members are formally inducted and made aware of their role and responsibilities at the first PC meeting after the AGM, and through discussion and briefing before and at meetings.

External Representation

Anglican Deanery and Diocese

Deanery Synod has continued to focus on the Diocese project and strategy for moving forward and reaching out into the community - Transforming Church, Together.

Chris Dobson, from the Diocese, came to lead a session in May to highlight the Discipleship stream of Transforming Church. He asked challenging questions including- 'If someone came into a church and wanted to find out about Jesus, what would they find?'; 'if someone wanted to find out about discipleship at your church, what would they find?'; 'what understanding or feelings come to mind when you hear the word evangelism or discipleship?'

The Deanery Leadership Team have been working on the Deanery Plan, reflecting on the questions, 'What is Swindon Deanery? What are our characteristics? What is our geography? What are our shared priorities?' The plan was introduced and shared in July; PCCs were asked to reflect and feedback on the plan. This was discussed in November's meeting with sub-groups planned to address each aspect of the plan.

Pastoral Report

In a year, in which King Charles III had his coronation, we recall the important role that the Church had on that day and the special part that the anointing had. It was a real privilege for both Churches to share in that joy and our prayers continue to be with him and his family.

Sincere thanks firstly, needs to go to all wardens, stewards, and leadership teams and committees who have ensured the daily life of the churches, have continued without disruption, in a time of uncertainty and change.

Individual need

Pastorally, we have in all the churches, seen change, fewer Baptisms and Weddings, more Church funerals but fewer at the Crematoriums as more are taken by civil celebrants. We will all need to look at how we facilitate memorial services for individuals. Home Communion is taking place, and our Pastoral teams endeavour to keep in touch with those unable to attend. Heat and Eat is a specific new venture where Toothill is supporting the most vulnerable.

Vocations

We do need to acknowledge, in 2023, Andy Bissex has continued on his ordination training and left to go on extended placement. We have officially welcomed Robert Nicholas as an LLM, it was great that so many went to Bristol for his licensing, and we welcome Nitin Shinde, an Ordinand from Christ Church, who is with us till the summer of 2025.

We have continued to be blessed by Rev Mark Tidey and on an extended placement Rev Som Okonkwo, both have been more focused at Toothill this last year.

Volunteering, caring for our environment, reaching out.

We thank those who lead Messy Church and Open the Book, especially Heather Benn, as she inspires and encourages so many. All the Churches have played their part in supporting Open the Book and Messy Church, we have sustained and continued with those activities that originated from ourselves.

We thank those Volunteers running Spotlight and Daygroup for Jesus, the study group at Toothill and to Westlea for the use of their zoom account to facilitate a number of them.

2024 the challenge will be to nurture the doors opened to us with deepening commitment and relationship.

God is doing many things in our churches, everywhere you look there is change, new things springing up or being talked about. OtB is no different – we have enjoyed the conditions that enabled our flourishing under the unifying umbrella of the partnership – thank you. Our trajectory now depends on the love and support of all the churches, through prayer, provision, and the continued blessing of our PCC's and their working together for the good of this ministry.

Messy Church

Messy church has been meeting on the second Sunday of each month at Holy Trinity Church, Shaw. Numbers have been small during the year. We invited more people to attend for the December Christingle session and more came. Some families hope to join in most months in 2024. We are grateful for the guitar playing of Mark Tidey, the piano playing and enthusiastic acting of Mick Dams and family. We have collected items for shoeboxes, held a session where we made grace cards, completed some messy painting, and constructed many food items such as a 'Sail boat' a 'Sheep' and decorated biscuits. It was nice to see Emma and Callum for a session before they went back to college.

The messy church publication changed during the year, we now have a book that runs from September to August which we are following. We are adding some of our own ideas as well to add specific bible stories. We have held Tuesday planning meetings once a month.

Our challenge for next year is to encourage more families to attend. (A brand new baby came to January's session.)

Oliver Tomkins CE Infant and Junior school

Oliver Tomkins Schools underwent seismic change during 2023, Miss Cockwell retired as Headteacher in July 2023. A lovely farewell service led by Clive took place with each year contributing. Former colleagues, fellow Heads joined from other local schools. Mrs Katie Cook was appointed to replace her.

The school faces a major change in 2024, having to join a multi academy trust. In December the Infant School had an OFSTED inspection and was graded as good.

Katikamu Sebamale School, Uganda

The link with the school has continued to grow. The WhatsApp link is really useful in keeping in touch. We have struggled to send financial help this year and we hope to resolve this soon. St Mary's continues to raise funds each Christmas, and like others, prays for the school regularly.

Baptist Area

In the year 2023 the Baptist church has been focussing on evangelism with a key verse from 1 John 1 v 7. 'We walk in the light as he is in the light.'

They have been trying to start new churches where they see gaps in provision. Individual churches, such as Gorse Hill in Swindon, are still supporting the community fridge idea where folk can leave food in the fridge or on the shelves next to it when they pop in for a coffee. Those in need can come and get food. A few churches are doing meals twice a week.

The main AGM was held in Telford in June and the South West AGM was held in Clevedon in July. Questions were asked about the truth of reporters saying church is in decline. These meetings both said that church numbers were not dropping but, if anything they were increasing especially those attending bible study online. Horfield Baptist church in Bristol has swapped buildings with the local CofE one as that would suit their needs better. The two churches are still friends and have a common online bible session twice a month.

Methodist Circuit

The Partnership's commitment to ecumenism means that Partnership clergy continue to lead worship in the Upper Thames Circuit. As part of this reciprocal arrangement we thank the Circuit Ministers and Local Preachers who lead worship across the Partnership, we are extremely grateful for their support.

In September we welcomed Rev Joseph Ribeiro to the circuit ministry team. Rev Joseph is minister at Highworth and Shrivenham and shares ministerial responsibilities for Toothill with Rev Mark Tidey.

As part of the conversations this year about the future of the partnership, the Circuit invited Toothill Church join them and become a Methodist Church. At the end of 2023 we were preparing to discuss this at church and partnership levels.



URC

URC SW Synod confirmed David Hoar continued in his role as a lay president, authorised to serve communion in the Partnership. We said farewell to our moderator Ruth Whitehead. Rev Gerald England continued to give us support as a partnership for which we are extremely grateful.

Safeguarding

We have 88 people trained and available to work with children or those who may be at risk, at the time of reporting. We have had no incidents of safeguarding concern in 2023. Though there were a couple of minor incidents requiring pastoral support for staff, these did not warrant safeguarding concern.

In doing our work of safeguarding the Partnership Council have followed the advice and guidance of the United Reformed Church Synod Safeguarding Officer. According to section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, the PCC have given due weight to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

St Mary's Futures group

This year the "Futures Group" the small group responsible for ensuring the legacy of the conservation project at St Mary's is maintained.

Volunteers continue to steward and the numbers recruited continue to grow. A new interpretation board for the Churchyard was designed and sent to Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) for approval in December 23. This once installed will give visitors insight while the Church is closed.

The guidebook continues to sell well, and numerous schools have visited during the year and Anne Hutchison has led this and the volunteer group with great skill.

Children and Young People's work

Our local churches support for children and young people on Sundays, and midweek groups has been greatly diminished, however Toothill Church run Toothill Tinies and Friday Club for Junior School age children. They also support a Family Hub and Youth Club for Secondary School age children, held at Toothill Church. These are described further and reported in the local church annual reports at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>, here we consider our joint efforts

Primary schools work - "Open the Book".

As I sit and write this between Christmas and New Year I think back and am grateful for all the good things that have happened to, and in, the Open the Book team. The words "pass my story to the next generation" and "beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News" echo in my heart, what does God want from us most? – our hearts. This is a ministry everyone can participate in, the lame, the sick, the lonely, the fearful – in fact they are the very people who would be at home with us for God is able to make them stand as he has done for us.

Open the Book is a bible telling story programme in primary schools and part of Bible Society. In 2023 we have established ourselves in 4 primary schools, Shaw Ridge, Peatmoor, Tregoze and Westlea. Given 61 assemblies on Wednesdays with a team of 20 people from 5 different churches. Schools are very encouraging and supportive of the team and appreciate the message the stories bring. Our relationships remain good with a change of 2 new school contacts for Shaw Ridge and Westlea.

We have a resource room at Holy Trinity Church, Shaw to meet in and store costumes and props – thank you. We have signed up to the new Bible Society membership scheme (a requirement from Sept 2024) and used some of the new stories in Westlea and Tregoze schools. We have welcomed Lindsay to the team and said goodbye to Bob and Wendy. It has been a tough but enjoyable year. In

June, with Rev Mark Tidey and Kirsty and Benita Bondah leading the worship.
Mike Wilmot from Bible Society led at Westlea in October.

Day group for Jesus

A successful year of study and fellowship. Getting to know the richness of our creator's love and grace. Meeting on Zoom, then using Welcome Space at Holy Trinity Shaw to meet in person and help with its running.

We finished our Watchwords of Faith. It's surprising how single words like Transformation, Hope and Redemption could give us so much material.

Mike Black told us his story of transformation from RAF pilot to becoming a MAF pilot. Wow, brilliant, many thanks Mike for an enthralling session.

Angela then led with Praying like Monks, with not requiring a change of dress code. The study getting to us to think about our practise of prayer and techniques to improve it.

Finishing the year with the Bible Societies course on Romans. Not an easy book, however Andrew Ollerton's creative approach to the study helping us to rediscover its message we are invited to be part of.

This year we will see changes, but our ethos in DG4J will not change - 'All are warmly welcome to our meetings.'

Workload: 12 hours/meeting, 22 meetings/year, between 3 people.

With thanks to Angela and Edward for a great year of study.

Spotlight

Spotlight started on Zoom during the lockdown in April 2021. It began as a result of a conversation about the value of House Groups. Spotlight is a different version of a House Group and is based on the monastic tradition of Lectio Divina (Holy reading) and is a contemplative approach to Bible reading. It is not Bible study but a way of dwelling on a short passage of Scripture, read slowly, twice, with silence in between. We then share what we find valuable, encouraging, even alarming etc.

The group (which on average is about 10-12 people) feel safe in the confidential atmosphere to say exactly what they feel; everyone's contribution is valid. It may build confidence, deepen faith and help us draw closer to each other and to God.

The group has people from across the Partnership and beyond. We still meet on Zoom, fortnightly, each session lasting one hour, in blocks of 5 sessions. Initially Lis led the sessions but as the group became used to the process, others have chosen the Scripture and led if they wish.

Areas of focus for 2023 reviewed

- Reinforce children's work – appoint a children's worker
- We need to become sustainable and resilient, so administration needs reenergising - Support for committees and Sunday services.
- We need to become sustainable and resilient - Support people who are available to serve during the week.

All these areas of focus were overtaken by events during the year, when our denominational leaders asked us to consider dissolving the partnership. The Partnership AGM held in April 2023 agreed to this proposal, with a view to dissolution at the end of 2025. Following denominational developments it was agreed at a Partnership Council meeting in January 2024 to dissolve the partnership on 31 August 2024.

- Work towards a new beginning for our partnership, becoming fit for purpose.

We have made great strides in defining the shape of our new organisations. We have decided on a possible future for each local church, partially defined the work each needs to do to get there, and decided the date of dissolution. We will start our new beginning on 1 Sept 2024.

The Community

Membership is expressed through the Local Churches, and each congregation is responsible for encouraging regular attendees into membership. Within our different church traditions there are slight differences in understanding of membership, but this causes us no problems apart from explaining to our parent denominations.

Membership Summary

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
St Mary's	57	68	67	61	61	69	67	66
Holy Trinity	21	21	28	23	25	30	27	28
Toothill	27	32	31	31	31	31	28	35
Westlea	27	29	32	34	34	31	31	31
Total	132	150	158	149	151	161	153	160

Ministry and weekly services

The worship rota is arranged across the Partnership. Clergy, Local Preachers, Lay Ministers and our team of trained lay people lead services and preach in their 'home' church, in the other partner churches and some across the Methodist Upper Thames Circuit. The Circuit also contributes worship leaders.

Denominationally Appointed and Authorised Ministers	
Rev Canon Capt. Clive Deverell	CofE Vicar. Authorised to Serve in Methodist and United Reformed Churches
Rev Trevor Day	CofE Assistant Minister
Rev Mark Tidey	CofE Assistant Minister
Rev Lis Arnold	CofE Ordained Minister (Permission to Officiate)
Rev Joseph Ribeiro	Methodist Minister
Mrs Rachel Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
Mr Mark Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
Mr David Hoar	URC Lay Preacher
Mrs Angela Mak	CofE Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)
Mr Bob Nicholas	CofE Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)
Mr Peter Rogers	CofE Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)

Lay worship leaders		
Heather Benn	Kirsty Bondah	Peter Roslyk
Andy Bissex	Janet Clarke	Mark Taylor
Benita Bondah	Wendy Deverell	Richard Williams

Our partnership's main services take place on a Sunday Morning usually in all four local churches. A service of Holy Communion is generally held in at least one of the Partnership locations every Sunday, with a range of styles reflecting the breadth of our traditions.

Friday morning prayers took place throughout the year on Zoom and attendance on Friday mornings quite often reached double figures.

Messy Church is a missionary congregation aimed at families with young children. It is lay-led and resourced from the other "Sunday morning" churches.

A midweek meditation and study group "Spotlight" continued this year and has attendance across the Churches in West Swindon.

The 'Day Group for Jesus' meets fortnightly with attendees from across the partnership.

Administrative and Support	
Ms Neema Mariya	Partnership Treasurer
Mr Chris Scarisbrick	Partnership Secretary and Joint Safeguarding Coordinator
Mrs Julie Scarisbrick	Joint Safeguarding Coordinator

Usual Weekly Attendance (Chris)

	2023		2022		2021		2020		2019		2018		2017	
	Adult	Child	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C
St Mary's	33	0	40	2	35	2	23	2	55	9	63	9	68	10
Holy Trinity	29	1	18	2	20	1	20	2	31	8	32	4	33	8
Toothill	22	4	18	6	14	2	24	3	24	3	24	7	25	8
Westlea	13	1	17	1	25	0	27	2	24	4	24	5	22	5
Total	97	6	93	11	94	5	94	9	134	24	143	25	148	31

Figures adjusted to include Messy Church other non-weekly services etc

We have continued to notice decline in attendance of children and young people at Sunday services.

Joint Partnership Worship

We held joint partnership services for major Christian festivals in 2023.

Our Covenant service at the start of the year was led by Rev. Shirlyn Toppin. Lent Weekday services at Toothill Church on Wednesdays were led by Rev Lis Arnold, Rev Trevor Day or David Hoar. Nigel Howarth preached at Toothill in

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	107,617	29,816	137,433	218,693
Charitable activities	5				
Church activities		36,223	-	36,223	47,307
Other trading activities	3	1,987	-	1,987	2,607
Investment income	4	<u>2,281</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>2,345</u>	<u>512</u>
Total		<u>148,108</u>	<u>29,880</u>	<u>177,988</u>	<u>269,119</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	465	-	465	225
Charitable activities	7				
Church activities		<u>193,388</u>	<u>58,363</u>	<u>251,751</u>	<u>244,251</u>
Total		<u>193,853</u>	<u>58,363</u>	<u>252,216</u>	<u>244,476</u>
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(45,745)	(28,483)	(74,228)	24,643
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>109,553</u>	<u>123,165</u>	<u>232,718</u>	<u>208,075</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>63,808</u></u>	<u><u>94,682</u></u>	<u><u>158,490</u></u>	<u><u>232,718</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Balance Sheet
31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12	14,331	11,220
Cash at bank		<u>179,459</u>	<u>229,851</u>
		193,790	241,071
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(35,300)	(8,353)
		<u>158,490</u>	<u>232,718</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		158,490	232,718
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>158,490</u>	<u>232,718</u>
NET ASSETS			
		<u>158,490</u>	<u>232,718</u>
FUNDS	15		
Unrestricted funds		63,808	109,553
Restricted funds		<u>94,682</u>	<u>123,165</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>158,490</u>	<u>232,718</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 24 April 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
C Scarisbrick - Trustee

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

Legal Status - The charity is an unincorporated charitable trust constituted by trust deed.

Going concern

As of 31 Aug 2024 the Local Ecumenical Partnership will be dissolved. Each individual church community is defining their own future as single denomination churches. The intention is to ensure all activities, assets and liabilities are allocated appropriately between the successor organisations, before that date. The trustees will then take steps to close the charity. The charity is not a going concern.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the Church / group is legally entitled to the amounts due.

Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the Church / group. The diocesan or other denominational share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds.

The Diocese own the freehold for the church buildings, therefore capital work to the church buildings are written off as expenditure.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the Church at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provisions for amounts that may prove uncollectable. Short term deposits include cash held on deposit at the Bank.

continued...

