

OCTOBER 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**

Rector

The Reverend John Christopher Jukes BTh (Hons) MA
The Rectory Ellesmere Road, Wem SY4 5TU
01939 235343
revjohnjukes@gmail.com

Retired Clergy

Canon Dr William Price
The Reverend Edith Quirey
Reverend Mike Cotterell
Prebendary Rob Haarhoff

Further details are available on our website: www.wemcofe.co.uk
(*not yet up and running*)
and on Facebook@Wemparishchurch

**ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WEM
Churchwardens**

Sybil Farmer 01939 232568
David Murray 01939 236134

Parish Reader

Katharine Murray

PCC Lay Chair

Sybil Farmer 01939 232568

PCC Treasurer

Caroline Sinclair 01939 232626

Organist

Glyn Williams 01939 234954

Sacristan

June Powell 01939 234412

Church Flowers

Sybil Farmer 01939 232568

Church Hall Bookings – Via website/Facebook

Baby and Toddler Group (Sweet Peas)

Alison Hope – E-Mail to alisonhope18@yahoo.co.uk

ST PETER'S, LEE BROCKHURST

Churchwardens

Val Lusby 01939 235610

Roger Ashton 01939 232425

Treasurer

Roger Ashton 01939 232425

PCC Secretary

Phoebe Ashton 07858 123669

PCC Lay Chairman

Tim Wilton-Morgan 07802 735769

Church Warden Emeritus

Robert Marsh 01939 200641

ST LUKE'S, WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE

Churchwardens

Frank Hosie-Kingham 01939 200618

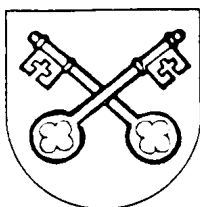
Helen O'Neill 01939 200663

Treasurer

Colin Holloway 01939 200682

Church Warden Emeritus

Arthur Fox 01630 685180



LEE



WEM



WESTON

<u>SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN OCTOBER</u>					
DAY	DATE	SEASON	WEM	WESTON	LEE
THURSDAY	3rd		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	6th	TRINITY 19	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	10th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	13th	TRINITY 20	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	17th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	20th	TRINITY 21	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 MP	11:15 MP
THURSDAY	24th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	27th	BIBLE SUNDAY	08:00 HE 09:45 HE 18:00 P&P	11:00 HE	11:15 MP
THURSDAY	31st		09:30 HE		

HE—Holy Eucharist	MP—Morning Prayer	P&P—Praise & Prayer
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The Season



Of Trinity





Notes from the Editor

October

Now the autumnal equinox has arrived it seems that good weather is a thing of the past, possibly the worst summer we have had for some years. The weather has affected the farmers, the holiday makers, the seaside and countryside entertainment and also the wildlife. My bees have struggled to get out and about to collect nectar and pollen on many days and the honey they have produced is much less than we can expect for the summer yield. I understand that in France beekeepers estimate that they are 80% down in expected quantity.

Now for some happier news; you will read in the magazine how successful the Weston Show was this year and they had a fine day as well! This magazine also advertises some musical events taking place in Wem; the first is a joint concert with the Wem Jubilee Band and the Wem Community Choir on Sunday 6th October at the Stanier Hall at 2.00pm. The second is a concert at St Peter's and St Paul's, Wem, on Saturday 26th October at 7.00pm and features The Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir and Brass Buttons. Further information for both of these will be found later in the magazine. The final concert is Wem Community Choir's concert also in St Peter's and St Paul's, Wem, on Friday 22nd November at 7.30pm; more information about this concert in the November magazine.

Next month I am sure we will be looking forward to Christmas and all that the season of Advent brings

Best wishes from the Editorial Team.

Phoebe

Rector's Ramblings

In the Summary of the Law, Jesus said the first commandment is this: "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength".

The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

I am sure that whilst we were all at school we came across Charles Darwin's theory "The Survival of the Fittest". But just recently I came across a theory by Brian Hare and Vanessa Woods from Duke University called "Survival of the Friendliest".

We, Denise and I, were watching a program on TV called "The mind of a dog". Which was about canine intelligence and how



dogs became "man's best friend". If you like dogs then I recommend that you take a look. It may still be available on Netflix, alternatively you could read Hare and Woods' book which goes into greater depth. The program asks "Where did dogs come from?", Hare said. This poses a really "fascinating evolutionary problem." Prior research shows that dogs first originated 15,000-25,000 years ago, delineated from

wolves. But why? Dogs have become one of the "top two or three most successful animals," while wolves have nearly gone extinct.

