



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 2024

INTERREGNUM Month 43



The signpost points to storm clouds ahead but rays of sunshine break through.
Let us not give up hope as the world faces an uncertain New Year.



When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

-Howard Thurman-

CIC
DIA

JANUARY at ST LUKE'S

7th SUNDAY - EPIPHANY

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Philip

11.00am CONNECTIONS

14th SUNDAY

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP

Barrie/Roger

11.00am CONNECTIONS

21st SUNDAY

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Fr David Nicol

11.00am CONNECTIONS

28th SUNDAY

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP –

Barrie / Roger

11.00am CONNECTIONS



CONNECTIONS

A FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Sundays at 11am

**at St Luke's CE Academy,
Leek Road in the school hall.
lasting about 40 minutes followed
by games for the children and
refreshments.**

NEXT PCC MEETING

**Wednesday 24th January at 7.30pm
in the chapter house**

JANUARY at ST CHAD'S

7th SUNDAY - EPIPHANY

10.45am FAMILY SERVICE - KH / MF

14th SUNDAY

10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE – KH / MF

21st SUNDAY

10.45am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Barry

28th SUNDAY

10.45am MORNING WORSHIP – KH / MF



Thank you to Andrew for his picture for this month's front page. The message below it is borrowed from Endon Methodist Facebook page.

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.

ECUMENICAL MIDWEEK SERVICES on WEDNESDAYS

Holy Communion at 9.15am

Jan 3rd at St Luke's

Jan 10th at Methodist Church

Jan 17th at St Luke's

Jan 24th at Methodist Church

Jan 31st at St Luke's

PASTORAL TEAM (Phone nos on back page)

HILLSWOOD LODGE CARE HOME: next visit Wed Jan 17th at 11.00am



Volunteers are welcome to help boost the singing. There is room for 6 or 7 of us. Please inform Shirley or Rev Patricia if you are able to come.

The residents really do enjoy these services and the chats afterwards. Rev Patricia led a short Christmas service and used her keyboard to accompany carols on December 20th. The next date will be announced shortly.

Pastoral team members regularly visit folk who are no longer able to attend church. Margaret Woolliscroft, James Benson and Ivy Faulkner for example, are visited. Do get in touch with Shirley if you know of anyone who would like a visit.



Rev Philip also visits James and as well as holding short communion services has been busy making various Meccano models for James who was once a Meccano enthusiast. His latest model was this complex battery-powered robot and was completed over several weeks.



Ros is very appreciative of all the support of the pastoral team and to Chris Sproston who often pops in to have an hour with James and sometimes takes him out to the park in the wheelchair.

WALKS followed by refreshments:

Listen up for details of the next walk. Do join us.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES...

huge thanks to the amazing team who helped in any way to run our Christmas services, decorate our church, provide refreshments and then... dismantle it all before Epiphany! Also thanks to those who dealt with the offerings and locked up after everyone else had gone home.



- **Every Sunday** 10am Worship with Special Annual Covenant Service on Jan 14th (see p11 for Covenant Prayer)
- **Monday** 10am – 1.30 Community Café (not bank holidays).
- **Wednesday** 9.15 Holy Communion
Alternately with St Luke's Parish Church
- **Thursday** 10.30 Fit-as-a-fiddle: Exercise, conversation and coffee
- **Thursday** January 11th 2pm – 3.30pm Bereavement Café
- **Fridays 12th & 26th Jan** : 10 – 12 Friday Friendship. Enjoy conversation over a cuppa! All welcome.
- **Friday** 6pm 'Blast' – youth club for 7-11 year olds (during term time)

Eleanor.smith@methodist.org.uk
01782 503228

ST LUKE'S CE ACADEMY CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



Chairman of Governors Sue writes...

It is always good to welcome to our church the children of St Luke's CE Academy, members of staff and parents. A group of them came in December for a Christingle Service. After battling their way against wind and rain up Church Bank, Year 2 gave family and friends a lovely retelling of the Christmas Story. I could hear every word and the singing was great too.

TOY SERVICE COLLECTON

Thank you to all who contributed to our Christmas collections for Leek Salvation Army and Food Bank albeit a week later than planned due to the church being closed by overnight snow. Thank you also to our star Barrie for loading up all the items and delivering them.





CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED WALKS

Organiser John Bamford writes...

I am delighted to report that the 2023 walk raised **£30,689!** Many thanks to all who contributed towards this very pleasing result.

