

February 2024

# 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

Further details are available on our website: [www.wemcofe.co.uk](http://www.wemcofe.co.uk)  
and on Facebook @Wemparishchurch

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

**Churchwardens**

Sybil Farmer 01939 232568  
David Murray 01939 236134

**Parish Reader**

Katharine Murray

**PCC Lay Chair**

Sybil Farmer 01939 232568

**PCC Treasurer**

Caroline Sinclair 01939 232626

**Organist**

Glyn Williams 01939 234954

**Sacristan**

June Powell 01939 234412

**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](mailto:alisonhope18@yahoo.co.uk)

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**ST PETER'S, LEE BROCKHURST**

**Churchwardens**

Val Lusby 01939 235610

Roger Ashton 01939 232425

**Treasurer**

Roger Ashton 01939 232425

**PCC Secretary**

Phoebe Ashton 07858 123669

**PCC Lay Chairman**

Tim Wilton-Morgan 07802 735769

**Church Warden Emeritus**

Robert Marsh 01939 200641

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**ST LUKE'S, WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE**

**Churchwardens**

Frank Hosie-Kingham 01939 200618

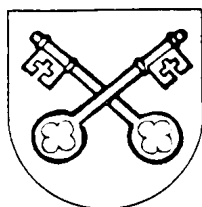
Helen O'Neill 01939 200663

**Treasurer**

Colin Holloway 01939 200682

**Church Warden Emeritus**

Arthur Fox 01630 685180



<b>SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN FEBRUARY</b>					
<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>SEASON</b>	<b>WEM</b>	<b>WESTON</b>	<b>LEE</b>
Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Brigid c525</i>	09:30 HE		
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup>		09:30 HE		
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday before Lent	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday	19:00 HE with Ashes		
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Sigfrid-Bp 1045</i>	09:30		
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
Thursday	22 <sup>nd</sup>		09:30 HE		
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	11:00 HE	11:15 HE
Thursday	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>		09:30 HE		
HE—Holy Eucharist					

A **leap year** is a calendar year that contains an additional day compared to a common year. The 366th day is added to keep the calendar year synchronized with the astronomical year or seasonal year. Because astronomical events and seasons do not repeat in a whole number of days, calendars that have a constant number of days in each year will unavoidably drift over time with respect to the event that the year is supposed to track, such as seasons. By inserting an additional day, a **leap day**, into some years, the drift between a dating system and the physical properties of the Solar System can be corrected. An astronomical year lasts slightly less than 365¼ days. The historic Julian calendar has three common years of 365 days followed by a leap year of 366 days, by extending February to 29 days rather than the common 28. The Gregorian calendar, the world's most widely used civil calendar, makes a further adjustment for the small error in the Julian algorithm. Each leap year has 366 days instead of 365. This extra leap day occurs in each year that is a multiple of 4 (except for years evenly divisible by 100, but not by 400).

**SIMPLE, Hey?** *Oh, by the way, 2024 is a Leap Year. Hence Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> above!* ☺ or ☹ ?

## Notes from the Editor

A very belated Happy New Year to all our readers from the “production team”!

Unfortunately due to personal circumstances our promise of a paper copy for February has been delayed. We hope that this will be achieved by March.

After a very busy Christmas for all three churches, and in particular for our hard working Rector, we can all relax a little until we gird our loins for the next Christian Festival, Easter. We hope some of the articles included in this issue will give a flavour of our Christmas celebrations.

We will be approaching the season of Annual Parish Church Council Meeting soon and we hope you will advertise the dates well in advance so that there will be no excuse for not knowing the relevant dates and therefore not supporting your hard working officers. Other events planned for spring and summer are already being advertised in this magazine.

Best wishes for 2024 from Rob, Karl and Phoebe.

Phoebe’s contact details

[phoebe42.lee@gmail.com](mailto:phoebe42.lee@gmail.com) or 07858123669 for any queries.

Part of the Production  
Team hard at Work!



## Rector's Ramblings:

### Looking Back and Looking Forward

Happy New Year everyone. Did you make any New Year's resolutions?

It seems like a long time since our last edition of the Wem Benefice Magazine and I hope you all had a fabulous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Church year is punctuated with various celebrations and remembrances. Advent and Christmas start the year and during this Advent (2023) there was the inaugural Christmas Tree Festival. There was a wonderful display of Trees which were situated around the Church on wooden boards donated by Wickes. I would like to thank the following businesses and organisations for displaying their trees and for the imagination that they put into decorating them which made this first Christmas Tree Festival such a success.