The answer to their evolution and their success is found in friendliness. "Dogs have remarkable social genius," Hare said, they are able to understand communicative gestures and in return communicate with humans in a way that not even one of

our closet genetic relatives can. This evolutionary selection for friendliness drove the stark contrasts seen between dogs and wolves today, fundamentally changing dogs' physical shapes and forms along with their psychology.

We can see this Survival of the friendliest working in human history too. Very briefly, initially there were the Hunter Gatherers, as time went by some members of the society started to plant crops and became cultivators, they could not yet be described as farmers. As their tools improved, e.g. using a plough pulled by an animal rather than hoeing by hand, the amount of food that the farms could produce increased, and Agrarian Societies came into being. With the technology to smelt iron and the use of iron for tools and weapons these settlements became defined as Advanced Agrarian Societies rather than Agrarian Societies. With the efficiency increases from the land the farmers were able to settle in villages. These villages grew, as did the numbers of those who made their living in ways other than farming, eventually enabling the beginnings of City States. So we can see that the more people co-operated with each other the more successful the society became. Nowadays our cooperation extends well beyond providing food for ourselves.

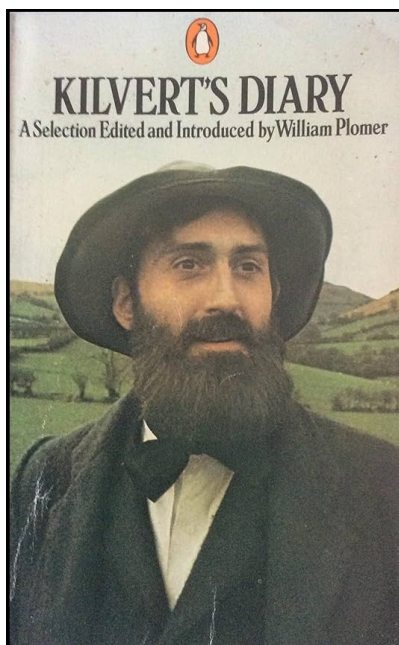
It seems that the more we work together in a positive and friendly manner, the more we can achieve.

Jesus, and so it seems the dogs, knew this all along as he said in the Summary of the Law. Love you neighbour as yourself. So let us follow the theory of the survival of the friendliest, and love our neighbours as ourselves.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend John.





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

KILVERT IN OCTOBER

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 September in different years.

Tuesday 4 October,

Tuesday 11 October,

Friday 14 October,

Thursday 20 October 1870

(4 October) A man crouching over the fire in his hovel said to me with touching earnestness and humbleness, '*I do pray Him to forgive me if Him please*'. This was Edward Evans in Clyro village...

(11 October) Visited Edward Evans in the dark hole in the hovel roof which does duty for a bedroom, and a gaunt black and white ghostly cat was stalking about looking as if she were only waiting for the sick man to die, that she might begin upon him...

(14 October) Visited Edward Evans and the stench of the hovel bedroom almost insupportable. The room below was occupied by 12 bushels of potatoes just brought home from Cabalva Cwm where they were set. The gaunt ghostly half starved black and white cat was still sitting on a box at the bed head waiting for the sick man to die...

(20 October) It was so dark in Edward Evans' cabin that I could not see his face or him all the time I was in the low and crazy loft in the roof, and only heard a feeble voice proceeding out of the darkness, '*Bless God, Bless God*'. A small and filthy child knelt or crouched in the ashes

of the hearth before a black grate and cold cinders. No one else was in the house and the rain plashed in the court and on the roof and the wind whistled through the tiles. Almost all the glass was smashed out of the bedroom or rather bed loft window, and there was only a dirty cloth hanging before the ruin of the window to keep the wind away.

(Kilvert was a dedicated pastor who spent much of his time in what he called 'villaging', and it can be seen that he visited Edward Evans at least four times in just over two weeks. He describes at length the squalor in which many parishioners lived.)

Wednesday 4 October 1871

(Kilvert preached at Harvest Festival in Newchurch, a hamlet in the hills north of Clyro.)

I preached in some discomfort for although the Vicar had assured me the pulpit would be almost up to my chin it was scarcely above my waist and in order to read my sermon I was obliged to crouch down in it and lie on one side on the ledge and stick one leg out behind.



I preached the old harvest sermon on Ruth and Boaz which has now done duty four times at Eglwys Oen Duw (Llwyn Madoc), Llowes, Whitney, and Newchurch. The collection for Educational purposes was a better one than they had ever had at Newchurch before. Vaughan (the Vicar) said I had drawn water out of stony rocks and had hit the Newchurch farmers as hard as Moses hit the rock.

(The perils of being a visiting preacher – and the financial result!)

William Price.

