

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

June 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

Readers Emeriti:

Celia Camplin, Cathy Dibben

ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WEM

Churchwardens:	Chris Mellings Cathy Dibben David Murray	809521 236178 236134
PCC Lay Chair:	Sybil Farmer	232568
PCC Treasurer:	Caroline Sinclair	232626
Bells:	To be confirmed	
Sacristans:	June Powell & Kath Ridgway	234412 290162
Church Flowers:	Olive Kenward & Sybil Farmer	234774 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

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

At Rest

8th April Craig Lear Jones

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

Baptism

24th April George Franklin

Holy Matrimony

17th April Sophie Price and Jamie Kitt
29th April Jess Morgan and David Barnett



Book of Remembrance for June

1 st	John Austin Gregory	18 th	Kenneth Sherwood
2 nd	Ethel Shufflebottom	18 th	Eileen Gladys Johnson
3 rd	William Millington	20 th	George William Morris
4 th	Edward Brian Bennett	20 th	Arthur 'Phil' Jones
4 th	Agnes May Salisbury	20 th	Joan Margaret Dawson Russell
8 th	Herbert Frank Higgins	21 st	Bessie Herriman
9 th	Margaret Daffodil Haarhoff	22 nd	Samuel Ernest Coles
9 th	Sarah Ann 'Sally' Archer Pegrum	23 rd	George James Rich
10 th	Reginald Ernest Harper	24 th	Rosemary Beryl Davenport
10 th	John Tudor	24 th	Gerald Gordon Shepherd
10 th	Archie Kevin Powell	25 th	Brian Dennis Birch
11 th	Clive Raymond Shaw	25 th	Trixie May Styles
16 th	Olive Annie Groom	26 th	Mary Connolly
17 th	Michael James Peel	28 th	Elizabeth Mary Catherine 'Bette' Rich
17 th	Walter Eric Cliff	29 th	Albert Thomas Evans
17 th	Peter Geoffrey Bullen	30 th	Elsie May Jones

St Peter and St Paul's Wem

Rotas for 9.45 am Services

Readers

12 June	NT Gospel	Thelma Chilcott William Price
19 June	NT Gospel	Kath Ridgway Cathy Dibben
26 June	NT Gospel	Kim Archer David Murray

Intercessors

12 June	June Powell
19 June	Keith Edwards
26 June	Katharine Murray

Welcomers

12 June	David Murray, Tim Heavisides
19 June	Keith Edwards, John Berry
26 June	Karl Gough, Shirley MacDonald

Ministrants

12 June	Alison Price
19 June	Kim Archer

ST PETER'S, LEE BROCKHURST

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

**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

**SUNDAYS IN MAY
ACROSS THE BENEFICE**

DATE		WEM	WESTON	LEE
5 June	Platinum Jubilee	8.00 am	11.00 am	With Wem or
	Celebrations	10.00 am		Weston
12 June	Trinity Sunday	8.00 am	9.30 am	11.15 am
		9.45 am		
19 June	Trinity 1	8.00 am	9.30 am	11.15 am
		9.45 am		
26 June	Trinity 2	8.00 am	11.00 am	11.15 am
		9.45 am		

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.

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

School Chaplaincy

In August 2020 I was appointed Deanery School Chaplain at Thomas Adams School in Wem and Sir John Talbot School in Whitchurch. The role is part time, 3 days a week and I spend a day a week in each school which gives me a day a week for admin, any preparation work, supervision, training and for chaplaincy with staff.

The role was new in both schools and the role description was devised before the pandemic. It has been challenging working out how the role of Chaplain should operate given the covid restrictions in school when I started in September 2020.

In both schools I liaise with the Pastoral Care Teams. They create a list of students who have been identified as needing a listening ear. When I am in school I am given a list of 12 students to see during the day. I see the students individually for 20 to 30 minutes.

In Thomas Adams I see students every other week so generally I see the same 24 students for a term. In Sir John Talbot I see the same 12 students for half a term each week.

Life for young people can be very challenging. The impact of the pandemic and now the cost-of-living crisis is significant in the lives of many young people who feel stressed and anxious as a result. Some students find life in school stressful particularly when facing exams. Others find life at home stressful and for them school provides a welcome distraction from relationship or other pressures. Some students suffer from low self-esteem, some have eating disorders, some self-harm, some are young carers, some are living with a terminally ill family member and others are living with bereavement.

