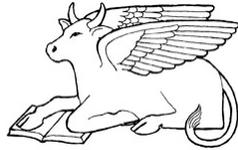
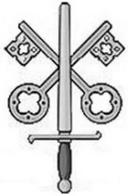


Parish Magazine for
Wem, Lee Brockhurst and Weston-under-Redcastle

September 2020



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

nphm16@aol.com

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

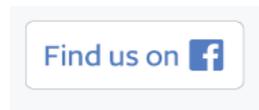
Readers Emeriti: Celia Camplin, Cathy Dibben

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

3 August Graham Ewart Sayce

7 August Mary Tommy

13 August Margaret Jean Raybould

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

Holy Matrimony

22 August Rosamund Sophie Chetta and
Damian Paul Whitehurst

*Our congratulations, prayers and
very best wishes to Damian and Ros*



Book of Remembrance for September

1 st	Gerald William Gregory	19 th	Christopher Mark Jones
2 nd	Ruth Ella Armitage	19 th	Russell Mark Andrew Kidman
3 rd	Charles Sydney Tommy	20 th	William Michael Fillmore
4 th	Nellie Louise Johnson	22 nd	Charles Coyne Brien
4 th	Vincent Frederick James Ratcliff	22 nd	Victor Jones
5 th	Robert McGrady	22 nd	Frances May Powell
6 th	Edward Henry Abbott Barnes	23 rd	Alan John Jones
6 th	Olive Muriel Kynaston	23 rd	George Henry Salisbury
6 th	Miriam Manning	24 th	Elsie Bacon
7 th	Patricia Mary Haarhoff	25 th	Phyllis May Didlick
11 th	Rupert Appleton Armitage	27 th	Michael Taylor
11 th	Joan Young	27 th	Michael John (Mick) Maddocks
14 th	Winifred Margaret Wheeler	27 th	Marjorie Parry
14 th	Bella-Rose Emma Boyd	29 th	Thomas Wilfred Speake
15 th	Victor Cyril Hodnett	29 th	Joe Powell
15 th	George William Manning	30 th	Elizabeth Ann Hull
17 th	Herbert Wainwright	30 th	Roy Gordon Wheeler

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**

24 August Kathleen Ann Fox

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



Prayer is not about doing lots and lots of things, but clearing the space for God to be there. – *Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury*

There is just one way to bring up a child in the way he should go, and that is to travel that way yourself. – *Abraham Lincoln*

OUR CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

It would be somewhat rash to be too definitive apropos our Sunday service timings across the Benefice and their details, just for instance none of the PCCs or myself have yet to firm up what the arrangements may be for our marking of Harvest Festival. Nonetheless our Sundays for this month are:

SUNDAY 6 September. The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 13 September. The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
(Also Education Sunday)

SUNDAY 20 September. The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
(Battle of Britain Sunday)

SUNDAY 27 September. The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

September has three important Festivals, nicely separated, throughout the month. Whist Mass will not, as yet, be said on these days do please take time on each day to reflect on the beauty and richness they add to our month devotionally. They are:

Monday 14 September. **Holy Cross Day**

Monday 21 September. **St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**

Tuesday 29 September. **St Michael & All Angels**

Holy Cross Day

John Chapter 3. 13-17

The centrality of the cross to the Christian has always been paramount. In the early days of the Church pilgrims would travel to Jerusalem to visit and pray at places associated with Jesus' life. One such, Helena the mother of the emperor, is said to have uncovered a cross, which

many believed to be the Cross of Christ – subsequently a basilica was built on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and dedicated on this day in the year 335. All that is far removed from us, and the cross discovered extremely unlikely to have had any such provenance. Nonetheless this ancient feast day unites us with Christians and pilgrims down the ages who have focused on the crucifixion of Our Lord.

