



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 or 07517 653370



June 2024

INTERREGNUM Month 48

**ENDON
WELL
DRESSING
2024**

**Service of
Thanksgiving**

Leader:
Barrie Jackson, licensed reader at St Luke's
with guest speaker Rev Eleanor Smith,
Minister at Endon Methodist Church



Endon Well Dressing at St Luke's provided a veritable cornucopia of delight!



Many more photos can be viewed on the Endon Well Dressing Facebook site.

Huge thanks to everyone involved in creating the scarecrow, the displays and of course to all those serving teas and welcoming visitors not forgetting the church cleaning team and Sophie for the raffle!



JUNE at ST LUKE'S

2nd SUNDAY

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Philip

11.00am CONNECTIONS

9th SUNDAY

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP
Barrie/Roger

11.00am CONNECTIONS

16th SUNDAY

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Fr David Nicol

11.00am CONNECTIONS

23rd SUNDAY

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP –
Barrie / Roger

11.00am CONNECTIONS



A FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Sundays at 11am

at St Luke's CE Academy,
Leek Road in the school hall.

lasting about 40 minutes followed by
games for the children and refreshments.

ECUMENICAL SERVICES

Wednesdays:

Holy Communion at 9.15am

5th June at St Luke's

12th June at Methodist Church

19th June at St Luke's

26th June at Methodist Church

JUNE at ST CHAD'S

2nd SUNDAY

10.45am FAMILY SERVICE – KH and team

9th SUNDAY

10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE – KH /MF

16th SUNDAY

10.45am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Barry

23rd SUNDAY

10.45am MORNING WORSHIP – KH / MF

30th SUNDAY – tba

*7th July – Rev Caryl will be licensed as Associate
Minister to the benefice.*

ST LUKE'S CHURCH OFFICE

Unless involved with funeral duties Barrie mans the office on Mon, Wed, and Fri from 10.30am to 1.00pm using **07517 653370**. During these times the church is open for private prayer.



*Delighted to present **St. Luke's, Endon** with £50 from our Councillors' Community Initiative Fund after our Sunday service. The funds have contributed towards the re-landscaping of our church path garden.*

Joe Porter



CANDLE DEDICATIONS

for JUNE

For £2.50 you can keep the Candle of Hope or the Sanctuary Light burning for a week with a dedication. Thank you to all of you who have supported the candle dedications this year.

Please contact Shirley on 504089 if you would like a particular date.

Jun	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
2 nd	Mabel McGrath in loving memory of John	Barrie Jackson in celebration of Kai's birthday
9 th	Sylvia Bradshaw to celebrate the 21 st birthday of grandson , George	Ann Boulton to celebrate Christopher's birthday (17 th)
16 th	Sheila and Stan to celebrate the birthday of their granddaughter, Lauren	Geoff and Rosey Smith in memory of their granddaughter, Naomi Rose.
23 rd	Mabel McGrath in loving memory of a dear husband, Don	The candle is kept burning by Geoff and Rosey Smith
30 th	Shirley Brindley in loving memory of a very dear Dad and Mum	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

**Margaret Barlow (3rd), Fran Dale (4th), Muriel Buckle (10th),
Sophie Brough (16th), Chris Boulton (17th), Sarah Horton (19th)**

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

PASTORAL TEAM (Phone nos on back page)

HILLSWOOD LODGE CARE HOME: next visit Wed June 20th at 11.00am

Volunteers are welcome to help boost the singing. There is room for 6 or 7 of us. Please inform Shirley or Rev Patricia if you are able to come.

The residents really do enjoy these services and the chats afterwards.

HOME and CARE HOME VISITS: Pastoral team members regularly visit folk who are no longer able to attend church. Do get in touch with Shirley if you know of anyone who would like a visit.

WALKS followed by refreshments: Listen up for details of the next walk. Do join us.

ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS! A rallying cry echoed by our warden as we move into Year 5 of our interregnum! (a.k.a. "THE SIMPSON REPORT")

Today, as happens each year, I do my best to thank as many people as possible, whose actions seen and unseen have kept St Luke's afloat during another turbulent and vicarless year. So thank you to all who polish the brasses, renew the candles, brew tea and coffee, hand out books, welcome newcomers and old comers, set out the necessities for Communion services, clean the church, and its loos, see that the lift is serviced, and the fire extinguishers checked, change the altar frontals as the seasons change and oil the lock on the safe and remove those annoying bits of grit that get stuck beneath the main door.

