



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

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

www.endonstlukes.org.uk

Vestry (church office): 01782 502166



February 2021

INTERREGNUM Month 8



February 2nd

We don't usually celebrate Candlemas but it often appears in diaries and on calendars being **40 days** after both the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany.

According to the latest diocesan bulletin Candlemas celebrations combine three themes: the first signs of spring, the presentation of Christ in the Temple and the feast of St Bridget of Kildare. Traditionally it marked the end of the Christmas season when the tree came down and was burnt on a fire from which candles were lit and taken back to the church, carrying the light of Christmas into the rest of the year.

Roger writes...

A green poster with white text. The main text reads 'TALK TO US' in large, bold, sans-serif letters. Below it, in smaller text, is 'If things are getting to you'. In the bottom left corner, it says 'A registered charity'. On the right side, there is a white box with the text 'Talk to us any time you like, in your own way – about whatever's getting to you.' Below this box are icons for a phone, an envelope, and a globe, followed by the phone number '116 123' with 'FREE' in a speech bubble, the email 'jo@samaritans.org', and the website 'samaritans.org'. At the bottom right is the Samaritans logo, which is the word 'SAMARITANS' in green inside a white rectangular box with a black border.

We intend to hold Samaritans Sunday on the 7th February. This is the 67th anniversary of the day when the first trained

listener took the first Samaritans phone call. We had booked a brilliant speaker, but she is unable to join us, so you've just got me!

SAMARITANS SUNDAY
7th FEBRUARY
9.15am at St Luke's
Be there if you can!

MOTHERS' UNION SUBS

Sheila Hurst writes...

This is just a reminder to Mothers' Union members that subscriptions for 2021 are due to Sheila H by February 14th.

If you are not going out I will collect it from you as part of my daily exercise, or you could post it to me. (Contact me on 503622. Address 14, Brampton Close, Endon, ST9 9HR)

We are asked to pay by CHEQUE this year. The annual sub is £26. If you want to make a donation to the Diocese Relief Fund add the amount to your sub on the same cheque. Thanks for your continued support of MU.

ST LUKE'S LENT & EASTER



Following the success of the outdoor carol service it has been proposed that we hold another spaced out outdoor event for Easter in the form of a treasure hunt that families can take part in with Fairtrade Real Easter Eggs for prizes. The story of Holy Week will be portrayed around the church yard with an accompanying quiz sheet. There will be an entry fee in aid of church funds. If you would like to help in organising this event and/or donating a Fairtrade Easter Egg (or two) then please contact Shirley Brindley. Please note that the Real Easter Egg is no longer on sale in supermarkets but can only be obtained on-line through The Meaningful Chocolate Company, Traidcraft, Tear Fund or The Leprosy Mission.

It is also proposed that we have a collection for the **Bishop's Lent Appeal** even though we shall not be able to have our customary Lent Lunch. Ash Wednesday falls on **17th February** with Easter Day on **4th April**.

FEBRUARY AT ST CHAD'S

The church will remain closed this month and until further notice. Kath and her team will continue to produce YouTube services which are available online each week. Please consult St Chad's website or Facebook page for the link. Any queries please contact Kath (phone no on back page).

Contributions to the food bank are most welcome and can be left in the church porch on Saturdays, Sundays and Monday mornings ready for collection and taken to Leek.

FEBRUARY

AT ST LUKE'S...

this is the plan but please be aware that things can change!

SUNDAY Feb 7th

9.15am SAMARITANS

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

led by Roger

SUNDAY Feb 14th

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP

led by Roger

SUNDAY Feb 21st

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP

led by Barrie

SUNDAY Feb 28th

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP

led by Barrie or Roger

MIDWEEK SERVICES

These have been cancelled for the duration of the current lockdown.

CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION

A further £50 has now been added to our previous total of £127 bringing our final total to **£177** for newsletter Christmas greetings. Again thank you all very much on behalf of all those who can now have sight-saving treatment.

ST LUKE'S ZOOM MEETINGS

11.00am COFFEE & CHAT on Fridays

11.00am CONNECTIONS on Sundays

led by Neil and Deb (phone nos back page.). We are planning a child friendly,

family service via Zoom for **Sunday 7th**

February at 11am. There will be games,

crafts and songs all in a 25 minute

package. It is hoped that this will be a

monthly event. Look out for details.

