

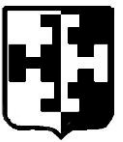


**THE UNITED BENEFICE of ST LUKE'S,
ENDON with ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL**

Encounter, Encourage, Enable ... Committed to Sharing God's Love

Vicar: Rev Alan Betts Tel: 01782 502166

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



December 2019

**A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**



The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel.

Isaiah 7 v 14

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel which means "God with us".

Matt 1 v 23

(embroidery from St Chad's)

Services for Dec/Jan

ST LUKE'S

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1 st | 9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Roger w Maryanne 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School |
| 8 th | TOY SERVICES 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan w Ian Perry 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School |
| 15 th | 9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Roger w Barrie 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School 6.30pm COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE at Methodist Church |
| 22 nd | 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School |
| 24 th | CHRISTMAS EVE 6.00pm CRIB SERVICE – Rev Alan w the team 11.45pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION by extension – Barrie w Roger |
| 25 th | CHRISTMAS DAY 9.30am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Alan |
| 29 th | 10.30am JOINT HOLY COMMUNION w St Chad's |
| Jan 5 th | 9.15am MORNING PRAYER – Barrie w Roger 11.00am CONNECTIONS at St Luke's Primary School |

ST CHAD'S

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 st | 9.00am HOLY COMMUNION BCP – Rev Alan 10.45am CHRISTINGLE – Ian w the Family Team |
| 8 th | 10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE - Kath & Muriel F |
| 11 th | Wednesday 10.45am Common Worship HC – Rev Alan |
| 15 th | 10.45am ALL AGE HC – Rev Alan |
| 22 nd | 4.00pm CAROL SERVICE – Kath & Muriel F |
| 24 th | CHRISTMAS EVE 3.00pm CRIB SERVICE – Rev Alan 11.30pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION – Rev Alan |
| 25 th | CHRISTMAS DAY – No services (9.30am HC at St Luke's) |
| 29 th | 10.30am JOINT HOLY COMMUNION at St Luke's |
| Jan 5 th | 9.00am HOLY COMMUNION BCP – Rev Barry Wilson 10.45am FAMILY SERVICE – Ian w the Family Team |

“IT SUCKS WITHOUT SOCKS” Mothers’ Union Project



Your help is needed for rough sleepers and the homeless in our area as the cold days of winter arrive.

The Mothers’ Union asks us to provide NEW hats, scarves, gloves, socks, underpants/pants and vests. These will be distributed by the Lou Macari foundation which currently deals with 41 men and 7 women at the shelter in Hanley.

Men’s sizes needed are Medium and Large and women’s sizes are 12 – 14 please.

Also welcome are good second hand warm coats, sweaters, trousers and T-shirts/shirts that are clean and in good condition in the above sizes.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR DONATIONS IN CHURCH BY SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER so that they can be taken to the Lou Macari hostel soon afterwards. **THANK YOU!**

This appeal will be repeated in January when the weather turns even colder. (An opportunity to shed your unwanted presents and clothing that has been replaced by sales bargains.)

Sheila H



WE'RE ALWAYS HERE

Nobody needs to feel alone this Christmas

Talk to us any time you like, in your own way – about whatever's getting to you.

116 123 FREE
This number is FREE to call

✉ jo@samaritans.org

🌐 samaritans.org

SAMARITANS

A registered charity

There's no knowing where you might end up when you dial **116123**. Although, in the early days, your local Samaritans branch served the local community, this is no longer the case. Now a computer scans all the Samaritans phone lines which are active, looks for those which are ready to receive a call, and assigns your call to the phone which has been idle for the longest time. This period is often less than two seconds at night, when demand is high and the number of volunteers on duty is low. The way in which calls are allocated means that you could be having a conversation with a Samaritan who is based anywhere from Shetland to Jersey. There are 199 actual branches of the Samaritans, and two virtual branches, of no fixed abode, who deal with letters and music festivals.

David Matthews is a man with a mission. He has set out to visit all 201 Samaritans branches, walking from one to the next, and doing a duty shift at each. In all he will cover 6000 miles, and take about two years to complete his route. On his way he wants to raise funds for the Samaritans, to increase awareness of the organisation, and, if possible, to recruit new volunteers. I met him when he visited Leek branch; after his shift he was on Moorlands radio, and spoke with the Leek Post and Times reporter, before going on to Stoke. At that stage he had done roughly one-third of the mileage, and visited one-third of the Samaritans branches. You may have seen him, wearing a bright green Samaritans T-shirt with "6000 miles" printed below the logo, walking steadily through whatever the weather was doing at the time. By the time you read this, he will probably be somewhere in the region of Gloucester.





