



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

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

www.endonstlukes.org.uk

Vestry (church office): 01782 502166 or 07517 653370



December 2022

INTERREGNUM Month 30

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



**CHRISTMAS EVE, Saturday
December 24th at 6.00pm
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

This will be a family-friendly service of just one hour.

**11.30pm Ecumenical MIDNIGHT
COMMUNION at Endon Methodist
Church (come at 11.00pm for mince pies!)**

**CHRISTMAS DAY
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
at St Luke's**

DECEMBER at ST LUKE'S

SUNDAY 4th Advent 2

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION

Rev Barry Wilson

11.00am CONNECTIONS

SUNDAY 11th Advent 3

**9.15am TOY SERVICE - Barrie /
Roger**

**11.00am TOY SERVICE at
CONNECTIONS**

SUNDAY 18th Advent 4

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION

Rev Philip Robinson

11.00am CONNECTIONS

**6.30pm COMMUNITY CAROL
SERVICE at the Methodist
Church**

SATURDAY 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

6 – 7 CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

11.00pm Ecumenical

**MIDNIGHT COMMUNION at
the Methodist Church**

SUNDAY 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.15 HC Rev P Robinson

JAN 1st NEW YEAR'S DAY

9.15am MORNING PRAYER

CONNECTIONS

Sunday at 11am at St Luke's CE
Academy in the school hall.

THIS IS A FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICE

NB NO CONNECTIONS on Sundays
25th Dec and Jan 1st.

DECEMBER at ST CHAD'S

SUNDAY 4th Advent 2

**10.45am FAMILY SERVICE - KH and
team**

SUNDAY 11th Advent 3

4.00pm CAROL SERVICE - KH / MF

SUNDAY 18th Advent 4

10.45am HOLY COMMUNION

– Rev Barry Wilson

SATURDAY 24th CHRISTMAS EVE

5.00pm OUTDOOR CAROLS

**11.30pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION –
Rev Barry Wilson**

SUNDAY 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

NO SERVICE

ST LUKE'S CHURCH OFFICE

Unless involved with funeral duties
Barrie mans the office on Mon, Wed,
and Fri from 10.30am to 1.00pm using
07517 653370. During these times the
church is open for private prayer.

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Wednesday Holy Communion
at 9.15am

Dec 7th at St Luke's

Dec 14th at the Methodist Church

Dec 21st at St Luke's

Dec 28th no service

Jan 4th at St Luke's



TOY SERVICES

**Sunday, 11th December
9.15am St Luke's church and
11.00am at Connections**

Please continue to support 'GLOW' (*formerly 'The Elizabeth Trust'*) which offers accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic violence sometimes arriving with only the clothes they are wearing. Please remember that the children are of all ages so we need to send gifts appropriate for older ones and teenagers as well as for babies and toddlers not forgetting a few treats for the mums too such as toiletries.

These toy services were started over 40 years ago by Rev Tony Alban.
Sadly the need has not diminished.

PLEASE REMEMBER NOT TO WRAP YOUR GIFTS
but donations of wrapping paper are appreciated.

THANK YOU EVERYONE!



COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

**Sunday, December 18th at 6.30pm
Endon Methodist Church**

Don't miss this celebration of our Saviour's birth!

NB Contributions of mince pies very welcome!

FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB



Congratulations to members of the Flower Club for creating the beautiful displays for Remembrance Sunday.. The church looked really beautiful for the services held that day. Our next meeting, the last this year, is on Wednesday **7th December** from 1pm to 3pm in the Chapter House. Pauline demonstrated a parallel arrangement which can include candle and baubles to make a Christmassy decoration for

church or home or maybe as a gift. Please do come and join us. You will be made very welcome. Dates for 2023 will be decided in the New Year. A Happy Christmas to all our members and their families!

Sue

USED STAMPS

Please save your used stamps for ***The Leprosy Mission*** to enable continued work restoring limbs damaged by leprosy and helping those who are cured to set up



businesses so they can earn a living? The collection box is in its usual place behind the main door at St Luke's. As in previous years St Chad's folk may hand used stamps to Muriel Buckle. Please remember to trim off excess paper. Stamps will be sent off at the end of January. TLM Stamps & Collectables has raised over £1 million to benefit people affected by leprosy. It takes seconds to rescue a used stamp from an envelope destined for the recycling bin but, by doing so, healthcare and opportunities can be provided for people in desperate need.