*Almighty God,
who in the passion of your blessed Son
made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.*

St Matthew: Apostle and Evangelist

Matthew Chapter 9. 9-13

Matthew appears in the list of the 12 apostles, according to the Gospel written under his name was tax-collector. (Mark and Luke called the tax-collector Levi, it is assumed they are the same.) This occupation, then, was despised as it entailed collaboration with the oppressing Roman forces, even so Jesus ate with Matthew and with his friends causing outrage. In doing so Jesus showed the universality of God's love, not to judge by outward appearance and that God's call in Christ overcomes human distinction. Unsurprisingly Matthew is the Patron St of tax-collectors: today we should remember with thanksgiving all who work in this, now honourable, profession without which scarcely anything in our common life which we too often take for granted would be remotely possible.

*Almighty God,
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax-collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain
and the possessive love of riches
that we may follow the way of your Son Jesus Christ*

Michael and All Angels

John Chapter 1. 47- end

Another ancient Feast Day, dating back to at least the 5th century when a basilica, near Rome, was dedicated to Michael. All three named angelic figures in scripture are messengers of God. This day may also serve to remind us of the numinous, the 'other' – the mystery to human eyes of the holy – sometimes explicit as in Gabriel's call to Mary, sometimes hiding in plain sight.

*Almighty and everlasting God,
whom we adore with all the angelic host,
may we always rejoice in your heavenly protection
and serve you faithfully in this present life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

***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 17 September** and will be available on **Friday 25 September** after 4.15 pm if we are able to produce a physical magazine. Otherwise it will go out in an electronic version.

Items for the magazine can be left in the drawer at the back of the church in Wem (by 9 am Thursday) or sent to:

pamedgmond@hotmail.com

UPDATE

Things have moved on considerably since our last magazine and whilst most probably know it is well worth reiterating where we now are apropos our Sunday worship and weekly church opening. Equally it is important to remember two critical things:

Firstly, matters do remain fluid and we are taking one step at a time, carefully, so whilst current as I type, things may evolve.

Secondly, as fluctuating R numbers (some almost adjacent to here) show we are not 'out of the woods' yet and as autumn approaches the utmost individual and collective care is still essential.

Sunday worship has now resumed across our Benefice (laus deo). Of course it is not, and cannot for the interim be, as 'normal' – who on earth could possibly imagine it might be? Nonetheless it has been a positive experience for all and we continue to do everything we can to continue to ensure that, safely, it will be. Your Church Wardens have been impeccable in ensuring this and we should all be grateful for all they have done.

Each parish has adapted to the measures which are now common place throughout society - Of the **utmost importance** for us are the maintenance of **physical distancing (the 2m rule applies in all churches)**, the use of **hand sanitiser** and the **removal of opportunities for virus transmission**. **Face masks** are now **mandatory** for public worship (certain limited exceptions apply).

At each Eucharist communion will be in one kind, that is the bread, with no sharing of the common cup; The Peace cannot be shared; hymn singing is not permitted in accordance with governmental guidance and likewise neither may we yet have refreshments after services. However, music is being used before during and after services to help our sacramental and devotional focus – an aid to reflection, calm and peace.

If the above seems very much a list of 'can't dos' rest assured I detest that approach to anything (it drives me 'nuts' and is I think

symptomatic of a rather unhealthy psychology) and I ask you to please think again. Actually the reality is we are now able to do almost everything to sustain our spiritual life and worship, things are different for sure, yet the fact is 'different' is ok and necessary and what matters (*really* matters) we are doing and safely.

Likewise, the Occasional Offices of Funerals, Marriage and Baptism may now take place subject to guidance about safe protocols and precautions - in all cases please speak to me about how these may proceed as this is not always simple or straightforward and clarifications may be required. The ceiling for these is set at 30.

Appreciative that not all are yet able to re-join for worship I will continue with my weekly bulk email to allow as many as possible to remain 'connected'. Also, of course, this enables me to let you know of any changes down the line and possible fluctuations to church timings and services. Generically you can keep abreast on national C of E policy and guidelines at: www.churchofengland.org

Please play your part in keeping us all safe by both following the necessary guidelines or regulations and by speaking to me at any time if you see or are aware of any improvements we might make. Across our Benefice and in our churches we continue to be 'all in this together'.

