



# **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**



## **June 2025**

### **INTERREGNUM Month 60**

**The news we've all been waiting for! Our interregnum of five years is finally coming to an end with the appointment of Rev Debbie Lovatt as our new incumbent. Coming from the church of St Elphin's, Warrington in the Liverpool diocese, she will become vicar of our benefice which now includes St Michael's, Horton.**

**She has kindly sent us a message and we look forward to welcoming her.**

**We are greatly indebted to our Associate Archdeacon, Rev Preb Terry Bloor who has put in many hours over the last few months in all three parishes in preparation for this event. We hope Rev Debbie will be officially installed soon. We await a date for that but she will be moving into the Endon vicarage before then so we shall be able to meet her.**

### ***A greeting from Reverend Debbie, our new vicar...***



*I am eagerly looking forward to joining you as your new vicar. Walking alongside you, we will discern God's path together, and I anticipate lots of laughter and surprises along the way. I am excited to get to know each of you, to share in your joys, and to support you in times of need. Five years is a long time to be in vacancy so I know I'm going to be part of a team (three teams) that has worked very hard over that time.*

*Let us embark on this journey with open hearts and minds, ready for the blessings and challenges that lie ahead.*

<b>June 2025: ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY</b> (ESL Endon St Luke's; EMC = Endon Methodist Church)		
Su	1 <sup>st</sup>	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION w Rev Philip 11.00am CONNECTIONS      FOOD BANK collection
M	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.30pm ROCK COTTAGE visit
Tu	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house
W	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL
Th	5 <sup>th</sup>	
F	6 <sup>th</sup>	
Sa	7 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am PRAYER BREAKFAST    10.30am ART CLUB
Su	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MORNING WORSHIP    1.00am CONNECTIONS
M	9 <sup>th</sup>	
T	10 <sup>th</sup>	
W	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC
Th	12 <sup>th</sup>	
F	13 <sup>th</sup>	
Sa	14 <sup>th</sup>	
Su	15 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION w Fr David    11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	16 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm Leek Show meeting at EMC
Tu	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house
W	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL      11.00am HILLSWOOD LODGE visit
Th	19 <sup>th</sup>	
F	20 <sup>th</sup>	
Sa	21 <sup>st</sup>	
Su	22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15am MORNING WORSHIP    11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	23 <sup>rd</sup>	
T	24 <sup>th</sup>	
W	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC
Th	26 <sup>th</sup>	
F	27 <sup>th</sup>	
Sa	28 <sup>th</sup>	
Su	29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am COMBINED WORSHIP w Connections in church
M	30 <sup>th</sup>	



**'CONNECTIONS'** is suitable for all ages and especially for children on Sundays at St Luke's CE Academy Leek Road, from 10.30 with service at 11.00 to 12.00noon.

## WELL DRESSING DONATIONS:

Huge thanks to everyone involved in St Luke's well dressing weekend activities. Final totals for donations will appear next month. Sophie and Jean raised over £600 in their raffle with some very generous prizes. Thank you to all the donors!

## **Churchwarden's APCM report 2025 ...otherwise and affectionately known as 'THE SIMPSON REPORT'!**

As always, I must begin by expressing my heartfelt thanks to all those who unfailingly perform the daily and weekly tasks, often unseen, sometimes unthanked, which keep the good ship St Luke's afloat and heading into the swell. For example, fire extinguishers get tested, brasses polished, kettles are boiled, instant coffee tea and milk supplies maintained, donations get taken to the food bank, the bills get paid, the offertory counted and accounted for, the heating gets put on when required, new orders of service are devised and printed to help keep our worship fresh, the insurance cover is reviewed. All this, and much more, goes on in the background. More visible and audible are the words and music and flowers, and the invaluable support of clergy who thought they had, deservedly, retired, which are the framework of our worship. So thank you all, for all that you do to nourish our common life, the life of the saints who are at Endon.

On Sunday we (the churchwardens) were authorised to announce the appointment of the next Vicar. My night's slumber had been punctuated by visions of how this news might be received, but nothing had prepared me for what actually happened. I lived through three of the longest seconds I have ever lived through, including the time between the birth of our first baby and his first breath. Three seconds of total silence. Was this apathy, apprehension, or astonishment? Some of us remember the Goon Show, and the voice of Bluebottle – *waits for audience applause. Not a sausage. Tee-hee*. It was just like that.

