

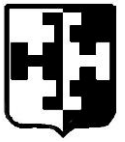


**THE UNITED BENEFICE of ST LUKE'S,
ENDON with ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL**

Encounter, Encourage, Enable ... Committed to Sharing God's Love

Vicar: Rev Alan Betts Tel: 01782 502166

alan@endonstlukes.org.uk www.endonstlukes.org.uk



April 2019



**HE HAS
RISEN!**

**A VERY HAPPY EASTER
TO EVERYONE!**

**Celebrate! Services for
Holy Week and Easter Day p2.**



Services for April

ST LUKE'S

7 th	9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Barrie w Maryanne 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School
14 th	PALM SUNDAY 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's School
18 th	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.30pm HC with foot-washing (optional) - Rev Alan
19 th	GOOD FRIDAY 10.00 – 12.00 EASTER MESSY CHURCH in St Luke's school 2.00 – 3.00pm AN HOUR AT THE CROSS – Rev Alan
21 st	EASTER DAY 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION by extension – Roger w Barrie 11.00am CONNECTIONS EASTER CELEBRATION at St Luke's Primary School
28 th	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School

ST CHAD'S

7 th	9.00am HOLY COMMUNION BCP – Rev Alan 10.45am FAMILY SERVICE - Ian Perry the team
14 th	PALM SUNDAY 10.45am - PRAISE & PRAYER - Kath & Muriel F
18 th	MAUNDY THURSDAY HC at St Luke's with foot washing (optional) – Rev Alan
19 th	GOOD FRIDAY 11.00am SPECIAL SERVICE – Kath
21 st	EASTER DAY 10.45am ALL AGE HC – Rev Alan
28 th	10.45am MORNING PRAYER – Muriel F

MIDWEEK ECUMENICAL HC SERVICES

Wednesdays at 9.15am

3rd & 17th at St Luke's

10th & 24th at the Methodist Church

St Luke's Church: MOVING FORWARD

St Luke's PCC has been looking at what the church does. A long list of activities was produced. I won't record the long list here. I wish to convey to you a summary of what the PCC discussed and to give you a flavour of what that list included. This list included activities we do on a very regular basis throughout the year, for example, Pastoral Visiting. Another example is the small groups that meet most weeks. Recently the church has become the home of the Flower Club that meets fortnightly. And of course it goes without saying that weekly worship is conducted both in church and in the school.

Our list of activities also included the ones we do as a one-off annual event. These activities, for example, include Greet and Treat at Halloween, Samaritan Sunday, our Memorial service for the bereaved and the Remembrance Day service.

When we look at that list of activities you cannot help but feel hugely encouraged at the work we do. ***We do a lot of really good ministry.***

In looking over all the activities we do, it became clear that there are areas of strength and areas that are currently weaker and which need to be improved. We have the option of addressing all these areas in one long sweep. The danger with that is that we have too many plates spinning and we can't keep them all spinning at the same time. The other option is to identify two or three areas as priorities to move St Luke's Church forward. This was the preferred option for taking the church forward. For each priority we define the aim or

purpose, consider how we might achieve that aim and then identify who will do it.

Our Priorities

1. Developing Community links

2. Developing Small Groups

PRIORITY	AIM	HOW	WHO
1. Developing Community Links	<p>To offer opportunities to meet with folks in our wider community.</p> <p>To provide a meeting point for the isolated.</p> <p>To improve our communication with the wider community.</p>	<p>1. Fun(d)raising. This includes a range of social events throughout the year to which others are invited.</p> <p>2. Flower club and development of a Craft/Knit and Natter at the same time.</p> <p>3. Make full use of the Endon Events newsletter.</p>	<p>1. A variety of people who will organise an event/s</p> <p>2. Members of the Club and others willing to offer transport to those feeling isolated.</p> <p>3. Someone to be co-ordinator to ensure we don't miss deadlines for printing.</p>

<p>2. Developing Small Groups</p>	<p>To grow in our own faith and understanding. To enable us to live the way of Jesus, as disciples. To teach a basic introduction to the Christian faith to those who are seeking.</p>	<p>To continue to offer small midweek groups To develop other networks of supportive and encouraging relationships within the church e.g. Prayer Triplets. To offer Alpha or other studies for seekers as necessary.</p>	<p>We need: New group leaders New Alpha leaders</p>
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In what ways do these priorities feed into the Mission and Ministry of St Luke's?

1. Community Links. We wish to develop a church that will *practice the art of invitation*. In all the events that will happen, who are you inviting? Who will you offer transport to? May we continue the practice of the Flower club making arrangements that can be used to decorate the church for special services and then inviting them to that service if they don't already attend?

Fun(d)raising. We hope to ***develop a spirit of generosity*** that some of the proceeds will be given away. If a particular charity is supported we could provide literature on that charity and information about the church and why we are doing this. We have the opportunity to promote the church.

