



Newsletter

6 & 13 July 2025



St Thomas Becket 7 July 1170

John Keble, Tractarian, 1866

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Services for Sunday 6 July 2025 3rd after Trinity

St Paul's 10am **All-Age Worship** lead Anthea Darlington, preach Revd Andy Smith

St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** preside and preach: Revd Daniel Mullaney

Services for Sunday 13 July 2025 4th after Trinity

St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Revd Daniel Mullaney

St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Revd Avis Gordon



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Readings for Sun 6 July 2 Kings 5: 1-14

Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20

(1) *Healing of Naaman*

(2) *Sending out the seventy*

Readings for Sun 13 July Amos 7: 7-end

Luke 10: 25-37

(3) *The plumb-line*

(4) *The parable of the Good Samaritan*

Wed 9 July: Ps 33:1-4, 18-end; Matt 10: 1-7 Wed 16 July: Ps 103: 1-7; Matt 11:25-27

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Strange stories of saints (1)

On 15 July we

commemorate **St Swithun**, Bishop of Winchester who died

in 863 and is mainly remembered for a story about **rain**.

Historically speaking, no-one knows anything about him, and

even the site of his grave was forgotten not long after he

died. Why then, do we all still remember St Swithun's Day?

A hundred years after his death St Dunstan, Archbishop of

Canterbury, was busy reforming some of the bad practices of the church, including rebuilding

churches that had been neglected over the years. He arranged for St Swithun to be adopted as

the patron of his newly rebuilt church at Winchester. You can't have a patron about whom

nothing is known, so his monks busily got down to creating some stories, among which was the

story that if it rains on St Swithun's day, it will rain for 40 days more.

Actually this only applies to rain on St Swithun's bridge in Winchester,

but it's been enough to make him the patron saint of droughts! Here

are six fictitious things you never knew about St Swithun.

1. He was best friends with King Egbert of Wessex (who?). 2. He always

journeyed everywhere on foot and by night. 3. When he gave

banquets he invited poor people not his rich patrons. 4. One day an old

woman crossing his bridge dropped a basket of eggs and broke them

all. Hearing her crying, he immediately mended them so they were as

good as new. 5. Queen Emma, wife of King Cnut, was accused of having an affair with the local

bishop and was sentenced to walk across nine red-hot plough-shares. She prayed to St Swithun

and managed it with no pain and without burning her feet! 6. He asked to be buried outside the

church so that the rain could fall on him and people walk on his grave.

When the people of Winchester tried to move his body inside the church, it started raining and

rained for 40 days, hence the saying. They gave up, but I note that the one thing which can be



St Swithun's new shrine

proved about St Swithun was that in 963 when they finally moved his body to a shrine in the cathedral, guess what? – it didn't rain! *Anthea*

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Prayers We pray for God's healing for those who are unwell at this time, and for Tony and Sheila and Mike and Jean and their families on the recent loss of relatives. We pray for peace in the Middle East and the Ukraine, and for all seeking to find a solution to conflict in these areas.



A prayer for **Sea Sunday 13 July**: *Gracious God, we offer our prayers for those whose lives are affected by the sea. We pray for people whose work takes them to sea: for those in the different branches of the navy; for those who transport goods by ship; for those who catch fish for their living; and for those who give help when people get into difficulties at sea- the coastguard service, the lifeboat service, and air-sea rescue. Be with them as they work and keep them safe when weather is bad and seas are rough. Lord God, creator of the mighty oceans, hear our prayer. Amen.*

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News and events

Please could you check with Anthea that your current **mobile phone number** is on the parish contacts list. Some are missing or out of date. Many thanks for a quick response.

Reminder: please can we all switch our **mobile phones** to **silent mode during services**.

Bible Study: it's the last session of 'God's Big Picture' this Tuesday 8 July. We'll take a summer break, and a new series will begin in September.

Next session of the **homegroup** at 47 Agecroft Road West, the home of Revd Avis Gordon, is on 17 July at 7pm. Come along and join us.

Colossians



Reading St Paul's letters. This summer our series of sermons on St Paul's writings is based on Colossians and Philemon. The same sermon will be preached by the same person in both churches on the five Sundays in August. No joint services; no Sunday School.

Meeting for Colossians sermon-preachers on Tuesday 15 July 7pm in St Paul's.

Thornleigh weekend away 26-29 Sept. ***4 people still need to pay.*** Please do so ASAP. The **Shedlocks** and the **Dysons** invite everyone to their **joint Ruby Wedding celebration** Sat 19th July St Paul's Social Area 2-6pm. Thanks to those who have already said they are coming. Last chance to be counted: Sunday 6th July.

St Paul's School end of year service in St Paul's church 9.30am on Friday 18 July.

Digital Ministry: date of first meeting to be announced soon. Speak to Daniel now.

Presentation Sunday 20 July with Rick Otto from the Diocesan Board of Education, followed by picnic/games on the Moor for Sunday School children, their parents and teachers.

Salford Symphony Orchestra is taking its summer break from now on and will be back rehearsing on Wednesday 3 September

Advance notice: replacement of blowers and air curtain in Social Area in the first week of August. Please keep this area clear Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (NO coffee morning)

Next 2 weeks

Sunday 6 July: reader licensing and renewal of promises 3pm Manchester Cathedral

Tuesday 8 July: 7pm at St Paul's **Bible study**-God's Big Picture 9: final session. Cake!

Wednesday 9 July: 10am at St Paul's: **Holy Communion** with Revd Mike Dyson

Tuesday 15 July: 11.30am-3.30pm **Time Out Seaside Summer Party** – ticket only 3.30pm St Paul's School Summer Fair; 7pm **Colossians preachers' meeting** at St Paul's

Wednesday 16 July: 10am at St Paul's: **Holy Communion** with Revd Mike Dyson

Thursday 17 July: 7pm **Homegroup** at 47 Agecroft Road West. Come along!

Friday 18 July: 9.30am **St Paul's School end of year service** at St Paul's church

CONTACT INFORMATION

Current Clergy Team:

Revd Mike Dyson (Associate Minister)

792 1098 beardandsandals@hotmail.com

Revd Daniel Mullaney (Interim Minister)

07584 569196 danielrjmullaney@gmail.com

Revd Andy Smith (Associate Priest)

07496726669 smudger1275@gmail.com

All other needs:

David Martin Parish Churchwarden

0161 766 2736 dandhmartin@live.co.uk

Anthea Darlington Parish Churchwarden, Data Officer,

Bookings 0161 792 1780 awdarlington@hotmail.co.uk

Eileen Booth PCC Secretary 0161 792 9960

eileenchriss5@gmail.com

For more information visit our websites:

St Paul's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15877

St Andrew's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15878