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THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

7th November 2021

Welcome to Holy Communion at Beacon Church, New Buildings at 8.30am.

Then at St Swithun's Church, Sandford at 10am we have Family Church when we will be exploring what it takes to be a saint. We are delighted to welcome back James on the keyboard and Alison with her sax as we are now able to sing in church.

Sunday's Readings - Hebrews 12:1-2; Matthew 5:3-10.

A friend was taking a local service recently and looking over the small and elderly congregation she gently challenged them, 'Where are your children? Where are your grandchildren? Who will be 'the church' here in a few years time?' I mention this because these Family Church services are aimed at families - children, parents and grandparents. Are you praying for the families near you that they would have hearts and minds to turn to God? Have you invited a friend along who may be tentatively exploring faith? Please pray for the Family Church services. Remember, we each of us have a responsibility for the next generation of church.

-- COMMUNITY NOTICES --

Bounty Table on Sundays

Those of us with productive gardens still have a few items to bring for the bounty table and there are always preserves on offer. Please continue to support it, remember it is cash only and proceeds go to Water Aid.

Crediton Community Food Bank

Needs this week are **toilet rolls and cleaning stuff - surface cleaners, washing up liquid, toilet cleaners etc.** The food bank would also welcome **empty egg boxes (6s).**

Holy Cross Christmas Tree Festival 2nd - 5th December

We have booked a tree for this year's event and Margaret, our resident knitter has offered small knitted Christmas decorations that she has made over the years. If you have any knitted, crocheted or sewn fabric Christmas tree decorations about 10cm (or 4 old inches) tall and would like to offer them too, that would be lovely.

Prayer Chain or Prayer Blast anyone?

I was first part of a prayer chain years ago when we all only had landline phones. When a family or situation needed prayer I would get a phone call with a request to pray and I would simply ring the next person in the chain, pass on the details and they would do the same and on down the chain. These days with WhatsApp and other social media we can all be blasted with the details and a request at the same time! Would you like to be part of a Sandford Prayer Chain - or Blast? You do not need to be a prayer 'expert' or have lots of time - you simply need to have a heart for those in trouble and a belief in a caring God who hears you. Do contact me if you are interested. (Jean - 07779 281509 or fran.hope@btinternet.com)

Diana Edworthy

Sadly Diana, one of Sandford's oldest born residents, died on Wednesday morning in a home in Exeter. She was active in village life, latterly in the running of the Parish Hall and she was a keen member of the Hand Bells group. I remember her telling me her father drove a double decker bus into Sandford to collect Westwood Babywear workers, brought them back at midday, waited for them to have lunch and then returned them at the end of the day. At the time there was still a footbridge across the road just before Forches Cross and he got under it with inches to spare. Bygone days!

-- AND FINALLY --

In your prayers

Pray for Diana Edworthy's family and friends in their loss.

Pray for Gary Robbins and Emma Waterworth getting married on Saturday 6th at St Mary's Church, Upton Hellions that they have a wonderful life together.

Remember not just to pray for the monthly Family Church events but for all

families in the parish, that parents will be equipped to provide caring, loving safe homes and that children will grow up kind, thankful, generous people.

Pray for all those we know who are unwell in body or mind that they would know comfort of body, peace of mind and freedom from fear.

Be thankful for the glorious autumn weather we have enjoyed this week, even the Northern Lights could be seen in the area some nights! Pray that decisions and promises being made at COP26 will be kept so that it remains a beautiful world.



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