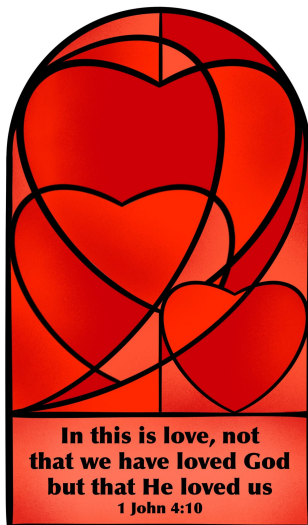


Parish Magazine for  
Wem, Lee Brockhurst and Weston-under-Redcastle

February 2023



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



Reverend John Jukes (from February)  
The Rectory  
Ellesmere Road, Wem SY4 5TU

During the Vacancy please contact us via  
[www.wemcofe.co.uk](http://www.wemcofe.co.uk)

Find us on 

@Wemparishchurch

Retired Clergy: The Revd Mike Cotterell, Preb Rob Haarhoff,  
Canon Dr William Price, The Revd Edith Quirey

Reader: Cathy Dibben

Reader Emeritus: Celia Camplin

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

Churchwardens:	Chris Mellings	809521
	Cathy Dibben	236178
	David Murray	236134
PCC Lay Chair:	Sybil Farmer	232568
PCC Treasurer:	Caroline Sinclair	232626
Organist:	Glyn Williams	234954
Sacristans:	June Powell	234412
	& Kath Ridgway	290162
Church Flowers:	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](http://www.wemcofe.co.uk)

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

### **At Rest**

7th December Margaret Foxley

16th December Keith Randall

19th December Ian Bailey

12th January Philip Lear

## Baptisms

10th December Daisy Boffy

15th January Dottie Roma Hanmer

15th January Jaxson Lloyd

## Book of Remembrance for February

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Michael John Powell	14 <sup>th</sup>	Ernest Gordon Dudley
4 <sup>th</sup>	Leslie Frank Hodson	14 <sup>th</sup>	Madeline Mary Cook
4 <sup>th</sup>	Stuart Arthur Starkey	14 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Eirwen Price
5 <sup>th</sup>	Doreen Isabel Reeves	16 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Jane Magrath
6 <sup>th</sup>	Frederick Roy Reeves	17 <sup>th</sup>	John Keeling Roberts
6 <sup>th</sup>	Joyce Wilson	18 <sup>th</sup>	Dorothy Mary Sudlow
6 <sup>th</sup>	Denys William 'Dickie' Walker	20 <sup>th</sup>	Wallace George 'Wally' Johnson
7 <sup>th</sup>	Luke David Ridgway	20 <sup>th</sup>	Hinton Harry Stroud
7 <sup>th</sup>	Brenda Joan Spencer	21 <sup>st</sup>	Tom Womersley
7 <sup>th</sup>	George William Wallington	21 <sup>st</sup>	Peter Howard Godfrey
8 <sup>th</sup>	Winifred May Brookfield	22 <sup>nd</sup>	May Wheeldon
8 <sup>th</sup>	Harry Tomlinson	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Harold Clarke
9 <sup>th</sup>	Louis Greenaway	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Phyllis Saywell
9 <sup>th</sup>	Lorna Jones	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Colin Barns
10 <sup>th</sup>	Alice Margaret Ravenscroft	24 <sup>th</sup>	Godfrey John Fenn- Wiggin
10 <sup>th</sup>	Gwendoline Emily Barber	24 <sup>th</sup>	Stanley 'Stan' Walter Pye
11 <sup>th</sup>	James Anthony Davidson	24 <sup>th</sup>	Ivor Thomas
11 <sup>th</sup>	Ernest 'Ernie' John Jones	25 <sup>th</sup>	Dorothy Marguerite Keeling Roberts
11 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Elizabeth Anne Bishop	26 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Wollaston, Priest
12 <sup>th</sup>	Alan Clive Jones	26 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth May Ridgway
12 <sup>th</sup>	Percy Edwards	29 <sup>th</sup>	Derek Robert Crangle
13 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Brown	29 <sup>th</sup>	Doris Womersley

## **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-Kingham	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**

4th January 2023 Mandy Ann Whittall

### **Holy Matrimony**

28th January 2023 Charlotte Sarah Smith and  
Christopher Philip Ronald Ratcliffe



## SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY ACROSS THE BENEFICE

DATE		WEM	WESTON	LEE
5 February	3 <sup>rd</sup> Before Lent	8.00 am EC 9.45 am SE	9.30 am MP	11.15 am HE
12 February	2 <sup>nd</sup> Before Lent	8.00 am HE 9.45 am HE	9.30 am HE	11.15 am MP
19 February	1 <sup>st</sup> Before Lent	8.00 am HE 9.45 am HE	Joint service at Wem	11.15 am TBC
26 February	Lent 1	8.00 am HE 9.45 am AA	11.00 am HE	11.15 am HE

AA	All Age Service
EC	Extended Communion
HE	Holy Eucharist
MP	Morning Prayer
SE	Sung Eucharist

These services have been arranged without an input from Rev Jukes who joins us in February so changes may be made to the details above. 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.

### Ash Wednesday

There will be a service of Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes in St Peter & St Paul's Wem at 7 pm on 22 February.

### Reverend John Jukes

We are all delighted that our new Rector, the Rev John Jukes, will be formally Instituted by the Bishop of Shrewsbury at a service in St Peter & St Paul's, Wem on Monday 13 February starting at 7 pm. Unfortunately details from the Bishop's Office are rather sketchy at the moment but the information will be shared in each parish as soon as it is available.

We are looking forward to Rev John and Denise joining us and wish them every happiness in their new home.

## Musings while packing crates

As I sit here in my study getting ready for our move from Todmorden to Wem I can see the sun shining on the wall of the valley opposite. It all looks very beautiful and peaceful with patches of snow on the fields and the roofs of the houses.

Inside the Vicarage a different story. Many removal crates all taped up and labelled, along with those which are half full with bits and pieces of my life neatly packed away, it made me think that perhaps this may be a metaphor for our journey through life. We each have had many experiences, some of them good, some of them not so good. It seems to me that we can often put those experiences in little compartments that we store away. Waiting to take them out and replay them in our mind's eye. Then they go back into storage again. But as with the boxes in the Vicarage there are many things that have been separated. A series of theological books that didn't fit in a single box has been packed across two. The pictures and photographs from the walls don't all fit in one box. They are carefully wrapped and packed across many cartons. When we arrive in the Rectory these will all be carefully unwrapped and positioned so that the observer may see one picture and perhaps be led to the next giving a snapshot of our lives. Like our experiences these pictures are best when viewed as a whole. Reminding us of where we come from and what we have seen.

But as I gaze once more through the window I know that where I am now is not where I will be in just a few short weeks' time. The view will be different outside, although the boxes may still need some unpacking on the inside.

Likewise, we are all moving through our lives, looking in some of the boxes of our experiences. Taking them out and holding them for a time, then replacing them. We are on the way towards whatever the future holds for us. Some of us may find that daunting while others find it exciting. Whatever our feelings are though we do not have to face the future, or the past, on our own. The one thing that we all have, and can all rely on, is the presence of Christ in our lives. Sometimes we keep him in a box, forgetting that he is there

and on other occasions we take him out, experience things with him then we pack him away again until next time.

As we approach Lent this year, let us take Christ out of the box labelled Church, or religion. And let us put the empty box away. We will keep Jesus by our side, always in our view. Let us show others the effect he has on our lives. Jesus as companion, as friend, as Lord and as Saviour. Let our empty boxes be a message to those who are suffering that they need not be alone and to those who are joyful that joy is compounded when it is shared.

May you be granted the grace of joy. And may the peace of Christ rest in your hearts.

With every blessing.

Reverend John Jukes.

The next issue is scheduled to be prepared on Thursday 16 February.  
It 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)

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



## ***Unsung Heroes***

I am sure we are all extremely grateful to the retired clergy and trained lay people for taking the services across the Benefice throughout the interregnum.

In addition, I would like to express thanks to the 'Unsung Heroes' who have put in a lot of time and effort to both maintain the running of the church, and in preparation for the new rector.

*Including:*

The churchwardens and PCC of each parish

Those who worked on the Parish Profiles and specifications, liaising with the Bishop's office

Those who have been involved with the maintenance and improvements at the Rectory

Those who have liaised with families requesting Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

I trust these groups cover all concerned.

Thank you.

Thelma Pugh

## **Sigfrid, apostle of Sweden**

If you have something big to forgive, Sigfrid may be the saint for you. This monk from Glastonbury was sent by King Ethelred to Norway and Sweden in 995. The King of Norway, King Olaf, had recently converted to Christianity, and wanted help in converting his people.

