

JULY/AUGUST 2024

The Benefice Magazine
for the Parishes of
St Peter & St Paul,
St Peter and St Luke



*St Peter and St Paul's,
Wem*



*St Peter's,
Lee Brockhurst*



*St Luke's,
Weston-under-Redcastle*

**THE BENEFICE OF
ST PETER & ST PAUL, WEM
ST PETER, LEE BROCKHURST
ST LUKE, WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE**

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ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WEM

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Katharine Murray

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Church Hall Bookings – Via website/Facebook

Baby and Toddler Group (Sweet Peas)

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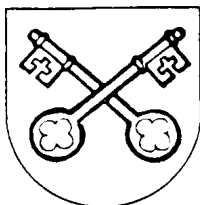
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LEE



WEM



WESTON

<u>SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN JULY</u>					
DAY	DATE	SEASON	WEM	WESTON	LEE
THURSDAY	4th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	7th	TRINITY 6	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	11th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	14th	TRINITY 7	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 MP	11:15 MP
THURSDAY	18th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	21st	TRINITY 8	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	25th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	28th	TRINITY 9	08:00 HE 09:45 HE 18:00 P&P	11:00 HE	11:15 HE
HE—Holy Eucharist MP—Morning Prayer P&P—Praise & Prayer					

The Season



Of Trinity



<u>SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN AUGUST</u>					
DAY	DATE	SEASON	WEM	WESTON	LEE
THURSDAY	1st		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	4th	TRINITY 10	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	8th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	11th	TRINITY 11	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 MP	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	15th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	18th	TRINITY 12	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	22nd		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	25th	TRINITY 13	08:00 HE 09:45 HE 18:00 P&P	11:00 HE	11:15 MP
HE—Holy Eucharist MP—Morning Prayer P&P—Praise & Prayer					

The Season



Of Trinity





Notes from the Editor

July - August

The months of the year are flying by but the summer weather we have grown to expect at this time of the year seems to be a little lacking.

I am writing this letter from Salcombe in Devon and I am happy to tell you that we have had 5 dry days and a decent amount of sun but mainly accompanied by a cool or, even at times, cold breeze. The weather does not seem to have disturbed the wild or garden flowers and the vegetation is bountiful as are the "weeds".

This magazine will cover two month's events and church services and celebrations and so my next editorial will be in September (this will be written whilst I am in Australia visiting my brother - so watch this space).

The 20th of July sees the annual Strawberry Tea at Brockhurst Farm with the wet venue being Lee Brockhurst Village Hall. Tickets are now on sale and entry to the tea is by ticket only (see the poster elsewhere in the magazine). A few weeks later we will be able to enjoy the Annual Weston Show on the 4th August at the Citadel, an event not to be missed and usually blessed with lovely summer weather.

Once again we apologise for the fact that this magazine is being produced in electronic form only and not in print as well, may be by September we will have "got our act together". We wish you a very pleasant summer. Please write about all the events you have organised during the next two months as without them the magazine will be a very small uninteresting thing.

Phoebe

Rector's Ramblings

Integrity, Authenticity and Elections

In all things and in all ways, one should strive to be authentic and to live with integrity.

By the time you read this magazine we will have had a general election. Those of us eligible to vote, hopefully will have done so, and there will be either a continuation of the previous government or a new government.

To elect a government the UK uses a voting system known as First-Past-the-Post, also known as the winner-takes-all. Supporters of this voting system say it helps with political stability as it reduces the need for coalitions and gives governments the ability to make big changes. Critics of this voting system say it is unfair as it is not proportional (the seats in parliament are not in proportion to the votes cast). For instance, in the 2019 general election, the Conservative Party won 43.6% of the vote, but gained 56.2% of the seats, whilst the Liberal Democrats gained 11.5% of the votes and only 1.6% of the seats.

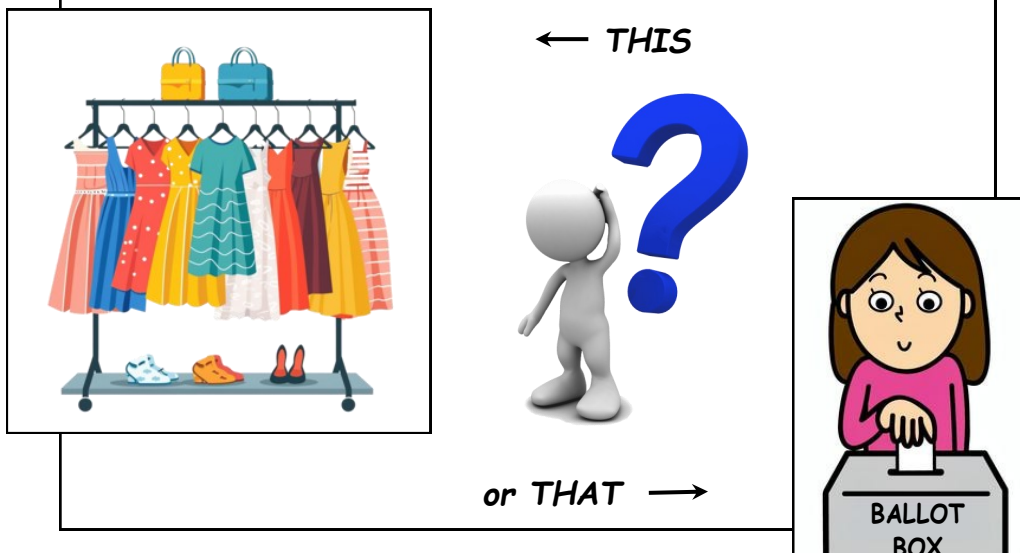
Before casting a vote, I hope that people looked at the various manifesto's that the political parties have published and decided on the basis of these who they will vote for. Or they may vote tactically so as to prevent a particular party or candidate from taking a seat in parliament.

