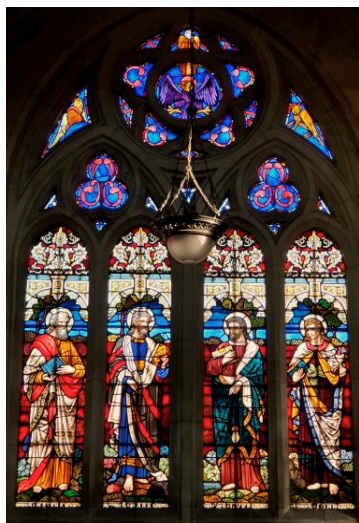


The Cathedral was built in 1919 so we celebrated our centenary last year; it is a very special place, solidly built (a huge amount of concrete sustains the vaulted ceiling) and with some amazing old and new stained-glass windows; pre-Covid it welcomed many visitors every year especially from cruise ships, but it will be a while before St Paul's sees these tourists again. In typically Anglican style, the building ran out of money as it was built! so was not fully finished until 1975 when a modern apse was added. Interestingly, it is that newest part of the building that has failed first. As is the case with much in NZ, St Paul's in Dunedin punches above its weight. In reality it is a tiny cathedral compared with UK cathedrals and run almost entirely by a faithful band of mostly women volunteers and several non-stipendiary clergy. Only the Dean is full time, the administrator, groundsman and Director of Music are all part time and paid by the Cathedral. St Paul's sustains itself completely by the generosity of its parishioners. It is also mother church to the Diocese of Otago and Southland, with its contrasting landscapes of snowy mountains, hot, arid wineries and lush dairy pastures.



Upon returning I am struck by the amazing small churches across the Shropshire countryside, and what a headache their upkeep must be! How incredibly unsuited they appear to be for modern

British life and worship (though pews have recently become useful again for distancing!), but how their permanence remains a critical part of English ancestry and community. As Warden at St Paul's we repaired the leaking skylight windows in the "new" apse; this was quite a project with all the intricacies of working on a heritage building (100 years is old in NZ!) and also involved earthquake strengthening as part of the plan – in 1919 no one worried about such things. Many of you will know that NZ is seismically active as the Alpine Fault runs along the backbone of NZ, creating the beautifully uplifted Southern Alps; imagine jagged snowy peaks, amazing skiing and pristine glaciers.

Services at St Paul's are the 0800 Eucharist BCP, and 1000 Sung Eucharist. I still love BCP, as it is so familiar, but I also love the more modern services and words we use. I have come to particularly appreciate the joy of sharing our peace (something that was NEVER done in the English CofE church of my childhood ...). I suspect many miss the physicality of sharing the peace in these Covid times, but a distanced one is still very good. I also enjoyed Taizé prayer, every Sunday evening at All Saints Church in Dunedin. The Cathedral offers daily prayers for the City and mid-week Eucharist, including *Te Hakari Tapu* (Māori Eucharist, *tapu* means sacred, Māori are indigenous people of NZ) and weekly and Sunday Evensongs. The choir is excellent and considerably enriches worship. As a Cathedral the style of worship is generally simple and accessible for all including visitors and travellers, a key part of its mission. The Cathedral also performs many civic duties and is used for music, theatre and arts; last year *Murder in the Cathedral* starred our wonderful +Steve!

The Anglican Church in New Zealand has its own beautiful prayer book, with beautiful liturgies. The NZ Prayer Book was completed in 1988 and contains something for everyone. All three tikanga, Māori, Pacifica (Pacific Islands, think Cook Islands, Rarotonga, Tonga, Vanuatu, Niue, Samoa, New Caledonia etc) and Pakēha (white European) are woven together with Maori, Tongan, Polynesian, Fijian and English languages. The story of how Anglicanism arrived in New Zealand is interesting and the colonial wrongs that are still being righted from the Treaty of Waitangi (1840) remain quite shocking. Only in the last forty years has serious reconciliation of

the Anglican Church's missionary mistakes (betrayal, land-grab) begun. The Church has so much to learn from Māori spirituality that is linked directly to connection with the land, our *turangawaewae*. The approach of many indigenous peoples to wrongdoing is also one of healing for both victim and perpetrator, a restorative justice; we could all do well to listen more carefully.

To end, a short evening prayer from the NZ Prayer Book; legend says this was written late one night and then tossed in the bin! The next morning someone fished it out and decided it was worth keeping after all; I am so glad they did, it is one of my favourites; I hope you enjoy it too.

Lord,
It is night.

