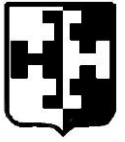




THE BENEFICE of ST LUKE'S, ENDON with ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL and ST MICHAEL'S, HORTON



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

www.endonstlukes.org.uk

Rev Debbie Lovatt 07359 893424

Email: ReverendDebbieLovatt@gmail.com

May 2026

WELL DRESSING

Sat 23rd, Sun 24th
and Mon 25th



The church will be open to visitors after the usual Service of Thanksgiving at 1.30pm on the Saturday. See church diary for church opening times over the three days.

This year our Vicar, Rev Debbie Lovatt, will

lead the service and will be our guest speaker. As always volunteers are needed to welcome our 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 4.00pm on the Saturday Endon Community Choir will sing in church.

FLORAL DISPLAYS and PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Members of our Flower Club will create displays with the theme 'Weddings Anniversaries' but we shall also display entries to our photographic competition and art work from our Community Art Club. The entry fee is £2.50 and forms can be obtained from Sue Forrester. The theme for the photo competition is "A Location in Endon" with a view to creating a calendar. There will be 3 prizes. The children at both primary schools will be invited to decorate a pebble for display.

MY FIRST WELL DRESSING – Reverend Debbie writes...

I've heard so much about Endon Well Dressing! This will be my first as the new Vicar of the Benefice of Bagnall with Endon and Horton and I'm sure it will be a memorable one.

Well-dressing weekend falls on Pentecost (Whit), which is when the Church celebrates the arrival of the Holy Spirit – sometimes referred to as the Birthday of the Church. It's an amazing event, full of great joy, which continues to change people's lives and have an impact personally and globally.

As we pray for the best and most joyful Well Dressing yet, here's a reminder of the fruit of the Spirit:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

A VERY HAPPY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY to our outgoing

churchwarden **Roger Simpson** who will be **90** years young on May 4th! We shall always be hugely grateful to Roger who (along with Barrie and the team) kept St Luke's up and running throughout the COVID years and the five long years of our interregnum. He has been our churchwarden for around 20 years and we pray the Lord will richly bless him and his wife Sheila as he takes a well-earned rest from this demanding role. THANK YOU ROGER!

ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY: MAY 2026		
ESL = Endon St Luke's EMC= Endon Methodist Church HC = Holy Communion		
F	1	
Sa	2	
Su	3	9.15am HC 11.00am Connections
M	4	<i>May Day bank holiday</i>
Tu	5	10.30am Coffee & Chat chapter house 2.30pm Rock Cottage visit
W	6	9.15am Midweek HC at EMC
Th	7	
F	8	
Sa	9	The BIG CLEAN in church from 10.00am
Su	10	9.15am HC 11.00am Connections
M	11	
Tu	12	
W	13	9.15am Midweek HC at ESL 7.00pm APCM
Th	14	Ascension Day
F	15	7.00pm Christian Solidarity Worldwide speaker
Sa	16	
Su	17	9.15am HC 11.00am Connections
M	18	
T	19	10.30am Coffee & Chat chapter house <i>(cancelled for funeral)</i>
W	20	9.15am Midweek HC at EMC 11.00am Hillswood Lodge visit
Th	21	<i>Flower Club at work in church from 10.00am</i>
F	22	<i>Flower Club at work in church from 10.00am</i>
Sa	23	1.30pm Well Dressing Thanksgiving Service 3.00pm to 8.00pm Church open to visitors 4.00pm Endon Community Choir
Su	24	Pentecost 9.15am HC 11.00am Connections 1.00pm – 6.00pm Church open to visitors
M	25	<i>Bank Holiday</i> 1.00pm – 7.00pm Church open to visitors
Tu	26	
W	27	9.15am Midweek HC at ESL
Th	28	
F	29	
Sa	30	
Su	31	Trinity 10.30am Joint Benefice HC at St Michael's, Horton 11.00am Connections

A REMINDER FROM SHEILA H...

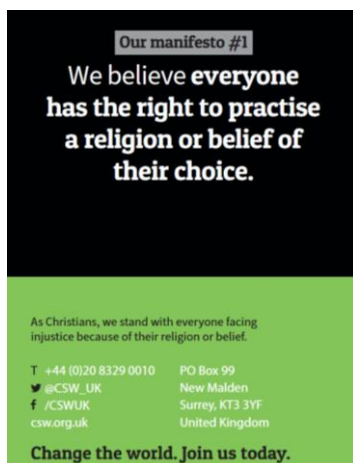
As usual there will be no heat in church over the Well Dressing preparation time and weekend to ensure that the flowers do not wilt. Immediately following we are then into our Summer/early Autumn period where there will be no heat. Remember your sweater/jacket!

CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE

We are all invited to St Luke's church to hear about the vital work of this organisation on **Friday, 15th May at 7.00pm**. Do come along.

"Our right to freedom of religion or belief is our 'first freedom': it is the first freedom given to humanity by God. It's a touchstone human right which can often act as a 'litmus test' for whether other human rights are under threat. It's a right we must protect, defend and restore. That's why, as Christians, we stand with everyone facing injustice because of their religion or belief.

CSW's specialist team of advocates work in over 20 countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America to ensure everyone's right to freedom of religion or belief is protected and promoted. We're working to challenge and change the laws, behaviours and policies which lead to abuses of this vital right. We have over three decades of experience advocating for freedom of religion or belief with politicians around the world.



"We believe everyone has the right to practise a religion or belief of their choice. Our right to freedom of religion or belief is enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But, more importantly, it's the first freedom given to humanity by God. We believe we are all made in the image of God, and the freedom to follow him – or not – is God-given. We believe that freedom needs protecting and restoring. We believe as Christians we must stand with everyone facing religious persecution. We believe that working to protect and restore that 'first freedom' given to us by God means doing so for everyone. It doesn't just mean freedom for those who believe the same thing as us. We're following Jesus' teaching in the parable of the Good Samaritan to love our neighbour as ourselves – and our neighbours include those who don't share our beliefs. We believe in the power of prayer to bring change. We have seen countless seemingly impossible situations completely turned around, after we as a community of believers committed it to prayer. Prayer is the most powerful tool we have as we campaign for everyone to be free to believe, and we believe that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."



THE BIG CLEAN!

The church needs to be cleaned in time for Well Dressing!

Volunteers are needed in church on Saturday, 9th May from 10.00am. Rev Philip is hoping to bring his scaffolding tower into church on Wednesday 6th to clean the high up places. If you can, please bring your own cleaning cloths, mops, buckets, dusters and cleaning materials.

PASTORAL TEAM EVENTS...



THIS MONTH OUR COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT MORNINGS will be from 10.30 to 12.00 on Tuesdays May 5th and 19th.

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 4th May at 2.30pm and to Hillswood Lodge on Wed May 20th 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 Project Manager Lindsey writes...

Thank you St Luke's for your March donation of 28kg. Here is the latest news from the Foodbank, starting with the figures, with comparison to last year:

Total vouchers fulfilled	=	97 (64)
No. of Adults fed	=	133 (88)
No. of Children fed	=	70 (37)
Total no. fed	=	203 (125)

A busy month, and significantly busier than March 2025. We are seeing a lot of clients on a regular basis, and we need to work with them to ensure that we have offered them all the support we can to try to stabilise their financial situations.

Usually in April we would be benefiting from renewed funding for the Household Support Fund, which has provided supermarket vouchers and utility support for our clients. However, this funding stream has now ended, to be replaced by the Crisis & Resilience Fund - <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/community-support-and-safety/crisis-and-resilience-fund>. Unfortunately, councils do not have to have their schemes in place until July, (although Staffordshire have said that they hope to beat this deadline), so we are currently in a hiatus for emergency support! I imagine that this will impact even more on the numbers we see.

A new facility for the most vulnerable in Leek, the Grace Centre, has now opened at the rear of Trinity Church, and last week I had the pleasure of visiting, chatting to the clients and volunteers and meeting the team from Saltbox who are managing the project. We had an in-depth discussion about how we can work together rather than replicating support, with them outlining some of their hopes and plans. I think this is going to be an invaluable resource in the town and I very much look forward to our collaboration. Also coming to Leek in April are Better Way Recovery - <https://www.betterwayrecovery.org.uk/> - to work alongside STaRS - <https://www.staffstars.org/> - at Leek Moorlands Hospital. Whilst STaRS focus more on the clinical side of addiction, Better Way offer peer led support from “experts by experience”. Again, something so needed in Leek as we see continuing issues related to substance dependence.

Obviously, we only see the local picture, but nationally it is a huge issue too, and Trussell are hosting a couple of sessions to share best practice and learn from each other with regards to how we welcome people facing addiction, homelessness and/or complex mental ill health to food banks. I will be participating and hope to learn how we can do it better, not only for this group, but for our volunteers and our other clients.

At the end of April, I will be attending the annual Trussell roadshow in Birmingham, along with Debbie, our Chair of Trustees. The theme of this year’s roadshow is “Dignity in Action”, and we’ll consider what it looks like to truly embed dignity throughout our Foodbank strategy and operations, and how to maintain the vital warm welcome amidst the many challenges we face. I am honoured to have been asked to sit on the panel for a discussion and Q&A session at the end of the day, another excellent learning opportunity. We have continued to struggle for donations over the last month, with 2600kg coming in and 2950 going out. We were able to boost our stock levels with a great food drive day at Morrisons, which brought in 340kg of food donations and £260 monetary donations. This was particularly heartwarming as the weather was far from kind with strong biting winds and horizontal hail! Thank you to our hardy team of volunteers and all the wonderful customers who showed their support.

