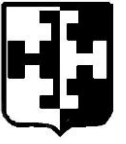




THE BENEFICE of ST LUKE'S, ENDON with ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL and ST MICHAEL'S, HORTON



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

www.endonstlukes.org.uk

Rev Debbie Lovatt 07359 893424

Email: ReverendDebbieLovatt@gmail.com

December 2025



And PEACE to His people on Earth!

A very happy Christmas to all three churches and to our visitors!
See p2 and p3 for Advent and Christmas services at St Luke's and at
the Methodist Church. See p4 for St Chad's Christmas diary.

Celebrating Christmas in Endon

The two Churches in Endon invite you to join us as we celebrate Christmas.



Dec 7th Toy Service and Christmas Food bank Collection at 9:15am
St Luke's

Dec 16th Endon Community Choir Christmas concert at 7pm
Endon Methodist Church

Dec 21st Connections Carol Service at 11am
St Luke's School

Endon Community Carol Service at 6:30pm
Endon Methodist Church

Dec 24th Christingle Service at 4pm
Endon Methodist Church

Carols and Crib Service at 6pm
St Luke's

Hot drinks and mince pies followed by Holy Communion
11pm for 11:30pm service
Endon Methodist Church

Dec 25th Christmas Day Communion at 9:15am
St Luke's

Christmas Day Worship at 10am
Endon Methodist Church

Further details for events at the Methodist Church from Rev D Williamson

(01782 503228)

or for

St Luke's Church from Rev D Lovatt

(07359 893424)



December 2025: ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY (ESL Endon St Luke's; EMC = Endon Methodist Church)		
M	1 st	2.30pm ROCK COTTAGE pastoral team visit
Tu	2 nd	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT in chapter house 2pm and 7pm HEARTEDGE Session 6 at the vicarage
W	3 rd	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL
Th	4 th	10.00am Advent Course at EMC
F	5 th	
Sa	6 th	<i>St Nicholas's Day</i> 8.30am PRAYER BREAKFAST 2.00 - 4.00pm WREATH-MAKING chapter house
Su	7 th	2 nd Sunday in Advent TOY SERVICES w CHRISTMAS FOOD BANK collection 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	8 th	
T	9 th	
W	10 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC
Th	11 th	10.00am Advent Course at EMC
F	12 th	
Sa	13 th	10.30am -12.30pm ART CLUB chapter house
Su	14 th	3 rd Sunday in Advent 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	15 th	
T	16 th	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT in chapter house 7.00pm ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT at EMC
W	17 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL 11.00am HILLSWOOD LODGE visit 1.00pm – 3.00pm FLOWER CLUB chapter house
Th	18 th	10.00am Advent Course at EMC
F	19 th	
Sa	20 th	
Su	21 st	4 th Sunday in Advent 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION 11.00am CONNECTIONS CAROL SERVICE 6.30pm COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE at EMC
M	22 nd	
T	23 rd	
W	24 th	CHRISTMAS EVE (NB No midweek HC) 6.00 FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE
Th	25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY 9.15am HC
F	26 th	<i>St Stephen's Day</i> BOXING DAY
Sa	27 th	
Su	28 th	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	29 th	
T	30 th	
W	31 st	<i>New Year's Eve</i> (NB No midweek HC)



COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE with READINGS

***Sunday, December 21st
at 6.30pm***

***Endon Methodist Church
Don't miss this celebration of
our Saviour's birth!***

St Chad's Christmas Diary:

