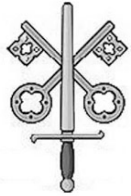


Parish Magazine for
Wem, Lee Brockhurst and Weston-under-Redcastle

July 2020



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



Rector

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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:

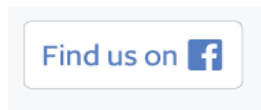
Celia Camplin

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
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

5 June Eric Sidlow

5 June Ethel May Butler

19 June Miriam Ellen Lear

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

Book of Remembrance for July

1 st	Roy Stubbs	18 th	John Henry Brown
3 rd	Margaret Anne Peel	22 nd	Alfred Draper
3 rd	Doris Irene Bennett	22 nd	Stanley Joseph Healey
4 th	Hilda Dorothy Harper	23 rd	Mabel Greenaway
4 th	William Walter Jaggard	24 th	Christopher John Morgan
5 th	Thomas Evanson	24 th	Kathleen Sinclair
5 th	Claude William Daffern	25 th	Myrtle Elizabeth Brien
5 th	Arthur Frederick Taylor	25 th	Evelyn Alice Smith
6 th	Peter Gordon Parma Brain	25 th	Jonathan Patrick Smith
6 th	Robert Cross	25 th	Florence May Tommy
9 th	Charles A. Brewer	26 th	Nancy Brien
9 th	Marie Brain	26 th	Dennis Percy Spencer
11 th	Lizzie Jane Price	27 th	Lilian Elsie Pountney
14 th	Don Kenward	27 th	Kathleen Maud Jones
14 th	Gerald Henry Llowarch	28 th	Brian Cliffe
16 th	Clive Grocott	28 th	Philip Collis Smith
17 th	Lilian Martha Boyden	29 th	Ruth Heslop
		30 th	Ralph (Rafe) Dean

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

From the Registers of St Luke's Weston-under-Redcastle

At Rest

4 June Olive Rosby Welsh

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

Potential for Churches Reopening

Dear Friends,

Where to begin? There have been several very significant changes since I wrote in the June edition of this magazine. Before outlining these a slight 'health warning' - some detail and Church guidance has yet to be announced so in our fluid climate it may be that some of the things I write could be outdated even before this edition is sent to you! This is actually all to the good as it reflects the care and diligence being applied at National Church and Diocesan level. Also, of course, rather than simply telling you 'what is what' I've seen a significant part of my role as enabling all to keep informed of developments through signposting to where the latest information is. Please do look at the C of E website for the most up to date announcements: www.churchofengland.org

What I can say for definite, for now, is that under certain circumstances:

- churches can be open for private prayer
- church funerals are permitted but there are restrictions on attendance and the size of the church may be a factor
- 'small' weddings will be permitted from 4 July however, again, numbers will be limited and the necessary legalities met by other than banns - for now
- from 4 July places of worship can reopen for public worship

For each area please do not assume but always check with me how these will apply across the Benefice.

On Wednesday our Diocesan Bulletin made the following announcement:

The Government's announcement that church buildings can reopen for public worship from 4 July has been welcomed by the Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave.

He said: "This is a significant step on the journey out of lockdown for our churches which I welcome. For many it will bring a sense of

relief – that they will again be able to worship together in the building they call 'home', or get married in church.

“For others, there may be nervousness due to the continued, and real, threat of coronavirus which has had such a devastating impact in our communities. That is why there will be no pressure for churches to open their buildings on 4 July or until they are ready. Each minister or church will want to take into account their local circumstances in deciding how and when to respond.

“When buildings do re-open, it will not be ‘church as normal’ due to the necessary restrictions that will remain in place. More detailed guidance will be available soon for churches to ensure when people do worship together again they can do safely. The work of local churches has continued outside of their buildings in new and creative ways during lockdown, including online; this will continue in many places even as people begin to gather again in buildings. It will also be wonderful to welcome people into church buildings who have encountered church – some maybe for the first time – online, over the phone or in their community during lockdown.”

Everything Bishop Michael writes is, of course, so right. This is a time of hope for our future resuming of worship but also we must remember the dreadful, ongoing, impact and consequences of the pandemic as well as those unable to rejoin to begin with. Also in the words of the Chair of the Liturgical Commission, the Bishop of Exeter, if we have learned any lessons we shouldn't 'squander' these by simply reverting to how things were.

An awful lot of words! Please rest assured that once the optimum way to begin worship across the Benefice has been worked out everything possible will be done to let people know as soon as possible. I will be speaking with the Church Wardens and we will make this work, perhaps in stages but work it will - and well!

