

OCTOBER 2025

# 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  
The Reverend Edith Quirey  
Reverend Mike Cotterell  
Prebendary Rob Haarhoff

Further details are available on our website:

[www.wemcofe.co.uk](http://www.wemcofe.co.uk)

and on

[Facebook@Wemparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/Wemparishchurch)

---

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

**Churchwardens**

Sybil Farmer 01939 232568 and 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**

---

**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

---

**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



LEE



WEM



WESTON

## SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN OCTOBER

DAY	DATE	SEASON	WEM	WESTON	LEE
THURSDAY	2nd		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	5th	TRINITY 16	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 MP	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	9th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	12th	TRINITY 17	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
THURSDAY	16th		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	19th	TRINITY 18	08:00 HE 09:45 HE	09:30 HE	11:15 HE
	23rd		09:30 HE		
SUNDAY	26th	BIBLE SUNDAY	08:00 HE 09:45 HE 17:00 P&P	11:00 HE	11:15 MP
THURSDAY	30th		09:30 HE		

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







## Notes from the Editor

### OCTOBER 2025

Dear Readers,

#### Editorial for October

Well, we did want rain didn't we? Certainly I was desperate to get into the garden and put plants in that I have had to keep in pots because the ground was too hard to dig!

So what had been going on in the Benefice during the past month? Weston had been busy refurbishing their Village Hall: see the photos. A retirement of a hard working flower arranger at Wem was marked by a visit to Hodnet Hall.

Lee Brockhurst and Wem seem to have been rather quiet. The Diocese however has had a somewhat busier time considering the £42,000,000 that has been released to increase the clergy stipends and help the worst off parishes. Hopefully there will be some left over for other work as well.

In this issue we are also told how to manage our churchyards and prepare for winter. Countryside Matters is considering sheep in upland areas and walking in Nepal concludes my article "Walking in my Life".

Some future activities are also advertised.

Next month no doubt we will be talking about Christmas! The first of December marks the beginning of the new church year and the start of Advent. How time flies!

*Phoebe*

## OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

His Majesty The King has approved the nomination of the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, Downing Street has announced.

The 106<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury since Saint Augustine arrived in Kent from Rome in 597, Bishop Sarah will be the first woman to hold the office.

She will be installed in a service at Canterbury Cathedral in March 2026.

Sarah Mullally has been the Bishop of London since 2018, the first woman appointed to that role, and before that was Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter. Prior to her ordination in 2001, she was the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England – the youngest person ever to be appointed to that role at the age of 37 – having previously specialised as a cancer nurse. Bishop Sarah has described nursing as “an opportunity to reflect the love of God”.

The Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) for Canterbury nominated Bishop Sarah following a process of public consultation and prayerful discernment that began in February this year. The Canterbury CNC was made up of representatives from across the Church of England, global Anglican Communion and the Diocese of Canterbury.

The most senior bishop in the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury's ministry combines many roles including serving as the Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan, as well as *primus inter pares* – or first among equals – of the Primates of the global Anglican Communion, which consists of around 85 million people, across 165 countries. In the House of Lords, the

Archbishop of Canterbury is one of 26 bishops who comprise the Lords Spiritual. Bishop Sarah said:

*“As I respond to the call of Christ to this new ministry, I do so in the same spirit of service to God and to others that has motivated me since I first came to faith as a teenager.*

*At every stage of that journey, through my nursing career and Christian ministry, I have learned to listen deeply – to people and to God’s gentle prompting – to seek to bring people together to find hope and healing.*

*I want, very simply, to encourage the Church to continue to grow in confidence in the Gospel, to speak of the love that we find in Jesus Christ and for it to shape our actions.*

*And I look forward to sharing this journey of faith with the millions of people serving God and their communities in parishes all over the country and across the global Anglican Communion.*

*I know this is a huge responsibility but I approach it with a sense of peace and trust in God to carry me as He always has.”*

---

Following the nomination of Rt Revd Sarah Mullally as 106<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury, our Bishop Michael writes:

*“This is a landmark moment for the Church of England as a woman is nominated to this historic role. I welcome this.*

*"I have every confidence that she has the gifts, the capacity and the commitment required for the Archbishop of Canterbury to continue to be a focus for unity. Her commitment to mutual flourishing is proven and deep seated.*

*"I will be leading the whole Diocese of Lichfield in prayer for her as she prepares to take office.”*



## A PRAYER FOR THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Almighty and everlasting God,  
the only worker of great marvels,  
send down upon your servant Sarah,  
called to be Archbishop of Canterbury,  
and all who are committed to her care,  
the spirit of your saving grace,  
and that they may truly please you,  
pour upon them the continual dew of your blessing.  
Grant this, O Lord,  
for the honour of our advocate and mediator,  
Jesus Christ.  
Amen.



## THE CHURCHES OF WEM AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DEANERY

This is the seventh instalment of my account of the churches  
in this Rural Deanery in alphabetical order.



### **ALL SAINTS CHURCH,** **GRINSHILL**

There has been a church in Grinshill for centuries, first as a chapelry of Shawbury, and then as an independent parish church from probably the 17<sup>th</sup> century. But this church was built in 1839-40 by the architect John Carline junior of Shrewsbury, who had built St Michael's church in Shrewsbury (now a Masonic Hall) in 1829 and who also built Albrighton church, near Shrewsbury, in 1840-41. Many of the headstones in Grinshill churchyard are older than the present church.



