

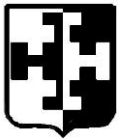


**THE UNITED BENEFICE of ST LUKE'S,  
ENDON with ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL**

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

**Vicar: Rev Alan Betts Tel: 01782 502166**

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



**December 2018**



**CHRISTMAS  
begins with  
CHRIST...**

***“Glory to God in the  
Highest and Peace  
to His People on  
Earth.”***

**A Very Happy Christmas to You All!**

# Services for December

## ST LUKE'S

2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Barrie and James 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School
9 <sup>th</sup>	TOY SERVICE 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's School
16 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Barrie and Roger 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School
23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School
24 <sup>th</sup>	CHRISTMAS EVE 6.00pm CRIB SERVICE – Rev Alan and the team 11.45pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION – Rev Alan
25 <sup>th</sup>	CHRISTMAS DAY 9.30am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan
30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am JOINT SERVICE at St Chad's CHRISTMAS COMMUNION – Rev Alan

## ST CHAD'S

2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00am HOLY COMMUNION BCP – Rev Alan 10.45am CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – Ian and the team
9 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm CAROL SERVICE - Kath & Muriel F
16 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am ALL AGE HC – Rev Alan
23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.45am MORNING PRAYER – Kath & Muriel F
24 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm CRIB SERVICE – Rev Alan 11.30pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION – Kath, Ian and Caryl
25 <sup>th</sup>	No services. (HC 9.30am at St Luke's)
30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am ALL AGE COMMUNION joint service w St Luke's at St Chad's

## MIDWEEK ECUMENICAL HC SERVICES

Wednesdays at 9.15am  
5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> Dec at Endon Methodist Church  
12<sup>th</sup> Dec at St Luke's



# **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2018**

**at**

## **St Luke's**

**ADVENT SUNDAY December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**9.15am Morning Prayer**

**11.00am Connections**

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY in ADVENT December 9<sup>th</sup>**

**9.15am HC and Toy Service in support of  
The Elizabeth Trust**

**11.00am Connections Toy Service**

**6.00pm Ecumenical at EMC**

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY in ADVENT December 16<sup>th</sup>**

**9.15am Morning Prayer**

**11.00am Connections w Carols and Coffee**

**6.30pm Community Carol Service  
at the Methodist Church**

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in ADVENT**

**9.15am Morning Prayer**

**11.00am Connections**

**CHRISTMAS EVE December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**6.00pm Crib Service**

**11.45pm Midnight Communion**

**CHRISTMAS DAY December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**9.30am Holy Communion**



# **TOY SERVICES**

**Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> December  
9.15am St Luke's church  
11.00am St Luke's school**

**Please continue to support these special services for *'The Elizabeth Trust'* which offers care and accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic violence sometimes arriving with only the clothes they are wearing. Let's try to make Christmas a happy time for them. Please remember that the children are of all ages so we need to send gifts appropriate for older ones and teenagers as well as for babies and toddlers. We like to provide a few treats for the mums too such as toiletries.**

**Rev Tony Alban began these toy services over 40 years ago. Sadly the need has not diminished.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER NOT TO WRAP YOUR GIFTS but donations of wrapping paper are appreciated.**

## **THANK YOU ALL!**



Stuart Townend and Band will be in concert at St Edward's Church, Leek at 7.30pm on the 1st December 2018 as part of their Courage Tour. Doors will open from 7.00pm and refreshments will be available during the break.

Tickets are £12 (or £15 at the door) and can be obtained online or sent by post if you forward a cheque to the church office.

Never heard of him? You have certainly heard and loved his version of Psalm 23 sung many times in our churches over recent years!



## Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

# Gifts, Baubles and Community

### The Bishop's Pastoral Letter for December 2018

***As the Bishop of Stafford does his Christmas shopping, his thoughts turn to worms and scones...***

Christmas seems to get earlier each year. Call me soft-hearted and old fashioned but I do like to take my wife out from time to time and I particularly like to spoil her with a tea and scone at The Range. For those less fortunate who have yet to discover this amazing hyper-store I can tell you that they stock over 65,000 different products and from September onwards half of them seem to be Christmas decorations! Having looked at aisle after aisle I finally discovered two different crib scenes selling at £9 each and also some plastic baubles to hang on the tree with a picture of the Holy Family – a snip at just under £3 and the only acknowledgment of the Christmas Story.

It seems to me that when it comes to Christmas many get their priorities wrong. Perhaps this speaks volumes about our increasingly secularised society where so much that affects our daily living is decided by 'rational' thinking without any reference to religious belief.

But there are two aspects of the Christian Festival of Christmas that 'Winterfest' will never be able to exclude: the sense of community that bubbles to the surface at this time of year and the giving of gifts.

