



**12th July 2026.**  
 We extend a warm welcome to  
 to the Rev Simon Topping and to  
 all our members, friends and  
 visitors.



**For meditation:** *We offer you our hands, O Lord, to do your work; lips to sing your praise;  
 our life to proclaim your glory and our hearts to serve you in our neighbour;  
 for Jesu's sake. Hildegard of Bingen (1098 – 1179)*

**NEWS AND VIEWS**

Today we say our farewells to Simon for his five years of ministry to us here in Box. We have been blessed in so many ways by his preaching and teaching, his able chairing of our meetings, his pastoral care and his support and encouragement for all our endeavours. He will be much missed –but we send him on to his next challenge in the Bristol District with our prayers and very best wishes. Au revoir, Simon (and Jane).

Wednesday this week, 15<sup>th</sup> July, brings St Swithun's Day. He was the Bishop of Winchester in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century and became famous for his lack of pomp, his financial administration and for allegedly performing a miracle in the town's market place when he made a basket of broken eggs whole again. After his death his bones were moved on 15<sup>th</sup> July 971AD from the church yard to a new shrine in the cathedral. It is believed that the Saint protested at the move by 'weeping', causing torrential rain to fall continuously for forty days.

**Early warning:**

The Circuit farewell service for Rev Simon and Jane will be held at Southdown Methodist at 4pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July – followed by refreshments.

**A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

Loving God of all peoples, we pray for those we know and love, and for those we do not know, but for whom we have compassion. We hear of such terrible situations and of such suffering. Those caught up in wars and fighting; those deprived of food and water; those imprisoned unjustly by harsh regimes; those imprisoned by illness and infirmity. Lord, bring your healing hand; bring comfort and relief. And for those who cause such suffering and hardships we pray that you will speak to their hearts; whisper words of encouragement to change their ways; to bring peace.

*We are remembering the congregation at Midsomer Norton in our prayers this week.*

**LECTIONARY READINGS – 19<sup>th</sup> July**

- Genesis 28: 10 -19a
- Psalms 139: 1-11, 22 -23
- Romans 8: 12 - 25
- Matthew 13: 24 -30, 36 -43

**DIARY**

- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Compass Point** 11.00am  
 We finish our study of Philippians - led by Rev Simon
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Café + Soup** 9.30 –1.30pm  
 The meal will be served at around noon.  
 All welcome.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

There will be NO service at the church  
 We will join with our Anglican friends to celebrate St Christopher's Patronal festival at Ditteridge at **10.30am**. The service will be followed by a picnic in the field next to the church – we are invited to share in this (donations accepted). Bring drinks, cutlery and something to sit on- and enjoy the fellowship.

Help me at all times, O God,  
 to encourage and not to dishearten  
 to be more ready to praise than to condemn,  
 to uplift rather than to disparage,  
 to hide rather than to expose  
 the faults of others.

O risen and exalted Christ, dwell within me,  
 that I may live with the light of hope  
 in my eyes,  
 the Word of life on my lips,  
 and your love in my heart.

Help me, O Holy Spirit, to seek you faithfully  
 to hold you steadfastly,  
 to show you unfailingly,  
 for Christ's sake.

Source unknown

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.  
 Psalm 139: 23,24