### The Participants

Harfits Solicitors	Gemini Hair & Beauty
Wem Community Choir	Sweets & Treats
St Peter's C of E Primary & Nursery School	Royal British Legion
Sunshine Celebrations	Sherratt Farm Supplies Ltd
Saturday Special Worship at the Methodist Church	The Fruitful Deli
Seasons Florist	Wem Town Council
Hair Design by Heather	St Peter and St Paul's Church Flower Arrangers
R. Greaves & Co	Sarah's Beauty Room
	Wem Climate Action

After Christmas there is the season of Epiphany and following that we have Lent then Easter as you know.

As we are approaching Lent it is worth reminding ourselves what it is.

The season of Lent lasts for forty days (not including

Sundays). It is a time when Christians reflect and prepare for the celebrations of Easter. Some people fast, eat frugally or give up treats following the example of Jesus, who fasted for forty days in the wilderness.

People also give to charity, set aside time to study the Bible and meet with other Christians to reflect on Jesus' life and prepare for the events of Holy Week and Easter.

At the beginning of Lent this year, which begins on Ash Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, at 7:00pm in St Peter and St Paul's Church there will be a Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes to which you are all invited.

Then on Tuesdays that is 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March, we will have a simple lunch together of Soup and a Roll with Tea or Coffee in St Peter and St Paul's Church Hall. For which there will be a small charge of £2:00 for the lunch and any profit made will go to local charities. For those who wish to stay after lunch each week there will be a short time of Bible Study learning about a few of the Women who feature in the Bible. Do come along if you are able. If you would prefer to come to the Study and miss the lunch you would be very welcome. These sessions will start at 2:00pm

On a different but related subject, have you ever wondered what the Priest, Rector or Vicar was doing at the front of Church? Or why they wear the clothes they do? Or why they Process in and out of Church? Why do we use candles when we have electric lights; or any of the other "whys" in a Church Service.

Do you ask yourselves "what is the symbolic significance of..."? Or, indeed, is there any significance at all?

What happens during a Holy Eucharist Service? Why do we use the words we do? Surely it would be better in everyday language?

If you have ever asked yourselves any or all of these questions, then read on.

On Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> February at 7:30pm in St Peter and

St Paul's Church I will be giving a talk on

*"What we do in Church and why do we do it?"*

This will be, as the title suggests an explanation of some of the questions that we may ask ourselves about a Church Service. It will point out and explain much of the symbolism and help to gain a greater understanding of what is going on:

This will be followed on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm in St Peter and St Paul's Church with a talk on:

*"What happens at a Holy Eucharist, Holy Communion and Holy Mass.? Are they the same? And what is a Sacrament"*

In this talk I will explain the breadth of the Church of England's understanding of Holy Communion. From Mere Memorial to Christ's body and blood being present.

Then finally for this series on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm in St Peter and St Paul's Church I will be giving a talk on:

*"The Bible in the Eucharist"*

This talk will look at the language that is used in the Church Service. Why we use it and where it comes from.

I do hope that you can join me in our Lenten preparations this year and I wish you every blessing.

Yours in Christ,  
John.

***Some of the Christmas Trees on display***







*Just a Selection...*

## Canon William Gives Us An Insight Into Ministry In The 1870's

### KILVERT IN FEBRUARY

The Revd Francis Kilvert was a clergyman in the Wye Valley in Radnorshire and Herefordshire in the 1870s. His Diary gives us glimpses into ordinary life in his parishes, in a vanished world. I have selected four extracts in February which, I hope, readers will find interesting.

#### **Wednesday 9 February 1870**

A very cold night and a slight shower of snow fell early this morning. Then it froze all day. The mountains all white. Went up the Cwm to White Ash. Old Sarah Probert groaning and rolling about in bed. Read to her Mark vi and made sure she knew the Lord's Prayer by heart, making her repeat it. Hannah Jones smoking a short black pipe by the fire, and her daughter, a young mother with dark eyes and her hair hanging loose, nursing her baby and displaying her charms liberally... Went with the Vicar and his wife to dine at Whitney Court, driving in the mail phaeton and sitting behind with Charlie. Bitterly cold with a keen east wind but we were well wrapped up and the hood kept the wind off us going. Miss Jane from the Rectory at dinner. Lent Miss Dew Robinson's Lectures on Corinthians. The Squire and his mother made the rest of the party. A grand night with stars glittering frosty keen and we came home at a rattling pace.

