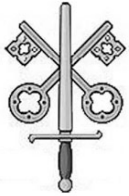


St Peter & St Paul's, Wem
St Peter's, Lee Brockhurst
St Luke's, Weston-under-Redcastle



Rector

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

01939 232550

nphm16@aol.com

Reader: Cathy Dibben 01939 236178

Retired Clergy: The Revd Mike Cotterell, Preb Pam
Freeman, Preb Rob Haarhoff, Canon Dr
William Price, The Revd John Tye

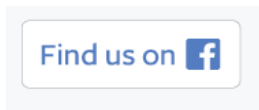
Reader Emeritus: Celia Camplin

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
Mothers' Union:	Bette Rich	234223
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



@Wemparishchurch

COVID 19 AND OUR CHURCH

The circumstances of our nation are very fluid and evolving in a quite unprecedented way. This impacts upon our churches as on every sphere of our common life and this electronic version of the Parish Magazine contains most of what would have been published in hard copy. Parts have been amended to mirror more closely our present situation:

The following are the essential points for all:

- ALL Public Worship in the Church of England is suspended until further notice
- Likewise our churches are “now closed for public worship, private prayer and all other meetings and activities except for vital community services until further notice.”
- Funerals will be conducted either at a Graveside or a Crematorium following strict guidelines on who may attend and in accordance with social distancing
- Weddings will not be taking place and only emergency baptisms are permitted at present
- As our Archbishops have said far from having ‘shut up shop’ we must face the challenge by becoming a radically different kind of church rooted in prayer and serving others
- We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support.

As the situation progresses so too will the response and guidance we receive, all can find updates as required from the information found on the C of E website:

www.churchofengland.org

We will continue to find ways to stay connected to one another, still 'be church' and unite in prayer and service, as one, across the Benefice united in Faith, Hope and Love.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

A LETTER FROM OUR ARCHBISHOPS

We are good in this country at holding our nerve and steadying one another.

But a pandemic is something else; you can't touch the virus, see it or even know where it is. It may be spread by those who don't even know they are infected. It is very serious for some, very mild for many. Nevertheless, the effect of the virus could drive us apart. To some extent it must do. When someone we care for has it they must be isolated. That is particularly so for older people and the most vulnerable, the ones by whose bed we want to sit, and hold their hand, express our love with touch. As in epidemics throughout history the effects of this fear disturb us very deeply, and dread comes upon us.

The answer to conquering this fear is love that we receive. The tears of the child wakened by a bad dream are stilled by the embrace of someone who loves them. The uncertainty of someone of great age is often quietened with a familiar voice. The words of a friend can enable us to challenge the fears of illness to reduce our sense of threat. The UK has a culture of caring, expressed through the NHS, in Social Care, and in many other ways.

All of us, now, face a common threat, COVID-19. The question is, how do we find hope in these difficult circumstances? Hope comes both from what we can do and who we are.

We know that everything possible is being done to ensure that we can meet the challenge, in the NHS and across society. The struggle will bring with it many practical difficulties, from the closing of sports grounds to meeting the needs of those in isolation. It may mean some very hard decisions have to be taken about who is treated, as in Italy where they have had to decide not to treat some patients. We must not be suspicious or indulge in conspiracy theories. Those who are leading our country are seeking the best advice and can be trusted to do all they can. NHS staff and scientists our Government can call upon are amongst the best anywhere in the world. They have no agenda other than the wellbeing of all.

We are capable of bearing the truth. Honesty strengthens our hopes. We need to listen to the science. Through listening we already know how to reduce the risk: washing our hands meticulously; self isolating even if we are not ill but have come into contact with the virus; resisting the temptation to go to a doctor's surgery where we might infect others; resisting the temptation, too, to panic buy. Above all we must look after one another, knowing that in an uncertain world with a new virus we are best protected with honesty, compassion and care.

Remember the example of the Good Samaritan, the story in the Bible, which speaks about the need to care for the other and ensure we notice those who are in distress even if they are those who are often invisible to us.

We can find hope and courage in the goodly and wholesome spirit that is in so many ways common to all human beings, whether they are people of Faith or None. We must distinguish between a healthy fear -

the beginning of wisdom, which prompts us to follow advice, and to care for those at risk - and unhealthy fear which is driven by pride, leading us to act, selfishly, doing harm to ourselves and others. With the gift of truth and hope, we can care for one another lovingly, using words if not touch because of self isolation. We can accept advice without grumbling, out of concerns for others, even if we do not see ourselves as being at risk. We can go out of our way to be attentive to neighbours and to those who are vulnerable. We can shop for one another. We can help at a food bank. We can volunteer in community service. We can support those who struggle to feed their children when there are no free school lunches.

