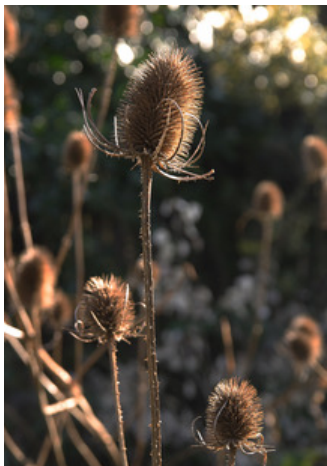


Benefice Magazine for
Wem, Lee Brockhurst and Weston-under-Redcastle

March 2023



Consisting of the parishes of:

St Peter & St Paul's, Wem,



St Peter's, Lee Brockhurst,

St Luke's, Weston-under-Redcastle



Rector:

The Reverend John Christopher Jukes BTh (hons) MA
The Rectory
Ellesmere Road, Wem SY4 5TU

revjohnjukes@gmail.com

Retired Clergy: Prebendary Rob Haarhoff
 Canon Dr William Price
 The Reverend Edith Quirey

Reader: Cathy Dibben

Reader Emeritus: Celia Camplin

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

Find us on 

@Wemparishchurch

ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WEM

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Churchwardens: | Chris Mellings Cathy Dibben David Murray | 01939 809521 01939 236178 01939 236134 |
| PCC Lay Chair: | Sybil Farmer | 01939 232568 |
| PCC Treasurer: | Caroline Sinclair | 01939 232626 |
| Organist: | Glyn Williams | 01939 234954 |
| Sacristans: | June Powell & Kath Ridgway | 01939 234412 01939 290162 |
| Church Flowers: | Sybil Farmer | 01939 232568 |
| Church Hall Bookings: | Via website/Facebook | |
| Baby and Toddler Group: (Sweet Peas) | Alison Hope | 07526 757492 |

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

At Rest

3rd February John Ash
9th February Reginald Hanmer

Baptisms

11th February Charlie and Caitlin Daffern
19th February Ivy Pollard

Book of Remembrance for March

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 st | Blanche Mary Oswell | 12 th | Lucia Shepherd |
| 2 nd | Agnes Bebbington | 13 th | Rosemary Maund |
| 2 nd | Anthony Leslie Jones | 14 th | Charles Henry Dennis German |
| 4 th | Hazel Mary Tudor | 14 th | Keith Burton |
| 4 th | Phoebe May Bailey | 15 th | Elsie Quelch |
| 4 th | Peter Edward Smith | 18 th | Hilda Violet Edwards |
| 5 th | Jessey Kathleen Dean | 18 th | Florence 'Kay' Scoltock |
| 5 th | Lilian Mary Gemmell | 20 th | Ernest Walter Fewtrell |
| 8 th | Peter Roy Hanbury | 20 th | Theodore Laurence Vincent |
| 9 th | Rose Helen Wallington | 21 st | Edward Albert Elson Dean |
| 9 th | Peggy Audrey Bloor | 21 st | Michael Charles Pugh |
| 10 th | Olwen Minnie Pye | 21 st | Robert George 'Bob' Dibben |
| 11 th | Joan Edith German | 23 rd | Terry Edge |
| 11 th | Frances Joan Phillips | 23 rd | Stewart David Smith |
| 12 th | Annie Elizabeth Formstone | 28 th | Arthur James 'Jim' Sands |
| | | 30 th | Arthur Stephen May |

Forthcoming Events in Wem

Saturday 18th March 11:30 - 14:00 Community Lunch in the Church Hall

Saturday 25th March 09:30 -12:00 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall

ST PETER'S, LEE BROCKHURST

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Church Warden: | Val Lusby | 01939 235610 |
| Church Warden and Treasurer: | Roger Ashton | 01939 232425 |
| PCC Secretary: | Phoebe Ashton | 01939 232425 |
| PCC Lay Chairman: | Tim Wilton-Morgan | 07802 735769 |
| Church Warden Emeritus: | Robert Marsh | 01939 200641 |

From the Registers of St Peter's, Lee Brockhurst

23rd February 2023 George Simcox - Burial of Ashes

ST LUKE'S, WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Church Warden: | Frank Hosie-Kingham | 01939 200618 |
| Church Warden: | Helen O'Neill | 01939 200663 |
| Treasurer: | Colin Holloway | 01939 200682 |
| Church Warden Emeritus | Arthur Fox | 01630 685180 |

Weather permitting we are planning to hold our first Coffee Morning in the Churchyard on Saturday 18th March 10.30 to 12 noon. The usual jams, cakes and plants will be on sale. Please do come and join us for a chat and cup of coffee.