*[Kilvert was the Curate and an assiduous visitor. As a Curate he visited every home in the parish of Clyro from the poorest people to the wealthiest.]*

#### **Septuagesima Sunday 13 February 1870**

Preached at Clyro in the morning (Matthew xiv, 30). Very few people in Church, the weather fearful, violent deadly east wind and the hardest frost we have had yet. Went to Bettws in the afternoon wrapped in two waistcoats, two coats, a muffler and a macintosh, and was not at all too warm. Heard the Chapel bell pealing strongly for the second time since I have been here and when I got to the

Chapel my beard moustaches and whiskers were so stiff with ice that I could hardly open my mouth and my beard was frozen on to my macintosh. There was a large christening party from Llwyn Gwilym... The baby was baptized in ice which was broken and swimming about in the Font. A sad day for mother and child to come out. Dined at the Vicarage.

*[Clyro was the Parish Church. Kilvert walked to Bettws Chapel, a Church of England chapel, about 3 miles from Clyro, up hill all the way. The baby survived into his 80s!]*

#### **Tuesday 26 February 1878**

At 10 a.m. went on the box of Miss Newton's brougham to the reopening of Mansel Gamage Church after a good restoration. More than 25 clergy in surplices. The Bishop [of Hereford] preached in the morning, the Archdeacon, Lord Saye and Sele, in the afternoon. It was difficult to say which was the worse sermon. The former was a screed, the latter a rigmarole, but the rigmarole was more appropriate and more to the purpose than the screed...Good congregations and the offertories amounted to nearly £50 and cleared off the debt on the Church...Many people laugh at the old Baron's sermons, but the cottagers like them for he is plain and homely and speaks of names and places that they know.

*[Kilvert was by now the Vicar of Bredwardine. Mansel Gamage Church was declared redundant many years ago and is now a private house.]*

#### **Tuesday 4 February 1879**

At 7 p.m. the farmers came to dine at the Vicarage. I had ten guests... The dinner was very nice. White soup, roast beef, boiled chickens and ham, curried rabbit, stewed woodpigeons, beef-steak pie, potatoes and stewed celery, plum pudding, custard, plum tart, mince pies, apricot jam tart. Emily waited alone and managed everything very nicely.

*[A good meal for the Vicar and ten guests! Emily was Kilvert's sister. Kilvert himself married Elizabeth Roland on 20 August 1879, and he died on 23 September 1879 of peritonitis at the age of 38.]*

William Price.

## Notes from The Diocese



### Giving Up

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*Jonathan Hill, Lichfield Diocese's Director of Finance contemplates an alternative understanding of 'giving up for Lent'*

We so easily misrepresent Lent as a miserable time of depriving ourselves – of giving up sweet treats or alcohol, other nice things and even joy. But it is really about reflecting Jesus time in the desert in contemplation and resisting temptation, preparing himself for the years of his public ministry that were about to start.

It is a great time for us to each reflect on our own ministries – we all have them, to family, friends and communities around us: some are very public as clergy and lay ministers, others very quiet through supporting neighbours or words of encouragement or praying for others.

It is often said that the last part of a person to be converted when they come to faith is their wallet, yet tales of generosity and advice on using whatever little wealth we have are the most common topics in the Bible. Some preachers vehemently call for each of us to give exactly ten percent of our income to support the local or global church; a number that comes from the Old Testament: others simply urge considered generosity, following the instruction of St Paul to the Corinthians – The point is this:

*"whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).*

The Church of England recommends giving 5% to the local parish and 5% to other Christian mission. What we each actually give is up to us, unknown to the vicar or PCC or anyone else.



What we do know is that our churches, despite the challenges of a secularising nation and reduced voluntary activity across the country, remain key to many communities providing practical and spiritual services. Many people who rarely enter the church value the presence of our buildings at various points in life. And keeping them open relies on the tithes of the faithful and the generosity of visitors. There is good news here – the average regular giver in the Church of England contributes about £15 each week. In Lichfield Diocese the figure is £11.15, not terrible in a diocese with significant pockets of deprivation and amazingly 7% up on pre-pandemic, pre-cost-of-living-crisis levels. And to those who remain faithful givers, both diocese and parishes are very grateful. However, the number of regular givers has fallen, meaning budgets in parishes generally are squeezed.

I find it hard to process the numbers and detailed spreadsheets without a cup of coffee in my hand, and enjoy buying from a well-known retailer on my way to work. But after a few scribbles on the back of a coffee cup, I realised that if I gave up one cup per week and gave it's cost to my parish and every other giver did the same, we'd solve the cash-flow issues in our parishes at a stroke. I have resolved to do that with a direct debit through the Giving Direct scheme which sends funds directly to your chosen parish.

