

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

22ND MARCH 2020

Welcome to ... well not church as we know it as for the foreseeable future we cannot meet together. But Paul will be emailing a service sheet which includes his sermon tomorrow morning and further on in this newsletter you can see other ways in which we can keep in touch. One is that tomorrow evening at 7pm you are asked to join Christians around the country on this unusual Mothering Sunday and light a candle and place it in a window to remember that Jesus is the Light of the World who brings Hope.

BUY A CUP OF COFFEE FOR ST SWITHUN'S

Each of us regularly giving just a little bit more each week would make a big difference to our finances. In his letter explaining this, Paul showed how just a minimum extra weekly spend of £3 (the price of a cup of good coffee) would help. Do consider your response and talk to Jim (tel: 774101 or jimlongview22@talktalk.net) who is our Gift Aid officer and runs the Parish Giving Scheme or to Paul himself. Since last Sunday 16 new folk have joined the Parish Giving Scheme which is a great help to our on-going budgeting. Another way is to review and add to your will or make a one-off gift. Just let Paul know so he can colour in the 'coffee cups'. There has been an encouraging response already so thank you if you have already paid for a coffee!

PREVIOUS SUNDAY SERMONS AT ST SWITHUN'S

If you were not at church last Sunday you missed Paul's excellent talk thanking us for all we give of our time, talents and money – to God not to 'the church'. He also talked about the future and explained why it was a good time to review what and how we give so that we could continue to reach out to and care for our community as God would ask us to. If you would like to read this sermon, or indeed any other, please email Pamela on tilney.ellis@btinternet.com who will forward you a copy. Should you be housebound or have to self isolate you might be very glad of this email service.

FACEBOOK

Remember if you are on Facebook you can access a recorded form of a service with a sermon for Sundays and on Wednesdays there will be live streaming of Wednesday prayers. Please 'like' the St Swithun's Facebook page and comment on the posts or share them where appropriate as it will help with our reach and engagement. You would be assisting St Swithun's spread Good News and encouragement and help counter fear and isolation.

CHURCHYARD SPRINGCLEAN – FRIDAY 27TH / SATURDAY 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. **This will still be happening as we can easily 'socially distance' ourselves while working.**

CANCELLATIONS

As well as cancelled Sunday services and Wednesday prayers, the Grand Jumble sale on April 25th has been postponed. Choir practice, Bell ringing and Handbell practices are also cancelled for the present. Please remember that this is only for a few weeks, life will return to some sort of normality!

PAMELA'S OPEN GARDENS ON SATURDAY 14TH

Pamela would like to thank all who came and wandered around her garden as well as those who donated cakes or gave of their time to help. She raised well over £150 which will be shared between St Swithun's, Sandford Congregational and Haven of Hope, an orphanage in Romania.

APCM UPDATE

Unfortunately it appears that we shall need to postpone the APCM for the time being and the Diocese will shortly be issuing further guidance on this. In the meantime, I am sending out the accounts and various reports for 2019 by email as far as possible. If you don't receive them in the next couple of days and would like a copy, please could you email me at northcreedy@gmail.com.
Thanks, Rosanne

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 or by ringing 775185**. They are ready and waiting! Remember all donations go to church funds so order plenty as Easter gifts - minimum donation of £2 each.

A BIG THANK YOU TO KEITH AND JIM

Keith is our Treasurer and Jim our Gift Aid officer. Between them they give considerably of their time to look after the money and keep accurate accounts. We are so fortunate that our finances are safe in their hands, thank you Keith and Jim.

CREDITON FOODBANK

If you are able, please remember to support the Foodbank over the next few weeks as it is anticipated there may be quite a demand for it. There are boxes in Tesco and Morrison's supermarkets and at the back of St Swithun's.

FINALLY ...

Remember that St Swithun's and St Mary's Churches are open every day and Paul has prepared a prayer area with helps and ideas – or just go along in and be still and draw strength the way generations of people have done before during times of crisis in our beautiful churches. Support and pray for our shop where you can add your name or ideas to a list and remember you can contact Paul at any time. Look out for your neighbours and be kind to yourself!

Lord Jesus Christ, you teach us to trust you and not be afraid. Deliver us from the fear of an unknown future, of financial uncertainty, of loneliness and sickness, fear of death even. Help us to imagine putting our hand in your loving, protective one and with courage, commit ourselves and our days to come into your safe keeping. Amen