David is a man of quiet determination, and vision. He is convinced that the task he has taken on is supremely worthwhile. His physical fitness is impressive, as is his emotional stamina in responding to so many troubled callers as he goes on his way.

Let's wish him God speed on his pilgrimage.

You can find out more about David's walk by visiting thelisteningwalk.co.uk where you can also find a link for donations.

Roger



ENDON METHODIST CHURCH

*You are warmly invited to celebrate
With us as we prepare for the
coming of Jesus at Christmas*

- **SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER 6.30pm**
Community Carol Service
- **CHRISTMAS EVE 4.00pm**
Christingle Service for the whole family
- **CHRISTMAS EVE 11.00pm** Coffee and mince pies
11.30pm Communion Service for Christmas
- **CHRISTMAS DAY 10.00am**
Family worship for Christmas



TOY SERVICES

**Sunday, 8th December
9.15am St Luke's church
11.00am St Luke's school**

Please continue to support these special services for *'The Elizabeth Trust'* which offers care and accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic violence sometimes arriving with only the clothes they are wearing. Let's try to make Christmas a happy time for them. Please remember that the children are of all ages so we need to send gifts appropriate for older ones and teenagers as well as for babies and toddlers. We like to provide a few treats for the mums too such as toiletries.

Rev Tony Alban began these toy services over 40 years ago. Sadly the need has not diminished.

PLEASE REMEMBER NOT TO WRAP YOUR GIFTS but donations of wrapping paper are appreciated.

THANK YOU ALL!



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2019

ADVENT SUNDAY December 1st

9.15am Morning Prayer

11.00am Connections

(9.00am HC; 10.45am Christingle at St Chad's)

2nd SUNDAY in ADVENT December 8th

**9.15am HC and Toy Service in support of
The Elizabeth Trust**

(10.45am Prayer & Praise at St Chad's)

11.00am Connections Toy Service

3rd SUNDAY in ADVENT December 15th

9.15am Morning Prayer

(10.45am All Age HC at St Chad's)

11.00am Connections w Carols and Coffee

6.30pm Community Carol Service

at the Methodist Church

4th SUNDAY in ADVENT December 22nd

9.15am Morning Prayer

11.00am Connections

(4.00pm Carol Service at St Chad's)

CHRISTMAS EVE Tuesday December 24th

(3.00pm Crib Service at St Chad's)

6.00pm Crib Service

(11.30pm Midnight Communion at St Chad's)

11.45pm Midnight Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY Wednesday December 25th

9.30am Holy Communion (No service at St Chad's)

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2019



Wishing everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's peace and joy at Christmas and the New Year ... **Sheila & Stan Hurst**

A happy Christmas and prosperous New Year to everyone at St Luke's... **Clare (née Hurst), Phil, Bethany & Lauren Salt aka 'The Aussies'**

Peace at Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's ... **Ann and Les**

A very happy Christmas to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's... **Mabel McGrath**

Jesus is the reason for the season. Greetings to our friends at St Luke's and St Chad's! God's blessings to you this Christmas... **John and Lyn x**

Alan and Maryanne... a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to you all

Alan and Maureen wish all our friends at St Luke's and St Chad's a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

A very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year to all at St Luke's , St Chad's and our friends 'Down-Under' ... **Roy, James and Ros**

Christmas greetings from **Sheila and Roger** to all our friends at St Luke's and St Chad's

A very happy Christmas to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's... **Muriel Buckle**

Very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year ... **Chris and Sue Wilson**

To everyone at St Luke's Church and Connections, wishing you all God's blessings over Christmas and the New Year... **Shirley O'Brien**

Happy Christmas to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's and blessings for a happy and prosperous 2020... **Debbie and Dave Podmore**

Wishing everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's a happy and peaceful Christmas – **Peter & June Pope, Lyn and Lydia**

Margaret & Maurice – we wish for a peaceful Christmas and a blessed 2020 to all our friends in St Luke's Church and in the wider community