Most of those facing significant challenges in their lives are remarkable young people, some are great artists, some love to bake and cook, some are members of sports teams, some are musicians, some dance, some are members of drama groups, some are budding mathematicians or scientists, others are linguists, some ride horses, some are members of Cadets' groups, Scouts, Guides or St John Ambulance.

When I meet them, they share the ups and downs of the last week or fortnight as well as their hopes and dreams for the future. Whatever the situation, I offer a listening ear and I encourage self-reflection. I am not a member of school staff and as a visitor I am independent of the school system which can be helpful. I work within the school safeguarding policy and procedures and so my conversations with the students are confidential within those parameters.

I also offer a listening ear to members of staff who might want a confidential chat about work or homelife. I usually do this outside of the school day and often over the telephone.

I am grateful to those in the Deanery who pray for me in this work. I have been seeking to create a team of volunteer Chaplains to work with me and we ran some training last June. Following the training, Lorraine Lowe from St Chad's Church in Prees is now volunteering an afternoon a fortnight as Chaplaincy Assistant at Thomas Adams School. She spends time with students who have been bereaved offering listening and support.

If you are interested in being part of the team, we are thinking of running more chaplaincy training this summer and attending the training would enable you to explore whether this ministry might be for you. Do get in touch if you'd like to, my email is revd.deborah.walton@icloud.com

Revd Deborah Walton
7 May 2022

St Luke's Church, Weston

A Coffee Morning was held in the Churchyard on a perfect Spring morning in April and £200 was raised by the Friends of Weston Church.

On May 11th The Citadel Gardens were opened in aid of Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. After a very wet morning 66 visitors enjoyed a walk around the lovely rhododendrons and azaleas and £622 was raised for the Trust.

The next Coffee Morning 10.30 to 12 noon in the Churchyard will be on Saturday June 11th so do come along for coffee and a chat.

Daphne Evans

Kay Elisabeth Rogers

A number of you know Kay who has been a very active member of St Peter & St Paul's for many years in Sunday School and the Youth Groups.

Kay will be ordained deacon by Michael, Bishop of Lichfield in Lichfield Cathedral on Saturday 25th June (Petertide) at 6 pm.

Kay will serve as curate for the Revd Helen Morby and the people and parishes of Edgmond, Kynnersley, Preston upon the Weald Moors, Tibberton, Bolas Magna and Waters Upton.

Please pray for Kay and all who are being ordained this Petertide.



The Church of England has offered prayers for use during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee including the following:

Your Servant Elizabeth

*Gracious God, we give You thanks
for the reign of Your servant Elizabeth our Queen,
and for the example of loving and faithful service
which she has shown among us.
Help us to follow her example of dedication
and to commit our lives to You and to one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

The Reverend John Tye

Many friends in Wem will share my sadness at the knowledge that the Reverend John Tye has moved from Wem to live in Oxfordshire.

Fr John trained in Lincoln Theological College, of which he was very proud, and he was ordained in Chester Cathedral and served as a curate in Crewe and then in Wednesfield. He then ministered in Cockshutt and Petton, to which were later added Weston Lullingfields and Hordley. His next parish was Hadley in Telford, before he moved to Ightfield, Calverhall, and Ash. His final benefice was Calton, Cauldon, Grindon, and Waterfall in the Staffordshire Moorlands. He was also Rural Dean of Alstonfield.

His first home in retirement was in Weston Lullingfields, and then in 2002 he and Beth came to live in Aston Street in Wem. He took services in Wem church and in neighbouring churches, notably Whitchurch, until 2014, when he gave up his permission to officiate, but he and Beth remained very faithful members of Wem church. John also attended and helped to lead many study courses in church. He was always present with local clergy at Morning Prayer on Mondays until the pandemic ended our meetings in March 2020.

Beth died in 2021, and with John's health not good it was felt that it would be best for him to be nearer his daughter, Christine, and so he has moved to live in Goring on Thames.

We shall miss this wise and kind priest, who always looked much younger than his years, and we wish him every blessing in his new home.