Rather than reviewing manifestos some people will vote as they have always done, or sometimes people may be so consumed by their own desires that they sacrifice their principles for a short-term gain. They may even try to justify their actions to themselves with the saying 'The end justifies the means'.

Once upon a time, a vicar (*not one I know*) became very annoyed with his wife for always coming back with a new dress each time she went out shopping. He told her she must be more concerned about the finances and resist any more purchases. She said it was very difficult as the Devil was always tempting her. Her husband replied "You must say to the Devil next time", 'Get thee behind me Satan!'. The next week she came back from shopping with yet another new dress. Her husband was furious! "Didn't you tell the Devil to get behind you as I said?" His wife replied, "I did, but when he went behind me he whispered in my ear, 'It looks just as good from the back as it did from the front'."

We laugh at the joke, but giving in to temptations in little things can lead to giving in to temptations in big things. Any pattern of lies and deceptions we tell others; or *ourselves*, just becomes more elaborate, and more damaging to our integrity. I hope that all of us, including those who wrote the manifestoes and those for whom we voted have in the past, and will in the future, act with integrity and authenticity.

Yours in Christ, Reverend John.



OUR NEW DEAN OF LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

His Majesty the King has approved the nomination of The Right Reverend Janet Elizabeth McFarlane, Interim Dean of Lichfield and an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Lichfield, for appointment as Dean of Lichfield.



Jan will be the first female Dean of Lichfield in the Cathedral's 1300 year history.

The Lord Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave said, 'I am very glad that Bishop Jan will be the next Dean of Lichfield. She has handled her role as Interim Dean over the last year with warmth and deftness and I know her appointment will be popular with staff and visitors alike. Her love for the region shines brightly and her love for the things of God brighter still.'

Bishop Jan said, 'I am beyond delighted to have been appointed as the first female Dean of Lichfield. I was ordained in Lichfield Cathedral 30 years ago and if you had told me then that I'd be returning one day as Dean, I would have grinned with utter disbelief! I was born and grew up in Stoke-on-Trent and so, even though I have lived in very many parts of the country over the years, I feel as if I have come home. It has been a joy to serve as Interim Dean in this vibrant Cathedral with its hard-working and gifted staff and volunteers; and in the wider Diocese, in all its wonderful diversity; and it's a huge honour to be invited to lead us into an adventurous new chapter in the story of Lichfield.'

Jan will be installed as Dean of Lichfield by the Bishop of Lichfield in Lichfield Cathedral on Saturday 21 September at 2.30pm.

Jan was educated at Sheffield University, and trained for ordained ministry at Cranmer Hall, Durham. She served as a curate in the Stafford Team Ministry, in the Diocese of Lichfield and was ordained priest in 1994. She became Chaplain of Ely Cathedral in 1996, before being appointed as Director of Communications for the Diocese of Norwich in 1999. Between 2001 and 2009, Jan served additionally as Chaplain to the Bishop of Norwich. In 2009, she was appointed Archdeacon of Norwich, whilst remaining Director of Communications for the Diocese.

In 2016, Jan was appointed Suffragan Bishop of Repton, in the Diocese of Derby, and has been a Residentiary Canon at Lichfield Cathedral and Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Lichfield since retiring as Bishop of Repton in 2020. She has served as Interim Dean since April 2023.



Canon William Continues With Insights Into Ministry In The 1870's

KILVERT IN JULY



The Revd Francis Kilvert was a clergyman in the Wye Valley in Radnorshire and Herefordshire in the 1870s. His Diary gives us glimpses into ordinary life in his parishes, and I've selected some extracts from July in different years.

Wednesday 6 July 1870

At 3 o'clock went to Wye Cliff by the meadows. The targets were pitched in the long green narrow meadow which runs down to the river and the summer houses, one of the prettiest archery grounds I ever saw, the high woods above and the river below. It was a pretty sight to see the group of ladies, with their fresh light dresses moving up and down the long green meadow between the targets, and the arrows flitting and glancing white to and fro against the bank of dark green trees. At 6 tea, coffee, cider cup etc. was laid out in the summer house and when 3 dozen arrows had been shot we left off shooting and went to tea and I made up the score. All through the hot burning afternoon how pleasant sounded the cool rush and roar of the Wye over its rapids and rocks at the end of the meadow.

(A perfect summer's afternoon and evening. Archery was a favourite sport, especially with women.)

Friday 14 July 1871

[A preacher years before Kilvert's time.] He would get up in the pulpit without an idea about what he was going to say, and would begin thus. 'Ha, yes, here we are. And it is a fine day. I congratulate you on the fine day, and glad to see so many of you here. Yes indeed. Ha, yes, very well. Now then I shall take for my text so and so. Yes. Let me see. You are all sinners and so am I. Yes indeed'. Sometimes he would preach about 'Mr Noe'. 'Mr Noe, he did go on with the ark, thump, thump, thump. And the wicked fellows did come and say to him "Now Mr Noe, don't go on there, thump, thump, thump, come and have a pint of ale at the Red Lion. There is capital ale at

the Red Lion, Mr Noe". For Mr Noe was situated just as we are here, there was the Red Lion close by the ark, just round the corner. Yes indeed. By Mr Noe he would not hearken to them, and he went on thump, thump, thump. Then another idle fellow would say "Come Mr Noe – the hounds are running capital, yes indeed. Don't go on there thump, thump, thump". But Mr Noe he never did heed them, he just went on with his ark, thump, thump, thump'.

(Kilvert is looking back on preaching in a previous generation. The Revd Mr Thomas was Vicar of Disserth near Llandrindod Wells.)

Wednesday 3 July 1872

[The Vicar who lived in a hut.] Inside the hut there was a wild confusion of litter and rubbish almost choking and filling up all available space. The floor had once been of stone but was covered thick and deep with an accumulation of the dirt and peat dust of years. The furniture consisted of two wooden saddle-seated chairs polished smooth by the friction of continual sessions, and one of them without a back. A four-legged dressing table littered with broken bread and meat, crumbs, dirty knives and forks, glasses, plates, cups and saucers in squalid hugger-mugger confusion. No table cloth. No grate. The hearth foul with cold peat ashes, broken bricks and dust, under the great wide open chimney through which stole down a faint ghastly sickly light. In heaps and piles upon the floor were old books, large Bibles, commentaries, old fashioned religious disputations, CMS Reports and odd books of all sorts, Luther on the Galatians, etc.