Finally, there is one more thing that everyone can do. Something we would expect from two Archbishops. We make no apology for saying "Pray!" Even if you scarcely can imagine how, pray! Pray for yourself, for those you love, for friends and neighbours.

Three thousand years ago a young King, of shepherd background, called David, wrote a song. It was a hit at his time and has remained so ever since. That is quite a success, even the greatest of our stars of today would feel that three thousand years at the top was quite an achievement. It's the Shepherd song, "The Lord's my Shepherd".

We sing it in our common worship, at weddings and at funerals. It starts with hope but speaks of darkness as well as life. The singer begins with joy: God, the divine Shepherd-King, leads his people to nourishment and safety but in the song the scene quickly darkens. The path along which he goes becomes a valley of the shadow of death. But the shepherd's 'rod' and 'staff', implements that prod and guide the sheep, provides the comfort that comes from divine guidance.

Find Psalm 23 and read it aloud. The Shepherd's song is about real life, not an idealised picture. It speaks of suffering and facing enemies.

Whether we are confident and brave, or doubt-filled and fearful, God is the source of love and hope. Why not say the Lord's prayer – "Our Father who art in heaven ..." when you wash your hands. It takes more than the recommended 20 seconds. So, we are inviting you to join us from today, for 7 days, in praying the Lord's prayer every time you wash your hands. Yes – for seven days! And then pray throughout the day for healing for those who are sick with COVID-19; and that God will heal us from the fear which will prevent us from working together.

May the wisdom of God lead the doctors, nurses and researchers, that they may know God's protection; and that God will guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of justice and peace. And that the love of Christ will surround us and take away our anxiety and give us His peace. May He hear us and heal us. With the hope that you will find, then act. Where someone is ill, encourage them. Where someone dies, remember that, as the foundation of our faith for over two thousand years, we have believed that God shared the pains and fears of our lives in Jesus Christ, that He faced death, but overcame it. And He is with the bereaved.

Where is our hope? It is in the end in the love and faithfulness of a God whom we may have forgotten, but whose action and character is expressed in millions of acts of love by every person in this country. This is the God who we see in Jesus Christ, who called himself the Good Shepherd. Acts of love are the normal reaction to those in need. They are a reflection of the God who is our Shepherd.

We have a stronghold and refuge, we do not depend on ourselves alone, for God keeps us so that as the Shepherd song ends: "surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, all the days of my life".

* * *

Gordon Dudley

I wish to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kindness, support and messages of sympathy received on the sad death of my husband, Gordon. Thank you also to everyone who attended his funeral service, which was carried out exactly as he requested, for your kind donations to Wem Parish Church, to the Funeral Directors for their professionalism and to The Revd Nick Heron for all his help and guidance.

Jean Dudley

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

Holy Baptism

1 March Jackson Mark Diamond
14 March Georgia Olivia Ridge

At Rest

5 March Margaret Ann Bradbury
9 March Neil Scott Griffiths
12 March Ernest Gordon Dudley
17 March Miriam Ada McNickle (Interment)
31 March Peggy Audrey Bloor

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

* * *

The next issue is scheduled to be prepared on **Thursday 23 April** and will be available on **Friday 1 May** after 4.15 pm.

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

Book of Remembrance for April

1 st	Edward Henry Jones (BEM)	13 th	Alexander Howard Pickford
1 st	Sarah Ann "Nancy" Cliff	14 th	Nathaniel Walter Arrowsmith
2 nd	Cissie Laura Shaw	14 th	Martha Jane Kynaston
2 nd	Ethel May Wilden	15 th	Frank Edward Kynaston
3 rd	Michael Ronald Elson Dean	15 th	Hugh Stanley Robinson [Priest]
5 th	Michael Anthony MacElhill	15 th	Richard Paul Dodd
5 th	Thomas Arthur Ashley	15 th	Mark Anthony Winter
5 th	Mike Tipping	17 th	Dennis Tomlinson
7 th	John Edward Johnson	19 th	Philip John Wilden
8 th	Richard William Birch	20 th	Betty Victoria Gwendolen
9 th	Ida Mary Brown		Frances Mayhew
9 th	Peter Broadhurst	24 th	William Edgar Bacon
9 th	Ernest Ford Watson Mayhew	24 th	Nellie Elizabeth Davies
10 th	Henry James (Harry) Heffer	24 th	Arthur Bryan Thompson
10 th	Margaret Jones	24 th	Jessel Elizabeth Jones
11 th	Peter Stephen Robinson	25 th	Graham Anthony Hazelwood
11 th	John Richard Jones Parry		Atkins [Priest]
12 th	Thomas Carrick Penman	26 th	Nigel Elmore
12 th	David Douglas Price [Priest]	28 th	Marjorie Florence Arrowsmith

**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**

WHAT CAN I DO?

