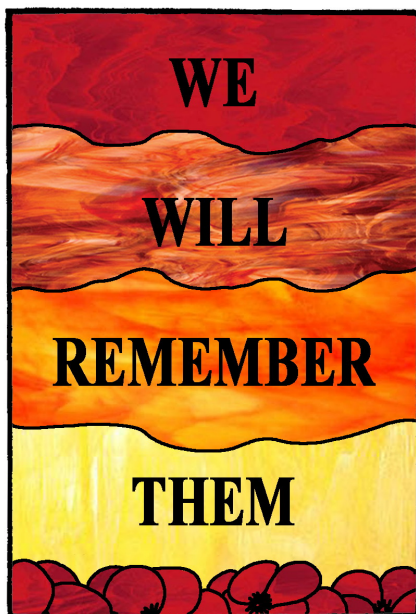
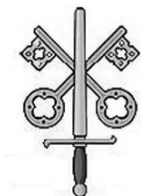


Parish Magazine for  
Wem, Lee Brockhurst and Weston-under-Redcastle

November 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

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[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

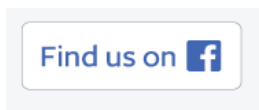
Organist & Choir Master:	Rodney Bellamy	01630 652564
Deputy Captain of Bells:	Karen Compton	236561
Sacristans:	June Powell	234412
	& Kath Ridgway	290162

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**

## **At Rest**

28 September Dorothy Brown  
30 September Michael John Pitney  
22 October Cyril Dunham  
30 October Ernest Gordon Dudley (interment)  
3 November David James Carter

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

## Book of Remembrance for November

1 <sup>st</sup>	Jean Godfrey	13 <sup>th</sup>	Winifred Mabel Powell
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mary Constance Ratcliff	14 <sup>th</sup>	Wallace Clive Jones
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Christopher Michael Hornsby	14 <sup>th</sup>	Samuel Edwin Phillips
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Edith Olive Pugh	16 <sup>th</sup>	John Heslop
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Isabel Carman	17 <sup>th</sup>	Agnes Boscombe Caslaw
4 <sup>th</sup>	Joyce Jones	17 <sup>th</sup>	Nora Elizabeth Jones
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ian John (Scooby) Skuba	19 <sup>th</sup>	John Morgan
7 <sup>th</sup>	Shirley MacQueen	19 <sup>th</sup>	David Henry Morgan Woolam
7 <sup>th</sup>	Elsie May Payne	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Joseph Ronald Hall
8 <sup>th</sup>	Edward James Ridgway	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Hilda Maude McCarthy
8 <sup>th</sup>	Gerald George Alan Hancock	23 <sup>rd</sup>	James Williams (Priest)
8 <sup>th</sup>	Edith Mary Rudland	24 <sup>th</sup>	Carol May Blaney
9 <sup>th</sup>	Lilian Kathleen Randall	26 <sup>th</sup>	Edith Mary Birch
10 <sup>th</sup>	Eric John Woodcock	26 <sup>th</sup>	Agnes Hutchinson
10 <sup>th</sup>	George Rhondda (Ron) Pugh	28 <sup>th</sup>	Roland Thomas Phillips
10 <sup>th</sup>	Christopher David Mackay	28 <sup>th</sup>	Frank Penlington Roberts
11 <sup>th</sup>	Evelyn May Millington	29 <sup>th</sup>	Philip David Parker
11 <sup>th</sup>	William Henry Taylor	30 <sup>th</sup>	Denise Parker
12 <sup>th</sup>	Beatrice Maud Turner	30 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Rosamund Wilson
12 <sup>th</sup>	Kathleen Doris Clawley	30 <sup>th</sup>	Henry Austin Gregory
12 <sup>th</sup>	John Alfred Curtis		

## 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

The next issue is scheduled to be prepared on **Thursday 19 November** and will cover **December 2020 and January 2021**. It will be available on **Friday 27 November** 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\*\*](mailto:pamedgmond@hotmail.com)

## Dear Friends,

As with the last six Parish magazines it is important to begin this one with an update on the church situation apropos the pandemic. For us, in our Benefice at present, there are no significant changes to the governmental guidelines and regulations, however, it is no bad thing to reiterate these: before which a note of encouragement. Throughout October it was very clear that in each church we were really pulling together, making our surroundings as Covid-19 safe as possible and giving one another confidence that with ever vigilant caution we may continue to worship safely. Equally as the weeks roll on, slowly, imperceptibly almost, yet more and more are venturing out and 'testing the water'. At the same time the utmost respect and thoughts continue to be due to those who as yet cannot resume worship in church – whether in our beloved churches or rightly safe at home we do remain as one where it absolutely counts, one in faith hope and love....and of course united too in prayer.

For some the current 'diet' of church worship is 'difficult', the absence of hymns, artificiality of keeping distanced and wearing a mask not easy. Each of these is a true labour of love, being done for one reason and one reason only....not because the rules say so (so what ultimately?), we aren't as of children in bygone times. That reason is of course to *protect* one another. It is because we *care*.

