

MAY 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

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

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Glyn Williams 01939 234954

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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

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ST LUKE'S, WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE

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Frank Hosie-Kingham 01939 200618

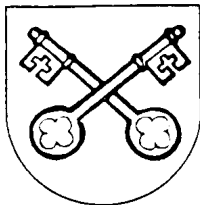
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LEE



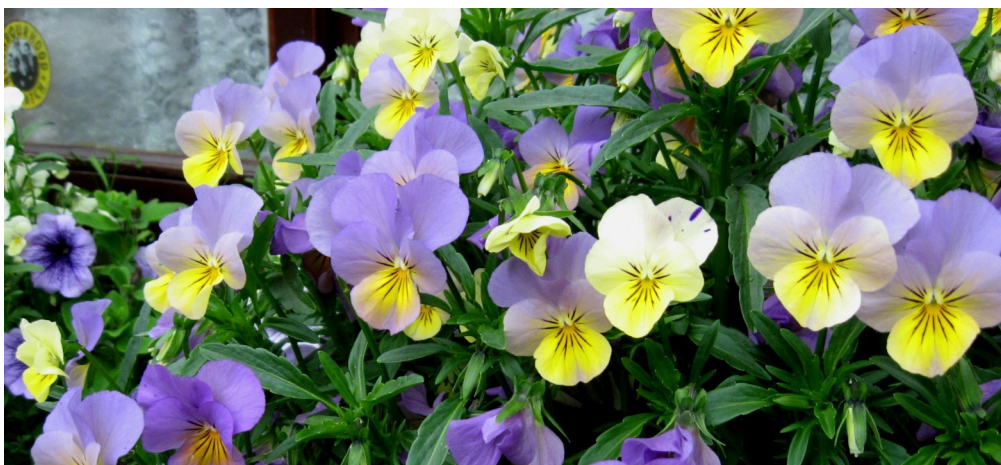
WEM



WESTON

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN MAY					
DAY	DATE	SEASON	WEM	WESTON	LEE
Thursday	2 nd		09:30 HE		
Sunday	5 th	Easter 6	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
Thursday	9 th	Ascension Day DEANERY	19:00 HE		
Sunday	12 th	Easter 7	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 MP
Thursday	16 th		09:30 HE		
Sunday	19 th	PENTECOST	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 MP	11:15 HE
Thursday	23 rd		09:30 HE		
Sunday	26 th	TRINITY SUNDAY	08:00 HE 09:45 HE 18:00 P&P	11:00 HE	11:15 HE
Thursday	30 th		09:30		

HE—Holy Eucharist MP—Morning Prayer P&P—Praise & Prayer





Notes from the Editor

Well, almost half the year has gone already and the spring weather does not

seem to be arriving as we would usually expect, probably due to climate change. However, the plants, despite being buffeted by the wind and beaten down by the rain, appear to carry on as normal except that they are blooming earlier. The hawthorn is already out in sheltered hedgerows and the bluebells are carpeting areas of woodland much ahead of time.

During the month of May many gardens are at their best especially if they specialise in azaleas and rhododendrons. One within the Benefice which will be open for the public to visit on Sunday 12th May is The Citadel at Weston-under-Redcastle owned by Beverley and Sylvia Griffiths. This garden is not to be missed and the refreshments are very good too! See the advert elsewhere in the magazine all proceeds will go to The Shropshire Historic Churches



Trust who recently donated money for the bell restoration at Lee Brockhurst.

Spring is also the time to put in vegetables and plants of every variety, although half-hardy and tender plants may get caught out with a late frost. Val Lusby is opening her garden at The Gables in Wem for a Plant Sale on Saturday 11th May between 10.30 and 12.00 in aid of St Peter's Church, Lee Brockhurst and will have many perennials and some annuals and vegetable plants for sale at very reasonable prices.

We are fast approaching the end of the Easter season; the festival of the Ascension of our Lord (*Thursday 9th May*) leads on just over a week later to Pentecost, that very important celebration when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit, who descended so dramatically on the disciples and enabled them to spread the gospel with courage and fortitude. Hopefully by then we will experience some better weather so that we can enjoy the countryside and all that it has to offer in recharging our batteries after what seems to have been a very long, wet winter and spring.

Once again we apologise for the fact that this magazine is only going to be distributed electronically. Things are moving forward towards a printed copy but at a slower pace than we had hoped.

Phoebe

Rectors Ramblings—May 2024

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Recently I have been affected by the number and content of news articles that our media are putting out about the War in the Middle East and in Ukraine. Added to this is the amount of “bad stuff” that is being reported in the world. It almost seems to be overwhelming. So this got me, once again, to thinking about what is evil and why does God allow it? I say “once again” because I spent a little time looking at this from an academic viewpoint at university. And I thought that I would share with you some of my thinking from that time.

