



# **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](http://www.endonstlukes.org.uk)

Vestry (church office): 01782 502166 or 07517 653370



**May 2024**

**INTERREGNUM Month 47**

## **WELL DRESSING**

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup>, Sun 26<sup>th</sup> and Mon 27<sup>th</sup>**



The church will be open to visitors after the usual Service of Thanksgiving on the Saturday. As always volunteers are needed to welcome our visitors and serve refreshments in the chapter house. Please sign the sheet on the noticeboard if you can help and /or supply cakes, scones or biscuits.

### **FLORAL DISPLAYS and PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

Members of our Flower & Craft Club will be creating some displays for us but we shall also display entries to our photographic competition and some art work from children and adults. The theme will be 'The Four Seasons'. Entry forms from Sue Forrester. The overall theme for the weekend in church is "Our Creative Community".

## **MAY at ST LUKE'S**

**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY**

**9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Philip**

**11.00am CONNECTIONS**

**12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY**

**9.15am MORNING WORSHIP  
Barrie/Roger**

**11.00am CONNECTIONS**

**19<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY**

**9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Fr David Nicol**

**11.00am CONNECTIONS**

**25<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY**

**1.30pm Well Dressing Service of Thanksgiving with guest speaker Rev Eleanor Smith. 3.00pm church open to visitors.**

**26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY**

**9.15am MORNING WORSHIP –  
Barrie / Roger**

**11.00am CONNECTIONS**

**From 1.00pm church open to visitors**

**27<sup>th</sup> MONDAY**

**11.00am – 7.00pm church open to visitors**



## **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.

## **MAY at ST CHAD'S**

**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY**

**10.45am FAMILY SERVICE**

**12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY**

**10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE – MF**

**19<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY**

**10.45am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Barry Wilson**

**26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY**

**10.45am MORNING WORSHIP – KH / MF**

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:** Bishop Matthew will license Rev Caryl Siegerts as Associate Minister for the benefice on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

## **ST LUKE'S APCM and ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION**

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on **Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> May** at 7.30pm preceded by our usual short PCC meeting at 7.00pm to approve the accounts. If you are on the electoral roll you have a vote. The Electoral Roll revision will take place from April 14<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>. If you are new to St Luke's, and would like to be a voting member of our congregation, please ask for a form. If you are aware of any changes which should be made to the Roll, please tell Sheila Simpson. A copy of the Roll is on the notice board in Church. After revision, the new list will be displayed **from Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> until the APCM on May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Contact Sheila Simpson if you would like your name to be added to the electoral roll.

## **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.

## **ECUMENICAL SERVICES**

**Wednesdays: Holy Communion at 9.15am**

1<sup>st</sup> May at Methodist Church

8<sup>th</sup> May at St Luke's

15<sup>th</sup> May at Methodist Church

22<sup>nd</sup> May at St Luke's

<b>May 2024: ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY</b> <b>(ESL Endon St Luke's; EMC = Endon Methodist Church)</b>		
W	1 <sup>st</sup>	9.15am Midweek HC at EMC    7.30pm Bible study in chapter house
Th	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
F	3 <sup>rd</sup>	'Relentless Love' at St Edward's Church, Leek at 7.30pm FREE ENTRY
Sa	4 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am Prayer Breakfast in chapter house    10.00am Art Club
Su	5 <sup>th</sup>	FOOD BANK COLLECTION 9.15am Holy Communion 11.00am Connections Electoral Roll on display until 22nd
M	6 <sup>th</sup>	May Day bank holiday
T	7 <sup>th</sup>	
W	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Midweek HC at ESL
Th	9 <sup>th</sup>	
F	10 <sup>th</sup>	
Sa	11 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm – 7.00pm HOG ROAST at EMC
Su	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Morning Worship 11.00am Connections
M	13 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm at EMC Planning meeting for Leek Show for both our churches
T	14 <sup>th</sup>	
W	15 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Midweek HC at EMC    11.00 Hillswood Lodge short service 1.00pm – 3.00pm Flower & Craft Club    7.30pm Bible study in chapter house
Th	16 <sup>th</sup>	
F	17 <sup>th</sup>	
Sa	18 <sup>th</sup>	
Su	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Holy Communion 11.00am Connections
M	20 <sup>th</sup>	
T	21 <sup>st</sup>	
W	22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15am Midweek HC at ESL    7.00 PCC approve accounts    7.30pm APCM
Th	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Setting up displays for EWD
F	24 <sup>th</sup>	Setting up displays for EWD
Sa	25 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm EWD Service of Thanksgiving    3.00pm Church open to visitors
Su	26 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Morning Worship 11.00am Connections From 1.00pm Church open to visitors
M	27 <sup>th</sup>	From 11.00am Church open to visitors
T	28 <sup>th</sup>	
W	29 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Midweek HC at EMC
Th	30 <sup>th</sup>	
F	31 <sup>st</sup>	