Thank you for all you have so graciously done to date.

Take care and stay safe,

Nick

**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**

FAIRTRADE

This month and at the start of October we will be giving thanks in all our churches for Harvest Festival. We are richly blessed by both the food we sometimes take for granted and those who produce this on our land and in the food industry.

In the beautiful part of the world we live in our thoughts and prayers are due to our near neighbours, or indeed friends and family, who work in the many farms that surround us. It can be hard unrelenting work and we ought never to take this for granted and always be deeply appreciative of others' toils.

It is also a time to stop, be humbly grateful and remember the needs of those considerably less fortunate than ourselves. Not all of our food and drink can be produced from within our own country, sometimes climatic and other factors make this a fact of life. How can we mirror a spirit of Christian thankfulness and concern for others in accord with our Harvest thoughts? One way is to consider how and what we buy.

Fairtrade is a now long-established foundation which works in partnership with farmers and workers elsewhere in God's world to produce food which is: fairly produced, sustainable ecologically and of good standard. By looking for the Fairtrade Mark and buying Fairtrade we may have confidence that we are not only purchasing food or drink of a quality but one which is grown or processed fairly and to high environmental standards. For most of us to change one brand, purchased out of habit, mild preference or susceptibility to advertising probably doesn't make a scrap of difference to ourselves – when we do so together it can change the whole life and future of someone else.

The following is lifted directly from the Fairtrade website:

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk>

Please visit this site yourself and read of the extraordinary work of Fairtrade, you will find it remarkable in breadth and scope, vision and *hope, it really does make a huge difference.*

“Fairtrade is a simple way to make a difference to the lives of the people who grow the things we love. We do this by making trade fair.

Fairtrade is unique. We work with businesses, consumers and campaigners. Farmers and workers have an equal say in everything we do. Empowerment is at the core of who we are.

We have a vision: a world in which all producers can enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods, fulfil their potential and decide on their future.

Our mission is to connect disadvantaged farmers and workers with consumers, promote fairer trading conditions and empower farmers and workers to combat poverty, strengthen their position and take more control over their lives.

FAIRTRADE SETS STANDARDS

Fairtrade sets social, economic and environmental standards for both companies and the farmers and workers who grow the food we love. For farmers and workers the standards include protection of workers’ rights and the environment, for companies they include the payment of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and an additional Fairtrade Premium to invest in business or community projects

FAIRTRADE CERTIFIES PRODUCTS AND INGREDIENTS

We independently check that our standards have been met by the farmers, workers and companies that are part of products’ supply chains. And in order to reassure consumers that this has happened, we license the use of the FAIRTRADE Mark on products and packaging to signal this. When all the ingredients that can be Fairtrade in a product are, the product carries this Mark.”

UNLOCKING LOCKDOWN

Since July 4th the initial relief after the relative confinement of the previous four months was one of “freedom at last”. But as time has moved on unlocking lockdown has proved to be fraught with a whole range of rules as the government tries to balance socialising and the back-to-work needs required to get the economy rolling again with all the problems associated with career prospects, unemployment and furloughing.

Family life and the hospitality and tourism industry have been particularly difficult and challenging to deal with as human nature’s natural desire for togetherness bumps up against the myriad of regulation which is causing some confusion and frustration. That frustration manifests itself in some bending and breaking of the rules with regard to social distancing and wearing of masks.

Now is the operative time to rethink our moral and Christian values to help ease the new normal. Prioritising some outgoing concern for the other person on a national level would make a major contribution in helping to solve the worry and unhappiness that people are experiencing.

