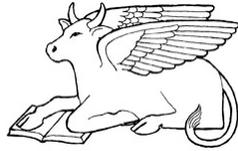
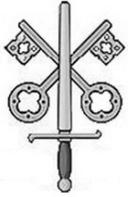


Parish Magazine for  
Wem, Lee Brockhurst and Weston-under-Redcastle

May 2020



St Peter & St Paul's, Wem  
St Peter's, Lee Brockhurst  
St Luke's, Weston-under-Redcastle



**Rector**

The Revd Nick Heron  
The Rectory  
Ellesmere Road, Wem SY4 5TU

01939 232550

nphm16@aol.com

Retired Clergy:

The Revd Mike Cotterell, Preb Pam  
Freeman, Preb Rob Haarhoff, Canon Dr  
William Price, The Revd John Tye

Reader Emeritus:

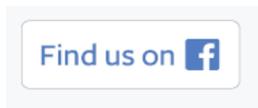
Celia Camplin

## ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WEM

Churchwardens:	Elaine Shaw	236575
	Chris Mellings	809521
PCC Lay Chair:	Sybil Farmer	232568
PCC Treasurer:	Caroline Sinclair	232626
Planned Giving Officer:	Bob Dibben	236178
Organist & Choir Master:	Rodney Bellamy	01630 652564
Deputy Captain of Bells:	Karen Compton	236561
Sacristans:	June Powell	234412
	& Kath Ridgway	290162
Mothers' Union:	Bette Rich	234223
Church Flowers:	Olive Kenward	234774
	& Sybil Farmer	232568
Church Hall Bookings:	Elaine Shaw	07969 511590
Baby and Toddler Group:	Alison Hope	07526 757492

Further details are available on our website:

[www.wemcofe.co.uk](http://www.wemcofe.co.uk)



@Wemparishchurch

## From the Registers of St Peter and St Paul's Wem

### At Rest

31 March Peggy Audrey Bloor  
21 April Edward Vincent (Vin) Huxley  
21 April Donald Percy (Don) Smith

**“Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord and may  
light perpetual shine upon them.”**

\* \* \* \*

## Book of Remembrance for May

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Patricia Joan Scott	17 <sup>th</sup>	William “Bill” Henry Manning
4 <sup>th</sup>	Edgar Alexander Herriman	21 <sup>st</sup>	Ruth Emma Kidman-Beaver
4 <sup>th</sup>	Gwendolen Grace Mayhew	22 <sup>nd</sup>	John “Jack” Jones
5 <sup>th</sup>	Alice Lucinda Sarah Eckford	24 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Michael Walter “Mickey” Arrowsmith
5 <sup>th</sup>	Edith Ivy Stroud	27 <sup>th</sup>	Albert Sandall Cyril Fothergill
6 <sup>th</sup>	Wilf Bayliss	30 <sup>th</sup>	Sharon Elizabeth Carter
7 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Margaret Fenn Wiggin	30 <sup>th</sup>	Joyce Eileen Schmeisser
8 <sup>th</sup>	Henry “Harry” Ormes	31 <sup>st</sup>	Stephen Charles McNickle
12 <sup>th</sup>	Hannah May Evans		

**SS PETER & PAUL'S - GIVING DURING THE LOCKDOWN  
IMPORTANT INFORMATION.**

*The following is from our Planned Giving Officer, Bob, who continues to work tirelessly on all our behalf irrespective of current constraints.*

While the current Coronavirus restrictions remain in place and indeed for the future anyone with Internet access can make Gifts through Just Giving where St Peter & St Paul's now has a Page. This can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/wemstpeterandstpaul>

The Page provides for occasional Gifts to be made in various amounts, with or without Gift Aid, and I commend it for consideration by anyone who would normally make their Gifts via a Numbered Envelope.

A preferred alternative method of Regular Giving is via a Banker's Order and in this case please contact Bob Dibben for details by email to the following address which can also be used for enquiries regarding one-off or occasional Direct Gifts with or without Gift Aid:

[sspandpwem.giving@gmail.com](mailto:sspandpwem.giving@gmail.com)

Bankers Orders and Direct Gifts are more than welcome.

Our overheads continue but our income will be falling during the current crisis so it is hoped that as many of our congregation as possible will take up one of these methods of Giving electronically. Both methods are without any cost to the local church.

*The PCC would like to take the opportunity to thank Caroline, our Treasurer, and Bob for all that they do and for establishing these easy, safe and private ways of supporting our church.*

*Thank you both!!*

Dear Friends,

Too clearly and tragically we are in the midst of a unique time, one incomparable with anything any of us have experienced before. Overwhelmingly our thoughts for now are our prayers and hopes for a containment of this dreadful virus; our continued remembrance of those who are not mere statistics but each and every single one a precious unique individual taken too soon; our absolute heartfelt gratitude and admiration for the heroism of our priceless National Health Service personnel and those who work throughout the Care Sector; an overdue acknowledgement of the centrality of key workers across our country on whom we so depend.

This is a Parish Magazine unlike any other in that as we set it out it seems unlikely hard copy will go to print. Nonetheless in the same way that we are endeavouring to discover new ways of 'being church' we will carry on with our Parish Magazine, 160 years young, albeit electronically at present: as our Archbishops have said far from having 'shut up shop' we must face the challenge by becoming a radically different kind of church rooted in prayer and serving others. In the face of so much uncertainty of this at least we can be sure.

As the situation progresses so too will the response and guidance we receive, all can find updates as required from the information found on the C of E website:

[www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

The situation for all our churches remains the same, namely that:

- ALL Public Worship in the Church of England is suspended until further notice
- Likewise our churches are "now closed for public worship, private prayer and all other meetings and activities except for vital community services until further notice."

