

JUNE 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
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

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

ST PETER'S, LEE BROCKHURST

Churchwardens

Val Lusby 01939 235610

Roger Ashton 01939 232425

Treasurer

Roger Ashton 01939 232425

PCC Secretary

Phoebe Ashton 07858 123669

PCC Lay Chairman

Tim Wilton-Morgan 07802 735769

Church Warden Emeritus

Robert Marsh 01939 200641

ST LUKE'S, WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE

Churchwardens

Frank Hosie-Kingham 01939 200618

Helen O'Neill 01939 200663

Treasurer

Colin Holloway 01939 200682

Church Warden Emeritus

Arthur Fox 01630 685180



LEE



WEM



WESTON

<u>SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN JUNE</u>					
DAY	DATE	SEASON	WEM	WESTON	LEE
SUNDAY	1st	7th SUNDAY of EASTER	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 MP	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	5th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	8th	PENTECOST <i>Whit Sunday</i>	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 BCP
THURSDAY	12th		No Service		
SUNDAY	15th	TRINITY SUNDAY	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	19th	Corpus Christi	09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	22nd	TRINITY 1	08:00 HE 09:45 HE 17:00 P&P	09:30 HE	11:15 MP
THURSDAY	26th		09:30 HE		
SATURDAY	28th	Armed Forces Day Service	11:00		
SUNDAY <i>St Peter & St Paul</i>	29th	Combined Benefice Service	10:00 14:00 HB	10:00 at WEM	10:00 at WEM

HE—Holy Eucharist MP—Morning Prayer P&P—Praise & Prayer
BCP—Book of Common Prayer HB—Holy Baptism

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Notes from the Editor

JUNE 2025

Dear Readers,

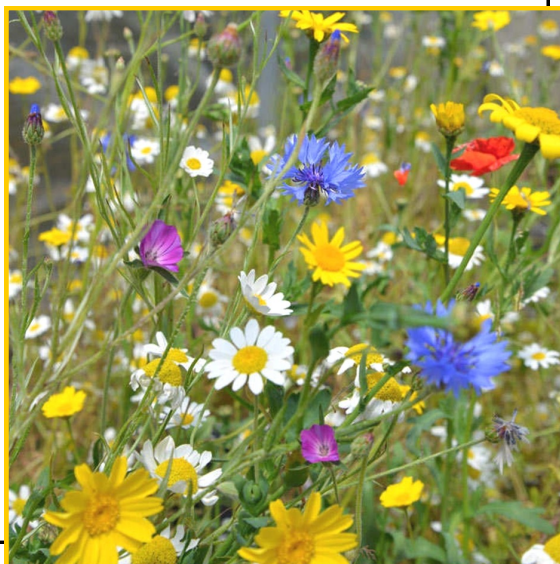
So where has the year gone, June already! We have had summer lots of warm, dry sunny weather, now we are back to cold, overcast and maybe rainy weather although so far in North Shropshire not much has fallen. Farmers and gardeners are all hoping for the promised rain to arrive.

The Christian year is rushing by too Easter is long gone and Ascension and Trinity will soon be with us and before we know it, it will be Patronal Festival day (a Benefice Service) and Harvest Thanksgiving. I won't go on any further!

So what is in the magazine for this month! Among other things Countryside Matters talking about soil, an interesting article about Dovedale House in the Staffordshire Peak District, an outward bound centre for children and young people run in conjunction with the Lichfield Diocese.

A "heads up" from David Hardham about Ride and Stride for Historic Churches Trust on Saturday 13th September and a look at your churchyard from Caring for God's Acre. Some more Children's Prayers from Tricia Bamford and the third episode of Music in my Life from yours truly.

Phoebe



Rector's Ramblings

Symbolism in a Church Service

Part Four

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

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.

This month I will continue this series of articles by considering the Offertory.

The Offertory

The in years gone by the Rector would receive alms from the people and distribute it to the poor. Indeed, in a previous parish in which I served, records show the Rector fining citizens, in an ecclesiastical court, for their failure to donate sufficient alms to the Church for redistribution!

One of the ways in which the Church supported the poor was by way of almshouses.

The history of almshouses stretches back to medieval times when religious orders cared for the poor. Originally called hospitals or bede houses, in the sense of hospitality and shelter. The oldest almshouse foundation still in existence is thought to be the Hospital of St Oswald in Worcester founded circa 990. It is believed that the



then Bishop of Worcester (St Oswald) created this sanctuary where the brothers could “minister to the sick, bury the dead, relieve the poor and give shelter to travellers who arrived after the city gates had closed at night”.

By the middle of 1500s, there were about 800 medieval hospitals spread across the country but the dissolution of the monasteries meant that many were either sold off to



Modern Almshouses

landowners or left to ruin. From this beginning the remaining almshouse, and newly built ones, began to be funded by the city guilds and wealthy philanthropists.

Today almshouses are a charitable form of self-sufficient, low

cost community housing that is held in trust for local people in housing need. They are managed and run by almshouse charities made up of local volunteers.

The offertory that we collect in our Benefice today is quite different and goes towards not only gifts to charitable organisations but also the upkeep of what we regard as “church” today.

Once the people’s offerings have been collected, they are brought to the altar where the minister may ask for a blessing on them. This is sometimes said after the Offertory hymn, but quite often during it. A prayer that I will frequently use is as follows:

“Lord, we ask that you would bless these gifts to your use and us in your service. Amen.”

Of course, in this day and age, people often don't carry cash and generously give to the church via electronic means, such as direct debit or a standing order. If you would like to donate in this way, please speak to your Church Treasurer.

In some churches the bread and wine are also brought to the altar during the offertory hymn. The symbolism with both the offering of money, and the bread and wine, can be thought in a similar way to the procession. That is, while we live our lives in the world, we bring some of the fruits of our labour into Church and offer it to God as a sacrifice.



Once the offerings are brought forward to the altar the great prayer of thanksgiving is said during which we remember all that Christ did for us. A consideration of this will be the next instalment of this series.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend John.



THE CHURCHES OF WEM AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DEANERY

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

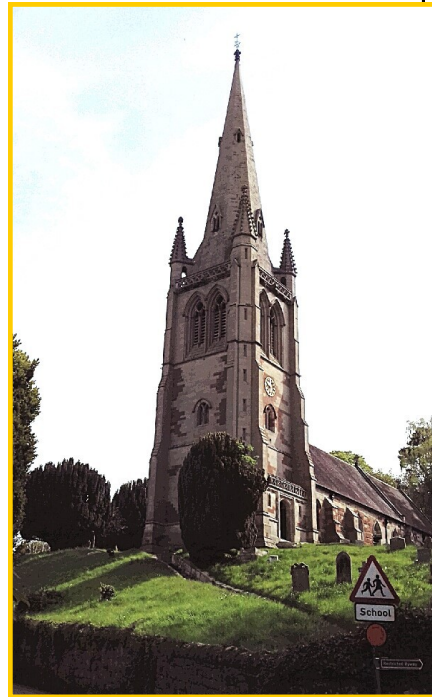


ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, CLIVE

For centuries Clive was a chapelry in the parish of St Mary's in Shrewsbury, but in 1860 it became a separate parish and within 34 years it had an almost completely new and very impressive church.

