

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

27TH SEPTEMBER 2020

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

Welcome to our communion service. We meet at 9.45am when Paul shares the notices and then we are joined at 10am by our online congregation.

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 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 bolognese sauce, tinned ham (large and small), tinned corn beef, tinned tuna, tins of pineapple, tins of rice pudding, UHT milk and biscuits. But other dried and tinned goods including pet food, toiletries etc are always welcome.

There will also be a home made bring and buy stall in the Under Gallery so please bring your very own jams and preserves, cakes and other bakes and be prepared to buy someone else’s! Donations will go to church funds.

WEDNESDAY PRAYERS – 9.30AM ONLINE

Due to present Covid-19 restrictions, the reflective prayer time is still being live streamed from the vicarage kitchen. A big thank you to Paul for helping us to recentre our focus with God in these troubled times.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

The postponed APCM will now take place on Sunday 11th October at 11am in the Parish Hall, Sandford and via Zoom. If you would like to attend the meeting in the Parish Hall, please **contact Rosanne Baker by 4th October on 01363 774409 or northcreedy@gmail.com** in order to book your place. This is necessary to ensure the arrangements for the meeting comply with Covid-19 security requirements. Please also contact Rosanne if you would like to attend via Zoom or would like a postal vote for the elections. Please note that no paper copies of the accounts, reports etc for 2019 will be available at the meeting so if you require any of the documentation, please contact Rosanne beforehand. The agenda for the meeting will be circulated nearer the time.

ITEMS FROM THE PCC MEETING

It felt almost normal to have a face to face PCC meeting on Tuesday - albeit with masks on, in the Parish Hall and with some members on Zoom - as the last meeting was back in January.

- There had been an encouraging response to Paul’s talk on stewardship and finances in March and more people had joined the Parish Giving Scheme and had raised their giving.
- Sarah was stepping down as Safeguarding Officer and Colin was taking on the role.
- With regard to the broken heating system at St Swithun’s, Peter and the team had explored other more environmentally friendly schemes but none met the criteria so tenders would go out to either repair or replace and make safe our present oil boiler.
- Mike reported that some urgent repairs were necessary to both the roof and the windows of Beacon Church and work and seeking funding would begin right away.
- Paul and Rosamund had worked out a way to reopen the lovely St Mary’s Church at Upton Hellions so that at least a part of it would be accessible to anyone at any time.

SANDFORD PARISH WELCOME PACK

This revamped pack is offered to anyone new who moves into the parish. It includes information about local services as well as letters of welcome from Malcolm on behalf of the Parish Council, from Paul on behalf of the churches, from Sandford school and from the Community Stores – with a £5 voucher. A recent copy of the Crossing and the Millennium Green booklet are also there. Please let Jean Hope or the Community Stores know if anyone moves in near you so that they can be given their very own Welcome Pack.

SANDFORD SCARECROW TRAIL 2020

Despite the challenging circumstances the Scarecrow Trail raised a wonderful £435 for the school and who couldn’t like the winning scarecrow Dr Del Dino, the dinosaur doctor by the cob wall in the Millennium Green? Well done to all who took part in both creating it and walking the route.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Thursday was National Pray for Schools Day. So let’s pray this weekend for all our nurseries, primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities. Pray that our young people ‘grow in wisdom and stature and find favour with God and with man.’ (Luke 2:52)
- The current pandemic situation is particularly hard for those with mental health issues. Pray

for those who are anxious or depressed and pray for the workers in charities like MIND whose hotline is available 24/7 (0300 123 3393)

- In the middle of it all we have reasons to smile. Thank God for a shaft of sunlight through the trees, a neighbour waving to you as they go by, a nice cup of tea. Ask God for an 'attitude of gratitude' and feel your hope and faith rise as you thank Him for all the little things.

SUNDAY'S READINGS: EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32; PSALM 25:1-9; PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13; MATTHEW 21:23-32

Lord Jesus Christ, We pray today as people who do not always agree. We are divided on what we think is good for our country, we are divided on what should happen next and we are divided in who we trust to lead us.

We continue to call out to you about the state of our nation, to pray for the politicians who must make critical decisions, for the scientists involved in research, analysis and advice and for the medical and social workers who are caring for our health and well being.

We witness the destruction that Covid 19 has caused to individuals, to families, to businesses and to the economy both here and across the world.

Through your Spirit we sigh in groans far deeper than words, yearning for the inexpressible hope that is beyond the present circumstances and for the heavenly promise that goes deeper than any platitudes.

*Together we pray,
Your Kingdom come,
Amen.*