

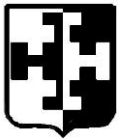


**THE UNITED BENEFICE of ST LUKE'S,  
ENDON with ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL**

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

**Vicar: Rev Alan Betts Tel: 01782 502166**

**alan@endonstlukes.org.uk www.endonstlukes.org.uk**



**January 2019**

**A new Alpha course starts on  
Wednesday, 23rd January in  
St Luke's chapter house.**

**The doors will be open at  
7 pm and the talk will  
start at 7:30 pm.**



The first session is an introductory talk and there will be 10 sessions after that.

Maryanne will be running the course.

Feel free to invite someone along or if you feel like an Alpha refresh then come yourself. The more the merrier!

If you do invite someone then it is good to accompany them to the first few sessions.

In the next few weeks there will be invitations available at the back of church to give out.

So please...

- Pray for the whole Alpha course.
- Pray for the person or persons that you are going to invite and that you will have the right words for them.
- Invite someone!

There will be cake!

# Services for January

## ST LUKE'S

6 <sup>th</sup>	EPIPHANY 9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Barrie 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School
13 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's School
20 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Barrie and Maryanne 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School
27 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School

## ST CHAD'S

6 <sup>th</sup>	EPIPHANY 9.00am HOLY COMMUNION BCP – Rev Alan 10.45am CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – Ian and the team
13 <sup>th</sup>	- Kath & Muriel F
20 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am ALL AGE HC – Rev Alan
27 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am MORNING PRAYER – Kath & Muriel F

Please note: There will be no Wednesday morning “coffee and chat” sessions during the winter months at St Chad's.

## MIDWEEK ECUMENICAL HC SERVICES

Wednesdays at 9.15am

16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> Jan at Endon Methodist Church

9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> at St Luke's

# A Very Happy New Year to Everyone!

(Please see Barrie's message  
on pp 4 & 5)



**Come follow Christ** in the footsteps of St Chad

## **No Defence for Deference**

**The Bishop's Pastoral Letter for January 2019**

*As we enter the New Year Bishop Clive is alert to a clash of theological truth and cultural hangover...*

The Archbishop of Canterbury caused a flurry of media attention before Christmas when he was quoted as saying “God is not male or female. God is not definable”. He elaborated by explaining that all descriptions of God “were to some degree metaphorical” and that His Characterisation as “father” could not be understood in exactly the same way as an earthly father.

Despite such theological wisdom, the Christian image of God as a male heavenly father runs deep and has permeated our church structures for almost two millennia, ever since the early church embraced the idea of hierarchy with, inevitably, males at the top and a God with male attributes set over all.

With the advent of women priests and Bishops, the Church of England appears a little less patriarchal but deference to, and a preference for, male authority still runs deep. Witness the huge number of parishes which have still never had a woman vicar. The mantra “father knows best” is a default assumption in many places rather than a historic relic, although the “father” in question may equally well wear a sharp suit as a flowing cassock.

The unspeakable crimes of abuse that have been facilitated by such a culture will forever shame the church, and the Church of England will continue to fall under the spotlight as the national Safeguarding enquiry continues its investigations in 2019. But while our awareness of abuse tends to centre on the abuse of children and vulnerable

adults, domestic abuse perpetrated by men against women should cause us equal concern, especially as it is just as likely to be taking place within our church communities as outside.

In 2018 research among churchgoers in Cumbria concluded that one in four churchgoers in that area had experienced domestic abuse and/or violence within their current relationships. This is in line with UK wide statistics about the prevalence of domestic abuse. We cannot pretend that this is an issue that does not affect those within our churches, but we do have a choice as to whether we ignore it or whether we use our awareness as a basis for action. A starting point might be to consider what appropriate forms of pastoral support could be offered to those suffering from forms of domestic abuse. How and where might safe places be created? What resources would be needed to make our churches places of sanctuary and healing? Questions, the answer to which “father” may well not be the person who knows best, but which must be addressed if our churches are to be the conduits through which captives are set free and fear is cast out by love.