Well, that's how I felt on Sunday. But things are changing by the hour. Ros has been in touch with Debbie via her parish e-mail, so we can all expect to know more when the Newsletter is published. I've exchanged several e-mails with her, too. She's planning to re-visit the vicarage, which makes things sound that much closer.

The interregnum has lasted for about the same length of time as the Second World War. As one who has lived through both, for me the feeling of looking forward to something unknown, but good, has been similar.

So for the first time in the history of St Luke's we have a lady vicar. Despite what Google says, she doesn't play the trumpet. She does, on occasions, whack a big drum.

Let's all make her welcome, not least by easing the transition between the priesthood of the believers, relying on a lot of help from our friends, to a flock under the leadership of our future Vicar, the Rev. Debbie Lovatt. Let's all do our best to make that relationship work, and work well.

**Roger Simpson**

### **A few more notes from our APCM held on 14<sup>th</sup> May...**

The 'elections' resulted in all of our present PCC members, churchwardens, deanery synod members, treasurer, electoral roll officer and welcomers being re-appointed for a further three years. Barrie and Roger continue as churchwardens and the PCC is made up as before with Shirley Brindley, Sylvia Bradshaw, Steve Dale, Jean Brough, Sue Forrester, Deb Podmore, Joe Porter and Ros Benson. Rev Patricia as a non-voting member will be co-opted at our first meeting in July. Sheila Hurst is not on the PCC but is willing to continue as Gift Aid Secretary.

Reports were given by Shirley on the work of the Pastoral Team and fundraising events, Sue on Safeguarding as well as the Flower and Art Clubs, Deb on the work of the Connections team, Steve in his role as treasurer and Ros as Secretary. Rev Patricia reported on the progress of 'Enabling All' and dementia-friendly services. She also reported on our involvement with this year's Leek Show and the need for volunteers to man the 'Leek Area Churches' tent. Joe reported that he had managed to solve the problem of the overflowing bins in the churchyard by clearing up the rubbish himself and liaising with SMDC refuse dept. Thanks Joe!

The new electoral roll stands at 51 members of which 32 are resident in the parish and 19 are non-resident.

## PASTORAL TEAM EVENTS...



### THIS MONTH OUR COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT MORNINGS will be JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

Thank you to all those 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! The next Coffee Mornings are planned for Tuesdays **June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>** from **10.30 to 12.00**.

Do come along and bring a friend or two!

## PASTORAL TEAM WALK



A group of seven met on the car park of 'The Leather's Smithy' near Langley on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May and set off on a delightful walk around Macclesfield Forest on a glorious sunny day with a light breeze which ensured a comfortable walking temperature. We were joined by our friend Liz Bannister who sadly left Endon a few years ago. Our thanks go to Patricia who led us and to Shirley who booked us in for lunch at the pub!



Patricia pointed out a heronry on the opposite bank of the reservoir (which is getting quite low at the moment with lack rain). We spotted at least three herons and a nest high up in the trees. Tegg's Nose appeared in the background and gave us another photo opportunity (I'm not sure who Tegg is or where the rest of him is).

Liz also has a good view of Tegg's Nose from her window at home in Langley.

Listen up for details of our next walk and make sure you don't miss it!

**Shirley adds:** *It was a beautiful late Spring morning which meant we saw the area in a completely different light from the last time we went in the middle of Winter. Once again we met up with Liz Bannister and were lucky to catch a glimpse of a number of herons, in the trees, high above the lake. We all enjoyed lunch together at The Leather's Smithy at the end of the walk.*

## HILLSWOOD LODGE & ROCK COTTAGE CARE HOMES:

**next visit to Hillswood Lodge will be Wed June 18<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am and to Rock Cottage on Mon June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2.30pm**

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.





