# **APRIL 2025**

# 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

# ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN. HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!

# A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER TO YOU ALL



# 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 and on Facebook@Wemparishchurch

Whilst our website is offline information can be found at A Church Near You – www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4601/

# ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WEM

#### Churchwardens

Sybil Farmer 01939 232568 and David Murray 01939 236134

# Parish Reader

Katharine Murray

# PCC Lay Chair

**PCC Treasurer** 

Sybil Farmer 01939 232568

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







WEM

WESTON

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN APRIL					
DAY	DATE	SEASON	WEM	WESTON	LEE
THURSDAY	3rd				
SUNDAY	6th	Sunday next before Lent	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 MP	11:15 MP
THURSDAY	10th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	13th	1st SUNDAY of LENT	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY	14th 15th 16th	Weekdays in HOLY WEEK	19:00 HE 10:30 HE 10:30 HE		
THURSDAY	17th	Maundy Thurs	19:00 HE		
FRIDAY	18th	GOOD FRIDAY	09:30 INT 14:00 MED		14:00 GFS
SUNDAY	20th	EASTER DAY	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	24th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	27th	EASTER 2	08:00 HE 09:45 HE 17:00 P&P	11:00 HE	11:15 HE

HE—Holy Eucharist MP—Morning Prayer P&P—Praise & Prayer INT—Intercessions MED—Meditations GFS—Good Friday Service





L L E S



# Notes from the Editor APRIL 2025

# Dear Readers,

What shall I write about this month? Let's start with the weather. Spring really seems to be on it's way at last. How lovely it is to see bright frosty mornings and lots of spring flowers blooming not only in our gardens but along the lanes as well, celandines, blackthorn, pussy willow,



dandelions and daisies to name but a few.

Then the religious time of the year, Lent, leading up to the most important event in our calendar year – Easter. This year it is very late, all to do with the number of full moons after Christmas I think.

Now to the content of this month's magazine, Caring for God's Acre last month concentrated on frogs this month it is wild flowers with beautiful photographs. A new contributor has written a piece about Prayer and is advertising a 4 session course on "How to Pray". Countryside Matters addresses the issue of food provision, the consumer, the supermarkets and the farmers and how they relate to each other. The Diocese is advertising a nine month course starting in September on "how to find space in your life" organised by the St Chad Foundation. Notice is also given of a number of events which are being held in the near and not so near future. There are other articles too but you must read the magazine to find out what they are about!

Well I hope that this enough to whet your appetite! Happy Easter!

# Phoebe

# The Rector's Ramblings

# Symbolism in a Church Service

What we do in a Church Service and why we do it

# Introduction

So far in previous months I have introduced three different ways of learning and suggested that by understanding some of the symbolism in our Church Services we can enhance our enjoyment and worship. I went on to explain why I wear the clothing that I do, what the Candles symbolize and why we process in and out of Church

This month I will continue with my understanding of the Symbolism of a Church Service by explaining about the Gradual Hymn and the Reading of the Gospel.

# Part 3 The Gradual Hymn and the Gospel

# The Gradual Hymn

The Hymns are named after the various places in the service.

Introit – or entrance

The Gradual

The Offertory

Anthem

Communion

Recessional – or exit



The Gradual Hymn is sung just before the reading of the Gospel. I read the Gospel from within the body of the nave amongst the congregation. We sing the hymn as the Book of the Gospels (or the Bible) is *gradually* processed from the Altar

to within the congregation. Hence the name *Gradual Hymn*. In some Churches the Book of the Gospels is also processed in and out of the Church.

The word *Gospel* means Good News, and so we have the Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

In our service, the Good News of Jesus Christ is brought from the altar and spoken in the midst of the people in the nave of the church. The symbolism here is

The Book of the Gospels

that as Jesus Christ, the Word Incarnate, came to earth and taught the people, so the Word in the form of the Book of the Gospels is brought from the altar and spoken amongst the people.



The Book is then returned to the altar symbolising Jesus' ascension after his ministry here on earth was completed.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend John.

# THE CHURCHES OF WEM AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DEANERY

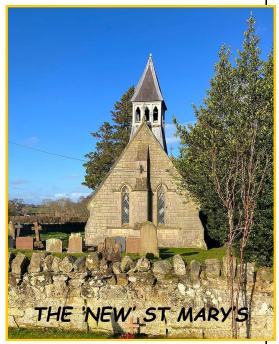
I hope to include an account of each church in Wem and Whitchurch Rural Deanery in issues of this magazine. There are 21 churches in all and I shall treat them in alphabetical order. It would be good if these notes encourage readers to visit the churches. This is the second instalment of my account of the churches in this Rural Deanery in alphabetical order.