Here is another Date for Your Diary :- Weston Village Show will be held on Sunday 6th August.

Daphne Evans.

SUNDAYS IN MARCH ACROSS THE BENEFICE

| DATE | | WEM | WESTON | LEE |
|----------|------------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| 5 March | Lent 2 | 8.00 am HE | 9.30 am | Joint service |
| | | 9.45 am HE | HE | at Wem |
| 12 March | Lent 3 | 8.00 am HE | 9.30 am | 11.15 am |
| | | 9.45 am HE | HE | HE |
| 19 March | Mothering Sunday | 8.00 am HE | 11.00 am | 11.15 am |
| | | 9.45 am HE | HE | MP |
| 26 March | Lent 5 | 8.00 am HE | 11.00 am | 11.15 am |
| | | 9.45 am AA | HE | HE |

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

You are welcome to join services at any of the three churches in the Benefice.

The next issue is scheduled to be prepared on Thursday 23 March. 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

Rector's Ramblings February 2023

At St Peter and St Paul's Church on February 12th, Reverend Edith preached on the topic of "Do not worry". This is a message that we all need to hear from time to time.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." Matthew 6:25-34

As you know my wife and I have recently moved into Wem and I am sure that you can imagine the scene. Plenty of brown cardboard boxes filled with our belongings being carried from the removal van and into The Rectory. I, standing at the back of the van directing which piece of furniture to go into which room, and Denise supervising the inside of The Rectory as well as looking after both our dogs.

There is always the worry that things may get broken or lost during a house move. From "will all our goods fit in the lorry in the first place?" through the travelling to "will all our belongings (a) come out of the lorry and (b) will they all be in one piece if they haven't got misplaced"?

Well, I needn't have worried. Everything went into the lorry and apart from one lampshade holder(?) everything came out. There was very little in the way of breakages; so that too was a weight lifted off my mind.

The next worry was "where is everything going to go?" "Will we be living out of boxes for the next few weeks?" I am very pleased to say that only two weeks later the curtains are up, all the boxes unpacked and our belongings stowed away. So, there was no reason to worry there either.

The next worry is "what will happen in the Service of Institution, Induction and Installation?" I felt this to be a very grand affair. The Bishop of Shrewsbury, the Right Reverend Sarah Bullock presided and the Archdeacon of Salop the Venerable Paul Thomas preached the sermon. I obviously had no reason to worry, we were in very capable hands.

I am delighted to say that my wife and I are now installed in The Rectory and I am Instituted and Inducted as Rector of Wem, Lee Brockhurst and Weston-under-Redcastle. All this with no real reason to worry.

Looking back on these last few weeks I now realise that I had been so busy trying to arrange everything and cover all the bases that I didn't have time to sit and to think. If I had done so, I don't think that I would have worried about any part of the move or the Installation Service.

And so my reflection over the last few weeks is summed up nicely in verses 33 and 34 of Matthew's Gospel "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today".

With Every Blessing
Reverend John.

Lee Brockhurst WI

Have you noticed how much variation there is in handwriting? I've often wondered about this – whether it's large, loopy, small, scribbled, printed, or embellished, I find it all intriguing. So I am definitely looking forward to graphologist **Sue Ord** explain '**The Secrets of Handwriting**' at **Lee Brockhurst W.I.**'s meeting on **21st February**. Our members' competition is '**a handwritten rhyme for a Valentine**' so I shall report back on both in next month's magazine. (By then I may be quite thankful that my article is submitted via email and not handwritten).

Some busy months are coming up with some special events, the most notable of which is our Open meeting on **18th April** when Mike Clayton, of **Midlands Cave Rescue Organisation**, describes his role in the **2018 Thai Cave Rescue**. This is a remarkable story of **professionalism** and **bravery** so will be a fascinating evening. (Surprisingly, the rescuers have to self-fund their equipment and air fares etc.)

Members will be quizzing retired horticultural lecturer, **Anne Harrison**, about '**Easy Plants for your Garden**' at their meeting on **21st March**, which is only a few days before the WI **brunch** at **Oakgate Plant Nursery** so they will get ideas for some horticultural retail therapy. This will also be the LBWI annual general meeting, so we look forward to our annual reshuffle of our 'joblets'.