## 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.

**Contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 if you would like a particular date.**

Jun	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
1 <sup>st</sup>	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant.	Barrie Jackson in celebration of Kai's birthday.
8 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Foster in loving memory of John on his birthday (12 <sup>th</sup> ).	Ann Boulton to celebrate Christopher's birthday ( 7 <sup>th</sup> )
15 <sup>th</sup>	Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the birthday of their granddaughter, Lauren.	Rosey and Geoff Smith in memory of their granddaughter, Naomi.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ann Boulton loving memory of Mabel on the anniversary of her death (20 <sup>th</sup> )	The candle is kept burning by Chris and Sue Wilson.
29 <sup>th</sup>	Shirley Brindley in loving memory of a very dear Dad and Mum.	Sheila and Stan Hurst in loving memory of Sheila's parents.



### BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

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

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

## ENDON FRIENDSHIP CLUB COACH TRIP

**Join the Friendship Club on a day trip to Llandudno on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> August!**

For more details and to book your place please phone Eileen on 01782 760446.



## FAREWELL and BLESSINGS to TERRY and a BIG THANK YOU!

We were of course delighted to have Rev Preb Terry to be our guest speaker at this year's well dressing service and to bless the well. He also kindly produced and printed our special service booklets for the occasion. He enjoyed wearing his official regalia especially his biretta as he said he was not to be outdone by the bishops with their mitres!

Over the last few months we have become quite used to having Terry at our morning services, PCC meetings and other events. He is certainly going to be missed by us all. We pray the Lord will bless him as he goes on to other parishes to carry out similar work.

# WELL DRESSING DISPLAYS 2025



## THE FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB

A great deal of thought and preparation over several months went into our fabulous floral presentation this year with the overall theme "To Have and to Hold". Many folk contributed flowers, greenery, wedding dresses and wedding accessories to enhance the amazing arrangements. As usual we were blessed with enormous help and support from our experts Pauline and Jeanette.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to make it all happen and to make the climb up the hill a very rewarding experience! You're all stars! Please contact Sue for details of the next Flower Club meeting. Lots more photos can be viewed on St Luke's Facebook page and the Endon Well Dressing Facebook page.



## PHOTO COMPETITION

The theme 'The Natural World' attracted a variety of entries of a high standard. Thank you to Andrew Seadon who was our judge.

Congratulations to Rosey Smith for gaining 1<sup>st</sup> prize and to Avril Weaver who came a close 2<sup>nd</sup> and to Joanne Corden who gained the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize.

Well done to everyone else and thank you for taking part. All the entries are currently displayed on the noticeboard at the back of church.

## THE ART GROUP

The latest crop of drawings and paintings from our talented artists are on display in the chapter house.

Thank you to Sue who has been very busy with her staple gun putting up fresh background paper and attaching the various pictures and photos for us to enjoy and appreciate. **Next meeting: Sat June 7<sup>th</sup>.**







## **“DORA THE EXPLORER”, “OPEN PIANO” AND CLAY POT MAKING!**

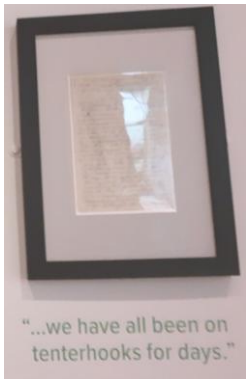
Thanks to the efforts of Rev Patricia, St Luke’s had an entry in this year’s Well Dressing Scarecrow Competition where the theme was “Cartoon Characters”.

“Dora” is a character in a children’s TV series and here she is with her magnifying glass ready to start exploring the Christian faith.

Rev Patricia also introduced the “Open Piano” in church this year. As result we were blessed by several talented visiting pianists giving us spontaneous musical interludes over the three days.

In addition Patricia made sure that our younger visitors were not forgotten and she provided special modelling clay to be fashioned into water bowls to follow the ‘water’ theme of the well dressing thanksgiving.

## **‘VE DAY’ EXHIBITION at the NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM with a contribution from a Stoke-on-Trent bloke...ROY HORLEY!**



As part of the VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations, the National Memorial Arboretum put out an appeal for letters written by soldiers on or around 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945. My dad was a radio operator.

As you may know I have been busy transcribing my parents’ wartime letters

for the last 4½ years so I had a few which were written during that time.

I contacted the NMA and very soon I had an email from Amy at Radio Stoke asking if I could show her the letters. She borrowed one of them and several

photos which are now part of a VE Day exhibition at the NMA.

