

JULY/AUGUST 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

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN JULY

DAY	DATE	SEASON	WEM	WESTON	LEE
THURSDAY	3rd		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	6th	TRINITY 3	08:00 HE 09:45 HE 16:00 RBL	09:30 MP	11:15 MP
THURSDAY	10th		No Service		
SUNDAY	13th	TRINITY 4	09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 MP
THURSDAY	17th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	20th	TRINITY 5	08:00 HE 09:45 HE 17:00 P&P	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	24th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	27th	TRINITY 6	08:00 HE 09:45 HE 17:00 P&P	11:00 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	31st		09:30 HE		

HE—Holy Eucharist MP—Morning Prayer P&P—Praise & Prayer
RBL—Royal British Legion: VE & VJ Day Commemorative Service



SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN AUGUST

DAY	DATE	SEASON	WEM	WESTON	LEE
SUNDAY	3rd	TRINITY 7	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	WESTON SHOW	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	7th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	10th	TRINITY 8	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	14th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	17th	TRINITY 9	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 MP	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	21st		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	24th	TRINITY 10	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	11:00 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	28th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	31st	TRINITY 11	10:00 CBS at St Luke's, WESTON	10:00 CBS	10:00 CBS at St Luke's, WESTON

HE—Holy Eucharist MP—Morning Prayer P&P—Praise & Prayer
CBS—Combined Benefice Service

Taizé Service at Wem Methodist Church Sunday, 10th August at 6.30 p.m.

Taizé is an ecumenical Christian community in France, founded in 1940. Worship in the style of Taizé includes readings of Scripture, prayers, simple meditative songs, which are sung several times, and times of silence – but no Sermon!
All are welcome to attend.



Notes from the Editor

JULY/AUGUST 2025

Dear Readers,

Editorial for July and August

Here comes the Magazine's summer break and the staff take a well earned rest. Make the most of this edition and prepare lots of interesting articles and reports of events for our September issue.

Thanks to those who have provided articles and photos for this issue, it should provide a very colourful story of what has been going on in the Benefice during the past few months.

Now Trinity Sunday has past and we are in Ordinary time (green altar cloths for quite a few weeks). One bright event to come is the regular fifth Sunday Benefice service this time in Wem and fortuitously it coincides with the Patronal Festival for St Peter and St Paul the Patron Saints of two of our three churches.

Look out for the amazing work that the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers from Wem have undertaken, and the very special Confirmation service reports from Sunday 8th June.

The Strawberry Tea at Lee Brockhurst Village Hall is only just over two weeks away, if you haven't booked your tickets please look at the information in the magazine likewise the Weston Show is only just about six weeks away. How time flies. There is so much more to read in this issue of the magazine. We hope you will enjoy it!

Phoebe



Rector's Ramblings

I find it interesting to look at the origins of the Saint's days and feast days of the Church calendar. As we have just celebrated **Corpus Christi**, I thought I would write a little of my research about it. So here goes.



The Story Behind the Feast of Corpus Christi

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, historically known by its Latin name, Corpus Christi, celebrates the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. It is traditionally celebrated on the Thursday following Trinity Sunday or the Solemnity of the Holy

Trinity. The feast dates to the Middle Ages and originated with a visionary nun and a Eucharistic miracle.

The History

In 1263 a German Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Peter of Prague, made a pilgrimage to Rome. He stopped in Bolsena, Italy, to celebrate Mass at the Church of St. Christina. At the time he was having doubts about Jesus being truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. He was affected by the growing debate among certain theologians who, for the first time in the history of the Church, began introducing doubts about the Body and Blood of Christ being actually present in the consecrated bread and wine. In response to his doubt, when he recited the prayer of consecration as he celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, blood started seeping from the consecrated host and onto the altar and corporal.

Fr. Peter reported this miracle to Pope Urban IV, who at the time was nearby in Orvieto. The pope sent delegates to investigate and ordered that host and blood-stained corporal be brought to Orvieto. The relics were then placed in the Cathedral of Orvieto, where they remain today.

This Eucharistic Miracle confirmed the visions given to St. Juliana of Mont Comilton in Belgium (1193-1258). St. Juliana was a nun and mystic who had a series of visions in which she was instructed by Our Lord to work to establish a liturgical feast for the Holy Eucharist, to which she had a great devotion.

After many years of trying, she finally convinced the bishop, the future Pope Urban IV, to create this special feast in honour of the Blessed Sacrament, where none had existed before. Soon after her death, Pope Urban instituted Corpus Christi for the Universal Church and celebrated it for the first time in Orvieto in 1264, a year after the Eucharistic Miracle in Bolsena.

Inspired by the miracle, Pope Urban commissioned a Dominican friar, St. Thomas Aquinas, to compose the Mass and Office for the feast of Corpus Christi. Aquinas' well-known hymns in honour of the Holy Eucharist are: *Pange Lingua*, *Tantum Ergo*, *Panis Angelicus*, and *O Salutaris Hostia*.