It would be very strange for most of us not to be feeling a sense of powerlessness or 'dislocation' at the present time. Things are very different for the interim, during the duration of this the changes and absences of the familiar or taken for granted may be a source of unease. 'What *can* I do?' an oft repeated question.....some suggestions or 10 Commandments(ish)!

1. Please, no matter what, try not to give yourself a 'hard time' over how you might feel, it's not what God wants for you, remember to be kind to yourself. You are, after all, loved and a child of God, unique and truly special.
2. If on-line go to the C of E website, you will find a host (too many to mention!) of services that will be live streamed. Don't take the first on offer - scout for one that suits you, enjoy and make your spiritual communion. Be connected to the whole Family of God.
3. If not on-line find services which are coming on the radio or TV - R4 is a good source of beautiful prayers and music but there are plenty of options. Take a Quiet Time with these.
4. Pick up the phone, call a fellow parishioner who may be isolated or share in some fellowship with one in a similar situation to your own.

5. Do you know someone in a care home? Drop them a line, send them an Easter card or a brief note; make sure they do not feel that no one cares.

6. If you are able **do not** forget the **Food Banks**. They will struggle as never before due to a dreadful combination; their usual sources of support being depleted, selfish hoarding and, of course, as people are laid off or face limited hours they will be even more over-stretched. **Please, if you can, donate on line.**

7. Do you know someone in need, where possible find a way of helping. You might still be able to shop and leave for them to collect from the doorstep - whilst keeping social distancing. Just do it. Share of the common goodness of all people of Faith or None.

8. Remember it is wholly positive to adhere completely to the present restrictions. In doing so we are helping to fight this virus together. By staying in we are actually doing.

9. More than anything...**pray**. Together we will be a powerhouse of prayer (with people of all faiths).

10. Lastly none of us needs to be on our own. We are all in this together. You can always give me a ring:- 01939 232550. Take Care, Fr Nick

OUR READER CATHY

All good things come to an end, yet sometimes this can also mark a new beginning. That is so in the case of Cathy Dibben who is retiring as Reader, an office she has held since 2008 and in our Benefice since shortly after arriving from the York Diocese in 2013/14.

Cathy has been unstinting in her work across our three parishes and very many are immensely grateful to her (and the God who called her to this ministry) for all she has done liturgically, pastorally and in other ways. However if you know Cathy at all you will not be surprised that this does not mean her ministry - work, support, love and care and presence will be too diminished; rather, as every Christian has a ministry, she will carry on albeit not leading worship in the same way as before.

Along with many others I look forward to continuing to walk alongside Cathy and enjoy her presence at the heart of so much that we do. For now though the heartfelt thanks of all of us extend to Cathy, and indeed to Bob for his assistance to her throughout her Readership. Careful, prayerful, diligent and kind, her Reader ministry will be missed yet her ongoing work will continue to be a blessing to us all. Thank you Cathy - so very, very much.

It was originally envisaged that Cathy's last formal service as a Reader, would be on Pentecost Sunday when during a Benefice Service we could express something of what I have dimly tried to articulate above. This is now highly unlikely, however, in due course we will, as a Benefice, find the best way to collectively say our thank you.

Nick



NS WHEELERS COMMUNITY BUS PROJECT
www.northsalopwheelers.co.uk

MAIN BOOKING LINE 01948 880 037

Please see the following if you know of anyone who is struggling to get to the shops:

NSW are operating an emergency programme but essentially, until instructed otherwise, its business as usual (almost).

We will as a matter of course enquire as to your health at the bus stopping places. Anyone feeling ill with any condition must not use the services and will be refused at those stopping places.

If however if members don't feel able to travel then we will operate a shopping service for basic items. We will do this in cooperation with a local independent retailer.

We may be able to help those people who are experiencing problems but are not currently members of the scheme so please enquire regardless of membership status.