The old church consisted of a nave and chancel in one with a small turret containing two bells. Between 1849 and 1852 the church was 'restored', but all that remain of that building are the north and south doorways and parts of the walls incorporated into the new structure.

The present nave and chancel, built in 1885-86, together with the north porch, the vestry, and the organ chamber, housing the Willis organ, were designed by C. J. Ferguson,



a Carlisle architect. The work was financed, for over £5,000, by John Jenkinson Bibby, a Liverpool shipping magnate living in Hardwicke Grange in Hadnall, and Thomas Meares, a native of Clive who made a considerable fortune in the tea trade. A few years later, in 1892-94, the tower and spire, also designed by

Ferguson, were added, paid for by J. J. Bibby in memory of his wife, Sarah, who died on 19 May 1892.

No expense was spared in furnishing this church. As Dean Cranage, the author of a massive study of Shropshire churches wrote in 1912: 'Few churches in Shropshire or any other county are so elaborately fitted up. The carving of font, pews, lectern, pulpit, screens is as fine as can be seen almost anywhere in a modern building. The altar is a marble slab on carved woodwork. The reredos is an alabaster copy of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper". The chancel floor is of marble (now hidden under a carpet). The font has a fine wrought iron canopy'. The church has preserved its late Victorian character to the present day.



Under the tower is the beautiful and spacious baptistery. In the tower are six bells, reputedly the eleventh heaviest peal in the world. The clock of 1894 is by Smith of Whitchurch.

Every window is filled with stained glass made by the London firm of Clayton and Bell which makes the interior of the church dark even on sunny days. The windows in the nave show the twelve apostles, and windows in the chancel show St Timothy, St Luke, and St Titus, and St Paul. The east window is of Christ in Majesty, surrounded by saints. The vestry screen shows the four Marys at the Crucifixion, and at the end of each truss in the nave are angels representing female saints. All these saints are

very appropriate in a church dedicated to All Saints! The other window in the nave shows the Good Shepherd and in the west window are pictured the Magi visiting the



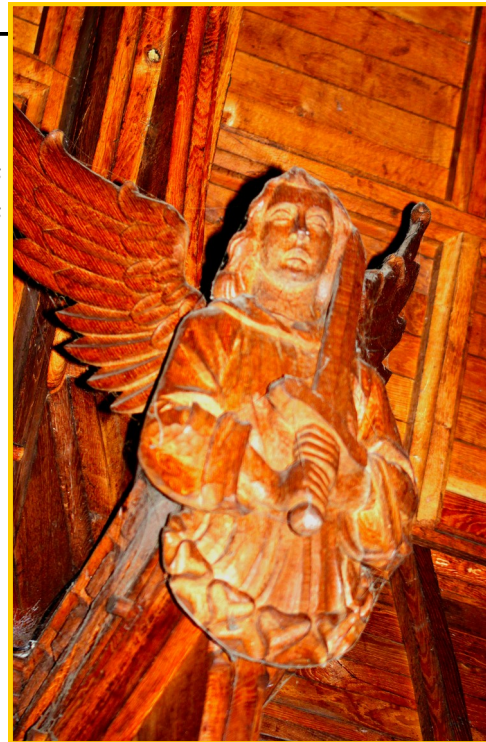
infant Jesus, the baptism of Jesus, and the Shepherds at the cradle in Bethlehem. In the vestry is a window made by John Davies in 1876 showing the Ascension of Jesus. This had been the east window of the old church until it was displaced by the new window.

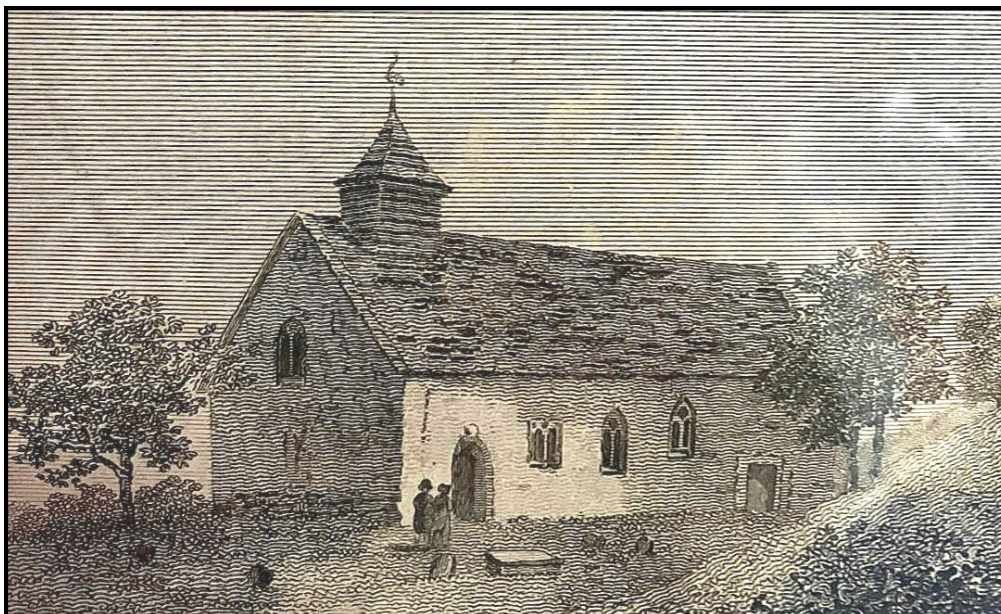
At the entrance to the churchyard stands the lychgate in memory of the Revd John Cooper Wood, Vicar of Clive between 1874 and 1903, that is during the whole time that the church was transformed.

To quote Cranage again: 'The church is now one of the finest modern buildings in Shropshire. Standing boldly on the slopes of Grinshill Hill and seen from many miles away, its tower and spire form one of the most prominent objects in the county'.

Clive church is open every day and well worth visiting. The website of the Clive and Grinshill History Group gives details of dates of guided tours of the church and also of how to obtain a sumptuously illustrated history by Bryan Bishop.

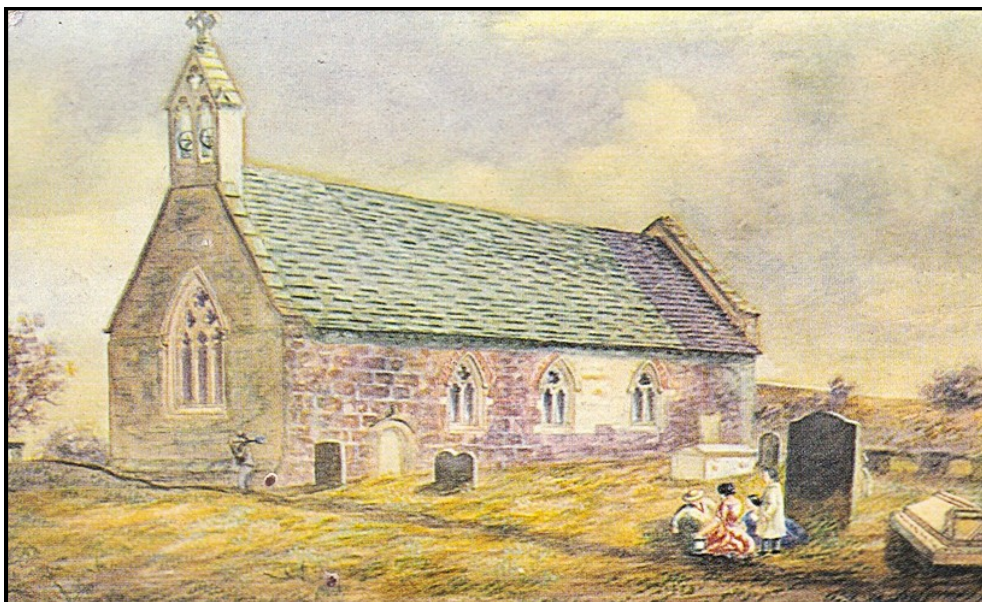
William Price





Clive Church before 1851 (*marked 1796*)

Clive Church after 1851



Notes from The Diocese for June 2025



Making Memories



Recently I walked with a friend to the stepping stones at Dovedale. He suddenly stopped in his tracks and said "I just remember the last time I walked across these steps. It was 65 years ago. I was 11 years old."

