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THE PARISH POST

NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

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15th and 22nd June 2025

Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter

Sunday 15th - Morning Praise at St Swithun's Church, Sandford at 9.30am

Sunday 22nd - Communion service at St Swithun's at 9.30am

Sunday 29th - Mission Community service at Puddington at 10.30am.

No service at Sandford.

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 ---

Home Group - Thursday 11th and 18th at 7.30pm at 7 Chapel Downs Drive, Crediton - We are following a short course specifically designed for rural communities, encouraging us to look at the abundance of God in what we have, rather than in what we lack. The sessions are stand alone so contact Jean (07779 281509) if you want to join in.

Saturday 21st June - Millennium Green 25th celebrations. The Millennium Green committee have planned some wonderful activities to mark this joyous occasion beginning in the Square, parading through the village and ending on the Millennium Green. Thank you to everyone who has offered help and cakes, what a generous lot of bakers you are!

Wednesday 25th - The Well at Holy Cross Church at 7.30pm. A space to worship and wonder, to experience the power and presence of God. The last for a while.

Saturday 28th June - Refresh and Reflect Day 10.30-4pm. As part of the Quiet Garden Movement, Aubrey and Tessa at Poughill invite you to join them in their garden with some musicians and artists. For details email tessamizen@icloud.com. A good time to bring your sketch book or art materials.

Sunday 13th July - St Swithun's patronal festival at Shobrooke at 6pm.

This will be a Songs of Praise and Matthew will dedicate an icon which has been gifted to Shobrooke by a Ukrainian artist. We usually share this festival with Shobrooke as our churches have the same name, but this promises to be a rather special evening, so put it in your diaries right away!

Coffee and Company every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12 - Bring a friend and make new friends while enjoying tea/coffee and lush home made cakes.

Contemplative Prayer - every Friday from 10.30am to 11am. A mindful oasis of peace.

2 opportunities for you to make a difference!

Rotas - Is there a volunteer willing to draw up the monthly Sunday rotas? Please talk to Linda G if that could be you, it is only a few hours a month and she would like to pass that role over.

Sandford School Scarecrow trail - The scarecrows always brighten up the village for the summer and for many years Graham and I have designed and produced a scarecrow that sits by the Fanny's Lane entrance to the churchyard. As the school is celebrating 200 years this year, the theme is 'School day memories'. **Would another family or group like to let rip with their creative juices and take this on?**

--- And Finally ---

Last Sunday Jeremy shared the results of a YouGov. survey. It had asked the same questions about people's beliefs, habits and church attendance in 2018 as in 2024 across a range of ages and demographics.

We are so used to being told the Christian church is in decline that the 2018 results were not a surprise. But in 2024 (and post pandemic) there was a marked growth in church attendance amongst almost all age groups and particularly among the young. For instance, the number of 16-24 year olds who attended church jumped from 4% to 16%. More men than women now go to church. Churches in particular that are 'outward facing', get involved with and support the local community are seeing greatest growth.

So what should our response to this 'Quiet Revival' be? Well of course we should be thankful - and pray for more. We should be prepared and make the most of every opportunity that we get, individually and as a church. **The same church that doom-mongers suggest is only a generation away from extinction, can, by the power of God, be only a spark away from revival!**



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