

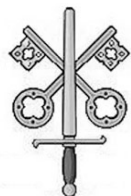
Parish Magazine for
Wem, Lee Brockhurst and Weston-under-Redcastle

June 2020



Lichfield Cathedral

St Peter & St Paul's, Wem
St Peter's, Lee Brockhurst
St Luke's, Weston-under-Redcastle



Rector

The Revd Nick Heron
The Rectory
Ellesmere Road, Wem SY4 5TU

01939 232550

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Retired Clergy:

The Revd Mike Cotterell, Preb Pam
Freeman, Preb Rob Haarhoff, Canon Dr
William Price, The Revd John Tye

Reader Emeritus:

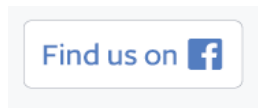
Celia Camplin

ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WEM

Churchwardens:	Elaine Shaw	236575
	Chris Mellings	809521
PCC Lay Chair:	Sybil Farmer	232568
PCC Treasurer:	Caroline Sinclair	232626
Planned Giving Officer:	Bob Dibben	236178
Organist & Choir Master:	Rodney Bellamy	01630 652564
Deputy Captain of Bells:	Karen Compton	236561
Sacristans:	June Powell	234412
	& Kath Ridgway	290162
Mothers' Union:	Bette Rich	234223
Church Flowers:	Olive Kenward	234774
	& Sybil Farmer	232568
Church Hall Bookings:	Elaine Shaw	07969 511590
Baby and Toddler Group:	Alison Hope	07526 757492

Further details are available on our website:

www.wemcofe.co.uk



@Wemparishchurch

From the Registers of St Peter and St Paul's Wem

At Rest

15 May Eric (Rick) Sudlow

28 May Derek David Mackay

**“Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord and may
light perpetual shine upon them.”**

Book of Remembrance for June

1 st	John Austin Gregory	17 th	Peter Geoffrey Bullen
2 nd	Ethel Shufflebottom	18 th	Kenneth Sherwood
3 rd	William Millington	18 th	Eileen Gladys Johnson
4 th	Edward Brian Bennett	20 th	Arthur “Phil” Jones
4 th	Agnes May Salisbury	20 th	Joan Margaret Dawson Russell
8 th	Herbert Frank Higgins	20 th	George William Morris
9 th	Margaret Daffodil Haarhoff	21 st	Bessie Herriman
9 th	Sarah Ann (Sally) Archer	22 nd	Samuel Ernest Coles
	Pegrum	23 rd	George James Rich
10 th	Reginald Ernest Harper	24 th	Gerald Gordon Shepherd
10 th	John Tudor	24 th	Rosemary Beryl Davenport
10 th	Archie Kevin Powell	25 th	Trixie May Styles
11 th	Clive Raymond Shaw	25 th	Brian Dennis Birch
16 th	Olive Annie Groom	26 th	Mary Connolly
17 th	Michael James Peel	29 th	Albert Thomas Evans
17 th	Walter Eric Cliff	30 th	Elsie May Jones

ST PETER'S, LEE BROCKHURST

Church Warden:	Val Lusby	235610
Church Warden and Treasurer:	Roger Ashton	232425
Secretary:	Phoebe Ashton	232425
Vice Chairman:	Tim Wilton-Morgan	235703
Warden Emeritus:	Robert Marsh	200641

ST LUKE'S, WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE

Church Warden:	Arthur Fox	01630 685180
Church Warden:	Helen O'Neill	01939 200663
Church Warden (Deputy):	Sylvia Griffiths	01630 685204
Treasurer:	Colin Holloway	01939 200682

The next issue is scheduled to be prepared on **Thursday 18 June** and will be available on **Friday 26 June** after 4.15 pm if we are able to produce a physical magazine. Otherwise it will go out in an electronic version. If you are receiving this via a friend and not currently on our email list, please contact either Fr Nick or the address below and we can add you to our list.

Items for the magazine can be left in the drawer at the back of the church in Wem, if restrictions have been lifted, (by 9 am Thursday) or sent to: pamedgmond@hotmail.com

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you all in the best health possible under these continuing different circumstances. We are all now longing for a return to 'normality' and wondering how and when this might be - although keeping some of the 'silver-linings' to this very dark cloud of coronavirus would be very welcome; true appreciation of NHS Staff, Carers, so many key workers; those many acts of care and thoughtfulness, realising what is of ultimate value, greater awareness of the vulnerable and disadvantaged, space to take stock and the so needed temporary relief for our environment being prominent. Of course the physical separations many of us face are something we long to see coming to a close and we yearn to join together again in our churches.

