



# Parish of the Holy Cross

## E-Sheet 33

## 17 Feb 2023



### FREEMEN - A BRIEF GUIDE

*Continued from last week*

To counter 'rotten boroughs' based on favouritism, in 1835 an Act of Parliament gave any rate-paying male citizen the right to vote for elected councils and the traditional rights and privileges of the burgesses were withdrawn. Significantly, as a result of this act the burgesses became known as Freemen, because the rate-paying male citizens of the town were now called burgesses. The title of freemen was introduced to differentiate between them and the pre-1835 burgesses.

To recap, up to 1835 burgesses, who were prominent and successful merchants and traders resident in the town had secured its independence, enabled its prosperity, ensured its security, paid its taxes and safeguarded its inhabitants for over 600 years. Post 1835 they became titled freemen and elected councils took over the aforementioned duties. Ironically these councils usually had a number of freemen serving on them because they had the know-how in the running of the town. Therefore all current sworn freemen of Shrewsbury are direct descendants of those pre-1835 burgesses.

Why do we still have freemen when they no longer have a job? Well, in a way they

do. Some 40 towns have freemen and in many they have certain rights protected by law and some are fortunate to retain control of what might be described as prime land. For their part, all they are left with is Pasturage Rights, which pre-1835 burgesses had been granted by royal charter. This entitles the freemen of Shrewsbury, despite several legal challenges, to graze their livestock on the common lands of our town. In Shrewsbury, the Quarry and Kingsland are areas where they could exercise their rights but unfortunately they are only entitled to the pasture, not the land.

**Read the final part next week!**

### QUIZ NIGHT

A big thank you to Roger and Wendy Ford for such a good and fun quiz night in the hall on 12th February. I don't think anyone had the right answer for the collective noun for a group of clergy - a *Prudence!!*

Thank you to Christine Poharyskyi for the excellent spread she put on (*and for the photos - Ed.*). And thank you to all who attended. We raised £150 after expenses which by common consent on Sunday morning at St Peter's has been sent to the DEC Earthquake Appeal, along with a further £210 given at the end of the service. A total of £360 has been given through the Friends of St Peter's. *Steph Fahie*

### JAZZ IN THE CHURCH

Tickets now on sale! Scan QR code or: [www.JackCotterill.co.uk](http://www.JackCotterill.co.uk)





### A PRAYER FOR LENT

Daphne Hugill

Discipline, Lord, we find hard to abide by. Our fallen nature seeks to make us break away, to do what we want to do.

But we know that we need to submit to correction of our habits, which so easily slip and slide into distancing ourselves from You.

Father God, we pray for strength this Lent to override our weakness, perseverance to keep us faithful and for your Holy Spirit to suffuse us with diligence, awareness and greater love for both You and our neighbours. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### ABBEY TOURS 2023

Rev Ian Ross (vicar 1984-2002), Don Smith (Shrewsbury Abbey Guide) and Peter Furniss (Shrewsbury Abbey Guide) are collaborating on two Abbey tours on behalf of U3A.

They are scheduled for **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April** and **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June**, from 10am to 12 noon.

ALL ARE WELCOME to come and discover the story of one of Shrewsbury's most significant buildings. Maximum 25 people per tour. Tea & coffee on arrival.

Please contact Ian Ross: 01743 860327  
e-mail: mail@fiross.plus.com

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**Shrewsbury Choral**  
**Saturday 25th March 2023 at 7.30**  
**Shrewsbury Abbey**

**Rossini - Stabat Mater**  
TICKETS FROM ABBEY (CASH ONLY)  
**Rachmaninoff - Piano Concerto No. 2**  
soloist - Yuxuan Zhao

**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES**  
These are being collected in during the month of February. Please bring your box to a service in either church or leave behind the blue curtain in the Abbey. Thank you! Wendy Ford

**FOOD BANK**  
Do remember your local food bank when next out shopping. Food with a good shelf life is ideal, such as tins, jars and packet food, also basic toiletries such as soap, shower gel, toothpaste, sanitary items, deodorant, toilet rolls... Collections are made every week from both churches.

**REGULARS AT MONKMOOR ROAD**  
↓ St Peter's & Parish Hall ↓

**COFFEE & CHAT**  
Everyone welcome  
Tuesdays at 10.00  
Parish Hall, Monkmoor Road

**TODDLE-IN**  
For babies and toddlers  
Wednesdays in term time, 10.00-11.30  
Parish Hall, Monkmoor Road

**TIDDLE-IN**  
For under-ones (too young to toddle)  
Wednesdays in term time, 12.00-1.30  
Parish Hall, Monkmoor Road

**FORGET-ME-NOT TEA**  
Forget-Me-Not teas are held in the Parish Hall (behind St Peter's Church), Monkmoor Road. on the 1st Wednesday of the Month:

1 March  
5 April  
3 May

**PRAYER GROUP**  
Everyone welcome  
Thursdays, 7.00-8.00pm  
St Peter's Church, Monkmoor Road

Don't be cold or lonely this winter. With rising heating costs and falling temperatures, come and enjoy company, a chat, and hot drinks at our Warm Welcome Space. We offer a free, warm, welcoming space for everyone. Come and see!

**St. Peter's Hall Monkmoor Warm Welcome Space**  
Opens from 22<sup>nd</sup> November

St. Peter's Hall Monkmoor Road Shrewsbury SY2 5BE

Tuesday 10am – 5pm  
Wednesday 2.30 – 5pm

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** 9.30am to 3.30pm Monday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday; 9.30am to 12.00pm Tuesday.  
Office staff need to move around during the day. If there is no reply to the buzzer, or for general queries, please phone.  
Parish of the Holy Cross ~ [www.shrewsburyabbey.com](http://www.shrewsburyabbey.com) ~ [manager@shrewsburyabbey.com](mailto:manager@shrewsburyabbey.com) ~ 01743 232723 / 07968 779008