

Do you have Questions?

Do you know someone who has questions?

Why not #tryalpha.

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation.

We will be running alpha at St John's starting in the last week of September (either Tuesday or Thursday).

If you are interested talk to Simon Robertson



Andrew's Funeral Service:

In order to allow family members to come from Canada, the funeral service for Andrew has had to be delayed. A brief service followed by committal will take place at

10:30 AM at the crematorium on Tuesday, September 4th. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend. We have been asked by Jean to stream that service from the crematorium into the church, so you may prefer to join us here in St John's for that.

At 11:30 AM at St John's, there will be a service to commemorate Andrew's life. We expect that to be well attended. Andrew was a man who influenced a great many people in the course of his life.

Two Sad Departures: we have to say farewell to three adults and two children this month.

Terry Stevens: Despite living in Stratton St Margaret, Terry has been a member of a 9:00 AM congregation for the last couple of years. Sadly, he has had to sell his car, and, as a result, is going to need to look for a church closer to his home. We will miss Terry. He writes, "I pray that St John's will continue to be a light in the Haydon Wick area for a long time to come."



James and Natalie Cheung from our 11 AM congregation will be moving to Leeds at the end of the month. It has been very good to have them and their children with us for the last year or so, and we thank them for their fellowship and their generous support of St John's while they have been in Swindon.

Whole Church Prayer Meeting will be

led by Andy & Carol Hall on

Wednesday 5th September 8-9pm.

LET US
pray

Competing with Wonga?: You may remember that five years ago that the Archbishop of Canterbury expressed his unhappiness with Wonga. He believed they sucked vital resources from low-income households, and saddled them with levels of debt they could not



afford repay. When the Archbishop spoke those words, Wonga was hoping to float at a value of more than £770 million. Now it is valued at only £23 million. That is a staggering reduction.

What happened? The Financial Conduct Authority cracked down on the business. It imposed limits on the total debt that anyone could owe. This meant that the company needed to write off £220 million of debt. No one can be sorry that Wonga is not the force it was, but people on low incomes still need loans. That is not the end of the story. Next week will be saying more about the **Just Finance Foundation**, which Archbishop Justin is currently supporting in order to provide more access to financial resources for those in need. He is tying this in with Harvest Thanksgiving.

Where Are We with the Sinking Floor? Gareth Morris has been looking into this problem for us. On 16 August, three trial pits were dug in Morrison's car park in an attempt to discover the cause of the subsidence. A drain survey was also carried out. We were hoping that this would reveal something out of the ordinary but were disappointed. and The cause of the subsidence remains a mystery and no damage was found in the drains.



Where now? The structural surveyor was present and will send his report after having reviewed the evidence and sought opinions from his colleagues. Our Church Architect is also involved. All we can do now is await the advice of the experts.

Do please keep this issue in your prayers. The gap between the skirting board and the floor is not getting any smaller .

Prayers: Richard Gray as he continues to convalesce and recover following an operation on his spine and for **Pauline, James and Daniel. Mission and Outreach Team** as they prepare for the Alpha course and other initiatives between now and Christmas. Four new leaders and assistants who are offering to help in our children's work. Also for our ongoing leaders as they rest and recover over the summer.

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|----------|----------------|---|
| Wed 29th | 1.00-3.00pm | Craft Club in Church Room (Please bring flowers for Brenda to press is readiness for the Pressed Flower Workshop to be arranged shortly) |
| Fri 31st | 10.30am-1.30pm | Rock Café |

Stuart Townend and the Band: The Courage Tour is coming to **Cirencester Baptist Church** on **Saturday 29th September 7.30pm**. Tickets are **£12 in advance and £14 on the door**. For more information visit: <http://www.cirencester-baptist.org/stuarttownend>

| Please pray for our church family | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mon 27th | David & Kathleen Selwood |
| Tue 28th | Mick & Jean Sharp |
| Wed 29th | Cath Sheldrake |
| Thurs 30th | Chris Shurey |
| Fri 31st | Linda Simpson |
| Sat 1st | Howard & Mary Smith |
| Sun 2nd | Rosemary Smith |

Remember the 1970's?
A local historian is interested to find photos of the area in the 1960s and 70's. He would like photos of the temporary church building in Churchfield and the local area at that time. If you have photos and can help, please let Catherine know.

| Services Next Week | | | |
|--------------------|------|-----------------|---------------|
| 2nd Sept | 9am | Holy Communion | Raymond Adams |
| | 11am | All Age 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 Thursday. Thank you.



Sunday Aug 26

Trinity 14



“Scapegoat”

| Time | Service | Preacher | Readings |
|---------|---------------------------|---------------|--|
| 9.00am | Holy Communion | Raymond Adams | Leviticus 16: 6-10 & 20-22 Luke 18: 31-34 |
| 11.00am | All Age Communion Service | Raymond Adams | Leviticus 16: 6-10 & 20-22 Luke 18: 31-34 |