Notes from The Diocese for October



Foundations of Faith



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Canon Debbie Parkes is co-convenor of Lichfield Diocese's Racial Justice and Inclusion Task Group, and a lay canon of Lichfield Cathedral.

One of the most frequent questions I am asked is why we need a Black History Month, what does it mean for the church and our lives today.

I think it is easier to answer that question this year more than any as we have all seen the violence, intimidation, rioting and division that took place across our country a couple of months ago. We as a Church can become complacent in our thinking that race doesn't matter, and we are all the same in God's eyes so why the special treatment. We can within our church bubbles think of ourselves as caring, responsible; places of peace and flourishing for all. The events of the last months showed us how slender that thread of respectful relationships can be. We need to be aware of the narrative from media and social media which paints a picture of division and hate, and Christians are not immune to that negativity and hate.

I believe that Black History Month gives us all time to reflect on differences within our space and to celebrate that difference. Intercultural mission involves reaching out to all nations and

integrating into one worshipping community as they love and serve Jesus and each other. Black History month encourages people to learn more about Britain's colonial history, which is often not taught in school. It gives us space to understand ourselves and our own biases. Knowledge is power in terms of the church and enables us to be better stewards of the privilege and blessings that are enjoyed by a proportion of the church.

So, what can I do in my parish in leafy Shropshire, or urban Wolverhampton? You can invest your time to understand the experience of black Christians in the Church of England, you can become part of an ever-growing solution building on knowledge and understanding, you can advocate for racial justice and become a champion. God's great commission to all nations requires us to truly know or neighbour as ourselves.

I would recommend the following activities: -

Join the Anglican Network for Intercultural churches which exists to enhance understanding of effecting intercultural mission.

<https://anic.org.uk/>

Attend 'Unconscious bias' training on 20 November 2024 at St John's Essington, 27 March 2025 at Doxey, Stafford or 5 June 2025 at Reeves Room, Lichfield:

Book on via www.lichfield.anglican.org/calendar/

Attending the Selwyn Lecture, in Lichfield Cathedral on 28 November 2024 at 9.30am, there will be a booking facility on the diocesan website closer to the date.

*Canon Debbie Parkes is co-convenor of Lichfield Diocese's
Racial Justice and Inclusion Task Group,
and a lay canon of Lichfield Cathedral.
www.lichfield.anglican.org/racial-justice/*



COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS — OCTOBER

from ROGER ASHTON

The countryside is not an area you would immediately associate with crime. That is always happening in our cities, towns and urban environment, isn't it? Wrong, actually rural crime is big and getting worse. The latest cost annually is now standing at £53 million!

Going back many decades, and centuries for that matter, there has always been a problem of local thieves and opportunists targeting game, fish and birds and petty material theft.

This has now changed to organised, sophisticated criminals operating globally targeting high value farm equipment using technology such as drones. There is also a growing overseas market. GPS devices on modern tractors and harvesters and quad bikes and ATV's (all terrain vehicle's) are particularly vulnerable. Livestock theft too is now efficiently organised, latest cost annually is £3 million, and that does not include losses from dog attacks which are also getting worse by the year despite all the warning notices and fines.

Horrendously, as well as the tragic damage done by dogs, animals are being butchered in the fields with all the waste left behind. Sheep on the moors are very vulnerable.

Then there is fly tipping, a national scourge. In the countryside it can happen on a very large scale, not just an old mattress thrown over a field gate. Overnight several fully loaded large trucks can drop tens of tonnes of rubbish, leaving a huge tidying up job.



On a smaller scale hare coursing still happens. Happily badger baiting is now under control, but the regulations that came in making the badger a protected species sadly led to an increase in the scourge of Bovine TB.

Security in dealing with rural crime is wide spread and starts with the basic rules that you would use for your private house. Warning notices, cameras, Smart water marking, the fitting of tracker devices, and the use of Crime Watch groups all help, even forming a WhatsApp group. The Rural Police have always been thin on the ground, but with the forming of the National Rural Crime Unit in April there are some highly trained officers using modern technology that is definitely helping.

Please Government we need more investment!

There is a human cost to all this. Farmers have enough stress in their daily business operations, rural crime just adds to it. Depression, and worse, can be fought, we need to step outside the box and seek the power of the Holy Spirit.





Wonderful Waxcaps

By October, the areas of long, meadow grass within a churchyard or cemetery will have been mown short and raked, making it is easy to wander around and look for colourful fungi. Old grasslands, like those found in burial grounds, have

a fabulously complex web of life beneath the sward, of which fungi are a key part. These grassland fungi, which are different species from those found growing on trees or on deadwood on the ground, are 'indicator species' showing an observer that this grassland is precious, has not been ploughed, fertilised or treated with chemicals for a long time (if ever).



