



Encounter, Encourage, Enable ...Committed to Sharing God's Love Vicar: Rev Alan Betts Tel: 01782 502166 alan@endonstlukes.org.uk www.endonstlukes.org.uk

February 2020



Don't miss Samaritan Sunday Feb 2nd

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 26th February Holy Communion 9.15am (St Luke's chapter house, Service of Ashing) also in chapter house ... Our Lent Lunch 12.00noon – 2.00pm Like signs of Spring... ALL WELCOME! Join a Lent Group see p.15

Services for February

ST LUKE'S

2 nd	SAMARITAN SUNDAY	
	9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Roger w Barrie	
	11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's CE Academy	
9 th	9.15am– HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan	
	11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's CE Academy	
16 th	9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Barrie w Debbie	
	11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's CE Academy	
23 rd	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan	
	11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's CE Academy	

ST CHAD'S

2 nd	9.00am HOLY COMMUNION BCP (Pres'n of Christ) – Rev Alan
	10.45am FAMILY SERVICE – the Family Team
9 th	10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE - Kath & Muriel F
12 th	Wednesday 10.45am COMMON WORSHIP – Rev Alan
16 th	10.45am ALL AGE HC – Rev Alan
23 rd	10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE - Kath & Muriel F
26 th	ASH WEDNESDAY 7.30pm – Rev Alan



Many happy returns to Suzy Jordan who has recently celebrated her 60th birthday! Suzy came to St Luke's with Rev Ern back in 1985. She soon set about creating a very successful worship group and played the organ at our regular Sunday services, as well as weddings and funerals for many years. Lately she has returned and now plays keyboard for Connections. Thank you Suzy for your very valuable contributions spanning 35 years!

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. Lots of fun!



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

MAKING WHOLE-NESS AND THE WILDERNESS

Archdeacon Julian's Pastoral Letter - February 2019

During the vacancy for bishop of Stafford, archdeacons write:

Lent is a time for self-examination. The absence of flowers in church, the more sombre tone of hymns and liturgy, changes in the colour of vestments and altar frontals, our commitments to pray, fast and read the bible more diligently, all serve to create a space for thoughtful consideration of what our faith is calling forth from us in these present times.

In what ways are we seeking to share the good news more deliberately, to join hands with others and roll up our sleeves for the good of our communities and to be good neighbours in order that as a nation we may discover a deeper mutuality and common cause?

This year on the First Sunday of Lent the set gospel reading is the story of the testing in the wilderness in Matthew chapter 4 verses1-11. Reading it, I am struck by the fact that the passage opens and closes with two strong pointers that we might want to take as 'bookends' to frame our Lenten journeying. The first is the role of the Holy Spirit and the second is the ministry of angels. In verse 1 Matthew writes that Jesus was "led up by the Spirit" into the wilderness, that is, 'up' into the Judean hills.

The suggestion is that his wilderness encounter is not only to be testing and demanding but 'a time of the Spirit'. What we witness is the Spirit empowering Jesus to deepen and refine his sense of calling and mission just at the point where he faces very sharp challenges from the wiles of the devil. In the same way, as we seek to turn aside from the pressures of day to day life and the challenges we may face, through the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit we can discover a space to think and ponder and wait upon God with renewed expectation and delight. Our Lenten reflections and activities are thus a time when the insight, encouragement, empowerment and comfort of the Spirit can touch us and refresh us deeply. It is a time when 'the still small voice' can speak to us – remembering that when God spoke to Elijah in this way (1 Kings 19 v.12), it was at a time for him of great vulnerability and deep discouragement. The Spirit overshadows us not only when we have the wind in our sails, but when life is at its most problematic. Paul encouraged the Christian community in Rome when he wrote that 'the Spirit intercedes (for the saints) with sighs too deep for words' (Romans 8 v.26). This is nowhere more so than in this time of seeking a closer walk with Christ in the wilderness, stress and distress of our lives.

On Ash Wednesday we are invited into the 'keeping of a holy Lent' and Lent is indeed given as a time for 'holiness', thus for the making-whole of relationships, situations, our communities and nation and our own selves before God. This emphasis comes out in the closing words of the passage, for when the devil left Jesus, 'angels came and ministered unto him'. The angels signify the wholeness or making-whole-ness of the wilderness journey. They remind us that something holy and whole-making is being undertaken and it will be blessed and honoured. My own instinct is that the angels were always there, ministering to our Lord – which is the strong impression gained in Mark's account of the testing.