'Pange Lingua'

*'Sing, tongue, the battle
of glorious combat'*

'Tantum Ergo' is short for

"Tantum ergo Sacramentum,"

- "Therefore, so great the Sacrament."

'Panis Angelicus' - 'Bread of Angels'

'O Salutaris Hostia'

- 'O Saving Victim' (or Sacrifice)

I hope you found this piece interesting and are inspired to look at some of the other saint's days and feast days in the Church Calendar

To put this history into the context of the Church of England we need to take a wider look at the theology of the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine. In the Anglican

Church there isn't one dogma of the bread and wine being transubstantiated into the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Instead, there is a broad range of beliefs regarding the bread and wine in Holy Communion from a remembrance of Jesus' death on the cross through consubstantiation, that is the bread is both bread and body, as the wine is both wine and blood, through to the bread and wine actually being changed into flesh and blood, (i.e. transubstantiation).

Yours in Christ,
Reverend John.

Source

<https://www.catholiccompany.com/magazine/feast-of-corpus-christi-story-6077>



THE CHURCHES OF WEM AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DEANERY

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



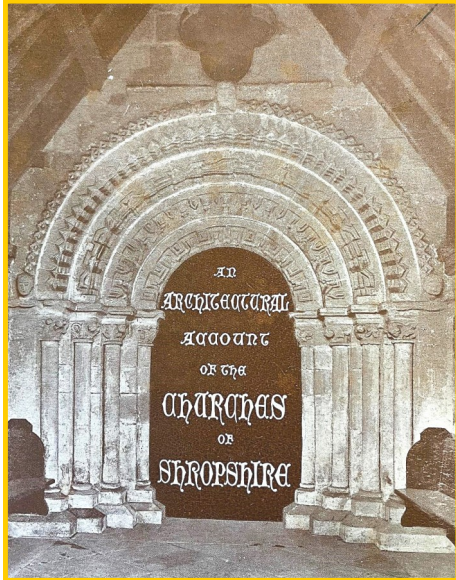
THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, **EDSTASTON**

The origins of this large Grade I church are unknown because there are no surviving written records, but what we see here has been described as ‘one of the most complete Romanesque [Norman] buildings in Shropshire’. For centuries it was a chapel within the parish of Wem, not becoming a parish church until 1850, but it is far larger and more ornate than other chapels, or even



than most other parish churches. There must have been a benefactor who spared no expense with the stonework and ironwork.

One distinctive feature is the corbel-table of trefoiled arches at eaves level, and even more impressive are the three late Norman doorways, one on the south side and one on the north side of the nave and one into the south of the chancel. The nave south doorway was chosen by Dean Cranage as the front cover of his



great work on the architecture of Shropshire churches. The two nave doors are of the same age as the doorways, with superb ironwork. There are two Norman windows on the north side, but all the other windows are later, including the great east window of the early 14th century. All the stained glass windows are beautiful, especially the west window, unveiled by George Bernard Shaw, with the hare, the spaniel, and the partridge.

Inside this lofty, spacious, and light church we see the organ, by Binns of Leeds, which is, to my knowledge, unique in being placed above the console. In the 1970s wall paintings were discovered under the plaster. They had probably been hidden since the Reformation or perhaps the Cromwellian period. It is just possible to make out the Adoration of the Magi behind later wall tablets (*see picture—next page*), and elsewhere there are paintings of St John the Baptist and St Christopher. The parish has recently obtained a grant towards the cost of a full survey of the paintings, to be carried out in 2025.

The church lacks a tower. Perhaps there were limits on

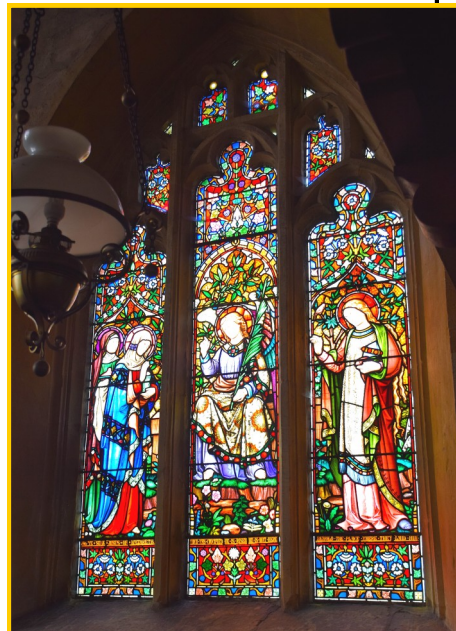


the benefactor's largesse, but there is a nineteenth-century double bell-gable at the west end. The porch is of 1879, replacing a porch of 1710. Outside the west end is the grave of the Revd Samuel Garbett, second master of Wem Grammar School 1712-1756 and curate of Edstaston chapel 1713-1756. He wrote the very useful History of Wem, published in 1818, long after his death.

Edstaston church is always open and it is worth driving down the lane from the Wem-Whitchurch road to enjoy this architectural gem.



