NOVEMBER 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 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

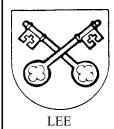
Frank Hosie-Kingham 01939 200618 Helen O'Neill 01939 200663

Treasurer

Colin Holloway 01939 200682

Church Warden Emeritus

Arthur Fox 01630 685180







WEM

WESTON

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN NOVEMBER					
DAY	DATE	SEASON	WEM	WESTON	LEE
SATURDAY	2nd	ALL SOULS	17:00 ASS		
SUNDAY	3rd	ALL SAINTS DAY	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	7th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	10th	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	08:00 HE 09:45 HE 10:55 RS	10:50 RS	10:55 RS at WEM
MONDAY	11th	ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE	11:00 AT THE WAR MEMORIAL		
THURSDAY	14th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	17th	2nd SUNDAY before ADVENT	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 MP	11:15 HE (BCP)
THURSDAY	21st		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	24th	CHRIST THE KING	08:00 HE 09:45 HE 17:00 P&P	11:00 HE	11:15 MP
THURSDAY	28th		09:30 HE		

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

The Season of Advent

begins on the first Sunday in December. November heralds a preparation for this time of joy and hope as we await, with great anticipation, the lighting of the Christmas Candle on Christmas morning! ASS—All Souls Service
RS—Remembrance
Service
BCP—Book of
Common Prayer





Notes from the Editor NOVEMBER



November 2024 marks the beginning of the second year of Rob's and my producing the Benefice Magazine. Our attempt to provide a paper copy has proved too difficult and the magazine will remain digital for the foreseeable future.

We now look forward to the beginning of the Christian year as Advent is only one month away. In the mean time we have things to look forward to in the Benefice; the Remembrance Services will be held on Sunday November 10th in Wem and

Weston and there will be a gathering at the War Memorial on Armistice Day (For times and places see the calendar on the previous page). On a lighter note St Peter's, Lee Brockhurst are holding their Annual Autumn Fayre on Saturday November 16th in the Village Hall from 10.30 to 12.00. There is much else happening throughout the Benefice—(see the local ads in the three parishes).

Congratulations go to the volunteers of Wem Cemetery who have once again received a Gold Certificate and Nature Friendly Award by the Diocese of Lichfield Churchyard Award Scheme for their work in keeping the Cemetery so beautifully and nature friendly.

Best wishes

From your editorial team

Phoebe

Rector's Ramblings

Do you ever struggle to have a meaningful prayer time each day? Whether that is the case, or not, I would like to share with you a book about prayer by Mark E. Thibodeaux SJ called "Reimagining the Ignatian Examen. Fresh ways to Pray from Your Day"

I have reproduced some extracts from the preface to the book, below, which may whet your appetite for more.

Thibodeaux writes:

The Most Amazing Prayer You've Never Heard Of

One of the greatest mystics of all time, St. Ignatius of Loyola, believed that the prayer exercise called the "Examen" should be the *most important quarter-of-an-hour of a person's day*, and yet today most Christians have never even heard of it.

St. Paul exhorts us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) My faith tells me that God is everywhere at all times, and that Christ is in my heart and embedded in all of creation—regardless of how conscious I am of his presence at any given moment. That's wonderfully consoling, but I want more! I want to feel his presence all the time. I want to feel him not only when I leave the nitty-gritty of my life and go to church; I want to feel his presence always! And I want to share with him even the smallest details of my life.

This is why the Examen is so awesome and powerful. It brings my nitty-gritty to God and God to my nitty-gritty.

I could go on and on about how wonderful the Examen is. I could tell you:

- how it unites me ever closer to God
- how it reveals God's perspective on my everyday life
- how it stirs me to give praise and thanksgiving for the countless gifts of God that have popped up in my day, and even to perceive the very presence of God in those gifts

- how it gives me an opportunity to recognize and apologize for my faults, and to grieve my failures and hurts and receive healing from them
- how it brings insight into what is really going on beneath the surface of my thoughts, words, and actions—into the very source of my motivations and machinations
- how it helps me discern how to handle the trickier aspects of my life, to know what interior gifts I need from God to do the right thing tomorrow, and to ask God for those gifts explicitly.