So my challenge to you this Lent is to review your generosity – to your parish church and elsewhere, and do as I have

*The diocese offers three ways that help people give to their parishes: through Giving Direct standing orders which ensure parish receives both the gift AND recouped Gift Aid within 14 days; through our Just Giving account;. and for one-off gifts, the Donate Now scheme can be added to parish websites. More information at [lichfield.anglican.org/receiving-donations-online](https://lichfield.anglican.org/receiving-donations-online).*





## COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS

—February  
from ROGER ASHTON

The countryside is the perfect place to restore and regenerate your

physical and mental health. We are blessed in North Shropshire to have some wonderful public footpaths and rights of way in our low population area with its outstanding variety of country scenery and topography, from lowland pasture and cropping land with high hedge boundaries to sandstone outcrops with their glorious views out to the Welsh Hills, glacial Mere's and nearby canal towpaths too. The local parish footpath group have now replaced a lot of worn out stiles with galvanised kissing gates which are much easier to use.

We are told that walking is one of the most perfect exercises for the human body, with not too much stress on the joints, ligaments and tendons. If you combine that with the social element of walking with other like minded people or even the family pet! It should bring a level of happiness that takes some beating. The weather helps of course! As we leave the darkest days of winter we can look forward to nature's wonderful cycle of increasing light, strengthening sunshine and regeneration of plant and tree life with all its glorious colours. In a small town like Wem the countryside is only minutes away on foot

please enjoy it either as individuals or join a local group like Wem Walkers or Walking for Health.

We are blessed to be aboard Planet Earth, let's pursue some outgoing concern for it too.



### **A Parliament of Rooks**

Although February usually feels far from spring, it is the month when rooks usually start to build their nests, although sometimes they start in January. Many churchyards contain rookeries, situated within tall deciduous trees and a great deal of fun can be had in watching the antics of the rooks.

Rooks make their nests from small branches and twigs and can be seen flying in with suitable material but also pinching particularly nice ones from the neighbours! A winter storm can seriously disrupt this nest building activity and send them back to the beginning with a great deal of chatter and fuss.

Rookeries may contain a few nests or sometimes up to a thousand and, once established, a rookery may last for centuries in the same location.

Rooks are sociable and as well as nesting together they often feed in groups, eating a wide variety of foods including invertebrates pulled from the soil by their large, strong beaks. They will also eat fruit, seeds, acorns and grain and can visit garden bird feeders, taking hold of them with their feet rather like a parrot. Mixed flocks of rooks and jackdaws can be seen flying around, calling prior to going to roost. The collective nouns for a group of rooks are a parliament, congregation or clamour!

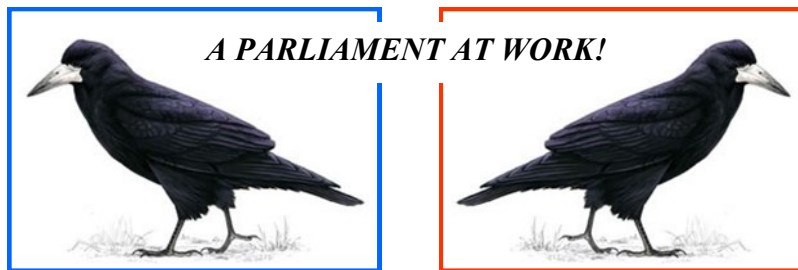
Rooks and crows can appear quite similar until you look and listen closely. A rook has a domed forehead and greyish face, its leg feathers give it 'baggy trousers'. Crows are sleeker, tend to nest singly and are often seen in twos or threes but rarely in larger flocks. Both birds have a cawing call, but crows have a harsher note and tend to repeat the call three times, whilst rooks use a wider variety of sounds and pitches including some clicks and wheezing sounds. Rooks and crows belong to the Corvid family which also includes ravens, jays, magpies and choughs. Take a look at the Caring for God's Acre website for a Spotter's Guide to Corvids.

Please let us know if you have a rookery within your local churchyard or cemetery and take a moment to think how many generations of rooks may have nested there.

All the best, Harriet Carty

*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*, [harriet@cfga.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cfga.org.uk),  
[www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk) - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials.

Use the discount code **djomem22**





## Poetry & Prayers For The New Year

Trust in providence means having confidence that God's goodness, power, and wisdom are undergirding the world.

