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THE PARISH POST

NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

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26th April & 3rd May Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter

Sunday 26th April - Communion service at 9.30am at St Swithun's Church, Sandford.

Sunday 3rd May - Communion at 8.30am at Beacon Church, New Buildings.

Sunday 3rd - Communion at 9.30am at St Swithun's Church.

Sunday 3rd - Choral Evensong and Licensing service for the clergy and lay ministers to the Crediton and Upper Creedy Valley Team Ministry at 6pm at Holy Cross Church, Crediton. This is a great opportunity for us all to support and pray for Janet, Jeremy, Laura and all our ministers and the new 'hub' and its work. Do try and lift share if you are driving in.

--- Diary Dates ---

Monday 27th - Sandford Storytellers dramatise the story of The Road to Emmaus at assembly at Sandford School.

Wednesday 29th - The Well at 7.30pm at Holy Cross Church. This is a wonderful place to explore worship and experience the power and presence of God. Huge thanks to Sam and the team from Exeter Network Church.

Saturday 9th at 10.30am - Plant Sale and Coffee Morning in the church and churchyard.

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.

Reflective Friday Prayer 10.30am - 11 when we use readings, music, silence and prayers to still our hearts and minds before God. And we love to pray for the whole

prayers to soothe our hearts and minds before God. And we love to pray for the whole parish of Sandford.

--- Community news ---

Janet - Janet has had her second mastectomy this week and is to have her knee replacement surgery in May. She will therefore be off work until at least the end of June. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. Should you need a priest please contact Matthew on 01363 894038 and for anything related to the three churches in Sandford just contact the churchwardens Chris on 01363 772823 or Paul on 01363 772268.

Plant Sale Saturday 9th May - Thank you to those who have offered to run plant or produce stalls or serve refreshments. If you can offer a cake or other home made produce (jams, pies etc) or any surplus plants that would be wonderful. Above all come along and support the morning and bring a friend.

APCM - At the APCM last week both Carole Webb (Deanery Synod rep) and Linda Griffin (parish secretary) resigned and were thanked for all they have contributed. We also heard that the application for a Heritage Lottery Grant towards the churchyard path was turned down which was hugely disappointing. Thanks to the team who had worked on the application, especially the indefatigable Jim King.

--- And Finally ---

At the Deanery Synod on Wednesday evening, Jeremy gave a short presentation of his two weeks in the link diocese of Thika, Kenya. It was lovely to see what we had in common like a passion for Jesus and a desire to see God's kingdom grow but interesting to note the differences. There is a growth in the number of new churches being planted in Thika, aided by trained evangelists, that we can only envy. A vital part of this growth is the establishing of Home Groups. These happen around a bring-and-share meal (which is part of the culture) and this is where friends are invited before they even think of coming to Sunday church. Home groups are places where they take their prayer requests or share their answers to prayer. This is where faith matures and discipleship happens.

Our Home Groups will restart in May. At the moment there is an evening one and an afternoon one but the clergy prayer is that everyone is part of a Home Group so there may be more! Watch this space and do keep praying for them as you pray for the growth of God's kingdom here.



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