The following week is another active one, with Book Club on Monday 27th discussing 'Bear' by Claire Cameron; the annual **skittles evening** of the Wem Group of W.I.s on Tuesday 28th; and a visit to Theatre Seven to watch '**Sunshine on Leith**' on Thursday 30th. We certainly have a varied programme of events – all enjoyable in different ways.

I mustn't forget to mention 'What's the Point', our craft club. After successfully creating salt-dough apple trees at the February meeting, members will be tackling **rag rugs.... (or possibly a rag placemat!)** on Tuesday **March 7th**.

We always welcome visitors and new members, so if you fancy a fun-packed diary, do not hesitate to contact our friendly secretary, Julie Woolfenden, who will be happy to give you more details - 01939 200237 / jjwoolfenden@gmail.com. All our meetings are held at Lee Brockhurst village hall unless otherwise specified.

All in the month of MARCH

It was:

300 years ago, on 8th March 1723 that Sir Christopher Wren, English architect, died. Best known for designing St Paul's Cathedral.

125 years ago, on 16th March 1898 that Aubrey Beardsley, British illustrator, died. His black ink drawings, influenced by Japanese woodcuts, contributed to the development of Art Nouveau.

100 years ago, on 4th March 1923 that Patrick Moore, the amateur astronomer, TV presenter, writer and musician was born. Best known for presenting the TV astronomy show *The Sky at Night* for over 50 years.

80 years ago, on 13th March 1943 that the final liquidation of Krakow Ghetto in Poland took place. 8,000 Jews were transported to Plaszow labour camp, 2000 more were simply killed in the streets, and the rest were sent to Auschwitz.

70 years ago, on 19th March 1953 that the Academy Awards ceremony (the Oscars) were televised for the first time.

Also 70 years ago, on 26th March 1953 that Dr Jonas Salk announced that he had completed the first small-scale test of a polio vaccine. Larger tests began in February 1954, and mass vaccinations began in April 1955.

65 years ago, on 2nd March 1958 that the first land crossing of Antarctica was completed by the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, led by Vivian Fuchs. The team of 12 men travelled 2,158 miles from Shackleton Base to Scott Base (via the South Pole) in 99 days, using six vehicles.

60 years ago, on 22nd March 1963 that the British Secretary of State for War, John Profumo, made a statement in the House of Commons in which he denied there was any impropriety in his relationship with Christine Keeler, a model who was also in a sexual relationship with a drug dealer and a Soviet naval attaché. (In June he admitted he had lied, and resigned.)

50 years ago, on 8th March 1973 that the citizens of Northern Ireland voted in a referendum to remain within the United Kingdom. That same day the IRA carried out its first bombing in Britain since WWII, planting car bombs in London. One person died, 200 were injured.

40 years ago, on 6th March 1983 that Donald Maclean, British-born Soviet spy died. He was a member of the Cambridge Spy Ring.

Also 40 years ago, on 26th March 1983, that Anthony Blunt, British art historian and Soviet spy, died.

25 years ago, on 16th March 1998 that Rwanda began mass trials for the country's 1994 genocide. There were 125,000 suspects for 500,000 murders.

20 years ago, on 1st March 2003 that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the al-Qaeda terrorist who masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the USA, was captured in Pakistan.

Also 20 years ago, on 12th March 2003 that the World Health Organisation issued a global alert about a severe form of pneumonia (now known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome – SARS) that was affecting people in China, Hong Kong and Vietnam.

Harriet Monsell

Harriet Monsell was born in 1811 into one of Ireland's oldest families. Her father, Sir Edward O'Brien, was 4th Baronet of Dromoland, and represented his county Clare in Parliament. Harriet married Charles Monsell, an Anglican clergyman connected with the Oxford Movement, and they moved to Derry, where his father was Archdeacon. But Charles developed tuberculosis, and soon he and Harriet were sent to the milder climate of Naples.

When Charles died in 1850, Harriet moved to England and continued her connection with the Oxford Movement. She also began working among former prostitutes and unwed mothers. Soon Harriet, along with two other women, decided to profess religious vows, and dedicate their lives to caring for the poor and needy. Inspired by John the Baptist's call to penitence, in 1852 they took the

name of the Community of St John Baptist, of which Harriet became the Mother Superior.

They were one of the first Anglican religious orders since the Reformation, and because much of their work was in the Berkshire town of Clewer, they were often called the 'Clewer Sisters'.

