

November 2023

The Benefice Magazine
for the Parishes of
St Peter & St Paul,
St Peter and St Luke



*St Peter and St Paul's,
Wem*



*St Peter's,
Lee Brockhurst*



*St Luke's,
Weston-under-Redcastle*

**THE BENEFICE OF
ST PETER & ST PAUL, WEM
ST PETER, LEE BROCKHURST
ST LUKE, WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE**

Rector

The Reverend John Christopher Jukes BTh (hons) MA
The Rectory Ellesmere Road, Wem SY4 5TU
01939 235343
revjohnjukes@gmail.com

Retired Clergy

Canon Dr William Price
Prebendary Rob Haarhoff
The Reverend Edith Quirey

Reader Emeritus

Celia Camplin

Further details are available on our website: www.wemcofe.co.uk
and on Facebook @Wemparishchurch

ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WEM

Churchwardens

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 – E-Mail to alisonhope18@yahoo.co.uk

ST PETER'S, LEE BROCKHURST

Churchwardens

Val Lusby 01939 235610

Roger Ashton 01939 232425

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

Churchwardens

Frank Hosie-Kingham 01939 200618

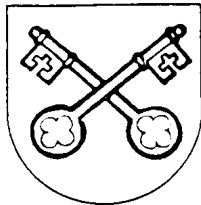
Helen O'Neill 01939 200663

Treasurer

Colin Holloway 01939 200682

Church Warden Emeritus

Arthur Fox 01630 685180



SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN NOVEMBER

DAY	DATE	SEASON	WEM	WESTON	LEE
Thursday	2 nd	All Souls	0930 HE 1900 AS		
Sunday	5 th	All Saints	0800 HE 0945 HE	0930 HE	1115 HE
Thursday	9 th		0930 HE		
Saturday	11 th	Armistice Day	1100 AoR	<i>at the War</i>	<i>Memorial</i>
Sunday	12 th	Remembrance Sunday	0800 HE 0915 HE 1100 AoR	1100 AoR	1100 AoR <i>with Wem</i>
Thursday	16 th		0930 HE		
Sunday	19 th	2 nd Sunday before Advent	0800 HE 0945 HE	0930 MP	1115 HE
Thursday	23 rd		0930 HE		
Sunday	26 th	Christ the King	0800 HE 0945 HE	1100 MP	1115 HE
Thursday	30 th	St Andrew	0930 HE		

HE—Holy Eucharist MP—Morning Prayer
AS—All Souls AoR—Act of Remembrance

HELLO FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Following a gap of two months this month's Benefice Magazine is a trial run to see how much news we get and to check out our system of publishing, mainly as an electronic issue, plus a small number of hardcopies. Rob Haarhoff, Karl Gough and myself, Phoebe Ashton are the new kids on the block for this venture. Next month we will be combining December and January with the hope that by February we can provide mostly hard copies but electronic if wished.

Please send in your items for the next issue by Sunday 19th November, this should be a bumper issue with all the Christmas events being advertised.



→ *It is the Benefice Magazine so please contribute to it otherwise it will be a magazine of adverts and nothing else!*
Phoebe Ashton
at phoebe42.lee@gmail.com or 07858 123669 for queries.

THE RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

Maximilian Kolbe

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends,
John 15:13.

This year we have Armistice Day on the 11th November and Remembrance Sunday is on 12th November. Days when we rightly remember those killed in wars and conflict. Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe was such a man; he was killed on 14th August 1941 at 12:30 aged forty-seven.

His story started on 8 January, 1894 - Raymond Kolbe was born the second son of a poor weaver at Zdunska Wola near Lodz in Poland.

Maximilian was not a soldier and did not fight in World War 1. As far as I know he never fired a gun at another human being. Never the less he was the embodiment of self-sacrifice that is spoken about those who went to war.

In 1910 he became a Franciscan, taking the name Maximilian. He studied at Rome and was ordained in 1919. He returned to Poland and taught Church history in a seminary. He built a friary just west of Warsaw, which eventually housed 762 Franciscans and printed eleven periodicals, one with a circulation of over a million, including a daily newspaper.

