

## Developing our Relationship with St Francis School

It was wonderful to receive almost £1,200 from St Francis for our school at Bwaziba in Uganda. This is in addition to the £500 they gave last year when the latrines needed urgent repairs. However, we must never think of this as merely a financial relationship. St Francis is first and foremost a church school. The Christian faith is expressed in every room and corridor. Our aim is that it should be a partner with us in the gospel. Here are some reminders of how that is working.



- **St John's got involved**, along with other churches at St Francis **last October** when children had the chance to experience Ugandan life and Ugandan worship.
- **On Christmas Eve**, we celebrated our third Christingle service.
- **In September** we will be holding a service in the Assembly Hall on the afternoon of St Francis Day. This will be instead of our 11:00 AM service.
- **This year, at 4pm on Sunday, March 22** we will be holding an Easter-Alive Service in the school.

Because of the discipleship programme, we won't be closing our 11:00 AM service, but we really hope that lots of our congregation will come and join us on that day so that we can help children and parents at the school to discover the true meaning of Easter.

## Country No 42—The Russian Federation

Forty years ago no one would have been surprised to see Russia on the list of the top 50 places where it is hardest to be a Christian. With the death of Stalin life became easier for believers. The end of communism meant the end of repression. Today that is starting to change. Across the country, the government is imposing restrictions on denominations other than the Russian Orthodox Church. They are increasingly viewed as Western spies.



That is worrying but would not be enough on its own to get Russia on to No 42 on the list. Persecution is highest in the Caucasus region of the Russian Federation, where most indigenous people are Muslims. Many believers from Muslim backgrounds have fled the Caucasus region for their personal safety. Those who have stayed often keep their faith secret.

## Hats Off to Our Children's Leaders!!

In preparation for a debate at General Synod in London on Wednesday on the subject of *Youth and Children's Ministry*, our Diocese has prepared some statistics. It has published a list of the top 15 churches in the diocese in terms of their under 16 Sunday attendance.



**Not surprisingly, it includes some very well known names**, including some large churches in Bristol and our two new Resourcing Churches.

**St John's Haydon Wick** was however singled out. Every church on the list has a full time *Youth Worker* or a Full Time or Part Time *Children's Worker*. Many have both. We are the only church on that list with no paid children's leaders at all.

**As one member of the senior staff said**, "St John's Haydon Wick has shown that it can be done." It seems our children's leaders are punching well above their weight. We don't want to brag. It is all God's work. But we do want to celebrate and let our exclusively volunteer team of leaders know that we are proud of them.

## Confirmation—Communion—Baptism

And speaking of Youth Work, we will be running a new group in March for those interested in expressing their faith through baptism or confirmation or who feel they are now ready to receive communion. (You have to be baptised first—it's the rules!)

**The first one will take place on Sunday March 1 at 6.30 pm in the Quiet Room.**

The next service of Confirmation will take place on **Sunday May 17th at 4pm in St Peter, Penhill.**



## I Promise.....



For many years, St John's has had a strong reputation for sustained and generous giving. However, it only happens because everybody gets behind our Renewal of Giving. That is why we have sent each church member a **Renewal of Giving Pack**. In that pack you will find a **Promise Card**. We really need you to return it by **Sunday March 8**.

When we sacrifice together, and contribute together, God is at work.

**Prayers:** **Sue Branch** is in a lot of pain, but is bearing it with extraordinary cheerfulness and fortitude. Her medical team is trying to replace her steroids with another kind which will be kinder to her skin. That is the cause of much of her pain. **Doris** has returned to Lutterworth to be looked after by her daughter in safety. She is feeling much better in herself after a couple of recent falls at home. She would much prefer to live independently In Severn Avenue and it is hard for her to come to terms with that. **Andy Hall** as he convalesces. Especially for the safety of **Frank Mead** who has been deployed overseas.

Mon 10th	9.30am 2.00pm 7.30pm	Pram Club Homegroup in the Quiet Room Bill Hunt's Homegroup at 17 Rother Close
Tues 11th	8pm 8pm	Carol & Paul's Homegroup at 20 Furlong Close David Rudland's Homegroup at Purton
Wed 12th	1-3pm <b>3pm</b> 7.30pm	Craft Club in Church Room <b>James Wilks House Holy Communion</b> Prayer Ministry Team Meeting
Fri 14th	10.30-1.30pm	Rock Café

Please pray for our church family	
Mon 10th	Pat Edge
Tue 11th	Robert & Annabel Elrick
Wed 12th	John Evans
Thurs 13th	David & Judy Evans
Fri 14th	Phil & Jenny Evans
Sat 15th	Irene Ferguson
Sun 16th	Peter & Pam Fletcher

**Please don't forget to pick up your Renewal of Giving Pack!**

Services Next Week			
16th Feb	9am	Morning Praise	Raymond Adams
	11am	Holy Communion	Raymond Adams

Parish Office Email: [parishoffice@stjohnshaydonwick.org.uk](mailto: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**  
**9th February**  
**3rd before Lent**



***What is Discipleship?***

Time	Service	Preacher	Readings
9.00am	1662 Holy Communion	Mark Sansome	Joshua 1: 1-9 Mark 1: 14-20
11.00am	Morning Praise	Mark Sansome	Joshua 1: 1-9 Mark 1: 14-20