

THE PARISH POST

NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

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December 22nd & 29th 2024

Welcome to our newsletter

Sunday 22nd - Communion service at 9.30am for the last Sunday in Advent at St Swithun's Church, Sandford.

Christmas Eve - Crib service at St Swithun's at 4pm - for children of all ages!

Christmas Eve Communion - 9pm at St Swithun's.

Christmas Day Communion - 8.30am at Beacon Church, New Buildings and 9.30am at St Swithun's Church.

Sunday 29th December - **NO SERVICE IN SANDFORD. As it is the 5th Sunday in the month, it is a joint Mission Community communion, this time in Kennerleigh at 10.30am**

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 or paper Hub Post.

--- Diary Dates ---

NO Coffee and Company on Wednesday 25th or January 1st. And a huge thank you to the hosts and bakers who ensure that it runs throughout the year; and to Linda BS who organises the rota and generally oversees it all.

Friday morning contemplative prayer - 10.30am for a half hour of calmness and serenity.

Sunday 29th December at St Lawrence Chapel, Crediton - Carols by candlelight at 6pm with the West Gallery Quire.

--- Community News ---

Thank you's - As we come to the end of another year a big thank you to everyone who helps in any way in the running of the three churches St Mary's at Upton Hellions, St Swithun's and Beacon. An especial mention to our hard

working **Churchwarden Chris**, doubly so as he is carrying it all on his own. Please pray for someone to step up and partner him. I speak from personal experience when I say it is one of the most joyful voluntary posts I've held! And an extra thank you to **Stephen** our treasurer who has put on a different hat and overseen the planting of the boundary churchyard hedge, and cleared all the remaining cobbled paths around the St Swithun's Church building. A real labour of love! Thank you too to **everyone at Beacon Church** who has worked so hard and redesigned the outside area to be a garden for all to enjoy. Finally a starred thank you to **Janet our vicar** who despite having a challenging year from a health point of view, has worked and prayed tirelessly for us all.

Used postcards and stamps - Pamela TE is collecting any used postcards and stamps for the work of the charity MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship). They can either be left at the back of the church or handed in at her home, Hope Cottage.

--- And Finally ---

There is so much joyful sound and colour and food around at Christmas that it is not hard for most of us to find things to be thankful for every day! So we could choose in this season to shut out the sad things constantly in the news - or we could pray pray about and for them. So let's pray for God to be close to

* those who find Christmas emotionally painful or a lonely time

* those without a home - a dry, warm, safe place

* those living in lands affected by war or civil unrest and longing for peace

* those living in lands affected by climate changes now

* the sick or ill or dying and for those who care for them

A Christmas Blessing

God grant us the light of Christmas which is faith,

the warmth of Christmas which is love,

the radiance of Christmas which is purity,

the righteousness of Christmas which is justice,

the belief in Christmas which is truth,

the all of Christmas which is Christ.

(by Wilda English)



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