



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

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

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March 2019



**COME ALONG TO
OUR LENT LUNCH
Ash Wednesday
6th March**

**12noon – 2.00pm in chapter house
in aid of the Bishop's Lent Appeal.**

Delicious homemade soup, cheese and biscuits and fruit will be served (last orders 1.30 pm). If you can't make the lunch but would like to support the Bishop's charities please feel free to make a donation. (See Sheila H).

***ALSO... YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
ECUMENICAL LENT COURSE (see p8)***

*based on the film 'I, DANIEL BLAKE' being held at Endon Methodist Church at 7.30pm – 9.00pm on Monday evenings beginning **March 11th**. Members of our Monday evening group will be there. You will be very welcome.*

Services for March

ST LUKE'S

3 rd	9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Barrie w Maryanne 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School
10 th	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's School
17 th	9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Barrie 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School
24 th	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School
31 st	MOTHERING SUNDAY 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School

ST CHAD'S

3 rd	9.00am HOLY COMMUNION BCP – Rev Alan 10.45am – the team
10 th	10.45am - PRAISE & PRAYER - Kath & Muriel F
17 th	10.45am ALL AGE HC – Rev Alan
24 th	10.45am MORNING PRAYER – Kath & Muriel F
31 st	MOTHERING SUNDAY 10.30am FAMILY SERVICE – Caryl & Ian

MIDWEEK ECUMENICAL HC SERVICES

Wednesdays at 9.15am
6th, 20th March at St Luke's
13th, 27th March at
Endon Methodist Church

PCC and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The next St Luke's PCC meeting will be held on
Thursday, March 14th at 7.30pm in the chapter house.
St Luke's APCM will be held on **Thursday 11th April at 7.00pm**
(PCC pre-meeting) with the APCM immediately following at
7.30pm also in the chapter house.

SAMARITAN SUNDAY



It was a lovely surprise to arrive at St Luke's on Sunday Feb 3rd and find that our Archdeacon, Ven Matthew Parker, was our guest speaker. He began by thanking our Leek Samaritan reps for attending and for their voluntary work as listeners. After the service Barrie asked him if he had an electronic transcript of his talk which he had and has very kindly supplied so if you missed it or would like to "hear" it again, here it is....



"My late father in law, John Pym, was one of the first hearing therapists. Hearing therapists help people who find they are losing their hearing – for whatever reason – to live well with their growing deafness. There are two ways in which this is done. The most obvious way is to support the person whose hearing is failing by providing the right kind of hearing aid or with lip reading and John was certainly involved in this

kind of work. But the second form of support is to make sure those who do not have hearing loss better understand how they can help those who have. So John also ran training courses for those who work in care homes or who sold tickets at railway stations and for the families of those with a family member who was losing their hearing. We might take hearing loops for granted these days but it is because of the campaigning of those with hearing loss and therapists like John that we come to understand we are all responsible for making sure no one is left out because they can't hear what's going on. It is one of the painful frustrations felt by people with hearing loss that they are treated as though they have lost their wits rather than their hearing. Because they are unable to catch what's being said, it is assumed they have not understood or weren't listening properly. In fact, when you find it hard to hear, you often become a more attentive listener because you know you have to follow every word to make sense of what is being said and we have all come across people with perfect hearing who are terrible listeners. Because there is a difference between being hard of hearing and hard of listening. The sound waves may reach our inner ear clearly enough but something else is needed to actually listen to another person.

On this Samaritans' Sunday we are celebrating the gift of good listening, listening that heals, encourages and strengthens, and which is more than physical hearing but is about the attention we pay to another person. You can hear me now waffling on but are you listening to what I am saying? They are two different things.

So what makes for good listening - that necessary skill that lies at the heart of the work of the Samaritans and which, I will argue, is essential for all of us in our relationships with others? What makes for good listening and what makes a good listener? This is an important question not just for Samaritans but for all of us in a world that feels increasingly divided and polarised. With the help of our readings this morning I want to suggest just three things that make for good listening – there are no doubt more – but I want to focus on wisdom, generosity and love.