**+ Clive**

*The Rt Rev'd Clive Gregory, Bishop of Wolverhampton*

## **Our Reader Barrie writes....**

### **A MEANINGFUL PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

Prompted by Alan's sermon at St Chad's on how we lose the true meaning of Christmas, by confining our celebration to simply Christmas Day, it pointed me to look in the same way, as how we reduce our New Year greetings to one another to simply “Happy New Year”. In a worshipping community such as ours, it struck me that perhaps this is **really** what we mean to wish for one another.

# MY PRAYER FOR YOU...

May the Father of Life pour out His grace on you;  
may you feel His hand in everything you do  
and be strengthened by the things He brings you through;  
this is my prayer for you.

May the Son of God be Lord in all your ways;  
may He shepherd you the length of all your days,  
and in your heart may He receive the praise;  
this is my prayer for you.

And despite how simple it may sound,  
I pray that His grace will abound  
and motivate everything you do;  
and may the fullness of His love be shared through you.

May His Spirit comfort you, and make you strong,  
may He discipline you gently when you're wrong,  
and in your heart may He give you a song;  
this is my prayer for you.

May Jesus be Lord in all your ways,  
may He shepherd you the length of all your days,  
and in your heart may He receive the praise;  
this is my prayer for you.

*(Reproduced by kind permission of The Northumbria  
Community Trust as authors of the work)*

***Our thanks to Barrie for sharing this.***

# UCB WORD FOR TODAY

Bob Gass, UCB Westport Road, Burslem

## Put God to the test!

*'Bring the whole tithe...Test me in this.'*

***Malachi 3:10 NIV***

God is a meticulous planner. For example, He scheduled a banquet called 'the marriage supper of the Lamb' two thousand years in advance (see Revelation 19:9). He instructed Noah to build the ark '450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high' (Genesis 6:15 NLT). He gave Moses the specific colours and fabrics He wanted used in constructing the tabernacle (see Exodus 26). And look how precisely He orders the seasons and positions the stars.

Can you imagine such a God having no plan for your finances – the product of your work life? Surely not! In Scripture He says: 'Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...Test me in this...see if I will not...open...heaven and pour out so much blessing...there will not be room enough to store it.' The original word for 'whole' is 'unbroken'; that means before taxes and other deductions. Why? Because He wants to be first in your life in everything – including your finances.

God also told His people, 'You have robbed Me...In tithes and offerings' (Malachi 3:8 NKJV). Stop and think about the word 'offer'. When you sell a house you decide whether or not to accept the 'offer' the buyer is making. And in this Scripture God is saying, 'Until you give Me what's rightfully mine (the tithe), why should I accept any other "offering"?' Tithing isn't just about money; it's about faith and obedience. When you tithe your income, you can expect God to pour out His blessing on you as He promised. You can live under an open heaven; the choice is yours. God says, 'Test me in this.' Put God to the test and see what happens!

***You can receive regular free copies of WORD FOR TODAY if you contact UCB..see website.***



The pastoral team in carol singing mode during the week before Christmas at Hillswood Lodge. (Sue had landed at Manchester at 7.00 that morning!!)

# **ST LUKE'S PASTORAL TEAM**

Please contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 if you are available for pastoral visiting.