The squalor, the dirt, the dust, the foulness and wretchedness of the place were indescribable, almost inconceivable.

And in this cabin thus lives the Solitary of Llanbedr, the Revd John Price, Master of Arts of Cambridge University and Vicar of Llanbedr Painscastle.

(Mr Price was treated with great respect by the parishioners, and Kilvert comments that a thousand years earlier he would have been revered as a hermit and perhaps a saint. He worried that many tramps were not married and he encouraged them to be married in his church, giving them half a crown if they married. As a result several tramps were married several times to each other!)

William Price.

Notes from The Diocese



Much more than just a cuppa



Places of Welcome are a network of hospitality, safe spaces in the local community where people can connect, belong and participate. Registration to the national network is free, but the coffee morning or drop-in should fulfil five criteria to join. These are:

Place:

An accessible and hospitable building, open at the same time every week.

People:

Open to everyone regardless of their circumstances or situation, and usually staffed by volunteers.

Provision:

Offering free refreshments (at least a drink and a biscuit) and basic local information.

Presence:

A place where people actively listen to one another.

Participation:

Recognises that every person coming to a Place of Welcome will bring talents, experiences and skills that they might be willing to share locally.

Places of Welcome are a place where everyone can go for a friendly conversation and free refreshments, if and when they need it, and although they all meet the five expectations – they can all be very different – reflecting the communities they are in and their experiences and interests.

In their simplest form, they provide conversation and companionship over a cuppa, but did you know that some of our Places of Welcome provide other activities and support services? Here is just a flavour of what our Places of Welcome communities offer: sewing, gardening, citizens advice, councillor surgeries, knitting, yoga, exercise, arts and craft, colouring, litter picking, debt advice, counselling, foodbanks, clothing banks, haircuts, quizzes, singing and games.

But whether it's chatting over a cuppa and biscuit, taking part in one of the many activities or just finding a bit of support – they are always welcoming and inclusive.

Please do seek out your local Place of Welcome at:

www.placesofwelcome.org.uk

or if you would like to host a Place of Welcome contact Carrie

Blount at strengtheningcommunities@lichfield.anglican.org

Places of Welcome within Lichfield Diocese are supported by Carrie and her colleague, Lesley Bovington. To find your nearest Place of Welcome and read stories from visitors and volunteers, visit:

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/places-of-welcome>



Notes from The Diocese for August



Creating something new...



JULES SMITH

I wasn't quite sure what to expect in my new role as no one had 'gone before'. I have spent 33 years caring for, educating and sharing the love of Jesus with children, their families and staff. This has been in a variety of places including church, and now I find myself working for the Church of England in this diocese. I began this new role by having to 'create something new', which was a little daunting at first.

One of the things that I have most enjoyed while 'starting something new' is the ability to be creative and let God guide my thinking. Firstly, I didn't realise just how large and diverse the Diocese of Lichfield is, but this adds to the interest and excitement of my role. Being alone in my car most often with only Premier Praise radio and God for company, I realised, as I drove around the diocese, that being in relationship with others is crucial. This was just what Jesus spent a lot of his time doing too. I have spent the last eight months meeting with many colleagues of various ministries. It has been marvellous to meet new people. Hearing about both the challenges and successes of ministry has been a very humbling experience. There is so much to celebrate, despite some of the difficulties that people have shared with me. So many parishes and people both lay and ordained are doing such great things; it is a privilege to serve you all.

For now, God has blessed me with this ministry of helping others to grow in their ministries. What do you feel God is calling you to? Everyone is called by God at different times and for different purposes to minister to others, whether that is in church or out in the world. Ministry is sharing the good news, serving and helping others to be disciples (learners). Ministry is about giving of ourselves and our time, talents, and resources to bless and help others. This will look different for people. Everyone's ministry is important, and I am often reminded of this bible verse...'**There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body'** (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Such a powerful piece of scripture that reminds us that without the other we cannot be all that God intends for us to be. This is where my role will continue to take me... helping you to deepen your own faith and explore what God has for you, regardless of who you are, by providing training that matters to you.

I will be continuing to visit people, listening to what they need so that I can support you in living out the 1 Corinthians scripture. I am putting together training options in a digital brochure which will be launched at the end of August. If you would like to speak to me, I am always happy to come and meet you wherever you are. I will be praying for the life of our diocese over the coming months and for all the wonderful works that are happening because of you. If I haven't met you yet, I hope that I do in the future. Thank you for all you are doing in our diocese.

God bless,

Jules

Jules Smith is the diocese's Strategic Ministerial Development Officer, which means she works closely with both the Mission and Vocation & Training teams. You can contact her by email (jules.smith@lichfield.anglican.org) or phone: 07498 192669. Or explore some of our advice and information about vocation and ministry at www.lichfield.anglican.org/exploring-vocation/



COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS — JULY

from ROGER ASHTON



'CRUNCH TIME'

In every sense this July brings together all the problems facing the countryside.

Last month I titled the article "Summer At Last", perhaps I was somewhat premature with that statement!