A good listener will be a wise listener. A wise listener is able to sift and to hear what is really being said. One of the disadvantages of the old fashioned hearing aid was the inability of the microphone to distinguish between the different sounds it was picking up around it. In a crowded room, the human ear can differentiate between, say, the voice of the person speaking to you and sound of other voices or music playing in the background. The mechanical aid picks it all sound indiscriminately; it doesn't sort out what is important to hear and what is background noise. In the same way, a good listener has the wisdom to pick out from everything he or she is hearing that which is important. This may be signalled by a change in tone or facial expression, there may be a sense that there is sudden strong emotion behind what is being said that was not there before. ***A wise listener also hears what is not being said as well as what is being said.*** This isn't a clever technique; it is a careful paying attention to the other person, trying to fully understand what is really being said or what actually lies behind the words. Wisdom is a sifting and a weighing and it brings to the conversation all your experience of life and a profound attention to the other person. So Eli, we are told in the OT reading, "perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" Eli perceived what was really going on behind Samuel's experience of the voice of God and urged him to listen carefully to that voice.

But wise listening is also generous listening. To really listen to another person requires us to put aside the thoughts and words that crowd into our own head, all that we want to say or communicate. A generous listener will put aside her or his own need to always comment or say something and defer to the other.

It is a fact that a lot of the time, when in conversation with others, we are not listening to them but are thinking what we are going to say next. Some conversations are actually two people taking turns to deliver a monologue. Or we are distracted. Your phone in your bag or pocket has just pinged to tell you that you have a text but you also are in conversation with someone who is sharing something important. Which wins? The text or the conversation we are having? The urge to respond to the text notification or the attention you can give to the person in front of you? How long can you go without looking? And yes, we can be tired, preoccupied and worried and so we sometimes want to say, "You think you've had a bad day, let me tell you about mine ..." Good listeners however are generous, generous with their time and their attention. The priest and the Levite were too frightened, prejudiced or busy so they passed by the man in his need on the Jericho road. It was the Samaritan who was generous enough to stop and to give to the wounded man the attention he needed. So those who volunteer for the Samaritans give up their time but it is more than time that is given when we listen to someone. No doubt it is hugely rewarding but it's costly too, to give of yourself in listening with care to another human being, especially when they are in need or wounded. Whenever we truly listen to another person it is at a cost to ourselves. It is an act of humility and generosity, an emptying of ourselves so that we can give room to another.

Which is why good listening is always an act of love. To love others is to prefer their needs to yours and to give of yourself. To love others is to try and understand them deeply. So how does Paul describe love in 1 Corinthians 13?

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

We know it well – perhaps too well - but what if we listened to other people in this way? How might it transform our relationships if, in our listening to others, we were patient and kind, not insisting on getting in our own two pennyworth but really paying attention so as to get to the truth of what is being said? And what if, when we are listening to others, we do so hopefully, bearing "all things"? Many people's experience of life is that they are not listened to, that their voice goes unheard. This is why there is a need for the Samaritans and that is why Chad Varah founded the organisation. Good listening is the responsibility of us all and it is the way we express our love for others. Of course, listening may lead us on to other things, other ways in which

*we can support people in their need, but it all begins, I suggest, with listening, when we take the time and make the effort to notice others and really understand and value them. To say to another person, "You are worth listening to". As Paul Tillich says, **"The first duty of love is listening"**. This week, I heard a Benedictine monk speaking about the Rule of St Benedict, written in the 6th century but still followed today in Benedictine monasteries. A rule of life in a monastery sets out how the monks or nuns are to live well together given that - like any group of human beings - they will be very different personalities. How do you create a close knit community without it all falling apart under the weight of arguments and rivalry and personality clashes? (A question our Parliament might want to consider!). Brother Stuart reminded us that the first word in Benedict's Rule is **"listen"**. The monks were to make listening to one another and to God their priority and they were to listen, said Benedict, "with the ear of the heart" which seems to me a good phrase to describe the kind of wise, generous and loving listening that motivates the Samaritan's work but which is all our calling. It is such listening that brings hope and healing and builds up human relationships. As we think back over the conversations we have had in recent days we might challenge ourselves to wonder whether we are were listening with the "ear of the heart". Did I pay close attention to what was said and what went unsaid? Was I prepared to discern, without judgement, what was being shared with me in the conversation? What were the things that stopped me listening in this way? What distractions or selfishness prevented me from listening generously and kindly to another? As Christians, we know we are imperfect listeners, we are "hard of listening" from time to time. St Benedict knew that the gift of good listening comes when we first do that kind of listening to God that we call prayer and give the attention of the "ear of our heart" to God and say "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening". The subject of listening to God and God listening to us is the subject of another sermon and you have listened patiently and long enough to me as it is, so I end by offering this simple prayer, **"Lord help us to listen to you, and to one another wisely, generously and with love"**.*

Roger Simpson adds...

