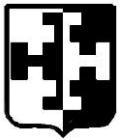




**THE UNITED BENEFICE of ST LUKE'S,  
ENDON with ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL**

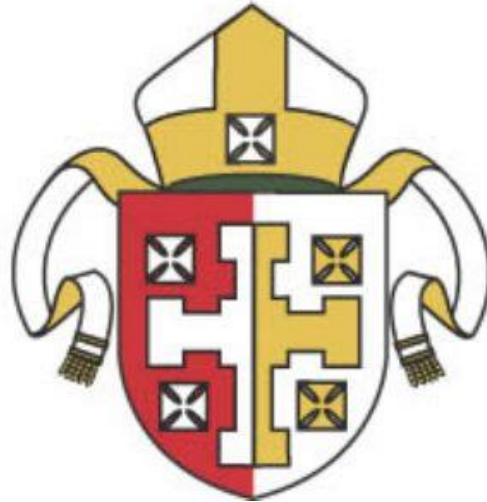


*"Sharing God's Love"*

Vicar: Rev Alan Betts Tel: 01782 502166

alan@endonstlukes.org.uk www.endonstlukes.org.uk

**September 2018**



**Congratulations to  
our very own  
Barrie Jackson!**

Having successfully completed his formal training as a lay reader Barrie will be licensed by Bishop Michael in **LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL** on



**SATURDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm**

Although there are some reserved seats the service is open to anyone else who would like to attend.

Let's give Barrie our full support.

# Services for September

## ST LUKE'S

2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Barrie and Roger 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School
9 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's School
16 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Roger and Barrie 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School
23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School
30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am JOINT SERVICE at St Luke's – Rev Alan

## ST CHAD'S

2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00am HOLY COMMUNION BCP – tba 10.45am FAMILY SERVICE - Ian Perry and the team
9 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am PRAISE & PRAYER – Kath & Muriel F
16 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am ALL AGE HC – Rev Alan
23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.45am MORNING PRAYER – Kath & Muriel F
30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am JOINT SERVICE at St Luke's – Rev Alan

## MIDWEEK ECUMENICAL HC SERVICES

Wednesdays at 9.15am

Please note that owing to building work at the Methodist Church all midweek services will be held at St Luke's during September.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY:

- St Luke's harvest thanksgiving service will be Sun Oct 7th.
- Our Memorial Service is planned for Sunday November 4th to be led by Barrie.
- Our Remembrance Service will be held at 10.45am on Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>. A beacon will be lit at 7.00pm near the village hall to commemorate the end of WW1.



DIOCESE OF  
LICHFIELD



The Church of England around Staffordshire, northern Shropshire and the Black Country

# Learning from Laughter

## A Pastoral Letter for August from the Bishop of Stafford

Visiting so many different church families I am very aware of the variety of talent with which God has blessed our Diocese but as we are reminded every year, Britain's Got Talent!

2018 has seen the 12th series of this popular ITV television show and many would say that the final was the most exciting ever – so many really good acts and such a variety of skills, it was impossible to predict the final outcome. However, it will be remembered as the year when 'inclusion' became a reality rather than a well-meaning intention.

The winner of Britain's Got Talent 2018 was Lee Ridley from the other Newcastle (that city further up the country from our own Newcastle Under Lyme!). Diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of six months, Lee has been unable to speak for over thirty years and so pre-programmes his comedy routines into a voice synthesiser. Calling himself 'Lost Voice Guy', both his content and timing are incredible and he won the competition on his own merit rather than through some kind of sympathy vote.

Similarly the person who came second, Robert White from West Sussex, describes himself as: 'the only gay, aspergic, quarter-Welsh comic on the British comedy circuit' and clearly came so close to winning because of the quality of his act – which brought both the judges and the audience to their feet with appreciation of his chaotic comedy style and improvised music skills. I would suggest that until very recently neither of these two men would have been included in such a popular programme on mainstream television let alone receive the millions of votes that resulted in them winning the top two places.

Put this within the wider context of a theatrical movement that is urging directors to cast more women over the age of 35, black and minority ethnic actors, those from the LGBT+ community and those living with physical and mental challenges into leading acting roles both in theatre and on television,

and we could justifiably say that there is genuine sense of a cultural change slowly evolving in the entertainment industry in this country.