The Leprosy Mission Christmas catalogue offers a wide range of Christian books, cards, calendars, diaries, toys, novelties, CDs, DVDs and stationery as well as items made by those who have been treated. You can order any of the products on-line.

Ros



ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This will be held in the Methodist Church on Tuesday, 6th December at 7.00pm.

Due to shortage of space and an increase in choir membership only two tickets are being allocated to each member this year.

However, there may be a few spare tickets available nearer the date. Contact Ann, Ros or Patricia.

The **Methodist Church**  **in Endon**

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- 18th December at 6.30pm Community Carol Service
- 24th December at 4pm Christingle
- 24th December at 11pm Refreshments followed by Midnight Communion Service (11.30pm)
- 25th December at 10am Christmas Family Worship

REGULAR EVENTS

- Sunday at 10am **Worship**
- Monday 10.30am – 1pm **Community Café**
- Wednesday 9.15am **Holy Communion** (*alternating venue with St Luke's*)
- Thursday 10.30am '**Fit-as-a-fiddle**' *gentle exercise, coffee and conversation*
- Friday 10am – 12noon **Carer's Café** *for those who are carers and those they care for on 9th December*
- Friday 6pm -7pm **Blaze** (*club for all primary children*) *during term time*
- **Sunday Lunches** – *see noticeboard for dates – everyone is welcome*



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad



IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER

Rossetti's famous carol speaks of a winter scene with frozen earth and water and snow falling upon snow. With snow or sleet falling an average 3.9 days in December, compared to 5.3 days in January, 5.6 days in February and 4.2 days in March, we are far more likely to have snow after Christmas in the UK than have a white Christmas.

However, white Christmases were more frequent in the 18th and 19th centuries, even more so before the change of calendar in 1752 which effectively brought Christmas Day back by 12 days, the old calendar date of December 25th now being January the 6th. The old Julian calendar is still kept by many Eastern Orthodox churches who celebrate Christmas on January 6th when in the west the Epiphany is celebrated. However, the idea that Christmas falls on December the 25th, unlike the date of Easter, has no apparent connection to the real dates of events in Jesus' life.

So why December the 25th? What we do know is that this was the date under the Roman Julian calendar that the mid-winter solstice, the shortest day, was celebrated. This was the date of the solstice in the 4th Century when we find the first records of Christmas being celebrated. What is less certain is why it was decided to celebrate Christmas on this day. There is evidence that the date of the Annunciation (the time when the angel Gabriel tells Mary she will deliver the virgin birth) was fixed first on March 25th, nine months earlier, thus also the date of the spring equinox in the Roman calendar. In the early church this was also believed to be the date of the first Easter. It was common in the early church to believe that great saints died on the day that either they were born or conceived. This symbolically had the incarnation at the same date as the resurrection, Jesus returning to life on the date he was first given life. But also, in the northern hemisphere placing this on the spring equinox, the day when the days become longer than the nights, adding nature symbolism to this date for the annunciation.

If the date of the Annunciation at the spring equinox gave a nature symbolism to the celebration, so did placing Christ's birth at the mid-winter solstice. This was in northern countries always a time for feasting during the months one had to rely on the food harvested in autumn, taking greenery into the house to symbolise continuing life when the earth was cold and barren. This festivity and symbolism adapted well to the celebration of Christ's birth. A late fourth-century sermon by Saint Augustine explains why this was a fitting day to celebrate Christ's nativity: "Hence it is that He was born on the day which is the shortest in our earthly reckoning and from which subsequent days begin to increase in length. He, therefore, who bent low and lifted us up chose the shortest day, yet the one whence light begins to increase." Jesus, the Light of the World, enters into that world on the shortest, darkest day, in the 'bleak mid-winter'. There may not be snow, but as John reminds us, the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not put it out.

