



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



May 2023

INTERREGNUM Month 35

CORONATION & WELL DRESSING A Double Crowning!



WELL DRESSING Sat May 27th, Sun 28th and Mon 29th

As usual volunteers are needed to serve teas, welcome visitors and provide cakes, biscuits and scones. Please sign the lists on the church noticeboard if you can help. On Sat 27th the church will be open to visitors from about 3.00pm after the Service of Thanksgiving at 1.30pm (guest speaker Rev Philip Robinson) and at 4.00pm Endon Community Choir will sing.

FLORAL DISPLAYS and PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Members of our Flower & Craft Club will be creating some displays for us but we also hope to display entries to our photographic competition. The theme for both will be The Four Elements: **Fire, Water, Earth and Air**. Entry forms from Sue Forrester or print off your own. (See pages 6 & 7.)

MAY at ST LUKE'S

7th SUNDAY

**9.15am HOLY COMMUNION -
Rev Barry Wilson**

11.00am CONNECTIONS

14th SUNDAY (18th Ascension)

**9.15am MORNING WORSHIP –
Barrie / Roger**

11.00am CONNECTIONS

21st SUNDAY

**9.15am HOLY COMMUNION –
Fr David Nicol**

11.00am CONNECTIONS

27th SATURDAY

**1.30pm WELL DRESSING
SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
with guest speaker Rev Philip
Robinson**

**4.00pm ENDON COMMUNITY
CHOIR in church**

28th SUNDAY

**9.15am MORNING WORSHIP –
Barrie / Roger**

11.00am CONNECTIONS

**7.15pm SONGS of PRAISE
around the Well**



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.

MAY at ST CHAD'S

7th SUNDAY

10.45am FAMILY SERVICE - KH w team

14th SUNDAY (18th Ascension Day)

10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE – KH / MF

21st SUNDAY

**10.45am HOLY COMMUNION
– Rev Barry Wilson**

28th SUNDAY

10.45am MORNING PRAYER - MF

WELL DRESSING WEEKEND

ST LUKE'S CHURCH OPENING TIMES

- Sat 27th from 3.00pm to 8.00pm
- Sun 28th from 1.00pm to 6.00pm
- Mon 29th from 11.00am to 8.00pm
- Tues 30th from 10.30am to 12.30pm

ST LUKE'S CHURCH OFFICE

Unless involved with funeral duties or is unwell, 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.

ECUMENICAL MIDWEEK SERVICES on WEDNESDAYS

Holy Communion at 9.15am

May 3rd at St Luke's

May 10th at the Methodist Church

May 17th at St Luke's

May 24th at the Methodist Church

May 31st at St Luke's



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

Crossing the Bridge: Keeping connections through advancing dementia



My dad lived with dementia for the last 10 years of his life – and that involved a journey of the heart for our whole family, as we stayed in step with him. Through his advancing dementia, we found it helped to cross the bridge and meet him in his own world. Christopher Eccleston, whose father lived with dementia, said, “I eventually learned that, instead of trying pull people with dementia into your world, you have to enter theirs.”

What are the things that help us to cross the bridge, as dementia advances? If language is fraying at the edges, shorter sentences may help. Beyond words, there may be connection through pictures – on an iPad or in a magazine or a book. ‘Pictures to Share’ books are designed for people with dementia – and ‘Strength for the Journey’ from that series focuses on Christian faith. Or you might enjoy making your own scrapbook of pictures.

Music can make such deep connections too. Perhaps you can enjoy singing a favourite hymn or song together. I went to see my aunt one day, and I was waiting for her in the entrance hall of the sheltered accommodation where she lived. A woman was in the hall and it was clear we weren’t going to connect through a rational conversation. I wasn’t sure how to cross the bridge to connect with her. So I made a stab at finding a bridge of connection by starting to sing, “Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer do”. Within a moment, we were both happily singing and dancing round the hall together.