The mycelium of the fungi is the part below ground, this consists of thread-like 'hyphae' which may be connected to a range of grasses, mosses, trees and flowering plants. After rain, and often in the autumn, the mycelium pushes up the fungal equivalent of a fruit above the ground where we can see it.



Fungi are largely made of water and so can appear quickly, pumped up by hydrostatic power. The purpose of this is to spread the species far and wide, with a single mushroom able to contain vast numbers of microscopic spores. In the grassland the fungi you find might be waxcaps and pinkgills both of which are shaped like a small mushroom, or

spindles and earth tongues, both of which are long and thin. Many fungi are long-lived and may not fruit every year, some

only fruiting once in a decade so are rarely seen. They continue to grow and spread beneath the ground however.



Grassland fungi have long captured our imaginations as their names indicate. Look for scarlet, parrot, snowy, butter and ballerina waxcaps. How about skinny club, crested coral, golden spindles or hairy earthtongue.

Although shiny and brightly coloured, these grassland fungi can be difficult to identify as they can change colour with time. Some of the colours are water soluble so fade or change quickly, particularly if it rains. They are however delightful to look at, and even if you don't know which waxcap or spindle you are looking at, the presence of these grassland fungi is relevant and worth recording. If you take a photo of the top, side and ideally the underside showing the gills where the spores are found, it may be possible for someone to identify it, particularly if you use the iNaturalist app on a smartphone or tablet.

Grassland fungi need our help so please look after them. Always rake off the cuttings after mowing, strimming or scything grassland, whether it is long or short grass. This helps to keep the soil fertility low which the fungi need, as do the wildflowers. Avoid any chemicals and keep grasslands managed with regular cutting so that they



don't turn become coarse and rough. You may be rewarded with a scattering of colourful fungi looking like jewels across the sward. As



well as looking pretty and adding to the richness of biodiversity they, and the other plants, lichens, invertebrates and microbes are all storing carbon in our soils, one of the many natural solutions to climate change.

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*



Ballerina Waxcap



'The Eye of God'
the Helix Nebula in space

Abbé Michel Quoist would like to see with God's eyes:

'If only we knew how to look at life as God sees it, we should realise that nothing is secular in the world, but that everything contributes to the building of the kingdom of God. To have faith is not only to raise one's eyes to God to contemplate him; it is also to look at this world—but with Christ's eyes...

From the scriptures:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. In Christ he chose us before the world was founded, to be dedicated, to be without blemish in his sight, to be full of love; and he destined us—such was his will and pleasure—to be accepted as his children through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-5

I would like to rise very high, Lord,
Above my city—Above the world—above time.
I would like to purify my glance and borrow your eyes.
I would then see the universe, humanity, history, as the Father sees them.
I would see the prodigious transformation of matter,
in the perpetual seething of life,
your great body that is born of the breath of the Spirit.
I would see the beautiful, the eternal thought of your Father's love taking form step by step,
Everything summed up in you, things on earth and things in heaven.
And I would see that today, like yesterday, the most minute details are part of it.
Everyone in their place.
Every group
and every object...

All life would become a sign

If we knew how to look at life through God's eyes, we would see innumerable tokens of the love of the Creator seeking the love of his creatures. The Father has put us into the world, not to walk through it with lowered eyes, but to search for him through things, events, people. Everything must reveal God to us.

Long prayers are not needed in order to smile at Christ in the smallest details of daily life.

The following lines intend to give a few simple examples of the manifestations of his love.

The Telephone

I have just hung up; why did he telephone?

I don't know. . . Oh! I get it. . .

I talked a lot and listened very little.

Forgive me, Lord, it was a monologue and not a dialogue.

I explained my idea and did not get his;

Since I didn't listen, I learned nothing,

Since I didn't listen, I did not help,

Since I didn't listen, we didn't communicate.

Forgive me, Lord, for we were connected,

and now we are cut off.

The Wire-fence

The wires are holding hands around the holes;

to avoid breaking the ring, they hold tight the neighbouring wrist,

And it's thus that with holes they make a fence.

Lord, there are lots of holes in my life.

There are some in the lives of my neighbours.

But if you wish we shall hold hands

We shall hold very tight

And together we shall make a fine roll of fence to adorn Paradise.

Green Blackboards

The school is up-to-date.

Proudly, the principal tells of all the improvements.

The finest discovery, Lord, is the green blackboard.

The scientists have studied long, they have made experiments;

We know that green is the ideal colour, that it doesn't tire the eyes,
that it is quieting and relaxing.

It has occurred to me, Lord, that you didn't wait so long to paint the
trees and the meadows green.