Take care and keep safe, there may still be some way to go,

Nick



OUR CALENDAR FOR JULY

June comes to a close with the Feast Day of St Peter & St Paul, the Patronal Festival of two of our three parishes, it is for this reason that the Eucharist will be said for the Benefice in St Peter's Lee on Sunday 28 June and on the day itself at 9 am in SS Peter & Paul's Wem.

At the time of writing we do not, as said earlier, know what our Sunday Public Worship will be: irrespective the Sundays for July are:

SUNDAY 5 July. The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 12 July. The Fifth Sunday after Trinity
(Also Disability Awareness Sunday)

SUNDAY 19 July. The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 26 July. The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

July is adorned with three Festivals, all for major figures in Our Lord's ministry and the life of the Early Church

Friday 3 July (transferred). **St Thomas the Apostle**

Wednesday 22 July. **Mary Magdalene**

Saturday 25 July. **St James the Apostle**

Unfortunately, yet it is what it is, the complications around our resumption of Public Worship mean that, at the moment, it not to be wisest in our Benefice to celebrate with a Eucharist on these significant Holy Days. Do however please take a moment on each day to reflect on the saint, perhaps supported by the Collect for the Day or the following passages of scripture.

St Thomas

John chapter 20 verses 1 to 9.

Where Thomas first doubts the resurrection, then a week later greets the risen Lord with the timeless words, described as the climax to John's Gospel: 'My Lord and my God'.

*Almighty and eternal God,
who, for the firmer foundation of our faith,
allowed your holy Apostle Thomas
to doubt the resurrection of your Son
till word and sight convinced him:
grant to us who have not seen, that we also may believe
and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.*

Mary Magdalene

John chapter 20 verses 1 to 18

Where Mary is the first to the tomb on Easter morning. She is the one to tell the disciples, earning her the sobriquet 'Apostle to the Apostles', and then recognises Jesus subsequently as in the most moving of scenes he gently speaks to her simply by name, 'Mary'.

*Almighty God,
whose risen son first entrusted to Mary Magdalene
the good news of his resurrection:
grant that we may serve you in the power of him
who has ascended to you,
his God and Father,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory,
now and forever.*

St James

Matthew chapter 4 verses 18 – end

Where we read of the call of the first disciples

*Merciful God,
whose holy Apostle St James,
leaving his father and all he had,
was obedient to the calling of your Son
and followed him even to death:
help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world,
to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.*

As always you will find the other Saints and Holy Days for the month later in the magazine with their rich variety and cross-section to enliven our contemporary faith. Last month highlighted two from the very earliest days of Christianity in these islands (Alban and Columba) two, again from these islands, of particular note for July are:

14 July. John Keble. Born in 1792, a noted priest and poet who will always be very closely associated with the Tractarian/Oxford Movement and rediscovery of Catholic worship within the Church of England. Keble was a brilliant scholar, wrote poetry including 'The Christian Year' which for its day sold widely and underwent almost a process of 'missilisation' and was an Oxford professor famed for a sermon in 1833 seen as marking the beginning of the Oxford Movement. Despite his influence and eminence he chose not to seek preferment becoming a parish priest near Winchester in 1836 where he remained until his death on this day in 1866.

'New every morning is the love
Our wakening and uprising prove;
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life and power and thought.'

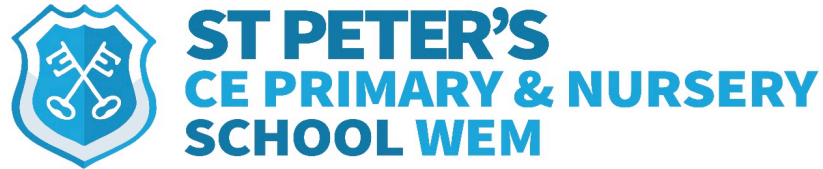
30 July. William Wilberforce. Almost a contemporary of Keble he was born in 1759 and was a member of the Evangelical wing of the Church who chose not to seek ordination but serve the faith through becoming a Member of Parliament and a leader of a reforming group of evangelicals. He is best remembered for his crusade against slavery and after years of effort saw the slave trade made illegal in 1807 and the abolition of slavery through the British Empire just before his death on this day in 1833. He also campaigned for greater freedom for Roman Catholics within Great Britain. Now in our calendar he is remembered alongside Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson two other anti-slavery campaigners – the former once a slave himself.

