

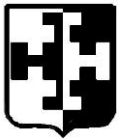


THE UNITED BENEFICE of ST LUKE'S, ENDON with ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL

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

Vicar: Rev Alan Betts Tel: 01782 502166

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



May 2019



WELL DRESSING **May 25th, 26th, 27th**

Volunteers needed please!

Church open:

Sat 3.00pm – 8.00pm

Sun 1.00pm – 6.00pm

Mon 11.00am – 8.00pm

Tues 10.30am – 12.30pm

Services for May

ST LUKE'S

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 5 th | 9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Barrie w James 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School |
| 12 th | 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's School |
| 19 th | 9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Roger & Barrie w Debbie 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School |
| Sat 25 th | 1.30pm WELL DRESSING SERVICE of THANKSGIVING – Rev Alan w Rev Julie and guest speaker Rt Rev Geoff Annas, Bishop of Stafford 4.15pm ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR in St Luke's |
| 26 th | 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School 7.15pm SONGS of PRAISE round the well |

ST CHAD'S

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 5 th | 9.00am HOLY COMMUNION BCP – Rev Alan 10.45am FAMILY SERVICE – Kath and the team |
| 12 th | 10.45am - PRAISE & PRAYER - Kath & Muriel F |
| 19 th | 10.45am ALL AGE HC – Rev Alan |
| 26 th | 10.45am MORNING PRAYER – Kath and Muriel F |

MIDWEEK ECUMENICAL HC SERVICES

Wednesdays at 9.15am

1st, 15th & 29th May at St Luke's

8th & 22nd May at the Methodist Church

ANN OSMAN

Members of St Luke's who were regular attenders between 1985 and 2000 were saddened to hear of the death of Ann Osman. Ann will always be remembered with great affection by all who knew her here in Endon. She was a good listener, a wonderful friend, a great support to her husband Vicar Ern and a great encouragement to us all. A service of thanksgiving for her life was held at Trefonen church on 26th April. Our hearts go out to John, Jane, Catherine and the rest of her family and her friends who will miss her enormously. Thank you Lord for Ann, a blessing to so many.

ST LUKE'S APCM 11th April 2019

13 people attended to represent both our 9.15am and 11.00am congregations. Steve Dale, our new treasurer, presented the accounts for the approval of the PCC at the preliminary meeting. The main meeting was chaired by Rev Alan and the following were elected or agreed to continue in office:

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Churchwarden / Worship leader | Roger Simpson |
| Churchwarden / PCC Sec / Administrator / Lay Reader | Barrie Jackson |
| Deanery Synod | Maurice Woolliscroft |
| Deanery Synod / Reader Emeritus | James Benson |
| Deanery Synod / Newsletter | Ros Benson |
| Treasurer | Steve Dale |
| PCC member / Worship Leader / Alpha and home group leader | Maryanne |
| PCC member / Foundation Governor / Flower Club organiser | Sue Forrester (aka Gibbons) |
| PCC member / Pastoral team member | Sylvia Bradshaw |
| New PCC member / Pastoral team leader | Shirley Brindley |
| PCC member / enthusiastic cake maker | Joe Porter |
| <i>Also re-elected but not PCC members:</i> | |
| Sheila Hurst | Gift Aid Secretary |
| Sheila Simpson | Electoral Roll Officer |
| Steve Jodrell | Independent Examiner of Accounts |

- Welcomers /sidespersons were re-instated en bloc.
- Sheila Simpson reported that the new electoral roll has 74 members of which 60 are resident in the parish and 14 non-resident.
- Rev Alan reported that the deanery synod had been working on creating “dementia friendly” churches and promoting the diocesan vision for parishes that are confident in the gospel.
- All electrical equipment has been PAT-tested so our regular quinquennial inspection can now take place.
- Rev Alan thanked Roger, Barrie and everyone else for their work over the last year to keep St Luke’s running. (On behalf of the PCC and all present, Ros thanked Rev Alan for all his work which is often unseen.)

And of course St Luke's APCM would not be complete without the Simpson report....

Things fall apart. The centre cannot hold.

So wrote WB Yeats 100 years ago. Nothing new there. In these fractured and fractious times, more than ever we need to be bridge builders, even if those bridges seem sometimes to be fleeting and frail.

Saying 'thank you' is one way of building bridges between the giver and receiver, so without more ado ...

THANKS!

