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THE PARISH POST

NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

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August 30th & September 6th Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter

Sunday 30th at 10.30am - Combined Mission Community communion service at St Swithun's Church, Sandford.

Sunday 6th at 8.30am - Communion service at Beacon Church, New Buildings.

Sunday 6th at 9.30am - Communion service at St Swithun's Church.

If you should want different times or styles of service anywhere in the Crediton and Upper Creedy Valley churches, details can be found in the Hub Post.

--- Diary dates ---

Monday 31st - Sandford Summer Show from 2pm in the Parish Hall. Even if you have not grown, arranged, crafted or otherwise entered items for the show, do come along and be amazed at what others have done.

Sunday 6th - Harvest supper planning meeting. The Parish Harvest Supper is on Saturday 3rd October. There is a planning meeting for it on Sunday 6th straight after the morning service. This is definitely a case of 'many hands making light work' so even if you can't be there to help plan, please let Chris or Paul know in what capacity you can offer help.

Thursday 10th - Emergency Climate Briefing at 7.30pm at the Boniface Centre. There is a short film then a panel will answer questions. Far from filling you with doom and gloom about the future, this evening will empower you about what can be done and your part in it.

Sunday 13th September from 11.30am - DHCT (Devon Historic Churches Trust) financially supports Devon churches and always has a special fundraising week in September. This year for our fundraising we are proposing an exciting sponsored **Teddy Abseil** from the church tower after the morning service. Teddies will of course receive a bravery certificate to prove they have made it. This will be followed by a teddy bears' picnic, in the churchyard if the

weather is fine, in the church if not. Even if you don't have a teddy brave enough to make the trip, come and join in the picnic anyway. All donations and ticket sales will go to the DHCT.

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 - 11am 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 ---

Summer Concert thank yous - Our summer afternoon concert with the Moorland Mandolins and the Sandford Sings choir turned out to be a wonderful community event. It raised just over **£1000** which was shared between the Millennium Green for the pond renovation work and our Churchyard Path Fund. Thank you to everyone who came, brought refreshments, supported the raffle, served teas or chatted to and welcomed people who had never set foot in the church before. It was a super afternoon.

Spreading the news - When this newsletter, the Parish Post, started it was distributed almost entirely by paper as so few people had personal computers. Now, 20 years later, we print just 2 copies and the other 140 are received electronically. It has been a very rapid switch. We also have a website and Facebook page, both managed by **Linda BS so huge thanks to her** for her quiet behind-the-scenes work. Our website will shortly be absorbed into a Crediton and Upper Creedy Valley website when the new Hub administrator is appointed. But we are still managing Facebook so if you ever have news or pictures that are appropriate for St Swithun's Facebook page do send them to Linda. And if you use Facebook do remember to look at our page and 'like' it.

--- And Finally ---

Over twenty years ago a small team of us were trained to take lay services during the many vacancies St Swithun's has enjoyed. We called the services Open Doors, implying anyone and everyone is welcome. We chose a special signature prayer which summed up our ethos. It's worth repeating as it still is a wonderful mission statement.

Heavenly Father, you have welcomed us into your kingdom and your heart's desire is to draw every human being to yourself.

Grant us clear eyes to see people as you see them, sensitive feet to stand in their shoes and warm smiles to welcome them in your name.

Give us such generous hearts that our church becomes a foretaste of heaven

where every soul you send us finds their loving home in the community of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



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