# ST MARY'S CHURCH, BROUGHTON

Broughton Church stands alone in a lane near Yorton railway station. It was consecrated on 27 April 1859 and replaced an older church on a different site 400 vards to its north.

The old church was of later 12th-century origin with nave, chancel, porch, and a small turret. It was abandoned because it was in a very wet position and sometimes flooded. The appeal for the new church referred to its being 'the most dilapidated Church in the County, as well as the dampest and coldest'. On the day before it was largely demolished the



archdeacon's daughter sketched the interior and exterior of the building'. Nothing now survives of the old church.

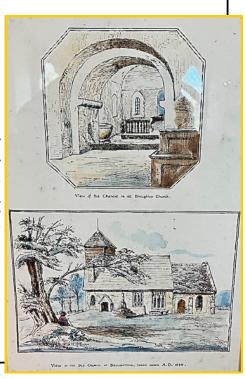
The architect of the new church, built of Grinshill free stone, by tradition quarried from the wood across the road, was T. D. Barry of

Liverpool. (He was the architect of Peel Cathedral on the Isle of Man.) The builders were Messrs Smith and Cank (a local name), whose quotation for the work was £495. The font, altar, communion rails, bells, and 'indeed everything which was in a perfect state' were moved from the old church to the new. The altar from the old church is now the table in the vestry.

The wooden reredos behind the altar is probably the work of the Revd John Wright, Vicar of Broughton for 36 years, who died in 1912. The other woodwork in the sanctuary is probably by his daughter, who also carved the pulpit in Grinshill Church. There is no pulpit in Broughton Church. The roof was replaced in 1994 and the extension to the churchyard was consecrated by Bishop David Hallett, Bishop of Shrewsbury, in 1999. There are two bells. One dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century and the other is embossed 1719. They were restored to ringing order in 2010.

Dean Cranage at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century thought it would have been better to have restored the old church than to have built

this church. He considered this church to be 'one of the poorest ecclesiastical buildings in the county', and he added: 'It is difficult to enter into the feelings of the last generation who could build such a church as this and leave the old chapel of St Margaret, about a quarter of a mile away, to decay'. On the other hand a writer in 1859 saw the new church as a 'small unpretending building, but...at the same time so neat and chaste in design, and so well and substantially built that no one can see it without being struck by its beauty and solidity'. I am with the second writer!



In 2008 I wrote a booklet to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the present Church. It is, to my surprise, still available on-line by googling 'A tale of two churches Broughton'.

St Mary's Church is usually locked, but it might be visited on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month when there is a service at 3 p.m.

# William Price



# Notes from The Diocese for April 2025



# STOP — to move forward!



The world is a busy place. Whether it's the speed of news flying at you, the amount of things you have to fit into 24 hours (whether you have kids to negotiate or not!) or just the way everyone needs something *now:*, it's exhausting.

Our lives at church can be no different and it can be hard to find the time, or the energy to stop and think about anything, let alone our 'calling'. We all have one. Even serving coffee is one.

This Easter we're not only trying to slow down and stop to remember God's amazing love for us but Bishop Michael is also offering us an amazing opportunity to slow down, take stock and join in the adventure, the journey,—the strategy of the diocese—to grow our faith and love our communities 'following Christ in the footsteps of St Chad'. For many this may feel like 'yet one more thing' to 'do' or find time for – and that would be an understandable response. In reality however this isn't what the strategy is—it's an amazing opportunity for us to stand together and move forward for a common purpose. It's one of those 'we're stronger together' moments.

We won't all move forward in the same way – we're all different and unique and can bring amazing talents, opinions and gifts to the diocese.

For some of us this is totally overwhelming—'I don't have anything special to offer', 'I'm too tired to think about this' or 'I have too much to do'. This is where Chad Foundations can help. Chad Foundations can offer the chance to slow down and have chance to actually think about what we think! To ask ourselves what we believe and why. Chad Foundations can give you the space to reflect on what you are good at, what you are passionate about and maybe how you can use these things to help God and others.

It might sound crazy to take on a nine-month course to find space; and it is a commitment. You will need to find time, and for some that might mean stopping something you currently do, or stepping back from a church position for a little bit. Sometimes though, we have to stop to move forward.

We would love to see you at Chad Foundations. The next course starts in September and applications are open now. If you want to know more please check out

www.lichfield.anglican.org/chad-foundations

Helen Scheven works as part of the diocese's Vocations & Training team, helping those interested in lay ministries including Chad Foundations and Reader Training. Contact her at

helen.scheven@lichfield.anglican.org

or visit the team's website at

<u>lichfield.anglican.org/vocations-and-training.</u>



# Nature's Calendar for Easter

In the past, plants were more important for people in charting the passing year than they are now. Many flowers have names that link their flowering time to that of the church calendar with several associated with

Eastertide.