Many of you at St Luke’s will remember my Dad Roy Horley and if you happen to visit the NMA between now and November you may spot his letter which has been framed beside a short background piece on the wall in the round exhibition area just off the main entrance.

When I was there I was pleased to meet a few of the others who had submitted their fathers’ letters including the daughter of Tony Wade.

Roy and Evelyn were married at St Luke’s in November 1940 on a 48hr leave. After the wedding reception and wedding night at ‘The Plough’,

Roy returned to Prestatyn Holiday Camp where he was stationed and Evelyn went back home to her parents’ house in Sneyd Green!

**Ros**

### **ROY HORLEY**

Roy Horley was born in Stoke-on-Trent on 12 July 1916. He joined the Army in June 1940 after previously working as a teacher, and married Evelyn Harvey in November of that same year. Trained as a Signaller, Roy was attached to the 19th Light Field Ambulance Unit which took care of the wounded.

The letter here is one of hundreds sent back and forth between Evelyn and Roy during his service. The words within the pages capture Roy’s excitement about the looming end of the war, as well as a story of friends captured by German soldiers before being liberated after just a week as prisoners.



## HERE IS THE LETTER...

**4<sup>th</sup> May 1945:** The end of the war is announced and Dad can at last tell the story of his truck being captured now censorship has been lifted. Dad lost some of his possessions including letters which probably explains why I found so few of my mother's letters among their wartime correspondence. **Len and George were Dad's fellow radio operator and driver in the 'Gin Palace' 717. Amazingly my Dad was on leave when his truck was captured!**

My darling Evie

Your letter of 30<sup>th</sup> April announcing the arrival of the photo has cheered me up all day! Now to update you on Len and George, a mystery I have hinted at but because of the censor I have been unable to divulge. It occurred over a fortnight ago. The unit was on the road led by a staff car, then a small vehicle and then 717. In 717 were George Thomas driving, Corporal Harrison of the Medics (who had just sent a message), Len and Ron Houghton who sat blissfully in the back! It was the early hours of the morning. Somewhere in Germany the column moved along the road. At a crossroads the leading vehicle took a wrong turn, past tanks and eventually infantry. On and on and then suddenly...HALT! in guttural German, and a shot...a bullet through the leading truck. George Thomas had a German bagorha (*not sure what this is?*) pushed in his chest and all were bundled out. These three vehicles and two or three DRs had run into a German pocket. The Germans marched them off to a cafe for interrogation and next morning they were marched miles around the fields to a Naval prison camp. The Germans were very pleased with the truck and its contents. The German infantry whipped out the batteries. The chief worry was, "Were they going to be shot?!" However, they reached this prison camp and all the merchant seamen and sailors (some of whom had been there for 4 or 5 years) crowded to the barbed wire and showered them with cigarettes! Len told me that the spirit of the chaps was marvellous. They were extremely good to them and fed them out of Red Cross parcels. The prison diet was two slices of black bread and dirty soup daily. They were there for about a week when they were released by the Guards Armoured Division! The Germans, after a brisk encounter, withdrew. I was told that our shelling was so good that no shells dropped on the camp. I heard all this when I was at the transit camp. I lost a great deal of kit including letters, shoes, First Aid outfit, your gift if the Wardonia razor etc. I saw Len and George only for a few minutes a few days ago and now they are en route to England safe and well. Corporal Harrison told me that he had received a letter from his wife saying that she had seen pictures of the GAD release of this Naval Camp and wondered if he had seen any of these released prisoners. He had seen quite a few! Whoa! The loudspeaker has just gone through the village saying that the war is over. Gunga Din has just rushed up to ask if we have heard anything on the radio! It is 8.45pm. I have switched on and there is a play about Anthony Trollope!! We don't care about him! My time goes slow. This alarm clock of mine draws out the minutes. My! Clans are gathering. Medics, a guardsman, RASC are all around. Fortunately we are equipped with an excellent German loudspeaker that is very loud and reproduces very efficiently. At last Big Ben! The surrender of German forces in the North-West is announced from 8 o'clock tomorrow. There are loud cheers from all around the truck. We whip out a 200 cigar box (German) and hand them round!