I list below those items which we remain grateful to receive if you feel able to give:

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

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

Toiletries:

Shampoo and conditioner

Toothpaste and toothbrushes

Razors and shaving foam

Toilet rolls

Soap

Deodorant (male and female)

Nappies



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

OPPORTUNITY

EXPLORING ATTITUDES TO AND USES FOR MONEY IN OUR SERIES GRATITUDE, HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY

Visions, goals, strategies: they're key to helping our churches move together into the future, to God's glory. These words can be a distraction, but a vision is just how and where we want to be in the future, goals are just waypoints: things we want to see on our journey: they may lie ahead or we may have passed them, reassured that we are on track. Strategy is just the plan or the map we follow. We shouldn't get bamboozled by words.

Money can also bamboozle us. Strategies provide choices about the future we want to live in: money provides opportunities to make choices. Sometimes money's presence or absence appears to be the deciding factor, or we make it that, not God or us together with God.

When it comes to money, the anxieties are often to do with not knowing what to do with it or not knowing where to find it. There is often the sense that 'if only' we had more, 'we could...'. Sometimes, an unexpected gift or legacy places the opposite problem: 'what we could do now, so many possibilities.' We seem often to be besieged with opportunities either those we can't afford or those we can't choose between.

Opportunities and choices together give us a future when yielded to God. They give us the courage to work with what we have, not what we hope for, because we recognise that it is God's resource we are using not our own and that he has provided, is providing and will provide what we need to move forward.

So a strategy is something that uses God-given talents and God-given resources to bring new life. Money too, is a God given resource that can help create opportunities to be living bread and water to others. Money and strategy have the power to confound or to bless. The way to demystify both is to put them together, prayerfully and with eyes open.

The opportunity before us all, in Lichfield Diocese now, is to embark on a journey together: the Seeking the Kingdom journey where we have chosen to prefer growth to decline and recognised that we can grow into the future through feeding our faith, supporting our ministry and building up our parishes and communities. We can grow by being better at being church, together.

These choices are the choices before us in Seeking the Kingdom, supported in the consultations across the four episcopal areas last autumn. Our opportunity, simply put, is to express the values of God's Kingdom in our churches, in our communities and in our lives so that we can bring the life in all its fullness that Jesus Christ came to give us and so that we can become his hands, feet and body.

As we embark on a shared path, we stop spending our resources on distractions and may find we have enough to put towards the task at hand: inhabiting the future that God calls us into: his Kingdom.



David Wright is Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance

For more on our strategy, Seeking the Kingdom

visit: www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-vision

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Here we go gathering nuts in May...

One of the joys of exploring a churchyard, chapel yard or cemetery can be the small, unobtrusive plants that you may find. Pignut is one of these.

This plant has light, feathery leaves, looking like those found on a carrot top and you may find a near carpet of them in an old churchyard in the spring. It flowers in April and May, producing small, white flowers in

clusters that are known as umbels. In fact, Pignut is a member of the umbellifer family, the same plant family as the more familiar carrot, cow parsley and fennel, but unlike its relatives, it is small, the leaves low to the ground and the flower on an upright stem of about 30cm.

Pignut has several names referring to the dark brown tubers found on its roots. Ground-nut, Cat-nut, Earth-nut, Earth-chestnut and the less obvious Jog-journals. Pignuts were dug up and eaten raw or cooked, when they taste like parsnips.



443. *Conopodium denudatum*
Koch.

Earthnut, Pignut.

Pignut is a plant of undisturbed, flowery grassland which is often found within burial grounds as burial grounds, unlike surrounding the surrounding landscape, have seen little change, consistent management and are relatively chemical free. Pignut is also found within woodland, in glades and sunnier spots. Again, burial grounds suit it well, having a mosaic light and shade creating different habitats.

So what of the nursery rhyme, *Here we go gathering nuts in May, on a cold and frosty morning*? Pignut leaves wither and disappear in late spring and, although the flowering stem with seedheads remains visible, the lack of leaves make Pignut plants hard to spot. The time of year to gather them is May, as opposed to other kinds of nut which are harvested in autumn. Another interpretation of the nursery rhyme is that it is a corruption of *Here we go gathering knots of May*, May being another name for Hawthorn. A knot is an old name for a bunch of flowers and Hawthorn flowers in April when frosts are more likely to occur so that makes sense of the *cold and frosty morning*.

