



Latest news on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals.

We have been following this issue closely and praying for change. The news this week has gone beyond our best hopes. The Times reported it like this.

“A move to cut the maximum stake on highly addictive gambling machines to £2 is set to be announced within weeks, as the Treasury signalled a new deal this week.

Philip Hammond has delayed signing off the move in a Whitehall dispute over how lost taxes would be replaced. However, the Chancellor is understood to have accepted expert recommendations that stakes for FOBTs should be reduced to £2. The government proposed in January that the maximum stake in the machines, called “the crack cocaine of gambling” would be lowered from £100 a spin to somewhere between £2 and £50. These machines raise more than £450 million a year for the Exchequer, so there is a lot of money at stake.

A number of high-profile Tory MPs suggested they were willing to rebel if the government did not back a £2 limit. Sarah Wollaston, chairwoman of the Health and Social Care Select Committee, tweeted: “I will not be supporting any moves that allow high-stakes to continue to destroy lives. The Treasury needs to look at the long-term financial and personal cost of the catastrophic harm to individuals and families and society.”

Share prices have recently risen in the gambling industry, because of a hope that there would be a compromise deal of stake between £20 and £30. But as one recovering addict recently said, “It doesn’t take long to lose £120 at £30 every 20 seconds.”

With the Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast coming up in the not too distant future, it is encouraging to see that there are still people of principle within the House of Commons.

Mission Share Update

Currently 11% of offerings are allocated to mission divided into 7 Shares as follows:

Bible Society	Albanian Bible Translation	1 share
CPAS	The Church Pastoral Aid Society	1 share
CMS	Church Mission Society in Paraguay - (formerly	1 share
Uganda	Educational health and church projects	1 share
Willows	Willows Christian Counselling Service	½ share
SYFC	Swindon Youth for Christ	½ share
SPCC	Swindon Pregnancy Choices	½ share
Foodbank	Swindon Foodbank	½ share
1/7th share	Seventh share to be given as needs arise	1 share

Will you spare just one hour to come together as a church to pray?

Prayer Meeting The next church prayer meeting will be held in church on Wednesday 9th May from 8pm to 9pm and will be led by Bill Hunt and the Rother Close Home Group.

Tomorrow is our APCM at 7:30 PM

Although this is a meeting that we are required by law to hold, we try to make sure that it is also a spiritual and vision setting experience.

- There will be an election for PCC members.
- There will be a new churchwarden
- There will be an important announcement.
- Do please join us

please join us

St John's Annual Report and Financial Statements 2017

The Report and Accounts for 2017 are now available to view on the church notice board. If you would like to have a copy to read through before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (which is to be held on Monday 30th April 2018) please have a word with **Catherine, our Parish Administrator**, or with **Andrew, our PCC Treasurer (tel: 01793 725526)**.



Uganda – a two-way street Don’t forget that the diocese is intending to send a group of young people to Uganda. They all come from areas of urban deprivation, and from homes where money is not plentiful. Most have never been in an aeroplane or abroad. This is the trip of a lifetime. They will be visiting and working alongside vulnerable young men and women in Kampala, staying in homes with Ugandan families, both in an urban area, and then in a rural area. We really want them to have this experience and to grow in their own leadership and confidence. Many people in Uganda assume that everyone in the UK is extremely wealthy.

So it will be an interesting cultural experience on both sides. The best way to donate is by copying the following into your browser bar. <https://bit.ly/2FDB4YR> £12,254.20 has been raised at the time of writing. You can of course pass any money directly to our treasurer.

Letter of Thanks from the Headteacher of Our School in Bwaziba -

I am happy to inform you that the donations have arrived in our account and we propose to start work on the latrines next week. I do not know how to thank you all for what you have done. I can only say, "God bless you so, so much". Send our appreciation to everyone and to little Freja for her efforts in fundraising through her cake stall. May God bless them all. Imagine you people coming in to rescue our lives, yet I have tried to seek for help at home here, but in vain. You've loved us so much, thanks for that. We wish you the best in all your endeavours, Every blessing, Beatrice

Prayers: Val Bowditch's baby twin grandchildren born this week and Mum, Jen and Dad, Stuart. Gladys Horsley, a long standing member of our church, who has been living with dementia for many years, suffered a couple of mini strokes this week. She is now in hospital. She is sleeping much of the time and does not always recognise her family. Lindsay Mason lost her mother, Beryl recently. We remember the family as the funeral approaches. Andrew and Jean are always in our prayers, but especially so at present, as Andrew faces a new course of radio-therapy. Alison's mum Marjorie, is struggling to regain her faculties of speech and walking after her stroke on Good Friday.

St John's Haydon Wick

Sunday, April 29th

Easter 5

Mon 30th	9.30-11.30am 2.00pm 7.30pm	Pram Club Homegroup in Quiet Room Annual PCM in church
Tues 31st	8.00pm 8.00pm	20 Furlong Close 27 Garraways, Royal Wootton Bassett
Wed 1st	1.00-3.00pm 7.30pm	Craft Club Homegroup at 17 Rother Close
Fri 4th	10.30am-1.30pm	Rock Café



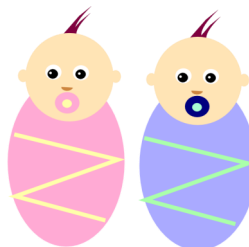
Please pray for our church family

Mon 23rd	Win Baldwin
Tue 24th	Gillian Barr
Wed 25th	Val Bartlett and Kate
Thurs 26th	Paul & Sarah Barton
Fri 27th	James & Joanne Bennett & family
Sat 28th	Val Bowditch
Sun 29th	Ted and Sue Branch

Congratulations to Val Bowditch and family

- twin grandchildren born this week!

One boy and one girl!



Very well organised.

"Our Outreach"

Services Next Week

6th May	9am 11am	Holy Communion Morning Praise	Raymond Adams Raymond Adams
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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	Simon Robertson	Romans 10:5-21 Matthew 25:31-40
11.00am	Morning Praise	Simon Robertson	Romans 10:5-21 Matthew 25:31-40