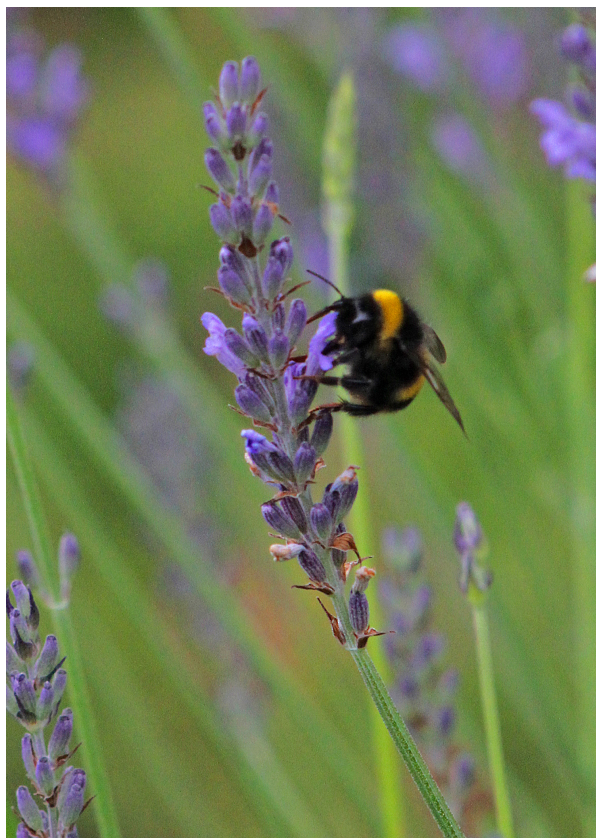


Parish Magazine for
Wem, Lee Brockhurst and Weston-under-Redcastle

July & August 2021



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



Rector

The Revd Nick Heron
The Rectory
Ellesmere Road, Wem SY4 5TU

01939 232550

nphm16@aol.com

Retired Clergy:

The Revd Mike Cotterell, Preb 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 Chris Mellings	236575 809521
PCC Lay Chair:	Sybil Farmer	232568
PCC Treasurer:	Caroline Sinclair	232626
Organist & Choir Master:	Rodney Bellamy	01630 652564
Deputy Captain of Bells:	Karen Compton	236561
Sacristans:	June Powell & Kath Ridgway	234412 290162
Church Flowers:	Olive Kenward & Sybil Farmer	234774 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

Find us on 

@Wemparishchurch

St Peter & St Paul's Rotas

Intercessions

July 4	Keith
July 11	Ruth
July 18	Olive
July 25	June

Ministrants

July 4	Ruth
July 11	Kath
July 18	Elaine
July 25	Simon

Readers

July 4	NT Ruth G Karl
July 11	NT Tim G Kath
July 18	NT Keith G Elaine
July 25	NT Rodney G Helen
August 1	NT David G John

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

Holy Baptism

6 June Rupert Reece Hughes

**“One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all,
who is above all and through all and in all.”**

At Rest

14 June Cecil George Bound

16 June Stephen William Nagle

22 June Dudley Yorke-Summerskill

24 June Glenys Beatrice Chetwood

28 June Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Tye

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



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

Book of Remembrance for July

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

Book of Remembrance for August

1 st	Bob Lloyd Sherwood	15 th	William Anthony Glue
1 st	Edward John Finch	16 th	Violet Williams
1 st	Eileen Constance Morgan	17 th	Elizabeth Mavis Linden
2 nd	Horace James Hall	17 th	Riley 'Ray' Wilman
3 rd	Harry Sudlow	18 th	Aelred John Morgan
3 rd	William 'Bill' Cuthbert Lloyd	18 th	Clifford John Nichols
3 rd	Daisy Catherine Owen	19 th	Edward Ivison
4 th	Margaret Higgins	19 th	Roger Nigel Savage-Bailey
5 th	George Frederick Brisbane	20 th	Birte Cooke
7 th	Marjorie Holt	21 st	William 'Bill' Henry Bamford
7 th	Berwyn Sadler	24 th	Doris Anthea Berry
7 th	Kenneth Thomas Lloyd Bishop	24 th	Frederick James Dickens
8 th	Ann Courtney	24 th	Elizabeth Mary Ellison
8 th	James Patrick Bowring	24 th	David James 'Jim' Rhodes
8 th	Cynthia Dorothy Bennion-Pedley	25 th	George Francis Wilkinson
8 th	Evelyn Dorothea Mary Thompson	25 th	Julian Grocott
10 th	Les Carter	26 th	Florence Eunice Hall
11 th	Charles Thomas Hutchinson	26 th	Eric Holt
11 th	Irene Maria Wellings	27 th	Margot Inge Anni Thomas
12 th	Geoffrey George Parson	29 th	John Swain
14 th	Nancy Elizabeth Canham	30 th	Mary Coles

