

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

June and July 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  
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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](http://www.wemcofe.co.uk)

Find us on 

@Wemparishchurch

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

Churchwardens:	Ruth Empson	07521 721847
	Sybil Farmer	01939 232568
	David Murray	01939 236134
PCC Lay Chair:	Sybil Farmer	01939 232568
PCC Treasurer:	Caroline Sinclair	01939 232626
Organist:	Glyn Williams	01939 234954
Sacristans:	June Powell	01939 234412
	& Kath Ridgway	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**

4th May Catherine Amy Whitaker  
23rd May Doris Mary Faulknall

#### **Interment of Cremated Remains**

9th May Jean Mary Dudley

## Book of Remembrance for June

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

## Book of Remembrance for July

1 <sup>st</sup>	Roy Stubbs	17 <sup>th</sup>	Lilian Martha Boyden
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Margaret Anne Peel	18 <sup>th</sup>	John Henry Brown
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Doris Irene Bennett	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Stanley Joseph Healey
4 <sup>th</sup>	Hilda Dorothy Harper	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Alfred Draper
4 <sup>th</sup>	William Walter Jaggard	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mabel Greenaway
5 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Evanson	24 <sup>th</sup>	Kathleen Sinclair
5 <sup>th</sup>	Claude William Daffern	24 <sup>th</sup>	Christopher John Morgan
5 <sup>th</sup>	Arthur Frederick Taylor	25 <sup>th</sup>	Evelyn Alice Smith
6 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Gordon Parma Brain	25 <sup>th</sup>	Jonathan Patrick Smith
6 <sup>th</sup>	Robert Cross	25 <sup>th</sup>	Florence May Tommy
8 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Jean Hall	25 <sup>th</sup>	Myrtle Elizabeth Brien
9 <sup>th</sup>	Charles A Brewer	26 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis Percy Spencer
9 <sup>th</sup>	Marie Brain	26 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Brien
11 <sup>th</sup>	Lizzie Jane Price	27 <sup>th</sup>	Kathleen Maud Jones
14 <sup>th</sup>	Don Kenward	27 <sup>th</sup>	Lilian Elsie Pountney
14 <sup>th</sup>	Gerald Henry Llowarch	28 <sup>th</sup>	Brian Cliffe
14 <sup>th</sup>	John Robert Haarhoff	29 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth Heslop
16 <sup>th</sup>	Clive Grocott	30 <sup>th</sup>	Ralph 'Rafe' Dean

## 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

## 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

### From the Registers of St Luke's, Weston-under-Redcastle

#### Holy Matrimony

20th May Katie Louise Bennett and Joseph Bunford Osborne



The next issue is scheduled to be prepared on Thursday 20 July. 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)

## SUNDAYS IN JUNE ACROSS THE BENEFICE

DATE		WEM	WESTON	LEE
4 June	Trinity Sunday	8.00 am HE 9.45 am HE	9.30 am HE	11.15 am HE
11 June	Trinity 1	8.00 am HE 9.45 am HE	9.30 am MP	11.15 am HE
18 June	Trinity 2	8.00 am HE 9.45 am HE	9.30 am HE	11.15 am HE
25 June	Trinity 3	8.00 am HE 9.45 am AA	11.00 am HE	11.15 am HE

## SUNDAYS IN JULY ACROSS THE BENEFICE

DATE		WEM	WESTON	LEE
2 July	Trinity 4	8.00 am HE 9.45 am HE	9.30 am HE	11.15 am HE
9 July	Trinity 5	8.00 am HE 9.45 am HE	9.30 am HE	11.15 am HE
16 July	Trinity 6	8.00 am HE 9.45 am HE	9.30 am HE	11.15 am HE
23 July	Trinity 7	8.00 am HE 9.45 am AA	11.00 am HE	11.15 am HE
30 July	Trinity 8	8.00 am HE at <b>Wem</b> and 9.30 am Combined Benefice Service at <b>Weston</b>		

AA All Age Service  
HE Holy Eucharist  
SE Sung Eucharist

EC Extended Communion  
MP Morning Prayer

You are welcome to join services at any of the three churches in the Benefice. The above is the plan for the next two months but details may need to change nearer to the time.