2. Small Groups. There are a variety of ways that we can ***support each other in our faith*** and what it means to be a follower of Christ. Everyone in the church should be connected with each other in some way – the church is the family of God, we belong to each other as brothers and sisters.

Closing thoughts:

This is all exciting and very positive. There is a really good feel of life spreading through St Luke's. It's the difference between an exercise bike and a bicycle. Riding an exercise bike takes a lot of effort and goes nowhere. The bicycle takes as much effort and takes you forward.

May we move forward together and all of us make some contribution to making all this happen.

**God bless.
Alan**

REFLECTION DURING THE SEASON OF LENT

“..... forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”

If I reckon that I first learned those words at Sunday School, then for the best part of 70 years this has been an integral part of my worshipping life. But how many of us think about what it really means in practice?

This is based on a short passage from “Celtic Daily Prayer”.**

“The other morning some of us were gathered in church for Morning Prayer, for a period of silent guided prayer. The Minister said ”Let us pray for those whom we love”. That was easy. Then he said, “Let us pray for those whom we do not love”. And there rose up in my mind three men for whom I had to pray. They were men who had opposed my work. In this they may have been wrong. But my wrong was in resentment and a feeling of letting myself be cut off from them, and even from praying for them, because of it.

Years ago I read a quotation that recurs to me again and again: **“Nine tenths of our suffering is caused by others not thinking so much of us as we think they ought.”** If you want to know where pride nestles and festers in most of us, that is right where it is; and it is not the opposition of others, but our own pride, which causes us the deepest hurt. I never read a word that penetrated more deeply into the sin of pride from which all of us suffer, nor one which opens up more surgically our places of unforgiveness.”

Samuel Moor Shoemaker, “And Thy Neighbour.”

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Submitted by Barrie

JOE PORTER writes....

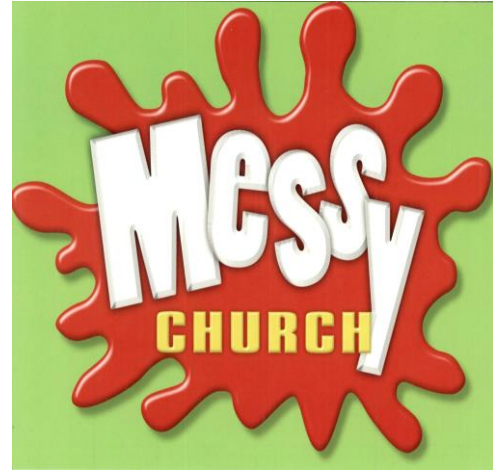


This May I will be participating in two runs to raise money for the Donna Louise Children’s Hospice and the Endon Park Regeneration Project.

Like last year, I will be participating in the Donna Louise 10k Family Fun Run at Trentham Gardens on Sunday 20th May. I will then be participating in the first ever Endon 5k Family Fun Run over the 175th Well Dressing Weekend on Sunday 26th May.

Anyone wishing to support me in my efforts to fundraise for these two worthy causes, would be much appreciated. Please contact me on 07415 560944 or see the sponsorship sheet at the back of church.

EASTER MESSY CHURCH



Good Friday, 19th April

10.00 am – 12.00 noon

St Luke's Primary School

There will be craft activities, an Easter egg hunt, and maybe a hot cross bun!

Children need to be accompanied by an adult.

Bring the family!



ST LUKE'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Our APCM will be held on Thursday **11th April** at 7.00pm (PCC pre-meeting) with the APCM immediately following at 7.30pm in the chapter house. Nine PCC members are required, two churchwardens and a safeguarding officer (see notice below). Nomination sheets on the noticeboard.

A person is also needed to liaise with the editor of '**Endon Events**' so that our church notices are handed to him in time for publication. **PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO ATTEND.**

This is an important meeting. Your church needs you!

COULD YOU BE OUR NEW SAFEGUARDING OFFICER?

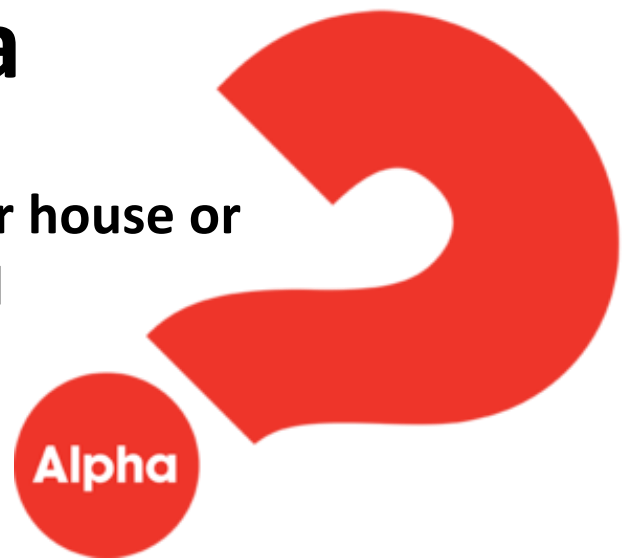
Maryanne has been our Safeguarding officer for many years. She has done a marvellous job and we are very appreciative. However, she is now retiring from this important role at our APCM on April 11th. All the groundwork has been done. If you feel you could take on this job please see Rev Alan or Maryanne who will be very happy to give you all the support and information that you need.

