

Summertown-Wolvercote-Wytham Church Partnership



All Saints' Wytham
St Michael's CofE Church, Summertown
St Peter's CofE Church, Wolvercote
Summertown United Reformed Church
Wolvercote Baptist Church

Reports on our work in 2021-2022

Partnership Enabling Group

The Partnership Enabling Group (PEG) meets three times a year, to oversee and plan the joint work in the churches in our Partnership, and to share news of each church's own activities. PEG has two representatives from each church, plus the clergy who take turns to chair the group. This year it is Wolvercote Baptist church's turn and Revd Viv Edwards took over from Revd Clare Leal in February 2022. During the year the Ministers meeting has re-started and met twice. Revd Pauline Main, Summertown URC, retired at the end of 2021 and we thanked her for her contribution to the Partnership and wished her well in her retirement at the September meeting.

The major event of 2021 was the renewal of the Partnership Covenant and welcoming All Saints' Wytham to the Partnership at a special service at All Saints on 24 October. We were delighted that the Archdeacon of Oxford, Ven Jonathan Chaffey CB, preached for us. Along with senior representatives from the URC Wessex Synod, the Southern Counties Baptist Association and Churches Together in Oxfordshire, he signed the renewed covenant.

Details of the service, along with the Archdeacon's sermon, are on the Partnership website. This new website, <https://swwcp.org/>, was launched in October 2021 and our thanks go to Val Tate for all her work on it and her patience as the churches collaborated on the text!

The Spring Lecture series, previously run by Beryl Knotts for the URC, has become a Partnership activity, and we are grateful to Edward Wates for taking this on. The 2022 lectures were: Liz Rothschild speaking on 'Falling at the last hurdle – the vital importance of death'; Mark Goldring, Director of Asylum Welcome speaking on 'Life after the Taliban: arriving in today's Britain as a refugee' and Patrick Holden of the Sustainable Food Trust speaking on 'Feeding Britain from the Ground Up'.

This Lent the Partnership is running three intergenerational 'Have a go' workshops – making a clay pot, making posies for Mother's Day and making an Easter Garden.

Revd Clare Leal

Cotteslowe Church Partnership

The focus of our work together as separate churches partnering in the mission and ministry of Cotteslowe remains the Bishop's Mission Order (BMO). To repeat what I have previously stated, this is shared work but the financial burden rests upon St Andrew's Church through a programme of worship and outreach. Tom Murray, curate of St Andrew's, leads the BMO with great energy and vision. Tom continues to attract new partners to the work of 'loving Cotteslowe' and has achieved a real sense of synergy amongst the agencies who have all bought into the project. The food larder scheme is supported by our churches and has a considerable impact for those who are struggling to make ends meet. We are gaining stronger ties with Cotteslowe School and the City Council. The CCP is planning for what the future may hold given that the BMO licence extends for another two years. New housing continues to be high up on our agenda and, as was written last year, plans are being explored.

The Pavilion Service continues to attract a lively group of Seniors every first Sunday of the month despite the difficulties that COVID has thrown at us. The service is supported by a hearty bunch of volunteers and clergy who enjoy a story, a song and a strong cup of tea!

Revd Gavin Knight

FairPlay

The activities of the FairPlay network of voluntary organisations and churches in our area have been largely carried forward, often under COVID restrictions, by the small sub-‘eco-group’ at St Michaels charged with looking out towards the community. In the summer of 2021 we built and decorated a cooling tower (with the help of Steve Hunter and Lesley Morris) which together with a family quiz became a talking point about climate change with Saturday morning shoppers, especially families, outside the Co-op in Summertown. They were encouraged to see how cool they were and in some cases to get a lot cooler! The tower was also used in church and the same resources are available for use in schools. Other members of the network joined us on Saturdays, including Low Carbon Oxford North, Share: a Library of Things and the Good Fill. Members of the group have also been working with the diocese as well as trying to initiate an Oxford COP (after the COP in Glasgow) to re-enforce and co-ordinate action on climate change in the city.

Michael Taylor

Traidcraft

The Partnership is entering the 28th year of buying Traidcraft products – a big commitment in supporting its basic cultural beliefs in fair trade, sustainability, and organic products, and making the world we live in a better place.

We have been selling goods by email during the COVID period, and our turnover has continued to increase, to over £100 per week. The latest products selling well are organic olive oil soap from Nablus, Palestine, and bamboo socks of all sizes and colours: please look around the Partnership and see the multi coloured striped socks on view – “made soft and comfy for happy feet”.

Thank you on behalf of Traidcraft and Fairtrade.