In this article I will explain what the problem of evil is, and why it is such an important question. I will give two very different contexts in which the problem of evil can be examined, and I will give several answers that have been offered to the problem. Finally, I will tell you the answer that I believe Christian theology should give to the problem of evil.

To begin, what do we mean by the problem of evil? To answer this, I need to offer a definition of evil and some of God’s attributes. One definition of evil is the absence of good. This encompasses anything that is bad, such as sin, suffering, or death. Another is that force which corrupts or opposes God’s good creation. Wright (2006:45) argues ‘that evil is real and powerful, that it is more than the sum total of individual sin’.

Richard Swinburne (1997: pdf p. 1) mentions some of God’s attributes which are particularly relevant to the problem of evil as follows, ‘God is, by definition omniscient, omnipotent, and perfectly good’. In other words, God knows everything that can logically be known, God is powerful, and God is very good, God does not do bad things. From the above it can be seen that there are a number of related problems, two of which are; if God created the world how

could God either create evil or allow evil to exist? Or if God is all knowing, powerful and perfectly good how can God allow evil to exist, are God and evil compatible? These questions are 'The problem of evil'. How can one justify the existence of both God and evil, and does evil prove that God doesn't exist?

This is an important question to which the answer has been sought by those who are suffering, and all those who have questioned God as to 'why?' From very early on the Christian church has produced a number of theodicies, (from the Greek for 'justification of God') that attempt to answer this question.

The question of evil has often been pursued by philosophers of religion and others in an attempt to negate theist beliefs. The question is examined in the abstract and looked at dispassionately. A completely different context in which the question may be raised is that of a pastoral situation. Perhaps in the aftermath of a great evil such as the holocaust or a major earthquake, or in a more personal situation, maybe the illness or death of a child or a loved one. As can be imagined the answer to the question of evil in a pastoral situation must be given in a spirit of care and compassion, it must not be contrived and brutish or hurtful. Whereas the answer to the question in a theological debate about the existence of God may take a very different form, instead of offering comfort the object is to prove the possibility of God and evil co-existing. The suggestion of religious philosophers being that if evil exists this proves that God does not, by reason that a God who is all knowing and all powerful and perfectly good would know that evil exists and would take steps to remove it. The theist counter to this is that a perfectly good God who knows evil exists will not necessarily eradicate it, the reasons for this non-course of action are to be found in the various theodicies outlined below.

There have been many more theodicies and versions of them than I have space in this article to enumerate. I will explain a few

examples; the interconnectedness of good and evil, Plantinga's free-will defence, soul-making and God producing a greater good from an evil situation.

To take these in turn; firstly, the interconnectedness of good and evil. It has been asked how can a person cheerfully bear their sufferings if they are not suffering in the first place? Or how can a person forgive their neighbour if there is nothing to forgive? Or even how would one know good, if they had not experienced evil?

Secondly the free-will defence, recently explained by Alvin Plantinga (Swinburne 1977:pdf p. 2). It is not logically possible for a being to be created so that they freely must do only good actions, yet for them to be freely able to do bad actions. Therefore, if there is free-will there must logically be the choice to do either good or evil thus there is a requirement for good and evil to exist.

Thirdly soul-making. This is the name given to a proposition put forward by St Irenaeus (Hick, pdf p. 1-2) who said that human beings were not created in the finished state; the process of creation is ongoing. By choosing the right course of action and making the right decisions by mastering temptations and overcoming ill, a person can become more fully the likeness of God as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. For this to happen evil has to exist so that it can be overcome.

The last theodicy I wish to mention is that of God using evil for a greater good. A good outcome that we cannot see at the moment, but will become apparent in the fullness of time.

McCord Adams argues that a relationship with God is so beneficial to the individual who experiences it, that it more than negates any evil that she may have suffered. 'By nature, as a being greater than which cannot be conceived, God is such a great Good that appropriate relationship to Him can not only balance off but defeat horrendous evils' (McCord Adams, 1996: 126).

If these arguments were to be given in an academic debate they may be considered satisfactory; however, I would not find them helpful in a pastoral situation. Before reciting any of these theodicies I would ask the reader to consider Dostoevsky's character Ivan Karamazov's response to true accounts of Turks tearing babies from their mother's wombs, impaling infants on bayonets, and firing pistols into their mouths. To these evils Ivan says that even if for some reason it could be shown that the kingdom of God required these acts, "for love of man I reject it" "it is not worth the tears of that one tortured child" (Hart 2005, 4-5). This well known quotation can be seen to be a valid cry from a person suffering by way of any great evil.