The main point of contact is the booking line and ALL enquiries should be directed thus.

Prayers about the outbreak

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.

Amen.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

This year's Weston Village Show will be held, all being well, on Sunday August 2nd and the principal Charity to benefit from the proceeds will be The Lingen Davies Cancer Charity Fund.

****CHURCH AGMs and APCMs****

In the current climate it is obvious that the AGM and APCM of both Weston and Wem Parish churches will almost certainly have to be postponed (these were scheduled for 5 May & 22 April respectively).

The following is an excerpt from the Diocesan Comms Office:

Election of Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meetings in 2020

In the light of the restrictions placed upon parishes by the current COVID-19 epidemic, the Bishop of Lichfield has signed an Instrument that extends the time for choosing churchwardens at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners to the 31 October 2020 and PCC and Deanery Synod members at the APCM to the same date. All those currently in these posts will continue until then.

If you have already held an Annual Meeting of Parishioners and APCM for 2020:

The new wardens begin only when admitted which may be as late as 31 January 2021 and the churchwardens elected in 2019 remain in office. Newly elected Deanery Synod representatives take up their post on 1 December and existing members stay in post until that date. If PCC members have already been elected they begin straightaway.

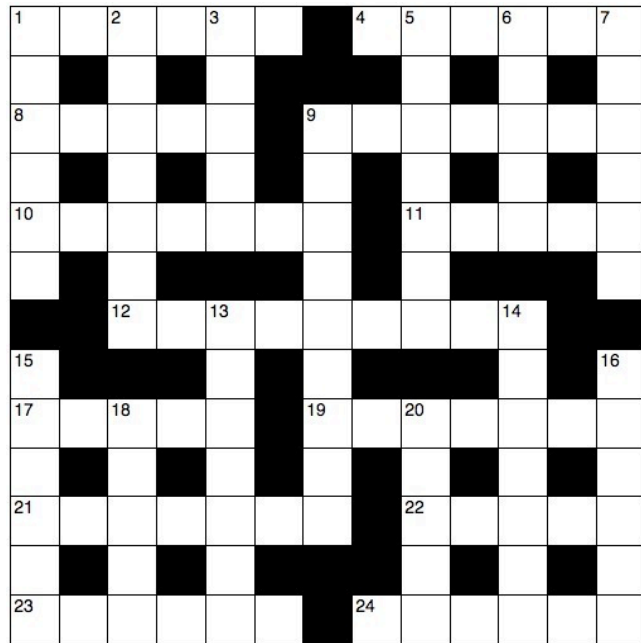
Build your Immunity

At this present time of virus crisis what can we do to fight this disease and stay in a reasonable state of physical and mental health? Everyone can improve their bodily immunity even if their present health is compromised. Google it to get the details; basically it is sensible nutrition, exercise, adequate sleep and retaining a positive and happy mindset; socialise, obviously very limited at present, and in addition avoid PCBs and too many antibiotics. In another context building our immunity to withstand the pressures and stresses of our daily existence and to help this world pull together, surely concentrating on building up our Christian values is a target to go for.

Roger Ashton

Holy Days in the April Calendar

- 1st Frederick Denison Maurice, Priest, Teacher, 1872.
- 9th Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor, Martyr, 1945.
- 10th William Law, Priest, Spiritual Writer, 1761.
William of Ockham, Friar, Teacher of the Faith, 1347.
- 11th George Augustus Selwyn, First Bishop of New Zealand, 1878.
- 16th Isabella Gilmore, Deaconess, 1923.
- 19th Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1012.
- 21st Anselm, Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1109.
- 23rd George, Martyr, Patron of England, c304.
- 24th Mellitus, Bishop of London, 624.
- 25th Mark the Evangelist.
- 27th Christina Rossetti, Poet, 1894.
- 28th Peter Chanel, Missionary in the South Pacific, Martyr, 1841.
- 29th Catherine of Siena, Teacher of the Faith, 1380.
- 30th Pandita Mary Ramabai, Translator of the Scriptures, 1922.



