St Swithun's
PARISH CHURCH OF SANDY

# September 2026 Notice Sheet

*Rector:* Rev Jodie Brown
*Church Wardens:* Colin Osborne,
Jennifer Watson and Anthony Lock

## Worship Services this month

You are welcome to any of the following services:
**Sundays: 8.15am** Said Communion* | **9.30am** Sung Communion |
**10.40am** Refreshments | **11am** Contemporary Worship

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| **6 Sept** | **Together at 10 Back to School Service**<br>Ezekiel 33: 7–11<br>Matthew 18: 15–20 | Preacher<br>**Rev Jodie Brown** |
| **13 Sept** | **Trinity 15**<br>Genesis 50: 15–21<br>Matthew 18: 21–35 | Preacher<br>**Rev Jodie Brown** |
| **20 Sept** | **Services at 8.15 and 9.30am only**<br>Jonah 3: 10 – 4: 11<br>Matthew 20: 1–16 | Preacher<br>**Les Oglesby** |
| **27 Sept** | **Trinity 17**<br>Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25–32<br>Matthew 21: 23–32 | Preacher<br>**Rev Jodie Brown** |

**Holy Communion Service Wednesdays** at **10.30am** in the Church
**Evening Prayers Mondays–Thursdays** at **5pm** in the Church
**Tuesday Fellowship Group** at **8.15–10am, 33 Bedford Road**
**Home Group Bible Study Tuesdays** at **6.30pm**
**Pizza & Chat (11–18s) Last Wednesday in month 6–8pm** in Church Rooms

*8.15am preachers may vary from those listed above. For information about our youth groups, evening prayer services, baptism, confirmation or weddings, please contact Rev Jodie on 07845 735880

# News & events

**Sunday 6 September** is our **Back to School Sunday**, so bring your backpack (or briefcase!) to our Together @ 10 Holy Communion service to have it blessed at the start of the new school year.

Our next **Eco Church Meeting** is on **Thursday 3 September** at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms. All are welcome to attend.

Our **September Eco tip** is: **Help drought-ravaged gardens regenerate.** Aerate your lawn by spiking holes in the turf with a fork to reduce compaction. Invest in a water butt or two to collect rainwater for next year. Add lots of organic compost to your soil this autumn and spread a mulch to help it hold on to moisture.

As well as our Heritage Open Day (see right), **12 September** is the annual **Bike 'n' Hike**, raising funds for the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust. Jean Peckham has sponsor forms and more details.

From **18–20 September** we are looking forward to a mix of faith, fun and fellowship on our **Parish Weekend Away,** at The Greenhouse in Bromsgrove. We will still hold our 8.15am and 9.30am Sunday services at the Church.

On 22 August, around 40 people enjoyed a **cream tea with Pimms at the Rectory** courtesy of Rev Jodie & James.

**Financial giving**
It costs **£304 a day** to support the mission and ministry of St Swithun's Church and we warmly encourage you to set up a regular gift through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) at **parishgiving.org.uk** or tel: 0333 002 1271 – quote our parish code 320632304.

# Heritage Open Day

**Volunteers are needed** for our **Heritage Open Day** on **Saturday 12 September**, from 9am–5pm. Please sign the sheet by the noticeboard if you can help welcome visitors to the church, supervise tower visits (10am–2pm) or serve refreshments. We are looking for **edible treats** celebrating the international heritage of our congregation to serve on the day and for donations of **wool** and **knitting needles** or **crochet hooks**. As well as self-guided church tours and tower visits, we are running a **children's stained glass window craft and friendship bracelet station**, and **heritage masterclasses** in traditional skills:

**11am Knitting/Crochet for Beginners**
**1pm Art for Beginners**
**2pm Come and Try Bell Ringing Session**
**3pm Floral Arrangement Workshop**

To join a class, please **email** **office@sandyparishchurch.org** or book at **sandyparishchurch.org** on the individual event pages. Classes are free and donations can be made on the day.

# Leprosy Mission

Our 2026 'I Am Nisha' Project: We have pledged to raise £25,150 to help Stop Child Leprosy by School Screening of 30,000 children, plus support for reconstructive surgery, prosthetic limbs and vocational training for ten children. To date £18.099 has been sent off. Please speak to Colin Osborne for more details about the following fund-raising events:

**Coffee Morning:** Some 150 people attended the annual Coffee Morning at 2 Leeds Smith Drive on Saturday 1 August and £1,843 was raised. Thank you.

**Autumn quiz:** Quiz sheets £1 from Colin or Elinor Groom for An Englishman's Home are available from 18 September.

**Afternoon River Cruise:** Our John Bunyan Community Boat River Ouse cruise, on Tuesday 8 September is full but no-one is on the reserve list

**Late Summer/Autumn Outings:** Our outing to Buckingham Palace on 25 September is full but no-one is on the reserve list. Spaces are available for our return visit to Peckover House, Wisbech on Friday 9 October.

**Autumn Quiz Evening:** Friday 23 October, 7.30pm, Scout HQ, teams of up to 6.

**TLM Shop Catalogue:**The Autumn/Christmas edition is now available.

**Daily Fundraising Stall** on our drive at 2 Leeds Smith Drive, 10am to 5pm.

# The Need Project

This ongoing and increasing ministry relies on the love, prayers and generous donations from the church community. It urgently needs cereal, long-life milk, coffee (small jars), rice & pasta as well as tinned meat/ fish, fruit juice, household cleaning products, larger-size nappies, squash, canned, bottled and packeted food and toiletries. Donations can be left in the box in the church entrance. NEED provision is available for anyone who is struggling to make ends meet for whatever reason. Please speak to a church warden who will refer you to the NEED project coordinators. **theneedproject.org.uk**

# St Swithun's Flower Group

If you'd like to sponsor the Church flowers for a birthday, anniversary, or any family celebration, please contact **Trixie Cooper**. We also welcome sponsorship for one month of flowers over the year. If you'd like to join our small group of eight, you would be very welcome.

# Bell Ringing

Our friendly bell-ringers ring for Sunday services and weddings. We practise Wednesdays 7–8.30pm. To find out more, email **sandy@bacbr.org.uk**

# Safeguarding

Church should be a safe place for all, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults. Sandy Stopher is the Parish Safeguarding Officer. Our safeguarding policy is on the noticeboard and church website: **sandyparishchurch.org/safeguarding**

# Pinnacle Magazine

The **September/October** edition of *The Pinnacle* magazine is now available **free from Adrienne Massey or Stephen Snow.** Editorial contributions welcome for future editions. Email: **sandybeestonpinnacle@gmail.com**

# Pastoral Care

If you'd like a **home visit** for prayer or Holy Communion, for yourself or someone you know, please speak to Rev Jodie or one of the Wardens. Do get in touch with Rev Jodie if you are interested in finding out more about **confirmation**, **baptism, weddings** or **christenings**. Have you sensed a calling to serve in **Church ministry**? You can always have an informal chat about your story and hopes, and I'd love to pray for and with you.
**Rev Jodie Brown, Rector** 07845 735880; **revjodiebrown@gmail.com**

**Church Wardens:**
**Colin Osborne**
**Jennifer Watson**
**Anthony Lock**

**Newsletter submissions to marinajordanrugg@gmail.com**
by the **third Sunday** in the preceding month please