



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

Rev Debbie Lovatt 07359 893424

Email: ReverendDebbieLovatt@gmail.com

## March 2026

# MOTHERING SUNDAY March 15<sup>th</sup>



Mothering Sunday originated in the Middle Ages as a Christian festival on the fourth Sunday of Lent, where people visited their "mother church" (the main church or baptismal church) for a special service, allowing servants time to visit their families, evolving into family gatherings and later merging with the commercialised American Mothers' Day, which honours mothers with cards and gifts.

It's a day of respite  
(Refreshment Sunday) with

traditions like Simnel cake and flowers.

## BAKE-a-CAKE / BUY-a- CAKE!

This year members of our congregations are invited to "Bake-a-Cake and/or Buy-a-Cake" as a way of celebrating Mothering Sunday. Proceeds to church funds.



### A SPECIAL MESSAGE...

*Thank you to everyone who so generously contributed to my present. It has been an enormous privilege to have played my part as a member of "Team St Luke's", particularly during the last five years of our Interregnum and the unique challenges of the "Covid Years". Over that time we very definitely "kept our church open for business" maintaining an unbroken pattern of regular worship services, in which were enthusiastically supported by the Leek Deanery's retired clergy, as well as continuing to play our part in the life of Endon Village – services and activities for Well Dressing, Remembrance Day, Harvest Festival and Easter, Carol Services – outside during Covid! Flower Club and Art Club and children's activities. We were enabled by local retired clergy to continue to conduct Baptisms and Weddings throughout – including one baptism officiated at VERY short notice by Bishop Matthew, standing in for a retired minister who was suddenly taken ill! My thanks to everyone who served with me – you all know who you are, there is no need to mention any one in particular – thank you, you are all stars.*

*But above all, I would like to thank all you faithful members of the church, who have made the journey to the "Church at the top of the hill" in all weathers.*

*It has been a joy to serve you and to worship alongside you. St Luke's Church at Endon will always be my home church – it has been since I first came to faith here 25 years ago and will always remain so. I look forward to joining you all again during the years to come. THANK YOU and may GOD BLESS YOU ALL.*

**Barrie**

## **LENT** *Rev Debbie writes...*

As we step into our 2026 season of Lent, I wonder what this season will bring you personally, and us collectively, as a Benefice.

For those choosing to give something up, or to take something up, over these fasting weeks, what are you hoping for? How does this discipline weave its way into and through your faith and its expression, both now and in the future? Do you have expectations? Did you set yourself on this path with a particular intention? What are you hoping for?

I confess to being a bit lax about the giving-something-up side of Lent over the last few years. I have instead taken these 40 days as an opportunity to get back into those other habits which bring me closer to God: listening to the Bible, and following the Lectio365 app.

I'll also be alongside those of you who are joining this year's Lent group in reading and discussing "Dancing to the Heartbeat of God", which is taking place on Tuesdays in The Chapter House (St Luke's, Endon), at 2pm and 7pm.

May this Lent be a blessing to each of you, and to all of us!

