

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

7TH FEBRUARY 2021

There is no service from St Swithun's through February but during this month why not join another church – here or anywhere around the world. This is your chance to church-surf from the comfort of your armchair! You can travel just up the road and follow CreditonParishChurch on facebook, join Exeter Cathedral or even leave the county. If you would like to email me a particularly good site, I can share that with others too.

START THE WEEK WITH OPEN CHURCH

On Mondays the church will be open from 10.30am -11.30am through the rest of the lockdown. Come along for a quiet moment, private prayer or just somewhere different to sit and be.

PAUL AND TRACEY

Paul and Tracey are having a break in February using up last year's untaken holiday to sort the house, get ready for their move in April and have a bit of a rest. We hope it will be a time of restful refreshment for them. If you need to talk to anyone, Linda (07940 566360) or Chris (01363 772823) our church wardens are always available or do contact Revd Matthew Tregenza our Rector in Crediton (01363 894038).

LENT COURSE – LENT LEARNING FROM COVID

Lent begins in just over a week, Shrove Tuesday (pancakes) is Tuesday 16th February.

Jon Curtis, the Diocesan Lay discipleship manager, has put together a Lent course based on the pandemic stories of 5 people from across Devon. One of the aims is to encourage each of us to tell our own stories and reflect on where our faith fits into the experience of the past 12 months. Holy Cross are running 3 Zoom Lent groups using this material with a choice of meeting in the morning, afternoon or evening. Anne Jerman is liaising this so if you wish to join a group email me with your preferred time of day and I will forward it to Anne.

BRENDA SAVAGE

A much loved resident of Sandford (she lived in Park House), Brenda died on 26th January in Kenwyn aged 95. Being an integral part of the St. Swithun's family meant a great deal to her, indeed I took over from Brenda as Church Warden and would go to her for advice. In her long life she was also a Home Economics teacher and Mayor of Okehampton. She asked that all donations in her memory go to St. Swithun's Church; to make a donation please contact Leroy Funerals, 94/5 High Street, Crediton. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

PRAYERS

- Remember to be thankful for people like postmen, refuse and recycling collectors, bus drivers, delivery drivers and shop staff. They have cheerfully continued to provide a vital service throughout the pandemic. We live in a culture where a degree, money and looks are often the passport to fame and success but these are the people we have learned to value.
- Remember those who live in fear, fearful and trapped in an abusive relationship; interned in a 'vocational and educational training centre' in Xinjiang province in China; afraid of what the army might do next in Myanmar. Pray for them to be aware of the presence and peace of God. Be thankful of all the freedoms we have and sometimes take for granted.

SUNDAY'S READINGS: Proverbs 8:1, 22-31; Psalm 104:24-35; Colossians 1:15-20; John 1:1-14

These readings point to aspects of God's nature that we can easily overlook. Wisdom, an attribute of God, is here described in Proverbs in the feminine form. She is beautiful, happy and excited by the joy of creation. Then in John we read that God is Word and existed before everything. Word and Wisdom walk hand in hand. There are so many tantalising expressions of God in the Bible, let's be willing to open our minds and explore them.