The fact that Matthew marks their impact as being at the end, may indicate that only at the end of the testing does their presence becomes apparent. It is often only when we look back that we see how we have been upheld. Either way, that angels ministered to Jesus as he was being prepared for what was to come, points us to the fact that our own preparations for the joy of Eastertide are likewise times when God's messengers and messages are pressing to wing their way into our hearts and lives. Ours is only that we should open our hearts!

Lent is a time to receive the ministry of angels – some of whom may be nearer to us than we might suppose or have noticed.

I hope and pray that this season of Lent may indeed be a time for you and your communities of deepening wholeness through the power and refreshment of the Spirit and because of the ministry of angels.

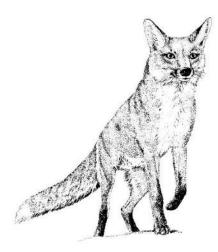
Ven Julian Francis Archdeacon of Walsall



Tracks in the Snow

The best time to look for tracks of birds and mammals is when snow has recently fallen. You can follow their routes as they visit feeding

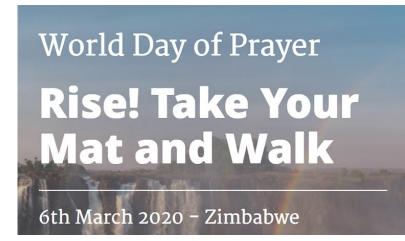
and resting sites, learning a great deal about how they use your churchyard. With care you can identify different mammals, many of which are nocturnal so rarely seen. Look out for the tracks of foxes, similar to that of a dog but more oval in shape. A fox's front claws are parallel to each other whilst a dog's curve inwards. Foxes also place their paws in a very straight line, looking like a single track.



You may be surprised to discover that deer visit your churchyard, look for small cloven hoof marks and nibbled rose bushes! There are likely to be many cat tracks as well giving a rounded paw print, again in a straight line.

Birds may be walking or hopping around the site, showing you how valuable this pocket of habitat is for winter birds. Look out for pied wagtail tracks, these birds run, and the feather of their long tails can also mark the snow. Much larger but similar tracks might be those of magpies walking around, again with a tail mark sometimes visible. Thrushes, finches and robins all hop, so their tracks are in pairs. If you feed the birds in your churchyard or garden you will see a concentration of tracks beneath a feeder, showing how important this is to birds when snow conceals other food.

All the best, 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 Lich19





The annual

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

will be held at Endon Methodist Church on Friday 6th March at 2pm.

Please support this special service. All are welcome.

THANK YOU from Maryanne

Thanks everyone for all your hard work over Christmas. We must have interacted with nearly 200 people. Thank you to those who cleaned brasses and manned the services. Wendy and Neil Taylor took down the tree after helping to put it up and decorate it. Neil also took down the flower decorations from above the lych-gate which had been there since November.

THANK YOU to Maryanne

Thank you Maryanne for all you do too and not just over Christmas but the rest of the year. We love the beautiful Advent Candle arrangement in the chancel which you create every December.

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES at 9.15am

Wednesdays Feb 5th and 19th at St Luke's Feb 12th and 26th at Endon Methodist

FLOWER AND CRAFT CLUB

The Chapter House was buzzing with voices and laughter at our first meeting of 2020. We have been increasing in number and needed to add more tables! It's such a happy time of friendship so, if you haven't already visited us, do come and see.

This is a friendly group and you don't need to have any experience. A warm welcome awaits you and expert help from Pauline and Jeanette is on hand.

We meet fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon.

The dates are as follows:

- 29th January
- 12th February
- No meeting on Ash Wednesday 26th February (Lent Lunch in aid of the Bishop's Lent Appeal)
- 11th and 25th March
- 8th April



All meetings are from 1 pm to 3 pm in the chapter house. Contact Sue Forrester 07854 043187 for further details. Keep an eye on the church notice board for updates.

It is hoped to develop the craft section of this group beyond "knit and natter"! If you know anyone who could give instruction in any kind of handicraft please contact Sue.

THE FORTHCOMING INTERREGNUM

July 5th 2020 will be Rev Alan and Maryanne's last Sunday with us and so we need to think seriously how our many jobs are to be done both in and around our Church during the interregnum. We need volunteers to fill vacancies such as verger duties. Please talk to Barrie if you consider yourself a willing and available volunteer.