Just two figures from history? No! Two people of a similar time yet different parts of the C of E who have made a lasting difference to how things are today and whose legacy lives on, one through mystery, beauty and holiness in worship the other through the centrality of how precious our humanity is – through justice and righteousness. Both could have taken easier paths yet chose not to: truly we can say with St Paul:-

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

The next issue is scheduled to be prepared on **Thursday 23 July** and will be available on **Friday 31 July** 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 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**](mailto:pamedgmond@hotmail.com)



Good bye and good luck to our Year 6's!

What an interesting year it has been for us all!

Looking back through the academic year, we had a fantastic time at Robinwood where many children faced their fears and attempted new experiences – all came home having gained confidence and realised that they can accomplish things they never thought possible.

Speaking to the children, another highlight for them was going on a double decker bus to Birmingham Art Gallery - certainly a new experience for us all!

All the children should be extremely proud of what they have achieved this year – up until lockdown, we had seen them mature and make good academic progress. During lockdown, the children all coped brilliantly working from home, completing tasks set as well as accomplishing new activities such as making dens, drawing, running, cycling and cooking.

We really have no doubt that you will all continue to flourish in your chosen secondary schools and we welcome this opportunity to wish you well for the future. Despite only being

in the classroom for a few months, it is obvious that you are all talented – go and use these talents and show your new teachers how brilliant you are.

Take care

Mrs Hughes and Mr Edwards





**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**

LETTER FROM BISHOP MICHAEL TO ALL MINISTERS IN THE DIOCESE

On Monday 22 June (Windrush Day) Bishop Michael wrote the following letter to all ministers in the diocese:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I send you my warm greetings and prayers as we continue to walk together in these unusual days. Today is National Windrush Day, marking 72 years since the arrival of Caribbean migrants on the ship Empire Windrush. Together with Bishop Clive and Bishop Sarah, I wanted to write to you about the common future that we are working to build.

As a country, a region and a church we have been greatly enriched by the 'Windrush Generation', who were invited from the Caribbean nations to live and work in the UK in the 1950s and 1960s, and by many others from Commonwealth nations and other places who with their descendants have contributed so much to our society. Black and Minority Ethnic people in this country have endured a long and painful struggle to achieve justice, often in a climate of suspicion and hostility. The struggle for our BAME communities is however far from over. This has been demonstrated by the waves of protest and unrest following the murder of George Floyd and the groundswell of support for the Black Lives Matter movement, in this country as well as in the USA.

As a diocese, we have much to be thankful for; we are greatly blessed by being a community of many ethnicities, cultures and nationalities joining together in worship and service. The dedicated work of the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns has been invaluable for the Church both centrally and locally, and we are blessed by the faithful ministry of BAME clergy and lay ministers. But, as with other institutions in the UK, there are still many challenges for us to identify, address and overcome. There is urgent work for us to do together in our parishes, Fresh Expressions, chaplaincies and schools, in our Cathedral, and in our diocesan life. This is relevant especially in areas such as: recruitment of clergy; discernment of vocations; representation at

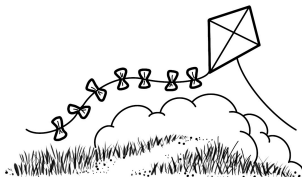
every level of governance and leadership; educational provision; ecumenical partnerships. We need to be courageous in facing and enabling conversations around difficult issues. Systemic change will be needed, taking into account an honest appraisal of our history and of our current position. It is my intention to establish a task force in our diocese to look at these issues, and I will provide more details about this in the near future.

More important than ever at this time are the faith on which we rely and the mission through which we express that. Our faith is in the God who respects each one of us and who always hears compassionately the cries of those who are shut out. And our mission is to be in partnership with fellow Christians from all churches as we together work to bring the liberating, healing and joyful gospel of Jesus Christ to all the two million people in our diocese. As we come out of lockdown, the sense of solidarity that has galvanised communities since March may well begin to fracture, with a rise in racism and discrimination a real threat. This is our time as a church confidently to proclaim together the gospel that radically includes, embraces, reconciles and transforms us all. I ask that you join me in marking National Windrush Day today as we pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of our communities, and as we consider together the ways in which we can work for racial justice as people of hope.

With my warm good wishes,

+Michael

This letter and other Diocesan News is accessible on:
www.lichfield.anglican.org



A Drop of Rain

When talking to a contact living not too far away we discussed the weather – who would not? It was during the time recently when no significant rainfall had reached Wem for some three weeks or so and we know that Wem seems to experience very localised weather patterns, contrary to the evening forecasts.