Sigfrid went first to Vaxjo in Sweden, taking along his three nephews. There he built a small church, commissioned it, and consecrated his nephews as bishops. Then Sigfrid left them, in order to evangelise the more remote regions.

When Sigfrid returned, he found the church had been burned to the ground and his nephews murdered. The attackers had been caught, and the king was about to put them to death. It would be an act of justice.

Instead, Sigfrid pleaded with the king for mercy. It was agreed that a large fine should be paid to Sigfrid. He did not keep a penny for himself, but used it to rebuild the church, and continue the mission. Sigfrid went on to minister in Sweden, Norway and Denmark for many years, until his death in 1045. He was remembered with love and credited with many miracles.

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

1 <sup>st</sup>	Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, c525
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Anskar, Archbishop & Apostle to the North, 865
4 <sup>th</sup>	Gilbert of Sempringham, 1189
6 <sup>th</sup>	The Martyrs of Japan, 1597
10 <sup>th</sup>	Scholastica, sister of Benedict, c543
14 <sup>th</sup>	Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs, 869 & 885
14 <sup>th</sup>	Valentine, Martyr at Rome, c269
15 <sup>th</sup>	Sigfrid, Bishop, Apostle of Sweden, 1045
15 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Bray, Priest, 1730
17 <sup>th</sup>	Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, 1977
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, c155
27 <sup>th</sup>	George Herbert, Priest, Poet, 1633
29 <sup>th</sup>	Oswald, 992

## **The Priestly Blessing**

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

"The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:22-26

## Shropshire Hymn-writers, part v.

My last Shropshire hymn writer is the Revd William Draper, who was Vicar of the Abbey Church in Shrewsbury between 1889 and 1899. During his time as Vicar the Abbey Church was extended to twice its length by the addition of a new chancel and sanctuary in the expectation, never realised, that it would become a Cathedral. This hymn was written by Mr Draper to be sung at the rededication of the church in 1895 and it was described as ‘In remembrance of past worshippers’, as it celebrates those who served the church in past years.

I have never sung this hymn, which fits the tune of ‘O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness’, but I think that it would be very appropriate for All Souls’ Day. Or it could be used as a prayer to remember those dear to us who have been examples to us of faithful witness to Jesus.

In our day of thanksgiving one psalm we offer  
For the saints who before us have found their reward;  
When the shadow of death fell upon them, we sorrowed,  
But now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord.

In the morning of life, and at noon, and at even,  
He called them away from our worship below;  
But not till his love, at the font and the altar,  
Had girt them with grace for the way they should go.

These stones that have echoed their praises are holy,  
And dear is the ground where their feet have once trod;  
Yet here they confessed they were strangers and pilgrims,  
And still they were seeking the city of God.

Sing praise then, for all who here sought and here found him,  
Whose journey is ended, whose perils are past:  
They believed in the Light; and its glory is round them,  
Where the clouds of earth’s sorrow are lifted at last.

## William Price

I am not what I might be, I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be, I am not what I hope to be; but I thank God I am not what I once was, and I can say with the great apostle, ‘By the grace of God I am what I am.’

*John Newton, former slave trader*

## Lee Brockhurst WI

As usual, **Lee Brockhurst W.I.** has had a **packed programme of fun** and the last few months have flown by, so here is a resumé of our activities.....

Our November meeting featured the W.I.'s County representative of the '**Associated Country Women of the World**' (ACWW) which has funded hundreds of essential projects assisting women around the world. All W.I. members have been affiliate-members since ACWW's inception in 1933 so it was interesting to learn more about the worthwhile work of this woman-focussed charity. The members' competition of 'a decorated envelope containing a donation to ACWW' was won by **Sue W-M.**

Soon afterwards, the **Wem Group of WIs** held their Christmas social at which each WI traditionally provides a ten-minute entertainment - with **hilarious** results! Our WI paid tribute to **Olivia Newton-John** and '**got physical**' with their own 'Grease' inspired choreography - well done to all involved!

**Mulled wine** met us on arrival at the December LBWI meeting, which may have contributed to the **festive atmosphere** and **happy chatter**! This was added to by the Evans family singing group, '**Topbananas**', who harmonised beautifully with both popular and less well-known songs. New member **Miriam** won the 'candle for Christmas' members' competition, and everyone tucked into the now-traditional 'chippy tea'.

