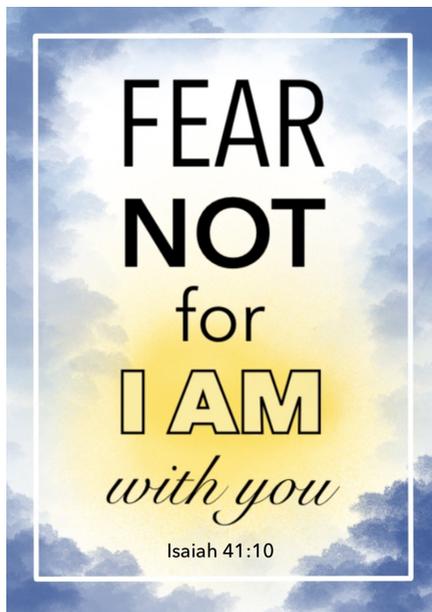


Parish Magazine for
Wem, Lee Brockhurst and Weston-under-Redcastle

May 2022



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



The Rectory
Ellesmere Road, Wem SY4 5TU

During the Vacancy please contact us via
www.wemcofe.co.uk

Find us on 

@Wemparishchurch

Retired Clergy:

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

Readers Emeriti:

Celia Camplin, Cathy Dibben

ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WEM

Churchwardens:	Chris Mellings	809521
PCC Lay Chair:	Sybil Farmer	232568
PCC Treasurer:	Caroline Sinclair	232626
Organist & Choir Master:	Rodney Bellamy	01630 652564
Bells:	To be confirmed	
Sacristans:	June Powell	234412
	& Kath Ridgway	290162
Church Flowers:	Olive Kenward	234774
	& Sybil Farmer	232568
Church Hall Bookings:	Via website/Facebook	
Baby and Toddler Group:	Alison Hope	07526 757492

Further details are available on our website:
www.wemcofe.co.uk

Find us on 

@Wemparishchurch

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

At Rest

23 March Jean Mary Taylor

25 March Baby Elsie Iris Ann Jones

30 March Jean Mary Taylor (Interment of Ashes)

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

St Peter and St Paul's Wem
Rotas for 9.45 am Services

Readers

1 May	NT Gospel	Helen Hornsby John Tye
8 May	NT Gospel	Val Lusby Tim Heavisides
15 May	NT Gospel	Sybil Farmer Rob Ballantyne
22 May	NT Gospel	David Murray Thelma Pugh
29 May	NT Gospel	Thelma Chilcott William Price

Intercessors

1 May	Keith Edwards
8 May	Katharine Murray
15 May	June Powell
22 May	Olive Kenward
29 May	Tim Heavisides

Book of Remembrance for May

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

ST PETER'S, LEE BROCKHURST

Church Warden:	Val Lusby	235610
Church Warden and Treasurer:	Roger Ashton	232425
Secretary:	Phoebe Ashton	232425
Vice Chairman:	Tim Wilton-Morgan	07802 735769
Church Warden Emeritus:	Robert Marsh	200641

From the Registers of St Peter's Lee Brockhurst

13 March Hugh and Joan Broomhall and Nancy Dutton
(Scattering of Ashes)

9 April Kenneth Lloyd (Interment of Ashes)

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



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

Church Warden:	Frank Hosie-Kingdom	01939 200618
Church Warden:	Helen O'Neill	01939 200663
Church Warden (Deputy):	Sylvia Griffiths	01630 685204
Treasurer:	Colin Holloway	01939 200682
Church Warden Emeritus	Arthur Fox	01630 685180

**From the Registers of
St Luke's Weston-Under-Redcastle**

At Rest

5 April Ernest Bryson McCall
(Service of Thanksgiving following cremation)
Much valued treasurer of St. Luke's PCC for many years.

Baptism

17 April Benjamin James Griffiths Young

**WESTON VILLAGE SHOW
SUNDAY 7th AUGUST 2022**

At last some GOOD NEWS. Weston Village Show is returning after an absence of 2 years plus. It will be held on The Citadel Show Ground on Sunday 7th August with all the usual attractions. The two Charities chosen to benefit will be The Hope House Children's Hospice at Oswestry and the Rheumatology Research at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital at Gobowen. So please put this date in your diary.