WHAT IS THE IGNATIAN EXAMEN?

Saint Ignatius of Loyola created the Examen to be a very short ("quarter of an hour") twice-daily prayer that can be prayed at any time that is most convenient. Most people enjoy praying the Examen during their lunch break and in the evening as they are winding down. At lunchtime, you look back at how your morning has gone and look forward to how your afternoon and evening might go. In the evening, you look back over your afternoon (since your lunchtime Examen) and look forward to how tomorrow morning might go. If you are new to the Examen, you may find it easier to start by praying it only once a day.

HOW DO YOU DO THE EXAMEN?

Ignatius provides a simple five-step routine for our daily Examen: <u>GIVE THANKSGIVING</u>. I begin by giving God thanks for all the things I'm grateful for today. I allow my mind to wander as I reflect on the ways God has blessed me on this particular day. I allow big things and small things to arise—everything from the gift of my faith, to the gift of my marriage, to the easy commute to work today.

ASK FOR THE SPIRIT. Next, I want to look at the moments in my day when I did not act so well. However, before doing so, I ask God to fill me with his Spirit so that the Spirit can lead me through this difficult soul-searching. Otherwise, I'm liable to hide

in denial, wallow in self-pity, or seethe in self-loathing.

<u>REVIEW AND RECOGNIZE FAILURES.</u> I look back at my day and ask the Lord to point out to me the moments when I have failed in big ways or small. I take a sobering look at the mistakes I've made this day.

ASK FOR FORGIVENESS AND HEALING. If I have sinned, I ask God to forgive me and set me straight again. If I have not sinned but simply made a mistake, I ask for healing of any harm that might have been done. I ask for help to get over it and move on. I also ask for wisdom to discern how I might better handle such tricky moments in the future.

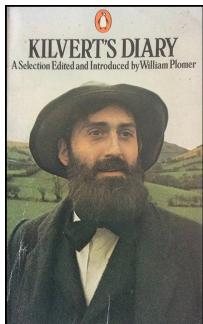
PRAY ABOUT THE NEXT DAY. I ask God to show me how tomorrow might go. I imagine the things I'll be doing, the people I'll see, and the decisions I'll be mulling over. I ask for help with any moments I foresee that might be difficult. I especially ask for help in moments when I might be tempted to fail in the way I did today.

KEEP IT SHORT. I strongly recommend that you keep your Examen under fifteen minutes. The Examen isn't meant to be a deep and probing experience. It is designed to be a simple in-the-moment check-in that reminds me of God's presence and reorients me toward him.

That's the basic idea behind the Ignatian Examen. Ignatius would say that this should be the most important moment of our day. Why? Because this moment affects every other moment.

If the above has caught your imagination and you would like to know more about the *Ignatian Examen*, and some variations of the Examen, do try and get hold of a copy of "Reimagining the Ignatian Examen. Fresh ways to Pray from Your Day" by Mark E. Thibodeaux SJ, it is currently available on Amazon for £11.49.

With every Blessing. Yours in Christ, Reverend John.



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

KILVERT IN NOVEMBER

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 November in different years.

Friday 18 November 1870

Went into the Tump [a farm] to see young Meredith who has had his jaw locked for six

months, a legacy of mumps. He has been to Hereford Infirmary where they kept him two months, gave him chloroform and wrenched his jaws open gradually by a screw lever. But they could not do him any good. Catherine was sitting on the settle. I knew she had been unwell and asked what was the matter. Her mother said in the most matter of fact way possible, as if it were the commonest and most indifferent thing in the world, that the girl had scarlet fever and that her hands had just peeled. 'At least, some did say as how it was scarlet fever'. 'Had the child a sore throat?' 'Yes, very sore and a sore skinned mouth and almost all her hair had fallen off'. 'Was she feverish and lightheaded?' 'Yes, very feverish and she lost herself upon times'. However, the peeling of the hands was quite enough to prove scarlet fever along with the other symptoms, although the mother said the skin of the girl's body 'did only come off like in a scurf'. They seemed to think nothing of it at all, did not apprehend any danger, infection or spreading of the disease, and had taken no pains to disinfect the clothes or house or anything. These people are fatalists, regular Turks.