My dad connected with dogs in a new way: they seemed to understand one another, without the need for words! Also, we loved playing with a beach ball together. For his 80th birthday, my brother gave my dad 80 seashells and there was complete, absorbing delight in arranging these. And a Memory Box of objects that bring joy can be a source of on-going connection. Also, touch can be so important – simply staying in touch.

And of course God always keep connection with us, crossing the bridge to meet us where we are, even when we are in uncharted or unchosen territory. God is always alongside, asking, “Where do we go from here?” I love the words from Joshua 1:9, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Dementia Action Week runs from 15-21 May this year. I wonder whether your action might be to try crossing the bridge, meeting someone living with dementia where they are.

*Sarah Thorpe, is the Dementia-Friendly Church Enabler
for Lichfield Diocese*

“Head to Heart: Shared family reflections on living through dementia” is a 30-minute video resource, sharing Sarah Thorpe’s family’s experiences, including sections on “Crossing the Bridge” and “New Ways to Connect”. It’s on YouTube, at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpKbHvSWJtxeszQX7GS6ryE2WhsrzdKuJ> - or simply search “YouTube dementia head to heart”.

For more on our Diocese of Lichfield Dementia-Friendly Churches Network, contact Sarah Thorpe on sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org or 0798 224 8949



Churches Count on Nature 2023

In 2021 we started Churches Count on Nature, working in partnership with the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha. The idea behind Churches Count on Nature is to encourage as many people as possible to visit, explore and enjoy their local churchyard, spotting wildlife and recording what they see. These records are then sent to Caring for God’s Acre; via an online system such as iNaturalist or iRecord, by emailing us the list or by popping it in the post. These records then go to build up a picture of just how important churchyards are for biodiversity, information which we can then share more widely.

We decided to encourage all those involved with Churches Count on Nature to run some sort of nature spotting activity during Love Your Burial Ground week, a celebratory week which has been running for many years now involving those managing burial grounds of all types and denominations including our magnificent cemeteries. Many of you have taken part over the years and even more then joined in since 2021 via Churches Count on Nature. So far, we estimate that over 16,000 people have been involved in this initiative, some of them simply enjoying a visit to a beautiful and peaceful spot and listening to the bird song, others providing a full species list in Latin of the lichens and invertebrates they’ve found!

**The good news is that we are running it all again
from Saturday 3rd to Sunday 12th June, so please join in!**

To take part, have a look on our website for information and inspiration, plan your activity, register it with us and request your free Starter Guides plus a Field Studies Council fold-out chart. Visit our website page **Be Involved** or click [HERE](#). Involvement can be very low key – a few friends listing wildflowers - or can be larger including perhaps your neighbouring school or Messy Church group. If you’re unsure about what to do or who might be interested then start small, previous years feedback suggest that you may be pleasantly surprised at the level of local interest.

We’re hoping for a bumper year in 2023, perhaps the start of local action inspired by Sir David Attenborough and the Wild Isles television series?

We look forward to reading about all the actions taking place across the diocese.

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**





- Every Sunday 10am Worship
- Mondays 10am - 1.30pm Community Café (not bank holidays)
- Wednesdays 9.15am Holy Communion (alternately with St Luke's Parish Church)
- 18th May Thursday 10.30 Fit-as-a-fiddle
- Exercise, conversation and coffee
- 18th May Thursday 2pm –3.30pm Bereavement Café
- 19th & 26th May Friday 10am – noon Carers' Café
- Fridays 6pm 'Blast' – youth club for 7-11 year olds (during term time)

CORONATION AFTERNOON TEA

Monday 8th May at 3pm Tickets £10 each from 07913 842377

WELL DRESSING

Saturday 27th and Monday 29th from 11am

Cream Teas in The Manse Garden, The Village

Sunday 28th at 10am

Worship with the Well Dressing Queen attending

BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ - at Endon Methodist Church

Next one: 14.00 - 15.00 Thursday 18th May 2020 and continuing on the 3rd Thursday of each month. This is an opportunity for people who have been bereaved to meet and chat over a cup of tea or coffee. This is for everyone - people of all faiths or none are very welcome.

ST LUKE'S ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION 2023

Sheila Simpson writes...