In 1930 he went to Asia, where he founded friaries in Nagasaki and in India. In 1936 he was recalled to supervise the original friary near Warsaw. When Germany invaded Poland in 1939, he knew that the friary would be seized, and sent most of the friars home. He was imprisoned briefly and then released, and returned to the friary, where he and the other friars began to organize a shelter for 3,000 Polish refugees, among whom were 2,000 Jews. The friars shared everything they had with the refugees.

Inevitably, the community came under suspicion and was watched closely. Then in May 1941 the friary was closed down and Maximilian and four companions were taken to the death camp Auschwitz, where they worked with the other prisoners.

Prisoners at Auschwitz were slowly and systematically starved, their rations were: one cup of coffee in the morning, weak soup and half a loaf of bread after work. When food was brought, everyone struggled to get his

place and be sure of a portion. Father Maximilian Kolbe however, stood aside in spite of the ravages of starvation, and frequently there would be none left for him. At other times he shared his meagre ration of soup or bread with others.

In order to discourage escapes, Auschwitz had a rule that if a man escaped, ten men would be killed in retaliation. In July 1941 a man from Kolbe's bunker escaped. The dreadful irony of the story is that the escaped prisoner was later found drowned in a camp latrine.

Ten were selected, including Franciszek Gajowniczek, imprisoned for helping the Polish Resistance. He couldn't help a cry of anguish. 'My poor wife!' he sobbed. 'My poor children! What will they do?' When he uttered this cry of dismay, Maximilian stepped silently forward, took off his cap, and stood before the commandant. He asked to take the man's place.

The commandant acceded to the request. Apparently, the Nazis had more use for a young worker than for an old one, and was happy to make the exchange. Franciszek Gajowniczek was returned to the ranks, and the priest took his place.

Father Kolbe was thrown down the stairs of Building 13 along with the other victims and simply left there to starve. Hunger and thirst soon gnawed at the men. Maximilian Kolbe encouraged the others with prayers, psalms, and meditations on the Passion of Christ.

A personal testimony about the way Maximilian Kolbe met death is given by Bruno Borgowiec, one of the few Poles who were assigned to render service to the starvation bunker. He told it to his parish priest before he died in 1947:

'The ten condemned to death went through terrible days. From the underground cell in which they were shut up there continually arose the echo of prayers and canticles. The man in-charge of emptying the buckets of urine found them always empty. Thirst drove the prisoners to drink the contents. Since they had grown very weak, prayers were now only whispered. At every inspection, when almost all the others were now lying on the floor, Father Kolbe was seen kneeling or standing in the centre as he looked cheerfully in the face of the SS men.

Father Kolbe never asked for anything and did not complain, rather he encouraged the others, saying that the fugitive might be found and then they would all be freed. One of the SS guards remarked: *this priest is really a great man. We have never seen anyone like him...*

Two weeks passed in this way. Meanwhile one after another they died, until only Father Kolbe was left. This the authorities felt was too long.

The cell was needed for new victims. So one day they brought in the head of the sick-quarters, a German named Bock, who gave Father Kolbe an injection of carbolic acid in the vein of his left arm. Father Kolbe, with a prayer on his lips, himself gave his arm to the executioner. *'Unable to watch this I left under the pretext of work to be done. Immediately after the SS men had left I returned to the cell, where I found Father Kolbe leaning in a sitting position against the back wall with his eyes open and his head drooping sideways. His face was calm and radiant ..'* And so it was that Father Maximilian Kolbe was executed at 12.30 on 14 August, 1941 at the age of forty-seven, a martyr of charity.

Father Kolbe's body was removed to the crematorium, and without dignity or ceremony was disposed of, like hundreds of thousands who had gone before him, and hundreds of thousands more who would follow.

The heroism of Father Kolbe went echoing through Auschwitz. In that desert of hatred he had sown love. A survivor Jozef Stemler later recalled: *'In the midst of a brutalization of thought, feeling and words such as had never before been known, man indeed became a ravening wolf in his relations with other men. And into this state of affairs came the heroic self-sacrifice of Father Kolbe.'*

Another survivor Jerzy Bielecki declared that Father Kolbe's death was 'a shock filled with hope, bringing new life and strength ... It was like a powerful shaft of light in the darkness of the camp.'