I know that throughout our Diocese there will be many Christians who will cheerfully spend Christmas Day helping ensure that others have a great time. Sharing our Lord's concern for those at the margins of our communities, Christmas Lunches will be provided for the homeless or the elderly or any others who would otherwise be spending this special day alone.

In addition, the doors of our churches will be wide open to welcome all those in our communities who do want to put Jesus back into Christmas

and who will come to sing their favourite carols and listen to the familiar stories and who will be given a friendly welcome even if they have not been seen in church since last Christmas.

The message of Christmas is for ALL people – no one is excluded from the gift of the love of God personified in the baby of Bethlehem, and through reaching out into our communities in these ways we can encourage others to come to know that love and perhaps welcome Jesus into their lives for the rest of the year and not just that day – special though it is!

The exchanging of gifts at Christmas comes from the story of the Adoration of the Magi and we will be particularly aware of this at the coming Epiphany because in 2019 January 6th falls on a Sunday. Many sermons preached that day will talk about the significance of the gold, frankincense and myrrh although I doubt any will give such a practical interpretation of their symbolism than the 12th century theologian St Bernard of Clairvaux who suggested the gold was to assist the Holy Family with their flight to Egypt; the frankincense to sweeten the air of the stable and the myrrh to get rid of the worms in the baby's intestines! It is sad that for many the joy of giving and receiving of gifts and the implicit feeling this offers that people matter to one another seems to have been replaced by the importance of the cost of the gift itself. Yet perhaps this is in itself a reflection of the Christmas Story.

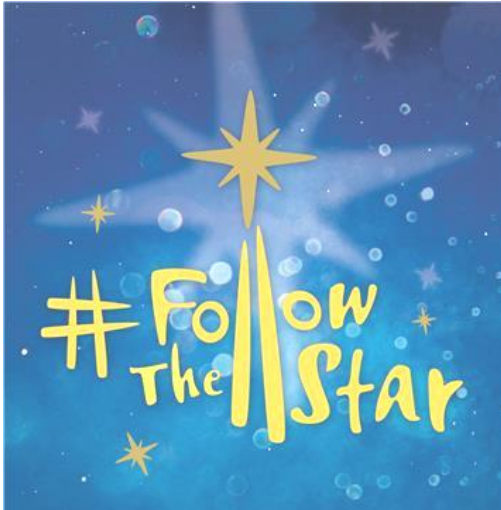
The message of Christmas is for ALL people – no one is excluded from the gift of the love of God personified in the baby of Bethlehem, and through the exchanging of gifts we are not only reminded of the gift of love offered to us and which we are invited to accept, but also of how costly this gift was because it brought the adult Jesus to the cross.

If we can help those who come to our churches this Christmas understand the value of the gift of the love of God perhaps they will welcome Jesus into their lives for the rest of the year and not just that day – special though it is!

I wish you a Christmas that is full of joy and God's love!

**+ Geoff**

*The Rt Rev'd Geoff Annas  
Bishop of Stafford*



# A REFLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

## “Making room for God”

Here’s an edited extract from *#FollowTheStar* written by the Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

**Reading: Luke 2 v1-7** *“There was no room for them in the inn”*

**Reflection** – Many people were travelling to Bethlehem. Houses were overcrowded, and so there was no room for Mary, Joseph or their little bundle. No “Baby on Board” badge to let them jump the queue.

God comes into the world – and waits his turn. Patiently. The world had no room for this traveller, no room for the parents he had chosen, who couldn’t pull rank or afford to buy favours.

God’s journey in the world starts with rejection and being set aside. Not the welcome you might have expected. God was present, but the world largely passed by.

**Challenge** – Who are the “invisible” people around us, people for whom there is “no room”? In our own lives? In our community?

**Prayer** – We pray for “room” for all children born on this Christmas Day – pray that they would find their “room” in the loving hearts and secure embrace of loving parents and the welcoming arms of their neighbours.