Recently Zoe Hemming came to a Bishop's Staff Meeting and shared with us some of her excellent ministry as our Diocesan Enabling Officer. At one level this is about the practicalities of making our churches accessible for all but if we are really going to be true to the theological belief that the love of Jesus Christ is for everyone then it is more about promoting cultural change within the Church. It is recognising what people can do rather than what others think they cannot do. It is accepting that we are all 'different' but then rejoicing in our differences because together we can be so much more effective for Christ by complementing each other and sharing the individual gifts that God has given to us.

Often this cultural change can start to grow from us simply being more aware of others. Mike Bridgewater is helping many of us to think creatively about how our churches can embrace those living with dementia and those caring for them. The Café that is now run in Holy Trinity Chesterton is one of the friendliest places I have visited and everyone is made to feel really welcome and included. There is sharing of food, friendship and a lot of laughter.

I believe that the culture is changing, both within our churches and the wider society in which we serve, but there is still a long way to go. It is significant that both Lee Ridley and Robert White are comedians and use laughter as a way of forming a relationship with their audience and we can learn from their example. Laughing with one another rather than at one another is an important way of enabling us to build the kind of church where genuinely all feel welcome.

There have been times when the Christian Church in our country led society. Perhaps we have to have the humility to admit that possibly God is at present working through society and leading the Church into respecting and rejoicing in the diversity of God's creation. No wonder Jesus urged us to be like 'little children' who of course are constantly learning and who learn best when lessons are fun! Wishing you much laughter and every blessing,

**+ Geoff**  
**Bishop of Stafford**

*Links to more info on Zoe Hemming's Enabling Church ministry across the Diocese and Mike Bridgewater & colleagues' Dementia-friendly Churches ministry in the three episcopal areas can be found at*  
[www.lichfield.anglican.org/open\\_to\\_all](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/open_to_all)

# **My Cup Overrunneth: Team spirit and episcopal ambition**

## **The Bishop of Wolverhampton's pastoral letter for September**

As summer draws to a close, so does another cricket season, and especially poignantly for the members of the Diocesan Cricket team. For we have come to the end of an era, one filled with unprecedented success and golden memories.

It was on the day of my announcement as the new Bishop of Wolverhampton, back in 2007, that I was asked by our then Director of Communications, Gavin Drake, what I most wanted to achieve in my new role. I unaccountably went off message and failed to speak of doubling the size of every congregation by 2020. What I actually said was that I wanted to win the Church Times Cup with Lichfield!

Four years later the dream became a reality as we held the trophy aloft, triumphing over Bath and Wells in our first ever appearance in the 60 year history of the competition. Joy unbounded! And joy shared with the large number of supporters from different parts of the Diocese who had got up ridiculously early to make the journey to London.

That has been our only victory, though we have made the final on four subsequent occasions. We have often come tantalisingly close but in recent years the muscular and far more youthful London team has just prevailed. This year it was Bristol who ended our dream in the semi-final, a match which saw two of our key players depart to pastures new, one of whom was of course Bishop Mark Rylands. Responsible for many wonderful innings over the years, Bishop Mark was also both the most congenial but also the most competitive player I have played with! And he found the temptation to use clergy cricket as a recruiting mechanism for the Shrewsbury Episcopal Area quite irresistible.

Our dressing room has always been a crucible of diversity, with not only every tradition within the Church of England represented, but also ministers from other denominations enriching the mix. None more so than our late, great, skipper, Jeff Reynolds, from whose peerless banter there was no escape, and who managed to combine the sober responsibilities of being a Methodist

Superintendent with playing in a soft rock band. His royalties from CD sales helped him buy his round.

Unforgettable Anglicans include Peter Hart, ex professional footballer, whose batting style owes more to baseball than to the MCC coaching manual, but whose mighty blows have scattered both sheep and spectators over the years, and Phil Searle, the narrowboat dweller with the thunderous laugh and uncomplicated approach.

Our dressing room has been a place where we have tried, not always successfully, to treat triumph and disaster just the same. It has been a place of support, encouragement and friendship, and on occasions, good disagreement. A place where theological differences can be aired and respected, without bats disappearing through windows. On a good day, in the aftermath of a good win, where everyone has been able to contribute, it has felt a special privilege to be part of that Body, diverse but unified, joyful, if rather sweaty. As one in our sense of purpose, but fully aware that for each of us, there is a greater goal, a higher purpose, even than winning the Church Times Cup. How special it is to share that bond with one another, and with all those who have faithfully supported us over the years.

