

Words of Light and Hope from Helena Crockford LLM

This week we have had St. Swithun's Day (15th July). Did it rain or shine? St. Swithun was Bishop of Winchester in the 9th Century. The miracle he is said to have done seems humble – to mend a box of eggs belonging to an old woman, after they had been broken by workmen in the church. But how much can we judge the importance of actions by how they appear externally in the world? Maybe she was alone and forgotten in the world. Maybe this was the last box of eggs she had. Maybe it represented her whole income for that week and the difference between eating or going hungry; or buying medicine for a grandchild and them living or dying. Jesus made clear that the outward appearance of people's gifts was not as important as the heart they came from: "A poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents....Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." Mark 12.42-44. If we reflect on things people have said or done in our lives which have left the most lasting impression, I wonder how many of these would seem small to an observer? A kind word when we were feeling lost, a touch when we were feeling alone, a "hello" when we were feeling forgotten. And how often did that person know how much their word or gesture meant to us? Perhaps this can encourage us to think we can do something worthwhile even on an ordinary day, with even a small act, word or gesture. Folklore has it that whatever the weather on St. Swithun's day, that will continue for the next 40 days and nights – maybe we can see that in another sense. A small act of kindness, friendship, connection or generosity, may have far-reaching consequences that God alone can understand.

Collect for St. Swithun:

Almighty God, by whose grace we celebrate again the feast of your servant Swithun: grant that, as he governed with gentleness the people committed to his care, so we, rejoicing in our Christian inheritance, may always seek to build up your Church in unity and love; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Pew Notes

Forthcoming Services and Events:

- Sunday 31st July, 10.30am — Whole Benefice Service at St Andrew's, Wood Dalling
- Thursday 11th August, 7pm — WoW Social at St Michael's, Reepham
- Sunday 4th September, 4pm onwards — Family Sports Afternoon with Afternoon Tea at Hall for All, Weston Longville.
- Saturday 10th September, 10am-5pm — Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride

Choral Evensong: Saturday 23rd July, 3pm in St Peter and St Paul's, Salle.

From 12 noon to 3pm small groups can go on a guided tour of the church. From 1-3pm there will be tower tours for those wishing to enjoy (weather permitting) the amazing view from the top.

Services for Next Week - Sunday 24th July (Sixth Sunday after Trinity)

9am	Thurning	Matins
9am	Bylaugh	Matins
10.00am	Reepham	Café Church (Service begins at 10.30am)
10.30am	Swannington	Holy Communion
10.30am	Elsing	Word and Praise
10.30am	Sparham	Informal Communion

The Rev'd. Helen Rengert, 01603 879275 revdhelenrwv@gmail.com

The Rev'd. Judith Sweetman, 07484862962 (Friday to Sunday)

judith.sweetman@btinternet.com

The Rev'd. Richard Turk, 07721 035009 revdrichardrwv@gmail.com

Email parishofficerwv@gmail.com to submit articles or join the mailing list.

FACEBOOK: Reepham & Wensum Valley Events

WEBSITE: www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk

Pew Notes are available to download from the RWV website and the E-newsletter

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact your Parish Safeguarding Officer. Details in the church porch or on the RWV website.