Samuel Bagshaw in 1851 wrote that 'the beautiful and romantic village of Grinshill is delightfully situated, and contains many good residences, occupied by respectable families'. The church, he added, 'had a neat, light, and beautiful appearance'. Dean Cranage, on the other hand, wrote in 1912 that 'at the present day we should say that it is an ugly example of "modern Norman" work'. Opinions





change. John Leonard in 2004 thought that the aspect from the south was impressive and the interior light and airy.

The church is built of red sandstone from the nearby quarry and it consists of nave and chancel with a west tower, which probably contains stones from the earlier church. The tower, which was rebuilt in 2009-10 at the cost of £80,000 (half from English Heritage), always strikes me as rather

Italianate. It is certainly distinctive. There is no porch (unlike Carline's church at Albrighton), but perhaps this was a deliberate omission to show off the fine south doorway. Nave and chancel are separated by a wooden screen carved by six parishioners to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. Much of the woodwork was carved by the sisters of the Vicar of the time, the Revd John Wright, including the altar, reredos, pulpit, and pew ends. The east window is by W G Taylor of London and shows the Crucifixion with Jesus, Mary, and John. The one-manual organ is by Forster and Andrews of Hull, 1885. The clock is by Joyce of Whitchurch, 1927.

In 2014 a Record of the contents of the church was produced by members of NADFAS (The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies). There is a copy in the



church of this invaluable and exhaustive catalogue of the furnishings, windows, and monuments.

Grinshill church seems to be usually unlocked. It is part of a four parish benefice covering Astley, Clive, Grinshill, and Hadnall.



The East Window

## Notes from The Diocese for October 2025



### Gratitude, Opportunity and Hope

ARAN KATARIA



### *If money talks, let's listen together to what it's saying to Lichfield Diocese*

Ever noticed? People who are at ease about big money talk about 'a sum north of ...'. Although confusingly mixing compass and currency, it reveals a deep truth: a large sum of money might bring a

polar chill: the burden of choices and the risk of temptations and dissension. It needs skilled handling to bring blessing.

The additional £400 million extra over three years across 42 dioceses being released from the Church of England's historic assets, an amount of arctic proportions according to the popular yardstick, could, rather should, bless us. A good first response might be gratitude, caution and reaching for a calculator. Caution is valuable because it stops us from falling into two traps: imagining where we would spend the money for our own benefit rather than for the Kingdom, and, worse, imagining where we would spend the same sum twice.

Thankfully, the calculations are being done by Lichfield Diocese's very skilled finance team.

Gratitude to God is the gateway to asking God what divine and loving purpose it is there to fulfil, because money calls us into a future plan. This money also comes with wonderful timing. The ten goals of Seeking the Kingdom can guide our efforts, there is the opportunity to use the extra money to fund new activities, especially in parishes where there are identifiable possibilities for growth but resources are short. Much of our focus in Seeking the Kingdom is rightly on our parishes.

We are relieved of some choices but have to make others. To ease the costs of a substantial 11.1% increase in clergy stipends to support the well-being of clergy and their families in every parish, part of the extra money is specifically for our 25% least well-off parishes. We can all warm to this proposal: well-being, financial and otherwise for clergy, is our collective responsibility. Better still, the whole church family and all those who contribute so generously the lion's share of the costs of clergy, buildings and mission will benefit too: more funding for less prosperous parts of the diocese gives us the opportunity to reduce the amount of mutual support needed. Well-being is at the heart of the direction and goals of Seeking the Kingdom, our plan for 2025-2030. Churches that flourish and people that flourish do so because they are immersed in the common activity of building the Kingdom of God and building the Kingdom brings more flourishing: it's a virtual circle.

Questions will arise about how the rest of the money that we will receive is to be used and our diocesan decision-makers will be taking a look at next year's budget starting this Autumn with consultations in each Episcopal Area, taking proposals to Synod

in October. The additional money over which we have a choice has the power to call us all into a new future. It is tapered over nine years, so we can't simply spend it on business as usual as it won't last. Can we all gather round the idea that it is there to give us hope in a sustainable future and to address the challenge posed afresh that we are sustaining ourselves at present using a diminishing pot of reserves?

***Over the next few months, the whole diocese - parishes, clergy, lay leaders... everyone - is invited to explore attitudes to money together, looking at 'Gratitude, Opportunity and Hope'.***

***Arun Kataria is the Diocesan Director of Communications,***  
*helping share news around the diocese and working closely with colleagues on staff and synods to promote our diocesan goals –*  
[www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-vision](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-vision)







## Putting your meadow to bed for the winter!

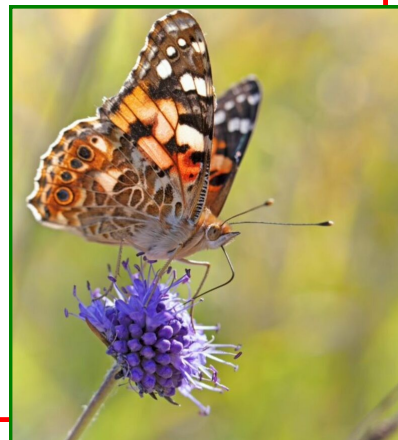
It's often thought that encouraging wildlife into churchyards or cemeteries is a case of leaving them to go wild and stopping management. Actually, this is not the case.

