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# THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

**2nd January 2022**

**Happy New Year!**

**Welcome to our first Communion service of the new year at Beacon Church, New Buildings at 8.30am.**

**And welcome to Family Church at St Swithun's Church, Sandford at 10am which is a Christingle service.** As we turn off all other lights and light the candles on our Christingle oranges at the end of the service, it's a special and visual reminder of the fact that Jesus is the Light of the World. So do come and enjoy making your very own Christingle. An offering will be taken for our chosen Christmas charities Hospiscare and The Children's Society.

## **-- COMMUNITY NOTICES --**

### **Revd Janet May**

It has been announced 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.

### **Thank you**

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas services special. To those who rang bells, made music, read familiar readings, led heartfelt prayers, decorated inside or out or greeted you as you came along. Thank you too to all the visiting clergy and lay people who led our services. Be blessed all of you!

## **Water Aid gifts**

Your donations and goods for the bounty table during 2021 have raised (including gift aid) the wonderful sum of £963.60. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, especially Ronald, and to Bert and Margaret who have run the bounty table - with free and invaluable advice on any plants sold!

## **Holy Cross Church Choir, Crediton**

The church choir is recruiting and particularly looking for young choristers aged 8 and upwards. The choir has an excellent reputation and offers first class training. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Fridays. If your child likes singing and you want to know more, contact Jon Rawles, the director of music [creditondirectorofmusic@gmail.com](mailto:creditondirectorofmusic@gmail.com)

## **Faith in Later Life**

This is an inspiring blog I have found which some of us will relate to. If maybe you feel you no longer have the energy or ability you once had as a younger Christian, what is your purpose now? Is being on the sidelines all there is? Perhaps as a new year approaches this will help.

<https://faithinlaterlife.org/how-can-i-keep-serving/>

## **Baby Oscar Cheriton**

Rob and Millie are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Oscar John, born just before Christmas. Congratulations from us all. I remember chatting to Oscar's great-grandfather John Bickley in St Swithun's and he said, 'I was first brought into this church in a carry-cot and I've been coming ever since.' What a wonderful testimony.

## **In your prayers**

- \* Afghanistan - pray for the people there and pray that the aid being collected gets to the desperate folk who need it.
- \* As schools, nurseries and colleges return after the Christmas break, pray that education continues safely and without interruption for children this year.
- \* Continue to be thankful that we have the opportunity to get covid vaccines and to have access to a free health service to take care of us when we need them. Pray for all those who work within the health services.
- \* Pray for yourself (it's allowed!) that despite hearing relentlessly depressing news about national and international events, the environment etc you can keep your focus on God who loves you unconditionally and has equipped you to be the best every day.

## -- AND FINALLY --

A few days ago the world was saddened to hear of the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Much has been written about his work for peace in South Africa and his ongoing work for reconciliation. He said, *'In the end what matters is not how good we are but how good God is. Not how much we love Him but how much He loves us. And God loves us whoever we are, whatever we've done or failed to do, whatever we believe or can't.'* At heart he was a true man of God and a lover of people.



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