William Price



The corbel-table of trefoiled arches at eaves level and the south chancel door



The Porch Door (south nave door) showing the splendid iron work

Notes from The Diocese for July 2025



Memories, memorials and remembering



Not long ago, we commemorated the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

One key moment of remembrance is the public one or two-minute silence. It's a familiar part of our acknowledgement of death, especially death through war or other grievous circumstances. In most church funeral services, there may be a moment during the

prayers for remembering, silently, those we mourn.

Silence and stillness are two key ingredients of remembrance. Often, these are deeply appreciated qualities of our church buildings. In between regular services, churches hold space where people can be still and silent and let recollections flow. Memories of precious, departed friends and family that we hold in our heads are prompted by many things, but silent and still promptings can bring an added dimension.

Churchyards too, offer this quality, and



so they should. Think of them as extensions of churches. In them, what was once a private life has become part of public memory. Reverent and respectful burials declare that people are loved in death as in life. Often there are ordered ranks of headstones or mosaics of memorial plaques, or just neatness and simple, natural beauty. Approaches to churchyards which embrace a wilder look, being creatively managed to foster their enormous biodiversity, still maintain this quality. Such settings encourage habitats with longer grass, more wildflowers, and preserve the now renowned lichen populations found on headstones.



Whatever the style, in speaking of order and stillness, churchyards consciously offer an unspoken testament to the beauty and diversity of God's creation, including those commemorated there, and to his lavish, generous love which transcends death. Churchyards are places where our thoughts naturally turn to resurrection.

If this is churchyards' intended purpose, then care and work is needed to preserve and retain that purpose. Keeping order

depends on willing people. Some churchyards, once closed to new burials, are cared for by the Local Authority and that is enormously valued by the church. If they are still open, the church retains its responsibility for maintenance.

Resources are often stretched. Mowing is hastened by keeping churchyards free of clutter. Likewise, biodegradable flowers are brought onto graves without containers which can cause hazards to mowers and mourners alike. The Chancellor's Churchyard Regulations help PCCs to maintain uniformity and consistency wherever memorials are introduced, but to help facilitate the most appropriate pastoral response, where local circumstances suggest, it is possible for PCCs to establish their own local churchyard policy which can permit certain variations to the regulations. Your Archdeacon can give advice about this approach.

Caring for churchyards can be demanding and some churches might look at creating a 'Friends of our Churchyard' community where people can enjoy the biodiversity, help care for the environment and help the wider public appreciate and enjoy this very significant part of our landscapes, urban and rural. The charity 'Caring for God's Acre' supports many aspects of this work and is active in Lichfield diocese. Who'd have thought it: helping churchyards to remain welcoming places where people can encounter God's presence, isn't all work and no play.

The Revd Preb Terry Bloor,

Associate Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent

To celebrate the best in caring for churchyards, keep an eye on our annual Churchyard Award Scheme

lichfield.anglican.org/churchyard-award-scheme-2025

and join Eco Church lichfield.anglican.org/eco-church

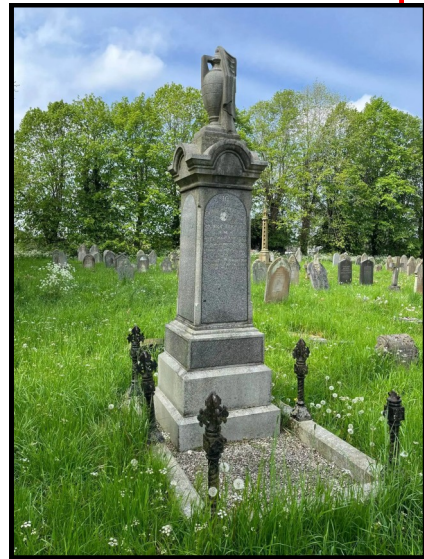




Q: *Where would you find a Hebrew Character, a Camomile Shark and a Striped Wainscote?*

A: *In a churchyard!*

In the UK we have 59 species of butterfly, many of them familiar to us all, but did you know that we also have over 2,500 species of moth? Many moths have fabulous names. Some give a clue to their markings including Hebrew Character, China Mark, Garden Tiger or Orange Underwing. Others suggest possible frustration at identifying them, Uncertain or Clouded Drab for instance! Others give a clue to the food plant of the caterpillar, Appletree Skeletoniser or Bird-Cherry Ermine. And then there are names to let your imagination fly; Hoary Footman, Snout, Dusky Brocade, Scarce Dagger and Clifden Nonpareil for starters.