We would love to know which churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries contain pignut, in part because this unobtrusive little plant is indicative of species-rich grassland, a habitat which has

declined by a staggering 97% since the 1930s. Please take a photograph using the iNaturalist app if you are a smart phone user. If not, use a field guide to check the identification, then send us an email.

All the best, Harriet

Harriet Carty, *Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*, harriet@cfga.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



CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED WALK:

Sue and Roger Forrester took part in the walk around Tittesworth on Saturday 21st March. They raised **£205** for Christian Aid and say thank you to all of you who sponsored them.

Shirley shares...



MAGAZINE ARTICLE SERIES –

What not to say to somebody with dementia

This is the sixth 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....

Do you recognise me?

Do....

Greet the person in a friendly way

Why? Asking if someone remembers you can make them feel guilty or anxious if they don't remember or offended if they do. A friendly greeting and a warm "hello" is more helpful.

The Alzheimer's Society blog explains...

"Some questions may feel like a test: 'Do you recognise me?'

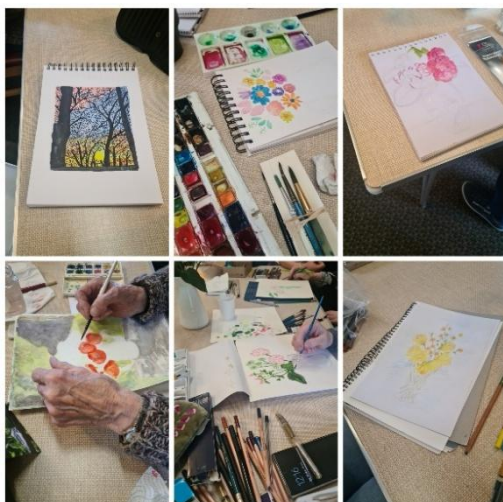
It can be distressing when somebody with dementia doesn't recognise you, especially if you have a close relationship with them. Remember that it is likely to be upsetting for them to not recognise people around them too.

Asking the person if they know who you are can make them feel guilty or anxious if they don't remember or offended if they do.

Try this instead:

The way you greet somebody with dementia might change depending on the stage of their condition – judge for yourself but keep it friendly. A warm hello could suffice, or it may help to say your name and your relationship to them each time."

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 **Saturday May 30th** in the chapter house. Please contact Sue Forrester for further information. On the left are some sketches from the March meeting.

FLOWER CLUB:

There will be no meeting in May but members will be busy in church on **Thursday 21st** and **Friday 22nd** from 10.00am onwards preparing their arrangements for Well Dressing weekend.

WELL DRESSING 2026: Displays and Photo Competition

A message from Sue....

The photo competition this year is 'A photo of a location in Endon'. I'd like to create a calendar from these photos. Each entry will cost £2.50 and there will be 3 prizes. A new display of art work will be put up before Well Dressing.

The flower/craft displays for Well Dressing will have the theme 'Wedding Anniversaries'. We will be very creative in order to reduce costs! We will also highlight our efforts to reduce use of floral foam.

We shall ask the children at both primary schools to decorate a pebble for display.



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 who have supported the candle dedications this year. Contact Shirley on 01782 504089 if you would like a particular date. Also contact Shirley if you would like to have your loved one's name written in the Book of Remembrance.

May	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
3 rd	David Moss and Janet Bowyer in loving memory of Edgar Bailey, grandfather of David and Robert Moss and Janet Bowyer	Anon in memory of Tom, Emma and Robert Williams
10 th	The candle is kept burning by Alan Williamson	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant
17 th	Alan Jones in loving memory of his wife Joan on her birthday (20 th) Ros Benson in loving memory of her husband James on his birthday (18 th)	Janet Bowyer and David Moss in loving memory of Alfred Bowyer, father of Janet
24 th	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant	Rosey and Geoff Smith to celebrate the birthday of granddaughter Hope.
31 st	David Moss and Janet Bowyer in loving memory of John Parker, uncle of Janet, David and Robert	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

Stan Hurst (3rd), Alan Payne (4th), Roger Simpson (4th....it's his 90th!!), Mark Payne (5th), John Moss (7th), Joe Porter (8th), Pam Brown (22nd), Christopher Bardell (23rd), Victoria Bunn (29th), David Moss (31st)

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

Rev Debbie Lovatt, vicar	07359 893424
Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden (outgoing)	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

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 26th 2026**

either by e-mail jandrbenson@btinternet.com or phone 01782 504137.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This will take place in the chapter house on **Wednesday, 13th May** at 7.00pm. This year we need to elect / re-elect members of the PCC and churchwardens. We need more volunteers! If you feel able to serve in this way please see Sue Forrester for a nomination form. Do come to the APCM. It is your meeting and if you are on the electoral roll you have the opportunity to vote.

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