(While the wealthier people in the parish could use Hereford Infirmary, the poorer inhabitants had to resort to folk remedies or simply accept

illness. Child mortality was universal and the death of a child was not seen as unusual, unlike today when the death of a child can bring sorrow to a whole community.)

Sunday 26 November 1871

A dark dismal day, scarcely any daylight. I preached in the morning on the High Priest of Humanity from the second lesson for the evening's service. Hebrews ii, 17, 18. I went to Bettws. A drizzling rain came on. The afternoon grew dark and



darker. The darkness in Chapel was fearful. I have seldom been so hard put to it to read. Before I began the lessons the darkness became appalling and it seemed as if night were coming on all at once. I asked Wilding in despair if there were a candle in the Chapel. 'No', he said. So with the courage of desperation and a wild beast at bay I went at the lessons and scrambled through somehow, stumbling and blundering frightfully. Then it grew lighter. I preached extempore with great satisfaction to myself, better then I have ever done before, on citizenship.

(Be thankful for electricity! Bettws Chapel was a small church in the parish of Clyro, in a field three miles uphill from the parish church. It is curious that Kilvert preached at Mattins in Clyro on the second lesson for Evensong, but at Evensong in the afternoon at Bettws he preached on Citizenship, to his own satisfaction.)

Sunday 10 November 1878

Heavy rain in the night, thaw on the hills, snow melting and river rising fast. People busy all day saving cattle and sheep in the low river meadows. Torrents of rain this morning. Church almost

empty. When I came home from Brobury at 7.30 the flood had risen much and was nearly over the road by the Bridge gate. Mrs Jenkins was wading in the water saving her fowls from being drowned and Alice lacing up her boots again preparatory to a flight from the house. Mr Stokes's people were going about with a lantern in his orchard saving and fencing round some heaps of cider apples.

Monday 11 November 1878

School. Flood falling. So far the second greatest flood of the century... Many people were flooded out of their houses at Letton and Staunton and spent the night on Bredwardine Bridge watching the flood. A number of cattle and colts were seen to pass under the bridge in the moonlight and it was feared they would be drowned. Some women saw a bullock swept down under the bridge at noon today. Mr W Clarke of the Staunton Store room told me that the Whitney iron railway bridge was carried away last night by the flood and 2 miles of line seriously damaged. No trains can run for 3 months, during which time the gap will be filled by coaches.

(By this time Kilvert was Vicar of Bredwardine and Brobury in Herefordshire. Kilvert taught in school regularly, and clearly the great flood did not lead to the closure of the school on Monday morning.)

William Price.

The Memorial Tablet for Revd Kilvert in St Michael's Church, Clyro



Notes from The Diocese for October



Food for the Ears



The Lichfield Diocesan Digest **Sound Magazine** passes its thirty-five year anniversary this autumn. Founded in 1989 under the leadership of Dean of Lichfield, John Lang, former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC, it is an audio dedicated publication serving the Lichfield Diocese. Designed for the visually impaired and for anyone preferring audio over print, the Digest provides an accessible way to stay updated

diocesan news, events, and faith-based initiatives.

Distributed on USB sticks, the Digest features a wide range of spoken content, including poetry readings, parish magazine highlights, sermons from Lichfield Cathedral, and messages from the bishops. It also delivers updates on church projects, stories of faith from parishioners, details of upcoming events, and reports on charitable efforts. Produced regularly, the magazine connects listeners to the Church's mission, fostering a sense of inclusion for those unable to engage with traditional printed materials.