**+ Clive Gregory**  
**Bishop of Wolverhampton**



# PASTORAL TEAM

Please contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 if you are available for pastoral visiting.

## HILLSWOOD LODGE VISITS

Meet at Vicarage 10.50am for 11.00am

Next date:

*(Contact Shirley or check noticeboard)*

Please sign the sheet at the back of church.

*From Sheila Hurst....*

## MU NOTICES

**Christmas cards for Prisoners** are due in by the middle of September. I was away when it was the Diocesan AGM so I was unable to pick up old stock of cards for us to use. However Christmas cards are now beginning to appear in the shops. As usual, for security reasons the agreed wording is 'With love and prayers from the Mothers' Union'. Cards should be put into the envelopes with the folded side down and the envelopes left unsealed. Please let June Pope have them for checking by SUNDAY 16th SEPTEMBER at the latest. I need to get them to Doxey, near Stafford, the following week.

## The Leek Deanery Autumn Festival

This service will be at St. Luke's Church, Leek at 7.00pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Members of the MU team from St Luke's, Leek usually organise their own service. You will be assured a warm welcome and there will be light refreshments afterwards.

## ECCP

Thanks to everyone who donated cleaning materials for Cicely Haughton School, where the Chernobyl teenagers stay for 2 weeks.

As usual we also prepared a picnic for the group to take on one of their outings. Donations towards the cost of the picnic can still be given in, clearly marked ECCP picnic. Any excess will be given to ECCP funds.



### ***Message from Joe Porter...***

*I raised £150 for the Donna Louise Children's Hospice when I participated in their recent 10k Fun Run around Trentham Lake and a large amount of this was raised from church. As a result of the fun run, I now go running 10k four times a week. (Photo: Joe with his brother James)*



# Remembering Samantha Eastwood

## ***O Christ, you wept when grief was raw***

*O Christ, you wept when grief was raw,  
and felt for those  
who mourned a friend;  
come close to where we would not be  
and hold us,  
numbed by this life's end.*

*This well-loved voice is silent now,  
and we have much to say;  
collect our lost and wandering words  
and keep them  
till the endless day.*

*We try to hold what is not here  
and fear for what we do not know,  
O take our hands in yours,  
good Lord,  
and free us  
to let our friend go.*

*In all our loneliness and doubt,  
beyond what we can realize,  
address us from your empty tomb  
and tell us that life never dies.*

*Words by John Bell of the Iona Community  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxhOnDmsVbQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxhOnDmsVbQ)*

*On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August a candle-lit vigil was held at Milton Parish Church of St Philip and St James in remembrance of Samantha Eastwood. The words of this hymn, penned by John Bell to help him come to terms with the loss of a close friend, summed up the feelings of many of those who attended the service.*



**All Welcome at**

**11.00am every Sunday**

in St Luke's Primary School for 35 minutes followed by refreshments, time to chat and play. During August Connections has held a picnic and café breakfasts.



# SEPTEMBER GREETINGS

to Pat Bailey, Rev Julie (2<sup>nd</sup>), Justin Tyson (5<sup>th</sup>),  
 Matthew Stone (8<sup>th</sup>), Laura Morris (13<sup>th</sup>),  
 Elizabeth McLintock (23<sup>rd</sup>), Duncan Woolliscroft,  
 Simon Jackson (26<sup>th</sup>), Shirley Brindley (27<sup>th</sup> - *special*),  
 Alastair Stone (29<sup>th</sup>), Cat Mellor (30<sup>th</sup>)

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



# CANDLE DEDICATIONS for SEPTEMBER

For £2.50 you can keep the Candle of Hope or the Sanctuary Light burning for a week with a dedication. Contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 for a particular date or fill in a form available at the back of church.

Sep	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Anon in memory of Noreen Gould	Margaret and Maurice to celebrate Laura's birthday
9 <sup>th</sup>	Ann and Les to celebrate Emma and Lee's wedding anniversary	Anon
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sylvia Bradshaw to celebrate the birthday of her twin granddaughters, Lily and Emma	No dedication
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Roger and Shirley Brindley to celebrate the 9 <sup>th</sup> birthday of William and Thomas	Roger and Shirley Brindley with thanks for the safe arrival of their second granddaughter, Grace
30 <sup>th</sup>	The candle is kept burning by Mabel McGrath	No dedication

# Are You Interested in Flower Arranging?

Pauline and Jeanette from Endon Floral Arts have kindly volunteered to run some taster sessions during the autumn in St Luke's chapter house.