So an update on when places of worship may possibly be open again. Things are, of course, 'fluid' and second-guessing is tempting and understandable yet probably unhelpful. Indeed things are not always clear and the greater back-cloth to what I type could alter before you read this(!). What we have factually to go on is the Governmental paper published on Monday 11 May) ['The UK Gov't COVID-19 recovery strategy'], you have probably heard or read of the three stage approach in this. It is readily available on-line. It refers to 'current planning assumptions' and in para 4.3 speaks of re-opening places of worship in the third stage which is 'no earlier than 4 July'. This is the Government's direction as of 11 May.

The C of E Lead on this for the House of Bishops is The Bishop of London, shortly after the publication came the following statement in response - on the C of E website:

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, said: "We note from the Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy that churches could be open from July as part of the conditional and phased plan to begin lifting the lockdown. We look forward to the time when we are able to gather again in our church buildings.

"We are examining what steps we will need to take to do so safely and are actively planning ahead in preparation. We strongly support the Government's approach of continuing to suppress the transmission of the virus and accordingly, we recognise that at this time public worship cannot return in the interests of public health and safety."

No doubt as the possible time to resume public worship draws nearer the Church will be offering direction and advice as to how this may restart safely, we can be sure a lot of time and effort is going into preparing this. I'm equally sure that none of us is naïve enough to imagine that there will simply be return to how things were or 'should be' overnight.

There are also hints as to the possibility of mild changes to funeral arrangements and possibly the allowing of *very small* weddings.

The most up to date Church Guidance is continually available on the C of E website as mentioned above – please do visit this if you haven't already for the wealth of devotional and topical material available there as well as the most up to date information on the Church's response:

www.churchofengland.org

Until such a time as we meet physically together, I cannot repeat often enough: let us always treasure the fact that we are still united in Faith, Hope and Love. We are physically apart yet still bound together in God's love and held together in the Spirit as we celebrate at the great Feast of Pentecost.

So, another electronic edition. Amongst the highlights a piece from our church school. It is near the end so please keep reading! Take care and continue to stay safe.

With every good wish, Nick

OUR CALENDAR FOR JUNE

May ends with one of the three great days in our Church Year with the Feast of Pentecost on the 31st and June therefore begins with the Festival of the Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth (which is usually on the 31st itself).

Time and again, quite understandably, we hear the common refrain at present of those isolating or locked down that days can all seem the same: 'what day of the week is it?'. Sunday, The Lord's Day, the Day of the Resurrection can be a marker for many; our 'red letter' days and other commemorations may also help – they certainly bring colour and variety to the pattern of our thoughts and devotions. Perhaps this can be so for us in our homes as in our church.

Our Sundays, ending for once with the last day of the month (by which time this Magazine will have been distributed) as the day is so important, and through the month of June are:

SUNDAY 31 MAY.
THE DAY OF PENTECOST

SUNDAY 7 JUNE.
TRINITY SUNDAY

SUNDAY 14 June. The First Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 21 June. The Second Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 28 June. The Third Sunday after Trinity

A Collect (or prayer) for Pentecost

*Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Other Major Feast Days and Festivals which adorn this month include:

Monday 1 June (transferred). The Visit of the BVM to Elizabeth

Thursday 11 June. CORPUS CHRISTI. Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion

Friday 12 June. St Barnabas the Apostle

Wednesday 24 June. The Birth of John the Baptist

Monday 29 June. SS Peter & Paul Apostles

As always you will find the other Saints and Holy Days for the month later in the Magazine, June seems to have a particularly rich variety and cross-section of these. Two of particular note for our Islands are:

St Columba whose day is 9 June: Columba (c521-97) was an Irishman who became a priest and after years of preaching and teaching there settled on the island of Iona where he founded a monastery and devoted his life to this and to spreading the Gospel throughout the North of our land – instrumental in the spread of Christianity there and where he is so rightly revered to this day.

St Alban whose day is 22 June: Alban who died c250 was a soldier in the Roman city of Verulamium (now St Albans). He gave shelter to a priest fleeing persecution and whilst hiding him in his house for several days was converted to Christianity. When the hiding place was discovered Alban, dressed in the priest's cloak, was arrested. Tortured by the authorities he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded on 22 June becoming the first British martyr. His shrine still stands today at the heart of the great Cathedral and Abbey Church named after him.

Wednesday 17 marks the beginning of World Refugee Week and Friday 19 World Refugee Day. Over this period please pray for all

refugees and the many agencies that do God's work in supporting them.

Friday 26 is Victims of Torture Day. As always, but especially on this day pray for all victims of torture, the work of Amnesty International and the eradication of this evil practice.