As an early example of inclusive outreach, the Digest has embraced modern audio technology to serve the entire community.

We have had a sound studio by the cathedral for many years where some of our recording takes place. In the early days, programmes were distributed on cassette tapes, before moving to USB memory sticks. In many ways, the Digest like many 'talking newspapers' has been a pioneer, well ahead of the recent phenomenon of podcasts.

However, as audiences and audio content evolves, so must the Digest. We are now seeking volunteers to help expand its reach. Whether it's contributing ideas, recording material, or assisting with distribution, we need fresh perspectives and new voices.

Based in the cathedral close, we also work virtually and travel throughout the diocese. If you're passionate about helping us reimagine the Digest for a contemporary audience, please reach out to **Gregory Platten**, Canon Chancellor at Lichfield Cathedral and Chair of the Digest,

gregory.platten@lichfield-cathedral.org.



COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS—NOVEMBER

from ROGER ASHTON

HARVEST 2024

What a year of challenges it has been! A combination of factors stacked up to give farmers and horticulturists a very tough twelve months. The main problem area was, you probably guessed it, the weather. From October 2023 it has been the wettest year since records began back in the 1830,s. Last

autumn the crops planted had to endure waterlogged ground and there was no respite till spring time when spring cultivations and planting were delayed until the ground



conditions had dried out enough.

Livestock too were seriously affected, again due to waterlogged ground and indirectly with a reduced quantity of home grown food. It looks like climate change is bringing milder and wetter winters with more volatility in the stormy weather. Next was the economic situation, a continuation of higher costs, lower market prices, poor political support from the previous government - and probably the present one; we shall know more after the Budget, which will have happened by the time you read this, it is not looking good despite huge lobbying to our MPs. What we are trying to get over to them is the importance of home grown food security and fairness in the food chain. The financial support system is now based on

environmental regulation which means the ground available for human food production is shrinking annually; there are now so many other calls for that open country area like woodland planting, energy supply, house building, re-wilding nature reserves and the creation of new flood marsh. So just when we need to increase home grown food to control our food security and keep in check poor quality imported basics we are very much up against it. Did you know that we are only 65% self sufficient in potatoes now, for decades we were 100%. That is down to challenging weather, very high costs and supermarket control. The good news is there is now in place support for building organic soil reserves and carbon reserves.

Here at the Brockhurst Farm Partnership it was acting and grabbing the very few weather windows to get the cultivations and harvesting done. Careful planning and liaison with our regular contractors paid off, just! Having said that, low lying heavy ground meant arable cropping roots gave up in places so some output was compromised. Home grown forages

for the cattle will be tight by the time we get to next April. Despite all, farmers are very resilient and enterprising and will find ways of dealing with these challenges. It is still a way of life despite the multi skilled and



business acumen required now.



People love to visit churches, chapels and cathedrals. Recent visitor surveys have shown that more people are visiting cathedrals this year, with an increase in visitors of 17% since 2022. They come for a

variety reasons, attending services and concerts, enjoying the heritage and history and visiting exhibitions. This increase in visitors is the result of hard work and lateral thinking, focussing on making these special places appeal to those who may not be regular attendees.

Actually, it's possible that even more people are visiting be they churchyards, chapel yards, burial grounds, cemeteries and of course cathedral grounds. A survey in 2018 found that more than half the visitors to churchyards were neither entering the church building or visiting a particular grave, they were there to enjoy the peace, tranquillity, bird song, flowers and history of these special outdoor places. They were also making use of facilities such as surfaced paths, benches, ramps and other accessibility features. For those of you who care for and love your local churchyard, can you help to make it even more welcoming for visitors? Is there any information on the more interesting memorials to be visited, the locally famous or infamous or perhaps particularly beautiful stone carving? Could you put up a list of the wildlife to be seen at different times of year or steer people to spend time in the presence of a veteran tree and think how long it has been growing there?