The sessions will be fortnightly and start on Wednesday **26<sup>th</sup> September** from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.



The equipment for the first session will be supplied but after that participants will need to bring their own flowers, greenery, containers etc.

Tea and biscuits will be served as well as transport for anyone who requires it.

**If you wish to attend, please contact Sue Forrester on 01538 384884 or mobile 07854 043187.**

Everyone is welcome whether a church member or not.  
Ask a friend!



# **NEEDED: POPPIES GALORE!**

A short time ago Rev Alan challenged members of St Chad's to produce a cascade of poppies to adorn their pulpit in commemoration of the end of WW1. They responded enthusiastically and this was the result. Wow! Well done, St Chad's!

Rev Alan has now issued the same challenge to members of St Luke's in time for Remembrance Sunday which falls on November 11<sup>th</sup> this year. Patterns and instructions

are pinned to the noticeboard, so no excuses.

A few poppies have started to appear but many more are required to create a cascade worthy of those in our parishes who gave their lives for our freedom.

So come on St Luke's...let's get going! (If you don't want to knit or crochet you could make a poppy out of felt.)

# RENEW@Lichfield Diocese

More of God... More for God

## 2018 Renewal Retreat

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Lunch on 27<sup>th</sup> to lunch on 28<sup>th</sup>, arrive from 12 noon

Venue: Trentham church, ST4 8AB

Speaker: Nicola Moy      Total cost £30

Following a very successful renewal retreat for clergy and church leaders in 2017, this retreat is open to all. However it will be followed by a further retreat specifically for clergy and church leaders in 2019.

For more information contact Carol Law: [claw@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:claw@eclipse.co.uk)  
01543 480308

## **JENNY TOLLEY**

*Those of us at St Luke's who knew Jenny were very shocked to hear of her sudden death a few weeks ago at the age of 69 following major heart surgery. Jenny was our independent examiner of church accounts for many years. Although a busy full-time accountant she always gave freely of her time and accounting expertise. We were all very appreciative of her efforts and none more so than our treasurers Ken Davis and Sheila Hurst who worked closely with her to produce a financial report for our APCM each year. We thank God for Jenny's life and our thoughts and prayers are with her sons Matthew and Andrew. Her husband Alan died two years ago.*

# NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL 2018

St Luke's was represented at this 6-day event (28<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August) on Stafford showground by Rev Alan, Maryanne, Neil Taylor, Dave and Deb Podmore, Nathan and Rachel O'Neill and on 2 days, by James and Ros Benson. Rev Alan and Maryanne offered generous hospitality to all who showed up at their tent with Dave, Neil and Nathan forming an amazing washing-up and wheelchair-pushing team!



Sadly next year will be the last such event as organiser Mike Pilavachi has felt led to step down.

More pictures on St Luke's Facebook page.





## **ROY HORLEY CELEBRATED HIS 102<sup>nd</sup> BIRTHDAY ON JULY 12th**

Members of the pastoral team gathered round to sing 'Happy Birthday' and present him with a card and a box of chocolates. The following day he was taken on a vintage car ride around the Derbyshire Dales with Alan P providing an extra pair of hands.





# NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL



## St Chad's news journeys far and wide...

I recently received the following email:

*Dear Sheila,*

*I recently found a copy of the above newsletter on the internet in which the author "Pat" wrote about growing up in her 3 times great grandfathers house in Shenstone.*

*I believe that we are descendants of the same family. Pat through Henry Hodgkins and my family through his brother Rowland. We share a common ancestor on Henry and Rowland's father John.*

*Would you mind passing my email onto Pat to see if she would like to share details about the Hodgkins family - many of whom were wheelwrights and blacksmiths.*

*Rowland's descendants went onto become veterinarian surgeons in Stoke on Trent.*

*I live in Sydney Australia.*

*Thank you for your anticipated support in this matter.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Graham Hodgkins*

This was in response to one of Pat Saul's articles. I passed on the email and this is the reply:

*Well, what an amazement! Yes, he most DEFINITELY IS my distant relation...we share a great x4 Grandfather....but to think that he found me like this is just, well, incredible !!*

*Pat*

I think that this is amazing and am so proud that the newsletter brings such results!