Next team meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## **HILLSWOOD LODGE VISITS**

**Meet at Vicarage 10.50am for 11.00am**

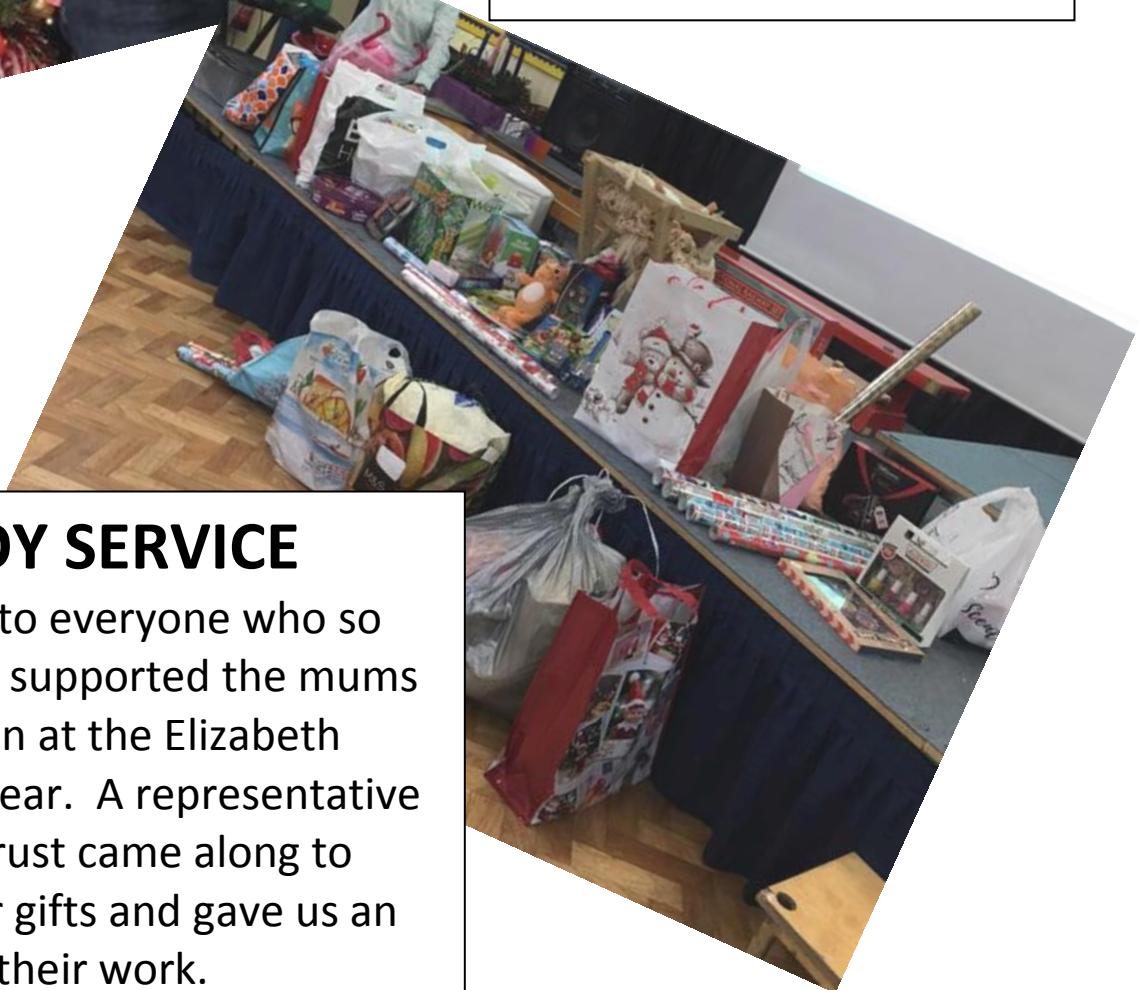
Next date:

Please consult Shirley or Rev Alan



## He's certainly got his hands full...

...but the best Christmas ever for proud new Granddad Steve Dale! We were delighted to welcome these two lovely little people (they are cousins born within a day of each other) with their mums and dads, to our Connections Carols and Coffee service. Congratulations Steve and lots of love from us all!



## OUR TOY SERVICE

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported the mums and children at the Elizabeth Trust this year. A representative from the Trust came along to receive our gifts and gave us an update on their work.



# NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S



*Sheila Tipper writes...* St Chad's would like to wish all the readers of this magazine a very happy and peaceful New Year.



