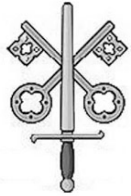


Parish Magazine for  
Wem, Lee Brockhurst and Weston-under-Redcastle

October 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](mailto: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:**

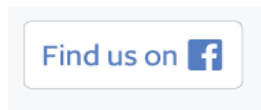
Celia Camplin, Cathy Dibben

## **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](http://www.wemcofe.co.uk)



@Wemparishchurch

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

**Holy Baptism**

27 September Everlyn Hall

**“We, though many, are one body in Christ, and  
individually members one of another.”**

**At Rest**

10 September Ena Stevens

14 September Linda Jane Shaddick

17 September Michael George (Mike) Williams

24 September Peggy Carson

28 September Dorothy Brown

30 September Michael John Pitney

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



# Book of Remembrance for October

1 <sup>st</sup>	Terry Davies	17 <sup>th</sup>	Winifred Thomas
4 <sup>th</sup>	Colin Edgar Herriman	19 <sup>th</sup>	Vera Kathleen Johnson
6 <sup>th</sup>	Percy Thomas Walker	20 <sup>th</sup>	Edward John Edwards
7 <sup>th</sup>	Evelyn Donald	21 <sup>st</sup>	Eleanor Joyce Parker
7 <sup>th</sup>	Elise "Lisette" Marie Denise Brooks	21 <sup>st</sup>	Hugh Courtney
7 <sup>th</sup>	Elsie "Peggy" Blackmore	21 <sup>st</sup>	Brian David Wheatly
12 <sup>th</sup>	Elsie May Powell	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Robert Derek Taylor
14 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah Ann Woodcock	24 <sup>th</sup>	Patricia Phillips
15 <sup>th</sup>	Arthur Godfrey Leonard Price	25 <sup>th</sup>	Annie Elizabeth Jones
17 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Kenyon Ballantyne	25 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth "Beth" Lochtefeld
		27 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas James Neville Bound
		29 <sup>th</sup>	Dorothy Maisie Gregory

## 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

## LEE BROCKHURST VILLAGE HALL

For all booking enquiries please contact: [\*\*lbrockvh@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:lbrockvh@gmail.com)

**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**

4 September David Keith Driver de Valle

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



With harvest time in mind:

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving. – Psalm 95:2

Gratitude is the heart's memory. – French proverb

It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich. – Dietrich  
Bonhoeffer

## ***UPDATE***

**My friends,**

It is important to begin by thanking the Church Wardens for their hard work in making our three churches as Covid-safe as possible. Equally thanks are due to all who have adapted so helpfully, positively and willingly to the necessarily 'different' circumstances for our Sunday services. Unfortunately, it has to be said that all have not always been 100% compliant to date; however, we are now where we need to be which is excellent - yet at the same time *nothing less* than how things should be. We have to remain confident and vigilant with *all* continuing to play their part positively, as our precautions are an imperative, not least as we wish for as many as possible to be able to resume worship assured that we are *always* safe. It is notable how many have reflected that, whilst not what any of us wish, our services have taken on a 'different' feel and allowed for more reflection and focus – a certain concentration on the core reasons we gather to celebrate and be a people of hope.

We have three lovely churches where we are so accustomed to feeling 'at home', amongst friends and relaxed. This, Laus Deo, will always be the case. So, a brief reiteration of the elementary, sensible and **not optional** precautions which are now becoming second nature.

- *Always* sanitise hands on entry, after touching anything 'communal' and before Communion
- Wear your *mask* whenever attending worship
- *At all* times keep to *physical distancing* - the *2 metre rule*
- Follow *any other* guidance of the church wardens or sidespeople/welcomers

As we all also know, yet it is well worth repeating, at all our services a note is made of attenders for track and trace in accordance with governmental regulations. This is only kept for this reason and no other.

The national picture, and indeed in our 'neck of the woods', has deteriorated since our last magazine came out so wider guidance and direction is somewhat fluid as it reflects this. However, for now, you will wish to know how things stand for the Occasional Offices of Baptisms,

Weddings and Funerals – also a reassurance about the ‘rule of six’ apropos church services.

