

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

10TH JANUARY 2021

Welcome to Sunday Communion at St Swithun's Church at 9.45am, wear your warm clothes and a face mask. It's 10am if you're joining in via Facebook or you can catch it any time later on the parish website. We welcome Joan Ridgway as preacher this morning, she is on placement in the Benefice as part of her Reader training.

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

Led by Paul, this oasis of stillness has resumed on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am on Facebook and is also posted on the Parish website.

PCC MEETING – WEDNESDAY 13TH JANUARY

The business of the church carries on regardless of Covid and will be meeting on Wednesday via Zoom. If you have any items you feel should be discussed please email Rosanne our secretary northcreedy@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES AND THE NEW LOCKDOWN

Bishop Robert has urged all church communities to avoid gathering and talking before and after services, either inside or outside of the building. Can we all work hard to ensure that on arrival we go straight to our seats and at the close of worship, leave promptly and not linger outside talking. I am aware how hard this, but given the virulence of the new variant we have to take care of each other. Thank you for your understanding – Paul.

PAUL'S LEAVING TIMETABLE

Due to the lockdown and the likely timescale for the relaxation of it I have arranged with the Archdeacon of Bath and Wells to postpone my move to Somerset until after Easter. That means Tracey and I get to celebrate Easter with you all here in Sandford parish. I am due to take February off as back-dated holiday which I will still do and then return to duties in March and for the Easter season – Paul.

CREDITON FOOD BANK – OVERVIEW OF 2020

The total number of people fed and helped in 2020 was 4962 which was 2.8 times the number in 2019. Over half of that number were children so a lot of families were helped. A significant minority (7 separate individuals/families) needed help for 40 weeks in the year. It was great to see Chris Parsons, who co-ordinates the Foodbank, receive a Citizen of the Year award this year from the Rotary Club, a well deserved acknowledgement. Needs this week are **coffee and jam**.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Remember Cath Tatlock and family on Tuesday as it is Ralph's funeral. Continue to remember those who have been recently bereaved, including those through Covid.
- In your prayers, and in any practical ways you can think of, remember frontline NHS staff and other key workers eg those involved with food production and distribution.
- As you follow world news you can't help but notice a growing insularity among nations, a quickness to judge and blame others during the pandemic. And how marked are divisions within countries, as evidenced with the shocking scenes from Washington this week. Pray for righteousness and compassion to triumph.
- Finally pray for children and students as so many of them have had to return to home schooling. Pray for parents and families as so many feel as if they're trying to keep far too many plates spinning.

SUNDAY'S READINGS – Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Neighbourhood Prayer Network is an organisation which aims to get someone praying and caring for their neighbours in every street in the country. To start 2021 they asked members and guests to submit a short video of their Prayer for 2021. I have just watched the Archbishop

of York, Stephen Cottrell's prayer video in which he talks about 2 vaccines. Whilst being thankful for the new Covid vaccines he also suggested we, the whole world, also need a vaccine of hope. He suggests as we have been sharply aware this year of our interdependence with each other and our environment we need to find a different way of inhabiting the world. One family inhabiting one world. 'We pray for an end to this pandemic across the world and we pray that through the good things that we see and receive in Jesus Christ you will give us a new way of living together in love

and peace.'