Many of the species and habitats found in burial grounds have been present for the decades or even centuries that this special place has been cared for. These plants, animals, birds and fungi will have been widespread in the farmed landscape of the past. If you want to maintain or increase wildlife in your local churchyard or cemetery then the best thing to do is to continue this traditional work rather than making a big change and leaving things



unmanaged. Most churchyards are a mix of grassland with individual trees or groups of trees which can be thought of as small woodlands. There may well be some patches of scrub as well. It is the grassland that needs regular management if it is not to change its character and we can look to the history of churchyards for clues on how to do this.

We know that churchyards were kept open and accessible as they were always important community spaces, used for outdoor services, for archery practice, markets and fairs as well as for burial. There are records of a hay crop being taken which formed part of the vicar's stipend and of grazing after the hay was cut. For much of history, grass was an important energy crop, so a meadow would be cut at the height of its growth in summer, when the bulk of the nutrients are above ground, and any cut grass





would be dried as hay, raked up and taken to feed animals in winter. Small patches of meadow, such as that found on verges and in churchyards, might not seem worth 'farming' now but would have had value back in the day. The wonderful shows of

wildflowers that we see in our churchyard meadows are made of plants able to thrive in these conditions, able to survive cutting and grazing. Meadow plants tend to be perennial, these can survive the winter, often living for many years. Perennials do not actually need to flower or set seed although doing so will allow them to increase in number. There are a few meadow plants that are annuals and don't survive over winter but these, such as yellow rattle, tend to flower early prior to the hay cut, so can grow each year from the seed that has fallen.

Another difference between old fashioned systems and our modern world is mowing machines. These are relatively recent inventions and have become more efficient over the years, able to cut grass really short and very uniform. Again, if you want to increase the flowers, pollinators and wildlife generally, having a slightly longer sward, perhaps cut less often can make a big difference as short-stemmed plants like clovers, daisies, cat's ear and speedwells can then flower. Things were generally less tidy in the past, as well as a more uneven sward, there would have been edges and corners that didn't get cut, so places for animals to withdraw to following grass cutting, and to shelter in over winter. Thinking in this way can help to make meadow management easy to understand:





Let the grass grow long for 3 or 4 months over the spring and summer, follow this by a summer cut and rake (you can make hay if you like or just remove the cut grass). Don't worry about cutting flowers, the plants will survive and some species may regrow



and flower again. N.B. If you don't want to cut particularly late flowering species such as scabious or knapweed, then cut the bulk of the meadow and leave some flowery patches till later on.

Keep grass short over the autumn and winter, the time when it might have been grazed in the past. You'll probably use a mower for this. Again, do not leave grass cuttings *in situ*, try to collect them all up and remove for composting.

Remember that, as far as nature goes, we are now a bit too tidy! Set the mower blade high and leave some rough edges or corners. These tussocky corners will contain coarser grasses such as false oat grass and cocksfoot, plants with hollow stems such as hogweed and dead flower heads – all really good places for insects, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals to hide, hunt and hibernate over winter.

So what can you do in October? Not much actually, the hard work should be over! You can make sure that all meadow areas have been cut, raked and are now short, ready for the winter, and can leave any rough corners and dead flower stems as they are, rather than being messy they are a vital resource for the winter.

***Harriet Carty,***

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, [harriet@cpga.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cpga.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 **diomem22**

## COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS

— October 2025

from ROGER ASHTON

### ***The Uplands***

The Uplands of the UK are a vital part of our agriculture and farming. In recent years they have come under increasing pressure from government policies, much higher input costs and labour shortages. The change in subsidy support to the environmental schemes has caused confusion and a complete rethink on how to maintain and move forward these essential farm businesses a lot of which are small family units generations old with their vast experience of this way of life. There are some big estates too and the National Parks which have a responsibility to uphold these principles and not go in for financially lucrative mass tree planting schemes! Sheep are adapted to thriving in these challenging uplands. Sheep grazing has shaped the way our glorious uplands look over several centuries now. They support biodiversity, build carbon storage through



**A group of Herdwicks**

on the lower slopes of Helm Crag near Grassmere.

maintaining grassland, reduce wildfire risk and provide nutritious food. The tougher breeds of beef cattle have a place here too, they can thrive without extra concentrate food and trample and control the spread of bracken and eat down scrub. Uplands contain large areas of peat bog and they are the greatest form of carbon storage.

The Uplands are the centre for Grouse Shooting, this boosts the local economy and despite some controversy the management of heather contributes to its health. Farmers, government and environmental groups must work together to protect food production in these areas.



Upland farming delivers much more than food, it sustains rural communities, protects iconic landscapes. It underpins the rural tourism economy and so constitutes a strategic national asset.



With reference to sheep, they have an historic and cultural place in our hearts going back to the very significant part they played in biblical stories.

*Jesus the Lamb of God, Jesus the Good Shepherd, feed your sheep.*

Abbé Michel Quoist would like to see with God's own eyes:

**IT IS DARK**



It is only one totally blind who puts him or herself completely into the hands of God, to be led like a child. So, to raise the service of the Christian above the human level, the Lord is obliged to plunge one into darkness. One then learns to rely on God only.

He once had great faith in organised activities, and now he no longer knows what course to take. She once believed in the effectiveness of her words, and now she can no longer express herself. He once valued meetings, and now those he has carefully prepared fail dismally. Where she had met only with success, she now encounters only reverses. And God, seemingly to make fun of their sudden and total ineffectiveness, acts along channels of his own without the help of this 'useless servant'. When the Christian, ashamed and in despair, turns to Christ to weep, they no longer find him.