William Price

The next issue is scheduled to be prepared on **Thursday 23 June** 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**](mailto:pamedgmond@hotmail.com)

Church Organ

The parishioners of St. Peter's, Lee Brockhurst, would like thank Roger and Phoebe Ashton for their extremely generous donation of a Yamaha keyboard and amplifier. Sadly, our Hammond organ, kindly donated by Marjorie Marsh and Pearl Jefferies, had suffered rodent damage and replacement parts were not obtainable. Phoebe played on bravely, whilst the random missing notes added an unexpected dimension to our hymn singing! It soon became obvious that this state of affairs could not continue and our wonderful Treasurer and Organist kindly sorted out the problem for us. Once again, a very heartfelt 'Thank you' to Roger and Phoebe.

Tim Wilton-Morgan, PCC Lay Chairman

Holy Days in the June Church Calendar

- 1st Justin, Martyr at Rome, c165
- 3rd The Martyrs of Uganda, 1886 & 1978
- 4th Petroc, Abbot of Padstow, 6th century
- 5th Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop and Apostle of Germany, Martyr, 754
- 6th Ini Kopouria, Founder of the Melanesia Brotherhood, 1945
- 8th Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath & Wells, Non-Juror, Hymn writer, 1711
- 9th Columba, Abbot of Iona, Missionary, 597
- 9th Ephrem of Syria, Deacon, Hymn writer, 373
- 11th **Barnabas the Apostle**
- 14th Richard Baxter, Puritan Divine, 1691
- 15th Evelyn Underhill, Spiritual writer, 1941
- 16th Richard, Bishop of Chichester, 1253
- 16th Joseph Butler, Bishop of Durham, Philosopher, 1752
- 17th Samuel & Henrietta Barnett, Social Reformers 1913 & 1936
- 18th Bernard Mizeki, Apostle of the MaShona, Martyr, 1896
- 19th Sundar Singh of India, Sadhu, Evangelist, 1929
- 22nd Alban, first Martyr of Britain, c250
- 23rd Ethelreda, Abbess of Ely, c678
- 24th **The Birth of John the Baptist**
- 27th Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 444
- 28th Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, Teacher of the Faith, c220
- 29th Peter and Paul, Apostles



Flowers of the Meadow



June really is the loveliest month for meadow flowers. Hopefully many of you will have left an area of churchyard grass to grow long, either for No Mow May or else in preparation for some nature spotting as part of Churches Count on Nature.

One of the most showy flowers in a meadow is the Oxeye Daisy, also called Moon Daisy and Moonpenny; the large white petals drawing pollinators in to the bright yellow centre. Look out for a variety of vetches, members of the pea family. You may find Tufted Vetch – look out for 6-spot burnet moths on this one. Bush Vetch and Common Vetch are likely too and a great many churchyards contain Bird's-foot-trefoil also known as Eggs and Bacon because of the mix of yellow and orange on the flowers. Richard Mabey, in his fantastic book *Flora Britannica* lists many names for Bird's-foot-trefoil including Hen and Chickens, Tom Thumb, Granny's Toenails, Cuckoo's Stocking and Dutchman's Clogs.

Lady's Bedstraw is often found in churchyards. It smells sweet when dried and would be added to hay stuffed in mattresses, particularly when preparing a bed for childbirth. Look out for the froth of yellow flowers (other bedstraws have white flowers) and the scent of honey. The Lady in the name is the Virgin Mary.

Perhaps your churchyard contains orchids, the most common one flowering in June is Common Spotted Orchid. The presence of orchids indicates an old grassland which has matured over time and developed a range of species within the soil. All orchids depend on a fungal partner, feeding the plant underground via the threadlike mycorrhizae.

Your churchyard meadow areas act as pitstops or cafes for insects and can buzz with life. Try and spend a little time enjoying them and seeing which pollinators are using them. Please join in with Churches Count on Nature and tell us what you find in your local churchyard.

All the best, Harriet Carty

[Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk,](mailto: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**

Lee Brockhurst WI

We have had such a busy time in **Lee Brockhurst WI** that I missed the deadline for our article last month, so I shall give you a quick catch up!