The night is for stillness,
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done:
What has not been done has not been done:
Let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and our own lives
Rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
All dear to us
And all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly towards a new day,
New joys,
New possibilities.
In your name we pray, Amen. (Amine)

Inset Image: Apostles Window St Paul's Dunedin - for more go to
<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=CaUSo371RjY> for a fun, virtual
tour (Cloudpoint Survey).

The day my pen ran dry

It was an ordinary day in Lockdown. Newspaper on my knee, Sudoku nearly finished, all was quiet in the house. Then just as silently, my pen ran dry. I managed to scratch the last couple of numbers with the dying ballpoint tip and that completed that puzzle for the day.

As all good Scouts were taught: “Be Prepared” and umpteen years ago I regarded myself as a Good Scout following this excellent advice. I still do follow that advice and keeping a reserve of whatever has been my regular habit.

Thus it did not take long to go to the reserve supply of fresh ballpoint pens and select the one that I wanted to use next. Sadly, the one that had expired was non-refillable. No refill for that excellent ballpoint pen so I chose a different ballpoint which I knew had recently been fitted with a new refill. Ready for the Crossword! Yes, there is yet one more in reserve in case this one fails.

Do we not all keep something in reserve? Consider the petrol tank in the car. The little dial among others on the instrument panel in front of the driver indicates how much remains, well, roughly. Some cars have a more sophisticated indication by showing the number of miles before “Empty” but that calculation cannot take account of a long delay in a traffic jam. Somehow it calculates on speeds and usage and from experience it could show a very optimistic suggestion of miles remaining in the tank.

“Be Prepared” is a reminder to ensure that one has the means to complete in a timely fashion a journey or a job or any task in hand, subject, naturally, to accidents and the totally unforeseeable.

“Be Prepared” is also a reminder that for all of us Life can come to an end when we least expect it. We know that throughout his lifetime Jesus was preparing for his end and ensuring that his disciples would be prepared and ready to carry forward his example to mankind. His words through his teaching and actions through the miracles that he performed were all leading his closest followers to

the best that he could give them – faith in their future by being prepared.

“Be Prepared” is perhaps coming full circle as I write this because, just now in mid-September, we are being warned of the second wave of Coronavirus making its invisible impact felt across the UK and mainland Europe. How could the world’s population of mankind have forecast this situation just twelve months ago? If the wise people of the SAGE committee were looking ahead and felt that there would be a second wave what should (or could) they have done?

A second Lockdown? Pick at areas where testing showed an increase in the spread of the virus? What local conditions to apply? Why not go for the great blanket approach and have a second attempt to reduce the infection rates to near nil? How wonderful that might be for the health of the country and easing of pressure on the NHS. However, ‘normal’ life has to continue and that means being careful how restrictions are imposed and having regard for the impact on UK business. Business generates profit; profit means more tax payable; more tax revenues mean more cash in GOV.UK coffers to inject into the economy. Stopping or slowing business shuts down this cycle and will, if GOV.UK is not very careful, chime the death knell for our country’s prosperity.

Over many years – perhaps hundreds – the UK has built up its position in the world. Not now, it seems, from exploiting natural resources because coal mines have all closed. Natural Gas may have a finite life. Oilfields may go the same way. Are we “Prepared”? Our generation of mature people has lived through some very tough times and some good times but can the next generation “Be Prepared”? In the absence of Reserves ...

... I fear that there may be no answer to that one.

Bob Dibben

WHITCHURCH FOODBANK

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

Our Local Food Bank continues its essential and extraordinary work amongst us. The need which it meets looks set to rise over the coming months, yet amongst the many trials it has faced is now the possibility that churches which year on year seasonally add to the Food Bank stock at Harvest will be having smaller services and therefore forwarding fewer harvest donations.

Please do not let this be so for any of our three churches, the Food Bank need is greater than ever. Amongst the items they are particularly short of at present are:

Small jars of coffee Cereals Tins of spaghetti hoops
Tinned pies Packets of mashed potato
Tins of rice pudding Tins of meat
Tins of custard Tins of fruit
Tins of peas Bottles of cordial/squash
Tins of carrots Jars of jam
Tins of sweetcorn Chocolate snack biscuits
Tins of tuna Sponge puddings

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).

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

Lee Brockhurst WI

‘Famous last words’ springs to mind as I recall that my last parish magazine entry included the phrase “At last ... Lee Brockhurst W.I. is resuming physical meetings” **Not!**

However W.I. ladies are nothing if not resourceful so, undaunted, we switched back to Zoom and enjoyed a fascinating meeting with graphologist **Susan Ord**, who gave us an insight into how to assess **personality from handwriting** for our September meeting. She included examples from famous people – Donald Trump’s was especially revealing! We were delighted to welcome three guests (& potential new members) to this meeting.

