

Save With Swindon Scout Post.

Yvonne McCracken (a 9am member) will be in church until the start of the 11am service on Sundays to sell Scout Post stamps. You can also sign up for stamps after the service. (or email in if you are watching the live stream). They are 30p each.

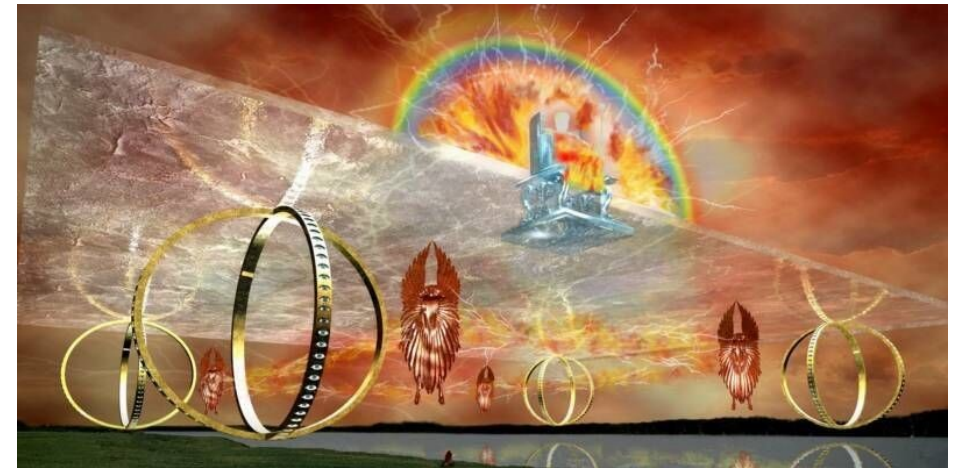


Sunday
21 November 2021
Advent -1

Please pray for our church family	
Mon	Tom & Heather Vandamme and family
Tue	Bernadette Walman
Wed	Edna Webb
Thurs	Jan Welham & Gary
Fri	Helen Wheeler & family
Sat	David & Viv Williams
Sun	Ali Wiltshire

Please pray for:

Eileen Arkley, back in hospital.
Ruby Allen, now in Princess Lodge Care Home
Bill Hunt, home from hospital
Jean Dean, awaiting a long postponed knee operation
Sharon Rogers, recovering from an operation
Tim Mortimer, suffering from cellulitis in both ankles
Luke and Sophie and Luke and Amelia currently doing Alpha. Week 4 this evening!
Frank Mead as his foot recovers after a climbing accident .
Dave Clarke of SYFC (See page 3)



God Abandons His Temple

Services Next Week - Too Much to Ask?			
28 Nov 21	9am	Holy Communion in church	Peter Fletcher
	11am	Morning Praise Live streamed to YouTube	Peter Fletcher

Time	Service	Sermon	Readings
9.00 am	Holy Communion in Church	Raymond Adams	Ezekiel 8: 1-18
11.00am	Morning Praise Live streamed to YouTube	Raymond Adams	John 2: 18-22

First Choir Practice for the Carol Service (Dec 19)

The good news is that we have enough singers for the Carol Service Choir. There won't be as many singers as usual because we can only have a certain number of people on the dais this year due to Covid. However our first practice is on **Monday November 29th**. That is getting closer. Remember that this year we need you to come with some homework done! Despite all the obstacles we will do something new this year! Don't miss it.



Richard Leaman— Diocesan Secretary or CEO.

Raymond's very last task as Chair of the House of Clergy was to meet the three candidates who had been shortlisted for the job of CEO at Hillside House. That is the person who manages the diocesan support staff as they organise property, safeguarding, finance, HR, clergy vacancies, parish share, education and so on.



Richard used to be a Rear Admiral. Having just watched *Vigil* where all the naval officers were uniformly horrible, I was not sure what to expect. Someone planning to run things on military lines, brooking no opposition? "I say "Go" and he goes", was the phrase that sprang to mind.

I could not have been more wrong. Richard is a very gentle and humble man whose main desire in life is to serve. He very successfully led two voluntary organisations after leaving the Navy—*Tall Ships* and *Guide Dogs for the Blind*. He will need our prayers. On top of all the new things he must get on top of, he joins us in the middle of the *Transforming Church. Together* project. He is going to be a great asset to us as a person of faith and talent.

Christingle and Carol Service. We are looking for volunteers to serve refreshments after two services in December.

1. **Christingle on 12th December @ 4.30 pm**
2. **Carols by Candlelight on 19th December @ 6.30 pm**

Ideally we would like a small team to set up, serve teas, coffees and mince pies, and clear away after. If you can help on either of those dates, please email



Swindon Youth For Christ (SYFC)

(They've had a serious re-appraisal.)

SYFC is one of our local mission partners. The epidemic has not been easy for any Christian organisations but SYFC has had a very tough one leading them, "to question [our] purpose and role."

Before the pandemic SYFC saw their role as a "Youth Work Provider". Their aim was to take the message to young people directly.

What has happened? Firstly, they experienced a significant fall in financial support. SYFC receives much of its income from local churches. Many churches saw a drop in their own income owing to "Covid relief, filling the resource gap and the costs of putting church online." (St. John's PCC has consistently maintained our support.)

Secondly, it was difficult for SYFC to work in schools during the pandemic. Zoom just could not fill the gap. (As I write, whole-school assemblies have been cancelled once again in order to help Swindon schools get on top of Covid.)

Working in schools, youth work residentials and big youth events have always been a major part of SYFC's outreach. Lockdown put an end to much of that.

As a result of all of this, SYFC they are moving from being "youth work providers" to "youth work enablers", equipping Swindon's current youth and children's workers to lead better. We really need to pray for them as they work out how best to do this. Dave Clark (pictured above) is their current leader and he will

need all the wisdom and inspiration he can get as he manages this period of transition and change. Do pray for him.

Two interns, Josh and Jamie, have joined SYFC this year and have been working with youth leaders in Swindon who are doing outreach through football and sports events.

SYFC are planning a collective youth event and a faith /sports event in 2022.

Let's remember **Naomi** who is in charge of fund-raising and who also manages the administration. It sounds like she might have a challenging role there.



**Dave Clarke doing
The Three Peaks
Challenge**