Greater stitchwort (Stellaria holostea) was also known as Easter Bell and Good Friday Grass is still a commonly used name for Field Wood-rush (Luzula campestris). Good Friday Grass is a frequent component of churchyard grassland, particularly in



places with either acid or lime-rich soils. It's brush-like flowers are quite subtle but always appear in time for Easter. Another



name for it is Sweep's Broom due to the shape of the flowers.

Another small but beautiful plant to look out for at this time of year is Wood Sorrel (Oxalis acetosella) which has several names including

Cuckoo's Bread and Cheese, Granny's Sour Grass and Alleluia as its delicate white flowers appear between Easter and Whitsun,



and its trefoil, shamrockshaped leaves bring associations with the Holy Trinity.

Pasqueflower (Pulsatilla vulgaris) also blooms at Easter time, the name Pasque meaning 'of Easter'. It is now rare in the wild, found in a few places where there is

ancient, undisturbed grassland on limestone. It is often associated with old earthworks such as barrows, hillforts and boundary banks and there was a legend that it grew where the blood of Danes or Romans had been spilt. \*



It's not only flowers that chart the passing months and the Christian calendar.



St Mark's Fly (*Bibio marci*) is a long, black, shiny fly which hatches around St Mark's Day, April 25th. Large numbers of flies can be found in woodland edges, hedgerows and fields often mating in mid-air giving them the alternate name of Love Bug! They fly rather aimlessly

with dangling legs, usually surviving as adults for about one week and getting eaten in large numbers, providing a ready

food source. They are also an important pollinator of early flowering trees such as many fruit trees.

As you watch the spring unfurling, spare a thought for our ancestors who used nature as

a calendar and lived much closer to a profusion of plants and animals than we do now. Perhaps this could be an inspiration to get involved in nature recovery in our much depleted land.

# Harriet Carty, 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

\*Flora Britannica, Richard Mabey





# COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS — APRIL 2025 from ROGER ASHTON

# FOOD ETHICS

Food is always a priority topic on a daily basis for very obvious reasons. It is essential for our survival and it plays an important part in our daily enjoyment of life.

Do we eat to live....

or live to eat?





In terms of our modern standard of living, is the latter becoming more predominant? In biblical terms — is gluttony now increasing as our Christian standards slip? Even in this country there are some serious situations of food poverty but, perversely, many of the people caught up in these are obese!

Where are the ethics in the management of the food chain? This country is renowned for keeping the price of food low, which helps the consumer but puts pressure on the producers, i.e. the farmers.

Consumers ought not to be just 'the means to an end' for profit and financial gain at the expense of their good

health. The wholesaler and retailer, who use the process of 'value added' to dilute and unbalance basic foods, and the retailer who uses the 'loss leader' to gain market share, come to mind. Milk is the prime example of this. Is that, morally, an acceptable way to treat hard done by dairy farmers?

Is there an ethical argument against 'intensive' farming which has the impact of forcing nature, damaging soil structure, overusing chemicals, and compromising animal welfare and human health? Or, conversely, could you argue that such 'intensive farming' practice helps keep food retail prices lower and so addresses the poverty problems and

helps to raise the standard of living? The market forces of supply and demand still have a significant impact on food pricing. Recently beef farming is a prime example of this, where a shortage of supply has led to livestock market prices rocketing.

This is going to hit the consumer's pocket!

At this present time of worldwide turbulence, and thinking of the ongoing situation in Gaza as a prime example, moral and ethical standards have been terribly abused. Here is a literal life and death situation played out on a daily basis. History tells us, too, that many wars have been fought where food and its need are concerned.

Let us pray for our Christian values to hold sway so that food ethics can be empowered through the Holy Spirit to bring us a more peaceful world.

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

# Lord, why did you tell me to love?



He who has begun to give himself to others is saved. In receiving his neighbour he will receive God and will be freed from himself. We are our own most deadly enemy. Humanly speaking we bring suffering on ourselves, and super-naturally we bar the road to God.

There are those who are bent on refining themselves. They examine themselves, spend time combating their faults, and never get beyond themselves, except sometimes to cultivate little hot-house virtues cut to their own size. They are wrong. Certain educators encourage them in this course, not realising that by pointing out such and such a fault to conquer, such and such a quality to acquire, they centre their attention on themselves

and condemn them to stagnation.

No, one should study others carefully to find out, first, not what is bad in them, but what is good, to discover their potentialities. Next study in detail their environment and help them to become an integral part of it by giving themselves to others. Everyone can and must give themselves. If they have one talent, let them give that; if they have ten, let them give the ten.

It is only in giving that one can receive. But anyone who has begun this giving realises very quickly, if one is honest, that there is no retreat. It is frightening: one needs the encouragement to see that it is only on condition of this giving of self that one succeeds in life and will know the joy of God.