An enjoyable **Book Club** Zoom meeting was held on September 14th to discuss George Eliot’s ‘The Mill on The Floss’ which most members liked, although the impotence of women of that era was disturbing. By complete contrast, the BBC Sounds audiobook chosen to review at our next meeting is **‘Queenie’ by Candice Carty-Willis** – a challenging and potentially shocking read. Wem library informed us the next day that physical books are available again for reading groups so we are also reading **Tracy Chevalier’s ‘The Last Runaway’** to review on **2nd November**. Pleasingly we have acquired a few new Book club members during recent months and discussions have become even more wide ranging.

Sadly ‘What’s the Point’, our craft club, has fallen victim to the coronavirus rules so meetings are postponed until January when the situation will be reassessed – which has given us a breathing space in which to complete our seventieth birthday bunting! Similarly our ‘Summer Strollers’ have hung up their boots until next spring.

Our next main meeting is scheduled for 7.30pm on **20th October** when we shall be entertained on Zoom by **artist and illustrator Katy Alston** who will talk about how she makes her **illustrated and annotated maps**, including the research of interesting snippets, history, field names and folklore. (This is a return 'visit' for Katy – last time she taught us all how to make 'zines' which was a very popular session.)

If you would like more information, or if you would like to join our W.I. Zoom meetings (on a 'try before you buy' basis!) do please contact our very helpful secretary Julie Woolfenden on 01939 **200237** or jjwoolfenden@gmail.com. We are a warm and welcoming W.I. so do consider giving us a try – it's an evening of fun and friendship amidst troubling times, and there is a discounted offer for anyone joining at the present time (£10 .75 for six months).

Finally, having received positive feedback from the inclusion of a couple of jokes last time, here are a few more of my favourites;

I'm addicted to brake fluid - But I can stop whenever I want to.

Years ago I used to supply 'Filofaxes' to the Mafia - I was involved in very organised crime.

I hate Russian dolls - so full of themselves.

A cement mixer collided with a prison van - The police are on the lookout for 16 hardened criminals.

I went on a once in lifetime holiday - Never again.

Keep smiling and stay healthy!

Sue Wilton-Morgan

Whitchurch Road Cemetery Chapel - Woven Panel Project

The small unlisted historical chapel in the centre of Whitchurch Road Cemetery was designed by architect George H Birch and built in 1892, the year that the cemetery was opened. Mounted on the interior walls is a series of 15 beautiful, highly decorative, loom-woven rush work panels.

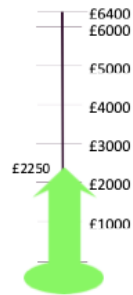


Not all of these beautiful Victorian panels are in good condition and over time some of them, especially those on the North wall, have become loose, damaged and worn. As far as we are aware the panels are very rare but

despite wide research we cannot yet find any information about them. We are continuing our efforts. Several specialists, who have seen the panels, have remarked on how wonderful and intricately woven they are and how they must be preserved for the future as part of our heritage.

The Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery are delighted to have found an accredited and suitably qualified professional conservator who has agreed to take on the project at a competitive cost. The work will be carried out by Drakon

Heritage and Conservation at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, where they hire studio space. The panels will be cleaned and stabilised, any damaged areas will be realigned and the panels will be mounted onto a non-stretchy support material.



The cost of the project is £6,400 and we have now begun our fundraising efforts. We will be opening the chapel to visitors (whilst safe distancing), applying for grants and holding fundraising events when allowed. To date we have raised £2,250, which includes a donation from the Charitable Trust of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers, who have been very interested in our project.

To allow this project to continue we now need the help of local people. If you would like to fundraise on our behalf, make a donation, or arrange to view the panels please contact Judy Crichton (01939 234489), Father Nick or any other member of our group. The chapel is open for pre-arranged visits and also for special occasions or services.



Wem Rural Deanery Magazine July 1935

Last month I wrote about the advertisements in the magazine (which covered nine parishes in the old Rural Deanery of Wem, although not Wem itself) and about the services in the churches. Every church except Broughton had services every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., and most also had Holy Communion at 8 a.m. on some or all Sundays. Some churches had services during the week, notably Shawbury which had services every day.

The two main Rural Deanery events were the Deanery Mothers' Union Festival and the Deanery Missionary Festival.