Bird-Cherry Ermine

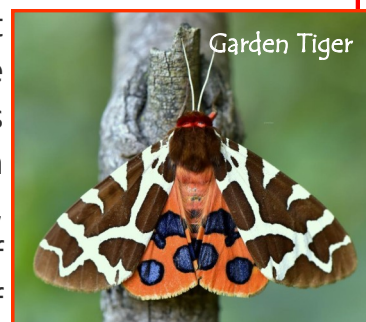
Most moths have evolved to fly at night in order to avoid predation, although they are the main food of bats, who have also evolved to fly at night. To avoid bats, some moth species can hear the eco-location used by bats and will zig-zag away or drop to the ground from mid-air when bats are close, to 'play dead' until the threat has passed. Whilst daytime predation of night-flying moths is reduced, moths and also their



Hebrew Character

caterpillars are an important food item for creatures active in the day including small mammals, amphibians, spiders, lizards and many birds. Small moth caterpillars are fed in great number to the chicks of many of our common birds including blue tit, great tit, robin, wren and blackbird.

As with so much of our wildlife, moths are in trouble, down 28% in overall numbers since 1968. This is likely to be due to a combination of factors; agricultural change, increased use of garden and farming chemicals, development and also light pollution which has a profound effect on the lifecycle of moths. Churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries can be a moth haven however. Many contain a mix of grassland, mature trees, scrub and flowerbeds, lots of different habitats, used by a wide range of moth species. Churchyards and other burial grounds are usually free of herbicides and pesticides which benefits all insects, including moths.



Garden Tiger

There are also small management changes that will encourage and support moths; similar to gardening for wildlife, be a little untidy! How about leaving areas with leaf litter, dead plant stems and



Orange Underwing

tussocks for overwintering caterpillars and eggs. If you have flowerbeds or planters, how about introducing some night-scented flowers including honey suckle, tobacco plant, evening primrose and stocks. Is there an area of turf that can be allowed to grow long for 3 to

4 spring and summer months, providing meadow flowers and flowering native grasses for pollinators including moths? A

particularly helpful change might be to reduce light pollution by keeping any outdoor lights low, pointing downwards and not on all night long.

Running a moth light trap overnight makes an interesting public event, the trap is opened in the morning, moths admired, identified and then released, but



Appletree Skeletoniser

even if you do not manage to see these spectacular night-time visitors, remember that our bluetit population need an estimated 35 million moth caterpillars every year and many people enjoy watching bluetits!

N.B If you are starting to identify moths, take a look at Moths Flying Tonight on the Butterfly Conservation website and put in your postcode to narrow down the moths you are likely to find.

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 — JULY 2025

from ROGER ASHTON

GRAZING

When you hear the word grazing country people immediately think of farm animals out in the fields whilst some of the urban population may bring to mind the habit of snacking food throughout the day! Grazing animals, mainly cattle and sheep but also horses, goats, pigs, deer, geese and smaller wild animals have a vital role to play in maintaining soil health, promoting root development, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity.

Many grasslands are only agriculturally viable through grazing, they cannot be ploughed for crops without destroying the ecosystems we seek to protect. Remove livestock from these landscapes, and we don't re-wild them – we degrade them.

Ruminants are remarkably efficient converters of human inedible biomass into highly nutritious food. Conversely the intensive cropping of pulses and soya, so reliant on synthetic petrochemical based fertilizer, is environmentally unfriendly.

Also livestock systems recycle waste by-products from the food





industry and convert them into valuable protein. This is resourceful, not wasteful. Methane has a bad public press popularised by social media, let's look at the critical difference between biogenic carbon emissions and fossil derived emissions that drive climate instability. Methane has a natural carbon cycle that breaks down in the atmosphere over 10 to 12 years and is reabsorbed by the same grasslands that fed the animals in the first place. Hundreds of years ago vast herds of bison, buffalo, deer other wild animals were excreting methane, did they cause climate change? Fossil fuels on the other hand release carbon that has been locked underground for millions of years causing atmospheric overload with no natural



re-absorption. Addressing climate change must include a strategy of reducing human food overconsumption and dealing more efficiently with food waste— a third of all food produced! The agri-livestock sector has the potential to become even more efficient at dealing with climate change as new technology progresses and helps us to a more sustainable future.

Lets graze on these facts and pray for a more natural future.

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

TEMPTATION



When a Christian has chosen to live for God and for others, the devil is not pleased. At certain times the din of temptation, covered for a while by the song of love, returns more strident than ever.

God allows this trial and is sometimes even deaf to the appeals of his child, in order to test and to bring one to a greater trust. Only when a Christian expects nothing of self and everything of God, can one be at peace.

One must be very little to be carried by God

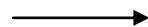
Matthew 8:23-26

²³ Then Jesus got into the boat and his disciples followed him. ²⁴ Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Lord, save us! We're going to drown!'