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL

The new roll is now on display on the church noticeboard. Please check that your details are correct. Remember that this is a new roll and your name will only be included if you have filled in a new form. Membership of the church electoral roll entitles you to vote at the APCM.

Reminder...Alpha

Our Alpha course continues on Wednesdays in St Luke's chapter house or in the vicarage if weather is cold (check with Maryanne please). The doors open at 7 pm and the talk starts at 7:30 pm.



ECUMENICAL LENT COURSE

This is being held on Monday evenings during Lent at 7.30pm till 9pm at Endon Methodist Church and based on the challenging film 'I, DANIEL BLAKE' directed by Ken Loach who also directed 'Cathy Come Home' back in the 1960s. The film is an indictment of our benefits system and set in Newcastle-on-Tyne although it could easily be set any of our UK cities including Stoke-on-Trent. All are welcome to attend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday, June 6th: Roger has arranged for an organ recital in St Luke's by his friend Malcolm.

Tuesday, June 11th: **CONFIRMATION SERVICE** at 7.30pm in St Luke's with the Bishop of Stafford. Please pray for those to be confirmed. We are expecting 8 -9 candidates from all three parishes.



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

Hope and New Life

The Bishop's Pastoral Letter for April 2019 Elections and Celebration

As I write a few snow drops are starting to bloom in the garden and there is some watery sunshine making a valiant effort to pierce the rather dull and gloomy skies of late winter. With Ash Wednesday still three weeks away, the glorious Festival of Easter that brings such promise as it welcomes spring and a sense of new beginnings seems a distant hope.

When the majority voted to change our present relationship with the rest of Europe the reality also seemed a long way off. Now it is (at the time of writing) soon to take effect. I would like to think that by the time you read this all will have been sorted out to everybody's satisfaction and we will be living 'happily ever after'. If not, we need to remember that we are a democratic nation and I would like to offer a few reflections to help us as we approach the local elections in May and just in case we are going to have another General Election sooner than anticipated.

Firstly – elections are really important. As Christians we have a duty to pray for those elected to serve us but it is also a key part of our Faith to actively seek the welfare and well-being of those in our communities. We have an obligation to vote in elections. To vote for those whom we think are best placed to improve that general welfare and especially care for those who do not have a vote.

Secondly – we need to encourage those who are going to stand in elections to listen to the real needs of their constituents *before* formulating their policies and making promises that sound good but are unrealistic or which will not tackle the issue. Many feel that people in Westminster do not always understand what is happening in the regions especially if they do not listen to our excellent local MPs. Policies shaped by the experience of those who have to live them out on a daily basis are much more effective.

Thirdly – we need to hold those who are elected (both nationally and locally) to account. The United Nations Special Rapporteur who produced such a sombre but candid Report on the state of poverty within the United Kingdom last year was clear that making the right decisions would see an improvement in living standards for the 14million people (one fifth of the population) living in poverty in the UK take effect quite quickly but governments of all political parties have failed to take such decisions in recent years and the resulting poverty is unacceptable in a nation that has the world’s fifth largest economy with many areas of immense wealth.

Finally – we need to pray for those who wish to stand for election and those elected; for those who formulate policies and those who implement them; for those whose lives improve and for those who continue to suffer as a result of these policies. As Christians we need to work actively for reconciliation not just between people of differing views but also between those who take decisions that affect the lives of others and those whose lives are affected.

I long to celebrate the joy of Easter as the Resurrection transforms the cross into a symbol of hope and new life. I long to celebrate the joy of Creation as the warmth of the spring weather transforms our countryside into a symbol of hope and new life. I long to celebrate the joy of God’s Kingdom as its values and teaching transforms our communities into places of hope and new life.

+Geoff

Bishop of Stafford



What's in a Name?

Our churchyards can fill with wildflowers during the spring and summer and many of these have names associated with the Christian calendar. Snowdrop, the first spring flower was known as Candlemas Bells. It was picked at Candlemas in early February. Primrose follows, picked by children on Primrose Day in April. Cowslips, with their distinctive shape, were called Keys of Heaven or St Peter’s Keys and picked for Mayday head-dresses. Greater Stitchwort has an old name linking it with spring – Easter Bell.