Hopefully July will see an improving summertime where the countryside can recover from the difficult weather conditions of the past six months. The political scene, with the 4th July general election, could see changes in the support for farming, lots of promises to improve the farmer's lot! The need to support the environment and also prioritise food security and home grown food production, there are over 70 million mouths to feed, requires much more financial aid from the government. Our new NFU President, Tom Bradshaw, estimates £5.5 Billion. Recently the National Trust, the Woodland Trust, the Regional Wildlife Trusts and the RSPB came together to state the serious decline of our natural habitat and the need for more biodiversity and regenerative farming. To achieve this and keep the consumer comfortable with the retail pricing of food is going to be extremely challenging! After the unprecedented perfect storm of exceptional rainfall, sustained high production costs, low market returns and increasing regulation, there is a real need for more support from the retail end of the food chain too. The competitive trading pricing model needs to be more focused on

co operation and trust. This will help with future sustainability and give farmers the resources to invest in infrastructure that supports the environment. Intensive farming has to have its place but somehow we have to address the acute problems of pollution and pesticide damage. Importing more food is not the answer, the nation's security, quality control, and massive carbon losses come into the equation. It is crunch time!

Our prayers are never more needed for God's help and guidance, but our nations amazing resourcefulness and resilience brings hope to our future. Farmers are well aware that they are the custodians of our wonderful countryside.

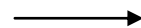


Here Be Dragons!

Churchyards and cemeteries may seem strange places to look for animals which live in streams and ponds but actually they can be very good. Frogs, toads and newts all spend much of their lives out of the water and whilst dragonflies are aquatic during their larval stage it is the adult, flying insect that we see

throughout the spring and summer. Whilst dragonflies will be returning to water to lay eggs, they can be seen cruising quite far away.

Dragonfly larvae may live for several years within water but for only a few weeks as a flying adult. It's not clear why they are called dragonflies, but other old names



include Devil's Riding Horse and Devil's Darning Needle! They are an ancient type of insect with giant dragonflies found in the fossil record, dating from the Carboniferous era. Some fossilized dragonfly species would have had a wingspan of about 70cm.

Adult dragonflies eat smaller insects such as midges and mosquitoes. They can fly fast – reaching 25 to 30 mph with a loud buzzing sound and have excellent eyesight, using their compound eyes to find and catch prey as well as spot potential mates. You may see them basking on a churchyard wall or monument in order to warm up, wait for good weather or finish digesting. Flying takes a lot of energy so they spend much of their time sitting still. If you are both patient and lucky, you may also see predators of dragonflies or the smaller damselflies such as flycatchers and frogs.

One reason that burial grounds are good for dragonflies is that they can be havens for their food – small flying insects. Those managing churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries rarely if ever use pesticides and there are often areas where these insects can breed, such as long tussocky grass, deadwood and woodland soils with old leaves, bark and hummus.

Why not spend some time checking on monuments and see if you can spot any dragonflies. Take a photo of any you see to upload onto the iNaturalist app which will both help you identify them and also make a record so others can see what you've found.

All the best, Harriet

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor,

harriet@cfga.org.uk, www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

- individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code diomem22



Goodbye to the Swifts

Swifts are one of our most enigmatic birds, and if you live in an area where they are still nesting then the last three or four months may have been characterised by their breathtaking

aerodynamics and their shrill screams.

Cuckoos and swifts are the earliest of our migrants to leave the UK but whilst cuckoos do not rear their young, swifts do so quickly, starting to breed in May, feeding young until they fledge in July or August, at which time adults and young head south!

By August most are en route for the warm south stopping to refuel in southern Europe and they will travel about 7,000 miles to Equatorial or even Southern Africa. Swifts are fantastic fliers, living entirely on the wing apart from when nesting. Swifts feed on tiny flying insects and spiders, often going to great heights to find them and bringing back a ball or 'bolus' of food in a throat pouch for their young. They have been known to fly high and fast, travelling up to 70 mph and soaring over the Himalayas in Ladakh when on migration. They eat, sleep, bathe and mate on the wing and cannot take off from the ground as their legs are small and set far back on their bodies. Instead, they launch from a high-up hole or ledge, swooping straight into flight. In nature they nest in holes in



tall trees or cliffs and our buildings make a good alternative with churches and chapels particularly good for swifts as they are tall and have space around the building for the swift to launch in to. Swifts can nest on the top of the wall under the eaves or within the tower or spire, perhaps in a swift box behind the louvres of the tower windows or in a small hole or crevasse.

It is quite possible that swifts nest on your nearest church without anybody knowing, as unlike swallows and martins (with which they are often confused), they rarely visit their nests and leave no droppings below. Swifts will fly around screaming as the evening draws in and then quickly swoop into their nests in a split second and so sharp eyes and patience is required to spot them.

Swifts need our help, they have reduced in number by over 60% since 1995, in part due to improvements in our buildings, making them more weather-tight and better insulated. This good work can have the unfortunate effect of removing swift nesting sites so installing nest boxes is a great idea. If your church does not have swift boxes in the tower and you know that there are swifts in the area then perhaps you might try and arrange for a box to be installed over the autumn and winter, in time for next years epic migration. You'll find information on swift boxes on the Caring for God's Acre website and take a look at the website of Swift Conservation to learn more.

All the best,

Harriet

*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk, www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22***



From the Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery Grass Cutting

The main aim of the Cemetery Friends Group is to manage the cemetery grassland in a way that enhances biodiversity and encourages wildlife, whilst ensuring that graves are kept accessible. Unfortunately, for part of this year we have not been able to achieve this and our grass cutting plan has not gone as smoothly as we would have liked.

For the past two years we have observed No Mow May, which is a national campaign established in 2019 to encourage people not to mow lawns and grassland until the end of May. This boosts flowers and the nectar available to pollinating insects such as bees, butterflies and moths. It also allows spring flowers to set seed and plants to establish themselves in advance of the summer. This popular initiative is well observed throughout the country, with many local councils and organisations joining in.

Our Friends Group has also been actively introducing rewilding areas at the periphery of the cemetery. In 2009 an ecological survey of the cemetery identified 72 different varieties of plants and we would like enhance this. Last year there were lots of positive comments about our grass management, including from Shropshire Wildlife Trust, from the Lichfield Diocese Churchyard Award Scheme and from many local people. We would like to complete another survey if we can find the necessary people to help with the task.

