

Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 12th July)

15th July

Saint Swithun - *bishop*



There is hardly any record of Swithun contemporary with his life. He was Bishop of Winchester from AD852 to AD863. He seems to have been remembered as pastorally zealous bishop, though that recollection was overlaid with tales of miracles wrought by him after his death. When S Dunstan and his colleagues were pursuing a programme of Church reform, they placed the newly refurbished Winchester Cathedral under his patronage. Most people, nowadays, if they know of him at all, think of the proverb, "*St Swithun's day if thou dost rain/
For forty days it will remain/
St Swithun's day if thou be fair/
For forty days 'twill rain nae mare.*"