

NEWS UPDATE—starting 14th December

Dear Friends, dates for your diaries:

TUESDAY 30 DECEMBER — 15:00

Christmas Afternoon Tea in the Church Hall.

To book a place at this free event please contact

Claire Glover 01939 232682

or email: claireglover728@gmail.com

ROTAS

I will shortly be preparing the rota of people to read lessons, lead intercessions, welcome people to our 09:45 service and to serve coffee after that service. If you can help with any of these tasks please speak to me or let me know your availability by returning a completed availability form (from the back of church) by 21st December

CHRISTMASTIDE SERVICES		
Sunday 21 st December—Carol Service		
LEE	18:00	Carol Service
Tuesday 23 rd December—Carol Service		
WEM	19:30	Lessons and Carols
Wednesday 24 th December—Christmas Eve		
WEM	15:00 23:30	Crib Service Midnight Mass
WESTON	17:00	Carol Service
Thursday 25 th December—Christmas Day		
WEM	09:45	Christmas Eucharist
WESTON	No Service	
LEE	11:15	Christmas Eucharist
To view the December/January Magazine please go to our website: https://wemcofe.co.uk		

Services in the Benefice

Sunday 14 th December—ADVENT 3		
WEM	08:00 09:45	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist
WESTON	09:30	Holy Eucharist
LEE	11:15	Holy Eucharist
Monday 15 th December—Funeral Service		
WEM	11:45	Pamela June Powell RIP
Wednesday 17 th December		
WEM	10:00	St Peter's School Service
Thursday 18 th December		
WEM	09:30 19:30	Holy Eucharist Choir Singing Practice
Sunday 21 st December—ADVENT 4		
WEM	08:00 09:45	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist
WESTON	11:00	Holy Eucharist
LEE	18:00	Carol Service
CHRISTMASTIDE SERVICES		
Please see table on page 5		



Come and join us for coffee and biscuits in the hall after the 9:45 service.

ALL WELCOME!



Sybil

Sybil Farmer, PCC Lay Chair
SS Peter & Paul's Church, Wem



THE COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

1st READING: ISAIAH 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

2nd READING: JAMES 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Prayer Diary For The Week Beginning Sunday 14th December 2025 3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18

Today

Let's learn to pray for one another and bear one another's burdens.

Monday 15th December

Pray for the Youth Club leaders that they may have wisdom and understanding for the young people. Pray that they may be good role models.

Tuesday 16th December

Pray for generous giving to the Food Bank and the Food Hub that all families may be well provided for in Wem and the surrounding villages.

Wednesday 17th December

Pray for the Lord's blessing on St. Peter's School Christmas Service. Pray that the children may want to know more about Jesus.

Thursday 18th December

Pray for the choir and the organist as they practice and prepare for the Christmas services. Pray that they may lead worship pleasing to God

Friday 19th December

Pray for opportunities to give an account of our faith in conversation with others.
Pray for ourselves, that we may be prepared and ready to be able to speak clearly.

Saturday 20th December

Pray for the Lord's blessing and protection on all the social activities taking place in the area.
Pray that there will be no destructive activities taking place.