A few weeks before, I was talking to a seasoned head

teacher whose face lit up when I mentioned the same place. He shared vivid memories of a childhood stay at Dovedale House while at primary school. Why do I mention these memories?

Most teachers, administrators, school governors and youth workers appreciate an immense privilege to help develop hope and aspiration among young people. If it works as we plan,



young people in our context are happy and they move on with life-long positive memories. Dovedale House was birthed in 1967 with that same vision, that it can be a Christian place where positive life-long memories are created for young people. Everyone remembers the excitement of a first school trip, the coach journey, sharing a room with friends, getting out into amazing countryside, climbing hills, walking by rivers. All these are at Dovedale House.

Hills, rivers and the great outdoors, feature so much in the Gospel accounts of Jesus's ministry. It was there that people became followers of Jesus, and also where people grew in their discipleship journey, where they learned about a vibrant faith being one where reaching out and serving others was pioneered.

We read that Jesus taught the Christian faith while sitting, standing or walking on hills, he was transfigured, arrested and subsequently crucified on a hill. Jesus was himself baptised in a river, and many people followed his example. The majority of



recorded miracles took place in the great outdoors. The common feature of all these stories is that God revealed himself, and this created memories that have lasted forever.

Dovedale House provides a fabulous 50-bed setting, where you bring

children and youths, to enhance the hard work that you currently do, to give hope and to raise aspirations for a great life. It is a breath-taking place where we can help young people make lifelong positive memories. In order to fulfil our dream and

yours to accomplish this, we need your help. If you have links to any school or youth work, please can you introduce the Dovedale House opportunity in your places of education, and amongst your peers. At present there is even an offer of a bursary to ensure that no one misses out on making positive life-long memories.

The Revd Jeremy Oakley 'retired to the countryside' from work as a vicar in Wolverhampton and with his wife, Julie, soon found himself offering to take on the role of interim warden of Dovedale House.

Read more about Dovedale House at lichfield.anglican.org/Dovedale or contact Jeremy by email - dovedalewarden@lichfield.anglican.org





Profusion in June

June is a great month for spending time close to nature in your local churchyard or cemetery. The second week of June sees three initiatives; Love Your Burial Ground Week with Churches Count on Nature and

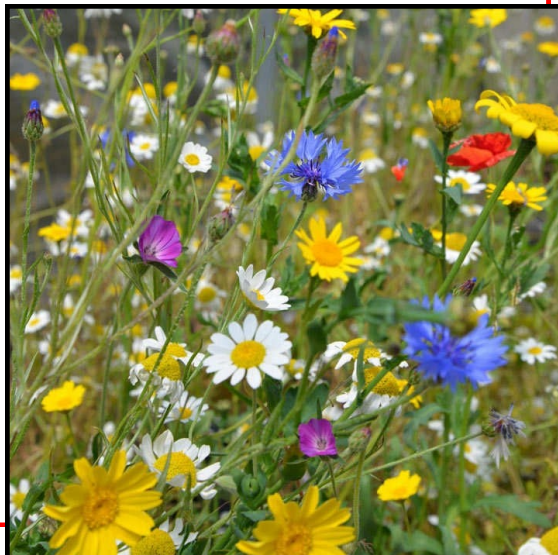
National Cemeteries Week all taking place in celebration of these special places and the fantastic volunteers who care for them.

You may be able to attend an event as part of one of these, take a look on the Caring for Gods Acre [map of events](#) to see what is happening near you but if not, please go to a



churchyard, chapel yard or cemetery on your own, with your family or friends and see what you can see.

Wildflowers may be present in profusion if there is a meadow area, look out for oxeye daisy, lady's bedstraw, vetches, cat's ear, hawkbit amongst others. Is there a patch of medium length grass, where shorter-stemmed plants can flower without the mower cutting them off? If so search for bird's eye speedwell, self-heal, red clover, buttercups





and medics. Burial grounds can be rich in species as they contain a mosaic of habitats, with large trees, areas of shaded woodland, stonework as well as grassland of varying lengths. The butterflies to be found can be a mix of species usually found in woodland, grassland and scrub. In June you may find a rich array, look out for comma, red admiral, small copper and common blue which favour shorter vegetation such as grasses and nettles for laying their eggs, all plants found in meadows or in the dappled shade of a woodland or large tree canopy. You may catch a glimpse of a yellow brimstone, which lays its eggs on buckthorn, a woodland shrub.



June is also a good time to site quietly and watch birds busily feeding young, darting in and out of nests. Again, burial grounds can be rich in birds which may also use neighbouring gardens. The church itself can host house martins under the eaves, swallows in the porch or lychgate and perhaps swifts, nesting invisibly in the eaves or in boxes behind tower louvres. A visit in the early evening may be rewarded with the sound of screaming swifts circling around the church building.

Please let us know what you see and hear, be it plant, insect or bird. You can record species using a smart phone and the iNaturalist or iRecord app, by email or by post. Open this link to find out [how to make a recording](#) or visit our website.

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

COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS — JUNE 2025

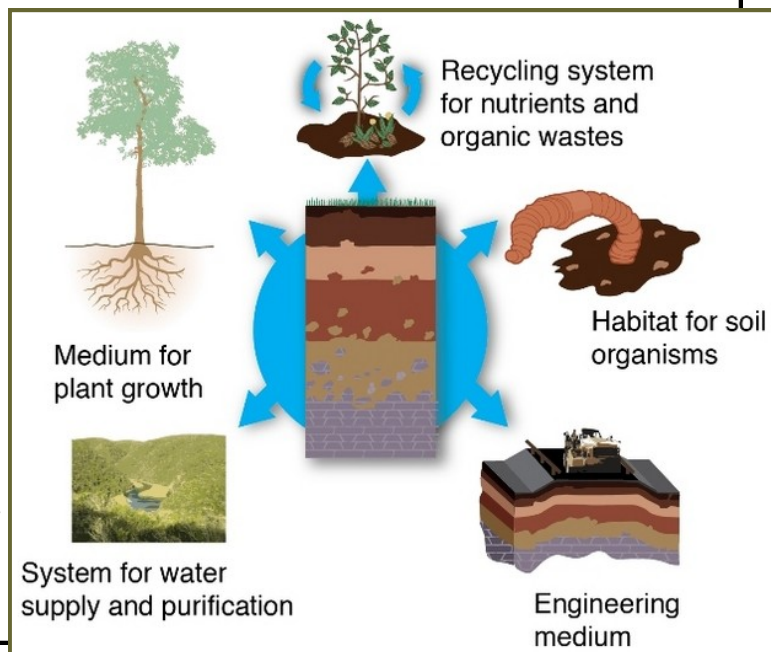
from ROGER ASHTON



SOIL

For human survival on Planet Earth God has blessed us with some essentials; light from the sun, air to breathe, water to drink and soil to grow plants. This combination of light, the atmosphere, the

