



THE PARISH POST

NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

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March 31st / April 7th 2024

Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter

Easter services

Maundy Thursday at St Swithun's at 7pm - Jesus washed his disciples' feet as an act of service before the Last Supper, his final meal with them. To remember this lead into Easter, there will be foot washing, stripping the altar and a service of communion.

Good Friday - Walk of Witness in Crediton at 10am - Starting at St Boniface RC Church, members of all the churches will silently process through the town, carrying a huge cross, stopping at each church for a hymn and prayer. The walk finishes at CCC at the top of town followed by traditional refreshments.

Good Friday at St Swithun's at 2pm - A contemplative service remembering Jesus' last hours.

Easter Sunday - Beacon Church, New Buildings at 6.45am - Dawn Easter service with a fire to light the Easter candle and communion. Followed by Mike's bacon butties for breakfast.

Easter Sunday Communion at St Swithun's at 9.30am - A joyful celebration of Jesus' Resurrection.

(Remember the clocks go forward on Saturday 30th)

Sunday 7th April at St Swithun's at 9.30am - Communion, when Laura will join us as the preacher.

Sunday 7th April at St Swithun's at 3.30pm - Church Lite - a more informal way of doing church.

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

--- **Diary Dates** ---

Wednesdays from 10.30am to midday - Coffee and Company (and yummy homemade cake).

Fridays at 10.30am - Contemplative Time, an oasis of calm in a busy week.

Home groups - afternoon group at 2.30pm on Tuesdays at Linda's and evening group at 7.30pm on Wednesdays at Jean's.

Saturday 6th April - Coffee Morning from 10.30am to enjoy the Easter decorations. Simone will be running a **Bring and Buy stall**, so look out for something gorgeous to bring and be prepared to find something rather special to take home. Rita is running the **Cake Stall**, donations of cakes, preserves, pies etc very welcome. Margaret, the Raffle Queen, is back in her customary place at the **raffle stall**, raffle prizes welcomed. All proceeds for church funds.

Sunday 21st April - The APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) will be held at 11am after the service.

--- Community news ---

Saturday 30th April from 10am - The church will be being cleaned and decorated for Easter Day. If you have suitable flowers and foliage please bring them along. **If you wish to make a donation towards Easter Flowers in memory of a loved one, please speak to Jill.** Do come and join us if you like arranging flowers or polishing silver so that the church looks sparkling and ready for Easter morning.

Maintenance and Decorating - The redecorating of the church porch is almost finished and the porch will be in use again for Easter. Work will finish after Easter.

Repair works are being carried out by the new owners of the Congregational Church to strengthen their wall against the churchyard, which means (with all this rain) there is a certain amount of mud as well as a certain amount of inconvenience. Please be patient and be careful.

Thank you to Janet and Laura - for producing such lovely **seasonal service booklets**. We have so far used specific ones for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter. It has been a joy to use different prayers and responses. Thank you also for the material that you have chosen for our **Home Groups**. The Lent book 'Loving my Neighbour' has led to some really deep conversations.

MAF, postcards and stamps - Pamela TE continues to collect postcards and stamps for the charity MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) so please save them

and put them in the box at the back of church.

Open Gardens - Shobrooke Park is open to the public on the 6th April and 4th May (from 10am to 1pm) to wander through a magnificent array of spring shrubs such as camelias and magnolias. And the Secret Garden at the Bishop's Palace in Exeter is open for a spring walk on 14th and 28th April from 2pm to 4.30pm. We just need some sunshine to truly enjoy them!

--- And finally ---

We are an Easter people, as this weekend we celebrate that Jesus went through death and returned triumphantly to life. Here are two Easter prayers to carry with you.

Lord Jesus Christ, I rejoice and rejoice continually in Your glorious and triumphant victory over death. For Your victory is my victory. Help me to live by it, in it and for it. I am grateful to my depths - grateful forever. Amen (by Selwyn Hughes)

Lord, death could not hold You. And because of You, the resurrection, we too can live. Thank you that the grave is only a journey into the presence of God. You have removed the sting of death and empowered this thing called life. Now I will live in Your presence forever. Amen. (by Rebecca Barlow Jordan)



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