

MAY 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*

**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](http://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/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4601/)

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**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**

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](mailto:alisonhope18@yahoo.co.uk)

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**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

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**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

<b><u>SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN MAY</u></b>					
DAY	DATE	SEASON	WEM	WESTON	LEE
THURSDAY	1st		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	4th	3rd SUNDAY of EASTER	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 MP	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	8th	VE Day Service	09:30 HE 15:00 VEDS		
SUNDAY	11th	4th SUNDAY of EASTER	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 BCP
THURSDAY	15th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	18th	5th SUNDAY of EASTER	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	22nd		No Service		
SUNDAY	25th	6th SUNDAY of EASTER	08:00 HE 09:45 HE 17:00 P&P	11:00 HE 15:00 Baptism	11:15 MP
THURSDAY	29th	ASCENSION DAY	09:30 HE 19:00 DADS		

<p>HE—Holy Eucharist    MP—Morning Prayer    P&amp;P—Praise &amp; Prayer</p> <p>BCP—Book of Common Prayer</p> <p>VEDS—VE Day Service    DADS—Deanery Ascension Day Service</p>
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## Notes from the Editor

**MAY 2025**

Dear Readers,

How wonderful it was to have a long period of dry weather at the beginning of April! The hedgerows burgeoned with blossom and the trees began to come into leaf. Obviously, being the UK this weather did not last forever but nonetheless it gave everybody a lift in mood. Easter Day was also a beautiful day and St Peter's and St Paul's Church was decked out with beautiful flower arrangements and a large congregation. The service finished with the Wem Community Choir singing All in the April Evening and The Hallelujah Chorus. What a great experience. Also included is a lovely report on the whole Easter Day event by Kim Archer.



Now to the May Magazine. Firstly, an article on Moles, not my most favourite animal since they have recently taken residence in my garden and caused me much work. Also an article entitled Pop goes the Atmosphere, on our duty to help save our planet, a very important issue. Tricia's regular stories from the mouths of children and an article on hedgerows in Countryside matters, the latter very appropriate for the time of year.

Some lovely photos accompany details of the Citadel's Annual Garden Open Day which raises money for St Luke's Church and The Weston Village Hall. The usual advanced notice of the Coffee and Chat at St Peter's Lee Brockhurst and the annual Plant Sale at Val Lusby's.

This is just a taster, there are more interesting articles inside!

That's all for now! Enjoy the spring weather and please submit items for the June issue!

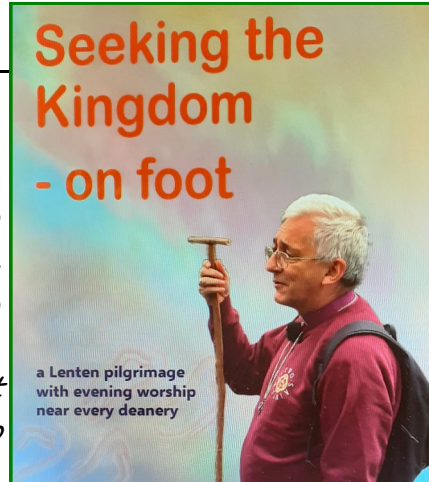
*Phoebe*

## Rob Reporting

### *A Walk in the 'Wild'!*

#### *Bishop Michael's Pilgrimage*

This was the introduction that Bishop Michael gave to his Lenten Pilgrimage which he made over ten days (3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April) in the Lichfield Diocese. (taken from the Pilgrimage Booklet published on-line and available to download)



#### **Introduction to Strategy and Pilgrimage**

*I'm delighted to be able to spend a few days walking in the diocese during Lent. Like St Chad, I find walking a great way to meet people with time to better get to know them, listen, reflect and encourage, slowly. At the end of each day I will be taking part in a celebration in a different church, to which I hope many will join as we worship together and search the gospels. I'm keen that as part of that, we talk about our diocesan strategy for the next few years as we continue our journey together as parishes, schools, chaplaincies, fresh expressions and the cathedral. It includes ambitious targets and we may not meet all of them, but it is good to set ourselves a challenge, and a goal so we have a set of destinations to head towards. Ten days of walking, meeting and praying. Ten days considering the ten strands of our diocesan strategy. Ten evenings of drawing together to study the Gospels, the same that, in Greek, Latin, Anglo-Saxon, English, Welsh and many other tongues, have inspired generations to Come, follow Christ.*

*The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave,  
99th Bishop of Lichfield*

On the Tuesday morning, 8<sup>th</sup> April, it was with a certain sense of trepidation that I met up with David Murray at St Alkmund's, Whitchurch, having agreed to join him and walk with Bishop

Michael on his pilgrimage. We were to start in Ellesmere, so what were we doing in Whitchurch? Well, to leave a car there so we could get back to Ellesmere after we had finished. Bad thing to do! My trepidation increased as we drove back to the start point – St Mary’s Church, Ellesmere. The miles kept mounting up, my eyes grew wider and the heart beat faster... we had been told that it was about fourteen miles walking the canal bank between the two towns – it seemed an awful lot longer in the car. Oh well, it was a lovely day.