Thursday 27th November 3.00pm to 6.00pm	Setting up displays for the Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 29th November 11.00am to 4.00pm	Church open to the public
Sunday 30th November	Benefice Service at St Luke's
Monday 1st December 12.30pm for 1.00pm	Christmas Lunch at the Stafford Arms
Wednesday 3rd December 10.30 to 12.30	Communion and coffee. Church will be open after the service for coffee and a chat for about an hour.
Friday 5th December 11.00am to 4.00pm	Church open to the public
Saturday 6th December	Church closed for wedding blessing
Sunday 7th December 10.45am to 12.30pm 12.30pm to 4.00pm	Christingle all age service Church open to the public
Friday 12th December 11.00am to 4.00pm	Church open to the public
Saturday 13th December 11.00am to 4.00pm 2.00pm	Church open to the public Carol Singing at the Stafford arms
Sunday 14th December 11.00am to 3.00pm 4.00pm	Church open to the public Carols by Candlelight
Friday 19th December 11.00am to 4.00pm	Church open to the public
Saturday 20th December 11.00am to 4.00pm	Church open to the public
Sunday 21st December 11.00am to 3.00pm 4.00pm	Church open to the public Crib Service
Wednesday 24th December at 5.00pm 11.30pm	Outdoor carol service Midnight Mass



GREETINGS 2025

Christmas greetings to everyone as we celebrate the birth of Christ. May you find peace and joy at this special time... **Stan and Sheila Hurst**

A very happy Christmas to all in our benefice... **John Moss**

Peace at Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone ... **Ann Boulton**

Hello all! A Merry Christmas and here's to a great and safe 2026.

Love and God bless... **Sophie and Jean xxx**

To all our friends at St Luke's, the Methodist Church, St Chad's and Connections we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year... **Alan and Maureen**

Revs Philip and Patricia send Christmas greetings to everyone in the benefice.

A merry Christmas and a happy new year to all my friends, worshippers and colleagues at St Luke's. May the Lord Jesus Christ lead each and every one of you into a closer relationship with Him to life eternal... **David Moss**

A very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all our readers! **Ros**

Warmest Christmas greetings from **Sheila and Roger**

Very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year ... **Chris and Sue Wilson**

To everyone at St Luke's Church and Connections, wishing you all God's blessings over Christmas and the New Year... **Shirley O'Brien**

Happy Christmas to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's and blessings for a happy and prosperous 2026... **Debbie and Dave Podmore**

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year... **Joe Porter**



TOY SERVICES with FOOD BANK COLLECTIONS: Sunday, 7th December

Food bank items for Leek Food Bank and toys for Leek Salvation Army are invited again this year. Gifts appropriate for adults, teenagers, babies and toddlers as well as toiletries are welcome. Christmas food items are welcome for the food bank. PLEASE DO NOT WRAP YOUR GIFTS but donations of wrapping paper are appreciated. See page 9 for list of suggested food bank items.



ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A good mixture of old and new Christmas songs guaranteed to send you home smiling! **Tuesday, 16th December at 7.00pm in the Methodist Church.** (Currently SOLD OUT as choir members are only allocated 2 tickets each but there may be a few spares at £7. Contact Ann or Ros.)

PASTORAL TEAM EVENTS...



THIS MONTH OUR COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT MORNINGS will be from 10.30 to 12.00 on Tuesdays December 2nd and 16th.

Thank you to all who work hard to make these events happen. If you missed the last one, make sure you come along to our next one. If you need a lift there is bound to be someone who can help to get you there! Bring a friend or two!

HILLSWOOD LODGE & ROCK COTTAGE CARE HOMES:

Our next visit to Rock Cottage will be on Mon Dec 1st at 2.30pm and to Hillswood Lodge on Wed Dec 17th 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. Contact Shirley if you know of anyone who would like a visit.

NEW CHURCHWARDENS NEEDED...an urgent appeal from Roger!

I believe that I have been a Churchwarden at St Luke's for nineteen years, and my body is not as reliable as it was. It would be good if one or two people would step forward to join Barrie and me in this role. To some extent the job is flexible, and your time and skills would fit into the changing needs of St Luke's. It would be good if the Rev. Debbie could rely on someone who is firing on more cylinders than I am.

To join the wardens' team at this stage in the story of St Luke's means that you would be able to take a part in moulding the changes which will undoubtedly come in the rhythm of life here under the ministry of our new vicar. Have a word with either of us, please!

