

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

25TH APRIL 2021

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

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. And a bit retro here – but cash only.

COBBLES

A huge thank you to the dedicated team who have been spending Tuesday mornings on their knees scraping and clearing the cobbled paths to reveal the layout of the original cobbles with a view to redesigning parts of the path to make it safer. Do feel free to join us!

TOWER LOUVRES

The louvres at the top of the church tower covering the four windows needed repairing as they were deteriorating and where they had been patched with soft wood, in danger of falling out. Jim and Chris have brought the rotten wood down and it is stacked next to the shed. If anyone has a wood burner and wants to take it away, please help yourself. Adrian Gill has sourced some oak and is making the new frames and louvres. In fact he has already made and replaced the south window, a beautifully crafted piece of work, thank you Adrian.

ARCHWAY THROUGH TO THE NEW CHURCHYARD

Andy Turner has done a super job replacing a rotten lintel on the archway with a lovely piece of weathered oak and making good the stonework. It is a joy to see a job well done! That piece of wood is also by the shed, free to a warm fire.

SOFT PLASTICS – HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT

Wow! What an environmentally conscious group we are. In just one week the black dustbin was almost full and I took the soft plastic to the container at 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 or green), pasta and tins of rice pudding.** 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 all in positions of leadership here and around the world that they use their influence for the good of the people they should be caring for.
- Continue to pray for and support all in local business, including the self employed. Thank those who serve you, encourage those whose work supports you.
- Pray for those in poor health or whose conditions have had to take a back seat during the covid crisis that they are attended to and on the road to recovery.

SUNDAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Today's Psalm 23 'The Lord is my shepherd' is probably the most well known of the 150 psalms. The gospel reading from John is also quite familiar where Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd. These images had immediate impact in biblical times where everyone was close enough to rural life to understand the implications. And here in mid Devon we too see sheep and lambs in the fields so can understand a little of what sheep need to be properly cared for. About 80% of the UK now lives in towns or cities and many only know about sheep or shepherds from what they see on the

television. Even so, to 'be shepherded' has for all of us the sense of someone looking after us, someone walking beside us through the storms of life with an arm around our shoulders. Such a comforting thought!