## PASTORAL TEAM WALK SURPRISE!

Our last walk took place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. A small group of us met at Tittesworth and completed the short walk where we were met by Rev Patricia who had already completed the long walk! As always we gathered at the café for a welcome coffee and where we spotted an oyster catcher outside tapping on the cafe window!





# 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. Thank you to all of you who have supported the candle dedications this year.

**Please contact Shirley on 504089 as soon as possible if you would like a particular date.**

May	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
5 <sup>th</sup>	Alan and Maureen Payne to celebrate Alan's birthday (4 <sup>th</sup> )	Alan and Maureen Payne to celebrate Mark's birthday (5 <sup>th</sup> )
12 <sup>th</sup>	Anon in memory of Tom, Emma and Robert Williams	David Moss in loving memory of Edgar Bailey, grandfather of David and Robert
19 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Bowyer in loving memory of Alfred Bowyer, father of Janet	Sylvia Bradshaw remembering John, a loving husband, Dad and Granddad
25 <sup>th</sup>	David Moss and Janet Bowyer in loving memory of John Parker, uncle of Janet, David and Robert	Geoff and Rosey Smith to celebrate the birthday of granddaughter, Hope Rose



## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

**Stan Hurst (3<sup>rd</sup>), Alan Payne (4<sup>th</sup>), Mark Payne (5<sup>th</sup>), John Moss (7<sup>th</sup>),  
Joe Porter (8<sup>th</sup>), James Benson (18<sup>th</sup>), Chris Bardell (22<sup>nd</sup>),  
Victoria Bunn (29<sup>th</sup>), David Moss (31<sup>st</sup>)**

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

## A REMINDER FROM SHEILA H...

As usual there will be no heat in church over the Well Dressing preparation time and weekend to ensure that the flowers do not wilt. Immediately following we are then into our Summer/early Autumn period where there will be no heat. Remember your sweater/jacket!