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Current liabilities

Creditors are recognised where the church has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial Risk Management

The charity has minimal exposure to customer credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk. Please refer to the risk management section of the trustees annual report for information on how risks are managed. The charity does not have any non basic financial instruments.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Planned giving - gift aid	65,633	64,409
Planned giving - tax recoverable	16,330	17,060
Planned giving - other	1,714	3,235
Collections - open plate	9,248	5,275
Grants	-	7,251
Sundry donations	18,194	92,947
Donations and appeals	20,504	24,172
Tax reclaim on other donations	5,810	4,344
	<u>137,433</u>	<u>218,693</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Listed place of worship	<u>-</u>	<u>7,251</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fetes, bazaars, other fund-raising events	<u>1,987</u>	<u>2,607</u>

continued...

**West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>2,345</u>	<u>512</u>

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
Activity	£	£
Church hall letting etc - church groups	4,529	4,951
Church hall letting etc - other	17,811	34,945
Ministry Fees	<u>13,883</u>	<u>7,411</u>
	<u>36,223</u>	<u>47,307</u>

6. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2023	2022
	£	£
Costs of fetes, bazaars, other fund-raising events	<u>465</u>	<u>225</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 8)	Support costs (see note 9)	Totals
	£	£	£
Church activities	<u>248,891</u>	<u>2,860</u>	<u>251,751</u>

8. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Missionary and charitable giving	14,221	11,299
Ministry - partnership share	86,005	62,456
Church running and maintenance costs	65,035	57,185
Ministry - other clergy costs	7,576	3,202
Major building work	75,840	107,952
Bank charges	<u>214</u>	<u>237</u>
	<u>248,891</u>	<u>242,331</u>

9. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs
	£
Church activities	<u>2,860</u>

continued...

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

9. SUPPORT COSTS - continued

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	2023 Church activities £	2022 Total activities £
Accountancy and independent examination	<u>2,860</u>	<u>1,920</u>

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Trustees' expenses

Expenses totalling £4,149 (2022: £4,633) were paid to 2 (2022: 4) trustees. All these payments are either expenses or part of fees for performing church services.

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	96,015	122,678	218,693
Charitable activities			
Church activities	47,307	-	47,307
Other trading activities	2,607	-	2,607
Investment income	<u>479</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>512</u>
Total	<u>146,408</u>	<u>122,711</u>	<u>269,119</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	225	-	225
Charitable activities			
Church activities	<u>151,287</u>	<u>92,964</u>	<u>244,251</u>
Total	<u>151,512</u>	<u>92,964</u>	<u>244,476</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(5,104)	29,747	24,643
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>114,657</u>	<u>93,418</u>	<u>208,075</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>109,553</u>	<u>123,165</u>	<u>232,718</u>

continued...

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gift aid debtor	8,472	7,841
Other debtors	4,664	2,116
Prepayments	1,195	1,263
	<u>14,331</u>	<u>11,220</u>

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	32,625	4,988
Other creditors	2,675	3,365
	<u>35,300</u>	<u>8,353</u>

14. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Current assets	99,108	94,682	193,790	241,071
Current liabilities	<u>(35,300)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(35,300)</u>	<u>(8,353)</u>
	<u>63,808</u>	<u>94,682</u>	<u>158,490</u>	<u>232,718</u>

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	109,513	(45,745)	(2,000)	61,768
Toothill building fund	40	-	-	40
Toothill young people's work	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	109,553	(45,745)	-	63,808
Restricted funds				
Family Work	1,601	(1,601)	-	-
St Mary's Building Fund	35,519	(27,707)	-	7,812
Toothill Tinies	587	268	-	855
Other	1,452	557	-	2,009
Primary Schools (KS1 and 2) children and their families mission work	<u>84,006</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,006</u>
	123,165	<u>(28,483)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94,682</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>232,718</u>	<u>(74,228)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>158,490</u>

continued...

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	148,108	(193,853)	(45,745)
Restricted funds			
Family Work	-	(1,601)	(1,601)
St Mary's Building Fund	20,402	(48,109)	(27,707)
Toothill Tinies	6,326	(6,058)	268
Other	3,152	(2,595)	557
	<u>29,880</u>	<u>(58,363)</u>	<u>(28,483)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>177,988</u>	<u>(252,216)</u>	<u>(74,228)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	114,617	(5,104)	109,513
Toothill building fund	40	-	40
	<u>114,657</u>	<u>(5,104)</u>	<u>109,553</u>
Restricted funds			
Family Work	3,361	(1,760)	1,601
St Mary's Building Fund	88,920	(53,401)	35,519
Toothill Tinies	982	(395)	587
Other	155	1,297	1,452
Primary Schools (KS1 and 2) children and their families mission work	-	84,006	84,006
	<u>93,418</u>	<u>29,747</u>	<u>123,165</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>208,075</u>	<u>24,643</u>	<u>232,718</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	146,408	(151,512)	(5,104)
Restricted funds			
Family Work	-	(1,760)	(1,760)
St Mary's Building Fund	30,222	(83,623)	(53,401)
Toothill Tinies	6,275	(6,670)	(395)
Other	2,208	(911)	1,297
Primary Schools (KS1 and 2) children and their families mission work	84,006	-	84,006
	<u>122,711</u>	<u>(92,964)</u>	<u>29,747</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>269,119</u>	<u>(244,476)</u>	<u>24,643</u>

continued...

**West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

The Church Partnership and each individual church and sub-groups maintain a General Fund.

Some of the churches in the partnership have received funds for a specific purpose such as building. Any such amounts unspent at the year end have been included as restricted funds.

Transfers have been made from unrestricted to restricted funds where expenditure on a particular project has exceeded the funds available for that purpose. Transfers from restricted funds to the general fund occur when the expenditure has been identified through the general fund or to transfer unspent funds with the agreement of the donor.

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Total donations of £22,349 (2022: £10,477) were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately. There were no related party transactions in the year.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement - matters of concern identified

I have completed my examination.

I have identified matters of concern in my report. I draw attention to note 1 in the financial statements, which indicates that as of 31 Aug 2024 the Local Ecumenical Partnership will be dissolved and then the trustees will work to close the charity. As stated in note 1, these events or conditions, indicate that the charity is not a going concern.

I confirm that no other matters have come to my attention that give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



James Gare DChA FCA

Monahans
Chartered Accountants
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GA

Date: 26 April 2024

Accounts



West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership



**Annual Report
for the year ending 31 December 2022**

Contents

Contents	2
Charitable Objects	3
Administrative	3
Credits	3
Organisation	4
Trustees	4
External Representation	6
Safeguarding	9
Areas of focus for 2022 reviewed	10
The Community	10
Ministry and weekly services	11
Day group for Jesus	13
St Mary's Futures group	13
Children and Young People's work	14
Pastoral and Occasional Offices	16
Partnership Office	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Financial Review (Pam)	18
Focus for 2023	19
Prayer for our Partnership	19

This report should be read in conjunction with the reports from the 4 local churches, available at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 18 May 2023 and signed, on behalf of the board, by



Chris Scarisbrick, Trustee

Focus for 2023

Our Partnership Council propose the following areas of focus for 2023:

- Reinforce childrens work – appoint a childrens worker
- We need to become sustainable and resilient, so administration needs reenergising - Support for committees and Sunday services.
- We need to become sustainable and resilient - Support people who are available to serve during the week.
- Work towards a new beginning for our partnership, becoming fit for purpose.

Prayer for our Partnership

Lord God, we thank you
for calling us into the company
of those who trust in Christ
and seek to obey his will.
May your Spirit guide and strengthen us
in mission and service to your world;
for we are strangers no longer
but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom.
Amen.

Financial Review

The Partnership's main source of income is the share from the individual churches, with some additional income generated from fees for weddings and funerals. Most of the fee income is then paid out to cover costs to the diocese or clergy, organist, vergers and clerk as well as for costs such as heating and lighting. We do almost no public fundraising as a Partnership although some is done by the individual churches to support specific causes.

The Partnership's main expenditures are contributions to the parent bodies, this accounting for just over 85% of expenditure, leaving a small amount for general expenses including the maintenance of Hook Cemetery and outreach work. Due to restricted income the Partnership employ no staff and rely on the goodwill volunteers to continue the work of the charity; this work often goes unnoticed but is gratefully appreciated as it is what enables the Partnership to continue its good work in the community and further afield.

In 2022, following the various Government imposed lockdowns, the individual churches and the Partnership struggled to return to previous operational levels, with both membership and income dropping. With current cost of living increases we expect this to challenge us even more in 2023, whilst increasing the need for our services. In the consolidated accounts the total unrestricted income was £146,408 and restricted was £122,711. Restricted income increased thanks to several generous donations towards the employment of a Childrens' Worker amounting to £84006.00. The total unrestricted expenditure was £151,512, and restricted expenditure was £92,964.

The reserves being carried forward were £109,553 for unrestricted and £123,165 for restricted. The restricted funds are being held against future building related work, the employment of a Childrens' Worker whom we are currently advertising for, and the family work funds. The policy of the individual churches and the partnership is to keep 6 months of expenditure as reserves, which for the group amounts to some £70,000. The total free reserves are £109553, which is in excess of the required amount.

Our financial controls are reviewed by the trustees on an ongoing basis as is risk. This enables us to act/react to changes to both legislation and provision requirements as soon as possible.

We continue to work with the Bristol Diocese to support Katikama Sebamala Primary School, Luwero Diocese, Uganda. We are currently in the process of transferring £1000 for a new roof for the school and to provide a library, although banking processes are at times challenging.

Charitable Objects

The purpose of our Partnership is to advance the Christian faith in West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches. In achieving its purpose, the Partnership will engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):

- the celebration of public worship;
- the teaching of the Christian faith;
- mission and evangelism;
- pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved;
- the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs; and
- the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Administrative

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is registered in England as a charity. Charity Reg no; 1141341. Our address is the Partnership Office, c/o Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre, Ramleaze Drive, Swindon SN5 5PY

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is a registered data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. Our registration number is Z2669468.

The Partnership is registered to claim gift aid enabling individuals to give tax efficiently either to the general fund or specifically for the primary schools work. Our Bank Account is with CafCash P.O. Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA. Our Independent Examiner is James Gare, MHA Monahan's, 38-42 Newport Street, Swindon SN1 3DR.

Credits

This report is prepared by, and with thanks to Heather Benn, Janet Clarke, Rev Trevor Day, Rev Clive Deverell, Mark Dowling, David Hoar, Pete Gilder, Pam Ray, Pete Rogers, Chris Scarisbrick, Rev Mark Tidey, Peter Roslyk, Paul Gardner

Organisation

The partnership comprises four churches, acting together:

- Holy Trinity Church, Shaw (HTS)
- St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze (SMLT)
- Toothill Church
- Westlea Church

We are a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership, as described by Churches Together in England. The Partnership is part of the Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church (URC), and looks to the Swindon Churches Together Sponsoring Body for guidance and oversight.

Our clergy comprise those who have been duly authorised and appointed by our participating denominations. Rev Capt. Clive Deverell is Team Minister (Church of England and Authorised to Serve in the Upper Thames Circuit of the Methodist Church and within the URC) with responsibility across the partnership and posted at St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze. Rev Trevor Day is Assistant Minister (Church of England) working across the partnership. Rev Lis Arnold (CofE) has Permission to Officiate in the parish. Rev Mark Tidey is Assistant Minister (Church of England) working mostly at Toothill.

Trustees

The trustees are the members of the Partnership Council (PC). Anglican Members also constitute the Parochial Church Council (PCC) when needed to conduct Anglican specific business, though the PCC delegates as much business as it can, to the wider PC

The charity trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

The Partnership Council (PC)

The PC is the main governance and representative body. Its responsibilities are Regulatory, Oversight, Governance and external partnerships. Other responsibilities, ministry / mission, buildings, pastoral care and local leadership, are delegated to the Local Church Committees (LCC) / Leadership Teams. A fuller description of the current functions of the PC, PCC and LCCs can be found in the Partnership Constitution (2015) and in draft Standing Orders.

Publicity and Communications

During 2022 we handed over responsibility for the office to the congregation at HTS. The partnership now has little use for it and it provides an opportunity to reduce costs. We will share the resource and access to the office equipment as HTS see fit.

Our web site <https://WSwinLyd.org.uk> is somewhat static, but a helpful central point of information.

Each local church is responsible for local publicity – this is through their Monthly Magazines, Weekly Notice Sheets, Christmas cards etc.

Local Church activities

There is much more that happens in each of our local churches, well described in their local Annual Reports, available online at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report>

Link with Katikamu Sebamale School, Uganda

We have had a news-letter from the Headteacher at Katikamu, showing some of the splendid improvements they have made, at least partly as a result of our donations. We should plan to send more support in 2023.

Pastoral and Occasional Offices

Baptisms/Thanksgivings, Dedications, Marriages/Weddings, Funerals

Weddings it was a delight to have as the last wedding of the year Janette Ray and Samuel Barton Janette had come up through Westlea and to have her Wedding was really good

The Life events diary has been introduced at St Mary's and it has continued to help although some accessing issues remain. There were over 20 Baptisms at St Mary's alone and occasional offices have all been impacted by Covid 19, Weddings for 2023 are small in number. Significant funerals of people involved in leadership withing the Churches of the partnership, over many years like Ron Brock. Working with the bereaved has been an important piece of occasional office work in 2022, even then limited by the context.

Ministry

We need in this annual report to thank Rev Teresa Townsend, and it is important to give thanks for her Ministry amongst us, although we were sad to lose her in April, it was important she stepped forward into her own incumbency in the Anna benefice.

We do need to acknowledge, that although in 2022, Teresa and Rachael Wilson both left. We have officially welcomed Peter Rogers as an LLM, it was great for some of us to go to Bristol for his licensing. Robert Nicholas from HTS has started training as an LLM, Andy Bissex from St Mary's has begun his ordination training and we were joined by Rev Mark Tidey and, on an extended placement, Rev Som Okonwero.

We need to give specific thanks to Paul Gardner for completing his task of chairing of the St Mary's Conservation Project Board, to Ed Poole and Janet Cooper-Tydemann and Clive for their parts in the project board. A remarkable achievement our thanks to all involved.

One thing has been noticeable post covid people are in need of Jesus, and his Church. We have begun to see small growth in numbers in our Churches and certainly Day group for Jesus and our Spotlight groups has been well received.

Clergy (ex officio)	Rev Capt. Clive Deverell Rev Trevor Day Rev Mark Tidey (from May 2022)	
Partnership Council Chair	Peter Roslyk (from April 2022)	
Treasurer	Pam Ray	
Secretary	Chris Scarisbrick	
Churchwardens, Synod reps and LLMs (ex-officio)	Wendy Dukes Dr Angela Mak Pat Watson	Jacqueline Kirwan Peter Rogers (from Oct 2022)
Elected Members	Janet Clark Peter Gilder	Pam Ray Peter Roslyk Chris Scarisbrick
Circuit Superintendent Minister, and Circuit Steward (ex officio)	Rev Shirlyn Toppin	
URC Synod Pastoral Adviser	Rev Gerald England	

The PC met 5 times in 2022, in January, March, April (the AGM for year 2021), June and October The January meeting was virtual (held using video conferencing). Between meetings day to day operations and decision making was delegated to the Partnership Executive, with occasional major decisions being circulated for email vote.

Main PC topics during the year were:

- Safeguarding, the continuing catch up of our Safeguarding records.
- Income and expenditure; review of budget planning process
- The sustainability of our activities
- Operations in our buildings during COVID-19 lockdowns and actions to enable opening up safely.

The Partnership Executive met 6 times in 2022 using video conferencing facilities.

Appointed Sub Groups handled specialist areas of work on behalf of the PC, and gave reports on progress. Most of the meetings in 2022 were virtual. The groups were:

- Local church committees and leadership teams
- Messy Church team
- Open the Book team
- The "Veg Patch" – our worship programme planning group
- St Mary's Futures group, ensuring the sustainability and continued community interest in the historic building at St Marys Lydiard Tregoze.

Risks

The Partnership has a number of risks to its activities which have been assessed at either PC or the Executive. These include:

- Risk of financial commitment, particularly relating to denominational contributions. Reserves cover approx. 6 month's normal expenditure
- Limited resources available for work delegated to clergy and to the Partnership Executive.
- Communication, organisational and accountability risks relating to the Partnership's Policies and Procedures
- Structural risks due to declining membership and attendance trends in some churches

The PC considers that these risks have been mitigated to the best practicable extent.

We have identified two risks that are beyond our direct control.

- Unpaid voluntary contributions cannot be quantified in the report, but are substantial, almost all of our activities depend heavily on volunteer goodwill, time and effort.
- The inability for some of our denominations to post clergy to LEPs and in some cases denominational reluctance to support Single Congregational LEPs such as ours

All risks are monitored within the Partnership's governance processes.

Induction and Training of Trustees

There is no formal training process for trustees, however all PC members are formally inducted and made aware of their role and responsibilities at the first PC meeting after the AGM, and through discussion and briefing before and at meetings.

External Representation

Anglican Deanery and Diocese

The Diocese of Bristol's 'Transforming Church Together' vision and strategy has been a constant theme during the year of Synod meetings.

Continuing from the previous year, the project has moved from draft form to being published on the Diocese website at <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/visionandpriorities/transforming-church/>

The Diocesan website and literature highlight the strategic outcomes and mission design

What are our strategic outcomes?

