**day month 20xx**

**New provision for people with gambling problems in [your town]**

**[Your church name]** has partnered with a national social enterprise to provide help for people with gambling problems in **[your town].**

Someone with gambling problems can assess themselves online, then start a self-help course. This course uses videos and exercises, which the person then discusses with a friend or relative who they have chosen to help them. If they would prefer someone outside of their situation, then the church can provide a volunteer befriender to meet with them.

Founder of *Better Futures for Gamblers*, Dan Richter, said: “This course helps people who are ready to stop gambling. This is not just about giving something up; it is about finding hope for the future. This is a short course in itself, but what is great about local churches is that they are always there – where people need love and encouragement in the longer term”.

Help is provided for people of any faith or none; the course itself is not religious. For more details, people can see [www.betterfutures.uk](http://www.betterfutures.uk)

**UK gambling facts**

* The gambling industry made profits of over £13 billion last year. (1)
* There are nearly 9,000 betting shops in the UK. (2)
* Around 1 in 100 people in the UK have a problem, or are at moderate risk of a problem. (3)

**ENDS**

1. <http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/Gambling-data-analysis/statistics/Industry-statistics.aspx>
2. <http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/Gambling-data-analysis/statistics/Industry-statistics.aspx>
3. <http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/PDF/Gambling%20behaviour%20in%20England%20Scotland%2010072014.pdf>

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

Better Futures for Gamblers C.I.C. is a social enterprise which exists to enable the church to help gamblers recover from their addiction. For more information on Better Futures for Gamblers, see the website [www.betterfutures.uk](http://www.betterfutures.uk). You may also contact Dan on 01722 780 359 or email dan@betterfutures.uk

For more information on the church, please ring **[Your church number]** and speak with **[name]**.