

Special Services Today

Ron Cross, from *Open Doors*, will be leading our worship and teaching on Sunday morning at 9 AM and 11 AM. We will be learning about what it is like to worship in countries like Afghanistan, where it is extremely dangerous to be a Christian believer.

We have moved our 1662 Communion service to the following Sunday so as to give Ron plenty of time to talk to us at 9 AM.

11 AM is our communion service this week. That, too, would normally be take place the following week. For once, you don't need to worry about bringing a glass. However – that is all I am saying and there will be no more spoilers.

These will be memorable services. It is wonderful to start the year focusing on our brothers and sisters under pressure with one of our newest Mission Partners.



HOW DID CHRISTMAS GO?

We had a really good crowd of people for Carol Singing around the Christmas tree at the Orbital. However, the local singing didn't really take off – certainly not in our part of North Swindon. My guess is that next year it would be better to put all our energies into the main event.



We might do the *Big North Swindon Sing* a bit earlier next December, to take advantage of the opportunity to publicise Carol Services to shoppers.

It was a great opportunity for churches to worship together at Christmas. It wouldn't be a surprise if this service becomes an annual event.

Our own Carol Service was glorious and our numbers did not suffer from the clash with the World Cup. Thanks again to Alison for all her work in training the choir.

Chinese New Year – Swindon Friendship Festival.

This is another first for Swindon.

For the first time there will be an International Christian celebration of the Chinese New Year when Hong Kongers, Chinese and Swindonians will get together.

The venue will be the Supermarine Sports Club on Saturday 28 January from 12 noon to 3 PM. Please see the poster attached to your bulletin email.



There will be a chance to get involved in traditional Chinese Lunar New Year games and activities. And – there will be Chinese food. There is a QR code on the attached leaflet, or you can book a ticket on the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/swindon-friendship-festival-tickets-476444417077>. You might need to copy and paste it.

Man and Charmain are involved—and we will hear more on Sunday.

Message from Jenny

If any "Kidz" would like to join our St John's Kidz Worship action group and help lead the action songs on Sunday mornings, please contact Jenny Evans.

Anyone who is interested is welcome, as long as you have a parent or guardian willing to be in a WhatsApp group to find out what songs are coming up! Videos of the actions are available to help you practise. Any questions, please let Jenny know.



Email jenny.robertson394@gmail.com

Please pray for our church family	
Mon	Allan & Denise Rees & family
Tue	Anna Richardson & Matthew
Wed	Kathleen Ridley & Harry
Thurs	Simon Robertson & Sally & family
Fri	Ivan & Sharon Rogers
Sat	Theresa Rogers
Sun	David & Jo Rudland & family

Please Pray

Pray for the 300 million Christians who face persecution as part of their daily life.

Every day Christians are killed, churches are attacked, Christians are arrested or unjustly imprisoned or abducted.

Pray that they would experience God's peace, despite their weakness and current circumstances.

Pray for Open Doors



Sunday January 8 2023 Epiphany 1





Service of Prayer for Christian Unity

This is a world wide celebration.

There will be a United Service on Sunday 22nd January at 6.30 pm

(Venue announced on Sunday)

When Going to Church is Dangerous

Services for Next Sunday			
Jan 15th Epiphany 2	9am	Holy Communion 1662	Raymond Adams
	11.am	Morning Worship	

Time	Service	Sermon	Readings
9.00 am 11.00 am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Ron Cross from <i>Open Doors</i> will speak at both services	Philippians 1: 1-14
6.30 pm	Youth Alpha is back		