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# THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

## 19th December 2021

**Welcome to our communion service at 9.30am on the 4th Sunday in Advent at St Swithun's Church, Sandford.**

The services for the rest of the Christmas period are as follows, but do note that even these may have to be amended as covid infection numbers rise. Please wear masks, use the hand sanitiser and be willing to socially distance.

**Tuesday 21st at 7pm - Carols in the Square** with Crediton Town Band, followed by the Mummers. Mulled wine and soup on sale at The Lamb.

**Christmas Eve - The Crib Service is cancelled** due to numbers involved and covid infection concerns.

**Christmas Eve Mass at 9.30pm** - at St Swithun's Church

**Christmas Day Communion** - 8.30am at Beacon Church, New Buildings

- 10am at St Swithun's Church

- 11.30am St Mary's Church, Upton Hellions

**Sunday 26th at 9.30am - Communion at Holy Cross Church, Crediton**

**Sunday 2nd January at 10am - Christingle Service** at St Swithun's

It is desperately disappointing that the new covid variant has scuppered so many Christmas plans, leaving some feeling vulnerable, anxious or lonely.

Whether you can actually get to a service or not, remember God is right there with you - in your home or wherever you are. He hears you when you talk to him and reassures you with his presence and peace. And both St Swithun's and St Mary's are open every single day so pop in any time.

**-- COMMUNITY NOTICES --**

**Revd Janet May**

It was announced last Sunday that Janet, who will join us in the New Year as the team vicar in Sandford and the other parishes in North Creedy East, will be licensed in St Swithun's on February 8th. She will live at the vicarage in Cheriton Fitzpaine.

### **Christmas charities and the church Christmas card**

Our chosen charities this Christmas are Hospiscare and The Children's Society. We will be collecting for them at Carols in the Square and the Christingle service but the collecting boxes are also in the back of church for you to make a donation when you sign the large church Christmas card or at any other time. All charities have seen a huge loss of income as they have not been able to fund raise in the usual way for a couple of years. However their work remains vital so please be generous!

### **Crediton Food Bank**

Due to the generosity of individuals, schools, churches and other organisations this month, the food Bank is full! Many thanks to those who so regularly make donations. They will inform us in the New Year when they are ready to receive contributions again.

### **Contactless Giving at St Swithun's**

On the old chest at the back of St Swithun's there is now a Payaz Contactless Giving machine so that you can easily donate to the work of the church at any time. Many thanks Stephen our treasurer for organising it all.

### **Baby Neo Gardner**

We are delighted to announce that Jamie and Elise had a little baby boy, Neo on Monday. All went well and the family are adjusting to an extra little one at home. Congratulations from us all.

## **-- AND FINALLY --**

### **A Christmas Prayer**

*We thank you our heavenly Father for the loveliness of the Christmas story:  
the child in the manger,  
the song of the angels,  
the homage of the shepherds,  
the tender love of Mary.  
But most of all we thank you for the meaning of the Christmas story: that you*

*loved the world so much that you gave your only Son that all might live through him.*

*All praise and thanks be yours, O God, for so great a love, so great a gift, so great a Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*



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