In one sense we worship The Almighty not only with words but in deeds and through our very being and attitude, so may I suggest that each and every act of mindfulness and focus on others through diligent care may be seen not as an adjunct to our worship but, as it were, a part of it. So please, if you are able to join Sunday by Sunday, try to allow our current guidelines to become a graceful part of a response of our whole selves to God, and do not be deterred by these from embracing our resumed Sunday services.

So, to reiterate where we are at present: the elementary protocols, which are absolutely not optional but are hopefully now second nature and need no elucidation: -

- *Always* sanitise hands on entry, after touching anything 'communal' and before Communion
- Wear your *mask* whenever attending worship, ensure this covers both mouth and nose
- *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. QR codes for Track & Trace are posted in all our churches for the same reason.

*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 as up to date as possible yet may change. Too clearly our county R rate is now much higher than it was last month, good reason to

do the right things for the most important of reasons and consistently show how much we value one another.

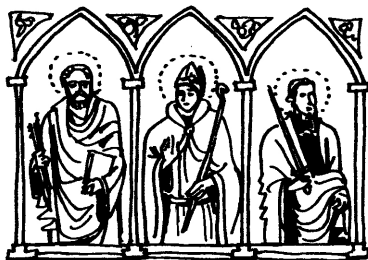
**With every good wish, take care and stay safe,**

**Nick**

from 'Jesu Dulcis Memoria'

Wish us good morning when we wake  
And light us, Lord, with Thy day-break.  
Beat from our brains the thick night  
And fill the world up with delight.

Gerard Manley Hopkins (based on a Latin hymn)  
Sent to us by Tim Heavisides



**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**



## OUR CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Our Sundays and services for this month are:

### **SUNDAY 1 November. ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

Wem: 8.00 am Holy Eucharist (a quiet reflective service)  
Weston: 9.30 am Holy Eucharist - incorporating Harvest Thanksgiving  
Wem: 9.45 am Holy Eucharist  
Lee: 11.15 am Holy Eucharist

### **SUNDAY 8 November. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Wem: 8.00 am Holy Eucharist (a quiet reflective service)  
Wem: **9.30 am** Holy Eucharist – **please note change of time**  
(for details of Remembrance Sunday please see elsewhere in the magazine)  
Weston: 10.50 am for 10.55 am Act of Remembrance – Church Yard

### **SUNDAY 15 November. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent**

Wem: 8.00 am Holy Eucharist (a quiet reflective service)  
Wem: 9.45 am Holy Eucharist  
Weston: 11.00 am Morning Prayer and Admission of Church Wardens  
Lee: 11.15 am Holy Eucharist

### **SUNDAY 22 November. CHRIST the KING**

Wem: 8.00 am Holy Eucharist (a quiet reflective service)  
Wem: 9.45 am Holy Eucharist  
Lee: 11.15 am Holy Eucharist

### **SUNDAY 29 November. ADVENT SUNDAY**

Wem: 8.00 am Holy Eucharist (a quiet reflective service)  
Weston: 9.30 am Holy Eucharist  
Wem: 9.45 am Holy Eucharist  
Lee: 11.15 am Holy Eucharist and Admission of Church Wardens

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November has few red-letter days, although more than making up for this with the huge significance of the Sundays of this month;

Monday 30 November. **St Andrew, Apostle**

Matthew 4. 18-22

Named in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke it is really in the Fourth Gospel that Andrew comes to the fore; a Galilean fisherman who was mending his nets when Jesus called him, an intermediary when he tells his Lord of some Jerusalem Greeks who wish to see Jesus, there at the feeding of the 5,000 and with Jesus until the end – doubtless also there at the resurrection appearances to the disciples. As with the other disciples he was martyred for his faith, tradition has it that this was on an X shaped cross, hence the cross on the flag of the country of which he is Patron, Scotland. Tradition also tells of Andrew travelling on missionary journeys.

*Almighty God,  
who gave such grace to your apostle Saint Andrew  
that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ  
and brought his brother with him:  
call us by your holy word,  
and give us grace to follow without delay  
and tell the good news of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.  
**Amen.***

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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:

- 3. *Winifred, Abbess (7<sup>th</sup> century)*
- 6. *William Temple, Archbishop, Teacher of the Faith 1944*
- 7. *Wilibrord of York, Bishop & Apostle to Frisia 739*
- 9. *Margery Kemp, Mystic c1440*
- 17. *Hugh Bishop of Lincoln 1200*
- 19. *Hilda, Abbess of Whitby 680*
- 20. *Edmund, King and Martyr 870*
- 23. *Columbanus, Bishop and Abbot 615*
- 25. *Isaac Watts, Hymn Writer 1748*

These are not only figures from history or past ‘greats’ of the church who adorn our calendar. Even though most from the distant past of our Church 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, prayer, worship, the gift of scripture, self-sacrifice, 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”***



### Message from St Luke's Weston PCC

On 18th October at St Luke's Church Weston, we were delighted to receive Bishop Sarah who accepted our invitation to conduct our Patronal service. Despite Covid-19 restrictions we had a near full permitted congregation. After Church we all enjoyed meeting +Sarah, socially distancing. A lovely Service.