In conclusion it is self-evident that evil exists in the world, and that many people suffer. I do think that Christian theology needs to address academically the problem of evil for the philosophers of religion. More importantly I do not think that it is helpful to a mother grieving over the loss of her child to be given a less than satisfactory answer to her heart felt cry of why? The proposition must be considered that perhaps Christian theology doesn't have a single satisfactory answer to the problem of evil in its various guises and relating to the various contexts in which the problem is discussed. This may be due to the inability of theologians to tightly define, and agree the definition of what evil actually is. Evil may be a mystery as Kilby states (Kilby 2003, doc p. 23-24). However, there is a danger of elevating the status of evil by calling it a mystery, just as God is a mystery, so this needs careful attention before it is included in any answer to the problem of evil. It is my opinion that we should say that right now we don't know the answer to the problem of evil. At this time Christian theology hasn't been able to give a unified intellectually and pastorally satisfactory answer. I believe there is an answer, we just don't have it yet. Even if we don't know it, we can believe that God is here, that Jesus suffered on the cross and will

wipe away all tears and there shall be no more suffering, no more pain, and no more death, for God will make all things new (Hart, 2005, doc p. 7).

This may not be a satisfactory answer for you, but I can take comfort knowing that God is all knowing, powerful and perfectly good. That he created the world and said that it was “very good”. Not perfect, but perhaps just the best it can be for us. I believe that God loves us and wants the best for us. And especially, I believe that God is with us in our joy and our suffering, our pleasure and our pain, in our healthy times and our sickness. And that at the end of our lives we will be with him for eternity.

With my prayers and every blessing,
Reverend John.

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Canon William Continues With Insights Into Ministry In The 1870's

KILVERT IN MAY

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, and I've selected some extracts from April in different years.

Monday 22 May 1871 (Kilvert meets the Vicar of Glascwm)

I met the old Vicar magistrate in the hall with his stout frame, ruddy face, white hair, stern long sweeping eyebrows and a merry odd twinkle in his eye. One of the last of the old-fashioned parsons. He gave me some splendid Herefordshire cider and some bread and butter and there came with him a very small black and tan terrier named Ti (or Tiger I suppose), a waddling wheezing gasping mass, a ball of fat. The Vicar said his daughter Miss Marsden was gone out in a trap with his nephew Bevan (curate) of Talgarth, late of Newbridge, who had come in quite unexpectedly on Saturday evening but most fortunately for his uncle was in bed on Sunday with a violent cold, and sent him round to his three churches at Glascwm, Colva and Rhulen to do duty. I asked what happened supposing the Vicar were ill and no nephew dropped in opportunely on Saturday night. A merry twinkle stole into the old man's eye. 'I give them a holiday', he said. He had scarcely ever been kept away from his duty by illness however, though he had occasionally got stuck in a snow drift and been unable to proceed. 'I am bishop here', said the Vicar. Then fetching the church key he added, 'Come and see the Cathedral'.

(Glascwm is a small village in a remote part of Radnorshire. The last speaker of Welsh in the parish had died four years before Kilvert's visit. Glascwm was then in the huge Diocese of St Davids, which covered almost half of Wales, and a very long way from the real Cathedral in Pembrokeshire.)

Tuesday 7 May 1872

Wombwell's Menagerie came into Hay from Brecon Fair today and the elephant was advertized to ride upon a bicycle...At 6 o'clock the wild beasts were ready and we all went to the show. There was a fair lion and a decent wolf, which looked as if it had been just freshly caught, his coat was so thick and good and he was so strong and restless. A laughing hyena set us all off

laughing in chorus. A black sheep in the pangs of hunger was bleating piteously and had forced his body half through the bars of his cage to get at the biscuits the children were offering him. The exhibition was small and poor. A dwarf three feet nothing pointed out to us 'groups of wolves', stirred the beasts up with a long pole and made them roar. There was no bicycle forthcoming. The elephant did not get upon it or seem likely to do so. The camels were coming but not come. The ground was a swamp with pools of water and huge gaps in the canvas overhead let in the pouring rain. I soon went away.

(Wombwell's Travelling Menagerie was founded by George Wombwell (1778 -1850) and continued after his death as the renowned Bostock and Wombwell Menagerie until 1931. Before the advent of film and television menageries must have been the only opportunity for most people to see wild animals.)

Friday 31 May 1872 (The Vicar's daughter's second birthday)

Flags were flying at Clyro School and children were swarming in and out like bees. Over the school gate the schoolmaster and mistress had made a pretty triumphal arch of greenery and flowers with 'Long live Miss Venables'. As we dashed up to the Vicarage door the bells pealed out. They had been ringing since early morning and the ringers had dined at the Vicarage. The blacksmiths also had been firing anvil cannons since 5.30 a.m. The children had their tea on the lawn between 5 and 6 o'clock and then went to play on the Lower Bron. It seemed as if the night would never get dark and we could not begin the fireworks till nearly ten. They were the first fireworks ever seen in Clyro...The rockets chiefly rushed downwards into the earth instead of rushing upwards into the sky, but two ascended and one rocket stick fell in the churchyard upon Mrs Venables' grave. Divers Roman candles burst and tore open divers people's hands, but the blue lights and the mines and the catherine wheels and the jacks in the boxes were very successful. Children were shouting about the village so that they were heard in Hay (a mile away) at 11 o'clock and some of them did not get home till after midnight.

