

THE PARISH POST

NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

Clergy: Revd. Janet May 01363 779363 janetmay69@gmail.com

April 28th & May 5th 2024

Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter

Sunday 28th at St Swithun's, Sandford at 9.30am - Holy Communion.

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

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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 ---

Saturday 27th at St Swithun's at 2pm - Wedding of Emily Blake and Mark Baker. We pray for all God's blessings on them and their blended family.

Monday 29th at the Boniface Centre at 7pm - An information evening on the Israel/Palestine situation entitled Justice, Peace and Reconciliation. Contributors bring updates from Jerusalem and a variety of perspectives.

Sunday 5th at Great Gutton at 1pm - Baptism of Simon Greenhalgh in the pool followed by a bring and share picnic lunch. Simon would love his friends to be there to support him. Many thanks to Suzi and family for facilitating this event.

Tuesday 7th May at 4pm for the PCC meeting - This will be in the Under Gallery. Please let Linda G have reports or items for AOB in plenty of time.

Saturday 11th May from 10.30am to 12 midday - Plant Sale in the churchyard (kind weather permitting) and coffee morning in the Under Gallery. Please let Jean or Anne Tucker know if you can help run the plant stall or make a cake for refreshments or help serve serve them - and keep those plants growing nicely, ready to contribute to the stall!

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 - The afternoon Home Group restarts on Tuesday 30th and the evening one restarts on Wednesday 8th. If you would like to join in, please talk to Jean or Linda BS or to find out what goes on - talk to anyone in a home group.

--- **Community news** ---

Sunday morning Thank Yous - to the sidespeople who meet and greet us on arrival on a Sunday; to those on vestry duty who prepare the altar and serve as eucharistic minister; to those who read the Bible lesson; to those who lead our intercessions and to those who provide refreshments afterwards. We are truly blessed that week in and week out so many people contribute to make our Sunday mornings such special, joyful times. And thank you too to Linda G for producing the rota.

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

I recently heard 'a church only has what its people give', and while that was still an annoying ear-worm I read a very clear breakdown of the Holy Cross church finances in their March magazine. In 2022 the total running costs of the church equated to £17 per participant per week. However in the same year, the average income received by each participant whether planned or via collections amounted to £8.90 weekly.

While still mulling over such a short fall, our daughter Emily was WFH in our kitchen. She is an administrator for a Baptist Trust which gives grants and loans to churches.

'Mum. A church in Leicestershire, a bit bigger than yours, congregation about 50 people, guess what their monthly income from giving is?'

Still mindful of the Holy Cross figures, I upped it a bit. '£2000?' I hazarded.

'£6000 - that averages to £30 a week per member!' This church was not in an affluent area and it planned to totally remodel the inside of the building so that it could better meet the needs of its community. The congregation were willing to give considerably more than their current offering to facilitate the remodelling.

I love the words we sometimes say to God as we prepare for communion,

'All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.'

But I've been thinking since, how seriously do I take those words and trust God with all I have? How serious am I in giving back to him from my income to invest in his kingdom and its work? £10 a week? £100 a month? God bless that Baptist Church in Leicestershire and may it get a grant from the Trust and grow in numbers, in joy and in seeing God's kingdom expand there.



Our mailing address is: pccsandford@gmail.com

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St Swithuns · St Swithuns Church · Church Street, Sandford · Crediton, Devon EX17 4ND · United Kingdom