Amen

***#FollowTheStar* is the Church of England’s 2018 Christmas Campaign ...submitted by Barrie**



# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2018



Christmas greetings from Down Under to our friends at St Luke's... **Clare (née Hurst) Phil, Bethany and Lauren Salt**

Wishing all at St Luke's and St Chad's peace and joy at Christmas... **Stan & Sheila Hurst**

Christmas greetings from **Sheila and Roger** to all our friends at St Luke's and St Chad's

Dear friends... may this Christmas season be a time of reconciliation and peace. May the love of Christ be with you; may his peace surround you; may his blessed love be with you as we all share in his precious birth. Merry Christmas from **John and Lyn x**

To all our friends at St Luke's Church wishing you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year... **Maureen and Alan**

**Alan & Maryanne...** a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to you all

Very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year ... **Chris and Sue Wilson**

Peace at Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's ... **Ann and Les**

A very happy Christmas to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's... **Mabel McGrath**

Wishing everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year... **Sylvia Bradshaw**

**John and Cyril Moss** send their Christmas greetings to all at St Luke's and St Chad's

Happy Christmas to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's and blessings for a happy and prosperous 2019... **Debbie and Dave Podmore**

**Margaret & Maurice** – we wish for a peaceful Christmas and a blessed 2019 to all our friends in St Luke's Church and in the wider community

A very happy Christmas to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's – **Muriel Buckle**

Wishing everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's a happy and peaceful Christmas – **Peter & June Pope, Lyn and Lydia**

A very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year to all at St Luke's , St Chad's and our friends 'Down-Under' ... **Roy, James and Ros**

**THANK YOU** to all who have made donations to the Christian Blind Mission by including a Christmas greeting in this month's newsletter. So far around £85 has been donated. If you were too late to submit a greeting there is still time to make a donation should you wish to do so. Cash or cheques (made payable to Endon St Luke's PCC) and enclosed in an envelope clearly marked "For CBM" can be handed to a church warden or dropped into the offertory bag between now and the first week of Jan.

# PASTORAL TEAM

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

Next team meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## HILLSWOOD LODGE VISITS

Meet at Vicarage 10.50am for 11.00am

Next date: 13<sup>th</sup> December - Carols

## PASTORAL TEAM sing-along at Hillswood Lodge



Thursday  
8<sup>th</sup> November

Residents and staff joined in singing many of the old war songs with gusto which Rev Alan had recorded or supplied words on sheets. Cakes and mugs of tea were then supplied by the staff while members of the team chatted to the residents around the room.