This year our first grass cut was in mid-April and the next cut will be completed in mid-June. This delay has meant a bigger than expected gap between cuts and the grass has become very long. There were several reasons for this, including the recent unavailability of our contractor due to illness. However, we probably could have scheduled our cuts in a better way. This unfortunate situation has caused some discontent and some people have had difficulty accessing graves. This is hugely disappointing and we apologise. We are learning all the time and will re-assess our cutting regime later in the year. A further grass cut is set for mid-July.

- **A few of our group will be meeting at the cemetery at 9.30 on Saturday 6 July to do extra tidying ready for the sweet pea event.**
- **If anyone is free and would like to help, please come along**



CHILDRENS' QUESTIONS TO GOD

Dear God, my Grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. How far back do you go? Love, Dennis

Dear God, I know all about where babies come from! I think... From inside mummies and daddies put them there.

Where were they before that? Do you have them in heaven? How do they get down here? Do you have to take care of them all first?

Please answer all my questions. I always think of you.

Yours truly, Susan.



A Blast from the Past—Phoebe Ashton reminisces...

My time in the NHS—episode 2

When we started full time on the wards at the London Hospital we worked a 42 hour week. There were several shifts we could work and the rota was completed for two weeks. The morning shift started at 7.45 and we might work until 4.30pm with a coffee and lunch break or work until 1.30pm with a coffee break and then return to the ward at 5.00pm and work until 8.00pm. Late shift started at 1.00pm and we worked until 10.15pm. We were able to make requests for special occasions including weekends off. Usually we had about one weekend off a month when we would go off duty at 4.30pm on the Friday and return at 1.0pm on Monday (if we were lucky) sometimes we had to return for an early shift. There were no unsocial hours payments and we all accepted that staying on duty past our time was part of the job. We all lived in the Nurses Home

and board and lodging was deducted from our monthly salary plus of course National Insurance contributions, Superannuation and Income Tax, what was left was “pocket money”, I think about £20.00 per month.

When I started my training the Student Nurses had Study Days each week over a period of about 1 month several times a year. They particularly interfered with our time off if we were on night duty as little allowance was made for the fact that we had to have the study days on our nights off. Later on in our training we had a two week block system introduced which meant weekends off before, during and after the block. However, the drawback was that the blocks were not necessarily relevant to the speciality of the ward on which we were working.

As first year Student Nurses we were expected to undertake many of the more menial and basic tasks but we were also involved in more interesting things too. We had a record book to complete. It was called the Blue Book simply because it had a blue cover. In it were tasks we should watch, undertake under supervision and be passed as competent after one or two supervised attempts. The activities varied from ward to ward according to the speciality.

There was a very strict routine to the ward activities; meals were served at set times and a large heated trolley would appear on the ward for lunch, the main meal of the day Sister would serve out the food having previously chosen what food would be suitable for her patients. Nutrition was considered very important and very unwell patients would receive a light diet of either steamed fish or mince with vegetables. There were also special diets for e.g. Diabetics of which we had a goodly number as the population of Whitechapel in the early 60's had a large number of Jewish immigrants who, because of intermarriage have a higher than normal incidence of diabetes. At one time there was such a high population of Jews that we had a Kosher kitchen and two wards specially allocated to them. It was the job of the student nurses to feed patients that were unable to feed themselves and I have sat by many a patient persuading them to eat.

After breakfast we would attend to our patient's hygiene, many were in bed for the majority of the day or on complete bed rest. These latter would have bed baths each day and regular attention to their pressure

areas every four hours. Whenever the pressure areas were being treated we would pull the draw sheet through, this was a narrow sheet about 2 feet wide and more than twice the width of the bed. It allowed us to give the patient a cool dry place on which to sit each time their pressure areas were treated. We used various ointments which I do not think were very scientific. However, we had very few pressure sores and subsequent research into the care of pressure areas found that the most important part of the exercise was the actual movement of the patient from side to side or from back to side at regular intervals. Each week sister would have to complete a list of all the pressure sores and wound infections (on a surgical ward) she had. These list rarely had more than 2 or 3 individual cases of each type and if there were more Matron's Office would be down to discover why.

We had a special aid to help prevent pressure sores called a water pillow. This was like a large hot water bottle about 3 feet square. We filled it with warm water and expelled all the air, quite a mammoth task given its size. When the patient sat on this, covered by the draw sheet, it wobbled about and meant that they were not sitting on one part of their back for any length of time.

The eight weeks in my first ward soon flew by and I was allocated to Woodford, or more correctly The Hora Home. This was partly a place where four people lived on the ground floor and convalescent patients stayed for about 2 weeks upstairs. These patients would be mainly elderly who had no one to care for them at home following surgery. Two of the long stay patients needed a great deal of nursing care as they were bedridden; one had suffered a massive stroke and the other had MS and was completely paralysed from the neck down.

We did internal night duty at Woodford. That is during the 8 week allocation we undertook 2 weeks of nights. The most amazing thing about being on night duty in a rural setting was the dawn and the dawn chorus. The least amazing was the fact that we had to prepare our own meals from stuff left out by the catering department.

I returned to the main hospital after this experience and spent 3 months on a mixed Medical Ward.



Abbé Michel Quoist uses the Beautiful Game as an analogy as he writes:

Often we would rather be elsewhere, both in time and in space, than where we are, but this is a dangerous illusion. Each one is placed in the world in accordance with the Father's will for them. To make a success of one's life, and to

help humanity to progress, one must take part in that life as fully as possible. That life is the work of the divine.

A passage from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians:

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,... from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

FOOTBALL AT NIGHT

This evening at the stadium the night was stirring, peopled with ten thousand shadows.

And when the flood-lights had painted green the velvet of the great field,
The night intoned a chorale, filled by ten thousand voices.

The master of ceremonies had given the signal to begin the service. The impressive liturgy moved forward smoothly.

The ball flew from celebrant to celebrant, As if everything had been minutely planned in advance. It passed from foot to foot, slipped along the field, and flew away overhead.