## PASTORAL TEAM (Phone nos on back page)

### HILLSWOOD LODGE CARE HOME: next visit Wed May 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

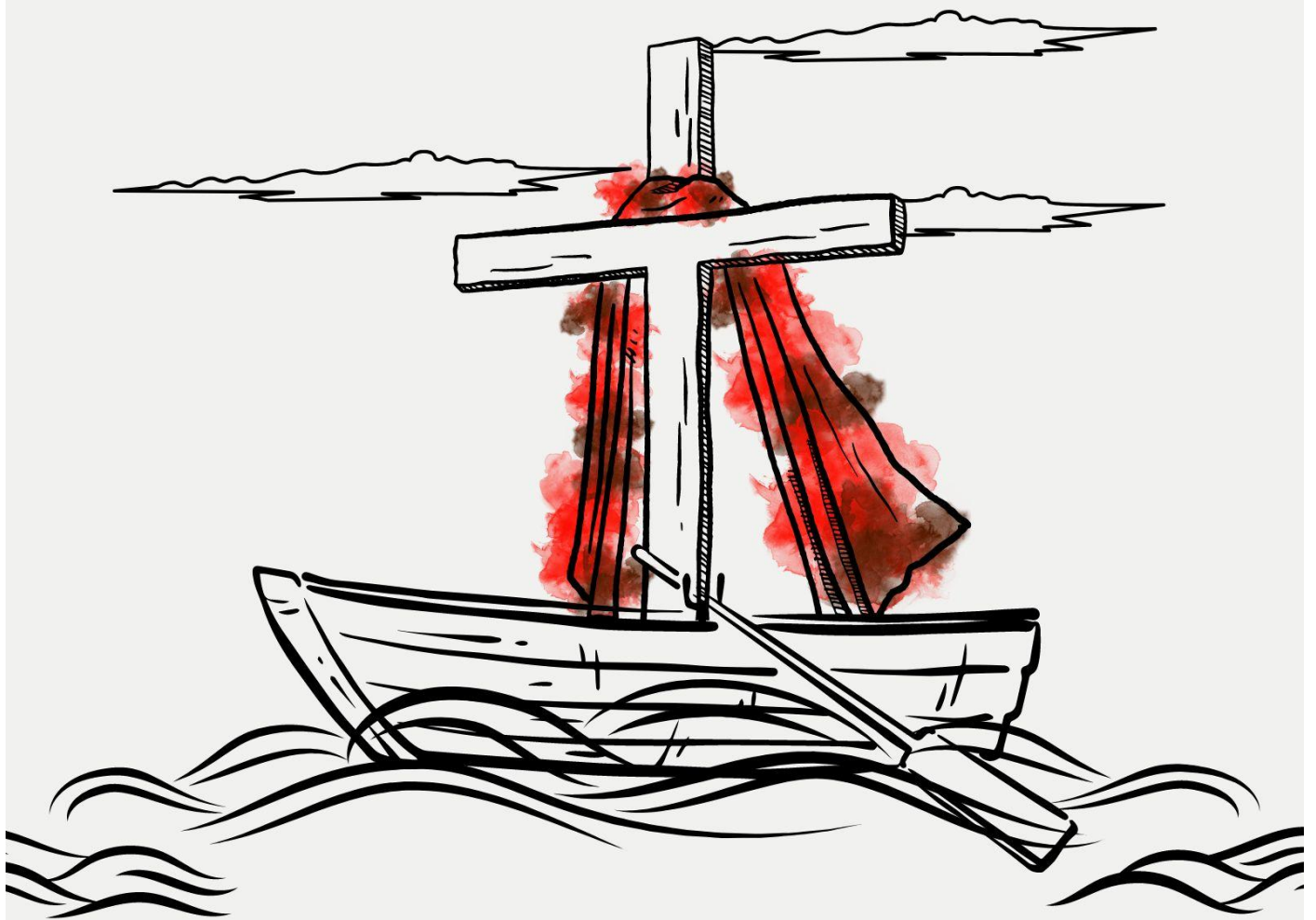
**WALKS followed by refreshments:** Listen up for details of the next walk. Do join us.



Manna Theatre Company presents a passionate retelling of the life of Christ

# Relentless Love

God with us. God for us. God in us.



May 3rd | 7:30pm | Leek

St. Edward's Church, 6 Church St, Leek, ST13 6AB

Free to attend

[www.mannatheatrecompany.uk](http://www.mannatheatrecompany.uk)



**Thank you for your donations for March which amounted to 105kg.**

We were not open over Easter weekend, having taken the decision to close on Good Friday. However, I was at the Foodbank in case anyone turned up – and ended up fulfilling three vouchers and advising two other clients who had turned up with the hope of seeing Citizens Advice and Adullam Housing. I

think overall it was the right decision not to open, and gave the volunteers a very well earned rest.