#### 1 John 3:16-19

<sup>16</sup> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

<sup>19</sup> This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence:

# Matthew 25:19-21 The Parable of the Talents

<sup>19</sup> 'After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more."

<sup>21</sup> 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

Lord, why did you tell me to love everyone, my brothers and sisters? I have tried, but I come back to you, frightened...

Lord, I was so peaceful at home, I was so comfortably settled. It was well furnished, and I felt cosy.

I was alone, I was at peace,

Sheltered from wind, the rain, the mud.

I would have stayed unsullied in my ivory tower.

But, Lord, you have discovered a breach in my defences,

You have forced me to open my door,

Like a squall of rain in the face, the cry of people has awakened me; Like a gale of wind a friendship has shaken me.

As a ray of light slips in unnoticed, your grace has stirred me . . . and, rashly enough, I left my door ajar. Now, Lord, I am lost! Outside they were laying in wait for me.

I did not know they were so near; in this house, in this street, in this office; my neighbour, my colleague, my friend.

As soon as I started to open the door I saw them, with out-stretched hands, burning eyes, longing hearts, like beggars on church steps.

The first ones came in, Lord. There was after all some space in my heart.

I welcomed them. I would have cared for them and hugged them, my very own little lambs, my little flock.

You would have been pleased, Lord, I would have served and honoured you in a proper, respectable way.

Till then, it was sensible . . .

But the next ones, Lord, the others, I had not seen them; they were hidden behind the first ones.

There were more of them, they were wretched; they overpowered me without warning.

We had to crowd in, I had to find room for them.

Now they have come from all over, in successive waves, pushing one another, jostling one another.

They had come from all over town, from all parts of the country, of the world; numberless, inexhaustible.

They don't come alone any longer but in groups, bound one to another.

They come bending under heavy loads; loads of injustice, of resentment and hate, of suffering and sin...

They drag the world behind them, with everything rusted, twisted, or badly adjusted.

Lord, they hurt me! They are in the way, they are everywhere.

They are too hungry, they are consuming me!

I can't do anything any more; as they come in, they push the door, and the door opens wider...

Lord, my door is wide open! I can't stand it any more! It's too much! It's no kind of life.

What about my job?

my family? My peace? My liberty? And me?

Lord, I have lost everything, I don't belong to myself any longer; There's no more room for me at home.

Don't worry, God says, you have gained all.

While they came in to you,

I, your Father,

I, your God,

slipped in among them.

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

# Some things come out of the blue, or perhaps the ether would be a better way of describing it.

From a friend on WhatsAp this reflection appeared.

I thought it was well worth sharing—so here it is!

Pope Francis reflecting from hospital:

"The walls of hospitals have heard more honest prayers than churches . . .

they have witnessed far more sincere kisses than those in airports . . .

it is in hospitals that you see a homophobe being saved by a gay doctor.

A privileged doctor saving the life of a seggar . . .

In intensive care, you see a Jew taking care of a racist . . .

a police officer and a prisoner in the same room receiving the same care . . .

Pope Francis

in better health

a wealthy patient waiting for a liver transplant, ready to receive the organ from a poor donor . . .

It is in these moments when the hospital touches the wounds of people, that different worlds intersect according to a divine design. And in this communion of destinies, we realise that alone, we are nothing.

The absolute truth of people, most of the time, only reveals

itself in moments of pain or in the real threat of an irreversible loss.

A hospital is a place where human beings remove their masks and show themselves as they truly are, in their purest essence.

This life will pass quickly, so do not waste it fighting with people. Do not criticise your body too much. Do not complain excessively. Do not lose sleep over bills. Make sure to hug your loved ones. Do not worry too much about keeping the house spotless. Material goods must be earned by each person — do not dedicate yourself to accumulating an inheritance.

You are waiting for too much: Christmas, Friday, next year, when you have money, when love arrives, when everything is perfect . . .

Listen, perfection does not exist. A human being cannot attain it because we are simply not made to be fulfilled here.

Here, we are given an opportunity to learn.

So, make the most of this trial of life – and do it now.

Respect yourself, respect others. Walk your own path, and let go of the path others have chosen for you. Respect: do not comment, do not judge, do not interfere.

Love more, forgive more, embrace more, live more intensely!

And leave the rest in the hands of the Creator!

Pope Francis.

# THE POWER OF PRAYING TOGETHER



Having lived in three different countries and been part of a number of Churches, I have observed that those with a strong prayer group at the heart of them were the ones that were alive and growing. Jesus encouraged us to pray together when he said,

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my Name, there am I with them." Matt. 18:19-20

Therefore it only takes two people praying in unity with one another and according to the will of God, for much to be accomplished. Nevertheless, if we want to see God's transforming power to be released in Wem and the surrounding area we need to gather together in greater numbers. We see in Acts 4:31 that the more people who came together in prayer, the greater the power released:

"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

As most of you know, there is a Church prayer group which meets in St. Peter and St Paul's Church and on Zoom at 4pm every Monday afternoon. We have averaged about 7 members over the last 14 years since we started. Now it would be good to have a second group meeting at a different time of the week. We have seen some answers to prayer but continue to persevere in prayer for the 'big ones'. We are encouraged to believe that we may see some of these happening soon.

