

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

17TH MAY 2020

Welcome to this Sunday's service which you can join at 10am online or catch later.

SUNDAY'S READINGS: Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

In the reading from John's gospel Jesus tells the disciples that when he has left them, he will ask his Father to give them someone who will be their advocate, counsellor, encourager and comforter. His name is the Holy Spirit and he will 'lead them into all truth'. We certainly need the help of someone who can help us sort the truth from the fake as we follow the news at the moment!

Dear Lord, as I am following the news, help me to take a moment to step back into you, take a deep breath and ask you how to pray into it. You know the truth, I don't. Guide reporters and journalists, all those in the media who dispense news and help us to have your discernment as we read, listen to or watch it. Show us the seeds of hope and new life we can bless.

GOOD NEWS

On Thursday evening's local Spotlight SW news came the wonderful report that there were no Covid19 related deaths in the south west that day.

Dear Lord, thank you that the incidences of people both catching and dying of Covid19 are declining. We continue to pray for those with the illness both in hospital and in the community. We pray that hospitals are able to get back to their normal work and start calling in all those people whose surgery and treatment has been on hold.

SPRING

If I was able to give you a virtual tour around the churchyard you would be able to see that the lovely large rose bush to the right of the main door is laden with pale gold blooms, that the two hawthorn trees are heady with blossom, the deep pink one by the little steps to the old rectory and the white one in the new churchyard which has a great tit nesting for the second year. I could show you a whole flurry of foxgloves on the bank as you go through the cob archway and even some in the wall behind the bench that Mike put in last year in memory of Beth Anne. And of course you could show me around your garden or take me on a favourite walk of yours.

Dear Lord, thank you that we live in such a wonderful place and thank you for spring and all its promises. We pray that as we take a walk or sit out in the garden we let your river of life that Paul talked about on Wednesday morning bring your peace and joy, your grace and blessing that lifts our spirits and frees us from fear and anxiety and all the negative emotions that can occupy our minds.

YOUR THOUGHTS - THANK YOU SANDFORD

This week's contribution is from a couple who have recently moved into the village and wrote 'The village, church and community all emanate a special feeling. The Community Store has been fantastic in helping people in all ways possible. Even in Crediton the pharmacy and the butchers has helped us here in Sandford. And Paul is a wonderful minister, he has such a calming voice and is a gifted speaker.'

Dear Lord, Thank you. Thank you for everyone who is working or volunteering in a new and caring way to serve others through this time. Bless businesses that have found new ways to continue working and guide those preparing to get back to work. Guard and protect those who are getting weary and have had little rest for weeks. We pray for hope and confidence to rise in our nation.

RECEIVING PAUL'S SERVICES

Remember if you are on Facebook Paul will be live streaming the service for Sundays and on Wednesdays there will be live streaming of Wednesday prayers. If you are not on Facebook but want to catch the recording go to: <https://www.facebook.com/saintswithunschurchsandford/> website (see top of this page) so make sure you stay in touch!