Managing a churchyard for both people and nature really



creates space a that looks cared for, is accessible but still full of the peaceful and enriching sights and sounds of wildlife that people SO enjoy. By the autumn, all of grassland vour areas will be cut short but can you

leave a small patch of tussocky grass, nettles and hogweed around the back, perhaps by a compost heap, so that insects and other invertebrates have somewhere to overwinter? This will be used by frogs, toads, newts and slowworms who will be feeding on these invertebrates as well as by small mammals and birds. Hedgehogs in particular need shelter like this as well as food such as worms, slugs and beetles.

Do you have any berry bearing shrubs or hedges? Could they be left until the late winter before pruning or trimming in order to feed and shelter birds and small mammals? If there is ivy present you may have noticed the buzz of ivy bees on the flowers in September, flowers which have now been replaced by small black berries. Birds such as thrushes, blackbirds, pigeons and blackcaps love these berries which are rich in fat: so good winter tuck!

Autumn is a great time to make deadwood piles from windblown twigs and branches, pile up autumn leaves to rot down and perhaps erect some bird and bat boxes.

All of this work will enhance your churchyard so that it is teeming with even more life next spring and summer, giving pleasure to locals and visitors alike.

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







Abbé Michel Quoist would like to see with God's eyes: <u>CONTINUED</u> '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...

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.

In continuation, the following lines intend to give a few simple examples of the manifestations of his love.

The Brick

The bricklayer laid a brick on the bed of cement.

Then, with a precise stroke of his trowel spread another layer

And without a by-your-leave, laid on another brick.

The foundations grew visibly,

The building rose, tall and strong, to shelter people.

I thought, Lord, of that brick buried in the darkness at the base of the big building.

No one sees it, but it accomplishes its task, and the other bricks need it.

Lord, what difference whether I am on the roof-top or in the foundations of your building, as long as I stand faithfully at the right place.

Posters

They are loud.

I cannot avoid them, for they crowd together on the wall, alluring and tempting.

Their violent colours hurt my eyes

And I can't rid myself of their distasteful presence.

Lord, in the same way too often I draw attention to myself.

Grant that I may be more humble and unobtrusive,

And above all keep me from trying to impress others through showy display,

For it is your light only, Lord, that must draw all people.

The Underground

The last ones squeeze in.

The door rolls shut.

The train rumbles off.

I can't move.

I am no longer an individual, but a crowd.

A crowd that moves in one piece like jellied soup in its tin.

A nameless and indifferent crowd, probably far from you, Lord.

I am one with the crowd, and I see why it is sometimes hard for me to rise higher.

This crowd is heavy—leaden soles on my feet, my slow feet— a crowd too large for my overburdened skiff.

Yet, Lord, I have no right to overlook these people, they are my brothers and my sisters,

And I cannot save myself, alone.

Lord, since you wish it, I shall make for heaven in the Underground.

The Swing

He was gently swinging at the end of the ropes.

Eyes shut, relaxed and drifting, he listened to the murmur of the breeze that sung a lullaby as it swayed him back and forth.

And minutes floated away to the rhythm of the swing.

So, Lord, I walked through the city as through a vast county fair, and see people drifting, blown by the breezes of life.

Some smile, and yield to passing pleasures.

Others with taut faces curse the wind that shakes them and knocks them into one another.

Lord, I want them to stand up on their swings,
I want them to grasp the cords that you hold out to them.
I want them to harden their muscles and brace their vigorous bodies, and stamp on their lives the direction they have chosen.
For you do not want your children to drift
But to live.

At The Door

The boy stumbled on the doorstep and the door slammed behind him. He was punished.

Suddenly aware of his disgrace, he rushed in anger at the unfeeling door.

He slapped it, pounded it, stamping and shrieking.

But not a fibre moved on the wooden surface.

The boy caught sight of the keyhole—ironic eye of that sullen door—But on peering into it he saw that it was blocked.

Then, in despair, he sat down and cried.

I watched him smiling, and realised, Lord, that often I exhaust myself before locked doors.