The Zoom Connections passcode

is **743 818 2108**

DONATIONS of TOYS, TOILETRIES and WRAPPING PAPER to Elizabeth House at Christmas

Thank you to everyone for your generous gifts for the women, teenagers and children who find themselves the unfortunate victims of domestic violence in North Staffordshire. Your gifts were very gratefully accepted by the staff when Barrie dropped them off. As you can see his car boot was quite loaded when he left St Luke's after the Toy Service on December 13th.





Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

ZOE CORNEY FINDS SOME HAVE WELCOMED THE CHANGES TO CHURCH LIFE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE PANDEMIC

Different life, different church, different worship 2020... the year that churches all over the country had to close the doors on its buildings. But 2020 was also the year that we were introduced to new ways to worship, with the surge in the provision of online and telephone services. For many who find leaving the house difficult due to poor physical or mental health, this abundance of new services has meant less isolation in a time when many others were, for the first time, feeling cut off from the rest of their world.

As one in the Enabling Church network in the diocese said recently:

“The availability of online prayer, worship and study has been life changing for me and no doubt thousands of housebound people like me. I've been able to join morning prayer, evening prayer and Sunday worship once again, and am also a member of an online Christian discussion group. I'm sure that they have helped me overcome feelings of isolation and estrangement, connecting me once again with the church community which I've missed and within which I can fulfil our purpose and give and receive love.”

In a year that was different to any other, life was different, church was different, worship was different. Although the physical doors on our church buildings were shut for many months, for many Christians new doors were opening as much of the church's life moved online; many people who are housebound, both recently and more long term, have been delighted to have access to the worship and community of the Church again. Much energy from ministers has been put into establishing practices, developing resources and raising skill levels; and in some churches, new volunteers have come forward to resource online worship and ministry. Virtual worship has worked well for

many Christians with statistics showing that one quarter of the UK population has taken part in online worship during the last year.

A survey in our own diocese in the middle of last year showed that over 60% of parishes were able to make provision for online worship during the first lockdown. And our own cathedral in Lichfield is now live-streaming services three times per day, and regularly has online congregations at morning prayer that are up to ten times the number that used to attend in person.

For many, the lockdown and the provision of online prayer and worship which have come out of it have been a major boost to spiritual life. Of course, virtual church will never replace Church but the two do sit side by side.

It's good for the church that we now know that online discipleship and fellowship is part of our life. It's good for the church that we can reach people again that we had too easily let go of. Perhaps the challenge to pose is not one of inclusion but of integration: how will our online and offline lives fit together?

Zoe Corney is part of the diocesan Enabling Church team, who also lives with ME. The Enabling Church team is part of Transforming Communities Together, a charity formed and supported by Lichfield Diocese and Church Urban Fund, delegated to support people and communities to thrive and flourish tctogether.org.uk



Churches Count on Nature

In 2020 we were not able to get together, so we are very much looking forward to hearing about how you are celebrating churchyards in 2021. For several years we have been running a dedicated celebratory week highlighting the wildlife, heritage and history that they contain and every bit as importantly, the fantastic people who look after them. This takes place in the 2nd week of June, taking in the weekend at either end. In 2021 its **Saturday 5th till Sunday 13th June.**



The week started off as Cherishing Churchyards Week, but many cemetery Friends groups contacted us to ask if they might join in, so we changed the name to Love Your Burial Ground Week, making it clear that they could. Now we're expanding, in partnership with the **Church of England** and **A Rocha**, to include **Churches Count on Nature**.

Together we are asking that churches use **Love Your Burial Ground Week** as a springboard to start recording the wildlife within their churchyards. So, if you fancy running a wildlife spotting event then please join in.

So, what type of event should we run?

That is completely up to you, it could be a children's activity looking at leaves or bugs, a couple of birdwatchers seeing what they can spot, or a large event, with experts helping to reveal the hidden wonders of nature within your churchyard. A few years ago we ran an event of this type at St Michael's in Lichfield and as a result of this, and other surveys they now have a list of over 1,000 species found within that churchyard.