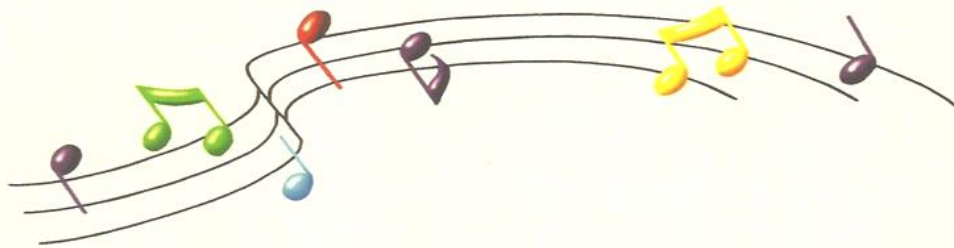
Wishing everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year... **Sylvia Bradshaw**

John and Cyril Moss send their Christmas greetings to all at St Luke's and St Chad's

THANK YOU to all who have made donations to the Christian Blind Mission with a Christmas greeting in this month's newsletter. If you were too late to submit a greeting there is still time to make a donation should you wish to do so. Cash or cheques (made payable to Endon St Luke's PCC) enclosed in an envelope clearly marked "For CBM" can be handed to a church warden or dropped into the offertory bag between now and the first week of Jan.



ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2019



Tuesday 3rd December, performance starts at 7.30pm

Endon Methodist Church, 258 Leek Road, Endon, ST9 9DY
(Corner of Station Road)

Tickets are available from 01782 853399 or choir members

Ticket prices:

Adults £4.50

Children £2 - Under school age free

Price includes refreshments.

Raffle, Cake Stall

Contact
Ann Boulton or
Ros Benson





COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday, December 15th at 6.30pm

Endon Methodist Church

**Don't miss this celebration of our
Saviour's birth!**

Friday, December 20th

CAROLS AROUND THE WELL

Members of The Endonian Society once more invite us to sing carols around the Well at **7.00pm**. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served.



The Endonian Society will be holding its

ANNUAL BAND & CAROL CONCERT

with Audley Brass Band on **Saturday, 14th December** in the village hall at 7.30pm. Tickets from committee members.



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

A VAPOUR TRAIL THROUGH ADVENT

Stillness and the Patron Saint of Preparation?

Bishop Clive's Pastoral Letter - December 2019

Like a seasonal affliction, it is hard for regular churchgoers to avoid John the Baptist at this time of year. He bestrides the Advent landscape like a particularly fierce colossus, his presence disruptive, abrasive, unsettling; his call to repentance an invitation to internal combustion. Oh, that we could airbrush him out of our build up to Christmas and highlight other figures less likely to frighten the children – or their parents!

And yet as we follow John the Baptist's vapour trail through Advent, we can see among the smoke and debris a message for ourselves and for our society that is both very simple and potentially explosive.

It is for good reason that countless sermons will be preached in the coming weeks on the themes of 'preparation' and 'waiting', themes that are at the heart of John's ministry and also that resonate powerfully with most peoples' experience of the build up to Christmas i.e. a mixture of anticipation and task-driven preparation. There will also be numerous exhortations from the pulpit encouraging worshippers to try and find some stillness and space to counteract the hyper frenzy and focus on what it is we are preparing for. But while John the Baptist is the Patron Saint of Preparation, it is difficult to imagine, from what we know of him, that he was an icon of stillness. He was in far too much of a hurry, his mission much too urgent. What we see in John's ministry is the truth that waiting for the future involves transforming the present.

I remember seeing a production of 'Godspell' in London when I was young and the song 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord' is still burned into my memory. It also serves as a reminder that this is our calling too and Advent presents us with so many opportunities to transform the present as we actively wait for the future. There are evangelistic opportunities presented by full churches at Christingles and Carol services and of course there are endless opportunities to witness to our faith through acts of generosity and service.

John was a prophet, calling people to a radically different way of life. Perhaps our prophetic calling this Christmas, may be to demonstrate that our way of celebrating is based on simplicity, generosity and sustainability?

There is mounting evidence that the climate emergency is prompting a widespread questioning of western lifestyles, with our excessive materialism and culture of instant disposability increasingly under the microscope. Does all this stuff really make us happy? And how can we tolerate the impact on the planet of all that we waste and dispose of so irresponsibly?