### Forthcoming Events in Wem

Community Lunch 17<sup>th</sup> June & 22 July 11:30- 14:00

Coffee morning 24<sup>th</sup> June 10:00 – 12:30 and 29<sup>th</sup> July 10:00- 12:00

## Rector's Ramblings, The Ascension of Jesus Christ

There are forty days between Easter and the Ascension and a further ten days until Pentecost. Thus the Ascension is always celebrated on a Thursday.



We rightly talk about, and celebrate, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; yet it is in the ascension that Jesus changes everything. Luke 24:49-51 states: “And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high”. Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.’

The Acts of the Apostles 1:9 recounts ‘as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.’

Once Jesus had ascended all was prepared for the sending of the Holy Spirit to the disciples at Pentecost.

The Gospel reading for the Sunday after Ascension Day is John 17.1-11, and in John 20:17 Jesus says ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God’.

Jesus’ return to the Father is a moment of great rejoicing because he promised to ‘prepare a place for you’ (John 14:2). The disciples probably didn’t think this was the case at the time. But the ascension of Jesus ensures the ultimate fulfilment of his promise to those he loves. In returning to the Father, Jesus makes it possible for his disciples to share fully in his relationship with God. This fully sharing in the relationship is highlighted in the expression ‘my Father and your Father my God and your God’, and this verse (John 20:17), confirms that what was true of Jesus’ relationship with God is now true of the disciples’ relationship with God.

In the first chapter of John’s Gospel it stated that all who believe in Jesus were given the power by Jesus to become children of God, and here Jesus announces this new family relationship.

It is astonishing what the ascension meant to the disciples. Yet it is even more astonishing what the ascension means to us. Through Jesus’ ascension the believing community receives a new identity. His ascension is the confirmation that the believing community (which includes you and me) now knows God as Jesus knows God; and that we are the children of God.

Jesus' death on the cross, his resurrection and ascension are ultimately about us, because they open up for those who believe fresh possibilities of life as children of God. But even as they are ultimately about us, they must also ultimately be about God, because it is only as one sees God in Jesus that one can know what it means to live as God's child.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, may the peace of the Son of Peace be always with you.

Revd John.

### Bible Study Group

Hello everyone.

For those of you who don't know me, I used to be your Lay Reader until I had to retire on health grounds. I'm the Reader Emeritus in the front of the magazine.

It's been a long time since I wrote anything for the magazine. Just a very small group of us have been meeting each month to study God's Word. Up to now we've met on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at various houses.

However this is no longer convenient and we've had to change the day to MONDAY. So we'll meet on MONDAY 5th JUNE at 10.00am at Tricia Bamford's house. 19 Eckford Park Wem.

Perhaps others may like to join us. Everyone is very welcome. We start with a cuppa and then get 'Stuck in!'

See you then.

Celia Camplin.

### THE CITADEL OPEN GARDENS.

Over £1000 was raised for Shropshire Historic Churches Trust when the amazing gardens at The Citadel held an Open Day on 14th May. 124 people visited and enjoyed a lovely afternoon with scones, jam and cream teas afterwards.

## Strawberry Tea at Brockhurst Farm

Some 5 or 6 years ago (before Covid anyway!) we decided to change the fundraising event we held at Brockhurst Farm to a Strawberry Tea which would potentially raise more money to help keep our little Church of St Peter's, Lee Brockhurst funded.

What was a one-year trial has become an annual event (2020 excluded) and has also proved to be a very successful fundraiser as well. The weather has not always been kind to us and one year we had to squeeze everybody into our farmhouse because of the rain. Most years we have been able to use the garden and it has been sunny even if the tablecloths have had to be held down with clothes pegs because of a strong breeze!

This year we are hoping to raise even more money than usual because of the need to fund our church bell repairs. Between 50 and 60 is the maximum we can cope with satisfactorily so if you want to come please buy your tickets early!

