

STOP PRESS !!!!

Street Pastors in Warminster – a sub group of Churches Together are making speedy progress to get Street Pastors out on the streets of Warminster to help

Good Neighbour Scheme – set to be launched this year – another opportunity for the church to be involved – training and resources available from Wiltshire Council. Some part time paid posts available.

Volunteer Forum – Civic Hall, Trowbridge from 10.30 am on Monday 7th June – go along if you want to know more about volunteering.

More information on all the above from Kate Sax – kate.sax@salisbury.anglican.org Tel: 01380 831120



Watch out for news of our

WCT Forum in

Spring/Summer 2011

**Key speaker, worship,
news, workshops
... and much more !!**

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Newsletter

May

2010

Spirit of the Living God

Fall afresh on us

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“Steps to Future Church” encourages participants to make small steps along the road to fresh expressions of church

A great turnout for this event on 22 May gathered at the Diocesan Education Centre to hear keynote speaker Stephen Lindridge from the national Fresh Expressions Team address some of the issues facing the development of the church today.

Bishop Stephen Conway introduced the day with some very encouraging words, and later in the day groups met to look at specific aspects of ministry including evangelism, childrens’ work and specific examples of “fresh expressions”.

Participants had come from all over the Diocese and represented a variety of churchmanship, but all with the common desire to journey forward in mission and ministry.

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Concert by The Mill Singers

Edington Priory Church

Saturday 19th June 2010 7.30pm

Supporting Alabaré’s work with ex-Service personnel
Tickets from Alabaré’s Fundraising Dept. Tel. 08450 786808
To buy tickets online: www.alabare.co.uk/events20092010.php

News from around the County

Churches Together in Salisbury held a successful **Electoral Hustings** on Sunday 25 April. The event was hosted by St Francis Church and attended by more than 300 members of the public. A wide range of questions was fielded by 7 of the 8 prospective Parliamentary Candidates, who included among them Druid Arthur Pendragon and the BNP candidate, Sean Witheridge. The event was ably chaired by the Dean of Salisbury, the Very Rev. June Osborne, who ensured fair and good humoured proceedings. The questioners were able to get a good idea of their candidates and what they stand for. Allowing the BNP candidates to be present merely showed up their shallow and racist policies in a clearer light. There were a lot of positive comments about the hustings after the event, with the churches being thanked by the general public for putting it on. It was also suggested that we should do something similar for Parish and Unitary elections next time they happen.

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Prayer on the Streets of Devizes

Members of the churches in Devizes will begin a new venture in prayer on Saturday 5 June and each Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm.

The Chair of Devizes Partnership of Churches says:

We intend to be a passive presence.
We will sit and wait for people to approach us.
We will engage with and listen to people.
We will offer to pray with them or for them if they wish.

Our aim will be to talk to passers-by, to listen to them and pray with them if they wish us to do so. We believe that once we have established ourselves there regularly, people will feel able to approach us.

We believe it is important for us to go out from our church buildings and reach out to the people of our town.

Partnership Opportunity! Link with Age Concern to provide a Silver Surfers Club

An opportunity has arisen for interested Churches Together Groups to link with Age Concern to assist the over 50's to master computer/internet skills which can provide real benefits.

Resources needed:

- A suitable venue** – church/room/hall etc with broadband connection or potential for a connection
- Person(s) willing to work with Age Concern** to build links with local secondary school(s) who would provide suitably skilled pupils to tutor the classes
- 6 computers (desk or laptop)** – donated or funded (Help with funding will be provided)

Age UK have the experience – CT Groups can provide facilities and WCT will assist with finding funding where necessary.

Contact Kate Sax – Ecumenical Mission Enabler:
kate.sax@salisbury.anglican.org Tel: 01380 831120

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FOR THOSE IN NEED.....

Credit Unions in Wiltshire are about to launch a new project aimed at helping the many people in rural Wiltshire who feel excluded from their local communities because of financial problems. They will be working with the Communities Director at Wiltshire Council, and Community First, and want to reach out to work with as many community-centred organisations, such as churches, as possible, to assist them in their pastoral care responsibilities.

