



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



January 2023

INTERREGNUM Month 31

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



We hope and pray that it will indeed be a happier year for the many in our world who have suffered so much in the last twelve months.

Please remember that during January our 9.15 Morning Worship and Holy Communion Services will be held in the chapter house where it's warmer.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped to decorate our church for Advent and Christmas and to those who organised, led and/or took part in our services (and cleaned brasses) and to Sheila H who made sure we were warm.

JANUARY at ST LUKE'S

SUNDAY 1st

NEW YEAR'S DAY

**9.15am MORNING WORSHIP
in the chapter house**

SUNDAY 8th EPIPHANY

9.15am - HOLY COMMUNION

led by Rev Barry Wilson

11.00am CONNECTIONS

SUNDAY 15th

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION

Rev David Nicol

11.00am CONNECTIONS

SUNDAY 22nd

**9.15 MORNING WORSHIP led
by Barrie / Roger**

SUNDAY 29th

**9.15 MORNING WORSHIP led
by Barrie / Roger**



CONNECTIONS

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

**THIS IS A FAMILY-FRIENDLY
SERVICE**

**lasting about 40 minutes followed
by games for the children and
refreshments.**

JANUARY at ST CHAD'S

SUNDAY 1st

NEW YEAR'S DAY

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

SUNDAY 8th

EPIPHANY

10.45am – PRAISE & PRAYER KH / MF

SUNDAY 15th

10.45am HOLY COMMUNION

– Rev Barry Wilson

SUNDAY 22nd

10.45am MORNING PRAYER KH / MF

SUNDAY 29th

10.45am MORNING WORSHIP - Kath

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**

Jan 4th at St Luke's

Jan 11th at the Methodist Church

Jan 18th at St Luke's

Jan 25th at the Methodist Church

Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

A STING IN THE TALE OF CHRISTMAS



The enchanting story of the Wise Men visiting the infant Jesus has a sting in its tail. Having drawn King Herod's attention to the birth of 'the King of the Jews' he determines to wipe out any rivals to his throne and orders the slaughter of all boys under two years old, among whom was Jesus.

So, with traumatising suddenness the lives of Joseph and Mary are turned upside down and they flee to Egypt. As the spectre of violence looms over them, they leave the security of their homeland with its familiar language and culture, the presence of their extended family, the fruits of a hard-earned career, and a circle of friends and acquaintances who make up the rich tapestry of their life. Instead, they become strangers in a foreign land, homeless, jobless, friendless and without any real sense of identity or continuity with the past.

87 million people, half of them children, are in that situation today. Seeking refuge in other countries, who are usually ambiguous about receiving them, they find themselves locked up in detention centres in appalling conditions: the UK had 4000 migrants in a centre with the capacity for 1600. Or else they are lined up for deportation – the UK

choosing Rwanda as a destination. Yet still they come – desperate and desolate but daring. Daring to hope they can survive. What difference can Christians make?

St James' Piccadilly hung an inflatable used by migrants above its chancel as a reminder of their plight. Prayer on their behalf has been accompanied by protest from the Archbishop of Canterbury to an often indifferent society and government.

A church in Shrewsbury raised £6000 by holding concerts and donated the proceeds to the Ukraine Relief Fund.

My wife and I hosted a Ukrainian couple and their two young children in our home for five months and other clergy in the Diocese have done the same.

Epiphany means 'appearing' and these actions remind us of what we celebrate in the appearing of Jesus. We celebrate God making Godself present and active in the world, not by waving an invisible 'magic' wand but by working in and through the human body and mind of Jesus. 'He is the place where God is active with an intensity that is nowhere else to be found' writes Rowan Williams. But in less intense ways God is also active in those who are open to the influence of God's Spirit. 'God's action works not by displacing but *intensifying from within* the capacity of human beings to do good.' Divine action is veiled by human flesh and blood.

'Christ' wrote St Teresa, 'has no hands but your hands; no feet but your feet; no mouth but your mouth.' So, the challenge of Epiphany becomes this: What are you and I doing to embody God's action in today's world?

