

Weston Bampfylde and Little Weston
Newsletter August/September 2024

Here is the promised update for August. I have also included services during September as well but will also be publishing a new newsletter for September.

The beginning of the month sees the start of our new Interim Minister's time with us. We look forward to her time in Cam Vale, as well as being Bruton and Cary Area Dean. Caroline's service of welcome is on August 1st, and she will be at services throughout the Benefice during the coming months

Contact for the Village Hall

Booking secretary and Treasurer

Rob Malton, email, r.malton@btinternet.com. Tel, 01963 440663

Contacts for Holy Cross Church

Interim Minister; The Revd Caroline Walker. Contact details to follow but she can be contacted through the Parish Office.

Parish Office; Mrs Kerry Pike, email, admincamvale@gmail.com

Tel 01963 441595 (Normal office hours Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10.00am to 2.00pm)

Churchwardens;

Sally Strelley; email: sallystrelley82@gmail.com

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Church Treasurer;

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Cam Vale Benefice Services August/September 2024

Thursday 1st August

7.00pm "Celebration for a New Ministry" Welcome and Licencing Service for The Revd Caroline Walker by the Acting Archdeacon of Wells (Revd Charlie Peer)

Sunday 4th August

9.30am Morning Prayer at Queen Camel
10.00am Morning Prayer at Corton Denham
4.00pm Tea @ Four at West Camel

Sunday 11th August

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at West Camel
10.00am Common Worship Holy Communion at Weston Bampfylde

Sunday 18th August

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at Queen Camel

Sunday 25th August

10.00am Together at Ten at Sparkford

Sunday 1st September

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at Queen Camel
10.00am BCP Holy Communion at Corton Denham
4.00pm Tea @ Four at West Camel

Sunday 8th September

9.30 BCP Holy Communion at West Camel
10.00am Morning Prayer at Weston Bampfylde
10.00am Morning Prayer at Sutton Montis

Sunday 15th September

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at Queen Camel
11.00am Harvest Thanksgiving at Sparkford followed by a bring and share picnic in the churchyard/church

Sunday 22nd September

10.00am Together at Ten at Weston Bampfylde

Sunday 29th September

6.00pm United Songs of Praise with the Methodists at West Camel

Weston Bampfylde Church is open daily for private prayer or a quiet time from 10.00am to 4.00pm. All are welcome to use the church at these times

Weston Bampfylde Harvest Thanksgiving

This is an advanced notice of Weston Bampfylde Harvest Thanksgiving service which will be held on Sunday 13th October at 11.00am. The service will be followed by a lunch in the village hall. All will be welcome at both events.

Parish Letter

First of all I would like to apologise to anyone who has had enough of football after the Euro 2024 tournament because I am going to talk about our country's passion, or is it obsession, with football.

It can bring people together but it can also be very divisive, more so even than religion. If someone walked into a church wearing a turban it would not be a problem and they would be welcomed. If I wore my Spurs top and walked into the Gunners Pub near the Emirates Stadium I would most likely be beaten up and thrown out.

The rivalry between England and Scotland fans is well-documented and there is no doubt that most Scotland fans were rooting for Spain in the Final.

The rivalry between fans of different clubs or nations is matched by the intensity and variety of opinions about how a team should be managed.

If ever there was a job where your qualifications and previous experience are seen of little value compared to the views of fans, pundits and commentators, it's the job of football manager. This is true for the manager of any club, from receiving "tactical advice" from parents at an under-11s game or the constant barrage of suggestions aimed at the manager of a struggling Premier League Club.

But this cacophony of advice and suggestions (not all pleasant) reaches a peak when you take on the role of England manager. In the years since the World Cup win of 1966 many have tried but none have matched the expectations of a fan base who believe we have a divine right to win major competitions.

There have been some great highlights during the tournament: Jude Bellingham's overhead kick, 5 perfect penalties, Ollie Watkins last minute goal; and all have been enjoyed but somehow now get overshadowed by the failure to win that one last game.

Which has made me begin to think that there are some similarities between the way we treat England football managers and our relationship with God.

In the same way that people questioned Gareth Southgate's judgement despite his qualifications and experience are we sometimes guilty of questioning God's way of doing things, of not letting God be God?

When we pray to God are we happy to leave him in charge of the details or do we try and micromanage the exact way we would like our prayer answered?

And, perhaps most importantly, do we spend enough time celebrating and enjoying the highlights of our life before we start listing the bits we are not that happy with?

So let's say thank you and farewell to Gareth Southgate, our most successful manager since Alf Ramsay, and be ready to welcome the next person to pick up the poisoned chalice.

And one last thought, maybe it's time to give a woman the job!

Peter Ebsworth