Within five years their work had gone from caring for about 30 marginalised women to dedicating a building that would house about 80 such women. Mother Harriet guided the work with endless energy and extensive correspondence. The work grew to include 40 institutions, ranging from mission houses to orphanages, schools and hospitals.

Mother Harriet was much loved for her "strength of character, firmness of faith, an infectious sense of humour, a gift for listening, and a magnetism which none could resist," according to one admirer. She had to retire in 1875 for health reasons, but maintained an interest in the work until her death on Easter Sunday March 1883.

Holy Days in the Church Calendar in March

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 1 st | David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales, c601 |
| 2 nd | Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672 |
| 7 th | Perpetua, Felicity & Companions, Martyrs at Carthage, 203 |
| 8 th | Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, 1910 |
| 8 th | Felix, Bishop, Apostle to the East Angles, 647 |
| 8 th | Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, Priest, Poet, 1929 |
| 17 th | Patrick, Bishop, Missionary, Patron of Ireland, c460 |
| 18 th | Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, 386 |
| 19 th | Joseph of Nazareth |
| 20 th | Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687 |
| 21 st | Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1556 |
| 24 th | Walter Hinton, Mystic, 1396 |
| 24 th | Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, Martyr, 1980 |
| 25 th | The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 26 th | Harriet Monsell, Founder Religious Community, 1883 |
| 31 st | John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631 |

Finding Choral Evensong: the relaunch of the online directory

The Choral Evensong Trust has just relaunched its website to help you find a choral evensong near you. Just visit: www.choralevensong.org

During its seven years of existence, choralevensong.org has had 30,000,000 hits from 600,000 visitors, accessing services on offer at over 350 churches and cathedrals on Sundays, and also every weekday in most cathedrals and many college chapels in Oxford, Cambridge and elsewhere.

The website has grown to incorporate live streamed services, a 'Choir of the Month' feature and has begun to share services of Choral Evensong as far away as Australia. It also includes a listing of the comparable service of Choral Vespers in Roman Catholic churches, cathedrals and monasteries.

John Rutter, composer for the Royal Wedding and conductor, says "Choral Evensong gladdens the heart, ravishes the ear, and restores the soul – my favourite way of spending an hour with glorious music in a glorious building.

Choral Evensong has been celebrated in Anglican churches since the sixteenth century. The charity's first website was launched on the Feast of St Cecilia (patron saint of musicians) in 2015.

Time for a Spring Cut?



Do you have an area of meadow or long grass within your churchyard and perhaps your garden too? If so, March may be an excellent month to give it a cut and vigorous rake. Wildflowers and fine grasses can become swamped by coarse tougher grasses, the bruisers of the meadow world, and a spring cut can make all the difference. Cutting in spring really knocks back these coarser grasses such as Yorkshire Fog and False Oat Grass, giving other meadow grasses and flowers a chance to take up the space and receive life-giving sunlight onto their leaves. The vigorous raking will expose soil and break up mats of dead plant matter, all of which allows seeds to germinate in soil and seedlings to reach the sunshine.

But, I hear you say, what about the invertebrates which need coarse grass tussocks and hollow stems to over-winter? This is where management planning is so important; can you designate an area of coarse grass, perhaps adjacent to a wall or hedge, where you can leave it uncut for a year or two? In this way you can maintain areas for over-wintering and also manage the wildflower meadow well.

That's all very well but I have spring bulbs. Ahh, in that case you don't want to do a spring cut, but don't leave areas with bulbs uncut for too long. It's a good idea to cut a meadow after 3 or 4 months growth, never more or it starts to get overrun with coarse grasses and other plants such as hogweed. If you can't do a spring cut because of bulbs then plan for one in early summer - early July or even late June. This area can fill with lovely flowers in May and June and is a **spring meadow**.

A meadow which is cut in March or April can then be left until late July or August and fills with summer flowers such as knapweed or scabious. This is a **summer meadow**.

If you have a bit of both then you'll have flowers all spring and summer long, but it can get a little complicated and it may be best to keep things simple! Have a look at our Action Pack sheet A2 Caring for Grassland (<https://tinyurl.com/22af3rpv>) to remind yourself of the timings.

All the best, Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cpga.org.uk,
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

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

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the Law of Moses wanted to test Jesus' knowledge of the laws in the Bible, so he asked Jesus a question.

Teacher, so what must I do to get eternal life?

What does it say in the Bible?

You've got it right.

Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and Love your neighbour as yourself.

But who counts as a 'neighbour'?

So Jesus told a story -
A man was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho

That's a dangerous road!