The cell where Father Kolbe died is now a shrine. Maximilian Kolbe was beatified as Confessor by Pope Paul VI in 1970 and canonized as Martyr by Pope John Paul II in 1981.

But what happened to Gajowniczek - the man Father Kolbe saved?

He died on March 13, 1995, at Brzeg in Poland, 95 years old - and 53 years after Kolbe had saved him. But he was never to forget the ragged monk. After his release from Auschwitz, he made his way back to his hometown, with the dream of seeing his family again. He found his wife but his two sons had been killed during the war.

Every year on August 14 he went back to Auschwitz. He spent the next five decades paying homage to Father Kolbe, honouring the man who died on his behalf.

Every year on the 14th August the Church remembers Maximilian Kolbe. At this time we remember all who lost their lives during conflict and war.



It is particularly timely for me to tell, or remind, you of
Theodore Hardy, Priest and Army Chaplain

(from Paul Naylor)

Theodore Hardy was born on 20th October 1863 in Exeter. He was educated at schools in London, and then at London University. He trained for ordination in parallel with teaching. He was an Assistant Master at Nottingham High School from 1891 to 1907 (incidentally, teaching D H Lawrence). He was ordained in 1898.

He moved to become Headmaster at Bentham Grammar School in north-west Yorkshire in 1907. Unfortunately his wife became seriously ill and he left the school in 1913, becoming Priest in Charge at nearby Hutton Roof. She died in 1914. At the start of the War he immediately volunteered, but was not accepted owing to his age (51). In 1916 he was accepted as a Temporary Chaplain to the Forces, 4th Class and attached to a battalion of The Lincolnshire Regiment in France.

In addition to his normal duties he was known for going out after the fighting (often at night), to seek out injured and dying soldiers – with the words ‘it is only me’. He would assist others to dig men out and bring them back where it was possible. Frequently he would be helping under fire. He would stay with badly injured men for long periods.

On the 18th October 1917 he was awarded the DSO. The citation included ‘with his left arm in splints, he crawled out with patrols to within seventy yards of the enemy and remained with wounded men under heavy fire’

On the 17th December 1917 he was awarded the MC ‘for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in tending the wounded’.

On the 7th July 1918 he was awarded the Victoria Cross (VC). The citation ended ‘this very gallant chaplain was seen moving quietly among the men and tending the wounded, absolutely regardless of his personal safety’

On 17th September 1918 he was appointed to the position of honorary Chaplain to His Majesty.

On 18th October 1918, in Rouen, he died after being wounded in action.

The Shropshire Historic Churches Trust

The Shropshire Historic Churches was founded in 1991, one of many county trusts in England. Since its inception it has made grants of well over £1 million to churches and chapels in Shropshire. Wem, Lee Brockhurst, and Weston under Redcastle churches have all received grants from the Trust.

The Trust is inter-denominational. Its Presidents are the Bishops of Lichfield, Shrewsbury, and Hereford, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Shrewsbury, the Chair of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church, and the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire.

There are at present 14 trustees (including the Archdeacons of Salop and Ludlow), who meet quarterly, in January, April, July, and October, to allocate grants, and applications should be sent to the Grants Administrator, Mr John Whiteside (c.whiteside.whiteside@btinternet.com) before the 15th day of the month before the relevant meeting.

The objectives of the Trust are to make grants to the maintenance and repair of churches and chapels, and recently the provision of kitchens and toilets has been added to the criteria for a grant. Indeed any development to enhance community use of a church or chapel is considered very positively.

A secondary function of the Trust is to encourage appreciation of our county's churches by means of talks and tours.

The Trust's income comes from three streams. The first is membership subscriptions from individuals and churches. The second is money raised through the annual Ride and Stride event, held on the second Saturday in September. The third is money raised through the Gardens Open scheme. Wem has always participated in Ride and Stride, although not yet in Gardens Open, which can either feature one garden or a tour of several gardens. The beautiful garden at The Citadel in Weston has been open almost every year for many years.