Lord Jesus, you experienced in person torture and death
as a prisoner of conscience.
You were beaten and flogged and sentenced to an agonizing death
though you had done no wrong.
Be now with prisoners of conscience throughout the world.
Be with them in their fear and loneliness,
in the agony of physical and mental torture, and in the face of
execution and death.
Stretch out your hands in power to break their chains.
Be merciful to the oppressor and the torturer, and place a new
heart within them.
Forgive all injustice in our lives, and transform us to be
instruments of your peace, for by your wounds we are healed.

Amnesty International, Prayers for Peace.

*"Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud
of witnesses....let us run with perseverance
the race that is set before us"*

**Any queries about searches in the Whitchurch Road
Cemetery or elsewhere**

**Please contact Mr Tom Edwards of 1 Eckford Park, Wem,
SY4 5HL or on 01939 233932**

WEM PARISH DAY OF PRAYER

*"Prayer the Churches banquet, Angels age,
God's breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,"*

So wrote the Anglican Priest, Poet and Pastor George Herbert.

Whilst written no later than 1633 these beautiful words are timeless and as true today as ever. So the planned Day of Prayer by SS Peter & Paul's will still most certainly take place, just differently!

20 JUNE 7am to 7pm

Unsurprisingly we cannot be in church so there will be no physical 'stations' to focus upon. However we will have on-line material, a rota of prayer to keep this constant through the day and themes to give our prayer, reflection, thoughts and contemplation focus. As yet to be decided there will also be a concluding act of worship and prayer to end the day.

This will in every way be as much a Day of Prayer as any of the others we have shared, one might even say the sense of coming together and purpose may if anything be heightened as we use for us innovation and novel means and set time aside for the very urgent needs of our world, communities and Church.

Sue (McLeod) and Thelma (Pugh) are working on how we can best draw all this together so do please keep an eye open for emails from them, also if you have any ideas and suggestions they would be delighted to hear from you.

THE LATECOMERS

Tim Heavisesides has shared with us this poem, based on St Mark's Gospel, encapsulating Jesus' teaching and the imperative on Christians - and everybody else - to love.

He saw them come, then halt behind the crowd
That wailed and plucked and ringed him, and was glad
They kept their distance. Hedged on every side

Harried and responsive to their need,
Each hand that stretched, each brief hysteric squeal-
However he assisted and paid heed.

A sudden blank letdown was what he'd feel
Unmanning him when he met the pain of loss
In the eyes of those his reach had failed to bless.

And so he was relieved the newcomers
Had now discovered they'd arrived too late
And gone away. Until he hears them, climbers

On the roof, a sound of tiles being shifted,
The treble scrape of terra cotta lifted
And a paralytic on his pallet

Lowered like a corpse into a grave.
Exhaustion and the imperatives of love
Vied in him. To judge, instruct, reprove,

And ease them body and soul.
Not to abandon but to lay on hands.
Make time. Make whole. Forgive.

Seamus Heaney

From *Poetry Ireland Review* (No. 112, publ. 2014)

WE HAD HOPED.....

The Radio 4 service on 26 April I found particularly poignant. The disciples on the road to Emmaus had hoped for so much from their master Jesus. Now those hopes seemed to lie dead in the dust at their feet. Hopes.... We had hoped to celebrate my birthday with our family, to get out and about in the spring weather, to build on growing friendships and make new ones, to be worshipping and celebrating together with our church family, joining in community events, and so much more.

Now all that has to be put on hold. Our routines are disrupted and our worlds have shrunk to home, garden if we're lucky, and for those of us who can get out, the supermarket and the lanes and footpaths of the neighbourhood. Friends and family are reduced to voices on the phone or faces on a screen, or the occasional suitably distanced chat at the door or in the street. We are constantly aware of the suffering of others but most of us are able to do so little to help. Our only hope, it seems, is that all this will be over..... some day.

Jesus told us to stop thinking about tomorrow and to live one day at a time. In our "normal" lives we tend constantly to be thinking ahead, planning ahead, almost to the point of living ahead. The way we live now virtually forces us to do so. Being caught unprepared (for what?) is seen as a sign of incompetence and failure. But this new normal forces us to let go of the future. Today is the only day there is. I have found that to embrace this, when I can, is hugely liberating and enriching. Although it can often seem that every day is the same, each one contains small blessings, tiny gifts which can be savoured because now is the only time there is. Mostly they come through the physical senses – a sight, a sound, a taste, a smell – which themselves are the gifts of creation, of being human, of being born out of the mind of God.

Of course there are gifts in the spiritual realm as well. The disciples

in their sad walk to Emmaus discovered to their joy that it was their Lord himself walking beside them. It took them a while. First they had to tell Him all about their own thoughts and feelings, then to listen to what He had to teach them; and it was only later that they saw him for who He was. Perhaps there is pattern there for us. In our small, restricted worlds there is more room than ever for the One who is always walking beside us, if only we recognise Him. And He begins by asking us to tell Him why we are so sad.