Soil conditions came into the conversation and with our garden having a sandy soil the rate at which rainfall drained through was mentioned. He, on the other hand, told me that his ground is very heavy, as thick as clay in some parts, and the spell of dry weather had turned the ground hard as concrete. It was difficult to drive a spade into it to prepare the ground for planting.

Then – what a difference a day makes, or might we say a couple of days. Rain fell heavily for a short time after which intermittent showers have been the routine with breaks of a few days again.

One tradesman who is seen hereabouts every few months is the man from Green Thumb whose task it is to drive from one customer to the next and according to their requirements treat their lawns to promote the health of the grass, dispatch the weeds and make the lawn look really lush and green.

However, not even he can procure the right amount of rain for the grass to “green up” properly. Watering with a hose and sprinkler is absolutely no substitute for regular rainfall and recently customers of Severn Trent Water have been asked to reduce their water consumption. We complied.

Given the rate at which our soil dries out it has been no surprise to see plants beginning to wilt, so selective watering has been required with a covering of a mulch applied around them in an attempt to retain precious moisture. The lawn (or should I restrict its description to “grass” for it does not resemble a lush lawn) has dried out and is now crisp underfoot, a light brown and difficult for the birds to dig for worms and bugs.

Where plants did receive the gift of rainwater they have perked up wonderfully and yet they will require regular checking and watering to ensure their survival. Hanging baskets are lovely to behold but in dry, hot weather with a breeze blowing through they dry out faster than you can down a favourite tippie. Oops! Where did that idea come from? Just day dreaming, sitting in the sunshine, sunhat on, sun cream applied, hardly a sound anywhere as it's Lockdown. Thoughts of a favourite holiday location. Then a breeze rustles through and the clouds appear. A chill wakes one and then the sound of rain drops on the sunshade. Not a nightmare, just the welcome arrival of a drop of rain or two.

Gardeners can accept intermittent showers but what can our hard working farmers do? They have crops and livestock out in their fields and when the rain persistently refuses to fall at the right time in the season the problems can be huge – many hectares of huge problems for the crops. At least one can lead stock to water ...

Last winter was wet. Very wet for the unfortunate folk living within reach of flood waters from overflowing rivers and streams. Fields were sodden, the soil muddy. The crops dying in the floods. When the fields dried out the mud turned to clay and the crops again struggled – this time to recover. A few drops of rain were not enough to restore health in the crops and bare patches appeared.

A glance at a weather forecast might not help one's cultivation plans. Local "feel" for the weather, based on the experience of years, is better. So, thoughts of the benefits of rain are really hopes that wherever we live and whatever we are trying to grow in the ground that we cultivate – be it garden or field – the rain will fall at the right time and in the right amount. Even a few drops of rain would help but it is certainly beyond our control.

Bob Dibben

THE UK BLESSING

The song was written on 27th February and recorded on 1st March 2020 in USA, inspired by Numbers 6:22-27:

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you;

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace.

So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

It was intended as a blessing for that area, but the writers had a sense of urgency to record it ... then came the Covid-19 pandemic – ‘lockdown’ and the closure of church buildings.

Tim Hughes, musician and Anglican vicar in the UK and friendly with the writers, brought together musicians from 65 churches to produce the song in lockdown; each person recording in their own home. This was put on the internet, providing access for all to view, and receive the message “that God is for us and with us.”

In the first 24 hours 800,000 people had seen this, each receiving a blessing, both for now, and the generations to follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtlI3mNj5U>

Thelma Pugh

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.

We will all have heard and seen in the news headlines the question of food poverty and its consequences for many, exacerbated by the impact of the pandemic. The easing of covid restrictions does not in the slightest mean this need is diminishing. Our local foodbank performs a wonderful work in helping to alleviate this scourge and the urgent need is ongoing.

All the churches in our Benefice ordinarily do a wonderful job in supporting our local Food Bank. However these are so clearly not ordinary times and therefore for some even when our churches reopen the usual way of supporting Whitchurch Food Bank may not be possible, yet the coronavirus pandemic has plunged many whose work we in 'normal' times rely upon, or occasionally take for granted, into very difficult circumstances!

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 and Fridays. Social Distancing will be maintained. There are two other alternatives:

Firstly: the Wem Co-op will take donations, please ask staff for the exact location of the 'bin'.