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)

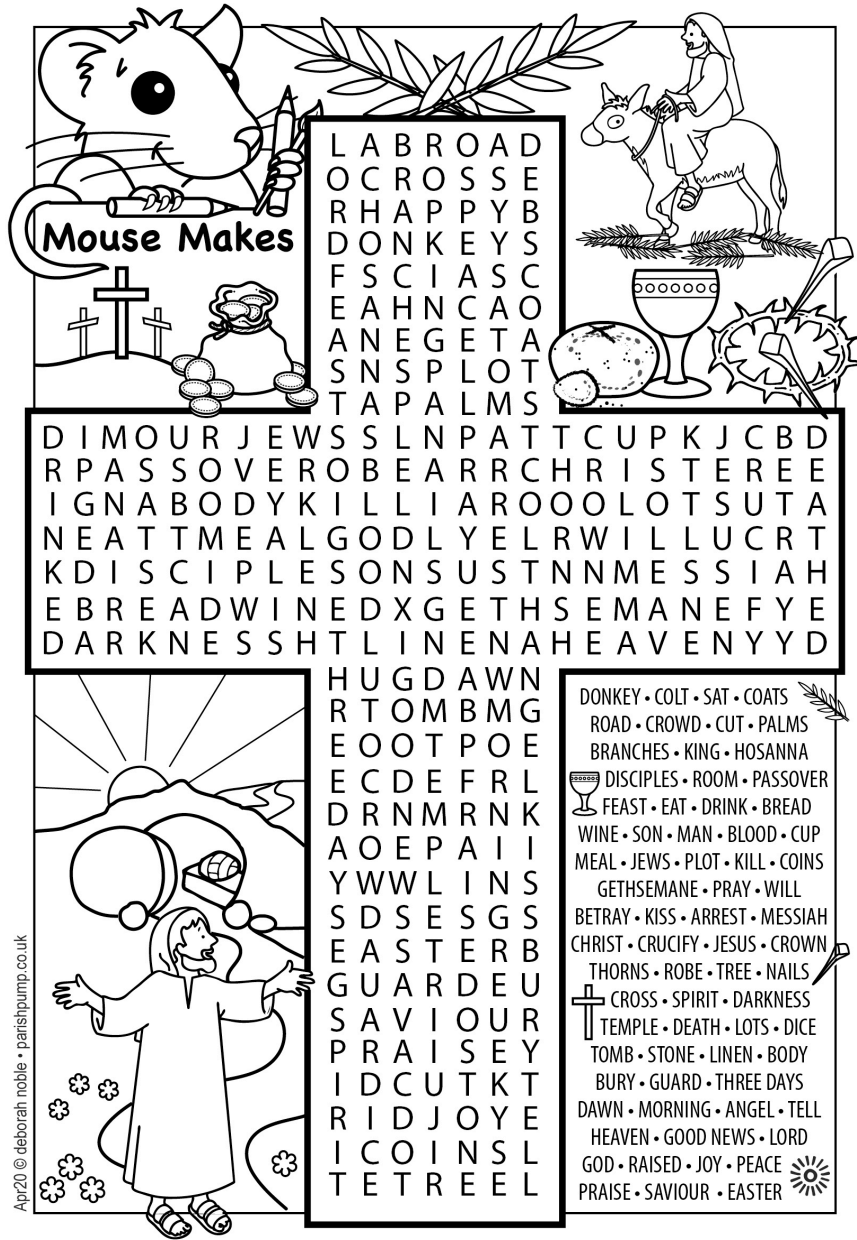
24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Answer to last month's crossword

P	L	A	N	E	T		R	U	G	G	E	D
A		D			R		I		U		X	
T	R	U	E		A	U	G	U	S	T	U	S
H		L			C		I		T		D	
	A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E		B	E	D
S		E		R		R		S		L		E
P	A	R	T	I	C	I	P	A	T	I	O	N
E		E		S		E		U		N		Y
W	A	R		H	I	L	L	S	I	D	E	
	W		O		D		Y			N		L
B	A	L	D	H	E	A	D		B	E	D	E
	K		E		A		I			S		A
C	E	N	S	U	S		A	R	I	S	E	N



Mouse Makes

LABROAD
 OCROSSE
 RHAPPYB
 DONKEYS
 FSCIASC
 EAHNCAO
 ANEGETA
 SNSPLOT
 TAPALMS
 DIMOURJEWSSLNPAATTCUPKJCB
 RPASSOVEROBEARRCHRISTEREE
 IGNABODYKILLIAROOLOOTSUTA
 NEATTMEALGODLYELRWILLUCRT
 KDISCIPLESONSUSTNNMESSIAH
 EBREADWINEDXGETHSEMANEFYE
 DARKNESSHTLINENAHEAVENYYD