*Lady's
Bedstraw*

There are biblical references in old flower names too. Germander Speedwell with its distinctive round blue flower was called Angel Eyes, God's Eyes and Eve's Tears. Meadow Cranesbill had the lovely name of Grace of God. Comfrey which has different coloured flowers on a single stem was called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and Lady's Bedstraw refers to the Virgin Mary.

You can celebrate the wildflowers in your churchyard and the link they bring to the past. How about putting a display of flower photographs with traditional names up on your notice board? Maybe you could make small signs and place these near to the flowers? Allowing spring flowers to bloom and set seed before mowing them will give you a beautiful show of colour as well as encouraging these lovely plants which have been part of the life of the church for centuries.

All the best

Harriet

Harriet Carty, *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. Simply use the discount code Lich19)

ST LUKE'S PASTORAL TEAM

Please contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 if you are available for pastoral visiting.

HILLSWOOD LODGE VISITS

Meet at Vicarage 10.50am for 11.00am

Next date:

Thursday April 18th



WALKING WITH A PURPOSE AROUND TITTESWORTH RESERVOIR

Alan P writes....

NORTH STAFFS CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED WALK

Saturday 23rd March saw myself, Barrie, Kath, Liz, Sylvia, Sue & Roger (Sue's husband) meeting up at Tittesworth for this fund-raising event. The proceedings commenced with an address by the Bishop of Stafford Rt. Rev. Geoff Annas who, with his usual sense of humour, stated that if he heard anyone using the word beginning with the letter "B" they would be banned from taking part in the event. We all know what he meant!

We then heard from the CEO of Christian Aid, Amanda Mukwashi, who outlined some of the tragedies which have benefitted from the monies raised through Christian Aid.

The Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent then cut the tape and we set off walking in bright but chilly weather which soon changed to bright and sunny conditions, perfect for walking. We finished the walk with tea and coffee in the Visitor Centre.

To date St Luke's contribution this year is £320 with donations still coming in and I will let you know our total figure when all monies are received.

The date for next year's walk is Saturday 28th March.

Many thanks to you all!

Please make sure Alan P receives your sponsorship money as soon as possible. If you have not yet made a donation to the DEC for those in Mozambique severely affected by the recent cyclone, this would be a great opportunity.

NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S



Sheila Tipper writes....

Esther posted this article in St Chad's newsletter at the start of Lent but I think it makes us think whatever the time of year...

Lent:

When I think of Lent, memories of years of chocolate abstinence come flooding back ... how I counted down those six weeks until I could once again indulge in the luxurious taste of Cadbury's Dairy Milk! Did I understand the reasons for self-denial during Lent? Yes, in a simplistic way! Did I stand firm during those numerous periods of self-denial? Yes! Were they challenging times? Absolutely! Did I use those times to reflect on how to live a more godly life? No, I don't think so. If I'm perfectly honest, my overriding concern was how to resist the call of confectionary for a full six weeks!

A recent conversation regarding the complexities of self-sacrifice during Lent, closely followed by watching an environmental feature, made me consider this period of self-denial in a slightly different way. Always concerned with the environment and a lover of the great outdoors, I am acutely aware of the damage that is being done to our wonderful world through a deluge of rubbish generated from excessive plastic packaging.

As an alternative to giving up such things as chocolate, cakes or alcohol (although I could well benefit from giving those up regardless!), what if we thought "out of the box" and gave up practices such as using throw-away plastics or non-recyclable packaging? By doing this, we would be benefiting the environment and making a small but valuable contribution to the "war on plastic". In addition, by boycotting plastic during Lent, we may actually change our long-term habits for the better meaning that we live a more environmentally friendly life. Small changes such as buying loose vegetables as opposed to the pre-packed variety, using plates to cover bowls of left-over food in the fridge as opposed to using Clingfilm or going back to buying milk in glass bottles from the milkman instead of the all too convenient 4-pint, plastic bottles from the supermarket would all make a significant difference.

Lent is a period of repentance, prayer and reflection with the act of self-denial sharpening one's focus on what really matters. By challenging ourselves to go "plastic-free" we will begin to notice just how much we throw away and just how damaging this is to our environment. God made our wonderful world – we are custodians. Let's try and make a difference.

Esther

John Bailey – Organist:

It was with a certain amount of surprise that we all learnt at our Sunday Communion service that John would no longer be playing the organ for us. He will be playing every Sunday from now on at All Saints church, Leek.

John has been playing the organ at St Chad's for as long as I can remember and he will be sorely missed. I can remember as a small child at anniversary services that there was a lot of tutting and shaking of heads by some of the older members because he was always "jazzing up" the music. He started playing at the tender age of 13 and has been part of the fixtures and fittings at St Chad's ever since.

He has promised to help out at special services but if anyone knows of someone who could give our organ a bit of an airing every so often please get in touch.