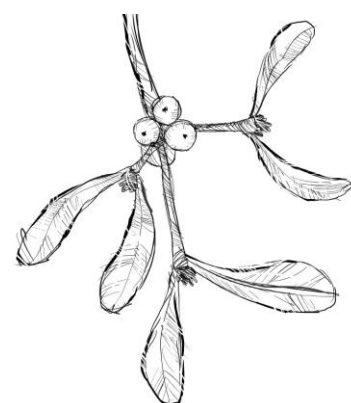
So this Advent, after the example of John the Baptist, let us be alive to all the possibilities the season brings, from personal renewal to societal transformation, and to play whatever part we can in helping to bring them about through prayer and action.

+ *Clive Wulfrun*



Mistletoe & Mistle Thrush

Many churchyards contain mistletoe



within one or more of the churchyard trees; most frequently found in lime, poplar, ash, hawthorn and fruit trees. It is a partial parasite, making some of its own food but taking minerals from the host tree. Known as a 'cure-all', herbalists have long valued the medicinal properties of mistletoe, particularly useful against fits and anxiety. Research is currently underway to investigate the anticarcinogenic properties of the plant.

Mistletoe is also a plant of druids, believed in the past to have magical powers perhaps due to its evergreen nature within a deciduous tree, plus its ability to live away from the ground with no obvious roots. Druids (including Getafix in the Asterix books!) favoured mistletoe from oaks, cut with a golden sickle, although oak is seldom a host tree.

Look out for mistle thrushes stripping mistletoe of its white berries in winter. The Latin name for mistletoe is *Viscum album* whilst the mistle thrush is *Turdus viscivorus*. *Turdus* is the Latin for 'thrush' and *viscivorus* comes from *viscum* for 'mistletoe' and *vorare* 'to devour'. They certainly seem to favour mistletoe and

will vigorously defend a good clump from other birds, saving the berries for hard times when other food might be scarce or covered in snow. The seed within the berry passes through the thrush and may land on a young bough of a tree where it can germinate. Churchyards are particularly good for all thrushes in winter, look for fieldfares and redwings as well, often feeding on yew or holly berries.

