

**Alpha really works well on Zoom. We have done it.**

We have some people interested in doing a course this autumn. Is there anyone you know—a friend or relative who might like to join us?  
**Who could you invite?**



# IT'S "BACK TO CHURCH" SUNDAY!!

Please pray for our church family	
Mon	John & Dee Howard
Tue	Peter & Pam Howlett
Wed	Bill & Dean Hunt, William
Thurs	Brenda & Terry Hunt
Fri	Decima & Stan Iles
Sat	Julie Jarman
Sun	Man Kam & Charmain Tan

**John & Dee Howard** as John undergoes tests in hospital  
**♦Haiti**— for practical & spiritual aid to be making a difference to those in need after the earthquake & tropical storm  
**♦John Evans** as he recovers from Covid19  
**♦Government**—for wisdom and fairness as it deals with social care.  
**♦Jean Dean**—that she will be able to finally have her knee operation in December.  
**\*The Well launched on Friday evening in St Francis** at a special service attended by the Bishop.

Services Next Week			
19th Sept	9am	Holy Communion in church	Raymond Adams
	11am	Holy Communion <b>Live Streamed to youtube</b>	Raymond Adams



“Trust me— I’m a doctor,” says Jesus.

Time	Service	Sermon	Readings
9.00 am	<b>Holy Communion 1662 in Church</b>	Raymond Adams	Psalm 150 Mark 4:24-34
11.00 am	<b>All Age Service Recorded in church for the last time</b>	Raymond Adams	Psalm 150

## Musical Chairs—Safety First.

**Thanks to everyone who helped to put the chairs back last week.** There is still an ongoing pandemic and we aim to keep people as safe as possible. However, as we will no longer be able to keep the curtains open once children's groups restart on **September 19**, we have no option but to reintroduce the chairs.



**This is how it was.**

**You will not be able to sit in every chair.**

**With people worshipping at home**, we are not actually expecting to require every chair. This means that we are still able to maintain wide gaps between the rows simply by pushing some rows together. More chairs in the room means that people will not have to sit right next to each other.

**Please feel free to put a bag or coat in the seat/s next to you if you would like to maintain more distance from your neighbour.** This is not being impolite.

**However, if people arriving late all choose to slip into the balcony** in time-honoured fashion, there is a real danger that it will become over-full up there. That would not be comfortable or safe for those who are already seated.

**We will therefore close access to the balcony at 11am.**

**The best thing to do is to come nice and early** and sort out a safe space for yourself and those sitting near you.

## Live Streaming—What's the Latest News?



**This week we will be streaming live—** but only to a limited audience.

**Those church members with the link** will view the service and report back so we can make changes.

**Mike Crosby will be live streaming** on Sunday, shadowed by Joshua and Joel,

who will also be videoing the service by mobile phone for the last time ever!!

**Next week Joshua and Joel will be in control.** Mike will be shadowing them. You should find the sound and picture quality greatly improved. We hope people watching at home will feel a stronger sense of being part of things,

## Something to Celebrate

**The Church of England's National Giving Team** was created to promote good financial stewardship in parishes and congregations across the country. This summer it initiated a *Generosity Learning Hub*. Their task was to provide resources for preaching and teaching on stewardship, aiming especially at:

- **Ordinands** studying at Theological Colleges
- **Curates** and those training them
- **Clergy** in their first post as vicar.
- **Lay Leaders and Treasurers** in local churches

**In view of our long-standing commitment** to stewardship in St John's, Raymond was asked to provide a video course for the hub called *Stewardship in the Local Church*. (Huge thanks to **Andy Hall** who went to great trouble to provide high-quality accompanying graphics.)

**The hub is now live.** We were delighted to see that three churches appear on the home page of the new website as examples of best practice. Each church leader provides a three-part course covering different aspects of giving. The churches are:



**York Minster**

- *York Minster*
- *St Martin in the Fields in Trafalgar Square*
- *St John's Haydon Wick, Swindon.*



**St. Martin in the Fields**

**It is fairly unusual to** see those three names listed together in the same paragraph!

**When Raymond was at college** the concept of a Renewal of Giving was never mentioned. Hopefully we will see a new generation of church leaders learning about stewardship before they begin their ministry.

**After all this, it was particularly encouraging** to hear James' latest financial report at the FF&G sub-team on Monday. Our overall giving as a church remains remarkably robust, even after an 18 month pandemic. We benefitted once again from some really generous individual donations earlier in the year.

**Thank you so much** for your unfailing constancy in these demanding days.

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