A list of the grants made in 2023 shows the wide range of projects which the Trust can help with:

January: repairs to church roof, provision of kitchen, electrical work, repairs to organ

April: work on bells, repairs to four windows, bat survey

July: repairs to tower wall, provision of toilet, provision of kitchen, painting a church, repairs to church roof, repairs to clock, repairs to church floor

October: removal of pews, repair of doors, repair of heating system, repair of porch, repair of churchyard wall.

If anyone would like to join the Trust as a member, I shall be glad to provide details on how to join:

(williamprice@talktalk.net / 01939 234777).

William Price

(Vice-Chairman of the Trust)

The Revd Prebendary Neil MacGregor

As this Magazine was in the final stages of preparation we heard of the death of the Revd Prebendary Neil MacGregor, much loved Rector of Wem and Vicar of Lee Brockhurst between

1980 and 2001. A full tribute will be published in the next issue of the Magazine.



COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS

—NOV 2023

from ROGER ASHTON

I am hoping to make a regular contribution to the new Parish Magazine using this title.

The countryside is facing challenging times. Of course there have always been problems with balancing nature and farming and coping with the weather, but now there is a perfect storm brewing. Industrial and urban sprawl is accelerating, intensive farming methods continue, and will do whilst the Supermarkets and the Government look to keep the cost of food as low as possible for the consumer. Add to that the change of farm support to the new environmental schemes, which have been put in place to address the carbon release excesses. They are financially less rewarding and complex. Then we now have the need to be more self sufficient in home grown food which can be local and traceable. After Brexit, the volatile Ukraine war and overseas trade deals, allowing poor quality food in and at an environmental cost due to the long distance in transportation, the challenges for self-sufficiency are greater.

Large areas of land are being used to plant trees to balance the carbon footprint and some crops are being grown to feed anaerobic digesters for energy production, this is squeezing the available land for human food. The recent inflation has left farmers with high costs too. There are positives to grasp as the

pressure is on to get the countryside back to a more natural state and address the climate change issues that are now proven to be unsustainable. Our nature reserves are expanding and more diverse and grassland is becoming more important because of its carbon storage capabilities.

We live in hope that our younger generations have a future to look forward to.

Lichfield Diocesan Digest Sound Magazine

The Diocesan Digest was founded in 1989 and is the Sound Magazine for Lichfield Cathedral and the Diocese. Volunteers produce a full audio magazine every month which gives news and conversation for people who are blind and partially sighted, as well as anyone else who is interested.

It continues to appear online each month and is also sent out on memory sticks with listeners all over the country and in many parts of the world.

And there really is something for everyone.

This month as well as the latest news from the parishes around the diocese there is the headlines from the wider church, what's on at the cathedral, a Pastoral Letter, music plus longer interviews with people making the news and performers appearing in the region. Some members see articles in magazines or newspapers and bring them along to the recording while others read whatever the editor selects for them. In addition volunteers record longer interviews on a wide range of subjects. Recently you would have heard chats with performers at the Lichfield Festival, a local author who has just had his first novel published and from the project managers behind the very visible and major restoration work currently being undertaken on the central spire of the cathedral.

We also get into the undergrowth of churchyards to learn more about the fauna and flora courtesy of our friends at the charity Caring for God's Acre and there is always some music sent in by talented listeners.

Digest members come from all walks of life. Some have broadcasting

and sound editing experience, others have none at all but are just keen on helping to make sure as many people as possible hear about what is happening in the diocese. We meet once a month in a small studio equipped with the latest recording software.

The podcast duration is about two hours but the best thing about it is you can listen however you wish. You can hear a few minutes, switch off and then come back later and pick up where you left off.

The Digest is funded entirely by donations and any financial help is gratefully received.

Paul Marriot is the leader of the Diocesan Digest team having escaped a career in BBC local radio.

To get in touch to let the team know what's going on in your parish, email us at soundmag@lichfield-cathedral.org. The postal address is The Editor, Diocesan Digest, St Mary's House, Lichfield WS13 7LD. The latest edition is available at www.lichfield-cathedral.org/about-us/diocesan-digest



Mike's Repair Shop. Wem.

Furniture repairs, Restoration, Re-purposing
Handyman jobs considered

Contact: Mike Cotterell 07446011316.