Each was at his post, taking the ball in turn, passing it to the next one who was there to receive and pass again.

And because each one did his part in the right place,

Because he put forth the effort required,

Because he knew he needed all the others,

Slowly but surely the ball gained ground and made the final goal!



While, at the end, the immense crowd flowed laboriously into
 the narrow streets,
 I reflected, Lord, that human history, for us a long game, is for you
 this great liturgy,
 A prodigious ceremony initiated at the dawn of time, which will end
 only when the last celebrant has completed his final rite.
 In this world, Lord, we each have our place.
 You, the far-sighted coach, have planned it for us.
 You need us here, our brothers need us, and we need everyone.
 It isn't the position I hold that is important, Lord,
 But the reality and strength of my presence.
 What difference if I am forward or back, as long as I am
 fully what I should be?
 Here, Lord, is my day before me . . .
 Did I sit too much on the side lines, criticizing the play of others,
 my hands in my pockets?
 Did I play my part well?
 And when you were watching our side, did you see me there?
 Did I catch my team-mate's pass and that of the player
 at the end of the field?
 Did I co-operate with my team without seeking the limelight?
 Did I play the game to obtain the victory, so that each one
 should have a part in it?
 Did I battle to the end in spite of the set-backs, blows and bruises?
 Was I troubled by the demonstrations of the crowd and of the team,
 discouraged by their lack of understanding and their criticisms,
 Made proud by their applause?
 Did I think of praying my part, remembering that in the eyes of God this
 human game is the most religious of ceremonies?
 I come in now to rest in the pavilion, Lord. Tomorrow, if you kick off, I'll
 play a new position,
 And so each day . . .
 Grant that this game, played with all my brothers, may be the imposing
 liturgy that you expect of us. So that when your last whistle interrupts
 our lives, we shall be chosen for the championship of heaven.

from **'Prayers of Life'** by **Michel Quoist** ISBN 0-7171-0158-4



RIDE and STRIDE 2024

14 Sept 2024

(or another day if you can't do the 14th).



Ride and Stride is a chance for YOU to raise money for your Church.

Anyone can join in - collect sponsors, then plan your own route - walk, bike, or car - visit some churches - enjoy the day.

The sponsorship money is split 50/50 between your local Church and the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT),

which uses all its share to award grants for church & chapel repairs and improvements, so 100% goes to our Churches.

This is definitely a 'Good Thing'.

R+S is **NOT** an event where church visits are centrally organised. The Trust does **not** have a 'central team' that plans any walking, cycling, or car rides.

NO ... It's something that Churches do for themselves.

'Ride+Stride' is a National event by the NCT and we, the SHCT, are pleased to support it. The basic ideas of 'Ride+Stride' are twofold:

- (1) Churches try to be open for visitors on Saturday 14 Sept from about 10 to 6, ideally with light refreshments (biscuits. squash; cake maybe). 85% of our Anglican churches were open last year, plus other denominations.
- (2) Anyone can visit some churches on foot, by bike, or by car. You get sponsored to do a Walk, Ride, or Drive - using our Sponsorship Form.

The next 'R+S Day' is Saturday 14th Sept.

But if you can't manage that date then you can go out on sponsored travels on any other day

- which is what a lot of people do. It is vital to maintain or increase the visiting aspect otherwise the event will cease like it has in Cheshire & Herefordshire.

It doesn't matter if 'your' church is open or closed. You can still go and visit other churches, even if your own church has to be closed (builders, etc).

September may seem like a long way away, but time flies. You can get a Sponsorship Form from our website www.shropshirehct.org.uk
Or contact me and I will get one to you.

The county raised £37,082 last year - a new record. So we, the Trust, are encouraging it to continue - even in parts of the county where it has fallen off the radar and, at present, there are few visitors to the open churches.

This event has much more potential. For example... Dorset raised £98,000 in 2023. This is 260% more than us, and it has a similar population to Shropshire. Well, actually 30% more, but raising so much for their churches is amazing. Maybe I'm not 'doing it right'!

PLEASE HAVE A GO THIS YEAR.

**Help keep our Churches & Chapels looking beautiful;
and open for the future.**

David Hardham

(Trustee - and County Organiser for Ride+Stride)

dhardham@yahoo.co.uk 01588 650362.

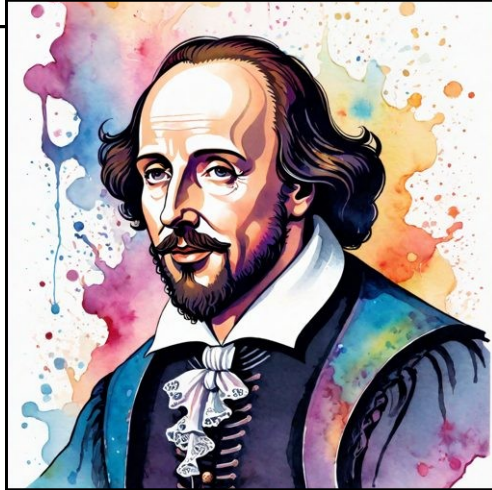


The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Wem

FROM THE PCC

The Bard and St Peter and St Paul—what's the connection?

It was a bit unusual to hear the poetry of William Shakespeare read from the lectern instead of the Bible, but his words did not seem at all out of place in our church, which



according to some he may even have known through a connection with the family at Souldon Hall. An evening of Shakespeare readings was arranged by Tim Ashton on 21st June, midsummer's day. Those who came were invited to step up to the front to read their favourite passages from the great man's works. No *Midsummer Night's Dream*, in the event, but Prospero from *The Tempest*, Portia from *The Merchant of Venice*, Orlando from *As You Like It* and Othello (from *Othello*) featured, along with a couple of lovely sonnets. Nearly everyone took part, and those who did not were able to luxuriate in the wonder of words. An original and fun idea. Perhaps we shall do it again sometime.