NEXT ST LUKE'S PCC will be held on **Wednesday January 14th** in the chapter house at 7.30pm. PCC members please make every effort to be there.

FUNDRAISING:

The Book Sale and Coffee Morning raised **£156**. Huge thanks to Shirley and her team for all the work involved in setting this up and to all who supplied cakes and served refreshments in the chapter house.

ST LUKE'S "HOMEMADE" on Sat 29th November

Thank you to all who manned the stall and to those who gave homemade items for sale at the recent event at the village hall. There will be a total announced soon.



OUR MEMORIAL SERVICE

There was a good turn-out for this year's Memorial Service at the earlier time of 3.00pm on November 2nd. Over 60 loved ones were represented by family and friends who were invited to light a small candle in their memory.

Huge thanks to Rev Patricia who prepared and printed the service booklets (having had to cope with a troublesome photocopier) and played the organ. Thanks also to our Methodist Minister Rev Denise who led the service and to Rev Philip who preached and helped with the candle lighting.

It was good to see so many of our visitors afterwards for coffee and tea in the chapter house. Thank you to all who served and provided delicious cakes and thanks Joe for the photo!

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Our service was well attended and we were pleased to welcome Judy Scott-Moncrieff, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire and members of our local scout group which included Lily our well dressing queen. A



huge thank you to all who were involved in preparing our church with the poppy cascade, wreaths and flower arrangements. Also thank you to all who took part in the service and those who provided refreshments in the chapter house afterwards. Thanks again Joe for the photos.

PAPER FOLDING at St Luke's



Lots of events happen at our church and not just on Sundays! On Saturday November 8th there were two activities involving a good number of folk from our community. In the chapter house members of the Art Club* were busy drawing and painting and in the nave there were around a dozen folk creating paper angels, trees and hedgehogs from the



pages of old books! We all had a great time. Thank you to Tracey who freely gave her time to show us what to do and to those who kindly supplied us with tea/coffee and biscuits. **Do remember to look at the fresh display of art work in the chapter house.*

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND is THE QUIZ with a Christmas flavour!

As many of us may be going out this month for meals with family, friends or work colleagues, here is a suggested bill of fare. Can you work out what is on offer? Answers next month.

SOUPS	
Fly switcher	
Imitation reptile	
Mat too messed up	
FISH	
Trade terms	
Water sporting equipment	
Bride's greatest treasure	
POULTRY & GAME	
Cowardly	
Break in mountain	
Grumble	
MEAT	
19 th century essayist	
Son of Noah	
Champion winners	
VEGETABLES	
Bad for ships	
Father cuts hair	
Bone centre	
SWEETS	
A mere nothing	
What a race starter may do	
I cry for help	
CHEESE	
Town in Somerset	
Made backwards	
Loved by Wallace	

While you are having your meal carol singers may arrive. What might they be singing?

WSWTFBN	
THATI	
SATWS	
OIRDC	
TFNTADS	
DDMOH	
WTKOOA	
CASTHM	
ICUAMC	
MDYK?	

NEWSLETTER October 2025

Dear Friends and Supporters

Welcome to the latest copy of our newsletter. As usual, I will start with the figures for last month with a comparison to the same month in 2024:

Total vouchers fulfilled	= 89 (79)
No. of Adults fed	= 123 (118)
No. of Children fed	= 61 (49)
Total no. fed	= 184 (167)

A quieter month than September, but again busier than this time last year. I think we are going to see a very busy winter. The harvest season was amazing and provided a huge boost to our stock levels with an incredible 2627.35kg of food donations. Alongside this were some extremely generous cash donations, which will enable us to go out and purchase goods when our stocks run low. It was an enormous pleasure for me to come out to talk to so many of you, and thankfully my voice did manage to hold out! I have recruited some of our Trustees for next year, so, should you wish to have a speaker again, you may well see an exciting new face.