Pete Greig, founder of the 24/7 Prayer Movement has listed some encouraging reports from around the world and also in the UK. For example, a Church in Copenhagen has grown 30% in the last 18

months and there has been a 31% spike in adult baptisms in France recently. In Finland there has been a massive increase in the number of young men attending Church while the Assemblies of God have reported that they are planting new churches worldwide every 3 minutes!

In the UK, Church leaders are reporting many people coming to faith. There are stories of young working men with no faith context feeling compelled to read the Scriptures. Actual YouGov stats show that 18-24 year olds (Gen Z) are 50% less likely to be atheists than their parents. There are other reports, too, from different sources of similar nature of Churches growing. So let's be encouraged and press on in prayer that the Holy Spirit will visit Wem and the surrounding villages!

However, we need to increase the number of those who will commit themselves to this ministry. Praying in unity means, necessarily, praying out loud so that others can say 'Amen' in agreement. This can be very daunting to some, as I know from myself. Thankfully, I was not thrown in at the deep end, but was taught gently step by step. For this reason we want to give opportunity to those who would like

to learn about prayer to come to about 4 weekly sessions of one hour, to look at what the Bible teaches about prayer and also try simple ways to put it into practice. We hope for these to take place between Easter and Pentecost.

No one is too old to pray. This is something we can all do, and all will be welcome. Perhaps God is tapping you on the shoulder and asking <u>you</u> to be involved. More details will be given out soon.



# Sue McLeod

and the Monday Prayer Group

# **World Day of Prayer 2025**

The theme: 'I made you wonderful'.

Our service, prepared by Christian women of the Cook Islands, was a great success on Friday 7th March at Wem Methodist Church. Offerings totalled £194.70p (plus Gift Aid donations).

Next year the service will be prepared by Christian women of Nigeria. It will be held on Friday 6th March 2026 at St Peter and St Paul's Church, High Street, Wem. We hope to start the service at 3pm.



Here are some photos of this year's service.

with thanks to Paul Johnson



"Wonderfully Made" by mother and daughter artists Tarani Napa and Tevairangi Napa



















# AN INVITATION from WEM METHODIST CHURCH 'Saturday Special' Worship

Maybe you've never heard of it or wondered what it is. Here is a brief description to whet your appetite.

'Saturday Special' worship commenced in February 2018 at Wem Methodist Church. It is a monthly service that is suitable for all, but a particular warm welcome is given to people with dementia. It is also attended by those who are looking for something different, those who cannot attend a service of worship on a Sunday and by those who need access via the local bus which runs on a Saturday.

It is held on the second Saturday of each month, starting at 10.30am. The service lasts approximately half an hour and is followed by refreshments donated by the Co-op. The service consists of well-known hymns, short prayers and a focal point on which the short address is based.

You can be of any faith or none, everyone is welcome.

'It's a lovely way to start a Saturday', said one attendee. Come along and join approx. 20-25 other people who share a short time together in song, prayer and worship in a relaxed atmosphere. Look forward to seeing you.

Please contact Ann and Paul Johnson for more information 07783 299293.

# **FUTURE SERVICES**

# Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May,
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July,
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September,
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November,
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December

# **CHILDREN'S QUESTIONS TO GOD**

Dear God

I want to be just like my daddy when I get big but not with so much Hair all over Sam





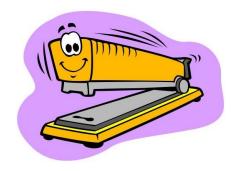
Dear God

I keep waiting for Spring but it never come yet.

Don't forget

Mark

Dear God
I think the stapler
is one of your greatest
invention
Ruth





Dear God
I think about you sometimes
even when I'm not praying
Elliott

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

# The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Wem

# FROM WEM'S ANNUAL MEETINGS

# REPORTS AND ELECTIONS – THE CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Everyone seems to be holding their AGMs at this time of year – not surprising when it's the end of the financial year (do you know why? answers on a postcard). In fact, our financial year runs with the calendar year, but the extra weeks allows our faithful Treasurer, Caroline Sinclair, time to complete the accounts and get them independently examined. Caroline has been doing the job for 15 years now, and would love to hand over the responsibility. She will hold the fort for now, but it's not fair to expect her to carry on indefinitely. So if anyone feels the call.....?