As promised, arrangements are all in place for next year's walk at Tittesworth to be held on **Saturday, 16th March**. Unfortunately, I also have to inform you that I appear to be developing macular degeneration which means that my vision is likely to deteriorate. However, I am delighted to let you know that Mike Iwaniki, our chairman, whom most of you know and who has been very actively involved in the organisation of our walk since its inception in 1991, has agreed to gradually take over my responsibilities as Walk Organiser. Sponsor forms, a poster to advertise the event and a letter giving further details of the arrangements will be available online early in the New Year as usual when you will receive a 'reminder' email from our secretary Michael Willmot (mwillmot@talktalk.net). We look forward to meeting you again as usual next year.



ELAINE PATRICIA MORREY

25/07/1940 - 3/12/2023 Sheila H writes....

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Elaine Morrey on December 3rd 2023. Elaine was a regular member of the congregation at St Luke's for many years. She usually attended the 11.00 am service as she preferred the less formal style of worship. She also enjoyed the company of young people and children easily related to her. Those who knew her well also

know that she didn't 'do' mornings so the 11.00 am service suited her better than 9.15 am. However she liked to form relationships with all church members. She was always there when help or support was needed. Her name would be on the tea rota at Well Dressing and she loved to help at the children's midweek club run by Rev Joyce. She was a faithful member of the Mothers' Union. She also enjoyed the bible study groups she attended, again lead by Rev Joyce. She was an asset to the prayer chain. Although poor hearing made passing on messages difficult she would always ask who needed prayers and would enquire about their progress months after - she was still praying for them. Over the last few years her health deteriorated and she was unable to come to church but she enjoyed, and appreciated, visits from the pastoral team.

About 3 years ago when her health deteriorated to the point where she was unable to look after herself she made the decision to move to a care home in Sussex nearer to her niece and nephew.

Our condolences go to Lauren and David (niece and nephew). Elaine will be remembered here in St Luke's as her name will be entered into our Book of Remembrance.

If anyone who knew Elaine would like to make a donation in her memory there will be a box at the back of church during January. A cheque will then be sent, from St Luke's church, to the Epilepsy Society. If anyone would prefer to make a personal donation Sheila H has the details.



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. Thank you to all of you who have supported the candle dedications this year.

Shirley is taking dedications for 2024. Please contact her on 504089 as soon as possible if you would like a particular date.

Jan	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
7 th	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
14 th	Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the birthday of daughter in law, Jill	Anon in loving memory of Alice Jones
21 st	The candle is kept burning by Lyn Pickering	Barrie in celebration of Mae's birthday
28 th	Sheila and Stan Hurst in loving memory of Sheila's parents	Sheila and Stan Hurst in loving memory of Stan's parents.



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

Rev Duncan Leake (10th), Dave Podmore (12th),
Rachel Tellwright (18th), Suzy Jordan (20th),
Sheila Simpson, Rev Philip Robinson (23rd)

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



ENDON COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FAYRE held on November 26th

Thank you to Ann, Joe and Barrie for manning the cake stall at the village hall and to those who provided cakes and bought them!

£40 was raised for church funds. Joe presented a cheque for £200 (SMDC fund) to the event organiser Kate Walker for Endon Little Learners.



Project Manager, Lindsey Stockton writes...

Happy New Year and thank you for your support! I hope you had a happy and peaceful festive period and hopefully we will all soon get back to knowing what day of the week it is!! We were pretty busy in the run up to Christmas, but have been quiet since. I'm sure this will change once the children return to school, and the referral agencies get back to normal working. We did not open on Boxing Day, but left emergency food boxes at St Edward's Church, should anyone have been in urgent need. In the end, none of these were required. Although December was busy, it was significantly quieter than December 2022 – figures in brackets – which I hope is a sign that things are starting to improve, but there are still many challenges to be faced as we go through the winter:

Total vouchers fulfilled	= 136	(173)
No. of Adults fed	= 201	(263)
No. of Children fed	= 108	(197)
Total no. fed	= 309	(460)

December was a month filled with donations – both food and money - from many different sources. Whilst not in any way wanting to single out any one donation, I have to commend all those linked to Leek Town Football Club, for the amazing amount gifted to us at their match on 16th December. Two of our Team Leaders attended the game – don't worry they're very keen fans so no arm twisting was involved! – and gathered an amazing 335.7kg of food and £207.00 in cash. This was the idea of their Marketing & Community Manager, and he is very keen that we should have an ongoing link with the club, which will be great for us, and I fully intend to be the one to attend the matches in the future!