In no particular order we have.... welcomers, coffee makers, the Setter of the Central Heating, cleaners, vergers for weddings and funerals, the Scribe who writes the marriage documents, the money counting team, the Gift Aid secretary, the treasurer, musicians of various kinds, gardeners, sweepers of the path and porch, polishers of brasses, menders of leaks, food bank collectors, Well Dressing tea providers, flower arrangers, purchasers of vital supplies, readers of lessons, and no doubt others who I should have mentioned. We shouldn't forget the flower fairy, who pulls up weeds and plants plants that bloom, not only in the spring (tra-la) but for most of the year.

If you think you've heard all this before, you're right. These people go on faithfully for year after year; the unassuming, unfailing and (usually) unthanked, without whom any organisation would collapse.

If you are one of these faithful doers, and you carry out your task by yourself, then I would urge you to find yourself a second string. I realised that I had let myself slide into a situation in which if I was incapacitated, the Biddulph Ramblers couldn't pay their bills. I've now recruited an assistant, and if you are the only one to do something, coax someone into helping.

Having someone beside me is an additional reason for my being delighted that Barrie is standing as a second Churchwarden.

We will be saying farewell to Alan Payne and Maureen at some stage in the coming year, and because they both get on with important jobs quietly and without being asked, we will only discover later how big is the hole they will leave behind. We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude for all that they have done for us. Their next church will be very lucky!

Looking further ahead, although the date of Alan's retirement is over a year away, it's not too early for us to begin to think about how we will cope with the interregnum. Not only will we lose half a vicar, but we will also lose a whole Maryanne. If you heard her address last Sunday, you will realise that we will miss a very able preacher. We also lose our Safeguarding Officer, and a dynamic force in getting things done.

We will need to build a bridge between St Luke's as it now is, and the unknown future, when we will have whatever fraction of a new vicar is allotted to us. This bridge needs to have structure and redundancy in the engineering sense; if one wire or girder snaps, another will take the strain. We need to think afresh about who does what, and who takes over in their absence. To make this work, we will need some people to do things they have never done before, and perhaps didn't think that they could do. Although in some important ways an interregnum is a time of loss, and will be a challenge to all of us, it could also be a time of rejuvenation. Let's start getting ready.

From the old world to the new, keep me travelling along with you!

Roger

PARISH SHARE

As always our largest single outgoing is our parish share which currently stands at £40,893 pa. Much of this comes back to us as our vicar's stipend and vicarage maintenance but a portion also goes to help poorer parishes in our diocese. So far St Luke's has always paid its parish share but if we are to continue to do this and employ an incumbent, it is vital that we maintain sufficient income. Please remember that this is not something we can take for granted....your church needs you! (The vicarage is to be let during our next interregnum.)

We are indebted to our independent examiner of accounts, Steve Jodrell, who has once more waived his fee for his work this year in helping to check and present the accounts in time for our APCM.

ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION

This will take place on Thursday, 16th May at St Luke's, Leek when our two churchwardens will be officially commissioned.



JOE PORTER writes....

I will be participating in the 10k Family Fun Run at Trentham Gardens on Sunday 20th May for the Donna Louise Children's Hospice and then in the first ever Endon 5k Family Fun Run over the 175th Well Dressing Weekend on Sunday 26th May for the Endon Park Regeneration Project. 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.

CHURCH HEATING

Just to remind everyone that St Luke's church heating will be turned off on Wednesday 22nd May to help to preserve the Well Dressing Festival flowers over the Well Dressing weekend. There will be no heat on during the summer, so bring a jacket on cooler days.

MOTHERS' UNION

Cheddleton MU group invite EVERYONE, members and non members, to their Springtime Special. Rev'd Philip Swan (Diocesan Director of World Mission) will speak on a recent visit to Qu'appelle in Canada as well as visits he has made to other parts of the world.

**Venue: St Edward's Church, Cheddleton
ST13 7HP**

Date: Monday 20th May at 2 pm.

There will be refreshments and a MU sales table.

THE KINGDOM COME

30th May – 9th June 2019



For the fourth year running we will be joining in the Wave of Prayer from Ascension to Pentecost.

There will be a **prayer walk on Wednesday 5th June.**

Meet at church at **10:30 a.m.** We will walk around Endon praying for our community.

If you want to join in but do not want to walk then there are two things you can do:

1. Stay in the Chapter House to pray whilst the walkers are out.
2. Pray at home.

You can also download resources from

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/> and register to Pledge2Pray. Links will also be posted on our website.