Daphne. Weston PCC. Minute Secretary

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER

This year this has to be, by a sad necessity, different from any other. However our Remembrances can be every bit as deep and poignant as any other year – indeed whilst there is such strength and symbolism in coming together collectively I think there is also huge power in the Silence held as one in so many homes across our parishes; or indeed perhaps in gardens, at garden gates, places of work, shops and the like. Maybe shorn of parade and circumstance the stark simplicity will bring out a depth and profundity. For:

### WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Too clearly Covid-19 restrictions mitigate against either customary parades or civic services yet Remember *we most certainly will*.

In Wem this means that whilst there will be an Act Of Remembrance at 11.00 am all are politely and sensitively requested not to attend, the risk of transmission with any such gathering especially as numbers would be very hard to regulate simply too high to contemplate. At this Act 7 wreaths will be laid representing our *whole* community and the same purpose and dignity present with prayers offered on behalf of the whole Town and Parish.

Those laying wreaths will be: Deputy Lieutenant, Town Mayor, Royal British Legion, Royal Air Force Shawbury, The Emergency Services, a Student from Thomas Adams (representing all the young of the community) and the Bugler from the Jubilee Band (representing all other organisations that ordinarily lay a wreath).

The whole occasion will be professionally live streamed and all encouraged to either join in from the safety and security of their own homes or later via YouTube, on the Town Council and Church FaceBook page or Town Council and Church website.

Those organisations who usually lay wreaths will be offered an individual slot detailed throughout the day so they can lay their wreath and pay their individual respects.

My hunch is that this way more Wemians will, distanced, actually witness and in the way that ultimately matters participate in the town's Remembrance than in usual years.

**“They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.**

**At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.”**



Our thanks to Simon Bloor for supplying this photograph of the unveiling of the War Memorial in 1920.

### ***With Remembrance Day in mind...***

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. - *Isaiah 2.4*

As peace is of all goodness, so war is an emblem, a hieroglyphic, of all misery. - *John Donne (Sermons, 12, 1622)*

The Church knows nothing of a sacredness of war. The Church which prays the 'Our Father' asks God only for peace. - *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

## **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](http://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

Ordinarily, having a **map maker** as a speaker at our meeting would have ensured our members found their way home safely afterwards, but this was a Zoom meeting and everyone was already at home....! **Katy Alston** illustrates beautiful and intriguing maps, annotating them with fascinating details of **local folklore or field names** etc. At the October meeting of **Lee Brockhurst W.I.**, she outlined the history of map making and then, using a power point presentation, discussed commissions she had undertaken. All members found her talk very interesting and had many questions - in fact some have even requested we attempt a similar project in Lee Brockhurst so watch this space....

The next monthly meeting is our Zoom AGM on **Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup>**; the officers and committee have agreed to stay in post for the foreseeable future to avoid unnecessary disruption during the current situation. The new list of **resolutions** from which W.I. members choose for campaigns will be discussed at this meeting, and the President is planning a small surprise .... Let's hope our three new members, whom we are delighted to welcome to our Institute, will not be discouraged!

The Wem Group of W.I.s are celebrating together on **November 27<sup>th</sup>**, via Zoom, with a **Christmas quiz and carol singing** (that's when the mute option on Zoom is most useful!) which should be great fun. It will be lovely to see our friends from other WIs.

The final monthly meeting of the year is on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December** which will be packed full of **festive fun**. **Gabriella la Foley** will be entertaining us with her foot tapping **ukulele** songs while members wear their **Christmas jumpers and accessories** - this year providing their own mulled wine and mince pies.

Then, on **December 7<sup>th</sup>**, our bookworms will be reviewing 'One Day' by David Nicholls at the final Book Cub meeting of the year.

If you would like any more information about any of our meetings, or would like to give W.I. a try, please contact our lovely secretary **Julie Woolfenden** on 01939 **200237** or [jjwoolfenden@gmail.com](mailto:jjwoolfenden@gmail.com). There is currently a subscription offer for new members of only £10.75 until the end of March 2021 so there's never been a better time to give it a go.... What a great idea for a Christmas present!!

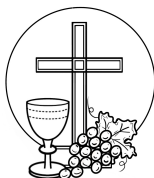
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### Four Crowned Martyrs

Claudius, Nicostratus, Simpronian and Castorius were simple stonemasons in early 4<sup>th</sup> century Rome. They worked in the imperial quarries and workshops of Sirmium. They made a number of carvings for the Emperor Diocletian, who had a passion for building.

Then Diocletian decided he wanted a statue of Aesculapius, the ancient Greek god of medicine. Here Claudius, Nicostratus, Simpronian and Castorius hesitated: they were Christians, and not comfortable about making a 'god'. They demurred. Their boss Lampadius was furious, and soon had them imprisoned for refusing to sacrifice to the gods. Claudius and his friends were in bad trouble – and then it got worse. Lampadius suddenly died. His family were distraught, and so blamed the stonemasons. Claudius and his companions were killed by drowning.

The courage of these four simple stonemasons to risk everything rather than make a stone statue of a god, was a great inspiration in the early Church. Their story was told and retold down the centuries.... eventually Claudius and his friends became the patron saints of guilds of stonemasons in England.