Roger Ashton

Wem Deanery Magazine July 1935

I’m not sure how I came to have a copy of this publication, but it gives an interesting picture of local parishes 85 years ago. The title is misleading because it covers only 9 parishes – Broughton, Clive, Edstaston, Grinshill, Moreton Corbet, Preston Gubbals, Newtown, Shawbury, and Stanton. Absent are Astley, Hadnall, Lee Brockhurst, Loppington, Myddle, and, of course, Wem, which had its own magazine, although there are advertisements in the Magazine for several businesses in Wem – E. Maund and Sons, Bowens, Wem Motor Company, Rogers Bros (Motor Engineers), Colin Wright (Grocer and Tobacconist), Jones and Sons (Florists), L. N. Jarvis (Decorators), Rutter (Confectioners), Dawes and Heath (Pork Butchers), Chesworth and Son (Coal Merchants), Lee’s Ltd

(Chemists and Grocers), and Thomas Strong (Printers), who printed the Magazine.

Each parish had its own cleric, apart from Grinshill and Broughton, both in the care of the Revd Geoffrey Dixon, who lived in Grinshill. The Rural Dean was the Revd E. C. Pigot, Rector of Moreton Corbet. Each parish had one church, but the Rector of Moreton Corbet held services in the Corbet Hall in Preston Brockhurst on alternate Sundays.

Every church except Broughton had at least two Sunday services, at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Morning Prayer or Matins was usual at 11 a.m., although Preston Gubbals and Shawbury had Sung Eucharist, and Edstaston Choral Eucharist, on alternate Sundays at 11. Stanton had Holy Communion at 11 on two Sundays. Clive had Holy Communion at 11 a.m. on the first Sunday and at 8 a.m. on the other Sundays. Newtown had Morning Prayer every Sunday, followed by Holy Communion on two Sundays of the month. Grinshill, Shawbury, and Preston Gubbals had Holy Communion every Sunday at 8 a.m. Indeed while Edstaston had Holy Communion at 8 a.m. on most Sundays, on the 3rd Sunday the service was at 7 a.m. Most of the other churches had Holy Communion at 8 a.m. on some Sundays. Evensong at 6.30 was universal, except in Broughton, where Evensong was at 3 p.m. There were services for children in several parishes, either before the 11 a.m. service or in the afternoon.

Shawbury had Holy Communion at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Holy Days, and Preston Gubbals had Holy Communion on Thursdays at 8.30 a.m. Moreton Corbet, Preston Gubbals, and Edstaston also had Holy Communion on Saints' Days. Shawbury had Matins and Evensong every day of the week, Moreton Corbet had Matins daily at 10, and Preston Gubbals had Evensong on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

(More to follow next month!)

William Price

Shropshire Historic Churches Trust

ANNUAL RIDE AND STRIDE

Saturday 12th September 2020

Owing to Covid 19 many of our Shropshire Historic Churches initially decided not to take part in this long-standing annual fundraising event. However, having discussed this matter with the Chairman of the SHCT, Canon Dr William Price, and our Rector, they are willing to support us despite some difficulties, see below:

Note:

1. Most Anglican churches and chapels will probably not be open on Saturday 12th September.
2. As with St Peter & St Paul's, there will not be any REFRESHMENTS for walkers, cyclists etc.
3. The County Organisers will not be providing us with the usual forms for signature by a member of the churches we visit.

The good news is Mr & Mrs Roger Hughes, who have organised this event for a number of years, have agreed to act as co-ordinators for those Shropshire churches taking part this year.

Finally, it has been suggested that any of us taking part should take a photo of the churches we visit.

All enquiries for St Peter & St Paul's to: **Rob Ballantyne 01939 236565** – there will be forms at the back of church for pledges or donations.



The Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery

As part of the Ride and Stride initiative the cemetery chapel will be open and manned on:

Saturday 12 September from 9.00am - 3.00pm.

We are commencing our project to conserve the rare and beautiful rush woven panels in the chapel. This is an opportunity to view these historical panels and find out more about them. We would be delighted to see you there!

THE SILVER LINING

Helen Hornsby writes:

This poem is from a book of poetry written by my great-aunt Annie who lived to 100 years of age (1901-2001) in Halesworth, Suffolk, where she was born and brought up her family.

When troubles and trials surround us,
And dark clouds seem to loom,
There is always a silver lining
To chase away the gloom.
Sometimes it is hard to find it,
When weary and full of life's ties,
But look to the back of the sun-set
Where the loveliness never dies,
And when the evening cometh
With moonlight's glorious ray,
Then it is time to rest and sleep,
Until the dawn of another day,
God grant us peace to live our lives
And guide us on life's way,
With just a prayer for those in need
We meet from day to day.