On 16th October one of our Trustees and I had the enormous privilege and pleasure of attending the National Harvest Service at Westminster Abbey - along with the Queen, Charles Dance, Matt Baker and Simon Armitage! – as well as representatives of the farming community and volunteers from a wide range of organisations involved in distributing food. It was such an amazing experience, and we felt very proud to represent Leek & District Foodbank and the work that we do. We will remember the day for a very long time.

We are starting to receive some lovely donations of Christmas goods, and we are very happy to accept anything festive (apart from alcohol!), which does not need refrigerating and has a shelf life beyond 25th December. But please continue to donate items from our core shopping list if you are able to.

ALSO, ADVANCE WARNING THAT, AS BOXING DAY FALLS ON A FRIDAY, WE WILL BE CLOSED, BUT THERE WILL BE ACCESS TO FOOD FOR ANYONE WHO NEEDS IT.

Tinned carrots/corn/peas
Instant mash (single/family) Noodle snacks
Tinned custard
Rice – 500gm/microwave pouches
Tomato ketchup
Tinned soup
Christmas cakes, mince pies, puddings
Dog and cat food – wet and dry

Tinned rice pudding Coffee-100/200gm
Pasta
Tinned meat Tinned fruit
Pasta n sauce / instant noodles
Chocolate – single bars and multipacks
Tinned potatoes

PLEASE NO BAKED BEANS OR TINNED TOMATOES, THANK YOU

Household cleaning products:
Washing up liquid
Multi surface cleaner (no bleach)
Cleaning cloths/sponges
Laundry liquid/capsules/powder

Toiletries:
Shampoo and conditioner
Toothpaste and toothbrushes
Razors and shaving foam
Toilet rolls
Soap
Deodorant (male and female)
Nappies

And please, if any of you have any good quality carrier bags, these would be very gratefully received.

If you are a donor, please try to deliver your donations at the Foodbank on Tuesday and Friday 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. Thank you all for your ongoing support for all that we do.

Best wishes

Lindsey Stockton, Project Manager

If you do not wish to receive Newsletters from Leek and District Foodbank, please email projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line, and your full name in the body of the email.

PLEASE NOTE: We only have one Food Bank collection per month so the Christmas items should be in by the first Sunday in December making sure that the 'best before' dates are after Christmas.



'The Holly and the Ivy'

The City of Stoke-on-Trent Male Voice Choir entertained us once more on **Friday 28th November** following their very popular visits last year.

Thank you to them and all who made cakes and helped out on the night.

A total of funds raised will be announced shortly.

Joe Porter writes...

CHRISTMAS FOOD BAGS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Following on from the last few years of successful deliveries of Christmas food bags, I'm working with Biddulph Youth & Community Zone to do it again this year. On 23rd/24th December I will be delivering bags containing fresh fruit & veg and extra treats for over Christmas. The bags are for anyone in need in our community who they would help over the festive period. I need to know numbers by the end of Sunday 14th December. I'm encouraging everyone to nominate people for food bags as a gift for someone they know in need, someone who has had a very tough year, or someone who needs cheering up. If you or anyone you know would benefit from a Christmas food bag, then please speak to me or email me at joe.porter@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk.



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

HOLY INTERRUPTION

Craig Newton, new director of Shallowford House, our diocesan retreat centre, mulls the season of mistletoe and wine.

There's a certain stillness in the air as the year begins to draw to a close. It's a quiet that sits beneath the busyness of December, beneath the shopping lists and Christmas parties, beneath the deadlines and the expectations. It's the solemn quiet of winter. Of early nights and frosted mornings. Of candles lit against the dark.

If we allow ourselves to listen, Advent has a different rhythm to the world around it. Where the world demands we speed up, Advent invites us to slow down. Where the world grows loud, Advent gently whispers. Where the world requires more, Advent offers rest. Advent, in its truest sense, is a season of holy waiting. A time not to strive, but to receive.

In the Gospel stories, before the multitudes of the heavenly host praised God, there was silence. Before the light of a star broke into the night sky, there was anticipation. Before God came close in the vulnerability of a child, there were ordinary people going about their ordinary lives. It was in that stillness, unnoticed by most, that Heaven touched earth.

