

### 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

March 2024

# **INTERREGNUM Month 45**

# MOTHERING SUNDAY HOLY WEEK and EASTER

Please see next pages for details of services for these key events in our Christian calendar. This year there are extra events for Holy Week. Don't miss 'EXPERIENCE EASTER' on Wed 27th!

# March 1<sup>st</sup> WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

at the Methodist Church 2pm prepared by Christian women of Palestine.



The invitation to write the service for 2024 was an opportunity to reflect on



continuing challenging times, encouraging Palestinian Christian

women to keep searching for a deeper understanding among all the people who share the land, trusting for and hoping in the humanity of one another.

### MARCH at ST LUKE'S

3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Philip 11.00am CONNECTIONS

10<sup>th</sup> MOTHERING SUNDAY 9.15am MORNING WORSHIP Barrie/Roger 11.00am CONNECTIONS

17<sup>th</sup> PASSION SUNDAY 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Fr David Nicol 11.00am CONNECTIONS

24<sup>th</sup> HOLY WEEK : PALM SUNDAY 9.15am MORNING WORSHIP – Barrie / Roger 11.00am CONNECTIONS 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> see diary p3

28<sup>th</sup> MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.30pm HOLY COMMUNION w foot-washing

29<sup>th</sup> GOOD FRIDAY 2.00 – 3.00 AN HOUR AT THE CROSS

31<sup>st</sup> EASTER SUNDAY 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION 11.00am CONNECTIONS



### MARCH at ST CHAD'S

3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY 10.45am FAMILY SERVICE - KH and team

10<sup>th</sup> MOTHERING SUNDAY 10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE – KH / MF

17<sup>th</sup> PASSION SUNDAY 10.45am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Barry Wilson

24<sup>th</sup> PALM SUNDAY 10.45am MORNING WORSHIP – KH / MF with Gareth the donkey

7<sup>th</sup> 11.00am GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - KH

31<sup>st</sup> EASTER SUNDAY 10.45am HOLY COMMUNION - Rev P Robinson



Don't forget CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR Sat 30th March

#### **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 Mar 6th at Methodist Church Mar 13<sup>th</sup> at Methodist Church Mar 20<sup>th</sup> at St Luke's Mar 27<sup>th</sup> at St Luke's

March 2024: ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY (EMC = Endon Methodist Church)				
F	Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>	St David's Day / 2.00pm WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at EMC		
Sa	2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.30am PRAYER BREAKFAST in chapter house		
Su	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15am HC / 11.00 Connections FOOD BANK COLLECTION		
М	4 <sup>th</sup>			
Т	5 <sup>th</sup>			
W	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am HC at EMC / 1.00 – 3.00pm FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB chapter house		
Th	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am and 7.00pm LENT COURSE in chapter house		
F	8 <sup>th</sup>			
Sa	9 <sup>th</sup>			
Su	10 <sup>th</sup>	MOTHERING SUNDAY 9.15am Morning Worship / 11.00 Connections		
М	11 <sup>th</sup>			
Т	12 <sup>th</sup>			
W	13 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am HC at St Luke's / 7.30pm PCC in chapter house		
Th	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am and 7.00pm LENT COURSE in chapter house		
F	15 <sup>th</sup>			
Sa	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED WALK at Tittesworth		
Su	17 <sup>th</sup>	PASSION SUNDAY St Patrick's Day 9.15am HC / 11.00 Connections		
М	18 <sup>th</sup>			
Т	19 <sup>th</sup>			
W	20 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am HC at EMC / 11.00am Hillswood Lodge pastoral team visit		
Th	<b>21</b> <sup>st</sup>	10.30am and 7.00pm LENT COURSE in chapter house		
F	22 <sup>nd</sup>			
Sa	23 <sup>rd</sup>			
Su	24 <sup>th</sup>	HOLY WEEK: PALM SUNDAY 9.15am Morning Worship / 11.00 Connections		
М	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm Meditative Service at St Luke's		
Т	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Reading of Mark's Gospel at EMC with coffee		
W	27 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am HC at St Luke's 10.30am EXPERIENCE EASTER *		
Th	28 <sup>th</sup>	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.30pm HC w foot-washing (7.00om HC at EMC)		
F	29 <sup>th</sup>	GOOD FRIDAY 2pm - 3pm An Hour at the Cross (10.00am Reflective Worship EMC)		
Sa	30 <sup>th</sup>	2pm - 4pm Outside EMC: Decorate the Cross Clocks forward one hour tonight!		
Su	31 <sup>st</sup>	EASTER DAY 9.15am HC / 11.00 Connections (10.00am HC at EMC)		

### **NEXT ST LUKE'S PCC MEETING & APCM**

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the chapter house. Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.30pm preceded by our usual short PCC meeting at 7.00pm to approve the accounts.