Your research laboratories were efficient, and in order not to tire us,
you perfected the number of shades of green for your
modern meadows.

And so the "finds" of your children consist in discovering what you
have known from time immemorial.

Thank you, Lord, for being the good Father who gives his children
the joy of discovering by themselves the treasures of
his intelligence and his love,

But keep us from believing that—by ourselves—we have
invented anything at all.

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



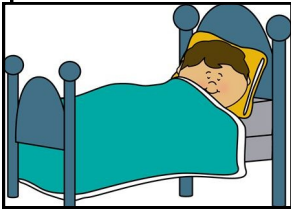
CHILDRENS' QUESTIONS TO GOD

Dear God

It rained for are whole holiday and is my father mad! He said some things about you that people are not supposed To say, but I hope you will not hurt him anyway.



Your friend But I am not going to Tell you who I am.



Dear God

Why is Sunday School on Sunday?
I thought it was suppose to be our day of rest.

Tom

*Trish reminds me that these are as written
—spellings and all!*





From the Friends of
Whitchurch Road
Cemetery

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER 2024

9.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon

IN THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL



Bric-a-brac, tombola, cakes, produce, raffle etc.
Free admission

**All welcome! Please support us and help to raise
funds for ongoing improvements and maintenance
of the cemetery.**

Whitchurch



Newsletter September 2024

To all our supporters - Thank you – here's the news!

Whilst demand for our services has reduced from the high levels experienced during COVID and the financial crisis, we still fed almost 2000 people during the past year. Seeing that we are now providing clients with food for 7 days, this equates to the provision of sufficient food to provide a minimum of 28,000 meals.

You will probably have heard through various areas of the media that Trussell Trust's number one priority is that we should live in a society where no one should need a foodbank to survive. Last year 3.1m food parcels were provided by the foodbanks in the TT network. Their 'Guarantee Our Essentials' campaign has over 150,000 signatures in support of a social security system that protects people from going without the essentials. Additional information can be found on the Trussell Trust website.

Donations

The financial crisis has impacted most areas of society and meant that less disposable income has been available. This has particularly been noticeable in the level of food donations we have received in the past twelve months. In short they are considerably down on previous years - over 20% down in certain of our Supermarket collection points. This has resulted in our having to regularly purchase food to maintain our stocks of most items. In addition to these purchases we have also been using much of our long-term stock. Our stock holding compared to the same period last year has reduced by some 3 tonnes.

Thankfully those providing us with financial support have continued with their amazing generosity enabling us to meet the cost of 'top-up'. Currently we are spending around £800 / month to ensure we can meet the demand.

We have donations from other suppliers – a professional baker, cheese (from Belton), chicken etc etc. The food is of course wonderful but the encouragement it gives is priceless. Do please continue to support us

Volunteers

It is worth reminding ourselves that Whitchurch Foodbank is run entirely by Volunteers and we could not function without so many dedicated folk. Many have been with us since opening over 11 years ago.

We have a bank of some 40 folk that regularly help on Foodbank mornings and despite many being an ageing bunch, they carry out the varying tasks cheerfully and with such commitment. Sometimes the physical demands can be quite tasking but there is usually a role that can be done by all.

Behind these of course are also those that undertake deliveries, regularly donate food, consistently support us financially, donate produce from their gardens, collect food from supermarkets, keep our web site up to date and then there are those that also help at 'special supermarket collections'. Thank you to all. You know who you are and do not ask for special praise. Know however that it does not go unnoticed but contributes to helping other folk live a little better than they might.

Harvest

In each of the 11yrs we have been operating we have always been amazed by the level of Harvest giving we receive from the Churches and schools that operate in the area we serve and this year looks as though it will be no exception. Our thanks to all who have or will contribute to the Harvest giving season.

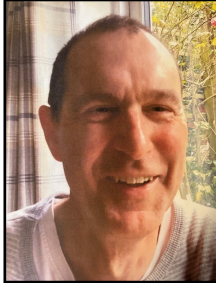
Citizen's Advice

Thanks to a grant from Trussell Trust under their Financial Inclusion initiative we now have a dedicated CA Advisor, for two days per week, to whom we can refer clients for assistance. This has been in operation since April and to-date we have requested one-to-one interviews, either face to face or by telephone for over 50 clients.

Face to face interviews take place in Wem on Wednesdays and Whitchurch on Fridays. The feedback we have received concerning these sessions has been extremely positive and over £7,000 of unclaimed benefits has already been identified. The aim of this signposting is that it will assist our clients and hopefully overcome their need for help from the foodbank.