Secondly: via online giving, please go to their website - whitchurch.foodbank.org.uk where donations can be made on line.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink'
Matthew 25.35a

Shropshire Clergy

In last month's magazine I mentioned that I was devoting some of my time during the lockdown in studying Shropshire clergy in the twentieth century. The contrast between the situation in 1901 and today is remarkable. In the parishes which now make up this rural deanery of Wem and Whitchurch there were 26 full-time clergy at work, not counting the impressively named Reverend Sir William Macdonald Honyman 5th Bart, MA, JP, who lived in Coton Hall.

Every parish had its own rector or vicar, except Broughton, which was grouped with Grinshill. Vicar Wright, however, had two curates to assist him in ministering to the total population of 513 in the two parishes. Rector Egerton of Whitchurch had three curates, Rector Egerton of Myddle (his brother) and Rector Vane of Wem each had one curate, and Rector Heber-Percy (a familiar name!) of Hodnet had a curate living in Weston-under-Redcastle.

Clergy stipends varied tremendously. Wem was worth, after deductions, £668 a year, Whitchurch £653, Myddle £469, and Prees £447. On the other hand Broughton was worth only £64 a year (presumably why it was grouped with Grinshill at £104), Lee Brockhurst was worth £122 a year, although Vicar Postlethwaite, who lived in Wem, received an additional £30 as Chaplain to the Workhouse. Loppington was worth £139 a year, Edstaston £140, and Newtown £146. (£100 in 1901 would be worth about £12,300 today.)

The rectors of the three wealthiest parishes were certainly 'top-draw'. Vane of Wem was a brother of Lord Barnard, the patron of the living, and the Egerton brothers in Whitchurch and Myddle were sons of the Reverend Sir Philip Grey Egerton Bart of Oulton Park in Cheshire. All three rectors were conscientious, committed, and hard-working parish priests.

William Price

Lockdown on the Farm

For a lot of the UK population lockdown has been stressful and boring particularly if you are a large family with no garden. The concrete jungle is not the best environment to be in!

Living on a livestock farm is quite different. The daily work routine still goes on as normal. As we are part of the very essential food chain milk is still collected, animals can still be taken and sold at the markets and farm supplies are accessible for daily requirements. This normality means lockdown is hardly noticed!

For me there is no fear of contracting Covid 19 when going to retail food outlets either; North Shropshire is a low risk area and I'm in good health with a relatively high immunity level. There is a huge range of health levels in the over seventies and the very fact that my daily lifestyle is very physically active, away from the confines of the town and with the sights and sounds of nature surrounding me, I feel I'm in a good place.

Social contact is quite good as I see my farm partners most days, there are lots of phone chats, a few garden get-togethers with close friends (2 metre distancing and hand-sanitising of course) and even internet zoom! So with summer's long daylight hours, the personal therapy of caring for animals (must not forget the pet Retriever Rosy!) and with Phoebe's constant presence there is never a dull moment!

Life is pretty good and I feel slightly guilty that my situation is blessed in this way when I see the fear and stress that so many people are experiencing. Have I missed anything? Yes, draught real ale, walking coastline footpaths and social full fellowship.

Roger Ashton

Holy Days in the JULY Calendar

- 1st John & Henry Venn, Evangelical Divines, 1813 & 1873.
- 3rd **Thomas the Apostle.**
- 6th Thomas More, Scholar, & John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Reformation Martyrs, 1535.
- 11th Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, Father of Western Monasticism, c.550.
- 14th John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866.
- 15th Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c. 862.
Bonaventure, Friar, Bishop, Teacher, 1274.
- 16th Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, 1099.
- 18th Elizabeth Ferard, first deaconess of the Church of England, 1883.
- 19th Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, & his sister Macrina, Teachers of the Faith, 394 & 379.
- 20th Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4th century.
Bartolome de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 1566.
- 22nd **Mary Magdalene.**
- 23rd Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena, 1373.
- 25th **James the Apostle.**
- 26th Anne & Joachim, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 27th Brooke Foss Westcott, Bishop of Durham, Teacher, 1901.
- 29th Mary, Martha & Lazarus, Companions of our Lord.
- 30th William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, 1833.
- 31st Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556.

Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents,
it's loaned to you by your children.

Kenyan proverb

NEWS FROM WESTON

As you would expect, sadly there will be no "Weston Village Show" this year but hopefully 2021 will see our return with an even bigger and better Show.

Keep safe and well all readers .

Daphne Evans. Show Advertising and Publicity Officer.