The revised roll will be displayed from Sunday April 30th until the APCM which is on Wednesday, 24th May in church or chapter house.



FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB

Message from Sue Forrester 07854 043187

We won't be having a Flower Club meeting in May because it would fall during the week before Well Dressing. The church will be open on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th May for people to set up their displays. (See left for our April arrangement.)

Thank you everyone and I can't wait to see how creative you have been!

And now... GET SNAPPING!

We are well advanced with planning our displays for the Well Dressing Weekend.

As well as depictions of The Elements in flowers, plants and artifacts, we are holding a photography competition for the first time (see below).

Entries will be on display in the church for all our visitors to admire when they come for their refreshments in the Chapter House. Entry forms are available in church and by email from smgibbons3@gmail.com



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

To coincide with Well Dressing Weekend, we are holding our first photography competition.

Photographs should portray one of the 4 Elements –

EARTH – WIND – FIRE – WATER

Entry forms with further details are available in church or you can use the entry form on the next page or from church members or from smgibbons3@gmail.com.

There are two age groups:

Under 16 and Over 16

Closing date is Friday 12th May.

£10 first prize for each category winner.

Photographs will be displayed in church over the Well Dressing Weekend.

St Luke's Church Photography Competition

The photography competition will complement displays of flowers and children's artwork on the theme of 'The Four Elements – Earth, Air, Fire and Water'. Entries will be displayed in the church during Well Dressing Weekend. Judging will take place before Well Dressing Weekend and winners will be notified by email or telephone. There will be a first prize of £10 for the winner of each category.

Rules of Entry

- Photographs must be 7" by 5".
- Photographs must be mounted on white mount board.
- One entry per person in each category
- Entry fee of **£2.50** must accompany each entry.
- There are two age groups – Under 16 and over 16.
- Entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form.
- Entries must be labelled with the name and contact details of the entrant and a short description of the photograph.
- The closing date is Friday 12th May.

Name	Address
Age – Under 16/ Over 16	
Email address	Telephone number

Category/ies entered - **EARTH** **AIR** **FIRE** **WATER**
Entry fee/s enclosed – Cash preferred,
or cheques made payable to Endon St. Luke's PCC

Please deliver entries to
10, The Meadows, Endon, ST9 9BG
(There will be a box in the porch.)
or
Direct to the church via church members.



CHRISTIAN AID WALK

The weather at Tittesworth was rather mixed on Saturday, March 25th but no fewer than 11 walkers showed up from St Luke's and raised **£200** for Christian Aid. Thank you to all walkers and those who sponsored.

PASTORAL TEAM

- **HILLSWOOD LODGE CARE HOME**

Although there is limited space in the lounge area volunteers are welcome to help lead and boost the singing. There is room for about 6 or 7 of us. **The next date is Wednesday May 17th at 11.00am.** Please inform Shirley or Rev Patricia if you are able to come. The residents really enjoy these services and the chats afterwards.

- **WALKS followed by COFFEE / LUNCH**

Members of the pastoral team also arrange short walks followed by either coffee or a light lunch at a café. Listen out for details of the next walk.

CHURCH HEATING: A Message from Sheila H...

At the end of May the heating will be turned off for the duration of the Well Dressing to preserve the flowers. Usually it is left off all summer and turned on again in late September or early October. Don't forget to bring a jacket/cardigan to church.

Please note: On Sunday 28th May (Well Dressing Sunday) there will be no tea or coffee after the 9.15 service.

A BIG, BIG THANK YOU!

Huge thanks to everyone who helped to decorate St Luke's for Easter with the beautiful flowers and also to Sheila and Stan Hurst for all their work in keeping the car park garden weeded, pruned and tidy. (This takes hours!) It's looking lovely and much enjoyed by those going to and from the car park. Also we send our continued appreciation to Sheila for turning the heating on for us during these cold months.

Huge thanks too go to our worship leaders Barry, Roger, Rev Philip, Rev Patricia (who doubles up as organist) and our Connections team (Debbie, Dave, Neil and Sue) without whom we should not have been able to hold our Holy Week and Easter services or run the Lent course.