It is the faith to say a resounding "Yes" to life despite all the troubles that life can throw at you.

It can be described as the creative acceptance of God's will.

It is creative in the sense of taking a risk to renew our trust in God's providence when and sometimes difficult challenges come our way. When things occur that we do not like and we cannot change the circumstances, it is then time to renew our trust.

*In all things God works for the good of those who love him.*

(Romans 8: 28)



TRUST  
IN THE LORD  
WITH ALL  
YOUR  
HEART.  
PROVERBS 3:5

Dear Friends,

We are a community of memory that looks back. We are a community of Spirit that looks forward.

It's important, though not easy, to look back with kindness and to look forward in hope.

Last year has closed down, and the new year beckons.

Let us hand over the past to God for his healing blessing.

Let us ask the Lord to face the future with us, because we do not want to face it alone.

Let us pray for those we love and cherish, that each one might know the promise of the Lord.

*"Know this, I am with you – even to the end of the world".*

These words of Jesus brings Matthew's Gospel to a close.

TRICIA BAMFORD

Wem



## World Day of Prayer

Prepared by the Christian Women of PALESTINE, the theme for the 2024 World Day of Prayer is

"I beg you, bear with one another in love."

The Service will be held on  
Friday 1st March, 2024 at 3pm.  
at

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour  
(Roman Catholic Church)  
Garbett Close, off Leek Street,  
Wem.

**ALL WILL BE VERY WELCOME**

Letters

Letters

Letters

Letters

*We wonder what YOU make of the magazine and its content. Do you have opinions on an article — (be gentle now!) — suggestions — what would you like to see or read? Could YOU send something for publication? It would be great to hear from you.*

*There will be a dedicated Letters Page.*

*Please help to fill it!*

*We take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed—keep them coming, please.*

## *The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Wem*

### **Wem Tower and Bells Appeal 1964 - 1968**

Tom Edwards.

*An account of the fourth and final year of the appeal follows now, and brings the article to an end.*

*Our thanks to Tom for his epic tale.*

#### **The Fourth Year of the Appeal**

The fourth year of the appeal began with a Harvest Supper Dance which raised over £47.

Tilley Village held another event in aid of the appeal in November 1967. It was to have been a bonfire, fireworks, barbecue and dancing in conjunction with a village fayre on farmland and premises of one of the organisers, Mr A G Ward of Tilley Manor, but it had to be drastically cut because of foot and mouth restrictions. The events that could be salvaged were transferred to Wem Church Hall but there was still an excellent response from the public and over £143 was raised.

Christmas 1967 saw a draw and whist drive being held in the Church Hall which raised the sum of £41 5s. 6d.

In February 1968 another joint coffee evening and bring-and-buy sale was organised by the Churchwomen's Guild and the Mothers' Union, raising £104 17s. 6d. Later that month a "Spring Fair" at Forncet, Saulton Road, the home of Mrs V R Bygott, raised £72.

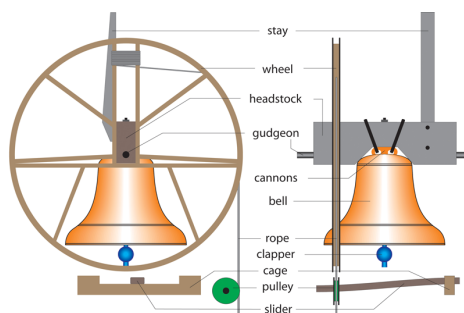
In March, Mr Alec Turner and I organised a gift sale by auction in Wem Market Hall – articles coming under the hammer ranging from solid silver to Kilner jars. The auctioneers and recorders were of the staff of Joseph Wright of Whitchurch. We were assisted by Mr R G O Farmer, Mr W Edwards, Mr J Hall, Mr M C Pate and my parents. The event raised £160 9s. 0d.

The following month an evening party arranged by The Rector and Mrs Morson raised the sum of £72 13s. 0d.

It was hoped by the organisers that the Rectory Garden Fete, held on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, would be the final fund-raising effort of the Tower and Bells Appeal. The event was opened by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Shrewsbury, Councillor and Mrs Pursell. Following the opening, eight-year-old Caroline Edwards, daughter of Mr and Mrs Don Edwards of Aston Hall, presented a bouquet to Mrs Pursell. Perfect weather helped to draw in a crowd of nearly eight hundred and the sum of £318 18s.6d. was raised.