Friday Morning at St Chad's:

A few weeks ago when Arnie was cleaning the church, a gentleman called in and asked if he could bring a group of walkers round one day in February. Always happy to oblige, Arnie swapped numbers with him so that a date could be arranged. I'd forgotten all about it until I was awoken from my half term lie in at 8am Friday morning....

"Today's the day those walkers are coming – meet me in the church at 11.15 so that we (you) can make them tea and coffee". So it was that I found myself in church, smelling of horse (as I had taken my horse out beforehand) and awaiting the arrival of "we think there may be about 10" walkers.

When they arrived they were charming, very interested in the church and grateful for my (poorly made) tea and coffee. Among them was a fellow Parish Assessor which was lovely, especially as he had not visited the church before (that's because we always pay our Parish Share).

As they were leaving, the contact Arnie had made came up to give me the contribution, which was unexpected, and once they had left there were several envelopes on the plate too – so that was very welcome.

As I was washing up (a rare sight) Barbara arrived to do the flowers, a mother and daughter popped in to have a look at the church and Muriel B arrived. After I had left, Brian and Val called in, which pleased Arnie as he is very fond of Brian. All in all a busy, very enjoyable and quite unexpected morning at St Chad's!

Julia

Dates for your diary:

The church will **NOT** be open on a Wednesday morning during the winter months.

Creative Corner craft club meet on **Monday 8th April** at 1pm to 3pm at The Stafford Arms

Tuesday 2nd April and onwards —Lent group at 2.30pm at Muriel B's house.

Saturday 13th April — Church Tidy Up

Sunday 14th April— AGM starting at 12.30pm after the service

Friday 19th April - Good Friday service at 11.00am

Social meeting on **Tuesday April 23rd** at 10.30 am at Julia's house

Saturday 11th May — Coffee morning and plant sale – Freda and Patrick



ST LUKE'S LENT LUNCH

Donations amounted to £203.90. As all the food was given all donations went to the Appeal.

If you were not able to attend but would like to give a donation to the Bishop's Lent Appeal please put your donation in an marked envelope (there are special blue Lent Appeal envelopes at the back of church

if you are a tax payer) and give these to Sheila H or anyone on duty to put in the safe. Please do this by Easter Sunday.



STREET PASTORS FOR LEEK

**The Church in action ...on the
streets**

www.streetpastors.org.uk

This article is submitted by Roger Simpson

WHAT IS A STREET PASTOR?

Street Pastors are volunteers from local churches who have a genuine concern for their communities. After professional training, teams go out at night to engage with people where they are, on their ground and on their terms. The Street Pastors' main role is to make them-selves available to care, listen, and offer practical help to whoever they meet, especially young people. Their visible, uniformed presence offers reassurance and their non-confrontational approach has helped them to become a welcome part of community life. Street Pastors work holistically and equally with all people of all faiths and none. Though the Christian faith is at the heart of what they do and why they do it, it is not at the forefront of what they say. Street Pastors are not about preaching but a practical demonstration of the love of God.

THE CHALLENGE

From its start in 2003, with 18 volunteers, there are now some 5,000 Street Pastors nationally, supporting 250 different projects working in communities, towns and cities. Street Pastors have enjoyed an almost universal welcome in every area they are in. The national umbrella for all Street Pastors is the Ascension Trust.

Working in partnership, these three have collective resources and influence to make a positive difference. The Church, through Street Pastors, is mobilising 'good gangs' of committed Christians. Street Pastors is a clearly visible presence of the Church in action on the street that speaks of the love of God in practical actions rather than words. To this end Staffordshire Police and

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council have approached Churches Together in Leek to set up a similar project in our town.

WHO CAN BE A STREET PASTOR?

Anyone who is concerned for their community and wants to demonstrate God's love.

Anyone over 18 years old. There is no upper age limit. Some of the best Street Pastors are in their 60s, 70s and even 80s.

Anyone who has been a member of a Church for at least a year and can obtain a reference from their leader.

Anyone who is able to make a contribution to cover costs of the uniform, either on their own, or together with their sending Church. However, we would not want anyone to be prevented from becoming a Street Pastor due to lack of finance.

Anyone who is able to commit to some training before going out at night and to continued training. Some of the subjects covered are : Roles and Responsibilities of a Street Pastor, conflict resolution, substance abuse awareness, first aid, counselling skills, youth culture, knowing your community.

Anyone who is able to work in a team and go out one night a month on either a Friday or Saturday between 10.30pm & 2.30am.



OTHER WAYS TO HELP AND SUPPORT

* Being part of the Friday or Saturday night prayer and support group in touch with Street Pastors by mobile phone on a rota basis.

* Offering administration / organisational support.

* Helping, at the support base, with refreshments for Street Pastors out on patrol on a rota basis.



- * Helping to apply for grants.
- * Helping with other fund raising.
- * Prayer support at home.

WHAT DO STREET PASTORS ACHIEVE?