JAMES

I should like to add a personal and enormous thank you for all the support I have received from members of St Luke's during James's recent spell in hospital and continuing through his current stay at an assessment care home. You are all stars!

Ros



CANDLE DEDICATIONS

for MAY

For £2.50 you can keep the Candle of Hope or the Sanctuary Light burning for a week with a dedication.

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

May	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
7 th	Alan and Maureen Payne to celebrate Alan's birthday (4 th) and Mark's birthday (5 th)	Maureen Foster to celebrate the birthdays of granddaughters Charlotte and Sophie
14 th	Anon in memory of Tom, Emma and Robert Williams	Janet Bowyer in loving memory of Alfred Bowyer, father of Janet Barrie Jackson in celebration of Paulina's birthday
21 st	Sylvia Bradshaw remembering John, a loving and caring husband, dad and granddad	Sue Forrester to celebrate Nick's birthday
28 th	Sylvia Bradshaw to celebrate the 9 th birthday of her granddaughter, Evie	Rosie and Geoff Smith in celebration of the birthday of our granddaughter, Hope Rose

Happy Birthday!



MAY GREETINGS to

Stan Hurst (3rd), Alan Payne (4th), Mark Payne (5th), Matthew Taylor (6th), John Moss (7th), Joe Porter (8th), Vera Tyson (11th she's 106!!), Rachel Foster (12th), James Benson (18th)

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

Brass cleaning postponed! Please note...

The Brass Cleaning has been postponed. Listen out for a re-arranged time before Well Dressing.

St Luke's APCM will be held on **Wed 24th May** at 7.30pm preceded by our usual short PCC meeting at 7.00pm to approve the accounts.

ST CHAD'S NEWS



Gareth the donkey leads the procession through Bagnall village on Palm Sunday.



St Chad's beautiful Easter garden created in the church porch with helpers Florence and Judith.



Easter at St. Chad's

It was absolutely glorious to see our lovely St Chad's bursting at the seams on Easter Sunday! After the subdued and reflective atmosphere of our Good Friday Service, which I have to say that I found profoundly moving, the joyful mood on Sunday really made your heart sing!



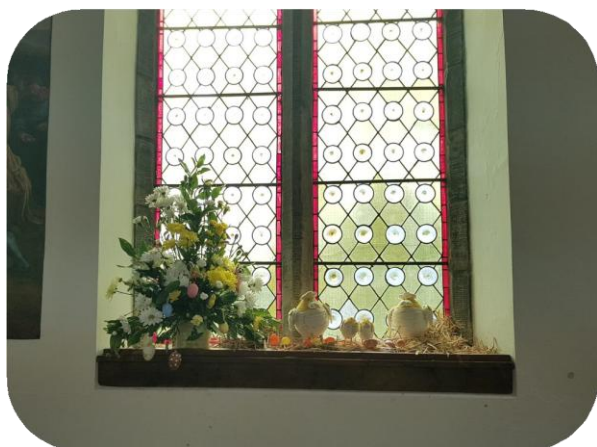
The church looked beautiful, with signs of spring everywhere you looked, courtesy of Barbara and her creative team who worked their magic and transformed St Chad's on Good Friday afternoon.

With the church full to capacity, and a congregation ranging from 3 years to over 90, the energy, joy and exuberance throughout the service was tangible!



With hymns sung with gusto, a fascinating address by Rev Barry and the gift of Easter eggs and knitted cr me egg animals after communion, the service were a delight from start to finish!

A huge round of applause goes to Sheila who had spent countless hours knitting an array of chicks, lambs, rabbits and roosters. She told me after the service that all the effort was worth it, just to see the delight on everyone's face when they were able to choose their own little Easter gift!



A wonderful service, rounded off with delicious, crispy chocolate nests, hand delivered by our very own Flossie in her Easter bonnet!
What a picture!

Esther x



We are always grateful for any donations from our standard shopping list as follows...