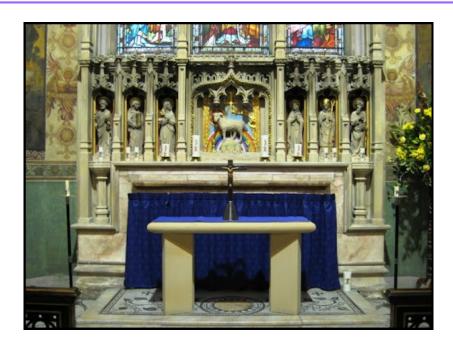
The Annual Meeting was on 27 March. It's a bit disappointing that so few people came – just 10 in all, including the Rector and church officers. It's the one opportunity we all have to become better informed about how our church is being run, and even to make comments and ask questions. Elections were held: Sybil Farmer and David Murray were re-elected as Churchwardens. There were no other nominations (we could have – and once did – four Wardens). Also elected to the PCC, similarly unopposed: Kim Archer, Karl Gough, Penny Lewis and Glyn Williams. There is room for a few more – and it's not too late. Many hands make light work.

This year, as has been mentioned before, the Electoral Roll has been renewed from scratch as is required every six years. Neil Price, as Electoral Roll Officer, has ably managed this and his report to the APCM told us that we now have 75 names on the

Roll including ten new ones. Welcome to St Peter and St Paul's, those ten! Neil has served his term on the PCC and in this special responsibility, so thank you to him. David Murray is, for now at least, taking on the job in addition to his other duties.

After the APCM there was a brief meeting of the PCC to appoint officers and other statutory requirements. The PCC will not meet again until July, when the Quinquennial Report on the state of our building will have been completed. This involves an architect having a good poke around and telling us what needs to be done next to keep the church in good order and prevent it deteriorating.

For those who didn't come: you can always ask anyone whose name appears in this article what went on. Or myself, Katharine Murray, who, incidentally, would dearly love to hand on responsibility as PCC secretary to somebody else.





# St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church

# **SUNDAYS**

08:00—Holy Communion 09:45—Sung Eucharist

# 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY

17:00—Prayer & Praise

# **THURSDAYS**

09:30—Holy Communion

# 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL—PALM SUNDAY

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist 17:00—Songs of Praise

# **HOLY WEEK**

MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL

TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL

WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL

19:00—Holy Eucharist
10:30—Holy Eucharist
10:30—Holy Eucharist

# 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL—MAUNDY THURSDAY

19:00—Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion

# FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL—GOOD FRIDAY

09:30—Intercessions & Reception of the Blessed Sacrament 14:00—Meditations on the Last Hour

# SUNDAY 20th APRIL—EASTER DAY

08:00—Holy Eucharist 09:45—Holy Eucharist

(ending with the Hallelujah Chorus sung by Wem Community Choir)



You are welcome to join us at any of our services!

"Growing in Faith, Hope and Love"



# St Peter and St Paul's Church Easter Service

You are warmly invited to celebrate the Resurrection of the Messiah on

Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 9:45am

After singing "All In The April Evening"
the Wem Community Choir will bring
the Service to an end
with a resounding rendition
of Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus'



# WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH



Sunday April 27th at 5 pm in the Church Please come along for a quiet time together

We are looking for sponsors for church flowers from Easter Day until the beginning of Advent. We would be grateful for donations to the flower fund or you could sponsor a particular date.

From the beginning of April, I will be putting a form at back of church so that you can add your name to a specific date. Sponsorship money should be paid to our treasurer.





Please speak to

Sybil Farmer if you would be interested in helping at festivals or would like to do a pedestal occasionally.

If you would like to help prepare the church for the Easter Services on Easter Saturday please let me know.

You will be very welcome!

Sylie

<u>Syb.hbcwem@btinternet.com</u> or 01939 232568



# Gallery Singers Concert Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2025



As it was St David's Day there was a strong Welsh presence in St Peter & St Pauls church being greeted by Elaine Shaw in her Welsh costume and the Welsh flag proudly being displayed in front of the pulpit.

The Gallery singers started off their set up in the Gallery which caused a few heads to look up wondering where this beautiful sound was coming from. They continued their performance

within the nave of the church and the audience were treated to a wonderful display of their rich harmonies.



They had a special guest with them in the form of a very accomplished flautist. She was mesmerising and displayed some wonderful talent.

The Interval was greeted with a glass of red wine or juice and Welsh cakes & Bara bread which went down very well with the audience.

The second half was just as enjoyable.

The Gallery Singers are a very accomplished harmony choir, and seemed to have been thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

### Kim Archer













### The Parish Church of St Peter, Lee Brockhurst

## St Peter's Church



Come and join us here on Wednesdays
16<sup>th</sup> April, 21<sup>st</sup> May
18<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> July
for "Coffee and Chat"
Any time between 10.30 and 12.00

No charge but donations to the church welcomed For further information ring 07858123669



## Music In My Life

Phoebe reminisces about a very important part of her life

#### Part 1 — Early Days in London

I was born in 1942 in the middle of the Second World War and my first memories of music are my mother singing as she went about the housework every day. I cannot remember what she sang but they all seemed to be happy tunes. Sometimes of an evening she would sit with my dad on the piano stool and play such things as 'In a Monastery Garden' or 'Sanctuary of the Heart' by Albert Ketelbey – I still have the sheet music. I understand that my mum played in a group called the Melody Five but I never thought to ask her about this and think it must have stopped when the war started. It occurred to me that she might have been a singer in the group as well as a piano player. My other early contact with music was the hymns that we sang at the Congregational Church in Stratford and later at the Baptist Church in Leytonstone.

Two more things influenced my love of music the first was the acquisition by my father of a wind up gramophone. As far as I know we only had two 33<sup>1/3</sup> rpm records. The first contained two songs sung by Peter Dawson, 'The Flurry Dance' on one side and 'The Erl King' on the other. The other record had 'March Militaire' on one side but I cannot remember what was on the other.

The second influence was being given piano lessons Miss Fraser at the



age of seven. At first I was not much interested but after about a year or two I became interested in the music I was given and put more effort, although never enough to get good, into playing. All the music was classical and to this day I find it very hard to play

light music of any kind, despite having a collection of compilations from the Musicals of the day like 'The Sound of Music', 'Oklahoma', 'West Side Story', etc., etc. During my teenage years I was sometimes asked to accompany the local church choir when the organist was on holiday. It seems amazing to me that I was good enough to be asked!

At the Junior School I attended we had two session of music a week. This was with the BBC Home Service — I think they were called 'Singing Together', 'Rhythm and Melody', and, as I recall, involved movement as well as singing.

The secondary school I attended had a Headmistress who was very interested in music and taught us throughout our time there. When it came to choosing the subjects we would sit for GCE I chose Music instead of Science or Art. I would have liked to study all three but the system did not allow for this. The chosen pieces were;

- 1. 'Three Madrigals', 'Ave Verum Corpus' by Mozart, 'The Silver Swan' by Orlando Gibbons and 'As Vestas which was from 'Latmos Hill Descending' by Thomas Wheekes,
- 2. The Enigma Variations by Edward Elgar (minus Nimrod for some reason, blame the Cambridge Examinations Board for that) and
- 3. Haydn's String Quartet, 'The Lark'. I was delighted to pass my Music GCE especially since I found the Aural Test somewhat challenging. I had no trouble with the Theory which I enjoyed, or the chosen pieces.

When I left school I went to work in a Day Nursery as I had expressed an interest in training in Paediatric Nursing. However, two years of small children made me decide to go for General Nursing instead. Not

Beethoven

because of the children but because of the way the children were "organised". Much too strict I thought. When I went home after a particularly trying day I would go to my bedroom and play records, either 'The Emperor Concerto' or the 7<sup>th</sup> Symphony by Beethoven, or alternatively Robert Schumann's Piano

Concerto. These lifted my spirits and made life worth living again. Whilst at the Day Nursery I was paid monthly and after giving my mother my Board and Lodging I used to buy a 78 rpm record each month. My record player was made by a friend of my father's who gave it to me in lieu of money he owed my father for work he had undertaken.

A friend took me to hear the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Malcolm Sergeant at the Maida Vale Studies while I was still at school and we also put together the music for a series of slides about water. I remember picking out the music that would best suit from the collection of records I had accumulated since I had started work. In the end we chose 'The William Tell Overture' which seemed to fit the bill starting very quietly and simply like a spring and finishing up as a roaring river when it reached the sea. In retrospect I think Smetana's 'Moldau' from Ma Vlast would have done equally well but I did not know of his music then.

I carried on having music lessons until I left home to take up nursing at 18, occasionally playing for the morning prayers in PTS (Preliminary Training School). My eldest cousin Ann invited me to attend a concert at the Royal Festival Hall with her boss. The programme included Beethoven's 7<sup>th</sup> Symphony which has become my favourite symphony. Later I bought a limited Season Ticket for the Proms (8 concerts) and attended these on my own. Here I heard Eileen Joyce play Grieg's piano concerto and the BBC Symphony Orchestra play Holst's 'The Planets', among other things. I think that I might still have the programmes for these concerts and I certainly have very many from later dates.



## Lee Brockhurst WI News-March 2025

Lee Brockhurst met for their March meeting to hear the truly remarkable story of local resident. Michael McCarthy who, despite having suffered a near fatal road accident at the age of eight which left him with serious brain injuries, has completed the London Marathon, climbed Mount Kenya, cycled to Westminster Abbey and has even received an Olympic Gold medal. These were merely a few of his outstanding achievements, he is even the author of nine delightful children's books!