Alongside the weekly nights out by the teams, there are a number of by-products of their work:

- * A structured and safe way for the Church to get more involved in its community.
- * Long term partnerships as local Churches work together at leadership and congregational level.
- * A sustainable project that is financially viable.
- * A non-statutory, uniformed, visible presence gives reassurance and reduces fear of crime.
- * Communities value Street Pastors being volunteers, rather than paid workers.
- * Their non-confrontational approach has the ability of absorbing aggression.
- * Communities recognise Street Pastors as being a part of the local Church and as they help to address needs, the standing of the Church improves.
- * Community cohesion – Street Pastors represent different ethnic groups, ages, backgrounds and genders. This has helped to heal fragmented communities.
- * Street Pastors are approachable and people want to speak with them.
- * Volunteers learn new transferable skills and grow in confidence.
- * Street Pastors see not only individual lives improve but whole communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Details available via 'Spark' (Leek Churches newspaper) or the local Street Pastors Management Team :

Chairman Robert McGuinness 01538 381122
 e-mail: robertmcguinness@aol.com

Member Eric Birch Tel.01538
385963
e-mail: Bigekka2@hotmail.com

Secretary Anthony Mathewson
01538 387032
e-mail:

anthonyjmathewson@hotmail.co.uk



St Luke's is a fair-trade church. *If you donate items to the catering cupboard, please check that they are Fair Trade, Ethical Tea Partnership or similar organisations that guarantees small traders are not disadvantaged.*



THE BIG CLEAN!

It will shortly be time for the next big clean at St Luke's. Maryanne has set a provisional date for Saturday 27th April. As usual all help will be welcome.

Please look out for notices and listen up for details of

jobs that need to be done in time for Well Dressing when we hope to receive our many visitors.

ST LUKE'S TABLE TOP SALE



Thank you to all who helped organise our first table top sale on 16th March in the village hall. We raised £405.50

with a further donation of £100 bringing our total to £505.50. The



cake stall did particularly well. Thanks also to Kath and Jean who served tea and biscuits all afternoon to both customers and stall holders. Thank you to Sarah Brindley for designing our posters for this event. Some unsold items were donated to

the Chernobyl Children's Project while others will be put aside for our bric-a-brac stall at the well dressing.

FLOWER CLUB & WELL DRESSING

The Flower Festival display for Well Dressing Weekend will take the theme of 'The Seasons in Poetry and Flowers'. Our grateful thanks go to the members of Endon Flower Club for agreeing to give their time and expertise. Our own Flower Club members hope to contribute in some way. The Flower Club is a thoroughly enjoyable way to spend an afternoon and it is wonderful to see flowers decorating our lovely church. Everyone is welcome and the kettle is always on! No doubt there will be some Easter arrangements to try.

Dates for your diary

3rd and 17th April

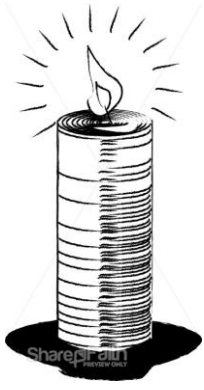
Sessions are led by Pauline Shaw and Jeanette Lackey from Endon Floral Arts and take place fortnightly on Wednesdays in St Luke's chapter house from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

It is hoped to extend this session to make it more like a 'Knit & Natter' group to attract more folk who may not want to arrange flowers but would like the chance to get out of the house and meet others over a cup of tea and a piece of cake.



**Further information from Sue Forrester (aka Gibbons)
07854 043187.**

Spread the word!

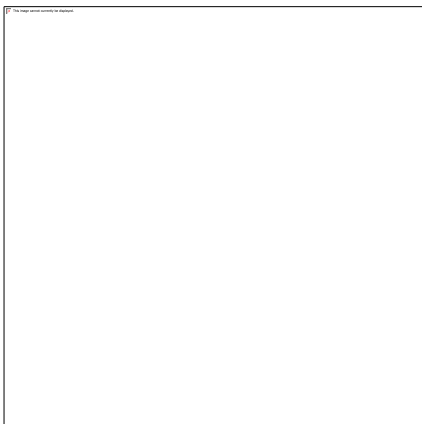


CANDLE DEDICATIONS

for APRIL

For £2.50 you can keep the Candle of Hope or the Sanctuary Light burning for a week with a dedication. Contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 for a particular date or fill in a form at the back of church.

