

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

8TH MARCH 2020

A warm welcome to our communion service this Sunday at 9.30am at St Swithun's Church, Sandford - do join us for refreshments afterwards.

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

SANDFORD LENT COURSE – WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH AT ASHRIDGE FARM

This is the 2nd of our five lent studies led by Paul from 2-3pm courtesy of Jill and Richard Burston. He will help us to explore what it really means in our walk of faith to 'surrender' into the love of God.

HOPE COTTAGE OPEN GARDENS – SATURDAY 14TH MARCH

Pamela is opening her gardens in all their springtime glory for charity from 2pm-4.30pm on behalf of three charities, St Swithun's and Sandford Congregational Churches and Haven of Hope orphanage in Romania. Come along, enjoy the flowers and some tasty refreshments and donate generously.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 15TH MARCH

Next Sunday Paul will lead us in giving thanks to God for all the good gifts we enjoy as well as celebrating the time, talents and energy that so many contribute to life in this Parish. In addition, we will also take a serious look at our church finances and see if our current level of giving will sustain our vision now and on into the foreseeable future. In preparation for it, Paul will be sending out some information this week to carefully and prayerfully consider. Please do make the **Sunday 15th March service a priority.**

Fairtrade Fortnight - 24th February to 8th March

Fairtrade fortnight has been running since 1997 as an annual promotional campaign to increase awareness of Fairtrade products. Volunteers were committed to the ethics around trading fairly, particularly that producers in developing countries were properly paid. Things have moved on since then and taking care of the planet is now a main stream issue. But when you go shopping it's still worth checking where products come from and looking for the Fairtrade logo.

MARGARET'S KNITTED EASTER CHICKS AND BUNNIES

Once again Margaret has been busy knitting and each delightful chick and bunny has an Easter egg inside. It is not possible to leave them at the church so please order them when you see Margaret and remember all donations go to church funds so order plenty as Easter gifts and swell the church coffers.

JOY 2020. THE GIFT OF YEARS – FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2-4.30PM AT THE BONIFACE CENTRE

This event (one of a number during the Bishops in Mission weekend beginning Friday 20th March) is being hosted and led by Bishop Robert to encourage all those aged 60+ to know that they hold a vital place in their church and in society and gives an opportunity to offer afresh their gifts and time to God.

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.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

A very happy birthday to Keith on Monday and to Richard Burston on Wednesday.

PRAYER FOR THE COVID 19 OUTBREAK

God of healing and hope, in Jesus you meet us in our places of pain and fear. Look with mercy on those who have contracted the coronavirus, on any who are vulnerable and on all who feel in

danger. Through this time of global concern, by your Holy Spirit bring out the best not the worst in us. Make us more aware of our interdependence on each other and of the strength that comes from being one body in you. Through Christ our wounded healer. Amen (Revd Sam Wells; St Martin in the Fields, London)

SUNDAY READINGS: Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5; John 3:1-17

Paul reminded us last Sunday, the first Sunday of Lent, that Jesus talks about three specific disciplines that are part of our journey as Christians:- prayer, fasting and giving. It's worth examining just what part these play in our lives - after all if Jesus thought they were important, shouldn't we? Next Sunday Paul will help us explore them some more, so if you have any thoughts or questions on the subject, bring them along.

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**.

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.

If you wish to receive this weekly newsletter by email, contact Jean on fran.hope@btinternet.com