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	07802 735769
Church Warden Emeritus:	Robert Marsh	200641

ST LUKE'S, WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE

Church Warden:	Frank Hosie-Kingdom	01939 200618
Church Warden:	Helen O'Neill	01939 200663
Church Warden (Deputy):	Sylvia Griffiths	01630 685204
Treasurer:	Colin Holloway	01939 200682
Church Warden Emeritus	Arthur Fox	01630 685180

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

Holy Baptism

23 June Iona Megan Amber Rickersby
23 June Connor Rowan Wulfred Rickersby

**“One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all,
who is above all and through all and in all.”**

At Rest

28 June Brian Whitfield (Interment)
28 June Leonora Ann Whitfield (Interment)

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

SUNDAYS IN JULY

ACROSS THE BENEFICE

DATE	SUNDAY	WEM	WESTON	LEE
4 July	5 th After Trinity	8.00 am 9.45 am	11.00 am	To join Weston or Wem
11 July	6 th After Trinity	8.00 am 9.45 am	9.30 am	11.15 am
18 July	7 th After Trinity	8.00 am 9.45 am	9.30 am	11.15 am
25 July	JAMES the APOSTLE	8.00 am 9.45 am	11.00 am	11.15 am
1 August	9 th After Trinity	8.00 am 9.45 am	9.30 am	11.15 am

Notes:

Details of the August services will be circulated in our weekly 'bulk' emails. If you are not on the circulation list and wish to receive them please email: nphm16@aol.com

The next issue is scheduled to be prepared on **Thursday 19 August** and will be available on **Friday 27 August** 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

OUR CALENDAR FOR JULY

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

Saturday 3 July **St Thomas the Apostle**

Thursday 22 July **Mary Magdalene**

Sunday 25 July **St James the Apostle**

It will be a great joy to be able to celebrate James the Apostle on a Sunday this year. Do however please take a moment on each day to reflect on each of these major saint's days, perhaps supported by the Collect for the Day or the following passages of scripture.

St Thomas

John chapter 20 verses 1 to 9.

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

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

Mary Magdalene

John chapter 20 verses 1 to 18

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

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

St James

Matthew chapter 4 verses 18 – end

Where we read of the call of the first disciples.

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

As always you will find the other Saints and Holy Days for the months later in the magazine with their rich variety and cross-section: several enliven our contemporary faith. One of which is:

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

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

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

UPDATE

I seem to remember beginning last month's Benefice Magazine with a reference to 'groundhog day'...plus ca change, plus ca etc! Once again it is right to give a brisk brief on where we are apropos the pandemic. In short, for now, little has changed and, whilst our worship has been safely continuing for several months now, all the necessary restrictions within this which we are now so familiar with continue. We are all waiting for governmental announcements later this month and it is difficult to predict (and pointless to speculate) what these may bring for how we are able to conduct worship. Since last month the cap on attendance at weddings

has been lifted and as for funerals the number allowed is now dependent on the size of the venue and mitigating factors and within all services:

“From Step 3 groups of 6, or larger groups where everyone present is from the same two households (or linked support bubble), can sit together. Everyone else will need to observe appropriate physical distancing at all times.”

Also, from now PCCs and similar may meet in person – subject of course to all the precautions we are used to elsewhere. Other than this it is simply a case of waiting to see what developments may come before the end of this magazine’s ‘shelf life’ – hence whilst covering July and August it primarily majors on July to allow for what may emerge. If or when things change I assure you all will know asap.