The Rev Chad Varah, the founder of the Samaritans, was a multi-talented man. Amongst other things he was scientific advisor to Eagle Comics and hence had a hand in devising the adventures of Dan Dare, space pilot.

Clearly he was a man of imagination and vision. He believed that volunteers, well trained and equipped with phones and mugs of coffee, could give worthwhile support to the desperate and the depressed, and even sometimes save lives. No doubt there were people who looked at the newly formed Samaritans team in the same way as they looked at pictures of Dan Dare's spaceship and said to themselves, "It's a great idea, but it will never fly."

But fly it did and does. It's now almost exactly 65 years since the first volunteer took the first call, and I bet they were having kittens. I don't know who it was, but if I could call across the years I would say, "Well done and thank you. Look at what you started!"

Today, every 1...2...3...4...5...6 seconds, somewhere in this country a phone rings three times and a volunteer lifts the receiver and says, "Hello, Samaritans, can I help?"

That's what we celebrate today.

Samaritans 116 123 (free)

CONFIRMATION

Rev Alan has set Tuesday, **June 11th** for a confirmation service at St Luke's with the Bishop of Stafford. Please pray for those preparing for confirmation.

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR OUR PARISHES:

God of Love, as we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the thousands of people in Endon, Stanley, Brown Edge and Bagnall encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its community, and is excited to find you at work already in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as people of hope. Amen.

Reminder....Alpha

Maryanne is leading our new Alpha course on Wednesdays in St Luke's chapter house. The doors are open at 7 pm and the talk starts at 7:30 pm.



NEW ELECTORAL ROLL

The new roll will be displayed on the church noticeboard during March. If you have completed a membership form and handed it to Sheila Simpson please check that your details are correct. Remember that this is a new roll and you 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.

ECUMENICAL LENT COURSE

.....more information from Rev Julie

*This will be held on Monday evenings during Lent beginning Monday **March 11th** 2019 at 7.30pm till 9pm at Endon Methodist Church – based on the film, ‘**I, DANIEL BLAKE**’. Maryanne has a leader’s booklet – but I will produce an A5 folded leaflet for each week and will circulate those. This will mean that people don’t need to buy the book to participate. The first session will be to watch the film only – which will mean that the group will finish on the Monday of Holy Week. All are welcome to attend – a challenging and touching film, which will I am sure give us food for thought.*



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual World Day of Prayer (previously known as the Women's World Day of Prayer) will be held at the Methodist Church on Friday **1st March** at 2.00 pm. ALL ARE WELCOME. This year's service has been written by the women of Slovenia.

The theme is '**Come - Everything is Ready.**'

Those involved in reading at the service will need to attend the rehearsal the week before on Friday 22nd February at 2.00 pm, also at the Methodist church.

MOTHERS' UNION: The annual Lady Day service will be at St Chad's church, Longsdon on **Mon 25th March** at 2.00 pm. See Sheila H for details.

A BIG THANK YOU to Alan P and Barrie for gritting and clearing the ice from St Luke's church path, car park and the area around the lych-gate on Sunday 3rd Feb when we had temperatures well below freezing. Your work was much appreciated by all who attended church that morning.



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

Deservedly Famous

The Bishop's Pastoral Letter for March 2019

TRUE CELEBRITIES AND ICONS OF OUR TIME

Q: 'What are you famous for?' A: 'I'm famous for being famous'.