I'm sitting here on New Year's Eve reflecting on our news since the last magazine in December. It's made me think about Alan's talk at the joint service on Sunday. He commented that everything is back to front with us. Never mind the 12 days of Christmas, we have all our celebrations before Christmas.

And so I start with our Christmas

Fayre which, yet again, was a terrific success. Not only did we make a net profit of £1272.20 but the amount of goodwill and festive cheer on the day was priceless!! A very big "Thank You" must go to everyone who helped or attended.

Next, we had our Christingle service. I love this one, especially when all the Christingles are lit and held high. (See Matilda's poem on the next page.)

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December we had our carols by candlelight. This may be one of my favourite services

throughout the whole year. The church was full and looked beautiful in the candle light. Members of the community had been asked to participate with readings etc and the service flowed without introduction or explanation. Kathryn and Muriel work so hard at these "special" services to make them *extra special* and they certainly succeeded with this one.



# ***Christingle***

*A child holds the world  
which glows orange between  
his fingers, the seasons through  
his hands that he watches as he  
waits to eat them.*

*Our whole church smells of  
them, or of the smoke when  
the candles are blown out, which  
curls slightly in the advent air, fresh  
wax pooled in a tin foil base,  
red line around a circled prayer.  
A homemade, handmade, selfmade  
love in them, in a heart with an  
orange peel outer, that later,  
when the light is snuffed for  
safety's sake, still seems to shine,  
as real light comes into the world.*

***Matilda Houston Brown***

## **Creative Corner Christmas Meal**

17 “crafty” ladies sat down to enjoy their annual Christmas lunch at the Stafford Arms on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December. I must admit I felt a bit of a fraud as I’ve not been able to attend any meetings this year (the joys of being a grandmother!) but I was made very welcome and it was great to catch up with everyone.

We had Christmas crackers and a choice of 3 courses (I was very good and missed the dessert) followed by tea and coffee. There was plenty of chatter and laughter and a good time was had by all. Needless to say there was no crafting! A huge “Thank You” must go to Barbara who organised the whole thing so well.

And then for me it was off to see my beautiful granddaughters after being granted “annual leave” by my daughter to attend the meal!!!!!!!

For me, personally, the next big event was my family’s trip on the Churnet Valley railway for Santa and Steam. I have to mention this as it’s the high spot

of my festivities. Brian and I together with my daughter and Brian's daughter and families made up a party of 10 including my 4 grandchildren, Asif 13, Sophie 10 and the twins Emmeline and Annabelle 3. It was a brilliant day with lots of excitement (mainly from me), great presents from Santa and a few tears when the balloon dog burst!

I have to admit that I missed the Christmas Eve services as we entertained the twins for most of the day while their mum did her last minute wrapping etc and then we shooed everyone out to celebrate our wedding anniversary (yes, we did get married on Christmas Eve) on our own in the evening.

To get back to my original thoughts on celebrating before Christmas, that's it. For me all the celebrations are now over. How many of you feel the same and can't wait to get the decorations down and get back to normal? We will wait until after New Year but I doubt we'll manage 12th night. And this brings me to the other thought that Alan left me with on Sunday..... Am I packing Jesus away with my decorations? I sincerely hope not but I do know friends and family that get the Nativity scene out on December 1st, dust it down and tell the story to the grandchildren, then happily repack until next year and never give a thought to the message behind the cute figures.

And so as I reflect on the year just gone and anticipate the coming of the next year, let's hope that I can learn from Alan's message and strive to be a better Christian, a better person and on a very personal note a thinner individual! And so you have my New Year resolutions. They're pretty much the same as last year's and the year before etc etc, but I still keep trying!