I want to make my points, persuade, prove,

And I talk and brandish arguments,

I strike hard to reach the imagination or the emotions,

But I am politely or violently dismissed—I waste my strength, vain fool that I am.

Grant me, Lord, to be respectful and patient, Loving and praying in silence, Standing at the door till it is opened.

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



CHILDRENS' QUESTIONS TO GOD

Please God
Send me a pony. I never ask for anything before
you can Look it up.
Bruce



Dear Mr. God I wish you woul

I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart.

I had 3 stitches and a shot.

Janet

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





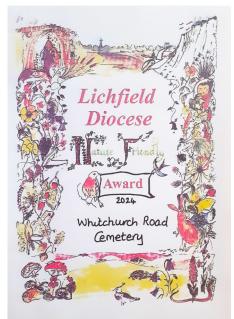
From the Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery

-AN UPDATE-

We were recently delighted to hear that we have once again been awarded a Gold Certificate and Nature Friendly Award by the Diocese of Lichfield Churchyard Award Scheme. We had several undercover visits to the cemetery by the judges during the year, and these are the notes taken from their comments and observations:

'This exceptional cemetery is very well managed and has established strong supportive links with the local community. A comprehensive management plan has been developed and is now being implemented, including actions to support wildlife and promote biodiversity. There is a clear regime for the management of the grass, with grass





through long grass areas. A board in the meadow area gives information about the flowers and other wildlife species there. The graves are kept tidy and benches around the cemetery provide spaces for visitors to reflect and to remember. Wooden signposts are used effectively to direct visitors to significant old graves. Keep up the good work and continue implementing the management plan. Please do convey our thanks to all who work hard and help to maintain the cemetery, it is a pleasure to visit'.

Other News

In July we spruced up the cemetery chapel and tidied the grounds for the Wem Sweet Pea Event. We saw lots visitors during the weekend, many of whom visited the grave of Henry Eckford. Others took the opportunity to see inside the chapel and were pleasantly surprised to find everything intact from when it was opened in 1892. In September we opened and manned the chapel again as part of the Shropshire Churches Ride and Stride Event. We saw many visitors again that day.

One member of our Group is a Master Composter and with her help we bagged and distributed some wonderful free compost this year. We have more ready to bag - please let us know if you would like some!

On Saturday October 19th we held a coffee morning in the Methodist Church Hall. Many thanks to everyone for their help and wonderful support!

Our next activity will be to decorate the eleven Commonwealth War Graves with poppies for Remembrance Sunday.



A NOTICE FROM THE DIOCESE

To Clergy and PCC Secretaries

Following the recent Diocesan Synod elections, I am writing to draw your attention to the fact that we need to elect a new Vacancy in See committee. This is not because we are about to enter a vacancy for a Diocesan Bishop but because we need to abide by national rules that expect these committees to be in place by January 1st next year.

Any lay person on an electoral roll is eligible to stand, as are all beneficed or licensed clergy.

The number of elected places depends on the spread of ex-officio members, meaning elected places are available as follows:

Lichfield Archdeaconry: 2 x Lay

Stoke-upon-Trent Archdeaconry: 2 x Clergy, 3 x Lay

Salop Archdeaconry: 1 x Lay

Walsall Archdeaconry: 2 x Lay

We would like to encourage the widest possible interest in this election. Can we ask you to announce this election in church and perhaps put up a notice about it. Anyone wishing to stand will need to be proposed and seconded by a Diocesan Synod member of the relevant house.

If any person wishing to stand needs to ask any questions about this please do not hesitate to get in touch with: jo.durber@lichfield.anglican.org

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. As ever
Julie Jones

This letter comes from the Chief Executive Officer of the Diocese of Lichfield, Julie Jones. It is self-explanatory. As we are in the Salop Archdeaconry, only one Lay person is needed to fill the post. If you feel that might be you please get hold of a member of the Clergy or your Parish Church Council Secretary (see pages 2,3 of this magazine)

The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Wem

FROM WEM PCC

It's very satisfying to be able to report that projects which the PCC has had on its agenda for some time are completed. The new church sound system went in on schedule at the end of September and hopefully we are all now getting the benefit, especially those who found the old system left them unable to hear properly.

