

Counters and Bankers Following our appeal for more counters and bankers for our 2018 rota, we have so far had two new volunteers and one who is already on the rota is willing to double the number of times she counts. This means that, with just two more volunteers, each person will be on the rota once every eight weeks. **Could you be one of the counters we are looking for?** Counters work in pairs to count the money immediately after the 11am service is finished. The only rewards are the grateful thanks of our Churchwardens and Treasurer, coffee or tea and biscuits, and the knowledge that they are performing a valuable and important service. Our treasurer, Andrew, will be preparing the rota for January to April 2018 in a few days' time. **If you would like to join the loyal band of counters and bankers, please have a word with Andrew (tel: 01793 725526) as soon as possible.**



Asking for the Moon We have an evangelistic opportunity at St Francis School, when dozens of people who do not come to church will gather in the assembly Hall on Christmas Eve to enjoy what is basically a repeat of our own Christingle service. This is the first service we will do in the new parish. So we want it to be a special one. We want to make a gift of Christingles to the children. So that means preparing about 100 Christingle in advance!

We have already done this once for our own Christingle service. Now we want to do it again but starting on the day before Christmas Eve.

So, if anyone is available for an hour on the morning before Christmas Eve (!) it would be wonderful if you could join us in church from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM to get us started. Then we will hope to finish off the rest of the Christingle is off on Christmas Eve between the services and after the 11:00 AM service.

Prayer Meeting The January prayer meeting will be **held in church on Wednesday 10th January 2018, from 8pm to 9pm** and will be led by the Rother Close home group. Please put this in your diary now so that as many of us as possible can meet for prayer early in the New Year.

"Note from Russ and Jill to all our dear friends we have our hands full with several life changing events at the moment and would appreciate prayer for our house move, Jill's new job and our upcoming wedding. We hope everyone will understand we are not sending individual Christmas cards this year as we really are up against it but we are sending our love to wish everyone a special time as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. We will be making a donation to charity instead which we hope will make a difference to someone and give Glory to God our Father in Heaven"

"Thanks to everyone at St John's for your friendship and support during our time with you. We've enjoyed being part of a housegroup, Supper Club, coffee rota, James Wilkes Communion and being sub-team leader for Communications/on PCC. We're about to embark on a new adventure in the West Midlands, but are so grateful to you all for being part of our lives whilst in Swindon.

Love & blessings, Jan & Phil Webb

The flowers in church... over Christmas and New Year have been donated by: **Lyn Hammond & family** in memory of her husband, **Bill Hammond** and **her parents, Roy & Doris Preston; Tony Njoroge; Joan Titcombe, Ken & family** in memory of **Muriel and Charlie Varney**. Our grateful thanks to them all and to our wonderful team of flower arrangers who decorate the church so beautifully week by week.

Jars of Grace It's time to bring them back!

If you have not brought yours back yet, please do so as soon as possible so that your Jar is included in the total for 2017. If you are a taxpayer and want to Gift Aid the contents, please put a note to that effect (with your name) in the top of the Jar. In this way we will be able to recover tax on the amount in your Jar for the benefit of Luweero, and the Tearfund Children at Risk project, who will receive the Jar of Grace proceeds. **And if you forgot to use a Jar of Grace this year, you can still give to the Jar of Grace Appeal by putting your donation in an envelope marked 'Jar of Grace', or by making a transfer direct into the St. John's bank account. Cheques should be made payable to PCC of St. John's, Haydon Wick.** Our collections at the Carol and Midnight Services will also be for the Jar of Grace Appeal.



Children's Choir If you missed the children's choir at Christingle, you have the opportunity to hear them again on Sunday morning. A big thank you to Jo Rudland and Sarah Dena who organised it all. Behind this performance lie many hours of rehearsals and organisation. But, I think you will agree, it was all worth it.



Seven Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

The Carol service takes place this evening at 6:30 PM. This is one of the highlights of the St John's year and an evening when we welcome many people from outside to our church. The choir will be performing three pieces within the context of a traditional carol service. You will also see one of the most extraordinary retellings of the Christmas story that you've ever encountered. Absolutely not be missed.

Special Week for The Bank Transfer of Grace

We tend to see people giving to the Bank Transfer of Grace all together. This would be a great week to give to Uganda and Tear Fund.

Account Name: PCC of St. John's, Haydon Wick
Sort code: 40-52-40
Account number: 00018582
Ref: JOG (if not gift-aided) or JOGGA (if able to gift aid the donations)

Please Pray: Phil and Jan Webb have left for the West Midlands. Sadly snow meant the could not join us last week to say Goodbye. Pray for them as they settle in and find a new church. **Winnie and Gary Schafer** are planning to move to Australia in January or early in the New Year. Pray for the many preparations that must be made. **Tony and Jill Nash** and their wider family continue to mourn the loss of Tony's mother, Dora, whose funeral service will take place on Tuesday. We remember the families of **Colin Stevens** whose funeral took place in church last week. Our **Carol Service** takes place this evening and we want it to be a celebration of the Christmas story in all its fullness. **Pauline Eagle** has finished her chemotherapy and is moving on to radiotherapy soon. We pray for a complete healing. We also remember Pauline's husband **Phil** as he supports her in this anxious time.

St John's Haydon Wick

Sunday, December 17th 2017

Advent 3

Tues 19th	7.30pm	Mulled Wine Party at 54 Furlong Close
Wed 20th	1.00-3.00pm 3pm	Craft Club Christmas Party in Church Room Christmas Carols at James Wilks House
Sat 23rd	10-11am	Christingle Making in the Church Room

Please pray for our church family	
Mon 11th	Harry & Pauline Davis
Tue 12th	Andrew & Jean Dean
Wed 13th	Peter Dibbo
Thurs 14th	Pauline Eagle
Fri 15th	Peter & Jane Eastwood
Sat 16th	Pat Edge
Sun 17th	Robert & Annabel Elrick

**Everyone is welcome to for
Christmas carols and mince pies
at James Wilks House
Wednesday, 20th December at
3pm.**




“Always Winter and Never Christmas”

Services Next Week			
Sunday 24th Dec	9am	Holy Communion	Raymond Adams
	11am	All Age Service	Raymond Adams
	11.30 pm	Midnight Service	Raymond Adams

Parish Office Email: parishoffice@stjohnshaydonwick.org.uk or Telephone 726000. All items for the bulletin to the office in writing by first thing on Wednesday. Thank you.

Time	Service	Preacher	Readings
9.00am	Holy Communion	Raymond Adams	Isaiah 64: 1-7 Luke 2: 8-20
11.00am	All Age Service	Raymond Adams	Luke 2: 8-20
6.30pm	Seven Lessons and Carols	Raymond Adams	A selection of readings