This is a painful time. The Christian musn't try to escape it, but does need to be reassured.

As the dam checks the flow of water to raise its level and unchain its power, so God, through outward failure, raises his disciple above the

---

**Mark 15:33-34**

*At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.<sup>34</sup> And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice... 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'*



Lord, it is dark.

Lord, are you here in my darkness?

Your light has gone out, and so has its reflection on us and on  
all things around us.

Everything seems grey and sombre as when a fog blots out the  
sun and enshrouds the earth.

Everything is an effort, everything is difficult, and I am  
heavy-footed and slow.

Every morning I am overwhelmed at the thought of another day.

I long for the end, I yearn for the oblivion of death.

I should like to leave,

run away,

flee,

anywhere, escape.

Escape what?

You, Lord, others, myself, I don't know,

But leave,

Flee.

I progress haltingly like a drunkard

From force of habit, unconsciously.

I go through the same motions each day, but I know that they  
are meaningless.

I walk, but I know that I get nowhere.

I speak, and my words seem dreadfully empty, for they can reach  
only human ears and not the living souls who are far above.

Ideas themselves escape me, and I find it hard to think.

I stammer, confused, blushing,

and I feel ridiculous and abashed, for people will notice me.

Lord, am I losing my mind?

Or is all this what you want?





It wouldn't matter, except that I am alone.

I am alone.

You have taken me far, Lord; trusting, I followed you, and you walked at my side,

And now, at night, in the middle of the desert, suddenly you have disappeared.

I call, and you do not answer.

I search, and I do not find you.

I have left everything, and now am left alone.

Your absence is my suffering.

Lord, it is dark.

Lord, are you here in my darkness?

Where are you, Lord?

Do you love me still?

Or have I wearied you?

Lord, answer,

Answer!

It is dark.

*'I am the Light of the World'*

*painting by  
William Holman Hunt*

**('Dark Night of the Soul'**

**by John of the Cross  
elaborates on this theme)**



from **'Prayers of Life'** by Michel Quoist

ISBN 0-7171-0158-4



**RIDE+STRIDE** – on Saturday 13 September 2025

**Ride+Stride is an opportunity for YOU to raise money for your Church.** Anyone can join in - collect **sponsors**, then plan your own route - walk, bike, **or car** - visit some churches - enjoy the day. If you are busy on the 13<sup>th</sup>, go another day - which is what a lot of people do.

The **sponsorship money is split 50/50 between your local Church** and the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT), which awards grants for repairs and improvements to our Churches and Chapels.

So 100% goes to our places of worship.

This is definitely a **‘Good Thing’**.

---

*The above was the introduction to the **RIDE+STRIDE** advert from Shropshire Historic Churches Trust in last month's magazine – and, yes, it is definitely a **‘Good Thing’** if you take the car or perhaps walk! Biking is something else, unless of course you have an electric bike. We didn't; that's Sue Udy (from Clive, riding for Lee) and I (riding for Wem, Lee and Weston). We thought it would be a good thing to relive past efforts when Bob (Sue's late husband), Sue and I regularly rode for Ride+Stride when I was Vicar in Hadnall, Astley, Clive and Grinshill. What we should have remembered was that we were 8 or 9 years older! We did make some preparation; several training rides of about 10 miles and, importantly, get the paper work sorted out – that meant seeking sponsorship... Many of you came up trumps as far as that was concerned, and I would like to thank you all very much for your support, both for us and for the three churches.*

### **THE RIDE.**

*Rain had been forecast, so some wet weather gear was necessary, a bite to eat somewhere en route, and some water to drink made up the final preparation. I left from Wem and met Sue at Clive – already*

*panting a bit (me, not Sue) – and we set off at 10 o'clock having agreed the route and 'not to go overboard'! That was a laugh.*

*Clive, Grinshill then Hadnall came up quite quickly and then down to Astley, the first of the churches to be manned, biscuits and a drink available but we decided to crack on as the weather was dry. We made for Shawbury, again manned, then on to Stanton and Moreton Corbet and the first sign of the promised rain. After sheltering for a short while we made for the first of our churches, St Peter's at Lee Brockhurst. Deciding not to continue on the A49 – we had already had a couple of close misses on the A53 – we took a couple of 'short cuts' over Lee*



*Astley - still looking good!*

*Hill and 'Weston Hill' to St Luke's, Weston – they weren't that short or comfortable – before changing our route plan to head for Wem. Sue had the wind under her rear mudguard by this time and decided to extend the route taking in Prees Green Methodist Church and St Chad's, Prees itself before making for Whixall. We had to don our wet weather gear for the first time but the rain did not last long. By the time we reached Whixall Church we were in a muck sweat. We stopped at Edstaston and then followed the rain into Wem – very heavy but fortunately it kept ahead of us. We took a break at 25 Fismes Way where Margaret made coffee and we ate our sandwiches there. Never have I been so reluctant to leave home but despite the fatigue we had to get on. We had visited 15 churches by the time we*

*had been to Wem Methodist Church and St Peter & St Paul's, Wem. We retraced our route a little and headed for Newtown via The Moat Shed. Dismounting at Newtown proved a problem and I ended up flat on my back, fortunately on the lawn. No damage done except to my dignity.*