Blake Mere

We met up with Bishop Michael and others from Ellesmere, Whitchurch and the Diocese, too, for coffee and a ‘sending out’ service led by Revd Pat Hawkins,

St Mary’s vicar. We needed every bit of help we could get! A steepish climb up from the church to what I took to be the highest point in Ellesmere before heading down to the canal. A lovely start – very pretty with Blake Mere on our left followed by Cole Mere on our right. Pippa’s two dogs



had a fine time – water, water everywhere; absolute heaven! The Ellesmere group knew a thing or two though, for they began to peel off at Cole Mere and return home on a circuitous route. The rest ‘slogged’ on. Bishop Michael walked very strongly (he had already walked the previous 5 days) with a changing group



The Ellesmere Tunnel

around him as they discussed diocesan strategy (I think!). When we had a chat it was mostly about my days as a tobacco farmer – that’s what being retired is about.



After Cole Mere the canal 'flows' through much more open countryside – 'flows' because there are no locks between Ellesmere and Whitchurch – theoretically the canal is the same level all the way. The canal path was flat, smooth at times and stony at others – and very little mud along the way thanks to the



Bettisfield and lunch

drier weather. Just after Hampton Bank the canal crosses into Wales and we left it at Bettisfield where we walked up to St John the Baptist Church for lunch. The group was

much extended by this time as some found the going harder than others - the rest and a bite to eat were very welcome. Packed lunches of every description were brought out of knapsacks – some trading went on – and lots of talk.

All too soon we were on our feet for the last push along the canal to Whitchurch. It took a bit of time, for again the group became quite extended. But that didn't matter. We took care of each other and, as Bishop Michael said, spent '*time to better get to know each other, listen, reflect and encourage, slowly.*'

It was a great experience, though unfortunately David and I had to get back to Wem and so missed the Bible Study, Evening Service and refreshments. The trip back to Ellesmere didn't seem so long this time – perhaps because I was driving!



Bishop Michael strides out to Whitchurch

## THE CHURCHES OF WEM AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DEANERY

This is the third instalment of my account of the churches  
in this Rural Deanery in alphabetical order.



### ST ANNE'S CHURCH, BURLTON

The small church of St Anne in Burlton is technically a mission room in the parish of Loppington. It was built in 1895 as a Sunday school room by Miss Anna Vaughan as a memorial to her mother, Mrs Anna Chambre Vaughan (née Massey) of Burlton Hall.



**ST ANNE'S, BURLTON**



This explains the dedication to St Anne, the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Miss Vaughan was a big masculine woman with eccentric habits and possibly high-church views. She carved the oak altar herself, and she regarded the church as her own, so that when she went on holiday she took the church key with her and no services could be held.



There are four stained glass windows in the church, a contrast with Broughton church which has none. The window behind the altar shows Jesus with children and the baptism of Jesus. The window on the south side of the altar shows St James and St Paul, and that on the north side shows St Thomas and St Andrew.

But the great surprise in this little church is the window near the door showing in one panel St Anne teaching her daughter Mary and in the other St Luke. The window was made in the studio of the very famous stained-glass designer, Charles Earmer Kempe. His studio produced over 4,000 windows in churches in the British Isles (including several in Hadnall church in this Rural Deanery) and abroad. Kempe died in 1907, but his partner and cousin, Walter Tower, carried on the firm until it closed in 1934. This window in memory of



Miss Vaughan, who died in 1925, was thus Tower's work. At the bottom left may be seen a wheatsheaf, Kempe's 'signature', with a tower, Tower's 'signature', superimposed on it.

I have a soft spot for this little church because it was where I took my first solo service as a newly ordained reverend deacon, Evensong on 23 July 1972. When I was much later Vicar of Loppington I had the unusual experience at Burlton of taking services in a church which was almost too small for the size of the congregation!

**William Price**



## Notes from The Diocese for May 2025



### Pop goes the atmosphere



I was inspired recently at a national Church of England conference for people working on environmental issues.

Held at the British Antarctic Survey headquarters in Cambridge, we got to hold and listen to 10,000-year-old ice: as it melts, gas escapes (which sounds like popping candy or a fizzy drink) and analysis of the gas not only gives insight into the atmosphere back then, but scientists are able to use their analysis to predict potential changes up until 2050. Probably even further ahead.