We are hoping to arrange some Coffee Mornings in the Churchyard, weather permitting, as soon as possible.

On Wednesday 11th May The Citadel Gardens will be open in aid of Shropshire Historic Churches Trust from 2 to 5 pm

Daphne Evans

SUNDAYS IN MAY

ACROSS THE BENEFICE

DATE		WEM	WESTON	LEE
1 May	Easter 3	8.00 am 9.45 am	9.30 am	At Wem or Weston
8 May	Easter 4	8.00 am 9.45 am	Joint Benefice at Wem ¹	
15 May	Easter 5	8.00 am 9.45 am	9.30 am	11.15 am
22 May	Easter 6	8.00 am 9.45 am	11.00 am	11.15 am
29 May	Easter 7	8.00 am 9.45 am	9.30 am	11.15 am

¹ Bishop of Shrewsbury presiding

Please remember that you are welcome to join services at any of our three churches in the Benefice. We are grateful to our retired clergy and laity for all their work during the Vacancy – sometimes changes may need to be made to the details above.

Mothering Service with a Difference At Wem Parish Church

One of our retired clergy, The Rev. Mike, led the service. He was prepared for families or no families. A few minutes before the service, it was obviously the latter.

At the back of the church a long table was set up with daffodils, foliage, scissors & rubber bands. Sybil was at the end to help if necessary. We all enjoyed making posies. We could then take them home or exchange them with each other.

What a lovely idea. Our thanks to everyone who helped in any way to prepare this.

Tricia B

Holy Days in the May Church Calendar

1 st	Philip and James, Apostles
2 nd	Athanasius, Bishop, Teacher of Faith, 373
4 th	English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era
8 th	Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c1417
14 th	Matthias the Apostle
16 th	Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer, 1877
19 th	Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988
20 th	Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804
21 st	Helena, Protector of the Holy Places, 330
24 th	John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, 1791 & 1788
25 th	The Venerable Bede, Monk, Scholar, Historian, 735
25 th	Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, 709
26 th	Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605
26 th	John Calvin, Reformer, 1564
26 th	Philip Neri, Spiritual Guide, 1595
28 th	Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1089
30 th	Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906
30 th	Joan of Arc, Visionary, 1431
30 th	Apolo Kivebulaya, Priest, Evangelist in Africa, 1933
31 st	The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Canon Paul Hardingham considers where Jesus is now.

The Ascension

This month at Ascension Day, we remember Jesus ascending to 'God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22). It's a somewhat neglected Christian festival, taking place on a Thursday, 40 days after Easter. However, this phrase is used in three different contexts in the New Testament.

Sitting at God's right hand

Jesus occupies a position of power and authority at the centre of the universe, 'exalted to the right hand of God' (Acts 2:33). This position was secured by His death and resurrection, enabling us to experience the life of heaven, including eternal life, forgiveness, healing and the power to transform lives and communities. Is this our expectation and experience?

Standing at God's right hand

Our experience of heaven is only partial because of the presence of suffering and disappointment in our lives. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, saw Jesus '*standing at the right hand of God*' (Acts 7:56), when being stoned to death. Do we see that Jesus is on the throne and has a purpose for our lives, even when we are going through setbacks and difficulties? As a result of Stephen's death, the church grew and the apostle Paul was impacted. Where do we see the fruit of the suffering in our lives?

Praying at God's right hand

Finally, we are told that Jesus is '*interceding for us*' at God's right hand (Romans 8:34 & Hebrews 7:25). Jesus is on our side at the heart of the universe and fully knows our needs when praying for us. He is for us, even when we feel defeated by the wrong things in our lives. How does this help us now?

So where has Jesus gone? Because He is in heaven, the Ascension opens up the possibility that we can experience the life of heaven, both now and in eternity.