The trend for a reduced number of clients continues, although, as I discussed in a conversation with one of our referral agents earlier today, those clients we are seeing seem to be more “stuck” in their respective financial situations. We are obviously trying to do as much as we can to help by referral to the most appropriate partnership agencies, but none of us have a magic wand to make insufficient income cover ever increasing outgoings.

Here are the numbers for March 2024, with March 2023 in brackets:

<b>Total vouchers fulfilled</b>	<b>= 97 (125)</b>
No. of Adults fed	= 134 (167)
No. of Children fed	= 57 (91)
<b>Total no. fed</b>	<b>= 191 (258)</b>

During the month, 71 clients had 1 voucher, 10 clients had 2 vouchers, and 2 clients had 3 vouchers. This is a reflection of my earlier comment, and for some high usage clients, we are becoming their only source of food. I continue to monitor those who are frequent visitors, but, in reality, their circumstances are unlikely to change in the near future, and we need to continue to support them as best we can.

We were blessed with very generous donations of Easter eggs from Leek Town Football Club and Leek Building Society, along with some bars of Easter chocolate from Cadburys, so all who have visited the Foodbank during March have been able to leave with a chocolate treat of some description, which has certainly brought a smile to many faces! And we’ve still got some left.....! We also gave some to St Edward’s and St Paul’s churches in Leek, for them to distribute with their school holiday meal provision. So, thank you so much to both organisations for enabling us to help so many people in the Leek area.

On 15<sup>th</sup> March I attended an event at the Council Offices, organised by the North Staffordshire Financial Inclusion Group. This was set up in 2020 with the following purpose – “We are a group of partners in Stoke on Trent and Newcastle under Lyme who work together and individually to deliver consistently high quality support to people who have money issues.” Since then, the services the partner organisations provide have expanded into Staffordshire Moorlands, and the purpose of this event was to ensure that everyone knows who everyone is, what they do, and how to access their help. It was a really good networking event, and hopefully, now, any organisation who comes into contact with anyone in financial difficulties will know where to signpost them directly. One of the organisations present at the event was Residential Energy Services - <https://residentialenergyservices.co.uk/> - who can advise people on how to make their homes more energy efficient, and also look into the availability of grants to make any adaptations. They can work with homeowners and tenants, and will be doing their first drop in session at the Foodbank on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Those of you who live in the Staffordshire Moorlands will have hopefully received your copy of the Worrying about Money leaflet – along with your council tax bill! This is the leaflet that has been produced by the Independent Food Aid Network in conjunction with local councils across the UK -

<https://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/cash-first-leaflet-information> - with the aim of encouraging people to look at maximising their income and accessing financial entitlements, rather than relying entirely on charitable food, which can only ever be a short term solution. Although I may be a little cynical at times about the amount/quality of help that is available, I do think that this is a very worthwhile piece of work, and the production of the leaflet has been the result of some very useful and informative partnership working. Following on from this, we will also be hosting one of the District Councillors and one of the SMDC Officers at the Foodbank on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, who will chat to the clients and answer any questions they might have.

One of the more light-hearted highlights of the month was another visit from the 4<sup>th</sup> Leek Beavers. They are a truly delightful group, and we love the organised chaos that reigns for an hour and a half! This year we split them into three groups, with one group sorting and dating donations, one group making up food parcels, and the third group doing some exercises on how to budget, and the difference between “want” and “need” when it comes to spending money – they all got a turn at everything! I was so delighted to hear that they do actually do this as part of the work for their Money Skills badge, as it is something that everyone should really learn at an early age. Especially in light of the following, a little nugget of knowledge I picked up at the Financial Inclusion Group event – “Research from Cambridge University has revealed that our approach to money is basically set by the age of seven. Behaviour experts from Cambridge reviewed previous studies to determine how children learn in general, and in particular, how they learn about money. They concluded that money habits, including the ability to plan ahead, are usually formed in early childhood. The study found that most people’s money habits are formed from zero to 7 years of age, and that once formed it’s difficult to reverse those habits later on in life.” Surprising – and alarming.