### **A Look Ahead...**

## **HOLY WEEK and EASTER**

### **Palm Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March**

9.15am Holy Communion

11.00 am Connections

### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

7.00pm Taizé Holy Communion

### **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

2.00pm or 7.00pm Ecumenical Lent Course in chapter house

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

9.15am Midweek Holy Communion in chapter house

### **Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

7.00pm Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar

### **Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

2.00pm – 3.00pm An Hour at the Cross

### **Holy Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**at St Michael's, Horton**

8.00pm Easter Vigil with Holy Communion

### **Easter Day 5<sup>th</sup> April**

6.15am Sunrise Holy Communion

9.15 am Holy Communion

11.00am Connections



# ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY

## MARCH 2026

ESL = Endon St Luke's    EMC= Endon Methodist Church    HC = Holy Communion

<b>Su</b>	<b>1</b>	<b><i>St David's Day</i></b> 9.15am HC 11.00am Connections
<b>M</b>	<b>2</b>	2.30pm ROCK COTTAGE care home visit (pastoral team)
<b>Tu</b>	<b>3</b>	10.30am – 12.00noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house ESL 2.00pm or 7.00pm LENT COURSE chapter house ESL
<b>W</b>	<b>4</b>	9.15am Midweek HC at ESL
<b>Th</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>6</b>	2.00pm WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at EMC
<b>Sa</b>	<b>7</b>	8.30am PRAYER BREAKFAST chapter house ESL
<b>Su</b>	<b>8</b>	9.15am HC 11.00am Connections
<b>M</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>Tu</b>	<b>10</b>	2.00pm or 7.00pm LENT COURSE chapter house ESL
<b>W</b>	<b>11</b>	9.15am Midweek HC at EMC
<b>Th</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>Sa</b>	<b>14</b>	
<b>Su</b>	<b>15</b>	<b><i>Mothering Sunday</i></b> "Bake-a-Cake/Buy-a Cake!" 9.15am HC 11.00am Connections
<b>M</b>	<b>16</b>	
<b>Tu</b>	<b>17</b>	<b><i>St Patrick's Day</i></b> 10.30am – 12.00noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house ESL 2.00pm or 7.00pm LENT COURSE chapter house ESL
<b>W</b>	<b>18</b>	9.15am Midweek HC at ESL 11.00am HILLSWOOD LODGE care home visit (pastoral team)
<b>Th</b>	<b>19</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>Sa</b>	<b>21</b>	7.00pm St Chad's hosts THE ROCK CHOIR Bagnall Village Hall
<b>Su</b>	<b>22</b>	<b><i>Passion Sunday</i></b> 9.15am HC 4.00pm Connections with Messy Easter
<b>M</b>	<b>23</b>	
<b>Tu</b>	<b>24</b>	2.00pm or 7.00pm LENT COURSE chapter house ESL
<b>W</b>	<b>25</b>	9.15am Midweek HC at EMC
<b>Th</b>	<b>26</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>27</b>	
<b>Sa</b>	<b>28</b>	<i>Clocks forward one hour tonight</i>
<b>Su</b>	<b>29</b>	<b><i>Palm Sunday</i></b> 9.15am HC 11.00am Connections
<b>M</b>	<b>30</b>	7.00pm Taizé HC
<b>Tu</b>	<b>31</b>	2.00pm and 7.00pm LENT COURSE chapter house

**REMEMBER CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY NIGHT MARCH 28<sup>th</sup> or late for church you will be!**



## PASTORAL TEAM EVENTS...



**THIS MONTH OUR COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT MORNINGS will be from 10.30 to 12.00 on Tuesdays March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.**

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

## HILLSWOOD LODGE & ROCK COTTAGE CARE HOMES:

**Our next visit to Rock Cottage will be on Mon Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2.30pm and to Hillswood Lodge on Wed Mar 18<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am.** Volunteers are welcome to help boost the singing. There is room for 6 or 7 of us. Please inform Shirley or Rev Patricia if you are able to come.

**HOME and CARE HOME VISITS:** Pastoral team members regularly visit folk who are no longer able to attend church. Contact Shirley if you know of anyone who would like a visit.



Registered Charity No. 1153990 in England and Wales

## NEWSLETTER

Thank you St Luke's for your recent donations and welcome to my report on the first month of 2026, and I hope this newsletter finds you all well. As is customary, I will start with the figures for Foodbank usage during January, with a comparison to the previous year:

<b>Total vouchers fulfilled</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>73 (95)</b>
No. of Adults fed	=	99 (131)
No. of Children fed	=	62 (86)
<b>Total no. fed</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>161 (217)</b>

So, as you can see, a much quieter month than the start of last year, although that does not really paint the whole picture, as we have an increasing number of clients who, rather than asking for a full food voucher, pop in to take a few items from the help yourself trolleys. Often clients prefer this as it is a less embarrassing way in which to address their need.

Although the numbers are less, the challenges our clients are facing seem to be more complex and difficult to address. I do a lot of work with the clients to try to understand more about their individual struggles, which can often be very time-consuming alongside the day-to-day management of the Foodbank. The Board of Trustees have therefore decided to recruit a second member of staff, who will have the title of Operations Co-ordinator and work 15 hours per week, primarily being responsible for running our Tuesday and Friday sessions. My time will therefore be freed up to work with clients, partnership agencies, promote the work of the Foodbank, raise funds and campaign for change, both locally and nationally. I will still be a familiar face at the Foodbank, but just in a slightly different role. I would be very grateful if you could publicise this vacancy through your various channels, full details of which can be obtained by contacting me:

[projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/07916 005064](mailto:projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/07916 005064)