At our April meeting we will be entertained by a talk from Dr Nigel Baker entitled 'Paddling into the Past' where we will learn of archaeological discoveries made in the River Severn and other waterways.

Our Book Club will meet up next on Monday 28 th April and our Craft Club on Tuesday 1 st April to make Easter greetings cards with our Summer Strollers reconvening in the Spring to enjoy walks in the rural locality and our Bhangra feel good dance and fitness commencing fortnightly from the 19th March.

We always welcome visitors to join in the fun and friendship at Lee Brockhurst; all meetings take place at Lee Brockhurst unless otherwise stated.

If you would like to know more about our lively, friendly group then please contact Julie Woolfenden on 01939 200237 or jjwoolfenden@gmail.com who will be very happy to help.



#### St Peter's Lee Brockhurst Annual Meetings

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm St Peter's held their annual meetings in Lee Brockhurst Village Hall. The attendance was down on last year but a number of apologies accounted for the lack of attendees.

#### The Vestry Meeting

We opened with prayer by the Rector and The Vestry Meeting for the election of Church Wardens. Roger Ashton and Valerie Lusby were both re-elected unopposed.

#### The Annual Parochial Council Meeting

Apologies for absence were recorded.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The Treasurer's Report was approved and the Accounts were signed in preparation for forwarding a copy to the Diocese.

The current Independent Examiner of Accounts was approved to continue.

The Electoral Roll Officer's report and the New Electoral Roll were presented. The Roll now contains twenty-one, names a small drop on last year.

The Deanery Synod Representative reported on the two meetings held during the year and informed us that a new Archdeacon has been appointed who will live in Battlefield.

The Fabric Report (Church Warden's report) contained information about the refurbishing of the two bells and the proposed installation of a hearing loop in early 2025 and also about the successful fund raising events during the year. Val also spoke about our imminent inclusion in the Shropshire Churches Tourist Group guide. With this in mind we have ordered another two church keys so that a list of four phone numbers of people holding keys can be displayed in the porch and on the notice board at the gate inviting visitors who wish to gain access to the church can do so..

The Safeguarding Officer for the Benefice reported that all PCC members must now be DBS checked every 3 years. Also all incumbents must attend a course on Domestic Abuse and Safe Recruiting.

The Safeguarding Policy which had been circulated prior to the meeting was approved for another year without alteration and signed by the Rector and the two Church Wardens.

The Rector gave a very comprehensive report on his year in the Wem Benefice.

#### **Parochial Church Council Meeting**

The existing Lay Chair and Officers were all returned unopposed.

These are

Vice-chair: Tim Wilton-Morgan, Secretary: Phoebe Ashton, Treasurer: Roger Ashton,

Electoral Roll Officer: Phoebe Ashton.

The meeting then proceeded to arrange dates for the Key Services and Fundraising Events for the year. These are:

A Plant Sale at Val Lusby's on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May from 10.00 – 12.00 am.

A Strawberry Tea either at Brockhurst Farm or in Lee Brockhurst Village Hall (weather depending) on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2.00pm to 4.00pm

A possible extra Coffee Morning during the early summer at Brockhurst Farm – date to be arranged.

The Harvest Festival Service to be held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 11.15 and the Harvest Supper and Auction on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm in Lee Brockhurst Village Hall.

The Autumn Fayre in Lee Brockhurst Village Hall on Saturday 22 November 10.30 – 12.00

And finally the Carol Service to be held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6.30pm.

Under any other business the Rector confirmed that we do not have flowers in the church in Advent or Lent.

It had been reported that the Altar Table extension was loose at one end. The Rector has approached Mike Cotterell to have a look at the problem and also to provide a quote on refurbishing the table. This he has done and the quote was approved. The work will be carried out between Sundays.

It was proposed that the church members devote a day to spring-cleaning the church— the date agreed is Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August.

No date was chosen for the next PCC Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm with The Grace.



## <u>The Parish Church of St Luke,</u> <u>Weston-under-Redcastle</u>

## WESTON NEWS



## VILLAGE SHOW SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST

Our plans for the day are progressing steadily and positively, as always we have lots of encouragement from past attendees!

We are concentrating now on raising the £6,000 that it costs us to put on the show. Our sponsors, over 70 last year, are very generous and their adverts go into the very smart programme which is given to all visitors to take home.

If you have, or know of a business who may like to support the show by putting an advert in our programme please let us know, call 01630 685 204.

Most importantly,

## save the date,

and tell all your friends.





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#### THE EASTER COLLECT

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

# Thank you very much to all our contributors.

THE MAY ISSUE

needs your input by EASTER (20th April), but definitely no later than 24th, please.
All articles e-mailed to Phoebe Ashton phoebe42.lee@qmail.com

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