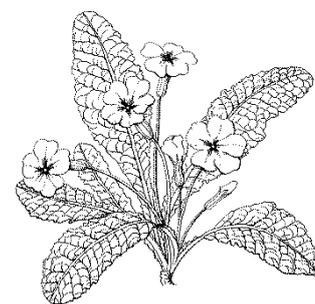
'Famous for being famous' is a phrase which sums up one of the more empty dimensions of our contemporary culture rather well. It refers to somebody who is well-known not because of any particular talent, achievement or position, but simply because she or he is well-known. So pervasive is this celebration of celebrity culture for its own sake that we could all think of people in that category, much as we might to pretend that we cannot. Oddly enough, many such celebrities first appearances were on what is called 'reality TV' – which is in fact a depiction of events about as far removed from normal reality as it is possible to get. And another word which is pressed into the distorted service of fame for fame's sake is 'icon', meaning a representative symbol of some enthusiasm or aspiration: 'icon of empowerment', 'icon of style', 'icon of youth', 'icon of and so on' – Wikipedia will give you plenty of answers as to which famous celebrity belongs where. If all that is part of popular contemporary culture, then our faith asks us to be profoundly counter-cultural, and we can see that in the way we as Christians use words like 'reality', 'icon', 'celebrity'. The reality in which we are called to live is one in which our extraordinary God inhabits, blesses and transforms the very ordinary, everyday things of life. It is a reality of repeated acts of kindness and care, constant glimpses of the holy breaking through into the secular, unremarkable men and women becoming temples of the Holy Spirit. I come across this down-to-earth-lifted-to-heaven reality in churches and communities across our diocese, and it is far more absorbing and interesting than any TV show.

And what are icons in this reality? They are pictures of those in whom the light of God shines, images of what our humanity looks like when it is restored to the likeness of the One who created us. I have many icons in my house.

A few are representations of canonised saints, and they remind me of the great communion of holy ones across time and space who pray with me and for me. But most are photographs of family, friends, colleagues, and they too hold before my eyes the networks of love and care that accompany and encourage me on my journey. Well-known or obscure, all these icons are of people whose life is hid with Christ in God, and they mean more to me than anybody posing as a symbol of any fashion.

And who are our celebrities? They are people whose contributions are often hidden from public notice, who commit themselves to serving their neighbours, loving their God, and showing the fruits of the Spirit in their lives. You will know many such people in your own churches, and you will know that these are the people who really do deserve to be famous – but, of course, they would not be the people they are if they wanted to be known for being famous. They are the people Jesus described as the salt of the earth and the light of the world, and without them the world would be a dark and unsavoury place. They are people who, like our first bishop St Chad, ‘act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God’. And at our St Chad’s celebration this year, on 4th March at our Cathedral, I will be presenting seven of them with the first awards of our new St Chad’s Medal, given to recognise devoted service of God and neighbour by people in our diocese. These are our celebrities indeed.

+ Michael
Bishop of Lichfield



Welcoming Spring

Spring is here and many churchyards are adorned with primroses. The name derives from the Latin *prima rosa* meaning ‘first rose’ of the year (despite it not being a member of the rose family). In various counties it also goes by a variety of charming names such as Butter Rose, Lent Rose, Darling of April and Golden Stars.

As well as the arrival of flowers, spring often offers us new energy to think about the year ahead. After many successful years running *Cherishing Churchyards Week* we have now renamed it to *Love your Burial Ground Week*.

This is because we were being contacted by communities involved in chapels, Friends of Cemetery Groups and Natural Burial grounds who wanted to join in. This year it will take place from Saturday 8th of June to Sunday 16th of June and we would be delighted if you could take part. The idea is to organise something to celebrate your burial ground. This can be as simple as a practical session such as a 'cake and rake', a themed messy church activity or a guided walk. All events will be featured on our website and highlighted in publicity. We look forward to hearing from you, and do let us know if you have primroses so we can pop a record on our new database!

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.

Next team meeting: **Tues 26th March**
2.30pm at the vicarage.

HILLSWOOD LODGE VISITS

Meet at Vicarage 10.50am for 11.00am

Next dates:

Thursdays March 21st , April 18th



**CHRISTIAN AID
SPONSORED WALK
AT TITTESWORTH
RESERVOIR**

Saturday 23rd March

(meet at 9.45am for 10.00am)

This year is the 29th walk and to date the total amount raised is £968,000. The organisers are hoping to reach £1,000,000.

Full details of this fundraising event are now pinned on the notice board at the back of church, together with a sponsorship form.

I have additional copies of the sponsorship form if anyone would like to take one home to sign up family, friends, neighbours. Last year 7 members of the congregation took part in the walk and it proved an ideal way of “cementing” friendship. If you feel you would like to join us this year please tell me and I will advise you nearer the time of final arrangements.

Thanks for your support!