From "Poet in Lockdown": Sonnet No 8 By Ian McMillan

The minute's silence and the long applause,
The moments taken to stand still and think:
8' oclock Thursdays and everyone draws
From a deep well of love and we all drink

In the sound.

We are brought back from the brink
Time and again by the key workers who
Won't let us feel lonely, won't let us sink.
These are the people who're pulling us through,

We're whooping, were silent. This much is true:
These times have made us rethink who we are
And just who we need, so pay them their due
Yes, clap the carer in her clapped out car,
Then fund the people who wipe up our mess:
Pour shining gold on the great NHS.

David Murray saw this inspiring sonnet on FaceBook and wished to share it with us.

What a Rabble

It's early in the day and with a great cacophony of squawking there is a rabble of starlings flapping about and going from feeder to feeder, quite oblivious to the amount of food that they are scattering. Watching these birds on the feeders is quite addictive!

Young starlings want food yet they are now big enough to look after themselves. They flap around their parents, then one family decides that enough is enough and off they all go to feed elsewhere, followed by the rest of the flock.

Of all of the visitors to our feeders the starlings make the most noise and create the most spillage onto the ground below. However, all is not wasted for the blackbirds, a far less acrobatic bird, are alert to the food conveniently falling from above and quickly approach to fill up with breakfast before the pigeons come flapping down. For a large bird they land surprisingly gracefully.

Pigeons, the largest of the regular visitors in our garden, paddle about pecking at the food on the ground and greedily filling their tummies before chasing about when another of their kind appears. Then even they have to move off to another source of food and with a full crop or tum I am sure they have to flap that much harder to lift off and clear the fence en route to their next feast.

All goes quiet again when the rabble and the heavyweights have left and soon the keen eye watching the garden notes far smaller feathered friends fluttering from branch to branch and bush to bush, then with amazing accuracy up onto the feeders or the basket containing the block of fat to have a few pecks, a quick look around and back to the protection of the shrubbery. The blackbirds now patrol the lawn for grubs and ants.

Some birds will want a drink and they know that the shallow water bowl is available near the shrubbery so it's another quick visit, two or three dips of the beak into the water and away again to chatter among their sparrow friends in the greenery.

Who else comes to our feeders? Most varieties of tits have been seen with the long-tailed tits flying about noisily, in pairs. Robins, although they are less venturesome when it comes to taking their place in the

queue, will appear, grab a nibble and then come and watch us working the garden, hoping for wriggly tit-bits. We oblige when we find a worm or two and the robin is quick to gulp them down. The occasional wrens will not visit the feeders but scamper around at ground level looking for smaller bugs and the like on the stems of the roses and among the climbers on the pergola. The blackbirds stay longer as they continue to scour the lawn before they head for the bird bath for a good flap in the fresh water. Why, in the wet weather, do they enjoy a bath?

Occasionally a rook or other shiny corvid will venture onto the shed roof to investigate the food source and one even managed to squeeze under the bird table with its low roof. Quite a feat!

There is one other visitor – not wearing feathers – and he (or she or they) are the local grey squirrels. These acrobats of the area will try every way to nibble the food put out for the birds. They have been known to gnaw away at the plastic feeders, opening up access to the food so that gradually the damaged feeders have been replaced with more robust versions.

What's the food that we put out? Given that we are still extracting sundry plants growing from the seeds dropped from previous years' feeds we now give our friends the "no grow" food mix from Peckish. It goes down a treat and does not scatter whole seeds in the border below – thank goodness.

Greenfly? Less of a problem now that the tits visit the plants and pick them off for us. Thank you, birds! We will give you the cereals and water, you find the protein!

That's a quick flight around our feeders. Great to watch and support, especially during the long Lockdown days.

Bob Dibben



The following is from our National Church website, do please spend time on 5 July giving thanks for the jewel in the crown of our National life, the NHS

Prayers for the anniversary of the NHS

The National Health Service came into being on 5 July 1948. During post-war reconstruction, improving the healthcare of the nation was seen as crucial to the nation's recovery.

Beveridge, the architect of the NHS, identified "five giants" that had to be slain: want, disease, squalor, ignorance and idleness. The cataclysm of war provided the stimulus for radical reform. It was a momentous achievement and, in spite of early professional resistance to some of the proposals, it was born of a national consensus: everybody wanted the new service to work.