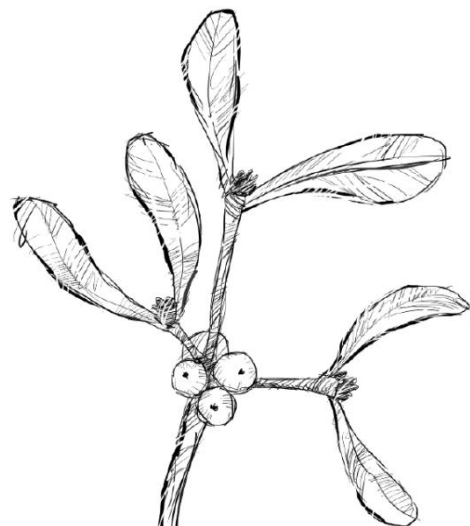
*Revd Steve Hollinghurst is part of the diocese's Mission team
with a focus on environmental issues*



Mistletoe

In Britain most mistletoe is found in the south and west midlands, with particularly good populations in Herefordshire, Worcestershire,

Gloucestershire, Gwent and Somerset. There is mistletoe elsewhere, but it is only regionally abundant in that core area of the south-west midlands.



Change may be happening though – new evidence from the last 20 years suggests that mistletoe is spreading faster than it used. This is particularly noticeable in eastern areas, where established but seemingly static mistletoe populations are now spreading. Is this change due to climate or to birds? It could be subtle hints of climate change – computer modelling does suggest that mistletoe will head east with climate change. Or it could be something else. One possibility is better spread of the seeds by Blackcaps, a bird that is particularly efficient at spreading mistletoe. British Blackcaps migrate for the winter so they do not usually affect mistletoe here, but recently continental Blackcaps have started overwintering in Britain, with many thousands now spending their winters here and feeding on mistletoe and then spreading it.

Kissing beneath the mistletoe is a very old tradition indeed and although part of Christmas revels, mistletoe is rarely allowed inside a church because of its strong pagan associations. It is well known as the most sacred plant of the Druids, the priestly clan of the Celts.

If you have a young fruit tree in your churchyard, garden or elsewhere, how about encouraging mistletoe by smearing some berries onto the bark after Christmas is over. The thin bark of a young trees is easier for the mistletoe to penetrate and establish. Please let me know if you have mistletoe within your churchyard trees.

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 **diomem22**

ST LUKE'S PCC

As the weather will be colder our next meeting will be on Zoom at 7.30pm on Wednesday, **11th January 2023**.

PASTORAL TEAM Carol singing at Hillswood Lodge Care Home at 11.00am **Wednesday, December 7th**.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



A very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's and with grateful thanks to everyone for their hard work and unstinting support over this last year – **Barrie**

Christmas greetings to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's... **Stan and Sheila Hurst**

Peace at Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's ... **Ann Boulton**

Revs Philip and Patricia send greetings to all at St Luke's and St Chad's

A very happy Christmas to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's... **Mabel McGrath**

Hello all! A Merry Christmas and here's to a great and safe 2023.
Love and God bless. **Sophie and Jean xxx**

Alan and Maureen wish all their friends at St Luke's and St Chad's a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and safe New Year.

A merry Christmas and a happy new year to all my friends, worshippers and colleagues at St Luke's. May the Lord Jesus Christ lead each and every one of you into a closer relationship with Him to life eternal. **David Moss**

A happy Christmas and peaceful New Year to St Luke's and St Chad's ... **James and Ros**

Roger and Sheila send Christmas greetings to all at St Luke's, with thanks for your encouragement and support.

A very happy Christmas to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's... **Muriel Buckle**

Very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year ... **Chris and Sue Wilson**

To everyone at St Luke's Church and Connections, wishing you all God's blessings over Christmas and the New Year... **Shirley O'Brien**

Janet Bowyer sends Christmas greetings to all her friends at St Luke's

Happy Christmas to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's and blessings for a happy and prosperous 2023... **Debbie and Dave Podmore**

Wishing everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's a happy and peaceful Christmas – **Peter & June Pope, Lynne and Lydia**

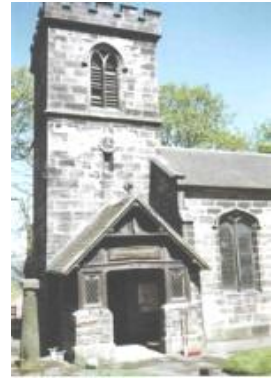
Margaret & Maurice – we wish for a peaceful Christmas and a blessed 2023 to all our friends in St Luke's Church and the wider community

Wishing everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.... **Sylvia Bradshaw**

John Moss sends Christmas greetings to all at St Luke's and St Chad's

ST CHAD'S NEWS

Bagnall Community Christmas Fayre



**Saturday 3rd December
from 12.00 noon in Bagnall village hall**

TWO LEEK COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVENTS:
The Phoenix Singers with Young Phoenix
“MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL”

***On Sat 10th December at 3.30pm at St Luke’s Church,
Leek. Tickets £10 (£2 u 18s) available on-line or from
choir members 01538 388900***

PIVA (Tudor Music) present
“WINTER REVELS”

***On Sat 10th December at 7.30pm at St Edward’s Church,
Leek. Tickets £14 (u 18 free) available on-line or on the
door.***



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for DECEMBER

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 as soon as possible if you would like a particular date in 2023.

