

## NEWS UPDATE—starting 18<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Friends, dates for your diaries:

### SATURDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY — COFFEE MORNING

10:00 - 12:00 Coffee morning in the Church Hall. Prizes for raffle and donations of cakes will be most welcome. I hope to make Seville Orange Marmalade for my preserves stall and will be bring the jigsaws for exchange. Do come for a coffee and a chat

### SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY — 14:30

Piano Recital by Professor Graham Scott

Tickets £12 from: Wendy: 07828 282996

### WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY — WEM

#### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE at 19:00

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

### CHURCH FLOWERS SPONSORSHIP

Would you like to celebrate a special date and or remember a special person by sponsoring church flowers. If so please add your name, occasion and/ or person by the relevant date to the list at back of church. Sponsorship money should be paid to Wem PCC via our Treasurer Caroline Sinclair. Please speak to me if you wish for further information.

### RAFFLE PRIZES

At our coffee mornings and concerts raffles are popular so we would be grateful of donations of prizes to support these events. We aim to have 8 prizes for each raffle, so if you could make a donation Chocolates, Bottles of Wine, Toiletries or other small prize that would be greatly appreciated. You could let Kim or Me have the prize any Sunday or at the event.

## Services in the Benefice

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January—EPIPHANY 2

WEM	08:00 09:45	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist
WESTON	09:30	Holy Eucharist
LEE	11:15	Holy Eucharist

### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

WEM	09:30 19:30	Holy Eucharist Choir Singing Practice
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### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January—EPIPHANY 3

WEM	08:00 09:45	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist
WESTON	11:00	Holy Eucharist
LEE	11:15	Morning Prayer

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January

WEM	09:30 19:30	Holy Eucharist Choir Singing Practice
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Come and join us for coffee and biscuits in the hall after the 9:45 service.  
ALL WELCOME!



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

To view our February services please go to our website:

<https://wemcofe.co.uk>

To view the December/January Magazine please go to our website:  
<https://wemcofe.co.uk>

## St Peter & St Paul's, Wem

### 2nd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026*

### **THE COLLECT**

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **1<sup>st</sup> READING: ISAIAH 49:1-7**

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, 'You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'

<sup>4</sup> But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.'

<sup>5</sup> And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,

and my God has become my strength—<sup>6</sup> he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the

nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers,

'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9**

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **THE GOSPEL: JOHN 1:29-42**

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of

me because he was before me." <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.'

<sup>32</sup> And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

<sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!'

<sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' <sup>39</sup>He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup>He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

#### **THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life:

fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **Prayer Diary For Sunday 18th January 2026**

#### **THE 2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

Devote yourselves to prayer being watchful and thankful... Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. *Colossians 4:2,5-6*

#### **Today**

Let us learn to pray together and experience exciting answers to prayer as Jesus has promised to those who do.

#### **Monday 19th January**

Pray for the Youth Club that the leadership team will be increased by persons called to this important service. May this work be of great benefit to the young people.

#### **Tuesday 20th January**

Pray for the sick, that they may know the Lord's healing touch and soon recover.

May their spirits be lifted and be encouraged.

#### **Wednesday 21st January**

Pray for the Food Bank and the Food Hub that they may be provided with all the resources that they need to help those families in food poverty.

#### **Thursday 22nd January**

Pray for those with addictions that they may receive the help that they need to be released from them.

Pray for an end to drug dealing in this area.

#### **Friday 23rd January**

Pray for the work of the Holy Spirit among children, to reveal to them Jesus as their Saviour and Redeemer and to make them joyful disciples of the Lord

#### **Saturday 24th January**

Pray for a desire and hunger among the people of Wem, to read God's Word for themselves and may the Holy Spirit give them understanding and open their hearts to the gospel message.