



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

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

[www.endonstluke.org.uk](http://www.endonstluke.org.uk)

**Vestry (church office): 01782 502166 or 07517 653370**



**May 2025**

**INTERREGNUM Month 59**



## **WELL DRESSING**

**Sat 24<sup>th</sup>, Sun 25<sup>th</sup>  
and Mon 26<sup>th</sup>**

This year our Associate Archdeacon,  
Rev Preb Terry Bloor, will be our  
guest speaker at the Service of  
Thanksgiving at 1.30pm on the  
Saturday.

**The church will be open to visitors at 3.00pm. Please see church diary for  
church opening times over the three days.**

**As always volunteers are needed to welcome visitors and serve  
refreshments in the chapter house. Please sign the sheets on the  
noticeboard if you can help and /or supply cakes, scones or biscuits.  
At 3.45pm on the Saturday Endon Community Choir will sing in church.**

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

**Members of our Flower & Craft Club will be creating some displays for us  
with the theme 'Weddings' but we shall also display entries to our  
photographic competition and some art work from children and adults.**

**Entry forms and other details can be obtained from Sue Forrester.**

**The theme for the photo competition is 'Our Natural World'.**

### **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!

<b>May 2025: ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY</b> (ESL Endon St Luke's; EMC = Endon Methodist Church)		
Th	1 <sup>st</sup>	
F	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Sa	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30am PRAYER BREAKFAST    10.30am ART CLUB
Su	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION w Rev Philip 11.00am CONNECTIONS                  FOOD BANK collection
M	5 <sup>th</sup>	<i>May Day Bank Holiday</i> 2.30pm ROCK COTTAGE visit
Tu	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house
W	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL
Th	8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>VE Day commemorations at Station Road Memorial Park from 9.30am. Full programme on p11.</i>
F	9 <sup>th</sup>	
Sa	10 <sup>th</sup>	
Su	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MORNING WORSHIP    1.00am CONNECTIONS
M	12 <sup>th</sup>	
T	13 <sup>th</sup>	
W	14 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC                  7.30pm APCM in chapter house 7pm PCC mtg to approve the accounts
Th	15 <sup>th</sup>	
F	16 <sup>th</sup>	
Sa	17 <sup>th</sup>	
Su	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION w Fr David    11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	19 <sup>th</sup>	
Tu	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house
W	21 <sup>st</sup>	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL                  11.00am HILLSWOOD LODGE visit
Th	22 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Flower Club prepare displays in church</i>
F	23 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Flower Club prepare displays in church</i>
Sa	24 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm WELL DRESSING THANKSGIVING SERVICE w Rev Preb Terry 3.45pm ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR will sing in church Church open 3.00pm – 8.00pm
Su	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MORNING WORSHIP                  11.00am CONNECTIONS Church open 1.00pm – 6.00pm
M	26 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Spring Bank Holiday</i> Church open 1.00pm – 7.00pm
T	27 <sup>th</sup>	
W	28 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC
Th	29 <sup>th</sup>	
F	30 <sup>th</sup>	
Sa	31 <sup>st</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.

# ST LUKE'S APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the chapter house preceded by a short PCC meeting at 7.00pm to approve the accounts. New PCC members are to be elected this year. You are entitled to vote if your name is on the church electoral roll. This is YOUR meeting. Do come along.

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## PASTORAL TEAM EVENTS...



### OUR NEXT COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT MORNINGS will be MAY 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<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 **May 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>** from **10.30 to 12.00**.  
Do come along and bring a friend or two!

## PASTORAL TEAM WALK

The next walk will be on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May** in the Macclesfield Forest area followed by lunch at 'The Leathers Smithy' near Langley. We hope to meet up with Liz Bannister again who lives in nearby Langley. Please inform Shirley if you would like to join the group and/or if you need a lift. **Meet at 11.00am at 'The Leathers Smithy'**. More information from Shirley or Rev Patricia.

## HILLSWOOD LODGE & ROCK COTTAGE CARE HOMES:

**next visit to Hillswood Lodge will be Wed May 21<sup>st</sup> at 11.00am and to Rock Cottage on Mon May 5<sup>th</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.

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## MOTHERING SUNDAY

Thank you to all who led our combined worship on Mothering Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> and thank you for all the gifts! Members of the congregation were handed a small bunch of daffodils as well as a delightful bag of goodies both of which were much appreciated. Also thank you to those who provided and served refreshments in the church. Moving tables from the chapter house and back again is quite an effort so thank you to those who helped with all this furniture removing too!

**ALSO WE SAY THANK YOU** to Hope (2024 EWD Queen), Lily (2025 EWD Queen), our two local counsellors and other volunteers for tidying up our church path border and adding new plants in time for Easter. You all did a splendid job!





# 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.

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

May	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
4 <sup>th</sup>	Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Alan's birthday (4 <sup>th</sup> ).	Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Mark's birthday (5 <sup>th</sup> ).
11 <sup>th</sup>	Anon in memory of Tom, Emma and Robert Williams.	Janet Bowyer and David Moss in loving memory of Edgar Bailey, grandfather of Janet Bowyer, David and Robert Moss.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Bowyer and David Moss in loving memory of Alfred Bowyer, father of Janet Bowyer.	Ros in loving memory of her very dear husband James on his birthday.
25 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Bowyer and David Moss in loving memory of John Parker, uncle of Janet, David and Robert.	Rosey and Geoff Smith in celebration of the birth of their granddaughter, Hope.



## 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>), Pam Brown (22<sup>nd</sup>), Chris Bardell (23<sup>rd</sup>), Victoria Bunn (20<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*



## FUNDRAISING:

We were delighted to host the Staffordshire Chamber Orchestra concert on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March which raised funds for both the orchestra and for St Luke's.

**£350** was raised for St Luke's in ticket sales and a further **£142** from the raffle.

Thank you to all who helped set up in church and provided or served refreshments for audience and players as well as clearing up afterwards.

Thank you also of course to our supporters who bought tickets and turned up on the night!



**CHRISTIAN AID:** Donations in sponsorship for the Tittesworth Walk raised **£195**. Thank you to all walkers and sponsors.





## Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

### POP GOES THE ATMOSPHERE

I was inspired recently at a national Church of England conference for people working on environmental issues.

Held at the British Antarctic Survey headquarters in Cambridge, we got to hold and listen to 10,000-year-old ice: as it melts, gas escapes (which sounds like popping candy or a fizzy drink) and analysis of the gas not only gives insight into the atmosphere back then, but scientists are able to use their analysis to predict potential changes up until 2050. Probably even further ahead.

Some people think church and climate an odd combination of topics, but the Bible starts with God creating the world and all that makes it up – land, sea and sky; seeds, plants and fruit; birds, fish and animals. Finally, he made humans to take care of it. 'And God saw that it was good.'

We talk about 'five marks of mission,' shared with 80 million Anglicans worldwide, which are the basic things we do to express our faith. The fifth mark is 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth' and this has been backed up by various decisions made by General Synod.

The most challenging of those has been the adoption of goals to reach net-zero carbon emissions in our churches, vicarages and schools by 2030. This target is far more ambitious than our Government's, but it is one I would agree is vital to combat the effects of climate change. It is a daunting and potentially expensive challenge when we take it seriously, but there is a scheme to help all churches work their way through the things that can be done – the quick wins (which some churches have even found saved them money) as well as the long haul. That's the Eco Church awards scheme which guides parishes as they master bronze, silver and hopefully gold-level achievements. In Lichfield diocese we currently have about half our churches enrolled in the scheme, with nearly fifty reaching the silver level and we were thrilled to have our first gold award last spring. Even the diocesan office and our cathedral have achieved silver awards. It can lead to lasting improvements for our buildings and our churchyards – some even make life easier such as designating part of a large and old churchyard as an eco-meadow! Reducing the frequency of mowing can enable flowers, bees, butterflies, birds, insects and small mammals all to benefit as well as making our churchyards pleasant places to be.

Of course, we can't measure progress if we don't know where we're starting from. So we're actively encouraging churches to complete the Energy Footprint Tool which takes a straightforward look at the circumstances and usage of energy in our churches. Last year around half of churches completed that challenge, and our goal is to encourage all to complete it this year. It's not just a dull bit of bureaucracy, it can be very enlightening for creative and practical people to help their community – do ask your church leaders about your church.

A highlight of our conference for me was to hear the Church's lead bishop for the environment, Bishop Graham Usher. In his presentation he said something significant that stuck with me (paraphrased). 'We are all living in the Garden of Eden, we've been called to tend it and we have a responsibility to do that.' Would you Adam and Eve it?!

*Jan Firth (lower) is Diocesan Environmental Officer, assisted by Fiona North (above), Parish Project Support Officer. The penguin performs no useful role in the diocese.*

*For more information about the Eco Church scheme, contact Jan at [jan.firth@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:jan.firth@lichfield.anglican.org) or visit the A Rocha website, [www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)*





## LEARNING TO LOVE MOLES!

Many of us rarely if ever see an actual mole and apart from Moley in The Wind in the Willows, the other famous mole is '*the little gentleman in black velvet*' toasted by Jacobites as William of Orange is said to have died following a fall after his horse tripped on a molehill.

We do however see signs of moles, their molehills. Moles breed in spring, between February and June and this is a time when we see new molehills that have been dug by male moles expanding their tunnel network in search of female mates. They also create spherical nests which they line with dry leaves and grass and the moles will sleep in these nests as well as rearing young there.

Male and female moles spend most of the year alone, living underground and feeling their way around their network of tunnels using their sensitive noses and also their tails. They have poor eyesight and are at risk from predators when above ground but underground they are in their element, using large, spade-like forelimbs to expand the tunnel network as needed. Most of the tunnels are permanent and quite deep and may cover hundreds of metres. Moles are fiercely territorial, familiar with their own tunnels and using them to suit the season. In colder or drier weather they head for their deepest tunnels where their main food, earthworms, will be found. A tunnel network is thought to last for many years, through several generations of moles.

Moles feed mainly on earthworms they create a winter 'larder' by storing earthworms in a chamber, keeping them alive but immobilising them with a bite to the head segment. Up to 450 worms have been found in one chamber.

Moles used to be killed in large numbers by trappers to make moleskin clothes from their pelt, and were thought of as a problem needing controlling. Actually, moles are both friend and foe to the site manager, friends as they eat many pests such as wireworms, slugs and snails and also aerate the soil with their tunnelling, for as they throw up molehills which some see as a problem. There are numerous theories as to how to get rid of moles: burying glass bottles, garlic or elder twigs pushed into the molehill to name a few. Poison and traps are cruel and are not recommended. Actually, getting rid of your resident mole may not be a good idea as it leaves a territory open for another mole to move in. It may be best to learn to live with your mole and to press molehills back into the ground or move the soil to flowerbeds or planters. The bare ground they produce also makes space for wildflower seeds to germinate which may not happen in a tight grass sward. So all in all, moles add to the rich diversity of life found within our churchyards and we need to learn to love them!

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

**4<sup>th</sup> MAY SUNDAY**

**10.45am FAMILY SERVICE JP/KH/GB**

**11<sup>th</sup> MAY SUNDAY**

**10.45am PRAISE & PRAYER MF/TB**

**18<sup>th</sup> MAY SUNDAY**

**10.45am HOLY COMMUNION Rev C**

**25<sup>th</sup> MAY SUNDAY**

**10.45am MORNING PRAYER MF/KH**

**On the first Wednesday of the month there is a service of Holy Communion with prayers for healing followed by coffee and conversation.**



## NEWSLETTER March 2025

Dear Friends and Supporters

Thank you St Luke's for your March donation of 22kgs. This is the first edition of the newsletter with our new logo, following Trussell's rebranding last year. We are slowly transferring over but will absolutely not be investing large sums of money in replacing items which still have life in them! We are in the process of purchasing some patches showing the new logo to sew over the old logo on uniform items, which will be a test of all of our needlework skills!

We have reached the end of another financial year, so I will be able to show you not only the figures for March 2025 but also the whole 12 month period. Here we go.

First of all, the figures for March 2025 with the corresponding month's figures for 2024 in brackets:

<b>Total vouchers fulfilled</b>	<b>= 64 (97)</b>
No. of Adults fed	= 88 (134)
No. of Children fed	= 37 (57)
<b>Total no. fed</b>	<b>= 125 (191)</b>

As you can see, a considerably quieter month this year. Now for the annual figures, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, figures for the previous year in brackets:

<b>Total vouchers fulfilled</b>	<b>= 1084</b>	<b>(1207)</b>
No. of Adults fed	= 1500	(1752)
No. of Children fed	= 850	( 993)
<b>Total no. fed</b>	<b>= 2350</b>	<b>(2745)</b>

**This represents a very significant reduction of 14.4% in Foodbank usage.**

I think that this is clear evidence of the benefit of our Financial Inclusion programme, ie our in-house Citizens Advice service, along with the other drop-in sessions which we hold, which directly tackle the underlying reasons why clients are forced to turn to us for help.

Also, I think it reflects the work that we as a Foodbank do, in establishing a relationship of trust with our clients, which then enables them to feel comfortable enough to be honest about their issues, enabling us to signpost them to the most appropriate source of support. It is a time consuming process but I think that the rewards are shown in the figures above.

We do still have clients who need to visit us on a regular basis, with 26 clients having had more than 3 vouchers in the last 6 months – the “limit” set in our electronic referral system – but we are aware of all these individual's circumstances, and work closely with them and their referral agents to try to improve their situations, and establish an agreed way forward with regard to Foodbank usage. The majority of these clients have significant issues with physical illness or substance dependence so the work is not easy, but we need to try to help them. We also need to be aware that all is not always as it seems – from a good and bad perspective! For example, one of our regular clients lives in a farm, which the family own, so they are not weighed down with high rental, but it has just come to light that they have no heating in the farm apart from a coal fire with a back boiler to heat the water. Not surprisingly their last voucher was requested due to the costs they are paying for coal! This client is now booked in with advice services to look into grants which are available for properties with a low energy performance certificate.

If clients are willing to help themselves then we too are willing to help them, but we will say no! The last 3 years have been a huge learning curve for me, in recognising that everyone doesn't always tell the truth, a sad but true fact. I was on a Zoom meeting yesterday with a number of other Foodbank

Managers, one of whom had only been in the job for a few weeks, and I thought, “Yes, I’ve come a long way!”

With regard to our Citizens Advice project, the funding for this, which is currently provided by Trussell, comes to an end in May 2026, and, understandably, we are very keen to secure alternative funding to ensure that we are able to continue to offer this service to our clients. I will keep you updated with progress.

One other statistic which I have drawn from the annual figures is the amount of donations received, which, sadly, has fallen by 14.4% from 2023/24 to 2024/25. The drop in donations is very noticeable at the moment, not least because of a change in Morrison’s policy, whereby they are no longer putting together the pickup donation bags for us. They are instead inviting customers to make cash donations to Food banks, but I’m not entirely sure how this is going to work, and we are certainly missing the bags, not least because we could directly request what was put into them.

Two very lovely visits in March which I need to mention – 4<sup>th</sup> Leek Beavers and the entire class 2 from St Mary’s School! Having 10 x 6 and 7 year old Beavers for just over an hour was slightly more manageable than having 23 x 5 and 6 year olds for a whole morning – particularly as I chose to have them in on an operational day!! But both were hugely enjoyable and thank you to all the volunteers who pitched in to make their visits such a success.

Last, but by no means least, we have a vacancy for a Trustee on the Board of the Foodbank. I have attached separately a profile for this role, and would be very happy to discuss the opportunity further should anyone be interested. 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>
<b>Instant mash</b>	<b>Tinned custard</b>	<b>Tinned meat</b>
<b>Tinned tuna</b>	<b>Tinned fruit</b>	
<b>Rice – 500gm/microwave pouches</b>		<b>Pasta in sauce / instant noodles</b>
<b>Tomato ketchup</b>	<b>Chocolate biscuits/bars of chocolate</b>	
<b>Dry dog food</b>	<b>Jam</b>	

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

<b>Household cleaning products:</b>	<b>Toiletries:</b>
<b>Washing up liquid</b>	<b>Shampoo and conditioner</b>
<b>Multi surface cleaner (no bleach)</b>	<b>Shower gel</b>
<b>Cleaning cloths/sponges</b>	<b>Toothpaste and toothbrushes</b>
<b>Laundry liquid/capsules/powder</b>	<b>Deodorant</b>
	<b>Razors and shaving foam</b>
	<b>Toilet rolls</b>

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](mailto: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



# LEEK AND DISTRICT FOODBANK – TRUSTEE ROLE PROFILE



Leek & District Foodbank was opened in 2013 and is part of the Trussell network of Foodbanks. Trussell is based on, shaped, and guided by Christian principles. These values have strong roots in the Christian teaching and practice, whilst also being accessible and meaningful for people, whatever their background. We now regard ourselves as not just a Foodbank, but a holistic advice hub, with a number of in-house and drop in advice sessions from partner agencies. This is in recognition of the need to look at the underlying issues driving people to need to access Foodbanks, rather than just distributing food. We operate out of the Gateway Church on West Street in Leek and our operational days are Tuesday and Friday. We employ one member of staff – our Project Manager at 25 hours per week – and have a team of approximately 30 volunteers. We have a board of Trustees, currently numbering 7, but we are able to have a maximum of 8. Trustees serve for a period of 3 years and are able to complete three consecutive periods of service, ie 9 years, before they are required to step down. Trustees are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity, working with the Project Manager to develop our aims, objectives, and goals in accordance with our governing document, legal and regulatory guidelines. With the rest of the Board of Trustees, responsibilities will include

- developing the Foodbank's strategy and its implementation, governance, oversight of finances, charity effectiveness and being an active and sympathetic contributor to discussions.
- ensuring appropriate financial plans are in place for future budget allocations.
- helping to promote the organisation to a wider audience of potential funders and beneficiaries.
- ensuring the Foodbank has appropriate procedures to comply with current legislation and good practice, including employment, health and safety, equal opportunities, safeguarding and GDPR compliance/data protection etc.
- giving your time, thought and energy to your role.
- serving as an additional promoter of the Foodbank in the community.

We meet every two months at 9.30 on a Thursday morning, the meetings lasting approximately 2 hours. Occasional extraordinary meetings are called if the need arises. Between meetings the Project Manager will consult the Board of Trustees on a wide range of topics via email. Specific training is also available via Trussell to assist Trustees in their role. Trustees are encouraged to attend Foodbank sessions where possible to familiarise themselves with the running of the organisation. If you require any further information regarding this role, please contact

**Lindsey Stockton, Project Manager – 07916 005064 [projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk)**

March 2025

## A MESSAGE FROM ROB HAWTHORN... IN IDAHO!

It's astonishing and somewhat gratifying to know that our newsletter is being read from across the Atlantic. As a young lad **Robert Hawthorn** attended our church along with his mum and auntie for several years. They lived in Kent Drive at the time. He used to love leaping onto the organ after the morning service and giving us lively recitals of Bach's Toccata and Fugue followed by Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer" as we were leaving the church. In fact every time I hear those tunes being played I think of Rob on St Luke's organ. I have just received an email from him and I quote: ***"I am in Idaho as I write this note; I just read the newsletter for April and was very sad to learn of the deaths of Margaret Woolliscroft and Terry Weaver. Having seen my Mum pass away with dementia, it can be both a blessing yet still very sad when it happens. Terry delivered our milk in the 70s and I used to help him on his float some days - it was fun - but a long time ago."*** Ros



## THE FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB and AN APPEAL FOR DONATIONS...

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup>** at 1.00pm in the chapter house. As usual all are welcome even if you don't want to arrange flowers but just come for a chat and a cuppa! The theme for our Well Dressing floral displays will be 'Weddings.'

The Flower Club will meet in church on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** to prepare displays for the Well Dressing. Donations towards the cost of flowers would be very welcome. Please see Sue or Shirley if you can help in this way.

## PHOTO COMPETITION

The theme this year is 'The Natural World' and the closing date for entries is Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> May. Entry forms with further details can be found in church or from Sue.



## THE ART GROUP

We meet once a month in St Luke's Church and we now have a couple of spaces. Please contact Sue on 07854 043187 if you would like more information.

Last month members were invited outdoors to draw our beautiful church.

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the chapter house following the Prayer Breakfast.

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## LOCAL SCHOOLS OUTREACH *Rev Carrie writes...*

Our very first school assembly for year 5 at Endon Hall Primary School went really well. It began with myself doing a short presentation, talking about emotions and the link between our changeable moods/emotions and Easter week! It started very happily with Palm Sunday and celebration of Jesus entering Jerusalem, everyone became very sad, even devastated (as a young year 2 child described it), on Good Friday when Jesus was hung upon a cross to die. Then there was the big event on Easter morning where the women went to find Jesus' body only to find the tomb empty, after the initial confusion there was great joy and celebration at the resurrection of our Lord. What I found most amazing of all was that the same year 2 pupil guessed my ending, as I demonstrated with a real Easter egg how the stone was rolled away leaving the tomb empty! The service ended with prayer and the children and parents participated well throughout. Hopefully this will be the first of many assemblies, as I have been invited back to discuss what could be on offer in the future. Congratulations to the Benefice for doing the groundwork and bringing church into the school!!!

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## THANKS FROM MAURICE....

Maurice and family would like to thank all of our friends who were able to join us in celebrating Margaret's life. Thanks to your generosity we were able to send a cheque for **£300** to the **Christian Blind Mission**. *(Maurice has always been impressed by how little is needed to make a huge difference in improving the sight of a large number of people.)*



## ANOTHER VISIT FROM ST LUKE'S CE ACADEMY *Sue Forrester writes...*

It was great to welcome Rev Preb Terry Bloor to the Year 5 Easter assembly in church on Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> just before the school closed for Easter. Parents, grandparents and friends thoroughly enjoyed the excellent presentations.



The Leek Phoenix Singers' latest concert will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June in All Saints' Church, Leek. Tickets are £15 (Under 18 £5) from Sue Wilson or Leek PO or Picture Book in Stanley Street.



## GOOD FRIDAY 'WALK OF WITNESS'...

Our thanks go to Rev Patricia who organised this and to Rev Philip who used his skills to make a lightweight cross for this Good Friday 'Walk of Witness'. The walk began at the Methodist Church and then wound around the village stopping at various places for hymns and prayers finally reaching the church where a welcome cuppa and hot cross buns awaited us courtesy of Rev Patricia.

Plenty of people were about on foot and in their vehicles. One van driver wound down his window and smiling broadly, shouted, "Jesus is Lord!"

Rev Patricia then led our special "An Hour at the Cross" meditation which she had prepared most meticulously aided by Rev Philip who was on hand to supply choral interludes on his CD player, having also led our HC service with foot-washing on Maundy Thursday.



## ...AND A VIGIL AT SUNDOWN ON SATURDAY EVENING

This was an innovation for St Luke's! Rev Preb Terry introduced us to this very meaningful act of worship, quite unlike any we had experienced before. Outside a brazier was burning. A large Paschal candle was lit from one of the burning



logs. Each person then lit a small candle from the Paschal candle. Prayers, hymns and readings followed and each person was re-baptised with a sprinkling of water from the font. The service concluded with a celebration of Holy Communion. We were delighted to be joined by three members of St Michael's, Horton.

**...FOLLOWED BY OUR SUNRISE SERVICE** at 6.00am On Easter Sunday. It was attended by 5 intrepid individuals who were rewarded with a spectacular sunrise!



Endon with Stanley Parish Council & Village Hall



**COME & JOIN US!**

**FREE EVENT!**

**ALL WELCOME**

**STATION ROAD  
MEMORIAL PARK &  
VILLAGE HALL**

**THURSDAY MAY 8th**

**9.30am** Raising the Flag - Light Refreshments

Singing from St Luke's Academy & Endon Hall

**8.00pm** Songs from Endon High School

and other local groups

Caribbean Kitchen in Village Hall

5<sup>th</sup> Leek Scouts Marching Band

Peace Lantern Parade - Endon Girlguiding

**9.30pm** Beacon Lighting - Endon Scouts

Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire.

Judy Scott-Moncrieff



***Supported by SMDC and Lightspeed***





# **May Prayer Focus**

- The appointment of a new incumbent for our benefice
- Sue and Barrie (reserve Debbie) who will represent St Luke's on the interview panel as well as reps from St Chad's and St Michael's
- The desperate humanitarian crisis in Sudan due to the civil war
- Myanmar and Bangkok after the earthquake especially for aid to get in to where it's needed
- 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 future of our benefice
- Lasting peace for Ukraine and Russia and restoration of war-damaged cities and people
- Victims of the civil war in Sudan and an end to the fighting
- 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, May 20<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 has a new logo!

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!