- The 'rule of six' does not apply to public worship, unless of course people attend or gather before, during or after in groups of more than 6 which we must not do (unless from the same household or support bubble). In other words across the Benefice during regular Sunday worship this has ordinarily no direct impact as long as we maintain our intelligent physical distancing.
- Marriages are now limited to 15 attenders, including bride and groom.
- Baptisms, if these are separate from the main Sunday service, the limit is now set at 6. Should these be in the main act of worship then more may attend dependent upon the size of the church and usual congregation numbers.
- Funerals, for church funerals the limit remains at 30.

It is important to stress that these are governmental directions, indicative of the increasing gravity of the situation and the above is up to date as of 26 September - moreover do rest assured that any changes will be passed on as soon as possible.

For those as yet not able to attend on Sundays I will continue to provide my now (I hope) expected weekly email detailing any announcements and providing readings, a homily, prayer diary and on-line/media services to allow us all to stay as connected as possible. My absolute best wishes and sincerest hope that we will be together again soon to those who, quite understandably, are remaining at home for now.

This is not the most cheerful of updates I have ever given, however, these are unique times which demand a unique response. I truly believe we are managing this as best as we possibly can and that we should be deeply appreciative of each other and our mutual support, care and concern. It is truly heart-warming to say at every service I have seen countless individual, often subtle, acts of the utmost consideration. We are going that ‘extra mile’ to continue our worship and this focus on one another’s needs is an enacted witness to our faith hope and love. Thank you. Let us be encouraged maintain the good work – and keep smiling.

**Take care and stay safe, with every good wish,**

**Nick**

## OUR CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

It continues to feel as though we are making ourselves a hostage to fortune by being too definitive as to what the next weeks will bring. Nonetheless our Sundays for this month are:

SUNDAY 4 October. The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity  
(also Animal Welfare Sunday)

SUNDAY 11 October. The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity  
(also Homeless Sunday)

SUNDAY 18 October. The Feast of St Luke the Evangelist  
(Healthcare Sunday)

SUNDAY 25 October. The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity  
(Bible Sunday)

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October has two important Festivals, both for figures from our New Testament. Thankfully we are able to celebrate the first, St Luke, on a Sunday across the Benefice. They are:

Sunday 18 October. **St Luke the Evangelist**

Wednesday 28 October. **St Simon & St Jude, Apostles**

St Luke the Evangelist.

2 Timothy Chapter 4. 5-17

Luke is recorded as having been a friend and companion of St Paul, indeed in the excerpt above he is Paul's only companion in prison. Elsewhere Paul refers to Luke as 'the beloved physician': because of this and also due to his Gospel focusing on Jesus' healing ministry Luke is the Patron Saint of Doctors. It is so fitting therefore that 18 October is additionally marked as Healthcare Sunday. 'Exalting Holiness' includes the following in a precis of St Luke: 'He is believed

to be the author of two books of the New Testament, firstly the Gospel which bears his name and also the Acts of the Apostles.....as a Gentile, Luke makes clear that the good news of salvation is for all, regardless of gender, social position or nationality.'

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts make up over a quarter of the NT making Luke the single biggest contributor to our NT scriptures. His Gospel has a beautiful, pictorial quality to it, tends to have more emphasis on worship and certainly stresses the place of *all* especially the 'outsider' in God's salvation. His Gospel alone contains the wonderful Song of Mary, 'The Magnificat', the beautiful parable of the Prodigal Son and timeless teaching of the parable of the Good Samaritan.

*Almighty God,  
who called Luke the physician,  
whose praise is in the gospel,  
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul,  
by the grace of the Spirit  
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,  
give your Church the same love and power to heal,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.*

#### St Simon & St Jude, Apostles

John chapter 15. 17 - end

Whilst Simon and Jude are recorded in the gospels of Mathew, Mark and Luke as being among the 12 apostles we know very little of them. (Indeed there is even mild 'confusion' as to the title of Jude.) Nonetheless they must therefore have been very significant figures in the ministry and life of Jesus.