## **NHS Flu Jabs?**

Full marks to the Wem and Prees Surgery staff in New Street for their careful preparation for “Seniors Flu Jab Day” on the 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Arrows on paths and walls pointed this way and that and staff were stationed at strategic locations to help and guide. Folk who came by car and would have difficulty leaving the car to enter the Surgery received their flu jabs while they sat in the car. There’s good service! Even the weather was kind - fine and dry.

There was hand sanitiser available on entry and everyone wore face coverings (otherwise often known as “masks”). So smooth and efficient was the system that arriving shortly before the appointed time one was ushered in directly and out again after the jab almost before the time for the appointment itself.

It was reported that people whose appointments were later in the afternoon were being telephoned to ask if they would attend hours before their appointment time, another result of planning and efficiency, leading to happy patients. And it is not only in Wem that this occurs. For example I was attending RSH for the taking of a blood sample and even before the appointment time the whole process had been completed and I was on my way home.

However, that does demonstrate the need to present oneself in good time. And promptness is a valuable courtesy that is always appreciated by the NHS staff.

Talking about being prompt for an appointment one must mention that tradespeople in Wem generally fall into that category. Door repair chaps came up from Shrewsbury to fix a problem reported that morning, because they had time on their hands and decided to call to see if they could fix it. They did! And the plumbers who have kept to their appointment times; and the man who came to measure up for window blinds; the weekly delivery from the supermarket; the delivery of goods from Telford; the fitter from Prince’s who fitted our new dishwasher with such care ... and so on. There have been some exceptions, of course. But it is so

much more pleasant for the customer when a telephone call apologising for the lateness is received. It's no pleasure waiting for the caller or tradesperson who does not arrive on time or who does not have the courtesy to telephone.

"Your delivery will take place between xxx a.m. and xxx p.m." says the pre-delivery advice. That's fine because one can wait for the visitor during the stated time but sometimes the delivery arrives before the stated time and in the apparent absence of the recipient the delivery might be returned to the sender. The paying customer can be inconvenienced so much that the reputation of the sender or the delivery firm can be jeopardised.

So, back to the surgery and what about the flu jab itself? Bare the arm to the shoulder and within a second or two the jab had been administered entirely painlessly. That same arm must have had so many jabs in its lifetime! These days needles are probably sharper than in earlier years and those folk now of a certain age become hardened to needles being inserted for one reason or another – I know that I am. However, there comes a limit to the number of times the same places on the arms can be used for the extractions for blood tests. Sorry, we cannot use that place again! That was the decision so "Plan B" had to be invoked and with a different pill the blood tests have become less frequent, thankfully.

One cannot mention this year's precautions against the current strain of flu without considering COVID-19. We see news reports of people with masks and many, mask-less, who reject the advice and continue to put themselves and their contacts at additional and unnecessary risk. This is a pandemic – affecting the World. Let us all receive and observe the advice and rules designed to protect us all and not become examples of rejects from common sense. Respect is due for our friends, family and neighbours.

*Bob Dibben*



## **The Lord's Prayer**

*The Dean of Lichfield Cathedral, Adrian Dorber, posts regular messages on the Cathedral website (<https://www.lichfield-cathedral.org>). A recent message, sent to us by Tricia Bamford, ended with the following:*

Finally, you might like to pray the Lord's Prayer with a particular intention for the healing of our world and a conversion of human behaviour. Here is a suggestion from Eco-Congregation, England and Wales.

### **Our Father, in heaven ...**

You are also at home in the air, the soil, the forests and the oceans,

### **Hallowed be your name ...**

By the care we take of your creation,

### **Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven ...**

Your will to till and care,

### **Give us this day our daily bread ...**

That all may have sufficient to live life in fullness,

### **Forgive us our trespasses ...**

Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations,

### **As we forgive those who trespass against us ...**

By reconciliation with justice and peace,

### **Lead us not into temptation ...**

The temptation to equate dominion with exploitation,

### **And deliver us from evil ...**

The evil of destroying your gift of creation,

### **For yours is the kingdom ...**

Yours Lord, not ours,

### **The power and the glory ...**

In the cross and resurrection,

### **For ever and ever ...**

You were the beginning and you are the end,

### **Amen ...**

And so be it.

With my love, prayers and blessing.

Adrian

## A Walk on the Wild Side! (a reflection from Ruth Empson's Ride and Stride Walk 120920)

Having just arrived here in North Shropshire from NZ and as a way to get to know my local area I signed up for Ride and Stride, thank you Rob! Grateful thanks to everyone from around the world who sponsored me 🙏. My aim was to walk from Edlaston to Wem, then to Lee Brockhurst to St Peter's on to Weston-under-Redcastle, St Luke's and then via the Prees Chapel back to Edlaston, St Mary's. My estimate was about 12 miles.

It was an amazing day and armed with a pork pie (very rare in NZ so a real treat for me), some biscuits and a Camelbak of water I set off into Wem. First stop the Whitchurch Road Cemetery Chapel via the footpath from Creamore and Love Lane, what a treat the chapel is inside. I laughed at the fireplace in the cobweb-covered sacristy, some poor soul (maybe a long-suffering Warden!) probably had to light it for the vicar – yet no heating, or lighting in the chapel itself. How delightful the wall coverings are, so unique and so encouraging to hear that a fundraising initiative hopes to properly restore them, please talk to Judy Crichton to find out more.