Mikecatterell@gmail.com

The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Wem

You know the Church—St Peter and St Paul's. It graces the High Street; the tower soars, the clock tells out the time and the bells remind us of Seasons and Festivals. But what about its trials and tribulations? What keeps this ancient building going? Who were the people involved?

Here is but one of the many stories brought to us from a mine of information—Tom Edwards.

Wem Tower and Bells Appeal 1964 - 1968

The First Year of the Appeal

At Evensong in early October 1964 the Rector, Preb Basil Morson, launched an appeal for £5,500 to restore the 14th century church tower (which had survived the Fire of Wem of 1677) and re-hang the tower's eight bells which had not been rung since a large crack had appeared in the tower two years previously. He told the congregation that the proposal was to grout the tower structure and to refill the walls with liquid cement – a similar treatment to that given to St Paul's Cathedral some years earlier. Preb Morson appealed to the townspeople of Wem to join with members of the congregation to help with this huge challenge and, as you will see from this article, there was a magnificent response.

The first fund-raising event was a dinner dance held at the Hawkstone Hotel on the 5th November which raised £158. This was organised by my parents, Jack and Hilda Edwards, and a committee consisting of Messrs D Rutter, E D Slynn, W C Edwards, Mrs B Parker and Mrs J Randall. Shortly afterwards a coffee evening was held at the home of Mr and Mrs E H Ikin, Grimstones, Soulton Road, which raised over £30 and a fur and feather whist drive in the Market Hall and Corn Exchange, organised by Mr and Mrs W C Edwards, which raised nearly £70. Although I have no report of the event, I see that a Christmas Fayre at Tilley raised a wonderful £153 4s. 10d. for the appeal fund.

January 1965 saw a rummage sale at the Grammar School which raised over £28 (the pupils being praised for their efforts by Mrs Slynn, the headmaster's wife), and a coffee evening held at Fernlea, Mill Street, the home of Mr and Mrs Pegler, which raised about £27. During February that year a further £72 was raised from a coffee evening and bring-and-buy sale in the church hall organised jointly by the Mothers' Union and the Churchwomen's Guild. In addition, £20 was realised by a draw for a rug made and given by eighty three-year old Mothers' Union member, Mrs E Watson. It was won by her neighbour, Mrs J Astley. Later that month the Church Youth Group, under the chairmanship of the Rev J Roger Williams, organised a dance in the White Horse Hotel attended by about a hundred people. The event raised some £25, and this, together with many donations made by individuals and organisations, brought the total of the appeal fund up to more than £1,300.

During March the Whitchurch Male Voice Choir, conducted by Mr Harry Preston, gave a concert in the church which raised £50. The arrangements were by a chorister, Mr E Smith. The principal solo artiste was BBC soprano, Miss Gwen Davies, and other soloists were Mr Ivor Pugh (bass) and Mr Frank Higgins (tenor). The accompanist was Miss Marion Groom. A whist drive organised by the Women's Institute, attended by about 120 players, raised over £35 and in April a coffee evening at the home of Mr and Mrs E Wilkinson, Wemsbrook Road, raised over £21.

The Rectory Garden Fete held on the 2nd June raised a wonderful £545 17s 1d for the appeal fund. My father, a Churchwarden, was chairman of the fete sub-committee. Serving with him were Messrs E D Slynn (Headmaster of the Grammar School), K J Bulmer (National Provincial Bank) who was the Treasurer, B Nicholls, A Turner and W D Rutter, Misses D Ward (secretary) and J Ashford and Mesdames H V Edwards, M Strong and K Billingham. The fete was opened by Mrs Violet Cholmondeley of Ellesmere who was the daughter of the former Rector, Preb Archibald Parker. Five-year old twins, Christine and Caroline Williams of The Ditches, presented a basket of flowers to

Mrs Cholmondeley and a buttonhole was presented by my father to Mr R J Ranford (secretary of the PCC) who was celebrating his 65th birthday that day.

