



## **with St Mary's, Commonweal Road**

Providing a spiritual home and resources for the local community

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024 –Lent 5**

**Passion Sunday**

**Mission Giving Sunday**

**8am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette**

**Preacher: Ailsa Palmer**

**10am Informal Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette**

**Preacher: Ailsa Palmer**

*On this Mission Giving Sunday, all donations will be divided between our two chosen charities, Willows Counselling Service and Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership.*

*Judy Evans will be speaking to us briefly this morning about the work of Willows*

**Bible Readings: Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Hebrews 5: 5-10; John 12: 20-33**

**Reader: Tracy and Helen**

**Prayers: Moira**

[Download an order of service so you can follow and join in](#)

**4pm Evensong – led by the Revd. Norma McKemey**

**St Mary's**

**9am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Norma McKemey**

[Download our monthly Service Poster for March](#)

**Bible verse for 2024**



## **Jo Porter**

We were heartbroken to learn that Jo took her own life on Mothering Sunday. We thank God for all that Jo gave us at Christ Church in so many ways through her joyful Christian witness. In recent years her outstanding all-age worship talks have been much appreciated along with her singing in the Toast music group. Please remember in your prayers Jo's devastated family, husband Dave, daughter Elanya, son Noah, parents Dot and Adrian, sisters Lisa, Kirsty and Louise. Also, Jo's teaching colleagues at East Wichel Primary School especially the children in her Year 1 class. Also, our own King William Street Church of England Primary School where Jo was a teaching assistant for many years.

All are welcome at Jo's funeral service which will be on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2pm in Christ Church followed by a burial and then a Reception in the Community Centre. The worship will be led by Toast and the Reception will be coordinated by Fellowship of Faith and Bible encounter friends. Offers of savouries and cakes would be much appreciated to either Nicola, myself or Simon Giles. Thank you gratefully, Simon.



### **Our vision - To be Christ's Church in the community**

**Our mission:** By proclaiming Christ through teaching and example:

- By welcoming and serving all through hospitality.
- By encouraging people to find God through worship, faith, and prayer.
- By providing a spiritual home and resources for the local community.
- By transforming Swindon and beyond with God's hope and compassion.

**Our values:** We will do this with humility, grace, and respect, listening prayerfully to God and our neighbours.

**Please pray this prayer each day if you can as we trust God for growth over this coming year:**

**Our Prayer for Growth**

God of mission, who alone brings growth to your church,

Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,

Wisdom to our actions and power to our witness.

Help all our Partnership churches to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you and in service to our Swindon Community.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Next week in Christ Church**

**9-9.30am** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Morning Prayer  
in the Lady Chapel

**9-9.30am** Wednesday & Friday virtual morning prayer

Telephone: 08002605903 to join by phone

Use this Passcode 694043607#

**Monday 18th March**

12 noon – ‘Treasure Together’ Spiritual Reflection Group – all welcome

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

10.30am Christ in Quiet – all welcome

7pm Fellowship of Faith - all welcome

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

11am – Iona Worship Group in St Mary's

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

7.30pm Moonrakers Concert in Christ Church

*See paragraph below for more information*

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday**

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

4pm Informa Evening Worship

**St Mary's**  
9am Holy Communion

**Holy Week and Easter**



There is lots going on across the Old Town Partnership during Holy Week and the Easter weekend.

Please pick up a leaflet at the back of church today and please also take a look at the notice boards at Christ Church which have a lot of information on them.

**On Easter Monday** there will be a children's activity day in and around Christ Church and the Community Centre, raising monies for Swindon Youth for Christ.



Bible verse pebble trail  
Easter Bonnet competition  
Art & crafts  
Picnic area  
Refreshments  
And a visit from the Easter Bunny!  
Children £3, adults free.

*For more information, please contact Alex & James Davies-Spratt*

**Mission Giving**

Today Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March is our first Mission Giving Sunday for 2024, when we will be raising funds for our two chosen charities, Willows Counselling Service and Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership (SHAP). Please come prepared. All donations received on Sundays 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March will be for Mission Giving.

## **Annual Revision of the Christ Church and St Mary's Electoral Roll**

Every year as part of the annual church meeting, we review and update all the names on our church electoral roll. This year the review starts at the end of March and will be complete by mid-April. A list of all currently registered Electoral Roll members (Names only) will be available at the back of the Church during the review period.

### **What do you need to do?**

#### **1. Already on the Electoral Roll**

If you are already on the Church Electoral Roll and are happy to remain on it, you need to take no further action.

#### **2. You want to join the Electoral Roll**

There are several benefits to joining the Electoral Roll:

- You can stand for election to the Parish Church Council (PCC)
- You can attend the Annual Parochial Council Meeting (APCM)
- You can participate in the voting at the APCM (next meeting on 28th April)

##### To be entered on the Electoral Roll:

- You must be over 16.
- You must be baptised.
- You must have attended a Church of England church in the parish for at least the last six months.