Some of these resources will also be available at the back of church for you to use between the 30th of May and the 9th of June. Can we ask that if you take a printed copy you make a contribution to printing costs (put in wall box).

The website is well worth a look there is a variety of resources for all the family – get them involved to!

If we all commit to praying for 5 friends or family that we would like to see discover their faith who knows what will happen?

Even if you cannot join us then please take some time to join in this national Wave of Prayer in whatever way you can.

For more information talk to Maryanne - 01782 502166 or email her on maryanne@endonstlukes.org.uk



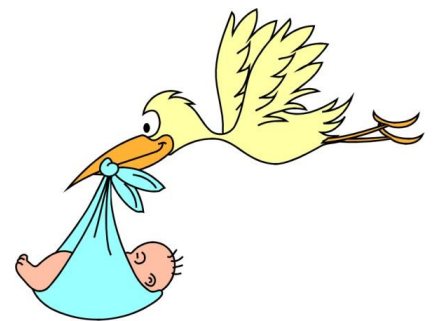
All Welcome at 11.00am every Sunday

in St Luke's Primary CE Academy for 35 minutes followed by refreshments, time to chat and play.



GOOD NEWS!

Congratulations to Neil and Wendy Taylor on the birth of their first grandchild Owen Stanley, born to daughter Vicky and son-in-law James. We thank the Lord for his safe delivery and we pray for blessings on Owen and his family.





George Heath The Moorland Poet Commemorations 2019

On Sunday 5th May 2019 we will be commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the death of George Heath the Moorland Poet with a morning service at St Michael's Church Horton starting at 11.30am.

This will be followed by an exhibition of his life at Horton Village Hall from approximately 1pm to 6pm. Entrance is free and all are welcome.



For further information please contact staffordshireheathreunion@gmail.com or see our website heathfamilystaffordshire.co.uk

House group news ...

Our Alpha course has now officially come to an end but the group members have decided they would like to continue to meet possibly fortnightly on Wednesdays in St Luke's in the 7:30 pm. This will be a new house open to anyone who would like to join. Please see Maryanne if you are interested. In the meantime Barrie will take over the leadership of our Monday evening group at the home of James and Ros.



Alan P writes....

*All sponsorship monies have now been received and a cheque for **£455** has been sent to Christian Aid. Grateful thanks for all your support.*

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.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2019 LENT COURSE

“Nothing more and nothing less”

The Lent Course this year was based on the film “I, Daniel Blake” led by Rev Julie Herbert. The weekly sessions were very well attended, viewing selected scenes from the DVD and engaged in hard discussions centred around those and based on a structured course booklet.

The theme and purpose of the book was to highlight the “working” (or, more likely, the “non-working) of the Benefits system, following the enacting of the Welfare Reform Act in 2012 with a particular focus on the “Work Capability Assessment”.

Without exception, members of the Course were aghast at the arbitrary and inhumane way in which the system was shown to operate, as illustrated by the treatment meted out to the 2 main applicants; one a widower who had suffered a heart attack and was prevented from working (Daniel Blake) and the other a young mother with 2 young children, who had been sent up from London to Newcastle because of a shortage of housing. It followed the increasing downward spiral of both applicants, as their applications drag on and on they are forced into desperate circumstances whilst they await the outcome of their applications. Some members of the Lent Course were able to cite personal experience of the mechanistic application of different aspects of Government funded schemes.

As a great counter to the chilling inhumanity of the Benefits System, the wonderfully warm and generous side of ordinary people was shown by the staff at the local Food Bank and by some individual members of staff in the DWP office. Also, the mutual support and kindness of the relationship which developed between two main “players” to and for one another, was inspirational.

If you haven't seen the DVD, it's well worth looking at and is very thought provoking. The supporting booklet is also well worth reading, as a prompt. The passage of scripture which we were given as a focus right at the start of the course was Matthew 25 v31-46 – the famous passage which concludes “in so far as you did this for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.” Ultimately, therefore, as Christians during this time of Lent we had to address the question “What sort of Society do we want? – which then led us on to the more fundamental question - What sort of people do we need to be in order to achieve it? If you really do want to reflect on what Lent means, in real terms, please read and reflect on Isaiah 58 – you can almost imagine Isaiah looking on us today!

Barrie



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

SEE THE POWER

The 'Bishop's' Pastoral Letter for May 2019

While we await a new Bishop of Shrewsbury, another archdeacon pens a pastoral letter.

What do you expect when you pray?