Some people think church and climate an odd combination of topics, but the Bible starts with God creating the world and all that

makes it up – land, sea and sky; seeds, plants and fruit; birds, fish and animals. Finally, he made humans to take care of it. ‘And God saw that it was good.’

We talk about ‘five marks of mission,’ shared with 80 million Anglicans worldwide, which are the basic things we do to express our faith. The fifth mark is ‘To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth’ and this has been backed up by various decisions made by General Synod.

The most challenging of those has been the adoption of goals to reach net-zero carbon emissions in our churches, vicarages and schools by 2030. This target is far more ambitious than our

Government's, but it is one I would agree is vital to combat the effects of climate change. It is a daunting and potentially expensive challenge when we take it seriously, but there is a scheme to help all churches work their way through the things that can be done – the quick wins (which some churches have even found saved them money) as well as the long haul. That's the Eco Church awards scheme which guides parishes as they master bronze, silver and hopefully gold-level achievements.

In Lichfield diocese we currently have about half our churches enrolled in the scheme, with nearly fifty reaching the silver level and we were thrilled to have our first gold award last spring. Even the diocesan office and our cathedral have achieved silver awards. It can lead to lasting improvements for our buildings and our churchyards – some even make life easier such as designating part of a large and old churchyard as an eco-meadow! Reducing the frequency of mowing can enable flowers, bees, butterflies, birds, insects and small mammals all to benefit as well as making our churchyards pleasant places to be.

Of course, we can't measure progress if we don't know where we're starting from. So we're actively encouraging churches to complete the Energy Footprint Tool which takes a straightforward look at the circumstances and usage of energy in our churches. Last year around half of churches completed that challenge, and our goal is to encourage all to complete it this year. It's not just a dull bit of bureaucracy, it can be very enlightening for creative and practical people to help their community – do ask your church leaders about your church.

A highlight of our conference for me was to hear the Church's lead bishop for the environment, Bishop Graham Usher. In his presentation he said something significant that stuck with me (paraphrased). 'We are all living in the Garden of Eden, we've been called to tend it and we have a responsibility to do that.' Would you Adam and Eve it?!

*Jan Firth (lower) is Diocesan Environmental Officer, assisted by Fiona North (above), Parish Project Support Officer. The penguin performs no useful role in the diocese.*

*For more information about the Eco Church scheme, contact Jan at [jan.firth@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:jan.firth@lichfield.anglican.org) or visit the A Rocha website, [www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)*





## Learning to love moles!

Many of us rarely if ever see an actual mole and apart from Moley in *The Wind in the Willows*, the other famous mole is '*the little gentleman in black velvet*' toasted by Jacobites as William of Orange is said to

have died following a fall after his horse tripped on a molehill.

We do however see signs of moles, their molehills. Moles breed in spring, between February and June and this is a time when we see new molehills that have been



dug by male moles expanding their tunnel network in search of female mates. They also create spherical nests which they line with dry leaves and grass and the moles will sleep in these nests as well as rearing young there.

Male and female moles spend most of the year alone, living underground and feeling their way around their network of tunnels using their sensitive noses and also their tails.



They have poor eyesight and are at risk from predators when above ground but underground they are in their element, using large, spade-like forelimbs to expand the tunnel network as needed. Most of the tunnels are permanent and quite deep and may cover hundreds of

metres. Moles are fiercely territorial, familiar with their own tunnels and using them to suit the season. In colder or drier weather they head for their deepest tunnels where their main food, earthworms, will be found. A tunnel network is thought to last for many years, through several generations of moles.

Moles feed mainly on earthworms. They create a winter 'larder' by storing earthworms in a chamber, keeping them alive but immobilising them with a bite to the head segment. Up to 450 worms have been found in one chamber.



Moles used to be killed in large numbers by trappers to make moleskin clothes from their pelt, and were thought of as a problem needing controlling. Actually, moles are both friend and foe to the site manager, friends as they eat many pests such as wireworms, slugs and snails and also aerate the soil with their tunnelling, foe as they throw up molehills which some see as a problem. There are numerous theories as to how to get rid of moles: burying glass bottles, garlic or elder twigs pushed into the molehill to name a few. Poison and traps are cruel and are not recommended. Actually, getting rid of your resident mole may not be a good idea as it leaves a territory open for another mole to move in. It may be best to learn to live with your mole and to press molehills back into the ground or move the soil to flowerbeds or planters. The bare ground they produce also makes space for wildflower seeds to germinate which may not happen in a tight grass sward. So all in all, moles add to the rich diversity of life found within our churchyards and we need to learn to love them!