seas, and the land creates the World's climate with all its volatility. Soil is also known as earth and the name of our Planet is Earth so that tells you something! Soil provides the basis for our food and the food for our animals, domestic and wild. It contains minerals, organic matter, the vast mix of microbes, water and gas. It can vary from the light sandy type through to loams, the river alluvial soils, the peaty soils and to the heavy clays and it is a great pollution filter. Top soil can vary in depth from an inch to over a foot. Its acidity or pH value has a range from the





acid peaty soils to the alkaline limestone soils, a good balance would a pH of 6 to 6.5; and what about soil temperature? In our seasonal UK temperate climate daylight hours

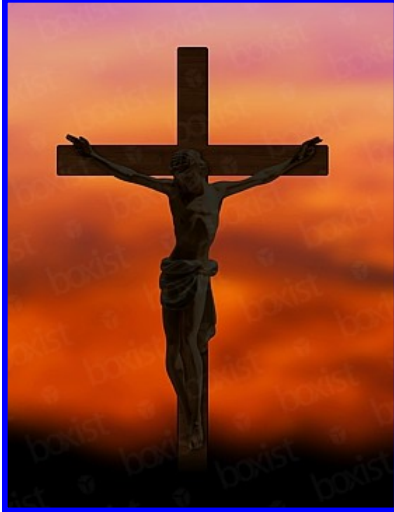
and sun strength warm and cool so we get the vigorous growth in the spring and early summer and the winter slow down. Quantity of soil in the UK is shrinking as more housing, industrial estates and transport infrastructure are built. What about quality? Well the vital parts are the organic matter and humus levels which help to hold moisture and natural nutrients. Healthy soil is alive with earthworms, insects, beetles, fungi and bacteria, they help to aerate and break down organic matter and minerals so the plants can thrive. That material comes from vegetation and the dung of animals, so animals can play a vital role in building soil quality; it is a well known fact that agricultural rotations are there to keep the soil in a healthy state so after crops there is a rest and restoration grass break where grazing animals can feed the soil. The thinner soils of the uplands greatly benefit from these grazing cattle and sheep. Healthy soil resists drought and flood erosion, so important now with climate change so let us celebrate the living soil, nurture it and feed it; I know all enthusiastic gardeners will know the value of composts. Good soil is happy soil and I'm sure that reflects back to us.

You could say soil is good for the soul!



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

Nothing, I am nothing



Man does not know himself. No matter how carefully we examine our consciences, we find nothing very blameworthy. We are not humble. Try as we may to think poorly of ourselves, we never succeed in destroying our self-esteem. At first the committed Christian, having left himself for others, finds success in his undertakings, and gives himself credit for it. But in so doing he hinders God. It is only when we are deeply aware of our utter helplessness that God can begin to accomplish all. Fortunately, when we efface ourselves to make room for our brothers and

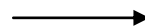
sisters, God enters, and with him, his light. In this light we see ourselves and the tiniest threads of our actions. We no longer need to tell ourselves that it is God who directs our actions and makes them effective— *WE KNOW IT*. The Christian must be urged not to shy away from this painful revelation, not to be discouraged, for this experience is a God-given grace, without which we would never have known the greatness of God and the smallness of our humanity. May we never forget it.

John 15:5

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'

John 15:5

'Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son'.



Lord, you wanted it, here I am on the ground.
I don't even dare rise, I don't even dare look at you.
Nothing, I am nothing, I know it now.
Your light is terrible, Lord, and I would like to escape it.
Since I have accepted you, you have bared my dwelling.
Every day, mercilessly, your light uncovers it,
And I see what I have never seen before.

I see the forest of my sins behind the tree that hid them.
I see innumerable roots, impossible to grasp,
I see everything in me is an obstacle to you, as the smallest
particle of matter blocks the sunlight and brings on the night.
I see the devil attacking the key-points of the fortress that I
thought impregnable, and I find myself tottering and ready
to fall.
I see my helplessness, I who thought that I could make myself
of value to you.
I see everything in me is mixed, and that none of my actions
is pure.
I see the infinite depth of each fault in the face of your infinite love.
I feel incapable of reaching a single soul, through the noise of my
words, and the wind of my gestures.
I see the Spirit blow where I haven't toiled, and the grain take
root where I haven't sown.

Nothing, I am nothing, I accomplish nothing, I know it now.
Your light is hard, merciless, Lord.
No corner of my life and soul remains in the shadow.
Turn as I may, your light is everywhere,
And I stand naked and full of fear.

Formerly, I admitted that I was a sinner, that I was unworthy,
And I believed it, Lord, but I didn't know it.
In your presence I looked for some faults

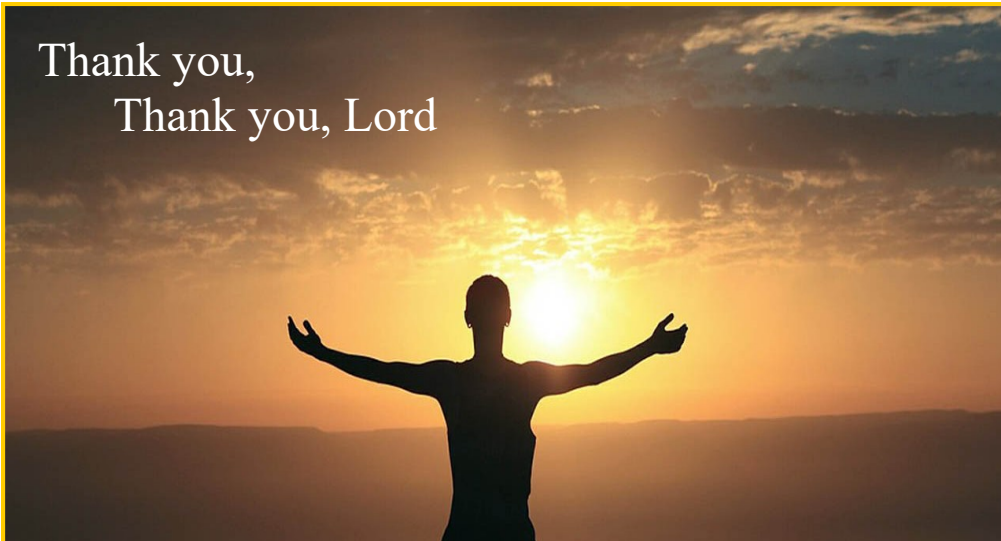


But produced only laboured and feeble confessions.
Lord, it's my whole being that kneels now,
It's the sin that I am that asks forgiveness.

Lord, thank you for your light—I would never have known.
But, Lord, enough. I assure you I have understood.
I am **nothing**
And you are **all**.