- Funerals will be conducted either at a Graveside or a Crematorium following strict guidelines on who may attend and in accordance with social distancing
- Weddings will not be taking place and only emergency baptisms are permitted at present

Across our Benefice I am sending regular updates about quality on-line services which may be very valuable ways of devotionally staying connected, if you are not receiving these please, if you can, drop me an email or phone (it's always good to talk) and I will add you to our list.

Additionally our Cathedral is live-streaming daily prayer services and Eucharists for Sundays and Major Feast Days which are available, including 'catch-up' at: [www.lichfield-cathedral.org](http://www.lichfield-cathedral.org)

With every good wish,  
Nick

The next issue is scheduled to be prepared on **Thursday 21 May** and will be available on **Friday 29 May** after 4.15 pm if we are able to produce a physical magazine. Otherwise it will go out in an electronic version. If you are receiving this via a friend and not currently on our email list, please contact either Fr Nick or the address below and we can add you to our list.

Items for the magazine can be left in the drawer at the back of the church in Wem, if restrictions have been lifted, (by 9 am Thursday) or sent to: [pamedgmond@hotmail.com](mailto:pamedgmond@hotmail.com)

## OUR CALENDAR FOR MAY

A common refrain at present is that for those isolating or locked down days can all seem the same, 'what day of the week is it?'. It is important to keep a sense of order and rhythm, however we may do so, and one way can be by noting the specialness of each and every Sunday – The Lord's Day. The Day of the Resurrection; to note the themes and richness in the pattern of our yearly Church Calendar.

Our Sundays this month are:

SUNDAY 3 MAY. The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
(also World Press Freedom Day – a time to give thanks for our and pray for others' freedom)

SUNDAY 10 MAY. The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
(the start of Christian Aid Week, please pray for this inestimable work and consider donating on-line)

SUNDAY 17 MAY. The Sixth Sunday of Easter  
(Rogation Sunday – when we pray for a blessing on our land and all who work in agriculture)

SUNDAY 24 MAY. The Sunday after The Ascension

SUNDAY 31 MAY. PENTECOST  
A Collect (or prayer) for Pentecost

*Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Other Collects for the above Sundays which you may find helpful:

For Freedom:

Liberating Lord we pray for all those falsely imprisoned for their belief in liberty and freedom of speech; for speaking out against corruption and injustice; for proclaiming the good news of your saving power; may their voices be heard and their liberty restored. Through the power of the Spirit. Amen.

Christian Aid Week:

God our Mother and Father, we praise you for the blessings you shower upon us. Bless the lives of our sisters and brothers and their precious children. In life's saddest moments, may we feel your love most, O Jesus. Continue to dwell in our hearts, Lord. May your love keep us strong.

Amen.

Rogation Sunday:

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding. Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

In addition we are still very much in the season of Easter. On Easter Day our Bishop, Michael, encouraged us all to pray the following prayer together (it is from the Easter morning liturgy and used when the Paschal Candle is lit). Perhaps it could be the morning prayer of each of us throughout the month, all of which is in the Easter Season until Pentecost itself:

*Jesus Christ yesterday and today,  
the beginning and the end,  
Alpha and Omega,  
all time belongs to him,  
and all ages;  
to him be glory and power,  
through every age and for ever.  
Amen.*

A few other Major Feast Days and Festivals which adorn this month:

1 May. SS Phillip and James, Apostles

2 May. St Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, a great teacher of our faith and preserver of Christian orthodoxy

8 May. Julian of Norwich. A spiritual writer of great beauty and depth, one of the C14th English mystics – see elsewhere in the magazine

14 May. St Mathias the Apostle

19 May. St Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, formerly an abbot who did much to restore the English monastic tradition

26 May. St Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury

*“Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud  
of witnesses....let us run with perseverance  
the race that is set before us”*

**Any queries about searches in the Whitchurch Road  
Cemetery or elsewhere**

**Please contact Mr Tom Edwards of 1 Eckford Park, Wem,  
SY4 5HL or on 01939 233932**

## WHITCHURCH FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

For most, if not all of us, it is heart-breaking enough that we require Food Banks in the first place. Now we have to realise that the current crisis is placing increased demands upon them whilst some of the usual sources of support are in shorter supply.

All the churches in our Benefice ordinarily do a wonderful job on supporting our local Food Bank. However these are so clearly not ordinary times and our usual way of supporting Whitchurch Food Bank is not possible, yet alongside this the need for the Food Bank is greater than ever before. In addition to the on-going need the coronavirus pandemic has plunged many whose work we in 'normal' times rely upon, or occasionally take for granted, into very difficult circumstances - but our churches are not open to receive donations!

The Food Bank is still open to accept donations at their base, Bargates Hall Whitchurch, in the usual way between 09.30-11.30 on Tuesday & Fridays. Social Distancing will be maintained.

There are three alternative ways to continue to support the truly wonderful and absolutely essential work of the Food Bank:

1. Food can be left in Wem Co-op where it is collected and taken to Whitchurch by Ann & Paul Johnson from Wem Methodist church.
2. We also understand that the Co-op staff at Wem are happy to take payments by debit/credit card over the phone for Food Bank goods, which they will place in the donation cages ready for collection/delivery.
3. Direct monetary donations can be made on line at:  
<https://whitchurch.foodbank.org.uk/>

*'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink' Matthew 25.35a*

## **BISHOP MICHAEL'S EASTER MESSAGE**

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'. Dickens' famous words could have been written for our own day. For many, certainly, these are the worst of times: people are suffering, and dying, from viral infection; many confined to their own homes are feeling isolated, frustrated or helpless; there is widespread anxiety about loss of income, lack of food, separation from loved ones; and, as always, the vulnerable are those who bear the heaviest burden. Perhaps most heartbreaking of all are the deaths and burials where family and friends are physically unable to be present to honour the departed and to comfort one another.