A retirement bash is being planned for **Saturday, 6th June** in Endon Village Hall. Look out for more details and keep this date free!

ST LUKE'S PASTORAL TEAM

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

HILLSWOOD LODGE VISITS

Meet at Vicarage 10.50am for 11.00am

Next dates: February 20th March 19th April 9th (Maundy Thursday)

OTHER DATES:

- Next St Luke's PCC at 7.30pm Thursday, 19th March in the vicarage.
- Annual Parochial Church Meeting Thursday, 2nd April in the chapter house at 7.30pm preceded by a short PCC meeting at 7.00pm to approve the accounts.

NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S



Sheila Tipper writes...

They always say that no news is good news, but in this case I'm afraid that no news means just that!

A typical January – the last of the mince pies have been eaten; the last glass of Bailey's has been drunk; the unwanted Christmas gifts have been swapped or placed aside for 're-cycling'; the credit card is in serious need of a make-over and all we can now talk about is the weather, which, incidentally, has been very unseasonal.

And so it is at St Chad's.

Maybe by the end of February we'll have had a meeting to plan this year's events, we may have decided which charities we'll support during the year and I may actually have something to write about! But until then I'm just going to go with the flow, put my feet up, enjoy the quiet and get on with knitting Christmas toys and making Christmas cards for 2020!

To brighten up our winter days here's a chuckle from Ann & Les Boulton:

The Perfect Match?

A friend had two tickets in a corporate box for the England v Ireland rugby international on March 17^{th} . He had paid £300 each for them but didn't realise when he bought them months ago that it was going to be the same day as his wedding.

If you are interested, he is looking for someone to take his place. It's at Cardiff Register Office at 4.30pm. The bride's name is Maureen. She's 5ft 6ins, about 8 stone, quite pretty, has her own income and is a really good cook.

ENDON, ST LUKE'S MISSION ACTION PLAN Nov 2019

Rev Alan draws our attention to the following draft MAP drawn from the discussions at the PCC on 18th July and 19th Sept.

In previous PCC meetings we have drawn up an 'audit' of all the services, groups and activities that the church does. From quite a long list we set the following priorities which focus on developing relationships with those outside the church community and make provision for faith development and growth.

- Develop the Flower club into a flower and craft club. The aim to draw other folks into a social time who may feel flowers are not for them.
 - This new group will be encouraged to connect with the celebration services through the Christian year especially high days and special services.
- We will continue to provide the Alpha course to those who are exploring the Christian faith.
 - From this we aim to develop a network of small groups. This enables those finishing Alpha and anyone in church to continue in their faith journey.
- Develop a number of 'fun-raising' social activities through the year. This builds on the success of the gin tasting evening and the table top sale. Funds raised will be divided between church and charities once the church has overcome the financial challenges it faces.

- Develop our relationship with St Luke's CE Primary Academy. In every church school there is an expectation from the Statutory Inspection of Christian distinctiveness within the school. This
- includes addressing social justice under the heading of courageous advocacy. (*It should be noted that in this past year the school has connected with Christian Aid in that agency's work in developing Global Friends and sadly we missed an opportunity to support that.*) St Luke's Church will actively seek ways in which we can support the school in this distinctiveness. Foundation Governors will be key liaison people between church and school.
- We will explore ways in which these priorities may be reflected in our worship- not just preaching but also in our liturgies and prayers.
- Develop our 'presence' in the community ie communicating what we do. Specifically through Endon Events newsletter and plan a 'faith' stall at Well Dressing weekend.
- Foster vocations in a variety of areas: Not only preaching and teaching (worship leaders) but also in pastoral work, evangelism, music, building maintenance, hospitality.
- Develop a link with Eco-Church and its values and examples of good practice with a view to appropriate actions in St Luke's Church.

These priorities feed into the Diocesan vision and the threefold invitation to foster Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism.

