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THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

5th September 2021

Welcome back after the summer break!

Join us for Holy Communion at Beacon Church, New Buildings at 8.30am.

These monthly services are always special. And well done Angela and the team for pushing on with the Beacon renovation works for kitchen and toilet.

Alternatively come along to Family Church at St Swithun's Church,

Sandford at 10am where the theme is starting new things and there will be a special blessing of children's new school backpacks at the end.

Both St Swithun's and St Mary's Churches are now open daily. Thank you to Andrew who has once again agreed to shut St Swithun's each evening.

-- COMMUNITY NOTICES --

Bounty Table on Sundays

The bounty table, supporting Water Aid, is in the under gallery and a wide ranging supply of salads, plants and preserves turn up each week. Remember it is **cash only**. Thank you to Bert and Margaret who organise it.

Crediton Foodbank

The shelves are looking pretty healthy after a good summer but gaps include sugar, green UHT milk and squash. Thanks to Keith who takes our donations into Crediton every Tuesday. Please note Crediton Foodbank has now received charity status so you can gift aid any money donations. There are some paper copies of the gift aid forms at the back of church so please help yourself.

Sandford Congregational Church

Sadly, Marion Nosworthy has called it a day and announced that the Church will be permanently closed. With Mandy and Marilyn she organised monthly lunches and film afternoons and the wonderful Christmas Tree festival as well as occasional church services. The people of Sandford will miss her cooking and the various events. At this stage there are no plans for the future of the church or the church hall.

Pastoral Care Training

As a church we have covered this important aspect of our life in an ad hoc way but are aware we need to develop it to grow. The Exeter Diocese's Mission and Ministry team are offering basic pastoral training over 4 evenings in October via Zoom. More training in listening and bereavement visiting will follow. To grow as a church it is essential we are prepared so do go on the Diocesan website, have a look and sign up.

In your Prayers

- Pray for schools, colleges and FE institutions as they start back in September. After a rocky eighteen months, pray for children, students and all staff that they can resume work safely and happily.
- As individuals, businesses and nations decide how to step out of Covid restrictions, pray that we do move forward and do so safely. Continue to support local businesses and pray that they flourish.
- Pray for the country of Afghanistan, for the people who live there and the refugees who have left. Pray that other countries are wise in their dealings with the new regime as well as enabling those who fled to build new lives.
- And whatever has gone on in your life over the last year, bad as well as good, you do have reasons to be thankful. Take time to 'count a blessing' or two each day and thank God that he has never left you on your own, you are always precious to him.



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