What is really important, without a hint of complacency, is to stress how well we have been adhering to our covid protocols and to thank everyone for doing so with such good spirits and positive intent. These are not easy and do detract from so much, nonetheless they are essential, irrespective of our own ‘jabbed’ status, as any glance at the rising rates close to here should tell us.

Let us always remember that it is not only our own safety but that of the communities we live in that is the only priority and constantly remind ourselves that each and every time we adhere to safe practice it is an act of responsibility and love. So, for now, it is a question of hanging in, keeping on keeping on yet hopeful that one day soon it may not be ‘groundhog day’.

With every good wish, keep taking care and stay safe,

Nick

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. – 2 Timothy 4:7

Be great in little things – St Francis Xavier

WEDDINGS ACROSS THE BENEFICE

It is an absolute delight that we have weddings across the benefice throughout the next two months, some of these were originally planned for last year. All have been set against the backdrop of uncertainty and challenge in organising due to the pandemic and in each case it has been heart-warming to see the approach of the couples. Doubtless there have been moments of concern and stress, especially where long-anticipated hopes and dreams for the big day have been thwarted. Even as I write there are considerable uncertainties for most apropos numbers permitted to the services etc. However in every dealing with each couple I have found maturity, resilience, 'can-do' attitudes and..... their love for each other has shone through - it has been genuinely really moving.

Guess what - when they are held they are going to be such celebrations!! I can't wait for the privilege of conducting them, as it has been a privilege to get to know those involved - in some cases over long and agonising delays. Now they will soon be with us...LAUS DEO!

Do please remember the couples in your prayers on the day of their marriages:

WEM:

23 July Abi and Dave

30 July Lucy and Danny

6 August Kate and Rick

2 September Hannah and Jonnie

LEE:

14 August Fae and Gaz

WESTON:

10 July Lou and Mark

16 July Julia and Tim

26 July Sam and George

14 August Jo and Si

*Lord of love,
we pray for these couples.
Be with them in all their preparations
and on their wedding days.
Give them your love in their hearts
throughout their married lives together,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

*God is love, and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them.*

1 John 4. 16



Peace, perfect peace

Dear Jesus

When we pray for Your help and blessing, we remember the words, "be still in the presence of the Lord". Fill us with the peace of mind and serenity which only You can give, and restore us once again. May we remain safe and content, knowing Your peace will continue to dwell in us.

By Terence Trimmer

Urgent Notice
Change of Date due to Latest Restrictions

Strawberry Tea

Saturday 24th July 2021

2.00-4.00 pm

Brockhurst Farm



**All proceeds to St Peters Church,
Lee Brockhurst
£5.00 per person
(children under 12 - £2.50)**

Raffle

**Tickets available from
Phoebe & Roger Ashton
01939 232425
&
Valerie Lusby
01939 235610**



Entry by tickets only

Celebrating a Special Birthday - 100 years

This letter is to send best wishes to a lady special to us in Lee Brockhurst - Margery Bentley.

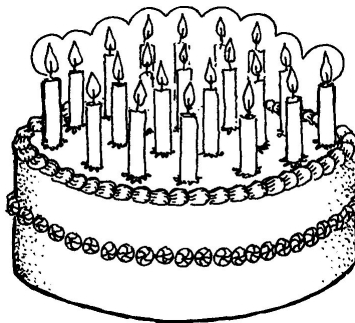
Mrs. B. moved into the village after the Second World War; she was our neighbour and good friend. She had two husbands, both with surnames beginning with B: Jack Benbow and Norman Bentley. One of our daughters got mixed up one day and called her Mrs Benbow when it should have been Mrs Bentley so, with her permission, from then on she has been known to us as Mrs. B. She has sadly lost both husbands.

When Mrs. B lived in Lee Brockhurst she was very active in village life, especially St. Peter's Church, where she was PCC Secretary, a church warden with Robert and a Deanery Synod representative for many years. She was a joy to work with and a very active volunteer, helping to clean the church and raise essential charitable funds.

She was also a founder member of Lee Brockhurst W.I. 71 years ago and took up the role of President.