What shall we do with the lists of things we see?

Please send them to us. You can put them straight onto our iRecord system, send them by email or put a list in the post. Just make sure you get them to us somehow!

Why tell us in February?

Please register your interest now at www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/expression-of-interest-in-churches-count-on-nature-2021/. If you want advice or some financial support we may be able to help, so once you have an outline plan, get in touch.

All the best, 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. Use discount code Lich19

ST LUKE'S CHURCH OFFICE

Unless involved with funeral duties, Barrie mans the church office in the vestry on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10.00am to 1.00pm using telephone number **01782 502166**. While the office is open the church is open for private prayer. All enquiries relating to baptisms, weddings and funerals should be directed to Barrie. Currently a maximum of 30 are allowed in church for these services but be aware that guidelines are subject to change.

Barrie can also be contacted on his church mobile number **07517 653370**.

STAMPS FOR THE LEPROSY MISSION



THANK YOU to all from both churches who have brought used stamps to church or to our door. On Feb 1st they will go off to the Leprosy Mission to raise funds for much needed treatments. **Ros**

CHURCH FUNDS.. a reminder

Thank you also to those who keep up regular giving. Please continue to bring your gift or envelope to church or you may issue a cheque and post it to Sheila Hurst or set up a monthly standing order (not a direct debit as this creates more work for our treasurer). There is also a 'Just Giving' link on our website. Those who bank on-line may prefer to pay directly into the church account by setting up **Endon St Luke's PCC** as a new recipient*. (**Bank details from Steve Dale or Sheila Hurst. Phone nos back page.*)

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.

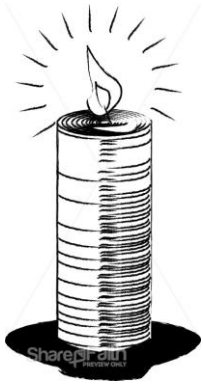
PARKINSON'S UK...more thanks!

A total of **£640.00** has been donated to Parkinson's UK in memory of my Dad, Roy Horley. My Dad became a keen supporter of this

organisation when his son-in-law developed this condition back in 2009.

THANK YOU to those in St Luke's who contributed to the total as well as to other friends and relatives.

In the last few decades treatment has been developed to address and control some of the symptoms of the disease but we hope that one day soon an effective cure can be found. That will only happen if there are sufficient funds to continue research. Sadly, compared to some other life-changing illnesses, neurological conditions receive a surprisingly small amount. **Ros**



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for FEBRUARY

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 or fill in a form at the back of church.

NOTE: Shirley is still taking dedications for 2021 so please contact her as soon as possible if you would like a particular date.

Feb	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
7 th	Mabel McGrath in loving memory of her brothers William and Joseph	Sheila and Stan in loving memory of dear Aunts
14 th	Ann Boulton to celebrate the birthday of her grandson, Alfie	Anon in loving memory of Fred and Alice Jones
21 st	Ann Boulton to celebrate the birthday of her daughter- in - law, Helen	Linda Foster in loving memory of her mum on her birthday (27 th)
28 th	Sheila and Stan to celebrate the 18 th birthday of their grandson, William (March 1 st)	Sheila and Stan to celebrate the birthday of their daughter, Clare (March 4 th)

Happy Birthday!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to

Robert Harrison (2nd), Dan Benson (6th),
Amber Woolliscroft, Sylvia Jervis (10th),
Jean Brough (11th), Bertie Thomlins (21st),
John Bradshaw jr (24th), Rev Alan (28th)

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

EASY FUNDRAISING



Remember that Sue Forrester has signed up St Luke's to an online fundraising app. It works rather like a Natwest rewards scheme. If you shop online many retailers will donate a percentage of your spend to a nominated charity when you access their sites through the easyfundraising app.

Please consider signing up and using the app when you shop online. Any queries please contact Sue.



PLEASE KEEP KNITTING! A further two bags were collected by Sue on Jan 16th. We have now donated around 1500 squares...and the need is still out there. Another convoy of blankets and other aid will be going out very soon.

