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THE PARISH POST

NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

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

1st & 8th March

Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter

Sunday 1st at 8.30am - Communion service at Beacon Church, New Buildings.

Sunday 1st at 9.30am - Communion service at St Swithun's Church, Sandford.

Sunday 8th at 9.30am - Communion service at St Swithun's Church.

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

--- Diary Dates ---

Friday 6th at 2pm - World Day of Prayer at St Boniface RC Church, Crediton. This was previously the Women's World Day of Prayer - it may have been renamed, but a team of women from a different country each year, put together beautiful prayers for us all. Our world is very much in need of prayer and the sense that we are joining with thousands of people around the world at the same time is powerful. I will be going so let me know if you want a lift.

Monday 9th - Sandford Storytellers are taking the bible story of Esther into assembly at Sandford School.

Coffee and Company on Wednesday mornings between 10.30am and 12. Come and enjoy lush home made cakes and convivial company over a cup of tea or coffee. In the March copy of *Devon Life*, there is a super mention of Sandford village under the feature on Walks. Topping the list of '4 Things to do while you're in the Area' is our weekly Coffee, Company & Cake session! Our fame stretches far and wide.

Reflective Friday Prayer 10.30am-11, when we use readings, music, silence and prayers to still our hearts and minds before God. Please let Elizabeth or myself know if there is someone or some situation you want prayer for.

--- Community news ---

Monday 2nd - Take care and be safe - Scaffolding will be erected in the church on Monday so that decorators can repair the hole in the ceiling and repaint. This will take a few days so do be careful and avoid the central aisle.

Lent Studies - The Home Groups that meet on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings are thoroughly enjoying the study book 'Dancing to the Heartbeat of God' which is an exploration of Christian discipleship around the world. If you are curious about either a home group or studying a book specifically for Lent, do talk to Linda BS or myself about coming along. We would love to see you.

Forward notice for gardeners - We are hoping to hold the annual **Plant Sale on Saturday May 9th**, the weekend after the May Bank Holiday. If you are beginning to plant seeds or divide up plants, please put some extra aside to offer to our stall for May 9th. Thank you!

Crediton and Upper Creedy Team Ministry - This has now been legally accepted as a new benefice by the Church Commissioners. There will be a licencing service for all the ministers with a joyful celebration later this year. From Cheriton Fitzpaine in the east to Coldridge in the west and from Puddington in the north to Crediton in the south, over 20 parishes will be working as a team, sharing resources and supporting each other.

--- And Finally ---

I picked up this lovely thought from some readings in a Celtic book of prayer. The writer noted how small is our understanding of seasons.

God is a seasonal God, he comes he goes. His faithfulness never changes but his seasons do. There are seasons when a tree is green, seasons when it is dry and seasons when it just looks plain dead! But to mature and produce any fruit it needs to go through all the seasons.

Does that mean that God is capricious, he seems to come and go in our life just when he feels like it? Or is it that we too need to go through all the seasons, patiently and with far reaching hope, to ourselves know true growth and maturity.



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