If you wish to be entered on the Electoral Roll please complete one of the applications for Enrolment available at the back of the church and return it to the Parish Office by the 13<sup>th</sup> of April

### **Healing ministry at Christ Church**

In addition to our monthly healing services which are usually held on the second Sunday of the month in the evening, you probably have heard Simon announce at our Communion services that prayer ministry is available while communion is happening or after the service. This is usually carried out by members of our healing prayer group who meet at the back of the church in the Canon Thomas Welcome Area. If you would like to be a part of this team, then please let me or one of our clergy know. Appropriate advice and training would be available.

*Margaret Williams*

## Old Town Partnership News



**PARTNERSHIP PROJECT 2024** – raising monies for Swindon Youth for Christ and Swindon Street Pastors – please pick up a leaflet from Church this Sunday onwards and please consider prayerfully how you can help.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 4pm **in Christ Church** – Informal Evening Worship led by the Revd. Moira Slack and James Davies-Spratt – all welcome.

### From Bath Road:

#### **A reflective space in the midst of our busy lives – during Holy Week**

We can all benefit from times of quietness and reflection, time to recharge our batteries and refresh our spirits - although this can be hard to achieve in our busy lives. We hope that our mindfully designed, sensory pathway will provide you with such an opportunity. We're hosting a meditative, sensory pathway as we journey together through Holy Week in the worship area of the church. Take some time for yourself to relax and enjoy some space for reflection and contemplation as a counterbalance to the intensity and pressures of our daily lives. In addition to the pathway there will be opportunities to reflect at various prayer stations; unwind at the journaling and colouring table, take part in the creative activity linked to the day's theme, and, of course, enjoy some refreshments. Timing: 10am to 12 noon Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm Saturday. There is no charge for this event. All are welcome. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times, thank you.

[www.sotpc.org.uk](http://www.sotpc.org.uk)

### **New – Christ Church Lunch Club**

Starting Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 12 noon – 2pm in the Community Centre. Cost £6 per week to include main course and pudding. It is essential to book and confirm meal choices in advance to Linda 07836 501110.

## Upcoming Events at Christ Church

### Moonrakers Concert



Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March in Christ Church 7pm for a 7.30pm start  
Moonrakers is an Oxford-based group of four musicians who pride themselves in having brought traditional and contemporary folk music to new audiences in village halls, churches, arts centres and festivals across the UK. The fact that the band "just OZZES quality" (Living Tradition) is down to the careful arrangements and selection of tunes and songs, presenting "exquisite music" (BBC). The material is a combination of traditional Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English music and their own contemporary songs and tunes, still very much 'in the idiom'.

Tickets: Adults (16+) £10.00 + 50p booking fee, Children £6.00 + 50p booking fee  
available from: <https://cccswindon.co.uk/page/tickets>

Pay bar available

### Swindon Old Town Comedy Club – Spring Showcase

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm for an 8pm start in the Community Centre

**FEW TICKETS LEFT – BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT**

With headliner LAURA LEXX: As seen on Live At The Apollo (BBC) Mock The Week (BBC) Roast Battle (Comedy Central) Celebrity Mastermind (BBC) and Hypothetical (Dave)

Support acts include James O'Donoghue and David Hoare (Musical comedian of the year, audience favourite winner)

Pay bar available. Early bird tickets are £11. £15 on the door.

<https://cccswindon.co.uk/events/18/details>

## 4<sup>th</sup> Swindon Jazz & Soul Festival



THE SOUL: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 6pm – 10.30pm in Christ Church – and evening of live classic soul music

Tickets £18

THE JAZZ: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 12 noon – 10pm in Christ Church – a whole day and night of live jazz featuring award-winning and nationally known musicians

THE AFRICAN: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 12 noon – 10pm in the Community Centre – a day and evening of live music from Africa featuring modern and traditional instruments, fusion, afrobeats, groove and funk

Tickets £22 across both stages

Friday and Saturday ticket £36

<https://ccccswindon.co.uk/events/9/details>

## 11<sup>th</sup> Old Town Beer & Cider Festival



It's our 11th year and we hope it will be the best one yet.

After the success of last year, we will be again running over 4 days.

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May we will open the festival with our comedy evening. Keep an eye out for comic announcements in due course.

**Tickets for the comedy event will go on sale on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May in the afternoon there will be meet the brewer sessions with a chance for you to meet a few of our local breweries, grill them and try some of their ale.

On the Saturday evening (5pm onwards), there will be live music from excellent local bands, Sweet Nightingale, The Lost Hills, Driftwood, and the return of the fabulous What the Pluck who put on such a great performance last year. We are also delighted to confirm that SALOS Musical Theatre company will be hosting an evening of songs from musicals to close our festival on the Sunday evening. Come along and enjoy the sing-along. The ticket price includes all drinks and snacks for this one.