Katharine Murray



Birthday Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards, greetings and telephone messages on the occasion of my 80th Birthday, Despite the lockdown I had a happy day, and hope to celebrate properly when it is safe to do so.

God Bless you all.

Vera (Thompson)

We have to keep it going

It has been a longstanding requirement* for each church and its churchwardens to ensure that a copy of every Church Magazine is retained as a matter of record of the principal past and upcoming happenings relating to the church and its parish.

For nigh on 160 years church magazines up and down the land have been carefully prepared, edited and printed before being distributed throughout their respective parishes, often road by road by local teams of dedicated distributors.

The original purpose of a Church Magazine was simple: to name its officials, to record what had happened be it services, meetings, events, marriages, deaths and baptisms among whatever else was important news for the church and the parish. It also advertised future services and events such as garden parties, children's excursions, fundraising activities, parish meetings and of course local town and national celebrations after two World Wars.

Early magazines comprised just one sheet of paper, printed both sides and folded once except when they might record Annual Parish Meetings and major events which consumed many "column inches" and required a further sheet. It was one of the duties of the incumbent to produce the Magazine and evidence has been seen elsewhere of the incumbent having gone on holiday some 200 miles away yet he sent by post to his parish his piece for the lead item (the Vicar's Letter) in the Magazine. In those days each copy cost the reader 1d and it is quite likely that the price was occasionally supplemented with a further small coin by way of a donation before the price inevitably rose to 1½d.

In Wem there has been no hint of such absentee activities from the Magazine archive that we have, for there are many years during the time a certain incumbent was in residence at The Rectory where the archive is lacking copies of the Magazine. Various enquiries have proved fruitless and the gaps remain.

Nowadays our Magazine is no longer printed locally across the road by Strong's from manuscript and typed pieces before the days of 'cut-and-paste' for photocopying but is sent away electronically to be computer-set, printed, folded and trimmed at high speed before being delivered back to Wem for distribution and sale, the price now being 50p (10/-)

per copy. The cost of printing is now supported by advertising by local businesses.

But alas, quite out of the blue, the printing has been suddenly disrupted by the government's requirements aimed at reducing the impact of Coronavirus. Printing of certain items, being assessed to be non-essential, has been suspended and Church Magazines among many other routine but regular publications have become victims of this situation.

However, as readers of this and the past two editions will be aware, the content of our Magazine has continued to be produced but only in an electronic form and distributed electronically, without advertisements. So, how do we ensure that readable copies of the content are retained in the archive to be read by future members of the church and historians? Using the electronic version and with some experience of using Word the content of each edition was formed into an A5 booklet format and printed on a home printer, stapled and folded. The results, poor but essential relatives of the proper versions, have been placed in the archive to maintain the run of our Parish Magazine, now in its 160th Year of Publication. At the time of writing (typing on a computer) this piece the process will probably continue for several months more.

Why go to this trouble and provide paper versions? Based on experience in the USA when some important national records were kept electronically but the equipment to read these records was destroyed it is clear that because we read with our eyes we are not computers so our records on paper versions do need to be carefully kept – for ever.

**Church of England Records Management Guide No1 Rev 2009*

Bob Dibben



Reflections of VE Day, 8th May 1945

75 years on

Throughout Europe and worldwide, 8th May 1945 has been remembered as Victory in Europe (VE) day.

Winston Churchill, the UK's Prime Minister at that time broadcast by radio, (remember – no TV then!) on 8th May, the following:

*“Hostilities will end officially at one minute
after midnight tonight ...”*

Inevitably there is an ever dwindling number of living persons who can recall in detail the events of that day.

One very special and physically tangible link to that day and my own family exists at the Kings Own Shropshire Light Infantry Museum within Shrewsbury Castle precincts, namely the German Grand Admirals' baton held by Admiral Karl Donitz, the person named by Hitler on 25th April 1945 as his successor as German leader.

My late brother David, and his British Army comrades, captured Admiral Donitz and his staff before handing them over to the KOSLI for “safekeeping”. This event was subsequent to David personally receiving from Field Marshall Montgomery, Commander 21st British Army Group, a gallantry medal and citation for a particular action during the post D-Day landings in Normandy, wherein David, on three separate occasions, personally captured a total number of 20 plus German soldiers, who, I presume survived to live-on, post VE day.

Whilst we celebrate our VE day, in the Christian spirit of reconciliation, I consider that there will probably be many descendants, if not some survivors of those 20 plus prisoners, who were grateful that VE day, and peace in Europe had, at last, arrived.

Michael Green

Commemorations in Eckford Park

I live in quite a small area of Eckford Park, but we can make a big noise. Thursday evenings we are out there, hand clapping, bell ringing plus a hooter, in recognition for the NHS plus everyone who is involved in any way to get us through this horrendous virus.