New Trustee

We are pleased to announce that Ian Francis has accepted the invitation to be a trustee of Whitchurch Foodbank. This will increase the number of trustees from 5 to 6.



I am Ian Francis , I'm married to Barbara and we have 2 adult children Gareth and Rhys. Before I retired, I worked in social care for 40 years and have lived in Whitchurch for the last 35. My experience in social work has shaped my awareness of the issues of the inequality we see in the UK today, as well as the great work done by organisations such as Food Banks to try and alleviate some of the most pressing problems people have. My interests are varied but I enjoy watching cricket, football, rugby (both union and league) and ice hockey to name but a few sports I follow. I also enjoy volunteering at Whixall National Nature Reserve and attend the Beacon Church here in Whitchurch.

Christmas 2024

As in previous years we shall be offering schools the opportunity to advise us of those families likely to struggle around the Christmas holiday period. A Christmas food parcel will be offered together (where possible) with new toys for the children. If you would like to offer financial support towards this project this can be done by cheque ('Whitchurch Foodbank' or by bank transfer (Nat West 52-41-16 42593212). If you propose donating toys (new only please), it would help for us to know this in advance as it will impact on the amount we shall need to purchase. Please provide your name and email address with any donation so that we may write to thank you.

Easter Eggs



Peggy Mullock presenting us with a great selection of Easter eggs kindly supplied by Whitchurch Rotary Club. As you can imagine they were extremely well received

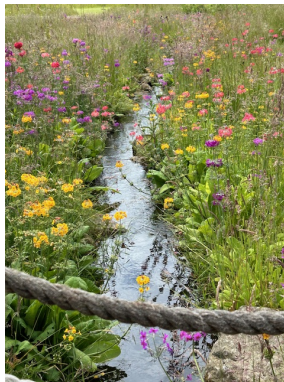
Whitchurch Alport FC

In September we were once again presented with a donation of £250 from the Commander Ethelston Charity Cup competition which has been in existence since 1909. We have been very thankful for this support over several years and appreciate all the club does to support the Foodbank.

Charitable Status

Currently our Foodbank is registered with The Charity Commission with our governing document being a Trust Deed. However, operating under a Trust Deed excludes us from employing anyone, entering into contracts or owning/leasing any property. The trustees believe it would be in the best interests of the foodbank to move to being a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which provides greater freedom for the charity and also removes personal liability from individual trustees.. The work associated with this change is quite involved and could take many months to complete. We shall be using Trust Advice to guide us through this process - a company recommended by Trussell Trust.

Visit to RHS Bridgewater - Manchester



On Wednesday 19th June a group visit was arranged for all our volunteers that were available to come, to RHS Bridgewater.

Despite the weather not being too certain at the time we had a glorious day and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the time. Even a Garden Quiz to complete on the coach if so desired!

The coach driver was excellent and the journey smooth. We were greeted on arrival by a very dedicated team that

looked after us, offering exclusive services and group benefits and despite being told all the tours were fully booked they did manage to arrange one for us.

There was a lot to explore, inspire and be immersed in but also lots of places to sit and relax in with delicious food and drink if required.

We were very impressed with the garden and generally felt we wouldn't mind doing that again!!

Goodbye to Jody



Jody Dennis had been present with us at Foodbank for some 2yrs providing professional advice concerning issues associated with mental health. Sadly, due to structural changes within the NHS practice for whom she works meant that it would no longer be possible to release her for the role at Foodbank. It has been

a joy to have Jody as part of our team. A comment that we know would be endorsed by the many clients she has helped.

Schools Summer Lunches Project

As in previous years, we once again offered our local schools assistance with food for those families who would be struggling during the summer holidays due to the absence of school meals at lunchtime.

Our local Sainsbury's store very generously donated 186kg of food (over £250 in value) towards the project. The remaining cost of the project was covered by a £1200 donation from the Jane Higginson Trust.

Two separate Food parcels, covering three weeks each were provided to the families. 51 children in total being fed.



Clothing Hub – operating from St. John's Methodist

35 people have used the clothing hub at St John's in the last 12 months as a result of being referred by the foodbank. Thank you to all who donate clothing

and to foodbank for supplying the crates in which it is stored. Basic items such as t shirts, sweatshirts, socks, shoes, jeans, track suit bottoms and pyjamas are always required. The hub has very little clothing for children aged 6 to 16 at present. The clothing hub is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 1pm to 4pm and clients are encouraged to have a cup of tea and chat with the MORE social group that takes place at the same time. Any clothing donations can be dropped off during these times. – St. John's is located in St. Mary's Road Whitchurch

Announcement

With effect from 1 July 2025, Alan & Chris have advised the Trustees they will step down from their management roles at Foodbank. That date will also coincide with the conclusion of Alan's current term as Chairman of the charity. He will resign as a trustee at that time. This decision has not been made lightly. By June



next year Alan & Chris will have been involved with Foodbank for over 12yrs and whilst it has been a highly demanding role, they have never regretted their decision to be involved.