*That left four churches to do; Loppington, Burlton, Myddle and Broughton, which I have to say were completed in a bit of a daze.*

*We had visited the 20 churches! Remember we were not going to go overboard...*

*We parted company at Broughton, Sue back to her home near Clive and I 'rode' back to Wem. Oh well, we had certainly achieved more than we bargained for: 20 churches and about 55 miles.*

*Would I do it again? Certainly not on the bicycles shown below! But ask me next year!*

*What I can say is that getting up in the pulpit on Sunday morning in St Lukes, Weston, was agony! Sue assures me that she felt no pain at all. ...Not sure which was more painful for me.*





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



## **St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church**

### **SUNDAYS**

08:00—Holy Communion

09:45—Sung Eucharist

### **4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY**

17:00—Prayer & Praise

### **THURSDAYS**

09:30—Holy Communion

---

## **SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER**

### **SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER—16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY after TRINITY**

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

### **SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER—17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY after TRINITY**

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

### **SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER—18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY after TRINITY**

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

### **SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER—BIBLE SUNDAY**

08:00 & 09:45—Holy Eucharist

17:00—Prayer & Praise

**You are welcome to join us  
at any of our services!**



***“Growing in Faith, Hope and Love”***





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



**EVENTS**

**SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

**14:30 Piano Duets Concert**

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

**12:00 Bring and Share Harvest Lunch**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

**11:30- 13:30 Community Lunch**

**23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

**Art Society Annual Exhibition**

**SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> November**

**10:00-12:00 Coffee Morning**

**The Rector can be contacted via email  
[revjohnjukes@gmail.com](mailto:revjohnjukes@gmail.com)**



***“Growing in Faith, Hope and Love”***

## WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH



Sunday 26th October  
at 5 pm in the Church  
*Please come along for a quiet  
time together*

### CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS

Following on from our recent September coffee morning we plan to hold coffee mornings on:

#### **1<sup>st</sup> November**

*(deferred for 1 week because we are hosting the Art Society Annual Exhibition at the end of October)*

#### **13<sup>th</sup> December The Christmas Fayre**

We have a stall for Homemade cakes, Olive brings Gluten Free cakes and biscuits, David and Margaret's scones (especially cheese ones) are always winners, Tricia bakes the ever-popular fruit cake, Sarah's Chocolate Brownies were a hit too. We often have chocolate cake & lemon drizzle cake and I expect this month there will be apple cake.

July & August have seen plentiful harvest of soft fruits, strawberries, raspberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants, blackberries and plums and now there are courgettes, tomatoes and wind fall cooking apples.

I have been busy making :-

- Strawberry Jam, Raspberry Jam
- Blackcurrant Jam, Blackberry Jam
- Tutti Fruiti Jam (Strawberry, Raspberry, Blackcurrant & Redcurrant)



- Spiced Port & Plum Jam
- Blackcurrant and Rhubarb Jam
- Plum and Redcurrant Jam
- Blackcurrant & Orange Jelly
- Autumn Marmalade (Lemon, Lime & Apple)
- Lemon, Courgette and Thyme Marmalade
- Redcurrant and Apricot Chutney
- Plum and Apple Chutney
- Red Tomato and Celery Chutney
- Tangy Courgette Relish
- Yellow Courgette and Tomato Relish

So whether you are looking for a traditional jam or something a little different do visit my Preserves Stall.

There are tombola and raffle stalls. Alan & Wendy are going to look after the bric a brac stall and would appreciate donations of pre-loved goods. We have recently started a book stall stocked with donated books and are asking folks to put a donation in the box if they are taking a book away. And finally, there is the jigsaw exchange where you can take away a jigsaw for £2 or if you bring a jigsaw in exchange, you will be charged £1. If you would like to help with the raffle or serving coffee, please speak to Elaine Shaw who is coordinating volunteers for our coffee mornings. Donations of books, homemade cakes and raffle prizes are always welcome.

Although these coffee mornings do raise funds for church, the main reason that Bette and June started coffee mornings was to give people the chance to meet up and chat so do use this opportunity to meet with friends and come and support our coffee mornings this autumn.

*Sybil*

# OCTOBER COFFEE MORNING

10:00 –12:00

IN ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S  
CHURCH HALL

**SATURDAY**  
**1st November**

*deferred for 1 week because we are hosting the  
Art Society Annual Exhibition at  
the end of October*

**Please join us for Coffee  
and a Chat**

**TOMBOLA**

**Raffle**

*Homemade Cakes  
Jams, Marmalades  
Chutneys*

**Bric & Brac**

**BOOKS**

**JIGSAWS**

Growing  
in  
Faith,  
Hope  
and  
Love



### THE JIGSAW EXCHANGE

Don't forget the Jigsaw exchange at our coffee mornings. Jigsaws galore with the plan that you can take away a jigsaw for £2 or if you bring a jigsaw to exchange then you will be asked to donate £1.

I hope this will enable us to share our jigsaws and raise a little extra for church funds. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Sybil



The Church is looking for people to join our choir.  
We practice on a Thursday evening in the Church  
from 7:30 – 8:30pm.

Why not come along and give it a try. You're guaranteed  
a very warm welcome and no obligation!

*For further information please contact Elaine on 07969 511590*

## *Musical Events in Wem Parish Church*



Following on from the piano recital by Sarah Beth Briggs, more music events are planned for the autumn.