**Harriet Carty, *Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*,  
[harriet@cfga.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cfga.org.uk), [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)**

Individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials.

Use the discount code diomem22





## COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS — MAY 2025

from ROGER ASHTON



### *HEDGEROWS*

Hedgerows have been an integral part of our beautiful countryside for many centuries, but very much increased by the Enclosure Acts starting in the 1750's which at that time disadvantaged the peasant farmers and their use

of extensive common grazing land and gave greater power to Landlords. Government regulation has also affected the growth and demise of hedgerows from that time to the present day. Large scale hedge removal began after the Second World War to address national food shortages. Then in the 1970's there were the Farm Improvement Schemes funded by grants from The European Economic Community, as it was known then, and a shame it did not stay as that! They added to the intensification of agriculture and targeted a goal of food surplus, the idea being to store this surplus in huge refrigerated ships then release it back into the food market if there were shortages to maintain a balance of supply and demand. Unfortunately these surpluses became too large, at great cost to the tax payer, and the scheme was abandoned. It also led to vast hedge destruction particularly in the big arable areas of the south east.

Hedgerows of course provide boundaries, shelter for livestock, reduce soil erosion and provide a home for vast amount of wildlife from tiny insects to endangered small birds and animals the size of badgers, foxes and rabbits. Drainage is helped too if there are ditches alongside. Hedges have to be maintained and looked after

and the old tradition of laying a hedge is still practised as a means of keeping dense growth low and improving its ability to keep livestock in place. However environmental regulation in more recent years has brought about a big increase in height and



mechanical flail hedge trimming only allowed every two or even every three years, the argument being that it improves habitat for wild bird life and all other hedgerow dwellers. This has a down side as flail trimmers work most efficiently on one year's growth and keeping hedges low means they are much denser. At three years growth the flails smash the ends of the branches! Hedgerows now have become important in mitigating climate change, and increasing biodiversity. The new farming environmental land management schemes and countryside stewardship schemes have involved hedges as a vitally important part of addressing a way forward. Very recently laser scanning has shown that hedgerows can capture carbon at twice the rate of woodland due to their linear three dimensional structure. Interestingly hedges have been related to reducing risk, the old adage "hedging your bets" and in recent years the hedge fund, an investment procedure for managing risk. Pertinent points in this present time of climate change and carbon net zero targeting!

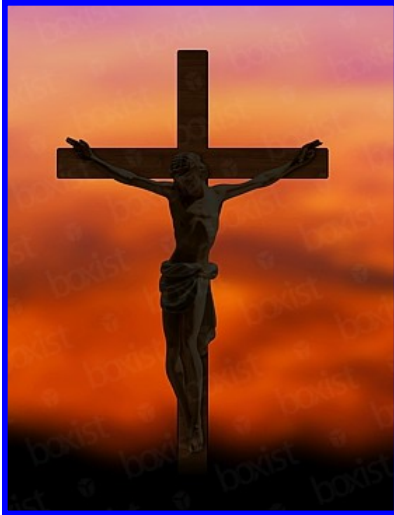


Lots of public footpaths run alongside hedges, get out there and enjoy the therapy of our glorious British countryside, especially now with all the fresh late spring and early summer



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

**Help me to say "Yes"**



Marked by the joy of one's first self-giving, the committed Christian can no longer retreat. Aroused by love, their emotions have helped them to surmount all obstacles. They are swept along, pushed along by those whose demands become more and more pressing. And now God appears, no longer hidden behind others, but in full light. He asks to be received and given first place in their lives and activities. The Christian who has recognised him often runs away, for they know that God will ask of them total and unconditional self-giving. Relentlessly the Lord pursues them to get the consent which will make their lives divine.

Only those who have experienced this 'wrestling' with God can really understand this prayer: 'Help me to say "yes"'.

A painful stage; the educator, the friend must understand it. Tactful—not to hinder God, for he has himself just undertaken the training of his child—but there to enlighten through faith where needed. Helping them to recognise the Lord, interpreting the question that love asks constantly through the events of life, pointing out his invitations, his advances, his wooing; he must encourage the Christian and urge them to say 'yes'. If it hurts, it is because of their resistance; they must be helped to discover this. For one is always the loser when one battles with God. He is the stronger. His *love* is the stronger.

**Luke 1:28-38**

*The angel went to Mary and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'*

*Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father*



*David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.'*

*'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'*

*The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.'*

*'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.'*

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I am afraid of saying 'yes', Lord. Where will you take me?