It's been another turbulent year, within this church and in this world which God made and we have marred. I don't have to tell you! What made the Halifax such a reliable plane was redundancy, not in the jobs sense, but the engineering sense. If one rivet failed, there were cables and apparently unnecessary struts which took the strain. What keeps St Luke's airborne is a network of relationships which enables us to withstand that turbulence. I would like to think that in this place people who feel that somehow they don't quite fit in may find some sense of belonging. We are all misfits, strangers in a strange land; Jerusalem on high our song and city is.

During the war, when allied planes came limping homeward after a mission, they were sent to a workshop for repairs. The received wisdom was for extra armour plating to be riveted over holes made by anti-aircraft fire. Then it dawned on someone that what they were seeing were the planes which had made it home in spite of those bullet holes. The damaged areas were precisely where extra armour was *not* needed.

Maybe the same principle applies to people we meet, who are facing problems in their lives. Ask how they are, and you may well get the peculiarly British lie, "Very well, thank you". If you know them too well to be fobbed off by this fiction, and their inner pain is severe, they may admit to one particular problem. You will, of course, offer a sympathetic ear and possibly some practical help. But it may be that this is putting plating over survivable damage. The real problem, unspoken and known only to God, may lie even deeper, and this requires our prayer; a remembering before God.

Back in the days when the early church was struggling under the rule of a dying Roman Empire, a local Roman ruler demanded of a Christian bishop that he should bring out the treasures of the church the following morning for his inspection. Clearly he was after gold and silver, but when he and his men arrived the next day, what greeted his avaricious eyes was a small group of people; lame, blind, ill and old. "These," said the Bishop, "are the jewels of this church!" Well, St Luke's has its jewels too. The glorious reality of the resurrection inverts earthly values.

Our armour may be dented and rusty, it may squeak a bit as we march, our swords may be bent and blunt. The crimson crests that once blew so bravely on our helmets are dirty and bedraggled. Our feet are sore, and some of us are limping. And yet – we *are* the soldiers of Christ, marching towards the celestial city. So hold your hearts and your heads as high as you are able. From afar, faint and clear, the trumpets are sounding for us.

Roger Simpson

Thank you Roger for your dedication and to Sheila for her unwavering support

FUNDRAISING SINCE MAY 2023: Thank you to Shirley for these figures...

Cake Stall (Sept)	£123.00	Lent Lunch	£260.00
Crumbles	£ 15.00	Cake Stall (March)	£ 65.00
Book Stall (so far)	£150.00	Spring Serenade	£526.00
Xmas Floral Demo	£312.00	Christian Aid Walk	£200.00
Wreath Making (Nov)	£375.00		£2,408.00
Cake Stall (Xmas)	£ 36.00	£200 went to Christian Aid	
Carol Concert	£346.00	£260 from Lent Lunch went to Leek Food Bank	



After a loved one passed away, single parent Nikki struggled with her mental health and wasn't able to work. When her social security and disability payments simply weren't enough to afford the essentials, she had no option but to turn to her local food bank for support.

When trying to keep up with her essential bills she told us:

"The only way I can describe it is like being on a hopscotch, you hop on one leg from one bit to another, constantly hopping, never able to just stand still. It's tough. I'm never in a place where I'm in credit with everything and managing, because social security just isn't enough."

Nikki isn't alone. Five in six low-income households receiving Universal Credit are going without essentials. Our social security system should protect people from going without, which is why we'll continue to call on political party leaders to embed an 'Essentials Guarantee' into Universal Credit.