David & Susan Smith

Taung Link

There have been no meetings of the Taung Link group this past year. News received from St Chad's is sent to link group members and the ministers/clergy of the Partnership churches; it is also included in St Peter's and St Michael's weekly enews.

Fr Kubeka has been at St Chad's for over a year now and although direct contact with him is elusive, we are reassured of his commitment to the Link between St Chad's and the Church Partnership. Please pray for our link church of St Chad's, for Tumelo, Tlotlo and Thabiso who keep in touch with us by email or WhatsApp. There are regular Zoom meetings of linked parishes in the Oxford Diocese which gives an opportunity for the exchange of news from our link churches.

The total in the Taung account stands at £1679.77.

Please pray for our partner Diocese of Kimberley & Kuruman and especially The Right Reverend Brian Melvin Marajh who was Enthroned as the 13th Bishop of Kimberley & Kuruman on 4 December 2021.

Beryl Knotts (URC), Rosemary Williams, Margaret Broadbent, Shei Crowther (St Peter's), Gill Harper and Jill Galloway (Wolvercote Baptist Church), Sue Smith (St Michael's)

Coffee Café

Having been unable to run this over the summer of 2020, we were delighted to be able to return to a limited run from June to September 2021 at our usual place on the forecourt and kitchen at Summertown United Reformed Church.

Risk Assessments were carried out and strict COVID precautions set up, and the opening time shortened slightly to 10.15–11.45am. Alyson Perberdy was able to recruit a full team of masked and sanitised Café helpers, and Juliet Field contacted our past stallholders who happily filled each Saturday morning slot.

As was expected, fewer people than usual stayed for the refreshments (especially as in bad weather we couldn't then move people into the church), and so takings were a little down; even so we were able to send over £300 to Sunnymead Minnows, our chosen charity, in September. However, the stallholders all did really well, with many punters adding donations to the cost of their purchases, probably realising how desperate the charities were for funds at that point. We hope they will all be returning to our planned full programme of cafés this summer!

Stallholders, helpers and visitors all comment on what a friendly, enjoyable and valuable event this is; we will return to the 10am start, hope for good weather, and look forward to seeing both regulars and newcomers between mid-May and mid-September 2022.

Juliet Field and Alyson Peberdy

Communications

The ten-year old website was replaced with a fresh, updated website (www.swwcp.org), designed and populated by members of St Peter's Communications Group, led by Val Tate. It is being regularly updated with news of Partnership events and regular publications, such as *The Quarterly*.

Following a long break during the height of the pandemic, *Partnership Link* is back, in email form for now, managed by Julia Goddard in the Partnership office. It is hoped that this grows in content as more Partnership events are organised. Our thanks also go to Jenny Gerrard, who continues to keep us informed, by email, about many important events of general interest to our five congregations.

The *Quarterly* enters its 21st year of publication with the March 2022 edition. It is once again being produced in hard copy and in electronic form. We are very grateful to all those who submit or suggest material for publication – on them the quality and interest of each issue depends. The editors, Ann Stedman, Michael Daniell and John Harding, wish to encourage the submission of original articles, book reviews and responses to articles published previously.

Val Tate and Julia Goddard

Pavilion Service

This continues to take place on the first Sunday of each month and is led by members of the clergy/ministry team. During COVID numbers have been restricted to 15 to ensure safety for all those attending the services. Restrictions on mask wearing and singing have been lifted. After expenses for teas, £131.30 remained in the funds; it was decided unanimously to divide the money between the Royal Papworth Hospital and the Children's Society.

Sue Smith

Tea n Chat

A small group of eight or ten meet on the 2nd Monday of each month throughout the year at 56 Templar Road. Sadly, the group has lost two of its older members, another member of the group who moved away continues to join us, as does the friend of another regular member who has found support in the group following the loss of close family. Lifts are provided for two people.

Welcome and hospitality are offered to all who come with the opportunity to chat about local traffic, worldwide concerns, personal worries about family and health. A prayer card is given out at the end of the afternoon and someone is invited to read it aloud.

Sue Smith

Church Partnership Office

As mentioned in the Communications report above, the Partnership side of *Partnership Link* is beginning to resurface (albeit in a slightly different form), as are other Partnership activities coordinated by the Partnership Office. These include printing the *Quarterly* and Hot Cross bun cards for Good Friday, and taking bookings for the popular 'Have a Go' activities organised for Lent.

The office can be contacted, as always, by telephone (01865 236094) or by email (officeatstpeters@gmail.com).

Julia Goddard, Administrator, Partnership Office