The Ven Paul Thomas, Archdeacon of Salop.

Image from the installation 'Flight' with courtesy of St James Church Piccadilly:

<https://www.sjp.org.uk/flight/>



Why Record Wildlife?

In my monthly articles I often ask you to let us know what wildlife you see in your local churchyard, but why? How does it help to record a single flower or frog? Biological records form the bedrock of our understanding of biodiversity;

which places are the most precious, how is our country changing over time, how is climate change affecting things and much more. All of these questions need information, created by individuals, piece by piece, taking time from their busy lives to stop, look, listen and note things down. An individual record is of limited value but put them all together and a picture starts to emerge. Caring for God's Acre, working closely with the Church of England and the National Biodiversity Network are building that picture for the biodiversity found within our burial grounds and its starting to look really interesting.

In the Lichfield diocese the burial ground with the most records is Newcastle-under-Lyme cemetery with a stunning 3,985.



The most commonly recorded species there is the Large Yellow Underwing moth. Shrewsbury Cemetery comes next with 370 species, then St Luke's in Sambrook with 199. Both of the cemeteries have local entomologists regularly searching for insects and are also large sites; two features that can lead to a high species count. All three sites have hedgehog present which is useful information for the cemetery managers and church wardens to know.

So please, when you think and plan for a new year, make some time to have a go at submitting a biological record. Why not try to use iNaturalist? You'll find helpful hints and videos on our website under Get Involved.

You can look up your local churchyard on our system (burialgrounds.nbnatlas.org/) and see whether anything has been recorded yet. You could be the first to record a yew tree, ivy, bramble, rooks, robins or jackdaws. It's very likely there is a goldcrest hiding in the yew tree, ready to reward the patient observer! How about a new year resolution to make a record of a different species every month this year – I think you will enjoy this and look forward to hearing how you get on.

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**



The **Methodist** Church in Endon

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 **13th January**
- Friday 6pm -7pm **Blaze** (club for all primary children) during term time
- **Sunday Lunches** – see noticeboard for dates – everyone is welcome

FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB

Our first meeting of 2023 will be on **Wednesday 11th January** from 1 pm to 3pm in the Chapter House. Jeanette demonstrated a white arrangement for winter which included some small fruits for contrast. If you haven't been before, why not come and have a cup of tea and find out what we do and if it's something you might like. Do contact me for further details.



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

What a great turnout of people to enjoy our Carol service on Christmas Eve! The church looked beautiful. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

Sue 07854 043187

USED STAMPS

‘Thank you and Goodbye!’ from TLM

I have received a letter from the Leprosy Mission thanking us for all the stamps we have sent them over the years but also to inform us that from March 2023 they will no longer be accepting stamps and collectibles. I shall be posting off all used stamps that are handed in by the end of January.

As this will be our last collection I shall remove the box from the back of church. Please spread the word among those you may know who have been supporting TLM in this way. Their work goes on of course and you can continue to support the charity by making donations or buying products from their catalogue throughout the year. **Ros**



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.

Please contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 as soon as possible if you would like a particular date in 2023.

| Jan | CANDLE OF HOPE | SANCTUARY LIGHT |
|------------------|--|--|
| 1 st | Lyn Pickering for Ronald Pickering. At rest on January 4 th 2013. Lovingly remembered by all his family | Anon in memory of Emma Williams, a special lady |
| 8 th | Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the 60 th birthday of daughter in law Jill | No dedication |
| 15 th | Anon in loving memory of Alice Jones | Barrie Jackson in celebration of Mae's birthday |
| 22 nd | The candle is kept burning by Lyn Pickering | No dedication |
| 29 th | Sheila and Stan Hurst in loving memory of Stan's parents | Sheila and Stan Hurst in loving memory of Sheila's parents |

Happy Birthday!