HUGDAWN
 RTOMBMG
 EOOTPOE
 ECDEFRL
 DRNMRNK
 AOEPAIL
 YWWLINS
 SDSESGS
 EASTERB
 GUARDEU
 SAVIOUR
 PRAISEY
 IDCUTKT
 RIDJOYE
 ICOINSL
 TETREEL

- DONKEY • COLT • SAT • COATS
- ROAD • CROWD • CUT • PALMS
- BRANCHES • KING • HOSANNA
- DISCIPLES • ROOM • PASSOVER
- FEAST • EAT • DRINK • BREAD
- WINE • SON • MAN • BLOOD • CUP
- MEAL • JEWS • PLOT • KILL • COINS
- GETHSEMANE • PRAY • WILL
- BETRAY • KISS • ARREST • MESSIAH
- CHRIST • CRUCIFY • JESUS • CROWN
- THORNS • ROBE • TREE • NAILS
- CROSS • SPIRIT • DARKNESS
- TEMPLE • DEATH • LOTS • DICE
- TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
- BURY • GUARD • THREE DAYS
- DAWN • MORNING • ANGEL • TELL
- HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD
- GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE
- PRAISE • SAVIOUR • EASTER

'LOCKDOWN'

The following poem is courtesy of Kath Shaw from our local RC Church of Our Lady, it is written by a friend Brother Richard, of the Capuchin Franciscans

Lockdown

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a
new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able

to touch across the empty square,

Sing.



Richard of Chichester

Have you ever wondered where the prayer ... *'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day'* comes from? Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote it.

He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity was obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3 April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him.

IDENTITY

Have you ever wondered who you really are? I remember looking into a mirror as a six year old and speaking to my reflection with these words; who am I really? I know I have a name, I know my parents, I know that I arrived in this world at a certain time in history, at a place in the countryside in middle England and born into a Christian rural culture. But something is bothering me about my identity.

A very young mind, free of the day to day routine responsibilities of adult life which concentrates on managing family and career time, has an ability to question the very meaning of being a living body that possesses a thinking process. Was my arrival in this world more than an evolving natural reproductive process with its fixed genetic codes? Not sure I was into genetic codes aged six! I felt there was an extra dimension somewhere in that thinking process.

As an adult I have occasionally unlocked that almost scary memory of just a few seconds when I looked into the mirror, and tried to process those thoughts. Is this extra dimension the possession of an immortal soul or being influenced by a holy spirit? Human Beings on Planet Earth have shown over thousands of years a deep connection with religion, a feeling that there is a God looking after us, something to give more meaning to life, to justify our existence as more than a fluke of the seemingly infinite progress of the Universe.

There is definitely a deeper meaning to our identity than the information given on ID cards. Jesus is the ultimate example possessing a human body but uniquely spiritual. The Dalai Lama when referring to our identity highlights a state of empathy that will bring love and compassion to our daily existence. It seems that as our lives move on from youth to old age identity is influenced and changed by our thought processes? I could be digging myself a big hole here so will stop there!

Roger Ashton

All the Lonely People ...

... where do they all come from? All the lonely people where do they all come from? All the lonely people where do they all belong?

Thus sang the Beatles in one of their many memorable songs reflecting observations on life. This song was "Eleanor Rigby", written 54 years ago. Yes, that long ago. Many readers will remember playing it on their record players or tape decks time after time. It was so meaningful for many of the younger generation of those times. In 1966, just as nowadays, there were indeed many lonely people who managed to survive. Of these numbers how many made good lives for themselves?

It's so often down to the mindset of the individual, in my view. Loneliness is a terrible situation but for those who can see beyond the present and onwards into the future there can be a future. It's a hard and bumpy road to travel, make no mistake. Somewhere beyond the rough must be the smooth and the pace can pick up again when it is reached.

"Cheer up!" Does that help? "What's the matter?" Can that diagnose the real problem? What about helping the lonely to take a broader view of life and surroundings to find a better route through the impasse of loneliness?

Some would literally see a lonely person, head in hands, not knowing how not to weep, shaking with loss of direction and fearful of what to do next. Might this be resolved with pills; or a visit to a specialist in treating such situations? One or both of these could provide a solution but underneath it all is the lonely individual, lost in a muddled world of spiralling thoughts and misery.

How many people have NOT been there at some time? Sleeping rough, slouching off into an all-enveloping forest of paths leading nowhere. These are two extreme visions that come to mind when considering the "lost soul" problem, wandering, nowhere to go.