## **USED STAMPS**

**There is still  
time!**

**If you have not yet  
brought your used stamps you have till the end of January.  
St Chad's folk may hand stamps to Muriel Buckle.**

*Ros*



Connections  
Community Church  
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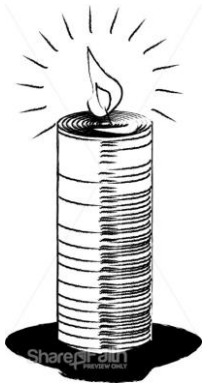


## All Welcome at 11.00am every Sunday

in St Luke's Primary CE Academy for 35 minutes followed by refreshments, time to chat and play. Here Rev Alan is sporting his new Christmas waistcoat which really does tell the story.

## **THANK YOU ALL!**

*Rev Alan and Maryanne would like to pass on their thanks to everyone at both our churches who have worked so hard to make our services welcoming over the Christmas period. We also say thank you to them both for all their efforts over the last year on our behalf.*



# CANDLE DEDICATIONS for JANUARY

For £2.50 you can keep the Candle of Hope or the Sanctuary Light burning for a week with a dedication. Contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 for a particular date or fill in a form at the back of church. Please note that Shirley is using a new list from January.

Jan	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
6 <sup>th</sup>	Lyn Pickering for Ronald Pickering, at rest on Jan 4 <sup>th</sup> 2013. Lovingly remembered by all his family.	Janet Bowyer in loving memory of a dear mother on the anniversary of her death.  Also , Anon in memory of Emma Williams - a special lady
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sylvia Bradshaw to celebrate the birthday of her granddaughter, Grace	Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the birthday of their daughter in law, Jill (13 <sup>th</sup> )
20 <sup>th</sup>	Barrie Jackson in memory of grandson, Tom	Barrie Jackson in celebration of Mae's 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday
27 <sup>th</sup>	Anon remembering the life and witness of Edna Bond	Anon remembering the life and witness of Betty Whitmore



## JANUARY GREETINGS

to

Margaret Millington (2nd Jan), Rev Duncan Leake (10<sup>th</sup>, he's 70!), Cath Tyson, Dave Podmore (12<sup>th</sup>), Rachel Tellwright, Mae T (18<sup>th</sup>), Suzy Jordan (20<sup>th</sup>), Sheila Simpson (23<sup>rd</sup>), Ken Davis, Scott Taylor (24<sup>th</sup>)

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

# ADVENT QUIZ ANSWERS

## PREPARING THE WAY OF THE LORD

No prizes but well done if you had all 17 correct!



1. Who said, "Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour"?  
**Ans: The angel Gabriel**
2. Why did the child leap in the womb of Elizabeth?  
**Ans: Because Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit when she received Mary's greeting**
3. What was the name of that child? **Ans: John**
4. What name did the neighbours want to give Elizabeth's son?  
**Ans: Zechariah**
5. Why did they want that name? **Ans: To name him after his father**
6. Who was the Roman Emperor who decreed a census should be taken?  
**Ans: Caesar Augustus**
7. Complete the sentence: "Today in the town of David a Saviour....."  
**Ans: "...has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."**
8. To whom was that sentence addressed? **Ans: The shepherds**
9. Who said, "My soul magnifies the Lord." **Ans: Mary**
10. To whom was it said? **Ans: To Elizabeth, in praise of the Lord**
11. Which of the four gospels gives details of the shepherds at Bethlehem?  
**Ans: Luke**
12. Which of the gospels tells us about the visit of the wise men?  
**Ans: Matthew**
13. Who was the king who interviewed the wise men? **Ans: Herod**
14. Which gospel begins with a genealogy of Jesus? **Ans: Matthew**
15. Who was father of Joseph? **Ans: Jacob**
16. Which great prophet wrote the words: "A virgin will conceive..."?  
**Ans: Isaiah (ch 7 v14)**
17. Which gospel gives us that quotation? **Ans: Matthew (ch1 v 23)**

# FLOWER ARRANGING... CONTINUES!



Above is Pauline's demo for our Christmas arrangement session. Several more were created by our team of novices and some sold off for church funds. More sessions are to be arranged for 2019. Please consult Sue Forrester for details of the first session of the year.