Lindsey Stockton, Project Manager

FOOD

Longlife semi-skimmed milk

Pasta sauce

Tinned carrots/corn

Instant mash

Tinned tuna

Rice – 500gm/microwave pouches

Tomato ketchup

Fruit squash

Longlife sponge puddings

Tinned rice pudding

Tinned custard

Tinned fruit

Coffee - 100/200gm

Tinned meat

Tinned rice pudding

Chocolate biscuits/bars

HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS

Washing up liquid

Multi surface cleaner

Cleaning cloths/sponges

Laundry liquid/capsules/powder

TOILETRIES

Shampoo and conditioner

Shower gel

Toothpaste and toothbrushes

Deodorant

If you are a donor, please try to deliver your donations at the Foodbank on Tues and Fri between 10.00 am and 12 noon – as it gets very busy with clients after this time. Alternatively, you may use any of our Permanent Collection Points which are still available at various locations listed on our website <https://leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>. We are also able to collect any large donations - please contact the Foodbank to arrange this. If any of you would like to discuss anything relating to the Foodbank or arrange a visit, please contact me at projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk or on 07916 005064. We continue to welcome corporate volunteers, school groups and individual volunteers, and we are always very happy to show people around and share with them the work we are doing.

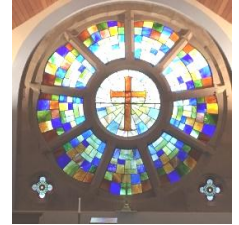
NEXT COLLECTION at St Luke's and Connections: Sunday June 2nd



Local children were invited to decorate a potato for our Well Dressing displays and on the left you can see some of their efforts.

On Pentecost Sunday Emma treated us to specially made Pentecost tarts!
Thank you Emma!





- **Every Sunday** 10.00 Worship
- **Mondays** 10.00 – 1.30 Community Café (not bank holidays).
- **Wednesdays** 9.15 Holy Communion
Alternately with St Luke's Parish Church
- **Thursdays** 10.30 Fit-as-a-fiddle: Exercise, conversation and coffee
- **Thursday June 13th** : 2pm – 3.30pm Bereavement Café
- **Fridays June 14th & 28th**: 10 – 12 Friday Friendship. Enjoy conversation over a cuppa!
- **Saturday June ?** : 10 -12 Coffee Pot Cafe (see noticeboard outside church for date)
- **Friday** 6pm 'Blast' – youth club for 7-11 year olds (during term time)

Eleanor.smith@methodist.org.uk
01782 503228



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...

We were delighted to welcome Rev Eleanor as our guest speaker at this year's Well Dressing Thanksgiving Service which was led by Barrie.

She will be retiring in July and we have been very appreciative of her support during our interregnum.

We shall be welcoming Rev Denise Williamson who has been appointed as the new minister for Endon and other Methodist churches in the Staffordshire Moorlands Circuit.

Rev Eleanor writes...

*I will be having my farewell service at Endon Methodist Church on **Sunday 14th July**, but it will be at the later time of 10.30am. I hope that that means that you might be able to attend after your service, even if a few minutes late.*

The invitation is to anyone who wishes to come.

*Every blessing
Eleanor*

Lichfield Anglican Cursillo

Invites you to a

Taster session with cream tea

Come and find out how the Cursillo method can help you to have a balanced Christian life based on prayer, study and action.

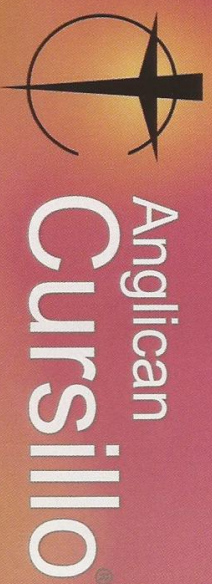
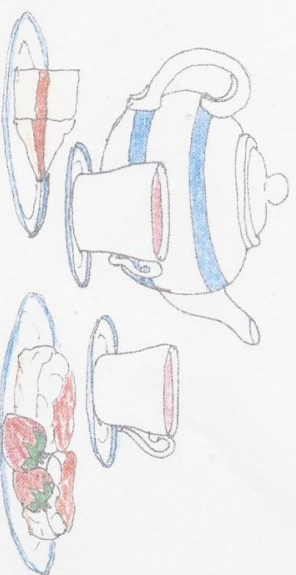
Saturday June 29th 2-4.30pm

At Milton Parish Church

Milton, Stoke-on-Trent ST2 7AJ

RSVP to contactlichfieldcursillo@gmail.com

Or phone or text Vicki Schofield on 07506539581



Do you want to deepen your faith?

CURSILLO offers a method that will enrich and deepen your relationship with Christ and will empower you for a lifetime of service to God through prayer, study, and action.

What is Cursillo?

It is a way of encouraging each other as we grow, work and live faithfully within our parishes.

It is part of the Anglican communion.