²⁶ He replied, 'You of little faith, why are you so afraid?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

Matthew 8:23-26

³ And Jesus said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'



I am at the end of my tether, Lord.
I am shattered,
I am broken.
Since this morning I have been struggling to escape temptation,
 which, now subtle, now persuasive, now tender, now sensuous,
 dances before me like a glamour girl at a fair.
I don't know what to do.
I don't know where to go.
It spies on me, follows me, engulfs me.
When I leave a room I find it seated and waiting for me in the next.
When I seize a newspaper, there it is, hidden in the words of a
 harmless story;
I go out, and see it smiling at me on an unknown face,
I turn away and look at the wall, and it leaps at me from a poster.
I return to work, to find it dozing on my files, and when I gather
 my papers, it awakens.
In despair, I take my poor head in my hands, I shut my eyes to
 see nothing,
But I discover that it is more alive than ever, comfortably settled
 within me.
For it has broken my door open, it has slipped into my body,
 my veins,
 to the very tip of my fingers.
It has seeped into the crevices of my memory
And sings into the ear of my imagination.
It plays on my nerves as on the strings of a guitar.
I don't know where I stand, Lord.
I don't know whether or not I want this sin that beckons to me.
I no longer know whether I pursue it or am being pursued.
I am dizzy, and the void draws me as it draws the rash mountaineer
 who can neither advance nor retreat.
Lord, Lord, help me!



Child, I am here.
I haven't left you.
How weak is your faith!
You are too proud.
You still rely on your self.
If you want to surmount all temptations, without falling or
weakening, calm and serene,
You must surrender yourself to me.
You must realise that you are neither big enough nor strong
enough,
You must let yourself be guided like a child,
My little child.
Come, give me your hand, and do not fear.
If there is mud, I will carry you in my arms.
But you must be very, very little,
For the Father carries only little children.



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

CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO GOD

collected by Trish Bamford

Dear God
I love you
how are You fine

Im fine to
My mother has five girls
And one Boy
I am one of them.
Nancy 6



Dear god
I don't ever feel alone since
I found out about you
Nora

Dear God
We read Thos. Edison made
light.
So I bet he stoled your I dea
SINCERELY,
DONNa



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 SERVICES IN JULY

SUNDAY 6th JULY—3rd SUNDAY after TRINITY

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

16:00—VE & VJ Day Commemorative Service

THURSDAY 10th JULY - NO SERVICE

SUNDAY 13th JULY—4th SUNDAY after TRINITY

09:45—Holy Eucharist (*No 08:00 Service*)

SUNDAY 20th JULY—5th SUNDAY after TRINITY

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

SUNDAY 27th JULY—6th SUNDAY after TRINITY

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

17:00—Prayer & Praise



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

“Growing in Faith, Hope and Love”

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 SERVICES IN AUGUST

SUNDAY 3rd AUGUST—7th SUNDAY after TRINITY

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

16:00—VE & VJ Day Commemorative Service

SUNDAY 10th AUGUST—8th SUNDAY after TRINITY

09:45—Holy Eucharist (*No 08:00 Service*)

SUNDAY 17th AUGUST—9th SUNDAY after TRINITY

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

SUNDAY 24th AUGUST—10th SUNDAY after TRINITY

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

SUNDAY 31st AUGUST—11th SUNDAY after TRINITY

08:00—Holy Eucharist

10:00—BENEFICE EUCHARIST

At St Luke's, Weston-under-Redcastle



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

“Growing in Faith, Hope and Love”

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

Prayer
+
Praise



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



THE CONFIRMATION SERVICE

PENTECOST
Sunday 8th June



The joy was palpable, the service memorable, the singing and the music exciting and **LOUD**, as the goodly congregation celebrated this special occasion at 3 pm in St Peter and St Paul's Church.

The three Sarahs coming together.... *I had better explain...*

It was the confirmation service for **Sarah** Newell and **Sarah** Atwell celebrated by Bishop **Sarah** Bullock, our area bishop in Shropshire. How's that! Very, very good, I'd say, and no better day to celebrate this lovely and meaningful service than the Day of Pentecost. At the morning services on the day we had celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples... *'And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where the disciples were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability'* (from the Acts of the Apostles 2:2-4).

No rushing wind and no discernible tongues of fire, but a wonderful feeling of joy and fulfilment—Spirit filled—as we joined the three Sarahs for this wonderful occasion.

After the service there was a lavish array of refreshments in the hall—talk about being 'Spirit filled'—and much happy chatter.

Thank you, Lord.

The Service begins



Sarah (N) is reminded of her baptism as Bp Sarah sprinkles her from the font.

... and you, too, Sarah (A)



Even the Rector didn't get away with it!



Bp Sarah confirms Sarah (A) as she lays her hands on Sarah's head.



LETTERS OF JOY AND THANKSGIVING FROM TWO HAPPY SARAHS

From Sarah Newell

A few months ago, I was asked if I'd been confirmed, and as not, would I like to be. It was a resounding yes.

There started the journey of meetings with Reverend John, along with Sarah Atwell.

Bishop Sarah gave a date, and soon we were there in Church, with my family, friends and all the lovely congregation. Who would have thought 4 Sarah's together!

With to follow a sumptuous afternoon tea and cake.

I would like to give huge thanks to everyone who has supported me and made this journey possible.

With love, Sarah Newell

From Sarah Atwell

When Sarah and Rev. John Jukes mentioned to me about being confirmed. I agreed immediately. It felt so right and a way for me to thank God for what he has given me, to have a deeper relationship with God and deepen my faith. It was an absolute joy to share with Sarah, who is also my sponsor, and wonderful to meet Bishop Sarah.

