

## NEWS UPDATE—starting 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Dear Friends, dates for your diaries:

### THE LENT COURSE

The Lent Course will continue on **Tuesdays 24, 31 March**. A light lunch will be served at **12:00** followed by a discussion on our reflections 'Draw Near; Life giving habits for Lent', Please download the Everyday Faith App from <https://www.churchofengland.org/> or pick up a Booklet from the back of Church.

### SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH

**10:00-12:00 Coffee** morning in the Church Hall. If you would like help with serving coffee or looking after the raffle on this occasion please speak to Sybil.

### SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL—CHURCH FLOWERS

From 10:00 am we will be decorating the church for Easter; if you would like to help please speak to Sybil or just come along on the Saturday morning.

### FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL

**19:00 3-in-1 with Alistair McGowan**

**Tickets: £15** (under-18s free) from Kim: 07970 357553 or Wendy: 07828 282996

Pay cash at door or buy on-line

(Booking Fee £1).

A link can be found on the April page of our website

[www.wemcofe.co.uk/b\\_apr.html](http://www.wemcofe.co.uk/b_apr.html)

or scan



**PLEASE NOTE: HOLY WEEK SERVICES ARE ON THE INSERT. Feel free to take the insert with you after the service.**

## Services in the Benefice

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March—LENT 5

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

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

WEM	09:30	Holy Eucharist
	19:30	Choir Singing Practice

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March—PALM SUNDAY

WEM	08:00	Holy Eucharist
Service at WESTON	11:00	Holy Eucharist <b>COMBINED BENEFICE SERVICE</b>

### 30<sup>th</sup> March—Monday in Holy Week

WEM	19:00	Holy Eucharist
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### 31<sup>st</sup> March—Tuesday in Holy Week

WEM	10:30	Holy Eucharist
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### 1<sup>st</sup> April—Wednesday in Holy Week

WEM	10:30	Holy Eucharist
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Come and join us for coffee and biscuits in the hall after the 9:45 service.

**ALL WELCOME!**



*Sybil*

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

### THE COLLECT

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### 1<sup>st</sup> READING: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come

from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’<sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.”<sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.<sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.<sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.’

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> READING: ROMANS 8:6-11**

<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.<sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot,<sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.<sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.<sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

#### **THE GOSPEL: JOHN 11:1-45**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.<sup>2</sup> Mary was

the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.<sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, ‘Lord, he whom you love is ill.’<sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, ‘This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’<sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,<sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judea again.’<sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, ‘Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?’<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, ‘Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world.<sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.’<sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.’<sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.’<sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead.<sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.’<sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him.’ *(continued on the insert)*

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

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

## **Prayer Diary For Sunday 22nd March 2026**

### **5th SUNDAY OF LENT (PASSION SUNDAY)**

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.*

*Ephesians 6:18*

#### **Today**

Let us pray for one another and be ready to give practical support when required.

#### **Monday 23rd March**

Pray for young people, that curiosity about Jesus will be awakened in them.  
Pray that Jesus will reveal himself directly to them through dreams and visions.

#### **Tuesday 24th March**

Pray for the Lord’s blessing on the Lent lunch/course that we may draw nearer to one another as well as grow in the love and knowledge of God.

#### **Wednesday 25th March**

Pray for the sick that they may be healed and know restoration to good health. May they receive practical love and support from us.

#### **Thursday 26th March**

Pray for the Lord’s blessing on the choir and the organist as they practise today, that they may lead worship pleasing to Him.

#### **Friday 27th March**

Pray for opportunities to speak about your faith in conversation with others. Pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you to speak clearly.

#### **Saturday 28th March**

Pray for the Lord’s blessing on the Coffee Morning taking place in the Church Hall. Pray that all may feel welcome, especially newcomers.