Alan P



WELL DRESSING

25th 26th 27th May

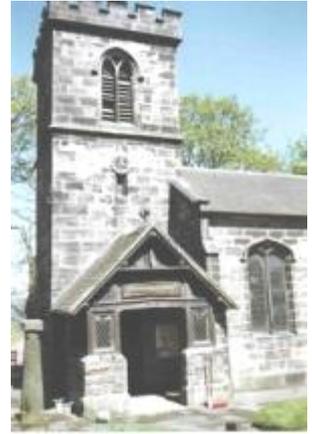
This year's well dressing queen has been chosen and arrangements are already underway for our church involvement. We are of course very much hoping that Pauline, Jeanette and other members of Endon Floral Arts will be willing and available to help decorate St Luke's and no doubt involve some of our novices from the newly formed Flower Club.

In addition we shall have a visiting choir...

Last year members of Endon Community Choir experienced problems from passing traffic in the village during their singing session by the well. The noise not only prevented their voices from being heard at times but the vehicles also presented a safety issue. As a result the choir has requested permission to use St Luke's church this year and not just as a backstop in case of bad weather as was previously the case. This has been granted and the choir will be singing at approximately 4.15pm on Saturday, May 25th. Extra help will therefore be needed in the chapter house serving teas to what we hope will be a full church!

Also...a big thank you to members of the Well Dressing Committee for their recent donation of £400 to church funds.

NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S



January Deanery Synod:

Tuesday 22nd at St Philip & St James, Milton

Firstly, we received notices which included a reminder to ALL to complete a full review of Church Electoral Rolls.

The evening's talk was driven by a new strategy introducing **The Vision for Lichfield Diocese**. Originating from a Diocesan gathering back in February 2017, the purpose of that meeting was to consider what this invitation to follow Christ meant for them as a Diocese. Our guest speaker Venerable Matthew Parker, Archdeacon for Stoke-on-Trent, distributed copies of his report: **The Direction of Travel Update** - named so by the Bishop of Lichfield, Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Igrave, for progress of the Bishop Vision. The meeting progressed around the report content which was split into three sections: The Invitation, The Vision and The Priorities – how the Vision can support us/you and how the Diocese can support it.

The vision for Staffordshire, Northern Shropshire and for the Black Country is that the church will become a real blessing for the people of this region. Following in the footsteps of Chad, the first Bishop of Lichfield (c 634– d 672), well-known for his crossing of boundaries, for his warm hospitality and, above all, for his prayerful commitment to following Jesus.

The Invitation – Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Chad.

The Vision (The Shared Diocesan Vision/Vision Statement) – *“As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the*

richness and variety of those communities. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as people of hope.” This vision is to be owned by the parishes, chaplaincies, Fresh Expressions, schools and the Cathedral in their own way and in their own context. The Direction of Travel Update report and The Vision video can be viewed on the Diocese website: www.lichfield.anglican.org/ourvision

Matthew said, “It is not compulsory for ALL to use the Bishop Vision. Some may be happy to follow it, some may carry on as normal however this may well lead ‘us’ into new things”.

The Priorities – discipleship, vocation & evangelism (DVE):

- 1) developing **Discipleship** - the call to follow Jesus is lifelong.
- 2) encouraging **Vocation**– what is God calling you to do specifically? We have different gifts. Vocations can change direction and are distinct only to you. Vocation applies to every one of us.
- 3) inspiring **Evangelism** – Good News of Christ. Be good news and share your good news that’s evangelism and you invite others into the fellowship of Jesus Christ to follow Him.

Matthew quoted, “As a Diocese we have committed in all that we do to DVE. The Priorities help us focus as a Diocese and we commend them to our parishes, schools, chaplaincies, Fresh Expressions and Cathedral.”

What has happened since February 2017: Bishop Michael convened a Direction Steering Group to oversee progress and implementation of the Direction of Travel; Diocesan Officers responsible for DVE have relocated to Three Shires House to allow for closer working; Lindsey Hall was appointed Lead Officer for the DVE Project Implementation; a new Monitoring Framework had been developed and the Diocesan Website restructured. **Looking ahead** we heard of the development of DVE Projects e.g. new bible study resources, work on confronting modern slavery etc. The report stated other projects undertaken / completed or ongoing. This led on to **Owning the Vision** – here we formed small discussion groups to look at the new advice on the

revised Mission Action Planning (MAP), choosing one of eight questions provided for 'local' reflection on the new vision statement. For more details check online: www.lichfield.anglican.org/ourvision

Matthew closed the meeting with a 'vision prayer' - the vision prayer invites parishes etc., to connect their vision to the Diocesan vision, it was created from the vision statement (a template is available within Matthew's report on the Diocese Website for those who wish to adapt it for their use).