JANUARY GREETINGS to

Rev Duncan Leake (10th), Dave Podmore (12th),
Rachel Tellwright (18th), Suzy Jordan (20th),
Sheila Simpson (21st), Scott Taylor (23rd)

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

ST LUKE'S PCC

As the weather will be colder our next meeting will be on Zoom at 7.30pm on
Wednesday, 18th January 2023. Please note change of date.

NEWSLETTER GREETINGS

So far £140 has been donated for the Christian Blind Mission. If you have not yet made your donation please hand it in as soon as possible. Many thanks! Ros

ST CHAD'S NEWS

I would like to thank everyone who made our Christmas Eve outdoor Carol Service such a great event. Over a hundred people of all ages filled the churchyard and the village was filled with the sound of the real Christmas.

Many people then went and enjoyed a free coffee and mince pie at the Stafford Arms and that gave church members a chance to chat to villagers and others who attended.

Once again many thanks to everyone for making it a special time.

Kathryn x



Our next collections will be on
Sundays January 8th and February 5th.

From Sheila H...

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICE

A joint mid week communion service with the Methodists is held at 9.15 am every Wednesday at alternating venues. At this service the prayer focus is on the sick and lonely known to us and for local, national and worldwide event needing prayer.

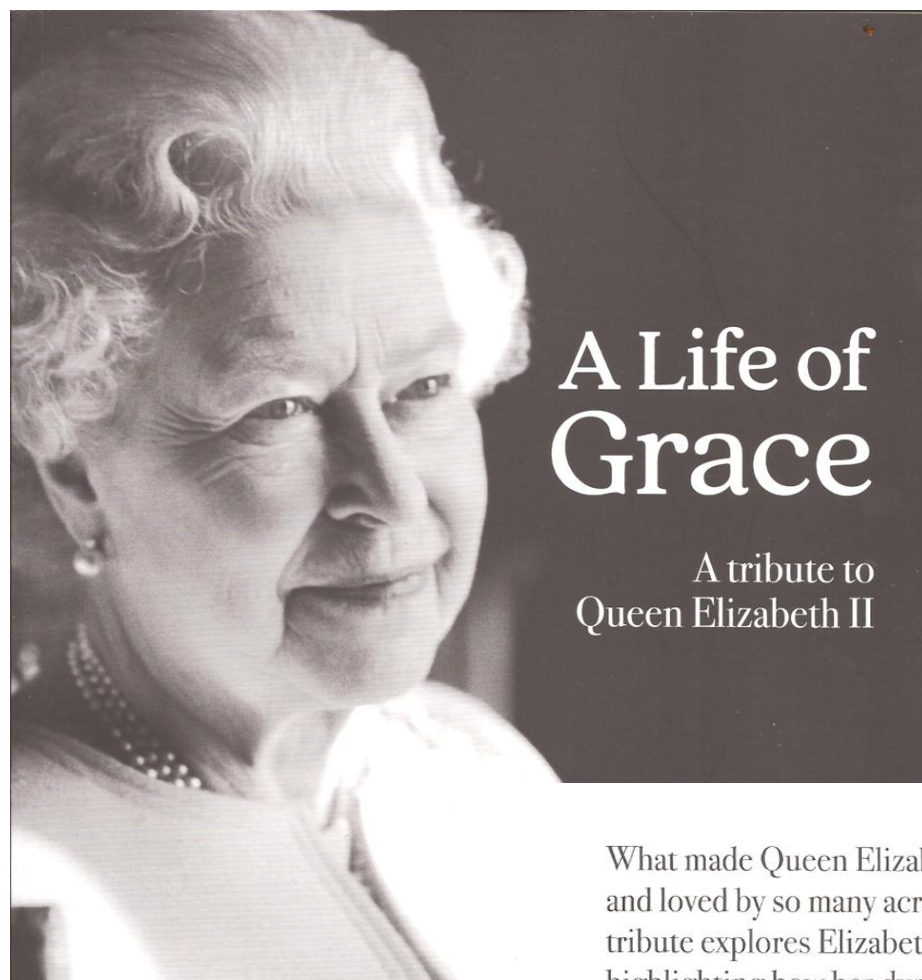
The service is at St Luke's on Wednesday 4th and 18th January and 1st February. It is at the Methodist Church on 11th and 25th.