The date is Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm and the cost for adults £8.00 (children under 12 go half price at £4.00). Post Code is SY4 5SB just in case you can't find us!

We look forward to seeing you on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

Tickets can be booked by calling Phoebe or Roger Ashton on 01939 232425 or 07858 123669, or Val Lusby on 01939 235610. We will also be selling them at church and at any other event we attend!

## **WESTON VILLAGE SHOW**

Arrangements are well under way for the Village Show on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August. The two principal charities who will benefit from this year's Show will be The Severn Hospice and the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund.

The Show is held on The Citadel Showground from 12 noon to 5 p.m, entry fee £7.50 per adult, children free.

Do put it in your diary and come and join us and enjoy a traditional village show.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
DAY OF PRAYER, ST PETER & ST PAUL'S**

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

To 'pray without ceasing' is easier said than done, for most of us. As an encouragement, the annual day of prayer gives opportunity to offer continuous prayer from our church community throughout the course of the day.

In the past two people commit to praying for a specific hour, and the day concludes with time together. Inspirations will be provided for the day.

Please set the day aside for prayer and consider if you would be able to commit to a specific hour.

*Thelma Pugh*

**I am not here to pass judgement**

I am not here to pass judgement or point the finger at anyone.

My name was written in the sand as one who is forgiven.

Strengthened by hope, impervious to shame, I will walk freely like the freshness of the dry lands after rain.

Let light spill out of heaven through my life, dispelling mediocrity and silent blame.

Too many people, guilt-stricken, wounded, walk in regret, feeling bad about failing, apologise even for breathing.

Raw belief, passion for others grows in me, encircling each moment with instinctive prayer. I will carry the freshness of the dry lands after rain. Compassion lives in me again.

*From Andy Raine, Prayer for the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 from the Celtic Daily Prayer Book from the Northumbrian Community, that has the Daily Office at its heart and sent to us by Ruth Empson.*

## Whitchurch Road Cemetery Update

The Museum and Heritage Award winners were announced at a high-profile event in London on 10 May. The chapel woven panels' project had been nominated into the last five in the category of Restoration or Conservation Project of the Year. The winner in that category was the £9.3 million Cleveland Pools project to restore a historical outdoor lido in Bath. It had been closed for almost 40 years, was built in 1815 and is Britain's oldest public outdoor swimming pool. It was an extremely worthy winner, and it was a huge honour for our small community project to have been shortlisted alongside such worthy competition.

Sixteen willing volunteers gathered at the cemetery to participate in the King's Coronation Big Help Out Event on Monday 8 May. Many worthwhile tasks were undertaken including: bagging bark chipping and compost for distribution; clearing undergrowth and preparing the metal railings and wooden fence ready for painting. Huge thanks to all who worked so hard on the day.



Moving bagged bark chips

### Website, Weekly News Sheet, Benefice Magazine

If you have any information that you would like to be included on our website and/or included on the weekly news sheet please email this information to Sybil Farmer [syb.hbcwem@btinternet.com](mailto:syb.hbcwem@btinternet.com) - for inclusion in the weekly sheet please send the information by Wednesday for inclusion in the following Sunday sheet.

You may find it convenient to copy information you send to Pam for the magazine ([pamedgmond@hotmail.com](mailto:pamedgmond@hotmail.com)) about any special events to Sybil at the above email.

The website, news sheet and benefice magazine are all great ways to share news and notice of forthcoming events amongst us all.

Thoughts from St Peter's Primary School Wem, Foundation Governor  
May 2023.

It has been my privilege and joy to serve for a few months now as a Foundation Governor at St Peter's in Wem. My role there is to work with the Head of Religious Education and other members of school leadership and the other Governors to support religious learning and Christian distinctiveness within school.

This year is particularly important as the school has its SIAMS, nothing to do with its relation to the country of Thailand, previously known as Siam, but the acronym for Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools. In 2023 SIAMS is taking on something of a newer turn, in the words of Margaret James, the first National Director of SIAMS in the Church of England,

'by asking high-level questions that are focused entirely on impact, rather than by setting out lists of criteria to be met. Schools are invited to share their own stories of how their Christian vision enables pupils and adults to flourish, instead of being expected to jump through pre-ordained generic hoops.'

