

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

15TH MARCH 2020

A warm welcome to our communion service this Sunday at 9.30am at St Swithun's Church, Sandford. Paul is talking about stewardship this morning, gifts, talents and money.

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

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

A letter from Paul was sent during the week explaining in more detail what Stewardship Sunday is about. Please let me know if you haven't received an email copy or there are some paper copies to take away at the back of St Swithun's.

PCC MEETING – TUESDAY 17TH MARCH

The PCC meets in the Under Gallery of St Swithun's at 7.30pm to discuss all items to do with the running of the three churches - St Swithun's, Beacon and St Mary's. This includes amongst other things buildings and churchyards, finances and safeguarding. However the heart of what we do and discuss is to do with people, both within and without the churches, how we can best care for each other and share the good news of Jesus.

SANDFORD LENT COURSE – WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH AT ASHRIDGE FARM

This is the 3rd of our five lent studies led by Paul from 2-3pm. We have looked at Julian of Norwich and St Francis of Assisi and seen how very ordinary people were completely transformed as they responded to the love of God. It's both challenging and humbling.

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

This event 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. Those who have attended these afternoons in other parts of the diocese have found Bp Robert to be a most entertaining and inspirational speaker so do come along for a special afternoon.

COMMUNION AT SUMMERHAYES

Every third Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm there is a simple communion service for the residents of Summerhayes and their family and friends if they wish to join them. This is taken by Sandra Collier from Crediton who often joins us for Wednesday prayers. Thank you Sandra for caring for the older residents of our parish in this way.

THIA HAMILTON

The Revd James Hamilton was the rector of Sandford from 1962 through to the end of the '70s and is buried in the north of the churchyard. His wife Thia recently passed away and there will be a celebration of her life at St Swithun's on Monday 23rd March at 11am after which she will be laid to rest with her husband.

CHURCHYARD SPRINGCLEAN – FRIDAY/SATURDAY 27TH/28TH MARCH

If you have a few hours to spare and fancy a bit of 'green gym activity' there is a great variety of jobs to do for both beginners and experienced gardeners. We have already been offered some surplus bulbs (thank you) but if you have any bulbs or cuttings of shrubs such as lavender these would be most welcome. If you can't come along but can supply some cake everyone will love you! A list of jobs is in the porch so let me know what you fancy.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

A very happy birthday to Jim King on Monday and John Haddleton on Thursday.

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.

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.

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: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42.

At our first Lent group Paul gave us each a bookmark with these well known words of Julian of Norwich. 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.' As we watch the consequences of the coronavirus and governments around the world reacting to it, it is easy to dismiss her words as pie in the sky. Yet Julian lived in a time when she lost her family to the bubonic plague and England was involved in the Hundred Years War, she knew about suffering and hardship. Today's readings remind us that God both knows us completely and loves us completely, he meets us where we are and supplies our needs. Hold on to that.