(The Vicar of Clyro, the Revd Richard Lister Venables, was a wealthy landowner and a magistrate, a very important figure in Radnorshire. His daughter, Katherine Minna, married Sir Charles Leyshon Dillwyn-Llewelyn, who assumed the surname Dillwyn-Venables-Llewelyn. Their descendents still live in Llysdinam Hall in Breconshire.)

William Price.

Notes from The Diocese



Pioneering Parishes

– Creatively Connecting Church and Community

Maybe you have a great idea for how your parish church could connect more with its local community, but you don't know how to make this vision a reality? Maybe you'd love to be more focused on mission, but your church seems to be using up all their energy on supporting day-to-day ministry? Or maybe you find the term 'pioneering' rather mysterious and question its relevance to parish life?

The Pioneering Parishes programme enables participants with questions just like these to discover how to become more outward looking, moving energy from inside the church to mission within our parish communities. Through involvement in a series of webinars and learning spaces, connection and conversation with parishioners, pioneers and priests will help explore how pioneering is integral to parish life. Clergy and congregation members will be inspired and equipped to shift church culture to enable the cure of souls to be extended into all the parish.

Pioneering Parishes is a project run through the Church Mission Society (CMS) and led by a team that deeply understands and inhabits both pioneering and parish ministry. Lichfield Diocese is excited to be partnering with Pioneering Parishes from April 2024 to facilitate the delivery of on-line webinars and in-house training, supporting the development of fresh expressions and new worshipping communities across city, urban and rural settings.

The Pioneering Parishes team facilitates a series of 90-minute webinars for individuals from parishes or, even better, groups can sign up and explore ideas and learning together. You can find out

more about the programme and read inspiring stories of how parishes have developed mission in their specific contexts on the website: <https://churchmissionsociety.org/pioneering-parishes/>

One story describes how churches in Cosham, Portsmouth, set up a community larder; the Vicar, Revd Amy Webb saying of Pioneering Parishes "the training ...helped us to develop a 'let's give it a go' attitude and challenged us to set about changing the culture of our church, which over time had become very inward looking.

"This then meant that during the pandemic, when a secular charity asked us if we would be willing to set up and run a food pantry in a local park, we felt able to say yes. And we said 'yes' without us having any financial or human resources to speak of, or any firm plan as to how this would be possible.

"Step by step we worked it out. This was our opportunity to be the body of Christ out in our community, to share the love of God, build relationships and see what might develop from that'."

Read more here: <https://churchmissionsociety.org/stories/feeding-hearts-and-souls-as-well-as-tummies/>.

You can sign up for the First Steps introductory course straight away. Dates of webinars are 12 and 26 June, 10 and 24 July 2024. Just follow this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pioneering-parishes-first-steps-4-session-webinar-tickets-779319554767>

For further information about Pioneering Parishes and the exciting partnership with Lichfield Diocese, contact Catherine Matlock (catherine.matlock@lichfield.anglican.org) or Simon Foster (simon.foster@lichfield.anglican.org)



COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS — MAY

from ROGER ASHTON



WATER

Water has been very topical for the past six months so it was a no brainer deciding on my next Parish Magazine article!

Weather records are now showing this past autumn, winter and spring have been some of the wettest ever known. I am sure we were all hoping that April would bring some dry relief but to date (9th) it seems to have got worse just when the growing season is ready to go. The reality of climate change is upon us; what happened to our benign temperate climate! Farmers, gardeners and to some extent outdoor pursuit folks are worried. That concern now extends to the businesses in the food chain, the next twelve months are already seriously compromised, just when the UK wants more emphasis on food security and home grown quality food. Consumers be warned there is going to be volatility at the retail end. And what of the summer, weather has a habit of balancing out, are we in for high heat and drought conditions? One thing is for sure we cannot control weather in the short term, but there is hope for the future if all the countries of the world can come together and fight against our reliance on fossil fuels and the carbon excesses.

Water is the life blood of the Planet and its occupants and has great emphasis in all religions, we cannot survive without it. It is also the life blood of the soil, so vital for growing our crops.

Irrigation helps enormously to build quantity and quality too, but conversely too much can easily overpower our drainage systems! The UK needs a long term plan to alleviate these excesses but where will it be in the Government's priorities?