By the end of July, the appeal fund stood at £2,536 following a coffee evening held at Rose Cottage, Wemsbrook Road, organised by Mr and Mrs H Gregory and Mr and Mrs C Hutchinson, and which raised £34. This was followed in August by a wine and cheese party held at Aston Grange by invitation of Brigadier and Mrs R S Streatfield, raising over £39. In September a coffee evening was held at The Chestnuts, Aston Road, the home of Mr and Mrs G F Brisbane, adding another £37 to the fund.

The total of the appeal fund at the end of the first year was £2,691 12s 9d.

... That was the first year; there is more to come and the saga will be continued in the next issue of the magazine.

Whitchurch Road Cemetery News

Many thanks to our amazing volunteers who have worked so hard this summer, your efforts at the cemetery have been magnificent and are hugely appreciated!

Following advice from Caring for God's Acre we have managed the cemetery grassland in a slightly different way this year, with a view to enhancing biodiversity and reducing the carbon footprint. We built a dead hedge, with a hedgehog house and will build more in the future. New bird and bat boxes were installed and new plants and shrubs were planted. We introduced 'no-mow May', left the grass slightly longer and left a rewilding area to the north side of the site. Our grass contractor cut the grass whenever possible. We will once again review our grass management for 2024.



We have also focussed attention on the cemetery compost area, and have dug deeply and bagged up some wonderful compost for use by the community. The area has now been divided into three separate sections using wooden dividers and metal posts. Each section will be filled and emptied in rotation so that compost will always be available. The area now seems to be used responsibly with not too much evidence of plastic waste.

One of our volunteers has completed the laborious task of painting the front railings, which are looking splendid. In addition, the 200-metre perimeter fence has had two full coats of wood protector. This was no mean task!

Earlier this year we applied to be considered for the 2023 Churchyard award scheme, run annually by the Diocese of Lichfield. We were given permission by the scheme to apply as a cemetery and there were about 50 entries. The results were announced at an event in Stafford on Saturday 14 October. Everyone received either a bronze, silver or gold certificate from Bishop Sarah, and we were delighted that our Friends Group was awarded a gold certificate and also a nature friendly certificate.

Once again, the cemetery chapel was open and manned as a Ride and Stride site on 9th September. We had lots of visitors, not all of whom were involved in the event. We raised £22 in donations which were given to one of our members to submit with her Church Ride and Stride sponsorship.

We recently applied to the Rural Charity, run by Shropshire and West Midlands Agricultural Society, for a grant to buy a battery powered lawnmower. This would be used to cut the grass on either side of the main path and on some of the other paths. We are most grateful to the Trustees of the scheme for very kindly approving our application and for buying us a wonderful lawnmower, which is now in use!

We are hoping to open the cemetery chapel as often as possible - please look out for our notices. Alternatively please contact Judy Crichton on 01939 234489 or Hazel Adkins on 01939 235559 and we will be happy to arrange a viewing.

We always need new volunteers for our group, please get in touch if you can help in any small way.

The Parish Church of St Peter, Lee Brockhurst

Events at St Peter's during the summer

Our Patronal Festival was held on Sunday 1st July, a well attended service led by our Rector John Jukes. This was followed by a Bring and Share lunch in our new social space at the rear of the church. We had hoped for a sunny day so that we could have spent the time outside but it was not to be.

Hot on the heels of the Patronal Festival was the Strawberry Tea at Brockhurst Farm on 8th July. Unfortunately the weather once again decided to interfere with our plans and we made a last minute decision to relocate to the Lee Brockhurst Village Hall. Our thanks go to the Village Hall Committee for helping us with this relocation. Some 60 folk sat down to the usual fare provided by members of the congregation and a neighbour and with generous purchases of raffle tickets we raised almost £800.00. At this distant date I hope I will not miss anyone out but our thanks to Val, Alex and Georgina, Julie Bushell, Margaret, Robert, Jackie, Penny, Colin and various other village hall committee members and WI ladies who helped set up and clear up the Village Hall.

September 9th was Ride and Stride Day and Roger and I decided to Drive round as many churches in our Deanery as we could in a day. We managed 13 plus our own church, open but not manned as many of the other churches were. We spent some time chatting to people in those churches that were manned. Our sponsorship money came to £150.00 and we have just received half of this back to go towards our Bell Fund.