This evening was the first time I had entered the doors of St Philip & St James Church in Milton, and my first time attending a meeting in the capacity of Deanery Synod Representative. The warm welcome and hot cup of tea were much appreciated on that cold January evening. Unfortunately, Julia Podmore was unable to attend due to illness, though I spied the familiar faces of James and Ros from Endon and Rev Alan Betts, joining them in group discussions. Thank you to Kathryn and the AGM for nominating me.

Leonie M Siegertsz

Things are very quiet at the moment, however we do have a social committee meeting taking place just after submission date for the magazine and so, hopefully, I will have lots of exciting things to tell you about in next month's issue.

Don't forget.....

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

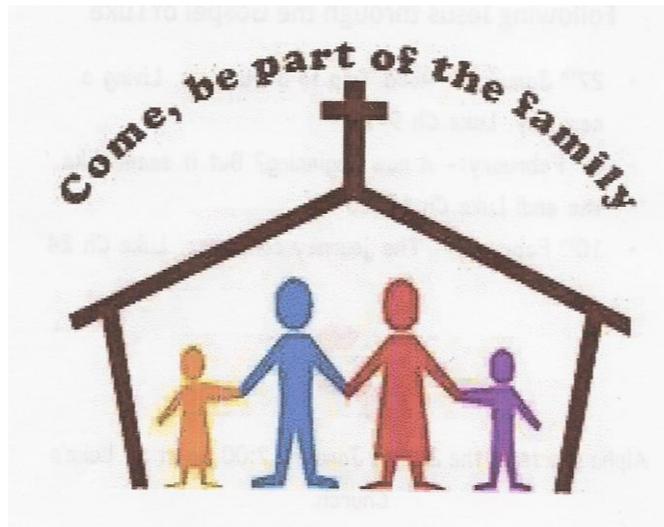
Creative Corner craft club:

Meeting dates until Easter:

March 11th & 25th; April 8th

Sheila Tipper

(Thanks Leonie for your very full deanery synod report. Ros)



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.

ST LUKE'S CHRISTMAS QUIZ... RESULTS!!

Maryanne has now marked our papers! Answers are on the church noticeboard. First prize (a bottle of wine) goes to Stan and Sheila Hurst. Joint second prize (box of chocs) goes to the Lovatts and the Bensons. Commiserations to Linda Foster who, having completed her answers, accidentally threw out her sheet with the household rubbish!

Congratulations to Sheila and Stan and our thanks to Geoff and Rosie Smith and Maryanne and Alan for providing us with a good deal of fun and exercise for our grey matter over the holiday period. If you would like to devise a quiz for next year, please see Maryanne.

ST LUKE'S TABLE TOP SALE



Saturday, 16th March
2-4 pm in Endon Village Hall
Free entry

We are holding a table top sale to raise money for church funds. We hope to serve teas and coffees and run a cake stall too.

Tables will be £8 each. We hope to attract people from outside of church to come and sell their items, as well as church members who wish to purchase a table. So please tell your friends, family and neighbours! They will need to fill in a booking form which will be available in church or ring 01782 502166.

We have the hall from 1-5pm so need volunteers to set up and pack away, serve teas and coffees, make and sell cakes.

It is an ideal way to get rid of the clutter from spring cleaning!
Talk to Sue, Shirley, Liz or Maryanne for more details.

PS If you think you do not have enough 'stuff' to sell, Alan P and Maureen will still be doing their bric-a-brac stall at Well Dressing.

FLOWER ARRANGING

Dates for your diary...

20th March

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.

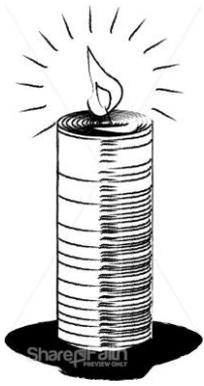


Please note...there will be no session on Wednesday, 6th March as the chapter house will be in use for our Lent lunch. All are welcome of course to come along to that instead. Please see front page for details.

It is hoped this session becomes 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 MARCH

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.