## SATURDAY NIGHT OUT:

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July's entertainment with the Cornerstone Singers was also a "sing-along" for we knew many of the songs which the choir sang in joyful harmony and we were frequently invited to join in.

It was obvious that the ladies meet because they love to sing and that love pervaded the church all evening.

The laughter continued through the reading of a poem by Pam Ayres about Basil and his unrequited love. I think our sympathy was with the cat.

Another memorable item was the display of music played on various sized ocarinas from the collection of one of the choir members.

The choir was accompanied by a talented pianist and their obvious love of the gospel songs.

We also appreciated the home baked cakes and the fruit punch, whether alcoholic or non alcoholic.

It was a wonderful opportunity to socialise and meet people we may not have seen for some time.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it such a memorable evening and we do hope you will all come to the next St. Chad's social occasion and bring your friends.

*Pat Adams*

## **DIAMOND WEDDING CELEBRATIONS:**



What a lovely morning in church we had on Sunday to celebrate with Pat and Peter their 60 years of marriage. Rev. Bev conducted the service with Kath and, despite the computer breaking down, was a very joyful and moving service. Pat and Peter renewed their wedding vows and the sermon

and service was all about love, both human and divine. The church was nicely full as, not only were lots of Pat and Peter's family there, but it was also a joint

service with St Luke's. Bev gave a great sermon and took communion for us and the church was full of joy and laughter.

After the service, Kath presented Pat and Peter with a cake which we all enjoyed together with a glass of bubbly (or in my case, apple juice!)

All in all a delightful service and one which I hope Pat and Peter will remember for many years to come.

## A HUGE "THANK YOU"

Peter and I would like to thank everyone from St. Chad's and St. Luke's who helped to make our celebration of SIXTY YEARS of marriage such a joyful occasion.

I don't think that I have ever been in St. Chad's when such an atmosphere of joy and love filled the church and this could not have been achieved without loving effort from so

I hardly dare so many helped but Bev were in constant touch to plan the service and I know Muriel Finney got the cake.

I was so pleased that Anne and Brian were happy to share the occasion and thought her flower arrangements were as beautiful as always.

We have promised to be with them in another three years.

John Baillie was kind enough to free up his Sunday to play for us and the organ accompaniment made it seem very much like 60 years ago as we sang our wedding hymns.

Thank you to the busy gang who took over serving the refreshments and washing up and to all who made the day perfect for us.

Bev does not have much chance these days to come back to St. Chad's and desert her own congregation at Lymm but she is so pleased at the warm welcome she always receives when she can join us.



many friends.

mention any name because I know that Kathryn and

Our grandson and his fiancée from Berlin delayed their journey to be with us and Ulli was very happy to see how successful our marriage has been. She took a huge delight in the service and the atmosphere as did the rest of our family.

I did not know that Margaret, our daughter was down to read the lesson and she was pleased to be part of a service again in her old church.

Peter and I hope that everyone received as much joy at the presence of God in our service as we did and we shall treasure the memories along with our photographs and cards.

Thank you to all our friends for an uplifting occasion.

*Pat Adams*

## **AUGUST BARBECUE:**



After a service with a sermon full of wise words and good advice by our old friend and inhabitant of Bagnall, Bill Hassall, we observed Kath making a car dash down the lane with provisions for our barbecue lunch.

By the time the Adams family arrived at Julia's, Julia and Arnie had prepared a very pleasant array of tables and chairs and about 30 of us enjoyed each other's company and the hens, geese and horses which were on view.

Bill Hassall had joined us and appeared to spend a happy time swapping tales of Bagnall in the past.

Arnie and Julia looked after us well as we ate our choice of beefburger or sausage in a bun with



trifle or cheesecake to follow. We were grateful for the squash, teas and coffees which were also on sale in the hot sun.

By half past two we had cleared the site leaving Julia and helpers to clear what was left on the tables (Julia's ruling) leaving her free to go to her appointment at a baptism service.

Again we give huge thanks to those who work hard to keep our church alive with social opportunities which also help to keep our finances fairly stable.

*Pat Adams*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Church is open for coffee, biscuits and a chat between 10.45am and 12.15pm every Wednesday. If any of you can spare half an hour, just go in for a cup of coffee and give the coffee maker a reason to be there!

