

Swindon Food Collective — Who are they?

Why Foodbanks? Every day people in the UK struggle to pay for food for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill. Being able to obtain a box of food can make a huge difference to a family's well being. That is why your PCC supported the Swindon Foodbank from the very beginning.

The Trussell Trust is behind a network of over 420 foodbanks across the UK. Until recently, Swindon was one of them.

Serious Problems PCC was very concerned to learn last year that The Trussell Trust was parting company with the Swindon Foodbank. Very little information was made known. The Trussell Trust chose to terminate the partnership for reasons they chose not to disclose publicly. **Foodbank** ceased to operate under that name. A new group was formed soon after – *The Swindon Food Collective*. It bought the vans and continued the work.

PCC felt that, as stewards of your money, it could not immediately support the new organisation financially. We just did not know enough about those in charge or what their connections had been with Foodbank. Was it the same people operating under a different name? PCC gave instead to the Archbishop's Credit Union, providing loans to the poor.

Last week one of the leaders of the new *Swindon Food Collective* met the Swindon Anglican clergy, so that we could learn the full facts about this new group. We heard many good things. The new trustees have recently acquired charitable status, have received strong support from Swindon Borough Council and have a welcome commitment to transparency and accountability.

There will be an open meeting of the Deanery Synod on Thursday 28th Feb (see below) to which church and PCC members will be invited so they can hear what those who have taken on responsibility for the new *Swindon Food Collective* have to say.

Funding is essential to the operation. If we continue to give only food, it will not survive. However, after the collapse of Foodbank in undisclosed circumstances, a great deal of trust has been lost. It needs to be re-established.

We encourage anyone with an interest in the **Food Collective** to come to that meeting to hear Clare. If you have questions to ask, this is the right place to ask them.

Thursday 28th February 7.30pm
(Lydiard Millicent Church)



The Bible Course : This Week



We are about to launch "Bible Course". This is a new initiative by Bible Society to help us get the big picture of the Scriptures. It will help you know exactly where people like Daniel, Joseph, Aaron, David and Isaiah fit in. They lived a long time apart. The even lived in different countries.

More importantly, you will see the great sweep of God's plan for this world. He doesn't begin with the whole world. He begins with Israel and moves steadily towards the manger, the cross and the empty tomb.

Home groups will be doing this course. But we will also be running an Extended Lent Course. (OK—it isn't technically Lent yet.) But it will take us right up to Easter. Do please let Catherine know if you would like to be part of this or sign up on the sheet outside. Raymond and Andy Hall will be running this course on **Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm** in the Quiet Room for those not in home groups who would like to do it.

Family Fun Day!! With Noah and the Ark



We are hosting this new event on

Saturday 16th February 10:30-2:30pm

This exciting day will include St. John's first Puppet Show, with a team of St. John's members bringing to life the story of Noah and the ark, co-ordinated by Lesley Mead from Pram Club. There will also be **Crafts, Face Painting, Songs and Worship**. Come along bringing children for a fun time. **Bring a packed lunch. Drinks and biscuits will be provided.**

United Service – this evening at

Emmanuel at 6pm

What's the reason for this? It is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. There is a wide variety of churches in this area just from the traditional denominations (Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, United Reformed). In addition, there are a number of community churches and no less than three other fellowships which meet inside this building on a regular basis.

The United Service tends to draw from the traditional churches. For us at St John's there is the special draw that our preacher on this occasion will be **Sally Robertson**.



Prayers: We remember **Mary Smith** who is back in hospital with a broken leg. Also, **Rosemary Smith** who was released from hospital this week, but is far from well with thrombosis. Remember **Esther and Abraham and their family** in the loss of Esther's brother Peter who died a couple of weeks ago suddenly leaving a family of three children. We pray for **Simon and Sally** as they prepare to leading educational trip to Uganda next month. **Bishop Hannington** who is the Assistant Bishop of Kampala has been diagnosed with serious leukaemia. Plans have been drawn up to bring him to the UK for treatment.



Sunday Jan 20

3rd of Epiphany

Mon 21st	9.30-11.30am 2pm	Pram Club Home group in the Quiet Room
Tues 22nd	2pm 8pm 8pm	Pastoral Care Team meeting in Quiet Room Home group at 20 Furlong Close Home group at Purton (prev. Garraways RWB group)
Wed 23rd	1-3pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	Craft Club in Church Room Home group at 17 Rother Close The Bible Course in the Quiet Room
Fri 25th	10.30-1.30pm	Rock Cafe



Please pray for our church family

Mon 21st	Margaret Poulton
Tue 22nd	Julian & Win Priddle
Wed 23rd	Terry & Joan Rawlings
Thurs 24th	Allan & Denise Rees & Megan
Fri 25th	Anna Richardson & Matthew Leighton
Sat 26th	Kathleen Ridley
Sun 27th	Jenny Robertson & Phil Evans

Coffee at 9am

We are looking for some extra people to serve coffee after the service at 9am and be on the rota. If you can help, let Catherine know.



Services Next Week

27th Jan	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 Thursday. Thank you.

"Choices Matter"

Time	Service	Preacher	Readings
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Raymond Adams	Genesis 13: 1-18 Luke 9: 57-62
11.00am	Holy Communion	Raymond Adams	Genesis 13: 1-18 Luke 9: 57-62