She now has a landmark birthday approaching and we as a family, and I'm sure all the people from the village who knew her, would like to wish Margery a VERY Happy 100th Birthday.

Robert and Margaret Marsh



THE ENVIRONMENT

More recently the Church has been emphasising the importance of the environment and our Christian conscience for responsibly addressing this.

There is no doubt that planet Earth is under pressure from a rapidly increasing population that has developed into a highly industrialised and technological society, bringing with it massive economies that have impacted on the laws of nature. Quality soil, quality water and quality air are vital. Is our abuse of nature bringing more serious droughts, more serious storms and flooding and more serious virus pandemics with its consequences for famine and poverty?

Climate change and our carbon footprint are measurable qualities that are showing critical consequences for the future of our planet and the future for our younger generations. It has almost reached a point where it could be more devastating than a nuclear war.

Surely the leaders of worldwide countries, with all their cultural differences bringing tension and war-like actions, should come together to address this worldwide crisis? We are all in this together! Surely now is the time to bring in ongoing concern for each other on a global scale, to prioritise the ultimate values of love and peace?

Roger Ashton

Holy Days in the July Church Calendar

1 st	John & Henry Venn, Evangelical Divines, 1813 & 1873
3 rd	Thomas the Apostle
6 th	Thomas More, Scholar & John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Reformation Martyrs, 1535
11 th	Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, Father of Western Monasticism, c550
14 th	John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866
15 th	Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c862
15 th	Bonaventure, Friar, Bishop, Teacher, 1274
16 th	Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, 1099
18 th	Elizabeth Ferard, first deaconess of the Church of England, 1883

- 19th Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa & his sister Macrina, Teachers of the Faith, 394 & 379
- 20th Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4th century
- 20th Bartolome de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 1566
- 22nd **Mary Magdalene**
- 23rd Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena, 1373
- 25th **James the Apostle**
- 26th Anne & Joachim, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 27th Brooke Foss Westcott, Bishop of Durham, Teacher, 1901
- 29th Mary, Martha & Lazarus, Companions of our Lord
- 30th William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, 1833
- 31st Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556

William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano & Thomas Clarkson

During the 18th century many people in England were involved in the campaign to abolish the slave trade. The Church of England remembers especially William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson - three very different, but all tireless, campaigners against the evil practice.

Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846) was an Anglican clergyman and one of the most prominent of the anti-slavery campaigners. In 1787 he helped form the first Abolitionist Committee, and his energy and hatred of injustice made him a 'moral steam-engine'. He travelled hundreds of miles, gathering evidence from people caught up in the slave trade, from ships' captains to doctors.

Olaudah Equiano (1745 - 1797) had been kidnapped in Nigeria, sold into slavery and sent to the West Indies. When he finally escaped, he made his way to London and became one of the most prominent black campaigners. His brutal autobiography of 1789 ran to nine reprints, and was translated into many languages, bringing home to people the horrors of the slave trade.

William Wilberforce (1759 - 1833), of course, became the main figurehead in Parliament. He came from a wealthy family in Kingston-Upon-Hull, and represented the town in Parliament. He was recruited by Thomas Clarkson, who saw the need for a brilliant advocate within Parliament. Wilberforce was an inspired choice: not only wealthy and well-connected, but a gifted orator with a social conscience, especially after his conversion in 1785. He made his first speech in Parliament against slavery in 1789, but it was not until 1807, after a debate that raged for many years, that the Abolition Act was finally passed.

Holy Days in the August Church Calendar

- 4th Jean-Baptiste Vianney, Curé d'Ars, Spiritual Guide, 1859
- 5th Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642
- 6th **The Transfiguration of our Lord**
- 7th John Mason Neale, Priest, Hymn writer, 1866
- 8th Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221
- 9th Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921
- 10th Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258
- 11th Clare of Assisi, Founder of the Minoreesses, 1253
- 11th John Henry Newman, Priest, Tractarian, 1890
- 13th Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down & Connor, 1667
- 13th Florence Nightingale, Nurse, Social Reformer, 1910
- 13th Octavia Hill, Social Reformer, 1912
- 14th Maximilian Kolbe, Friar, Martyr, 1941
- 15th **The Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 20th Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher of the Faith, 1153
- 20th William & Catherine Booth, Founders of The Salvation Army, 1912 & 1890
- 24th **Bartholomew, the Apostle**
- 27th Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387
- 28th Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher of the Faith, 430
- 29th The Beheading of John the Baptist
- 30th John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer, 1688
- 31st Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651