**CREATIVE CORNER CRAFT CLUB** meets on Monday 3rd and 17th September at 1pm to 3pm at The Stafford Arms

**BEETLE DRIVE - Saturday 1st September**  
**at 6.30pm in the village hall.**

Yes folks, it's fun time again!

If you want an evening of good food and lots of laughter, this is for you!

There will be pies, peas and puddings and, of course, prizes.

Make sure you get your tickets early as this is a very popular evening

Adults - £6, children under 12years - £4, family ticket (2 adults & 3 children) - £18. Bring your own drinks.

**TUESDAY STUDY GROUP** starts again after the summer break on September 11th 7.30pm to 9.00pm

**HARVEST** - Sunday 7th October

Harvest baskets will be sold after the service and, as last year, there will be a maximum charge of £10 per basket.

Lunch at the village hall will follow service, Prices – Adults £10.00 Children under 12 years £5.00 Family £25.00 (2 Adults and up to 3 children).

Under-fives go free.

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07773664289



# HAPPY 70<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY KATH!

Kath Howell,  
chairperson  
and worship  
leader at St

Chad's, has just celebrated a special birthday. God bless you Kath and we pray you have many happy returns of the day.

Kath clearly had a wonderful time and a very lovely cake depicting many of her keen interests which include Wales, France, rugby and animal welfare.





# Home Groups

are a way of studying the bible in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We can ask the questions that we do not always have time to on a Sunday. Not only do home groups help us on our journey of faith but they also strengthen the relationships within church. At the moment a group meets at James &

Ros's on a Monday evening and a group meets at Bagnall Heights on Tuesday morning.

Day	Venue	Host	Leader	Time
<b>Monday</b>	Claremont St George's Ave	James & Ros	Maryanne	7.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b> (NB 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of the month, this is replaced by HC on Wednesday.)	Bagnall Heights Lounge	Pauline Hart	Barrie Jackson	11.00 am

## DEANERY SYNOD AND PCC

The next synod meeting will be held on **Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct** at a venue to be announced with speaker Rev Paul Howard on the healing ministry. St Luke's PCC will meet on Thursday **20<sup>th</sup> September** at 7.30pm in the chapter house.

## Report on the Leek Deanery Synod Eucharist

This was held at St Lawrence's Church, Biddulph, on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018. An enthusiastic period of worship included an inspiring talk from Rev Pauline Shelton, Diocesan Vocational Team who reminded us that Bible readings, particularly those in today's service, can be dire warnings. People in Jesus' time ignored what was happening – how are we responding today? What is it that we're not doing or paying attention to? We are not responding to Jesus calling us! We are not listening to this, His music! This is happening to Churches as well as to people. We fill rotas rather than find people's gifts.

We should be looking for “The place where our deep gladness and the world’s hunger meet”.

Perhaps we should stop doing things out of duty until God sends the person whose vocation that “duty” is.

Judah was being deafened, how “listening” are we? God unfolds our vocation throughout our lives, taking us out of and beyond ourselves. Are we are too busy? Full of self-doubt? Wonder what people think? All these distort God’s music he plays for us, through us and with us. We must calm down and not panic. As Isaiah said, “if you don’t stand firm in faith you don’t stand at all”. Isaiah is talking about real belief that God will provide. His grace is sufficient. “Make ready for the Christ whose smile like lightning sets free the song of everlasting glory that sings in your paperflesh.” The Synod joined in Eucharist, followed by a short period over refreshments for fellowship.

*Nominations to the Diocesan Synod House of Clergy were received from Rev Nigel Irons and Rev Matt Malins, and nominations to the Diocesan House of Laity from David Wright and Patricia Marshall. All were correctly completed and all four candidates have been elected "nom con". Our thanks go to these people who will represent us at the Diocesan Synod for three years, starting 31st August 2018.*

**Carol Baughan, Leek Deanery Synod Sec**

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## Fair trade status

St Luke’s is a fair-trade church. If you donate items to the catering cupboard, please check that they are Fair Trade, Ethical Tea Partnership or similar organisations that guarantee small traders and workers are not disadvantaged.