### **\*EXPERIENCE EASTER**

An All Age Event with refreshments Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am – 12.30pm Bring the family. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



### PASTORAL TEAM (Phone nos on back page)

### HILLSWOOD LODGE CARE HOME: next visit Wed March 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

Pastoral team members regularly visit folk who are no longer able to attend church. Do get in touch with Shirley if you know of anyone who would like a visit.

### WALKS followed by refreshments:

16 of us walked round Knypersley Pool on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> which was a dry day. Afterwards most of the group sped to the golf club café for a coffee and light lunch. Listen up for details of the next walk. Do join us.

# The Methodist Church

- Every Sunday 10am Worship
- 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 March 14th 2pm –3.30pm Bereavement Café
- Fridays 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March: 10 12 Friday Friendship. Enjoy conversation over a cuppa! All welcome.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March: 10 12 Saturday Coffee Pot Chocolate Delight (chat with coffee)
- Friday 6pm 'Blast' youth club for 7-11 year olds (during term time)

# **OUR ECUMENICAL LENT COURSE**

"Not a Tame Lion" continues on Thursdays until March 21<sup>st</sup> in the chapter house at 10.00am and 7.00pm. Choose whichever session is more convenient for you. Leaders are Rev Patricia and Rev Eleanor. For background reading see CS Lewis's books 'Surprised by Joy', 'The Screwtape Letters', 'Mere Christianity' and 'The Last Battle'. Attendance at the Film Night was disappointing with just 14 adults and no children! Thank you to the Methodist Church for hosting

and to Rev Patricia for providing popcorn and choc ices.

#### Eleanor.smith@methodist.org.uk 01782 503228







We believe in life before death

# NORTH STAFFS CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED WALK

# To be held at

# TITTESWORTH WATER

(Three miles north of Leek, just off the A53)

# SATURDAY 16th MARCH 2024

#### **REGISTRATION FROM 9.15am**

### WALK STARTS AT 10.00am

The walk will be launched by

The Bishop of Stafford and the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent Special Guest the High Sheriff of Staffordshire Mrs Victoria Hawley

Sponsorship forms and more information from your local church or phone John Bamford (01782 516137) or contact Mike Willmot at **mwillmot@talktalk.net** 

By kind permission of Severn Trent Water

Sponsorship forms can be obtained from Barrie or you can sign the one on the church noticeboard. Do consider taking part in the walk which can be the shorter walk of about 2 miles or the longer one of about 5 miles.



## **CANDLE DEDICATIONS for MARCH**

For  $\pounds 2.50$  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.

Mar	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alan and Maureen Payne to celebrate the birthday of their grandson Ollie (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	Barrie Jackson in celebration of Chris's birthday.
10 <sup>th</sup>	Maureen Foster in loving memory of her parents, George and Catherine Davenport	Barrie Jackson in celebration of Emma's birthday
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mabel McGrath to celebrate the birthdays of son David and grandson Ewan Also precious memories of Kath Williamson from Alan and all the family	Ann Boulton In loving memory of her parents Shirley Brindley to celebrate the 8 <sup>th</sup> birthday of granddaughter, Emma
<b>24</b> <sup>th</sup>	Alan and Maureen Payne to celebrate Maureen's birthday (28 <sup>th</sup> )	The candle is kept burning by Avril Weaver
<b>31</b> <sup>st</sup>	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant	Alan and Maureen Payne in loving memory of Joe and Lil Brierley, parents of Maureen



