

Prayers: Continue to remember those who have suffered bereavement; **Mary Southgate, Henry & Ellie** and the grandchildren; **Mike & Wendy Crosby, Matt & Rachel** who recently lost Mike's mum. **Our children and young people** continue to miss their formal education in school not to mention their friends. We want to pray too **for those parents** who have the arduous task of home schooling on top of keeping on top of their own work. It is an exhausting time for many people. **Daphne and Donald Carter** following Daphne's diagnosis of macular degeneration last year. This affects the eyesight. Let's all pray that Daphne may retain hers.



Sunday
7th February
2021
Epiphany 5

Please pray for our church family	
Mon	Dorothy Strowger
Tue	Brian & Susan Sweetman
Wed	Maureen Taylor
Thurs	Katie Terrett
Fri	Doreen Titcombe
Sat	Joan Titcombe
Sun	Patti Tomlinson

Award for St John's

RWE Generation UK, a supplier of thermal gas in Swindon, this week voluntarily awarded St John's the sum of £320 as a charitable donation award. We had not made any kind of application.

The RWE Charities Committee took this step because "we were very impressed with all the work you do, and the benefit your organisation brings to others."

The money was nice, but it was even nicer to be thought of in that way.

**Zoffee
at Noon**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86359204969?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86359204969?pwd=OUl3SjFYUDViNHVNQUZHSkpxcmNhZz09)
pwd=OUl3SjFYUDViNHVNQUZHSkpxcmNhZz09
Passcode: 076070



***One in
heart***

Services Next Week			
February 14th	9 am	Holy Communion 1662 in church	Raymond Adams
	11am	Online All Age Service	Raymond Adams

Time	Service	Sermon	Readings
9.00 am	Holy Communion in Church	Raymond Adams	Acts 4:32-5:11 Matthew 6:2-5
11.00 am	Morning Worship Online		

Renewal of Giving 2021

One day, and hopefully that day is not too far away, the worst of the Covid pandemic will be over. Even if we have to face some restriction next winter, we expect to be in a very different place from today. Worship, mission and ministry will resume and we will have recovered more of our lives.

A properly funded church is going to be essential. Having come through coronavirus, we don't want to be held up by lack of money.

God has ordained a Biblical way of funding the church. Churches which have learned to give have been less affected by the pandemic than those which have come to rely on rental income.

Inevitably, this year our Renewal of Giving has to be done online. So please watch out for your email tomorrow. As J. John reminded us last week, when it comes to our finances God is looking for people who are trustworthy. Whether we respond by paper or by email, let us all respond as we are able.

We will be announcing the result of our Renewal of Giving on **Mothering Sunday**.



The end of the pandemic is coming

Living Out— A Thought- Provoking Encounter

The **“Living Out” website** is written by Christians who are same-sex attracted. So, they speak out of their own rich experience. They want everyone to flourish through faithfulness to biblical teaching on sexuality.

There is a great deal to reflect on on this website, and plenty of humanity. We hear the stories of real Christians whose affections are directed towards people of the same sex.

This website speaks to the whole Christian community. There is a huge wealth of information and wisdom on this site. It tackles questions with compassion.

- ◆ Am I alone?
- ◆ Is sexuality really such a big deal?
- ◆ Isn't God being unfair?
- ◆ What does the Bible really say about being gay?

How do I find it? Just Google “Living Out”



Vaughan Roberts pastors a church in Oxford

The Real Easter Egg.

This year you will not be able to buy the Real Easter egg in any supermarket. Not surprisingly, supermarkets are seriously restricting their ranges due to Covid and the egg has fallen victim to that decision.

However, you will still be able to order your egg. In fact, you are not just buying an egg, as it comes with an Easter story-book. Produced by *The Meaningful Chocolate Company*, the easiest way to get one is simply to google “The Real Easter Egg” or follow the link below. You will be able to buy the eggs either singly or in packs of six. Order as soon as you can.

<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg>



Not in the shops!

Pakistan—Country No 4

Christians in Pakistan face extreme persecution in every area of their lives.

Those who have converted from Islam face the greatest levels of persecution, but all Christians are considered second-class citizens in this strongly Islamic country.

Christians, particularly Christian men, are given jobs perceived as low, dirty and dishonourable, and can be victims of bonded labour. There are some Christians among the middle classes, but they are still considered inferior to their Muslim counterparts and often face severe workplace discrimination.

Christian girls are at risk of abduction and rape, and are often forced to marry their attackers and coerced into converting to Islam. This is what it means to be at number four in the *Open Doors World Watch List*.

Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws are used to target Christians. Islamic extremist groups vehemently 'defend' these laws, including attacking or killing those believed to have contravened them. Often these are used to target Christians after a dispute relating to work or tenancy, rather than genuine cases.

Christian churches exist, but those that are active in outreach face severe persecution. Suddenly our own Covid restrictions may feel much less serious.



Some girls live in fear.