The NHS was based on principles unlike anything that had gone before. It was financed almost entirely from central taxation. That the rich paid more than the poor for comparable benefits was regarded as a crucial part of the scheme. Everyone was eligible for care, even people temporarily resident or visiting the country. People could be referred to any hospital, local or more distant. Care was free at the point of use, although prescription and dental charges were subsequently introduced.

During the current pandemic, there has been immense national and local support for the NHS and its front line workers. The emergence of the Thursday 'Clap for Carers' was a significant experience in the lockdown. Thanksgiving binds communities together, turning 'I' into 'we'. The contribution of carers and key workers who have given of themselves sacrificially needs to be honoured. Sharing stories of people and events during the crisis is likely to form the kernel of any community celebration. Unsung heroes need to be applauded.

+Robert Exon

Chair of the Liturgical Commission

(Editorial elucidation -The Rt Rev'd Robert Atwell is the Bishop Exeter)

For the NHS

God of healing and compassion,
we thank you for the establishment of the National Health Service,
and for the dedication of all who work in it:
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who care for the sick,
and your wisdom to those engaged in medical research.
Strengthen all in their vocation through your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Everlasting God,
at this time we lift to you
those from all nations and backgrounds
who work on the front line in healthcare.
Give them skill and wisdom in their work.
Be their strength and their shield
as they give of themselves in the care of others.
Amen.

For carers and health professionals

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve:
bless all who, following in his steps,
give themselves to the service of others;
that with wisdom, patience, and courage,
they may minister in his name to the suffering and the needy;
for the love of him who laid down his life for us,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Lord Jesus, who healed the sick and gave them new life,
be with all carers and health professionals,
as they act as agents of your healing touch.
In desperate times, keep them strong yet loving;
and when their work is done,
be with them in their weariness and in their tears.
Amen.

from Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals Chaplaincy,
by Althea Hayton – adapted

* * *

St John Francis Regis

John Francis Regis (1597 – 1640) could be a patron saint of relief workers. His story began back in the early 1600s when he was ordained a Jesuit priest in Toulouse, a town raging with plague. Instead of fleeing for his life, John Regis decided to stay and minister to the plague victims.

Somehow he survived, and was then sent by his bishop to do mission work in Pamiers and Montpellier. For years John taught and preached Christ's love, and also put it into action: he collected food for the hungry, clothing for the poor, visited prisoners, and even set up some homes for desperate ex-prostitutes.

In mid-September 1640 John had a premonition of his approaching death. He took a three-day retreat in order to calmly prepare himself for it – and then he went back to work. Over Christmas, while helping the poor, he caught a chill. By 31st December he was dying of pneumonia, but at peace: he had been granted a vision of heaven, and could not wait to get there. His was a life well lived – he was “a good and faithful servant”.

Lee Brockhurst WI

Lee Brockhurst WI members have had a quieter 'Zoom' month since our last report but have none-the-less been busy behind the scenes...

Some members have crocheted lots of '**mask mates**', making key workers' face masks more comfortable to wear, and some members are now planning to **knit squares** for spinal injuries patients in response to an **appeal** from the **Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt hospital**. (If you would like to assist with this, contact anna.unsworth1@nhs.net with your postal address so she can send you the specific colours.)

We also set ourselves a lockdown challenge - to create **colourful commemorative bunting** spelling out 'Lee Brockhurst WI 1950 - 2020' with a variety of images to represent our activities including our book, craft and rambling clubs and our Produce Show. Our craft club organiser, Meg Bilson, ran a fun Zoom 'bunting Q & A' session and most of our members, **including non-crafters**, are involved with decorating at least one pennant. We are very excited to see the end result which will be a true reflection of the breadth of our membership and symbolic of the **bond of friendship** within our Institute.

Members have been busy as bees, **grafting in their gardens**. At our main meeting on 16th June, we asked Matt Hudson of **Northwood Nurseries** to give us a brief insight into how his business has coped during the lockdown (including making over 700 hanging baskets!) and then take gardening questions from members. Matt was entertaining and **knowledgeable**; hopefully the outcome will be obvious along the **lovely lanes of Lee**!

Reading books is also another **popular pastime** and, for a change, we switched to an **audio book** - John Buchan's 'The Thirty Nine Steps' via the BBC Sounds app. (*It's surprising how **painless** housework becomes if someone is reading a story to you at the same time!!*) All members were invited to join in and will be discussing their views at the **Book Club Zoom** on **22nd June**.