So hopefully exciting times ahead. Our financial inclusion project provided by Potteries Moneywise (Citizens Advice Staffordshire North and Stoke on Trent) is still much needed by our clients, with a second advisor visiting once a month to work alongside Matt, our usual advisor, such is the demand. Unfortunately, the grant funding for this project provided by Trussell, comes to an end at the beginning of May this year, and we are working very closely with CA and Cheadle and Newcastle Foodbanks, who are in the same position as ourselves, to try to secure further funding to ensure the continuation of this

project. The amounts involved are quite sizeable, so if any of you know of any companies or charitable foundations who may be interested in supporting us, please could you ask them to contact me. If you follow our Facebook page you may have seen me promoting Easyfundraising. By signing up to this organisation and selecting us as your chosen cause, you are able to donate to us just by buying what you usually buy, as they link in to over 7,000 companies. I appreciate that some of you may already be signed up and give to other causes, but, if you haven't yet, please consider us and look at the link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/leek-and-district-foodbank>

**Longlife semi-skimmed milk**

**Fruit squash**

**Tinned carrots/corn/peas**

**Instant mash (single/family) Noodle snacks**

**Tinned custard**

**Rice – 500gm/microwave pouches**

**Tomato ketchup**

**Tinned soup**

**Dog and cat food – wet and dry**

**Tinned rice pudding Coffee-100/200gm**

**Longlife sponge puddings Pasta**

**Tinned meat Tinned fruit**

**Pasta n sauce / instant noodles**

**Chocolate – single bars and multipacks**

**Tinned potatoes**

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

**Household cleaning products:**

**Washing up liquid**

**Multi surface cleaner (no bleach)**

**Cleaning cloths/sponges**

**Laundry liquid/capsules/powder**

**Toiletries:**

**Shampoo and conditioner**

**Toothpaste and toothbrushes**

**Razors and shaving foam**

**Toilet rolls**

**Soap**

**Deodorant (male and female)**

**Nappies**

*And please, if you have any good quality carrier bags to spare they would be very gratefully received.*



## **CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED WALK with a message from the organisers...**

This year's sponsored walk for Christian Aid will be held at 10.00am on **Sat 21<sup>st</sup> March** around Tittesworth as usual. A sponsorship form is on the church noticeboard for anyone who would like to take part or sponsor someone.

The message to all walkers includes information about taking part on the day but also this important information about a change to paying-in arrangements. We have had to change our 'paying-in' arrangements for money raised by the walk. Lloyd's Bank decided to start to charge all charity accounts an annual fee and a charge each time money moved in or out of the account. At that time it seemed the only alternative was to open an 'online' bank account and our long serving treasurer, Glyn Bailey, in common with many of us older folk, do not operate online. Sadly, he has resigned his position and we do thank him most sincerely for his many years' service to Christian Aid. Another committee member, Simon Wright,

agreed to take on the task and the new payment details are shown on the sponsor form. As Christian Aid will not now allow their supporters to open bank accounts using their charity number, we have agreed to send sponsor monies direct to Christian Aid using the details on the sponsor form (please ask if this requires further information).



## Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

### GRATITUDE, OPPORTUNITY AND HOPE

#### WHAT IS IT TO BE RICH AND WHAT IS IT TO BE GENEROUS?

Ten million pound coins on a desert island would be as useless as a tissue paper canoe. Less useful, because burning the canoe would at least keep you warm. Physical money on its own has no value – you can't eat it, you can't build a shelter out of it, you can't easily use it to keep warm or dry, yet it has a peculiar hold over us.

Why? Probably because of what it represents. Bankers say that money serves three basic functions: it is a medium of exchange, a unit of account and a store of value. It makes buying and selling things easy, we can use it as a way of keeping count of our wealth and it is a way of holding onto wealth.

For example, if I tie up my wealth in cabbages, it wouldn't last very long. Two or three weeks after cutting the cabbages, they'd have no value because they'd be mushy and revolting. But if I sell them when they are fresh and green, I can get £100 to put in the bank to use whenever and wherever I want. These very useful things about money are also at the core of some of our worst temptations. If I use money to buy and sell, I am distancing myself from the thing that I am buying and it makes it easier to do things that I wouldn't do if I was close up.