Apr	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
7 th	Peter and June Pope to celebrate the birthday of their granddaughter Lydia (10 th)	Mabel McGrath in loving memory of sister Doreen and brother-in-law Harry
14 th	Ann and Les Boulton in loving memory of our parents	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant
21 st	Marilyn Plant to celebrate the 4 th birthday of our grandson Jack (22 nd)	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant
28 th	Maureen Payne to celebrate Alan's birthday (4 th May)	Sylvia Bradshaw remembering John, a loving and caring husband, Dad and Granddad



APRIL GREETINGS to

Julie Gater (3rd), Fiona Morris (8th), Tim Boulton, Lydia Marshall (10th), Pauline Hart (12th), Barrie Jackson (14th), Hannah Thomlins (16th), Eric Cartlidge (17th), Maryanne Lloyd (29th), Phil Benson (29th), Bex Bailey, Georgia & Millie Tellwright (30th)

If you would like your own or a family birthday included here contact Ros 504137



Home Groups

are a way of studying the bible in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We can ask the questions that we do not always have time to on a Sunday. Not only do home groups help us on our journey of faith but they also strengthen the relationships within church. At the moment a group meets at James & Ros's

on a Monday evening and a group meets at Bagnall Heights on Tuesday morning.

Day	Venue	Hosts	Leader	Time
Monday	Claremont St George's Ave	James & Ros	Maryanne	7.30pm
Tuesday (NB 2 nd week of the month, this is replaced by HC on Wednesday.)	Bagnall Heights Lounge	Pauline Hart	Barrie Jackson	11.00 am

PLANNING AHEAD for May....

WELL DRESSING CHURCH OPENING TIMES

Welcomers will be needed and folk to serve refreshments in the chapter house on these three days. Lists will appear in due course for volunteers to sign up.

Sat 25th May: 3.00 – 8.00pm

Sun 26th May: 1.00 – 6.00pm

Mon 27th May: 11.00 – 8.00pm

Tues 28th May: 10.30 – 12.30pm The church will be open to enable members of the well dressing committee to pop in to see our flower displays. James and Ros have volunteered to be welcomers for this extra session.

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

Supporting Children of Belarus since 1995

Charity No 1059832 www.chernobyl-children.org.uk

FUNDRAISING :

Friday 26th April, Dinner and Auction

(anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of April 1986)

Location: Westwood Golf Club, Leek

£30 ticket includes a 3 course meal, coffee and disco

Contact John and Julie for further information

Endon Well Dressing: Ian and Sheelagh have done an amazing job over the years but will be stepping back this year. We need lots of soft toys and prizes to give away. We will also be organising the car boot sale so we need volunteers please!

We still need at least another 2 families to host teenagers for two weeks over the summer. Please contact John and Julie if you can offer help in any way especially during the two weeks at Cicely Haughton School.

**Our next meeting will be on Wednesday,
April 10th**

at 7.30pm at Endon Methodist Church.

John & Julie Gater 535000

LEEK FOOD BANK UPDATE

This report covers the period January 17th until February 28th.

During this period, we honoured 82 vouchers representing 116 adults and 63 children. A total of 179.

There has been a shift in the type of crisis during this period. Low pay now accounts for most identifiable issue followed closely by benefit issues and then by debt.

Whatever the causes there is still great need for the foodbank services. There was fortunately a real upturn in the food donations before and during Christmas. Currently donations have dropped back now but, at the moment, we still have enough stock to manage on a month to month basis at least for the most part. However,

Currently we have no toilet rolls.....

A total of 2463kg have been donated through all our sources and 2789 kg have left the warehouse.

Some of our outgoings of course include out of date stock, we direct this as far as possible to other groups that are able to use them.

We would welcome...

Most of the items we normally require

but at this moment

TOILET ROLLS PLEASE!

We are well supplied with

- Porridge
- Soup
- Baked beans
- Dried pasta

The foodbank Trustees have recently appointed an Assistant Project Coordinator. He is Ian Smith and well known to many and comes with great experience having been a Project Coordinator in the past. I look forward to working with him.

Please keep up your support and thank you for all you have done.

Peter Davies
Project Coordinator

BUYING EASTER EGGS?

MAKE SURE THEY'RE FAIR TRADE!

They can be ordered on-line from
The Meaningful Chocolate Company, *Traidcraft* or from the
shelves of some supermarkets



Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, **The Real Easter Egg** is the only one which has an Easter story book in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects.

This year the Original and Dark eggs are plastic free.

MORE FROM ANN & LES....

- ☺ *My uncle was a very angry man. He had printed on his tombstone, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?*
- ☺ Thanks for explaining the word 'many' to me. It means a lot.
- ☺ My Granddad always said "As one door closes another opens". Lovely man, terrible cabinet maker.
- ☺ *When the inventor of Tupperware died his funeral was delayed because they couldn't find the right lid for the coffin.*
- ☺ To the thief who took my anti-depressant pills - I hope you are happy now.
- ☺ As I was trying to cross a busy road a passer by said "There's a Pelican Crossing up the road." I replied "I hope he's having better luck than me".
- ☺ *I saw a documentary on how ships are kept together - riveting.*
- ☺ People say I lack willpower but I've quit smoking over and over again.
- ☺ I went to the bookshop and asked the assistant for a book about turtles. She said "hardback?" and I said "yes, and little heads".
- ☺ *A lorry load of tortoises crashed into a train load of terrapins - a turtle disaster.*
- ☺ If you don't know what introspection is you need to take a long hard look at yourself.
- ☺ My Grandfather invented the cold air balloon but it never really took off.
- ☺ *Police arrested two kids yesterday. One was drinking battery acid, the other was eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off.*
- ☺ Crime in multi storey car parks. That is wrong on so many different levels.
- ☺ A man walks into Boots and says "Can I have a bar of soap please?" The assistant says 'Do you want it scented?' and he says "No, I'll take it with me now".