In 1935, when the Mothers' Union was presided over by Mrs Turner, wife of the Rector of Wem, it was decided, however, not to have a Deanery Mothers' Union Festival. Each Branch was encouraged to have its own Festival. But the Mothers' Union did have its own Missionary Festival, in Wem on 8 October at 3 p.m. Miss Woolley would speak on the Caravan Mission and the Sunday-School-by-Post in Canada. 'Tea will be given by the Wem Committee Members and there will be a collection'.

The Deanery Missionary Festival was fixed for Thursday 18 July at Grinshill. It would begin at 3 p.m. with a Meeting in the Garden of Grinshill Hall through the kindness of Mrs Shaw. An additional attraction was permission from Major and Mrs Lord to walk through into their grounds from the Hall. At the meeting Sir Offley Wakeman would be in the Chair and the speaker would be the Revd G. B. Redman, a Herefordshire Rector who had been a missionary in India. Then there would be tea, 'at a moderate price', in Grinshill Schoolroom. At 7 p.m. there would be Evensong in Grinshill Church, with a sermon by the Revd T. R. P. Thomas, a Vicar near Tamworth, who had been a Chaplain in Australia. (His correct name was T. R. P. F. Thorman.) The final sentence has a sting in the tail - 'The speakers will provide us with some first-hand knowledge, which is what we need in these days of many speakers, whose art

hides their lack of experience’.

I’m not sure when the Deanery Missionary Festival finished, but I do remember attending Deanery Missionary Festival Evensongs in the 1950s – one in Myddle and the other in Newtown (little dreaming that I would end up as Parish Priest of both parishes!). I still recall one speaker saying that more money was spent in England on pet food than was given to the missionary societies. Memory is a strange and haphazard thing.

More, ‘from the parishes’, next month.

William Price

Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer

The prison reformer and philanthropist Elizabeth Fry died 175 years ago, on 12th October 1845. She was widely admired during her lifetime and after, and was depicted on the British £5 note between 2001 and 2016.

She was born into the family of a wealthy Quaker banker, John Gurney, in Norwich in 1770. She rededicated her life to Christ at the age of 18 and devoted herself to helping the downtrodden. This she continued to do after her marriage to London merchant Joseph Fry, and while giving birth to 11 children.

She was a minister of the Society of Friends from 1811 and travelled in England and Europe inspecting prisons and writing reports that were highly influential, transforming gaols from “pits of indecency and brutality” to more orderly places with a new interest in reform. She was admired by both Queen Victoria and Florence Nightingale.

Early on she made frequent visits to Newgate Prison in London, suggesting radical improvements that were adopted both there and in other prisons. She read the Bible to inmates and gave Bibles away, combining social work with proclamation of the Gospel in a way that inspired future generations. Her insights also led to the Prison Reform Act of 1823.

Has Summer ended already ... or ... here comes Autumn?

Modern double-glazing is very efficient at isolating one from the worst of the weather outside and indeed from much of the noise of passing traffic and loud people passing late in the evening.

In these early days of September the temperature has chilled off considerably, showing us how fickle is the weather these days. One week there is ferociously hot sunshine encouraging the populus of the UK to act like lemmings and all head for the coast and other attractive places. Did lemmings care for Coronavirus when it is said that they arrived at the edge of their cliff and took a leap? Did the general populus of the UK care? They certainly should have done so, unlike the lemmings. A week later and we have clouds, rain and chill winds to encourage only the hardiest of folk out for the day with their paddleboards, flippers and snorkels.

Easing of the Coronavirus Rules was anticipated too soon by many, especially the more adventurous generation in the age range of 18 to 30 ish. The news reports showed multitudes (well in excess of 5,000) on the Bournemouth beaches and leaving litter everywhere for the hard-pressed locals to clear before the next 'invasion' of families and groups.

Inland similar scenes were repeated, even up the popular trails on Snowdon, and the Rules and local regulations were blatantly ignored. Barbeques in tinder-dry moorland and forest areas set off more fires and some groups cut down mature trees to make "clearings" for their illegal activities. Latterly there have been "raves" secretly attracting hundreds, on occasions thousands, of young people all completely ignoring their own safety from catching Coronavirus and if they already have the virus they have been wantonly passing it on to others. These "raves" have generated noise through the night, to the annoyance of local residents. The organisers have been fined by the police - £10,000 per "rave" and their expensive sound equipment has been seized. Badly parked cars which conveyed the party goers have been towed away. But will they learn and take note for the future?