I would like to thank everyone who was involved, supported and came to our confirmation. It was such a beautiful day, filled with happiness, joy and peace, a day I will forever treasure.

I would like to say thank you for all the lovely cakes at our reception afterwards, so very kind of you all, they were very yummy.

Also many thanks to Gill Melor and Denise Morgan for their very beautiful flower arrangements in the church.

A very joyful day.

With love, Sarah Atwell

Alan Cook, who took the pictures above, adds his happy memories of his own confirmation.

The confirmation by the Right Reverend Bishop Sarah was a memorable occasion and officiated in a way that was suitably reverent but also light hearted when appropriate.

The congregation, along with the choir, were in good voice with an excellent choice of well known hymns as well as the responses to prayers.

It was a moving experience to be enjoyed by everyone.

The afternoon continued with an enjoyable tea/coffee and homemade cakes from the volunteers. Some of the older members of the church reflected on their own experience many, many years ago which I found very enlightening, Not excluding myself who, like another lady I spoke with, were confirmed with our fathers - in my case at around age 11 or 12 by the Bishop of Willesden in London.

This last comment has compelled me to tell the circumstances which brought my father at an age around 47 to join the Church. He was, before the war, a typical young man playing tennis on Sunday morning without any desire to Join the Church, unlike my mother who was a regular churchgoer.

However, as we all know the war began in 1939 and Dad like the rest of the population was called up; fast forward to D Day Dad found himself along with a battalion of US soldiers heading for the Normandy beaches.

Suffice to say he (being a RAF radar back up) survived the onslaught. The one and only time his story was told to the family included his reaction to the utter bravery of the chaplains on the beach facing the barrage of gunfire and tending to the spiritual and other needs of injured and fallen soldiers.

To conclude: the first thing he did on his demob was to immerse himself in our Parish Church, he never played tennis again and was still head of the scout group and was always on hand to help with all the usual craft fairs and events during the year.

Unfortunately he suffered a stroke at the age of 64 which put paid to the new life he had built. He still attended church in his wheelchair and fortunately he managed to live to age 84.

I think, rightly or wrongly, that this is food for thought and I am pleased to have spoken with others at this lovely confirmation service.

Sybil's Preserves Stall

Many of you will know that I have table at our church coffee mornings to sell jams, chutneys and marmalades for church funds. This all started with the damson trees in our garden which have always provided more damsons than we can eat during the short season at the end of September. The question was how to share this bounty? Damson enthusiasts have been invited to pick their own. I also make damson jam, damson chutney and damson gin; the latter proving a popular gift at Christmas. Then it occurred to me that I could make some available at church coffee mornings and Bette Rich kindly agreed that I could have a stall and so the stall began.



When we moved into our cottage, we also inherited a large rhubarb patch, so rhubarb and ginger jam and rhubarb chutney were added to the stall. Not long after we moved, we planted fruit bushes so then there were redcurrants for red currant jelly and blackcurrants for jam. Some years there were enough strawberries for jam but this year my plants have not fared well, but Bearstone Fruit Farm has come to the rescue, so I have been able to make strawberry jam. I have a friend who has prolific raspberry canes so there will be raspberry jam too. My chest freezer is very useful for storing fruit so that I can make fresh jam when supplies run out. I was able to make more damson jam for the Sip For Stroke coffee morning.

My horticultural friend gave me a WI recipe book which introduced me to autumn marmalade; a combination of lemons, limes and apples which are cooked and whizzed with a food processor. I have on occasion made 3 Fruit marmalade (grapefruit, orange and lemon) but then realised that many of us take medication which disagrees with grapefruit; that's such a pity as I do like the strong flavour of this combination. I have also collected a couple of other preserves cook books so can now find a recipe for almost any abundance of fruit and/ or vegetable - beetroot and ginger chutney, green tomato chutney, spicy courgette relish --

Last Christmas my grandson gave me a National Trust book ; Jam with a twist - I may make some courgette, lemon and thyme marmalade, will any of you be brave enough to try this?

After running the stall for a while I realised that some folks prefer 8oz jars, so I found hexagonal jars on-line which I purchased, and this led to the discovery of replacement



lids. I was so delighted when I found the lids decorated with orange segments to use for marmalade and lids of various diameters to fit different jars sizes.

I am always pleased to have jars returned or to receive donations of used jars. If you have a glut of any fruit or vegetable that you would like me to use do contact me. Please come to one of our coffee mornings (on the last Saturday of the month) and give a donation in exchange for very fruity jam, hand cut marmalade or something different in the way of chutney.