We have worked together to devise four strategic options to deliver our mission which are as follows:

- To have a form of church in every community, and churches in which all can participate, thrive, and belong.

accommodate Tregoze with fortnightly assemblies and Westlea with monthly assemblies which both started in the new year.

Relationships with the 4 schools we visit continue to grow. We would also like to go into Brookfield and Hazelwood Academy Schools but recognise that we need to establish ourselves in our new groups/settings and be aware of our limits/capacity.

The team has grown to 18 active members including 9 from The Partnership Churches, 2 from Freshbrook church and 7 from All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent.

Messy Church

Messy Church Report December 2022 We are very pleased to report that Messy church is up and running on the second Sunday of the month in Holy Trinity Church, Shaw. Numbers were low when we first opened again in Shaw in February but have risen since. The Dams family and Kayleigh's were the regular attenders at the early sessions. Some members have brought along their neighbours. We followed the Messy Church magazine. Heather co-ordinated the worship, Christine the crafts, Marie the food, Janet the communications and Pete welcomes and provides pastoral guidance and prayers. Easter 2022 We had some new folk helping at Messy church in 2022, we are grateful for the guitar playing and acting skills of Mark Tidey, we welcomed Linda to run a craft slot and her husband Bob to help with registration and their granddaughter who smiles and joins in. We have lost a few people from the team, Emma and Callum have set off to University, Ed is unwell and does not attend, Teresa moved on in the summer to pastures new. Toothill folk have an event happening on most second Sundays. We held planning sessions on a Tuesday evening once a month co-ordinated by Heather, initially in the garden at Heathers moving indoors then zoom for the winter. Heather and Mary still came up with super ideas. We have run sessions on Peace and prayer and filled shoeboxes with hats, gloves, pens exercise books and small toys. They were sent to Europe, Poland I think, to help the Ukrainian refugees. We made some new publicity and had some at St Mary's cream teas. We also dropped some into the nursery which was meeting in HTS in 2022 and some folk attended a couple of sessions. .

Oliver Tomkins CE Infant and Junior school (Clive)

It was an important year for the School, unfortunately the death of Lydia Harris a teacher at the School was very hard. At present Clive is the only Governor from the Partnership, which really needs addressing after Rahel Dams tenure came to an end in early 2022.

In the Autumn it was announced that Miss Cockwell would retire at the end of the academic year, in July 2023. Rhian has been an instrumental part of the School for many years. Advertising and interviewing will take place in the spring.

house. The new heating system is now finally working correctly!
The project has also paid for a Payaz cashless payment machine and we successfully bid for a cashless payment machine from the Diocese. These should be operational in early 2023.

Filming for the project in conjunction with the symposium took place in March 2022 and is now on the church web site. The Symposium took place on 7 April 2022, co-hosted by ICON & St Mary's, marking the end of the project, with over 40 guests in attendance.

Two very successful Heritage Open Days over weekends in September 2022, with over 550 people visiting, including the opening of a Book of Condolence to pay respects on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. It also marked the 430th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth I visit to St Mary's in 1592 which was re-enacted on the second weekend September

Children and Young People's work

Our local churches support for children and young people on Sundays, and midweek groups has been greatly diminished, however Toothill are continuing to do some midweek work which has been well received by the local community. These are described further and reported in the local church annual reports at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>, here we consider our joint efforts

Primary schools work - "Open the Book".

Open the Book is a bible telling story programme in primary schools and part of Bible Society.

2022 saw the transition from sending in weekly online Open the Book assemblies to 7 primary schools to 9 in person assemblies per term in 4 schools.

Two things drove this: the easing of the covid-19 pandemic and we had filmed all the available material produced by Bible Society. This was met with some sadness from schools and team alike.

After Easter we said goodbye to our Freshbrook friends as they returned to their weekly assemblies in Oliver Tomkins school and gifted the online resource of around 80 assemblies to the schools with a suggestion to re-watch some of the earlier ones made from the Christian Values series in the Autumn term. They were also given the Bible Societies Christian Values Story Book and Handbook containing the transcripts and Peatmoor School continue to enjoy watching an assembly from this resource every week.

Meanwhile we returned to our monthly assemblies in Shaw Ridge Primary and focused on building the team to take monthly assemblies into Peatmoor Community School which we did from September.

By Christmas we had requests from Tregoze Primary for weekly assemblies and Westlea Primary had indicated they were interested too. We were able to

- To have people in our parishes who worship God in every aspect of their lives, and throughout their whole lives.
- For the diocese (parishes and benefices) to be recognised as a powerful force for gospel change.
- For the diocese and parishes to be sustainable (environmentally and financially).

How will we achieve our strategic outcomes?

To achieve our strategic outcomes, we will focus on parishes, benefices, Bishops' Mission Orders and chaplaincies to invest in:

- Discipleship – our Ministers, Churches, Parishes and Benefices, Volunteers, and Young People.
- Social Action – to deliver Social Justice on several levels.
- Sustainability – making us environmentally and financially sustainable

Transforming Church Together and the work planned and undertaken locally promises to be central to much of the work of the forthcoming year in the Deanery.

Other themes during this year's Synod have also included:

The Harbour Project- a meeting was hosted by St Luke's in Swindon New Town. There was a presentation by Claire Garrett the CEO at The Harbour Project who shared the work they undertake in supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Swindon.

Claire also spoke about the challenges that the people she is supporting are facing and the current situation in Swindon.

Education- St Francis School in Taw Hill hosted a meeting whose main focus was education. Liz Townend came to speak about the role the Diocese has in supporting Church schools- the young people. the staff and the communities, as well as the Inspection process.

Liz also explained ways that churches can support their local schools.

Jez Piper came to tell everyone about the Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust- which includes schools n Swindon, as well as new schools planned as the town continues to grow.

As promised future Synod work will be focused on moving forward with the Diocese strategy, 'Transforming Church Together'.

Baptist Area

2022 was the year when every group returned to Baptist churches. In March 2022 was 'community day' and it was marvellous, people returned in good numbers. Students returned to Bristol Baptist College happy to discuss and share ideas developed in lockdown. Bristol Baptist College was 300 years old in 2022 so a book was produced and BBQ's held. Many churches bought and stocked Community fridges to help the poorest in the community. Gorse Hill In Swindon has one. Many Baptist families are hosting Ukrainian refugees and during the year translation groups built up in several areas. they are working with Citizen groups and three or four Manses are being used for Refugees when they leave the six months of home hospitality.

During the year plans were made for new buildings and new courses. 'The art of storytelling' and 'Helpful habits and how to develop them' were courses Evesham will be moving into a new building in 2023. The 72 team tell of a revival at Asbury, Kentucky, USA. A small group of Baptists from the South West went to Israel in June 2022.

There were vacancies in various churches and the northern Baptist College by the end of 2022.

Methodist Circuit

Rev Rachel Wilson (Toothill, Highworth, Abbey Meads, Shrivenham) moved on to a new circuit during 2022, a replacement could not be found to follow on in her place. That said we look forward to welcoming Rev Jospeh Ribeiro to the circuit ministry team in September this year. Rev Joseph will be minister at Highworth and Shrivenham, and share ministerial responsibilities for Toothill with Rev Mark Tidey.

The Partnership Executive and the Circuit Leadership Team met in May 22 for a very constructive meeting which was helpful in clarifying the nature of our relationship and planning a way forward that is beneficial to all.

It has become difficult to appoint accredited leaders for every service across the Partnership and Circuit because there simply aren't enough of them. In the light of that we thank the Circuit, its Ministers and Local Preachers who have been leading worship across the Partnership, we are extremely grateful for their support.

We are also grateful for the Circuit's support in reducing the Partnerships financial contribution, which will be reviewed this year prior to Joseph's arrival.

The decline in attendance of children and young people at Sunday services, we have noticed in previous years, continues even though we now meet face to face regularly. Our efforts in 2022 did not change this trend so requires further work on 2023.

Joint Partnership Worship

We have restarted joint partnership services for major Christian festivals in 2022.

Day group for Jesus

In May 2023 we will have our 4th anniversary and, in those years so much has happened and changed in our lives. For one, moving out of their home for many years into sheltered accommodation, for another life changing health issues for them and in their family, the joy of becoming grandparents, for another the joy of stepping up a gear in their Christian ministry. So much change and yet the one constant in our lives, is our faith. It's a joy to see people within the group taken on more responsibilities and challenges for God's work. Now leading us in intercessions in our services. How Open the Book, Messy Church, Harvard Project, Warm Spaces, and other missionary work has benefited, as members experience more the richness of Jesus love in their lives and want to serve Him more.

Rather fitting that in 2022 we have been studying the Watchwords of Faith: Grace, Salvation, Love, Holiness, Obedience. Learning the difference between Kairos and Chronos and Lis Arnold helping us out with the word Kenosis.

We are still meeting on Zoom and will continue to do so. It helps those who struggle to get out and about, it helps the environment, its more convenient and there is a richness and openness to meeting Online. However, with Warm Spaces at Holy Trinity Shaw, coffee/tea after church, the joy of meeting together means so much more. Chatting face to face has developed to another greater level! Many thanks to Angela, Edward, and Lis for helping in leading the studies. From DG4J I feel we can truly say, "The Lord has blessed us and kept us. The Lord has made His face to shine upon us and has been gracious to us. Amen."

St Mary's Futures group

During January 2022 the new interpretation panels, donors panel, WWI display panel & welcome panel have been installed.

The flagstones and path at the gate entrance to the church have been re-laid, a reinternment ceremony was held for human bones uncovered. In early March, the path between the rear of the house and the church was re-laid.

A major tidying-up day was held in the church, leaving the church suitably presentable for photographing for the new church guide book. This has been produced and is on sale in the church. Two ramps for the disabled have been acquired for use in the church and providing access from the rear of the

Lay worship leaders		
Heather Benn Andy Bissex Janet Clarke Wendy Deverell Stephen Kershaw	Jacqueline Kirwan Ed Poole Mary Poole Peter Roslyk	Mark Taylor Pat Watson Sarah Wilmott Richard Williams

Other Groups:	
St Mary's & Holy Trinity Shaw Worship team	
Westlea Leadership Team	Team Toothill

Our partnership's main services take place on a Sunday Morning with each of our Churches having a thriving and enthusiastic congregation. The communion services generally vary between Anglican order and Free-Church styles.

Friday morning prayers took place throughout the year on Zoom and attendance on Friday mornings quite often reached double figures.

Messy Church is a missionary congregation aimed at families with young children. It is lay-led and resourced from the other "Sunday morning" churches.

A midweek meditation and study group "Spotlight" continued this year and has attendance across the Churches in West Swindon.

The 'Day Group for Jesus' sessions run by Pete Rogers and Edward Glennie which meets fortnightly.

Administrative and Support	
Mrs Pam Ray	Partnership Treasurer (temporary)
Mr Chris Scarisbrick	Partnership Secretary and Joint Safeguarding Coordinator
Mrs Julie Scarisbrick	Joint Safeguarding Coordinator

Usual Weekly Attendance (Chris)

	2022		2021		2020		2019		2018		2017		2016	
	Adult	Child	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C
St Mary's	40	2	35	2	23	2	55	9	63	9	68	10	57	9
Holy Trinity	18	2	20	1	20	2	31	8	32	4	33	8	34	8
Toothill	18	6	14	2	24	3	24	3	24	7	25	8	29	9
Westlea	17	1	25	0	27	2	24	4	24	5	22	5	26	6
Total	93	11	94	5	94	9	134	24	143	25	148	31	146	32

Figures adjusted to include Messy Church other non-weekly services etc

URC

2022 was the 50th Anniversary of the United Reformed Church and like many other URC churches Toothill celebrated with a coffee morning on 15th October followed by a special Communion Service on the 16th October. The service was opened by two of our teenagers Kirsty and Benita who between them read the abridged history of the URC accompanied by some URC slides. They also took a large part in the service reading prayers and some of their own. The service was well attended.

Leading up to the Anniversary Service special prayers and information was given out each week in the Newsletter. Sadly the National URC service which was to take place in the Methodist Hall in Westminster was postponed because of industrial action by railway staff. It has since been rearranged.

Safeguarding

The number of people we have trained and available to work with children or those who may be at risk, at the time of reporting was 74. We know of no incidents of safeguarding concern in 2022.

In doing our work of safeguarding the Partnership Council have followed the advice and guidance of the United Reformed Church Synod Safeguarding Officer. According to section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, the PCC have given due weight to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

Areas of focus for 2022 reviewed

- Take steps to work smarter together as a mission-focussed Local Ecumenical Partnership, making best use of the resources we have locally.
We have during 2022 expanded our joint team covering Open the Book activities going into primary schools. We draw in people from all Partnership churches and several folk from local "neighbour churches" too. We also jointly support Messy Church for young families. Both excellent example of mission focus and partnership. Each church carefully considers how they can purposefully engage with their local communities. Youth work at Toothill, Litter picking at Westlea are examples. Our activities are, as ever, limited by the number of people who make themselves available.
- Re examine the demand for children's work in our church communities, and shared across the Partnership. Appoint a children's worker.
We have advertised for a children's worker, but to no response. Re-trying (and possibly a rethink) in 2023 seems inevitable.
- Review our administrative/management resources.
As a Partnership the review of this area of focus has not taken a high priority. The Partnership Executive has functioned well with representation from all the Churches in the Partnership and provided a small group able to handle the more "detailed" aspects of the Partnership's administration and reporting to the full Partnership Council to provide the oversight and approval of decisions.
While each Church has continued to function at a local level with their Leadership depending on their traditions, each of them has struggled with some of the Administrative functions may have been covered on an ad-hoc basis.
The Worship Planning group has continued to meet to provide the focus for coordinating worship across the Partnership and providing support for each Church as they have looked to fill their rotas for Sunday Services.
Looking forward to 2023 several Churches have vacancies within their leadership and administrative structures so as a Partnership we need to review how we work together, combining administrative tasks where possible, to free up people to serve God's Kingdom in other ways.

The Community

Membership is expressed through the Local Churches, and each congregation is responsible for encouraging regular attendees into membership. Within our different church traditions there are slight differences in understanding of membership, but this causes us no problems apart from explaining to our parent denominations.

Membership Summary

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
St Mary's	68	67	61	61	69	67	66	73
Holy Trinity	21	28	23	25	30	27	28	28
Toothill	32	31	31	31	31	28	35	34
Westlea	29	32	34	34	31	31	31	27
Total	150	158	149	151	161	153	160	162

Ministry and weekly services

The worship rota is arranged across the Partnership. Clergy, Local Preachers, Lay Ministers and our team of trained lay people lead services and preach in their 'home' church, in the other partner churches and some across the Methodist Upper Thames Circuit. The Circuit also contributes worship leaders.

Denominationally Appointed Ministers	
Rev Capt. Clive Deverell	CofE Minister. Authorised to Serve as Methodist. Authorised URC Minister
Rev Trevor Day	CofE Assistant Minister
Rev Lis Arnold	CofE Ordained Minister (Permission to Officiate)
Mrs Angela Mak	CofE Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)

We are grateful to the following members of the Partnership who are authorised by our denominations to lead services across our churches:

Denominationally Authorised Ministers	
Rachel Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
Mark Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
David Hoar	URC Lay Preacher

Teresa Townsend transitioned to incumbent status on the completion of her curacy and accepted the post of Priest in Charge of the ANNA benefice in the Diocese of Winchester starting at the end of April 2022. Pete Rogers was accepted for the final year training as a Church of England Licensed Lay Minister. Reverend Rachel Wilson accepted a new appointment in London in September 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 with comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

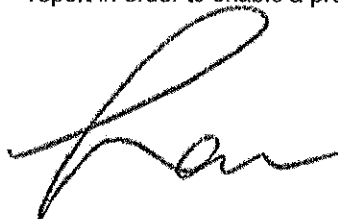
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



J Gare DChA FCA
Monahans
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
SN2 2GA

Date: 7 July 2023

**West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership**

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	96,015	122,678	218,693	147,491
Charitable activities	5				
Church activities		47,307	-	47,307	38,662
Other trading activities	3	2,607	-	2,607	1,662
Investment income	4	<u>479</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>512</u>	<u>16</u>
Total		<u>146,408</u>	<u>122,711</u>	<u>269,119</u>	<u>187,831</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	225	-	225	150
Charitable activities	7				
Church activities		<u>151,287</u>	<u>92,964</u>	<u>244,251</u>	<u>195,703</u>
Total		<u>151,512</u>	<u>92,964</u>	<u>244,476</u>	<u>195,853</u>
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(5,104)	29,747	24,643	(8,022)
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>114,657</u>	<u>93,418</u>	<u>208,075</u>	<u>216,097</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>109,553</u>	<u>123,165</u>	<u>232,718</u>	<u>208,075</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

West Swindon and Lydlard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Balance Sheet
31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12	11,220	49,556
Cash at bank		<u>229,851</u>	<u>175,220</u>
		241,071	224,776
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(8,353)	(16,701)
		<u>232,718</u>	<u>208,075</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>232,718</u>	<u>208,075</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>232,718</u>	<u>208,075</u>
NET ASSETS			
		<u>232,718</u>	<u>208,075</u>
FUNDS	15		
Unrestricted funds		109,553	114,657
Restricted funds		<u>123,165</u>	<u>93,418</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>232,718</u>	<u>208,075</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 3 July 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
C Scarisbrick - Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Legal Status - The charity is an unincorporated charitable trust constituted by trust deed.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the Church / group is legally entitled to the amounts due.

Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the Church / group. The diocesan or other denominational share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the Church at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provisions for amounts that may prove uncollectable. Short term deposits include cash held on deposit at the Bank.

Current liabilities

Creditors are recognised where the church has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

continued...

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial Risk Management

The charity has minimal exposure to customer credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk. Please refer to the risk management section of the trustees annual report for information on how risks are managed. The charity does not have any non basic financial instruments.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Planned giving - gift aid	64,409	63,147
Planned giving - tax recoverable	17,060	16,239
Planned giving - other	3,235	6,244
Collections - open plate	5,275	4,840
Grants	7,251	4,845
Sundry donations	92,947	7,767
Donations and appeals	24,172	15,909
Tax reclaim on other donations	4,344	962
Legacies	-	27,538
	<u>218,693</u>	<u>147,491</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Listed place of worship	<u>7,251</u>	<u>4,845</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fetes, bazaars, other fund-raising events	<u>2,607</u>	<u>1,662</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>512</u>	<u>16</u>

continued...

West Swindon and Lydlard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2022 £	2021 £
	Activity		
Church hall letting etc - church groups	Church activities	4,951	1,821
Church hall letting etc - other	Church activities	34,945	22,177
Ministry Fees	Church activities	<u>7,411</u>	<u>14,664</u>
		<u>47,307</u>	<u>38,662</u>

6. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2022 £	2021 £
Costs of fetes, bazaars, other fund-raising events	<u>225</u>	<u>150</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 8) £	Support costs (see note 9) £	Totals £
Church activities	<u>242,331</u>	<u>1,920</u>	<u>244,251</u>

8. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Missionary and charitable giving	11,299	9,195
Ministry - partnership share	62,456	66,063
Church running and maintenance costs	57,185	58,593
Ministry - other clergy costs	3,202	13,525
Major building work	107,952	46,433
Bank charges	<u>237</u>	<u>200</u>
	<u>242,331</u>	<u>194,009</u>

9. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs £
Church activities	<u>1,920</u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	2022 Church activities £	2021 Total activities £
Accountancy and independent examination	<u>1,920</u>	<u>1,694</u>

continued...

**West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Trustees' expenses

Expenses totalling £4,633 (2021: £3,266) were paid to 4 (2021: 4) trustees. All these payments are either expenses or part of fees for performing church services.

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	130,433	17,058	147,491
Charitable activities			
Church activities	38,662	-	38,662
Other trading activities	1,662	-	1,662
Investment income	<u>16</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16</u>
Total	<u>170,773</u>	<u>17,058</u>	<u>187,831</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	150	-	150
Charitable activities			
Church activities	<u>139,891</u>	<u>55,812</u>	<u>195,703</u>
Total	<u>140,041</u>	<u>55,812</u>	<u>195,853</u>
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	30,732	(38,754)	(8,022)
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>83,925</u>	<u>132,172</u>	<u>216,097</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>114,657</u>	<u>93,418</u>	<u>208,075</u>

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Gift aid debtor	7,841	8,383
Other debtors	2,116	39,276
Prepayments	<u>1,263</u>	<u>1,897</u>
	<u>11,220</u>	<u>49,556</u>

continued...

**West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	4,988	4,620
Other creditors	<u>3,365</u>	<u>12,081</u>
	<u>8,353</u>	<u>16,701</u>

14. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Current assets	117,906	123,165	241,071	224,776
Current liabilities	<u>(8,353)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,353)</u>	<u>(16,701)</u>
	<u>109,553</u>	<u>123,165</u>	<u>232,718</u>	<u>208,075</u>

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	114,617	(5,104)	109,513
Toothill building fund	<u>40</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40</u>
	114,657	(5,104)	109,553
Restricted funds			
Family Work	3,361	(1,760)	1,601
St Mary's Building Fund	88,920	(53,401)	35,519
Toothill Tinies	982	(395)	587
Other	155	1,297	1,452
Primary Schools (KS1 and 2) children and their families mission work	<u>-</u>	<u>84,006</u>	<u>84,006</u>
	<u>93,418</u>	<u>29,747</u>	<u>123,165</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>208,075</u>	<u>24,643</u>	<u>232,718</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	146,408	(151,512)	(5,104)
Restricted funds			
Family Work	-	(1,760)	(1,760)
St Mary's Building Fund	30,222	(83,623)	(53,401)
Toothill Tinies	6,275	(6,670)	(395)
Other	2,208	(911)	1,297
Primary Schools (KS1 and 2) children and their families mission work	<u>84,006</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,006</u>
	<u>122,711</u>	<u>(92,964)</u>	<u>29,747</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>269,119</u>	<u>(244,476)</u>	<u>24,643</u>

continued...

**West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	83,885	30,732	114,617
Toothill building fund	40	-	40
	83,925	30,732	114,657
Restricted funds			
Manse	3	(3)	-
Family Work	4,068	(707)	3,361
St Mary's Building Fund	122,702	(33,782)	88,920
Toothill Tinies	5,399	(4,417)	982
Other	-	155	155
	132,172	(38,754)	93,418
TOTAL FUNDS	216,097	(8,022)	208,075

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	170,773	(140,041)	30,732
Restricted funds			
Manse	-	(3)	(3)
Family Work	-	(707)	(707)
St Mary's Building Fund	12,747	(46,529)	(33,782)
Toothill Tinies	3,238	(7,655)	(4,417)
Other	1,073	(918)	155
	17,058	(55,812)	(38,754)
TOTAL FUNDS	187,831	(195,853)	(8,022)

The Church Partnership and each individual church and sub-groups maintain a General Fund.

Some of the churches in the partnership have received funds for a specific purpose such as building. Any such amounts unspent at the year end have been included as restricted funds.

Transfers have been made from unrestricted to restricted funds where expenditure on a particular project has exceeded the funds available for that purpose. Transfers from restricted funds to the general fund occur when the expenditure has been identified through the general fund or to transfer unspent funds with the agreement of the donor.

continued...

**West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Total donations of £10,477 (2021: £14,487) were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately. There were no related party transactions in the year.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 with comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



J Gare DChA FCA
Monahans
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
SN2 2GA

Date: 7 July 2023

Accounts



West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership



**Annual Report
for the year ending 31 December 2021**

Contents

Contents	2
Reference and Administrative	3
Charitable Objects	3
Administrative	3
Credits	3
Structure, Governance and Management	4
Organisation	4
Trustees	4
External Representation.....	6
Safeguarding	9
Achievements and Performance	10
Areas of focus for 2021, reviewed	10
The Community	11
Ministry and weekly services.....	11
Children and Young People's work.....	14
Oliver Tomkins CE Infant and Junior school	15
Link with Katikamu Sebamale School, Uganda	16
St Mary's Conservation Project	16
Pastoral and Occasional Offices	17
Partnership Office	17
Finances	18
Financial Review	18
Looking forward to 2022	19
Focus for 2022	19
Prayer for our Partnership	19

This report should be read in conjunction with the reports from the 4 local churches, available at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 25th April 2022 and signed, on its behalf, by



Chris Scarisbrick, Trustee

Focus for 2022

Our Partnership Council propose the following areas of focus:

- Take steps to work smarter together as a mission-focussed Local Ecumenical Partnership, making best use of the resources we have locally.
- Re examine the demand for children's work in our church communities, and shared across the Partnership. Appoint a children's worker.
- Review our administrative/management resources.

Prayer for our Partnership

Lord God, we thank you
for calling us into the company
of those who trust in Christ
and seek to obey his will.
May your Spirit guide and strengthen us
in mission and service to your world;
for we are strangers no longer
but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom.
Amen.

Financial Review

The Partnership's main source of income is the share from the individual churches, with some additional income generated from fees for weddings and funerals. Most of the fee income is then paid out to cover costs to the diocese or clergy, organist, vergers and clerk as well as for costs such as heating and lighting. We do almost no public fundraising and this has been restricted even further due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Partnership's main expenditures are contributions to the parent bodies, this accounting for almost 82% of expenditure, leaving a small amount for general expenses including the maintenance of Hook Cemetery and outreach work. Due to restricted income together with Government imposed lockdowns, the ongoing employment of staff became unsustainable and the schools' worker, youth worker and Partnership administrator were all made redundant. All three were part time posts. We are now, more than ever, reliant on volunteers to continue the work of the charity, and are incredibly grateful to all who contribute in this way.

Government imposed lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic continued throughout most of 2021 and this had significant negative impact on fund raising opportunities and income in each of the churches. With current cost of living increases we expect this to challenge us even more in 2022, whilst increasing the need for our services.

In the consolidated accounts the total unrestricted income was £170,773, and restricted was £17,058. Unrestricted income increased thanks to a legacy of £27,538.

The total unrestricted expenditure was £140,041, and restricted was £55,809.

The reserves being carried forward were £114,657 for unrestricted and £93,418 for restricted. The restricted funds are being held against future building related work and the family work funds.

Reserves policy: The individual churches and the partnership try to keep 6 months of expenditure as reserves, which for the group amounts to some £70,000. The total free reserves are £114,617 which is in excess of the required amount.

Our financial controls are reviewed on an ongoing basis as is risk. This enables us to act/react to changes to both legislation and provision requirements as soon as possible.

We continue to support Katikama Sebamala Primary School, Luwero Diocese, Uganda although it too has been affected by closure imposed due to COVID-19. We are currently fundraising for a new roof for the school and to provide a library.

Charitable Objects

The purpose of our Partnership is to advance the Christian faith in West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches. In achieving its purpose, the Partnership will engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):

- the celebration of public worship;
- the teaching of the Christian faith;
- mission and evangelism;
- pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved;
- the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs; and
- the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Administrative

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is registered in England as a charity. Charity Reg no; 1141341. Our address is the Partnership Office, c/o Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre, Ramleaze Drive, Swindon SN5 5PY

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is a registered data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. Our registration number is Z2669468.

The Partnership is registered to claim gift aid enabling individuals to give tax efficiently either to the general fund or specifically for the primary schools work. Our Bank Account is with CafCash P.O. Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA. Our Independent Examiner is Steve Fraser, MHA Monahan's, 38-42 Newport Street, Swindon SN1 3DR. Steve Fraser retires in 2022 so we will rely on James Gare from next year.

Credits

This report is prepared by, and with thanks to Rev Lis Arnold, Heather Benn, Janet Clarke, Rev Capt. Clive Deverell, Mark Dowling, Wendy Dukes, Rev Gerald England, Pete Gilder, Edward Glennie, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Pam Ray, Chris Scarisbrick, Pat Watson

Organisation

The partnership comprises four churches, acting together:

Holy Trinity Church, Shaw (HTS)
St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze (SMLT)
Toothill Church
Westlea Church

We are a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership, as described by Churches Together in England. The Partnership is part of the Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church (URC), and looks to the Swindon Churches Together Sponsoring Body for guidance and oversight.

Our clergy comprise those who have been duly authorised and appointed by our participating denominations. Rev Capt. Clive Deverell is Team Minister (Church of England and Authorised to Serve in the Upper Thames Circuit of the Methodist Church and within the URC) with responsibility across the partnership and posted at St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze. Rev Trevor Day is Assistant Minister (Church of England) working across the partnership. Rev Rachael Wilson is a Methodist Minister, working part time at Toothill and Rev Teresa Townsend is a CofE Curate working with Clive. Rev Lis Arnold (CofE) has Permission to Officiate in the parish.

Trustees

The trustees are the members of the Partnership Council (PC). Anglican Members also constitute the Parochial Church Council (PCC) when needed to conduct Anglican specific business, though the PCC delegates as much business as it can, to the wider PC

The charity trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

The Partnership Council (PC)

The PC is the main governance and representative body. Its responsibilities are Regulatory, Oversight, Governance and external partnerships. Other responsibilities, ministry / mission, buildings, pastoral care and local leadership, are delegated to the Local Church Committees (LCC) / Leadership Teams. A fuller description of the current functions of the PC, PCC and LCCs can be found in the Partnership Constitution (2015) and in draft Standing Orders.

Great opportunities now open up for St Mary's to review and build on its life and mission in the setting of the newly conserved building - for present and future generations.

Pastoral and Occasional Offices

Baptisms/Thanksgivings, Dedications, Marriages/Weddings, Funerals

Weddings began again in May 2021 it was a delight that the last ever marriage entered into a register at St Mary's was Jamie Vernon and his wife Meg, a special historical occasion, as from May 5th we began to use Marriage documents.

The Life events diary has been introduced at St Mary's and this has helped after some teething problems and a trial helped with bookings. Baptisms began, from the summer yet it would fair to say all occasional offices have all been impacted by Covid 19, significant funerals of people involved in leadership within the Churches of the partnership, over many years like Maureen Evans and Cynthia Dowdeswell. Working with the bereaved has been an important piece of occasional office work in 2021, even then limited by the context.

Pastoral Home Visits & Communion

It is always a special time, to be with those who are no longer able to get out of their homes and it's been a privilege to be able to share Holy Communion with several people, some have moved to nursing homes. Others like Penny Cox and aforementioned Maureen Evans have died, however a few others due to infirmity now receive at home.

Partnership Office

Our admin office is not staffed, we can be contacted electronically, but appointments must be made to visit the office. This is partly as a response to COVID-19 shutdowns, but also driven by long term financial pressures. Most of the day-to-day administrative burden falls on our clergy or members of the Executive

Our web site <https://WSwinLyd.org.uk> is somewhat static, but a helpful central point of information.

Each local church is responsible for local publicity – this is through their Monthly Magazines, Weekly Notice Sheets, Christmas cards etc.

Local Church activities

There is much more that happens in each of our local churches, well described in their local Annual Reports, available online at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report>

With risk assessments in place we returned to Shaw in October and were pleased to welcome back some families now nearly two years older. Other families have moved on and the group is aware of the need to invite new families to join us. It has also been time for some regular helpers to retire; Freda Spencer (tea maker in chief), Eddie Koppoe (brilliant constructor of all things cardboard) and Ed Poole (excellent at welcoming families). All have been part of the team since its early days and will be much missed. Hopefully new members will join the team to replace the gap they have left behind.

There will be new challenges and changes in the year ahead but Messy Church continues to reach out to families in a way that enables everyone to learn more about God together.

Oliver Tomkins CE Infant and Junior school

Junior School had a very good OFSTED inspection in 2021, being graded as good, which means that they will not be reinspected for three years. The Infant School will be inspected in 2022. Rahel Dams and Clive Deverell remain as Foundation Governors. Places remain available for others to join.

Link with Katikamu Sebamale School, Uganda

In September 2021, the 'Target 1000' initiative was commenced to raise money across the Partnership for the school in order to be sent in 2022 to fund a new roof for the hall and a new library. Clare Smith, the deputy headteacher at Oliver Tomkins Schools has joined a 'WhatsApp' Group between all the schools and the Partnership. This link has allowed the Carols at Oliver Tomkins to be shared with the school in Uganda.

St Mary's Conservation Project

We are within sight of the end! After the long delays caused by the Covid pandemic and other reasons, the Conservation Project is due to end in May '22.

Various features are now completed to inform worshippers and visitors about the Church and its long history. The striking Interpretation panels introduce key features; and there is a fine explanatory model of the triptych. Repairs and improvements to outside pathways also help to welcome visitors. All work has been completed within the budgets agreed with NHLF, which is good news.

Responsibility for overseeing the project's links with visitors and the local community now passes to a new group - the St Mary's Futures Group. This will build on the Church DCC's work with its team of Volunteers, the building itself, and links with Lydiard House and the Park, schools and the local community. A survey of Park visitors in October also gives useful information to the Church about the interests of the local community.

Clergy (ex officio)	Rev Capt. Clive Deverell Rev Trevor Day Rev Rachael Wilson Rev Teresa Townsend	
Partnership Council Chair	vacancy	
Treasurer	Sue Green (resigned Jan 2021) Pam Ray (from April 2021)	
Secretary	Chris Scarisbrick	
Churchwardens and Synod reps (ex-officio)	Wendy Dukes Mary Poole (till Apr 2021) Angela Mak (from April 2021)	Pat Watson Jacqueline Kirwan
Elected Members	Claire Camm (till April 2021) Gayle Bryon (till April 2021) David Hoar (till April 2021) Steve Kershaw (till April 2021) Mark Dowling (from April 2021)	Peter Gilder Edward Poole Janet Clark
Circuit Superintendent Minister, and Circuit Steward (ex officio)	Rev David Perkins (until June 2021) Rev Shirlyn Toppin (from Sept 2021) Andrew Fleet (until June 2021)	
URC Synod Pastoral Adviser	Rev Gerald England	

The PC met 4 times in 2021, in March (the AGM for year 2020), April, June and October. The March, April and June meetings were virtual (held using video conferencing). During the rest of the year, day to day operations and decision making was delegated to the Partnership Executive, with some major decisions being circulated for email vote.