Seeking Slowworms

There's often a secret to be found within a churchyard or cemetery, slowworms may be living there, rarely seen by visitors as they tend to hide within the vegetation and don't emerge to bask in the sun like other reptiles. Slowworms are not particularly slow and they are not worms, neither are they snakes. They are actually lizards without legs and, when warmed up and active can be pretty nippy! Slowworms hunt in hidden places such as compost heaps, thick vegetation at the base of a wall or hedge and within piles of logs or stones. They catch slower moving prey like slugs and can 'drop' their tails to escape predators, a characteristic of all lizards.



May is a good time to look for them and the easiest way to do this is to put out some pieces of old roofing material, about 50cm square. You can use corrugated tin, but this can have sharp edges, onduline is better and a supplier may give you some offcuts for free. Following a conversation with those who manage the site, place a few of these squares in areas that catch the morning sun and are away from paths, perhaps in rougher vegetation such as tussocky grass. Slowworms will go under the squares to warm up in the mornings before going out to hunt and may be there at any time of day in colder weather.

Check the squares about once a week, lifting one side carefully and looking underneath. Try and check between 8:00 and 10:00am for



best results as this is when the animals are warming up. You may be rewarded by a slowworm and also many other creatures such as worms, beetles or woodlice. Why not take a quick

picture as the square is lifted, before too much scurries or slithers off! It may take animals a while to find the squares so be patient, having more squares gives a better chance of seeing slowworms.

Churchyards and cemeteries are havens for reptiles and also amphibians such as frogs, toads and newts and we're collecting information to better understand just how important they are for these animals. Please take a photo using the iNaturalist app or let us know what you've seen via email if you don't use iNaturalist. You can keep checking for slowworms from April or May through to September. Why not include a peep under the square as part of a Churches Count on Nature event during Love Your Burial Ground week - 8th and 16th June.

All the best, Harriet

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor.

harriet@cfga.org.uk, www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

- individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**



From the Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery how we are funded and what we spend.

To continue with maintenance of the cemetery site and chapel the Friends Group relies on the generosity of local organisations and on other kind donations. Most of our annual income is spent on managing the 2.7 acre grassland, and any other projects have to be financed through our well supported fundraising events such as coffee mornings. Our main annual grants come from Wem Town Council, Wem Parish Church, Wem Rural Parish Council, together with a small annual grant from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. In addition, we normally receive occasional funds from Wem Methodist Church, Wem Baptist Church, and from personal and other donations. It is hugely encouraging and motivating for our small hardworking group to be supported in this way and we are always extremely grateful to everyone.

In 2023 through grants and fundraising we received £4,021. Of this, £3,465 was spent on grass cutting. The remaining balance went towards the cost of an ecological survey of the whole site, repairing and repainting the perimeter fence and railings, rebuilding the compost area, building a dead hedge, repairing the information panel and installing a WW1 commemorative bench. It was a very busy year!

During 2024 we will continue to ensure that the site is a beautiful and natural area. We have recently improved drainage under the lychgate and repaired our notice board. If funds allow, we would like to purchase and plant more trees and put in a new wooden bench, so encouraging more people to sit and engage with the flourishing green space.

On Wednesday 8 May at 11.30am some of our Friends Group will be meeting at the cemetery with several Wem Rural Parish Councillors for a formal presentation of their generous grant award. We are

pleased that they have recently written to support and encourage us in our biodiversity conservation work. Please note that visitors will be most welcome and the cemetery chapel will be open for the event.

Many thanks to everyone for supporting us so wonderfully in our work of looking after this lovely historical cemetery and chapel!

Judy Crichton



A group of hardy workers relaxing on our recently installed World War 1 commemorative bench



CHILDRENS' LETTERS TO GOD

Dear God

Are there any Patriarchs around today?

Patrick

Dear God,

I like the Lord's Prayer best of all.

Did you have to write it a lot or did you get it right the first time?