She further elaborates on the emphasis she places on robust, qualitative evidence to support answers to the questions, notably including adults in the conversation and the power of storytelling, all underpinned by what James calls 'theologically-rooted Christian vision'. This phrase appears for the first time in the SIAMS 2023 framework. To my mind this will require some deep thinking to articulate what this means for the children at school, and to find ways of ensuring that it is expressed in ways that the inspectors can also see and understand. I wonder how many adults and churches could provide and explain what their theologically-rooted vision is, whether individually and/or collectively?

Our discussions at St Peter's thus far is that SIAMS is asking the school to better articulate and embed within children's minds, a theological theme that runs, not just through Religious Education but also throughout the school, perhaps most meaningfully expressed within its core values. These are fairness (fluffball), care (captain), teamwork (tiger), ambition (Ali), respect (robot), honesty (fairy); brackets denote the names of the cartoon characters that the children use to envision these concepts and values, characters that are evident everywhere in the school. We are working currently on Matthew 5:16 (let your light shine before others) providing LIGHT as a 'golden thread' of 'theological rootedness' running through the school's values, and to find ways for the children to easily and memorably articulate this. It is most definitely a work in progress, and currently exercising my brain, so any ideas and feedback will be gratefully received and appreciated.

When I had the privilege of speaking with the children from St Peter's worship team (a voluntary group) last week they told me that they had started to think about their Christian values at worship, and how important it was for them that God, though unseen, is with them always – wow! The school leadership is also establishing the new name of Shining Star for the weekly awards that recognise children's performance and good behaviour. It is hoped this will provide a mechanism to embed the concept of light within both aspiration and achievement of those key school values above.

For me, some of the most understandable and robust qualitative evidence in theology comes from the material evidence of place; both how place and material evidence makes God visible and the expression of God made known to us, as a sense or feeling within a place. Where is God, and do you feel God, in this place? If you ever have the privilege to visit St Peter's school you will see much evidence of this, if you look; the spiritual garden and prayer / spiritual corners in each class room and a reflection board where children, and adults, are encouraged to post their thoughts, reflections and prayers. Although these spaces are present, my impression is that St Peter's would greatly benefit from a dedicated prayer space that is sufficiently private, yet visible and accessible. Such a prayer space should also embrace and include other world religions, as learning about other religions both improves our acceptance and understanding of others, and it forms a significant part of the Religious Education curriculum; it is also part of the SIAMS framework. Notably, Census 2021 for the first time reported that fewer than 50% of England identifies as Christian, making it even more important that we recognise and understand our neighbours.

I will end this discussion by asking you what could we as church, meaning all churches in the benefice, do for our schools? More specifically at this time what can St P&P do for St Peter's school as they approach SIAMS? There is no doubt that the inspectors will be looking for evidence that there is a strong relationship between the school and our church. Rev John naturally sees school, and specifically St Peter's, as a priority and is already making regular visits to lead worship there. So how can we support this, and how together as church communities can we help our wider school communities of children, parents and carers flourish in faith? We will continue our benefice-wide commitment to remember them in our prayers each week (eg 12 May prayer diary) and in our public Sunday intercessions, but other ideas will be gratefully appreciated 😊.

Ruth Empson

Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world – Archbishop Desmond Tutu

## **Bishop of Lichfield makes his maiden speech on parliamentary democracy**

*On 25th April 2023, The Bishop of Lichfield made his maiden speech in a debate on the strength of parliamentary democracy in the UK, speaking on the importance of freedom of faith and belief, and the benefits of interfaith relationships and communication. The text follows but the speech can also be viewed at:*

<https://churchinparliament.org/2023/04/25/bishop-of-lichfield-makes-maiden-speech-on-parliamentary-democracy/>

My Lords, I am very grateful for the opportunity to speak in this House for the first time. I promise that I will be brief. I thank all noble Lords for their warm welcome and all the parliamentary staff and officers for their kindness and patience in explaining to me the procedures, traditions and geography of this extraordinary place.