Simon is described as the 'the Zealot' indicating he belonged to the nationalist resistance to Roman occupation. Jude's name is of course remarkably close to that of Judas Iscariot, owing to this his name was rarely invoked in prayer and it is possible that interceding through him was often seen as a last resort – thus he has become known as the

'patron saint of lost causes'. They are joined together in commemoration because on this day in the C7th a church which had acquired their relics was dedicated, in Rome, to their memory.

They are joined far more deeply, eternally, as members of that privileged 12 who accompanied Our Lord through his ministry.

*Almighty God,  
who built your Church upon the foundation  
of the apostles and prophets,  
with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone:  
so join us together in the unity of the Spirit by their doctrine,  
that, we may be a holy temple acceptable to you;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.*

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Amongst the other commemorations for this month are several from these islands each with their own witness and ministry in their time:

*1 October. Anthony Ashley Cooper – Social reformer and campaigner  
for factory reform and the end to child labour 1885*  
*3 October. George Bell - Bishop, Peacemaker and ecumenist 1958*  
*6 October. William Tyndale – Translator of the Scriptures and martyr  
1536*  
*10 October. Paulinus – Missionary, first bishop of York 644*  
*12 October. Elizabeth Fry - Prison reformer 1845*  
*16 October. Nicholas Ridley & Hugh Latimer – Bishops and  
Reformation martyrs 1555*  
*26 October. Alfred the Great – Ruler, scholar, founder of places of care  
899*  
*30 October. Richard Hooker – Priest, theologian, framer of the  
Anglican 'middle way' 1600*

These are not only figures from history or past 'greats' of the church who adorn our calendar. They are absolutely NOT for us as those old photographs that clutter the walls of an over-privileged stately home or sports pavilion showing ancestors or teams past.

Their influences are in many ways still felt today as they ripple down the years – the focus of these lives as essential a part of the church

today as ever. Social reform, peace, ecumenism, the gift of scripture, evangelism, our unique identity as the C of E, the voice of faiths in places of power, courage to stand for truth.

You might care to search on line for any of these people of faith, some as all of us not quite perfect, yet inspirations all.

Their ministries and testimony as alive and vibrant today as in their time, their work both a challenge and witness to us in our day.

Very truly we may also say: -

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

## PEACE

Taken from Rotary International and sent to us by Roger Ashton to mark World Peace Day on 21 September 2020.

Peace is - Freedom  
Healthy People  
Clean Water  
Enough Food  
Human Rights  
Dignity  
Clothing  
Housing  
Concern for mankind  
Forgiveness and reconciliation  
Peace is love



## School Chaplain

I am very delighted to have been appointed School Chaplain at Thomas Adams School, Wem and Sir John Talbot School, Whitchurch. So much has changed in so many areas of our lives during this time of pandemic and schools are no exception. It is certainly an interesting time to start a new job!



My role as School Chaplain is to be available to listen and journey with the whole school community in good times and bad. There are times when we each need a listening ear, a word of encouragement, someone to weep with us and someone to celebrate our successes, both small and large, and this is what a chaplain does. As a chaplain I am available to the school community seeking to bring love, hope, understanding and peace. Chaplaincy is about getting on other people's level and walking alongside them for a short while or over many years. I am available to support everyone, people of all faiths and people of no faith, by engaging in conversations and sharing in the day to day life of the school community.

Everyone has been very welcoming and friendly and it is a joy and privilege to journey with these communities and start to get to know staff, pupils, parents and carers.

If you see me in school do stop and say hello!

Revd Deborah Walton



To All Bishops

23 September 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is clear that we now have to gear up for a second wave of the coronavirus. This is hard. Many people were starting to believe things could return to normal. They can't. But neither are we in the same place as before. We have learned a great deal. In our leadership of the Church and in the witness we show to our nation we need to be determined, resilient and hopeful. We will need to be more critical in our response to restrictions that are above and beyond government regulations, helping the church at the local level, in parish and diocese, steer a course that is marked by responsible action towards each other, care for the most vulnerable, and witness for the poor and disadvantaged who are suffering disproportionately. All this is the nature of love.