"But, strange to say, in some ways these are also the best of times. We are seeing, particularly from those who work in the NHS but also from shop workers, delivery operatives, emergency services and others, extraordinary commitment and courage.

"Churches and communities are reinventing themselves, turning outwards to care for those who are most in need. Compassion, kindness and common sense are being created online in imaginative and unexpected ways. We are realising as a nation that actually we quite like one another, and maybe are not so divided as we thought.

"And all this is happening as we prepare to celebrate Easter, which also speaks of the worst of times and the best of times. The worst, because in Jesus' cross we see the darkness of the world at its blackest and are confronted with the reality of death. The best, because in raising Jesus to life God shows that there is no power stronger than the love which joins us together and gives us a hope which can never be defeated. I pray that you are kept safe and well this Easter, and that you know joy in your heart."

+Michael Lich

*(From our Diocesan Website)*

## **Stranded - and Lonely**

There used to be an unspeakable “C” word and people were frightened at the prospect of even being near someone who had been diagnosed with the condition, whatever it meant. It was talked about in whispers for fear that the sufferer might overhear the conversation and be offended at the news escaping. Those were the early days of Cancers being understood.

Now, since late 2019 there is another “C” word, but this time it strikes fear into every person on Earth. I need hardly explain that it is Coronavirus which leads to the condition known as COVID-19.

For centuries the population of our planet has been ever more adventurous and in doing so has spread disease from place to place. Early European explorers took diseases to places where there was no immunity and local populations were badly affected, leading to deaths from conditions that they could not understand.

Since the introduction of long-distance flights the time taken to travel from one centre of population to another has shortened; aircraft have been constructed to carry huge numbers of passengers. Cruise liners carry thousands of people. And this has all been in the name of adventure and leisure, mixed with some excitement.

Scenes brought to us via our televisions have recently shown dozens of passenger aircraft lined up, silent, cold, costing their owners millions of pounds in finance costs, in maintenance and in parking fees. Liners have been stranded on the seas off various countries with their crews and passengers helpless as governments refuse landing permissions.

Stranded. What an emotional word. Explorers have been stranded on previously unexplored shores and in many cases they and their fellows have perished. Franklin in the North West Passage - perished; Shackleton in the wilds of the South Atlantic - survived; Scott on Antarctica - perished. The modern traveller is now experiencing the same remoteness, without help and with no means of transport to return home. Reliance on modern communications tends to minimise distances but it cannot conjure up transport in seconds. If only magic carpets were available!

How can several thousand passengers and crew on one cruise liner feel lonely? Stranded in an unfrequented and remote place or even near a city as busy as Los Angeles. Yes, how true of a stranded liner anchored, with nowhere to go. A lonely person is sad; try applying that description to a liner and it can become a lonely thing. Lifeless, pointless, motionless, also costing its owner a fortune to maintain.

The current “C” word is being thrust at us daily in the media and when explained it becomes a frightening thing – invisible, intangible, affecting so many people so quickly. Some are severely affected and many thousands around the World have died. More will certainly follow. Others will be less seriously affected to the extent of giving the condition barely a passing thought. Sadly, some take advantage of the weakness in their fellows and become parasites in their own communities while the authorities have to clamp down on such un-Christianlike behaviours.

Among all of the frenzied activity designed to slow and stop the spread of “C” are people, ordinary people, the aged, the weak, the infirm, families and the lonely and all want help and support. They can feel stranded, restricted to their homes for weeks on end. Perhaps it was with a sense of foreboding that I wrote “All the lonely people” in the last edition of this Magazine. That was with the expectation that individuals were on my mind. Now whole countries are feeling lonely as their citizens are confined to their homes – be they mansions, houses, flats. Lonely people can include royalty and commoners, the rich and poor, healthy and frail, the powerful and the weak.

It really is the time for everyone to support everyone else and will be for some time into the future. Some people, however, are so susceptible to infection that they have been confined to their homes for 12 weeks – maybe more – for their own benefit. No going out; no visitors. Little wonder that telephones, emails, WhatsApp, Facetime, Skype and the rest have been extremely busy with electronic communications across the nations of the world.

However, nothing electronic can replace the person to person contact which is a feature of humankind and as we are told on the nightly news families lose loved ones to “C” and have not been allowed to be with them at their last.

As I write this in the early days of April nobody knows how or when the current global crisis will be truly at an end. What will happen at “The End”? One cannot flick a switch to turn off “C” and find everything starting up again as if from a 100 years’ sleep! There is no dashing Prince to waken the slumbering Princess of planet Earth. It will surely take many years for activities to re-start because we shall find that many key people and businesses have been lost to “C” and given that the UK has few natural resources and thus has to rely on manufactured goods from other countries the lead time to full production cannot yet be estimated.

Will aircraft fly again, fully laden? Will cruise liners ever visit exotic parts of the world again, full of relaxing passengers?

In the meantime, Social Distancing has been the buzz word with the vast majority of people observing the minimum 2 metre requirement for separation. The key to controlling “C” from spreading too quickly has been separation between people and where this has not been possible or has been introduced too late “C” has been able to spread very fast.

So, when it is all over what will you be doing? What will I be doing?

Whatever we, collectively, can do at the end we shall need to support a very gradual return to easier conditions. Don’t panic. Keep calm. Follow the advice from national and local governments.

Give thanks that you are still alive and are firmly in God’s hands.