V.E. Day saw flags flying and lots of colourful bunting, some made by Mattie & George with a little help from mum. Recently we have a new family with a delightful little girl Seren who delivered invitations to every house inviting everyone to go along at 4-00pm, taking great care with social distancing, to help themselves to cakes. Seren helped her mum to bake and decorate little cakes, each plate had a small card with a Union Jack on one side and printed on the other was -

Today we celebrate V.E day.

The date 2020 8th May.

Not how we thought it would be.

But being British, making the best you see.

We have so much to be thankful for.

Family, friends, food and so much more.

Today let us not dwell on what has been,

but revel in all the beauty that is seen.

We all gave thanks for all who fought & died that we might live and we hope and pray for peace and joy in our time. Unfortunately a few of our neighbours were not well enough to come along so Seren and Mattie delivered cakes to them, they were much appreciated.

A day never to be forgotten!

Tricia B

****WHILST IN LAST MONTH'S EDITION
PLEASE DO NOT BYPASS THIS NOTICE****

**ALL WILL BE AWARE OF THE ECONOMIC COSTS TO THE CORONAVIRUS
CRISIS , OUR WEEKLY NEWS BRINGS YET MORE PAINFUL AWARENESS OF
THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS FOR FOOD POVERTY IN OUR MIDST.
PLEASE SUPPORT IF YOU CAN**

**WHITCHURCH FOODBANK
HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

For most, if not all of us, it is heart-breaking enough that we require Food Banks in the first place. Now we have to realise that the current crisis is placing increased demands upon them whilst some of the usual sources of support are in shorter supply.

All the churches in our Benefice ordinarily do a wonderful job of supporting our local Food Bank. However these are so clearly not ordinary times and our usual way of supporting Whitchurch Food Bank is not possible, yet alongside this the need for the Food Bank is greater than ever before. In addition to the on-going need the coronavirus pandemic has plunged many whose work we in 'normal' times rely upon, or occasionally take for granted, into very difficult circumstances - but our churches are not open to receive donations!

The Food Bank is still open to accept donations at their base, Bargates Hall Whitchurch, in the usual way between 09.30-11.30 on Tuesdays & Fridays. Social Distancing will be maintained.

There are three alternative ways to continue to support the truly wonderful and absolutely essential work of the Food Bank:

1. Food can be left in Wem Co-op where it is collected and taken to Whitchurch by Ann & Paul Johnson from Wem Methodist church.
2. We also understand that the Co-op staff at Wem are happy to take payments by debit/credit card over the phone for Food Bank goods, which they will place in the donation cages ready for collection/delivery.
3. Direct monetary donations can be made on line at:
<https://whitchurch.foodbank.org.uk/>

*'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty
and you gave me drink'*

Matthew 25.35a

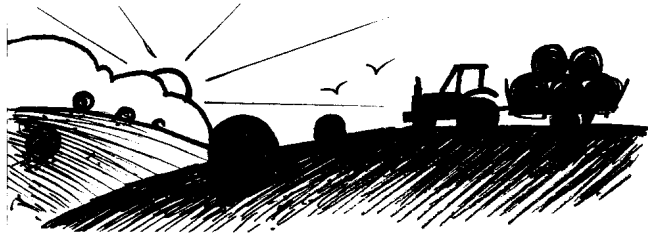
Out in the Fields with God

Phoebe Ashton heard this poem being read on Radio 3 and wished to share it with you.

The little cares that fretted me,
I lost them yesterday
Among the fields above the sea,
Among the winds that play,
Among the lowing of the herd,
The rustling of the trees,
Among the singing of the birds,
The humming of the bees.

The foolish fears of what might pass
I cast them all away
Among the clover-scented grass,
Among the new-mown hay,
Among the hushing of the corn,
Where drowsy poppies nod,
Where ill thoughts die and good are born —
Out in the fields with God.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning



Holy Days in the JUNE Calendar

- 1st Justin, Martyr at Rome, c.165.
3rd The Martyrs of Uganda, 1886 and 1978.
4th Petroc, Abbot of Padstow, 6th century.
5th Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop and Apostle of Germany, Martyr, 754.
6th Ini Kopouria, Founder of the Melanesia Brotherhood, 1945.
8th Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath & Wells, Non-Juror, Hymn writer, 1711.
9th Columba, Abbot of Iona, Missionary, 597.
Ephrem of Syria, Deacon, Hymn writer, 373.
11th **Barnabas the Apostle.**
14th Richard Baxter, Puritan Divine, 1691.
15th Evelyn Underhill, Spiritual Writer, 1941.
16th Richard, Bishop of Chichester, 1253.
Joseph Butler, Bishop of Durham, Philosopher, 1752.
17th Samuel & Henrietta Barnett, Social Reformers, 1913 & 1936.
18th Bernard Mizeki, Apostle of the MaShona, Martyr, 1896.
19th Sundar Singh of India, Sadhu, Evangelist, 1929.
22nd Alban, first Martyr of Britain, c.250.
23rd Ethelreda, Abbess of Ely, c.678.
24th **The Birth of John the Baptist.**
27th Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 444.
28th Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, Teacher of the Faith, c.220
29th **Peter & Paul, Apostles.**