Who is Cursillo for?

People just like you, laity and clergy, committed Christians who are ... curious ... searching ... discovering ... Wanting to grow ... wanting to be glad and confident in their faith.

For more information

Please use the QR code or visit our website
msha.ke/lichfieldcursillo

for more information and contact details for
Rev Vicki Schofield from Lichfield Cursillo,
who will be delighted to talk to you.

You can also learn more about Cursillo
nationally at www.anglicancursillo.uk



Version 2.2 2024

Reg US Pat Office

I'm sorry this notice is sideways on for those viewing on-line. Further information about this event can be obtained from Rev Patricia.



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

Working Together to create Safer Spaces

As a former social worker, I've seen far too many times the damage that abuse and exploitation does to those who suffer it. Often the effects endure for entire lifetimes and seriously affect a survivor's potential to foster good relationships, careers and wellbeing.

So it is heartening that the Church of England has taken massive strides forward in improving our safeguarding training and procedures in the last decade, albeit still not perfect. It's been a huge investment; not just in employing professional staff in the diocese to investigate issues and provide training, but also a significant sacrifice by clergy and volunteers in every parish.

As the diocesan senior lead of safeguarding, I'm truly thankful to all who give up time and energy to participate in that training on topics that are not entirely pleasant and sometimes emotionally difficult. But it is worth it. Together we are making our churches safer places for children and vulnerable adults. People in parishes across the country make sacrifices to do the training and then do the work of safeguarding. It truly is an act of love, fulfilling Jesus' command to 'Love your neighbour'. Let me reassure you that it pays off. I was recently sent a safeguarding review from Lichfield Cathedral and within it were highlighted three instances where the care and training of volunteers and staff who are not safeguarding specialists showed its worth.



Bishop Jan (left, who is Acting Dean of the cathedral) writes:

"Often the most difficult thing to measure is culture. How can we be sure that the attention we give to this important area of our work is making a difference?"

Three anecdotes stand out to me:

"The first was at the Chorister Christmas Party where one chorister had a forfeit during one of the party games. They were asked which three people they would expect to find in the cathedral and they announced, "The Cathedral Safeguarding Officer". An excellent answer!

"The second relates to a young girl (11) who appeared at the Christmas Light Show. Each evening over 3500 people came to the cathedral, and within all of that busyness, several volunteers identified the young girl behaving oddly and they called the nominated safeguarding officer for that evening. This situation was unusual and it became clear that we needed to respond in ways other than we might usually do, and I am pleased to report that the team adapted incredibly well and ensured the girl was safe until the Police arrived.

"Thirdly, during Evensong the Assistant Director of Music looked down from the organ loft and spotted someone they thought had been suspended from their church role. This was reported and investigated, and it would seem the individual should not be in church without an Agreement. A plan was swiftly put in place in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (locally and also from the appropriate diocese) and the cathedral's front-line team, so that if the individual re-appears we are able to offer suitable challenge." Together, they achieved far more than a single vicar or Parish Safeguarding Officer achieves on their own.

Neil Spiring is Lichfield Diocese's Senior Lead for Safeguarding. For all questions about safeguarding and safeguarding training, please visit our web pages: www.lichfield.anglican.org/safeguarding

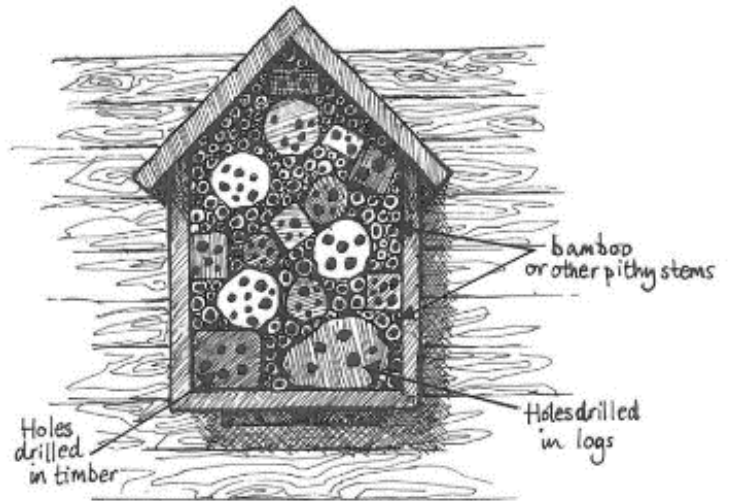




Solitary Bees

Did you know that there are about 270 species of bee in the UK of

which 90% are 'solitary bees'. They get this name as, unlike bumblebees and honeybees they do not live in complex colonies but nest individually, with the female laying one or a few eggs in a nest with a parcel of pollen and nectar to feed the young when they first hatch. Some of the more common types of solitary bees include Mason, Mining and Leafcutter Bees.