Honestly we have all been on tenterhooks for days. Today I have left things lying around and found it hard to concentrate on anything! And now only Norway remains...gallant Norway! Well, it's a great relief.

I've just heard the War Report and an English voice...NOT Haw-haw...from Radio Hamburg.

This is a scribbled letter written in a great hurry! Everybody who was captured (nine in all) are safe. I was very lucky.

Corporal West is on this truck and up till yesterday we had Signalman Hancock as driver but yesterday he scalded himself and was whipped away. We now have another one, Driver Ferris, a very decent chap. Westy goes on leave in a few days and then John H comes on truck as my second operator.

All my love

Your Roy





## Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

### MAKING MEMORIES



Recently I walked with a friend to the stepping stones at Dovedale. He suddenly stopped in his tracks and said "I just remember the last time I walked across these steps. It was 65 years ago. I was 11 years old."

A few weeks before, I was talking to a seasoned headteacher whose face lit up when I mentioned the same place. He shared vivid memories of a childhood stay at Dovedale House while at primary school.

Why do I mention these memories?

Most teachers, administrators, school governors and youth workers appreciate an immense privilege to help develop hope and aspiration among young people. If it works as we plan, young people in our context are happy and they move on with life-long positive memories. Dovedale House was birthed in 1967 with that same vision, that it can be a Christian place where positive life-long memories are created for young people. Everyone remembers the excitement of a first school trip, the coach journey, sharing a room with friends, getting out into amazing countryside, climbing hills, walking by rivers. All these are at Dovedale House.

Hills, rivers and the great outdoors, feature so much in the Gospel accounts of Jesus's ministry. It was there that people became followers of Jesus, and also where people grew in their discipleship journey, where they learned about a vibrant faith being one where reaching out and serving others was pioneered.

We read that Jesus taught the Christian faith while sitting, standing or walking on hills, he was transfigured, arrested and subsequently crucified on a hill. Jesus was himself baptised in a river, and many people followed his example. The majority of recorded miracles took place in the great outdoors. The common feature of all these stories is that God revealed himself, and this created memories that have lasted forever.

Dovedale House provides a fabulous 50-bed setting, where you bring children and youths, to enhance the hard work that you currently do, to give hope and to raise aspirations for a great life. It is a breath-taking place where we can help young people make lifelong positive memories. In order to fulfill our dream and yours to accomplish this, we need your help.

If you have links to any school or youth work, please can you introduce the Dovedale House opportunity in your places of education, and amongst your peers? At present there is even an offer of a bursary to ensure that no one misses out on making positive life-long memories.

*The Revd Jeremy Oakley 'retired to the countryside' from work as a vicar in Wolverhampton and with his wife, Julie, soon found himself offering to take on the role of interim warden of Dovedale House.*

*Read more about Dovedale House at [lichfield.anglican.org/Dovedale](http://lichfield.anglican.org/Dovedale) or contact Jeremy by email - [dovedalewarden@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:dovedalewarden@lichfield.anglican.org)*



## PROFUSION IN JUNE

June is a great month for spending time close to nature in your local churchyard or cemetery. The second week of June sees three initiatives; 'Love Your Burial Ground Week' with 'Churches Count on Nature' and 'National Cemeteries Week' all taking place in celebration of these special places and the fantastic volunteers who care for them.

You may be able to attend an event as part of one of these, take a look on the [Caring for Gods Acre map of events](#) to see what is happening near you but if not, go to a churchyard, chapel yard or cemetery on your own, or with family or friends and see what you can see.

Wildflowers may be present in profusion if there is a meadow area. Look out for oxeye daisy, lady's bedstraw, vetches, cat's ear and hawkbit amongst others. Is there a patch of medium length grass, where shorter-stemmed plants can flower without the mower cutting them off? If so search for bird's eye speedwell, self-heal, red clover, buttercups and medics. Burial grounds can be rich in species as they contain a mosaic of habitats, with large trees, areas of shaded woodland, stonework as well as grassland of varying lengths. The butterflies to be found can be a mix of species usually found in woodland, grassland and scrub. In June you may find a rich array, look out for comma, red admiral, small copper and common blue which favour shorter vegetation such as grasses and nettles for laying their eggs, all plants found in meadows or in the dappled shade of a woodland or large tree canopy. You may catch a glimpse of a yellow brimstone, which lays its eggs on buckthorn, a woodland shrub. June is also a good time to sit quietly and watch birds busily feeding young, darting in and out of nests. Again, burial grounds can be rich in birds which may also use neighbouring gardens. The church itself can host house martins under the eaves, swallows in the porch or lych-gate and perhaps swifts, nesting invisibly in the eaves or in boxes behind tower louvres. A visit in the early evening may be rewarded with the sound of screaming swifts circling around the church building.