Main PC topics during the year were:

- Safeguarding, the continuing catch up of our Safeguarding records.
- Income and expenditure; review of budget planning process
- The sustainability of our activities
- Operations in our buildings during COVID-19 lockdowns and actions to enable opening up safely.

The Partnership Executive met 8 times in 2021 using video conferencing facilities.

Appointed Sub Groups handled specialist areas of work on behalf of the PC, and gave reports on progress. Most of the meetings in 2021 were virtual. The groups were:

- Local church committees and leadership teams
- Messy Church team
- Open the Book team
- The "Veg Patch" – our worship programme planning group

- St Mary's Conservation group, finishing off the conservation works enabled by our Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

Risks

The Partnership has a number of risks to its activities which have been assessed at either PC or the Executive. These include:

- Risk of financial commitment, particularly relating to denominational contributions. Reserves cover approx. 6 month's normal expenditure
- Limited resources available for work delegated to clergy and to the Partnership Executive.
- Communication, organisational and accountability risks relating to the Partnership's Policies and Procedures
- Structural risks due to membership trends in some churches

The PC considers that these risks have been mitigated to the best practicable extent.

We have identified four risks that are beyond our direct control.

- Unpaid voluntary contributions cannot be quantified in the report, but are substantial, almost all of our activities depend heavily on volunteer goodwill, time and effort.
- The inability for some of our denominations to post clergy to LEPs.
- Denominational reluctance to support Single Congregational LEPs such as ours
- Covid-19 pandemic causes our inability to meet in person and possible consequences to finances

All risks are monitored within the Partnership's governance processes.

Induction and Training of Trustees

There is no formal training process for trustees, however all PC members are formally inducted and made aware of their role and responsibilities at the first PC meeting after the AGM, and through discussion and briefing before and at meetings.

External Representation

Anglican Deanery and Diocese

At Deanery Synod in May 5 areas were identified where help and coordination across the Deanery could be helpful in the post-Covid (or at least post-lockdown) period.

- Live streaming Services
 - Many churches still have some presence on-line, though not all
 - Advice can be shared by churches which are using different technologies

school was also cancelled and reimagined into an online production! All schools continue to receive a weekly online assembly.

During the summer some of the team got involved in the filming of Bible Societies Advent Encounter – a daily online devotional people could sign up for in Advent 2021. The story "Not so Ordinary Mary" made it through the "cutting" stage and involved both Shaw and Freshbrook team members. We all had a great time, challenged ourselves outside of our comfort zones and laughed to see each other in the devotional later in the year!

We have had a few changes to the team. Judith sadly stepped down but we were joined by Louise from St Mary's and then Tudor from All Saints. Our 5 Freshbrook friends have continued to be the mainstay of the online filming as they wait to return to in person assemblies at Oliver Tomkins school.

The feedback from the schools this year has been so encouraging. They are very thankful and value the assemblies as an excellent mainstay of their collective worship. Children and staff alike have found them encouraging and a welcome constant in these uncertain times.

Schools that had never experienced an Open the Book assembly before Covid have now experienced weekly online assemblies for 18 months. 2022 is the time to be building upon this by recruiting people so that in September 2022 more schools can enjoy the church/school relationship that grows through people going into their schools to tell bible stories through Open the Book assemblies.

We need people to join the Shaw team so that we can offer Shaw and Peatmoor Schools monthly assemblies. So if you are available for a few hours on a Wednesday morning or afternoon once or twice a month during term time then please contact Heather Benn to join your team! We would also welcome people from Westlea church with a heart for offering assemblies to Westlea school.

Messy Church

This will be my final Messy Church for the Partnership as I stepped down from overall leadership at the end of 2021. However Messy church continues to meet on the second Sunday of each month at Holy Trinity Shaw with team members sharing responsibility for its planning and delivery.



Throughout 2021 we continued to meet though in a restricted fashion. Some meetings were on Zoom where we provided one or two activities to share followed by a story and prayer. During the Summer months we met in the open air outside St Marys where we set up activity tables on (mostly) sunny days. Assisted by some excellent and creative resources we have covered varied topics ranging from 'be still' to 'wise and foolish builders'.

Day group for Jesus

During the last year (May 2021 to April 2022), we have continued to meet twice monthly on Zoom. We have decided to continue to meet on Zoom for the time being, after the end of lockdown. We now meet in the morning on Mondays, a more convenient time for us. Seven of us regularly attend. We are a mixed lively bunch, from Shaw, Westlea, Toothill, St Marys and All Saints, Lydiard Millicent. During the year we finished studying the spiritual charisms, using Penelope Wilcock's book '100 More Stand-alone Bible Studies'. We then followed an 8 week Bible Society course that gave us an overview of the Bible, and a Tear Fund course on the climate crisis (during the months leading up to the 2021 United Nations Climate Conference, CoP26). Both these proved to be very stimulating. In 2022 we have returned to '100 More Stand-Alone Bible Studies', looking at 'watchwords of the Bible', starting with grace, salvation and love. We still study, worship and pray for the first hour and then afterwards we have a time of virtual coffee, tea, biscuits and a chat. Members appreciate the informal nature of the study and chatting afterwards. Thanks are due to Peter Rogers for organising the group. Currently leadership of the meetings is shared between Peter, Angela Mak and Edward Glennie.

Children and Young People's work

Our local churches support for children and young people on Sundays, and midweek groups has been greatly diminished however Toothill are continuing to do some midweek work which has been well received by the local community. These are described further and reported in the local church annual reports at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>, here we consider our joint efforts

Emerge 2021

During 2021 Claire, our emerge leader for many years, decided to retire from work here. We thank her for her faithful service. Despite efforts, we could not find anyone to continue these activities and groups so they had to stop. The work of emerge has supported many young people over many years, and we believe it has been valued. We will continue to search for opportunities to release people to do work like this.

Primary schools work - "Open the Book"

This year the Open the Book teams have continued to provide a weekly online assembly to 7 West Swindon primary schools and we now have a wonderful online resource of 64 assemblies on our Primary schools YouTube channel. Plus, another 7 we have had to remove to comply with copyright time frames.

The Shaw team had a brief but happy return to in person assemblies at Shaw Ridge primary school in November but moving into 2022 this was thwarted by Covid again! Likewise, our Christmas in person assembly for Peatmoor primary

- [Church of England Digital labs website](#) has lots of useful information and runs webinars on various issues.
- Children's work
 - There is concern across the deanery about the number of children's leaders who have stepped down.
- Schools work
 - Watch out for details of an Education focussed synod next year
 - Liz Townend (Director of Education for Bristol Diocese) has produced a really helpful guide to good church engagement with schools and how to develop it.
- Engaging with those we have lost touch with - which is similar to
- Outreach and Pastoral care –
 - We would love to explore a social media presence for the deanery, so that information and events can be more easily shared.

Racial Justice

At the July Synod, how to make our churches more welcoming by engaging in inter-cultural worship was discussed. In October, Revd Anjali Kanagaratnam, a curate in the Bybrook Benefice near Chippenham, challenged us in a video (watch it [here](#)) to take 2 small steps to increase our inter-cultural welcome.

- Include a small act of cultural hospitality in services, for example
 - using part of a liturgy from another culture
 - using images or music drawn from non-western culture
 - Anjali recommended links to resources to help with this
 - Inclusion of global theological perspectives in sermon

Eco church

The Deanery Synod keen to share best practice and encourage one another in our attempts to be more eco-friendly in our churches and beyond. Phil Mansfield who worships at Christ Church, has taken on the role of Deanery Eco-Champion

Living in Love and Faith

2 Deanery wide courses started before the end of October the clergy did the course together here in West Swindon facilitated by Angela Mak

Transforming Church. Together

The Values, vision and organising Idea have been shared with Deanery Synod who discussed their initial reactions ahead of more detailed work on the strategy for the diocese in the coming years.

Sally Robertson became Area Dean at the very end of 2021

Diocesan Synod pushed on with Transforming Church, elected new members of General Synod, Clive was elected on to the Vacancy in See committee, and appointed on to the DAC. All the above items were discussed initially at Diocesan Synod.

Baptist Area

For the first part of 2021 most churches were meeting on Zoom. By the end of the year most were open on a Sunday with separated seating and a congregation wearing masks. The AGM was held a little later than usual on July 12th 2021.

Numbers in congregations have dropped and regular giving is down. The number of churches belonging to the Baptist union is down by 7%. Baptisms in 2021 were down 50 %. Membership is down 20%. Financially the association is well placed though as several houses were given to the association in wills. Congregations have been discussing how to spread the gospel of Jesus as fast as COVID spreads.

Several Baptist churches, including Gorse Hill, have opened food banks. Gorse Hill, Swindon, raised money for a community fridge and this will enable more fresh food to be given to those in need. Cirencester Baptist church has been enjoying its marvellous revamped space.

In September four new missions started for, young people, young mums, Grandparents, and electrician/lorry drivers. These are building on from the 72 project. There is a 72 website. Baptist churches have been encouraged to join in evangelistic weeks with material online. 'The man who split time in two' was one of the weeks titles in Cirencester as part of the 72 project. In the autumn they started some of their music groups up again suitably separated and a challenge has gone out for new songs to be written.

In December, for the WEBBOX appeal, many items' toothbrushes, socks, gloves, biros, and calculators were collected for the shoe boxes going to Eastern Europe.

Methodist Circuit

It was good to welcome Reverend Shirlyn Topping, the new Upper Thames Methodist Circuit Superintendent Minister in September, and for some of us to meet with her soon after.

Reverend Rachael Wilson (Methodist Minister currently serving in the Partnership at Toothill and three other churches in the circuit) is moving on to her next appointment in London this summer. Clive Deverell and Mark Dowling sat on the Circuit committee responsible for seeking a replacement for Rachael, however, due to a national shortage of ministers the committee were not successful, which means Rachael will not be replaced before September 2023, and there are no guarantees even then.

One of the initiatives to grow out of Holy Habits has been the 'Day Group for Jesus' sessions run by Pete Rogers and Edward Glennie which meets fortnightly.

Administrative and Support	
Mrs Pam Ray	Partnership Treasurer (temporary)
Mr Chris Scarisbrick	Partnership Secretary and Joint Safeguarding Coordinator
Mrs Julie Scarisbrick	Joint Safeguarding Coordinator

Usual Weekly Attendance

	2021		2020		2019		2018		2017		2016		2015	
	Adult	Child	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C
St Mary's	35	2	23	2	55	9	63	9	68	10	57	9	59	12
Holy Trinity	20	1	20	2	31	8	32	4	33	8	34	8	36	8
Toothill	14	2	24	3	24	3	24	7	25	8	29	9	25	5
Westlea	25	0	27	2	24	4	24	5	22	5	26	6	24	7
Total	94	5	94	9	134	24	143	25	148	31	146	32	142	31

Figures adjusted to include Messy Church other non-weekly services etc

This year and last, we note a significant drop in Sunday attendance of children and young people. We suspect this is because, when meeting online, we struggled to cater specifically for these groups. Most weeks we provided accessible material for family use, but we cannot know how many children engaged with this. We hope the numbers will change in 2022. We may have to make specific efforts to re-attract our children, certainly included in one area of focus for 2022.

Joint Partnership Worship

Due to the difficulties of meeting together there were no joint services in 2021. We continued to circulate written services, share online services, and continued to meet over telephone and video conferencing facilities. We plan to recommence Partnership Services in February 2022.

Prayer continues to be an important part of our lives within the Partnership and we believe this has deepened during COVID-19 lockdowns

We are grateful to the following members of the Partnership who are authorised by our denominations to lead services across our churches:

Denominationally Authorised Ministers	
Rachel Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
Mark Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
David Hoar	URC Lay Preacher

Hazel Davis was ordained in 2021 to ministry in the Church of England and accepted a post in Burton upon Trent. Teresa Townsend transitioned to incumbent status on the completion of her curacy and accepted the post of Priest in Charge of the ANNA benefice in the Diocese of Winchester starting at the end of April 2022. Pete Rogers was accepted for the final year training as a Church of England Licensed Lay Minister. Reverend Rachel Wilson to seek a new appointment for September 2022 in London.

Locally Appointed Ministers		
Mary Poole	Messy Church Leader (till Dec)	
Lay worship leaders		
Heather Benn	Jacqueline Kirwan	Mark Taylor
Andy Bissex	Ed Poole	Pat Watson
Janet Clarke	Mary Poole	Sarah Wilmott
Wendy Deverell	Peter Roslyk	Richard Williams
Stephen Kershaw		

Other Groups:	
St Mary's & Holy Trinity Shaw Worship team	
Westlea Leadership Team	Team Toothill

Our partnership's main services take place on a Sunday Morning with each of our Churches having a thriving and enthusiastic congregation, several with crèches, children's and young people groups also being provided. The communion services generally vary between Anglican order and Free-Church styles.

An Evening service continued throughout the year on Zoom

Friday morning prayers took place throughout the year on Zoom and attendance on Friday mornings' quite often reached double figures.

Messy Church is a missionary congregation aimed at families with young children. It is lay-led and resourced from the other "Sunday morning" churches.

A midweek meditation and study group "Spotlight" started this year out of a smaller group at one of the churches and has attendance across the Churches in West Swindon.

The Partnership Executive and the Circuit Leadership Team are intending to meet in May22 with a view to clarifying the nature of our relationship and planning a way forward that is beneficial to all.

We thank the Circuit and it's Ministers and Local Preachers who have been leading worship across the Partnership, we are grateful for their support.

URC

A number of our churches in the Synod were badly affected by the pandemic over the past year, and a number have decided to close as a result of much lower numbers and non-one available to fill key positions. Most meetings have been held over Zoom, which has allowed the work of Synod to continue unabated! The 99th meeting of Synod took place on Sat 12 March on Zoom. The theme for the day was "Walking the Pilgrim Way", and focused on the new discipleship programme of the URC, Stepwise, which will continue to be rolled out across the denomination. There has also been a lot of preparation for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the URC, and various events have been planned around October/November 2022.

There continues to be pressure of ministerial deployment in the Synod, which has forced Synod to look far more creatively at grouping churches together, and using local leadership more effectively to cover some of the gaps. A new church related community worked has been appointed at Bridgwater. Marie will have responsibility for community projects at local URC churches, as well as doing some work at Hinkley Point nuclear power station.

Safeguarding

The number of people we have trained and available to work with children or those who may be at risk, at the time of reporting was 75. We had no incidents of safeguarding concern in 2021.

Despite not being able to meet in person for much of the year, we have been able to continue working with our children and vulnerable communities, if online. During lockdowns we have continued to improve our documentation tracking, though at a reduced rate.

In doing our work of safeguarding the Partnership Council have followed the advice and guidance of the United Reformed Church Synod Safeguarding Officer. According to section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, the PCC have given due weight to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

Areas of focus for 2021 reviewed

- Ensure our Trustees and leadership have training and knowledge to lead us. Having been challenged in several areas about the responsibilities and delegations that exist in our decision-making bodies. We tried to make special efforts in 2021 to ensure our Trustee responsibilities are clear. Due to low turnout during covid lockdowns, this was only partly successful, and we will continue this activity in 2022
- Emerge from COVID-19 lockdowns with intact communities and stable finances
This aim and objective can be assessed in a number of ways the extent Covid-19 permeated the year of course was an unknown. All the Churches, seem to have held their communities to some degree. St Mary's has probably struggled most numerically, although constant online provision in the evening has been a great resource. Financially during the year Toothill informed the Partnership that it would be unable to make its commitment to the partnership for 2022. An agreed plan to look at this during 2022 was agreed at Partnership Council with an initial reduction of 50 per cent agreed. Sustainability has to be looked at.
- Find areas where we choose to work together, given the possibility that in future there may be no formal LEP here.
Due to changes in Methodist Staffing this seems unlikely at present although ongoing reviews of Single Denominational LEPs means this may still be a possibility.
- In the Autumn, reflect on Messy Church, our work with Schools and youthwork, and those involved.
Although Mary and Ed Poole stepped back from Messy Church, the team have continued to work well together. Open the Book has been a great success and is used by 7 schools in the area. Due to Covid, any brief opportunity to hold assemblies in person stopped again before Christmas although Schools that had never experienced an Open the Book assembly before Covid have now experienced weekly online assemblies for 18 months. The feedback from the schools this year has been very encouraging and they are very grateful valuing the assemblies as an excellent mainstay of their collective worship.
- To rebuild respect for those called to serve with our Churches and the denominations within the Partnership.
The Ecumenical review we took part in at the end of 2021 was not reported back upon in 2022. This has not helped us feel valued. New leadership within

the Methodist circuit has brought about a sense of new beginning but certain misconceptions seem to have manifested.

The Vicar arranged to meet our Baptist Area Minister Alisdair Longwill to gain greater understanding of where he sits within Baptist tradition.

The Community

Membership is expressed through the Local Churches, and each congregation is responsible for encouraging regular attendees into membership. Within our different church traditions there are slight differences in understanding of membership, but this causes us no problems apart from explaining to our parent denominations.