# **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to**

Olly Payne (2<sup>nd</sup>), Steve Dale (3<sup>rd</sup>), Claire Salt (4<sup>th</sup>), John O'rourke (6<sup>th</sup>), Ros Benson (15<sup>th</sup>), Deb Podmore (16<sup>th</sup>), Vicky Barlow (17<sup>th</sup>), Chris Jackson (20<sup>th</sup>), Wendy Bardell, Maureen Payne (28<sup>th</sup>)

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



## **GREETINGS and CONGRATULATIONS**

to Alan Williamson. A well known and respected member of our community both here and in the Staffordshire Moorlands especially among the farming community, Alan celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in January. For many years he served on our parish council and on our

district council where he held the office of chairman for a year. He was chairman of governors at St Luke's CE Academy and was a very active member of the Endonian Society and Well Dressing Committee. He has a keen interest in steam engines and on one occasion kindly loaned out his locomotive 'Wimblebury' (based at Foxfield) to raise funds for the village hall. You may have seen his steam lorry 'The Sentinel' which is taken out for an airing now and then. Alan spent his birthday at his Gate House home surrounded by his family and many friends. His great-grandson Lucas accompanied them all on the piano to sing 'Happy Birthday'.



This report arrived too late for our February newsletter.

### Project Manager, Lindsey Stockton writes...

**Thank you all for your donations for January.** Well, here we are at the beginning of February. Everyone seems to be very

joyful that January is behind us, but just where is the time going? For us at the Foodbank, January is always a bit of a catch-up month as things can get slightly frenetic around the Christmas season. This January has been no different, and we have even managed to do some long overdue "spring" cleaning, not everyone's favourite occupation, but very therapeutic! The usage figures for January reflect a continuing drop in demand, which I think is partly due to a marginally improving economic situation, but also, I think, the help that we have been able to give to our clients, in signposting them to robust and effective financial help. Here are the numbers for January 2024, with January 2023 in brackets:

Total vouchers fulfilled	= 97	(126)
No. of Adults fed	= 143	(184)
No. of Children fed	= 82	(109)
Total no. fed	= 225	(293 )

An interesting statistic to draw from these figures is that the 97 vouchers issued were for 92 separate households – ie 87 households had one voucher during the month, and 5 households had 2 vouchers. So only 5% of the clients we saw came more than once during the month, whereas the figure in January 2023 was 23%. This is indicative of the support we are now able to offer clients with our partnership agencies and due to the work that we have been doing with individual clients to prevent Foodbank "dependence". Our "financial inclusion" project – this is the project funded by a grant from Trussell Trust which enables us to have an in-house Citizens Advice Advisor – now running for a year, and we held an annual review meeting for the project during January. The meeting looked at the number of clients who were unlikely to need the Foodbank again as a result of this intervention. Without wanting to overwhelm you with too many figures, suffice it to say that all targets set when the funding was granted are being hit, and I would be happy to discuss with anyone who would like any further information. All this is very positive.

We will be surveying clients to see what their experience of "financial inclusion" has been. This is a part of a national study, covering all Foodbanks who currently have a "financial inclusion" service and willing to take part. This is not only to gauge the effectiveness of the service as a whole across the country but also to hear from those who have used the service and to learn from their experiences, good and bad. We will be asked to help our clients to complete this survey, by appointing "survey champions". If any of you are interested in finding out more about this role, please let me know. Also in January, we held our AGM, and have been enormously fortunate in being able to recruit three new Trustees. So, welcome to Debbie, Harold and Clive, all of whom I know will be huge assets to the Foodbank. I'm hoping that they will be happy to introduce themselves in future editions of this newsletter – no pressure!

We were very fortunate to again be nominated as the charity of choice for the Morrisons Giving Tree in the run up to Christmas, which has resulted in us receiving an amazing £810.00 worth of vouchers to spend in the store. You may see me trying to manoeuvre a heavily laden trolley in one or other of the aisles! Seriously, this will help us greatly with restocking our shelves. Our stock levels are healthier than they have been – last year we received 1443kg more of food than we gave out – but there are still certain items that we could do with more of. I've reduced the shopping list below to focus on these core items.