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

Thank you,
Thank you, Lord

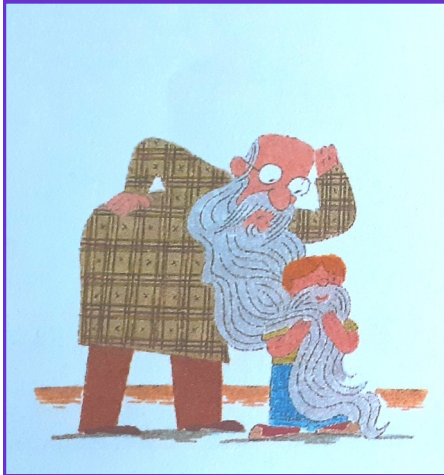


STAR OF BETHLEHEM



CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO GOD

collected by Trish Bamford



GOD,
I WOULD LIKE
TO LIVE
900 YEARS LIKE THE
GUY IN THE BIBLE
LOVES
CHRIS

Dear God,
My brother told me
about being born
but it doesn't
sound right.

Marsha



Dear God,
I like the story about Chanuka the
Best of all of them.
You really made up some good ones.

Glinn

RIDE+STRIDE – on Saturday 13 September 2025

Ride+Stride is an opportunity for YOU to raise money for your Church. Anyone can join in - collect **sponsors**, then plan your own route - walk, bike, **or car** - visit some churches - enjoy the day.

If you are busy on the 13th, go another day - which is what a lot of people do.

The **sponsorship money is split 50/50 between your local Church** and the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT), which awards grants for repairs and improvements to our Churches and Chapels. So 100% goes to our places of worship.

This is definitely a **‘Good Thing’**.

‘Ride+Stride’ is a National event by the National Churches Trust and Shropshire is pleased to join in. The basic idea is twofold:

- (1) Churches are open for visitors on Saturday 13 Sept from about 10 to 6, ideally with light refreshments (biscuits. squash; cake maybe).
- (2) Anyone can visit as few or as many churches as you wish. Go anywhere ... on foot, by bike, **or by car**, using our Sponsorship Form to collect sponsorship for your church and for the Trust.

‘Ride+Stride’ is **NOT** an event where church visits are centrally organised. We **do not have** a ‘central team’ that plans any walks or rides or drives.

NO ... It's **something that Churches can do for themselves**.

And **you** can do it for your Church. **Not rocket science!**

Just get some sponsors to back you on a church-based trip to some of our Churches.

The **Sponsorship Form** is on our website
www.shropshirehct.org.uk

Or contact me and I will get one to you. You can still go and visit

other churches, even if your own church is closed. Visiting is important; otherwise, the event will cease.

The County raised £38,446 last year - a record!

So our two Dioceses, Hereford and Lichfield, are encouraging it to grow - even in Parishes where the event is not well-known and the open churches get hardly any visitors. Yet.

This event has enormous potential - Dorset raised £98,629 last September. My cousin lives there and I'd love to catch up!

Please 'have a go' this year - **Help preserve our Churches in good repair; and help to keep them open for the future.**

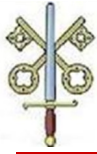
David Hardham (Trustee – and County Organiser for Ride+Stride)

Telephone: 01588 650362.

E-Mail: shrops.ridestride@gmail.com (Note: new email)

Full details on SHCT website: www.shropshirehct.org.uk





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



St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church

SUNDAYS

08:00—Holy Communion

09:45—Sung Eucharist

4th SUNDAY

17:00—Prayer & Praise

THURSDAYS

09:30—Holy Communion

SUNDAY 1st JUNE—7th SUNDAY of EASTER

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

SUNDAY 8th JUNE—PENTECOST

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

15:00—Confirmation Service with Bishop Sarah

THURSDAY 12th JUNE

NO SERVICE

SUNDAY 15th JUNE—TRINITY SUNDAY

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

SUNDAY 22nd JUNE—1st SUNDAY after TRINITY

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

17:00—Prayer & Praise

SATURDAY 28th JUNE

11:00—ARMED FORCES DAY SERVICE

SUNDAY 29th JUNE—ST PETER & ST PAUL PATRONAL FESTIVAL (BENEFICE SERVICE)

10:00—Holy Eucharist

14:00—Holy Baptism



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

“Growing in Faith, Hope and Love”

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH



Sunday 22nd June
at 5 pm in the Church
*Please come along for a quiet
time together*

A 'Thank You' letter from and for SIP FOR STROKE

Good morning Sybil,

Thank you so much for taking part in Sip for Stroke this Stroke Awareness Month, and raising a fantastic £210!

We are extremely grateful to you and St. Peter & Paul's Church in Shropshire for your incredible support.

We hope you enjoyed taking part in this fundraising challenge.

You really are fundraising superstars.

Very best wishes,

Jess and the Sip for Stroke team

Jess Parkin, Mass Participation Officer

North East and Yorkshire, Telephone—07961 624400



**240 people wake up
to the impact of a
stroke every day.**

www.stroke.org.uk

Helpline: 0303 3033 100

Textphone: 18001 0303 3033 100

Address: Stroke Association, Resource Centre, 1 Sterling Business Park,
Salhouse Road, Brackmills, Northamptonshire NN4 7EX



THE JIGSAW EXCHANGE

From June there will be an additional stall at our coffee mornings. I will be bringing jigsaws with the plan that you can take away a jigsaw for £2 or if you bring a jigsaw to exchange then you will be asked to donate £1.

I hope this will enable us to share our jigsaws and raise a little extra for church funds. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Sybil



The Church is looking for people to join our choir.
We practice on a Thursday evening in the Church
from 7:30 – 8:30pm.

Why not come along and give it a try.
You're guaranteed a very warm welcome!

For further information please contact Elaine on 07969 511590

JUNE
COFFEE MORNING

10:00 –12:00

**IN ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S
CHURCH HALL**

SATURDAY 28th JUNE

**Please join us for Coffee
and a Chat**

TOMBOLA *Raffle*

Bric a Brac

*Homemade Cakes
Jams, Marmalades
Chutneys*

**SS Peter
& Paul's
Church ,
Wem**

**Growing
in
Faith,
Hope
and
Love**

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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
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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
18th June, 16th 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

Episode 3 Shropshire

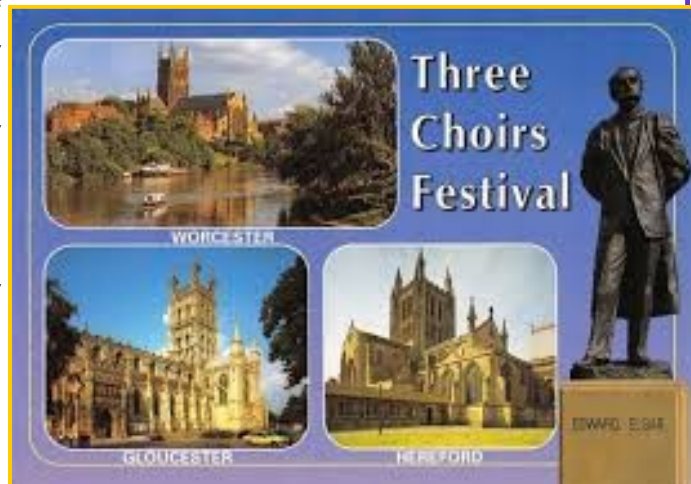
My first husband George and I moved to Shropshire in 1990 although we did not really settle here until 1993 on our return from our Round the World Trip to visit my brother in Australia. Once settled in Whixall I joined the Market Drayton Choral Society and thoroughly enjoyed the singing. However, the drive to Market Drayton on a winter's evening having travelled home from Stafford where I was based as a Midwifery Tutor became too much and reluctantly I gave it up. By then the funding was much reduced and we relied on our accompanist for the concerts, no orchestra or soloists.