CHUTNEY and MARMALADE....please save your jars!

Thank you to Barbara Brown for providing jars of delicious chutneys and marmalade for church funds. When your jars are empty Barbara would appreciate them being washed out and returned to her so she can re-use them.

THANK YOU again Barbara for supplying us with another lovely iced Christmas cake which made £80 using Shirley's "squares"! Also **THANK YOU** to Sylvia for supplying the other prizes.

Another smile from Clive Smith....

Just had a decorator in. He was a furloughed airline pilot doing a bit of extra work. He made a great job of the landing.

February Prayer Focus

- UK businesses and trade problems following the Brexit deals
- The new US presidency
- Thankfulness for those who have worked tirelessly to develop the COVID vaccines and those tasked with administering it.
- The success of the vaccines and that they may lead to effectively controlling the virus
- Our NHS staff still working hard in extremely difficult conditions
- A new determination among folk to adhere to government guidelines to stop the spread of infection
- The huge problem of loneliness for so many and made worse by the current situation
- Folk in care homes, the staff and the relatives who may not have seen their loved ones or had any close contact for months
- All who have had the virus or have lost loved ones
- Schools with their teaching staff and children facing the dilemma as whether or not to stay open
- Refugees everywhere
- Britain as we leave the EU and all who will have to adjust to working within new regulations
- All suffering at the hands of deeply corrupt governments
- Loved ones in our parish who are currently unwell
- Our church wardens and worship leaders during the interregnum
- Our new bishop and the appointment of our next incumbent
- The dire COVID situation in many poorer countries and all trying to deal with the problem especially medical staff
- Our government struggling to balance limiting the spread of infection with the need to rescue the economy and get folk back to work
- Yemen – the on-going crisis and those trying hard to get aid into the country and the children coming into the USA from Mexico
- The release of Iranian-British mother Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe
- Those affected by the recent upsurge in knife crime
- The widespread drug problem especially in Stoke-on-Trent
- Lou Macari's hostel for the homeless in Hanley
- The problem of the millions of plastic bottles afloat in our oceans and the tons of 'space junk' orbiting our planet
- All who have lost loved ones recently
- The Trussell Trust food banks especially during this time of crisis
- All children who are in danger of going hungry

DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK! Donations can be left in church and Barrie will ensure they are taken to Leek.

Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship leader / PCC chair	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, reader / St Luke's PCC Sec / Administrator (*for church enquiries)	07517 653370* 07510 074097
Sue Forrester, Flower & Craft Club / Foundation gov / Safeguarding Officer / St Luke's Facebook	07854 043187
Deb Podmore, worship leader / Connections	01782 773383
Neil Taylor, worship leader / Connections	07961 652104
Suzy Jordan, music leader / Connections	01782 504589
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	01782 502006
June Pope, St Luke's warden's team	01782 503269
Shirley Brindley, candle dedications / pastoral tm	01782 504089
Steve Dale, St Luke's treasurer	07894 098011
Sheila Hurst, St Luke's Gift Aid Sec / MU rep	01782 503622
Linda Foster, Safeguarding Officer	
John & Julie Gater, Chernobyl Children's Project	01782 535000
James Benson, reader emeritus	01782 504137
Ros Benson, newsletter / St Luke's website	01782 504137
St Luke's vestry (church office)	01782 502166
Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / warden / worship leader / safeguarding officer	01782 304616
Julia Podmore, St Chad's warden / treasurer	07980 802121
Pat Saul, St Chad's PCC vice-chair / secretary	07973 863930
Caryl Siegertsz, St Chad's warden's team / worship team	01782 304616
Muriel Finney, St Chad's worship leader	01782 302229
Peter Millard, St Chad's buildings / warden's team	01782 505338
Emma Ashworth, St Chad's warden's team	07861 730806
Sheila Tipper, St Chad's news contact	01782 534647

For the duration of the interregnum the newsletter will be available on-line as a PDF attachment and on the church website. Paper copies are available for those without internet access. Please contact Barrie if you would like one or know someone who would. Please submit notices for our next newsletter to Ros Benson by **Tuesday, February 23rd**, either by e-mail jandrbenson@btinternet.com or phone 504137.