I have to write everything I ever write over again

Lois

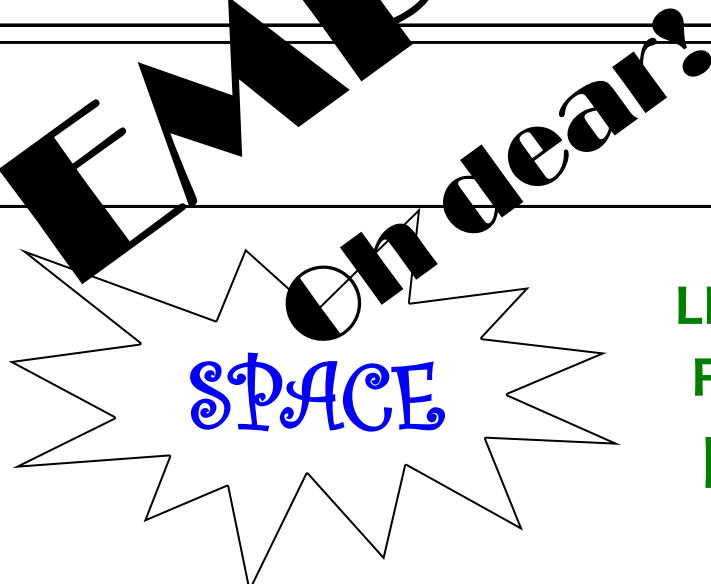
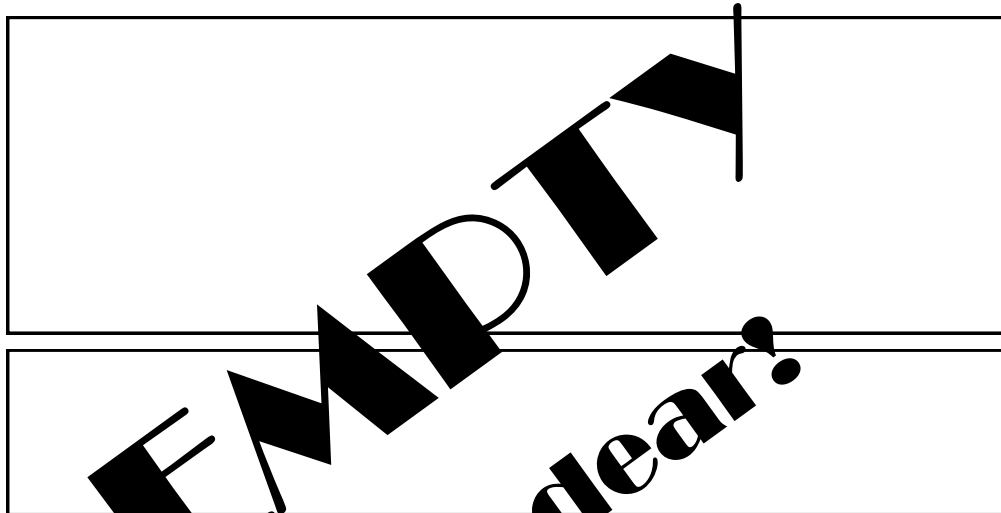


Letters

Letters

Letters

Letters



LET'S
FILL
IT!

Last Month the Letters' Page had begun, but see above!




There are one or two articles that may bear scrutiny in this month's edition and may encourage discussion! So please don't put your pens—mobiles—computers away just yet.

We take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed in other ways, too—keep those contributions coming, please.

"You are number 9 in the queue. Please hold and we will be with you shortly."

Familiar?? Not for much longer we hope—read on!

 <p>Working to improve the health, well-being and lives of those we care for</p>	<p><u>Wem and Prees Medical Practice News.</u></p> <p>We have a few exciting updates at the Practice. We recently welcomed Dr Ruth Oldroyd as our Senior Partner following the retirement of Dr Beresford after 27 years as a GP. Dr Oldroyd is not far behind having joined us here in 2001 and is about to celebrate her 23rd year here at the Practice. Joining the team most recently we are pleased to introduce our new GP Partner Dr Nan Thornley who became a Partner in October 23. Dr Thornley is a most welcome addition and takes our complement of Clinical Partners to 7 and a total of 10 GPs at the practice.</p> <p>We are very pleased to have such a well doctored practice with long serving GP Partners and a consistent team of GP's. Continuity of care is important to us and is an area that we know is important to our patients. We plan to continue to focus on this in 2024 which is one of the reasons that we have made the decision to implement a new appointment booking system for our patients from April 2024.</p> <p>Firstly, we are aware that we experience heavy demand on our telephone lines at peak times and that appointments can be difficult to arrange. Despite increasing our telephone line capacity and recruiting more Doctors and receptionists' we know that access to appointments has remained difficult with unacceptable wait times for patients on our telephones. In late 2022 we invited our patients to complete a questionnaire where we asked for your thoughts on how easy it was to get through to the practice and book an appointment. This feedback was vital in helping us formulate the best way to address the issues that you were experiencing.</p>
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We have now completed our review of our appointment booking system and have listened to feedback from our patients and our Patient Participation Group. After careful thought we have made the decision to move to an online system.

This means that from 8th April 2024 patients will be asked to submit a simple online form to contact the practice rather than telephoning or coming into reception to book.

The form is clearly displayed and available on the website <https://www.wemandpreeshealth.co.uk/>. It can be accessed via a smart phone, computer, or tablet. Once received our clinical and admin teams will review the forms the same day, and patients will then be contacted with the appropriate appointment or advice.

For those that do not have access to a smartphone, or computer, or are unable to use the online form you will still be able to telephone the practice. A receptionist will be able to submit the form on your behalf by completing it with you over the telephone.