**Tickets for Friday, Saturday & Sunday NOW on SALE!!**

<https://ccccswindon.co.uk/events/20/details>



## **For your prayers**

† God's blessing on our Old Town Partnership Mission project supporting Swindon Youth for Christ and Street Pastors.

† Mike Shurmer, John Webb, Sandie Rule, Elaine Guilding, Norma Marchant, Ian Christopher, Chris Hazell, Mona Hall, Elizabeth Hogg, June Peters, Martin Hiscock, baby Daisy, John Hall and all those in need of God's healing

† For the families and friends of Christopher Batner, Ingrid Austin, Jo Porter and all those mourning a loved one

† That Christ Church with St Mary's will be known as a community where God is present, worshipped and adored

† For Bishop Neil and his wife Helen as they prepare for their move to Mark House in our parish in April

† We thank God for all that is happening at our Community Centre, now 10 years old, and we pray for good relations with our neighbours

† For all those who have lost their lives, been injured, and kidnapped in Israel and Gaza, especially the children and those affected by events here in Swindon

† For peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land and Ukraine

† For those who are seeking justice and peace in Iran

† For God's blessing and guidance on our new Bristol Diocesan Strategy Transforming Church Together

† For the growth of discipleship and Christian vocation throughout our community and especially through Fellowship of Faith, Home Groups, Bible Encounter and our developing daytime Christian activities especially for Treasure Together, continuing this Monday at 12 noon

† For those who are lonely, anxious, and depressed; those living with long-term medical conditions or mental health issues and all who care for them, that they would all receive strength, support, and peace

† For our chosen charities to support this year - Willows Counselling Service, Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership, and for Swindon Youth for Christ and Swindon Street Pastors who are being supported by our Partnership Project

## OUR CONTACT DETAILS

|                                  |  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Vicar                            | <u>Revd Canon Simon Stevenette</u><br><u><a href="mailto:simon@christchurchswindon.co.uk">simon@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a></u>  | Tel.<br>529166                     |
| Staff Team                       | <u>Staff Team</u> <u><a href="mailto:staffteam@christchurchswindon.co.uk">staffteam@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a></u>  |                                    |
| Parish Administrator / Clerk     | Carol Simmons<br><u><a href="mailto:parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk">parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a></u>   | Tel.<br>522832                     |
| Christ Church Assistant          | Steve Cox<br><u><a href="mailto:communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk">communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a></u>   |                                    |
| Gifts /Donations                 | <u>Stephen Grosvenor</u> Gift Aid<br><u><a href="mailto:stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk">stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a></u><br><br><u>Paul Ng</u><br><u><a href="mailto:treasurer@christchurchswindon.co.uk">treasurer@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a></u><br><br>Different ways to support us:<br><u><a href="https://linktr.ee/supportchristchurchswindon">https://linktr.ee/supportchristchurchswindon</a></u> | Stephen<br>Tel.<br>07885<br>217077 |
| Community Centre @ Christ Church | Chris - 07582 305760<br>Jenny - 07312 083949<br>email - <u><a href="mailto:ccoperations@christchurchswindon.co.uk">ccoperations@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a></u>  | Tel.<br>617237                     |

To keep in touch, visit us at:

<https://linktr.ee/christchurchswindon>  
<https://linktr.ee/communitycentrechristchurch>

Sign up for our newsletter at: <https://mailchi.mp/d41c4f43106c/signup>

# Childrens Good Friday Workshop

at Christ Church Community Centre

1:30 – 3pm Friday 29th March

for children up to 11 years

craft activities based around  
Holy Week and Easter Day

bring yourself  
and an adult



Christ Church  
Swindon



Hop on over for our



# Activity Day

**Monday April 1st**  
**11am - 3pm**

*Christ Church and the Community Centre*

**Hunt the Bible Verse pebble and win a prize**

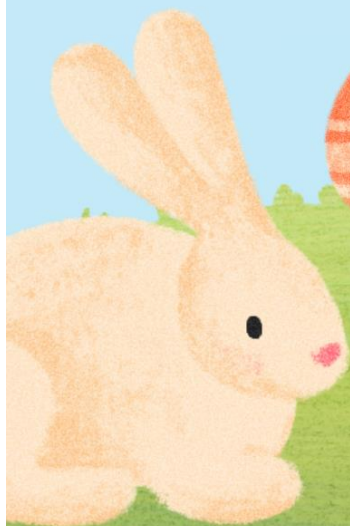
**Easter Bonnet Competition**

**Arts & crafts**

**Picnic area**

**Refreshments available**

*Look out for the Easter Bunny!*



**£3 per child / adults free**



Swindon  
**YOUTH  
FOR CHRIST**



Fellowship of faith



**Christ Church**  
Swindon