



# THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

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## Sunday 17th July 2022

Welcome to our Songs of Praise to celebrate St Swithun's patronal festival at St Swithun's Church, Sandford at 9.30am. We are delighted to be joined in this celebration by our friends from St Swithun's Church in Shobrooke too. Between us we have chosen 8 hymns and songs which are our favourites and Canon Michael Hall has woven them together with prayers and reflections which make this a uniquely local celebration. Do linger for refreshments and chat afterwards.

**Wednesday 20th** - Coffee and Company from 10.30am - midday.

**Friday 22nd** - Reflective Prayer from 10.30am - 11am

### -- Community News --

#### **West Gallery Choir - Friday 22nd**

The West Gallery Choir are singing at different local venues through the day and will end up at St Swithun's at 3pm, after which they will have tea. Anyone is welcome to pop in and enjoy their performance between 3 and 4pm.

#### **Mission Shed - Tuesday 26th at the Boniface Centre at 7.30pm**

Mission Shed gives us an opportunity to connect with other local Christians and listen to their stories of how mission and outreach work in their settings as well as to worship God together. There will also be an opportunity to look at resources that we can use as tools to talk about our faith. I am going so if you would like a lift please let me know. (Jean - 07779 281509)

#### **1523**

Next year it will be 500 years since St Swithun's was rebuilt to look largely as it does now and the monarch solidly on the throne then was Henry VIII. So it would be fitting to commemorate this memorable date in some way. The PCC

are setting up a small team to help organise some celebratory events and would welcome all sorts of help, starting with ideas. A concert or some musical performance? A heritage /history day? Could we link it with some fundraising or charity support? Email any ideas to [pccsandford@gmail.com](mailto:pccsandford@gmail.com) or jot them down and give them to a member of the PCC.

**-- And Finally --**

**15th July is St Swithun's day** and according to the old rhyme:-

*St Swithun's day, if thou dost rain,  
for forty days it will remain.*

*St Swithun's day if thou be fair  
for forty days 'twill rain no mair.*

So what is the reason for this? Swithun was an Anglo Saxon Bishop in Winchester in the 9th century and was clearly well-loved and respected. As he neared death in 862AD he stipulated that he should be buried in a simple grave outside where the rain would fall, not an ornate indoor shrine as was the custom for Bishops.

However one of his successors Ethelwold decided this wasn't very respectful and he should be moved inside when a new cathedral replaced Swithun's - despite the dire warnings that storms would follow if his bones were moved. In 971AD when the deed took place it rained thereafter for 40 days which was seen as Swithun's revenge for flouting his request.



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