Membership Summary

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
St Mary's	67	61	61	69	67	66	73
Holy Trinity	28	23	25	30	27	28	28
Toothill	31	31	31	31	28	35	34
Westlea	32	34	34	31	31	31	27
Total	158	149	151	161	153	160	162

Ministry and weekly services

The worship rota is arranged across the Partnership. Clergy, Local Preachers, Lay Ministers and our team of trained lay people lead services and preach in their 'home' church, in the other partner churches and some across the Methodist Upper Thames Circuit. The Circuit also contributes worship leaders.

Denominationally Appointed Ministers	
Rev Capt. Clive Deverell	CofE Minister. Authorised to Serve as Methodist. Authorised URC Minister
Rev Trevor Day	CofE Assistant Minister
Rev Teresa Townsend	CofE Curate
Rev Rachael Wilson	Methodist Minister
Rev Lis Arnold	CofE Ordained Minister (Permission to Officiate)
Mrs Angela Mak	CofE Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)

**West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership**

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	130,433	17,058	147,491	148,882
Charitable activities	5				
Church activities		38,662	-	38,662	17,892
Other trading activities	3	1,662	-	1,662	-
Investment income	4	16	-	16	103
Total		<u>170,773</u>	<u>17,058</u>	<u>187,831</u>	<u>166,877</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	150	-	150	-
Charitable activities	7				
Church activities		139,891	55,812	195,703	531,797
Total		<u>140,041</u>	<u>55,812</u>	<u>195,853</u>	<u>531,797</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		<u>30,732</u>	<u>(38,754)</u>	<u>(8,022)</u>	<u>(364,920)</u>
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		83,925	132,172	216,097	581,017
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>114,657</u></u>	<u><u>93,418</u></u>	<u><u>208,075</u></u>	<u><u>216,097</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Balance Sheet
31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	13	49,556	78,722
Cash at bank		175,220	149,277
		<u>224,776</u>	<u>227,999</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(16,701)	(11,902)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>208,075</u>	<u>216,097</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>208,075</u>	<u>216,097</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>208,075</u>	<u>216,097</u>
FUNDS	16		
Unrestricted funds		114,657	83,925
Restricted funds		93,418	132,172
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>208,075</u>	<u>216,097</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on and were signed on its behalf by:



C Scarisbrick - Trustee

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Legal Status - The charity is an unincorporated charitable trust constituted by trust deed.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the Church / group is legally entitled to the amounts due.

Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the Church / group. The diocesan or other denominational share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the Church at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provisions for amounts that may prove uncollectable. Short term deposits include cash held on deposit at the Bank.

Current liabilities

Creditors are recognised where the church has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial Risk Management

The charity has minimal exposure to customer credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk. Please refer to the risk management section of the trustees annual report for information on how risks are managed. The charity does not have any non basic financial instruments.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Planned giving - gift aid	63,147	63,391
Planned giving - tax recoverable	16,239	15,706
Planned giving - other	6,244	5,161
Collections - open plate	4,840	2,093
Grants	4,845	54,306
Sundry donations	7,767	2,846
Donations and appeals	15,909	5,379
Tax reclaim on other donations	962	-
Legacies	27,538	-
	<u>147,491</u>	<u>148,882</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Listed place of worship	4,845	47,762
Wiltshire Community Foundation	-	5,000
All Churches Trust	-	1,544
	<u>4,845</u>	<u>54,306</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fetes, bazaars, other fund-raising events	1,662	-
	<u>1,662</u>	<u>-</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Deposit account interest	16	103
	<u>16</u>	<u>103</u>

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2021 £	2020 £
Grants	Activity		
Church hall letting etc - church groups	Church activities	-	909
Church hall letting etc - other	Church activities	1,821	1,487
Ministry Fees	Church activities	22,177	13,831
	Church activities	14,664	1,665
		<u>38,662</u>	<u>17,892</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	909
	<u>-</u>	<u>909</u>

6. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2021 £	2020 £
Costs of fetes, bazaars, other fund-raising events	150	-
	<u>150</u>	<u>-</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 8) £	Support costs (see note 9) £	Totals £
Church activities	194,009	1,694	195,703
	<u>194,009</u>	<u>1,694</u>	<u>195,703</u>

8. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs	-	18,337
Missionary and charitable giving	9,195	7,135
Ministry - partnership share	66,063	57,817
Church running and maintenance costs	58,593	47,281
Ministry - other clergy costs	13,525	2,267
Major building work	46,433	397,850
Bank charges	200	-
	<u>194,009</u>	<u>530,687</u>

9. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs £
Church activities	1,694
	<u>1,694</u>

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

9. SUPPORT COSTS - continued

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	2021 Church activities £	2020 Total activities £
Accountancy and independent examination	1,694	1,110

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Trustees received remuneration of £Nil (2020: £16,218). None were paid for their role as trustee. In 2020, Gayle Bryon got £7,729 as schools work manager and Claire Camm £8,489 as youth work manager.

Trustees' expenses

Expenses totalling £3,266 (2020: £3,005) were paid to 4 (2020: 6) trustees. All these payments are either expenses or part of fees for performing church services.

11. STAFF COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	-	18,337
	-	18,337

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
Employees	-	3

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	89,490	59,392	148,882
Charitable activities			
Church activities	17,892	-	17,892
Investment income	81	22	103
Total	107,463	59,414	166,877
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Church activities	127,185	404,612	531,797
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(19,722)	(345,198)	(364,920)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	103,647	477,370	581,017
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	83,925	132,172	216,097

**West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Gift aid debtor	8,383	7,529
Other debtors	39,276	69,785
Prepayments	1,897	1,408
	<u>49,556</u>	<u>78,722</u>

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	4,620	3,149
Other creditors	12,081	8,753
	<u>16,701</u>	<u>11,902</u>

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Current assets	131,359	93,417	224,776	227,999
Current liabilities	(16,702)	1	(16,701)	(11,902)
	<u>114,657</u>	<u>93,418</u>	<u>208,075</u>	<u>216,097</u>

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	83,885	30,732	114,617
Toothill building fund	40	-	40
	<u>83,925</u>	<u>30,732</u>	<u>114,657</u>
Restricted funds			
Manse	3	(3)	-
Family Work	4,068	(707)	3,361
St Mary's Building Fund	122,702	(33,782)	88,920
Toothill Tinies	5,399	(4,417)	982
Other	-	155	155
	<u>132,172</u>	<u>(38,754)</u>	<u>93,418</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>216,097</u>	<u>(8,022)</u>	<u>208,075</u>

**West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	170,773	(140,041)	30,732
Restricted funds			
Manse	-	(3)	(3)
Family Work	-	(707)	(707)
St Mary's Building Fund	12,747	(46,529)	(33,782)
Toothill Tinies	3,238	(7,655)	(4,417)
Other	1,073	(918)	155
	<u>17,058</u>	<u>(55,812)</u>	<u>(38,754)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>187,831</u>	<u>(195,853)</u>	<u>(8,022)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	103,607	(14,722)	(5,000)	83,885
Toothill building fund	40	(5,000)	5,000	40
	<u>103,647</u>	<u>(19,722)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,925</u>
Restricted funds				
Manse	35,362	(35,359)	-	3
Family Work	4,598	(530)	-	4,068
St Mary's Building Fund	428,951	(306,249)	-	122,702
Toothill Tinies	6,674	(1,275)	-	5,399
Youth Fund	1,785	(1,785)	-	-
	<u>477,370</u>	<u>(345,198)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,172</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>581,017</u>	<u>(364,920)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>216,097</u>

**West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	107,463	(122,185)	(14,722)
Toothill building fund	-	(5,000)	(5,000)
	<u>107,463</u>	<u>(127,185)</u>	<u>(19,722)</u>
Restricted funds			
Manse	22	(35,381)	(35,359)
Family Work	-	(530)	(530)
St Mary's Building Fund	51,220	(357,469)	(306,249)
Toothill Tinies	1,435	(2,710)	(1,275)
Other	1,287	(1,287)	-
Youth Fund	5,450	(7,235)	(1,785)
	<u>59,414</u>	<u>(404,612)</u>	<u>(345,198)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>166,877</u></u>	<u><u>(531,797)</u></u>	<u><u>(364,920)</u></u>

The Church Partnership and each individual church and sub-groups maintain a General Fund.

Some of the churches in the partnership have received funds for a specific purpose such as building. Any such amounts unspent at the year end have been included as restricted funds.

Transfers have been made from unrestricted to restricted funds where expenditure on a particular project has exceeded the funds available for that purpose. Transfers from restricted funds to the general fund occur when the expenditure has been identified through the general fund or to transfer unspent funds with the agreement of the donor.

17. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Total donations of £14,487 (2020: £18,401) were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately. There were no related party transactions in the year.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 with comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



J Gare FCA
MHA Monahans
38-42 Newport Street
Swindon
SN1 3DR

Date: 10 May 2022

Accounts



West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership



**Annual Report
for the year ending 31 December 2020**

Contents	2
Reference and Administrative Details	3
Charitable Objects	3
Administrative	3
Credits	3
Structure, Governance and Management	4
Organisation	4
Trustees	4
External Representation	6
Safeguarding	9
Achievements and Performance	10
Areas of focus for 2020, reviewed	10
The Community	10
Ministry and weekly services	11
Children and Young People's work	14
Oliver Tomkins CE Primary	18
Pastoral and Occasional Offices	19
Partnership Office	19
Financial Review	21
Plans for 2021	22
Areas of focus for 2021	22
Prayer for our Partnership	23

This report should be read in conjunction with the reports from the 4 local churches, available at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>

Focus for 2021

Our Partnership Council Executive propose the following areas of focus:

- Ensure our Trustees and leadership have training and knowledge to lead us.
- Emerge from COVID-19 lockdowns with intact communities and stable finances
- Find areas where we choose to work together, given the possibility that in future there may be no formal LEP here.
- In the Autumn, reflect on Messy Church, our work with Schools and youthwork, and those involved.
- To rebuild respect for those called to serve with our Churches and the denominations within the Partnership.

Prayer for our Partnership

Lord God, we thank you
for calling us into the company
of those who trust in Christ
and seek to obey his will.
May your Spirit guide and strengthen us
in mission and service to your world;
for we are strangers no longer
but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom.
Amen.

The restricted funds are being held against future building related work and the family work funds.

The individual churches and the partnership try to keep 6 months of expenditure as reserves. This is estimated to be £140,000. The current level of reserves is below this.

Our financial controls were reviewed to enable them to continue to be effective and adequate.

Katikama Sebamale Primary School, Luwero Diocese, Uganda
£1010 was collected in 2020 and this along with £1080 from previous year was transferred to them for their school building work and a piggery.

Charitable Objects

The purpose of our Partnership is to advance the Christian faith in West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches. In achieving its purpose, the Partnership will engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):

- the celebration of public worship;
- the teaching of the Christian faith;
- mission and evangelism;
- pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved;
- the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs; and
- the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Administrative

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is registered in England as a charity. Charity Reg no; 1141341. Our address is the Partnership Office, c/o Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre, Ramleaze Drive, Swindon SN5 5PY

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership is a registered data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. Our registration number is Z2669468.

The Partnership is registered to claim gift aid enabling individuals to give tax efficiently either to the general fund or to the work of Emerge. Our Bank Account is with CafCash P.O. Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA. Our Independent Examiner is Steve Fraser, MHA Monahan's, 38-42 Newport Street, Swindon SN1 3DR.

Credits

This report is prepared by, and with thanks to, Heather Benn, Claire Camm, Janet Clarke, Clive Deverell, Edward Glennie, Sue Green, David Hoar, Steve Kershaw, Jacqueline Kirwan, Angela Mak, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Pete Rogers and Chris Scarisbrick

Organisation

The partnership comprises four churches, acting together:

Holy Trinity Church, Shaw (HTS)
St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze (SMLT)
Toothill Church
Westlea Church

We are a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership, as described by Churches Together in England. The Partnership is part of the Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church (URC), and looks to the Swindon Churches Together Sponsoring Body for guidance and oversight.

Our clergy comprise those who have been duly authorised and appointed by our participating denominations. Rev Capt. Clive Deverell is Team Minister (Church of England and Authorised to Serve in the Upper Thames Circuit of the Methodist Church and within the URC) with responsibility across the partnership and posted at St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze. Rev Trevor Day is Assistant Minister (Church of England) working across the partnership. Rev Rachael Wilson is a Methodist Minister, working part time at Toothill and Rev Teresa Townsend is a CofE Curate working with Clive. Rev Lis Arnold (CofE) has Permission to Officiate in the parish.

Trustees

The trustees are the members of the Partnership Council (PC). Anglican Members also constitute the Parochial Church Council (PCC) when needed to conduct Anglican specific business, though the PCC delegates as much business as it can, to the wider PC

The charity trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

The Partnership Council (PC)

The PC is the main governance and representative body. Its responsibilities are Regulatory, Oversight, Governance and external partnerships. Other responsibilities, ministry / mission, buildings, pastoral care and local leadership, are delegated to the Local Church Committees (LCC) / Leadership Teams. A fuller description of the current functions of the PC, PCC and LCCs can be found in the Partnership Constitution (2015) and in draft Standing Orders.

Financial Review

The Partnership's main source of income is the share from the churches. We get a few donations straight to the Partnership. We also collect money from weddings and funerals fees. Virtually all of the fees income is then passed back out to the diocese or clergy, organist, vergers, clerks and the churches for the use of the building. We do almost no public fundraising.

The Partnership's main expenditures are contribution to the parent bodies, the administrator salary, the schools worker salary and staff expenses. This is where the bulk of our charitable aims are met, however an increasing amount is done by volunteers which is not financially quantifiable. A small amount is then left for general expenses including Hook cemetery maintenance.

The URC SW Synod held funds on deposit relating to the West Swindon Manse, however the Manse was sold in 2020 and this money reverted back to the URC to be split between the URC, Methodists & Baptists, as it was for repairs and maintenance of the property.

Emergence's restricted fund received a second grant from the Wiltshire Community Foundation of £5000 in the early part of the year. This money was used to run the after schools' group, training and workshops for young people with special needs, and covers salaries, expenses and equipment. This fund has now been wound up and voluntary youth work will come under the general fund.

The Family Work restricted fund was used on equipment.

Our building funds, generated from grants, donations and fund-raising events, though consolidated into the Partnership's accounts, are held and administered locally in each of the relevant churches. Responsibility for these funds is delegated to the individual churches' treasurers. For details on these and the churches general funds see the individual Churches' Annual Reports.

In the consolidated accounts the total unrestricted income was £109,279 and restricted was £57,596. The unrestricted income was only down £21k on last year due to church temporary closures.

The total unrestricted expenditure was £129,002 and restricted was £420,795. The unrestricted expenditure was down £18k on last year, this was mainly due to less building work and church temporary closures.

The reserves being carried forward were £88,058 for unrestricted and £128,040 for restricted.

Each local church is responsible for local publicity – this is through their Monthly Magazines, Weekly Notice Sheets, Christmas cards etc.

Local Church activities

There is much more that happens in each of our local churches, well described in their local Annual Reports, available online at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report>

Clergy (ex officio)	Revd Capt. Clive Deverell Rev Trevor Day Rev Rachael Wilson Rev Teresa Townsend	
Partnership Council Chair	Steve Kershaw	
Treasurer	Sue Green	
Secretary	Chris Scarisbrick	
Churchwardens and Synod reps (ex-officio)	Sue Green Steve Kershaw (till Oct) Jacqueline Kirwan	Mary Poole Pat Watson Angela Mak
Elected Members	Gayle Bryon Claire Camm Janet Clark	Peter Gilder David Hoar Pam Ray Edward Poole
Circuit Superintendent Minister, and Circuit Steward (ex officio)	Rev David Perkins Andrew Fleet	
URC Synod Pastoral Adviser	Rev Gerald England	

The PC met 3 times in 2020, in February, March and July, in addition to the delayed Annual General Meeting for 2019, finally held on 13 October. The July and October meetings were virtual (held using video conferencing) During the rest of the year, day to day operations and decision making was delegated to the Partnership Executive, with some major decisions being circulated for email vote. Main PC topics during the year were:

- Safeguarding including a large overhaul of our Safeguarding records.
- Income and expenditure; review of budget planning process
- The sustainability of our activities
- Operations in our buildings during COVID-19 lockdowns and actions to enable opening up safely.

The Partnership Executive met 10 times in 2020, mostly using video conferencing facilities.

Appointed Sub Groups handled specialist areas of work on behalf of the PC, and gave reports on progress. Most of the meetings in 2020 were virtual. The groups were:

- Local church committees and leadership teams
- Emerge Management team
- Messy Church team
- Primary Schools work team
- The “Veg Patch” – our worship programme planning group
- St Mary’s Conservation group, managing the day-to-day activities according to our Heritage Lottery Fund grant for conservation works.

Risks

The Partnership has a number of risks to its activities which have been assessed at either PC or the Executive. These include:

- Risk of financial commitment, particularly relating to denominational contributions. Reserves cover approx. 6 month's normal expenditure
- Limited resources available for work delegated to the Partnership Executive.
- Communication, organisational and accountability risks relating to the Partnership's Policies and Procedures
- Structural risks due to membership trends in some churches

The PC considers that these risks have been mitigated to the best practicable extent.