After a socially distanced chat, I was on my way again down across the river where I spotted some wild iris and then on to Hundred Steps. I'm afraid it only dawned on me later that I went down the Hundred Steps, there did seem to be quite a few, but I didn't count them! At the bottom I had a welcome coffee break beside the stream near a small footbridge. As the sunlight scattered in the brown water it reminded me of a similar phenomenon seen in the NZ bush where the brown is tannin from trees. Suitably

caffeinated I strode on up the bank and through a maize field, the plants towering above me, thankfully a very helpful path was already cut – how we remember and are thankful for those who go before us! Emerging from the crop, Lee Brockhurst became visible and I wandered down to St Peter's. What a lovely mellow setting and the church seemed to visibly bask in the warmth of the sun. My map then



told me to head up the hill, quite a novelty around here, towards the A49. Passing a farm, I said hello to a sweet pony and disturbed some very skittish grouse before arriving in a large log storage area. Many of the logs were of a considerable girth and the rings visible enough to count, I marvelled at the irregularity of their spacing, echoing summers past, good and bad.

Onto a bit of main road, before taking a lane to Weston where I spied some ripe-looking damsons, cheekily I enjoyed two of them as I headed past the multiple layers, colours and textures of the sandstone lining the lane. Only later did I discover that the beautiful high altar at St Peter and St Paul's is made from local Grinshill stone.



As I headed across to Weston and saw St Luke's church tower, the vista was so quintessentially, perfectly English, as were the black and white roadsigns in the village, reminding me of those in Hampshire where I grew up. As kids, we mischievously turned such signs around in the hope of confusing visitors, I wonder if that still happens. As I wandered around St Luke's church yard I noticed a tomb cracked in half, perhaps someone had escaped ... or maybe there was an earthquake. After lunch I left the village, noticing the stocks ... and thought of two men with straw-coloured hair.

Then I headed through the golf course, passing all the uber-smart cars reminding me of the huge wealth divide that has visibly widened in the 13 years since I was last in the UK. Then into lovely meadows towards Prees spotting the windmill-without-sails hiding in the trees, yet faithfully marked on my Ordnance Survey map. Verdant meadows with enormous leaves of clover ... but with footpaths blocked by electric fences, lots of them. It's a long time since I was zapped by an electric fence and despite several attempts I could not earth it and stopped when sparks began to fly; probably not helpful to set the paddock on fire 😊 ... Looking at the map, this barrier created a costly detour, and I'd already thrown my bag across the fence, so nothing for it but to go underneath. Thankfully, a fox (maybe) had already found a good way under so I took advantage of this convenient thoroughfare and thankfully emerged unscathed, retrieved my bag and carried on.



At this point the footpaths became even more imaginative, but I was finally on the road to Prees and passed the pretty Chapel, rewarding myself with an unexpected and very welcome ice-cream at Mick's Mill. No mask, but my neck Buffy did the job!

A little more of the A49 and then over some more "invisible" footpaths, lots of mud and some more, this time passable, electric fencing I was soon heading over the railway bridge into Edstaston. The last "footpath" was just about marked, but it rapidly turned into a huge nettle field. After slow progress, a few choice words and liberally applied dockleaves (thank goodness for Nature's remedies) I emerged into the churchyard at Edstaston. Invited by a seat that said "Sit a while", though methinks it a while since anyone had, I thankfully took the weight off my hot feet, nursed my stings and finished my water and food.

Suitably refreshed, a quick hop over the fields saw me safely back home. What a glorious day, a pretty chilled out walk, new exploration, heaps of fresh air, thankfully no blisters, an empty Camelbak, nettle stings that soon subsided, photos galore, and money raised; our God is good!



## Thankful Homecoming

*Margaret Marsh found the following parish magazine article, which she wished to share with us at this time of the year. We are grateful to the author, Pam Roberts, for allowing us to re-print it. Pam thinks it was written in the late eighties/early nineties. As readers may remember, Pam's latest article, in April of this year, gave us the history of Lee's motte. We are very grateful to her for her continued support of our magazine!*

Welcome Home : on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 1946 a village meeting was called to arrange a social evening in honour of 25 men and women of Lee who had served in the forces from 1939-1945. A fortnight later in the Parish Room presentations were made. There was music and dancing; refreshments were demolished and each person on the roll received £5.

The people honoured on this special occasion are listed below :-

Dorothy Ryder, Rose Cottage (ATS)  
Frank Morgan, Manor House (Royal Navy)  
Bessie Morgan, (sister of Frank) (Colonel in QARANC)  
Arthur Espley, huntsman (Cavalry)  
Vicot Bell, stud groom, 4 Church Road  
Bill and Jim Birch, 2 Lee Hill  
Griffin Ford, schoolmaster (bombardier in army)  
Bill Madders and Trevor Heywood, Woodleigh and Elmdene, the  
Gallagher boys, P.J., Jimmy, Med and Michael who lived at The  
Boat House and 4 Moston Pool  
Bill, Bob and George Evans, sons of Bill the village blacksmith, The  
Forge, Lee Bridge  
Jack Lloyd and Douglas Farley, Besford Wood  
Charlie Lewis of The Shop, Holloway  
Roley Phillips of Bridleway Gate

## NATURE FRIENDLY FARMING

Farming in the near future will see some major changes of emphasis. The balance of high output monoculture and intensive farming with the present environmental pressures has to be addressed.

