

Please pray for our church family	
Mon	Janet Gash and family
Tue	Eileen Gibson and family
Wed	Philip Godwin and family
Thurs	Lynda Gough & Colin and family
Fri	Richard & Pauline Gray and family
Sat	Caroline & Peter Haines and family
Sun	Talia Haines and family

There are several coats, hats and scarves that have been hanging on the coat hooks for the last few months. They have been put in a storage box in the Foyer.

Please check if anything belongs to you. Anything left by 1st February will be taken to charity shops.

Thank you.



Wednesday Holy Communion at 11am followed by light lunch in the hall.

Please pray for Abbie Vandamme:

Who will be running youth Alpha with two of her friends in their school. Pray that the Lord's hand will rest upon them and those who attend may come to the serving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



If you are considering baptism on Easter Sunday, please speak to Patches.



Sunday 25th January

Epiphany 3



Verse of the Year: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:18-19)

Vicar: Revd Patches Chabala

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Day Off: Friday

Church Administrator: Sharon Mortimer

Parish Church office opening hours:

Monday: 10am -1pm

Thursday: 10am-1pm

Tel: 01793 726000

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Ali Wiltshire

Tel: 07403216682



Every Monday lunchtime, Join us for prayer at church in the quiet room from 12:30 to 1pm

Every Tuesday evening, join us for prayer on Zoom at 7:30pm to 8pm

Link:

Meeting ID: 847 2365 8702

Passcode: 321957

Services for Next Sunday

1st Feb Epiphany 4	9am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Peter Fletcher
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Time	Service	Sermon	Readings
9am	Holy Communion 1662	Patches Chabala	Acts 9: 1-19
10.30am	Morning Praise	Patches Chabala	

Notices for next week's bulletin to the Parish Office by Wednesday 9am please

A new Preaching Series:

Our new preaching series to the end of March is "God uses ordinary people"

I am always encouraged and inspired to read stories in Scripture where ordinary people were called and used by God to do extraordinary things. People like Moses, who was tending sheep on the backside of the desert when God appeared to him in a burning bush and called him to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. People like David, a mere shepherd boy, who defeated the giant Goliath so that everyone might know that there was a God in Israel. People like Nehemiah, a cupbearer for the king of Persia, whom God called to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. People like Esther, married to a pagan king, who used her royal position to save the Jews from extermination. People like Peter, Andrew, James, and John... fishermen who become fishers of men for the Lord Jesus Christ. The list could go on and on.

Yes, God chooses and uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. He doesn't need our ability, but rather our availability. He uses ordinary people who have nothing of their own to offer, but their faithfulness and willingness to say "Yes" to God. So let me ask you...

How could God use you this year here at St John's and beyond?

Will you make yourself available to Him? All you have to do is say, "Yes, Lord!" Remember, God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things for His glory!

May the Lord bless you as you consider doing so.

Every blessing,

Patches

I would like to encourage you to consider taking the gospel of John daily reading plan for your personal devotion if you don't have personal bible devotions yet. I will write out a daily reading plan and a question for your reflection. This daily reading plan will start on Monday 19th January.

We will have these printed separately ready for you to pick every Sunday. I hope you will find your walk through the gospel of John encouraging and refreshing.

Every blessing,

Patches



Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival (春節), marks the beginning of the new year according to the lunar calendar. It is the most important festival in Chinese culture and a special time for thanksgiving, renewal, and family reunion. The celebration traditionally lasts for 15 days, beginning on Chinese New Year's Day and ending with the Lantern Festival.



Families gather for reunion meals, exchange greetings, and spend time in prayer, thanking God for His faithfulness and seeking His guidance for the year ahead. In many families and churches, an 「開年飯」 (First Meal of the New Year) is shared after the New Year begins. This meal symbolises starting the year together in unity, committing the year to God, and encouraging one another as a church family.

During Chinese New Year, people often wear red, as red symbolises joy, blessing, and good fortune, expressing hope for a year filled with God's grace. This year is the Year of the Horse, often associated with energy, perseverance, and moving forward with purpose, reminding us to trust God as we run the race set before us. The date changes each year because it follows the lunar calendar and usually falls between late January and mid-February.

May this New Year be a time of fresh beginnings, unity, and God's blessings for all.

Chinese New Year celebration

Date: Saturday Feb 21st

Time: 12 noon

Venue: Hon Xin Oriental Buffet, Peatmoor, Swindon SN5 5DP

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/NAFNvfcxBgqM4dAe8>

Cost:

Adults: £15.5

Kids: £9.5 (child under 12 years old and under 150 cm)

Toddler under 80 cm: Eat Free



Please sign up with Sharon and Charmain by next Sunday so that we can secure our places—42 people had already signed up as of last Sunday! Let's take this opportunity to gather for fellowship and get to know one another better.