When we pray, do we expect it to be a way of persuading God to give us what we want? Or is prayer an activity in which we engage with God, to achieve what he wants?

To be able to engage with God, we need faith, trust in God, in every part of life. Prayer helps us to grow in trust (Proverbs 3:5-6). But faith filled prayer is not a device to ensure an easy life – see Hebrews 11:32-39 to see what trust in God achieves in real people's lives. Prayer is the way we have been given to see God's power at work in every situation, to help us cope, to overcome evil, to witness change.

Thy Kingdom Come, is an opportunity, between Ascension Day and Pentecost (30th May-9th June), for all of us, 'to deepen our friendship with Jesus, bring others to know Jesus or know him better and to come to know that every aspect of your life is the stuff of prayer'. <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/> As we have recently celebrated at Easter, and do so every day, Jesus Christ is RISEN, He is ALIVE. When we pray we pray to God our Father, through our living Lord and Saviour, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In times of great pain and suffering, in times of joy and celebration, we pray with the focus that Jesus himself taught us in the Lord's Prayer. 'Thy Kingdom Come', is followed by the words 'Thy will be done'. We pray for the coming of God's kingdom in our lives, the lives of those around us, the life of our churches, communities and beyond. We do so based on God's agenda, not ours; we do so expecting God to work. 'Your will be done'.

So let's all pray. If you don't know what to say, start with the words Jesus taught us – the Lord's Prayer (Matt 6:9-14). Pause between each line, be ready to be challenged, encouraged and comforted. Listen, watch and see God at work. And GIVE THANKS.

The Ven Sue Weller, Archdeacon of Walsall



Charity no. 1155536

Dawn Chorus

May is the month for bird song and I like to get up early for the dawn chorus. Birds use song to attract mates and defend breeding territories; they can sing throughout the day, but dawn is the time when singing is loudest.

You can think of the different bird species as players and singers in an orchestra. Thrush and blackbirds start the chorus with a glorious fanfare, imagine soprano and tenor singers at full force! This is followed by a complicated mixture of songs and with patience, you can start to pick out individuals. Warblers such as whitethroat, blackcap and garden warbler have lyrical songs; the violin section. Great spotted woodpeckers can be heard drumming whilst finches include buzzes and chirring sounds in their song, other percussion instruments? Listen for the tit family; loud simple sounds like a trumpet. Goldcrest and tree creeper are often found in churchyards and have high-pitched songs – piccolo players in the background. Finally, green woodpecker with its loud laughing 'yaffle' is an unruly member of the audience!

Many people offer Dawn Chorus walks, sometimes followed by breakfast, which works well in a churchyard setting. International Dawn Chorus day is the first Sunday in May but birds sing throughout the month so any May morning will do!

Fun fact: birds develop regional accents, a nuthatch in Cornwall sounds different from one in Staffordshire.



Song Thrush

All the best

Harriet

Harriet Carty, *Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*

harriet@cpga.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)

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am profoundly shocked and deeply saddened by the appalling events in Sri Lanka yesterday. There is something especially blasphemous about the wanton and indiscriminate taking of human life on the day when Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Lord of all life: Jesus Christ, Saviour of the World.

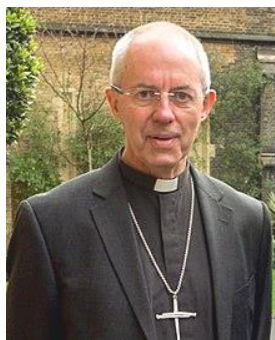
The killing of those who were engaged in worship is an obscene denial of the basic freedom God has given us all. Sri Lanka has suffered so much as a nation and the trauma of these deaths cannot serve the purpose of anyone who truly knows God, the creator and sustainer of life in all its fullness.

Although I cannot be with you in person, please be assured of my thoughts and prayers for you as you meet in Southall and for all who grieve in Sri Lanka.

We are called to be part of the global body of Christ and we hurt because others are hurt; we mourn when others mourn; we cry out on behalf of the injured, the bereaved and the terrified; and we pray that Sri Lanka and all Sri Lankans across the globe, will know the peace and protection of Almighty God this evening.

Yours in Christ,

++Justin



A message to the people of Sri Lanka from our Archbishop of Canterbury.

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 dates:

May 16th, June 20th, July 18th, Aug 15th

THE BIG CLEAN...

Thank you to all those who turned up for this event on April 27th and those who carried out necessary cleaning jobs on other days. The results of your efforts are plain to see and will help make our church a welcoming place for visitors not only at well dressing and but at other times too.