A Visit to Worcester Cathedral

A few weeks ago, I headed to the New Forest to see the Solent and the wild ponies. I was treated to both; the latter awoke me around 4 am grazing next to my tent, a quite beautiful and surreal experience! And just to mention, I wasn't freedom camping, so all the more amazing. On the way, I stopped overnight at Worcester to visit the lovely Cathedral; I'd encourage a day visit if you are able – either way, please visit www.worcestercathedral.co.uk for a look.

Outside the cathedral looked quite small to me, inside it is quite simply stunning, at once intimate yet vast, with several very different spaces that enthralled and held my attention for over two hours. It has been described as one of England's most architecturally interesting cathedrals, and perhaps it is this that creates the variety of spaces within.

The first cathedral on the site was built in 680; St Oswald built another in 983 also establishing a monastery on the site, then in 1084 St Wulfstan began the present building. I guess, just like today, the builders didn't always get it right first time!

Worcester was a centre of learning from the Middle Ages onward, Benedictine monks studied theology, medicine, physics, maths, history, law and some of the old texts are still at the Cathedral. Sadly, in 1540 when Henry VIII dissolved the monastery, the learning stopped.

The cathedral was badly damaged in the civil wars and underwent considerable restoration in the time of Charles II, but then again fell into some disrepair until the Victorians carried out extensive refurbishments in 1854. There is a lovely section in the cathedral showing the state of the un-furbished stone arches before the Victorian craftsmen got to work. The stone is very worn and broken and I doubt the cathedral would be standing today without the Victorian works.

Worcester is famous for King John's tomb situated up near the high altar. Being an often-sceptical scientist type, I asked how it was known that the remains were really King John. The ready reply came, his height and clothing of course. What so no isotopes or

DNA? Clearly, I need more faith! Behind the tomb is the high altar and the most amazing altar cloth, distinctively 1970s in style, boldly parading the spectrum of liturgical colours, timeless and beautiful. To be honest I could hardly stop gazing at the colours and shapes. The same was true for some of the majestic stained glass, some new, but most flamboyantly Victorian.



Down in the crypt, also beautifully restored, are the remains of a Pilgrim boot with a prayer for Pilgrims from the Sarum Missal "The good angel of the Lord accompany you. Receive this staff... that you may again return to us in joy." I was reminded how much we are pilgrims of all kinds on our faith journeys.

My visit concluded with some quiet in the medieval cloisters, a living, eternal peaceful space.

Ruth Empson

Lee Brockhurst WI

If Lee Brockhurst WI did Twitter, there would have been a chorus of **enthusiastic tweets** about our June meeting in the barn at Roger and Phoebe Ashton's lovely home, when ornithologist extraordinaire **Hilary MacBean** taught us how to identify our garden birds by listening to their **birdsong**. We had a wonderfully relaxing evening (although one wren was not at all happy with the sound of competition emanating from Hilary's laptop!). The joy at being together at long last was apparent on everyone's faces and for the first time we were able to display the bunting made by members during lockdown to celebrate our

70th birthday. We were joined by our newest member, **Pauline Dee**, and we had a victory to celebrate as member **Debbie Evans** had just won the County pencil sketch competition.

Having had a very successful inaugural walk in May, our 'Summer Strollers' will be meeting for their next amble on Tuesday **29th June** at **Clive church**, at **7.15pm**, complete with sensible shoes, sticks, refreshments and the odd dog. (Mine being the oddest dog!!) The dates of future walks have yet to be scheduled but if you'd like to know more please email our organiser **Rachel** on rachel56bailey@outlook.com or phone 07909 982609.

Our next Brockhurst Bookworms book reviews are at 8pm on **Monday 5th July**, in the garden of member Julie Davies, and on **Monday 16th August** hosted by Judith Lester. Although virtual meetings have been a godsend, it will be a pleasant change to express our opinions in person over a cuppa (or glass). Information about our book club can be obtained from **Helen** on hj212@btinternet.com.