Since the end of WW2 food rationing (not ended until 1953) the target has been to produce a lot more from our farmland. With the technological advances in engineering bringing ever more efficient and high capacity machines, plant and animal breeding and feeding and disease control; along with greater field size to increase scale and speed of operation, and government (UK and Europe) subsidies starting with the 1947 Agricultural Act, we have seen production output expand tremendously. The traditional farmland rotations gave way to intensive monoculture with subsidised drainage schemes and hedge-removal schemes helping. Interestingly this monoculture is reliant on just a few plant species out of the many thousands.

Is this worryingly vulnerable for food security in the future? Intensive animal farming of laying hens, broiler chicken, pigs and dairy herds has compromised welfare issues. Now subsidised large-scale farm digesters for electrical and heating production have added to high output problems. It has to be said that generally speaking farm management and farm labour is very efficient, skilled and conscientious. This high output has suited our Governments as it keeps the cost of food to the consumer down and has helped raise the overall standard of living. The Supermarkets have "jumped on the bandwagon".

But! We are now reaching a crossroads so to speak. In recent years there has been more and more outcry about addressing the side effects of this progress. The heavy use of artificial fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides is putting a strain on nature. Soil health, so vital, is suffering degradation and loss, indirectly this could reflect on human health. There is an argument for organic and conservation farming here. And it is not all about food production, it is the all-encompassing asset management of the landscape to help improve sustainability.

The Soil Association is calling for a UK transition to agroecological farming systems to address climate, nature and health issues. This system could cut the carbon footprint considerably too. There is now some new thinking on unfairness in the food supply chain and the setting up of a Sustainable Food and Farming Scheme. The consumer is onboard for the policy of public money for public goods and with the considerable evidence for the effects of climate change and global warming and the big reduction of micro and macro fauna and flora, there is a huge pressure to get the forthcoming Environmental Land Management Scheme right. In the last few years farmers have already adopted more environmentally-friendly systems, reducing and fine-tuning artificial inputs and improving soil management. Some of the more aggressive pesticides have already been legally banned. Interestingly the Covid19 lockdown has seen nature repairing itself.

All this has to contend with fair trading policies, Brexit, weather patterns becoming more volatile, population increases and food security. Fair trading is now at a critical stage with the finalising of the Agricultural Bill which aims to protect consumers and farmers from the lower welfare standards of other countries. The amendment to make this legal failed and the Food Standards Commission is being accused of having no "real teeth" but the Government are worried about losing trading deals particularly with the USA. The adoption of any new kind of farming system has to make business sense too. Nature-friendly farming along with simple and straightforward countryside stewardship schemes could address this, profiting farmers, food processors, retailers and consumers in all senses over the long term. Let us challenge human nature and all work together for the common good and behave responsibly with our carbon footprint. Apparently even in the 4<sup>th</sup> century St. Augustus was complaining about human materialism and the lack of respect for creation and nature. Many centuries later S. Francis of Assisi "set the bar". Is the economic GDP and growth model that we all live with sustainable in the long term?

The sheer joy of being alive and part of nature rather than the mindset of dominating and exploiting it has got to be the right way forward particularly for the younger generations who need a future with less doom and gloom and more positivity.

Roger Ashton



When we are perhaps all in need of a boost in our 'interesting times', Tricia Bamford sent the following to us:

# Living well through the next six months

**Living with COVID-19 will be hard for everyone this winter. The Prime Minister has asked us all to observe the Rule of Six. There are lessons and challenges that Christians can draw from this number to help us live well in these times.**

**> SIX MONTHS IS THE NEW HORIZON**

*Focus on Easter and lean back into the great themes of the church year.*

**> SIX DAYS TO WORK AND A SABBATH TO REST**

*Reclaim the gift of one day each week for rest and re-creation.*

**> SIX PEOPLE TO JOURNEY WITH**

*Rediscover church as small groups of people supporting one another.*

**> SIX WAYS TO BE SALT AND LIGHT**

*Identify the people and community organisations you can support.*

**> SIX PERCENT TO YOUR CHURCH**

*If your income is stable, increase your giving to sustain the local church.*

**> SIX PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR**

*Pray for people you know to discover the riches of our faith.*

**"...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

Romans 8.37-39

## Wem Deanery Magazine July 1935

Most of the Magazine (which covered 9 parishes out of 15 in the then Deanery of Wem) was made up of letters from the parish clergy, and the main topics were church fêtes and the inspections of religious teaching in village schools.

The Rector of Moreton Corbet (and Rural Dean) wrote about the Mothers' Union branch and the school Ascension Day service, and then filled up space, possibly because little was happening in Moreton Corbet, with a historical account of Norman castles in England.