These activities of outdoor parties and Festivals are traditionally Summer activities. Perhaps, when Summer has ended, there will be less gatherings of this nature and in hindsight the folk attending will appreciate the folly of mixing in close proximity to potential carriers of the virus. Test and trace; test and trace!

What have we experienced in Wem and hereabouts? Generally, people have been considerate and well behaved but it needs 100% observance of the Rules. 99% is not good enough. Well organised places are very carefully observing every Rule. Our churches can be cited as excellent examples of observing the very best practices to ensure that Rules are met and congregations are as safe as possible. Our thanks to Fr Nick for so meticulously setting out the correct interpretation of the Church of England Rules across the Benefice as the Rules develop and are modified. Three different church buildings required different considerations and the helpful cooperation of Churchwardens at each. Thank you, all. Who could have organised the holding of services post-lockdown any better than Fr Nick?

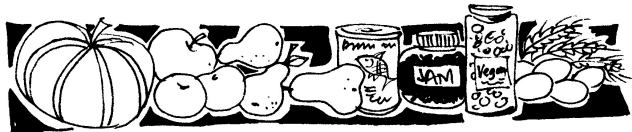
Back to thoughts of Summer and a glance at the window pane now tells me that, right on cue and as forecast, the rain has appeared and the double glazing is now wet on the outside. Perhaps this does indicate that the time has come for the meteorological end of Summer, as the weather forecasters have told us over the past few evenings.

Into Autumn and what next? More attention to Coronavirus Rules and mutterings that Shielding might return to keep the vulnerable people safe. The Pandemic is far from spent. It spreads so quickly, far and wide, globally and the message remains "Keep safe, keep well".

Bob Dibben

Holy Days in the OCTOBER Calendar

- 1st Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, 533.
1st Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, 1885.
4th Francis of Assisi, Founder of the Friars Minor, 1226.
6th William Tyndale, Translator of the Scriptures, 1536.
9th Denys, Bishop of Paris, and his Companions, c 250.
9th Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln, 1253.
10th Paulinus, Bishop of York, Missionary, 644.
10th Thomas Traherne, Poet, Spiritual Writer, 1674.
11th Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, 675.
11th James the Deacon, Companion of Paulinus, 7th C.
12th Wilfrid of Ripon, Bishop, Missionary, 709.
12th Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer, 1845.
12th Edith Cavell, Nurse, 1915.
13th Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066.
15th Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582.
16th Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, Martyr, 1555.
16th Hugh Latimer, Bishop of Worcester, Martyr, 1555.
17th Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c 107.
18th **Luke the Evangelist.**
19th Henry Martyn, Translator of Scriptures, Missionary in India and Persia, 1812.
23rd **James of Jerusalem, the Brother of Our Lord, Bishop and Martyr.**
25th Crispin and Crispinian, Martyrs at Rome, c 287.
26th Alfred the Great, King of West Saxons, Scholar, 899.
26th Cedd, Abbot, Bishop of East Saxons, 664.
28th **Simon and Jude, Apostles.**
29th James Hannington, Bishop & Martyr in Uganda, 1885.
31st Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546.



Edith Cavell

Edith was a vicar's daughter from Swardeston in Norfolk, where she was born in 1865. She became a governess, but her heart was set on nursing, so she went on to train at the London Hospital, before nursing in various hospitals such as St Pancras and Manchester.

When Edith was 42, she decided to go abroad, and was appointed matron of a large training centre for nurses in Brussels. She was still there seven years later, when the First World War broke out and German troops invaded Belgium on their way to Paris and the Channel Ports.

Edith's nursing school became a Red Cross hospital, and she turned down the opportunity to return to the safety of England. Instead, her nurses tended wounded soldiers from both German and Allied armies. She was also helping to smuggle 200 British soldiers across the border into the Netherlands. Finally, the Germans arrested Edith in August 1915, and put her into solitary confinement. They tricked her into confessing to a charge which carried the death penalty. But Edith refused to show either regret at what she had done, or any fear or bitterness towards her captors.

On 11th October 1915, the night before her execution, Edith is reported as saying: "I am thankful to have had these ten weeks of quiet to get ready. Now I have had them and have been kindly treated here. I expected my sentence and I believe it was just. Standing, as I do, in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness to anyone." Edith was shot by a firing squad next day, on 12th October 1915.

After the war her body was exhumed and buried in Norwich Cathedral. Her memorial service in Westminster Abbey attracted thousands. A commemorative statue of her stands near Trafalgar Square.

The next issue is scheduled to be prepared on **Thursday 22 October** and will be available on **Friday 30 October** 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

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always
ready for his return at the end of time
by telling the story of two servants

