

Benefice of St Nicholas Newport and St Michael and All Angels, Chetwynd

Newsletter 12/7/26

Musings

July 15th is St Swithun's Day. Tradition says that if it rains on St Swithun's Day it will rain for 40 days and 40 nights. The weather forecast suggests that this will not be a problem this year! Tradition also says that if it is fine, then it will be fine for 40 days and 40 nights. Meteorologists tell us that there is some truth in this prediction. Wherever the jet stream is in the middle of July, it tends to stay there until the end of August and the weather will not change.

St Swithun lived in the 9th century and was Bishop of Winchester. He was known for his piety and zeal for founding churches. He was a humble man who refused many of the trappings of his office. He always walked everywhere and, when he gave a banquet, he invited the poor not the rich. The king, Aethelwulf of Wessex, was so impressed by Swithun that, when asked by the bishop, he gave a 10th of his land to the church.

When Swithun died, he asked to be buried outside the church, where passers-by would walk and rain would fall on him. But following the restoration of the cathedral, it was dedicated to St Swithun and his body was transferred inside the church. On the day this was done there was torrential rain which continued for weeks. This was taken as a sign of the saint showing his displeasure. And so the legend began.

If this prediction proves true this year and our current weather continues, we pray for all farmers and growers in need of rain and for all who struggle in the heat.

Sandra

This week beginning 12/7/26:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion

(Common Worship)

Readings

12/7/26 Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

19/7/26 Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Next week beginning 19/7/26:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10.30am Morning Prayer

Children's Events

Churches Together in Newport are running 2 events for children during the school holidays.

The Holiday Club will run from **Monday 20th** to **Friday 24th** July at Trinity Church. For more information please see the notice in St Nicholas church porch. To register contact Mona on 07890 511904

At the end of the holidays, on **Saturday 29th August**, there will be a family event in Victoria Park. Volunteers on the day and cake makers needed. For more information contact Bev on 07411 964964 or beverleyholden@hotmail.com

We pray for all children as they break up from school, especially those changing schools or going on to college or university. We pray that their holidays may be safe and joyful.

We remember in our prayers: David, Jo and Mike, Joyce and Geoff, Margaret and Maurice and Iraj & Minoo.

‘The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.’

Psalm 116, verse 5