April Prayer Focus

- Mozambique – all those severely affected by the recent cyclone and all aid agencies working to help them
- Yemen – the on-going crisis and those trying hard to get aid into the country
- Our global warming crisis - that world leaders will take appropriate action urgently
- Brexit negotiations especially with regard to the Irish border
- The current unrest in Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Nigeria and Uganda. For the family of Nigerian Bishop Anthony Idris Jata'u reportedly murdered and his family held to ransom
- Those affected by the recent upsurge in knife crime
- The release of Iranian-British mother Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe serving a 5 year gaol sentence on alleged spying charges
- The people of Indonesia affected by the recent earthquake and tsunami
- The problem of social media affecting our young people and leading them to self harm or even suicide
- The widespread drug problem especially in Stoke-on-Trent with use of "monkey dust"
- All helping to re-build thousands of shattered lives
- The problem of the millions of plastic bottles afloat in our oceans and the tons of 'space junk' orbiting our planet
- Wisdom for world leaders in making decisions for peace
- Those in our parishes who are ill and those caring for them especially Rev Julie
- For all refugees and asylum seekers
- All who have lost loved ones recently
- Schoolgirls kidnapped in Nigeria and anguished parents
- For the abolition of slavery and female genital mutilation
- The Trussell Trust locally
- The unemployed or in work but not earning a living wage
- For all suffering from depression
- For all involved with the Chernobyl Project
- Our Vicar, PCCs and Pastoral Team and visitors to our church
- For Barrie Jackson in his ministry as a lay reader and Ian Perry at St Chad's as he prepares for ordination
- Ministry in our benefice after Rev Alan's retirement in 2020
- Our MPs and district and parish councillors

Advertising Scale of Charges

1/8 page: £2.50 per month
or £25 for 12 months

1/4 page: £5 per month
or £50 for 12 months

1/2 page: £10 per month
or £100 for 12 months

1 page: £20 per month
or £200 for 12 months

If you would like to place an
advertisement
please contact Ros on 01782 504137
or e-mail:

jandrbenson@btinternet.com

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Curtains, Oriental Rugs,
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and Carpet & Fabric Protection

Eradicates Dust Mites and helps improve
the air quality for Asthma sufferers.



J. TAYLOR

Tel: 01782 502437

ST LUKE'S CHURCH BOOKINGS

Barrie Jackson is keeping the church diary.
Please contact him on **07510 074097**.

*No charge is made for this newsletter but donations are welcome towards stationery and copying. Please see a warden or put your donation in the green box on the wall. You can 'gift aid' your donation if you pay tax (see Sheila Hurst).
Thank you to all regular contributors.*

MATTHEW 28 v 8 - 10

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. **He is not here; he is risen**, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Rev Alan Betts / Maryanne Lloyd	502166
Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden	502006
Alan & Maureen Payne, warden's team	504918
Ann & Les Boulton, warden's team	503162
June Pope, warden's team	503269
John O'Rourke, warden	261191
Lyn Pickering, warden's team	07891 213284
Caryl Siegertsz, St Chad's warden	07971 887039
Sheila Tipper, St Chad's news contact	534647
Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / worship l'der	07971 887039
Muriel Finney, St Chad's worship leader	302229
Fred Snape, St Anne's warden	504063
Sue Forrester, Flower Club / Foundation gov	07854 043187
James & Ros Benson, reader emeritus/newsletter	504137
Maurice Woolliscroft, warden's team	502390
Barrie Jackson, reader / St Luke's PCC Sec / Administrator	07510 074097
Deb Podmore, worship leader	773383
Suzy Jordan, music leader	504589
Steve Dale, St Luke's treasurer	07894 098011
Sheila Hurst, St Luke's Gift Aid Sec / MU rep	503622
Neil Taylor, worship team	07891 977662
Shirley Brindley, candle dedications / pastoral tm	504089
John & Julie Gater, Chernobyl Children's Project	535000
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	502006
St Luke's vestry	504864

May 2019 newsletter will be in church on
Sunday, April 28th

Please submit notices by **Tuesday, April 23rd**
either by e-mail jandrbenson@btinternet.com phone 504137
or a note to Ros Benson.

The newsletter is published on the church website
www.endonstlukes.org.uk (click on the 'News and Events' tab)

**If you would like a large print version
please contact Ros.**