Just four years after it was launched the appeal was closed after the target, which had risen to £7,500, had been reached. A wonderful achievement!

Tom Edwards



A BELL IN THE "DOWN" POSITION

... And so we reap the benefits of the grit, determination and generosity of many people, not least the Edwards' family, as the bells of St Peter and St Paul's Tower ring out on all sorts of occasions.

Have you ever thought about trying your hand at, perhaps, the not so gentle art of campanology? Please contact the Tower Captain through the Churchwardens.

## LENT IN WEM

### SHROVE TUESDAY



**13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**12:00 - 14:00**

**Pancake Lunch**



Pancakes served with a choice of toppings  
and Tea or coffee £2:00

**In SS Peter and Paul's Church Hall**

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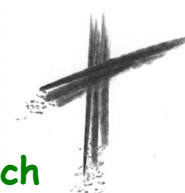
### ASH WEDNESDAY

**14<sup>th</sup> February**

**7.00 pm**

**Holy Communion with  
Imposition of Ashes**

**St Peter and St Paul's Church**



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### TUESDAYS in LENT

**20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March**

**LUNCHES 12:30 - 1:30**

Join us for just a simple lunch of Soup and a Bread Roll (£2)  
and/or come to our

**STUDY GROUPS**

**2:00 - 3:30**

**In SS Peter and Paul's Church Hall**

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EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME

## WEM SOCIAL EVENTS

*Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup>*

11:00 - 13:30

Community Lunch in Wem Church Hall.

This event is free of charge. Booking is helpful but not essential. Please ring 01939 232682 or email [claireglover728@gmail.com](mailto:claireglover728@gmail.com) to book or for more information



19:00

**'Who is Old Sir Rowland'**

A Lecture by Tim Ashton in Wem Church

*Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup>*



10:00 - 12:00

in the Church Hall.

Stalls for Home Made cakes, marmalade and jams, tombola , bric a brac and a raffle.

Please bring your friends for coffee and a chat.

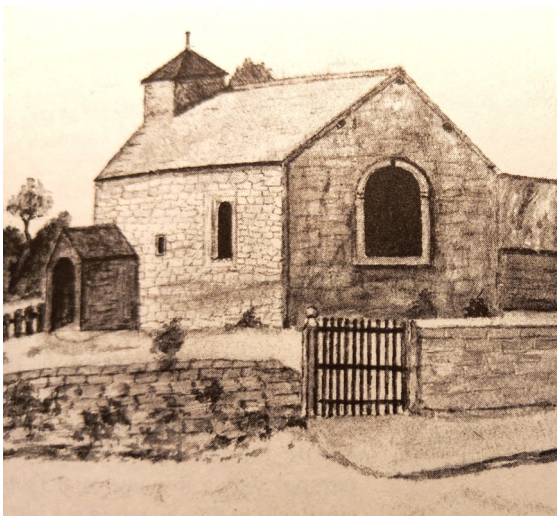


## *The Parish Church of St Peter, Lee Brockhurst*

### A short history of St Peter's Church, Lee Brockhurst

Lee Brockhurst village has a Norman church, the only surviving evidence of our Norman ancestors. This is identified by the two diminutive round headed windows to the north and south of the nave and the decorated arched doorway, now protected by a porch which largely detracts from its beauty.

The church has been dated as mid 12<sup>th</sup> century which means that Bertram de Burg was its founder and at that time Lee Brockhurst became an individual parish. It is made from "white" (known as dark red) sandstone quarried at nearby Grinshill and measures 42 feet by 18 feet, the walls are 1 foot 8 inches thick. This antiquity means that it is a Grade 2\* listed building according to English Heritage.



A drawing by Revd Edward Williams in 1789 showing the church almost as it was when first built.

Little alteration appears to have been undertaken until the Victorian period when Revd Henry Postlethwaite became the incumbent. In 1884 plans were drawn up for a new chancel, a porch and a proper vestry. All this work meant that the church had to

be closed for some time opening some months later in September 1884.

The Revd Henry Postlethwaite was nothing if not thorough in his modernisation. All the oak box pews were removed and used to line the walls of the church and the walls of the nave above the oak panelling were plastered and then marked out to imitate ashlar stone and painted white. The chancel walls were not plastered.

Recently we have discovered that the pitch pine pews currently in place must have been brought from another church since, where they are attached to the walls, there is evidence that they have been sawn in half, or at least reduced in size to fit the available space. We still have two moveable benches which may date back to before the Victorian renovations began.