The Vicar of Shawbury was on holiday in Oban and feared that his contribution to the Magazine would be rather thin, but he was pleased that the observance of Ascension Day had been better than in previous years, although there was still plenty of room for improvement. The Report on religious teaching in Shawbury school had been excellent. One interesting item was the baptism of Gerald George William Chidlow on 9 June. Many of us will remember Gerald as a good friend and as Lay-Chair of the Deanery Synod.

The Vicar of Stanton referred to the Reports on religious teaching in the two primary schools in the parish – Stanton and High Hatton. Both were very good.

The Vicar of Edstaston, who was also on holiday, shared his delight at the excellent Report on religious teaching in the school. He gave advanced notice of the church fête to be held at the Vicarage on 31 July. People who bought tickets in advance would save 3d. (1¼p.).

The church fête on 5 June was the main object of the Vicar of Newtown's letter, but he found space to mention the Sunday School Trip to Rhyl on Tuesday 30 July. Clearly more than one bus had been booked.

The letter from Clive mentioned that a new Vicar had been appointed to the parish – the Revd C. Legard of Oswestry. Otherwise room was found to give an account of the church fete on 13 June, and to plead for more trebles in the church choir.

The Vicar of Grinshill and Broughton gave details of the Grinshill church fête to be held at Sansaw on 10 July. The other big event was the Deanery Missionary Festival at Grinshill on 18 July.

The Vicar of Preston Gobalds (as it was then spelt) reminded people who had promised to support the Free-Will Offering to send in their subscriptions by the end of the month, and also invited any mothers who might join the Mothers' Union branch to come to the service and meeting on 11 July.

Such was rural church life 85 years ago. Preston Gubbals Church has been largely demolished, with the south aisle surviving in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. Village schools in Moreton Corbet, Stanton, High Hatton, Edstaston, and Grinshill have been closed, and there are no Mothers' Union branches in the Rural Deanery. Fêtes still survive in many rural parishes and provide much needed funds, but not, alas, in 2020. In 1935 only Broughton out of these 9 parishes did not have a resident parson; in 2020 only Shawbury out of these 9 parishes has a resident vicar.

William Price

### Mystics and the Margins

The following was sent to us by Ruth Empson from Richard Rohr's Meditation, The Center of Action and Contemplation:

Many saints, mystics, and everyday people take their place in the grand scheme of God by living on the edge of the inside.

We've tended to soften Jesus' conflict with the system, or the established powers, but Jesus' ministry took place on the margins!

*Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continually return. —Thomas R. Kelly*

### The Folly of Fear

*Not all mystical traditions have practices that are “serious.” Some of the teaching stories of Sufism, the mystical arm of Islam, feature the wise fool Mulla Nasrudin. The Sufis use the humorous stories of Nasrudin's adventures as an opportunity for contemplative practice. Like one of Jesus' parables, a Nasrudin story can work on many levels, from presenting a simple premise to initiating profound understanding. We hope you enjoy the following Nasrudin tale about a Sufi dervish (practitioner) who encounters Mulla Nasrudin.*

Nasrudin was walking along a lonely road one moonlit night when he heard a snore, somewhere, it seemed, underfoot. Suddenly he was afraid, and was about to run when he tripped over a dervish lying in a cell which he had dug for himself, partly underground.

“Who are you?” stammered the Mulla.

“I am a dervish, and this is my contemplation place.”

“You will have to let me share it. Your snore frightened me out of my wits, and I cannot go any further tonight.”

“Take the other end of this blanket, then,” said the dervish without enthusiasm, “and lie down here. Please be quiet, because I am keeping a vigil.” . . .

Nasrudin fell asleep for a time. Then he woke up, very thirsty.

“I am thirsty,” he told the dervish.

“Then go back down the road, where there is a stream.”

“No, I am still afraid.”

“I shall go for you, then,” said the dervish. After all, to provide water is a sacred obligation in the East.

“No—don’t go. I shall be afraid all by myself.”

“Take this knife to defend yourself with,” said the dervish.

While he was away, Nasrudin frightened himself still more, working himself up into a lather of anxiety, which he tried to counter by imagining how he would attack any fiend who threatened him.

Presently the dervish returned.

“Keep your distance, or I’ll kill you!” said Nasrudin.

“But I am the dervish,” said the dervish.

“I don’t care who you are—you may be a fiend in disguise. Besides, you have your head and eyebrows shaved!” The dervishes of that Order shave the head and eyebrows.

“But I have come to bring you water! Don’t you remember—you are thirsty!”

“Don’t try to ingratiate yourself with me, fiend!”

“But that is my cell you are occupying!”

“That’s hard luck for you, isn’t it? You’ll just have to find another one.”

“I suppose so,” said the dervish, “but I am sure I don’t know what to make of all this.”

“I can tell you one thing,” said Nasrudin, “and that is that fear is multidirectional.”

“It certainly seems to be stronger than thirst, or sanity, or other people’s property,” said the dervish.

“*And* you don’t have to have it yourself in order to suffer from it!” said Nasrudin.

## **Stone the .....**

When you read “Stone.....” (without the “the” & count the dots) do you think of rings of standing stones, particularly Stonehenge?

