

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

18TH APRIL 2021

Welcome to our Sunday Communion at 9.30am at St Swithun's Church, Sandford and a particular welcome to Revd Brian Shillingford who will take the service.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – SUNDAY 18TH

The APCM will be held today at midday on Zoom. A really big thank you to our retiring Parish Secretary Rosanne who has prepared the papers and agenda for the last time. She has been a knowledgeable and reliable rock through vacancies and with priests in post so thank you so much from us all Rosanne.

CHURCH WARDENS – THANK YOU

Thank you too to Linda and Chris who managed the organisation of Paul and Tracey's final service, with the added complications of Covid restrictions, very smoothly. We appreciate all your hard work.

DEAR FRIENDS,

A very big 'thank you' to all of you who so kindly contributed to our leaving fund. We are overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity and we will miss you all greatly. It has been a privilege to live and serve amongst such a special group of people. Thank you once again and God bless you all in the days ahead. Love Paul & Tracey x

(Paul and Tracey were presented with a David Austin rose called 'St Swithun', a clock similar to our church one, a print of Sandford and a handsome cheque with which they plan to buy a garden table and chairs once they have moved into the Martock vicarage.)

PLANT SALE – SATURDAY MORNING 1ST MAY IN THE CHURCHYARD

If you have surplus plants and seedlings and would like to donate them to church funds ... if you have bare patches in your garden and need some plants and want to make a donation to church funds ... then provisionally keep the date free. If the weather is fine we will have a plant sale in the churchyard. We will also offer refreshments but with an eye on the environment and covid restrictions, it would help if you would bring your own keep-cup or mug to drink from. Fingers crossed for a fine sunny morning!

SOFT PLASTICS – HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT

We have all got very used to reusing and recycling to save landfill and in fact as a county Devon has a good record. At the moment it doesn't take soft plastics but Tesco does. If you are unable to take your soft plastic to Tesco yourself we will help. If you can place it in the black labelled dustbin to the right of the main doors, we will take it to Tesco. If that's not easy, give me a ring (Jean 777448) and I can collect it from your home. **Soft plastics includes : bread bags, cling film, crisp packets, wrappers of multipacks, salad bags, fruit and veg packaging. It also includes pet food pouches and baby food pouches but please ensure they are rinsed out and clean.**

CREDITON FOODBANK

The Foodbank boxes are in the church porch for anyone wishing to donate. The items really needed right now are: **UHT milk (blue and green), tinned fruit (peaches, pineapple or mandarins) and jars of pasta sauce.** If you want to make a cash donation, which goes towards buying fresh produce to supplement the food parcels the details are: Crediton Foodbank, sort code 40/20/30 and a/c no. 12600641.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Pray for ourselves at Beacon, St Mary's and St Swithun's as we step into the future. Pray for the various priests who will take our services and pray too for our family services starting up on the first Sunday of every month.
- As children return to school for the summer term pray for our school here in Sandford, and for primary and secondary schools as well as colleges and universities that they can resume

unmasked, face to face teaching as soon as possible. Pray too for all the extra activities like after school clubs, drama, music etc which enrich children's lives. Remember the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers which resume this term as well as local junior sports.

- Environmental issues – there are lots of little ways we can, and many do, help the environment . But pray for world leaders whose countries are major polluters that they have the courage to make big decisions and that big business supports them.

SUNDAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24: 36-end

In the Luke account of Jesus first appearing to the disciples after his death he first calms their fears (understandable!) and then the focus of his conversation is to tell people they can be forgiven in the name of the risen Christ. Of all the things he could have talked about after his brief encounter from life beyond death, his focus was repentance and forgiveness. Do we take regular repentance as seriously as Jesus clearly did or do we think it's just for 'heavyweight' sins that we haven't committed?