Our national situation is much more complicated than it was in March. The divisions are deeper. There is public and reasonable concern about hunger – especially amongst children – and homelessness, with an expected rapid rise in evictions. Domestic violence remains a major issue which is concealed.

We are also in a situation which threatens the recovery from the huge decline in the economy in the second quarter. The most vulnerable to this second wave are the small companies who employ the most people, and especially those in the hospitality industry. It will be for us and others to encourage the banks, who received such help in 2009, to be equally merciful to others as the nation was to them. St Matthew 18:23-35 seems highly relevant.

The poor, the elderly and isolated are especially vulnerable. There will be growing nervousness about Christmas, about mental health and many other issues that cannot be considered in this very short letter.

We are called to be responsible, but we are also called to resilience and prophetic speech. We have the networks, long since mobilised, and the partnerships to serve especially the hungry and homeless. Our schools are a particular treasure.

However, there will also be a sense of tiredness; the weariness which comes with dealing with yet another threat and difficulty. To face this, we must continue to encourage one another and bear one another's burdens. We must in our meetings be transparent with each other, able to say difficult things in a way that avoids mistakes being made through unwilling acquiescence to the perceived view of the majority.

Most of all we need to draw close to Christ, and continue to offer the hope and stability of the gospel. It is this gospel joy, even in the darkest times, that alone can help us through this crisis, bringing hope and an eternal perspective to the very pressing trials of the moment.

We are so grateful for our partnership with you in this work. Do feel free to share this letter as you see fit. And please be assured of our prayers.

In the peace of Christ,



The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby  
Archbishop of Canterbury



The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell  
Archbishop of York

### **WEM STORE CUPBOARD**

**We are all facing difficult times with Covid and it's alarming when you suddenly find you can't make your income cover your costs.**

**Wem Store Cupboard has been set up to offer support in the form of food parcels. It is open to residents of Wem Town and can be accessed even if you are in work or you've never needed help before. So please don't feel embarrassed if some extra food supplies would help feed you or your family - just get in touch - it's confidential and discreet and understanding.**

**Please contact 01939 232733 for more information on how to access this service**

**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**

## **Finding Anglican F(l)avour in Aotearoa NZ, the Land of the Long White Cloud**

Hello, I'm Ruth Empson, I emigrated from the UK to New Zealand thirteen years ago, and have inexplicably landed back in North Shropshire, a part of the UK I don't know at all; thank you to everyone for their wonderful, friendly welcomes! I am always grateful that we can find the familiarity of the Anglican Communion all over the world. Born in Cyprus at RAF Akrotiri (possibly familiar to some) I grew up all over the south of England and was educated at Oxford and London Universities. After my PhD I was enormously lucky to carve out an academic career all over the world; Germany (Koln and Berlin), Israel (Beesheva), Japan (Tokyo) and London, ending up in the South Island of New Zealand at the University of Otago in the Department of Physiology.

New Zealand, Aotearoa, Land of the Long White Cloud, is home to a liberal flavour of catholic, as in universal, Anglicanism; we welcome and celebrate diversity, including gay priests and blessings of same sex partnerships. I am not sure how this is similar or different to today's CofE but I'm looking forward to learning with you all, about these ... and many other things.

The purpose of my return is to be in the same country as my mother during the Covid pandemic. I felt a strong pull from God, so here I am. Thankfully, my employer is keeping my position open for a year whilst we see what happens. I will do some online teaching and research from here; then who knows ... Many have had their worlds turned upside down by Covid, in myriads of ways, perhaps mine has too, quite literally!

In NZ it was my privilege to serve as People's Warden at St Paul's Cathedral in Dunedin, a coastal city of about 250,000 people (or 200,000 when the University of Otago students leave over the summer). My service to the Cathedral also included being a server, a crucifer, sidesperson, reader, tea lady, cake baker ... and I particularly enjoyed contributing to the Dunedin Interfaith Council, advocating for peaceful education of religious diversity in Dunedin.