## ***Lest we forget...***

Here is how a British general waxed about the carnage of World War 1 :

***“Not a man shirked going through the extremely heavy barrage, or facing the machine gun and rifle fire that finally wiped them out...I have never seen, indeed could never have imagined, such a magnificent display of gallantry, discipline, and determination.”***

A sergeant described it differently:

***“We knew it was pointless, even before we went over – crossing open ground like that. But you had to go. You were between the devil and the deep blue sea. If you go forward, you'll likely be shot. If you go back, you'll be court-martialled and shot. What can you do?”***

Quotation from “The brighter angels of our nature” by Steven  
Pinker

***Submitted by Roger Simpson***

# LEEK FOOD BANK UPDATE



During July 2018 the number of people helped was 89 and included 49 children. The foodbank provides meals for three days and in addition we are usually able to supply other necessities and even some treats.

## **URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS**

- Rice
- Long Life fruit juice (not squash)
- Rice pudding
- Chocolate bars and dried pasta packet meals

## **NOT REQUIRED PLEASE**

- Baked beans
- Dried Pasta

The month to month changes reflect just how well you all respond to our needs. Thank you so much.

We were pleased to meet some of you at Leek Show. The 'guess the weight of the basic food parcel for 5 people' was won by a member of Trinity Church but thank you to all who took part. The food parcel weighed 25.9 kg, just a bit heavier than a bag of cement, in other words it was heavy. (And this was only the basic parcel!) We have given parcels out which weigh over twice that, for more people of course, and once extras, toiletries, pet food etc. have been added, it

is impossible to take this quantity home if you don't have transport or help.

Looking ahead to September....if your church is considering donating harvest produce, then for our planning purposes knowing roughly when such donations are likely to arrive would be most helpful. If everything comes at once then we need to ensure enough volunteers are available to weigh, date and store the donations.

We continue to welcome applications for volunteers, so if you are interested then please use the email address at the bottom of the page to express your interest. If you'd like to have a look around then you would be most welcome, but please ask so that we can make sure that we have the right level of help rather than just turning up.

**Peter Davies,**

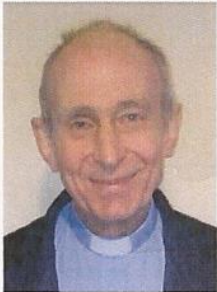
**Leek and District Foodbank Project Coordinator**

*(Please note: Foodbank clients need to carry their donations of food away with them in some form of container. Even though very aware that we are all trying to limit our use of plastic, the folk running the foodbank would be grateful, nonetheless, for any spare plastic bags you may have.)*

# The Daily Orbit

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

The Newspaper for those who are going round in circles.



## The day Alan lost his faith

( not just his hair!)

### In *Media* Section

Social Media giant *Facelift* is to get a new look.

Following surgery for a detached retina, Alan was lying in his bed in Moorfields Hospital, London. It seemed like good news that the retina was not actually detached! However, some discomfort followed and diagnosed a post-operative infection. Further surgery was necessary. Following that Alan was given the news that during the operation, the infection was so severe that the eye had been removed. The initial operation had not been necessary.

He was left feeling thoroughly devastated and depressed. Over the next few days, Alan reflected on the whole question of God's love and suffering.

In interview, he said, 'There are some that think faith is about trusting God to keep us safe, wrap us in cotton wool and protect us from any upset. Then I thought of the cross and what Jesus, God's Son, went through. I thought that if God didn't 'protect' his own Son from suffering why should I be any different? At that point I lost my faith in the God who wraps us up in cotton wool. Instead I found a much firmer faith in the God who understands what we go through, has carried that suffering on the cross and walks with us in all we face.'

### In *Your Letters*

Confused newcomer to Endon asks, 'So where exactly is The Fountain?'

### In *Culture*

Booksellers reveal how, in the UK, the Bible is the worst read bestseller ever published.