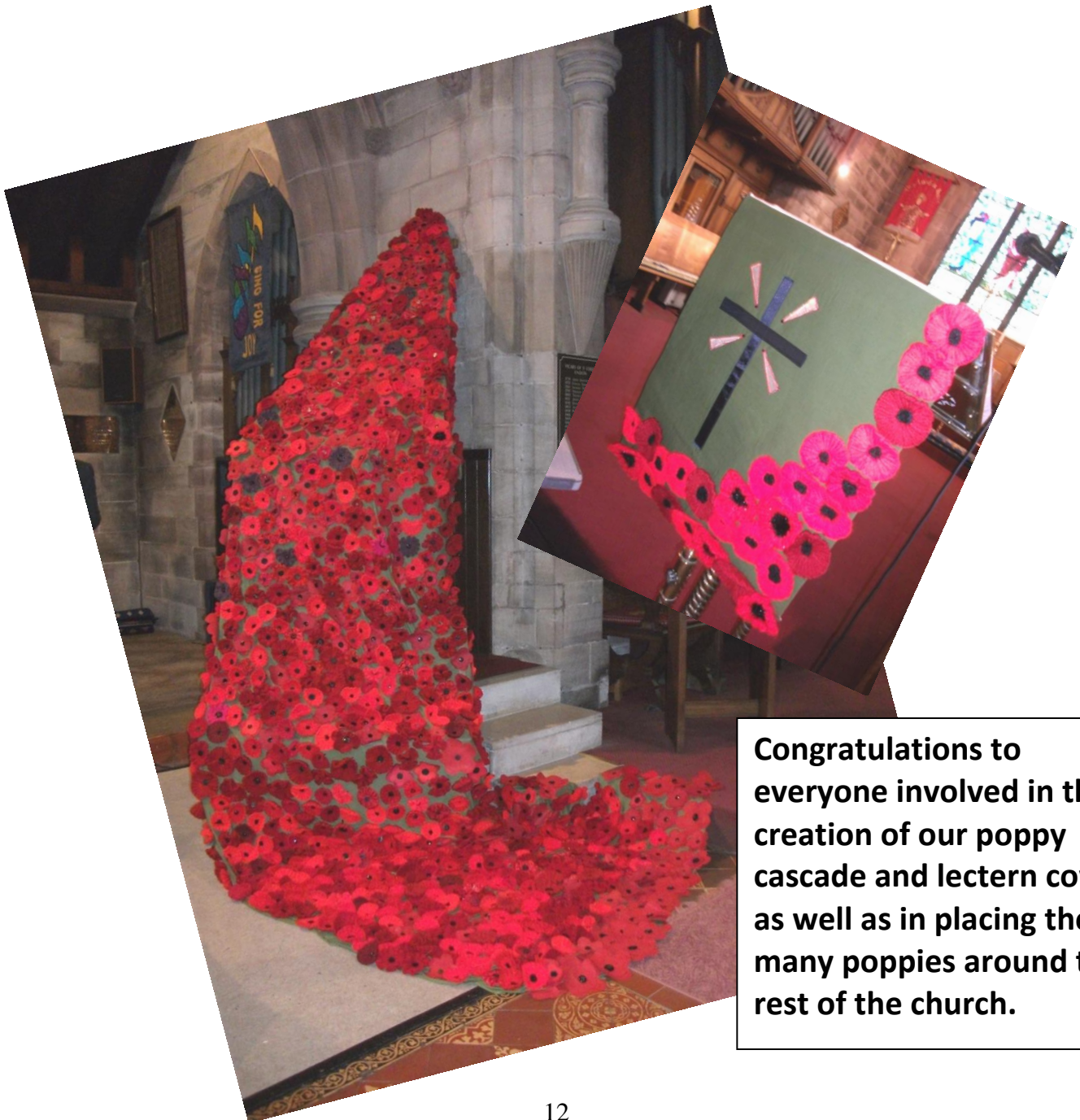




# MOORLANDS RADIO

Maryanne and Sue were interviewed on our local radio station on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> talking about our poppy cascade and encouraging visitors

to our church. Well done both of you!



**Congratulations to everyone involved in the creation of our poppy cascade and lectern cover as well as in placing the many poppies around the rest of the church.**



## **WE WILL REMEMBER THEM...**

It was good to have a full church for our Service of Remembrance. Our thanks to Jean and Sophie for serving teas afterwards in the chapter house.

One old soldier greets another! Brian Houston with Roy Horley just before Roy's big moment at the Beacon Lighting at Endon village hall.



*A message from the Army Cadets to Suzanne Sillitoe...*

***I would just like to take the opportunity to thank you for allowing us to be part of your remembrance service, the event itself was well organised and the turnout was great, the cadets enjoyed being able to help out at a local event close to where they are all growing up and being able to have the opportunity to thank those who have served for this country and to meet the veteran who is an inspiration to us all. Without people like him our organisation would not exist today.***

***Regards SI Lewis Ashby***

# NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL



## Remembrance Sunday



For those of you unable to get to St Chad's on any of the open days, here is a brief glimpse of our tributes to all those who served their country in war time.

Our poppy cascade has nearly 2000 poppies, all hand made by the local community and beyond. It is sited on the village war memorial which has recently had a clean and re-gilding thanks to Bagnall Parish Council.



There is also a tribute to all the animals that died whilst in service. This is a banner of purple poppies with images of horses, dogs and pigeons.

We also had a brief insight into the lives and deaths of the eight young men, all in their early twenties, who died for their country during two world wars and are remembered on the war memorial.

R.I.P.  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN MEMORY OF  
LIEUT. C.P.H.SYLVESTER  
L/CPL F.MATTHEWS M.M.  
PTE. J.R.JOHNSON  
PTE. T.E.ROGERS  
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES  
FOR KING & COUNTRY IN  
THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

1939  
1945  
IN SACRED MEMORY OF  
LIEUT. A.R.CLOWES  
SGT.PILOT. H. RALPHS  
L/A. D.N.DAVIES  
A/B. A.A.BOWLER  
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES  
IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR.  
"DEATH IS SWALLOWED  
UP IN VICTORY." 1 COR 15 3-4



The opening of the Church during the periods before and after Remembrance Sunday was very successful and we had between 30 and 40 visitors to see our beautiful Church and to pay their respects to those named on the War Memorial.

## St Chad's Website

Our website, as some of you have pointed out, has been stuck in August for a couple of months now. This has been due to a technical problem. Members of St Chad's church already know all about computer hitches! Those pesky little gremlins get everywhere and insist on jamming the works at the worst possible moments!

Anyway, Barbara has resolved the problem and we are up and running again. So check it out. All the newsletters are there. There are some great new photos and important dates for your diary.

Please let us know if you can think of anything you'd like to see there or how we can improve it.

**St Chad's Website:** Don't forget to check it out at: [www.stchadsbagnall.org](http://www.stchadsbagnall.org)

## Christmas

This year St Chad's has been designated a Christmas card free zone. We want to do our bit for the environment, to donate to charity and save those of us who don't send cards the feelings of guilt!

Nearer the time there will be a large card for everyone to sign and a collecting box where you can donate what you would have spent. The proceeds will go to swell St Chad's coffers and, in line with our policy, a tenth will go to a chosen charity.

You will, of course, also be able to write a Christmas message in the newsletter which will run throughout December.