All the best, Harriet Carty,

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code Lich19



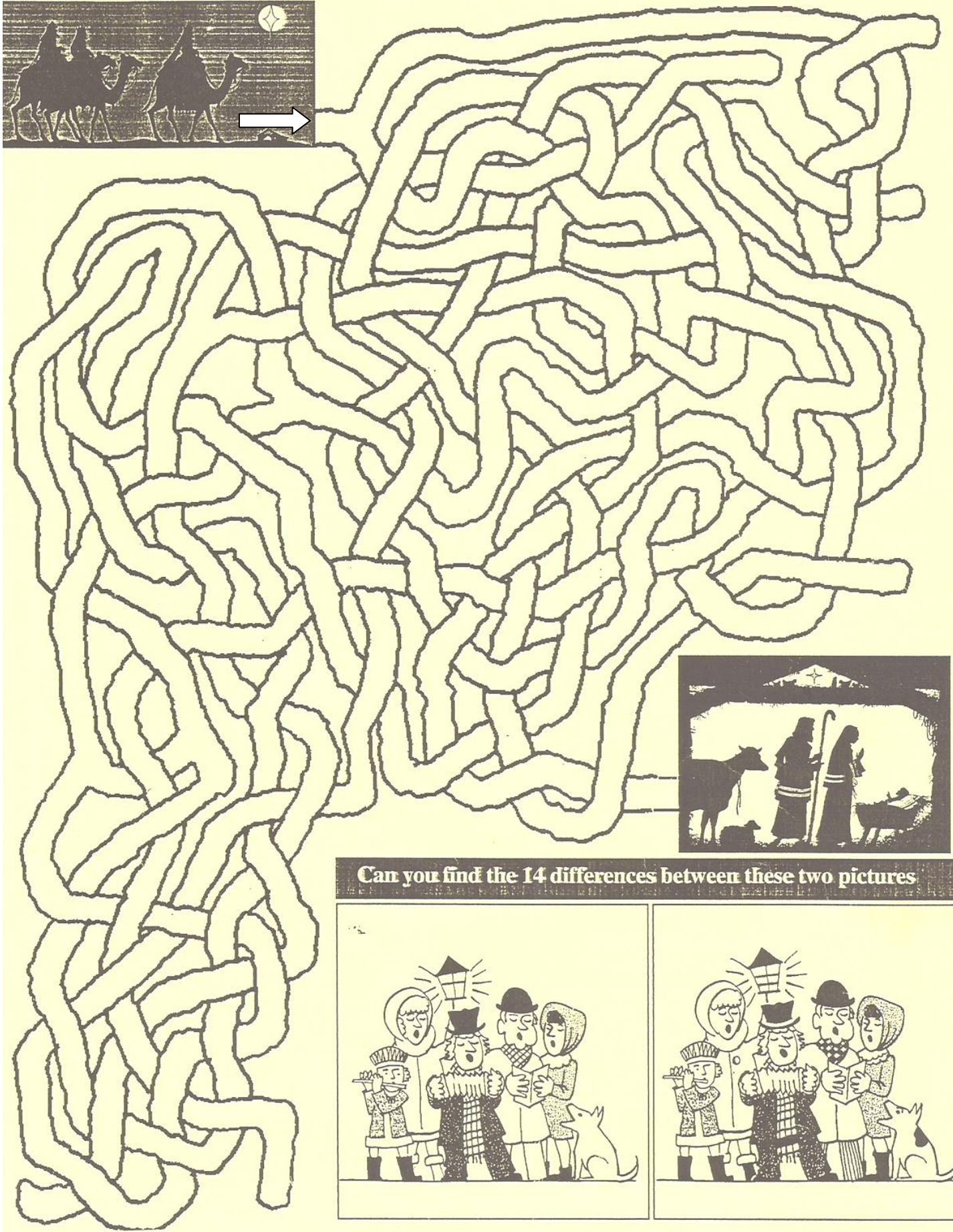
All Welcome at 11.00am every Sunday

in St Luke's Primary CE Academy for 35 minutes followed by refreshments, time to chat and play. Lots of fun!

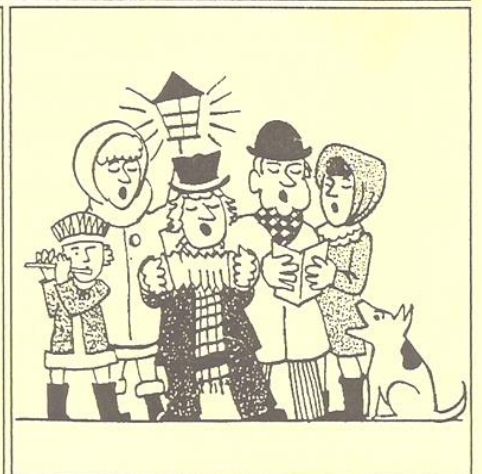


MINCE PIES (especially home-made) will be welcome to serve at the Community Carol Service on **Sunday 15th December** at the Methodist Church and at St Luke's after any of our December services.

Here are a few quizzes to keep you busy!



Can you find the 14 differences between these two pictures



Christmas Quiz

Separating Fact from Fiction

INSTRUCTIONS: Circle the letter T if you believe the Bible shows that the following statement is true. Circle the letter F if you believe the Bible shows that the statement is false or at least does not show that it is true.

- T F **1** The name of the angel who told Mary that she would have a child was *Gabriel*.
- T F **2** Joseph contemplated divorcing his betrothed wife, Mary, when he found out she was pregnant.
- T F **3** Although Jesus was born in Bethlehem, that was not where Joseph and Mary usually lived.
- T F **4** The reason that Jesus had to sleep in a manger at first was that Joseph and Mary could not get lodgings at the Bethlehem inn.

T F **5** Jesus was born in a stable.

T F **6** Animals spoke on the night Jesus was born.

T F **7** Angels sang when they appeared to shepherds near Bethlehem.

T F **8** After visiting the newborn Jesus, the shepherds of Bethlehem went about telling others what they had seen.

T F **9** The Magi visited Jesus on the same night as the shepherds.

T F **10** The Magi were kings.

T F **11** The number of the Magi who followed the star to Jesus was three.

T F **12** Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Nazareth directly from Bethlehem.

BEWARE TRICK QUESTIONS!

Have your bible handy to check.

LOOK OUT FOR THE ANSWERS NEXT MONTH.

FLOWER AND CRAFT CLUB



The final Flower and Craft Club meeting for 2019 will be on Wednesday 11th December from 1 pm to 3 pm in the Chapter House. The theme for the arrangement will, of course, be Christmas. Come along and make an arrangement to decorate your home or as a gift. You will be made very welcome.

Thank you to everyone who has been knitting angels to give away to families who come to services over Christmas. They are all so different! We will still be knitting on the 11th December so come and join in with that or bring your own craft project. I will publish dates for 2020 as soon as I have them.