The altar table, which dates from the Jacobean era and was probably a dining table, was “vandalised” by adding extension pieces on each end supported by thin carved panels. Fortunately the altar frontals and communion linen hide this very poor workmanship.

The whole of the roof of the nave was replaced as it was in any case affected by beetle and it was close boarded to match the new chancel. A new gabled vestry was built at the junction of the nave and chancel but was too small to use for meetings. A new porch was built to replace the original all wooden one. This is of timber, standing upon a stone plinth. The walls are glazed in multicolour stained glass and over the double doors is a stained glass tympanum depicting St. Peter's Keys.



Much has been written recently about our two bells because we are busy fundraising for their re-hanging. The older of the two bells (14<sup>th</sup> century) is responsible for the \* in our Grade II listing as there are only a few bells of this era or earlier in the country. The other bell is 19<sup>th</sup>





century, so still quite old. They were originally hung in a wooden bell cote but the Victorians removed this and hung them in the current exposed position.

At that time an organ was obtained by the Rector with a double keyboard & bellows, but this has long gone. It is probable that he also designed and had installed the pulpit with the brass lectern still in use

today. There are several plaques on the wall, a very ornate veneered marble one to John Henshaw Walford who was patron to the living. (The roof and bell turret were financed by his widow and children in his memory). Smaller brass ones to William Boulton and to commemorate those lost in the Great War are fixed to the north wall of the nave.

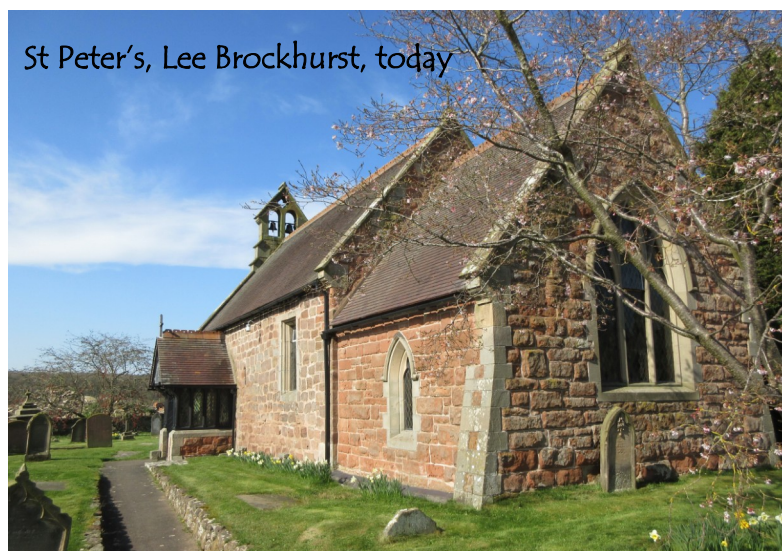
Behind the altar is an oak reredos which, it is said, was carved by Henry Postlethwaite's wife Kathleen Bessie before they were married. This depicts the Last Supper and was copied from Leonardo da Vinci's famous mural on the refectory wall of a former convent in Milan. On either side are panels which depict wheat stalks and grapes and vine leaves respectively.



The church's heating system was also installed during Henry Postlethwaite's long incumbency of 62 years a brick boiler house was put in next to the vestry and holes cut in the pew ends to accommodate the pipes all round the building (did he obtain a Faculty one asks oneself)? Much of the money needed to provide these Victorian improvements were funded by the Walford family who maintained an interest in St Peter's church.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century other improvements have been made. The vestry was re-opened having been blocked off and used as a store room for lawnmowers, vacuum cleaners and other “rubbish” for a number of years. A red carpet was laid down the aisle as far as the chancel step and the pews have had carpet strips laid on the seating. The old heating pipes were removed and tubular electric heaters installed under each pew instead. More recently we have applied for the removal of 5 pews on the north side of the nave in order to provide a social area where PCC Meetings can be held and after service coffee served. This space is also valuable for children to undertake quiet activities during the service and gives room for various mobility vehicles belonging to the congregation to be stored during the service, not to mention the odd bicycle!

I am indebted to Mrs Pam Roberts for much of the information in this article as she wrote a book in 1995 entitled “Along the Lanes of Lee” and who was until recently a member of St Peter’s congregation and lived in the parish until ill health forced her to leave, we still send her information about our activities and the weekly service sheets and prayer diaries. Unfortunately the book is no longer available but several members of our congregation own a copy and may be happy to lend you theirs if you wish to read more about Lee Brockhurst and St. Peter’s church in particular.