# St Chad's Dates for the Diary

Church is open for coffee, biscuits and a chat between 10.45am and 12.15pm every Wednesday.

Creative Corner craft club meet on **Monday 10th December** for their Christmas meal at the Stafford Arms

**Sunday 2nd December**—Christingle Service

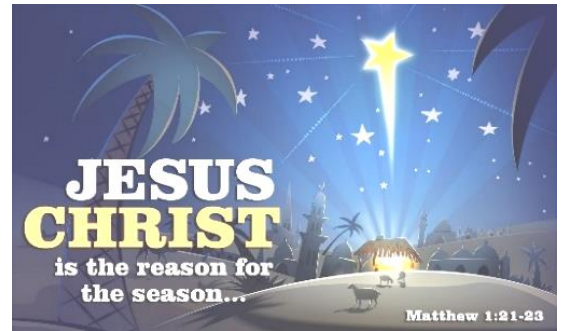
**Sunday 9th December**—Carol service at 4pm

**Monday 24th December**—Crib service at 3pm  
Midnight Holy communion at 11.30pm

**Tuesday 25th December**—9.30am at St Luke's

**Sunday 30th December** - Joint service at St Chad's at 10.30am

St Chad's would like to wish all the readers of this magazine a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



**Sheila Tipper**

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07773664289



# A Further Tribute...

Much interest was shown in our poppy cascade as part of our village commemorations for the end of WW1. However it is not just members of the older generation and war veterans who have been encouraged to give tribute to the many who died for our freedom. Here is a poem written by Olly Payne, aged 10, grandson of Alan and Maureen. Thank you Olly for sharing it with us.

*In the fields of Ypres*

*By Olly Payne*

*In the valley where war once ruled*

*Poppies lie waving in the wind,*

*Each field contains the souls of us,*

*Dead but not lost,*

*As the poppies fly amongst the wind,*

*We are remembered.*

*Our names lie on the Menin Gate in Ypres*

*And the last post summons our courageous souls.*

*Where a great war was once fought*

*Lie the poppies that flutter in the fields of Flanders.*

# **Come And Join Us For Our Christmas Fayre !**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
2pm until 5pm**

**Food And Beverages**

**Large  
Raffle  
BIG  
Prizes**

**Bottle Bag**

**Tombola**

**Cake Stall**

**Santa**



**HILLSWOOD LODGE, The Close, Endon  
All proceeds to the Residents'  
Comfort Fund**



**All Welcome at 11.00am every Sunday**  
in St Luke's Primary CE Academy for 35 minutes  
followed by refreshments, time to chat and play.

Throughout December the theme will be the Nativity but  
not as you know it!

**2<sup>nd</sup> December ... Bethlehem, O Little Town!**

**9<sup>th</sup> December... the Stable, more than an  
animal shelter**

**Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> December ... a special  
invitation for Coffee & Carols  
Bring a friend!**





# CANDLE DEDICATIONS for DECEMBER

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. Please note that Shirley is creating a new list from January.

	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sylvia Bradshaw to celebrate the 9 <sup>th</sup> birthday of her grandson, Archie(2 <sup>nd</sup> )	Margaret and Maurice to celebrate Tom's birthday ( 6 <sup>th</sup> )  Barrie Jackson to celebrate the birthday of granddaughter Fay
9 <sup>th</sup>	Ann and Les to celebrate Evie's birthday ( 14 <sup>th</sup> )	Maureen Foster in loving memory of Malcolm, a dear husband, father and grandfather
16 <sup>th</sup>	Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Tracy's birthday	John Moss...Birthday memories of Winifred Moss from all the family
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Anon in loving memory of Graham and Joyce Forrester	Margaret Harvey and family In loving memory of husband, Peter, Mum and Dad, brother Tom and sister Doreen
30 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Boulton To celebrate Les's birthday	



## DECEMBER GREETINGS

to Peter Betts (2nd), Thomas Morris (6th), Maurice Woolliscroft, Bob Morris (14th), Tracy Payne (17th), Jonathan Bailey (22nd), Les Boulton (31st);  
Margaret Millington (2nd Jan)

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

# ADVENT QUIZ

## PREPARING THE WAY OF THE LORD

### Questions from the gospels



1. Who said, "Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour"?
2. Why did the child leap in the womb of Elizabeth?
3. What was the name of that child?
4. What name did the neighbours want to give Elizabeth's son?
5. Why did they want that name?
6. Who was the Roman Emperor who decreed a census should be taken?
7. Complete the sentence: "Today in the town of David a Saviour....."
8. To whom was that sentence addressed?
9. Who said, "My soul magnifies the Lord."
10. To whom was it said?
11. Which of the four gospels gives details of the shepherds at Bethlehem?
12. Which of the gospels tells us about the visit of the wise men?
13. Who was the king who interviewed the wise men?
14. Which gospel begins with a genealogy of Jesus?
15. Who was father of Joseph?
16. Which great prophet wrote the words: "A virgin will conceive..."?
17. Which gospel gives us that quotation?