Dec	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
4 th	Barrie in loving memory of his Mum, Dad, brother Ron and grandson Tom	Barrie in celebration of Fay's birthday
11 th	Ann Boulton to celebrate Evie's birthday (14 th)	Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Tracy's birthday (17 th)
18 th	Mabel McGrath to celebrate the birthday of Max McGrath	Maureen Foster in loving memory of Malcolm, a dearly loved husband, father and grandfather
25 th	Ann Boulton in loving memory of Les on his birthday	Anon in loving memory of Joyce and Graham Forrester.

Happy Birthday!



DECEMBER GREETINGS to

Thomas Morris (6th), Maurice Woolliscroft (10th),
Tracy Payne (17th),
Bob Morris, Evie Greatbatch (14th)

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



Sue writes...

GIN NIGHT

What a brilliant evening! Thank you to Sophie and her helpers. I think the bramble gin was most people's favourite. There was a real buzz of conversation and some great raffle prizes. **£630** was raised for church funds bringing the total raised by our four events this year to **£1160**. Well done to organisers and supporters!

THIS LIST IS
TAKEN FROM THE
CURRENT WEB PAGE
(REMINDER: PLEASE
DO NOT INCLUDE BAKED BEANS
OR PASTA)...

- JAM
- CUSTARD
- UHT MILK CARTONS
- INSTANT MASH POTATO
- TINNED POTATOES
- SHAMPOO
- CHOC BARS
- FRUIT SQUASH
- WASHING POWDER
- HAIR CONDITIONER
- SPONGE PUDDINGS

- TEABAGS - SMALL BOXES
- COFFEE - SMALL JARS
- KITCHEN, BATHROOM AND
MULTI-SURFACE CLEANER
- CLEANING CLOTHS
- SHOWER GEL
- TOMATO KETCHUP AND
BROWN SAUCE

Thank you to everyone who brought
Christmas items for our November 6th
collection and to Barrie for delivering them to
the West Street depot. Our next collection
will be on **Sunday December 3rd**.

UPDATE ON KNITTED SQUARES



A message from Sue Millard...

More months roll by and 100 beautifully knitted and crocheted blankets were again ready to go to the Women's Refuge in Dunkirk. Rev Anne blessed the consignment and Norman and I took them to France on October 27th.

The young people who work at the camps usually spend 2-3 months working there, providing meals, helping with children, caring for the vulnerable and the distressed and distributing

blankets! This time, the girls were nearly all English and delighted to receive us. The bright colours of the knitted blankets bring not only warmth but real joy; they are so cheerful, giving a sense of happiness to people who have nothing else. They are loved and someone somewhere cares.

Thank you to all you knitters and please keep knitting!



ST LUKE'S REPAIR SHOP!



You have probably noticed that many of our church chairs have been showing signs of wear and tear over the last few years, especially "tear"! Thankfully Rosey Smith also noticed this and recently volunteered to do something about it. Nearly every week we now see her husband Geoff coming out of the church with two damaged chairs and returning them the following week having been beautifully re-upholstered by Rosey helped by Ann and Patricia. Thank you so much. They look great!

KEN DAVIS

At St Luke's we were very saddened to hear of the death of dear Ken Davis. A stalwart of our church for many years he served as both treasurer and church warden. He was particularly busy during our last interregnum when Rev Ern had left and we awaited the appointment of Rev Alan. He helped me with the newsletter as I was wearing my L-plates and he even went out to buy school uniforms for Alan's children who were due to start at Endon High School in the September. He was a good friend to us all but sadly due to ill health he was unable to attend church for the last few years. Linda Foster of our pastoral team kept in touch with him regularly and he was pleased to receive the newsletter. An engineer by profession he designed hip joints among other things. He helped my mother get an appointment to have her hip replaced. He was often in great pain with his knee and recently moved down to Devon to be near to his daughter Gail who could look after him. **A memorial service for him is planned at St Luke's.**

THANK YOU LORD FOR KEN.