MOTHERS' UNION REMINDER

Members should now have received information about 2023 subscriptions and the data form. Everyone is now responsible for returning their own data form and subs, either by cheque with your name clearly written on the back, or preferably by direct transfer. The deadline for the Diocese receiving subs is 28th February. (You may need to factor in Postal strikes so do it sooner rather than later).

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Annual World Day of Prayer Service, jointly held with the Methodist Church, will be on **Friday 3rd March** at 2pm at the Methodist Church. This year's service has been written by the ladies of Taiwan and the theme is, "I have heard about your faith".



**BARRIE'S
FUNDRAISING
IDEA
for
St Luke's**

What made Queen Elizabeth II so admired, respected, and loved by so many across the globe? This moving tribute explores Elizabeth's own answer to that question, highlighting how her dynamic Christian faith shaped her vision for her role, and empowered her to be the inspiring servant and example she was, and remains.

Barrie has ordered 100 copies of 'A Life of Grace', a book written by Mark Greene in celebration of the life and service of our late Queen.

He is offering them at £5.00 per copy for church funds.

There will be a list at the back of church for you to sign if you'd like to buy one (or more).

Please hand the money to Barrie.



A QUIZ FOR THE LONG WINTER EVENINGS

How well do you know your locality? All answers are places in the Stoke-on-Trent and the Staffordshire Moorlands areas. You may want to print this off if you are seeing this on a computer screen. Hint: both ENDON and BAGNALL are answers...but which ones?

Have fun! Answers next month.

(Credit: Clues devised by Thomas Benson)

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1 | There's one in Cheshire, but not with a Pugin church | |
| 2 | My first can come before owl or after Newcastle | |
| 3 | 'No man is an island' poet - all mixed up | |
| 4 | Moorland way rhymes with wholesome breakfast food | |
| 5 | This hill is worth a shot | |
| 6 | Confused slumber | |
| 7 | A high place to expose oneself | |
| 8 | Village of churns? | |
| 9 | Author of 'Kim' and 'If' | |
| 10 | Internet Protocol rocks | |
| 11 | Where rusks come from | |
| 12 | Michael or Martin but not motorcyclist Barry | |
| 13 | Sounds like it might be in those flatlands north of Cambridge | |
| 14 | Towels and T-shirts are made of this | |
| 15 | Tricks everybody | |
| 16 | Potteries town named after Chinese dynasty? | |
| 17 | German sea, English stream | |
| 18 | Falklands capital, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?" | |
| 19 | Orders Quixote or Bradman to smile | |
| 20 | Rhymes with inheritors of the earth in Matthew 5.5 | |
| 21 | 'Lonely cottage' says Oxford Names Companion | |
| 22 | The way to successful punning is neither _____ short | |
| 23 | Feed the boiler | |
| 24 | H ₂ O dwellings | |
| 25 | Upland acorns here? | |
| 26 | DH Lawrence character, 1960 trial | |
| 27 | Mail after shuffling | |
| 28 | Comes before 'tortilla' in alliterative name for an oatcake | |
| 29 | Backward village could be in Wales, a bit like Llareggub | |
| 30 | Cut grass, police officer | |

January Prayer Focus

- **The government of our country in the light of the many current problems**
- **All those affected by the widespread industrial action**
- **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 and landslides 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 especially in Afghanistan where women have been banned from essential aid work**
- **East African countries on the verge of famine**
- **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
- Citizens of poorer countries who have not yet had a COVID vaccine
- Improved safety for women on our streets
- 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 Archdeacon Megan 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 |
| 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 24th 2023.**

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

January 6th EPIPHANY

Out of the four gospels it is only in Matthew that we are told of the visit of the Wise Men but in Isaiah chapter 60 v 1 -3 their visit is prophesied:

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”