This is the fulfilment of Advent: God interrupting the ordinary. The Incarnation is the great holy interruption; the Creator entering creation, the Eternal One stepping into time, Heaven colliding with earth. It didn't arrive with prestige or power, but in the stillness of the night, in a place where most weren't looking.

This is how God so often moves. Not through the sensational and spectacular, but through quiet, unassuming moments. A whispered prayer. A small act of kindness. A pause in the rush of the day. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote, "We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God." Perhaps this Advent, we might learn again how to make room for those interruptions.

To pause, long enough to notice where the light breaks in. To listen, for the whisper beneath the noise. To create for ourselves and for others, spaces of stillness in which the God who came at Bethlehem might meet us again.



Craig Newton joined the diocese in August as director of Shallowford House, our diocesan retreat and conference centre and is looking forward to welcoming people through his first winter of retreat days, workshops and hosting church weeks/weekends and other group stays. The ever-evolving calendar of up-coming retreats et al can be found at <https://shallowfordhouse.org/events1/>



THE DECEMBER MOTH and THE WINTER MOTH

It seems a strange time of year to look for moths but there are a couple of tough cookies who brave the winter weather! The December Moth and the Winter Moth have different ways to cope. The December moth wraps up warm, it has a coat of hairlike scales, giving a fluffy appearance, which helps it hold heat well enough to be active and to fly. The winter moth by contrast can fly when at a lower body temperature. It has large delicate wings and a small body, its big wings

able to beat less frequently to stay airborne.

Neither moth will feed when on the wing, they rely on food reserves built up as a caterpillar. The moth 'stage' is devoted solely to searching for a mate and, in the case of the females, laying eggs. December moth males and females both fly, with the female larger in size than the male, whilst Winter Moth females are flightless, they emerge from a chrysalis in the soil and crawl up a nearby tree. Once there they emit pheromones to attract males then wait for them to arrive. Both moth species lay their eggs on the winter twigs of broadleaved trees including oaks, birches, hawthorns and willows. The eggs hatch when the trees are coming into leaf, giving the caterpillars lots of young, soft leaves to eat.

Most people are more familiar with the caterpillars of both December and winter moths than with the adult. December moth caterpillars are mottled brown, well camouflaged when on twigs and bark whilst winter moth caterpillars are bright green, the colour of new leaves. You may have seen the holes in leaves caused by their voracious appetites or spotted a caterpillar dangling from the mouth of a parent bird, being taken to feed chicks in the nest. Whilst the adult moths may emerge at a time of year when there are few predators about, with bats in winter roosts, the caterpillars are an important early source of protein in the spring, particularly for breeding birds.

Moths are drawn to lights which may kill them or distract them from seeking mates and laying eggs.

Please think about outdoor lighting, keeping it to the minimum need to give safe access and have a look for moths when out and about during the long winter nights.

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.

Use the discount code diomem2



Shirley shares...

MAGAZINE ARTICLE SERIES –

What not to say to somebody with dementia

Words can be helpful and uplifting, but also hurtful and frustrating depending on the situation. This is the first in a series of articles in which we will share some words and questions to try to avoid when talking to a person with

dementia. This material is taken from and based on an Alzheimer's Society blog, <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/blog/language-dementia-what-not-to-say>. The blog starts:

"For a person living with dementia, being able to [use language and communicate clearly](#) can become more difficult over time. While the person living with the condition may have difficulties finding the right word, the words that other people use are important too.

The type of difficulties a person will face as [dementia progresses](#) will be different for each individual, and the type and stage of the person's dementia will also be a factor.

But [good communication](#) is key for all our relationships, and can make a difference to our quality of life. Rather than correcting or challenging someone with dementia, considering using [other] techniques to support your conversations."

Over the coming months, we will explore some of the words and questions it may be best to avoid in conversation.