FLOWER CLUB & WELL DRESSING



Here is an L-shaped Easter arrangement created by Pauline as her 'demo'. Beautiful, isn't it? The Flower Festival display theme for Well Dressing Weekend is 'The Seasons in Poetry and Flowers'. Our 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! We want 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.

Sue adds....How wonderful the church looked on Easter Sunday! Great thanks are due to the members of the Flower Club who donated their beautiful arrangements. We are really excited about contributing to the Flower Festival over Well Dressing Weekend and hope that the church will have many



visitors to look at our handiwork. Of course, the members of Endon Floral Arts Club will be the main contributors as in previous years, and we are very grateful for their time and expertise. If anyone wishes to

donate money towards the cost of flowers please feel free to do so!

The dates for meetings during May and June are as follows:-

8th and 29th May

12th and 26th June

23rd/24th May are the staging

days for the Flower Festival.

We will be taking a summer break from flower arranging over July and August but will be back in September.

The invitation to come and join us to see what happens, or just have a cup of tea, is open to everyone.

We may be arranging a craft workshop during the summer, so keep that in mind.



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

WELL DRESSING CHURCH

OPENING TIMES

Welcomers will be needed and folk to serve refreshments in the chapter house on these three days. Please sign the lists if you are available to help serve teas or welcome visitors and or make/provide cakes, scones or biscuits. Extra help for choir performance at 4.15 Sat.

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 for any folk who were unable to pop in to see our flower displays on the previous three days. James and Ros have volunteered to be welcomers for this extra session.



BRIC-A-BRAC SALE

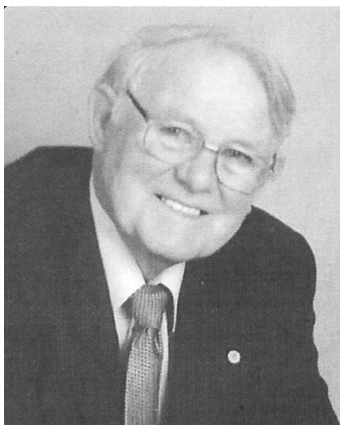
In an effort to raise funds for the Church we are holding a "Bric-a-Brac Sale" during the Flower Festival at Well Dressing Weekend on Monday 27th May, so now is the time to start sorting out all that "stuff" you have been thinking about getting rid of but don't know what to do with.

Please Note: We do not want clothes or furniture.

If you could arrange to bring it to Church on the weekend of the 18th & 19th May that would be great. If you cannot get it to Church please ring me and I will try to collect it.

Many thanks, Alan Payne: 01782 504918 07759 599600

HARRY BROWN

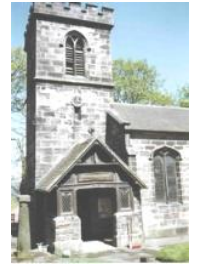


A long-standing, well known and active member of our community in Endon, Harry died on April 10th after a long period of illness during which he was cared for wonderfully by his wife Barbara between several spells in hospital. James and I became further acquainted with him recently on the occasions when Barbara brought him to the weekly “Mind to Sing” group at St Lawrence’s church in Biddulph. Always ready with a warm and friendly smile, he was a popular member of the group and was missed when he was no longer able to attend. He loved to sing. He will be missed a great deal by his family and his many friends here in the village where he lived. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Barbara and the family.

To a packed church Alan Williamson gave a very full account of Harry’s village involvement, describing him as a cheerful and competent gentleman who had spent over 80 of his 89 years in Endon. He was born in August 1929 and lived at The Black Horse for 34 years, attending St Luke’s primary school and then Leek High School. From an early age he took part in well dressing activities starting off as a page in the retinue and then a maypole dancer and later as a gate attendant. He was very interested in music and singing and knew all the maypole dance tunes. He was a member of St Luke’s church choir and formed a quartet of singers whose renderings “brought the house down” in the then parish room. He was very sporty enjoying football, cricket, sledging and “barrel walking” at which he was expert! He captained a winning side for Endon football club and raised funds for a pitch and equipment for Endon cricket club. In his book “100 Years of Cricket in Endon” he wrote of the importance of creating a good atmosphere. Among other contributions to village life he took car loads of youngsters to Burslem baths where they could learn to swim. In the days when Endon had its own bonfire, Harry was on the committee. More recently he and his wife Barbara grew flowers, fruit and vegetables which they sold for village hall funds. As well as being a member of the well dressing committee he was a founder member of the Endonian Society and on one occasion arranged for a catering van to be open after a stint “beating the bounds” which was much appreciated by all who took part. He took good care of his customers at The Black Horse too when he was landlord. I’m sure this isn’t the half of it but thank you Alan for a wonderful tribute to a lovely man.