***Answers next  
month!***



## **COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE**

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm**

**Endon Methodist Church**

Don't miss this celebration of our Saviour's birth!

## **Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> CAROLS AROUND THE WELL**

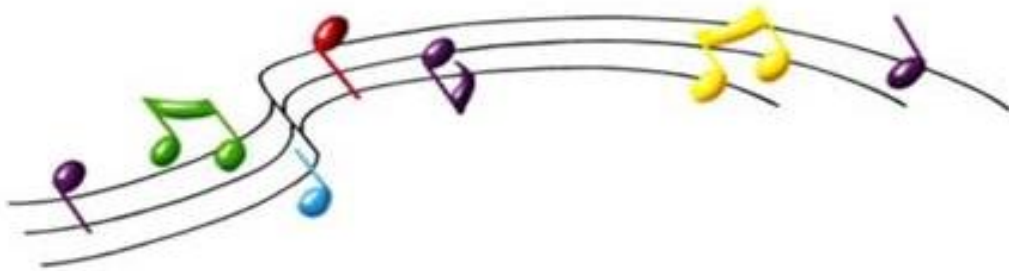
Members of The Endonian Society once more invite us to sing carols around the Well at **7.00pm**. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served.



The Endonian Society will be holding its annual Band & Carol concert with Audley Brass Band on **Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December** in the village hall at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from committee members.



# **ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2018**



**Tuesday 4th December, performance starts at 7.30pm**

**Endon Methodist Church, 258 Leek Road, Endon, ST9 9DY  
(Corner of Station Road)**

Tickets are available from 01782 853399 or choir members

## **Ticket prices:**

Adults £4

Children £2 - Under school age free

Price includes refreshments.

Raffle, Cake Stall



# FLOWER ARRANGING...

## LESSONS FOUR and FIVE!



Our novices go from strength to strength under the guidance and encouragement of Pauline and Jeanette.

At the end of each session Pauline gives a demonstration of

the arrangement which will be taught next time.



Flower arranging need not be an expensive hobby.

Pauline gives an estimation of the cost

and where flowers and can be obtained quite

for example, are very good for a long time and greenery

of materials plastic bowls cheaply. Carnations, value as they usually last

can usually be free from the garden. Do come along and bring a friend.





# WHITE FOR PEACE

The mainly white flower arrangements representing Peace were displayed in the church along with the stunning Poppy Cascade.

Many visitors came to admire our handiwork! Flower arrangements from the second meeting in November were given to the Samaritans to continue the link first made on Samaritan's Sunday when colleagues of Roger Simpson's joined us to hear him speak.

The last meeting before Christmas will be on

**Wednesday December 5th**

when the arrangement will be a Christmas table decoration. Dates for 2019 have yet to be finalised but we will definitely be continuing. Great thanks to Pauline and Jeanette for teaching us and giving up their time. We have a growing group of participants but there is still room for more!



***You would also be made very welcome if you just fancy popping in for a cup of tea. 1pm to 3pm in the Chapter House.***

***Sue***

# USED STAMPS

Please save your used stamps for **The Leprosy Mission** to enable it to continue its work restoring limbs damaged by leprosy and helping those who are cured to set up businesses so they can earn a living. The collection box is in its usual place behind the main door at St Luke's. St



Chad's folk may like to hand used stamps to Muriel Buckle. Please remember to trim off excess paper. **Stamps will be sent off at the end of January.** TLM Stamps & Collectables has raised over £1 million to benefit people affected by leprosy. It takes seconds

to rescue a used stamp from an envelope destined for the recycling bin but, by doing so, healthcare and opportunities can be provided for people in desperate need.

**The Leprosy Mission** Christmas catalogue has a wide range of Christian books, cards, calendars, diaries, CDs, DVDs and stationery as well as various items made by those who have been treated. I can lend you my copy but you can order any of the products on-line. **Ros**

## HOW ABOUT THIS IDEA FOR ADVENT?

Instead of opening a window and eating a chocolate during Advent, why not find a large box or basket and each day add an item suitable for the foodbank? On Christmas Eve donate the contents!



## RECYCLING UPDATE

We are no longer recycling. The company we deal with is no longer recycling phones and we do not collect enough cartridges to make it viable. Thanks to everyone who has donated phones and cartridges in the past.

## NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL ...A FOLLOW-UP



Last summer a group from St Luke's and Connections went to the Christian event Naturally Supernatural at Staffordshire Showground. We had a brilliant time and felt a real sense of being a family. The talks were first class and spoke into our situations both as individuals and as a team and church.

After we got back we had an email asking if any churches would be willing to be interviewed about the summer. I said yes, not thinking for one minute that we would be chosen. Imagine the surprise, and panic, when the NSN team said they would like to meet with us to discuss our experience.

The film crew arrived on the 29th of October along with Mike Pilavachi and Andy Croft. Mike and Andy are part of the leadership team at Soul Survivor (who run NSN). Both are ordained ministers and have a passion to share the gospel. They have done amazing work with many young people and Mike speaks in many countries.

They were all bowled over by the church and its setting. Alan and I did a brief filmed interview in church and then went to the Hollybush for lunch where the rest of our group met us and the filming continued.

It was great to share our experience of NSN and hope it will encourage others in their walk of faith. We were somewhat taken aback to find out

that not only will the film be used for NSN events but it will also be broadcast on TBN, Trinity Broadcasting Network, worldwide! We do not have a date for the screening yet.

When asked why they chose us it was because they wanted to connect with ordinary churches and people and not just the big well known ones.

The talks from the summer conference can be found on You Tube, just search Naturally Supernatural. A group of us have already booked for next year, which will be the last one they run. If you book before the end of November it is cheaper. Day tickets will be available nearer the date.

*Maryanne*

## **Some Christmas Crackers from Barrie...**

- Sister: What are you giving Mummy and Daddy for Christmas?  
Brother: A list of everything I want for Christmas
- Grandma: What will you give your little brother for Christmas?  
Grandson: I haven't decided yet  
Grandma: Well, what did you give him last year?  
Grandson: Measles
- What do you get if you eat Christmas ornaments?  
Tinsel-itis
- What do you get if you cross an iPad with a Christmas tree?  
A pineapple
- What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?  
A Holly Davidson
- Which famous playwright was terrified of Christmas?  
Noël Coward
- Which carol is heard in the desert?  
O Camel Ye Faithful

# More from Ann and Les Boulton.....

## Humour

I'm sure wherever my Dad is he's looking down on us. He's not dead, he's just very condescending.

-----oooooooooooooooo-----

Police are looking for a clothes thief. Apparently he's stealing clothes in order of size. He's still at Large.

-----oooooooooooooooo-----

"Poor old fool," thought the well-dressed gentleman as he watched an old man fish in a puddle outside a pub. So he invited the old man inside for a drink. As they sipped their whiskeys, the gentleman thought he'd humour the old man and asked, "So how many have you caught today?" The old man replied, "You're the eighth."

-----oooooooooooooooo-----

I've written a book about basements—my publisher thinks it could be a best cellar!!

-----oooooooooooooooo-----

*To err is human, to arr is pirate.*

-----oooooooooooooooo-----

A newspaper reporter was interviewing a 104-year old woman. 'What's the best thing about being 104?' he asked her. 'No peer pressure' she replied.

-----oooooooooooooooo-----

*The man who invented throat lozenges died last week—there was no coffin at his funeral.*

-----oooooooooooooooo-----

A man went to the doctors with a carrot up his nose and a parsnip in his ear—the doctor said 'Clearly you are not eating properly'.

-----oooooooooooooooo-----

*'I want to make a complaint, this vinegar has got lumps in it'.*

*'Those are pickled onions'.*

-----oooooooooooooooo-----

Crime in multi-storey car parks—that is wrong on many levels.

-----oooooooooooooooo-----

As a kid I was made to walk the plank—we couldn't afford a dog.

***This isn't another joke...MINCE PIES (especially home-made) would be welcome to serve after our Christmas services including the Community Carol Service at Endon Methodist Church on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks!***



# Home Groups

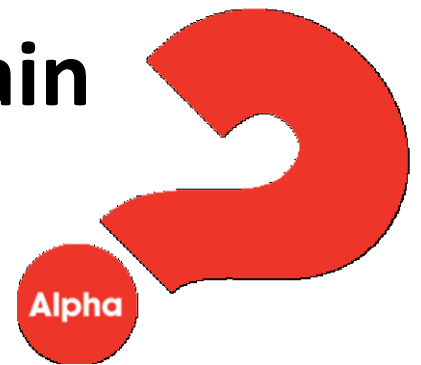
are a way of studying the bible in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We can ask the questions that we do not always have time to on a Sunday. Not only do home groups help us on our journey of faith but they also strengthen the relationships within church. At the moment a group meets at James &

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

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

## Alpha will be running again in the New Year!

Look out for details and start thinking and praying about who you could invite.