The English Haydn Festival takes place in St Lawrence's Church, Bridgenorth every June. George and I formed the habit of attending at least one concert every year and occasionally two; sometimes as a couple, sometimes with friends. We started out having a picnic in the long interval in the castle grounds, (shades of Glyndebourne and champagne chilled in the lake)! However, we also picnicked by the river, a big hike down from Upper Town and then back again. Later we booked at restaurants but however carefully we explained that we needed quick service and would make our menu choices prior to the concert we were always missing our dessert or coffee as the restaurants just did not seem to understand the time constraints. Maybe we were expecting too much! Eventually we stopped attending as George's health deteriorated, I did go to one or two concerts with a friend after he died but much changed with the arrangements and I have not been since the early 2000's.

A good friend and I signed up to attend a series of concerts at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. These were monthly during the winter months and entailed driving to Nantwich to pick up a coach and travel into Manchester in the rush hour. The concerts started at 7.30 pm and on a number of occasions we arrived in the nick of time; on others we arrived so early that we had time to buy a coffee

before the concert began! Sadly, Covid and the age of the dwindling number of passengers meant it was no longer cost effective to hire the coach. Driving home at about 1.00 am on a winter's night was quite challenging at times.

I have been a fan of Sir Edward Elgar ever since I studied The Enigma Variations for GCE and had long wished to hear The Dream of Gerontius sung in Worcester Cathedral at the Three Choirs Festival. Living in Shropshire made attending the Festival a more convenient



option. My longed for dream became a reality, and Roger and I now visit the Festival every year whether it is held in Worcester, Hereford or Gloucester Cathedral. We have formed the habit of staying at the Malvern Hills Hotel near The British Camp wherever the Festival is held and travel down to stay for two nights and attend the last two evening concerts. Sometimes we also attend Choral Evensong in which ever cathedral town we happen to be.

I have kept up my piano playing over the years and always had a piano of some sort in my home. However, when I married Roger and moved to Wem and started attending St Peter's Church, Lee Brockhurst circumstances changed. In the beginning I was just a member of the congregation enjoying hymn singing but, after the incumbent organist had to go on a mercy mission, I offered to play the organ (a Hammond organ, not one with pipes). Henceforth I was the stand-in organist, gradually adapting to the different technique required. Sadly the organist was diagnosed with cancer and had to give up playing firstly after the operation and then whilst she had chemotherapy. On her return I used to act as a stand-by in

case she felt unwell towards the end of the service. However, very suddenly she suffered a stroke and died and I became “organist in residence” and I still am after some 10 years.



As many of you will know Wem Community Choir was set up about 13 years ago and I joined shortly after its inception. I also persuaded Roger to join as, like so many choirs, we were short of men. The music we sing is mainly items of a much lighter genre than I have been used to but I still enjoy the

singing and hope to continue for as long as I am able.

Music in my life would not be complete without a mention of Radio 3. I am an avid listener of this programme and was delighted that earlier this week the programme won several awards including Best Radio Station. Apparently the listener numbers have increased substantially, hopefully making Radio 3 safe from BBC cuts! My favourite programmes are Breakfast, which until recently was hosted by Petroc Trewlawny, who only last month moved to In Tune at 5.00 pm, and Tom McKinney who has taken over Breakfast from him. Beginning at 6.30 am they help me start the day although I have to confess that I rarely hear the first 20 – 30 minutes! My next favourite is Essential Classics 9.30 to 1.00 pm with Georgia Mann, except in the school holidays when someone else takes over. On her return we hear snippets about her children’s activities. I also listen to Choral Evensong on Wednesdays at 4.00pm or Sundays (repeat) at 3.00 pm.

I am sure there will be more music in my life in the future but this is it for now. Without music my life would have been so much poorer and my ability to cope with the stresses that life brings much less able to bear.

The Parish Church of St Luke,

Weston-under-Redcastle

WESTON NEWS



THE OPEN GARDENS EVENT

THE OPEN GARDENS EVENT FOR THE
SHROPSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST AT
THE CITADEL WAS A GREAT SUCCESS,
WONDERFUL WEATHER, RECORD NUMBERS,
LOTS OF HAPPY PEOPLE.
THE RESULT WAS £900 TO THE SHROPSHIRE

HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST AND £900 TO
ST LUKE'S, WESTON.
MANY THANKS FOR THOSE WHO SUPPORTED
US.

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.”







VILLAGE SHOW *SUNDAY 3RD 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.

We sort of take things for granted and suddenly we have a reminder of just how difficult life can be for many people, not only those in need, but also for the people who provide for their need.
HATS OFF TO THE WHITCHURCH FOODBANK AND THANK YOU!

.....

Whitchurch  *Newsletter*

To all our supporters and Referrers –

Thank you – here's the news!

Our apologies that the production of the newsletter has been somewhat delayed but as you will see below there has been a lot happening.

Succession Planning –

Recent decisions on the way forward

Most of you will be aware that for the past two years we have been undertaking a review of the operations of Whitchurch Foodbank particularly in relation to the age of its volunteers and future management of the charity.

Alan & Chris Scutt gave notice to the Trustees that they intended to retire from their work at Foodbank with effect from 1 July 2025.

It has not proved possible to identify anyone prepared to undertake their roles on a voluntary basis. The Trustees have therefore had to consider other ways for the work to continue. The continued support of all our volunteers has been amazing as we transition to a new phase of operation. Many having stepped-up and offered to undertake particular roles.

However, even though the roles required to keep the Foodbank mornings operating are now being covered, there is still 'back-office' work that is required to be completed each week. The trustees have therefore decided to employ someone to undertake this work in the role of **Project Leader**.

We are pleased to announce that **Hannah Adamson**, who has been one of our regular volunteers in recent years, has been appointed to the post of **Project Leader**. Hannah will continue to volunteer her time on Foodbank mornings but will be paid for the work undertaken at other times. Hannah will have at least a month of handover with Alan & Chris before she takes up the reigns early in July. Those who have visited or spoken with Foodbank recently will probably be already familiar with Hannah.



The trustees are confident the day-to-day management of Foodbank will be in safe hands as we move into a new chapter. This change will of course necessitate the Foodbank securing / raising additional income each year to cover the cost of this employment. If you currently support Foodbank and are able to increase your support or if you are not a regular supporter but would like to become one, then we would love to hear from you at trustees@whitchurch.foodbank.org.uk Remember a Gift Aided donation increases what we receive by 25%

Management Team

Hannah will be supported by the following Supervisors:

Sarah - Meet & Greet **Emma** - Stock **Barbara** - Fruit & Veg.