With quite a number of donations, the money from the Strawberry Tea and our Sponsorship Money we will have raised some £1800.00.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed in some way to achieving this sum. Roger and Phoebe

Harvest Supper

On Monday 25th September, at the village hall, St. Peter's, Lee Brockhurst, held their annual Harvest supper followed by the auction of various offerings of produce donated by the villagers. Our usual "auctioneer" was unavailable, but we were extremely fortunate, at the last minute, to engage the services of Mr Colin Brown of this parish.

Taking his role very seriously, and mindful no doubt of the need to raise as much money as possible, parishioners, replete from the hearty supper and possibly the odd bottle or two, were lured by Colin into paying outrageous prices for the produce. This I'm glad to say resulted in the grand total for the night of £497.00, the most money we have ever raised for this particular event. We have engaged Mr. Brown for next year!

All proceeds will go towards the repair of the Church bells.

The Bells of St Peter's



Many of you will already know that the two bells at St Peter's Church, Lee Brockhurst have fallen silent initially it was just one bell that had lost its clapper but further inspection by the Diocesan Bell Advisor informed us that both bells were in a parlous state and we were banned from ringing the one remaining bell. We are working to a complete restoration of the bells and this hopefully will take places early next year.

So many people tell us how they miss the bells ringing on a Sunday morning which encourages us to think that we will be able to raise the money required to pay for the restoration and also the scaffolding, which will be required to remove and replace the bells.

To date we have raised some £1800.00 which includes a number of donations. We are applying for grants to help with the cost which appears to be in the region of £12,000.

Watch this space for information about further fundraising events and progress with our grant applications.

If you would like to donate to our Bell Fund here are the details:-

Cheques payable to PCC of Lee Brockhurst, Treasurer, Roger Ashton, Brockhurst Farm, Wem SY4 5SB or bring it to church on a Sunday!

or by Bank Transfer:- Santander Bank, Sort Code 09 01 52 Account Number 9850709 please use Bells for your reference.

Defibrillator Fundraising for Lee Brockhurst

The Lee Brockhurst Village Hall Management Committee have been researching the opportunity to get a defibrillator sited outside the Village Hall for use by parishioners, residents of the village and visitors who walk in the area. We are seeking funds to cover the cost of purchase and installation, approaching £1700.00. The Village Hall Management Committee would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the unit.

In the UK there are over 30,000 Cardiac Arrests a year outside of hospital. However, the survival rate is less than one in ten victims survive to be discharged from hospital, and this rate lags behind those of other developed nations. In the UK, the average time for emergency services to arrive following a 999 call is 8-12 minutes. With Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), every minute counts as survival rate drops by 7-10% for every minute defibrillation (and CPR) is delayed. Defibrillation within 3-5 minutes of collapse can produce survival rates as high as 50-70%. This means with more public access defibs, we can significantly improve survival rates.

The Village Hall are planning to hold a fundraising event for a Village Defibrillator in the coming months in conjunction with a Brock Arms Pub Night, so please keep an eye open on the village hall email for this.

If you would like to contribute to the Lee Brockhurst Defibrillator Fund. please email the Secretary at lbrockvh@gmail.com, your contribution would be most welcome. If you are not currently receiving the Village Hall emails and would like to join our circulation list, please also contact the Secretary on the above email. Thank you.

Peter Orrell

Chair - Lee Brockhurst Village Hall



St. Peter's Church
Lee Brockhurst
Autumn Festive Fayre
Saturday 18th November
At Lee Brockhurst
Village Hall
10.30 until 12.00
Coffee, mince pies,
crafts, cakes,
bric-a-brac,
Raffle & More
Everyone welcome

Help wanted!

St Peter's Lee Brockhurst is in urgent need of more volunteers to help keep the church clean and supplied with flowers.

We have a rota and people are allotted 2 consecutive weeks. We are very happy to swap with anyone who cannot fulfil one or both of their weeks.

On special occasions e.g. Easter or Christmas we usually act as a group.

