

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

SUNDAY 7TH JUNE 2020

A special welcome this morning to the folk at Beacon Church, New Buildings who would normally be setting an early alarm to get to church by 8.30am for this **Trinity Sunday**. If you good folk have news to share from the top of the hill please email it down below so that the rest of the parish can enjoy it too.

READINGS: Isaiah 40:12-17,27-31; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

One God, three in one. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. I have heard many sermons on the Trinity but at the end of the day I would be hard put to explain it. And actually I love the mystery of it. I am hugely reassured that God the creator and sustainer of the universe, can't be neatly explained to human satisfaction. He is just too .. and then I run out of words and am happy with that!

POSITIVE POSTS - #thanksandpraise

Paul has been live streaming his reflective prayer service on a Wednesday morning to an ever increasing circle of people who interact and message him and the facebook site. Last week he encouraged them and all of us to share things to be thankful for, that have brought us joy over the last few weeks. By the evening there were a variety of posts (and lovely photos) of things which brought joy, from the much loved family dog, to a plate of food, a favourite flower or a view of some special place. If something has given you pleasure recently do email me if you cannot access the facebook site and I can make sure it is shared with a wider audience.

#thanksandpraise

Coincidentally I spoke to an old friend on Wednesday and this was the wonderful news that I posted. It's a great encouragement to those of us who have been praying for people or situations for years and seemingly nothing seems to change. It's also an example that God is very much at work even while church buildings are closed. *For the past 35 years since we were new Christians this friend and I have prayed that our children would have hearts to know God. Her daughter from when I knew her (aged about 5) was feisty, forthright and wild. At the beginning of this year as a single parent with two failed marriages and two little girls under 6, she had a job in a call centre with long antisocial shifts which made child care and family life hard. Then she saw a job she really wanted, as a teaching assistant in a special needs school with the offer of further education and training. Nothing on her cv met the criteria for such a job but she was desperate so she said to God, 'If you give me this job I will start going to church.'* She did get the job and she did start going to church but within weeks lock-down came. *The church matched her with a couple of members who regularly zoom-timed her so she could talk and ask questions and last month she decided to follow Jesus and become a Christian. Her mum had been praying in faith for 35 years! You never know when your next prayer is the final one.*

THANK YOU

All the people I would normally thank who keep our churches functioning – like cleaners, choir and musicians, flower arrangers, refreshment organisers – have been on an enforced holiday. But behind the scenes work still goes on so here are just some thank yous. **Suzie** who has kept our facebook page fresh and relevant, **Linda** who looks after our website, **Peter** who has researched heating ideas for the winter, **Keith** who has wrestled with the technology to prepare an online giving page, **James** who has recorded virtual hymns for Paul's services and above all **Paul** himself for his leadership and shepherding through the lock-down.

CHRISTIAN AID

Many charities will see a huge drop in income because of the Covid-19 crisis, Christian Aid among them. Normally we and many other churches support Christian Aid in May during a Sunday service so do go onto their website if you wish to support them anyway. However they are also raising signatures on a petition to the Chancellor to ask for a debt jubilee. At a time when every country is dealing with or preparing for Covid-19 it just feels wrong that some countries spend more on debt repayment to private creditors and organisations like the IMF than they do on their health services. You can find details on canceltheirdebt.christianaid.org.uk

YFC 400

Newton St Cyres Young Farmers' Club have had to curtail their usual charity events because of the lock-down. But having chosen the three charities, Devon Air Ambulance, R.A.B.I. (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution) and Cancer Research UK they didn't want to let them down. So during the first week of June, present and past members have and will walk or run 400 miles. 400 was chosen as that is the distance in miles between all the Young Farmers' Clubs in Devon. If you would like to

support them (and our farmers/food producers of the future) their just giving page is <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/nsc-yfc-mission-club-to-club>

PRAYERS

There are so many items in the news and on your hearts that I won't make any specific suggestions. But I leave you with a prayer that Paul used one Wednesday morning from a Celtic liturgy that was such a visual picture of the Trinity that I have used it most days ever since.

I start this day in the presence of the Father, in the peace of Christ the Saviour, in the power of the Holy Spirit. I start this day in the love of the Holy Three, in the might of the Trinity. Amen



Chris and Anne Tucker's garden at Combe Lancey, beautiful roses in the sunshine.