Summer Editions are sponsored by



*Walls*

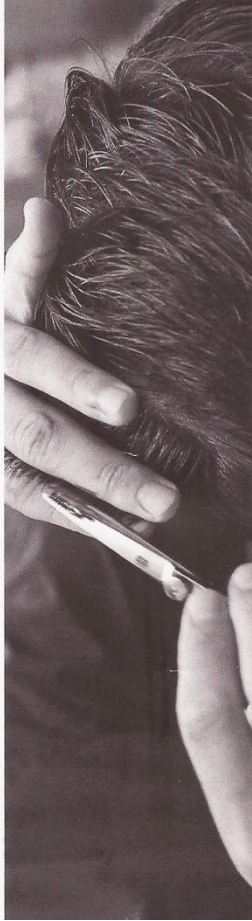
of Jericho

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# September Prayer Focus

- All affected by recent disasters, fires, floods and terror attacks and all helping to re-build thousands of shattered lives
- For the farmers in the outback of New South Wales, Australia, that rain may arrive soon
- For friends and families of those who lost their lives when the bridge collapsed in Genoa and those investigating the causes
- Locally for friends and family of the murdered midwife Samantha Eastwood
- All fleeing persecution to Bangladesh from Myanmar
- Medical teams and relief agencies
- Those starving in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and all the aid agencies working there
- The problem of the millions of plastic bottles afloat in our oceans
- Brexit negotiations
- SYRIA, YEMEN, ISRAEL and PALESTINE: For an end to hostilities
- Healing for those in our church and community who have been in hospital recently and are now recuperating
- The work of our pastoral team
- Wisdom for world leaders in making effective decisions for world peace
- Those in our parishes who are ill and those caring for them
- For all refugees and asylum seekers
- All who have lost loved ones recently including Matthew and Andrew Tolley
- Schoolgirls kidnapped in Nigeria and anguished parents
- For the abolition of slavery and female genital mutilation
- The Trussell Trust locally
- The unemployed or in work but not earning a living wage
- For all suffering from depression
- For all involved with the Chernobyl Project
- Our Vicar, PCCs and Pastoral Team and visitors to our church
- For Barrie Jackson as he begins his new ministry as a lay reader
- Our MPs and district and parish councillors

## Advertising Scale of Charges

1/8 page: £2.50 per month  
or £25 for 12 months

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or £50 for 12 months

1/2 page: £10 per month  
or £100 for 12 months

1 page: £20 per month  
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or e-mail:

[jandrbenson@btinternet.com](mailto:jandrbenson@btinternet.com)

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**J. TAYLOR**

**Tel: 01782 502437**

## ST LUKE'S CHURCH BOOKINGS

Barrie Jackson is keeping the church diary.  
Please contact him on **07510 074097**.

*No charge is made for this newsletter but donations are welcome towards stationery and copying.*

*Please see a warden or put your donation in the green box on the wall.*

*You can 'gift aid' your donation if you pay tax (see Sheila Hurst).*

*Thank you to all regular contributors.*

## UNLIKELY CHAMPION...an extract from the "SCRIBE TIMES"

*published every Sabbath and somehow acquired by Barrie Jackson:*

Moses is an unlikely champion having spent many years in the desert as a fugitive from justice. Some see this as a contributory factor to his recent outburst. Now aged 80 and with a bad stutter he is accompanied by his brother Aaron who will be his spokesman. "My brother is not a natural public speaker," explained Aaron (83), "But he is very hairy and bears a striking resemblance to Charlton Heston, which are all the qualities you need really."

Alan Betts / Maryanne Lloyd	502166
Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden	502006
Maurice & Margaret Woolliscroft, warden's team	502390
Alan & Maureen Payne, warden's team	504918
Ann & Les Boulton, warden's team	503162
June Pope, warden's team	503269
John O'Rourke, warden	261191
Lyn Pickering, warden's team	07891 213284
Caryl Siegertsz, St Chad's warden	07971 887039
Sheila Tipper, St Chad's news contact	534647
Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / worship l'der	07971 887039
Muriel Finney, St Chad's worship leader	302229
Fred Snape, St Anne's warden	504063
James Benson, reader / Ros Benson, newsletter	504137
Barrie Jackson, St Luke's PCC Sec / Administrator	07510 074097
Deb Podmore, worship leader	773383
Suzy Jordan, music leader	504589
Steve Dale, St Luke's treasurer	07894 098011
Sheila Hurst, St Luke's Gift Aid Sec / MU rep	503622
Neil Taylor, worship team	07891 977662
Shirley Brindley, candle dedications / pastoral tm	504089
John & Julie Gater, Chernobyl Children's Project	535000
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	502006
St Luke's vestry	504864

**October 2018** newsletter will be in church on  
**Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

Please submit notices by **Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**  
either by e-mail [jandrbenson@btinternet.com](mailto:jandrbenson@btinternet.com) phone 504137  
or a note to Ros Benson.

The newsletter is published on the church website  
[www.endonstlukes.org.uk](http://www.endonstlukes.org.uk) (click on the 'News and Events' tab)

**If you would like a large print version  
please contact Ros.**