**Personal protection** was the theme of the January meeting when **Dave Griffin**, assisted by his wife Kath, taught us how to be **aware of danger** around us and told us **how to stay safe** (e.g. remove your scarf if you think you may be in a potentially threatening situation so it cannot be used to strangle you). It was a very thought-provoking and useful presentation sprinkled with funny moments from his time in the police. It's a sad comment on society that Dave's clientele is now entirely health workers: paramedics, doctors and midwives. 'Your most amusing Christmas card' members' competition included some very funny entries with the eventual winner being **Sue W-M.**

Interspersed with all these meetings, have been our regular **book** and **craft** nights plus a new '**Game ladies**' club for those who, like me, love playing **board or card** games. The inaugural meeting was a great success, but the follow-up was on a night when snow was predicted resulting in only a handful of attendees. **Dorset buttons** and **book sculpture** were the most recent crafts tackled by our 'What's The Point' members – producing satisfyingly good results for complete beginners. They will be attacking **salt dough apple tree** wall plaques at their next session.

Our Quiz team have also been in action and took **first place** (again!) in the County Trivia Quiz! **Well done quizzers** – brains as well as looks!!

Finally, huge **Congratulations** to our member **Pauline Dee** on the very well-deserved award of the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List. We are thrilled that she has received this recognition of her great service to the community.

We are delighted that our WI family continues to grow as **we always welcome new faces** with fresh ideas, so if you like what you have read above, do please consider getting in touch with our secretary, **Julie**, who will be happy to give you more information. Her contact details are 01939 200237/[jjwoolfenden@gmail.com](mailto:jjwoolfenden@gmail.com).

### **All in the month of FEBRUARY**

It was:

175 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1848 that the Communist Manifesto was published in London. It was written by Karl Marx, with the assistance of Friedrich Engels.

150 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1873 that Thomas Andrews, Irish/British shipbuilder and businessman was born. The naval architect in charge of the plans for the RMS Titanic, he perished along with 1,500 others during her maiden voyage.

100 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1923 that British archaeologist Howard Carter opened the sealed doorway to Tutankhamen's tomb in Thebes, Egypt.

The following day he entered the burial chamber and discovered a wealth of treasures.

70 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1953 that British scientists Francis Crick and James D Watson announced that they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA.

65 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1958 that the Munich air disaster took place. A plane carrying the Manchester United football team ('the Busby Babes'), plus support staff and journalists, crashed while attempting to take off from a slush-covered runway at Munich-Riem Airport. 23 people were killed, including 8 players.

65 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1958 that St Claire of Assisi (1194-1253) was declared the patron saint of television by Pope Pius XII – on the basis that she had been too ill to attend Mass, but had reportedly been able to see and hear it on the wall of her room.

50 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1973 that the US Senate established a select committee to investigate the Watergate scandal. This led to US President Richard Nixon's resignation in August 1974.

40 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1983 that champion racehorse, Shergar, was kidnapped in Ireland and a £2million ransom demanded. The horse was never seen again.

30 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1993 that Bobby Moore, British footballer and captain of the England team that won the 1966 World Cup, died.

25 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1998 that Osama bin Laden issued a fatwa against all Jews and Crusaders.

20 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2003 that the US space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas, killing all seven astronauts.

10 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013 that the Shard, a 72-storey skyscraper in London, was officially opened. It is the tallest building in the UK and the sixth tallest in Europe.

## **I Got Rhythm**

The Community of St Chad was formed around ten years ago. It is a dispersed community, open to anyone living throughout Lichfield Diocese and beyond, with over 90 official members, and many more who use the Community Handbook and prayer resources. Ours is a community founded on companion groups of three people who meet to pray together and who live out five Rhythms of Grace.

**Rhythm One:** By God's grace, I will seek to be transformed into the likeness of Christ.

Each and every one of us will interpret this statement slightly differently, and it is our responsibility to work through the implications for ourselves. Perhaps living out this first rhythm would look like being honest in all we say and do, speaking and acting positively, checking in with ourselves on what material things we covet more than we should.

**Rhythm Two:** by God's grace, I will be open to the presence, guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

I live this second rhythm out by being open to the nudges of the Spirit. For example, as you walk past an unknown house there is that nudge to knock on the door. When someone says they are okay, the nudge to ask 'are you really?' God's Spirit is at work all around us and by being intentional we notice the things God is doing that we can join in with.