Once, if I wanted to swap my cabbages for your wheat, I'd have to meet you to do that. Today if I want to buy some cheap clothes, I don't have to take my vegetables all the way to a sweat shop in the Far East and see the conditions of the children there. I can use my £100 in the bank to pay for clothes in a shop without worrying where they came from. Or if I send my struggling widowed sister £100 every month to help with living costs but never visit her, I never see that she needs company as much as she needs food.

If we have stored up our wealth, we don't rely on God meeting our daily needs. In the desert, when the Israelites tried to store the manna they were given every day by God, it went off. In the wilderness, the Israelites learnt how to trust God for their daily bread – money helps us not to have to trust. Counting my wealth leads me quickly into the sin of pride – I'm somehow better than you because I have more money in the bank. Pride leads to anxiety – worrying about what will happen if we lose our wealth and our status. In a number of places in the Gospels Jesus talks about the anxiety that accompanies money and things. He knows that pride and anxiety are the enemy of hope - they lead us into ungenerous lives, holding on to the things we have instead of opening our hands, letting go, and living simply so that others may simply live. "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money," he said. As you think about your life, do you control your money or does your money control you? Do we hold onto more than we could ever spend in our lifetime when others in the world have so little? Can we be more generous with our money and our time? How can we use our money to bring hope to the hopeless and renew our own faith in the God who is always faithful?

*Sam Rushton is the Chief Executive Officer and Diocesan Secretary of Lichfield Diocese. This is the second in a series of three articles encouraging the whole diocese - parishes, clergy, lay leaders... everyone - to explore attitudes to money together, looking at 'Gratitude, Opportunity and Hope'.*





# Lamb's Tails in the Spring Breeze

Whilst most plants are pollinated by insects, plus other invertebrates and small mammals, quite a few rely on the wind to reproduce. A common way for trees to do this is to have catkins, hazel and silver birch both being good examples with easily visible long catkins often called lambs tails, but oak, beech, hornbeam, walnut, pine and other conifers do too. Catkins are actually long slim clusters of flowers which release large amounts of small, light pollen that can be blown a long way.

Most flowers contain both male and female parts within the one flower, but wind pollinated trees usually have separate male and female flowers. These may occur on the same tree as they do in hazel or oak or sometimes on different trees for example willow and poplar. The male flowers form in clusters making the catkin, whilst the female flowers stand upright individually. Flowers of wind pollinated plants have small petals if they have any at all and catkins tend to be pale yellow, no need for bright colours, large petals or scent to attract insects when it is the wind that is doing the work! Both the male catkins and female flowers can be seen on the edges of the tree canopy where the wind will catch them, shaking the catkin, releasing the pollen and carrying it away. The female flowers then catch the pollen as it is blown past, they usually stand upright on top of twigs and often have a sticky tip or 'stigma' as it's known, to catch the passing pollen. The female flowers are sometimes red, looking a little like a small sea anemone. Have a look on a hazel bush and see if you can see both the dangling catkins and also the small, red female flowers, sometimes on the same twig. Once pollinated the female flower will develop into the seed, be it an acorn, pine nut or a hazel nut. Wind pollination works well for trees that flower early, when few insect pollinators may be about, for trees that are found in cold and windy spots too. Hazel, birch, willow and pines are trees that are early to arrive and grow on bare, rocky ground and are thought to have been amongst the trees that first colonised patches left bare by retreating glaciers after the last ice age. Wind pollination would have been an advantage in this.

Another important group of plants that are pollinated by wind are the grasses. Whilst they do not have catkins or separate male and female flowers, there are parallels to be drawn. Grass flowers tend to be green, yellow or pale brown rather than brightly coloured. They are produced at the top of a grass stem that usually stands vertical, bringing the flowers above other foliage and into the wind. They tend to be clustered, often in a spike rather like a vertical catkin and they produce a large amount of pollen which can be carried over distance. Many grasses open up when ready to release their pollen, looking like a miniature Christmas tree, so that all of the flowers will be caught in passing breezes. Some grasses do have strong colours, but this is due to the colour of the pollen not the flowers. Grasses may be at their most beautiful when releasing coloured pollen. One example of this is meadow foxtail, so named because the red pollen colours the flowering spike like a fox's tail. Why not have a walk around your local churchyard, chapel yard or cemetery and see if you can see any signs of wind pollination taking place?

All the best, Harriet

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

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

Use the discount code diomem22

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**THANK YOU** to all who made donations to St Luke's in memory of Alick Brown which totalled **£388.41** for church funds.