I am afraid of drawing the longer straw,

I am afraid of signing my name to an unread agreement,

I am afraid of the 'yes' that entails other 'yeses'.

And yet I am not at peace. You pursue me, Lord, you besiege me.

I run after noise for fearing of hearing you, but in a moment of silence you slip through.

I turn from the road, for I have caught sight of you, but at the end of the path you are there awaiting me.

Where shall I hide? I meet you everywhere.

Is it then impossible to escape you?

But I am afraid to say 'yes', Lord.

I am afraid of putting my hand in yours, for you hold on to it.

I am afraid of meeting your eyes, for you can win me.

I am afraid of your demands, for you are a jealous God.

I am hemmed in, yet I hide.

I am captured, yet I struggle, and I fight knowing that I am defeated.

For you are stronger, Lord, you own the world and you take it from me.

When I stretch out my hand to catch hold of people and things, they vanish before me.

It's no fun, Lord, I can't keep anything for myself.



The flower I pick fades in my hands. My laugh freezes on my lips.  
The waltz I dance leaves me restless and uneasy.  
Everything seems empty, Everything seems hollow,  
You have made a desert around me. I am hungry and thirsty,  
    And the whole world cannot satisfy me.  
Yet I loved you, Lord; what have I done to you?  
I worked for you; I gave myself for you.  
O great and terrible God, what more do you want?  
Child, I want more for you and for the world.  
Until now you have planned your actions,  
    but I have no need of them.  
You have asked for my approval, you have asked for my support,  
    You have wanted to interest me in your work.  
But don't you see, child, that you were reversing the roles.  
I have watched you, I have seen your good-will,  
And I want more than you, now.  
You will no longer do your own works, but the will of your  
    Father in Heaven.  
Say 'yes', child. I need your 'yes' as I needed Mary's 'yes'  
    to come to earth.  
For it is I who must do your work,  
It is I who must live in your family,  
It is I who must be in your neighbourhood, and not you.  
For it is my look that penetrates, and not yours,  
My words that carry weight, and not yours,  
My life that transforms, and not yours.  
Give all to me, abandon all to me.  
I need your 'yes' to be united with you and to come down to earth,  
I need your 'yes' to continue saving the world!  
O Lord, I am afraid of your demands, but who can resist you?  
That your Kingdom may come and not mine,  
That your will may be done and not mine,  
Help me to say yes.

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

## CHILDREN'S QUESTIONS TO GOD

Dear God

My name is Simon. That's from the bible. I am eight and a half. We live across the street from the people have a dog



name Buster. I used to have a hamster but he got out and ran away. I am small for my age. My hobbies are swimming, bowling, my chemistry set reading, coin collecting and tropical fish.

Right now I have three kinds. Well I guess I've said a mouthful,

Good bye

always a friend Simon

Dear God

I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody the whole world

There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it

Nan



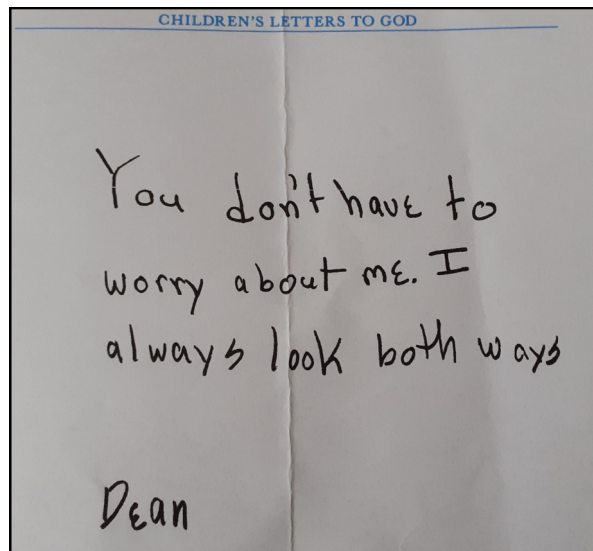
Dear God

of all the people who work for you I like Peter and John the best

Rob

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

...and a special hand drawn one!







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



### Easter Sunday at St Peter & St Paul's Church

Waking up to beautiful sunshine and the realisation of our risen Lord I knew this was going to be an extra special day. And it was.

The congregation arrived in their finery and packed the church. The first thing I saw was the beautiful floral arrangement over the cross, stunning and poignant.

The service was conducted beautifully by Rev Rob Haarhoff.

And the Hymns and responses were led admirably by St Peter & St Pauls choir. The choir notably performed a lovely version of Mozart's 'Ave Verum Corpus' during Communion.