*Maryanne*



## Fair trade status

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 guarantee small traders and workers are not disadvantaged.

# LEEK FOOD BANK UPDATE



Since the last update the number of people helped by the food bank was 46 and included 14 children. This isn't the whole picture as due to illness we aren't fully up to date with our recording

The Harvest period was very good and the food bank is well stocked with most items. There are no drastic shortages but we can still use more items as below:

## URGENTLY NEEDED

- Tinned Salmon
- Sturdy carrier bags
- Christmas treats

## WE HAVE PLENTY OF

- Baked beans
- Pasta
- Soup
- Sugar

Our concerns about shortage of volunteers during the period were unfounded in the end with many people stepping up to the task. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped out during this period.

**Just a note re Christmas: We welcome treats such as gift packs of toiletries, chocolate selections, Christmas puddings, tinned food that is just a bit more special and so on.**

We are working closely with the Salvation Army to make sure that Home Start has plenty of produce, but to make this work effectively, if you have Christmas donations, then please try and get them to us **if possible no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>** so we can ensure that everyone affected by crisis can receive the special bonus of items associated with Christmas.

If you'd like to have a look around then you would be most welcome, but please ask so that we can make sure that we have the right level of help rather than just turning up.

Peter Davies

Leek and District Foodbank Project Coordinator



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*Leek*

*claybodytheatre*

*a*

**MERRY**

little

*Christmas*

*Festive words & music*

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[info@phoenixsingersleek.co.uk](mailto:info@phoenixsingersleek.co.uk)



@claybodytheatre  
@phoenixleek

**making  
music**

**TICKETS CAN ALSO BE OBTAINED FROM SUE WILSON 01782 503811**

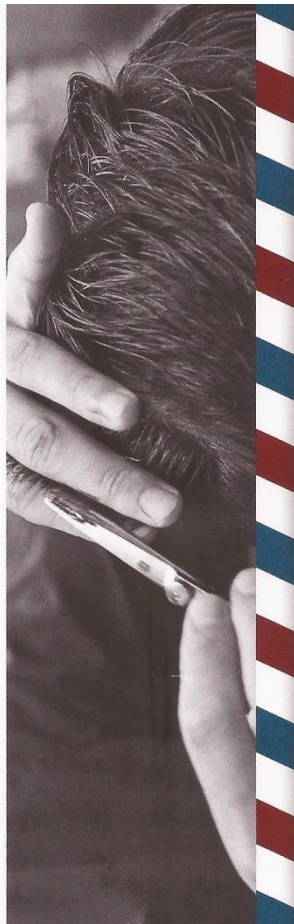


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# December Prayer Focus

- Those affected by the devastating fires in California
- The release of Iranian-British mother Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe serving a 5 year gaol sentence on alleged spying charges
- The family and friends of journalist Jamal Khashoggi murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul and those seeking the truth
- The people of Indonesia affected by the recent earthquake and tsunami
- For the people in the Yemen facing starvation, an end to hostilities and for vital aid to get to where it is needed
- Victims of the typhoon in the Philippines, Hong Kong and China and the tropical storm affecting US states Virginia, North and South Carolinas
- All helping to re-build thousands of shattered lives
- Archbishop Justin Welby in addressing the need for an increase in taxes and for taking on Wonga and Amazon
- All fleeing persecution to Bangladesh from Myanmar
- Medical teams and relief agencies
- Those starving in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and all the aid agencies working there
- The problem of the millions of plastic bottles afloat in our oceans and the tons of 'space junk' orbiting our planet
- Brexit negotiations especially the problem of the Irish border
- Healing for those in our church and community who have been in hospital recently and are now recuperating
- Wisdom for world leaders in making decisions for peace
- Those in our parishes who are ill and those caring for them
- 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 new ministry as a lay reader
- 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  
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please contact Ros on 01782 504137  
or e-mail:

[jandrbenson@btinternet.com](mailto:jandrbenson@btinternet.com)

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**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.*

## WINTER WEATHER WARNING...

*If heavy snow arrives on a Saturday night/Sunday morning please listen to Radio Stoke for up-to-date bulletins as to whether services will be taking place. This keeps phone lines clear for our worship leaders to liaise regarding decisions to cancel or go ahead. They would then be responsible for 'phoning Radio Stoke. Those with internet please consult St Luke's web page or Facebook site for a message from Maryanne.*

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

**January 2019** newsletter will be in church on  
**Sunday, January 6th**

Please submit notices by **Tuesday, January 2nd**  
either by e-mail [jandrbenson@btinternet.com](mailto:jandrbenson@btinternet.com) phone 504137  
or a note to Ros Benson.

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

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