**THANK YOU** also to all who responded to the appeal to pay the £500 excess for the vestry window to be repaired. **£745** was raised in cash and cheques and this will go into our General Fund. A final figure will be available shortly as some donations were made using the card machine. Our church is a Grade 2 listed building. The recent Quinquennial Inspection revealed that around £70,000 worth of repairs are now necessary. The most urgent will cost £5000. There may be grants we can apply for but we also need to raise funds ourselves.

Shirley shares...



Becoming  
**Dementia  
Friendly  
Church**  
2025-6

## MAGAZINE ARTICLE SERIES –

### What not to say to somebody with dementia

This is the fourth of a series of articles where we are sharing some words and questions to try to avoid when talking to a person with dementia. This material is based on and taken from an Alzheimer's Society blog,

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

**What not to say to somebody with dementia...**

**Don't say....**  
I've just told you that

**Do....**  
Answer repeated questions calmly and patiently

Why? Try to remember that the person cannot help repeating themselves. It is important for them to feel heard and understood..

### The Alzheimer's Society blog explains...

**"Try not to let your emotions take over: 'I've just told you that'**

It can be difficult answering the same question several times, especially when you are trying to keep frustration or upset from your voice. However, reminding the person that you have just answered their question will not help them retain the information for next time, it is likely to just remind them of their condition. This can be distressing for you both. Bear in mind, that for them, it is likely to feel like the first time they have asked the question.

### Try this instead:

Try to remember that the person cannot help repeating themselves. It is important for them to feel heard and understood. Answer [repeated questions](#) calmly and patiently, with an even tone of voice. If you feel the need, take a break, and remove yourself from the conversation for a while."

Compassion is  
the language  
the heart remembers  
when words are lost



COMPASSION  
IN DEMENTIA CARE

Compassion is the language the heart remembers when words are lost because it goes beyond speech and memory.

Even when someone can no longer communicate clearly or understand spoken language, they can still feel kindness through tone, touch, presence, and gentle care.

These simple gestures reduce anxiety, build trust, and preserve dignity, reminding the person that they are more than their illness.

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

## ART CLUB NEXT MEETING:

Please contact Sue Forrester for March date.



## FLOWER CLUB NEXT

**MEETING:** Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March in the chapter house from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. Daffodils, catkins, pussy willow, gerberas and many other flowers were used by Flower Club members for our February meeting. A fun afternoon as always with added 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations for member **Jean Brough**. Thank you to daughter Sophie for supplying birthday cake and prosecco!

## ASH WEDNESDAY LENT LUNCH

Huge thanks to all who were involved in preparing and serving St Luke's Lent Lunch in the chapter house on Ash Wednesday. About 25 folk arrived for soup and a roll followed by cheese and biscuits and a piece of fruit. Joe Porter's homemade bread rolls were delicious! **A total of £245.50 was raised for Leek Food Bank.**



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:

*"I will give you rest, come..."*

This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria.

**2pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026** at Endon Methodist Church.

Refreshments will be served following the service.

*The World Day of Prayer is a women-led, global, ecumenical movement.*

Please contact Rev Patricia for more details.



# CANDLE DEDICATIONS for MARCH

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 on 01782 504089 if you would like a particular date. Also if you would like to have your loved one's name written in the Book of Remembrance.

Mar	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
1 <sup>st</sup>	Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate the birthday of their grandson, Ollie (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	To celebrate the birthday of Alan Jones (Feb 28 <sup>th</sup> )
8 <sup>th</sup>	Alan Williamson and family in loving memory of Kath	Ann Boulton in loving memory of her parents
15 <sup>th</sup>	Shirley and Roger Brindley to celebrate the 10 <sup>th</sup> birthday of their granddaughter Emma	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sheila and Stan in loving memory of Stan's parents	Sheila and Stan in loving memory of Sheila's parents
29 <sup>th</sup>	Maureen and Alan Payne in loving memory of Alan's parents, Bill and Bet Payne	Maureen and Alan Payne in loving memory of Maureen's parents. Joe and Lil Brierley.



## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

Olly Payne (2<sup>nd</sup>), Steve Dale (3<sup>rd</sup>), Claire Salt (4<sup>th</sup>), John O'rourke (6<sup>th</sup>), Emily Hurst (14<sup>th</sup>), Ros Benson (15<sup>th</sup>), Deb Podmore (16<sup>th</sup>), Vicky Barlow (17<sup>th</sup>), Christopher Jackson (20<sup>th</sup>), Wendy Bardell (28<sup>th</sup>), Maureen Payne (28<sup>th</sup>)

*If you would like your own or a family birthday included here please contact Ros 01782 504137*

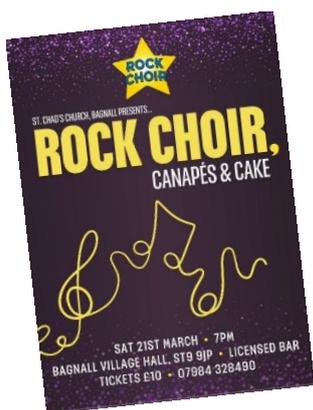


## A DATE FOR THE DIARY:

Stoke-on-Trent Male Voice Choir will be coming to St Luke's again on **Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April**. Make sure you get your tickets from Sue when they are available!



**THE BOYS IN BLUE**



## And ANOTHER ONE...

St Chad's is hosting **The Rock Choir** for a concert on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March** in Bagnall Village Hall at 7.00pm. Tickets £10 from Barbara Millard on 07984 328490.



## Projects that have developed from the 'HeartEdge for Rural Churches' course

### ***REV DEBBIE writes...***

Each church was represented as we met in early February to distil the range of projects and ideas the course has inspired – as well as some others.

The next step is to make them happen!

If you'd like to be involved, please let the person listed below (or Rev Debbie) know which idea or ideas interest you and which you'd like to help with.

### ***Contemplative churchyard walk***

This will be piloted at St Luke's and shared with St Michael's and St Chad's  
Talk to Shirley or Rev Patricia (Endon)

### ***Prayer area in church***

Talk to Rev Patricia (Endon) or Debbie Podmore (Connections)

### ***Grounds maintenance***

Some people do this already, but a few more helpers would make a big difference  
Talk to Jim (Horton) or Joe (Endon)

### ***Gardening day(s)***

Some people do this already, but a few more helpers would make a big difference.  
Talk to Joe (Endon).

### ***Annual church tidy***

An event at St Chad's, Bagnall, in the run-up to Easter that inspired the other churches when they heard about it.  
Talk to Rev Carrie or Rev Debbie

### ***Easter story***

A variation on the stations around the churchyard that Shirley and Sue (Endon) organised during covid.  
This is an idea that needs more work than we have time for this year.

### ***Labyrinth***

St Luke's School has an area that would be ideally suited to a labyrinth.  
Sue and Rev Debbie will keep you posted.

### ***Parking at Horton St Michael's***

Please pray for this to happen smoothly and swiftly.

### ***Extension at Horton St Michael's***

Please pray for this project that envisages a toilet area, kitchenette and meeting room.

### ***Christmas tree for prayers or messages***

An outdoor (or covered area) Christmas tree that people can use to place prayers or messages on. As seen at Rushton Spencer.

Rev Debbie Lovatt, vicar	07359 893424
Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden	01782 502006
Rev Philip Robinson (minister w Permission to Officiate)	07983 863372
Rev Patricia Robinson (organist, also minister w PtO)	07854 418488
Sue Forrester, Flower & Craft Club / Foundation gov / Safeguarding Officer / St Luke's Facebook / Art Club	07854 043187
Deb Podmore, Connections / school chaplain	07508 959637
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	01782 502006
Shirley Brindley, candle dedications / pastoral team	01782 504089
Steve Dale, St Luke's treasurer	07894 098011
Sheila Hurst, St Luke's Gift Aid Sec / MU rep	01782 503622
Ros Benson, newsletter / St Luke's website / PCC Secretary	01782 504137
Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / warden / worship leader	01782 304616
Rev Caryl 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
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, March 24<sup>th</sup> 2026**

either by e-mail [jandrbenson@btinternet.com](mailto:jandrbenson@btinternet.com) or phone 01782 504137.

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**Joe writes...**It was super exciting to present **£1,883.75** to the Dougie Mac from my fundraising efforts from running five half marathons during 2024 and 2025. A lot of training goes into my running and I've done over 280 runs this year. A MASSIVE thank you to everyone who has sponsored and supported me with my ongoing running adventures!