Longlife semi-skimmed milk	Fruit squash	Cereals
Pasta sauce	Sponge puddings	Tinned tomatoes
Tinned vegetables	Tinned rice pudding	Teabags/Coffee
Instant mash	Rice	Tinned meat
Tinned potatoes	Tinned fish	Tinned fruit
Tinned soup	Custard	Biscuits/snack bars
Ketchup/brown sauce	Chocolate	

Also...

Household cleaning products –

washing up liquid, multi-surface cleaner, cleaning cloths and laundry liquid.

Toiletries – shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors and shaving foam.

As we are seeing more families with young children, we would particularly welcome **nappies – all sizes**, along with **baby and child toiletries**.

Then not forgetting the four-legged members of the household with a need for **wet and dry dog and cat food**.

If you are a donor, please try to deliver your donations at the Foodbank on Tues and Fri between 10.00 am and 12 noon – as it gets very busy with clients after this time.

Alternatively, you may use any of our Permanent Collection Points which are still available at various locations listed on our website -

<https://leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food>

We now have a collection point in the Leek branch of Asda. We can collect any large donations - please contact the Foodbank to arrange this. If any of you would like to discuss anything relating to the Foodbank or arrange a visit, please contact me at projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk or on 07916 005064.

We continue to welcome corporate volunteers, school groups and individual volunteers, and we are always very happy to show people around and share with them the work we are doing.

Love, best wishes and blessings to you all
Lindsey Stockton, Project Manager

***NEXT COLLECTION at St Luke's and Connections
Sunday May 7th***

ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR

A Celebration Concert

With guest soloist: Erin Brown

Tuesday 9th May
7.00pm

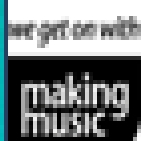
Trinity Church, Derby Street, Leek ST13 5JF

Tickets: £8 from

Leekartsfestival.co.uk or

Call 07826 554208

*or from a choir
member.*



NB Endon Community Choir will be singing in St Luke's at 4.00pm on Well Dressing Saturday, 27th May. Do come along and support. (No charge!)

May Prayer Focus

- Safe passage for those caught up in the current fighting in Sudan and an end to the conflict
- Our new King Charles III and all working members of our royal family
- A warm welcome to all visitors to our church over Well Dressing weekend
- Safety for those attending mosques following the incident whereby an elderly man was set alight on his way home
- The recent upsurge of violence in Northern Ireland
- The current threat from China supporting Russia in the war in Ukraine
- The threat to Taiwan from China
- Those in Turkey, Afghanistan and Syria still in desperate need after devastating earthquakes
- All the aid agencies and volunteer recovery teams
- Urgent resources for Ukraine
- Ukrainian refugees especially children taken from their families and sent to Russia
- Those taken prisoner by the Russians
- An end to the war
- The government of our country
- All those affected by the widespread industrial action
- Our NHS
- Local elections and those elected
- 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 into Afghanistan where women have been banned from working as aid workers
- East African countries on the verge of famine
- The problem of people-trafficking across the Channel and those seeking asylum
- The threat of monkeypox and those currently affected
- All hostages in Iran awaiting release especially Morad Tahbaz and Mehran Raoff
- Improved safety for women on our streets
- The huge problem of loneliness
- Refugees 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*
Rev Philip Robinson (minister w Permission to Officiate)	07983 863372
Rev Patricia Robinson (organist, also minister w PtO)	07854 418488
Revs Philip & Patricia Robinson (landline)	01782 502448
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
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 submit notices for our next newsletter to Ros Benson

by **Tuesday, May 23rd 2023.**

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

CHURCH LUNCH

A lunch is being organised at The Stafford Arms, Bagnall on Friday **30th June** at 12.30 pm. It is a great opportunity for both our congregations and friends from church-related groups to get together for some social time. A £10 deposit will be needed nearer the time and menu choices will be required in advance. Please see Jean, Sophie or Shirley to add your name to the list. **Sue Forrester**

HAVE YOU SPARE STORAGE SPACE IN YOUR GARAGE?

If so please contact Rev Philip.