A Woolnough

LEE BROCKHURST WI

As I write this I am breathing a **sigh of relief!** At long last we can announce that Lee Brockhurst WI is resuming physical monthly meetings at the village hall, albeit with all the Government's coronavirus safety protocols in place. Zoom has been very useful for keeping in touch but it will be lovely to see members in person.

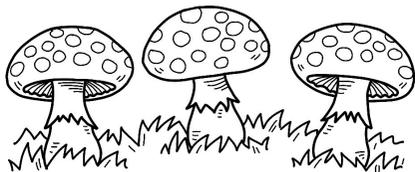
Whilst the library's Reading Groups' service is on hold, our **Book Club** is continuing to listen to the BBC Sounds audio books and review them on Zoom. Our next Book Club Zoom meeting is on Monday **14th September**, hosted by Julie Woolfenden, when we shall be discussing 'The Mill on the Floss' by George Eliot.

Our main meeting follows on **15th September**, at 7.30 pm, when our **graphologist** speaker, Susan Ord, will reveal the secrets behind our handwriting. This promises to be intriguing and possibly revelatory.... this may be the time to submit samples **anonymously!** Sadly WI refreshments are suspended for the time being but members are welcome to bring their own flasks or water bottles. Most excitingly, this will be the inaugural outing for our super **seventieth birthday bunting** lovingly made during lockdown by 23 members and co-ordinated by craft club organiser Meg Bilson. This depicts the essence and history of our WI, the fun and friendship, the crafts and activities, and will be a long term souvenir of a remarkable time.

On **Tuesday 22nd September**, we finally launch our delayed '**Summer Strollers**' rambling group in the capable hands of coordinator Rachel Bailey. As the name suggests, this is a gentle **sociable amble** which will start at the village hall at **2pm** - dogs and (well-behaved!) partners welcome.

We are always **delighted to see visitors** at our meetings - I look forward to seeing you at one of them. For more details please contact **Julie Woolfenden** on **01939 200237** or **jjwoolfenden@gmail.com** who will be very happy to help.

Sue Wilton-Morgan



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 Food Bank performs wonderful work in helping to alleviate this scourge and the urgent need is ongoing and may indeed increase as the economic impact of the pandemic hits hard.

All the churches in our Benefice do a wonderful job in supporting our local Food Bank. If you are now coming back to church do please consider bringing a donation to this, non-perishable food of any description plus essential toiletries will always be gratefully received - an up to date list of specific shortages is always available on their website (underneath).

The coronavirus pandemic has plunged many whose work we in 'normal' times rely upon, or occasionally take for granted, into very difficult circumstances! If you are not yet able to resume Sunday worship, or bringing donations to church is not easy, you can still support in the following three ways. -

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 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

Where are they now?

We watched them for many days, coming and going on the short flight path between the feeders and their nest in the potting shed. We never saw the eggs or the young birds, so deep was the nest up on the shelf. We could only assume that there were some hungry mouths wanting to be fed at all hours of the day. Little did they know it but those baby robins had faith that they would be fed by their parents until they could fledge and fly off to find their own food.

Outside on the feeders there were plenty of other regular visitors but now there are none. Where are they now? The occasional sparrow or two might appear for a feed. No tits, sometimes a couple of pigeons looking for morsels in the grass, no squabbling starlings. Maybe a bird or two will appear for a drink.

The evenings are already growing cool and dull earlier and the morning light arrives just that little bit later each day. When did Spring arrive? And “Summer”? Have they gone already? As this piece is being started at the end of July holidaymakers going to or returning from Spain have been unexpectedly affected by another Coronavirus outbreak in that country and the resultant decision of Gov.UK to require those returning from Spain and France to self-isolate for 14 days on their return. It makes a “staycation” seem very attractive now. The global impact of Coronavirus has been huge and will continue to create waves of uncertainty and financial instability for a very long time. Commercial businesses have made the headlines from day 1 of the pandemic and now Cathedrals speak out and enlighten our country to their plight as, one after the other, they provide details of the numbers of visitors who used to visit – but no more – and the income that is no more. International tourist travel has come to a shuddering halt and the visitors to and within the UK are absent. Income has dried up quickly and dramatically to dangerously low levels since such places were obliged to close their doors both for services and for visitors.