At the end of the service the Wem Community Choir & St Peter & St Pauls choir joined together led by Michael McDermott at the nave of the church to sing a beautiful rendition of 'All in the April Evening' sensitively depicting Christ's crucifixion. But it was the choir's performance of the 'Hallelujah Chorus' that was truly memorable.

The Congregation stood to witness this wonderful piece sung with gusto and pure joy.





As I sing in both choirs, I can only vouch for the fact that this was an emotional and amazing experience and was well received by the congregation. I felt very proud to have taken part in such a rousing piece of music and

hearing other members afterwards they clearly felt the same.

Yes, Easter Sunday had truly been an extra special day...

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Kim Archer





## 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

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### SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MAY—3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

### THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY

15:00—80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day Service

### SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MAY—4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

### SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY—5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

### THURSDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY

NO SERVICE

### SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MAY—6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

17:00—Prayer & Praise

### THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MAY—ASCENSION DAY

19:00—DEANERY ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

*(at St Peter and St Paul's, Wem)*



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

***“Growing in Faith, Hope and Love”***

## WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH



Sunday 25th May  
at 5 pm in the Church  
*Please come along for a quiet  
time together*

## COFFEE MORNINGS IN THE PARISH

### *Sip for Stroke Coffee Morning* *Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May in the Church Hall*

*Many of you will know that for much of my working life as a physiotherapist I worked with children with cerebral palsy so you may wonder why have chosen to support the Stroke association with a coffee morning. When we moved to Shropshire, I was fortunate to gain a post at 'The Orthopaedic' in the Orthotic Research and Locomotor Assessment Unit; in the main our patients were children with Spina Bifida and Cerebral Palsy and Adults with Spinal Cord Injuries. As the work of the unit expanded, the clinical gait assessment service provided assessment and treatment for adults and children with walking problems and thus, I came into contact with stroke survivors where we offered splints to assist walking.*

*Then I moved to Keele University as a research assistant on a research project that investigated treatments for the arm after stroke. The results of this work were presented at the Stroke Association Annual Conference. This opened my eyes to the work of the Stroke Association providing*

information and support to stroke survivors, their partners and carers and to doctors, nurses and therapists. This is done through their help line, website [www.stroke.org.uk](http://www.stroke.org.uk), publications, through support groups, funding research and conferences to share knowledge.

So I hope you will find time to come to St Peter and St Pauls Church Hall on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 10.00- 1200 for a scone & damson jam and a cup of coffee or tea (suggested donation £2) so that we can send them a generous donation to support this special charity.



### **CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS**

At a recent social group meeting we decided to hold coffee mornings on the following dates:

**May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 28<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup>, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

Elaine Shaw is coordinating volunteers for our coffee mornings. We have stalls for homemade cakes and preserves, a tombola and raffle. We would like to include a book stall so donations would be welcome. Donations of homemade cakes are always appreciated and if you would like to help with a stall or to make coffee please speak to Elaine.

*Sybil*



# PIANO RECITAL

by

Distinguished International Concert Pianist

*Sarah Beth Briggs*

with musical treasures chosen to appeal to all -  
by Mozart, Haydn, Schumann, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Poulenc  
and more

**St Peter & St Paul's Church, Wem**  
**Friday 20th June 2025, 7pm**



*"An artist of  
extraordinary magnetism"*

*1st in a new  
series of concerts  
by professional  
musicians*

**Tickets: £12** (under-18s free) - includes interval drink  
Contact: Elaine: 07969 511590 or Wendy: 07828 282996  
(or pay at door)

*The Parish Church of St Peter, Lee Brockhurst*

## St Peter's Church



Come and join us here on Wednesdays

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 2 — Sussex**

When I left London and settled in West Sussex as a Midwife one of the members of staff at Crawley Hospital encouraged me to join the local choir call Concordia of Crawley. This was a large mixed choir of about 120 voices, many more sopranos and altos than tenors and basses of course. Our conductor, Ron Sampson, was very ambitious for the choir and we sang mostly large choral works such as Bach's B minor Mass, Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony, Mozart's Requiem and also requiems by Verdi and Haydn. In those days (1960's) The Arts were blessed with good funding and we could apply for money to help with the expenses of putting a concert on with a scratch orchestra and first class soloists. The funding was provided by the National Association of Music Societies. Ron was very clued up about the funding and we sung quite a number of less often performed works because they attracted more funding. He always said if we wanted to sing The Messiah we would have to fund it ourselves because it is so popular. So instead we sang Benjamin Britten's War Requiem at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon with a top quality conductor Louis Fremaux. Because of the size of the work we joined forces with the choir of the University of Sussex. Delius's Mass of Life in the Dome Brighton with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and The Chichester Psalms in Chichester Cathedral. I have to say that leaving Concordia was a big wrench when I left Sussex for Shropshire.

