

Budget Under Control

James, our treasurer, recently wrote to the PCC:

Here is a short extract. "July was remarkably close to the original budget for the month. It's great to see all our income lines very close to budget. Costs are similarly in line [with predictions].



"We're even some margin above our budget profile [for the year] courtesy of a couple of generous one off gifts in the Spring."

James joins me in thanking you all so much for your financial faithfulness. We have weathered the storm so far.



Sunday

15th August 2021

Trinity 11

Please pray for our church family

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Mon | Phil and Jenny Evans |
| Tue | Irene Ferguson and Peter |
| Wed | Peter and Pam Fletcher |
| Thurs | Loretta Francis and Tom |
| Fri | June Freeman and Ivan |
| Sat | Linda Frost and Eddie |
| Sun | Alan and Coleen Futter |

Prayers.

The workers at Honda who have suffered the closure of the plant and face an uncertain future.

The Well opens in September in St Francis school. Pray for them as they put the teams together that are going to be needed to make the church work.

Jean Dean is awaiting an operation on Sept 6. Please pray that nothing will prevent that taking place.

Brian Sweetman is out of hospital but is far from well and still suffering from breathing difficulties. Pray for Brian and Susan.



"The Life is In the Blood"

Services Next Week - Breath.

| | | | |
|------|------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 22nd | 9 am | Holy Communion in church | Raymond Adams |
| | 11am | All Age in church | Raymond Adams |

| Time | Service | Sermon | Readings |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 9.00 am | Holy Communion All Age | Raymond Adams Raymond Adams | Leviticus 7:22-27 John 6:53-57 John 6:53-57 |

Living In Love and Faith

In the excitement over same-gender dancing in Strictly this year, you may have missed the news that *The Methodist Church* became the largest religious denomination in Britain to permit same-sex marriages.

A vote to change the definition of marriage at the Methodist Conference in June was overwhelmingly passed with 254 in favour and 46 against. Freedom of conscience clauses mean that ministers will not be forced to conduct such weddings if they oppose the change.



Not surprisingly, The Church of England has struggled to come to a common mind on this issue. If we are honest, we know we will not be able to do that. So rather than simply follow the Anglican church in the USA into a damaging split, General Synod is aiming to find another way. The Archbishops are first of all commending *Living in Love and Faith*. (LLF)

LLF is about encouraging the whole church to think more deeply about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Many churches are reluctant to address these topics. We hope St John's will not be one of them.

What is the outcome of the meetings meant to be?

The conversations have no underlying agenda and they are not designed to persuade or change people's minds. The hope is that they may result in a deeper understanding and mutual respect that will reflect the love of God in Christ. We are not there to persuade other people of our view, but to listen to them on the understanding that they will listen to us.

Where have we got to?

The Diocese has trained 20 facilitators and 17 chaplains and is keen to train more. We would love to recruit more facilitators locally. Online training is available on the following dates. You have only got to attend one of the dates below.

7 September:

8 September:

15 September:

21 September:

22 September:

If you would like to facilitate a group locally please contact Raymond or book directly on <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/visionandpriorities/living-in-love-faith/events/>

The Closure of Honda

Production at the Honda plant in Swindon has ceased. The road to closure was never going to be an easy one.

We remember both those employed directly and third parties. We remember those who are seeking to find their future, and those who will continue to formally close down the business over the next year.



A Christian there has written this prayer.

Faithful God, Your Spirit leads us to dream of a better future for all, empowering us to make it reality; We give thanks for the blessing which Honda has been to Swindon over three decades, including in these difficult days; We pray for those whose dreams now lie broken and who fear for their future; Breathe upon us and all who seek the well-being of this town, kindling fresh dreams of deeper and richer blessing. Inspire each of us to play our part in bringing these to birth; In the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Sad News From Archdeacon Godfrey in Luweero

I hope you are all doing well amidst this COVID-19 pandemic. Here in Uganda we have just come out of a second very strict 42 day lockdown. The bad news is that we have gone straight into another 60 day lockdown. It is not so restrictive but churches must remain closed. Many schools have not yet re-opened and there is little online teaching.

We are so appreciative for the support you continue to provide to our schools in the Luweero Diocese.

You also contributed with the rest of the diocese to the Covid relief fund. That has been a real blessing to us. The situation is pressing but we see Jesus at work in our partnership.

God Bless You All, Canon Godfrey Kasana



From the family of Peter Burret

Grace, Amanda and Paul and Gaynor thank you for your love and prayers which have been a great comfort in their sadness at Peter's death. The support of our church family's thoughts and prayers are a continuing blessing to us.