Please let us know what you see and hear, be it plant, insect or bird. You can record species using a smart phone and the iNaturalist or iRecord app, by email or by post. Open this link to find out [how to make a recording](#) or visit our website.

Harriet Carty, *Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*, [harriet@cpga.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cpga.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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## SERVICES AT ST CHAD'S

**1<sup>st</sup> JUNE SUNDAY**

**10.45am ALL AGE WORSHIP JP/GB**

**8<sup>th</sup> JUNE SUNDAY**

**10.45am PRAISE & PRAYER Rev C/KH**

**15<sup>th</sup> JUNE SUNDAY**

**10.45am HOLY COMMUNION Rev C**

**Sadly St Chad's have bade farewell to stalwart Muriel Finney who has now left the district.**

**Muriel was a very active member of St Chad's for many years and will be greatly missed. She was given a good send-off at her last service on May 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE SUNDAY**

**10.45am MORNING PRAYER Rev C/JP**

**29<sup>th</sup> JUNE SUNDAY**

**10.45am HOLY COMMUNION Rev C**

On the first Wednesday of the month there is a service of Holy Communion with Rev Carrie at 10.00am with prayers for healing followed by coffee



***Project Manager Lindsey Stockton writes...***

Thank you St Luke's for your latest donation of 20kg.  
April's figures are here with the same month last year in brackets:

<b>Total vouchers fulfilled</b>	<b>= 64</b>	<b>(98)</b>
No. of Adults fed	= 89	(131)
No. of Children fed	= 51	(80)
<b>Total no. fed</b>	<b>= 140</b>	<b>(211)</b>

The beginning of May has been busier with yesterday's session being pretty manic, with a lot of new clients, and many of them in quite desperate need, not just for food, but for help with their utility costs. I think the rise in bills is beginning to hit home.

We have been grateful for a bit of a lull in numbers, as donations from our usual streams – primarily the supermarkets – are significantly down. I have just had to place an order with Morrisons to top up our stocks costing about £1000! As I have said before, we are in the fortunate position to be able to do this, but it is quite frightening when you look at how little you get for that amount of money. Even the budget options seem to be well in excess of what the top end goods used to cost.

As I have highlighted in previous newsletters, Morrisons have now stopped their pick up bag system for donations to Foodbanks, which has had a very big impact. To try to counteract this, they have set up various systems to enable Foodbanks to order online from them as business customers, which enables us to order larger quantities than if we were a personal customer. They also offer free delivery, and, if we purchase in store, we get a 5% discount with the business 'More' card.

Events during April included:

Takeaway meals from Trinity Church on 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April were very gratefully received by our clients. Thank you again to Maureen Wiskin and her band of very expert and willing helpers for providing this service during the school holidays. Also, a huge thank you goes to Maureen for having a supply of emergency food to cover our closure on Good Friday. There was a need and the arrangement worked very well.

Meetings to discuss the continuation of funding for our Financial Inclusion service – our in-house CA Advisor. The current grant funding from Trussell runs out in May 2026 so we need to ensure that we find replacement funding to continue with this vital service for our clients. We have a big meeting with CA next week so I should be able to give more information next month.

Various updates regarding the Trussell Lobby Day are to be held in London on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June. Unfortunately, Dame Karen Bradley is abroad on parliamentary business that day so is unable to meet with us, but we will hopefully join in with one of the other MP meetings, and then be able to meet Karen locally at some point after Lobby Day.

