

# THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

14<sup>TH</sup> 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.

## LENT COURSES

We have a choice of three this year. On Tuesday mornings or Wednesday afternoons there is one entitled Caring for Creation; on Tuesday afternoons the course is God's Story, Our Story, reflecting on how we live out our faith; on Thursday evenings the course is Spiritual Technologies and looks at how we encounter God through the natural world, our senses and art. All are on Zoom and last for 5 weeks. **Please email Ann Jerman by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> if you wish to take part.**  
[jerman@12blagdon.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:jerman@12blagdon.eclipse.co.uk)

## LENT

Shrove Tuesday is this week so pancakes for tea! The tradition dates back to when Christians finished up all their rich food then as the 40 days of Lent, beginning the next day and lasting until Easter was a time when they lived a simpler life in every way. This year Ash Wednesday services (which include being symbolically marked with an ash cross as the beautiful words 'Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ,' are said,) won't actually happen. Nevertheless you can still mark the period of Lent by choosing to give up something like chocolate or facebook and spend time 'spiritually decluttering' as Matthew suggested in his article Rector's Notes in the Holy Cross magazine.

## PARISH MAGAZINE

Copies of the Holy Cross magazine are in the porch at St Swithun's. Please help yourself.

## CRASH BANG WALLOP!

On Wednesday a car coming out of Fanny's Lane crashed into the church wall causing damage to the wall and the gates and railings. Thank goodness the driver, though shocked, was unhurt.

## PRAYERS

- This week is half term so a break from lockdown schooling for children, parents and teaching staff alike. Pray for them all that they are able to safely get out and do different things that are a lift to their spirits and refreshment to their souls. Pray too for all youth workers who support and work with our young people.
- Pray for all those leading and in authority – in the government and its departments, in the finance and business world, in health and social care, in justice and policing, in every area. How easy but unhelpful it is to snipe from the sidelines, how effective it is to pray.
- This week in particular remember those who have not had money to turn up the heating, who are living on the breadline in every way. Let God nudge you as to how you can help.

## SUNDAY'S READINGS: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 and Mark 9:2-9

There are words and concepts in the bible I can't really explain but am drawn to and find tantalising. These readings are all about the glory of God. Glory is one of those words – what does it even mean? In my dictionary there were seventeen words/phrases to describe it (!) and quite a lot were to do with light. Light was the first thing God spoke into being so I'm starting there.

## Covid Winter Grant Scheme -

*Just in case you know of anyone in the Parish who may have a need. - Malcolm Vallance (Sandford Parish Clerk)*

Good Morning,

I am writing to you to let you know of a fund provided to us by Devon County Council to distribute to the whole of Devon for those in need. There is a timeframe on which we can share this money therefore we are asking for your

help in sharing this information to the residents within your area. I have included some information on the scheme below but also attached some premade social media posts / images altered to represent your area, they can be used on your websites, newsletters, social media pages etc.

The DWP have provided a significant fund to County Councils and Unitary Authorities across England under the Scheme 'COVID Winter Grant Scheme'. The aim is to support vulnerable households with the cost of fuel or food due to the continuing hardships caused by Covid-19.

Citizens Advice Devon are working on behalf of Devon County Council to distribute this fund to Devon residents in need. It will be prioritised for those for whom a payment will help mitigate the risk of self-disconnection and can include working families, single-household families, older people – anyone who is in need of fuel support so long as they are eligible.

We will be able to provide vouchers, top up smart meters online or even make payments to online fuel accounts. We can offer vouchers to the value of £28 or £80 depending on the clients circumstance.

The fund itself will not be available for long as the scheme finishes on March 31st so we need your help to spread the word.

**We do not want to advertise the eligibility factors** as if they are not eligible then we may be able to help the client in another way, we do not want anyone turned away if they do not believe they fit the criteria.

Eligibility

To be eligible for support under the scheme:

- (a) They must have been impacted financially, due to Covid-19, and in need of assistance fuel.
- (b) Ideally, we would like them to fill in an Income & Expenditure planner and / or a benefits check, to support them in understanding and addressing underlying need. Whether or not they agree does not affect them receiving vouchers.
- (c) They must be a Devon resident. Once the above eligibility has been confirmed please place the client into our Covid Winter Scheme work queue via Casebook system. Further eligibility checks will then be completed by our advisors

Thank You

Jessica Park

Jessica Park

Digital PA | Media & Comms

Citizens Advice East Devon

Mob: 07468 586 111

Teams: 01404 519 219

[www.citizensadviceeastdevon.org](http://www.citizensadviceeastdevon.org)