Secondly, the hall kitchen is back in use, and considerably more hygienic, convenient and better equipped than before. It is encouraging to know that the kitchen has already been booked for a cookery workshop in November. There is still some work to do to increase storage space in the hall, especially for the Sweet Peas baby and toddler group and the Community Choir. Our hall has the potential to be a real asset both to the church and the community – but it needs someone to make its availability known, manage bookings and be a contact for people using it. If that person might be you, do talk to the Rector or one of the Wardens.

The Social Committee has been very busy, and no doubt the events they are organising will get a mention elsewhere. Looking outwards to welcome people into our building, for whatever purpose, is an important part of the church's role in the community.

Some members of the PCC attended a presentation on the Diocesan project entitled "Shaping for Mission", which set out some very challenging goals for the future, and asked us to tick some boxes about what we are doing well and where we fall short. Community engagement is one of our positives. However a significant weakness is our difficulty in catching the attention of younger people. Perhaps we should all be making this a subject for prayerful thought and consideration.

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH



Sunday November 24th at 5 pm in the Church Please come along for a quiet time together

LOOKING BACK AT HARVEST

What a marvellous display of flowers graced St Peter and St Paul's

for the Harvest Service on the first Sunday in October. They were a sight to behold. I wonder how many of you spotted the red squirrel nestling in one of the displays? Yes, a RED squirrel!

Here's the proof....

Of course, this was not the only display. An amazing Harvest Loaf sat on the brass lectern, flanked by apples (pomegranates?) and flowers, fruit and flowers on the window cill, the Altar step resplendent in a striking red array, and other parts of the church received their fair share of beauty.





The only thing lacking was produce!

No carrots, tomatoes, potatoes. No eggs,

It has been a difficult year — see Roger Ashton's report on Country Matters earlier on in the magazine — so it is to be expected.





What might have been?

But the flowers said it all and we thanked the good Lord for the beauty of his creation around us.







DASHER Floral Creations

Wreath Making Workshop In Aid of St Peters & St Pauls Church

15th December 4:30pm - 6:30pm St Peters & St Pauls Church Hall

Full Demonstration

Includes all materials, mulled wine and mince pies!

£25 per person

£10 non refundable deposit secures your place
To book contact Jackie on 07376 568706
or call into Dasher Florals, High Street, Wem



Book Early to Avoid Disappointment







Poppy Patient Participation (PPG) Poppy Poppy Patient Participation (PPG)

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

WHAT WE DO ON OUR HOLIDAYS!

Phoebe (and Roger) spill the beans...

Roger and I mainly stay in the UK for our holidays and when we are away on a Sunday, if the weather is not very clement, we go to the nearest church or if we are in a village having lunch at the local hostelry we will visit the village church, if open. This year we were privileged to visit 3 churches dedicated to St Mary one in Wales and two in North Yorkshire. I will tell you about the Welch church in this article and the two Yorkshire churched next month.

In early September we spent 3 nights near Beaumaris on Anglesey and as the Sunday weather was not very pleasant we took ourselves off to St Mary's and St Nicholas in Beaumaris for the morning service. This was conducted half in Welsh and half in English by a 90 year old Lay Reader called Doreen. She was physically quite infirmed but was as bright as a button and lead the service beautifully. Despite Beaumaris being quite a large town the congregation numbered about 15-20.

Following the service we were invited to stay for a cup of coffee and biscuits and we got talking to one of the key workers of the church. She was very knowledgeable because apparently Beaumaris is on the Cruise Ship circuit. These ships call into Holyhead and the passengers are bussed down to Beaumaris and given a guided tour of the very impressive castle built by Edward I in 14th century. However, the

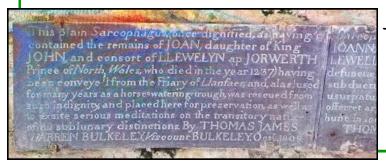
church is also on the visiting list and this lady and her husband have been trained to give a guided tour of the church which has many interesting historic features of which the following are a few.