Ascension Day (*From a poem by Christina Rossetti*)

'When Christ went up to Heaven the Apostles stayed'
Gazing at Heaven with souls and wills on fire,
Their hearts on flight along the track He made,
Winged by desire.

"Earth is one desert waste of banishment,
Life is one long-drawn anguish of decay.
Where Thou wert wont to go we also went:
Why not today?"

Nevertheless a cloud cut off their gaze:
They tarry to build up Jerusalem,
Watching for Him, while thro' the appointed days
He watches them.

They do His Will, and doing it rejoice,
Patiently glad to spend and to be spent:
Still He speaks to them, still they hear His Voice
And are content.

Dementia Action Week

Dementia Action Week runs from 16-22 May this year. It is focusing on diagnosis, encouraging people who might be living with undiagnosed dementia to seek guidance and support. Someone living with dementia has said to me, "Diagnosis is like a bereavement". He went on to explain, however, "It's not an end. There's a life to live." Both statements are true – and they don't cancel each other out. These comments about a diagnosis of dementia hold together both the loss and the life, the lamenting and the celebrating.

As we name and face dementia and memory loss in our churches, we can open up important conversations and connections. A good starting point could be our Diocese of Lichfield Dementia Action Week Prayer:

*In moments of confusion, God keep us safe.
In moments of clarity, God grant us joy.
In moments of frustration, God give us peace.
In moments of sorrow, God bring us comfort.
May God who sees into the secret places of our mind,
beyond anything which limits us,
to the person that is us,
has always been and will always be us,
encircle us in his arms,
until that day when all is made new
in his eternal home.
Amen*

This prayer holds together both the reality of current challenges and the persistent hope that leads us forwards. So it goes to the heart of our faith, recognising that the cross and resurrection of Jesus shows us a path through death to life: the toughest place is real, but it does not have the last word.

It may be a helpful prayer to include at the funeral of someone who has lived with dementia. In preparing for a funeral, a family may be keen to focus on the whole lifespan, not just the final chapter with dementia – and this might suggest that dementia shouldn't be mentioned. Nevertheless, it is strong to acknowledge the reality of the path, without giving dementia the final word. So this may be a helpful prayer to pray, perhaps introduced like this: "Remembering the last chapter of [the person]'s life and all who are affected by dementia, we pray...".

It's also a prayer we can use in Dementia Action Week across our churches, as we pray for people affected by dementia. And it's a prayer we can pray at home, day by day, alongside all who are affected by dementia. We recognise the challenge and the loss – and we still have the courage to trust in the life and love that is deeper.

Sarah Thorpe

For more stories and information on how churches are supporting families living with dementia, visit www.lichfield.anglican.org/dementia-friendly-church/ or contact Sarah, the Dementia-friendly Church Enabler for Lichfield Diocese on 07982 248949 or sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org

John & Charles Wesley

John and Charles Wesley were the founders of Methodism. Two of 19 children born to Samuel and Susannah Wesley of Epworth Rectory in Lincolnshire in 1703 and 1707, their father was the local rector, while their mother was a spiritual inspiration to her many children.

Both John and Charles went to Christ Church, Oxford (1720 and 1726). John was ordained, and Charles and some friends formed a 'Holy Club' while still at college. It consisted of men who dedicated themselves to Bible study, prayer, fasting and good works. Such regular disciplines soon earned Charles the nickname 'Methodist'. The name stuck.

Both Charles and John felt called to the mission field, and so in 1735 they sailed to Georgia. Their time in America was not a success – they struggled for any real spiritual authority in their ministries. Feeling failures, they returned to England in some depression.

Then the Wesleys made friends with some Moravians. They stressed that salvation cannot be earned, but must be received by grace through faith in Christ. Charles was the first to experience this 'true' conversion, when on Pentecost Sunday, 21st May 1738, he wrote that the Spirit of God 'chased away the darkness of my unbelief.'

Only three days later, on 24th May, 1738, it was John's turn. As he wrote in his journal: "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed."