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## ***Fair trade status***

*St Luke's is a fair-trade church. If you donate items to the catering cupboard, please check that they are Fair Trade, Ethical Tea Partnership or similar organisations that guarantee small traders and workers are not disadvantaged.*





# Home Groups

are a way of studying the bible in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We can ask the questions that we do not always have time to on a Sunday. Not only do home groups help us on our journey of faith but they also strengthen the relationships within church. At the moment a group meets at James &

Ros's on a Monday evening and a group meets at Bagnall Heights on Tuesday morning.

Day	Venue	Host	Leader	Time
<b>Monday</b>	Claremont St George's Ave	James & Ros	Maryanne	7.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b> (NB 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of the month, this is replaced by HC on Wednesday.)	Bagnall Heights Lounge	Pauline Hart	Barrie Jackson	11.00 am

# LEEK FOOD BANK UPDATE



Thank you to all who gave donations to the food bank in time for Christmas.

We have received no update in time for printing but look out for news next month.

Thanks Alan P for collecting all the donations and taking them to the Leek distribution point.

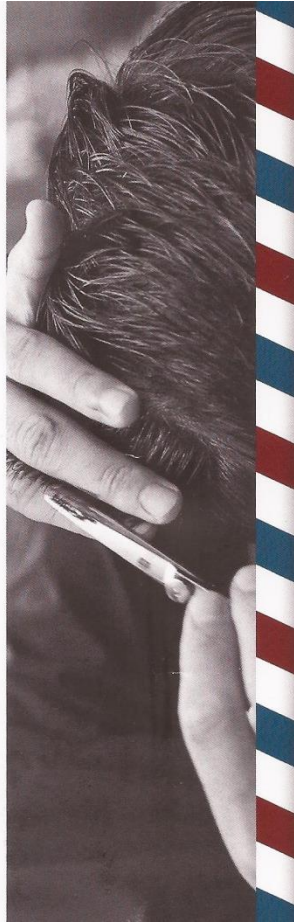


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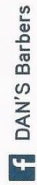
SUN	CLOSED
MON	10am - 6pm
TUE	9am - 5pm
WED	9am - 5pm
THU	9am - 3pm
FRI	9am - 5pm
SAT	8am - 3pm

**NB Now closed on  
Mondays**

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# January Prayer Focus

- Those risking their lives in small boats to cross the Channel
- Those affected by the recent upsurge in knife crime
- The release of Iranian-British mother Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe serving a 5 year gaol sentence on alleged spying charges
- The people of Indonesia affected by the recent earthquake and tsunami
- For the people in the Yemen facing starvation, an end to hostilities and for vital aid to get to where it is needed
- Victims of the typhoon in the Philippines, Hong Kong and China and the tropical storm affecting US states Virginia, North and South Carolinas
- All helping to re-build thousands of shattered lives
- Archbishop Justin Welby and our Queen and their messages for more love, tolerance and understanding
- All fleeing persecution to Bangladesh from Myanmar
- Medical teams and relief agencies
- Those starving in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and all the aid agencies working there
- The problem of the millions of plastic bottles afloat in our oceans and the tons of 'space junk' orbiting our planet
- Brexit negotiations especially the problem of the Irish border
- Healing for those in community who have been in hospital recently and are now recuperating especially Rev Julie
- Wisdom for world leaders in making decisions for peace
- Those in our parishes who are ill and those caring for them
- For all refugees and asylum seekers
- All who have lost loved ones recently
- Schoolgirls kidnapped in Nigeria and anguished parents
- For the abolition of slavery and female genital mutilation
- The Trussell Trust locally
- The unemployed or in work but not earning a living wage
- For all suffering from depression
- For all involved with the Chernobyl Project
- Our Vicar, PCCs and Pastoral Team and visitors to our church
- For Barrie Jackson in his new ministry as a lay reader
- Our MPs and district and parish councillors

## Advertising Scale of Charges

1/8 page: £2.50 per month  
or £25 for 12 months

1/4 page: £5 per month  
or £50 for 12 months

1/2 page: £10 per month  
or £100 for 12 months

1 page: £20 per month  
or £200 for 12 months

If you would like to place an  
advertisement  
please contact Ros on 01782 504137  
or e-mail:  
[jandrbenson@btinternet.com](mailto:jandrbenson@btinternet.com)

## Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

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the air quality for Asthma sufferers.