Ros

NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S



MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE:

We had a cracking service led by Ian and Caryl and helped by Kath, who did a sterling job in making it fun, festive and family friendly. We were joined by the village Chestnut queen, Emily and members of her retinue who distributed bunches of daffodils to all the mums, grans, aunties etc in



the congregation. The church was nicely full including members of the retinue's families and plenty of visitors. The theme of the service was "nets". Kath and Caryl did some very energetic displays of games using nets to set the scene. They either mimed very well or we're an amazingly clever congregation because the answers were speedily forthcoming!

We all need a net to catch us sometimes, and we had the opportunity to tie a coloured thread on to a net as a prayer. So many people went forward that the net was swiftly filled. The little boy next to me went twice! All in all I left feeling light hearted and positive—who could ask for more!

AFTER MOTHERS' DAY:

I can say with almost 100% certainty that it is almost 65 years since I first entered St. Chad's church and that it is the first place I ever went, outside of my home. I was born at Manor House Farm, 2nd window from the left, for those of you who are familiar with it, with District Nurse Ratcliffe in attendance, the youngest child and only daughter of Reg and Connie Clowes. My Dad was churchwarden and my mother a prolific baker of cakes for Church events, Fayres and get-togethers.

A farmer's wife, her greatest pleasure in life was to feed people I think! But she was also a firm believer in the practice of "**churching of women**". (Get yourself

a Book of Common Prayer from the tower and look it up!) This was the practice of giving thanks to God for the safe delivery of a child and the practice was that it was the first thing you did with your baby, before visiting any relatives, going to the shops, anything public. It was a private service, just the Vicar, Mother and child, I believe. The period of “convalescence” in those days was much longer than today when new Mums seem to get discharged from hospital so quickly, often the same day. It could be several weeks before a mother shared her newborn with the outside world. So I was probably a couple of weeks old when this “churching” took place, my first, of many, many services in St. Chad’s and soon after I was baptised.

Scroll forward 26 years, 28 and 34 years and I carried out the same “churching” in St Chad’s with my children, but they were a few days old and it was more of a family occasion, but still a private service. It was important to me, partly because of the connection to my Mum, who sadly died before any of my children were born. But also because my Mum had taught me well-the first thing you do when something good happens to you, is to give thanks to God. This practice has died out in the modern church, being replaced perhaps by more public services of thanksgiving. Thankfully more babies, and mothers, survive childbirth these days, though my family has good reason to know that it’s still not always straightforward. Mothering Sunday is about thanking our mothers for all they do for us, and I hope you Mums were all suitably spoiled? But let us Mums say quiet thanks that we have been given the chance to be Mothers, and Grandmothers and all the blessings (and sleepless nights still!) that it brings.

Barbara



CHURCHYARD CLEAN UP:

On Saturday 13th April, around 15 people turned out on a sunny, but very chilly, morning armed with brushes, rakes, tractor & trailer and all manner of gardening implements. Christmas wreaths were removed from graves, sticks gathered, leaves swept up and the path weeded. Pat & Peter planted more bulbs so we can be sure of another colourful spring display next year. When the cold got a bit too much, tea, coffee, homemade scones & biscuits were available in the relatively warm church.

Thanks to everyone who came to help and to Peter and Rob Lawley for removing the “garden” waste. I hope you agree that the churchyard is now looking all spruced up for Easter and the year ahead. **Peter Millard**

CYNIC’S EYE VIEW OF THE YEAR

Something that I hope will cheer people up when you have run out of cheer to pass on. It all came into my head (There’s plenty of space there these days) when I heard the “Hippopotamus Song” in an advert on T.V. and remembered those wonderful entertainers Flanders and Swann. I wrote twelve verses fairly quickly then thought that I could not leave it like that, really cynical, for people to enjoy at St Chad’s so I laboured over the last verse which I hope sounds sincere and not trite.

