

# THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

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## SUNDAY COMMUNION – ST. SWITHUN’S CHURCH, SANDFORD AT 9.45AM

We meet at 9.45am when Paul shares the notices and then we are joined at 10am by our online congregation who can hear our responses but have to visualise us sitting in the pews, suitably distanced and wearing face masks. That we cannot sing hymns or share the peace as usual is outweighed by being able to physically be together in church, take partial communion and share prayers. And because of the way Paul conducts the service we are very aware that we are part of a much bigger family (many of you reading this!) joining in from home.

## SUNDAY COMMUNION – BEACON CHURCH, NEW BUILDINGS AT 4PM

There will be an outdoor service in the grounds of Beacon Church this afternoon giving people up in the west of the parish an opportunity to meet together and share communion.

## Music

A big thank you to James Cookson who has accompanied the Sunday services since our return to St Swithun’s with his fine organ playing. He has also written and recorded music for when Paul was live streaming from his home and we are very grateful for all that James brings to us. Peter Jilks from Crediton will be alternating with James through September so thank you to him too.

## WEDNESDAY PRAYERS – 9.30AM ONLINE

Prior to lock-down, this reflective prayer time in a corner of St Swithun’s provided a place and a space in our busy lives to use silence, shared prayers, verses from the psalms and a thought to mull over through the week. Now live streamed from the vicarage kitchen, Paul is aware it would lose its informality and intimacy if it returned to church under present Covid-restrictive conditions so Wednesday prayers is continuing on Facebook or on the website. However now that the hospitality industry is open again, do feel free to **come along later on a Wednesday to The Lamb. Folk meet between 10.15 and 10.30 outside in the garden if the weather is suitable for coffee and chat.**

## BOUNTY TABLE

Margaret and Bert Jewell are taking over the running of the Bounty Table which is now laid out on the stone seats in the porch. If you have any surplus garden produce, any home made preserves or bunches of flowers do bring your contributions on a Sunday morning and leave them in the church porch. There is a collection box for donations and proceeds this year will be for St Swithun’s. Please save any paper bags for Margaret to put produce in. Ronald is delighted that the Bounty Table will be continuing.

## IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Many schools and colleges go back this week after nearly 6 months so do remember children and students, teachers and all school staff as they return to education.
- The after effects of Covid19 continue to influence nearly everything we do, whether something small and local like going shopping or big decisions being made at government level. Pray with hope to a God whose nature is compassionate and strong.

## SUNDAY’S READINGS: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

This week I was reading about JRR Tolkien, a hero of the Christian faith who was a polymath Oxford professor, an expert in Anglo Saxon mythology and one of the most influential writers of the last century, best known for his *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. (He was also the man who led his friend CS Lewis to the Lord.) In *The Fellowship of the Ring*, the hobbit Frodo says to the wizard Gandalf words that resonate today. *‘I wish it need not have happened in my time,’ said Frodo. ‘So do I,’ said Gandalf, ‘And so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.’*