And remember to give thanks for those who have cared for the thousands with “C”, for those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the course of that work and for the patience of all affected by “C” in any way.

Next time you feel like being an explorer may you think ahead and plan against the possibility of being Stranded and Lonely.

*Bob Dibben*

## PRAYER

In my first year In Israel, I worked in a temporary job and spent time learning Hebrew. Thereafter I happily secured a position in medical research. Little did I know the test of faith which lay ahead. I worked for eight months before my official appointment came through without getting paid. My funds ran out after the first month and then I had to learn to pray for my 'daily bread', which included paying rent, utilities, bus fare and food. But, at the end of that time, I had no debts except gratitude to God and those whom He moved to support me - many anonymously. Most valuable to me was learning that God is real and responds to prayer for provision in the most loving detail.

Prayer weaves a strong thread throughout the Bible, with many different kinds of prayer recorded, as well as the kind of people who prayed - both men and women, humble servants and kings, and of course, Jesus himself.

We see from these examples that prayer is talking to God - however, not only talking to Him, but also listening. It is rarely that God speaks with an audible voice, so how do we hear Him? First and foremost, God speaks through His Word, the Bible. Becoming acquainted with what is contained in those pages, enables us know the character of God and His will for us. The prospect of reading the Bible from beginning to end may seem daunting, especially when we don't know the context or the original languages in which it was written. However, there are many helpful Bible reading notes available which can be used to explain, enlighten and help us to practically apply His Word to our lives.

Famously, after observing Jesus spending much time in prayer, His disciples asked him to teach them to pray. Jesus' response was to teach them the prayer which is so familiar to us, the 'Our Father'. This prayer provides an excellent framework for a practical approach to prayer:

**WORSHIP:** Before we bring our requests to God, we need to be still before Him and reflect on His greatness as Creator of the Universe, the Almighty God. Here the words of some of the Psalms can help us, like Psalms 8, 33 & 34. Worship music can help us too. Then to remember He is 'Our Father', who loves us and gave His only Son, Jesus, for our redemption.

**REPENTANCE:** Contemplating the greatness and goodness of God should naturally lead us to repentance and confession. Even in this, we need to ask for God's grace to be humble before Him and for the light of the Holy Spirit to see our own sinfulness. There are definite obstacles to

prayer which we need to clear away before we can make our requests to God. These are highlighted by Jesus as unforgiveness, pride and criticism.

Unforgiveness: In Matthew 6:14, Jesus tells us that God does not forgive us if we hold grudges against others. Also, if we are aware that someone holds a grudge against us, WE need to make peace first. Matthew 5:23-24.

Pride: In Luke 18:9-14, Jesus tells us in the parable of the Pharisees and the tax collector, that an attitude of pride will block our prayers.

Criticism (judgement): In Luke 6:41-42, Jesus says we are like the blind leading the blind if we point out faults in others and don't see our own. We need to be rid of our own faults first and leave judgement to God.

Once we have cleared away the obstacles and received God's forgiveness through Jesus, we can submit our prayers to God. Our requests need to be shaped by the Word of God - James 4:3 warns us: "When you ask you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures". Rather, our attitude should be of one seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Matthew 6:25-33.

Often we pray very generalised 'safe' prayers, which, quite honestly, we wouldn't know whether they were answered or not. It is important to BE SPECIFIC. Then, when the answer comes, there is nothing more exciting than knowing our prayer has been heard by the living God. In Mark 10:46-52, blind Bartimaeus asks Jesus to have mercy on him, but Jesus insists that He be specific about what he wants. Only when Bartimaeus says, 'I want to see', does Jesus heal him of his blindness.

Sometimes, the answer to prayer doesn't come immediately. Jesus tells us that we need PERSISTENCE to keep on asking until the answer comes. He illustrates this in the parable of the persistent widow in Mark 18: 1-8

If we are to grow effective in our praying, we need to PRACTISE daily. Set aside a time each day to talk and listen to God. We don't need flowery language or to be longwinded, we need to pray from the heart. God hears and responds to the simplest of prayers - for example, the father's cry, "Jesus!" when he saw his young daughter fall out of the first floor window. God heard his cry and he found her unharmed on the ground outside (from *Intercessory Prayer* edited by Leonard LeSourd 1990).

There is so much more to learn about prayer, but the best way, as with most things, is to learn by doing it. Also, praying together with others, with one heart and mind, brings an even greater release of God's power to

accomplish His will on earth. We only have to look at the results of the prayer of the early Church in the book of Acts to see the evidence, e.g. Peter's miraculous release from prison. Also, Jesus' long nights spent in prayer were followed by significant events, like walking on the water and calming the storm; choosing the twelve apostles; teaching the Lord's Prayer; ultimately dying on the cross and being raised from the dead after Gethsemane.

The aim of writing about prayer is to encourage all of us to talk and listen to God more, especially together, so that we may see the unmistakable work of God in the life of His body at St. Peter and St. Paul's Parish Church, Wem, St Peter's in Lee Brockhurst and St Luke's in Weston. Interceding for others is very much part of the work of the Church - praying for individuals, communities, governments, nations and of course the Church herself. At a time such as this, it becomes more urgent than ever.

In Wem, the date for the Parish Prayer Day is June 20th this year. We don't know whether we shall still be in lockdown, but it will take place one way or another, even if it has to be in our own homes. Since lockdown began, the Monday informal prayer group has been praying 'together' each in our own homes at the same time of 4pm following the same framework. If anyone would like to join, I would be happy to email the framework to you.