Over the past 18mths the Trustees and Management of the Foodbank have been giving serious consideration to the issue of 'succession planning', and in particular, the future management of the Foodbank. However, to-date, people prepared to undertake the management of the Foodbank have yet to be identified. (e.g. all the stuff that goes on 'below the waterline' in the days between the Foodbank openings - work currently undertaken by Alan & Chris)

Between now and 30 June, the priority for the trustees will be to identify persons prepared to undertake the management roles and consider the options of what form of Foodbank can be offered going forward.

Whilst the trustees would prefer the Foodbank to remain a solely voluntary organisation, they will also consider the viability of employing staff to undertake its management.

We know this news may have come as a shock, but in reality, it had to come sometime and better now while at least they are still compos mentis (!!) and able to assist the trustees with the transition. As decisions about the future of the Foodbank in Whitchurch are made these will be conveyed to you.

Whitchurch Foodbank, Bargates Hall, Church Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1LB
Telephone 01948 663943 (answerphone) Email: info@whitchurch.foodbank.org.uk
Website: www.whitchurch.foodbank.org.uk Reg. Charity 1153274

The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Wem

St Peter and St Paul's Church Choir Social Gathering



In late August The St Peter and Paul's Church choir had their summer social, this year, held at The Rectory, Wem.

There was a bring and share buffet and the weather was glorious.



Alan Cook, one of the choir members, brought along his ukulele and we had a good old sing along in the rectory garden.

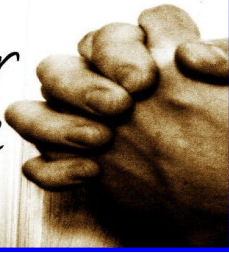
Needless to say, a good time was had by all!

Denise Jukes.



WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

Prayer
+
Praise



Sunday October 27th
at 6 pm in the Church
*Please come along for a quiet
time together*



Familiar
Places



St Peter & St Paul's Church
High Street, Wem

AUTUMN CONCERT

Saturday 26th October
at 7:00pm

FEATURING



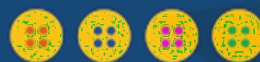
SHREWSBURY

MALE

VOICE

CHOIR

Brass
Buttons



PRIZE
RAFFLE

Tickets **£10** including
a glass of wine or soft drink

—to order yours—
contact ELAINE on 07969 511590

OCTOBER COFFEE MORNING

10:00 –11:30

IN ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S
CHURCH HALL

SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER

Please join us for Coffee
and a Chat

TOMBOLA Raffle

Bric à Brac

*Homemade Cakes
Jams, Marmalades
Chutneys*

SS Peter
& Paul's
Church,
Wem

Growing
in
Faith,
Hope
and
Love

Poppy Donations Needed

As you may know we display our poppies for Remembrance Day each year.

We need your help! We are asking for any donations of knitted, crochet or sewn Red poppies to add to our displays. Any poppies you can donate would be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be handed in at reception at Wem and Prees Medical Practice in Wem.



The Parish Church of St Peter, Lee Brockhurst

Harvest Thanksgiving at Lee

Our Harvest Thanksgiving service on 29th September coincided with the fifth Sunday Benefice service this year. The time was altered to 10.00 to acknowledge the fact that both Wem and Weston normally have earlier services than Lee.



The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and large baskets of vegetables and a large congregation gathered to celebrate the harvest by singing the usual favourite hymns. Following the service coffee and biscuits were served and the three congregations mingled whilst consuming the refreshments.

The following evening our annual Harvest Supper and Auction took place. After grace, said by Rob, soup and crusty bread was served followed by "bring and share desserts". What a variety of puddings there was; from fruit crumbles and pies, bread and butter pud, to chocolate brownies and an exotic amaretto concoction beautifully presented and very calorific! In the absence of Colin Brown, who was to have been the auctioneer, Alexandra Lusby undertook the task and was very successful at taking money from those gathered in the Village Hall, whilst Roger Ashton kept a careful record of each transaction. Although a smaller attendance than on previous occasions it was voted a great success and the

menu was so popular that it may become our regular menu, probably with a changing variety of soups.

None of the above would have happened if it was not for Judith Lester and Margaret Marsh helping decorate the church and providing vegetables and also making a saucepan of soup each. Ian and Miriam Wilson came to the Village Hall early on Monday evening to help with the final preparations. So many people brought desserts that I am frightened to list them in case I miss someone out!

