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THE PARISH POST

NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

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24th & 31st May

Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter

Sunday 24th May - Pentecost Communion service at 9.30am at St Swithun's Church, Sandford.

Sunday 31st - No service at St Swithun's. Joint Mission Community service at Kennerleigh Church at 10.30am. Do try and car share.

--- Diary Dates ---

Home Groups - We will be going through the Sermon on the Mount for a few weeks so you will just need your bibles. The afternoon group will start on Tuesday 9th June at 2.30pm and the evening group restarts on Thursday 28th May at 7.30pm at Stephen and Fiona's. If you would like to join either, please talk to Jean.

Saturday 30th May - The wedding of Ross Busby and Ruth Terry. Please pray for them as they make their final wedding preparations and start their married life together.

Friday 29th - Sunday 31st May - SW Quilters Exhibition at Holy Cross Church, Crediton. This will be a rich feast for all those who love sewing, embroidery and any crafting that involves fabric. Refreshments as usual in the Boniface Centre.

Coffee and Company on Wednesday mornings between 10.30am and 12. Come and enjoy lush home made cakes and convivial company over a cuppa.

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 you have any prayer requests, we love to pray.

--- [Community news](#) ---

--- Community news ---

Janet - Janet is surprised at how tired she is considering she isn't 'doing' anything so continue to pray for her healing and wholeness. She is very thankful for all your prayers, love and support.

Should you need a priest during her absence, please contact Matthew on 01363 894038 and for anything related to the three churches in Sandford contact the churchwardens Chris on 01363 772823 or Paul on 01363 772268.

Plant Sale - The Plant Sale and Coffee morning raised a staggering £700. Thank you to everyone who grew and provided plants, baked cakes and made jams and marmalades. Thanks to all those who ran stalls and helped in any way. And thank YOU for coming and making it such a wonderful and successful morning.

Scarecrow Trail - Thank you Sally for responding to her creative urges and offering to design this. We look forward to seeing her larger than life caterpillar in the churchyard in the summer.

Ukraine - Chris reminded me that this European war has now been going on as long as WW1. Elizabeth and Roy are still collecting much needed items for Ukraine which include medicines (including past their bb date), baby things, blankets and bedding, and candles whole and part used. They are delivering donations to a charity CR2EE based in Exmouth.

New noticeboard - The blue noticeboard on Church Street had come to the end of its life so thank you Paul for arranging a replacement, made by Neil Gibb.

Thank you - The Wednesday morning Coffee and Company is now a firm part of our calendar. People drop in with their good news and their grumbles, their dogs or pre school children and enjoy a choice of cake as well as tea or coffee. Huge thanks to all the hosts and bakers, to Linda B-S who organises the rota, to Sandford Gate for a bottle of milk each week and to Sandford in Need Trust for contributions towards the coffee.

--- And Finally ---

During the ten days between Ascension and Pentecost we had been asked to pray specifically that 5 friends or family come to know God. But do you sometimes wonder if your prayers make a difference? Or if they are even heard?

I was thinking about that when a letter that had been smuggled out of his country by a North Korean believer popped up in my Facebook feed.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Have you been at peace in the Lord?

We have been using your support for our ministry. Many believers are in great need ... We, the North Korean Christians, are united in the same faith as you and devoted to a life centred on the Lord. We strive to prepare and equip the next generation ... Under your guidance and support we grow to be faithful servants of God. We regard this calling as the compass of our lives... We could not function as the body of Christ without your unwavering support.

(The full letter can be found on the Open Doors UK & Ireland website.)

What struck me was that these precious North Korean Christians don't know the names of those praying for them, have never met them yet feel united with them in the Lord. And so sure is their faith that elsewhere in the world others are supporting them in prayer, that they are empowered and encouraged to keep going. It is awesome and a challenge to us.

So may I suggest that even after Pentecost Sunday you keep praying for your 5 in the sure confidence that God has heard and his Spirit is moving to change their hearts and minds.



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preferences

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