Credit unions are happy to come to any meeting of church committees or groups to explain what the project is about and how they can help. Please call or e-mail Tony Thorpe for further information.
07973 422734 southwiltscu@hotmail.co.uk

Olympics 2012 – How can the Christian Church respond to opportunities presented by this great event?

At the end of April I attended a Conference in London with Missioners and Communications Officers from many Dioceses around the country. The day included a coach trip around the Olympic Stadium – a massive project and a great potential legacy for the people in East London, particularly Stratford.

We might think that the Games are somewhat distant from Wiltshire, but they do present opportunities for engagement with people who are passionate about Sport but not about Church! Stonehenge may well be the venue for one of the sites of the Olympic torch and our friends in neighbouring Dorset are very much involved with the water sports located in Weymouth.

If you would like to know more, contact the South West Regional Coordinator, Deborah Bertram: e-mail: Deborah.Bertram@southwestrda.org.uk or telephone: 01392 229345. Updates will appear on the web site: www.wiltshirechurches.net.

Kate Sax

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### Extract from Churches Together in England News

**World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel** is **29 May to 4 June** and churches in different countries will send a clear signal to policy-makers, interested public and their own parishes about the urgent need for a peace settlement that secures the legitimate rights and future of both peoples.

The week calls participants to seek justice for Palestinians so that both Israelis and Palestinians can finally live in peace. It is now more than 60 years since the partition of Palestine hardened into a permanent nightmare for Palestinians. It's more than 40 years since the occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza overwhelmed the peaceful vision of one land, two peoples. Yet the dream of one nation cannot be fulfilled at the expense of another. The action week's message is that now:

It's time for Palestinians and Israelis to share a just peace.  
It's time for freedom from occupation.  
It's time for equal rights.  
It's time for the healing of wounded souls.

## Networking and discussion increases awareness of the churches role in Community Area Partnerships

Over twenty representatives of churches, Wiltshire Council and the voluntary sector met together in early April at Dinton Village Hall where a workshop was held to encourage community engagement.

Presentations from Richard Munro, Community Manager, Steph Little from Wiltshire Forum for Community Area Partnerships and Carol Southall from Community First set the scene for later group discussions facilitated by Inge Aben, Voluntary Sector Consultant.

Kate Sax, Ecumenical Mission Enabler for Wiltshire Churches Together and Salisbury Diocese who organised the event, reported that the feedback had been very encouraging, particularly in relation to the ability to network and discuss issues of common concern. She also commented that many people still do not know what the Community Area Partnerships and Local Boards actually do, and that part of the challenge is to raise awareness and encourage grass roots participation. This is where the Church can play a key role.



*Left to Right: Nigel Knowles, Tisbury CAP; Carol Southall, Community First; Sue Kemp – Devizes Open Door; Inge Aben, Consultant*

## WAY OF THE CROSS 2010

Well over 4,000 people followed the Salisbury Way of The Cross on Good Friday. Over 250 actors and helpers from local churches took part in this highly successful ecumenical event which took place in the streets of Salisbury and ended up on Cathedral green.



“Wonderful experience” “Far better than last time” “The Crucifixion and Resurrection scenes were intensely moving” - just some of the public comments.



The reactions of the crowds gave a very good feel of what it must have been like in Jerusalem – “What’s going on?” “Where is this Jesus?” Hard work – but well worth it!

**Tony Thorpe**

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Over a third of people at the conference indicated they would like to know more about the Mission Shaped Ministry course, which has been run in Sherborne but not yet in the Ramsbury Area. The course runs for a year and is open to all who are interested in Fresh Expressions and new ways of connecting with those outside the established church.

Also available are Vision Days offered by the National Fresh Expressions team to any church or group wanting to know more.

The Revd Kate Sax who organised the day commented that she was very encouraged by the turnout and the enthusiasm of those attending. As Ecumenical Mission Enabler, she is available to help any church or group move forward with their plans and can be contacted at: [kate.sax@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:kate.sax@salisbury.anglican.org)