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MAP PRIORITY • KEY: OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM • DEVELOPING DISCIPLESHIP • FOSTERING VOCATIONS	WHO ON THE PCC IS THE CHAMPION?	WHO WILL DELIVER IT?	REVIEW OUTCOME
 Flower and Craft Club 	Sue Forrester	Club Members	
 Alpha and Network of small groups 	Maryanne Lloyd and Barrie Jackson	Maryanne and Barrie	
 Fun(d)- raising Social activities 	Shirley Brindley and Sylvia Bradshaw	 Social 'committee' Church members 	
 Developing Presence Endon Events co-ordinator Faith stall at Well dressing 	Ros Benson re Endon events		
Links with the school	 Foundation Governors Connections 		
 Finance: Annual Stewardship service Communication re finances to wider church 	Steve Dale (treasurer)	 Service delivered by worship leaders Treasurer to produce quarterly statement in the church newsletter 	
Eco-church	Joe Porter		
 Fostering Vocations 	 PCC and Worship Leaders 		



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for FEBRUARY

For £2.50 you can keep the Candle of Hope or the Sanctuary Light burning for a week with a dedication. Please contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 or fill in a form at the back of church. **NOTE:** Shirley is taking dedications for

2020 so please contact her as soon as possible if you would like a particular date. Thank you to all who support the candle dedications!

Feb	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
2 nd	Sheila and Stan Hurst in loving memory of Sheila's parents	The candle is kept burning this week by Lyn Pickering
9 th	Anon in loving memory of Fred and Alice Jones	Sheila and Stan Hurst in loving memory of dear aunts
16 th	Anon in memory of Edna Bond	Anon in memory of Betty Whitmore
23 rd	Linda Foster in loving memory of her mum on her birthday	No dedication



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to

Robert Harrison (2nd), Daniel Benson (6th he's 40!), Amber Woolliscroft (10th), Jean Brough (11th), Sheila Hurst (17th), Bertie Thomlins (21st), John Bradshaw jr (24th), Rev Alan (27th)

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



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, a group at the vicarage on alternate Wednesday evenings and a group at Bagnall Heights on Tuesday mornings.

Day	Venue	Hosts	Leader	Time
Monday	Claremont St George's Ave	James & Ros	Barrie	7.30pm
Tuesday	Bagnall Heights Lounge	Barrie	Barrie	11.00 am
Wednesday (fortnightly)	Vicarage	Maryanne	Maryanne	7.30pm

How Much Do We Care About Our Planet??

This Lent our groups will be following a course highly recommended by Archbishop Justin Welby and our recently retired Archbishop John Sentamu. Even if you don't usually attend a weekly home group do consider joining one for this Lent. The theme is very topical and hugely relevant to the climate and environmental crisis we are now all facing. How can 'people of faith' make a real difference?

Come and share your thoughts and let's find ways of turning words into actions and hopefully motivate others!

It is likely that the course will run in our groups from the week beginning March 1st. See sign-up sheet and poster on the noticeboard.

more details on next page...

2020 LENT COURSE HIVE LEVE CARE for GOD'S A 40-Day Challenge

AN INVITATION FROM ARCHBISHOP JUSTIN WELBY & ARCHBISHOP JOHN SENTAMU...

"This Lent we hope both adults and children might engage in God's plea for us to 'Care for Creation'. It is an opportunity to rebuild our relationship with our planet, and in turn with the God who is Lord of everything. We hope you might engage in prayer, learn more about the remarkable world we have been given and build habits that last beyond the season to protect and honour the earth."

#LIVELENT: CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION is the Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2020. With weekly themes shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created. #LIVELENT CHALLENGE offers 40 short reflections and suggested actions to help you, your family and your church live in greater harmony with God, neighbour and nature.

It has been inspired and informed by the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent Book, Saying Yes to Life by Ruth Valerio (SPCK).

Our two home groups will be taking part. A donation of $\pounds 2$ is suggested for the booklet. There is also an app and daily email available. Do sign up. See you there!



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 guarantees small traders are not disadvantaged.

LEEK FOOD BANK UPDATE



Registered Charity No. 1153990 in England and Wales

The food donations to the foodbank for December totalled 3063.5 kg The food distributed for December totalled 3292.6 kg

Vouchers fulfilled 55, Adults fed 83, Children fed 82. Total 165 = 1485 meals. Additionally, we distributed 199 Christmas packs and 362 kg of bulk Christmas Food donations. Distribution figures for December show an increase of 14% over December 2018.

A big thank you to donors, volunteers and supporters who make this possible.

2019 OVERVIEW

Total Stock in = 21340 Kgs Total Stock out = 20039 Kgs Total no. of vouchers fulfilled in 2019 = 580 No. of adults fed = 795 No. of Children fed = 478 Total fed = 1273 (= 11,457 meals) This shows a year on year increase of 17.4%

As we move into 2020 and a new decade, let us focus on our communities and those around us who are struggling and worried about the future, that we are able to help bring peace and offer a hopeful vision. For our latest urgent needs please refer to our website <u>https://leekdistrict.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/</u>

May you all know His Peace and Joy throughout the coming year.