Mason Bees build nests out of mud or clay. Have a look on the sunny walls of your church or chapel and see if there are any little mounds of mud, these could be mason bee nests. **Mining Bees**, nest underground, digging tunnels to create their nests. Areas of short grass and bare ground are preferred by mining bees. Burial grounds often contain small patches of bare earth or cracks in the ground around monuments which can be great for them. **Leafcutter Bees** build a nest in a hole, crevice or hollow plant stem. They bite off circular pieces of leaf (particularly roses and bramble), which are then glued together using saliva to make a nest. Gaps between stones, old bits of wood and rough corners where dead stems are left will all be used by a variety of solitary bees.

Solitary bees are particularly important pollinators, perhaps because they lack pollen baskets on their legs so pollen both attaches and brushes off quite easily, spreading it around. Have a look for red mason bee which tends to use bee hotels, how about ashy mining bee which is striped black and white or the signs that leaf-cutter bees have been taking circles out of plant leaves.

You can help solitary bees by having a wide range of wildflowers and native grasses and a mosaic of short, long and tussocky grassland. How about a scruffy corner with some hogweed or bramble out of sight of the church entrance? This provides excellent nesting or overwintering cavities. People love to make bee hotels but don't forget that how you manage your local churchyard has a big effect too. Why not take photos of any bees you see and upload them onto the iNaturalist app which will both help you identify them and also make a record so others can see what you've found.

All the best, Harriet

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. Use the discount code **diomem22**

Harriet is also (bees) waxing about pollinators. And she's also added some additional invitations for you:

We have a blog about honeybees on our website <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/to-hive-or-not-to-hive-is-beekeeping-in-churchyards-and-cemeteries-a-good-idea/>

Also one of our patrons, Brigit Strawbridge, is giving a lunchtime webinar on the 13th June for the Church of England as part of Churches Count on Nature <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-land-and-nature-churches-count-nature>



QUIZ FOR JUNE...

Well known Pairs

You'll quickly get the hang of this quiz. Answers will be printed next month. As usual there are no prizes but I hope you find it fun to do though younger readers may need to enlist the help of parents or grandparents!

1	M..... & W.....	Popular TV comedians
2	T..... & T.....	Roly poly fictional twins
3	S..... & S.....	US Flag
4	S..... & P.....	Table condiments
5	B..... & B.....	The basics of many games
6	D..... & G.....	Biblical hero and giant
7	B..... & B.....	Boarding house provision
8	R..... & J.....	Shakespeare's lovers
9	C..... & D.....	Secret and underhand
10	M..... & S.....	High Street store
11	C..... & A.....	Pub sign, royal and nautical
12	S..... & S.....	Jane Austen novel
13	G.... & T.....	Popular drink
14	S..... & G.....	Cities of biblical divine judgement
15	T..... & L.....	Climatic polka
16	S..... & C.....	The flag of piracy
17	P..... & C.....	Elgar's stirring march
18	O..... & L.....	St Clement's message
19	C..... & D.....	Heavy rain
20	G..... & S.....	Writer and composer of operetta
21	W..... & P.....	Tolstoy's epic novel
22	F..... & C.....	A favourite British meal
23	S..... & C.....	Served at Wimbledon
24	L..... & H.....	Old time comedians
25	U.. & D.....	Lifts go like this
26	A..... & P.....	Cockneys climb to bed
27	S..... & D.....	A biblical strong man and his downfall
28	P..... & J.....	A seaside knockabout pair
29	N..... & T.....	Occasionally
30	J..... & H.....	A fictional split personality

PLEASE NOTE: 'SIX CHOIRS' CONCERT POSTPONED

The Six Choirs Concert involving Endon Community Choir planned for 22nd June has been postponed until 12th October. This is due to essential roof repairs at Longton Central Hall. If you have bought tickets you can either have a refund or they can be held over for the October date. Endon Community Choir will sing at Rudyard Methodist Church at 7.30pm on Friday 14th June but sadly not at our Well Dressing. We thank Rev Patricia for playing the organ and piano in church at intervals over the three days.

