

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

17TH NOVEMBER 2019

A warm welcome to our communion service this Sunday at 9.30am at St Swithun's Church, Sandford which will be taken by Revd Helen Drever. This is Helen's last visit to us before she moves in January to take up her post as vicar of Alham Vale in the diocese of Bath and Wells so it's a chance to wish her well.

REFLECTIVE MORNING PRAYER – every **Wednesday** at 9.00am at St Swithun's

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

Margaret and her team packed 27 boxes for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas project and sent an extra 7 boxes of items that can be used to fill other boxes in the warehouse. Thank you to everyone who contributed either financially or with toys, clothes, toiletries etc for children. And a special thank you to Margaret for taking the lead and organising it all.

SANDFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – DECEMBER 13TH-15TH

We will be decorating a tree with stars, big and small, sparkly and matt, multi-coloured and plain, fabric and card, 2D and 3D ... you get the idea. If you have any tree decorations that are star related and you are willing to loan them, please let Linda BS know.

FROM STAINED GLASS TO SHEEP, A WINDOW ON MY LIFE – FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER AT 7.30PM

The Friends of St Swithun's, St Mary's and Beacon Churches have invited Penny Somerville to give an illustrated talk about her interest and work creating stained glass. This unique evening is at St Swithun's, tickets on the door £5 with refreshments.

RONALD'S RENOWNED CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

Once again Ronald is making a limited number of his famous 1lb Christmas puddings (including gluten free) so is taking orders. There is a suggested donation of between £8 and £10, all proceeds to Water Aid. (Tel: [772421](tel:772421))

KNITTED CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

Yes Margaret has been knitting again and her Christmas puddings with a hidden chocolate are on sale from Margaret herself or via the shop. A donation of at least £2 per pudding.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

A very Happy Birthday to Frederiek on Friday and Rita and Ann on Saturday.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Pray for those whose lives, homes and livelihoods have been affected by weather this week, the dreadful floods in the north of England, the wild fires in eastern Australia.
- Pray for those everywhere for whom standing up as a Christian means facing persecution.
- Thank God for those in our community and our country who give so generously and often sacrificially, thinking particularly of those who supported Children in Need.

SUNDAY'S READINGS – MALACHI 4:1-2; PSALM 98; 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13; LUKE 21:5-19

This week is a good week to remember and be thankful for groups such as Amnesty International, Open Doors, Christian Solidarity Worldwide and the Barnabus Fund. All of them support and advocate for persecuted minorities, and in many parts of the world that means Christians. I remember studying the play St Joan by George Bernard Shaw at school. When Joan is captured she

is threatened with torture and responds that she will say whatever they want while they hurt her but as soon as the pain stops she will retract it and tell the truth. And I remember thinking I would be like that – who wants pain? And yet amazingly today, in countries where Christians are facing intense hardship, the church is growing fiercely and fast.

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