However, on the brighter side of the coin might we see a better defined path and a determination to find the way out of the forest and out into a promised land? Who was offering a promised land and a better life?

Never mind that money was not available and forget the lack of fine clothes. Did not Jesus live through thick and thin, without money and clothed in simple garb? Was his the ultimate example of how to pull through, survive and be the finest example to us all?

That precious gift – Faith – once again comes to the surface and when fully understood is surely the greatest support that the lonely person can rely upon. However, Faith has to be taught from an early age and nurtured and encouraged in order for our lonely person to pull through and survive. He or she needs to be able to say “I have faith in what I can and will do”. Once that has been expressed the path becomes clear.

Halt the damaging habits – drink, drugs, solitude. Actively pursue the better things in life and be open about the situation. Friends will then understand what has been the matter and can, if they are mindful of their friend’s need for support, ensure that he or she is not tempted to stray again.

Sadly, not everyone can or will appreciate the desperate position experienced by a lonely person. When they do, and reflect carefully on it, their understanding can be such a valuable support for their friend and indeed for themselves should they find themselves in a similar situation in later life. There is no easy solution to loneliness; we all belong to this World, in God’s care and respectful of His compassion in the hardest times. Loneliness is invisible. The sufferer deserves the most careful support. So share your Faith. It can be readily topped up – for free.

Bob Dibben

Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime.

Martin Luther

THE LEE BROCKHURST MOTTE

A peep into Saxon and Norman times

Who knows when the Motte and Bailey outpost opposite St Peter's Church was first created? No doubt there was a Saxon place of worship on the site of the present Norman Church building, close to the protection of a defensive Motte and Bailey.

In the 10th century, the Saxon King Edward the Elder, a devout Christian, and his family were busy travelling up and down the country personally, and also sending their men-at-arms to order all settlements to fortify their sites against the Vikings, and all 'foreign invaders'. A Saxon sword found on the Motte site seems to indicate its Saxon origin.

Ethric, the Saxon lord of Radecliffe manor (the red cliff) would have valued and maintained such a lookout post to survey his surrounding demesne and to report back any threat, for which purpose a horseman and his steed would have been at the ready.

One expert on walking around the Motte and Bailey site discerned the boundary of the Bailey to extend left into Twitcher Lane. Although the northern boundary line can only be guessed at, it could indeed be the ancient (public) footpath across the fields and back to Church Road just north of the Church. As local historians know, buildings may disappear, change or evolve, but boundaries and footpaths do not usually change.

On first seeing the Village Fields (the communal strips) on an early parish map one wondered why they were in that place and not any other flat and fertile site. The obvious reason dawned that the furlong strips indicated close proximity to an early inhabited site within the Bailey, from which they evolved.

After the Norman invasion, Henry III gave permission to the de Audley family to occupy the Rock of Radcliffe site, the old Saxon stronghold, to rebuild and fortify. The main threats to stability by that time were the intermittent incursions of the rebellious Welsh. Shropshire had once been a part of Wales and they had never quite got over losing their old boundaries. These sudden skirmishes in Lee must have been

terrifying for its people who would have fled to the refuge of the Church, and locked themselves in. (Today in such a circumstance its people would probably find themselves locked out!)

The Norman lord Henry de Audley built his Redcastle with impregnable fortifications on the north side. The two outposts, Lee Brockhurst Motte and The Mount (a Motte to be found 200 metres from Weston Farm) would have been vital with their commanding view across the Shropshire plain towards the border. Therefore the Mottes would have been substantially maintained by their lords, with a labour force from the wider area.

The opinion of some Gatehouse Gazetteers that the Motte may have been merely a token structure doesn't really impress. Because of its vital service to the wealthy Redcastle Manor, under either Saxons or Normans, finding manpower would not have been a problem.

The notion however, that the Motte began its existence as a (Bronze Age?) burial mound (not to be confused with a communal burial ground), is highly likely due to the shape of the tumulus. It could have accommodated the remains of one or two high status people. There are no stone circles here, but small standing stones on the south bank of the Roden may indicate that there were almost certainly Bronze Age inhabitants in this area.

In dimension the Motte was originally 50 feet high and probably 100 feet in diameter. It would have been topped with a timber palisade, and although no doubt further strengthened by the Normans, it was never converted into a stone structure. The mound itself survived untouched for hundreds of years until early 20th century when the formidable pig farmer Edna Leech of Lee Hall Farm personally attacked it with a bulldozer to make way for her new piggery.