So where are the visitors now? UK tourists to our important cultural and heritage locations have been kept at bay through the Coronavirus Rules – privately run attractions being closed as well as places in the ownership of the National Trust, for example. They

have all had to take drastic action to reduce their running costs before gradually being allowed to admit visitors to their open spaces and then their properties.

The words “Social Distancing” have been much used and are there for each person’s protection; but far too many younger people have ignored, at their peril, this most important advice to keep 2 metres apart. Witness celebrations outside football stadia, protest gatherings, beaches full to overflowing, even people going shopping and into pubs and clubs; throwing private parties. When will people take their own actions into their own hands to avoid the awful impact of COVID-19 on their own lives and those of others?

For the past four months of Lockdown life for many has been very different. What can one do? Closer to home, in Wem, where has income decreased due to the Rules? Let us consider our church. Four months = four Coffee Mornings = £800 of ‘lost income’ and what can each of us do about that? If those of us who regularly attended the Coffee Mornings were to add our customary Coffee Morning spends to our regular Giving that would help – and more than just a bit. Not only has that income to be made up but there have been additional expenses in order to meet the Coronavirus requirements for re-opening the church.

Westminster Abbey is looking to cover a £12m shortfall this year. Ouch! Our church does not have quite such a big headache but it should be considered in proportion. Every little helps.

Only time will tell what the economic damage has been in £££ terms, locally and nationally. People will have their own tales to tell. Books will be written. Thousands of lives will have been lost and many changed for ever.

As I come to the close of this piece I have received Fr Nick’s weekly email with his commentary and facts about the services, etc., at the three churches of our Benefice. With his email he sends the readings for the coming Sunday, in this case the Ninth Sunday after Trinity, and I am moved to consider deeply the Gospel reading – Matthew 14:22-33. This well-known passage can impact everyone who wonders what Faith is really about!

Peter, perhaps the strongest of the Disciples, sets out full of faith in being able to reach Jesus safely, walking the water of the lake, when the wind blows up and conditions worsen. No longer does he hold to sufficient faith in these conditions. He seeks proof that Jesus can save him and this shows up a weak spot for at once he has abandoned his faith and looks for the practical, the physical proof from Jesus.

But Jesus does not immediately rebuke him for this lapse; Jesus holds out his hand to save Peter. They reach the safety of the boat and the winds cease, the waves are calm again. That is the point where Faith has been demonstrated, not practical, physical proof for that is not required and cannot be provided for us. It is in the assurance that Jesus looks after our Faith and God looks after Jesus, so the way I see it we are all being cared for by God if we hold firmly to our Faith in our Saviour, Jesus Christ. I find it's worth contemplating on that when times are hard or difficult. It calms the winds and the waves for us all. Our nerves are settled once again.

Over the past few months it has been worth recording one's thoughts and observations relating to the Coronavirus Pandemic which has and will continue to have severe impacts on all peoples and countries of the world. In years to come people will read through this run of Magazines, finding the usual format absent but with home-printed versions until our commercial printers can return to normal business. If you were a 'future person' reading the Magazines what would you understand about 2020?

Take care always and keep well.

Bob Dibben



Hymns

At Lee there are often comments about the choice of hymns at our services so during lock down I decided to look at the hymns we have sung during the past 2 – 3 years and their relative popularity.

How can I do this you ask? Well I have been keeping the pieces of paper I write the hymn numbers on for the clergy and sometimes those I give to Roger when he goes down to turn the heating on and put up the hymns on the board.