Our April speaker, Kath Reynolds, talked entertainingly about **wedding traditions and superstitions**, with amusing additions from the audience. Memorabilia from some members' own weddings sparked much nostalgia, and the winning entry in the members' competition, 'a home-made wedding favour', was a beautiful Dorset button made by Ann Hall. Four days later on 23rd April, our **Spring Fair**, held in our beautiful newly refurbished village hall, was a wonderful success financially and socially. We were enormously grateful to everyone who came along to support it as well as to all our ladies who worked hard to stage the event - **thank you if you were one of those people**. Our stalls overflowed with home-grown plants, home-made cakes, biscuits and preserves and lovely craft items. **Over £800 was raised** which will be put towards various projects we are supporting. One day off to recover, then it was the turn of our Brockhurst Bookworms to meet to discuss their latest book, producing a wide spectrum of opinions. The following day our **Summer Strollers** were in action for their first amble of the year. A walk with glorious weather and **beautiful views** terminated at Grove Farm, Preston Brockhurst, with delicious cakes and a welcome cuppa. Many thanks to **Elizabeth and Mike Jones** for their generous hospitality.

May kicked off with our '**What's The Point**' craft group who were experimenting with **natural dyes** from plants and flowers with some really remarkable results. The speaker for the meeting on 17th May, **archaeologist Dr Nigel Baker**, talking about '**Underground Shrewsbury**', has excavated more than 250 cellars in search of lost walls, tunnels and buildings and is bringing us the fascinating photographic evidence.

In honour of Her Majesty's **Platinum Jubilee**, Lee Brockhurst WI will be **planting a tree** in the churchyard at **St. Peter's, on Sunday May 29th at 12.15pm**, with the blessing of the Reverend Rob Haarhoff and by kind permission of the churchwardens and PCC. The following Tuesday evening, May 31st, our summer strollers are in action again, this time on a 'Gough Walk' around Harmer Hill.

Please contact co-organiser **Mary** for more details; marylowry353@gmail.com/07484 316054.

The **Bookworms'** meeting on 6th June (analysing 'Carol' by Patricia Highsmith over a cuppa and cake) is followed by the June **craft club** meeting, on Tuesday 7th at 7.30, when members will be relaxing with their own projects whilst compiling the calendar of craft activities for the following season. Our organiser, **Meg Bilson**, is standing down (owing to the impending arrival of a baby!) and we thank her most sincerely for all her hard work over the last three years.

The BIG event of our year looms large on the horizon..... after two years of postponements our **Flower and Produce Show** is on Saturday (yes, **Saturday!**) **June 11th** from 7.30pm. Members are refining their recipes and creative crafts ready for the big day. Our special speaker for the evening is **Paul Barwick** who is travelling from **London** to tell us about '**The White Mouse**', World War II spy Nancy Wake, one of **the most decorated** military personnel of the war. **This is a story of heroism** which you should not miss. Paul is a retired police officer who worked in **national security and counter terrorism** for many years and is a must-hear speaker. This is an **open meeting** to which other WIs and our fellow villagers, male and female, are most welcome to attend.

Our summer treat, which we promised ourselves during the lockdowns of 2020, is also happening in June. Our '**Fun Day Out**' by coach to Llangollen **on Friday 24th June** takes in the 14th century country house **Plas Newydd**, **afternoon-tea** at The Wharf, a **horse-drawn boat** chartered to take us on the scenic trip to the beautiful **Horseshoe Falls**, and an optional excursion to the Llangollen **Motor Museum** to see cars etc frozen in time in the 1950s.

For more details about our WI or any of our events, please contact our lovely secretary, Julie Woolfenden, who will be happy to help; jjwoolfenden@gmail.com 01939 200237. We are always delighted to welcome guests to join in the fun!

Sue Wilton-Morgan

Evelyn Underhill, mystical writer of the 20th Century

For anyone interested in Christian mysticism, Evelyn Underhill may be a good place to begin. She died on 15th June 1941 after a life full of remarkable achievements: author of more than 30 books that explored the intersection between the spiritual and the physical, the first woman ever to lecture to the CofE clergy, the first woman to conduct spiritual retreats for the Church, the first woman to establish ecumenical links between churches, and one of the first women theologians to lecture in English universities. Evelyn was also an award-winning bookbinder.

Born in 1875, the daughter of a barrister from Wolverhampton, and then wife to a childhood friend, also a barrister, Evelyn moved in cultured, educated circles, and travelled widely each summer along the Mediterranean - both her father and husband were keen yachting enthusiasts.

Evelyn's inner, spiritual journey was more complex: from agnosticism to theism, on to Neoplatonism and then Roman Catholicism she went, until in 1921 she became an Anglican - with a later fascination for the Greek Orthodox church. Her daily life was one of reading, writing, and doing various forms of religious work, from visiting the poor to counselling people in trouble.