FOOD

Fruit squash Longlife sponge puddings						
ned rice pudding	Coffee - 100/200gm					
ned custard	Tinned meat					
ned fruit	Tinned rice pudding					
Rice – 500gm/microwave pouches						
Chocolate biscuits/bars						
	glife sponge pudding ned rice pudding ned custard ned fruit					

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

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

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 <u>https://leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/givehelp/donate-food/. We are also able to collect any large donations - please contact the Foodbank to arrange this.</u> 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 March 3rd . Our donations for January amounted to 72kg.

# **FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB**

Next session: Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> with the theme of spring, in the Chapter House from 1pm to 3pm.



Here's a gorgeous arrangement by one of our talented Flower Club members created at our February meeting. We were very pleased to welcome two new ladies. We had a most enjoyable afternoon.

If you would like to come and watch, have a cuppa and a chat or bring knitting, you would be very welcome too.

Bring your own choice of flowers, foliage and container. Any suggestions for the Well Dressing Weekend Flower Festival will be welcome.

Sue

# and OUR ART CLUB...



Our next meeting will be on a Saturday, date to be confirmed, from 10.00am to 12noon. We plan an exhibition of work for Well Dressing weekend. 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 from Sue Forrester on 07854 043187.

OUR LENT LUNCH held on Ash Wednesday was every well supported and raised £260 for Leek Food Bank. A huge thank you to boose for fo

# CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR

### Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad THE LENTEN JOURNEY

March begins with the celebration of the lives of two saints; on 1st March we have St David, (or Dewi Sant) C6th Bishop of Wales and on 2nd March we have St Chad, C7th first Bishop of Lichfield and our patron. These days punctuate Lent, giving us an opportunity to pause and reflect on how the holy people of old patterned their lives on that of Christ. We might consider how we may learn from their ancient wisdom at this point on our Lenten journey. It's a journey which has a distinctive shape, beginning with a purposeful focus on discipline, fasting and intentional holiness; it moves inexorably toward the intensity of its conclusion in Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the Cross.

Yet during these middle weeks of Lent we find ourselves with Jesus in the wilderness, a place of desolation and abandonment; yet paradoxically, it's potentially a time of great spiritual growth, if we dare to withdraw, to enter deeply into a time of self-examination and keep company with Jesus. We are invited to dwell, abide, to wait, to 'tarry', to slow down in our journey. We can learn much from the Celtic saints who lived the monastic life for whom these practices were embedded in their 'Rule of Life'.

Earlier this year, I chose Jeremiah 6:16 as a guiding verse: "Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'" It seems to me that Lent is indeed a good time to pause at the crossroads and look to those ancient paths and perhaps heed the prophet's words to take them?

One of the distinctive characteristics of both these saints, Dewi and Chad, is that they were encouragers of others in their mission. As founders of monasteries, they built communities of learning; but they also lived lives of discovery and adventure, spreading the Christian message and gathering disciples as they went. They recognised the wisdom of taking time out to rest, pray and study. We owe them, and so many others, much gratitude for their legacy of Christian practice.

In our Chad Foundations programme we have sought to embed some of these principles and practices in preparation for public ministry. The Chad programme allows those taking the first steps into ministry to explore what it feels like to be part of a learning community, albeit mostly online, in the virtual world of Moodle; yet we also take time out to pray, eat, study and enter into retreat together on our gathered days. We travel as companions together in small groups. Chad aims to be a journey of adventure and discovery, of exploring ministry and mission, where we can examine that vocational question, 'What is it Lord, that you have called me to do?'. As we each continue on our individual Lenten

journeys, I wonder if that question is one that saints like Chad and Dewi might help us answer?

> Clare Whitney - Lay Ministerial Learning and Development Officer <u>clare.whitney@lichfield.anglican.org</u> For information about the Chad Foundations Programme see the webpage: <u>lichfield.anglican.org/chad-foundations</u>.



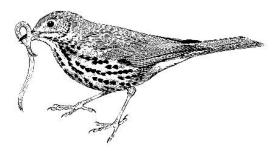


# The Storm Cock sings in March

March is a great month to search for and listen to mistle thrushes. They start to breed in February and by March can be heard proclaiming from the tops of tall trees. Unlike other thrushes such as song thrush or blackbird, mistle thrushes are

know for singing during stormy weather, hence the name storm cock. They are also called Throstles, an old word for thrush. By perching high to sing, they amplify their already loud song which can be heard up to 2km away. Compared to other thrushes the mistle thrushes

song is more monotonous and piercing but still a joyful sound to hear and a herald of spring. You can identify the three thrushes by their song and once you have learned the difference they are quite easy to separate. Have a listen on the RSPB website as a starting point.