Finally, I would like to recommend one book to you that is both easy to read as well as profoundly instructive: 'How to Pray' by Pete Greig. The author has also written 'Red Moon Rising' the account of the 24/7 prayer movement which began just over twenty years ago, a very exciting book.

SUE McLEOD

Don't aim at success – the more you aim at it and make it a target, the more you are going to miss it. For success, like happiness, cannot be pursued; it must ensue, and it only does so as the unintended side-effect of one's dedication to a cause greater than oneself.

– Viktor Frankl (*Psychiatrist, concentration camp survivor and author of Man's Search for Meaning*)

### **Holy Days in the Church Calendar in May**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Philip and James, Apostles.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Athanasius, Bishop, Teacher of Faith, 373.
- 4<sup>th</sup> English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c 1417.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Matthias the Apostle.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer, 1877.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Helena, Protector of the Holy Places, 330.
- 24<sup>th</sup> John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, 1791 & 1788.
- 25<sup>th</sup> The Venerable Bede, Monk, Scholar, Historian, 735.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, 709.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605.
- 26<sup>th</sup> John Calvin, Reformer, 1564.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Philip Neri, Spiritual Guide, 1595.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1089.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Joan of Arc, Visionary, 1431.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Apolo Kivebulaya, Priest, Evangelist in Africa, 1933.
- 31<sup>st</sup> The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth.

#### WEM PARISH CHURCH WEBSITE

Mike Farmer continues to do a splendid job with the Wem Parish Church Website. This was shown by the 120+ visits it had in the first ten days of April alone, this was surely in part due to the current crisis yet shows its worth. So a timely reminder that if ever you miss an email with current updates, wish to access the Diocesan Prayer Diary or, hopefully copyright permitting, our Redemptorist readings - plus more - then go to:

[www.wemcofe.co.uk](http://www.wemcofe.co.uk)

Our thanks to Mike (aided and abetted by Sybil!)  
for all he does with this.

## Julian of Norwich

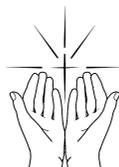
Julian of Norwich was writing at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English.

She was the first woman, and the first significant writer, to write in English. She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her 'cell'.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that today up and down Britain there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of 'Julian Groups' who meet regularly to study her writings and try to put them into practice.

She is honoured this month in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.' These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.



## **In our Benefice thanks are due at this extraordinary time**

I am writing in the mid-morning of Easter Day as we watch a service of Holy Eucharist from Lichfield – not from the Cathedral itself but from a room in a house. There is a table spread with a simple white cloth, furnished with a Cross portraying Christ Crucified, a few flowers, a candle and porcelain for the bread and wine to be shared spiritually with unknown numbers of people at home.

Access to the Cathedral, as with all other places of worship, is currently denied to all in the interests of Social Distancing.

We have been led to join together in this familiar but deeply meaningful service by Fr Nick whose researches for suitable forms, times and locations of services and other events before and during Holy Week and Easter Day have been delivered to us electronically while the dreadful Coronavirus crisis rages across the World, God's World.

The marvels of modern travel have contributed heavily to the unwanted spread of Coronavirus yet the marvels of modern electronic communications have contributed to the linking of people around the World now that there is almost nil international travel. Images flood across our television screens, accompanied by their related sounds and as the Eucharist service ends we hear the pre-recorded bells of the Cathedral and see a view of the bell tower.

Somehow the service conveyed a different perspective as we sat in our armchairs being 'fed' with the spiritual Eucharist. In place of the actual Bread and Wine received in church we had to acknowledge the spiritual connection. This has also been provided by Fr Nick through his daily devotions and celebrations of the Eucharist at the Rectory during this Holy time in the Church's calendar. For this, also, we thank him.

Thanks are also due to the invisible numbers of our churches' congregations who have isolated themselves for shorter or longer periods of time to ensure that they do not contribute to the spread of Coronavirus in our local community. In our part of the country, in a land-locked county, we are seeing increasing numbers of folk infected with the virus and at once our attention turns to the risks that our health professionals and workers are facing as they tend to the needs of their patients.

Coronavirus cannot be seen, only detected. But that is after the infection has taken hold of someone and age is no defence. There is no "magic pill" that can be given. Nothing except care and breathing assistance can give any relief. Far too many people are dying. Dying in hospitals, their own homes, in care homes and other, unrecorded places. This virus really is a killer and no wonder that it has been declared a Pandemic, affecting the World.

So we return to that most valuable pair of words: "Thank you!" and this time they go out to one and all who do their part, small or significant, during this extremely stressful time in every household in the United Kingdom.

Especially, we say "Thank you!" Fr Nick.

I am sure that I write this supported by everyone who has received the benefit of his toils to keep us, his flock, together.

*Bob Dibben*

P.S. Was I alone in watching via the Internet the Bishop celebrating the Eucharist from his garden at 5.15 this morning? As the light spread across the sky behind him and the birds began their morning chorus so it was happening here as well, a reminder that God's Creation is universal and not only in one's back garden.

## Worshipping under Lockdown

During this worrying and, indeed, unprecedented time we are having to get used to different ways of praying. Fr Nick has kindly sent us suggestions of on-line, TV and radio services plus lots of supporting literature and you will find helpful guidance in Sue McLeod's article elsewhere in this magazine. So how have some of our fellow worshippers celebrated the Easter period?

### Palm Sunday

One service at the beginning of Holy Week seemed to stay in my mind, the Palm Sunday service at Glasgow Cathedral (recorded before lock-down) that featured their Christian mission which provides food and healthcare for the homeless.

The artist Ian Campbell, well known locally for his work, inspired by St Luke's gospel, painted The Last Supper depicting a group of homeless men seated around the holy table.

Pam Roberts

### Easter Festival at Brockhurst Farm

This year we were blessed with blue skies and warm sun, nature's therapy surrounding us, a great background for celebrating this vital Christian event under the lockdown situation of the Corvid 19 virus. With no church services at St. Peter's Lee Brockhurst it had to be a virtual celebration which, thanks to computer technology, did bring a rewarding spiritual experience. Thanks Nick for your guidance and programme.

On Good Friday it was a normal working day on the farm, well the morning for me helping to weigh young cattle to monitor growth rate after my daily pre-breakfast animal routine, then gardening in the afternoon with Phoebe. Come evening our thoughts turned to missing our traditional service at Lee so I spent some quiet time with thoughts about Jesus.

Saturday was special in that we spent time phoning friends and family, so this year we had much more contact, I guess a natural reaction of concern because of the virus pandemic. Sunday saw an early start, not 5.15am! but good enough to be back in the house to hear Justin Welby on Radio 4 at 8.10am with Phoebe. His no frills Eucharist from the Lambeth Palace kitchen sent a message of humility and compassion which the general population could lock on to. Thank you Archbishop.

Then at 11.00am we opened up the video recording of Michael Ipgrave's 5.15am garden Eucharist at Lichfield. Again a humbling service that was totally unique, targeting the whole social media world, not just the Lichfield Cathedral congregation. The timing of darkness to light with nature's birdsong in the background was so well thought out. There were a couple of amusing technical hiccups and I think I heard Michael murmur, "life is full of surprises!" Immediately after this ended Phoebe sat at her keyboard and played 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today' and 'Thine be the Glory', I sang along to them. Great to have the organist living with you!

After our al fresco lunch on the patio we set off with Rosy for our two hour Sunday afternoon walk circuiting the farm boundary then down to Aston village and back to our garden to relax with drinks in the summerhouse. Here at Brockhurst we are so blessed to be the custodians of a beautiful part of North Shropshire and living life to the full.

Roger Ashton

### A Different Easter

It's certainly been a different Easter. As I'm sure is the case with many others in the Benefice, my feelings have been in slight turmoil. From the anxiety of whether I will be able to continue to work, with the accompanying worries about meeting the bills, to the realisation by my 9 year old daughter, Georgina, on Palm Sunday that she would be missing out on her palm cross for the first time in her life, I have floundered from one emotion to another in swift succession over recent weeks. The comfort & joy that being able to observe Easter with our Lee Brockhurst friends has been lost, and Good Friday and Easter Sunday both felt slightly strange for not having been to Church.

This year has also been a difficult one personally, as it has been the first we have faced without my father, after his death in September. Whilst Dad was by no means a Church-goer, he always looked forward to Easter because of

the celebratory meal that ensued when Mum & I got home from Church. For many years this was enjoyed with numerous friends and family members, much love and laughter and a suitably groaning table. This year's lunch was a far quieter affair; just me, Mum and Georgina, with a glass raised to Dad, along with prayers of thanksgiving for our own health and wellbeing in these increasingly odd times.

I always describe my faith as my own personal comfort blanket and it has certainly felt more like that in the last few months.

I have found solace in the emails from Nick, with accompanying literature, along with the broadcasts on the BBC. Good Friday's 'Easter from Kings' was a lovely accompaniment to an evening's reading – although being a keen singer, I was frustrated by the lack of announcement of the next hymn or supporting subtitles! I have followed several of the Sunday Worship programmes on the BBC over recent weeks, and whilst the various priests speaking directly to camera was a little disconcerting to start off with, it has given a more personal feel, as if they are speaking directly to me.

Mum & I hope that all our parish friends are suitably safe, and equally finding comfort in the joy of Christ's rising. Alleluia!

Alexandra Lusby

### Shrewsbury Cathedral

What was most heartening for me in Holy Week, was to hear that Roman Catholic Churches were not in Lock Down but open for a bishop or priest and one ministrant, making it possible for me to sit quietly at home and watch LIVE from the Roman Catholic Cathedral Shrewsbury the liturgy on Good Friday which was quietly moving and prayerful. Again on Holy Saturday Evening a liturgy followed by the lighting of candles and preparations for the MOST HOLY DAY - ALLELUIA!

Tricia Bamford

## Worship for Easter 2020

Well it was certainly different but for me full of memories. Let me explain. After the two previous Sundays of worshipping on my own I had become used to it so knew how I wanted to worship throughout Easter.

On Palm Sunday I got out my little table, candle and cross and added a small wooden carving of Jesus on a donkey, carrying a palm branch, which I had bought ten years before on a visit to Oberammergau with Lesley, my daughter. So after the morning worship I was able to recollect the visit, the village shop and buying the carving. This led me to think more about my worship so I found a souvenir book of the performance of the Passion Play I had bought and used it as a guide to pray my version of The Stations of The Cross on Good Friday morning.

This brought back another memory of a holiday Don and I had in Germany many years previously. We were staying in Bernkastel and went off to explore one morning. We were walking up quite a slope on the side of the River Moselle when Don remarked on what appeared to be the ends of candles every now and again and we realised we were walking a local 'Way of The Cross'. We followed it to the top of the hill and there we found a monument with an almost life-size sculpted scene of the body of Jesus being laid in the tomb and on walking round to the other side there was a beautiful large painting of the risen Christ. Needless to say we spent quite a bit of time there but what a lovely memory of another holiday.

On Easter Sunday I once again set up my small table, candle and cross and completed my own worship after joining the Archbishop of Canterbury in his kitchen. This reminded me of a visit to Canterbury many years ago with my parents and walking round the cathedral there.