We hope that those that are comfortable completing the form online will support this new process by doing so as this will reduce the number of calls coming through to the practice, reducing pressure on the telephone lines and improving the service for those that can't use the online method.

Finally, we would like to assure our patients that we are fully committed to providing excellent access to appointments for all our patients and are looking forward to incorporating new technology that we believe will improve our patients' experience of contacting the practice.

With Best Wishes,

Caroline Morris (*Managing Partner*)



The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Wem

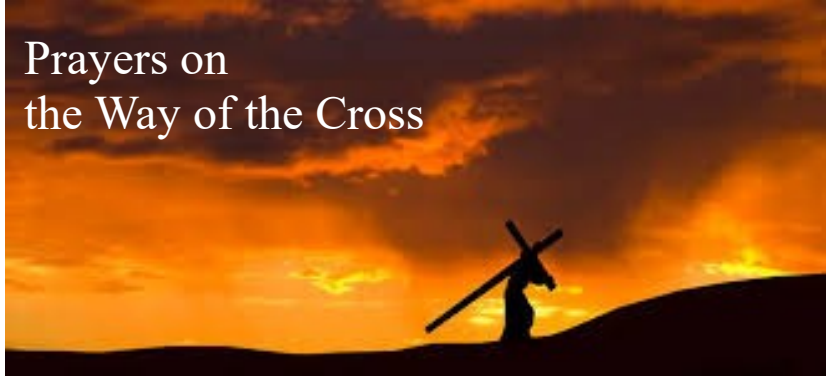
FROM THE PCC

At the Annual Church Meetings on 11 April elections were held for Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and PCC members. Our two Wardens, Sybil Farmer and David Murray, continue in office. David also represents us on the Deanery synod. Two new people were elected to the PCC: Penny Lewis and Glyn Williams. Kim Archer, Neil Price and Caroline Sinclair (our much-valued Treasurer) were re-elected for the next three years. There are still

vacancies, which can be filled by co-option during the coming year, so if you are interested in serving on the PCC do talk to the Rector or Wardens. We also heard reports on the finances, church activities and the state of the buildings. If you would like to see these reports, copies are available at the back of the church. The PCC will meet again in May.



Prayers on the Way of the Cross



The Easter Season is nearly over—it is easy to slide back to the comfortable pew. But things will never be the same. Christ's passion, death and resurrection are not just for a season but for always.

Abbé Michel Quoist wrote these prayers on The Way of the Cross:

*Christ is still dying. He continues to offer himself to his Father for the redemption of the world through men and women who today suffer and die around us.
The Way of the Cross is also the way of life;
this a real Christian should never forget.*

Lord, it's too late for you to be quiet, you have spoken too much; you have fought too much;
you were not sensible, you know, you exaggerated,
it was bound to happen.
You called the better people a brood of vipers;
You told them that their hearts were black sepulchres with fine exteriors;
You kissed the decaying lepers;
You spoke fearlessly with unacceptable strangers;
You ate with notorious sinners, and you said that street-walkers would be the first in Paradise;
You got on well with the poor, the tramps, the crippled;



You belittled the religious regulations;
Your interpretation of the Law reduced it to
one little commandment: to love.
Now they are avenging themselves.
They have taken steps against you: they have approached
the authorities and action will follow.

Lord, I know that if I try to live a little like you, I shall be
condemned

I am afraid.

They are already singling me out.

Some smile at me, others laugh, some are shocked, and
several of my friends are about to drop me.

I am afraid to stop,

I am afraid to listen to men's wisdom,

It whispers: '*you must go forward little by little,
everything can't be taken literally, it's better to
come to terms with the adversary...*'

And yet, Lord, I know that you are right.

Help me to fight,

Help me to speak out,

Help me to live your Gospel,

To the end,

To the folly of the Cross.

Prayers of Life

Michel Quoist

ISBN 0-7171-0158-4



The Parish Church of St Peter, Lee Brockhurst

St. Peter's Bells, the end of the saga

A large congregation gathered in St. Peter's church on Sunday 7th April to celebrate the return of our two bells. Following the service, conducted by our Rector, Revd. John Jukes, the presentation of a cheque for £4,000 was made by David Crowhurst on behalf of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust to our two Church Wardens Val Lusby and Roger Ashton. A very attractive certificate was also presented, this now stands in pride of place by our entrance door.



We were delighted to welcome a number of the individuals who have donated money to our bell appeal and also Peter Woollam, the Diocesan Bell Advisor who visited us in February last year and helped us to start our journey towards the re-hanging of the bells.

Following the presentation light refreshments were served and thanks go to Val Lusby, Margaret Marsh, Judith Lester and Sue Wilton-Morgan for the food and Miriam and Ian Wilson who served the Prosecco and helped clear up afterwards.