We had a very beneficial meeting with Rev Mike Fitzsimmons, also attended by Adullam Housing, to discuss the issue of homelessness in Leek. The porch at St Luke's Church has been a regular resting place for rough sleepers and they have received a great deal of support from the church. I'm not sure that we came up with any earth-shattering solutions, but the more information sharing there is the greater the support there will be, albeit not statutory. We also had a good couple of sessions at McDonald's in the week leading up to Easter, both to get donations, but also to increase awareness of who we are, where we are and what we do. Thank you to McDonald's for hosting – and feeding – us! We were fortunate enough to receive £400 in Virgin Incentives Cards, which were donated to Trussell by Barclays. These can be used at various retailers – a number of which are not really relevant to us – but I have converted ours into B&M gift vouchers which will enable us to purchase a wide variety of our core stock at good prices. Our current list of most needed items remains much the same:

<b>Longlife semi-skimmed milk</b>	<b>Fruit squash</b>	<b>Tinned soup</b>
<b>Pasta sauce</b>	<b>Longlife sponge puddings</b>	
<b>Tinned carrots/corn</b>	<b>Tinned rice pudding</b>	<b>Coffee-100/200gm</b>



Instant mash	Tinned custard	Tinned meat
Tinned tuna	Tinned fruit	
Rice – 500gm/microwave pouches		Pasta in sauce / instant noodles
Tomato ketchup	Chocolate biscuits/bars of chocolate	
Dry dog food	Jam	

**PLEASE NO PASTA, BAKED BEANS, TINNED TOMATOES OR TEA, THANK YOU**

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

**Toiletries:**  
**Shampoo and conditioner**  
**Shower gel**  
**Toothpaste and toothbrushes**  
**Deodorant (male and female)**  
**Razors and shaving foam**  
**Toilet rolls**

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](mailto:projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk) or on 07916 005064. Thank you all for your ongoing support for all that we do.

**FOR THOSE WHO ENJOY THE QUIZZES** here is one for the summer. As the trees are now in full leaf making identification easier it seemed appropriate to have a ‘Trees’ quiz! As usual there are no prizes but I hope you have fun getting to the answers. You will be able to check them next month. *(Talking of trees...thank you to Barrie for dealing with the fallen tree on the car park!)*

<b>CRYPTIC TREES</b>	
1.	Mixed up Kate
2.	Is going to be in debt
3.	A request for silence
4.	Found in Barrow and Jarrow
5.	Who in France is mixed up with a rose that's not right?
6.	Cared about
7.	Studied timber at university I hear
8.	Popular without you
9.	All right about an article
10.	A cry some altered
11.	Sounds like a second person
12.	Ample redistribution
13.	I'm among the French
14.	People from the North long for this
15.	Home changed with barn conversion
16.	A pig among plenty
17.	Instrument of chastisement made from precious metal
18.	It could be an aircraft
19.	It appears among bee changes
20.	A thousand follow the Spanish leader

# **June Prayer Focus**

- Rev Debbie Lovatt, the new incumbent for our benefice
- All affected by the incident of a vehicle in Liverpool injuring many people during the FA victory parade
- The serious nature of climate change and its consequences
- Ceasefire and a lasting peace between Israel and Gaza and between Ukraine and Russia and for restoration of war-damaged cities and people
- Restoration of sufficient aid convoys of food and medical supplies in Gaza
- The desperate humanitarian crisis in Sudan due to the civil war
- Non-escalation of the current conflict between India and Pakistan
- The world's response to the new US tariffs
- The environmental damage to coast and wildlife following the collision of the two tankers off the Norfolk coast
- The return of all hostages
- The released hostages and their mental and physical health after traumatic experiences in captivity
- Our own government and Prime Minister in talks with other leaders
- Those tackling climate change
- 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
- Rev Denise Williamson our new Methodist minister based in Endon
- 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
- The families of all those whose loved ones have been murdered
- Climate change and the urgent need to combat its effects
- 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
- 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

Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship / PCC chair	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, reader / 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 / 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

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 24<sup>th</sup> 2025**

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

### 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.



## ENDON METHODIST CHURCH

In addition to St Luke's 'Coffee & Chat' on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, the Methodist Church has 'Friday Friends' on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays from 10.00 – 12.00 as well as 'Saturday Coffee Pot' once a month. All are welcome!