

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

23RD FEBRUARY 2020

A warm welcome to our communion service with our rector Matthew at 9.30am at St Swithun's Church, Sandford. Do stay for refreshments afterwards.

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

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY AT 7PM AT ST SWITHUN'S

To mark the start of the Lent period there will be a special Communion service at St Swithun's with the Imposition of Ashes followed by a compline sung by the choir. If some of this is unfamiliar to you, then let your curiosity encourage you to come along to this simple service which leads us into one of the most important church seasons, Lent. The period of Lent is a time when we are encouraged to do more than 'give up' something, rather it's a time when we can reflect and prepare for Easter. The various Lent courses in the Benefice will also help us with that.

TEA AND TODDLERS – FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY FROM 9AM

The lively sessions for preschool children and their parents and carers start up after the half term break. It meets every other Friday through term time at St Swithun's Church. Lovely refreshments and plenty of room and time to chat so do drop in whether you have a child or not, you would be very welcome.

SANDFORD LENT COURSE – WEDNESDAYS THROUGH MARCH AT ASHRIDGE FARM

Paul is leading this series from 2-3pm on a Wednesday afternoon courtesy of Jill and Richard Burston. He will help us to explore what it really means in our walk of faith to 'surrender' to God. Do bring your bible if you wish to.

LIVE LENT 2020 – CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

The Church of England is encouraging children and adults to be the stewards of the planet that God commissioned us to be. It is an opportunity to rebuild our relationship with the created world and build new habits that last beyond the season to protect and honour the earth. You can sign up to daily emails or order booklets for adults or children which have daily reflections, prayers and actions. Google **#LiveLent** to find more.

MAKING THE MOST OF MEDIA – MONDAY 2ND MARCH AT 7.30PM AT THE BONIFACE CENTRE

This evening is designed to help us nail social media, tell good news stories, engage with the press and livestream with style. Chloe Axford, the Diocesan Communications and Engagement Director is offering a whistle-stop tour full of hints, tips and sources so bring your mobile phones and devices with you. She will also cover communications planning, writing for social media, websites and press releases, creating great graphics, flyers and posters and simple filming, editing and live streaming. Please contact Paul Fillery (details below) if you are coming.

ELECTORAL ROLL FORMS

This is the time of year when Alison, our electoral roll officer reviews the register and if you have joined us in the last few months, she may well approach you and invite you to fill in a form. If she misses you please pick up a form from the back of St Swithun's (or if you attend St Mary's or Beacon Churches please ring Alison on 866204 or email astoyle@btconnect.com and she will send you one). If you are already on the register because you filled in a form last year then you need do nothing more. As well as giving you an opportunity to vote at the AGM or be on the PCC, signing a form is your way of saying 'I belong.' So whether your connection is with St Mary's or Beacon or St Swithun's please sign a form and return it to Alison.

CHURCH JUMBLE SALE – SATURDAY APRIL 25TH AT SANDFORD PARISH HALL

Keith and Elaine Stanlake and Paul and Simone Romain are once again organising one of their legendary jumble sales. At this stage please look out and reserve jumble of all kinds which you will be able to drop off the evening before or from 10am on the Saturday. If you know you will be able to offer help on the day, please let them know.

THANK YOU TO OUR SIDES-PEOPLE!

We are so fortunate to be welcomed into church on a Sunday morning with a smile and a chat by our sides-people. Thank you! If you would like to join the team, or indeed if you feel the time has come to step down, please talk to Rosanne.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

- ◆ Pray for all those across the UK affected by the adverse weather conditions, those whose homes and or businesses are damaged and those like farmers who are daily dealing with the consequences.
- ◆ Remember Paul at Lee Abbey teaching on prayer for the Readers' Training Weekend. Pray for the Readers (lay ministers) who are an increasingly important part of the church of the future. Give thanks too for Paul and Tracey and their service to our community.
- ◆ Pray for recently bereaved families, we think of Marilyn Winter's family in particular. Pray too for those nearing the end of their lives and their families and carers journeying with them.

SUNDAY READINGS: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9.

Our readings today refer to mountain top experiences. Moses at the top of Mount Sinai enveloped in a cloud, just he and God. At the bottom of the mountain the children of Israel gazed up in fear and awe at the cloud and fire. Then in the reading from Matthew, again at the top of a mountain, Jesus is transfigured as he meets and talks with Moses and Elijah. Peter, James and John who accompanied him are awestruck as they witness the glory of God shining in the human body of Jesus. I find the holiness of God so difficult to comprehend yet it is at the heart of his nature. And this same God allows me to approach him and call him 'Father', amazing!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The APCM will take place on **Sunday 19th April at 11.00am** in the Under Gallery at St. Swithun's. This year we will be electing 2 churchwardens, 6 PCC members and 3 Deanery Synod representatives. Nomination forms are available at the back of St Swithun's and, in all cases, anyone on the Church Electoral Roll who is a communicant and willing to be nominated (proposer and seconder required) can stand for election. Please note that persons are disqualified from serving in either of these roles under a variety of conditions which are detailed on the nomination forms. You will also be required to complete 'a Fit and Proper Person' declaration.

Churchwardens serve for a term of one year, maximum six consecutive years.

PCC members serve for 3 years but are able to retire at any time during this period if they wish to do so. They can stand for re-election. The PCC normally meets about 6 times a year.

Want to know more? If you are interested in any of the above or would like some more info, please could you speak to one of the current churchwardens, Colin Clark and Linda Bennett-Smith, or Rosanne Baker, the PCC secretary.

Sides-people

If there are any sides-people who wish to retire or if there is anybody who is interested in becoming a sides-person, please could you speak to **Rosanne**.