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THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

5th December 2021

Welcome on this first Sunday in December to Holy Communion at Beacon Church, New Buildings at 8.30am.

Then welcome to Family Church at St Swithun's Church, Sandford at 10am where we will be creating a Jesse Tree. This is another way of journeying through Advent and shows God's overarching story and love for us from the beginning of time. Each day a mobile is placed on the tree depicting an ancestor or story from Jesus' family tree, or a prophetic promise that foretells the coming of Jesus - Saviour, Messiah, King.

Family Church - review

Thank you to everyone who has supported Family Church over the last few months by helping, coming along and/or praying for us. Family Church is for children, parents or grandparents, for single households or large families, for those who come every week or those who attend from time to time. It is looking forward, investing in the future. The average age of those who come to Family Church is half the age of those who make up the congregation during the rest of the month. As we consider the way forward, we would really value your feedback, please speak to Laura or Jean.

-- COMMUNITY NOTICES --

PCC Meeting - Monday 6th December

The PCC will hold their last meeting this year in the Under Gallery at 7.30pm. We are so fortunate to have our hardworking church officers in the PCC, with our reps from Beacon and St Mary's as well as our three governors at Crediton,

thank you for all you do.

Christmas Tree Festival

This runs from the 2nd-5th December at Holy Cross Church with refreshments served in the Boniface Centre. Do look out for our St Swithun's tree where everything has been knitted by our legendary knitter Margaret and the garlands crocheted by teenager Freya with help from Sophie, Tilly and Eve. Thanks to Freya, Tilly and Eve for helping decorate the tree.

Prayer Chain

Thank you to those who have offered to be part of a Prayer Chain to regularly pray for families and situations in our parish. If you or someone you know would like prayer please either fill in a Prayer Request card and pop it in the box at the back of St Swithun's (the church is open every day) or contact me (email fran.hope@btinternet.com or tel 777448). Confidentiality is important so if you would rather not give names or details that's fine.

Margaret and Christmas

Margaret has again knitted Christmas tree angels as decorations for a tree, each containing a chocolate, please contact her if you would like some (775185), there are examples at the back of church. Although we haven't been able to fill and pack Christmas shoe boxes ourselves this year at St Swithun's, Margaret has continued to collect items throughout the year and is linked to an organisation in Plymouth which has just sent 313 Christmas shoe boxes full of gifts to Moldova. Thank you to those who contributed and well done Margaret.

Christmas Orders

Last call for Jill's beautiful home made evergreen Christmas wreaths. These will be £14 which she is donating to Water Aid. (phone Jill on 774292 or email jill@ashridgefarm.co.uk)

FICM

Foundations In Christian Ministry, put on by the Exeter Diocese is a year of study (seven Saturdays) exploring lay ministry. This year there have been more applicants than ever which is great news as the local church each applicant attends will benefit hugely from their training. If you are interested, do talk to Laura or myself, we thoroughly enjoyed the year and it has of course led to Laura deciding to continue training. Or contact the vocations advisor Revd Hannah Mears hannah.mears@exeter.anglican.org

Crediton Community Food Bank

Needs this week are **fruit juice, tinned fruit and tinned potatoes**. The boxes are in the church porch and you can leave items at any point in the week, though they are generally collected on a Tuesday.

-- AND FINALLY --

Way back in the twelfth century, Bernard of Clairvaux who was the founder of the Cistercian order of monks, said that Christ comes to us in three different ways: firstly in Bethlehem at Christmas; secondly at the end of the age; and thirdly in the hearts and lives of believers every single day. Let's pray for all three of these comings this Advent.



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