Besides singing in Concordia we (my first husband George and I and friends) would regularly attend concerts at The Royal Festival Hall, the Royal Albert Hall and the Barbican when it was built. It was so easy after work or at the weekend to pop up to London on the train or of course to many other towns with concert halls in the South East. We also attended a few operas at Glyndbourne, the Touring Company not the posh company, tickets were very expensive even so. We also

travelled to Seven Oaks and Bromley for performances by the Kent Opera Company. Works like Verdi's Aida, and Benjamin Britten's Peter Grimes.

A particularly wonderful experience was hearing the clarinettist Gervais de Peyer playing a Concerto by Weber at Redhill Town Hall. This inspired me to want to play the clarinet and I asked our conductor how I could go about getting lessons. He recommended me to a peripatetic clarinet teacher at the local Comprehensive School. This teacher found a clarinet for me, taught me how to put it together and get a note and then the fingering. I had lessons for about 3 years but eventually gave up since I was having my lesson after the pupils and they kept dropping out which meant that he had to wait around until I turned up from my day's work. I kept the clarinet for some while but when George and I decided to downsize our piano I traded it in. An action I deeply regretted as it was a good quality clarinet.

I still kept up with my piano playing on an ad hoc basis. My father and mother moved down to live on the coast in East Sussex in 1965 because my father's health was not all that good and he needed to get out of London. He found a "light" job as a Caretaker at an Infants School. This entailed going into the school in the morning to light the boiler for the central heating; leaving the school when the teachers arrived and returning at the end of the school day when he would undertake the cleaning



aided by my mother who worked for free for several years until the number of classrooms increased and my father's hours also increased and he was able to have extra hours of help. On a Saturday they both

went into the school to do a thorough clean and when I visited them I would give them some help but also use the school piano to practice my favourite pieces. This went on for some 10 years when my father was forced to retire because his health deteriorated further. He loved this work, all the teachers were female and he called them “His Harem”.



*Scheherazade - The Harem*



# PLANT SALE

AT

THE GABLES, WEM



SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY

FROM 10.30 - 12.00

ADMISSION £3:00

TO INCLUDE UNLIMITED COFFEE  
AND BISCUITS

RAFFLE AND PRODUCE

ALL PROCEEDS TO ST. PETERS CHURCH  
LEE BROCKHURST

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TEL: 01939 235610



## Lee Brockhurst WI News—May 2025

At our April meeting we were enthralled with a talk by Dr Nigel Baker, a keen Shropshire kayaker entitled 'Paddling into the Past' where we learnt of his archaeological discoveries made in the River Severn and other waterways.

As 2025 is LBWI's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary we will be celebrating this with an Afternoon Tea in June where we will be entertained by Jean Finney with her Joyce Grenfell performance! As part of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we most recently enjoyed a trip to Gladstone Pottery Museum followed by some retail therapy at Trentham Gardens.

Our Book Club met up on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April and our Craft Club will be on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Our Summer Strollers re-convened on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April enjoying a saunter around Corbet Wood to include the delightful bluebells at Preston Brockhurst.

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](mailto:jjwoolfenden@gmail.com) who will be very happy to help.



*The Parish Church of St Luke,*

*Weston-under-Redcastle*

## WESTON NEWS



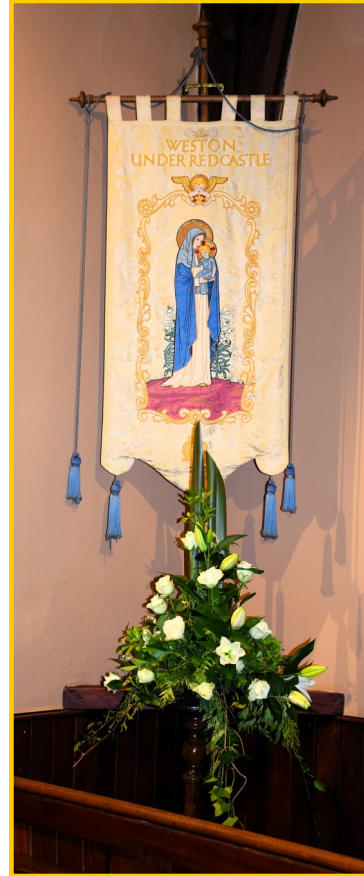
### *Easter at St Luke's*

The great celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Morning brought to a triumphant climax the Way of the Cross. We had made our way from Ash Wednesday through the forty days of Lent and Holy Week and the Last Supper to Jesus' arrest, trial and brutal crucifixion on Good Friday. But instead of a dismal end on the cross, on Easter Morning we embraced a new beginning as we boldly cried,  
"ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!  
HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!"



