

Open Doors Watchlist - [Syria No 11](#)

Coronavirus is having a significant impact on the Middle East. Many believers, who were already vulnerable, have lost their jobs and have no money for food. They are often last in line when official food and aid is distributed - discriminated against because they follow Jesus.



Though conflict has abated in parts of Syria, there are still areas that are controlled by radical Islamic groups. Anyone who doesn't conform to their extreme brand of Islam is a target to these groups, with church leaders particularly vulnerable to abduction.

Believers from Muslim backgrounds face pressure from their families and communities, as leaving Islam is seen as a huge source of shame.

Brian Sweetman would like to hear from anyone interested in learning more about Open Doors and how we can help persecuted believers in the world. brian.sweetman2@virginmedia.com

Please pray for our church family

Mon	Doris Haynes
Tue	John & Rachel Hodgkinson
Wed	John & Dee Howard
Thurs	Peter & Pam Howlett
Fri	Bill & Deana Hunt
Sat	Brenda Hunt
Sun	Stan & Decima Iles

Prayers: Let's pray for next Sunday.

- ◆ We will be in church at 9am.
- ◆ Then we want to move safely to an 11am bread and wine. Holy Communion service
- ◆ Finally there will be service online at 11am as normal.
- ◆ Let's pray that however we worship, we will all encounter God this Advent.
- ◆ Matthew Mortimer who is a surgeon is suffering from Covid. Pray for a full recovery

Services Next Week

December 13	9am 11am	Service in Church In Church and Online Worship	Simon Robertson
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Sunday
6 December
2020
Advent 2



*Hark the
Herald
Angels
Sing*

Time	Service	Preacher	Readings
9.00 am	Holy Communion in church	Raymond Adams	Ephesians 2:11-22 Luke 2:8-14
11 AM	Worship Online	Raymond Adams	Ephesians 2:11-22 Luke 2:8-14

On a Zoom Meeting This Christmas...



In the middle of all the festive excitement, the puppets, the Christmas trees, the carol services, choir items and Christingles, there is a committee who don't get to do any of that.

Instead of decorations they have calculators; instead of singing, they talk about contracts; they don't fill their stockings—just their diaries.

They are the Finance, Fabric and Governance Subteam.

However, in case it sounds like I am painting them as a gathering of Scrooges, the opposite is the case. They are spending lots of money on our behalf, restoring the subsiding floor in The Lounge and preventing the foundations of the church being damaged by tree roots.

A lot of careful, technical work is going on right now. We want to say a big *Thank You* in the bulletin to a team which produces more emails than snowflakes over a White Christmas.

Marlene Dietrich used to sing about the Boys in the Backroom. There are a few girls in this backroom too.

We want to let them know how much we appreciate them this Christmas. If they were not there, doing what they do, it would cost us a lot of money in the future.



News From Uganda

Back in October heavily armed police “besieged” the campaign headquarters of Bobi Wine, who is seeking Uganda's presidency in elections set for 2021.

The police confiscated security cameras and supplies of the bright red berets that are the symbol of Wine's popular campaign. It was a sign of things to come.

Wine, who has been arrested many times in recent years, has captured the imagination of many Ugandans with his persistent calls for President Museveni to retire.

Museveni, 76, has ruled Uganda since taking power by force in 1986 and relies on the army to stay in power. On our first morning in Uganda, Chris and I encountered his convoy of cars accompanied by a heavily armed detachment of soldiers. He has succeeded in changing the law to allow himself to stand again.

Peace in Uganda is now very fragile. The January elections could lead to many more deaths.



Bobi Wine—popstar and politician

Services in December 2020

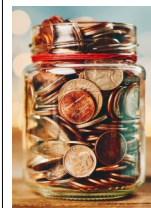


It is all very complicated this year! In fact, far too complicated to put it all in the bulletin. That is why we sent out a special paper on Monday giving details of all the services.

At present our Midnight communion in church is likely to happen. But our Christmas Day service in church is less certain. We must see how things go in Swindon as Christmas draws closer. Please keep an eye on the website. There will certainly be an online service on Christmas Day.

The list of services we sent out on Monday will also contain the Zoom code for Zoffee this week right at the bottom. (We have had to change our code.)

The Bishops' Uganda Appeal—How did we do?



James has added it all up, and sent our gift to the Diocesan Board of Finance on Monday. Those gifts will go to the Archbishop of Uganda's Emergency Fund and be a huge blessing to many families in time for Christmas. **Tune in on Sunday at 11am** to find out the exact total.

We anticipate that our Jar of Grace will be smaller this year. If you are collecting, we will be glad to receive your jar over Christmas.

Christingle Celebration— Next Sunday 4.30 pm

Team Mead will be bringing you the Christingle Celebration this year. Having done so well at Harvest, Raymond has left them to it. He has no idea what is coming but is looking forward to finding out.

Some great publicity has gone to our local schools. And we get a huge amount of support from local heads. Please encourage family members round the country, or the world, to make their own Christingle Orange and drop in and join us. Invite your friends to come online.

Please note that if you want to make a Christingle you can find out exactly how to do it by watching **Abbie Vandamme** on YouTube *in advance*. Just type the Bit.ly code from the poster you got on Monday into your address bar.

Then get yourself a drink and a biscuit and Abbie will do this!!