Mistle thrushes favour parkland conditions with big trees and grassland, where they feed on a wide variety of invertebrates. Churchyards and cemeteries can be perfect for them having mature soils full of invertebrates, few or no pesticides and mature trees for perching and nesting. Many burial grounds contain evergreen trees which were planted during the nineteenth century, these are now mature and offer excellent habitat for thrushes as well as other birds and animals.

Mistle thrushes are currently in decline in the UK and churchyards and cemeteries may be important strongholds for them. We would love to know how many churchyards have mistle thrushes breeding in them, and if you hear one singing, this will be a male who is proclaiming his territory so a good indicator of breeding. Please let Caring for God's Acre know by making a record on iNaturalist, you can do this by recording the song or taking a photo of the bird. Alternatively you can email wildlife@cfga.org.uk.

All the best, Harriet

<u>Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk</u>, <u>www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk</u> - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22** 

**THANK YOU** to Alan Payne for all his efforts in tidying the paths around the lychgate and church door as well as the flower border. Joe intends to put in some alpine plants and would appreciate donations.

### ADVANCE NOTICE: A date for your diary!

**'Spring Serenade'** concert on **Friday 26th April** at 7pm in church. This will be a concert given by City of Stoke on Trent Male Voice Choir. Tickets will be available soon at £7.50 and include refreshments.



# A QUIZ FOR SPRING!

With winter over and spring bulbs now pushing their heads above the soil to cheer us on our way, let's celebrate our flowers. All the answers are names of common flowers found in hedgerows and gardens. As before, no prizes but the answers will be in next month's newsletter.

1	Well dressed large cat		
2	Accessory for a sly animal		
3	Two girls make a herb		
4	They surround the mouth		
5	Spread the drinking vessel		
6	A shy lady		
7	Farm worker's money holder		
8	Photograph a mythical beast		
9	Bovine slide		
10	Very wise plant		
11	Not the macho type		
12	Pussy flavouring for the lamb		
13	Lamp from the Far East		
14	For a clean sweep		
15	Occurs on a cold winter's day		
16	Demure English emblem		
17	Sounds like herds of sheep		
18	Noisy frogs and toads		
19	Foggy amour		
20	Sugary vegetable		
21	Carried at a wedding		
22	High temperature scarcity		
23	Waits for no man we hear		
24	Wise king's fastener		
25	Very sad Big Ben		
26	Shellfish in a wheat field		
27	Christmas bush with a pig's leg		
28	Not grown on an elderly lady		
29	On the rear of tandem		
30	Riding equipment for a bird		

# **March Prayer Focus**

- The wife and family of opposition leader Alexei Navalny and the repercussions of his death in Russia and around the world
- Ukraine and the urgent need for arms
- Safety for shipping in the Red Sea and the financial consequences of longer journeys around the Cape
- Our king as he undergoes cancer treatment
- Those adversely affected by the recent storms, floods, doctors' strikes and rail strikes
- The families of all those whose loved ones have been murdered
- 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 current threat from China and N Korea supporting Russia in the war in Ukraine
- 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 nearly 4 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
- 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

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Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship / PCC chair	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, reader / St Luke's PCC Sec /	07510 074097
Administrator (* tel no for church enquiries)	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 /	07854 043187
Safeguarding Officer / St Luke's Facebook / Art Club	
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, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2024

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

### **CLEANER FOUND for ST LUKE'S**

We are very grateful that Deb Dale (married to our treasurer Steve) has kindly agreed to take on this job. Thanks very much Deb!

### **Stop Press: SAD NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S**

Vera Tyson has died aged 106! Vera must surely hold the record for being the oldest member of our benefice. Her husband David was a lay reader and often helped out taking Evensong services at St Luke's in the 1960s and 70s when Rev Tony Alban was our vicar. A stalwart for a great many years, she will be greatly missed by the folk at St Chad's.