John and Charles Wesley then devoted the rest of their lives to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. In doing so, they turned England upside-down. When the established Church threw John out, he took to the fields, preaching to coal miners and commoners. His itinerant evangelism took him 250,000 miles on horseback and to preach over 40,000 sermons. His small 'societies' attracted some 120,000 followers by the time of his death.

Charles became the most prolific and skilled hymn-writer in English history, writing hymns that are sung widely today, such as 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.' In all, he wrote more than 6,000 hymns.

The legacy of the two brothers lives on. As well as Methodism, their teaching has widely impacted the holiness movement, the Pentecostal movement, and the charismatic movement.

All in the month of May

150 years ago, on 18th May 1872 that Bertrand Russell, Welsh philosopher, mathematician, historian, and writer was born. He won the 1950 Nobel Prize in Literature.

125 years ago, on 26th May 1897 that Bram Stoker's horror novel *Dracula* was published.

100 years ago, on 27th May 1922 that Christopher Lee, British film actor was born. Best known for his many Hammer Horror films, especially his role as Dracula. He also played a leading role in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*. (Died 2015)

90 years ago, on 9th May 1932 that London's Piccadilly Circus was lit with electrical lighting for the first time. The road junction later became famous for its neon lighting and video advertising displays.

50 years ago, on 28th May 1972 that Prince Edward, Duke of Windsor, died. He was formerly Edward VIII, until his abdication in December 1936.

40 years ago, 27th-28th May 1982 that the Battle of Goose Green took place during the Falklands War.

25 years ago, 1st May 1997 that the Labour Party won a landslide victory, ending 18 years of Conservative Rule. Tony Blair became Prime Minister.

Shropshire Historic Churches Trust

Many of you will be aware of the sterling work done by the SHCT. Money is raised in a number of different ways including their annual Ride + Stride Saturday in September and from kind gardeners allowing us to see the results of their hard work in a series of Open Gardens.

As usual, one of these gardens will be The Citadel at Weston-under-Redcastle, courtesy of the Griffiths family. As noted elsewhere in this magazine, the garden will be open for SHCT on Wednesday 11th May from 2 to 5 pm so do please go along and support them if you can whilst enjoying the beauty of this special garden.

The SHCT makes a number of grants each year to churches around the County and we locally have seen an amount of £7,300 awarded to St Luke's in Weston for clock and fabric repairs and £5,000 in January of this year to Wem for the repair of the Whitchurch Road Cemetery lych gate.

We are very grateful to SHCT for permitting us to print the following:

A Prayer for the Churches of Shropshire

Almighty God our heavenly Father,
We remember before you now
The churches in this county of Shropshire,
and the houses of worship they use.

Make the doors of our churches
Wide enough to receive all
Who need human love and fellowship
And a Father's care;
And narrow enough to shut out
All envy pride and lack of love.

In them
May the tempted find help,
The sorrowing receive comfort,
The careless be awakened to repentance, the
penitent be assured of your mercy, and there
May all your children renew their strength
And go on their way in hope and joy;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Coventry Cathedral – 60 years on

Sixty years ago, on 25th May 1962, the new Coventry Cathedral was consecrated. The previous one had been destroyed by German bombing during World War Two. The Queen had laid the foundation stone in 1956, and she was present for the consecration.

On the night of 14th November 1940, the old Cathedral – together with much of the centre of Coventry – was devastated by incendiary bombs, but the decision to rebuild it was taken the next morning. The Provost, Richard Howard, wanted to do so as a sign of faith, trust and hope, rather than as an act of defiance.

This rejection of bitterness and hatred led to the Cathedral's Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation, which continues to give spiritual and practical support in areas of conflict. It is symbolised now by the Cross of Nails, made from three nails found in the roof truss of the old cathedral and set in the centre of the altar cross.

The place now called Coventry Cathedral, on the site of a Benedictine monastery, is in fact two buildings – a joining of the old and the new. The older building, still hallowed ground, was originally a parish church, and then given cathedral status in 1918. Its 295ft (90m) spire, containing 181 stone steps, is the third highest in England, behind Salisbury and Norwich.