For walkers clutching their Ordnance Survey maps, its origin can still be vaguely discerned, but only as a gentle rise through the farmyard, with farm buildings upon the site.

Pam Roberts

ST PETER'S, LEE BROCKHURST

Church Warden	Val Lusby	235610
Church Warden & Treasurer	Roger Ashton	232425
Secretary	Phoebe Ashton	232425
Vice Chairman	Tim Wilton-Morgan	235703
Warden Emeritus	Robert Marsh	200641

St Peter's APCM

Our APCM took place on Monday 9th March with the usual loyal attenders present. We re-elected Roger and Val as Church Wardens and I am still the Secretary.

Roger reported on our financial state which is relatively healthy although we have the Quinquennial Review to come which might change the picture substantially. We re-adopted our Safeguarding policy without amendment. Nick reported that our attendance at Sunday Services was a little up and our special services stable.

The members of our PCC were re-elected en bloc. These are Tim Wilton-Morgan Vice Chairman, Roger Ashton Treasurer, Phoebe Ashton Secretary, Pam Clarke, Judith Lester and Margaret and Robert Marsh PCC members. We considered inviting others to serve.

Our plans for key services and fund raising activities are as follows.

Good Friday service at 6.30 pm (cancelled because of the Covid-19 virus)
Patronal Festival Service Sunday 28th June 11.15 followed by a Bring and Share meal. Both to take place in the open air, weather permitting.

Strawberry Tea at Brockhurst Farm on Saturday 11th July times to be arranged.

Ride and Stride 12th September – church open but not manned.

Harvest Festival Sunday 27th September

Harvest Supper Monday 28th September

Autumn Fayre Saturday 21st November at Moston Park 10.30 – 12.00

Carol Service Sunday 20th December 6.30pm

Obviously we have to wait and see how many of the above will eventually take place but it would be appropriate if we could begin with the Patronal Festival at the end of June.

Phoebe Ashton

LEE BROCKHURST WI

“Keep calm, Captain Mainwaring!”

As all Lee Brockhurst and County W.I. activities are suspended for the time being, there are still ways in which members can keep in touch especially via our closed Lee Brockhurst W.I. Facebook group. **Social isolation doesn't have to mean loneliness** - join our members' Facebook group and share your latest project...here are some ideas:

- don't twiddle your thumbs - make a twiddlemuff to help dementia patients!
- get ahead for our produce show and practice making Turkish delight
- make a blanket/quilt which can also be entered into our autumn show

Then share the photographs of your masterpieces (or disasters!) for us all to enjoy. Our craft club organiser will set more challenges in the months ahead.

In the meantime, here are some positive points to consider;

1. **Environmental health.** Up to 100,000 premature deaths caused by air pollution in China could be avoided if the country's current economic situation continues over the next year, researchers say.
2. **The crisis abates in Asia.** The last temporary Coronavirus hospital has now closed in Hubei province (where Wuhan

the epicentre of the virus is located) as there are not enough new cases to justify keeping them open.

3. **Charity football.** 128 professional clubs from the Premier League, EFL and across the globe are competing in an online FIFA tournament whittling its way down to two teams who will play in a final, while fans watching online are encouraged to donate money. It is hoped to raise £50,000 for research into COVID-19.
4. **Business community spirit.** Fashion giant Louis Vuitton has instructed the perfumes and cosmetics side of the business to switch to hand sanitiser and will provide French authorities with hand sanitiser "for as long as necessary". What's more, it will be free.
5. **Permission to 'binge watch'!** Whether it's Dad's Army, Fawlty Towers, The Sopranos, The Wire or Peaky Blinders, what better time to watch that box set you never got around to in the past?
6. **Happy mail.** It may not be wise to drop in on your loved ones so send them a card, a letter or gift in the mail. Unexpected treats can be a huge pick-me-up-in times of stress. This is especially valuable to the elderly who are living in nursing homes which have closed their doors to all visitors, making residents feel isolated and vulnerable. Taking time to write a letter is a boost for both the writer and the recipient.
7. **Take a daily inventory.** Close your day, every day, with a positive acknowledgement of something you accomplished, learned or are grateful for. It will help dilute some of the negativity you've absorbed and remind you that not everything that's happening right now is bad or depressing.

So stay safe and keep well everybody. Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible! *(Now I'm off to make a twiddlemuff and find all those unfinished craft projects and unread books!)*

Sue Wilton-Morgan
President
Lee Brockhurst WI

**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