PRAYER DAY
IN ST PETER & ST PAUL
SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST

7am - 5pm

Paul said: 'And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people'

Ephesians 6:18

One occasion to offer 'all kinds of prayers and requests' is the Prayer Day; an opportunity to put aside time to pray, perhaps in a more focussed way, or for a longer period of time than usual.

This year, as well as 'stations' offering inspirations for individual use, there will be a time of group prayer in the morning (time TBC) and then concluding with group worship and prayer at 4pm

To have 10 hours of continuous prayer, one or two people are needed to commit to a specific hour.

Please set the day aside for prayer and consider if you would be able to commit to a specific hour.

Thelma Pugh

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH



Sunday July 28th at 6 pm
 Sunday August 25th at 6 pm
 In the Church

Please come along for a quiet time together

Saturday July 20	Sweet Pea Weekend	Refreshments in the Church Hall	11:00—16:00
Sunday July 21	Vehicles of Interest	The 'Rec'	Most of the Day
Saturday July 27	Coffee Morning	Church Hall	10:00—12:30
Sunday July 28	Praise and Prayer	In the Church	18:00
Saturday August 3	Prayer Day	In the Church	07:30—17:00
Saturday August 10	Rotary Garden Party	?	?
Sunday August 25	Praise and Prayer	In the Church	18:00
Saturday August 31	Coffee Morning	Church Hall	10:00—12:30

What a spectacle the concert was on the 1st June in Wem church. The brass band led by Guy Booth was performed by the Lancashire Royal Artillery Reservists.

They were so professional, entertaining and their programme was enthusiastically received, resulting in a standing ovation by all in a very packed church. The conductor remarked that she did not know so many people lived in Wem and they were expecting up to 30 attendees!.

Mention must go to Mac McDermott, our very own Wem celebrity for composing and conducting a new march.

Wendy



The Parish Church of St Peter, Lee Brockhurst

A TRIP TO WHERE IT ALL HAPPENED!

MORE ABOUT THE BELLS

Whilst Roger was helping Chris from Nicholson's Engineering to re-hang the bells it was suggested that we might like to visit the works at Bridport in Dorset and see where the work was carried out.

How to accomplish this was our first thought. Then I came up with the idea of visiting Bridport en route to our annual holiday in Salcombe, Devon. We always stop somewhere for one night before we can get access to our holiday apartment on the Saturday. So we booked accommodation in Lyme Regis.

In order to arrive on the south coast at a reasonable time of day we left home at 5.00 am. It was a lovely sunny morning and the traffic was very light we made very good progress and arrived at a Café, recommended to us, called Monks Yard near Ilminster. We were so early that we had to wait for it to open at 9.00am and we were able to eat outside in the warm sunshine. We arrived in Bridport at about 11.00 and were taken on a tour of the premises by Chris (Mr Nicholson was away in the Scilly Isles with his wife). There was the smithy, the carpenters shop and the engineering works and then the main area where 8 bells were having their complete hanging mechanism replaced. The bells were all sitting on the floor and each one of them was larger than our largest bell. We also saw the tuning mechanism. Roger took a number of photos which accompany this article.

We were very impressed with how the work was planned so that smaller jobs could be fitted in between other larger jobs. Just like Lee Brockhurst the Faculty application seems to dominate how and when the company can do the work.

I feel now that we have a better understanding about how bells are restored and what a complex activity this is.