We also gave toy donations to families in particular need, largely due to the generosity of gifts to the Salvation Army, with whom we work particularly closely at Christmas, but also to a collection held at The Original Factory Shop in Congleton. And, a small independent shop owner in Leek asked if we could nominate a family for her to support, which she did in great style, with some absolutely beautiful donations. We really did do as much as we could to ensure that our clients managed to have some sort of Christmas, and it was so heartwarming to see the happiness that we were able to provide. Despite the phenomenal generosity of so many around us, we do still need to buy food to maintain our stock levels. Last month 9.15% of our stock was purchased, compared with 5.81% in December 2022, so, a reminder again of the importance of monetary donations to help us in our work. If anybody wishes to make a donation, instructions are given on our website – leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk - with the easiest method being via the Just Giving button. But I'm happy for anyone to contact me directly or to pop into the Foodbank on a Tuesday or Friday.

During my fortnight's holiday, I was overwhelmed by the number and variety of offers of donations and donations received. I've had to make a list so I don't lose track! We received a sizeable cash donation from Falco UK Ltd, based in Leekbrook, and a lovely individual donation from a beekeeper who gave us the money he made from his honey glut! I would like to emphasise how important monetary donations are. We need to purchase stock – 12% of our stock was purchased in November 2023 compared with 8% in November 2022.

Money given can be put towards individual projects, like the voucher scheme with Ash's Butchers, which enables our clients to have fresh meat. If anybody wishes to make a donation, instructions are on our website – leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk - the easiest method being via the Just Giving button. But I'm happy for anyone to contact me directly or to pop into the Foodbank on a Tuesday or Friday.

We welcomed a class from St Mary's Primary School and I also had the privilege of visiting 2nd Leek (All Saints) Brownies. It is really heartwarming to see and hear how informed young children seem to be about some of the financial issues faced by "grown-ups", and gives me hope for the future. With everything in pretty short supply, all donations are very gratefully received.

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

Household cleaning products:

Washing up liquid
Multi surface cleaner
Cleaning cloths/sponges
Laundry liquid/capsules/powder

Toiletries:

Shampoo and conditioner
Shower gel and soap
Toothpaste and toothbrushes
Deodorant
Razors and shaving foam

Babies:

Nappies – all sizes PARTICULARLY NEED SIZE 2 AT THE MOMENT
Nappy bags
Wet wipes
Baby shampoo and bath lotion
Cotton wool
Talcum powder

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 are also able to 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.

***NEXT COLLECTION at St Luke's and Connections: Sunday January 7th
(We donated 53kg in December)***

FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB

Wednesday, January 10th

in the Chapter House from 1pm to 3pm If you would like to come and watch, have a cuppa and a chat or bring knitting, you would be very welcome too. **Sue**



Here are more photos of our evening with Pauline and Jeanette watching them create delightful Christmas displays on November 23rd. Thanks to them and to the amazing support crew who provided tea/coffee and a delicious array of cakes! **£312** was raised for church funds.



and OUR ART CLUB...



Our next club meeting will be on a Saturday, date to be confirmed, from 10.00am to 12noon.

Pencils, crayons and sketch pads are needed. Nicola demonstrates techniques for drawing still life and is very encouraging to those who feel they have no talent in this area! A **£2** donation covers tea, coffee and biscuits. You don't need to come every time and can book on to sessions that interest you.

Further information about the Art and Flower & Craft Clubs please contact Sue Forrester on 07854 043187.

WREATH MAKING on December 2nd

Sue writes...

What a brilliant afternoon we had making Christmas wreaths in church with fantastic results as you can see. One was hung in church to add to the decorations already in place. A good time was had by all. £375 was raised for church funds.



BLANKETS REQUESTED Leek Foodbank is now also collecting knitted blankets - they're made up of squares, again. They're for people who depend on Foodbank and who struggle with their heating bills.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

is always on 27th January,
the day in 1945 when
Auschwitz was liberated



The Fragility of Freedom

Saturday 27th January 2024
3pm - 4pm
St Edward's Parish Church, Leek

**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1**

Speakers include Rev Eleanor Smith of Endon
who studied at the
International School for Holocaust Studies,
Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

METHODIST COVENANT SERVICE

In Methodist Churches we hold our annual Covenant Service in January.
We re-affirm our commitment to God as Christians in the Covenant Prayer.
We recognise that God is in control and in all things we trust Him who loves us.