Many blessings, Ian Smith – Project Coordinator

THE WORK OF OUR FOOD BANKS... a Summary

'For I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in...' MATTHEW 25:35.

(The Trussell Trust is a Christian Trust committed to restoring waste places, be they individuals or communities, by launching life changing sustainable projects. There are now over 1400 Trussell Trust food banks in UK.)

On Sunday January 19th Janine and Bob from Leek food bank came along to St Luke's to give us insight into the work of the food bank and why it is still very necessary.

In Staffordshire Moorlands over 3700 children are living in poverty...

In Leek 11% of youngsters are in low income households.

In Leek there are over 600 children living in income deprived families.

In one Leek ward more than 28.5% of children live in low income families.

Staffordshire Moorlands is the 5th most deprived district in Staffordshire with more than 12% of children living in poverty. Referrals are made by:

- Housing Associations
- Health Visitors
- Social workers
- Church pastoral workers
- Doctors' surgeries
- Schools
- Carers
- Care Centres
- Staffordshire Probation Services
- Community mental health teams

Donations of food arrive from a whole range of sources: individuals, groups, churches, schools and supermarkets

Current needs include the following:

Milk (UHT or powdered) Sugar (500g) Fruit juice (carton) Soup Pasta sauces Sponge pudding (tinned) Tomatoes (tinned) Cereals Rice pudding (tinned) Tea Bags/instant coffee Instant mash potato Rice/pasta Tinned meat/fish/potatoes Tinned fruit Jam **Biscuits or snack bars**

Also welcome are:

Toothpaste Toiletries Toilet rolls Kitchen rolls Razors Shaving foam

Some folk may be only a pay cheque away from a crisis. Barrie reminded us that some years ago Reginald Bosanquet, a once highly paid TV news presenter, was found on a park bench under a blanket of newspapers. Bob emphasised that it is very easy for us to judge the recipients of food aid without knowing the background of their situations. It is often very hard for someone to admit to needing help. We must not judge.

February Prayer Focus

- Those suffering the effects of the coronavirus and those seeking ways to stop its spread
- An end to drought in NSW, SA and Victoria states of Australia and those who have lost their homes and livelihoods in the bushfires
- The threat of global warming and urgently needed environmental responses from us all and those in authority
- All fighting for justice and fairness
- The people of Hong Kong seeking a change in the law from the Chinese government
- Modern day slavery and all striving to end this unjust practice.
- Our new Methodist minister Rev Eleanor Smith
- Our own Eric Cartlidge recovering from heart surgery
- All starting a new job or newly retired
- Yemen the on-going crisis and those trying hard to get aid into the country and the children coming into the USA from Mexico
- Brexit negotiations especially with regard to the Irish border
- The release of Iranian-British mother Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe serving a 5 year gaol sentence on alleged spying charges
- Those affected by the recent upsurge in knife crime
- The problem of social media affecting our young people
- The widespread drug problem especially in Stoke-on-Trent
- Lou Macari's hostel for the homeless in Hanley
- The problem of the millions of plastic bottles afloat in our oceans and the tons of 'space junk' orbiting our planet
- Wisdom for world leaders in making decisions for peace
- Those in our parishes who are ill and those caring for them
- All who have lost loved ones recently
- The Trussell Trust nationally and locally
- The unemployed or in work but not earning a living wage
- For all suffering from depression
- For all in care homes or needing care at home and their carers
- For all involved with the Chernobyl Project
- Our Vicar, PCCs and Pastoral Team and visitors to our church
- For Barrie Jackson in his ministry as a lay reader and lan Perry at St Chad's as he prepares for ordination
- Ministry in our benefice after Rev Alan's retirement in 2020

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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.

Advertising Scale of Charges

¼ page: £5 per month or £50 for 12 months
½ 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:

Please note:

SAFEGUARDING

Maryanne has stepped down from this post. Our safeguarding officers for St Luke's are now Linda Foster and Sue Forrester.

March 2020 newsletter will be in church on Sunday, February 23rd

Please submit notices by **Tuesday**, **February 18th** either by e-mail jandrbenson@btinternet.com phone 504137 or a note to Ros Benson.

The newsletter is published on the church website <u>www.endonstlukes.org.uk</u> (click on the 'News and Events' tab)

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