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THE PARISH POST

NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

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December 10th/17th 2023

Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter.

Saturday 9th December at 4pm - Carol service at St Swithun's Church, Sandford, followed by festive refreshments. An offering will be taken for Children's Hospice SW

Sunday 10th December at 9.30am - Communion service at St Swithun's with Janet

Sunday 17th December at 9.30am - All age service at St Swithun's with Antonia

Sunday 17th December at 4pm - Carol service at Beacon Church, New Buildings

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, village coffee morning from 10.30am to midday.

Fridays - Contemplative quiet time for half an hour starting at 10.30am. During Advent we are following the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

--- Diary Dates ---

Christmas Tree festival at Crediton Parish Church 7th to 10th - do go along and see the St Swithun's tree which this year is showcasing our weekly Coffee and Company mornings! Thank you so much to Linda BS who took responsibility for decorating the tree, assisted by some creative Coffee and Company folk.

Wednesday 13th - Coffee and Company from 10.30am to midday. Come wearing your Christmas jumpers as there will be mince pies and a chance to sing your favourite Christmas carols.

Thursday 14th - School Carol service at St Swithun's at 10am.

Thursday 21st - Communion at Summerhayes at 10.30am. Janet would welcome anyone willing to come and sing carols with her and the residents.

Crib service - on Christmas Eve at 4pm at St Swithun's.

Christmas Mass - on Christmas Eve at 9pm at St Swithun's.

Christmas Day Communion services - 8.30am at Beacon Church, 9.30am at St Swithun's and 11.15am at St Mary's, Upton Hellions.

--- Community news ---

St Swithun's Christmas Card - From December there will be a large Christmas card at the back of church made by Zara. (Big thank you Zara!). Rather than giving cards to each other please sign the card and make a donation to FCN (Farm Community Network).

Tree Decorations - Margaret's knitted Christmas puds and angels are available for a minimum donation of £2. Moneys to go to the Churchyard Community Path Fund. Thank you Margaret.

St Swithun's Christmas Tree - Thank you Roger (Lee) for the lovely tree you have donated, it's the perfect shape and looks splendid at the front of church. Proper job!!

Being generous - I have seen over and over how generous people here are. At the family Christingle service last Sunday just under £100 was raised for the Children's Society. We are also collecting for FCN (Farm Community Network) and Children's Hospice SW over Christmas and again I know people will give. Not only with money but also with their time and their skills. So thank you all and know this, God blesses those who are generous and he says they will prosper.

Prayer Corner - There are so many places and people in the world whose lives are tragic right now. We have created a prayer area in St Swithun's where you can make a prayer or light a candle for them. God sees the concerns of our hearts and hears every prayer made on their behalf, including those of ordinary people like us. Keep caring.

--- And finally ---

This is a lovely Advent prayer by the spiritual writer Henri Nouen.

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your

kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say. 'Come Lord Jesus.'

Amen



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