Our needs remain pretty much the same, with a particular request for tinned meat, as this is a relatively high cost item and not often donated. If only we could return some of our beans and ask for meat instead! Anything like minced beef and onions, Irish stew, stewing steak, chicken in white sauce or mild chilli or curry would be really welcome. Thank you.

*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**

**Razors and shaving foam**

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](mailto: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 May 5th.***



## FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB

**Next session: Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> in the Chapter House from 1pm to 3pm and then in preparation for Well Dressing we will set up on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Spring flowers and foliage to arrange as you wish. Members are planning their displays for the Well Dressing Weekend on the theme of **"Our Creative Community"** featuring Children's Books and Rhymes. Bring your own choice of flowers, foliage and container. If you would like to come and watch, have a cuppa and a chat or bring knitting, you would be very welcome too.

## Well Dressing Photography Competition

Following the success of last year's competition it has been decided to run another this year. The theme of the competition is 'The Four Seasons'. Each entry costs £2.50 and there will be a cash prize of £10 for the winner of each section. Entry forms are available from Sue and give details of the size and presentation requirements.



**and OUR ART CLUB... is planned to be an outdoor session on May 4th, weather permitting, from 10.00am to 12.00noon.**

Brilliant work at our last meeting. So much progress and enjoyment. There'll be a gallery of work to look at in church over the Well Dressing Weekend. We plan an exhibition of work for Well Dressing weekend. Pencils, crayons and sketch pads are needed. Nicola demonstrates techniques for drawing still life and is very encouraging to those who may lack confidence in this area. A **£2** donation covers tea, coffee and biscuits. You don't need to come every time and can book on to sessions that interest you.

**Sue Forrester 07854 043187**

The **Methodist** Church



**Where God's love is at work, not just on Sunday...**



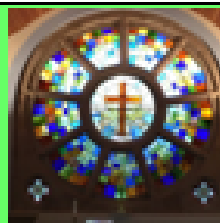
- **Every Sunday** 10.00 Worship
- **Mondays** 10.00 – 1.30 Community Café (not bank holidays).
- **Wednesdays** 9.15 Holy Communion  
Alternately with St Luke's Parish Church
- **Thursdays** 10.30 Fit-as-a-fiddle: Exercise, conversation and coffee
- **Thursday May 9th:** 2pm – 3.30pm Bereavement Café
- **Fridays May 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>:** 10 – 12 Friday Friendship. Enjoy conversation over a cuppa!
- **Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>:** 10 -12 Coffee Pot Café – coffee with Makers' Market (craft stalls)
- **Friday** 6pm 'Blast' – youth club for 7-11 year olds (during term time)

***Eleanor.smith@methodist.org.uk***  
***01782 503228***





You and your family are  
invited to a



## HOG ROAST

The members and friends of  
Endon Methodist Church and St Luke's Parish Church, Endon  
appreciate our families in the community

## WE WISH TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024 from 5pm - 7pm  
at Endon Methodist Church, Station Road

*We will provide the refreshments, some activities  
and we will clear up afterwards*

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### IT IS ALL FREE OF CHARGE

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*However, you do need to book.  
Please let us know how many people will be coming  
and if you have any dietary requirements by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May*

Text or WhatsApp 07748 823712 or email:  
[Eleanor.smith@methodist.org.uk](mailto:Eleanor.smith@methodist.org.uk)

## AN INVITATION TO A HOG ROAST and a DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...

Rev Eleanor 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 Methodist minister for Endon and the Staffs 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*

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## BIBLE STUDIES and PRAYER BREAKFAST

Bible studies will resume on **May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm** in the chapter house led by Rev Patricia. Should enough folk be interested Rev Patricia would be prepared to run a bible study on a Thursday morning as well. Do contact her if this option would be better for you.