Firstly, on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October** at 2:30 pm there will be a piano duet recital by Nigel

Clayton and Imma Setiadi. They will play an entertaining selection of music for 4 hands at 1 piano. We will serve refreshments (tea or coffee & cake) in the church hall during the interval.

---

In November the Community Choir will be giving a concert. (**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 19:00.**) This has been cancelled but it will hopefully take place in the Spring. Watch this space.

---

In December Brass Buttons, a brass quartet, have kindly accepted our invitation to join Kim Archer, Elaine Shaw and Glyn Williams in a Christmas themed concert with audience participation. This will be on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 14:00**, so please keep this date free so that you can join us for this celebratory event.



## THANK YOU, OLIVE



For many years Olive Kenward has been involved with church flowers, initially helping Pip Parkhurst on Special occasions but more recently not only organising the rota of the church flower arrangers; but also, regularly doing arrangements herself and popping into church during the week to keep the flowers watered.



Earlier this year Olive sadly decided that she needed to step down from church flower arranging, so the Flower arrangers decided that we would say thank you to Olive by taking her out to lunch. We had a very pleasant morning in Hodnet Hall Gardens, Olive, Dee, Gill and I strolled around the kitchen gardens to see figs & tomatoes in the



greenhouses, aubergines, peppers, various brassica, pumpkins and courgettes in the vegetable patch. Dahlias and Salvia added bright colours to the area. There were huge blackberries and trees laden with apples.



Penny, Denise and Katharine were more adventurous, exploring the gardens and walking around lake.

We then met up for lunch in the restaurant. There was a good selection of sandwiches, soup and salads which we enjoyed before indulging in the irresistible cake selection – Pear & Ginger, Coconut and Marmalade, Lemon Drizzle, Blackberry Bakewell.

We reminisced over many things especially the flower festival held during the restoration appeal.



So **THANK YOU OLIVE** for all the organising and flower arranging you've done at SS Peter and Paul's and for giving us a reason to share a lunch together.

We may even visit the gardens again to see the Azaleas in the Spring.

*Sybil*

*The Parish Church of St Peter, Lee Brockhurst*

St Peter's Church




Come and join us here on Wednesdays  
15<sup>th</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> November  
for "Coffee and Chat"

Any time between 10.30 and 12.00

No charge but donations to the church welcomed

For further information ring 07858123669





St. Peter's Church  
Lee Brockhurst

***Autumn Festive  
Fayre***

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November  
At Lee Brockhurst  
Village Hall

10.30 until 12.00

*Coffee, mince pies  
Crafts cakes,  
Bric-a-brac  
Raffle & More*

Everyone welcome



## **The Harvest Supper at Lee Brockhurst**

Bookings for the Supper were slow to come in but in the end 25 villagers and congregation sat down to homemade soup with artisan bread and fruit pies and crumbles of various descriptions.



Several baskets full of home grown and shop bought vegetables and fruit, originally displayed in the church at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service the previous



day, had been taken to the Village Hall for the auction. They were augmented by homemade marmalade and jars of honey, some baking and a large marrow that had been left on the church wall during the week!

At 7.30 pm prompt the soup and bread were served (tomato, butternut squash, minestrone or leek and potato), there was plenty left for seconds. The dessert followed, all homemade, apple pies, blackberry and apple crumbles, rhubarb and apple crumble and plum and apple crumble; with custard. Thanks go to Sue Wilton-Morgan, Val Lusby, Jackie Clarke, Izzy Lester and Phoebe Ashton for the excellent food, also to Miriam and Ian Wilson for their very welcome help in the kitchen.

When everybody had eaten all they could and many of the pans and dishes were empty, but not all, Rob Haarhoff started the auction ably helped by Sarah Orell who introduced a very amusing presentation of the items to be auctioned, (three

quarters of a ratatouille, or a collection of vegetables for a winter's meal).



Roger Ashton kept a careful note of all that was auctioned and also took the ticket money at the door.



Many thanks to Rob for making the auction such fun and also for saying grace at the beginning of the proceedings. The whole evening was very enjoyable and it was good to see one or two new faces at the tables. We made

just over £300.00, a little more than last year but not so much as the year before when we had a larger attendance.

***And a big thank you for all who attended, for without you – well!***



## Walking In My Life—part 3

*Phoebe reminisces about another  
important part of her life*

Well, the Alps were originally a challenge but I got used to seeing steep slope from a distance and finding them not so steep when I finally got to them. So George and I decided we would travel to Nepal and do some walking in the Himalayas. We had planned to include this in our “round the world trip” to visit my brother in Australia but this was in the future and George was worried that Nepal was becoming a tourist destination and wanted to get there before this happened.

So we arranged with a friend from the Austrian Alpine club, whose husband was Nepalese to do a trek to Annapurna Sanctuary. Our good friend Ray asked if he could join us so a trip was planned for three people. We flew to Delhi, not the best airport to arrive in at the best of times. The Passport Control Officer looked at my passport and decided I had altered my name from Lewis to Mills myself! Of course this was not the case as I had sent it to Petty France and the alteration had been done officially. He did let me in I am pleased to say. From Delhi we flew to Kathmandu; the plane journey was amazing as we flew alongside the Himalayan mountains and could identify the main ones such as Everest, Annapurna etc. We stayed in Kathmandu for about 3 days. here we had to obtain our Trekking Permits to enter the Himalayan National Park and hire down jackets and sleeping bags. We had purchased kit bags in England which the porters would carry.