*I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done
when I am valued and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things, and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all I have and am
to serve you, as and where you choose.*

*Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so forever.
Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.*

ST CHAD'S NEWS



Christmas Joy in Bagnall!



St Chad's outdoor carol service has become quite a tradition since lockdown. It is now a popular event enjoyed by members of the church and many from the wider community. Here is a jolly group outside the Stafford Arms. The lych-gate looks stunning.

‘Pathways’ is Back!

The New Year often begins for many people with resolutions on how we can improve our lifestyle or learn something new in the coming year. These aspirations often focus on health and physical fitness goals, but it’s also a good time to review our mental and spiritual wellbeing – maybe reflecting on questions such as, what interests me, what can I offer, what’s my role, how could I serve my congregation and community? These are questions we would call ‘vocation’ questions.

We’ve had a popular introductory course for thinking about vocation in Lichfield Diocese for many years, and after a short break the Pathways course is back! The Vocations and Training team have reimagined Pathways to make it more flexible and accessible and we’d love you to come and join us. Pathways has three modules that run throughout the year. The modules are designed to prompt people to explore vocational questions through different books of the New Testament (The Gospel of Mark, 1 Corinthians and the Book of Acts). People can complete one, two or all three modules. Each module is design to be completed during an academic term, around 12 weeks in total. Each module is structured as below:

- Introduction – 1 hour Zoom gathering.
- 4 weeks of online content (one section per week, around 1 hour)
- A mid-way 1 hour Zoom gathering.
- 3/4 weeks of online content (one section per week, around 1 hour)
- Final 1 hour Zoom gathering.

There are points throughout the online content where we will ask you to leave a comment on an online discussion board (forum) as part of the course. And there is the option at the end of a module to provide a final reflection. Our ‘Exploring Vocation through Mark’s Gospel’ module begins on **Wednesday 24th January**, 7.30 – 8.30pm with an online Zoom together. Costs should not be a barrier, but we ask for £10 from your parish, per module. Please contact us if this is an issue. Applications need to be submitted through our online booking form which can be accessed from the website (search for Pathways). You will need your Incumbent/Vicar’s agreement to join this course as well as access to a laptop/computer. Any questions contact Helen (helen.scheven@lichfield.anglican.org) There is also the option for deaneries to facilitate an in-person Pathways module(s) locally should you have the numbers for this – please contact Helen for further information about this option.

Helen Scheven is the Training Coordinator for the diocese’s Vocations and Training department with a particular oversight of the Pathways course.

For further information and application form, please see lichfield.anglican.org/vocations-and-training/pathways-to-ministry





Winter Moths

When the nights are long and cold, we do not think of seeing insects, but spare a thought for the Winter Moth which can withstand freezing temperatures and can be seen on the wing between October and January.

For many of us, we see the Winter Moth in car headlights when driving in small lanes after dark, it is pale brown in colour and can be seen fluttering. They are attracted to light however, and so will come to a moth trap if you want a closer look. Winter Moths are widespread, occurring in many places with trees and shrubs, so not particularly a churchyard species but, as with so many other creatures, churchyards will be a haven for them, particularly if they provide a space away from artificial lights which can be so disorientating to insects.

Unusually, females cannot fly, they have small stubby wings and are dark grey, giving them camouflage as they clamber up tree trunks to summon males. The females attract a mate by giving off pheromones, which draw in the flying males. Their eggs are then laid on the bark of the tree and don't hatch until spring, when tiny green caterpillars emerge. The caterpillars feed on tree leaves, eating a range of species including oak, sycamore, beech and willow. Caterpillars can also travel from tree to tree by spinning long threads of silk which act as a sail, carrying them through the air.

In the spring Winter Moth caterpillars are an important food for woodland birds, particularly the tit family. In January there is less food around and these small birds can be seen searching within the crevasses and nooks and crannies of trees for a range of adult invertebrates including Winter Moths, and also the overwintering larvae of other species.

Why not take a torch-lit walk and see if you can see a Winter Moth or even, if you are lucky, a female on a tree trunk. Alternatively wait for spring and look in April or May for the caterpillars chomping leaves, or a bluetit eating a caterpillar! The caterpillars are tiny, green and have a dark stripe on the top of their bodies. If you care for a church or churchyard then please consider the insects when planning outdoor lighting, having dark areas or lights which go off for part of the night can be beneficial to many species.

All the best, Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cpga.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***



NEW YEAR QUIZ

In winter what a delight to see the lacy, spidery patterns made by the branches of our leafless trees against the evening sky as the sun goes down, especially when driving through Leekfrith and Rudyard around teatime. This photo was taken along High Up Lane.

