

BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

The regular Sunday Morning Service, held at Buxted, will be led as shown below:

July Services 2026

5 th	3:30 pm	Anniversary tea followed by a service at 5pm Led by Revd. Andy Melvin (Outside – weather permitting)	
12 th	10:30 am	Rev Sheila Foreman	Holy Communion
19 th	10:30 am	Mrs Christine Sweet	
26 th	10:30 am	Deacon Vicky Welsh	

August Services 2026

2 nd	10:30 am	Local Arrangement	
9 th	10:30 am	Revd. Sheila Foreman	
16 th	10:30 am	Revd. Andy Melvin	Holy Communion
23 rd	10:30 am	Local Arrangement	
30 th	10:30 am	Revd. Sheila Foreman	

An evening service (6:00 PM via Zoom), normally hosted by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley, will continue to be broadcast throughout 2026.

Activity Dates for July and August 2026

5 th	July	3.30 pm	Church Anniversary Tea
6 th	July	2:00 am	Emmaus – Book of James
11 th	July	10:30 am	Coffee Morning
11 th	July	2:00 pm	Art Group – Pen and Wash
29 th	July	10:30 am	POP-IN
There is no Emmaus in August			
8 th	August	10:30 am	Coffee Morning
8 th	August	2:00 pm	Art Group
26 th	August	10:30 am	POP-IN

Art Group - The theme for July will be to continue with Pen and Wash.

Emmaus – We continue to study the book of James

Food Bank - Don't forget that you can bring items for the food bank on a Sunday. There is a collection box at the back of the Chapel, near the organ, and Sonia regularly delivers them to Uckfield Food Bank.

BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

July 15th – St Swithins' Day

Little is known of the early life of Swithin or Swithun (800-62) We do know he became a dean of the Old Monastery in Winchester, and a trusted advisor to Egbert, King of the West Saxons. The king trusted Swithin so much that he entrusted the education of his son Aethelwulf to him. When Aethelwulf succeeded his father, he arranged for Swithin to be chosen Bishop of Winchester; and like his father, he continued to heed Swithin's advice. As a result, the kingdom flourished.

We also know that Swithin was a learned and abstemious man. He never ate to satisfy his appetite but only to sustain his body, and when he had to dedicate a church, he walked to the location barefoot. When he hosted a banquet, he invited the poor rather than the rich, and he built a bridge over the River Itchen to enable the poor to sell their wares in the city. Once, an old woman dropped her basket of eggs as she was crossing the bridge and they all broke. She was in despair, but Swithin heard her and miraculously restored the eggs.

When Swithin died in 862 or 863, he was buried as he had wished, in the graveyard by the door of the church (known as the Old Minster). He wanted to hear the patter of "the sweet rain of heaven" and the footsteps of passing worshippers.

In the 10th century, a new and ambitious bishop was appointed at Winchester; Aethelwold. He made improvements to the church and, possibly on the order of King Edgar, had Swithin's remains dug up on the 15th July 971, and brought into the building, rehoused in a lavish shrine.

It is claimed that a terrible storm blew up on the day Saint Swithin was moved, although there is absolutely no proof for this. It lasted for 40 days, showing that Saint Swithin was not happy! Other legends say that every time they tried to move his remains into the Cathedral torrential rains stopped them from doing so. Either way the legend and the weather combined into the rhyme

Saint Swithin's day, if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain;
Saint Swithin's day, if thou be fair,
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.



Although some say the rain must fall on St Swithins' bridge weather patterns can settle for a period around the middle of July. Indeed, across Europe there are Saints who are believed to exert a similar influence over the weather, such as St. Medard, St. Gervase and St. Protais in France on 8th and 19th June and St. Godelieve in Flanders on 6th July.

The similarities may have something to do with the fact that, in Europe, summer weather patterns in early to mid-July tend to be consistent for several weeks in seven to eight years out of ten. This can be explained by the patterns of the wind currents bringing weather fronts across the British Isles, known as jet streams. When the jet stream falls to the north of Britain, high pressure systems (usually associated with clear skies and calm weather) are able to move in. In contrast, when the jet stream lies over or beneath the British Isles, arctic air and low pressure weather systems are more common and bring cloudy, rainy and windy weather. There is no evidence though for 40 days of continuous wet or dry weather! Unfortunately, after all that trouble getting him into Winchester Cathedral, St Swithins' shrine was destroyed in 1538 and his relics scattered.

"Be to us, O God, our love and our hope: our thoughts flowing from you, our life being in you and our breathing taken with you: for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen (John Cassain c360-435)