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THE PARISH POST

NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

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October 29th / November 5th 2023

Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter.

Sunday 29th October at 10.30am - Mission Community Communion service at St Peter's Church, Washford Pyne

Sunday 5th November at 8.30am - Communion service at Beacon Church, New Buildings

Sunday 5th at 9.30am - Communion service at St Swithun's Church, Sandford

Sunday 5th at 3.30pm - Church Lite. Introducing our shorter, informal service for families who want to enjoy God together.

Should you want different styles or times of services, the full rota for the North Creedy East Mission community is always pinned up in the church porch or can be found at the end of the monthly Hub Post.

Wednesdays - Coffee and Company from 10.30am to midday.

Fridays - Contemplative quiet time at 10.30am.

--- Diary Dates ---

Daytime Home Group - Tuesday 31st October at 2.30pm at Linda's.

PCC meeting - Wednesday 1st November at 7.30pm in the Under Gallery.

Open the Book Assembly at Sandford School - Monday 6th at 3pm

Evening Home Group - Wednesday 8th at 7.30pm at Jean's.

Remembrance Sunday service on the 12th at 10am at St Swithun's

- moving down to the Square at 10.45am for the civic Remembrance service.

--- Community news ---

Friends - If you went to the Harvest Supper you will have seen the new leaflets

on the tables. They are also at the back of St Swithun's and at Upton Hellions and Beacon too. The Friends of (the three) Sandford Churches exist to help support the buildings and fabric of the churches. Do consider becoming a Friend or leaving something in your will to them. Talk to Stephen or Jim for more information.

Home Groups - Discipleship Explored - Seven of us met on Wednesday evening and began the Home Group sessions, studying Philippians together with a short video and then discussion. The daytime group starts on Tuesday at Linda's. It is not too late if you wish to join in, please speak to Linda (Bennet Smith) or myself.

Facebook administrator - might that be you? Do you enjoy social media? Are you creative? Please speak to Janet if you would like to run our St Swithun's facebook page. Items to post would be sent to you, once or twice a week so it need not be a huge time commitment.

Thank you! - A shout out to some of the behind the scenes people who keep things ticking along at St Swithun's. To Andrew MM, Linda and Peter, Teresa and Jean for locking and unlocking the church. To Roy for putting out the green business rubbish bin and Colin for taking the soft plastic to recycle. To Chris who keeps the church clock on time. For Linda G who organises our monthly St Swithun's duty rotas, Rita the Under Gallery cleaning rota and Jean the Coffee and Company rota. We do appreciate what you do.

--- And finally when praying ---

Sometimes our own situations or world affairs seem so big and beyond our understanding and control that it's hard to know how to pray. I offer these two thoughts.

1. In the notes following our first Home Group session we were given a tool to help shape our prayers. ACTS.

A - Adoration, offering praise and worship to God, acknowledging who he is.

C - Confession, repenting for what we have done wrong and receiving forgiveness.

T - Thanksgiving, there are always things, big and little, to thank God for.

S - Supplication, bringing our requests to God, for others, for ourselves.

2. On Monday I went to Copplestone Methodist Church for a silent prayer vigil on the Israel/Gaza situation led by Revd Martin Greig. There were seven prayer stations around the church with different aspects of the conflict to pray into. Apart from the opening prayer, the only words spoken were the reading of these verses.

James 5:16-18 'The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years. Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield crops.'

Martin was reminding us not just of the power of prayer, but the power of the God to whom we pray.



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