**J. TAYLOR**

**Tel: 01782 502437**

## ST LUKE'S CHURCH BOOKINGS

Barrie Jackson is keeping the church diary.  
Please contact him on **07510 074097**.

*No charge is made for this newsletter but donations are welcome towards stationery and copying. Please see a warden or put your donation in the green box on the wall. You can 'gift aid' your donation if you pay tax (see Sheila Hurst).  
Thank you to all regular contributors.*

## WINTER WEATHER WARNING...

*If heavy snow arrives on a Saturday night/Sunday morning please listen to Radio Stoke for up-to-date bulletins as to whether services will be taking place. This keeps phone lines clear for our worship leaders to liaise regarding decisions to cancel or go ahead. They would then be responsible for 'phoning Radio Stoke. Those with internet please consult St Luke's web page or Facebook site for a message from Maryanne.*

<b>Rev Alan Betts / Maryanne Lloyd</b>	<b>502166</b>
<b>Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden</b>	<b>502006</b>
<b>Maurice &amp; Margaret Woolliscroft, warden's team</b>	<b>502390</b>
<b>Alan &amp; Maureen Payne, warden's team</b>	<b>504918</b>
<b>Ann &amp; Les Boulton, warden's team</b>	<b>503162</b>
<b>June Pope, warden's team</b>	<b>503269</b>
<b>John O'Rourke, warden</b>	<b>261191</b>
<b>Lyn Pickering, warden's team</b>	<b>07891 213284</b>
<b>Caryl Siegertsz, St Chad's warden</b>	<b>07971 887039</b>
<b>Sheila Tipper, St Chad's news contact</b>	<b>534647</b>
<b>Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / worship l'der</b>	<b>07971 887039</b>
<b>Muriel Finney, St Chad's worship leader</b>	<b>302229</b>
<b>Fred Snape, St Anne's warden</b>	<b>504063</b>
<b>James Benson, St Luke's reader emeritus</b>	<b>504137</b>
<b>Ros Benson, newsletter</b>	<b>504137</b>
<b>Barrie Jackson, reader / St Luke's PCC Sec / Administrator</b>	<b>07510 074097</b>
<b>Deb Podmore, worship leader</b>	<b>773383</b>
<b>Suzy Jordan, music leader</b>	<b>504589</b>
<b>Steve Dale, St Luke's treasurer</b>	<b>07894 098011</b>
<b>Sheila Hurst, St Luke's Gift Aid Sec / MU rep</b>	<b>503622</b>
<b>Neil Taylor, worship team</b>	<b>07891 977662</b>
<b>Shirley Brindley, candle dedications / pastoral tm</b>	<b>504089</b>
<b>John &amp; Julie Gater, Chernobyl Children's Project</b>	<b>535000</b>
<b>Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer</b>	<b>502006</b>
<b>St Luke's vestry</b>	<b>504864</b>

**February 2019** newsletter will be in church on  
**Sunday, January 27th**

Please submit notices by **Tuesday, January 22nd**  
either by e-mail [jandrbenson@btinternet.com](mailto:jandrbenson@btinternet.com) phone 504137  
or a note to Ros Benson.

The newsletter is published on the church website  
[www.endonstlukes.org.uk](http://www.endonstlukes.org.uk) (click on the 'News and Events' tab)

**If you would like a large print version  
please contact Ros.**