

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

25TH JULY 2021

There is an easing of Covid restrictions in church, please see separate sheet for details.

Welcome to our Holy Communion service at St Swithun's Church, Sandford at 9.30am.

BEACON CHURCH – SUNDAY 1ST AUGUST AT 8.30AM

Weather permitting there will be another outdoors Holy Communion service at Beacon Church. Contact Mike Davis on 01363 84382 to confirm.

FAMILY CHURCH - SUNDAY 1ST AUGUST AT 10AM

St Swithun's is delighted to welcome the Archdeacon Andrew Beane to Family Church. Come and be encouraged as you hear other people's stories on their journey of faith.

ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH – SUNDAYS 8TH, 15TH, 22ND, AND 29TH IN AUGUST

Holy Communion services at 9.30am throughout August.

WEDNESDAYS – OPEN CHURCH

St Swithun's will be open on Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm for anyone who wishes to pop in.

SANDFORD PARISH CELEBRATION WALK AND CREAM TEA – SUNDAY 1ST AUGUST

A walk to Swannaton Farm and a cream tea on arrival courtesy of Jim and Karen Stephens to celebrate all that the community has done in 'Pulling Together' through the lockdowns. There will be lifts for anyone needing them, just sign the sheet in the Community Shop. Or meet in the Parish Hall carpark at 2pm for a guided walk there, it is approximately two and a half miles. If you can offer a raffle prize of any description, please let Margaret Phillips know, 775185. If you can offer scones, contact Karen on 774835. There will be musical entertainment by the Dartmoor Pixie Band. Money raised will be split between the Sandford Play Park and Devon Air Ambulance.

PCC MEETING – TUESDAY 10TH AUGUST AT 7.30PM

The PCC will meet in the Under gallery at St Swithun's, if you have any items you want included, please email the secretary Naomi Harris naomicjharris@gmail.com.

BOUNTY TABLE ON SUNDAYS

The bounty table is in the under gallery and an incredible pot pourri of salads, plants and preserves turn up each week. It is **cash only** so please place your donation in the pot provided. The PCC have decided to again support **Water Aid** via the Bounty Table so please continue to bring goods and donate generously. Thank you to Bert and Margaret who organise it.

CREDITON FOODBANK

This week think of items families might be glad of during long, hot school holidays. Thank you to all who regularly support the Foodbank. 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.

THANK YOU!

There has been a lot of extra work involved in managing church services during Covid so a big thank you to our Church Wardens Linda and Chris for all they do. Thank you too to Jim who quietly carries out a huge amount of maintenance behind the scenes. And thank you as well to Stephen who has done all sorts of technical research to take us into the future.

POSTCARDS FOR MAF

Pamela collects postcards for the charity MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) which flies in to difficult to access places with medical goods and personnel particularly during emergencies. If you

have any postcards, new or used, do bring them to church or drop them off at Hope Cottage.

PASTORAL CARE TRAINING

In the autumn, the Diocese is offering training and advice for pastoral and bereavement visitors. As a church family we have covered this important aspect of our life in an ad hoc way but are aware we need to develop it and grow. Please think and pray through the summer if this is something you would like to be involved in.

GIVING AS A CHURCH

While Paul was still with us, he asked the PCC to consider following the example of other churches and adopt a planned charitable giving policy. We have discussed this as a PCC a few times now and Matthew suggested the discussion needs to be had with the wider church too. Here is the item from the last PCC meeting in June, please give it some thought and feed your ideas back to anyone on the PCC.

This item had been put on the agenda by the previous vicar Paul Fillery as he was concerned that St Swithun's had no planned charitable giving policy.

Linda reminded us (full details in the previous minutes) how Holy Cross supported 5 charities on a regular monthly basis, aiming to give 5% of their gross income and increasing it if possible each year.

Matthew's thoughts were that there were always church building and maintenance projects which were often expensive but it was important to be, and be seen to be, giving and generous as a church. To maybe pick three Christian charities, one international, one national and one local to support and rotate them every three years. Most churches these days had a planned charitable giving policy.

Angela reported that Beacon expected to give away 10% a year, largely collected through Christmas events and the Harvest auction of produce. Two different charities were decided collectively by the congregation beforehand.

In the following discussion widely differing points were again made as in previous PCC meetings:-

- people already gave privately*
 - if someone gave money to the church they expected that money to be used on behalf of the church*
 - the mission of the church was not just to look after itself but to give and give away to support and help others*
 - the charities being supported that year by a church could be displayed on the notice board so anyone giving knew where their money was going*
 - without a planned charitable giving policy in place St Swithun's hadn't supported any charity in 2020, just when charities needed it most because of the pandemic.*
- MT suggested that this needs a wider consultation as there was not a history of regular monthly giving to charities at St Swithun's.*

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

The Church of England is asking each church community to 'come and join in the conversation about gender identity, relationships, sexuality and faith'. Above all it is asking people to listen to each other. The Diocese is running some sessions in the autumn called Living in Love and Faith for us all to take part. Please see the two attachments.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Pray for the wedding of John and Abbie at St Swithun's on Monday and their future married life together.
- As individuals, businesses and nations decide how step out of Covid restrictions, pray that we do move forward and do so safely. As Chris reminded us on Sunday, we each have a responsibility for ourselves and for others and need to exercise respect.
- Pray for those who feel weary and worn out, those who feel hopeless and helpless, those who are ill and those who live with them and care about them. Pray that they will be aware of God walking right beside them.