## *Coffee and Chat*

**Come and join us for Coffee  
and Chat**

**at St Peter's Church,  
Lee Brockhurst**

**On The Third Wednesday  
of every month**

**between 10.30 and 12.00**

**No charge but donations towards church  
funds welcome!**

**Further information from Phoebe on  
07858123669**

**or [phoebe42.lee@gmail.com](mailto:phoebe42.lee@gmail.com)**



## **The Bells of St Peter's are about to be re-hung!**



**The bells are due to be removed early in February and re-hung in early March.**

**Grant applications have had little results, only The Shropshire Historic Churches Trust has accepted our request. Two other funding bodies have turned us down because either we do not have a peal of bells or the work is not with iron!**

**We have been raising money over the past 8 months and exceeded our expectations. We also have had a number of generous donations however we will need to dig rather deeper into our general funds than we would wish if we do not receive a grant for the SHCT to support this work.**

**If you would like to donate money to our Bell Fund cheques made payable to The PCC of Lee Brockhurst and sent or given to Roger Ashton, Brockhurst Farm, Wem SY4 5SB or alternatively a Bank Transfer to our Santander Bank Account**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO GIFT AID YOUR DONATION (if you can!)**

**Sort Code 09 01 52**

**Account Number 98509709**

**Phoebe Ashton, PCC Secretary  
07858123669**



## Lee's Carol Service

On Sunday 17th December St Peter's Church Lee Brockhurst held their annual Carol Service with a packed Church.

A wonderful atmosphere was created with a beautifully decorated Church with candles, Christmas tree lights and an advent crown.

After the welcome and blessing by our Rector John Jukes, the carols began with a beautiful solo from Elaine Shaw, who sang the first verse from 'Once in Royal David's City'.

After the service the congregation were treated to warm mince pies, made by Margaret Marsh, and hot mulled wine supplied by our organist Phoebe Ashton.

Personal service of the refreshments was supplied by villagers Miriam and Ian Wilson.

Val Lusby



## *Lee Brockhurst WI News*

Our December speaker was local historian David Trumper who gave us a wonderfully appropriate festive insight into the filming of the Dickensian Tale of A Christmas Carol which was filmed in our historic county town of Shrewsbury back in 1984.

We were treated to fascinating photos of the set which was filmed in the following Shrewsbury locations – The Square, St Julian's Church, The Parade Shopping Centre, Bear Steps, Town Walls, Tanners Wine Cellars, St Chad's Church, The Nag's Head pub and more rural locations such as Boreatton Hall and Attingham Park. Fine actors and actresses, George C Scott, Susannah York, Frank Finlay, Edward Woodward lead the cast alongside many locals who were recruited for roles, including our very own Town Crier Martin Wood. Despite the filming taking place in March the town of Shrewsbury became shrouded in snow to create the Winter Wonderland setting for the tale.

We always welcome visitors to join in the fun and friendship at Lee Brockhurst; all meetings take place at Lee Brockhurst Village Hall at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Our Book Club meets again on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February and our Craft Club on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

If you would like to know more about our lively, friendly group then please contact Julie Woolfenden on 01939 200237 or [jjwoolfenden@gmail.com](mailto:jjwoolfenden@gmail.com) who will be very happy to help.

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

## WESTON NEWS



### The Carol Service on Christmas Eve.

*The Christmas Eve Carol service was a great success, there were about 150 in the congregation, standing room only! Sherry and mince pies were served after the service and the whole made a lovely start to the Christmas Celebration.*



*Father Christmas (guess who!) attended and gave a present to each of the children who came.*

## Christmas Fayre 2023.

The morning of our Fayre in the Village Hall coincided with the first fall of snow of the year and Guinea Lane was treacherous!



However quite a few people came and braved the elements. The atmosphere in the Village Hall was vibrant and the Church table raised £121.



**Advanced notice!**

**WESTON VILLAGE SHOW  
SUNDAY 4th AUGUST 2024  
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!!  
AND TELL ALL YOUR  
FRIENDS!**





Thank you very much  
to all our contributors.

The March Issue

(electronic AND paper— we hope, again!)  
needs your input by the 11th of February,  
but definitely no later than 17th, please.

All articles e-mailed to Phoebe Ashton

[phoebe42.lee@gmail.com](mailto:phoebe42.lee@gmail.com)

In Word, please, and any Pictures as jpeg's

If you do not have access to a computer  
a written article is OK.

Phoebe will type it up if you get it to her