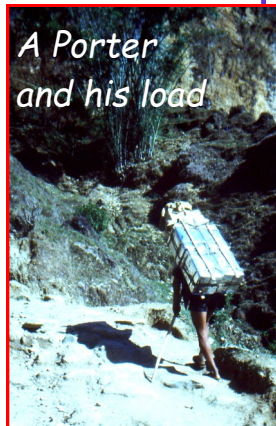
We met the husband of our English friend, Ang Zangbu, who took us to a European Hotel called The Mustang Holiday Inn and the next day were taken to some of the main places of interest in Kathmandu. These included Pashupatinath a very large Hindu Temple, a very large Bhuddist Chorten and also a much smaller Buddhist Temple at Bodnath with a female Buddha which was a surprise to us. We passed the butchers

street where the flies were landing on the meat in their droves. I decided I would be vegetarian on the trek!

We were introduced to our guide Da Cheeri Sherpa, who we called Dower for the trek. He was twenty three years old and had only a limited understanding of English! A coach ride to Pokara, the main destination for the start of many of the Himalayan treks, was booked and we set off for an eight hour trip. Stops were made en route, tea was served with pepper/ginger in it and no milk! At midday we had a typical Nepalese meal comprising lentils (dhal), vegetables and rice; served on a stainless steel tray with depressions for each of the components of the meal.

We arrived in Pokara and our Sherpa hired a porter willing to carry 3 kit bags, his name was Balbardo. This was to be a Tea Shop Trek (sort of bed and breakfast and evening meal Nepalese style). Toilets were primitive and usually a fair distance from the accommodation. When George got the dreaded lurgy Balbardo carried George's rucksack as well as the three kit bags.

We were mainly walking and any climbing was via stone steps or steep paths. At first we walked on a piece of Chinese constructed road which was still "work in progress" and very dusty, then gradually



uphill through rhododendron forests. We progressed in this way for 3 days and then had to change our plans because the track we were to follow along the side of a narrow valley had had avalanches and was impassable. We were offered an alternative trek which would take us down to the Kali Gandaki River This took us away from the mountains but proved to be

most interesting. On the first evening we had the luxury of sitting in a pool on the edge of the river, heated by hot springs, we shared this with people of all nations, we remained fully clothed. Most of the river crossings are via wire suspension bridges high above the water, often with planks missing, which sway quite alarmingly until one gets used to them!



*A 'swing' bridge*

We followed the river for seven days and then left it to trek towards our final destination. Once again we were in the vicinity of another road built by the Chinese. We discovered that these roads had two disadvantages to the Nepalese population. The first being that the porters who carried large

loads from one town to another were made redundant because of the trucks which could carry maybe 1000 times one porter's load. The second was that Tea Houses were bypassed by these roads and the owners lost their business. We visited one such Tea House and there was some concern because they were not geared up for trekkers any longer. However, they rallied round and found us food for the evening meal and breakfast. We returned to Pokara where we caught a flight back to Kathmandu.

My second trek in Nepal took place in 2004 I had kept up my Austrian Alpine Club membership and contacts and thought a trip to Kanchenjunga Base Camp 5143m, would be an interesting thing to do. I was pretty sure I could do this because a gentleman whom I knew well was definitely not as fit as I was and was signed up for the trip.

This time we were a large party, 26 of us, and we had the chief Sherpa, Ang Phurba. There were eight other Sherpas, a Cook and some twenty porters. This trek was a Camping Trek 21 nights under "canvas" in shared tents.



This time we stayed only 2 nights in Kathmandu before taking a plane to Taplejung, however we had a four hour wait as the second plane had to be repaired before we could fly. Because we were a large party we were in two groups. We arrived at the start of the trek, had a hot drink, and then walked for four hours in the dark to our first campsite.



We had all been asked to bring head torches, I was the only one who had hers in her day sack! I took to camping in Nepal like a duck to water. Woken with a cup of tea, then a bowl of hot water for washing and then pack up and leave the tent and our kit bags for the porters to dismantle and carry to the lunch site where we would spend about an hour. I chose to go vegetarian and so eggs formed quite a large part of our diet but we had porridge for breakfast and vegetables with the eggs and some cheese and lots of water and soft drinks en route.

*A Lunch Break*



Each day we climbed a little higher and

every two days we had

a rest day when we were expected to climb a bit higher and then return to our camp. Night one was at 1330m, then over the next five days we gradually climbed to 1680m, 2590m and 2790m. On our rest day we climbed to 3360m and back then two days trekking 4040m and 4700m another rest day and we reached Kanchenjunga Base Camp 5065m on our 13<sup>th</sup> day. En route we were constantly walking down to rivers, crossing them on one of the aforementioned bridges and then up the other side. Towards the end of the trek up we



woke to find snow on our tents. It was very cold at night and one had to dress up in order to visit the "toilet"! This was a small tent with a hole dug to about 1m, toilet paper on a string, two of these were provided for the 26 persons on the trek. Often it was quicker at night to find a secluded place for our visit!

The villages we passed through were small, the inhabitants friendly. We passed schools with roofs but no walls so we could see the children and lots of terraces where



*Nepalese Farm*

rice was planted or growing. I understand that the climate of Nepal enables the farmers to grow 3 crops a year. However, there is no mechanisation and on the first trek we saw a farmer using a wooden plough, just like in Biblical days. Although the people are subsistence farming they seemed very happy and lived a simple life waking when



daylight came and going to bed when it got dark. Not many towns have electricity and there are no clean water supplies in many villages. The children come flocking round trekkers asking for “Pens” I am not sure why this is. Many of us were not geared up to give things to the children and indeed we were discouraged from aiding them to beg.