The 'new' Cathedral was an inspiration to many celebrated artists, most of them yet to become famous. Among those commissioned by the architect, Sir Basil Spence, were Graham Sutherland (iconic Christ in Glory tapestry), John Piper (baptistry window), Ralph Beyer, John Hutton, Elisabeth Frink and Jacob Epstein, who created the striking sculpture of St Michael defeating Lucifer.

The famous Charred Cross was created when the cathedral stonemason, Jock Forbes, saw two wooden beams lying in the shape of a cross after the bombing and tied them together.

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

The Lake of Beauty by Edward Carpenter

Let your mind be quiet, realising the beauty of the world,
and the immense, the boundless treasures that it holds in store.
All that you have within you, all that your heart desires,
all that your Nature so specially fits you for - that or the
counterpart of it waits embedded in the great Whole, for you.
It will surely come to you.

Yet equally surely not one moment before its appointed time
will it come. All your crying and fever and reaching out of
hands will make no difference.
Therefore do not begin that game at all.
Do not recklessly spill the waters of your mind
in this direction and in that,
lest you become like a spring lost and
dissipated in the desert.

But draw them together into a little compass, and hold them
still, so still;
And let them become clear, so clear - so limpid, so mirror-like;
at last the mountains and the sky shall glass themselves in
peaceful beauty,
and the antelope shall descend to drink and to gaze at her
reflected image, and the lion to quench his thirst,
and Love himself shall come and bend over and catch his
own likeness in you.

Ruth Empson says: this is from the NZ prayer book, it's important to read it really slowly and allow yourself to be caught up in the magical beauty of the words and then remain still for a few moments afterwards. I hope you like it.



Brimstone, the original Butterfly



May is a lovely month to look for butterflies, several of our native species are on the wing at this time of year including the striking yellow Brimstone. It is thought that the name butterfly comes from this large, yellow beauty, literally Butter Fly! When you see one flying it is highly visible but actually it can be well camouflaged too; have a look at the shape of the brimstone's wing and you will see that it closely resembles a leaf. When at rest they can disappear amongst foliage.

Brimstones can be seen early in the year as they overwinter as adults, emerging from hibernation to lay eggs in April or May, ready to hatch as green caterpillars in July. Following pupation in August, adults are back in early autumn, feeding and finding sites to overwinter. The other spring butterflies that you see will have either overwintered as adults, such as the red admiral or small tortoiseshells, or as a chrysalis or pupa - orange tips do this as do holly blues. Some butterflies overwinter as caterpillars, the meadow brown for example.

Brimstone caterpillars feed on buckthorn and alder buckthorn so if you are planting a hedge try and include these, buckthorn favours calcareous soil and alder buckthorn more acidic conditions. Churchyards are great for butterflies as they contain such a rich array of plants. If you have an area which is managed as a meadow you may have many species of caterpillar chomping away at the plants within it. Look out for orange tips laying eggs on cuckoo flower, garlic and hedge mustard, or the Speckled Wood, also flying in May, which lays eggs on native grasses such as Yorkshire fog and couch grass. This butterfly prefers long grass so may use a tussocky area at the back of your churchyard, perhaps near to shade trees.

We'd love to know what butterflies you see as well as any other wildlife that you spot. Why not while away a sunny hour or two looking for butterflies in this beautiful place.

All the best, Harriet Carty

Lichfield 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**

THE CITADEL GARDENS
WESTON UNDER REDCASTLE

OPEN

WEDNESDAY 11th MAY 2 – 5pm

IN AID OF THE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

May is the time to visit this stunning three acre garden, where banks of rhododendrons, azaleas and acers predominate under the shade of mature trees.

It also features a walled potager as well as a thatched summerhouse with views of the Welsh hills to the west

Cream teas available

The next issue is scheduled to be prepared on **Thursday 19 May** and will be available in an electronic version. If you are not currently on our email list and wish to be please contact the address below.

Items for the magazine can be left in the drawer
at the back of the church in Wem
(by 9 am Thursday) or sent to: **pamedgmond@hotmail.com**