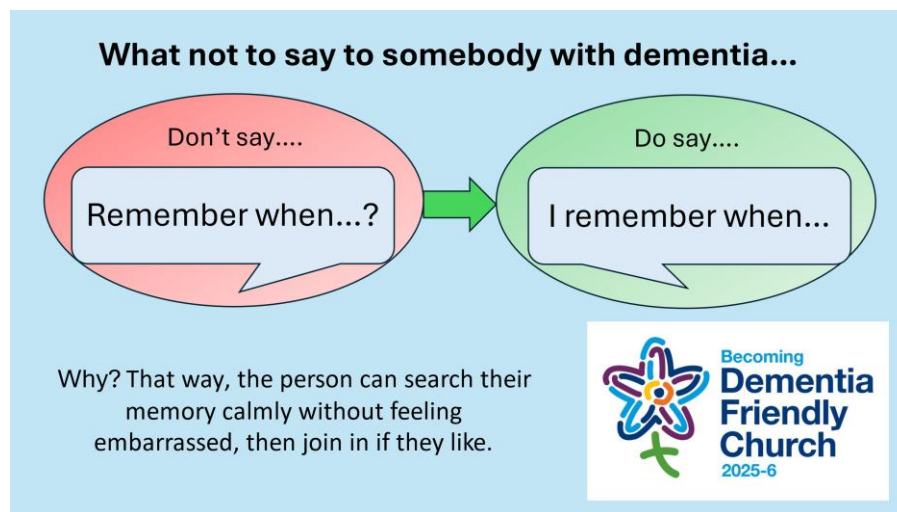
For a conversation about dementia or memory loss, or for more information about dementia and dementia-friendly church, you are welcome to contact [include local church contact details here].

What not to say to somebody with dementia

This is one of a series of articles where we are sharing some words and questions to try to avoid when talking to a person with dementia.

This material is based on and taken from an Alzheimer's Society blog,

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/blog/language-dementia-what-not-to-say>



The Alzheimer's Society blog explains...

"Don't try to jog the person's memory: 'Remember when...?'"

While it can be tempting to try and jog the memory of somebody living with dementia, this kind of question may highlight the fact that the person has memory problems. It can also sometimes feel like the person is being tested.

This can be a frustrating or painful experience, and there's also no evidence that prompting the person in this way will help them to recall or hold on to memories. It can be pleasant and comforting to talk about the past, however, it's usually more helpful to lead the conversation and allow the person to join in.

Try this instead:

Think about whether it is necessary to correct the belief at all. If it is not causing harm or anxiety, then you may not need to. If the belief is causing the person distress, comfort them and remind them they are safe. Try to keep your tone, body language and facial expressions calm and reassuring.

Gently encourage the person to shift their focus onto something they enjoy – even something as simple as a subject they like to talk about, or putting on a favourite television show. These distraction techniques can be very effective."

For a conversation about dementia or memory loss, or for more information about dementia and dementia-friendly church, you are welcome to contact Shirley Brindley or Rev Patricia Robinson.

'THEY SANG' –

An Advent course based on the four songs in the Christmas story

In 'They Sang', Amy Scott Robinson uses four Advent studies to guide small groups to explore the ancient poems of praise and prophecy: Zechariah's song (the Benedictus) Mary's song (Magnificat) the song of the angels (Gloria in Excelsis) and Simeon's song (Nunc Dimittis). Pub. Kevin Mathew. The course books can be ordered through the Christian Bookshop in Hanley. The price isn't confirmed but is either £6.99 or £7.99. This is cheaper than the internet as there is no charge for postage. Please let Patricia know as soon as possible if you would like one ordering as they will need to order more stocks. Otherwise buy your own copy of the book. Price £6.99 from Amazon and Eden. Postage will be extra. **Thursdays at 10.00am at Endon Methodist Church (Lounge) on 27th November and 4th, 11th and 18th December.**