Sadly members will need to provide their own coffee and cake for meetings until we can be reunited, but Zoom does provide some **unexpected entertainment** such as one member appearing upside down for several minutes and another member's affectionate peck from her husband appearing full screen because she was not muted!! Video conferencing stories from around the world include;

- **Goats** in Lancashire are hired by people across the globe to participate in Zoom conferences including **15** booked every Sunday for **virtual church meetings** (two have given birth during business meetings!).
- In April, Timodeep Chalamesh accidentally invited his current boss to join **his job interview** on Zoom!
- One boss accidentally turned her own image into a **potato** on Microsoft Teams and could not undo the setting so had to remain that way for the duration of her **business meeting**, and
- In Italy, priest Paolo Longo turned to Facebook to **livestream mass** and accidentally activated the **filters feature...** the various **animated effects** applied to his image included snowflakes, sunglasses and a trilby, sci-fi headgear and weight-lifting dumbbells. The video has been watched more than 3 million times on Twitter and the priest's response has been **'it's good to laugh'**.

Apart from our committee meeting on July 7th, our next scheduled WI meeting is at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday 21st July** which was due to be a walk round Colemere lake. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we may be able to do this in person but, if not, you can be sure we shall meet up, virtually if necessary, because **we all know it's good to laugh!**

Sue Wilton-Morgan

How Great Thou Art

In about 1887 Carl Boberg was a young lay-pastor in Sweden, walking home from church near Kronoback, Sweden, and listening to the church bells. Suddenly a violent storm blew up, with lightning and thunder and wind – and just as quickly it departed. In the calm following the storm, a rainbow appeared, and all nature was at peace. Boberg was inspired to write a poem, '*O Store Gud*', on the greatness of God in Nature. He set it to an old Swedish folk tune, and it was first sung in Varmland in 1888.

'O Store Gud' became popular, and it began to spread. By 1907 it had been taken to Germany by a wealthy Baltic Baptist nobleman. From there it moved to Russia in 1912, where it was called *Velikiy Bog* – or 'Great God'. By 1925 it had been translated into English 'O Mighty God' by a professor at North Park College in Illinois. But this gave way in 1949 to a different English translation, done by a British missionary to the Ukraine, Stuart K Hine, who called it *How Great Thou Art*, and rewrote some verses.

It was Hine's version which went on to gain wide popularity in the USA. It was first recorded by Bill Carle in 1958, and then the Manna Music version of the song was popularised in the 1950s at the Billy Graham Crusades. Billy Graham once said: "The reason I like '*How Great Thou Art*' is because it glorifies God. It turns Christians' eyes toward God, rather than upon themselves. I use it as often as possible because it is such a God-honouring song.'

How Great Thou Art was voted the United Kingdom's favourite hymn by BBC's Songs of Praise programme, and it was second on the list of the 'favourite hymns of all time' in a 2001 survey by *Christianity Today* magazine.

The
Tale of the
**TWO MEN
SAYING
THEIR
PRAYERS**



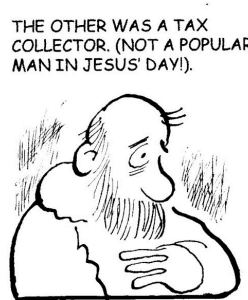
JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO
WENT TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY



ONE WAS A PHARISEE
(A MAN A BIT LIKE A PRIEST)



THE OTHER WAS A TAX
COLLECTOR. (NOT A POPULAR
MAN IN JESUS' DAY!).



THE PHARISEE BEGAN
TO PRAY



WHAT A GREAT CHAP I
AM! I NEVER DO
ANYTHING WRONG!!



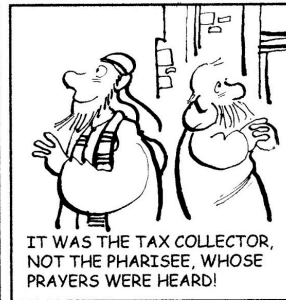
I AM SO PLEASED WITH MYSELF,
ESPECIALLY AS I AM NOT A SCOUNDREL,
LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR!



BUT THE TAX
COLLECTOR COULDN'T
EVEN RAISE HIS HEAD



DEAR GOD... I AM VERY SORRY!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR
ALL THE WRONG THINGS
I HAVE DONE.



IT WAS THE TAX COLLECTOR,
NOT THE PHARISEE, WHOSE
PRAYERS WERE HEARD!



JESUS EXPLAINED -
'DON'T BE PROUD WHEN YOU
PRAY - INSTEAD BE HUMBLE'.