The final memories to share with you come from the candle base I am using in my worship. This is a piece of supposedly ancient stone bought on a trip to the Christmas Market in Holland one December. It holds three small night lights so I feel it is very safe to use in the home but whilst I didn't think about it at the time I now like the significance of the Trinity with the three candles. However, what I really wanted to finish with is that not only does the stone remind me of a visit to Holland one December it also reminds me of two holidays Don and I took to Holland to visit the beautiful Keukenhof Gardens. These are simply stunning when all the spring flowers are in full bloom and we were very lucky with the weather, having, if I remember rightly, a lovely sunny day for both visits.

So that is how I managed my Easter worship, very different but very memorable in all sorts of ways.

Olive Kenward

## Church on Line

These are strange times and I was missing the regular hymn practice before the 11.15 Sunday service each week until Nick sent out the list of options for joining "virtual worship" of many descriptions. I began by accessing the Lichfield Diocese website and the various services we could join. I started with the 08.00 am Morning Prayer on Palm Sunday, which did not inspire me, the celebrant did not look up from his "script" enough to engage my mind. The 10.30 Eucharist on the same day proved a better experience. I am sure that those who lead the worship will get better at presenting as time goes by. It must be very difficult to lead an act of worship without a visible congregation and using technology that may be very unfamiliar.

On Good Friday I joined Bishop Michael for his meditation at 10.00. This was inspirational, Bishop Michael has a very natural way of speaking to the camera. I particularly enjoyed his use of treasured objects to focus on Good Friday and our current situation. A cross made by a carpenter from wood taken from shipwrecks, another cross made by a prisoner from Stoke Heath and a set of linocut pictures commissioned by him of the 12 stations of the cross. In view of the time available he only spoke about 3 of them.

Easter Day Roger and I decided to listen to Bishop Michael's 5.15 am Dawn Eucharist from the garden of the Bishop's house but as we watched it at 11.00 obviously we did not get the same effect, at this time, of the gradual lightening of the sky outside whilst the service took place. However, we found it very moving and together with the Eucharist taken by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, both with their wives taking part made our Easter Day very special.

I also listened to the Archbishop's service on Radio 4 on Palm Sunday in conjunction with the Bishop of Dover which included singing of hymns. I tried to watch the Good Friday service from Lichfield Cathedral but found the focus on works of arts not to my taste and abandoned the viewing.

I think that the two things I miss most from the worship are the coming together physically and the singing of hymns and playing of music. Fortunately the latter is remedied by listening to Radio 3 and the former by joining in such things as virtual Wem Community Choir practices on Zoom on Tuesday evenings (not hymns)! I am also keeping up my Silver Swan ballet classes on YouTube every week.

Thanks to modern technology, which in the past I have said was the worst thing to happen to the world, we can still keep in touch with our friends and families and continue to worship God albeit once removed as it were.

Phoebe Ashton

## My reflection on Rainbow Time



We are now into our 5<sup>th</sup> week of self-isolating and operating under the new norm. Had I written this article in week one I am quite sure my reflection would have been quite different. I realise now that throughout life we encounter personal lockdown times when something changes dramatically in our day-to-day existence, and the only way to cope is to 'isolate' and find your own way through. In those instances we continue to operate under normal life rules but the learning to cope and move forward is no different to what we are individually dealing with now. The bigger picture is currently much scarier but we just have to take one day at a time and do what we think is right for us.

I have been very fortunate in that I am still visiting and caring for my 90 year old mother (due to her vulnerability), and having more time has enabled me to spend time with her discussing many things but including our faith. I am currently being well supported on that front as Father Nick communicates with his congregation electronically on a very regular basis and points us in all sorts of directions so that we can find the help we need, but all dependent on having computing skills and the internet. However I now know that my Mum has been without any such support since the day she became more or less housebound eighteen months ago. Having attended Church regularly all her life being 'on her own' at a time of great need, has been very difficult but her faith has won through. I reflect now that many of the congregation I have known over the past 40 years have experienced the same isolation towards the end of their lives.

My garden has become an even more special place and I am making use of the various seats I have put in place over the years (and never had the time to use before!) and I now look upon them as prayer stations and each day choose one appropriate to my mood. Nature is a wonderful thing to watch; and our daily walks too have revealed so many changes in such a short space of time. We have much to be thankful for.

Life at the moment for me is quite simple and I am lucky to be sharing it with a loving husband and best friend. A snatched phone call with my sister who worked 72 hours last week at the Princess Royal Hospital (instead of her usual 22) creates a feeling of guilt but she assures me that the best I can do is stay at home. The debt to the staff of the NHS is enormous and we must continue to show how much we appreciate all they are doing in unchartered territory.

By way of explanation- my immediate family decided early on that lockdown was a hard and tough word for the grandsons to understand, and then Henry (aged 4) told me it was Rainbow Time so he was sending me a rainbow for my window. So we now talk about Rainbow Time instead.....and his picture lights up my window. I miss them very much but again technology helps: Roy and I, dressed in our pirate costumes, joining in a Zoom virtual party to celebrate a Birthday makes another special memory.

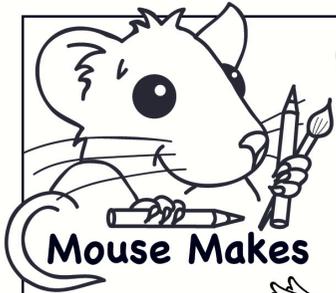
Stay safe and take care; and join with me in praying for all those without a computer.

Janet Reeves

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow:  
it empties today of its strength.”

*Corrie ten Boom - a woman who survived a concentration camp*





"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.