**Rhythm Three:** by God's grace, I set aside time for prayer, worship and spiritual reading.

Our corporate worship is fed by our individual devotion. Reading the Bible, using commentaries and study notes, and reading Christian books all feed us on our spiritual journey. There is now a plethora of apps including The Bible Project, PrayasyouGo, The Daily Prayer App, and Lectio 365 which enable us to be fed wherever we are.

**Rhythm Four:** by God's grace, I will endeavour to be a gracious presence in the world, serving others and working for justice in human relationships and social structures.

I find this rhythm to be the one that opens the armour around people's hearts and where transformation happens in our communities. Working for justice means we do not shy away from conflict, but challenge unjust circumstances with grace and truth. Our generosity and our

willingness to give and receive the gifts of God's abundance leads us into deeper relationship with God and the communities we serve.

**Rhythm Five:** by God's grace I will sensitively share my faith with others and support God's mission both locally and globally.

The church can be inward looking, and this fifth rhythm encourages us to lift our heads and seek out the bigger picture of God's mission in the wider world. It encourages us to be imaginative in the way we present the gospel, to help our neighbours near and far as we live out our calling to share our faith.

These five Rhythms are not rules that dictate our behaviour, instead they form a foundation of self-examination helping us to see how we can grow as disciples of Christ. St Chad's Day is 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023. If you'd like to join the special service of recommitment at Lichfield Cathedral on Sunday 5th March at 15:30, or want to find out more about the community of St Chad, please email [thecomunityofstchad@gmail.com](mailto:thecomunityofstchad@gmail.com). If you'd like to join us in prayer online on Tuesday evenings at 6pm, or Friday mornings at 9am, the Zoom details are on our website, [lichfield.anglican.org /community-st-chad/](http://lichfield.anglican.org/community-st-chad/)

*The community of St Chad is led by Revd Chris Precious, vicar of Kinnerley with Molverley, Knockin with Maesbrook and Maesbury together with Revd Rosanne Wilshire, vicar of St Stephen's Willenhall*

### Bishop of Wolverhampton to retire

Bishop Clive has announced that he is to retire in April after 16 years in post.

He said: "After sustained and prayerful reflection over a considerable period of time, I have discerned that this is the right time for me to step aside as Bishop of Wolverhampton.

"It has been a privilege to serve in this role for the past 16 years and I will take with me many fond memories of the wonderful colleagues that I have served with, the faithfulness and inspirational witness of clergy and laity alike across the diverse churches of the Wolverhampton Episcopal Area, and of the City of Wolverhampton itself, a very happy home for my family and I.

"This role is a very demanding one and becoming increasingly so, as the challenges that the Church of England faces become more onerous and complex. I believe that someone with different gifts, new vision, and fresh



energy will be best placed to join Bishop Michael and the senior staff team in leading area and diocese onwards.”.

There will be a farewell to Bishop Clive at St Matthew's in Walsall on Sunday 2 April at 4pm.



## Candlemas Bells



Many snowdrops found in churchyards and monastic sites have been planted as a symbol of purity and hope.

The first known cultivation of snowdrops in the UK was recorded in 1597 and, while it is thought that pilgrims originally brought this beautiful flower to our shores, it was the Victorians who enthusiastically planted them in churchyards and cemeteries. Snowdrops go by over 30 different local names including Dew Drops, Eve's Tear and February Fair-maids. They are also known as Candlemas Bells.

In the Middle Ages Candlemas (held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February) was the day when everyone in the parish brought their candles to church to be blessed by the priest. This was to ward off evil spirits. After a procession and the blessing, the candles were lit and set before the statue of the Virgin Mary. The snowdrop was the flower gathered to decorate the church at that time, so took on the name of that ancient tradition.

Snowdrops were used as a cure for headaches in the past, although the bulbs are poisonous. Today a compound from the bulb has been used to develop a dementia treatment.

The sight of snowdrops is often viewed as a welcome herald of spring. As they bloom so early, they do not rely on insects to pollinate them and tend to spread by bulb division. Insects which emerge early, particularly queen bumblebees, may find them a welcome source of food. Many churchyards have a good show of snowdrops and these early pollen sources can help insects that emerge unseasonably early in the spring due to changing weather patterns. Try to use any flower beds or pots you have to provide pollen and nectar from February through to the October.

All the best, Harriet Carty, *Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*,  
[harriet@cfa.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cfa.org.uk), [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)