Phoebe

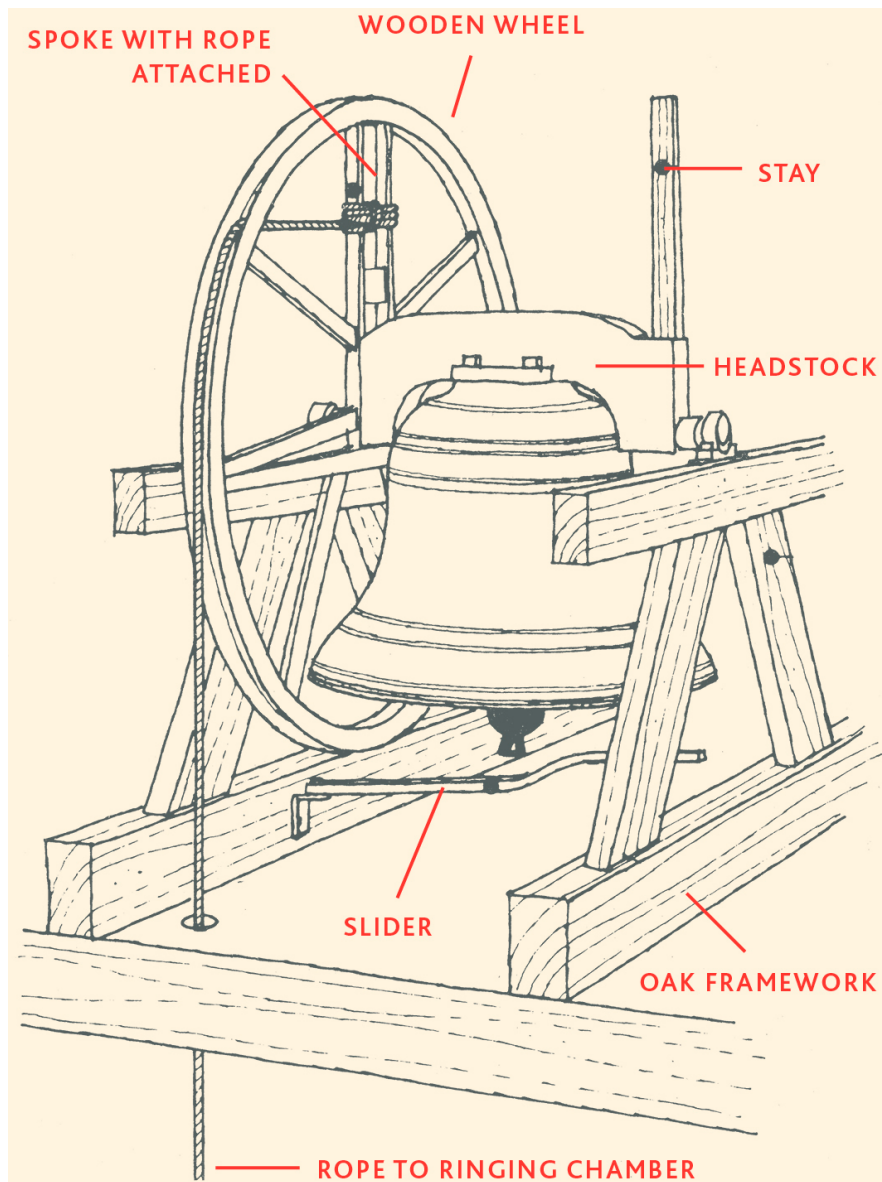


*The Workshop
at
Nicholson's Engineering*



A Traditional Bell Mechanism

A little more sophisticated than Lee's bells but the principle is the same!





**Come and join us for Coffee and Chat
at St Peter's Church,
Lee Brockhurst
On the following Wednesdays**

**17th July 18th September
16th October 20th November
and**

**12th December (note earlier date)
Between 10.30 and 12.00**

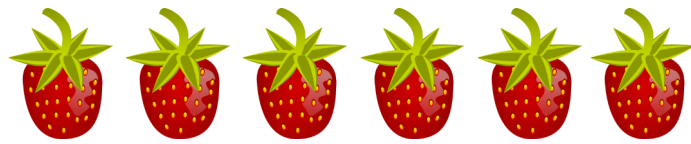
**No charge but donations towards church funds
welcome!**

**Further information from Phoebe on
07858123669
or phoebe42.lee@gmail.com**



Strawberry Tea
Saturday 20th July 2024
2.00~4.00 pm

At Brockhurst Farm



All proceeds to St Peter's Church

£10.00 per person

(children under 12 — £5.00)

Raffle and Produce Stall

Tickets available from

Phoebe & Roger Ashton

07858 123669 or 07751522486

Valerie Lusby 01939 235610

N.B. Entry by ticket only

(book early to avoid disappointment)



FUTURE EVENTS AT ST PETER'S LEE BROCKHURST

As this magazine covers two months we need to think ahead to what is happening in September.

Firstly we will be open on Saturday 14th September between 10.00 and 16.00 for Ride and Stride.

The church will not be manned but refreshments will be available for the Riders and the Striders.

The major event for St Peter's will be our Harvest Festival on Sunday 29th September. As it is the fifth Sunday of the month, will be a Benefice Service and we look forward to welcoming the congregations of the other two churches in the Benefice to share this celebration with us.

On Monday 30th September we hope to hold our Harvest Supper and Auction of Produce in Lee Brockhurst Village Hall. More details about this will be available in the September magazine.



The Parish Church of St Luke,
Weston-under-Redcastle

WESTON NEWS



**ALL EYES
ON THE SHOW!!!**

WESTON VILLAGE SHOW

SUNDAY AUGUST 4TH

WE'RE SURE YOU HAVE ALL GOT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARIES
WE HAVE A LONG LIST OF ATTRACTIONS BOOKED
THE USUAL THINGS AND MANY NEW ONES.
MORE ON THAT SOON

ONE OR TWO REQUESTS
TOYS ETC FOR MARGARET EDWARDS TOMBOLA
ADULT TOMBOLA PRIZES TOO
ALL WILL BE VERY GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

IF YOU HAVE ANY SPARE TIME DURING THE WEEK BEFORE
THE SHOW PLEASE KEEP A FEW HOURS FREE,
WE WILL BE MAKING A TIME TABLE OF
JOBS TO BE DONE VERY SOON.

THE FLIERS TO ADVERTISE THE SHOW ARE BEING
CREATED AT THIS MOMENT BY ROB BENNETT
VERY EXCITING! (SEE OVER!)

WHEN TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT THE SHOW
PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE TWO CHARITIES
THE SHOW IS SUPPORTING.

THEY ARE
THE LINGEN DAVIES CANCER FUND
AND
THE MOVEMENT CENTRE AT THE ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL
PLUS OUR VILLAGE HALL AND CHURCH

MANY THANKS FROM THE SHOW COMMITTEE
MORE NEWS SOON

VILLAGE SHOW



**ADULTS
£7.50
CHILDREN
FREE**

CARDS ACCEPTED



FUNDS RAISED FOR
VARIOUS LOCAL CHARITIES

WESTON UNDER REDCASTLE

FUN DOG SHOW plus FANCY DRESS CLASS

VINTAGE CARS & TRACTORS,

SHIRE HORSES, SOME WITH FOALS,

HULLABALOO COUNTRY AND WESTON BAND

FALCONRY, CHILDREN'S SPORTS & GAMES, PINXTON PUPPETS,

MEGA SLIDE & BOUNCY CASTLE, HELICOPTER.

TEAS, BBQ, BEER AND PIMMS, ICE CREAMS, ETC, ETC.

SUNDAY 4th AUGUST

12 NOON-5PM

THE CITADEL SHOW GROUND SY4 5JY

DOG SHOW CONTACT; Jenny Martinez 07740 103 393

For the SCHEDULE see village website

SHOW CONTACTS, SYLVIA GRIFFITHS 01630 685 204

AND PAM HILES 01939 200 801

FOR CAR AND TRACTOR ENTRIES JOHN EDWARDS 01939 200 235

FOLLOW US ON FACE BOOK

www.westonunderredcastlepc.org.uk



THE SEASON OF TRINITY

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ
who is our peace.
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.
The peace of the triune God
be always with you.

Thank you very much
to all our contributors.

The September Issue
needs your input by the 12th of August,
but definitely no later than 22nd, please.

All articles e-mailed to Phoebe Ashton
phoebe42.lee@gmail.com

In Word, please, and any Pictures as jpeg's

If you do not have access to a computer
a written article is OK.

Phoebe will type it up if you get it to her