Throughout my ministry I have had the joy of living and working in places of cheerful diversity—in Leicester, in south London and now in the West Midlands—and it is in the context of a diverse society that the noble Baroness, Lady Jones of Moulsecoomb, has rightly asked this Question about the strength of our parliamentary democracy.

In 2010 the late Pope, His Holiness Benedict XVI, spoke about parliamentary democracy in an address here in Westminster. He pointed out that democracy is a process rather than a value in itself—a process whose vitality depends on its being open to people who are guided by the values and commitments that inform their conscience. He asked the question, “where is the ethical foundation for political choices to be found?”.

We might all answer that question in different ways, but we can all recognise its importance for the strength of our democracy. For many of us, the answer to the Pope’s question will be found in the faiths and beliefs we hold dear. Our parliamentary democracy has grown out of deep roots in the Christian tradition, as we are reminded at the start of every sitting in this Chamber, when we begin our business with prayer.

For our democracy to remain strong, we must recognise that many people, individuals and communities alike, are motivated by values that are given them by their faith or belief; that they need assurance that their freedom to practise and express their faith or belief is not under threat; and that differences between and within faiths in our society are not a problem or cause of anxiety. To these principles the Church of England is resolutely committed. Church of England parishes cover the whole nation of England, and our clergy and people often find themselves building strong friendships with people of different faiths in their neighbourhoods.

In my own diocese, for example, we have churches twinned with mosques in Walsall and Wolverhampton. During the pandemic, leaders of different faiths came together for online programmes to combat vaccine hesitancy. Over the last winter, people of all faiths and none have together been organising warm spaces and places of welcome. Examples like these could be multiplied across the country; faith or belief gives people values to motivate their civic involvement, and that strengthens our democracy.

As the noble Viscount, Lord Stansgate, reminded us, in 10 days our King will be crowned in a joyful service that will both be deeply Christian and deeply honour people of different faiths. In a speech soon after his accession, the King said:

“The beliefs that flourish in, and contribute to, our richly diverse society differ. They, and our society, can only thrive through a clear collective commitment to those vital principles of freedom of conscience, generosity of spirit and care for others which are, to me, the essence of our nationhood”.

Such a commitment in our diverse society can only strengthen our parliamentary democracy.

### **All in the month of JUNE**

It was:

400 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1623 that Blaise Pascal was born. This French mathematician, physicist, inventor, theologian, and philosopher invented one of the first mechanical calculators.

300 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1723 that Adam Smith was born. The ‘Father of Economics’, this Scottish economist and philosopher is best known for his book *The Wealth of Nations*, the first modern work on economics.

175 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1848 that Paul Gauguin, French post-impressionist artist, was born.

150 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1873 that the great slave market in Zanzibar (now part of Tanzania) was closed after Britain issued Sultan Barghash bin Said with an ultimatum to close it or face a blockade.

125 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1898 that Britain leased Hong Kong from China for 99 years, and it became a British Crown Colony. It was transferred back to China in 1997.

75 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1948 that the ship HMT Empire Windrush docked in London, bringing the first large group of immigrants from the West Indies to the UK.

Also 75 years ago, from 24<sup>th</sup> June 1948 to 12<sup>th</sup> May 1949 that the Berlin Blockade and Airlift took place. The Soviet Union began a rail, road and canal blockade of Berlin, cutting off all routes between West Germany and West Berlin. The Allies launched a massive airlift – over 200,000 flights – to take in nearly 9,000 tons of supplies each day.

70 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953 that the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey took place. It was the first event where the British TV audience (20 million) was greater than the radio audience (12 million).

65 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1958 that London's Gatwick Airport was officially opened.

50 years ago, from 16<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 1973 that Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev visited Washington DC and said that the Cold War was over as far as the Soviet Union was concerned. He and President Richard Nixon signed a major accord on arms limitation and the prevention of nuclear war.