CYNIC’S EYE VIEW OF THE YEAR

*January’s for Christmas bills,
Wind brings rain across the hills,
Mud is splashing up our legs,
In the stores first Easter eggs.*

*February’s full of slush,
Families huddle in the hush
As kiddies on computers play
And T.V. pushes Valentine’s Day.*

*March winds and April showers
Brought forth May flowers.
Now they all appear together
As we curse the flippin’ weather.*

*Among the blossoms on the trees
The birds sway gently in the breeze.
The blackbird sings a sweet refrain
Then, blow me, frosts come down again.*

*The bluebells bask in June’s bright sun.
The children come out to have fun.
The cricket match should last all day
Until at twelve the rain stops play.*

*July is great, our month for fun.
Holiday season has begun.
We plan a picnic in the clover
Until a gale knocks tables over.*

*Passports, Euros, luggage, packing,
Foreign travel, nothing lacking.
Here's the airport! Oh, bad luck!
Once more in August strikes have struck.
Seven in meaning, ninth in place,
My, how the year begins to race.
At last, some sun which lasts a day,
September mists then roll our way.
October days bring harvest time:
Corn for bread and grapes for wine,
Ripe apples grown from springtime buds,
As farmers paddle through the floods.
November turns out to be dry;
A late sun glimmers in the sky,
Late ramblers walk the country lane
But come "Guy Fawkes" it starts to rain,
December brings a flood of spending,
A pile of food and money lending,
Baubles, streamers, mistletoe kissing
And Christmas from which Christ is missing.
If we welcomed Jesus back
Then I'm sure there'd be no lack
Of sun to brighten up our rain
And better years would come again.*

Pat

ST CHAD'S EASTER GARDEN:

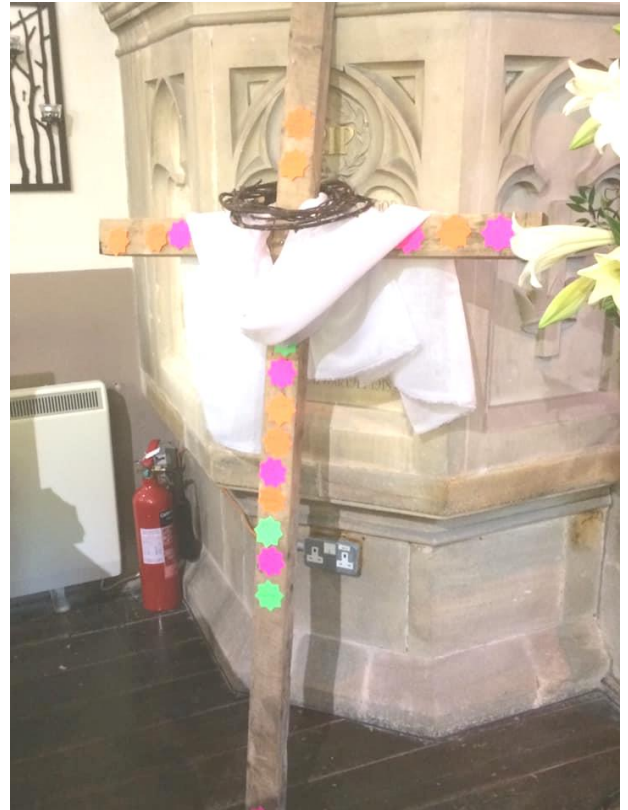


Check out our Easter Garden if you can. It's well worth a visit in the porch of the church. Thanks must go to the Houstons and Houston-Browns who went to so much trouble to brighten up our Easter.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday 11th May

Coffee morning and plant sale – Freda and Patrick. If anyone has any plants, cuttings, seedlings etc that they could donate, Freda would be very grateful.



“KINGDOM SECURITY”

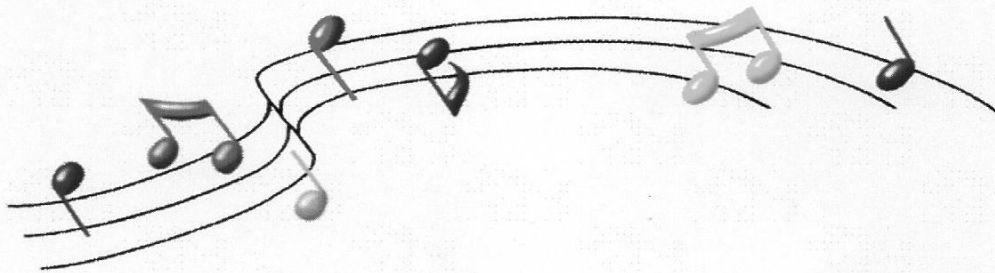
Barrie submitted this photo...



