

# THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020

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**A warm welcome to our communion service with Matthew this Sunday at 9.30am at St Swithun's Church, Sandford and we encourage you to join us for refreshments afterwards.**

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

## **THE BOILER**

Anyone who has been into the church for any reason over the last couple of weeks will have noticed the drop in temperature as the boiler is broken. We have supplementary heating which is effective though noisy (many thanks to Phil Harvey from the garage who came to our aid immediately with a blower). But wear warm clothes anyway!

## **LENT COURSES**

Paul will be running a Lent course on Wednesday afternoons in March if there is enough local interest so please sign the sheet at the back of St Swithun's if you would like to be involved. More details nearer the time – and of course there are always courses in Crediton that you can join.

## **FLOWERS IN THE CHURCHYARD**

Walking along the path to the Fanny's Lane gate this week I noticed six different ones and January isn't even over yet. There were snowdrops, primroses, daisies, celandines, crocus and dandelions. What a promise of things to come.

## **THANK YOU ANDREW!**

First thing in the morning and last thing at night, Andrew faithfully opens and shuts up the church and casts a caring eye around to make sure all is OK. Thank you so much Andrew for what you do.

## **PAUL AND TRACEY**

Paul, Tracey and Finn are away for a few days break so we hope that during their time out they will be refreshed and reinvigorated. We are all very appreciative and thankful for the many and varied ways they serve this parish. Thank you!

## **BIRTHDAY WISHES**

A happy birthday on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> to Mike Tietze, to Colin Ladd on Sunday, to Lyn on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> and to Peter and Gwen on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

## **IN YOUR PRAYERS**

- ✓ As the week of prayer for Christian Unity comes to a close, let us be thankful for our diversity, for the broadness of our traditions and denominations, as well as continuing to pray for Christian unity around the world.
- ✓ Thank God for everyone who takes seriously God's first commission to mankind, to 'steward' the world, to look after it. Pray for governments to lead the way and for creativity as ways are found to better care for our planet.

**Sunday readings:** Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:4-12; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 and Matthew 4:12-23.

Last year Paul showed us how to use the *divina lectio* style of reading a bible passage, expecting a word or phrase to jump out at you and then mulling it over. Then on Sunday he reminded us of another way – use the story, like the one in Matthew where Jesus calls the disciples from their fishing to follow him, and place yourself in the scene. What happens for you? Give God the time and let him surprise you as the bible comes alive and relevant to your day and life.

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