Also 50 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1973 that elections were held for the Northern Ireland Assembly. It began operating on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1974, but collapsed in May. It was re-established in 1998 but collapsed again in 2017. It was re-established in January 2020, but collapsed in February 2022. The seventh Assembly met in May 2022, but has not been able to meet since, as the DUP refuses to assent to the election of a speaker as part of a protest against working under a Sinn Fein first minister.

40 years ago, from 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June, that Pope John Paul II visited his native Poland. He held a private meeting with Lech Walesa, the founder of the banned trade union Solidarity. Walesa became President of Poland in 1990.

30 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1993 that Sir William Golding, British Novelist and winner of the 1983 Nobel Prize in Literature, died. Best known for his novel 'The Lord of the Flies'.

25 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1998 that the UN declared an official famine in Sudan. About 250,000 people were saved by international aid, but up to 100,000 died in South Sudan. A ceasefire in the Second Sudanese Civil War was signed on 15<sup>th</sup> July but collapsed in April 1999.

20 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2003 that the Wikimedia Foundation was founded in Florida. The non-profit charitable organisation operates several websites, including Wikipedia.

## **Boniface of Crediton**

Boniface began life as Wynfrith, when he was born in Crediton, in what was then Wessex, in 675. He became a monk in Exeter, moved to Nursling, near Southampton, and worked in the community as a teacher. He became an expert in biblical exposition and compiled the first Latin grammar ever written in England.

Writing the first Latin grammar was a peaceful occupation. But then in 718, when he was 43, Wynfrith felt called by God to go as a missionary to the pagan tribes of Frisia, an area on the present-day border between the Netherlands and Germany. He was not welcomed! In fact, the hostility against him was so great that soon he fled for his life. The following year he was offered a good post as an abbot back near Southampton, but he refused, and instead went on to Rome to ask for help for his mission.

By 722 Pope Gregory II had given his support, and consecrated Wynfrith as Boniface, a missionary bishop to the pagans of Bavaria and Hesse. With the support Boniface now had from Rome, he returned to Frisia, and began to see some success.

Boniface devoted the rest of his life to evangelising Frisia and building up the young church there. He was fearless, famously felling a sacred oak tree dedicated to the worship of Thor. When nothing bad happened to him, the people decided that perhaps Thor was not so strong after all, and many converted to Christianity.

Boniface was also a gifted administrator. He founded monasteries and in 741 made a joint commitment with the Frankish King Pepin to reform corrupt clergy. Boniface went on to improve leadership for the church throughout Europe, which won him the respect of both Pope and Kings.

In about 747 the Pope made Boniface Archbishop of Mainz, but he soon resigned, and returned to his beloved Frisia. Boniface carried on preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ until he was martyred in Dokkum in 754, by a group of pagan bandits.

Later, Hildegard of Bingen wrote of him:

*O Boniface, you are the friend of the living God  
And the true crystal shining  
In the benevolence of the straight way  
Where you ran wisely.*

## **Lee Brockhurst WI News**

At our April Open Meeting, our speakers were Mike Clayton & Emma Porter from the Midlands Cave Rescue Association who were involved in the miraculous rescue of the 12 young footballers trapped in an underground cave in Thailand back in 2018.

Our May meeting was led by botanist and medical herbalist Bee McGovern, who inspired us all by foraging in the vicinity to identify culinary herbs and plants to benefit our diets and health. This was followed by delicious herbal teas prepared by Bee, which were enjoyed by all. The competition 'A Herb Grown in Your Kitchen or Garden' was won by Miriam Wilson, second place going to June Turner and Dee Moyse being awarded 3<sup>rd</sup>, with the raffle being won by Dawn Wickham.

Great fun was had by all at our Group craft event which was held at Doodle Alley, Whitchurch. Here members tested out their painting skills, by decorating pots, jugs and plates and whose masterpieces will be admired once their creations have been fired!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June where Lucinda Lovesey, who was a semi-finalist on the popular TV Show – The Great Pottery Throwdown will speak about her memorable experience.