Her spiritual search began in childhood, after a number of "abrupt experiences of the peaceful, undifferentiated plane of reality—like the 'still desert' of the mystic—in which there was no multiplicity nor need of explanation". Trying to understand these mystical experiences sparked her passion and lifelong quest.

Evelyn became one of the most widely read writers on mysticism in the first half of the 20th Century. Her greatest book, *Mysticism: A Study of the Nature and Development of Man's Spiritual Consciousness*, was published in 1911, and is romantic, engaged, and theoretical rather than historical or scientific. Whilst writing it she came into contact with Baron Friedrich von Hugel, who became her spiritual mentor for many years. He gradually steered her away from mysticism and towards a more Christocentric view of reality. During World War I Evelyn worked in naval intelligence, but in later years became a Christian pacifist.

Pilgrimage

You may have seen on BBC television the latest pilgrimage taken on by a disparate group of actors, sports people and other (more or less) well-known people. That took them from Ireland to Iona following in the footsteps of St Columba. There are many other pilgrim trails across the country including within our own Diocese of Lichfield.

For those wishing to stretch their legs, perhaps the following may be of interest.

The Abbesses' Way – Wenlock Priory to Shrewsbury Abbey 20 miles, 2 days.

You begin at magnificent Wenlock Priory, once a great pilgrimage site of 8th-century abbess St Milburga's relics. Visit Much Wenlock's holy wells of St Milburga and St Owen before ascending the poetry-inspiring ridge of Wenlock Edge. Revel in the rolling Shropshire landscape, especially at the well-positioned Kenley Church, before descending to Langley Chapel and Acton Burnell, with its Church right next to a castle built by a bishop. Then by field and road to St Eata's Church, Atcham, and its adjacent rest stop, the Mytton and Mermaid, before the final approach via the River Severn and Rea Brook to Shrewsbury Abbey, where a small part of the shrine to the 7th-century abbess St Winefride still survives.

For those wishing to walk a little further there are two suggested detours.

Morville Priory to Wenlock Priory – 8.5 miles. Beginning at St Gregory's Church, Morville, built on the former site of Morville Priory by the monks of Shrewsbury Abbey.

Morville Priory via Buildwas Abbey to Wenlock Priory – 14.5 miles.

Further information on the route including sites of interest, plus other routes around the country, from the British Pilgrimage Trust - <https://britishpilgrimage.org/portfolio/abbesses-way/>

Sourced from the Lichfield Diocese website.

Up to 500,000 children's story books on faithfulness distributed for Platinum Jubilee

Up to half a million story books are being given to primary school-aged children for Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by the Church of England and Thy Kingdom Come, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York's global prayer movement.

The book, 'Queen CJ and the Bouncy Castle', is the latest development from the Cheeky Pandas, a children's online cartoon series. The free storybook, based on the theme of faithfulness, helps children understand the faithfulness of God - in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's 70 years of faithful service.

The book is part of plans for this year's Thy Kingdom Come, a global ecumenical prayer movement initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, which unites Christians in nearly 90% of countries worldwide to pray for evangelisation from Ascension to Pentecost. It is also an official Church of England schools resource for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Alongside the book, similar in size to Mr Men and Little Miss books, there will be a brand new five-part online TV series of the Cheeky Pandas, based on the Fruit of the Spirit and inspired by the Bible. More details at: <https://cheekypandas.com/product/queen-cj-and-the-bouncy-castle/>



On the Record

Where can I get a copy of my baptism/marriage certificate? The records which churches need to keep are many and varied and take up – even in these electronic days – a lot of space. Some records need to be kept for ever – parish registers, PCC Minutes, annual accounts and faculties (which are a kind of planning permission for CofE churches).

Sometimes lack of physical space leads to records being removed to a clergy, church warden or secretary's home, tucked away and forgotten about, later to be possibly lost or thrown away. It is often tempting to have a complete clear out and hire a skip but there is always the danger you might lose something historically interesting – my own parish discovered a complete set of the original George Edmund Street drawings for the remodelling of the church in the Victorian period in a place they should not have been!

The Church of England Record Centre has produced a very helpful guide (*Keep or Bin? The Care of Your Parish Records*) covering all the material produced by and for parishes – and what to do with them. It also gives clear guidance for electronic material.