Ros

December Prayer Focus

- **Our new Prime Minister**
- **The government of our country in the light of the recent resignations and associated problems**
- **Wisdom, good health and stamina for our new King and all working members of our Royal Family**
- **Climate change and that the COP27 conference will bear fruit**
- **Those affected by the severe floods in Pakistan and the recent earthquake in Indonesia and those trying to help them**
- **Those seeking justice for women in Iran and regime change**
- **For those on low incomes in the light of the rise in energy bills**
- **Those coping with severe weather conditions here and in other parts of the world due to climate change**
- **Avian flu and farmers affected by it as well as our wild bird population**
- **Organisations striving to get aid to those in desperate need**
- **East African countries on the verge of famine as a result of the war in Ukraine which has created an acute grain shortage**
- **Those affected by severe drought in Somalia**
- **The problem of people-trafficking across the Channel and those seeking asylum**
- **The recent alert for polio vaccines to be given to younger children**
- **The threat of monkeypox and those currently affected**
- **The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the threat to world peace**
- **The plight of the millions of Ukrainian refugees**
- **Those taken prisoner by the Russians**
- **Those taking refugees into their homes in the UK and Europe**
- **An end to the war**
- **All hostages still in Iran awaiting release especially Morad Tahbaz and Mehran Raoff**
- **Thankfulness for the release of Roman Protasevich and several others taken prisoner by the Russians**
- **Co-operation of worldwide governments to combat climate change**
- **Citizens of poorer countries who have not yet had a COVID vaccine**
- **Improved safety for women on our streets**
- **UK businesses and trade problems following the Brexit deals esp in N Ireland**
- **The huge problem of loneliness**
- **Refugees everywhere especially in Yemen and the US border with Mexico**
- **All suffering at the hands of deeply corrupt governments**
- **Loved ones in our parish who are currently unwell**
- **Our church wardens and worship leaders during the interregnum**
- **Bishop Matthew and the appointment of our next incumbent**
- **The Church of England dealing with a shortage of clergy and funds**
- **Those affected by the recent upsurge in knife crime**
- **The widespread drug problem especially in Stoke-on-Trent**
- **Lou Macari's hostel for the homeless in Hanley**
- **The problem of the millions of plastic bottles afloat in our oceans and the tons of 'space junk' orbiting our planet**
- **All who have lost loved ones recently**
- **The Trussell Trust food banks still needed as much as ever**

Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship / PCC chair	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, reader / St Luke's PCC Sec / Administrator (* tel no for church enquiries)	07510 074097 07517 653370*
Sue Forrester, Flower & Craft Club / Foundation gov / Safeguarding Officer / St Luke's Facebook	07854 043187
Deb Podmore, Connections / school chaplain	01782 773383
Neil Taylor, worship leader / Connections	07961 652104
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	01782 502006
June Pope, St Luke's warden's team	01782 503269
Shirley Brindley, candle dedications / pastoral tm	01782 504089
Steve Dale, St Luke's treasurer	07894 098011
Sheila Hurst, St Luke's Gift Aid Sec / MU rep	01782 503622
James Benson, reader emeritus	01782 504137
Ros Benson, newsletter / St Luke's website	01782 504137
St Luke's vestry (church office)	01782 502166
Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / warden / worship leader / safeguarding officer	01782 304616
Julia Podmore, St Chad's warden / treasurer	07980 802121
Pat Saul, St Chad's PCC vice-chair / secretary	07973 863930
Muriel Finney, St Chad's worship leader	01782 302229
Peter Millard, St Chad's buildings / warden's team	01782 505338
Emma Ashworth, St Chad's warden's team	07861 730806
Sheila Tipper, St Chad's news contact	01782 534647

For the duration of the interregnum 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 contact Barrie if you would like a paper copy or know someone who would. Please submit notices for our next newsletter to Ros Benson

by **Tuesday, January 3rd 2023.**

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

PRAYER for 'Stir up Sunday'

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people;
That they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
May by you be plenteously rewarded;
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

THANK YOU to all who have sent greetings and supported the Christian Blind Mission with donations.