All are very supportive of Hannah's appointment and are keen to make the new arrangements work in as seamless a way as possible.

Other Changes

Our Foodbank currently has a Trust Deed as it's charitable governing document but this now needs replacing as amongst its limitations it does not permit us to employ anyone.

We are therefore presently undertaking the process of applying to become a CIO – a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Whilst you will see no difference to the way Foodbank operates, and we will still be known as Whitchurch Foodbank there is a lot of work needed to effect this change. It will mean that we shall be issued with a new Charity number. Once the full implications are known for our Referrers and financial supporters we shall write and advise you.

In view of all the work that is required and associated with this change Alan has agreed to remain as Chairman of the Charity until all the transition work has been completed. During that time Alan will work closely with Ian Francis who has agreed to take on the Chairman's role when Alan stands down. With our current treasurer having advised that he will be standing down at the end of the next financial year (June 2026) we shall therefore be looking for a new treasurer and new Trustees to replace Andrew and Alan. If this is a role you would be willing to consider then please write to the Trustees indicating your interest - trustees@whitchurch.foodbank.org.uk

Trussell Trust

You may have noticed in recent press releases that Trussell Trust have revised their branding and are now called just called Trussell. An example of their new logo and typeface are shown here →

Whilst we shall be introducing the new logo in



our communications and paperwork this will be done on a phased basis to avoid waste and unnecessary cost. We do not propose making changes to our clothing until such time as it is necessary to buy replacements due to wear and tear.

Demand

Sadly, the demand for a foodbank in Whitchurch which serves the town along with Wem and many surrounding areas still remains. We are often asked if there is real poverty in Britain. Are there really families in Food Poverty in Whitchurch and surrounding areas? Regrettably the answer is Yes.

There are too many individuals and families who lack the resources to ensure they are able to obtain a balanced diet, have acceptable living conditions and are able to participate in activities considered a basic requirement in a civilised society. Trussell continue to campaign that everyone should have a living income that enables them to have decent affordable accommodation which they can afford to heat plus being able to feed themselves/their family. The aim being to bring back people's dignity regardless of background. We are anti-poverty. Hunger in our country is not a food problem it's an income problem. No one should need a foodbank to survive. To this end Trussell are working hard to convince Government of the need to '**Guarantee Our Essentials**' and ensure we have a social security system that protects people from going without those three essentials. Additional information can be found on the **Trussell website**

www.trussell.org.uk

Recent figures show that Foodbanks with the Trussell network issued 3.1 million emergency parcels last year – twice as many as 5 years ago. 1.1 million were for children and 655,000 were for the first time.

Here at **Whitchurch Foodbank** in the financial year ending 2019 we

issued 1105 parcel. The corresponding figure at the end of 2024 was 2101. Thankfully that level has reduced in more recent months and we are now showing only a 50% increase over 2019 ! Which for a foodbank in a small market town is still a considerable increase.

Across the UK the Trussell network consists of over 400 Foodbanks (comprising some 1400 operating locations – a total of over 36000 volunteers). As part of their support for Foodbanks Trussell works closely with other major organisations and businesses in order to provide us with the best support possible.

Since COVID here at **WFB** we changed our food parcels from supplying 3 days of food to 7 days, plus we also offer fresh fruit & vegetables, eggs and bread as a vital extra in trying to provide a healthy balanced food parcel.

Donations

Money - Ever since we started WFB we have been truly blessed by the support we have received and always been able to meet our expenditure. There are so many stories we could tell of the generosity of groups, organisations and individuals but GDPR restricts what we can share.

Please accept our Massive Thanks for all your giving, large or small. You are truly amazing.

Food – Undoubtedly everyone has noticed the rising cost of food and this has most definitely impacted on the amount that folk are now placing in our collection bins and bringing through our doors.

Three years ago our received donations totalled 31.3 tonnes

Last year it was 24.8 tonnes a 21% reduction

Food denotations through Sainsbury's, Tesco and the Wem Coop are 24% down compared to last year.

During that same year the amount of food we have needed to purchase has increased by 52% -

A monthly expenditure of between £800 – £1000 for the purchase of food,

If you are able to help with Food donations there is no item of which we have excess stock – not even Baked Beans and we have never been able to say that in 12 years!

Major shortages are Coffee, Pasta Sauce, Jam, Tinned Fruit and Boiled Rice, but currently everything is welcome!

We must also say that we are blessed by the additional items supplied to us that can be offered to our clients – a professional baker supplying cakes to our Meet & Greet area, Cheese - courtesy of Belton Cheese and Chicken Nuggets from a local supplier. Plus of course the bonus supplies received from Sainsburys at various times – recently some amazing cakes. Provision of the food is of course wonderful but the encouragement it gives to all at WFB is priceless. Do please continue to support us.

Volunteers

It is worth reminding ourselves that Whitchurch Foodbank is run by Volunteers, even though we have now had to accept appointing a paid 'Project Leader' for back-office work, everyone on a Foodbank morning gives of their time voluntarily. We could not function without such dedication.

We recently held a training session for potential new volunteers and it is always good to know there are others interested in giving of their time for this work. Generally, we try to hold such sessions twice a year dependent on demand and whether we are able to accommodate more.

We have always been blessed with a rich supply of volunteers since we opened 12 years ago. A good % of our current number have been with us from the start. The age of many of our volunteers restricts the number of tasks they can undertake so it is good to have younger folk showing commitment which should hopefully help take us into the future.

If volunteering is something you might like to consider do get in touch (info@whitchurch.foodbank.org.uk) and we will let you know when the next opportunity comes up.

We thought it would be interesting to ask our volunteers why they joined and continue at WFB– these are some of the responses:

'I was recently retired and wanted to give something back for the blessed life I have had.'

'It gives me hope to do something for others.'

'I am happy to do any job that is needed and there is such a variety of tasks to be done'.

'I find it is low impact and gives me gentle exercise and I can pace myself'.

'I get on really well with the other volunteers and enjoy the time we spend together'.

'There is always someone to ask if you are not sure and you are never working alone'.

‘I so enjoy listening and talking to those clients or visitors that come in and most are very encouraging and grateful’.

‘Hours are flexible and you can do as much as you want each month’.

‘Sadly Foodbanks are still necessary in our society and I am so privileged to be part of an operation that is essential to many. It costs me nothing to be part of it except a little time’.

We have a bank of some 40 folk that regularly help on Foodbank mornings and despite many being part of an ageing bunch, they carry out the varying tasks cheerfully and with such commitment. Some roles involving stock movement can be physically demanding but thankfully there are those who do not find that a problem and there are plenty of other less demanding roles.

Other Roles – We are very fortunate to have a loyal band of two-person delivery teams who operate on a rota basis so if that is a role which attracts you then do let us know. Also we want to extend a big Thank You to those who collect food from the Supermarkets, provide us with produce from their garden, regularly donate food, consistently support us financially, help us with special events like Christmas and supermarket collection days. Also, a special mention to Vic who responds so quickly to our requests to keep our web site up to date. Then to all the unsung heroes who wish to remain anonymous. You know who you are please know your contributions do not go unnoticed and are essential to all we do.

Special Mention - THANKYOU so much to **Alan & Ann from Wem**. They have volunteered with us for the 12 years bringing weekly the food donated in Wem Co-op. They have also used their return journey to deliver food parcels back to clients in Wem, nothing was ever too much trouble. We salute you and hope you enjoy a well-earned rest!