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for DECEMBER

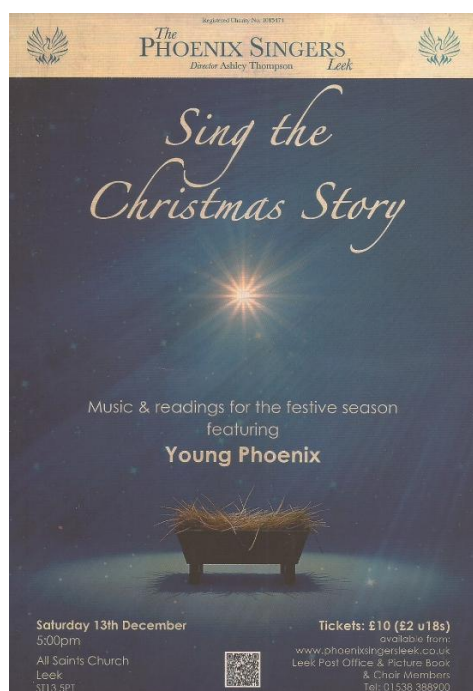
For £2.50 you can keep the Candle of Hope or the Sanctuary Light burning for a week with a dedication. Thank you to all who have supported the candle dedications this year. **Shirley is now taking dedications for 2026.**
Contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 if you would like a particular date.

Dec	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
7 th	Barrie Jackson in loving memory of Mum, Dad, brother Ron and grandson Tom	Barrie Jackson in celebration of Fay's birthday
14 th	Ann Boulton to celebrate Evie's birthday (14 th)	Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Tracy's birthday
21 st	Maureen Foster in loving memory of Malcolm, a dearly loved husband, father and grandfather	The candle is kept burning by Alan Jones
28 th	Ann Boulton in loving memory of Les on his birthday	Anon in loving memory of Joyce and Graham Forrester



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

Thomas Morris (6th), Maurice Woolliscroft (10th),
 Evie Greatbatch, Bob Morris (14th), Tracy Payne (17th)
*If you would like your own or a family birthday included here
 please contact Ros 01782 504137*



THE PHOENIX SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2025 'Sing the Christmas Story'

**Saturday, 13th December
 at 5.00pm
 All Saints' Church
 Leek**

**Tickets £10 (£2 under 18s)
 from Sue Wilson, Leek PO or Picture Book**

December Prayer Focus

- Rev Debbie
- Our Royal Family
- Residents of Monmouth and others seriously affected by floods as a result of Storm Claudia
- The latest government budget and all those affected
- An end to the war and for a lasting peace between Ukraine and Russia
- The appalling situation in Sudan which has been largely unreported until now
- For the ceasefire to hold and for a lasting peace between Israel and Gaza and for restoration of war-damaged cities and people
- The released hostages and their mental and physical health after traumatic experiences in captivity
- Restoration of sufficient aid convoys of food and medical supplies in Gaza
- All journalists, warzone correspondents and cameramen who daily risk their lives in bringing news to the rest of us
- The serious nature of climate change and its consequences
- Water shortages following our very dry summer
- The world's response to the new US tariffs
- The new regime in Syria and the future
- An end to people-trafficking and the ongoing problem of refugees and asylum seekers crowding into unsafe boats to cross the Channel
- The desperate plight of the people of Afghanistan under harsh Taliban rule
- 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
- Those taken prisoner
- All aid agencies and volunteer recovery teams
- 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
- Loved ones and all in our parish who are currently unwell
- Our NHS
- Improvements in the treatment of cancer, heart disease and neurological conditions
- Our church wardens and worship leaders
- 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

Rev Debbie Lovatt	07359 893424
Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden	01782 502006
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	07508 959637
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	01782 502006
Shirley Brindley, candle dedications / pastoral team	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 / PCC Secretary	01782 504137
Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / warden / worship leader	01782 304616
Rev Caryl Siegerts, St Chad's Asst Minister	07973 513128
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
Jim Hudson, St Michael's warden	07871 958886

The newsletter is available on-line as a PDF attachment and on the church website.

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Please submit notices for our next newsletter to Ros Benson

by **Friday, January 2nd 2026**

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