

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

13TH SEPTEMBER 2020

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.

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.

PCC MEETING – TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

If there are any particular matters you would like the PCC to consider, please let Rosanne (our PCC secretary) know by email northcreedy@gmail.com or tel: 774409 as soon as possible.

HARVEST CELEBRATION – SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

Our harvest will be a little different this year but we still want to make it a time when we can share with those in need. This year we are supporting **Crediton Food Bank** with items people can bring during the service or if you are not able to be at the there a box will be left in the church porch during the week for you to leave donations. The items in low supply are: **-tinned sweetcorn (large and small), tinned potatoes, tinned tomatoes, jars of bolognaise sauce, tinned ham (large and small), tinned corn beef, tinned tuna, tins of pineapple, tins of rice pudding and biscuits.** But other dried and tinned goods including pet food, toiletries etc are always welcome.

ELECTORAL ROLL – APCM

The rescheduled APCM will be on **Sunday 11th October** after the morning service. If you wish to have a vote to choose church wardens, members of the PCC and other church business, your name needs to be on the Electoral Roll. If you are not sure if it is or would like to enrol please contact Alison our Electoral Roll officer on astoyle@btconnect.com or tel: 866204.

CONNECT

Connect is a local charity, supported by all the local churches, that sponsors Christian youth workers in the schools and youth clubs of Crediton, Okehampton and Chulmleigh. Their reassuring presence and listening ear is particularly important as secondary schools negotiate the next few months of COVID19 restrictions. We are looking for a representative from Sandford willing to attend a few CONNECT meetings a year and feed back to St Swithun’s. Please contact me (Jean) for details. We all have a vested interest in our teenagers!

IN YOUR PRAYERS

- > Pray for our wounded and fractured country as new COVID19 restrictions are put in place. Pray that people will comply however hard it may be and pray that a spirit of hope will replace fear, despair and anxiety.
- > Pray for refugees and those displaced from their homes through no fault of their own. Pray particularly for the thousands burnt out of the camp on the island of Lesbos.
- > In this harvest season as the church thinks about our stewardship of the earth pray that each of us is prompted to make big and little changes to the way we shop and live and use the earth’s resources.

SUNDAY’S READINGS: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

These readings are about the tricky business of forgiveness. It’s an issue I struggled with for a long time because forgiving someone something deep and painful felt like condoning what they had done. It felt as if they had got off scot-free while I was dealing with the consequences. But one of the ways forward for me was recognising that one day God will call each of us to account for our deeds and that person would have to answer to God for their behaviour. As I began the process (and forgiving *is* a process) of unclenching my fist and letting go of the hurt and leaving it at the cross so Jesus was able to begin healing the wounds. I began to be disentangled and wonderfully free. And an amazing thing happened, I was able to love that person and forgive them so deeply that the last thing I wanted was for them to have to be judged by God for it. Forgiveness is a truly powerful

thing!