Our next prayer breakfast will be on Saturday, **May 4<sup>th</sup> from 8.30am** for breakfast and prayer **at 9.00am** with a finish **at 10.00am**.  
Do come along. All welcome!

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## DATE FOR THE DIARY

*If you like gin you may like to go to a Gin Tasting Evening in Endon Village Hall on **Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.00pm. Tickets are £22 from Sophie 07956 158596. Proceeds to church funds.*



**Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad**

## **PIONEERING PARISHES – CREATIVELY CONNECTING CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**



### **Pioneering Parishes**

Maybe you have a great idea for how your parish church could connect more with its local community, but you don't know how to make this vision a reality? Maybe you'd love to be more focused on mission, but your church seems to be using up all their energy on supporting day-to-day ministry? Or maybe you find the term 'pioneering' rather mysterious and question its relevance to parish life? The Pioneering Parishes programme enables participants with questions just like these to discover how to become more outward looking, moving energy from inside the church to mission within our parish communities. Through involvement in a series of webinars and learning spaces, connection and conversation with parishioners, pioneers and priests will help explore how pioneering is integral to parish life. Clergy and congregation members will be inspired and equipped to shift church culture to enable the cure of souls to be extended into all the parish.

Pioneering Parishes is a project run through the Church Mission Society (CMS) and led by a team that deeply understands and inhabits both pioneering and parish ministry. Lichfield Diocese is excited to be partnering with Pioneering Parishes from April 2024 to facilitate the delivery of on-line webinars and in-house training, supporting the development of fresh expressions and new worshipping communities across city, urban and rural settings.

The Pioneering Parishes team facilitates a series of 90-minute webinars for individuals from parishes or, even better, groups can sign up and explore ideas and learning together. You can find out more about the programme and read inspiring stories of how parishes have developed mission in their specific contexts on the website: <https://churchmissionsociety.org/pioneering-parishes/>

One story describes how churches in Cosham, Portsmouth, set up a community larder; the Vicar, Revd Amy Webb saying of Pioneering Parishes "the training ...helped us to develop a 'let's give it a go' attitude and challenged us to set about changing the culture of our church, which over time had become very inward looking.

"This then meant that during the pandemic, when a secular charity asked us if we would be willing to set up and run a food pantry in a local park, we felt able to say yes. And we said 'yes' without us having any financial or human resources to speak of, or any firm plan as to how this would be possible.

"Step by step we worked it out. This was our opportunity to be the body of Christ out in our community, to share the love of God, build relationships and see what might develop from that'." Read more here: <https://churchmissionsociety.org/stories/feeding-hearts-and-souls-as-well-as-tummies/>.

*You can sign up for the First Steps introductory course straight away.*

*Dates of webinars are 12 and 26 June, 10 and 24 July 2024. Just follow this link:*

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pioneering-parishes-first-steps-4-session-webinar-tickets-779319554767>

*For further information about Pioneering Parishes and the exciting partnership with Lichfield Diocese, contact Catherine Matlock ([catherine.matlock@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:catherine.matlock@lichfield.anglican.org)) or Simon Foster ([simon.foster@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:simon.foster@lichfield.anglican.org))*





## Seeking Slowworms

There's often a secret to be found within a churchyard or cemetery, slowworms may be living there, rarely seen by visitors as they tend to hide within the vegetation and don't emerge to bask in the sun like other reptiles. Slowworms are not particularly slow and they are not worms, neither are they snakes. They are actually lizards without legs and, when warmed up and active

can be pretty nippy! Slowworms hunt in hidden places such as compost heaps, thick vegetation at the base of a wall or hedge and within piles of logs or stones. They catch slower moving prey like slugs and can 'drop' their tails to escape predators, a characteristic of all lizards.



May is a good time to look for them and the easiest way to do this is to put out some pieces of old roofing material, about 50cm square. You can use corrugated tin, but this can have sharp edges, onduline is better and a supplier may give you some offcuts for free. Following a conversation with those who manage the site, place a few of these squares in areas that catch the morning sun and are away from paths, perhaps in rougher vegetation such as tussocky grass. Slowworms will go under the squares to warm up in the mornings before going out to hunt and may be there at any time of day in colder weather.