Many parishes already have a Record Office parish deposit (arranged under something lengthily called the Parochial Registers and Records Measure 1978) where parish records are deposited (and also cared for and lovingly and appropriately mended). For Staffordshire parishes – that is, the old pre-1974 county – it is the Staffordshire Record Office; for Shropshire parishes it is Shropshire Archives. Deposits can be searched through both offices' online catalogues and record office staff are always extremely helpful in answering queries and supporting parishes. Deposited material can always be borrowed back by the parish for e.g. a special exhibition – it remains the property of the parish but just in a more secure and accessible place.

The parish deposit at your local Record Office can offer a wealth of information about your church and church life but other records held there can enlighten us about our homes, our villages, and our communities. Researching is free and fun!

Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 2AQ; telephone 0345 678 9096 or email archives@shropshire.gov.uk

Mithra Tonking has been the Diocesan Archivist since long after records began (but for longer than some of her diocesan colleagues have been able to read and write!)

The story behind 'Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son'

Here is a hymn that is so well known and loved that it has simply burst the bounds of Easter, and gets sung regularly at other times of the year. It has two stories behind it.

The rousing music did not start out as a hymn, but instead was written by Handel for his opera 'Judas Maccabeus', first performed in 1746. Originally the words ran 'See the conquering hero comes', for Handel's opera tells the story (found in the Apocrypha) of the leader of the Jews, Judas Maccabeus, who led an army against the Syrians and restored worship at the Temple. With its triumphant refrain after each verse, the music is easy to learn and sing, and can be (and has been!) played to great effect either by the trumpets, on an organ in a large resonant church, or even on guitars (!).

The words were not written until 1884, which was 138 years after the music. We owe them to the Revd Raymond Budry, a Swiss pastor from Lausanne. Ordained in the Free Evangelical Church in Vaud, he spent 35 years as the pastor of Vevey on Lake Geneva. Budry wrote the hymn in French ('A Toi La Gloire!') to console himself after the death of his first wife, and a year later (1885) it was published in *Chants Evangeliques*. Soon it found its way into English – translated by a Baptist minister from Kingston-upon-Thames, Richard Hoyle.

It is not clear who first had the happy idea of teaming *those* words with *that* music, but when they did, the hymn really took off. By 1904 it was being translated into other languages.

The theme of 'battle' is never far from this hymn, whether it was the battle of Judas Maccabeus, or the battle over sin which was won by Christ on the cross and in rising from the tomb. Easter, of course, marked the biggest victory over the biggest enemies of all time: sin and death.

What would Handel make of it, if he could know that his battle music had become one of the world's most popular and well-known Easter hymns?

All in the month of JUNE

It was:

250 years ago, on 22nd June 1772 that the Court of King's Bench ruled that slavery was illegal in England and Wales. But it remained legal in British Overseas Territories and colonies until 1833.

100 years ago, on 10th June 1922 that Judy Garland, American actress and singer, was born. Best known for her films *The Wizard of Oz* and *Meet Me in St Louis*.

Also 100 years ago, from 28th June 1922 to 24th May 1923, that the Irish Civil War took place. Led to Pro-Treaty leading to confirmation of the Irish Free State.

75 years ago, on 5th June 1947 that the Marshall Plan was proposed. US Secretary of State George C Marshall offered a self-help programme to Europe that would enable countries to rebuild democratic societies and resist communism after WWII.

65 years ago, on 1st June 1957 that the first premium bond prize draw took place in Britain.

50 years ago, on 17th June 1972 that the Watergate Scandal began when five men were arrested for breaking into the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex in Washington DC.

40 years ago, on 21st June 1982 that Prince William of Wales was born. Son of Charles and Diana, he is second-in-line to the British throne.

25 years ago, on 26th June 1997 that J K Rowling's first Harry Potter novel, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was published in the UK.

15 years ago, on 29th June 2007, that Apple released the first iPhone.

10 years ago, on 24th June 2012, that Lonesome George, the male Pinta Island tortoise died. The last-known member of his species, Lonesome George serves as an important symbol for conservation efforts around the world, and particularly in the Galapagos Islands.

**Strawberry Tea
Saturday 23rd July 2022
2.00-4.00 pm
Brockhurst Farm**



All proceeds to St. Peter's Church

**£6.00 per person
(children under 12 £3.00)**

Raffle, produce stall

Tickets available from:

**Phoebe & Roger Ashton
01939 232425**

**Valerie Lusby
01939 235610**

N.B. Entry by ticket only