Our return to “civilisation” was via a plane to north India and a coach to a place called Siliguri. We did a return trip on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Toy Train. The final day we took a trip to see the dawn break on Tiger Hill where we had a splendid view of the Eastern Himal at sunrise. We then returned to Kathmandu where we had a two day stay before flying back home.



*Annapurna*

This is a holiday I will never forget, the companionship, the organisation of Ang Phurba, the camping and the views of Kanchenjunga and the other equally beautiful mountains, not to mention the lovely Nepalese people that we met. I was fired up to go again but in the end

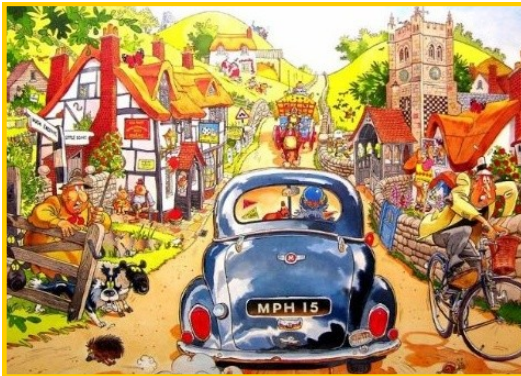
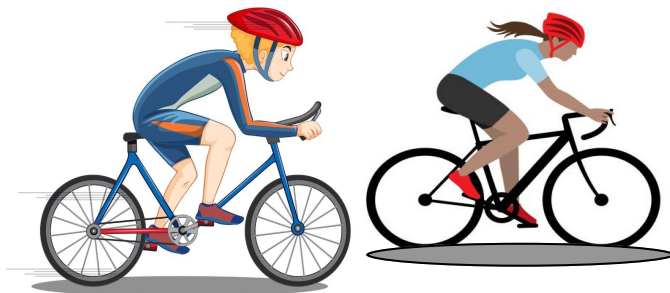
decided that once was enough. I am now happy to spend time walking in our own country or Europe and visiting my relatives in Australia from time to time!

*P.S. If you would like to see more of Nepalese Trekking I am available to give “slide shows” to groups or organisations. **PHOEBE***



## Ride and Stride 2025

Ride and Stride this year took place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, the weather was mixed. Two intrepid cyclist Rob Haarhoff and Sue Udy set off from Wem and did 55 miles and visited 20 churches.



In contrast Roger and Phoebe Ashton drove 35 miles but visited only 10 churches.

In total these four people raised £200.00 in sponsorship money for the Historic Churches Trust, half of which will come back to Lee Brockhurst church. Many thanks and much admiration go to Sue and Rob for their splendid effort. The less said about Roger and Phoebe's effort the better perhaps!

*The Parish Church of St Luke,*

*Weston-under-Redcastle*



### RESTORATION PROJECT OF WESTON'S VILLAGE HALL

THE RESTORATION PROJECT FOR OUR VILLAGE HALL IS  
NOW ON IT'S WAY!

BIG PLANS HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP, BEGINNING WITH  
NEW WINDOWS BEING FITTED IN OCTOBER.  
A LARGE GROUP OF VILLAGERS HAVE CLEARED AND TIDIED  
UP THE GROUNDS AND HAVE GIVEN THE INSIDE  
A PROPER SPRING CLEAN.

NOW THE PAINT BRUSHES AND ROLLERS ARE  
WORKING HARD ON THE RAILINGS AND IN THE MAIN  
ROOM.

A REAL COMMUNITY SPIRIT WITH LOTS OF FUN.  
JOIN US IF YOU CAN.





**THE TEAM**



***Hard at Work!***







**APOLOGIES FOR THE LATENESS OF THIS ISSUE.**

SOMETHING TO DO WITH A HOLIDAY!  
AND PRESSURE OF WORK—YES, WORK!

NO PROMISES, BUT THE EDITORIAL TEAM  
WILL TRY HARDER — **MUST** TRY HARDER!

Thank you very much  
to all our contributors.

THE NOVEMBER ISSUE  
needs your input preferably by **15th October,**  
**but definitely no later than 20th,** 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

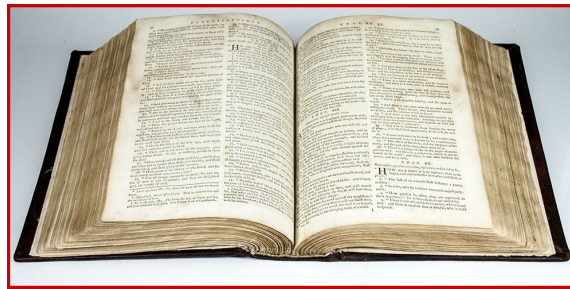


# ***THE LAST PAGE***

## **The Collect for Bible Sunday**

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen



***Bible Sunday is a special day, celebrated by many churches annually, to acknowledge the importance and transformative power of the Bible in Christian life. While it's often observed on the last Sunday of October in the UK, the date is flexible, allowing churches to recognize the Bible on any suitable day. The celebration encourages people to give thanks for scripture, read and reflect on its passages, and support the ongoing work of Bible Societies and translators in making the Bible accessible in all languages.***

