



# THE PARISH POST

NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

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## March 3rd/10th 2024

### Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter

**Sunday 3rd at 8.30am - Communion service at Beacon Church, New Buildings**

**Sunday 3rd at 9.30am - Communion service at St Swithun's Church, Sandford**

**Mothering Sunday 10th at 9.30am - Communion service at St Swithun's,** with posies for everyone who mothers, nurtures or cares for others, to take home.

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.

#### --- 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. If you would like to know about the Home Groups, or would like to belong to one, please talk to Janet or Linda or Jean. The aim is for us to grow closer to God, the whole church and each other. Or talk to someone in a group and let them answer your questions!

#### --- Community news ---

**Janet** - You will be pleased to hear that Janet is healing well but still has her foot in plaster and is learning patience on a new level! She thanks us for our cards and messages of good wishes and misses us all. She will return to work in time to take our Palm Sunday service.

**Spare laptop?** - Jim's elderly laptop that he uses for the church's Gift Aid and financial accounts is near the end of its life. Does anyone have a spare one that he could have please? Contact him - email [jimlongview22@talktalk.net](mailto:jimlongview22@talktalk.net) or phone 01363 774101.

**Churchyard Community Path update** - Chris reports that we have all the permissions in place to go ahead and are waiting for quotes from builders. Once we have an idea of costs we can start applying for grants and raising money for the work.

**Congregational Church wall repairs** - Work will begin on March 8th by the new owners of the Church to strengthen their wall and will involve a mini-digger being in our churchyard for some of the time. The disruption will be minor and last for about eight weeks.

**Electoral Roll Forms** - This is the time of year when Mandy, our electoral roll officer reviews the register. If you have joined us in the last few months, she may well approach you and invite you to fill in a form. If she misses you please pick up a form from the back of St Swithun's or phone 01363 772236 or email Mandy on [tietzemandy2@gmail.com](mailto:tietzemandy2@gmail.com). This applies whichever of the three churches you attend, Beacon, St Mary's or St Swithun's. If you are already on the register because you filled in a form previously then you need do nothing more. As well as giving you an opportunity to vote at the AGM or be on the PCC, signing a form is your way of saying 'I belong.'

**Israel/Gaza situation** - along with many world leaders, the Bishops have issued a statement calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the release of all the Israeli hostages. You can find their full statement on the website [churchofengland.org](http://churchofengland.org) The charity Friends of the Holy Land (which is a non-political Christian Charity whose mission is to secure a resilient and enduring Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan) are encouraging us to donate £40 (£1 for every day of Lent) to their Hope and Healing fund. This is because 80% of our Christian brothers and sisters have lost all their income due to the loss of tourism and desperately need support. Their website [friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://friendsoftheholylan.org.uk) gives details about how to donate.

**Surplus furniture?** - A retired professional Ukrainian couple from Mariupol are moving into an unfurnished flat in Crediton and would welcome offers of furniture. They have been given a dishwasher and fridge-freezer but if you have anything else that might be suitable please contact me (Jean 01363 777448) or Louise Doyle 07774 854293.

**--- And finally ---**

The first of our Home Group Lent studies (we are working through a great BRF

book called Loving my Neighbour) ended with the challenge: *Lent is the time to kindle our hearth in love and set ablaze our lanterns for we must be awake ...We must be a light to the darkness of the world.* Indeed in Philip Yancey's book Rumours he goes on to say that 'if our Christian walk doesn't have love with a social justice element, we miss the point entirely and are not living in love and truth'. This feels to me like a reality we can't airbrush away.



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