One of the most interesting of these is a stone sarcophagus situated at present in the south porch, although there are plans to move it into the nave. This is the tomb of Princess

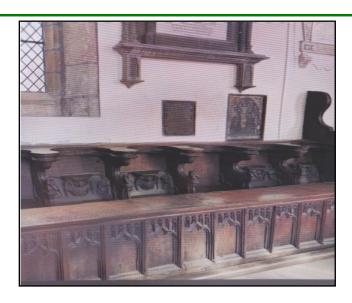
Joan, natural daughter of King John and wife of Llewylyn ap Iorwerth, Prince of North Wales. She died in 1237 and a company of friars was set up at Llanfaes where her remains rested. After the friary ceased the coffin was used as an animal trough! It was



rescued in the 19th century and taken to the Parish church in Beaumaris. There is also an 18th century watchman's box in the porch, possibly used for the minister when obliged to conduct burials in wet weather but also may have been used to guard the church from body-snatchers.



The slate plaques giving the above information in English and Welsh.



One of the other amazing features of this church are the 20 Misericords in the chancel. These date from the 15th century and probably came from the friary at Llanfaes two miles away. They were designed to allow the friars to rest against as they were forbidden to sit during the long hours of services. There are the most beautiful carvings on the underside of these seats depicting various scenes of medieval life.

In the churchyard, but not seen by us, are some graves where 8 of the people who drowned in a ship wreck en route from one of the North Welsh ports to Anglesea are buried, there are other graves in other local churches.

We were so pleased we visited St Mary's and St Nicholas. You just do not know what you will find when you enter one our historic churches!.





Come and join us for Coffee and Chat
St Peter's Church,
Lee Brockhurst
On Wednesday
20th November
Between 10.30 and 12.00

11th December (same time, earlier date)

and on

No charge but donations towards church funds are always welcome! Further information from Phoebe on 07858123669 or phoebe42.lee@gmail.com



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

WESTON NEWS



OUR HARVEST SUPPER

"A very happy time in the village hall to celebrate
Harvest in Weston under Redcastle,
on the evening of 7th October.

Tasty fish and chips arrived on time at 7.30
followed by gorgeous gateaux.

A really good get together with great camaraderie
and organised with a minimum of effort"

Bravo!



Empty plates—gateau was good! Cheers!



The Rector's table—smiles all round! Empty table—empty plates!



A Letter of appreciation and thanks from WHITCHURCH FOOD BANK

Hello Linda!

Thank you so much, for the Harvest Donations which were brought down to Bargates Hall at the beginning of the month, on behalf of St. Luke's Church, and Villagers, Weston under Redcastle (and which weighed 87.2 kgs - brilliant !!)

We are so grateful to you for your wonderful support — **THANK YOU**, **THANK YOU**!

Please do pass on our gratitude to your people for their support for our Food Bank this Harvest time - Bless you all.

Unfortunately, the donations to Food Bank have dropped off a little these last few months, in spite of Food Bank being busier than ever, caring for young families and others, who are at their wits end, trying to cope - BUT, at least, we are here for them, and so we are all the more grateful to all those Schools, Churches, and Chapels, this year, for their *wonderful* support this Harvest, helping to build up our depleted stocks.- thank goodness.

Where would we be without all the support we receive from you wonderful people, I ask myself so many times (I truly don't know the answer to that!)

Once again, MANY THANKS for your wonderful support for our Food Bank

With All Good Wishes

PAULINE STOKES - Secretary to Whitchurch Food Bank

THE ADVENT PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high
shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

Thank you very much to all our contributors.

The December/January Issue needs your input by the 18th of November, but definitely no later than 23rd, please.
All articles e-mailed to Phoebe Ashton phoebe42.lee@qmail.com

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