A SHATTERING EXPERIENCE! Our 2024 Well Dressing Queen Hope had a frightening moment after the service when the window in the door of the limousine exploded as she was about to step into it. Thankfully she was not hurt. Well done to Alex Waters who alerted us in the church and to Sophie who leapt into action with dustpan and brush and cleared up the mess.

REPORTS FROM OUR APCM 22nd May 2024

Sue Forrester writes....

Safeguarding

Safeguarding has an ever-higher profile and we need to ensure we comply with current requirements. There is a new Safeguarding Parish Dashboard which I have been populating online. We have some areas covered but are deficient in others. Each PCC member needs to complete an online training session entitled Domestic Abuse. This cannot be done as a group because each person needs to answer questions individually after the input. I will forward a link to everyone. Please also revisit the foundation levels of training – C0 and C1 using the same link. I have also completed the training on Safer Recruitment which is a requirement for Church Wardens too.

I have relocated the Safeguarding poster to a more accessible location at the back of church. There is a suggestion to put together a Welcome leaflet for newcomers which would contain useful information and would also inform people that, should they wish to take on a role in the church, they would need to spend 6 months attending services and events before this could be considered. This will also protect current church members.

If anyone has concerns, they should contact me for advice. In the event of my absence, the Church Wardens are the first points of contact. We have access to the Safeguarding Team at Lichfield.

Those who report concerns for others or for themselves must be assured of total confidentiality.

St Luke's CE Academy

The school continues to go from strength to strength under the leadership of Mrs Danylyk and her dedicated team. We are still waiting for the OFSTED visit that will confirm the Outstanding verdict – it could come at any time before the end of term. There should have been a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) this academic year but due to a lack of inspectors, this has been postponed. It is disappointing because of all the work done to prepare under the guidance of Louisa Harrop, diocesan Christian Distinctiveness Adviser. Links with the church are strong, with church members leading assemblies and facilitating visits to our building throughout the year for services and learning opportunities. At each visit I'm asked about the progress towards appointing a vicar and have to admit that there is none. The school would very much like a spiritual adviser to help it move forward; as would we of course!

St Luke's is heavily oversubscribed for the Reception Class intake in September and there were many disappointed families. There is a waiting list for in year transfers. This is because of the excellent reputation of the school in the local community; richly deserved.

While I may be stepping down as Chair of the LAC in the next academic year, I will remain a Foundation Governor and continue to foster the links that make St Luke's CE Academy such a special place.

Flower & Craft Club and Art Group

The Flower Club continues to be well supported and we have had some new members this year. Our members are generous with their arrangements which often decorate the church. It's a great social afternoon too. The annual flower arrangement display will be ready for Well Dressing Weekend; the title is Children's Stories and Rhymes. I'm very grateful to the members who fund their own displays and work so hard; it means more money can go to church funds rather than buying flowers. Grateful thanks go to Pauline Shaw and Jeanette Lackey for their commitment to the group and for sharing their expertise.

Endon Art Group came in to being in September 2023 as a result of a conversation with a local artist. Nicola Shipley was keen to get a community group started and when the group was advertised there was a great deal of interest. The group runs monthly on a date to suit Nicola's work schedule. Members have used pencil, crayons and, latterly, water colours to produce some stunning art works. Members may have some experience or none, but all enjoy the space and time to be creative. You can hear pin drop sometimes! The last session found members sketching in the church yard. There will be a gallery of work in the Chapter House for visitors to enjoy while they have a cup of tea and a piece of cake during Well Dressing Weekend. Thanks to Nicola for her time and enthusiasm.

Gin Tasting & Cocktail Making Night

PROCEEDS GO TO ENDON
ST. LUKE'S CHURCH



FRIDAY 7TH JUNE

7 PM



ENDON VILLAGE HALL

Cocktail upon arrival, five Gin tasters,
choose one of the Gin tasters with a
mixer, & make your own cocktail!