Mar	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
3 rd	Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the birthday of their grandson William (1 st) and their daughter Clare (4 th)	Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Olly's birthday
10 th	Sue Gibbons to celebrate the birthday of grandson Max	Mabel McGrath to celebrate the birthday of my grandson Ewan McGrath (11 th)
17 th	Ann and Les Boulton in loving memory of Ann's parents	Roger and Shirley Brindley to celebrate the 3 rd birthday of their granddaughter Emma
24 th	Alan Payne to celebrate Maureen's birthday	<i>No dedication</i>
31 st	The candle is kept burning by June and Peter Pope	The candle is kept burning by June and Peter Pope



MARCH GREETINGS to

Ollie Payne (2nd), Steve Dale (3rd), Clare Salt (4th),
Adrian Davis (5th), John O'Rourke (6th),
Joe Benson (8th), Ann Osman (10th),
Eric Millward (12th), Emily Hurst (14th),
Ros Benson (15th), Deb Podmore (16th),
Chris Jackson (20th), Craig Davis (21st),

Wendy Bardell, Maureen Payne (28th), Emma Theunissen (29th)

*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

WHAT DO WE DO IN OUR HOME GROUPS?

Members of the Monday evening group have been exploring the Book of Proverbs with its wise and pithy sayings and advice. On February 2nd the **UCB Word for Today** notes were based on Proverbs chapter 30, verse 8.

As we are allowed to reproduce a few of these without breach of copyright I have pasted it in to the next page. What do you think? You may like to bring your thoughts to our next group meeting!

You can have **Word for Today** delivered free of charge if you contact the office in Burslem. Details at top of next page.

All welcome. **Ros**

UCB WORD FOR TODAY

Bob Gass, UCB, Westport Road, Burslem, ST6 4JF Tel: 01782 911000

Before you borrow

'Give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs.' **Proverbs 30:8 NLT**

When you think about it, you can be rich in one of two ways: either in how much you have, or in how little you want. Much of the recent debt crisis has been caused by our failure to be satisfied with enough. In a brilliant section of Proverbs penned by the mysterious Agur, we find this prayer: 'O God, I beg two favours from you; let me have them before I die. First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name'" (vv. 7-9 NLT).

Having read that, always try to observe these six rules when it comes to borrowing. Debt is wrong: 1) When it's beyond your ability to repay it on a timely basis. 2) When it prevents you from giving God what's rightfully His. 3) When the burden of debt is so heavy that you can't save for the future. 4) When it's used to pay for the luxuries of life. 5) When you put others at risk by having them guarantee a loan (see Proverbs 6:1-6). 6) When it puts your marriage under financial pressure. Financial expert Larry Burkett said credit is the motivating factor for perhaps 80 per cent of all divorces. That's not to say being rich guarantees you'll never have family problems. It's simply saying that putting money first and your family second can make you nothing more than a wealthy failure. So before you borrow, pray and ask God for wisdom.

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 tickets 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.

Thank you to the three families who offered to host mums and children in May. Unfortunately we do not have enough families to host a group this year.

Teenagers in Remission from Cancer:

Our sad news is that Denis, a lovely young man who in 2015 stayed with Ingrid and Nigel, has passed away. Our prayers and thoughts are with his family and friends at this difficult time.

**Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 13th
at 7.30pm at Endon Methodist Church.**

John & Julie Gater 535000

SUZY'S CONCERT

**Saturday
9th March
at 3.00pm
at Milton
Methodist
Church**

**in aid of Swan Bank's
work for the homeless in Burslem.**

No entrance charge but donations welcome!

PLEASE SUPPORT



***SHROVE
TUESDAY***

***March 5th – Pancakes at
Endon Methodist
Church from 4pm.***

BUYING EASTER EGGS?

MAKE SURE THEY'RE FAIR TRADE!

They can be ordered on-line from
The Meaningful Chocolate Company, *Traidcraft* or
bought from 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.

LEEK FOOD BANK UPDATE



Currently we would particular welcome...

- UHT milk, skimmed, semi or full cream
- Coffee
- Mash
- Jam
- Custard
- Sponge puddings
- Tinned fruit
- Fruit cordial
- Sturdy carrier bags
- Hair conditioner
- Women's deodorant
- Toothbrushes
- Dog food

We have plenty of...

- Porridge
- Soup
- Cereals
- Soap
- Pasta
- Baked beans

MANY THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP!