This joyful occasion of worship, song, word and prayer, shared with Christians around the world, was enhanced by the wonderful floral arrangements which graced our lovely church and embraced the glorious creative spirit of our loving God.  
ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!







# OPEN GARDEN AT THE CITADEL

“Paths wind through Rhododendrons, azaleas and  
camellias with lawns opening to the Shropshire  
plain and views to the Welsh hills.”

11<sup>th</sup> MAY from 2 to 5pm

The Citadel Garden Open  
Weston-Under-Redcastle  
SY4 5JY



from Shropshire Historic Churches Trust  
Gardens Open Newsletter May 2025

As we approach May our next garden open at The Citadel near Weston-Under-Redcastle has colourful, scented displays of rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas. The Citadel is a prominent castellated building of red sandstone built in 1824 in an elevated position overlooking Hawkstone Park. It was the dower house to the 4,000 sq mtr mansion Hawkstone Hall and once home to Sir Rowland Hill. Sir Rowland campaigned for the standardised prepaid postage system in 1837 and invented the world's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black.

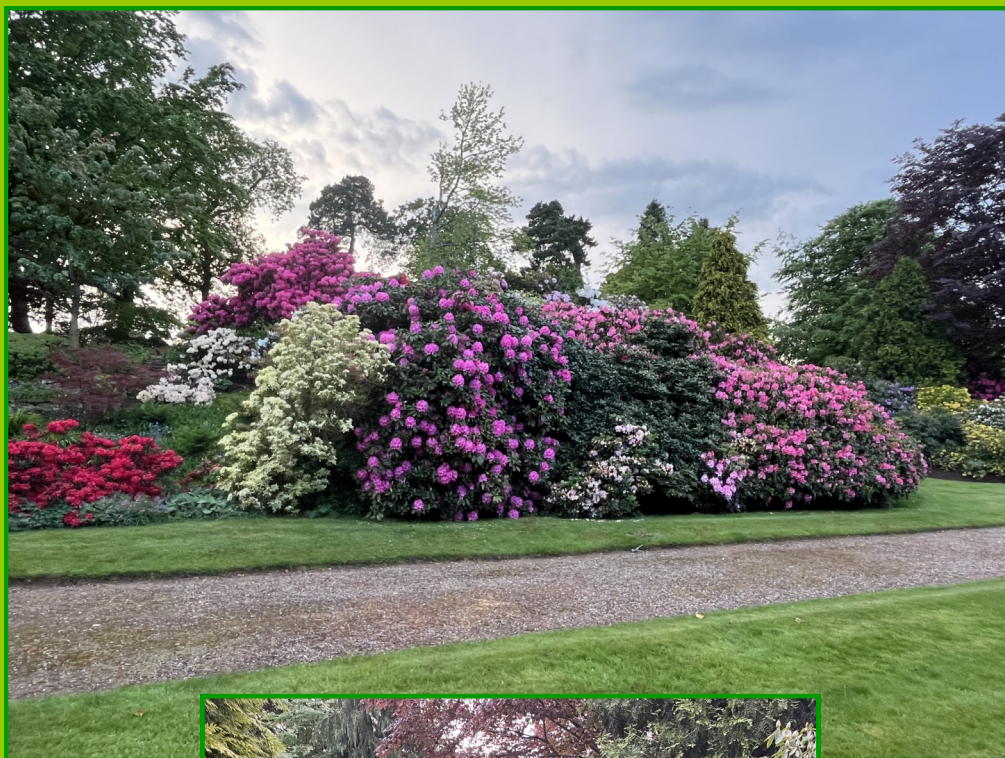
This immaculate garden, now owned by Sylvia and Beverley Griffiths, features a thatched summerhouse with views across the Shropshire plains to the Welsh hills. There is also a productive kitchen garden. Mature trees of oak, Scots pine and beech are under-planted with specimen trees providing year-round interest.

In the nearby ancient village of Weston-Under-Redcastle you can still see the village stocks outside the churchyard walls of the well-supported St. Luke's church, built in 1791.

*Teas will be served at The Citadel.  
Entry £6. Cash only. Sorry no dogs.*

Directions: Off the A49 on the Hodnet road in between Weston-Under-Redcastle village and Hawkstone Park Follies.









## *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.



### *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 JUNE ISSUE

needs your input preferably by **18th May,**  
**but definitely no later than 24th,** please.

All articles e-mailed to Phoebe Ashton

[phoebe42.lee@gmail.com](mailto:phoebe42.lee@gmail.com)

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