The results were to me a little surprising, especially with regard to those hymns sung most frequently. I will not give you all the figures, just those I thought most interesting and which were the most popular. We sang between 150 and 160 different hymns during this period. As you can see we had more choices from numbers 1 – 100 and fewest from 500 to 571.

The 22 most selected hymns were

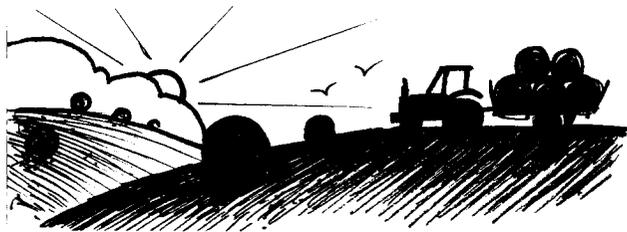
349	New every morning is the love	15
120	Father hear the prayer we offer	10
106	Dear Lord and Father of mankind	8
39	As the deer pants	7
188	Guide me O thou great redeemer	7
158	Glorious things of thee are spoken	7
193	Hail to the Lord's anointed	7
227	I come with joy	7
15	All my hope in God is founded	6
49	Awake, awake fling off the night	6
172	God is working his purpose out	6
277	Jesus shall reign where ere the sun	6
311	Lord Jesus Christ	6
388	O praise ye the Lord	6
401	On Jordan's bank	6
473	The church's one foundation	6
560	Will you come and follow me	6
532	We have a gospel to proclaim	6
5	Abba Father	5
226	I cannot tell	5
422	Praise my soul	5
442	Seek ye the first	5

Obviously some hymns will be sung regularly at the appropriate festival but this means they get sung once a year. Carols do not figure in the lists because we sing them from the Carol Book and for some reason I do not have any records of these. I hope you find the above interesting, it is amazing what you can find to do during lockdown!!

Phoebe Ashton

Holy Days in the SEPTEMBER Calendar

- 1st Giles of Provence, Hermit, c710.
- 2nd The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901 and 1942.
- 3rd Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604.
- 6th Allen Gardiner, Missionary, 1851.
- 8th **The Birth of The Blessed Virgin Mary.**
- 9th Charles Fuge Lowder, Priest, 1880.
- 13th John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407.
- 15th Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258.
- 16th Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle of the Picts, c432
Edward Bouverie Pusey, Priest, Tractarian, 1882.
- 17th Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179.
- 19th Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 690.
- 20th John Coleridge Patteson, first Bishop of Melanesia, 1871.
- 21st **Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist.**
- 25th Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, 1626.
Sergei of Radonezh, Teacher of the Faith, 1392.
- 26th Wilson Carlile, Founder of the Church Army, 1942.
- 27th Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Lazarists, 1660.
- 29th **Michael and All Angels.**
- 30th Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures, 420.



The Martyrs of Korea

Korea is known for its thriving Christian church. But it was not always so - in fact no Korean was baptised until as late as 1784. Christianity arrived in Korea through Christian books sent from China, and the Koreans responded warmly as soon as they heard the *Good News*. A Chinese priest who visited in 1794 found 4,000 Christians. This despite hard times: the Chinese priest was killed in 1801, and the Koreans were left without a priest for 30 years. Then Pope Pius VII sent a bishop, Laurence Imbert, who arrived in disguise in 1837, who worked with two other priests of the same Paris Missionary Society. Christianity was strictly forbidden by this time, and so the missionaries worked in complete secrecy, rising at 2.30 am and ministering at unusual times in conditions of extreme poverty.

And the Korean Church grew! Soon there were 9,000 Christians, who could not remain secret forever. Violent persecution broke out, and the three French priests allowed themselves to be taken, in order to avert massacre and apostasy. They were beheaded at Seoul on 21 September 1839. 78 Korean Christians died in the same persecution, among them Agatha Kim and John Ri. The first Korean priest to be martyred was Andrew Kim, in 1846. These shining Christians of the Korean Church were beatified in 1925 and canonised in 1984.

A waking prayer

Though our feelings for (God) come and go, His love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifference; and, therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to Him. – *CS Lewis*.