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THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

12th December 2021

To really get you in the Christmas mood this weekend, do come along to Beacon Church, New Buildings on Saturday at 4pm for the Carol Service. The lit up, life-size Nativity scene will of course be on display outside. And thank you to Mike and Angela and all those involved with the ongoing refurbishments of Beacon Church.

Then on Sunday, welcome to Holy Communion at St Swithun's Church, Sandford at 9.30am. We are returning to mask wearing being mandatory and please use the hand gel too. Thank you.

Sunday's readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 146; Philippians 4:4--7 and Luke 3:7-18

With so much uncertainty over covid at the moment plus the build up to Christmas, the last verse in the reading from Philippians is just what we need. *'And God's peace, which transcends all understanding shall be yours. His peace will **garrison and mount guard** over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.'* Receive it!

-- COMMUNITY NOTICES --

Christmas decorations at St Swithun's - drop in and see them any time, the church is open every day!

Thank you to everyone who has helped prepare the church for Christmas this week. Unfortunately Sandford School had to cancel their Nativity on Friday so they didn't get to see it all.

* Firstly to Roger Lee for the Christmas Tree, thank you to you and Helen for this lovely gift, (and I even got to see some pics and vids of grandson Samuel!)

And thanks to Chris who erected and decorated the tree.

* Thanks to Graham who with Adrian's help has installed the shining star at the top of the church tower.

* Thanks to Charlotte, Jill, Elaine and Jean for the foliage garlands on the pillars and arrangements on the window sills. With the candles lit they will look most festive.

* Thanks to the cleaners Rosanne, Teresa, Elizabeth, Charlotte and Bridget who have vacuumed and polished to add to the sparkle.

* Finally, thanks to the craft group who meet at Ashridge Farm on Tuesday mornings and who designed and created the mobiles for the Jesse Tree.

Christmas charities and the church Christmas card

The PCC have chosen The Children's Society (which supports children and young people in the UK threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect) and Hospiscare as our charities this year. The donations at Carols in the Square, the Crib service and the Christingle service will all go towards them. And thank you to children Jess, Aya and Zara for making the large Christmas card at the back of church. Instead of giving cards to your friends at St Swithun's, we are suggesting that you write your good wishes in the card and make a donation towards these charities. Thank you.

Ronald's Christmas puddings

From his yummy Christmas puddings, Ronald has raised the amazing amount of £440 (which with gift aid will be nearer £550) to give to Crediton Food Bank. That is a huge effort, very well done Ronald.

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. Our treasurer Stephen has had to surmount a number of hurdles for it to fully function in church but all is now working and it can even sort gift aid too! Many thanks Stephen.

Dowrich - A Home for all Seasons

Michael Lee has continued his memoir writing and has produced a second book full of stories woven around Dowrich and his family's lives there. He is making a donation of £5 from every copy sold locally towards church funds. A gift for a perfect winter read curled up by the fire!

-- AND FINALLY --

In your prayers:

- * Remember friends and neighbours who are unwell, particularly those who have been waiting a while for diagnosis, appointments and treatment.
- * As the new omicron variant affects people, pray for those who are unwell with any form of covid. Pray too for those who are really fearful and despondent about it all. Pray that they would receive the comfort that Jesus offers.
- * Be thankful for all those who locally and further afield volunteer their time and service in countless ways. Give thanks for the wonderful generosity of people with their time, money and talents.



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