These days we can forecast the movement of the stars, the moon and the planets using computer programs based on years, centuries even, of observations using basic telescopes and latterly some very sophisticated telescopes located on high mountain tops as clear as possible above clouds and the all-pervading haze created by modern man.

Now sit back and cast your thoughts back to the times when there was clear air, there were no telescopes, no computers, no pocket calculators, perhaps no paper on which to write observations and calculations. Consider the ancient standing stone structures which amaze us. Somehow these were planned and designed over many years of meticulous observations – but clearly with a purpose based on a need. Can we say that the need was to amaze the local population with an event that they could relate to?

Each year they would wish to celebrate an event such as the harvest, the change of the seasons, days becoming shorter (or longer) and somehow they must have realised that they needed some form of permanent indication of one of these special days and their special moments. To them the most regular and visible indication had to be the Sun rising on a unique alignment. No clocks or watches to help them. How long must it have taken for such observations to have been noted and validated?

Many years might be the correct answer!

Many years of observation and validation, many years to find the best location for the structure, many years to plan the construction, sourcing the materials and many more years to complete everything exactly as required with absolute accuracy. After all, the Sun rising on a unique alignment could happen on only one day in every year. No rewind facility to check what happened and no chance to check the observation for another 364¼ days if the weather was unfavourable.

Knowledge gained in the whole process had to be passed on to subsequent generations to ensure the eventual success of their great long-term project. Such projects were not confined to one location in one country. We know that there are several complete Standing Stone projects in some countries.

Because they were happening in various countries with each location being on a different alignment none could be duplicated from one place to the next – even if each team knew there were others. Each required its own unique design and materials. Each must have had a completely independent local team of designers, engineers and construction workers but did they all produce structures which worked? It appears that they did, whether they were Standing Stones or huge Pyramids or anything in between.

We can marvel at Stonehenge and the Pyramids, at rings of standing stones, at stones in lines, on continents and islands. What must have been in the minds of those people thousands of years ago as they planned their structures over some considerable distances? It is only now through facilities such as aerial surveys and detailed mapping that we have been able to appreciate their extraordinary skills.

Structures that we are putting in place now are most unlikely to have a purpose and longevity to match the likes of Stonehenge. How satisfying to complete a great project which worked for ever and which now attracts huge crowds on one morning every year!

It reminds us that natural materials employed by man have an almost indefinite life; man-made materials are not so robust. Stone the ..... What a thought! Can we turn back the clock?

*Bob Dibben*

## Holy Days in the NOVEMBER Calendar

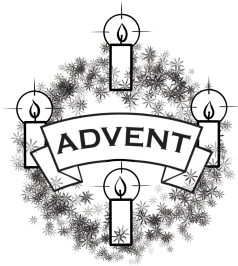
- 1<sup>st</sup>    **All Saints' Day.**
- 2<sup>nd</sup>    **All Souls' Day;** Commemoration the Faithful Departed.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>    Richard Hooker, Priest and Teacher of the Faith, 1600.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>    Martin de Pores, Friar, 1639.
- 6<sup>th</sup>    Illtud.
- 6<sup>th</sup>    Leonard, Hermit & Confessor, c. 559.
- 6<sup>th</sup>    William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1944.
- 7<sup>th</sup>    Willibrord of York, Bishop, Apostle of Frisia, 739.
- 8<sup>th</sup>    The Saints and Martyrs of England.
- 9<sup>th</sup>    Margery Kempe, Mystic, c. 1440.
- 10<sup>th</sup>    Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome, 461.
- 11<sup>th</sup>    Martin, Bishop of Tours, c. 397.
- 13<sup>th</sup>    Charles Simeon, Priest, 1836.
- 14<sup>th</sup>    Samuel Seabury, Bishop in North America, 1836.
- 16<sup>th</sup>    Margaret, Queen of Scotland, Church Reformer, 1093.
- 16<sup>th</sup>    Edmund Rich, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1240.
- 17<sup>th</sup>    Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200.
- 18<sup>th</sup>    Elizabeth of Hungary, Philanthropist, 1231.
- 19<sup>th</sup>    Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680.
- 19<sup>th</sup>    Mechtild, Beguine of Magdeburg, Mystic, 1280.
- 20<sup>th</sup>    Edmund, King of the East Angles, Martyr, 1870.
- 20<sup>th</sup>    Priscilla Lydia Sellon, Anglican Religious, 1876.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>    Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, c. 230.
- 23<sup>rd</sup>    Clement, Bishop of Rome, Martyr, c. 100.
- 25<sup>th</sup>    Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr, 4<sup>th</sup> century.
- 25<sup>th</sup>    Isaac Watts, Hymn writer, 1748.
- 30<sup>th</sup>    **Andrew the Apostle.**



*(from)* **The Brewing of Soma**

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of thy peace.

*by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-92 – American Quaker poet)*



**The Promise of Advent**

Stir up our hearts, we beseech you,  
to prepare ourselves to receive your Son.  
When He comes and knocks, may He find us not sleeping in sin,  
But awake to righteousness,  
Ceaselessly rejoicing in His love.  
May our hearts and minds be so purified,  
That we may be ready to receive His promise of eternal life.

*from The Gelasian Sacramentary, c. 500 (the oldest official prayer book of the Western Church)*