

understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

2nd READING: ROMANS 8:26-end

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, *'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'* ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹ Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' ³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.

**Prayer Diary For
Sunday 26th July 2026
8th SUNDAY after TRINITY**

*Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians. 5:16-18*

Today

Let's offer our praise and thanksgiving to God, no matter what our circumstances may be, because God works things out for good for those who trust him.

Monday—27th July

Pray for the Food Bank and the Food Hub that they may have plentiful resources to meet the needs of those families in food poverty.

Tuesday—28th July

Pray for the lonely and the housebound that they may be identified and that their need for social stimulation may be met.

Wednesday—29th July

Pray for the young people as the school term ends and the holidays approach, that they will have positive activities to look forward to and be protected from all harm.

Thursday—30th July

Pray for the Lord's blessing on John, our rector and the retired clergy that they may know the encouragement and inspiration of the Holy Spirit in their ministry.

Friday—31st July

Pray for opportunities to share your faith in conversations with others.
Pray that you will be able to speak clearly with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Saturday—1st August

Pray for all those with addictions in our area that they may receive the help they need and be released from them.

NEWS UPDATE—starting 26th JULY

Dear Friends, dates for your diaries:

SUNDAY 16th AUGUST

16:00 SONGS OF PRAISE

followed by tea and cake.

Please fill in a form at the back of church with your favourite 3 hymns and pop the completed form in the box by Sunday 2nd August.

SATURDAY 29th AUGUST

09:30–12:00 Coffee Morning in Wem Church Hall. We would welcome raffle prizes. I have been busy making jam and chutney to share with you all for a small donation to church funds. Do come along and bring a friend for a cup of coffee and a chat and if you would like to help please speak to Sybil or Kim.

CONSULTATION for the 100th Bishop of Lichfield.

Bishop Michael will be retiring later this year. We are invited take part in this consultation by completing form that can be accessed via this QR code. Or by joining, in person or online, consultations at which these questions will be discussed.



<https://lichfield.anglican.org/about-us/vacancy-in-see/vis-consultation-events/>

Pray for Rain? Yes, Please.

Services in the Benefice

Sunday 26th July—TRINITY 8

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

Thursday 30th July

WEM	09:30	Holy Eucharist
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Sunday 2nd August—TRINITY 9

WEM	08:00 09:45	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist
WESTON		No Service
LEE	11:15	Holy Eucharist

Thursday 6th August

WEM	09:30	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
St Peter & St Paul's Church, Wem

To view our July Services please go to our website:
<https://wemcofe.co.uk>

The July/August Magazine is OUT .
If you would like to receive a copy please add your e-mail address to the form at the back of the church



THE COLLECT

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

1st READING: 1 KINGS 3:5-12

⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' ⁶And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.' ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

¹¹God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself