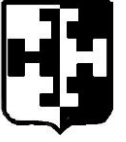




**THE BENEFICE of ST LUKE'S,
ENDON with ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL and
ST MICHAEL'S, HORTON**



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

www.endonstlukes.org.uk

Rev Debbie Lovatt 07359 893424

Email: ReverendDebbieLovatt@gmail.com

October 2025

'GREET AND TREAT'

Friday 31st October



With many youngsters out and about on Hallowe'en Night we will be handing out 'Hope' bags again from UCB and inviting them back to the Chapter House for hot chocolate and marshmallows.

If you are available to tour the streets or to make drinks and welcome folk, please meet at church at 6.00pm. Join the team!

'BANNED' FROM ST LUKE'S

are back for one night only!!

FRIDAY OCTOBER 3rd

at 7.30pm

Tickets £5

from Sue Forrester or

Jean Brough. Don't miss this!



**DON'T FORGET CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY
NIGHT OCTOBER 25th**

...or too early for church you will be!

October 2025: ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY (ESL Endon St Luke's; EMC = Endon Methodist Church)		
W	1 st	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC
Th	2 nd	
F	3 rd	7.30pm 'BANNED' concert
Sa	4 th	8.30am PRAYER BREAKFAST 10.30am ART CLUB
Su	5 th	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION 11.00am CONNECTIONS FOOD BANK collection
M	6 th	
Tu	7 th	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house
W	8 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL 1.00pm FLOWER CLUB 7.30pm PCC
Th	9 th	
F	10 th	
Sa	11 th	
Su	12 th	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	13 th	
T	14 th	
W	15 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC 11.00am HILLSWOOD LODGE visit
Th	16 th	
F	17 th	
Sa	18 th	<i>St Luke's Day</i>
Su	19 th	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	20 th	
T	21 st	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house
W	22 nd	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL
Th	23 rd	
F	24 th	
Sa	25 th	
Su	26 th	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	27 th	
T	28 th	
W	29 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC
Th	30 th	
F	31 st	'GREET & TREAT' from 6.00pm



ONE HUNDRED and NOT OUT!!
A VERY HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY (Sept 25th) TO JOAN PICKERING who is still batting and living at her home in Kenley Avenue cared for by her family. Lots of love and congratulations Joan from all of us at St Luke's!

REV DEBBIE writes...

It's that time of year when harvest celebrations are taking place across the Benefice, including our schools and Village Hall. The land has given greatly and I've heard several conversations about the abundance of apples, plums and damsons. Driving around I jump at the clonk of horse chestnuts falling onto the car roof with a disconcerting bang; and in the almost-empty lanes I open the windows to smell the changing season as I get glimpses of the changing fields and hedgerow. And the word "abundance" is very much in my mind and on my heart – it speaks of the abundance of the land, and of God's abundance too.

HEARTEDGE COURSE...It's also the title of the first session of the Heartedge course which starts on Tuesday 7th October at the Vicarage. There are two sessions to choose from: 2pm or 7pm. Course booklets are £10 and there are 7 sessions. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

PASTORAL TEAM EVENTS...



THIS MONTH OUR COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT MORNINGS will be from 10.30 to 12.00 on Tuesdays October 7th and 21st.

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 Hillswood Lodge will be on Wed Oct 15th at 11.00am and to Rock Cottage on Mon Oct 6th 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.

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 November 12th** in the chapter house at 7.30pm. PCC members please make every effort to be there.

CONGRATULATIONS to Stan and Sheila Hurst who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a holiday on the Scilly Isles. May the Lord bless you both and thank you for all you do to keep St Luke's afloat!

FUNDRAISING: Homemade contributions welcome!

A group from St Luke's supplied cakes and manned a stall at Endon village hall summer fayre last month and raised **£165.15** to boost church funds. Thank you folks and well done! We are having another stall in the village hall at the end of November. *(There is a concert in church that weekend and we will have to ask for cakes for that too.)* We have decided to call this stall '**St Luke's Homemade**'. We will welcome jars of jam, chutney, mincemeat and anything else that is homemade and can be sold. We can start collecting immediately. If you are able to donate anything, please let Shirley have it at your earliest convenience and she will keep everything until November.

BINS and CHURCH HEATING!a message from Sheila H

Thanks to anyone who puts items into the bins at the side of the church. These are colour coded like the Endon domestic collections.

BROWN for garden and food waste;

GREY to recycle paper, cardboard, plastic & glass bottles and jars, metal cans.

BLUE LIDDED for anything that cannot be recycled including Oasis.

October is the time when we start to put the heating on. Just a reminder that heat is set for the week on a Monday. Any activity requiring heat should be in the **VESTRY diary** before then.



ENDON METHODIST CHURCH

NB The art sessions "FAITH IN ART" have been cancelled as there has been insufficient interest.

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



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for OCTOBER

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.

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

Oct	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
5 th	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant	Ann Boulton to celebrate Emma's birthday (6 th)
12 th	Ann Boulton in memory of Mabel on her birthday (10 th)	Barrie Jackson in celebration of Amy's birthday
19 th	Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the birthday of their granddaughter, Bethany	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant
26 th	Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the birthday of their granddaughter, Anne	Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the birthday of their son, Paul



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

George Rigby (2nd), James Porter (4th), Emma Greatbach (6th), Robert Brindley (13th), Bethany Salt (20th), Chris Sproston (30th), Paul Hurst (31st).

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



CAN YOU SPONSOR JOE?

Joe is fundraising for the Dougie Mac again this year and is embarking on an exciting new challenge to run four half marathons: Carsington Water Half Marathon (21st June), Snowdonia Sea2Sky Half Marathon (6th September), Potters Arf Marathon (28th September) and Alton Towers Half Marathon (16th November).

He recently completed the second of these running from Barmouth Beach to the heights of Snowdonia! Please consider sponsoring him by following the link below or filling in the sheet at the back of church.

<https://www.iustgiving.com/page/joe-porter-7>

Douglas Macmillan Hospice (Dougie Mac) is the only hospice in Staffordshire supporting Children, Young Adults & Adults. Care is given to patients who are living with a life-limiting illness at our two sites and in the community. They also provide support for patients families and their carers.

Project Manager Lindsey Stockton writes...

Thank you St Luke's for your recent donations.

Our stock levels remain low, and here, as usual, is our shopping list:

Longlife semi-skimmed milk	Fruit squash	Tinned soup
Pasta sauce	Longlife sponge puddings	
Tinned carrots/corn	Tinned rice pudding	Coffee-100/200gm
Instant mash	Tinned custard	Tinned meat
Noodle snacks		
Tinned tuna	Tinned fruit	
Rice – 500gm/microwave pouches		Pasta in sauce / instant noodles
Tomato ketchup	Chocolate biscuits/bars of chocolate	
Dry and wet dog/cat 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
 Nappies

DO YOU FANCY A DAY TRIP TO NORTH WALES THIS AUTUMN?

Chris Sproston writes....

In March this year I visited St Winefrede's Shrine in Holywell, N Wales. It's en route to the N Wales Pilgrims' Way which was recently featured on BBC tv. The shrine is nicknamed the "Our Lady of Wales". It is quite small with a gift shop, museum, small garden, a pool and a spring. The place is serene and tranquil and the 16th century buildings are beautiful. There is a service and veneration of the well daily at 12noon. I returned a few weeks after my first visit in order to bathe in the waters. There is a country park at the rear (part of the Pilgrims' Way) which leads to a ruined abbey and nearby café. Immediately above the shrine is the Roman Catholic church but I'm not sure if visits are allowed. There is also a shrine of St Bueno nearby which I have yet to visit, and a pleasant beach a few miles away. I intend to revisit in the autumn. Would any other church members also like to visit? A day trip using a minibus may be appropriate. If anyone is interested please let me know. No date has been yet fixed. My mobile number is 07914 385515 and landline is 01782 871452. Many thanks, Chris.



SPECIAL SURPRISE VISITORS

It was a lovely surprise to open the door recently to two visitors who have a close connection to St Luke's. Kathie and Mik Alban are the son and daughter of Rev Tony Alban and his wife Jean. Tony was vicar here from 1966 to 1984 and started off living in the old vicarage before moving into the present one in 1976. I remember it well! While the vicarage was unoccupied Kathie had a look round and was surprised how little had changed since that time. It was good to have a catch-up with them. **Ros**

Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

IF MONEY TALKS, LET'S LISTEN TOGETHER TO WHAT IT'S SAYING TO LICHFIELD DIOCESE

Ever noticed? People who are at ease about big money talk about 'a sum north of ...'. Although confusingly mixing compass and currency, it reveals a deep truth: a large sum of money might bring a polar chill: the burden of choices and the risk of temptations and dissension. It needs skilled handling to bring blessing. The additional £400 million extra over three years across 42 dioceses being released from the Church of England's historic assets, an amount of arctic proportions according to the popular yardstick, could, rather should, bless us. A good first response might be gratitude, caution and reaching for a calculator. Caution is valuable because it stops us from falling into two traps: imagining where we would spend the money for our own benefit rather than for the Kingdom, and, worse, imagining where we would spend the same sum twice. Thankfully, the calculations are being done by Lichfield Diocese's very skilled finance team.

Gratitude to God is the gateway to asking God what divine and loving purpose it is there to fulfil, because money calls us into a future plan. This money also comes with wonderful timing. The ten goals of Seeking the Kingdom can guide our efforts, there is the opportunity to use the extra money to fund new activities, especially in parishes where there are identifiable possibilities for growth but resources are short. Much of our focus in Seeking the Kingdom is rightly on our parishes.

We are relieved of some choices but have to make others. To ease the costs of a substantial 11.1% increase in clergy stipends to support the well-being of clergy and their families in every parish, part of the extra money is specifically for our 25% least well-off parishes. We can all warm to this proposal: well-being, financial and otherwise for clergy, is our collective responsibility. Better still, the whole church family and all those who contribute so generously the lion's share of the costs of clergy, buildings and mission will benefit too: more funding for less prosperous parts of the diocese gives us the opportunity to reduce the amount of mutual support needed. Well-being is at the heart of the direction and goals of Seeking the Kingdom, our plan for 2025-2030. Churches that flourish and people that flourish do so because they are immersed in the common activity of building the Kingdom of God and building the Kingdom brings more flourishing: it's a virtual circle.

Questions will arise about how the rest of the money that we will receive is to be used and our diocesan decision-makers will be taking a look at next year's budget starting this Autumn with consultations in each Episcopal Area, taking proposals to Synod in October. The additional money over which we have a choice has the power to call us all into a new future. It is tapered over nine years, so we can't simply spend it on business as usual as it won't last. Can we all gather round the idea that it is there to give us hope in a sustainable future and to address the challenge posed afresh that we are sustaining ourselves at present using a diminishing pot of reserves?

Arun Kataria is the Diocesan Director of Communications, helping share news around the diocese and working closely with colleagues on staff and synods to promote our diocesan goals – www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-vision

Over the next few months, the whole diocese - parishes, clergy, lay leaders... everyone - is invited to explore attitudes to money together, looking at 'Gratitude, Opportunity and Hope'.





PUTTING YOUR MEADOW TO BED FOR THE WINTER!

It's often thought that encouraging wildlife into churchyards or cemeteries is a case of leaving them to go wild and stopping management. Actually, this is not the case. Many of the species and habitats found in burial grounds have been present for the decades or even centuries that this special place has been cared for. These plants, animals, birds and fungi will have been widespread in the farmed landscape of the

past. If you want to maintain or increase wildlife in your local churchyard or cemetery then the best thing to do is to continue this traditional work rather than making a big change and leaving things unmanaged. Most churchyards are a mix of grassland with individual trees or groups of trees which can be thought of as small woodlands. There may well be some patches of scrub as well. It is the grassland that needs regular management if it is not to change its character and we can look to the history of churchyards for clues on how to do this.

We know that churchyards were kept open and accessible as they were always important community spaces, used for outdoor services, for archery practice, markets and fairs as well as for burial. There are records of a hay crop being taken which formed part of the vicar's stipend and of grazing after the hay was cut. For much of history, grass was an important energy crop, so a meadow would be cut at the height of its growth in summer, when the bulk of the nutrients are above ground, and any cut grass would be dried as hay, raked up and taken to feed animals in winter. Small patches of meadow, such as that found on verges and in churchyards, might not seem worth 'farming' now but would have had value back in the day. The wonderful shows of wildflowers that we see in our churchyard meadows are made of plants able to thrive in these conditions, able to survive cutting and grazing. Meadow plants tend to be perennial, these can survive the winter, often living for many years. Perennials do not actually need to flower or set seed although doing so will allow them to increase in number. There are a few meadow plants that are annuals and don't survive over winter but these, such as yellow rattle, tend to flower early prior to the hay cut, so can grow each year from the seed that has fallen.

Another difference between old fashioned systems and our modern world is mowing machines. These are relatively recent inventions and have become more efficient over the years, able to cut grass really short and very uniform. Again, if you want to increase the flowers, pollinators and wildlife generally, having a slightly longer sward, perhaps cut less often can make a big difference as short-stemmed plants like clovers, daisies, cat's ear and speedwells can then flower. Things were generally less tidy in the past, as well as a more uneven sward, there would have been edges and corners that didn't get cut, so places for animals to withdraw to following grass cutting, and to shelter in over winter. Thinking in this way can help to make meadow management easy to understand:

Let the grass grow long for 3 or 4 months over the spring and summer, follow this by a summer cut and rake (you can make hay if you like or just remove the cut grass). Don't worry about cutting flowers, the plants will survive and some species may regrow and flower again. N.B. If you don't want to cut particularly late flowering species such as scabious or knapweed, then cut the bulk of the meadow and leave some flowery patches till later on. Keep grass short over the autumn and winter, the time when it might have been grazed in the past. You'll probably use a mower for this. Again, do not leave grass cuttings *in situ*, try to collect them all up and remove for composting.

Remember that, as far as nature goes, we are now a bit too tidy! Set the mower blade high and leave some rough edges or corners. These tussocky corners will contain coarser grasses such as false oat grass and cocksfoot, plants with hollow stems such as hogweed and dead flower heads – all really good places for insects, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals to hide, hunt and hibernate over winter.

So what can you do in October? Not much actually, the hard work should be over! You can make sure that all meadow areas have been cut, raked and are now short, ready for the winter, and can leave any rough corners and dead flower stems as they are, rather than being messy they are a vital resource for the winter.

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 diomem22

October Prayer Focus

- Rev Debbie Lovatt, our new vicar
- The current unrest caused by opposing parties concerning the conflict in Gaza
- The serious global implications as a result of the escalation of hostilities in the Middle East
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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

Rev Debbie Lovatt	07359 893424
Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, St Luke's warden	07510 074097
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 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 Siegertsz, 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.

Paper copies are available for those without internet access.

Please submit notices for our next newsletter to Ros Benson

by **Tuesday, October 21st 2025**

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