

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

17TH JANUARY 2021

Welcome to our Sunday service, back on line, at 10am. Paul will be in St Swithun's Church but the rest of us in the warmth, comfort and safety of our homes. Our thanks to Paul and all the other ministers who have successfully found ways of keeping their churches and our faith alive and hope-filled.

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

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

SNOWDROPS - TO MAKE YOU SMILE

Of course the seasons know nothing of a pandemic and keep to their regular timetable. So it is lovely to be able to report the first snowdrops in the churchyard under the notice board opposite Fanny's Lane.

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. My last service will be on April 11th - Paul.

BEACON CHURCH

At our PCC meeting on Wednesday Mike Davis, our rep from Beacon had most encouraging news to report. The repairs to the roof are complete with new insulation and stainless steel

guttering. The stainless steel frames for the windows have been fitted and wait only for the glass. Planning permission for the new kitchen and toilet have been approved by Sandford Parish Council and work on that will soon begin. Well done New Buildings team who have not let the restrictions of a lockdown get in their way!

CREDITON FOOD BANK

Please do not leave any donations in the boxes in the porch for the time being. There are designated boxes by the tills at both Tesco and Morrison's or you could make a cash donation. **Crediton Foodbank, sort code 40/20/30 and a/c no. 12600641.** Thank you for caring for those who are in the difficult position of needing to use the Food Bank.

LA CAIXA FOUNDATION - HALLELUJAH CHORUS

La Caixa Foundation is a choir of Spanish and Portuguese professional and amateur musicians. They posted their Christmas performance of Handel's Hallelujah chorus from the gothic Basilica of St Mary of the Sea in Barcelona on youtube. It is an amazing hybrid digital project using live and recorded shots from their virtual choir who cleverly appear like holograms on the walls and ceiling. It is a few minutes of awe and wonder which will cause your spirits to soar. Do catch it!

SUNDAY'S

READINGS - 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Revelation 5:1-10 and John 1:43-51

Every one of us has been given just our lifetime to travel a little deeper into the mystery that is God. And we who are privileged to have met Jesus are the ones tasked with spreading the good news of who the true God is, as revealed in Jesus Christ. Today's readings help us see we are the ones in our generation to help share what God has showed us.

Dear Father God, we come to you with so many needs right now, needs in our own lives, our family and community and the great big needs of the world. Above all we have a great need for Christ. Thank you that in Jesus we have a great Christ who can meet all our needs. Amen

