

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

SUNDAY 21ST JUNE 2020

And a special welcome this week to all those living in the outlying parts of the parish from Creedy House and Combe Lancey in the south to the Henstills, Swannaton and Ashridge in the north. You all contribute to the rich and thriving life and community of Sandford parish.

CHURCH BUILDINGS OPEN - St SWITHUN'S ON TUESDAYS FROM 10AM -12PM

As you know places of worship have been given the green light to reopen for private prayer. Paul and the churchwardens have worked hard to prepare and clean St Swithun's which will open its doors on Tuesday morning, the first time since March 15th. Of course we all know we can pray anywhere, anytime. But there is something special in praying in a building where over centuries, thousands of people have met, together and individually to celebrate, mourn and pray to God. (You will have received guidance notes on these sessions earlier in the week.)

CHURCH BUILDINGS SHUT

Three months is nothing. St Swithun's was once shut for about ten years as the late 15th century carving of two little boys fighting shows. Apparently in about 1125 there was 'a very great dispute' between two warreners (rabbit keepers and catchers) during the morning service and in the tussle one hit the other over the head and he died. Consequently the church was closed until during King Stephen's visit to Exeter in 1136 when a petition was handed to him to plead with the Bishop to reopen it.

POSITIVE POSTS - #thanksandpraise

Can you imagine if Covid-19 and the lock-down had happened just twenty years ago? Mobile phones were still the size of a small house brick and online services were in their infancy. One of the things to be thankful for today is the ease and range of ways we can keep in touch with friends and family around the world. The way students have been able to continue to study online and so many people have been able to work from home thanks to the internet. This was one of the **#thanksandpraise** items on our Wednesday positive posts page.

ON-LINE GIVING

Firstly Paul and the PCC would like to thank everyone who has continued to faithfully and generously make financial contributions towards God's work and the running of the churches. Obviously bills still have to be paid and the work of the church continues whether the buildings are open or closed! But we do now have the facility for people to make online donations. One is by logging on to our facebook page and follow the secure link to make a donation. Or go on to our website, scroll down to the bottom of the page and follow the donate instructions. **Thank you again to everyone for your support of money or time or talents or prayers, all of them make us a joined up community.**

PRAYERS

- Today let's remember to pray for fathers everywhere. Pray that they will be wise and loving, affirming and honest in a very difficult world.
- Pray for all those for whom celebrations and commemorations have been on hold - births and weddings, anniversaries and birthdays, graduations and memorials.
- Pray for all decision makers at local and national level, that they have wisdom, creativity and confidence to make and take decisions that lead us forward and out of the lock-down.
- Continue to be thankful for local businesses and volunteers who have kept us going. Continue to support them and pray for those locally who are looking for work, whether those who lost their jobs or those just entering the job market.

READINGS: Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-18; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 10:24-39