Their contributions were excellent!

Valerie Lusby gave a vote of thanks to Phoebe and all her helpers.

With everyone bringing their own cutlery, crockery, glasses and drinks there was little washing up to be done and again Ian and Miriam were in the kitchen washing

up the items that there were, mainly saucepans and serving spoons and ladles, also wrapping up the spare bread and butter and anything else that needed doing!

At the end everyone present helped to put the Village Hall back to rights after a very enjoyable evening.



Phoebe



Come and join us for Coffee and Chat

**at St Peter's Church,
Lee Brockhurst**

On the following Wednesdays

**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**



The Parish Church of St Luke,

Weston-under-Redcastle

WESTON NEWS



The Show—and what a Show it was!

The Aftermath!

WESTON NEWS

70 PEOPLE ATTENDED AN EVENT TO THANK ALL THE HELPERS AT OUR RECENT VILLAGE SHOW.

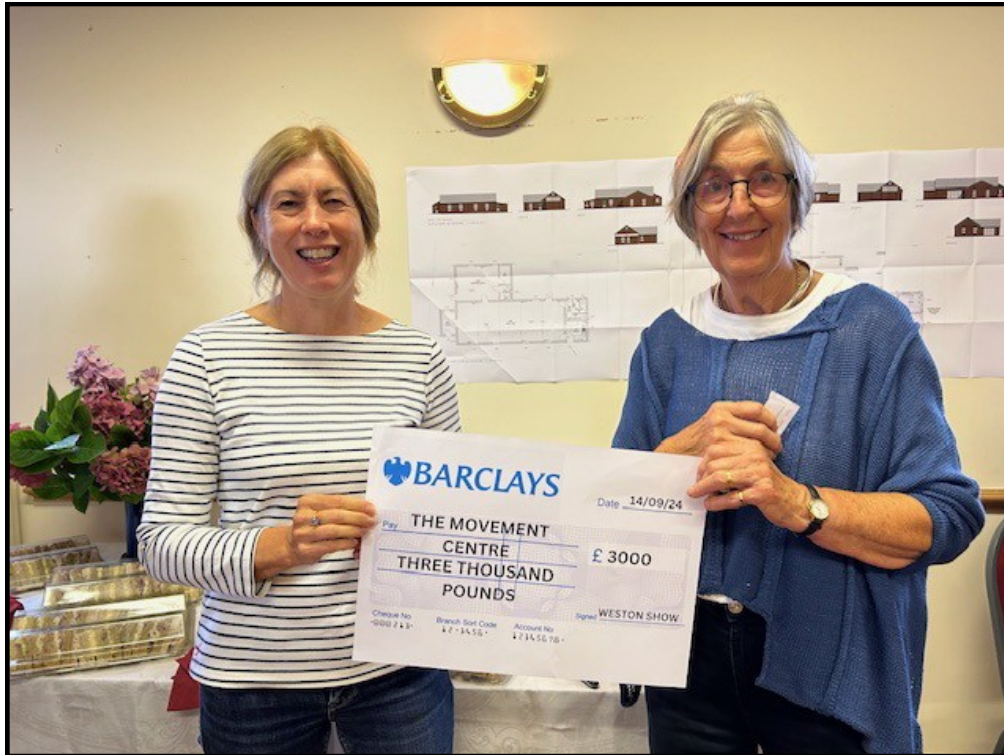
AN AFTERNOON TEA WAS SERVED AND THE HELPERS WERE THANKED FOR ALL THE HARD WORK THEY PUT IN THE WEEKS BEFORE, ON THE DAY OF THE SHOW AND CLEARING UP AFTER THE SHOW, AN AWFUL LOT OF WORK!!

THE SHOW WAS MOST SUCCESSFUL WITH RECORD ATTENDANCES, RAISING MONEY FOR CHARITY AND OUR CHURCH AND VILLAGE HALL.



THE TWO CHARITIES WE CHOSE TO SUPPORT WERE THE LINGEN DAVIES CANCER FUND

**AND THE MOVEMENT CENTRE AT THE ORTHOPAEDIC
HOSPITAL IN GOBOWEN**



**BOTH WERE PRESENTED WITH CHEQUES FOR £3,000
WE HOPE TO DO IT ALL AGAIN NEXT YEAR!!**

WHAT ABOUT YOU?



zzzzzz

OCTOBER SEES THE END OF THE SEASON
OF TRINITY AND THE BEGINNINGS OF
THE PREPARATION FOR ADVENT AND,
DARE I SAY IT, CHRISTMAS, SO:

*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 November Issue
needs your input by the 20th of October,
but definitely no later than 27th, please.

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

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