Sybil

Syb.hbcwem@btinternet.com /07944 673953



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

**SUMMER
COFFEE MORNINGS**

10:00 –12:00

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

**SATURDAY 26th JULY
and 30th AUGUST**

**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*

The Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery – an Update

There has been a lot of activity at the cemetery over the past few months. Earlier this year we were grateful to receive a grant of £2,000 from Wem Town Council, and in June we met with representatives of Wem Rural Parish Council for the presentation of a very welcome cheque for £300 towards grass cutting. Our grass cutter has been hard at work at the site. He completed full cuts in March and at the end of May, and an interim cut of the front of the cemetery in mid-June. A further cut will be made prior to the Wem Sweet Pea event in July, when the chapel will be open for visitors.



The 7th to 15th June was 'Love your Burial Ground Week' and we were delighted to welcome young people from the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers who carried out a planned programme of activities at the cemetery throughout the week.

They were all wonderfully enthusiastic to learn about the history of the cemetery and chapel and to apply themselves to their tasks such as: tending the huge bug house; sweeping, clearing and raking; weeding parts of the grounds; tidying a few of the more neglected graves; collecting dead material for composting; digging and bagging

Cleaning the Lychgate and sweeping paths



compost. A lot of hard work was cheerfully carried out and, as a result, the cemetery is looking fantastic. We are hugely grateful, and these young people are a credit to the Scouting Organisation and to our Town.

Tending the bug house



Planting Snowdrops



Our Group recently commissioned a wall plaque, from R and R Memorials of Wem, which has recently been placed on the outside of the chapel in memory of Tom Edwards for all his hard work and dedication at the cemetery over the years. In addition, one of our members has renovated an old bench next to the central path and placed a brass plaque on it in memory of Basil Chesworth who managed our lottery grant project in 2009-10. They were both commemorated after our summer Committee meeting at the chapel.

Judy Crichton

The Parish Church of St Peter, Lee Brockhurst

St Peter's Church



Come and join us here on Wednesdays
16th July, 20th August, 17th September
for "Coffee and Chat"

Any time between 10.30 and 12.00

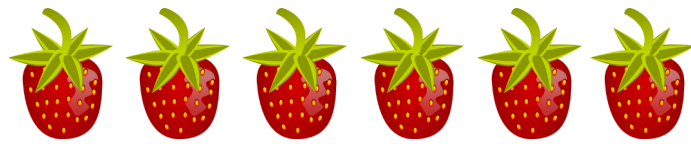
No charge but donations to the church welcomed

For further information ring 07858123669



Strawberry Tea
Saturday 5th July 2025
2.00~4.00 pm

At Lee Brockhurst Village Hall



All proceeds to St Peter's Church

£10.00 per person

(children under 12 — £5.00)

Raffle and Produce Stall

Tickets available from

Phoebe & Roger Ashton

07858 123669 or 07751522486

Valerie Lusby 01939 235610

N.B. Entry by ticket only
(book early to avoid disappointment)



Walking In My Life

*Phoebe reminisces about another
important part of her life*

Readers will already have read about my early nursing years and how music has meant so much to me during the whole of my life to date. Another passion that started in my teens and developed during my mid-twenties is walking/rambling.



As a child brought up in the East End of London I had few opportunities to get out into the countryside. However, once or twice a year on a Bank Holiday my Baptist Church would organise a coach trip into Epping Forest. These were a great joy to me and developed my love of wild flowers and the countryside in general.

Of course my family went on holiday but these were mainly to visit relatives who happened to live in interesting places. Southampton, Bournemouth and very early in my life Cleethorpes. Visits to Southampton and Bournemouth inevitably included a trip out to the New Forest but we never got out of the car to see the countryside properly!



2nd Leytonstone Girls Brigade

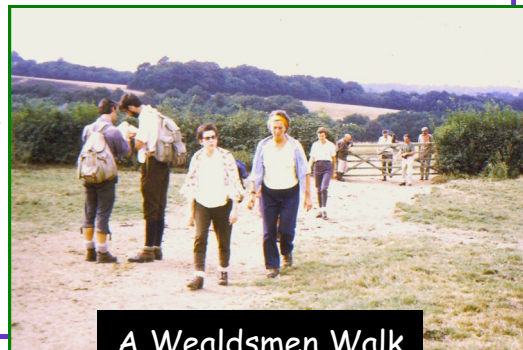
From the age of six I was a member of the Girls Life Brigade at my Baptist Church and when I was 16 a trip was arranged to visit Minehead in Somerset for 2 weeks at a Baptist Holiday Fellowship guest house. Here I discovered the love of walking. There were about 8 of us and our Captain, Iris Skegg, organised for each of us

to be responsible for the activities of one day. I was given the task of navigating our group to the top of Dunkery Beacon on Exmoor and back, I cannot imagine how we actually got to the starting point when I look at the map! I absolutely loved doing this and my love of walking really started on that day.

