

Is the Rock Café Finished?

We will answer that question next Sunday morning. Mary will have something to tell us both at 9.00 am and 11.00 am

Please pray for our church family

Mon	Peter & Caroline Haines and family
Tue	Andy & Carol Hall
Wed	Tersia Hall & family
Thurs	Sue Hamer & Alan
Fri	Lyn Hammond
Sat	Sue Harvey
Sun	Chris & Lesley Hawkes

Services Next Week - The Who and the How

February	9am	Holy Communion in church	Raymond Adams
	11am	Morning Praise Streamed to You Tube	Raymond Adams

Please pray for:

Christians in Afghanistan, now the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian.

Tensions on the Ukrainian border and the constant threat of war.

The new epidemic of online gambling that is affecting young people in particular.


Jean Dean who has been in a lot of pain this week and was admitted to hospital.

A new churchwarden: Sharon is on her own and the APCM is drawing closer.

The family of Doris Haynes, a much loved former member of St. John's, who sadly died last Sunday. Doris moved away from Swindon just before the pandemic, to be cared for by her family. Prior to that she was an active member of our church, including regularly attending our communion services at James Wilks House and a regular member of one of our home-groups.



**Sunday
January 30th 2022
Epiphany + 4**



Christian giving is to be marked by self-sacrifice and self-forgetfulness, not by self-congratulation.

— John Stott —

AZ QUOTES

The “What?” and The “Why?”

Time	Service	Sermon	Readings
9.00 am	Holy Communion in Church	Raymond Adams	2 Corinthians 8:8-15
11.00am	Morning Praise streamed to You Tube	Raymond Adams	Matthew 6:19-24

MONTH OF PRAYER FOR AFGHANISTAN

Today the intercessions at the 11:00 service are based on part of the *Open Doors Month of Prayer for Afghanistan*. Sadly, Afghanistan has moved into the number one place on the *Open Doors World Watch List* of countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian. We cannot know exactly how many secret believers survive in that country but we stand with our brothers and sisters in Christ. It can be hard to pray for people in these circumstances, but the link below will give you some help.



You can support your brothers and sisters from Afghanistan by joining a global month of prayer for the country. This link will guide you as to how to pray for 28 days—with photos and stories.

https://media.opendoorsuk.org/document/pdf/2022-MonthofPrayerforAfghanistan.pdf?_ga=2.79830610.439113800.1642345750-1713641009.1597065154&_cldee=YWxpc29uLmFkYW1zNDBAbnRsd29ybGQuY29t&recipientid=contact-09d56a6c0094e71180dd000d3a23e0d0-b79588e37b904c08a7a74dff04c262fa&utm_source=ClickDimensions&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=OD%20Magazine%20Jan%202022%2FWeekly%20Email&esid=3ff5804b-017a-ec11-a831-000d3a2cff99

Safeguarding Training

We had a report from our Safeguarding Officer, Allan Brown, at PCC on Monday. If you are in one of the designated categories of volunteers you will receive an email from the parish office asking you to undertake online diocesan training.

Why is this necessary? The answer is *not* that we suspect you of being the kind of person who wishes to harm others.



Safeguarding is everyone's business.

The more people who understand the kind of abuse that others have been subjected to, the less likelihood there is that a potential abuser will be able to cause harm to anyone. If people know what to look for, church is going

to be a difficult place for abusers of children or vulnerable adults to operate in.

PCC members are required only to do the basic course, but a number volunteered at the meeting to take both the basic course and the next level up.

A Frightening New Epidemic

Students are betting an average of £1,600 each a year as a gambling epidemic sweeps Britain's campuses, according to research.



A study has found the situation has become so serious that one in three students are turning to borrowed money. One in five have even resorted to betting with their student loan. One student became so addicted that in his second year he bet his entire student loan within 24 hours of receiving it.

Although nearly half of students said they spent no more than £10 per week on betting almost one in five admitted to betting more than £50 a week – the equivalent of more than £2,600 a year.

Previous research suggested 264,000 students in the UK were at risk of harm from gambling, while a further 88,000 were defined as problem gamblers. Bray Ash of Sevenoaks believes he lost about £20,000 to his addiction while he was at university. Despite counselling, he only shook off his addiction properly when he was twenty five years old.

A case with close similarities to that of Paul Merson

which we looked at a few weeks ago, is that of Patrick Foster (pictured). Starting with online roulette at Durham university, gambling ultimately cost him three different careers and almost led him to take his own life.

Patrick Foster is a former cricketer and was a teacher in a private school. While teaching, he borrowed money from the parents of pupils to feed his addiction.



In one six week period he lost £35,000 and spent a total of £4 million over twelve years. How did he do it? Where did he get all the money from? The answer is simple. At one stage he had 76 accounts in 65 different names. He was about to leap in front of a train at Slough when his brother rang his mobile phone, realising from a text what he was just about to do. "I'm sorry x" were almost the last words he ever wrote.

Patrick last placed a bet on March 22, 2018. Following rehab, he has a new career—educating young people about the perils of gambling.