Kath Trevor's Extra-special Wordsearch

During this lockdown Kath Trevor is missing her family: they know that Kath likes doing wordsearches so they sent her this lovely one which she would like to share with you.

C	P	C	F	G	N	O	R	T	S
O	V	A	A	X	E	K	S	X	Z
U	B	R	M	Y	Z	L	E	Y	X
R	E	I	I	G	D	N	I	K	P
A	L	N	L	N	W	U	R	M	O
G	I	G	Y	O	V	F	O	L	S
E	E	V	A	R	B	U	M	A	I
O	V	Q	R	T	S	T	E	U	T
U	E	P	L	S	S	I	M	G	I
S	O	N	M	O	L	K	J	H	V
A	B	A	D	E	V	F	G	H	E
H	A	P	P	I	N	E	S	S	I

family	love
miss	memories
kind	smile
laugh	happiness
courageous	positive
brave	strong
fun	believe
caring	

Here is a little something from the Trevor's because we miss you so much. The words you need to find are all the words which make us think about you. Enjoy finding all the words.

We love and miss you lots!
Love from
Leanne, Gareth, Elliot and Amelia
xxxx

EVELYN UNDERHILL

One of the Commemorations in June is that of Evelyn Underhill who was born in 1875. Her spiritual journey brought her back into the C of E into which she had been baptised and confirmed and she became a sought after and highly regarded influential retreat conductor and spiritual director. She wrote many works including 'Worship' and most notably her 1911 book 'Mysticism'. Evelyn Underhill was also the first woman to deliver a lecture on Theology at Oxford University and was a novelist and poet.

Her commemoration is on 15 June and the following is one of her prayers:

For Wholeness

O Lord, penetrate those murky corners
where we hide memories and tendencies
on, which we do not care to look,
but which we will not disinter
and yield freely up to you,
that you may purify and transmute them:
the persistent buried grudge,
the half-acknowledged enmity
which is still smouldering;
the bitterness of that loss
we have not turned into sacrifice:
the private comfort we cling to;
the secret fear of failure that saps our initiative
and is really inverted pride;
the pessimism which is an insult to your joy, Lord;
we bring all these to you,
and we review them with shame and penitence
In your steadfast light.

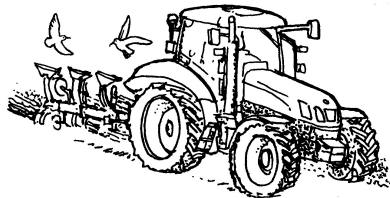
FLAWED?

There is no doubt that we live in an imperfect world, but the very fact that it is imperfect brings with it the challenges and rewards that colour our daily living circumstances. Nature itself is flawed in the sense that there are earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, drought, violent weather and fire storms, and virulent disease outbreaks.

Human beings, born into this nature on the surface of planet Earth, are flawed in the sense that we are free moral agents with the power of doing right or wrong; the God-given good and evil qualities which again bring the challenges and rewards that colour our daily living. The present global crisis, the Corvid 19 pandemic, brings trauma to the whole of the world's population irrespective of race, creed, political and economic ideology, and individual wealth and power.

God does not intervene to protect us, so it would seem the flaws in nature and human nature are just where God would have it, He wants us to experience nature's extremes and the destructive powers of moral corruption. But there are some wonderful stories in recent weeks of selfless heroism despite the fear of death, and some of those who are fearful, searching for solace in their extremely stressful circumstances, are turning to the Church as a source of finding love from a compassionate God.

Roger Ashton



SATURDAY 20TH JUNE

**SS PETER & PAUL'S
PARISH DAY OF PRAYER**

7.00am – 7.00pm

Location of your choice, within lockdown restrictions

Please do consider committing some time during the day, to praise God and pray

- For our world; politically and environmentally
- for our nation; the needs and impact of the coronavirus pandemic
- for our community of Wem
- our benefice; for guidance when we emerge from 'lockdown'
- for your own individual concerns.

With the restriction of our church building being closed, we are working on providing inspirations using other means than the Prayer Stations of previous years.

If you are able to commit to a particular hour, please contact Thelma Pugh so we can ensure that prayer is continuous throughout the 12 hour day

thelmapugh0@gmail.com Tel: 01939 232273

Gardening during shielding – or how to gather cardboard!