It is lovely to hear our bells ringing out again each Sunday and I hope that the villagers are as happy as we are that they are back!

Phoebe Ashton

PLANT SALE

AT

THE GABLES, WEM



SATURDAY 11TH MAY

FROM 10.30 -12.00

ADMISSION £2 00

TO INCLUDE REFRESHMENTS

RAFFLE & PRODUCE

ALL PROCEEDS TO ST. PETERS CHURCH
LEE BROCKHURST

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TEL: 01939 235610



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**



The Parish Church of St Luke,

Weston-under-Redcastle

WESTON NEWS



The Easter Sunday Service was very well attended and the Church was decorated beautifully with the Lilies which 34 members of the congregation had requested in memory of their loved ones. The daffodils along the path up to St Luke's were a sight to behold and it was sunny!



Sunday 12th May

—from 2 pm until 5 pm—



The Citadel Garden will be open in aid of Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. Entry is £5 and a scone, jam and cream tea will be served at a cost of £5.

There will be a Plant Stall.

Hopefully the weather will have improved and be kind.

WESTON UNDER REDCASTLE VILLAGE SHOW 2024

DO HOPE YOU ARE ALL KEEPING THE DATE FREE TO HELP OR BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO THIS YEAR'S VILLAGE SHOW ON SUNDAY 4TH AUGUST

AT THE LAST SHOW MEETING IT WAS DECIDED THAT THIS YEAR WE WOULD SUPPORT 2 OUTSIDE CHARITIES TOGETHER WITH THE VILLAGE HALL AND ST LUKE'S CHURCH.

THE MOVEMENT CENTRE AT THE ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL WHO PROVIDE SPECIALIST THERAPY TO HELP CHILDREN WITH MOVEMENT DISABILITIES.

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT

WWW.THEMOVEMENTCENTRE.CO.UK

THE LINGEN DAVIES CENTRE—A CHARITY WHICH EXISTS TO ENHANCE AND IMPROVE THE LIVES OF LOCAL CANCER PATIENTS AND THOSE WHO ARE WATCHING LOVED ONES GO THROUGH TREATMENT...

A CHARITY WE ALL HOPE WE WILL NEVER NEED.

WWW.LINGENDAVIES.CO.UK



MANY OF THE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS HAVE BEEN BOOKED, STILL LOTS MORE TO DO, BUT OUR MAIN TARGET NOW IS GETTING THE SPONSORSHIP TO PAY THE EXPENSES OF PUTTING ON THE SHOW.

LICENCES, INSURANCE, PARAMEDICS, ADVERTISING, PRINTING, MARQUEES, TOILETS, BOUNCY CASTLES, ENTERTAINMENT, SHIRE HORSES, ETC, ETC.

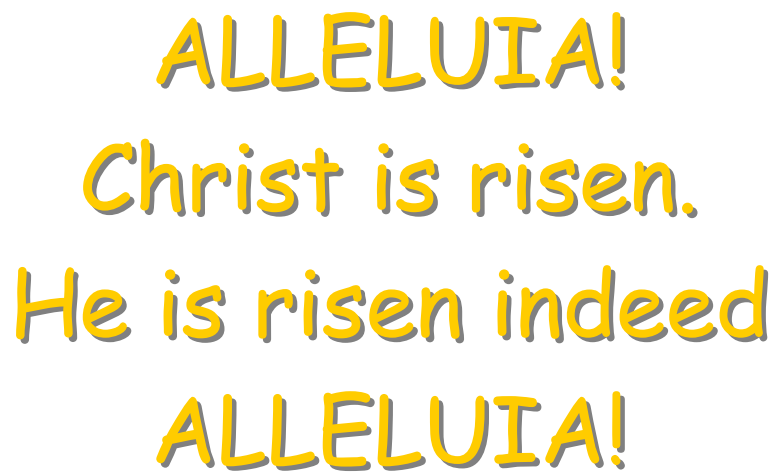
LAST YEAR WE RAISED OVER £6,000 OF SPONSORSHIP WHICH ALMOST COVERED THE EXPENSES.

IF ANY OF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PUT AN ADVERT IN THE PROGRAMME, OR ANYONE YOU KNOW OR DEAL WITH WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

THE PROGRAMME CONTAINING THE ADVERTS IS A LOVELY GLOSSY BOOKLET WHICH SERVES AS A DIRECTORY FOR THE YEAR AND EACH VISITOR IS GIVEN A PROGRAMME TO TAKE HOME.

MORE NEWS AS WE PROGRESS, NEW IDEAS AND HELP ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.





ALLELUIA!
Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed
ALLELUIA!

Thank you very much
to all our contributors.

The June Issue

needs your input by the 17th of May,
but definitely no later than 22nd, please.

All articles e-mailed to Phoebe Ashton

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