Check the squares about once a week, lifting one side carefully and looking underneath. Try and check between 8:00 and 10:00am for best results as this is when the animals are warming up. You may be rewarded by a slowworm and also many other creatures such as worms, beetles or woodlice. Why not take a quick picture as the square is lifted, before too much scurries or slithers off! It may take animals a while to find the squares so be patient, having more squares gives a better chance of seeing slowworms.

Churchyards and cemeteries are havens for reptiles and also amphibians such as frogs, toads and newts and we're collecting information to better understand just how important they are for these animals. Please take a photo using the iNaturalist app or let us know what you've seen via email if you don't use iNaturalist. You can keep checking for slowworms from April or May through to September. Why not include a peep under the square as part of a Churches Count on Nature event during Love Your Burial Ground week - 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June.

All the best, Harriet

*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, [harriet@cfga.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cfga.org.uk),*

[www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk) - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**

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## ENDON FRIENDSHIP CLUB COACH TRIP

*Maureen Foster writes....*

The Friendship Club is running a coach trip to Moreton-in-the-Marsh and Stow-in-the-Wold on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May. Please contact Eileen on 01782 760446 if you would like to come along as there are places available.

The coach will pick up passengers at the following times and places:

- 9.30am The Black Horse
- 9.35am The Plough
- 9.40am The Village Hall

The coach will be leaving Stow at 4.30pm

*(At the time of printing no prices were known as the organisers are waiting to hear from the coach company.)*



**Alsager Community Choir**

**Dougie Mac Choir**

**Endon Community Choir**

**Fulford Community Choir**

**Stafford Military Wives Choir**

**Ovation Workplace Choir**

**Musical Director - Dan Hollingshurst**

# **Six Choirs Together in Song!**

**Longton Central Methodist Hall,  
The Strand Longton, ST3 2JH**

**Concert 7pm (Doors open 6.30pm )**

**Saturday 22nd June**

**Tickets: £10 adult, £6 child**

**All seating is unreserved**

**Tickets Available from:**

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DGGA>





# **May Prayer Focus**

- Those injured or otherwise affected by the knife incident at Ammanford School in South Wales
- Ukraine and its continued resistance to a takeover by Russia
- Those taken prisoner by the Russians
- Well dressing weekend at St Luke's and Rev Eleanor as she gives her address
- All visitors to our church
- Our government and all the decisions that need to be made on behalf of us all
- The problem of people-trafficking across the Channel and those seeking asylum
- Our local elections that the most suitable candidates will be elected
- A permanent cease-fire and the release of all hostages and for much more desperately needed aid getting into Gaza
- 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
- 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
- Climate change and the urgent need to combat its effects
- Serious concerns about the growth of Artificial Intelligence and its influence on all our lives
- 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
- Rev Eleanor as she retires and the new Methodist Minister Rev Denise Williamson who will shortly be taking her place in Endon and the Staffs Moorlands Circuit
- 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, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2024**

either by e-mail [jandrbenson@btinternet.com](mailto:jandrbenson@btinternet.com) or phone 504137.

## THIS WELL DRESSING BE A PART OF “OUR CREATIVE COMMUNITY”!

This is the overall theme for this year's well dressing weekend in church. There are several ways you can be involved! You can create a floral arrangement, enter our photography competition, produce an art work or bake a cake for the chapter house café or do all four of them! Entry forms for the photography competition can be obtained from Sue Forrester. The theme for the photo competition is “The Four Seasons”.

We look forward to welcoming many visitors over the three days.

Do sign the sheets if you are available to help.

*NB Sadly Endon Community Choir will not be able to perform this year.*

*Please contact any member of the PCC if you know of anyone who could provide us with a live musical interlude.*