Lockdown or, worse still, Shielding in the Spring is the wrong time for the keen gardener to have to stay behind a locked front door and within the boundary of their property.

No visitors are allowed into the house and the gardener is not allowed out of their property (the house and garden - which in NHS speak is defined as “Home”).

Just when the plants are getting into their stride and growing fast after a quiet winter, currently despite a lack of adequate rain, and the seeds in the greenhouse are bursting into life the gardener needs general purpose composts – more than one several sacksful – and of course fresh growth attracts every hungry bug that one can think of, so sprays that deter said bugs are needed also.

Just nip along to Kings? No. Jump in the car and off to Holly Farm or one of the many smaller nurserymen around Wem for some of their plants to fill spaces in the borders? No. What about Shawbury Garden Centre for their selection of composts and a quiet coffee in their coffee shop? No.

Every possible chance of purchasing items for the garden is foiled by this NHS ruling of Shielding to keep the unfortunate vulnerable people of the UK protected from even the slightest possibility of contact with the Coronavirus.

What does the keen gardener do in such circumstances? They reach for the laptop and search for the required items on-line. Larger items, smaller items, seeds, plants, sprays, fertilisers. The list seems endless and makes one realise how many different items are used in the course of the madness of the Springtime busy period to have the garden looking its best for the Summer.

Where does the cardboard come in? You have probably guessed now that apart from the sacks of compost almost everything arrives in a cardboard box, large or small, according to the item(s) it contains.

Many will know of the name Amazon and that it is basically a huge showcase of their goodies for sale or items for sale on behalf of others. The range is enormous and in the gardening section alone there must be hundreds of items advertised. Order under their “Prime” delivery service and many items can be delivered on the day after ordering. But Amazon do have a wide range of cartons in which they pack the items and that’s where the cardboard comes in. Boxes large, boxes small. They all have to be cut down to small flat pieces for recycling and in the meantime our Gardener, restricted to “Home”, cannot go to the recycling centre so the biggest Amazon box is pressed into service as the temporary receptacle for the cardboard until the car can be filled with cardboard for the “trip to the tip”.

Where the Gardener does say a sincere “Thank you” is to the people who collect the Green recycling bins every fortnight. A bin can be quickly filled with grass cuttings, trimmings from the quick growing plants to keep them in a better shape, the remains of dead plants – and weeds.

So, gardening under Shielding has the advantage of plenty of free time to undertake the gardening tasks but it is a highly inconvenient situation when necessities are required. Careful planning is not always possible in these circumstances, especially when a chosen item takes longer to arrive and the plans are extended unhelpfully.

Speaking personally it has been a strange start to the year 2020, in terms of gardening and in terms of shopping generally because the weekly shop is also delivered. Worry not. Nature will have the upper hand in the end, so relax with a cuppa until the next box of plants is left on the doorstep and then get gardening again!

Bob Dibben



LEE BROCKHURST WI

As Victor Meldrew would say... **'I don't believe it!'** but Lee Brockhurst W.I. has been **very** busy over the last month.

- At the end of April sixteen members enjoyed catching up with each other at our monthly meeting, via Zoom, and were challenged by a **quiz cunningly compiled** by our secretary Julie Woolfenden. **Do you know how many letters are in the full Welsh name** of the Anglesey village known as Llanfair PG? ... No? Neither did I! (58 apparently). Fortunately other members were better informed and **Ann Hall** was crowned champion. The prize was a bar of chocolate kindly provided by our secretary who, because of the lockdown, also **kindly ate it** on behalf of the winner!
- 'What's the Point' members learned how to make a **salt dough wheatsheaf** at their May meeting after which they planned the coming year's fun activities, including **lino printing, wet felting** and a **patchwork** workshop.
- At the **Book Club** on 11th May there was an enjoyable discussion about 'The Hive' by Gill Hornby which had the thumbs up from most members. In the absence of the Shropshire Reading Groups library service, members decided to download a **free audio** version of John Buchan's '**The Thirty Nine Steps**', using the BBC Sounds app, for discussion at the next meeting on **22nd June** and to open up the Book Club to **all LBWI members** for the duration of the lockdown.
- Eighteen members 'zoomed' in to our main May meeting at which our speaker gave us a compelling insight into his work as a detective on the **Yorkshire Ripper** Enquiry, thankfully the more shocking details were censored. A suggestion to make **commemorative bunting** for our WI's **70th birthday** was enthusiastically approved; **nineteen members** have signed up, with Meg Bilson taking on the organisation.

Zoom meetings seem harder to remember than physical ones (!) so upcoming dates to note on your calendar are;

2nd June – ‘Bunting’ session; any questions plus progress so far.