For further information or to sign up please contact either
Val Lusby on 01939 235610
or Phoebe Ashton on 07858123669

Lee Brockhurst WI News

Our recent speakers have included a fascinating talk by Graham Short 'My Life as Micro-Artist', whose talents include engraving the Lord's Prayer on the head of a gold pin! -whilst in October we were entertained by a visual slide-show experience to the mystical delights of Peru with a talk by Nigel Davies and his fund-raising trek on the Inca Trail to Machu Pichu.

A fashion show and lunch was enjoyed by many at the Telford Hotel & Spa in October with our Wern Group Autumn Social gathering at Cockshutt Village Hall to be enthralled by the experiences of Debra Drake, a finalist on the Great British Sewing Bee!

Our Summer strollers are having a well-deserved rest after our final walk along the delightful canal at Grindley Brook back in September. However our Book club is still very much active on Monday evenings - next meeting 4th December and our crafty ladies meeting next on Monday 13th November to create some fabulous Xmas Tree decorations.

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 Julie Woolfenden on 01939 200237 or jjwoolfenden@gmail.com who will be very happy to help.

The Parish Church of St Luke,
Weston-under-Redcastle

NEWS FROM St LUKES.

In August we held a very successful Weston Village Show. The weather was ideal, attendance was excellent and there was something for every age to enjoy.



From the Show proceeds £5500 was donated to three Charities, The Severn Hospice, Lingen Davies Cancer Fund and Parkinson's U.K.



Following the show in September a Tea Party was held in a marquee at The Citadel as a "Thank You" to all the many helpers involved with the organising and running of the show.

In early October our Harvest Supper was held in the Village Hall which was well attended and cheques were presented to the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund representative and to Parkinson's U.K.

Two posters following advertise upcoming events in the Parish. Both will take place in the Village Hall. Please come and enjoy this Festive Season!



IT'S
QUIZMAS!
IN THE VILLAGE HALL



Family Christmas Quiz
Friday 1st December
Doors open 18:30
for a 19:00 start
£5 per person,
children free!

**PRIZE FOR BEST
CHRISTMAS JUMPER**

Mulled wine mince pies & nibbles

PLUS



PRIZE FOR WINNING TEAM

Quiz teams of up to 6

Bring your own drinks & glasswarehic!

R.S.V.P

Events@westonvillagehall.uk

WESTON-UNDER-
REDCASTLE CHRISTMAS
FAIRE

Sunday 3rd December
from 10:30am

All Welcome

£2 for adults, children free
Hot drink and mince pie included

Free tables for local
crafters and sellers

Contact Claire
Biggs about a table
07825 293 598





They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

For the Fallen

Poem by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), published in *The Times* newspaper on 21st September 1914.

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Moved by the opening of the Great War and the already high number of casualties of the British Expeditionary Force, in 1914 Laurence Binyon wrote his *For the Fallen*, with its *Ode of Remembrance* (the third and fourth or simply the fourth stanza of the poem). At the time, he was visiting the cliffs on the north Cornwall coast probably at Polzeath. The piece was published by *The Times* newspaper in September, when public feeling was affected by the recent Battle of Marne.

Today Binyon's most famous poem, *For the Fallen*, is often recited at Remembrance Sunday services in the UK; is an integral part of Anzac Day services in Australia and New Zealand and of 11 November Remembrance Day services in Canada. The "Ode of Remembrance" has thus been claimed as a tribute to all casualties of war, regardless of nation.



*Robert Laurence Binyon,
by artist William Strang*



A VERY late PS!

FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER AT ST PETER & ST PAUL'S

10:00 – 16:00 Christmas Tree Festival Preparation

17:00 Church open for Wem Christmas Lights switch and late night shopping

FROM 1ST DECEMBER TO 15TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Please visit our church to see Christmas Tree Displays sponsored by local businesses and organisations.

Thank you very much
to all our contributors.

The Magazine Committee
apologise for the lateness of their first effort—largely due
to the meanderings of the Composer.

No excuses, except he didn't really know what he was
doing!

Help, Pam!

The December/January issue
(still electronic, we're afraid)
needs your input by the 19th of November, but definitely
no later than 23rd, please.

All articles e-mailed to Phoebe Ashton
phoebe42.lee@gmail.com

in Word please