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THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

16th January 2022

Welcome to Holy Communion at St Swithun's Church, Sandford at 9.30am where the theme appropriately for a new year is about new life. This is particularly symbolised through marriage and we have the wonderful story of Jesus' first miracle when he turns water into wine at a wedding.

Sunday's readings:- Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and John 2:1-11

Friday 21st - Reflective Morning Prayer at 10.30 at St Swithun's

Mid week prayer is starting up again so do join us for half an hour of calm and quiet - restoration for the soul!

-- COMMUNITY NOTICES --

Thank you

A big thank you to the behind-the-scenes people who quietly do all sorts of things to keep our churches open, safe and welcoming. Who sweep paths and tidy graves, who dust and polish and keep floral arrangements fresh, who recycle the soft plastic or take items to the Food Bank. And thank you to everyone who pops in on a neighbour or goes that extra step for someone they barely know. You are all the heart of what makes church a caring community.

Our Archdeacon of Exeter, Andrew Beane, said something similar on Radio Devon last week. 'Thank you to the amazing people who love, care for and maintain our churches. Those who keep the doors open ensuring that prayers continue to be said and God's love continues to be shared. Parish Churches are unquiet treasures in the heart of every community.'

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - beginning Thursday 20th

I imagine the concept of Christian Unity a bit like a stained glass window. All the different streams of Christian expression (and we have Anglican, Methodist, Congregational, Catholic and Quaker all within a few miles of us) when working together don't lose their individual identities but make God's kingdom a place of variety and colour, of respect and love.

Connect Quiz - Saturday 22nd at 7pm

Connect is a wonderful local charity serving and supporting secondary schools and their communities across mid and west Devon. This is a Zoom Quiz and auction fundraiser for teams of up to 6 people (plus children). Please email lydiam@connectdevon.org to register.

Sandford Wassail - Saturday 22nd at 6.30pm in the Square

... or if you want something more lively that evening, wear wellies, grab a torch and meet in the Square where after some entertainment Barney will lead you to a chosen orchard for the noisy wassailing ceremony. It will be so good (post-lockdowns) to see the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers taking part during the evening.

-- AND FINALLY --

In your prayers

- * Pray that those who are ill or sick in body or mind know and feel God's presence and comfort.
- * Pray for local businesses that they thrive and flourish. Pray too for those looking for work that they find the opening to become all that they were created to be.
- * Pray for those who live in countries that are in chaos and who have no means of supporting and feeding their families. Pray for the agencies endeavouring to get aid and support where it is most needed.
- * Finally pray for a marriage this week, maybe your own, maybe another. Be thankful and ask God to bless the relationship that love and respect deepen and grow and that forgiveness and kindness are the bedrock.



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