"Seen in Piccadilly in Manchester on Easter Weekend - with a Street Preacher on one side preaching Repentance and a West Indian on bongos singing "Hallelujah, praise the Lord" - not sure that the security firm appreciated their significance!"



ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR 10th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT



Saturday 15th June, 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

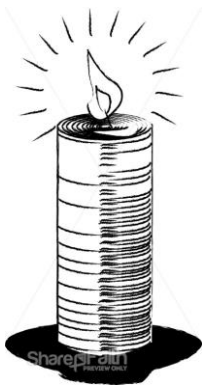
Ticket Prices:

Adult £4,

Children £2 (Under school age free)

Price includes refreshments.





CANDLE DEDICATIONS for MAY

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

| May | CANDLE OF HOPE | SANCTUARY LIGHT |
|------------------|--|--|
| 5 th | John Moss in loving memory of Winifred Moss Maureen Foster to celebrate the birthdays of grandchildren Sophie and Charlotte | Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Mark's birthday (5 th) |
| 12 th | Marilyn Plant in remembrance of a dear father, Edwin Turner | In loving memory of Tom, Emma and Robert Williams, from the family |
| 19 th | Sue Gibbons to celebrate the birthday of son, Nick Janet Bowyer in loving memory of a dear father, Alfred Thomas Bowyer on his birthday (19 th) | Elaine Clarke and Dominic in loving memory of Roy, a wonderful husband and father |
| 26 th | Sylvia Bradshaw to celebrate the birthday of granddaughter, Evie (30 th) | Eric Cartlidge in loving memory of Joyce on the anniversary of her death (27 th) |



MAY GREETINGS to

Stan Hurst (3rd), Alan Payne (4th), Mark Payne (5th), Matthew Taylor (6th), John Moss (7th), Joe Porter (8th), Vera Tyson (11th she's 102!!), Rachel Foster (12th), James Benson (18th), Chris Bardell (21st), Victoria Bunn (29th), Dave Moss (31st)

If you would like your own or a family birthday included here please 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 | Barrie | 7.30pm |
| Tuesday (NB 2 nd week of the month, this is replaced by HC on Wednesday.) | Bagnall Heights Lounge | Pauline Hart | Barrie | 11.00 am |
| Wednesday (fortnightly, continuation of Alpha) | Vicarage | Maryanne | Maryanne | 7.30pm |



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.*



SAVE THE DATE

A gin tasting is being planned for Friday June 21st at the No.41 Gin House, Millrise Road, Milton. Further information available soon. In aid of church funds.

Sue Forrester

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

Supporting Children of Belarus since 1995

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

FUNDRAISING :

Endon Well Dressing

There will be a rota for the three days, weather permitting - if it is wet please contact Ian and Sheelagh before heading to the field to confirm whether the stall will be open.

Please keep on collecting prizes we can give away. Stall holders do not need to pay entry.

We will also be organising the **Car Boot Sale on Monday 27th May, Bank Holiday** on Car Park field 8 am until 12.30 pm, £10 per car or free if selling for CCP.

We really need another two volunteers to help collect money on the gate and direct cars for us.

Chinese Evening, Sunday 17th November

Location: The Arch in Newcastle

Please contact John and Julie if you can offer help in any way especially during the two weeks at Cicely Haughton School during August.

**Our next meeting will be on
Wednesday, 8th May
at 7.30pm at Endon Methodist Church
John & Julie Gater 535000**

LEEK FOOD BANK UPDATE



URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

- Rice pudding
- Dog food
- Mash
- Tomato ketchup
- Sponge puddings
- Fruit cordial
- Savoury snacks
- Pot noodles
- Savoury rice
- Pasta in sauce packets
- Packet custard
- Tinned potatoes
- Chocolate
- Brown sauce
- Tinned carrots

We are well supplied with....

- Porridge
- Soup
- Baked beans
- Dried pasta
- Soap
- Toilet rolls

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

Peter Davies,
Project Coordinator

May Prayer Focus

- For the people of Sri Lanka and all affected by the bombs on Easter Day
- For the relatives and friends of journalist Lyra McKee shot dead in Londonderry and all investigating
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Local elections on May 2nd

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

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

Curtains, Oriental Rugs,
Leather Cleaning
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.

ASCENSION DAY 30th May - Acts 1 v7-11

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go to heaven."

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 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 |

June 2019 newsletter will be in church on
Sunday, May 26th

Please submit notices by **Tuesday, May 21st**
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.**