Contact Sophie for Tickets: 07956 158596

June Prayer Focus

- **Our General Election and the next government**
- **An end to people trafficking and the ongoing problem of boats of refugees and asylum seekers crowding into unsafe boats to cross the Channel**
- **The families and friends of Squadron Leader Mark Long who died in an accident with his Spitfire as part of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight display**
- **The desperate plight of the people of Haiti suffering violence and anarchy brought about by gang rule**
- **The people of South Sudan enduring great hardship and near famine conditions**
- **The wife and family of opposition leader Alexei Navalny and the repercussions of his death in Russia and around the world**
- **Ukraine and the urgent need for arms and an end to the war now entering its third year**
- **Safety for shipping in the Red Sea and the financial consequences of longer journeys around the Cape**
- **Our king and the Princess of Wales as they undergo cancer treatment**
- **Those adversely affected by the recent storms, floods, doctors' strikes and rail strikes**
- **The families of all those whose loved ones have been murdered**
- **The truly horrendous situation in Israel and Gaza and especially the hostages**
- **A permanent cease-fire and the release of all hostages and for desperately needed aid getting into Gaza**
- **Climate change and the urgent need to combat its effects**
- **The serious consequences of shipments of grain being prevented from reaching their destinations, especially the African countries**
- **Those taken prisoner by the Russians**
- **Serious concerns about the growth of Artificial Intelligence and its influence on all our lives**
- **The current threat from China, Iran and N Korea supporting Russia in the war in Ukraine**
- **All aid agencies and volunteer recovery teams**
- **The problems of AI and managing them**
- **Those seeking justice for women in Iran and regime change**
- **All hostages in Iran awaiting release especially Morad Tahbaz and Mehran Raoff**
- **The huge problem of loneliness**
- **Refugees in Yemen and the US border with Mexico**
- **Loved ones and all in our parish who are currently unwell**
- **Improvements in the treatment of cancer, heart disease and neurological conditions**
- **Our church wardens and worship leaders during the interregnum**
- **The future of our benefice following nearly 4 years of interregnum**
- **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**
- **The problem of the millions of plastic bottles afloat in our oceans and the tons of 'space junk' orbiting our planet**
- **The problem of river pollution brought about by discharge of sewage**
- **All who have lost loved ones recently**
- **The Trussell Trust food banks still needed as much as ever**

Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship / PCC chair	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, reader / St Luke's PCC Sec / Administrator (* tel no for church enquiries)	07510 074097 07517 653370*
Rev Philip Robinson (minister w Permission to Officiate)	07983 863372
Rev Patricia Robinson (organist, also minister w PtO)	07854 418488
Sue Forrester, Flower & Craft Club / Foundation gov / Safeguarding Officer / St Luke's Facebook / Art Club	07854 043187
Deb Podmore, Connections / school chaplain	01782 773383
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	01782 502006
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
Ros Benson, newsletter / St Luke's website	01782 504137
Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / warden / worship leader	01782 304616
Julia Podmore, St Chad's warden / treasurer	07980 802121
Pat Saul, St Chad's PCC vice-chair / secretary	07973 863930
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
Claire Houston-Brown, St Chad's Safeguarding Officer	07779 667470
Sheila Tipper, St Chad's news contact	01782 534647

For the duration of the interregnum the newsletter is available on-line as a PDF attachment and on the church website.

Paper copies are available for those without internet access.

Please submit notices for our next newsletter to Ros Benson

by **Tuesday, June 25th 2024**

either by e-mail jandrbenson@btinternet.com or phone 504137.

LIFE GROUP and OUR NEXT PRAYER BREAKFAST

This is what used to be our Bible Study Group. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 7.00pm in the Chapter House to share fellowship and to deepen our faith through Bible study and prayer. This group provides an opportunity to raise questions about the Christian faith or particular aspects of faith. You will be very welcome to join us.

Like to know more? Speak to Patricia at church or call 07854 418 488.

In June we shall meet on 12th and 26th. On 12th June we will be looking at the story of Abigail - one of King David's wives. On 26th June we will either study a subject in response to a group request or dip into another aspect of Mark's Gospel. Notes containing an introduction, outline and questions to consider are available in advance. Please ask Patricia."

The next **Prayer Breakfast** will be on Saturday 6th July. 08.30 for breakfast and fellowship followed by prayer from 09.30 to 10.00.