

# THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

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**Sunday service – 10am online on Facebook or catch it later on the parish website. This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, a season when we pause, wait and prepare for the birth of Christ.**

#### **WEDNESDAY PRAYERS – 9.30AM ONLINE**

This reflective prayer time continues from the vicarage kitchen. If you have items for prayer do let Paul know, when there isn't time to mention them during the intercessions, he and Tracey together pray for them all when the online service ends. Yours is not forgotten.

#### **CREDITON FOOD BANK – OUR RESPONSE**

This needs this week are **crisps and any food items to go into a Christmassy parcel**. If you wish to leave donations any time the box will be in the church porch, the gates there are never locked. Or you can continue to support the Food Bank by making a financial donation online, the account name is Crediton Foodbank, sort code 40/20/30 and a/c no. 12600641. **However you donate, thank you.**

#### **BRINGER OF JOY**

At the beginning of the year the Bishop of Exeter wanted to offer appreciation to those who make their community a special place in which to live and Paul looked around Sandford and nominated David Hope. Due to Covid the planned evening could not go ahead but this week Paul presented Dave with a letter and token from the Bishop and said, 'It is the many selfless acts of kindness that people like Dave do on a daily basis that makes the community of Sandford such a special place.' **Thank you to everyone who by the way they look out for others make Sandford such a lovely place.**

#### **SANDFORD – LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR**

Starting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December a different festive window in the village will light up from 3pm so that by Christmas Eve there will be twenty four beautifully decorated and lit windows to make a living Advent Calendar. A big thank you to Rachel Vowles who in one weekend organised something colourful and joyful that we can all share.

#### **FAITH AND GOVERNMENT POLICY**

The Government is conducting a review into how it interacts with faith groups, including the Church of England. It has issued a 'Call for Evidence' in the form of an online survey which is open until 11<sup>th</sup> December. The more who take part the better. The survey which takes about 15 minutes to complete can be found on the gov.uk website.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS – FROM OUR M.P.**

Paul received a letter last week from Mel Stride congratulating us on our 'fantastic achievement' as Runners-Up in the CPRE Devon's best churchyard competition. Thank you Mel.

#### **PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

A beautiful prayer from the #ThyKingdomCome prayers this week by Pete Greig.

*Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark and difficult days we turn our hearts to you.  
In ages past, you have delivered our nation from disaster. Do it again we pray.  
Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders.  
Give strength beyond human strength to the NHS and all our frontline workers.  
And give comfort beyond human comfort to the elderly and all who grieve.  
Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark and difficult days turn your face towards us, have mercy upon us  
and heal our land we pray.  
Amen.*

#### **SUNDAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37**

And so the adventure begins! The root word for advent and adventure is the same, 'arrival, coming, about to happen'. The season of advent helps us prepare for the exciting arrival of Jesus into the world at Christmas. Our readings today also remind us to be watchful and alert for Jesus' return. We can't use a calendar to count down for that awesome event as only God knows the timing but we must be prepared for it to happen.