It has become our tradition to spend the July meetings being active, with such things as line dancing or tai chi, so this summer we are energetically eating a picnic and circumambulating Colemere lake (!) on **Tuesday July 20th** from **7.30pm**. Judith Lester has some **playful quiz questions** with which to entertain us so members need to remember their pencils and paper. (We do not have a monthly meeting in August so our next one will be on Tuesday September 21st at Lee Brockhurst village hall with **very special** speaker postponed from 2020).

Finally, our '**What's the Point**' craft club will resume on **Tuesday 7th September** at Lee Brockhurst village hall from **7.30pm** when we will be making 'morsbags' (a type of tote bag) for the **Shropshire** Federation of WIs to give away at a climate change awareness event. Contact organiser **Meg Bilson** on meg.bilson@gmail.com or 01939 250252 for more information.

You are very welcome to give our WI a try so please contact our friendly secretary Julie Woolfenden on 01939 200237 or jjwoolfenden@gmail.com for further details.

"Daddy, Where is Heaven and what is it like?"

Heaven is Here my child
It is like being held in your mother's arms.
It is here, where all of us - are one.
It is like sitting with friends around a camp-fire.
It is here, where laughter is free and all can enjoy.
It is like stroking your cat, "Monty "- for ever and ever.
It is here, where the colour of your skin, is your heritage.
It is like drinking your first cup of tea in the morning.
Heaven is here, where a smile is a precious gift.
It is like hugging your best friend in the whole World.
It is here, chatting to friends about - nothing.
It is like eating your morning porridge with your best friend.
It is here, in the hearts of women and of men - everywhere.
It is like watching the sun, rise over a calm sea.
It is here when we hold hands and skip down a country lane.
It is like watching an Orange Tipped Butterfly on a purple Thistle head.
Heaven is here, as you give away your wealth to those who have none.
It is like running, bare foot, along Rhossili Bay.
It is here, gazing at a Harvest Moon on a Summer's evening.
It is like staring into the eyes of a Gorilla, through the glass, at the Zoo.
It is here, sitting by the fire, listening to what Winnie the Pooh is thinking!
It is like holding a chick, which is just an hour old.
It is here, knowing that Jesus Christ is near.
It is like seeing the World through the eyes of God.
It is here, so do not look to the sky - for Heaven is not there!
It is like knowing that Heaven is within You.
It is here knowing, when decreed by God,
Your soul will transcend to an inner Paradise.
Where it will abide, in peace, with Him - for all Eternity.

"Hmm, Thanks Daddy"

Peter Phillips
December 2020.

With thanks to Peter for allowing us to reproduce his poem here and to Tricia B for sending it on to us.

WHITCHURCH FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

It would be very easy to imagine as the local impact of the pandemic eases in terms of restrictions that things are easier all round – in terms of food poverty nothing could be further from the truth.

It is so important that we keep up our support to this essential social need

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).

You can support in the following ways. -

Leave food in your church at the designated point either when attending or when the church is open

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:

The Wern Co-op will take donations, please ask staff for the exact location of the 'bin'.

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

Amongst items in particularly short supply at present are:

Tins of corned beef 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

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

Matthew 25.35a

CONTINUING COVID PROTOCOLS TO KEEP US ALL SAFE

It is so good that we have been able to worship and feel safe doing so for several months now, equally we all hope that it will be safe to have further restrictions lifted soon. This could easily be a recipe for complacency, so with infection rates rising around our area do please remember:

Hands – Face – Space: the space element of this is not always adhered to – please keep up the good work.

- A record is kept of all attenders for track and trace, if you have the app on your mobile phone do use the QR codes provided and prominently displayed
- 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
- As you would expect Communion will remain in 'one kind' and as yet we are not able to sing
- Follow any other guidance of the church wardens or sidespeople

We may attend as part of a group all from 2 linked households but must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group. Refreshments after the service are still not permitted.

If or when matters change all will be informed as promptly as possible through both our email system and through the parish notices.

As always up to date information may be found at the [Church of England website](#) and latest updates on guidance are also on our [diocesan website](#).

Each parish church, has its own Risk Assessment displayed for any to see.