He was attacked by robbers who left him for dead.

Oh no!

A priest was walking the same way, and after him a lawyer.

Oh, they are good people, they'll help.

They saw the hurt man but they walked past

I bet it's an ordinary person who helps!

Then a man from Samaria came that way...

Oh no! We hate them and they hate us Jews! That hurt man is done for!

He felt sorry for the hurt man, and cleaned and bandaged his cuts.

What? No!

He put him on his donkey, took him to an inn, and paid for him to stay.

So who was a real neighbour to the hurt man?

The... the Sss... the one who helped him.

So go and do the same.

Prized nature

Churchyards are very important places for those whose loved ones are buried there, but a survey of visitors to some churchyards in Sussex found that they are often visited by people who value their peace and beauty.

The Churchyard Award Scheme has been running for over 30 years. It's run by volunteers to celebrate the work of volunteers in maintaining and developing churchyards and church gardens across the diocese of Lichfield. The Award Scheme was originally conceived as a way to encourage care, in the sense of 'grounds maintenance' and that is still an objective. But as we have become more aware of ecological issues, the scheme has devoted more attention to the role of churchyards as precious habitats, and as a diocese we have been blessed to receive lots of support and advice from 'Caring for God's Acre' (www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk), a conservation charity focussed on burial grounds, that habitat found in every community.

During the months of May, June, July and August a team of volunteer 'judges' visits the churchyards and gardens to make notes on a wide range of aspects and features. In September the judges meet and prepare certificates for each entrant and draw together some feedback for each individual churchyard or garden. There is then an awards ceremony, usually in October, when achievements are publicly celebrated and ideas are shared. In addition to these elements of the scheme we hold a garden tea party to which all volunteers are warmly invited as a way to express thanks to all who work hard and give time and loving care to maintaining these special places.

When steps are taken to make churchyards more 'nature friendly' this is not always consistent with perfect tidiness, but it demonstrates that the church is actively seeking to address concerns over loss of natural habitats and biodiversity. For these interventions to be appreciated information needs to be provided to explain the presence and purpose of the nature friendly elements.

Whether large or small, rural or urban, a churchyard or garden, all are invited to participate. Entry is free – full details of how to enter

can be found on the diocesan website under 'Find advice' and then 'Environment' tabs, or just follow this link:

www.lichfield.anglican.org/churchyard-award-scheme-2023.php

The closing date for applications this year is 10 April 2023.

Dr Alison Primrose has led the Churchyard Awards team for the last five years and can be contacted on 07794 515142

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is here again
It brings back to our mind
Of all the love and care
Our mother was that kind

As from our early days
She helped us through our fears
She guided tottering footsteps
And after dried our tears

The years passed on
She taught us all to pray
To live a good and useful life
To be true and honest is the way

And now that she has left us
We know that we have been blessed
For we have our own two children
And we have done our best

Another generation is growing up beside us
And mother love is just the same
They give, they work
They make no fuss

Helen Hornsby's Great-aunt Annie

Remembering Sir Christopher Wren

It was 300 years ago, on 8th March 1723, that English architect Sir Christopher Wren died at the age of 90. Best known for designing St Paul's Cathedral, he was also a ground-breaking anatomist, astronomer and physicist.

A founder of the Royal Society, Wren served as its president from 1680 to 1682 and was highly regarded by such eminent scientists as Isaac Newton and Blaise Pascal. But it is as an architect that he is best known: beside St Paul's, regarded as his masterpiece and completed in 1710, he directed the rebuilding of 52 churches after the Great Fire of London in 1666 – though he did not work alone, heading a team of creative minds that included Nicholas Hawksmoor.

Born at East Knoyle in Wiltshire, Wren was the only surviving son of Christopher Wren the Elder, who became Dean of Windsor. He was a sickly child but lived a long life, despite his family being affected by the Civil Wars that broke out in 1642. He married twice, but both his wives died very early – one of smallpox and the other of tuberculosis. Although Wren lived 90 years, he was married for only nine of them, but had four children.

Two factors may have contributed to Wren's success as an architect: one was basic – his decision to move into that field because of the dearth of architects in the mid-17th century; the other was more dramatic – the Great Fire of London, which necessitated so much rebuilding in the city and gave him the opportunity to shine.

Robert Hooke, the scientist and architect who was a friend of Wren, said: "Since the time of Archimedes there scarce ever met in one man in so great perfection such a mechanical hand and so philosophical a mind."