We have identified four risks that are beyond our direct control.

- Unpaid voluntary contributions cannot be quantified in the report, but are substantial, almost all of our activities depend heavily on volunteer goodwill, time and effort.
- The inability for some of our denominations to post clergy to LEPs.
- Denominational reluctance to support Single Congregational LEPs such as ours
- Covid-19 pandemic causes our inability to meet in person and possible consequences to finances

All risks are monitored within the Partnership's governance processes.

Induction and Training of Trustees

There is no formal training process for trustees, however all PC members are formally inducted and made aware of their role and responsibilities at the first PC meeting after the AGM, and through discussion and briefing before and at meetings.

In 2020 we have been challenged in several areas about the responsibilities and delegations that exist in our decision-making bodies. It has consumed significant effort, and has been uncomfortable at times. We will make special efforts in 2021 to ensure our responsibilities are clear.

External Representation

Anglican Deanery and Diocese

Revd. Captain Clive Deverell stepped down as Area Dean in February 2020. Sincere thanks and best wishes to Clive.

Also thanks to Revd. Raymond Adams who took on Acting Area Dean.

A new Area Dean has been appointed in January 2021 The Revd. Trudie Wigley. Please remember her in your prayers

The Conservation Project Board (professional specialists plus St Mary's clergy and lay members) have met regularly on Zoom to oversee the project. New appointments have also been made to co-ordinate and support our Volunteers Guides and Stewards, and to undertake copywriting for various published items.

Continued work to secure matched funding gifts has helped to keep the finances on track, and the Project has repaid £20k of the £30k generously loaned from the Partnership. The balance (2 x £5k) will be repaid in the first half of 2021.

Despite the severe disruptions faced during the year it was still possible to open the Church to visitors on Heritage Open days in September, and on some Sunday afternoons for private prayer.

The Project Board's thanks go to the Partnership and everyone who has worked hard and served to keep things going during an exceptional period. NLHF has noted this!

Pastoral and Occasional Offices

2020 has been the most challenging year of traditional Ministry

Baptisms/Thanksgivings, Dedications, Marriages/Weddings, Funerals

Have all been impacted by Covid 19, taking funerals and working with the bereaved has been our biggest piece of occasional office work in 2020, even then limited by the context.

Pastoral Home Visits & Communion

It is always a special time, to be with those who are no longer able to get out of their homes and it's been a privilege to be able to share Holy Communion with several people. However, this has been impacted by Covid 19 and the rules around visiting we hope to return to some form of norm in the future.

Partnership Office

Our admin office is no longer staffed. We can be contacted electronically, but appointments must be made to visit the office. This is partly as a response to COVID-19 shutdowns, but also driven by long term financial pressures. Most of the day-to-day administrative burden will fall on our clergy

Our web site <https://WSwinLyd.org.uk> is somewhat static, but a helpful central point of information. During the year we migrated to using secure encrypted communications to the web site. This is almost invisible to our users, but a wise precaution.

calls within the Diocese with Lucy Moore and the Church Army researchers where we fed back our observations.

- Sent out a monthly 'Messy Church at Home' sheet to families. This contains a link to a follow-up Zoom call and encourages families to make something they can share on screen with everyone.
- Met face to face in relaxed socially distanced sessions outside St Marys in August and September.
- Provided 4 families with activity packs at Christmas which were followed up with a virtual Christingle service on Zoom.

Feedback from families has been patchy but the team as a whole has gained in great deal through keeping in touch with one another and we have also learnt some new technological skills.

Throughout this difficult time the Messy Church organisation has provided constant inspiration and is starting to encourage groups to think and pray about what re-opening will mean. www.messychurch.org.uk

Oliver Tomkins CE Primary Link with Katikamu Sebamale School, Uganda

In the last year, Clive Deverell and Rahel Dams have acted as Foundation Governors at Oliver Tomkins school. The School has been like us heavily impacted by Covid 19 and will look at doing more in 2021.

St Marys Lydiard Tregoze NLHF Conservation Project

The final phase of the internal conservation started in January 2020. Despite the impact of Covid-19 was completed before Easter, to finish work on the newly discovered niche and other areas.

Contractors continued to work on site within the limitations of Covid-19 restrictions. Refitting the Vestry and installing new heating and lighting systems were among the achievements. A new improved sound system was also now installed; and the font pedestal has also been lowered to floor level, making access a little easier for future baptisms!

So, the physical work on the conservation is almost complete – with new noticeboards, display cabinets and interpretation panels to be fitted in early 2021. The newly opened up welcome area by the main door will look very different! That leaves the community-based project activities to complete - important links with the many Visitors to the Church, and activities with local Schools. These have been delayed in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions, but hopefully now taking place in 2021.

Deanery Synod February 2020 – key notes

Growing Leaders - Phill Harrison led evening meetings one a month and a full day session. 31 people signed up with much diversity in ages and background.

Exploring Christianity - Some 13 people are attending the present course. There is a requirement to write essays and this can lead to the appointment of further LLMs and in some cases the ordained ministry.

Deanery Synod July 2020 – key notes

£3000 raised for our Uganda links

Bishop Viv's address - Much pain but also steadfastness in the Diocese. She reflected on Job, and how he found hope in facing up to reality and facing his emotions honestly with God. "Job's "resurrection" was a signal of new life."

We will have to face up to the challenges and changes, and be responsive and sensitive to the poverty of many, the despair hiding behind closed doors, and the desolation of the young as a result of the pandemic.

Diocese struggling from considerable loss of income during the pandemic.

Much praise for the way in which churches have responded to the changed world, reaching out to their members, and adapting to virtual contact and worship.

A question to pose is how do Christian communities react with our neighbours and those who have never known Jesus?

Archdeacon Christopher - There is a possibility of money being available for digital equipment – Chris Priddy in the diocese is the contact.

Transforming Church - The Diocese is launching a wide-ranging engagement and listening exercise, '**Transforming Church. Together**' This process will help us to understand what we do well, what we can change for the better and how we can create a positive way forward together in the way of Christ. The aim is to obtain responses from as many people as possible, not just those involved in leadership.

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/transformingchurch/> is the link to fill in the questionnaire and find out more about Transforming Church.

Diocesan Synod

The Covid 19 situation meant that the last two Synods were held on line, the one we met in person in early March focused on DAC and environmental issues. The first online we focused on prayer, with Bishop Viv leading us. The second we received feedback from General Synod, the HTB plants and Mission areas within the Diocese. Most importantly, it passed a negative budget for 2021, which in the long term is unsustainable so decisions will need to be made in due course about how to balance the books post covid.

Baptist Area

During 2020 WEBA sent out a survey to churches asking for age profile of the group, what had helped the group – we chose following Holy Habits, how we deliver the gospel to over 65's or minority ethnic groups and how we developed leadership skills. We sent the response sheet from Westlea church back to WEBA. Westlea might be the only church in our partnership where membership has increased over lockdown. One question on the survey asked about help required to deliver the Christian message and we chose 'Availability of suitable training resources and ideas that would assist us.'

During 2020 several Baptist churches began live streaming services on YouTube. Chipping Sodbury Baptist church has done this. Leadership teams seem to be meeting in some churches many of the churches were collecting items for the 'box of hope' project and they are still doing this as we go through 2021. As well as food and games these now contain pens and exercise books. The scheme works with local schools. Gorse Hill Baptist in Swindon is part of this scheme. Gorse Hill has also recorded many sermons from 2020 which can be downloaded or borrowed on CD.

At the end of 2020 grants were distributed to churches with planned activities to advance the gospel. Gorse Hill received £10,000. Baptist churches were still producing newsletters with a whole year summary in the December issue informing folk about the listening project now on video, coronavirus guidance and the prayer days. Baptist churches all join together to pray for their missionaries the last one was January 31st, 2021. Each Baptist church supports a missionary linking them into work back home.

In summary, everyone is working flat out making resources, packing boxes of hope, recording listening to God videos, or working on ideas to relieve poverty.

WEBA churches will all support Fairtrade fortnight, Spring Harvest, Christian Aid week and the Christian Resources exhibition in 2021 just as they did in 2020. They are still following the '72' Listening, Looking, Living and Learning.

Methodist Circuit

Our relationship with the Upper Thames Circuit has seen some strains this last year. The proposed withdrawal of the Circuit from the LEP is significantly delayed. With the installation of a new Circuit Superintendent Minister and the complexity of shared buildings we now understand this will take several years to implement. It has caused awkward questions for all of our parent denominations and no answers are yet evident. We intend to keep being and doing partnership, and to explore new ways to partner even if our LEP may not have formal existence in future.

Pete, Clive, Heather, Gill and Liz. We welcomed Marie from HTS and Ann and Judith from ASLM which helped replace members who had stepped down (Gayle and Sue). The new members had a brief taste of our COVID-19 secure filming set up at HTS before we went into further lockdowns where they gamely rose to the challenge of tackling home filming! Here is one of our first home filmed assemblies as a new team together. [Double Your Money Open the Book Assembly](#) I hope you enjoy spotting some familiar faces/voices and promise Edward (the rich man) is not nearly so scary in real life!

The Open the Book Team have received a lot of positive feedback from schools saying how important and valuable these assemblies have been to learning in the pandemic and how they would like to continue receiving these assemblies for as long as possible. Even before lockdown Peatmoor and Westlea schools had expressed a desire for an in person OTB assembly so naturally we were very pleased to be able to offer the weekly online assemblies to them. Looking ahead to 2021 the team and churches need to be thinking how we might "go back" when in person teams are able to return to schools, perhaps in late summer or September. Could the current team be expanded or new teams formed to serve Peatmoor and Westlea schools? What would the other schools and our Freshbrook friends like to see happen? And what is a sustainable way forward for all?

If you would like to find out more about Open the Book, the [Bible Society/Get involved/Open the Book Website](#) is a good place to start or you could talk to an open the book team member or school contact at your church and watch Gayle's [Open the Book Partnership Promotional Video](#). We would welcome new members to join us and can provide a happy team environment both virtually and we hope soon in person!

Messy Church

After the March lockdown the Messy Church team wanted to ensure that we continued to meet in some way. Fortunately, the worldwide Messy Church team has worked hard to support groups meeting across the globe and helped with resources that have enabled us to contact families at least monthly. As a result we have:

- Fulfilled our commitment to collect data for the Messy Church Discipleship Project. Material was adapted and sent to families, it included recordings taken in leader's gardens and You-tube links. We took part in two Zoom



Open the Book Assembly. Little did any of us realise the challenges that lay in the months ahead.

Heather's first recollection of helping make an "online" Open the Book Assembly was early summer when Gayle organised for the team to work together with Freshbrook Open the Book Team to create weekly online assemblies that schools could use in their classrooms and send home for children to use at home with their families. Gayle started by producing these at home in lockdown using her family as the actors and learning how to use the Movavi editing programme.

Gradually she got both OTB teams involved in filming and working together to produce these. And so, we went from one partnership and friends OTB team giving one in person monthly assembly at Shaw Ridge School to working with our Freshbrook friends OTB Team to produce weekly online assemblies for 8 primary schools across West Swindon! These are Peatmoor, Brookfield, Shaw Ridge, Tregoze, Hazelwood Academy, Oliver Tomkins, Westlea and Millbrook.

Our new found joy was overshadowed for a while with the news of Gayle's redundancy later that summer. Gayle continued to train, recruit, encourage and steer the OTB work until her handover to Heather in November. Heather became the Open the Book Team Leader for the Shaw Ridge Team and took on the role of Coordinator for the online assemblies, organising the filming, editing (with help from Tim at Freshbrook Church) and sending of the weekly assemblies into the schools.

As the pandemic pushed us into 2 further lockdowns, we had to think of new ways to film alone at home. The team have learnt how to film with our phones, how to use green screen technology to place a scenic background behind someone, how to send footage via WhatsApp and We Transfer and lately how to film using zoom! This has been a steep learning curve for everyone but has also allowed our confidence to grow and honed our miming and technology skills!

Gayle also made provision for non-open the book schools work, decentralising that work to each local church who now have "responsible church contacts" to steer this for each of the schools they serve. Within the partnership these are Clive, Angela, Rachel, Edward and Stephanie.

In the Autumn, Gayle got everyone involved in the wonderful Advent calendar initiative, both from across the partnership and from other local churches. This was a blessing not just for the children and schools but to everyone in the churches who got involved and then used the calendar personally through advent.

Gayle also made a short Open the Book promotional video (see below) to help raise awareness in our churches of what the Open the Book teams have been doing, usually do and how we really need your help going forward. Happily, this resulted in 3 new members joining the existing Shaw Team of Edward, Stephanie,

The circuit look forward to Sept 2021 and the new Super. In preparation they have asked our leadership to meet with the Circuit leadership to chat about mission priorities.

URC

SW Synod cancelled the meetings for March and October and was conducted by Zoom for the principal people only.

The URC left it up to each church to decide to open when government allowed and gave out a set of guidelines to follow which were updated regularly according to government policy. URC also allowed Communion in the Zoom services by its churches as well as producing a recorded weekly service which goes out every Sunday at 10.00 am. Guidelines on how to look after a closed church were also sent out to prevent water leaks and waterborne diseases from occurring and to ensure weekly checks are made on the empty buildings.

Safeguarding

The number of people we have working with children or those who may be at risk varies, but at the time of reporting was 74. We have had one incident of safeguarding concern in 2020. It was an issue of inappropriate behaviour, no-one was at risk. We consulted with our URC safeguarding advisor and the issue was dealt with privately in a meeting with them and one of our community. It was unnecessary to refer this any further and we believe the matter is closed.

Despite not being able to meet in person for much of the year, we have been able to continue working with our children and vulnerable communities, if online. During lockdowns we have continued to improve our documentation tracking, though at a reduced rate.

In doing our work of safeguarding the Partnership Council have followed the advice and guidance of the United Reformed Church Synod Safeguarding Officer. According to section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, the PCC have given due weight to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

Areas of focus for 2020, reviewed

- Stabilise our long-term finances - Our outgoings have been reduced considerably by making the staff redundant and will enable budgets to be made to balance once the churches incomes have stabilised after the conservation work and Covid-19. Partnership reserves are currently just under 6 months of planned expenditure, which is at a prudent level.
- Resolve outstanding Safeguarding documentation concerns from partner overseeing denominations - During lockdowns we have continued to improve our documentation tracking, though at a reduced rate. We're not done with this
- Conclude the Holy Habits initiative and ask each fellowship to focus on growth discipleship in our congregations. All those Churches within the Partnership who were involved in Holy Habits completed it during 2020, the Day group for Jesus has been a direct result and at least one person is on a vocational path. Churches are more confident in setting their own agendas, some working individually others as a pair.
- Each church to take greater responsibility for the schools within its vicinity. Gayle did a fabulous job since July handing over to Heather and recruiting 3 new Open The Book volunteers. She continued to support and train the team and made an excellent handover.
- As individual churches we consider how we may wish to work together, given the possibility that in future there may be no formal LEP here. During 2020 we have found ourselves coping with circumstances none of us could have predicted. We have shared resources fairly well, our worship-at-home service sheets, pre-recorded resources and online meetings have been well received. The challenge to the future existence of our LEP has changed shape and schedule during 2020. We anticipate further challenges to our common life in 2021, so will continue with this as one of our focus areas.

The Community

Membership is expressed through the Local Churches, and each congregation is responsible for encouraging regular attendees into membership. Within our different church traditions there are slight differences in understanding of membership, but this causes us no problems apart from explaining to our parent denominations.

people to have contact with each other and provided a source of stimulating activity and challenge, as well as boosting their self-esteem through seeing their ideas and photos on the site.

The other main activity which has been developed in lock-down has been a weekly 'Zoom' session at the same time as our normal group session on Mondays. Through zoom, we have been able to enjoy 'meeting up' as leaders and young people each week, sharing noisy chat and also having fun with a weekly quiz which myself and different young people each week have organised and led. This has been extremely successful and parents have told me how much the young people have enjoyed it and that it has reduced their isolation and improved their mood.

Summer: After discussions with volunteers and parents, Claire decided that as a project we would venture into reality and start a 2-hour weekly group session outdoors of 6 max (adults and young people) at Lydiard Park. These began in July and ran through until the end of August. We had 4 adult volunteers (plus myself leading) who alternated, allowing 4 young people (again alternating) to attend. For the young people and families, these sessions were extremely important, as many were not able to go on holiday and other activities and groups were limited. Some of the children were shielding or from families with shielded members, so parents were very reluctant to let them go to more crowded groups or settings. Obviously, our activities were fairly limited compared to normal sessions, due to covid restrictions; however, we were able to provide meaningful and fun activities, as well, of course, as very important socialisation and respite opportunities. All activities were risk-assessed, as per normal. We also continued with the weekly Zoom sessions as not all the children chose to attend the park sessions.

Our last park session was in October and by then it was clear that we could not go back to meeting indoors so we returned to our 'lockdown group' – meeting on zoom and using the website as a means to keep in touch. We had a wonderful Advent, with activity packs which were sent to each child, including an Advent candle. Each week on zoom we lit our candles and completed a craft together from the pack then read part of the Nativity story together and prayed. Our final session was an online Christingle session and carols.