Also to **Terrie Hewitt** who has recently said she cannot return to WFB due to ill health and ongoing treatment. Again, Terrie is one of those who has been with us from the beginning and has been such a loyal dedicated supporter and volunteer. Terrie’s encouragement of the Ladies of Inner Wheel to support Foodbank has resulted in over 1.5 tonnes being donated to date.

Tribute to Gerard Dolan 1932 – 2025

Where does one begin to write a few words about Gerard Dolan?

Gerard sadly died last month after a short illness and his loss has been greatly felt by his family of course but also by all those who knew him. Gerard was born in Blyth and considered himself a proud Northumbrian. Although he spent some time being educated at St Cuthbert’s Grammar School in Newcastle, he declared



that he certainly wasn't a Geordie! He left school at 17 and began work at a local power station where he stayed until he eventually retired as part of the management team. During that time, he carried out a variety of roles and was proud that on occasions he was left in charge of the plant!

Gerard enjoyed reading, gardening and travel but was well-known in Whitchurch for his role as question master in the Whitchurch Quiz League. He will be remembered for carrying out the role in a firm but humorous manner. But it is in the Foodbank that Gerard revealed his true qualities. Gerard took his work in managing the store very seriously but always with a smile and a merry quip for anyone he worked with. He had the ability to treat everyone he met with kindness, warmth and empathy, qualities which reflected his commitment to working with the team of volunteers and all those in the Foodbank community.

Foodbank Manager, Alan Scutt said of Gerard – He was an absolute star! 100% reliable. Gerard was there from the birth of Whitchurch Foodbank in 2013 (together with his wife Nora) and he took on the role of managing the Issuing Store right up until he was taken ill some 6 months ago. During that time, he will have issued many thousands of food parcels and always with a smile. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him and his strength in moving and shifting stock defied his advancing years. His absence has impacted us all. He will be greatly missed.

Gerard was a man of great faith, and he embodied the Christian values that lie at the heart of our work with those in crisis. He was an invaluable member of the team and will always be remembered by those who knew and worked with him. Being in the stores will never seem the same again.



What about the clients?

These are the people it is all about and the reason we care. We are continually looking at our process and considering how best to meet the needs we encounter.

The obvious response they give of course is that they are so grateful to be leaving with food to be able to feed themselves / their families but there is more to it than that. Many are glad of somewhere to just come and sit, have a drink and chat and not be judged or interrogated. They are often vulnerable, in a low state of mind and very anxious about the future. More

and more we find that most of us can relate to the feeling of being anxious and stressful about the world situation and can offer a listening ear.

A recent client came in and was willing to share their experience with the following feedback:-

This person had recently 'fled' from an abusive relationship and found they had to leave everything they had behind. They were now living in temporary accommodation with literally just the clothes they were wearing. It was the first time they had used a Foodbank, they were very unsure, apprehensive and extremely emotional.

The most important thing was to assure her she was in a safe, friendly space and very few questions would be asked. She could say as little or as much as she wanted to. It was all treated as confidential.

In her feedback she said she felt the warmth from everyone and thought the Foodbank was very welcoming and caring.

It was appropriate in this case to offer signposting and agencies she may like to contact. We were also able to take her to the Clothes Hub at St. John's where she got clothes to help her through the crisis.

This is not an unusual thing for us to do and we often have 'resident' agencies present at a morning session, who can offer the 'expert' advice into the situation. There are a number of agencies we know we can refer folk to should that help be needed. Many of the statutory organisations are struggling with the pressures of staff cuts and financial pressures so we do believe that by working closely with each other it helps all of us. Especially our clients.

We have seen the lady mentioned on one further occasion and are pleased to say she is progressing well

Christmas Initiative

Again we were pleased to be able to support the families referred to us by the schools as in need of assistance over the Christmas season. We helped 65 families a total of 287 persons (108 Adults and 179 Children)

Our thanks again to all those who assisted us with this project, with particular thanks to Aviagen who once again provided us with turkey crowns. We were able to supply all the children under 12 with new toys as part of the family parcel. The feedback was good with all being very grateful.

Christmas 2025? – well hopefully we can do it yet again.



Referrals

We are so grateful for the continuing support of all our referral agencies – for the work they carry out with their clients but also for the cooperative way they work with us. There has to be ‘rules’ of course for us to make sure the donated food is used to the most effect and also that our systems and procedures are recognised by all and adhered to. This ensures we are consistent and fair to all.

Some helpful key pointers -

ALL clients requesting food MUST have an electronic voucher referral from one of our registered agencies.

ALL requests must be made by 4:30 the day before. Any requests after this time will need to be deferred to the next opening and the client advised by the Referrer please.

If a delivery is required there must be a genuine need and if in doubt please speak to us regarding this.

Unless there is a genuine safeguarding issue – we need a contact number for all requests – we often need to get hold of the client. All data is stored securely in accordance with GDPR requirements.

If a delivery is asked for it is helpful to know of any special dietary requests or delivery problems – please add these to the notes on the voucher form.

We do not do offer ‘repeat prescriptions’ subsequent referrals for the same client must be requested each time.

Ensure the clients are informed dogs are not permitted at Foodbank. Leaving them outside tied to the railings is not acceptable as it could result in injury to the dog or other persons attending the foodbank.

We also remind Referrers that the food is meant for those in crisis and should not be seen as a long-term solution. We recognise a crisis may last a while e.g. waiting for Universal Credit to be paid or a long-term illness. A better solution to the need may be more appropriate rather than the individual relying upon the Foodbank.

If there is a genuine emergency and on this occasion you are not able to fulfil all the above rules please ring the FB or send an e-mail to request a solution.

Please do not send clients to the FB without a voucher – it is embarrassing for them and awkward for us to make it fair for everyone.

PLEASE NOTE: A new email address for all communications related to referrals has been established. Forthwith, please ensure all emails related to the referral of a client are sent to

referrals@whitchurch.foodbank.org.uk

The **info@whitchurch.foodbank.org.uk** email address should only be used for other communication that does not relate to clients or referrals made through the DCS system.

Citizen's Advice

Following the resignation of the previous CA Advisor whom we had working solely for Foodbank clients, we are hopeful that since a new appointment has been made we shall soon be able to offer this service again.

Clothing Hub – operating from St. John's Methodist

We have great links with St John's and all those that work to keep this initiative operational. We know it is well used and thank all of you who donate clothing for this. Do check details of opening hours etc but be assured of a warm welcome whether you are donating clothes or coming to have a look at the items. You will be encouraged to have a cup of tea and chat with the **MORE** social group that takes place Monday from 12 noon and Thursdays from 1pm

Finally – our sincere thanks to Alan & Chris for their twelve years of loyal service, enjoy your retirement.

The Trustees and Management Team



THE COLLECT FOR PENTECOST

O God, who at this time taught your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by that same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Thank you very much
to all our contributors.

THE JULY ISSUE

needs your input preferably by **15th June,**
but definitely no later than 20th, please.

Rob is away from 25th June—the magazine needs
to be online by the 24th!

All articles e-mailed to Phoebe Ashton

phoebe42.lee@gmail.com

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