Our Summer Strollers will be meeting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June for another evening amble in the locality, our Craft Club on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June and our Book club on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

We always welcome visitors to join in the fun and friendship at Lee Brockhurst; all meetings take place at Lee Brockhurst unless otherwise stated.

If you would like to know more about our lively, friendly group then please contact our Secretary Dawn, on 07527 089616 or [dawnwickham1@aol.com](mailto:dawnwickham1@aol.com) who will be very happy to help.

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Genesis ch 25:19-33, 27:1-42

Jacob had cheated his father and brother, and had run away to stay with his uncle Laban. On the way there..

Jacob saw angels and heard God.

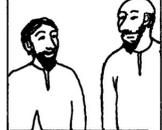


At Laban's house, Jacob met his cousin Rachel



Work for me for 7 years and you can marry her

7 years later



Can I marry Rachel now?

But Laban tricked him into marrying her sister Leah



So Jacob worked 7 more years to marry Rachel



Then he said to Laban

As you aren't paying me wages, can I have the black sheep?



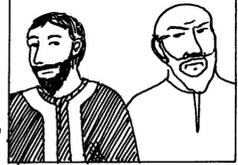
Laban agreed, but that day he moved all the black sheep far away



But God blessed Jacob and his black flock grew



Laban became very jealous of Isaac



Your father doesn't like me any more. We need to go back to my home.



They waited until Laban was away..



but he was told ...





## Queens, sunny spots and sticky tongues

Old churchyards and other burial grounds have become a refuge for the Yellow Meadow Ant, *Lasius flavus*, a species found in permanent pasture and meadow, now both rare habitats. You can tell if you have this lovely species in your site as it creates soil mounds or anthills over its nest, often against gravestones and facing the sun. The Yellow Meadow Ant is harmless, and the anthills are quite something, growing larger and larger over the years. Actually, the bulk of the ant nest is below ground, sometimes reaching 1m in depth. Within the nest the ants are protected, with temperature and humidity kept relatively constant. Here the ants are farmers, tending aphids which feed on the roots of the meadow grasses and then produce 'honeydew' – food for the ants. Each of these mounds is started by a queen ant who lands in a warm sunny spot and starts a new colony. She lays eggs which hatch into worker ants who then go out to forage for food and make the nest. This is done by excavating in the ground and carrying innumerable particles of soil above ground level to build a series of chambers. As the number of workers increase so does the size of the mound. The little passages they make and travel through, are above and below ground. In the winter the whole colony retreats further underground away from the cold.

Anthills can be up to 100 years old and form a mini-habitat of their own. The ants need the warmth of the sun and so they trim back the grass growing on the mound surface and this encourages plants like lady's bedstraw and wild thyme. You may spot plants on ant mounds that are not found elsewhere within your churchyard. Whilst the anthills give the ants a level of safety, green woodpeckers feed on them, visiting the mounds and using their extraordinarily long, sticky tongues to feast on the ants. When you next visit a burial ground, look out for anthills, large or small, and on a sunny day you will see the ants busy at work. If you see an anthill you can make a biological record for Yellow Meadow Ant even if you don't see the actual yellow coloured ant. Try using the iNaturalist app and photographing it. This is a useful species to record, as it is an indicator of ancient grassland, suggesting that your churchyard may hold many other treasures waiting to be identified.

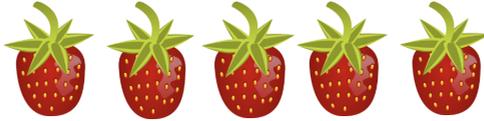
All the best, Harriet Carty

*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*

[harriet@cfga.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cfga.org.uk),



**Strawberry Tea  
Saturday 8th July 2023  
2.00-4.00 pm  
Brockhurst Farm**



**All proceeds to St. Peter's Church  
towards the restoration of our historic bells**

**£8.00 per person  
(children under 12 £4.00)**

**Raffle, produce stall**

**Tickets available from**

**Phoebe & Roger Ashton  
01939 232425 or 07858 123669**

**Valerie Lusby  
01939 2035610**

**N.B. Entry by ticket only (book early to avoid disappointment)**