If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with the Spirit"



Read Galatians 5:13-26

How many other words can you find using the letters from:

**FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?**



U O  
 N T R V  
 G R A C E G O D  
 B T H E L P E A C E  
 T P A T I E N C E I  
 J G T R U S T R J  
 C R L O R D L E E  
 A K I N D N E S S  
 L O V E H O N T U  
 M J E R O D E K S  
 G O O D N E S S  
 C A Y M O E L S  
 O B L E S S I S  
 N F R U I T G P  
 D T Y H O L Y H I  
 A S E L F C O N T R O L P S E R V E V  
 A U C O N S I D E R A T E O A R T M I E V E R  
 E B N I N T E G R I T Y O D Y C A R E S N E  
 B I C O M P A S S I O N E A C Y A N H T  
 A T O L E R A N C E S I E L O E I T H  
 Y G E N E R O S I T Y D T R R N S  
 F A I T H F U L N E S S Y D Y T  
 G O O D W I L L P



Which symbol goes with which fruit?



- LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
- AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
- PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
- GOODWILL • GENEROSITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
- FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
- SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

## LEE BROCKHURST WI

I'm hoping you are all keeping safe and well as you read about the latest antics of Lee Brockhurst W.I. members.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April was a landmark date for us, being **70 years** since Lee Brockhurst W.I. was founded. We are **forever grateful** to all the women who preceded us, so it was important that we marked the occasion. In true Lee Brockhurst W.I. style, we came together with **party hats, birthday cake, party poppers and a glass of fizz** – all via 'Zoom'. It was lovely to hear various members comment on how much W.I. means to them, and impressive that the **bond of friendship and fun** shone through our virtual meeting.

It took a little while for the W.I. engine to start working smoothly but lots of plans are now in the **virtual** pipeline, including;

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm – **W.I. meeting and quiz**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May – 'What's the Point' **craft club** with salt dough techniques and programme planning for the coming year

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May – **Book Club**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September (fingers crossed) – **70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Garden Party** at Palms Hill House (postponed from June) when we hope to celebrate together in person!

Lee Brockhurst WI members are a resilient and resourceful bunch, **supporting each other** through the current situation; **positivity is overcoming anxiety**. Our Facebook page is awash with useful **information, inspiring tales and hilarious jokes**, which are relayed to our 'non-Facebookers'. I personally have rediscovered the joy of a good natter on the phone with fellow members instead of always emailing!

Ironically 'isolation' seems to have proved the **strength of our community** and this appears to have been widely replicated;

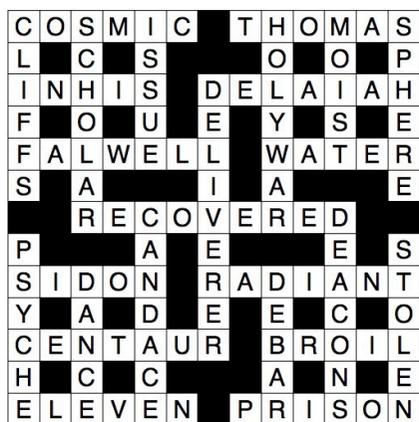
1. 99 year old Captain Tom Moore's daily sponsored walk has (at the time of writing) raised **£28,423,090** for the NHS thanks to 1,338,628 donors, far in excess of his £1000 target, earning him a 'Pride of Britain' award.

2. After completing an intensive online course, Princess Sofia of Sweden has swapped her tiara for scrubs to assist at a Stockholm hospital with **cleaning, disinfecting and kitchen work**.
3. Home schoolers are being supported by lessons from Sir **David Attenborough** (animals & oceans), Professor **Brian Cox** (science) and footballer **Sergio Ageuro** (Spanish for young children).
4. The **world's top darts players** have come together to compete from home online in the **world's biggest darts tournament** over 32 days and this will be free to watch.
5. 'Run for Heroes' challenges people to **run 5k** on their daily exercise, donate £5, and **challenge five friends** to do the same. Originally aiming to raise £5000, it raised **£4,757,214** for the NHS in three weeks.
6. **In less than a week**, University College London and Mercedes F1 team created **a new breathing aid** for Coronavirus patients, reducing the need for a ventilator, and delivered 40 to London hospitals! Other companies including Rolls Royce, BAE systems and Ford have pledged to **produce ventilators** for the NHS.
7. Germany has used its military air force planes to fly in Covid-19 patients from Italy's worst hit region as well as hard-hit Eastern France, **offering over 120 ICU beds** to the two countries.
8. Yorkshire couple, Fiona and Adam Gordon had to reduce their wedding to two witnesses but decided to **donate the 400 meals** booked for their reception to hospital workers in Hull.
9. A **smiling 106 year-old** Connie Titchen was applauded by staff as she left hospital in Birmingham having fought off the virus.
10. The Prince Rupert Hotel in Shrewsbury, like other hotels nationwide, have **taken in homeless people** enabling them to self-isolate with the support of Shrewsbury Ark, the Shrewsbury Food Hub and public donations.

As Captain Tom said, "**For all those finding it difficult, the sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away**".

Sue Wilton-Morgan  
President  
Lee Brockhurst WI

## Answer to last month's crossword



### **ST PETER'S, LEE BROCKHURST**

Church Warden	Val Lusby	235610
Church Warden & Treasurer	Roger Ashton	232425
Secretary	Phoebe Ashton	232425
Vice Chairman	Tim Wilton-Morgan	235703
Warden Emeritus	Robert Marsh	200641

### **ST LUKE'S, WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE**

Church Warden	Arthur Fox	01630 685180
Church Warden	Helen O'Neill	01939 200663
Church Warden (Deputy)	Sylvia Griffiths	01630 685204
Treasurer	Colin Holloway	01939 200682