Peter Davies, Leek and District Foodbank Project Coordinator

Foodbank Support and Donation

On behalf of Leek & District Foodbank I would like to thank you for your continued support and donations throughout 2018. Your donations have allowed us to provide much needed food and toiletries for the many people who find themselves in serious short term difficulties and as a direct result of your support, the Leek Foodbank has been able to help 526 adults and 336 children throughout 2018.

Each food voucher entitles a person to three days of food ranging from soup, cereals and fruit juice, to tinned meat, tinned veg, tinned fruit and we usually add a few extra treats such as chocolate and nice shampoos and soap.

The support that the Foodbank can give, due to the generosity of donors such as yourselves and the commitment of our volunteers, makes a tremendous difference to so many who find themselves in a time of crisis.

Once again, many thanks for thinking of those who are in so much need in our area.

Warmest regards

Janine Tickle

Volunteer Donor Co-ordinator



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.*

DEANERY SYNOD

The next meeting will be held at St John's Church, Knypersley, on Tuesday **12th March**. The speaker will be Rev Darren Fraser with the subject "**People who are confident in the gospel**".

Thanks to Eric Cartlidge for submitting these "from someone in a community in Colorado who has a great way with words".....

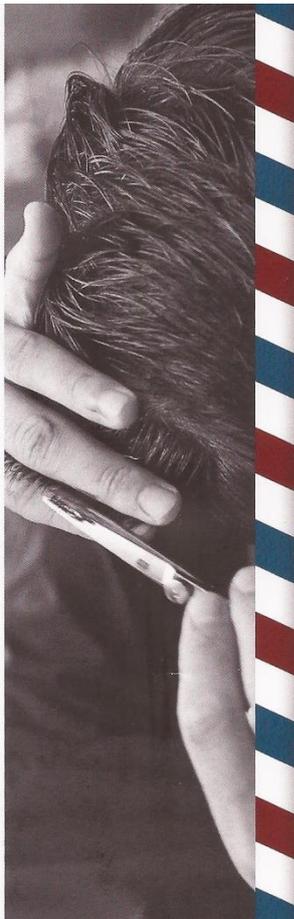


Dan's



B A R B E R S

A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS



**APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
MONDAYS & THURSDAYS FROM 4PM**

**OAP CUTS
£6.00**

OPENING HOURS

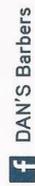
SUN	CLOSED
MON	10am - 6pm
TUE	9am - 5pm
WED	9am - 5pm
THU	9am - 3pm
FRI	9am - 5pm
SAT	8am - 3pm

**NB Now closed on
Mondays**

07500 545455

2 Regent St,
Leek, Staffordshire

Find us on Facebook



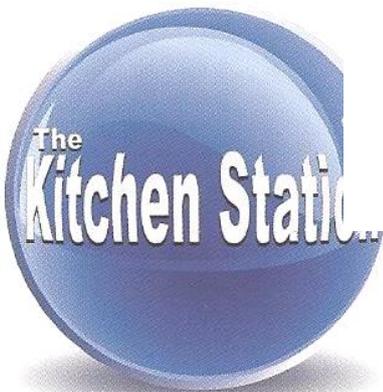
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Xbox also available for the kids!



we install kitchens,
bathrooms, bedrooms,
studies & media rooms

let us make
your dream a reality...



The Kitchen Station

Station Building, 28 Leek Road
Stockton Brook, Staffordshire ST9 9NH

t: 01782 502106
m: 07720 846 270

www.thekitchenstation.co.uk

March Prayer Focus

- Our global warming crisis - that world leaders will take appropriate action urgently
- Our MPs amid the current political turmoil
- Brexit negotiations especially with regard to the Irish border
- Family and friends of footballer Emiliano Salo and pilot David Ibbotson and those investigating
- 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"
- For the people in the Yemen facing starvation, an end to hostilities and for vital aid to get to where it is needed
- 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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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.*

GOODBYE JOHN AND THANK YOU!

We are very sorry to say goodbye to John Bailey who has been one of our organists at both St Luke's and St Chad's for many years. John has helped us out on many occasions and we shall miss him.

You have been a great blessing to both churches, John.

Thank you!

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

April 2019 newsletter will be in church on
Sunday, March 31st

Please submit notices by **Tuesday, March 26th**
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.**