Schools Work

On Friday 20th March the prime minister announced the first closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Easter schools work was cancelled as children (and parents) embarked on their first experience of home learning in the remaining two weeks of the Spring term. That week was the last time Shaw Open the Book Team went in person to Shaw Ridge Primary School with their Monthly

For the summer term we are planning to study the Bible Society Course on the Bible. It's an eight session study and gives a very good overview of the book.

We still study, worship and pray for the first hour and then afterwards we have a time of virtual coffee, tea, biscuits and a chat. Members appreciate the informal nature of the study and chatting afterwards.

With tongue in cheek, if you are thinking of join us, don't just think about it join us! We will love to see you. It doesn't matter if you can only join us once month or every other month, we still love to see you.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Children and Young People's work

All of our local churches support children and young people on Sundays, and some midweek groups. These are described further and reported in the local church annual reports at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>, here we consider our joint efforts

Emerge group 2020

Following national lock-down the Emerge Project became a virtual youth project, with a recommissioned website as the main tool for communication. This enabled the young people and families to keep in touch with each other each week, with the young people sending me their weekly news and photos of activities to upload. We have also encouraged social interaction through competitions and challenges, such as growing sunflowers; creating artwork; making Easter cards and gifts; and participating in a 6-week charity fundraising challenge with mini-challenges to do each day from 3 categories: 'Be Active'; 'Be Kind'; 'Be Creative'. The young people voted to donate their money raised (£150) to the local wildlife rescue charity 'Oak & Furrows'.

The website also provided weekly creative, educational and physical activity ideas (again often suggested by the young people). Through our 'Thoughts for the Week' webpage we have provided a spiritual focus; each week looking at a theme from a Biblical perspective, with questions to think about and a short prayer. Additionally, we offered all the young people the gift of an appropriate Bible, with choices of different translations and styles to meet their needs. Out of the group, 3 young people were very keen to take up this offer and I was privileged to take these round to them, engaging in positive conversations with parents.

Through the website, therefore, we have been able to continue with the main aims of our project which are: **to improve socialisation; develop skills and confidence; grow in community awareness; explore faith**. Parents have been very supportive and appreciative of the website which has enabled the young

Membership Summary

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
St Mary's	61	61	69	67	66	73	75	76	74	70
Holy Trinity	23	25	30	27	28	28	33	31	36	42
Toothill	31	31	31	28	35	34	36	32	39	42
Westlea	34	34	31	31	31	27	30	31	26	26
Total	149	151	161	153	160	162	174	170	175	180

(Figures before 2013 adjusted to reflect altered organisation)

Ministry and weekly services

The worship rota is arranged across the Partnership. Clergy, Local Preachers, Lay Ministers and our team of trained lay people lead services and preach in their 'home' church, in the other partner churches and some across the Methodist Upper Thames Circuit. The Circuit also contributes worship leaders.

Denominationally Appointed Ministers	
Rev Capt. Clive Deverell	CofE Minister. Authorised to Serve as Methodist. Authorised URC Minister
Rev Trevor Day	CofE Assistant Minister
Rev Teresa Townsend	CofE Curate
Rev Rachael Wilson	Methodist Minister
Rev Lis Arnold	CofE Ordained Minister (Permission to Officiate)
Mrs Angela Mak	CofE Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)

We are grateful to the following members of the Partnership who are authorised by our denominations to lead services across our churches:

Denominationally Authorised Ministers	
Rachel Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
Mark Dowling	Methodist Lay Preacher
David Hoar	URC Lay Preacher

Hazel Davis is training for ordained ministry within the Church of England. Two have had to stop worshipping with us, in order to continue their training to be Local Preachers in the Methodist Circuit.

Locally Appointed Ministers		
Claire Camm	Youth Work manager	
Gayle Bryon	Schools Work manager (until Dec 2020)	
Mary Poole	Messy Church Leader	
Lay worship leaders		
Heather Benn	Sue Green	Mark Taylor
Gayle Bryon	Stephen Kershaw	Pat Watson
Ian Bryon	Jacqueline Kirwan	Sarah Wilmott
Janet Clarke	Ed Poole	Richard Williams
Wendy Deverell	Mary Poole	

Other Groups:	
St Mary's & Holy Trinity Shaw Worship team	
Westlea Leadership Team	Team Toothill

Our partnership's main services take place on a Sunday Morning with each of our Churches having a thriving and enthusiastic congregation, several with crèches, children's and young people groups also being provided. The communion services generally vary between Anglican order and Free-Church styles.

Messy Church is a missionary congregation aimed at families with young children. It is lay-led and resourced from the other "Sunday morning" churches.

Partnership activity "Encounter" (monthly study and exploration of faith) at Holy Trinity Shaw

One of the initiatives to grow out of Holy Habits has been the 'Day Group for Jesus' sessions run by Pete Rogers and Edward Glennie which meet fortnightly.

A growing number continue to meet for Morning Prayer on Fridays at Holy Trinity (during School time).

Administrative and Support	
Mr Graham Stockill	Partnership Administrator (until Oct 2020)
Mr Steve Kershaw	Partnership Chair
Mrs Sue Green	Partnership Treasurer
Mr Chris Scarisbrick	Partnership Secretary and Joint Safeguarding Coordinator
Mrs Julie Scarisbrick	Joint Safeguarding Coordinator

Mrs Maricon Alojado	Manager and supervisor for Claire and Gayle
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Usual Weekly Attendance

	2020		2019		2018		2017		2016		2015		2014	
	Adult	Child	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C
St Mary's	23	2	55	9	63	9	68	10	57	9	59	12	72	12
Holy Trinity	20	2	31	8	32	4	33	8	34	8	36	8	36	16
Toothill	24	3	24	3	24	7	25	8	29	9	25	5	27	5
Westlea	27	2	24	4	24	5	22	5	26	6	24	7	25	9
Total	94	9	134	24	143	25	148	31	146	32	142	31	160	42

Figures adjusted to include Messy Church other non-weekly services etc

Joint Partnership Worship

We just held one joint services in 2020, our commitment service on Jan 26th. For much of the year meeting together in person was not possible. We continued to circulate written services, share online services, and continued to meet over telephone and video conferencing facilities.

Prayer continues to be an important part of our lives within the Partnership and we believe this has deepened during COVID-19 lockdowns

Day group for Jesus

We started in May 2019, meeting twice monthly at Holy Trinity Shaw and we now have some 35 meetings under our belt. Meeting on Monday's in the afternoon has worked well and 7 of us regularly attend. We are a mixed lively bunch, from Shaw, Westlea and Toothill. The pandemic (plus a medical emergency or two) initially thwarted us, but with thanks to Zoom plus some stents, we were able to resume and carry on as normal.

We have been studying Spiritual Charisms and so far we have studied 27 of them. Learning from the likes of Tim Peake, that a bag of flour and two thunder-flashes (second set with a delay) is not the wisest of counsel.

**THE CHURCH PARTNERSHIP OF WEST SWINDON
AND LYDIARD TREGOZE**

Consolidated

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £	2019 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations & Legacies	2(a)	91,306	57,574	-	148,881	252,650
Other Trading Activities	2(b)	-	-	-	-	3,728
Income from Investments	2(c)	81	22	-	103	328
Charitable Activities - church activities	2(d)	17,892	-	-	17,892	28,367
Other Income	2(e)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		109,279	57,596	-	166,876	285,073
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising Funds	3(b)	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising Costs	3(c)	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities - church activities	3(a)	129,002	402,795	-	531,796	567,372
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		129,002	402,795	-	531,796	567,372
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(19,723)	(345,198)	-	(364,921)	(282,299)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(19,723)	(345,198)	-	(364,921)	(282,299)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2020 (2019)		107,778	473,239	-	581,017	863,315
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2020 (2019)		88,056	128,040	-	216,096	581,016

Notes: These accounts bring together the Statements of Financial Activities for (a) Church Partnership of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze, (b) St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze, (c) Holy Trinity Church, Shaw, (d) Toothill Church, (e) Westlea Church, (f) Manse

**THE CHURCH PARTNERSHIP OF WEST SWINDON
AND LYDIARD TREGOZE**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Consolidated



	Note	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	5	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		-	-
Debtors	7	78,722	340,207
Short Term Deposits		37,314	51,590
Cash at bank and in hand		111,963	206,298
		<u>227,999</u>	<u>598,095</u>
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	8	(11,902)	(17,079)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>216,096</u>	<u>581,017</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>216,096</u>	<u>581,017</u>
FUNDS	6,9		
Unrestricted		88,056	107,778
Restricted		128,040	473,239
Endowment		-	-
		<u>216,096</u>	<u>581,017</u>

Approved by

Signed by

Date 19/2/21

The notes 1 to 10 referred to above and on the Statement of Financial Activities form part of these accounts.

THE CHURCH PARTNERSHIP OF WEST SWINDON AND LYDIARD TREGOZE

Consolidated

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020



1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £0.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Legal Status - The charity is an unincorporated charitable trust constituted by trust deed.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity has taken exemption from preparing a cash flow statement under the charities SORP (FRS 102) as the charity constitutes a small charity.

Funds

Endowments funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent a) income from trusts or endowments, and b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the Church/group for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The Church/group does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for ordinary purposes.

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the Church / group is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the Church / group. The diocesan or other denominational share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the Church at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provisions for amounts that may prove uncollectable. Short term deposits include cash held on deposit at the Bank.

Current liabilities

Creditors are recognised where the church has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Financial Risk Management

The charity has minimal exposure to customer credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk. Please refer to the risk management section of the trustees annual report for information on how risks are managed. The charity does not have any non basic financial instruments.

**THE CHURCH PARTNERSHIP OF WEST SWINDON
AND LYDIARD TREGOZE**
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2020

Consolidated

2 INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2020 £	2019 £
2(a) <i>Donations & Legacies</i>					
Planned giving:					
Gift Aid	63,391	-	-	63,391	63,322
Tax recoverable	15,706	-	-	15,706	17,539
other	5,161	-	-	5,161	6,653
Collections (open plate)	2,092	-	-	2,092	5,680
Sundry donations	1,411	1,435	-	2,845	17,808
Tax reclaim on sundry donations	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	54,306	-	54,306	130,114
Donations, appeals, etc	3,545	1,834	-	5,379	11,534
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
	91,306	57,574	-	148,881	252,650
2(b) <i>Other trading activities</i>					
Fetes, bazzars, other fund-raising events	-	-	-	-	716
Rental Income	-	-	-	-	3,012
	-	-	-	-	3,728
2(c) <i>Income from investments</i>					
Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	81	22	-	103	328
	81	22	-	103	328
2(d) <i>Income from church activities</i>					
Church hall letting etc - church groups	1,487	-	-	1,487	5,985
Church hall letting etc - other groups	13,831	-	-	13,831	19,436
Ministry Fees	1,665	-	-	1,665	2,946
Playgroup Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Bookstall	-	-	-	-	-
Government grants: coronavirus job retention scheme grant*	909	-	-	909	-
	17,892	-	-	17,892	28,367
2(e) <i>Other income</i>					
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	109,279	57,596	-	166,876	285,073

Total donations of £18,401 were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately.

*There were no unfilled conditions and other contingencies attached to grants that have been recognised in income, and the charity has not directly benefited from any other forms of government assistance

**THE CHURCH PARTNERSHIP OF WEST SWINDON
AND LYDIARD TREGOZE**

Consolidated

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2020

3 EXPENDITURE ON:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2020 £	2019 £
3(a) <i>Church Activities</i>					
Missionary and charitable giving:	7,135	-	-	7,135	7,738
Ministry: partnership share	57,817	-	-	57,817	58,183
other clergy costs	2,267	-	-	2,267	4,578
Church Running & Maintenance Costs	44,183	3,098	-	47,281	75,053
Staff Costs - Church Activities	9,371	6,847	-	16,218	14,780
Staff Costs - Administration	2,119	-	-	2,119	10,795
Printing & Stationery	-	-	-	-	-
Major Building Work	5,000	392,850	-	397,850	395,183
Bank Charges	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Governance Costs</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Independent Examination Fees	1,110	-	-	1,110	1,062
	129,002	402,795	-	531,796	567,372
3(b) <i>Raising funds</i>					
Costs of appeals etc	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
3(c) <i>Fundraising Costs</i>					
Costs of fetes, bazaars, other fund-raising events	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	129,002	402,795	-	531,796	567,372

4 STAFF COSTS

Wages and salaries	18,337	24,793
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs	-	-
	18,337	24,793

There were 3 employees none of who were paid over £60,000pa

5 FIXED ASSETS

Nil

**THE CHURCH PARTNERSHIP OF WEST SWINDON
AND LYDIARD TREGOZE**
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2020

Consolidated

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total £
2020				
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Current Assets	92,875	135,123	-	227,998
Current Liabilities	(4,819)	(7,083)	-	(11,902)
Fund balance	88,056	128,040	-	216,096
2019				
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Current Assets	141,271	738,841	-	880,112
Current Liabilities	(16,732)	(65)	-	(16,797)
Fund balance	124,539	738,776	-	863,315

7 DEBTORS

	2020 £	2019 £
Income tax recoverable	7,529	7,891
Prepayments and accrued interest	1,408	1,585
Other debtors	69,785	330,731
	78,722	340,207

8 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Accruals and deferred income	1,160	1,060
Creditors for goods and services	3,149	5,532
Other creditors	7,593	10,487
	11,902	17,079

Deferred income comprises deposits for weddings taking place post year end

THE CHURCH PARTNERSHIP OF WEST SWINDON AND LYDIARD TREGOZE

Consolidated

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2020

9 FUND DETAILS

The Church Partnership and each individual church and sub-groups maintain a General Fund.

Some of the churches in the partnership have received funds for a specific purpose such as building. Any such amounts unspent at the year end have been included as restricted funds.

Transfers have been made from unrestricted to restricted funds where expenditure on a particular project has exceeded the funds available for that purpose. Transfers from restricted funds to the general fund occur when the expenditure has been identified through the general fund or to transfer unspent funds with the agreement of the donor.

The movements in the Restricted Funds in 2020 were:	Balance at 01/01/2020	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31/12/2020
Youth Fund	1,785	5,450	7,235	0	0
Family Work	4,598	0	530	0	4,068
St Marys Building Fund	428,952	51,219	357,469	0	122,702
HTS Buildings General	0	0	0	0	0
Toothill Tinies	6,674	1,435	2,710	0	5,399
Manse	35,362	22	35,381	0	3
consolidation	-4,132	-4,030	-4,030		-4,132
	<u>473,239</u>	<u>54,096</u>	<u>399,295</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>128,040</u>

The movements in the Restricted Funds in 2019 were:	Balance at 01/01/2019	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31/12/2019
Youth Fund	3,213	6,493	7,921	0	1,785
Family Work	8,523	0	3,925	0	4,598
St Marys Building Fund	698,350	121,168	390,566	0	428,952
HTS Buildings General	0	0	0	0	0
Toothill Tinies	182	28,579	22,087	0	6,674
Manse	32,640	3,142	420	0	35,362
consolidation	-4,132	-4,030	-4,030		-4,132
	<u>738,776</u>	<u>155,352</u>	<u>420,889</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>473,239</u>

10 OTHER NOTES

Expenses paid to the following trustees during 2020 were as follows: £

Revd Clive Deverell	1,880
Revd Teresa Townsend	387
Sue Green	302
Mary Poole	18
Claire Camm	308
Gayle Bryon	110

All these payments are either expenses or part of fees for performing church services.

Trustees received remuneration of £16,218. None were paid for their role as trustee. Gayle Bryon got £7,729 as schools work manager and Claire Camm £8,489 as youth work manager.

Total donations of £18,401 were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately.

There were no related party transactions in the year.

There was no holiday pay to accrue at the start or end of year.

**THE CHURCH PARTNERSHIP OF WEST SWINDON
AND LYDIARD TREGOZE**

Consolidated

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2020

11 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2018 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations & Legacies	2(a)	100,440	152,210	252,650
Other Trading Activities	2(b)	716	3,012	3,728
Income from Investments	2(c)	198	130	328
Income from Church Activities	2(d)	28,367	-	28,367
Other Income	2(e)	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		129,721	155,352	285,073
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Raising Funds	3(b)	-	-	-
Fundraising Costs	3(c)	-	-	-
Church Activities	3(a)	146,483	420,889	567,372
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		146,483	420,889	567,372
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	-
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS				
- realised		-	-	-
- unrealised		-	-	-
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		(16,762)	(265,537)	(282,299)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(16,762)	(265,537)	(282,299)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2019		124,539	738,776	863,315
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2019		107,777	473,239	581,016

Notes: These accounts bring together the Statements of Financial Activities for (a) Church Partnership of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze, (b) St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze, (c) Holy Trinity Church, Shaw, (d) Toothill Church, (e) Westlea Church, (f) Manse

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 with comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



S G Fraser FCA
MHA Monahans
38-42 Newport Street
Swindon
SN1 3DR

Date:

12th August 2021