So... why not celebrate our trees!

With Christmas over and the cold days and long evenings ahead, you may like to curl up with this quiz. Here are the clues. All the answers are names of trees. No prizes but you will be able to check your answers next month.

1	Mixed up Kate	
2	Is going to be in debt	
3	An ember or a request for silence	
4	Found in Barrow and Jarrow	
5	Who in France is mixed up with a rose that's not right?	
6	Cared about	
7	Studied timber at university I hear	
8	Popular without you	
9	All right about an article	
10	A cry some altered	
11	Sounds like the second person	
12	Ample redistribution	
13	I'm among the French	
14	People from the north long for this	
15	Home changed with barn conversion	
16	A pig among plenty	
17	Instrument of chastisement from precious metal	
18	Could be an aircraft	
19	Appear among bee changes	
20	A thousand follow the Spanish leader	

BIBLE STUDIES

These are opportunities to meet and discuss the bible readings on the sheet the previous Sunday. Keep your Readings Sheet and bring it with you. Meet at 19.30 at Claremont, St George's Avenue (home of James and Ros). The next meetings will be on **Wednesday, January 10th & Monday, January 22nd**. All welcome. If you need a lift or can offer a lift to someone please contact Rev Patricia.

January Prayer Focus

- **Thnakfulness for the miracle of 379 passengers safely evacuated from the aircraft on fire in Japan**
- **Those seriously affected by the severe earthquake in Japan and those who sadly lost their lives in the small aircraft which collided with the passenger jet**
- **The families of all those whose loved ones have been murdered over the Christmas period**
- **The families and friends of those shot dead or were badly injured in the shooting at Prague University**
- **The truly horrendous situation in Israel and Gaza and especially the hostages**
- **A permanent cease-fire and the release of all hostages and for desperately needed aid getting into Gaza**
- **Many thousands still experiencing dire living conditions and deep sadness having lost loved ones as a result of the recent severe flooding in Libya and the earthquake in Morocco as well as aid agencies trying desperately to help**
- **Inhabitants of the Hawaiian island Maui devastated by wild fires**
- **An end to the war in Ukraine and parts of Ukraine devastated by bombing and the people affected**
- **Climate change and the urgent need to combat its effects**
- **The serious consequences of shipments of grain being prevented from reaching their destinations, especially the African countries**
- **Those taken prisoner by the Russians**
- **Serious concerns about the growth of Artificial Intelligence and its influence on all our lives**
- **Safe passage for those caught up in the current fighting in Sudan and an end to the conflict**
- **King Charles III and all working members of our royal family**
- **The recent upsurge of violence in Northern Ireland**
- **The current threat from China and N Korea supporting Russia in the war in Ukraine**
- **The threat to Taiwan from China**
- **All aid agencies and volunteer recovery teams**
- **The problems of AI and managing 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**
- **Organisations striving to get aid into Afghanistan where women have been banned from working as aid workers**
- **The problem of people-trafficking across the Channel and those seeking asylum**
- **All hostages in Iran awaiting release especially Morad Tahbaz and Mehran Raoff**
- **The huge problem of loneliness**
- **Refugees in Yemen and the US border with Mexico**
- **Loved ones and all in our parish who are currently unwell**
- **Our church wardens and worship leaders during the interregnum**
- **The future of our benefice following more than 3 years of interregnum**
- **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 Stoke.**
- **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**

From Barrie....

I came across this over Christmas - I'm sure you've probably seen it before, as it was written for the George VI's Christmas Message, not long before the outbreak of World War II. It struck me with a new force, given all that's going on in the world around us.

THE GATE OF THE YEAR

'God Knows'

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

*So heart be still:
What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.*

God knows.

*His will is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; In Him,
All time hath full provision.*

*Then rest: until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.* [\[3\]](#)

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 / Art Club	07854 043187
Deb Podmore, Connections / school chaplain	01782 773383
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	01782 502006
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	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
Claire Houston-Brown, St Chad's Safeguarding Officer	07779 667470
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, January 23rd 2024**

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

PRAYER BREAKFASTS

It is being planned to hold a monthly prayer breakfast on the first Saturday of each month starting in the New Year. Our first one will be on **Feb 3rd** at 8.30am for 9.00am start in the chapter house with a 10.00am finish.

2024... HAPPY NEW YEAR?

As we go into an uncertain New Year let us all continue to pray for a massive outbreak of **PEACE** in our very troubled world.