16th June – main WI meeting with speaker

22nd June – Book Club

Finally, I recently came across this story showing the **humanity of strangers** which I want to share with you...

Every year **Julie Spence** of Leeds visits Scarborough, to lay flowers on a bench **in memory of her eight year old son** Callum, on the anniversary of his death in a traffic accident in 2005, and was distraught when the travel restrictions prevented her from making this pilgrimage. She put a plea on social media asking if someone would visit the bench and sit for a moment on her behalf. The response was overwhelming; the bench was completely covered in flowers in memory of her son and she received countless messages of support.

I love being a part of W.I. but it is good to remember at this time that **we are all part of a huge community** and strangers are one step away from being our friends.

Sue Wilton-Morgan
President
Lee Brockhurst WI

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A couple of quotes with the current pandemic in mind:

"Have courage for the great sorrows of life, and patience for the small ones. And when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake." - *Victor Hugo, writer*

'Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' - *Joshua 1:9*

Services around the World

I've watched services on line for years, especially from two places. On Sunday mornings when I'm back from church I look at the Sung Eucharist from Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin, a Cathedral of our sister Church, the Anglican Church of Ireland. That service has to be watched at the time when it is held, but my other favourite is on video and can be watched at any time, and that is from Trinity Church Wall Street in New York, the richest church in the Anglican Communion, thanks to Queen Anne endowing it in 1705 with 215 acres of what became Manhattan. My most recent additional viewing is of services from Christ Church St Laurence in Sydney, an extremely Anglo-Catholic Church in what is probably the most Evangelical diocese in the world. All these have very dignified worship with superb music. Last Sunday I came across by accident Choral Matins from the Anglican Cathedral in Lagos in Nigeria. It was quite different.

A friend in Dublin has just given me details of a service for Ascension Day, based in New York, but with different parts of the Eucharist broadcast from Anglican churches throughout the world, including by a remarkable coincidence two of my favourites, Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin and Christ Church St Laurence in Sydney. In the spirit of Ascension Day most of the service is from church roofs. See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwiLZILYm00>.

But the most moving services I watched during the lock down were those for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Day from the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Shrewsbury. There was no music, but the liturgy was performed very devoutly by Bishop Mark Davies. I read that there had been over 13,000 viewings of the service on Good Friday, and if we assume that many viewings were by households, more than one person, the Bishop was seen by a very large proportion of the faithful in the diocese. I still regret that the Church of England did not permit services, with just

the priest present, to be streamed from cathedrals and churches for a long time. There seems to me to be a huge difference between services streamed from clergy studies or lounges and those from cathedrals and churches.

When I've not been looking at the almost infinite number of services now available on line I've been engaged in a study of the Church of England clergy in Shropshire in the twentieth century. I'd like to trace the numbers of clergy, their responsibilities, their training, their stipends, their place in society, and so on up to the year 2000. So far, after 9 weeks, I'm still in 1901! Then there were 264 incumbents (rectors and vicars) in Shropshire for a total population of about 240,000. Now there are about 80 for a total population of 500,000. My aim is to see in detail how this very significant change happened.

William Price

News from St Peter's CE Primary School

Although the school has been officially shut for the last few months we have remained open to key worker children who have been working hard in school and enjoying time with their teachers and TAs. The children who have remained at home have been very busy working through online learning activities that have been set by their teachers on a platform called 'Seesaw'. Each week they send their teachers pictures and examples of work that they have completed at home.

We have been so impressed with the children's hard work and dedication so we thought we would celebrate this with you!

Reception and year 1 have enjoyed reading the story 'Oliver's Fruit Salad'. They have designed and made their own fruit kebabs as well as learning about healthy foods and keeping themselves fit. The fruit kebabs look delicious!



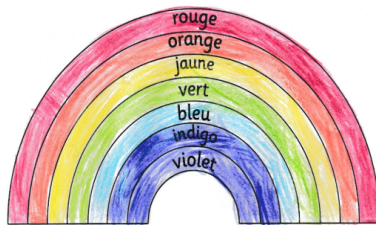
Other children have been busy drawing in the style of Van Gogh, dissecting flowers and writing book reviews. They have also been learning the colour names in French.



I love painting
sunflowers,
they are bright
and make me
me feel joyful.



Arc en ciel



Many of our children also celebrated VE day by making decorations, cooking and studying the history of VE day. Lots of our families made a special effort to commemorate this special time on what was a lovely sunny bank holiday weekend.



I would like to thank staff, parents and children for all of their efforts over the last few months- we are lucky to have such a special and caring school community!

If you would like to see regular updates from St Peter's then please sign up to the weekly school newsletter in the news section of our new website www.stpetersschoolwem.org.uk .

Mrs Brown
Head teacher