My parents had friends in Holmfirth, (*Last of the Summer Wine country*) however my visits to them were way before that TV Soap started. Holmfirth was famous for being part of the wool industry and also for Bamforth Post Cards, there is a Museum of Postcards there still. Whilst staying with my “Aunt Florence and Uncle Arnold” I took trips out into the countryside on my own with an Ordnance Survey Map of the area. I was an ardent reader of Jane Austen and wanted to visit Derbyshire which was only the other side of Holme Moss. So I took the bus to Holme Village and walked up the road to the top of the Moss just so that I could be in Derbyshire and feel close to Pemberley, Mr Darcy’s residence. I walked back a different way via the Manchester to Sheffield main road which even in the mid-60’s was quite busy. I took several other walks whilst staying with my “Uncle and Aunt” who were a bit perturbed by my adventurous ideas.

I chose to undertake my Part I Midwifery Training in Huddersfield because of my “aunt and uncle” living only about 7 miles away in Holmfirth. The course ran from November to April and I discovered “winter” for the first time. Snow that lay around for weeks on end and sunny days when the temperature was below freezing, a rude awakening for a southerner!

My best friend, Linda, persuaded me to undertake my Part II Midwifery Training in Crawley, Sussex. At the end of this training I stayed on to work as a Staff Midwife for some 3 years by which time Linda had left to get married. One of the staff on the maternity unit suggested that I join a local walking group called The Society of Sussex Wealdsmen. This group undertook quite long walks often in areas of East and West Sussex where the footpaths were very overgrown and lacked footbridges and stiles. There was quite a lot of male chauvinism in this group and they would stand laughing



A Wealdsmen Walk

whilst we struggled over a fallen tree placed over a river, a barbed wire fence or through a hedge where the stile was missing. Certainly there was not much chivalry displayed!

A Rambler's Association Group was set up covering Crawley and Horsham and soon afterwards I became a regular walker as was my first husband, George, whom I met through joining this group. We became involved in the administration of the group and subsequently we became Area



A little help from my friends...



Bridge? What bridge?

Officers of Sussex Area of the Rambler's Association (RA). This gave us the opportunity to remedy many of the faults on public footpaths. Once again in the 60's and 70's there was more money available for such things as replacing stiles and bridges. George was a carpenter by trade and he developed a good relationship with the Highways Department of East

Sussex County Council. They provided the timber and other materials, arranged with the landowners for permission for us to do the work and in most cases to get the materials as near the site as possible. In this way we replaced many footbridges that had been removed during the Napoleonic wars more than two centuries ago. George also was involved in making decisions about diversions and extinguishments of footpaths,

rarely the creation of one I am afraid to say. The County Council would not proceed unless the Rambler's Association were happy with the diversion or extinguishment. Such power! We spent many a happy day or evening looking at the proposed alteration to the network in many



The Replacement

remote areas of East Sussex. On one occasion George and I were accosted by a landowner asking us what we were doing on his land. George would always introduce himself and his office as Footpath Secretary for East Sussex for the RA. This usually stopped any aggression. On this occasion there was no aggression he merely wanted to know if we



we were collecting "Magic Mushrooms". Apparently this was a common occurrence at certain times of the year!

More next issue in September!



Clearing footpaths

The Parish Church of St Luke,

Weston-under-Redcastle



VILLAGE SHOW *SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST*

Our plans for the day are progressing steadily and positively, as always we have had 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.

VILLAGE SHOW



ADULTS
£7.50
CHILDREN
FREE
CARDS ACCEPTED



ALL MONEYS RAISED FOR CHARITY
TO INCLUDE SEVERN HOSPICE & HOPE HOUSE

WESTON UNDER REDCASTLE

FUN DOG SHOW plus FANCY DRESS CLASS

VINTAGE CARS & TRACTORS,

SHIRE HORSES, PONY CLUB GAMES

FERRET RACING, CRAFT STALLS

HULLABALOO COUNTRY AND WESTON BAND

CHILDREN'S SPORTS & GAMES, PINXTON PUPPETS,

MEGA SLIDE & BOUNCY CASTLE, HELICOPTER

TEAS, BBQ, BEER AND PIMMS, ICE CREAMS, ETC, ETC

SUNDAY 3rd AUGUST

12 NOON-5PM

THE CITADEL SHOW GROUND SY4 5JY

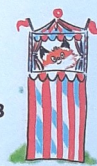


DOG SHOW CONTACT; JENNY MARTINEZ 07740 103 393

For the SCHEDULE see village website

SHOW CONTACTS, SYLVIA GRIFFITHS 01630 685 204

FOR CAR AND TRACTOR ENTRIES DEBBIE WICKSTEAD 01939 200 603



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VILLAGE SHOW

WESTON UNDER REDCASTLE

SUNDAY 3rd AUGUST
12-5PM THE CITADEL SHOW
GROUND SY4 5JY

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SHOW CONTACTS, SYLVIA GRIFFITHS 01630 685 204 FOR CAR AND TRACTOR ENTRIES DEBBIE WICKSTEAD 01939 200 603

THE COLLECT FOR TRINITY SUNDAY

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty
to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may
evermore be defended from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
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 SEPTEMBER ISSUE

needs your input preferably by **14th August,**
but definitely no later than 18th, please.

All articles e-mailed to Phoebe Ashton

phoebe42.lee@gmail.com

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