ADVANCE NOTICE: We hope to become involved in the Endon 'Art in the Community' project to take place around Well Dressing weekend next May.



Here are two arrangements from one of our November meetings using a pumpkin base. Please contact me for details on any of the above activities.

Sue Forrester 07854 043187

CHRISTMAS CAROLS at The Stafford Arms

We are invited to sing carols around the Christmas tree at The Stafford Arms, Bagnall on **Friday, December 20th** from 7.00pm to 8.30pm in aid of the Lou Macari Foundation for the Homeless. Mulled wine and mince pies served!



YARN BOMB for CHRISTMAS

Thank you to everyone knitting angels! We hope to commission the first host of angels on the **8th December**. These will be placed at various locations between the 8th and 23rd. The Crib Service Angels can be commissioned at a later date. Keep knitting!! **Maryanne**

SITUATIONS VACANT....a reminder of Barrie's concern

July 6th 2020 will be Rev Alan and Maryanne's last Sunday with us and so we need to think seriously how our many jobs are to be done both in and around our Church during the interregnum. We need volunteers to fill vacancies such as vergers duties. Please talk to Barrie if you consider yourself a willing and available volunteer.

ST LUKE'S 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: 19th December for carols

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

On **December 8th** members of St Luke's Church fundraising committee will be selling items on their Christmas table at the back of church after the 9.15am toy service. These will be new or nearly new items. Your support will be welcome!

Sylvia

making
music



The
PHOENIX SINGERS
Director Ashley Thompson Leek

COMFORT

&
JOY

with
Young Phoenix

Saturday 14th December 2019

2:30pm & 7.30pm

St Luke's Church

Fountain Street, Leek
ST13 6JS

**For tickets
contact
Sue Wilson
01782
503811**

Tickets: £10 (£2 U18s)

available from

High Street Post Office
Leek Tourist Office

Picture Book, Stanley Street
Choir Members

☎ 01782 503343

🌐 www.phoenixsingersleek.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1085474





USED STAMPS

Once more may I remind you to save your used stamps for **The Leprosy Mission** to enable it to continue its work restoring limbs damaged by

leprosy and helping those who are cured to set up businesses so they can earn a living? The collection box is in its usual place behind the main door at St Luke's. As in previous years St Chad's folk may hand used stamps to Muriel Buckle. Please remember to trim off excess paper. Stamps will be sent off at the end of January. TLM Stamps & Collectables has raised over £1 million to benefit people affected by leprosy. It takes seconds to rescue a used stamp from an envelope destined for the recycling bin but, by doing so, healthcare and opportunities can be provided for people in desperate need.

The Leprosy Mission Christmas catalogue offers a wide range of Christian books, cards, calendars, diaries, toys, novelties, CDs, DVDs and stationery as well as items made by those who have been treated. I can lend you my copy but you can order any of the products on-line. **Ros**

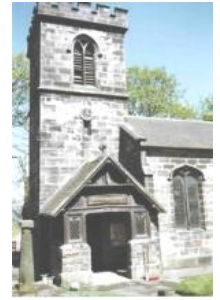
CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS from John and Lyn

The Humbleness of Mary, Joseph and Jesus

It seems most apt at this time of year to remember the humbleness of Mary and Joseph. Two people of lowly position that were entrusted to deliver and be parents to the most important person in the world. Jesus was born in the most lowly and humble of places in a society where collecting titles and power were the most important aspect of some people's lives, it is most refreshing to remember Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus.

For children this is the most special time of year and children were the most important people to Jesus. Mark 10 v 14 **"Let the children come to me and do not stop them because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."** This is one of the most important messages in the bible. Lyn and myself have always adhered to this message and always will.

NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S



Remembrance Sunday:



Our military were duly honoured at St Chad's on the 10th November with our Remembrance Day service. The poppy cascade once again draped the war memorial and the flowers on the altar were beautiful. We were pleased and honoured to welcome Peter Rosie's Dad who served in the 2nd World War and was resplendent in military uniform.

Wreaths were laid by Sally Brown and David Pearson on behalf of the Parish and District councils and Peter, on behalf of his father, laid a wreath made by local school children. The names of the fallen mentioned on the war memorial were read out and poppy

crosses on their behalf were placed by Fred Baker and Wilf Houston Brown. Also remembered with a purple poppy were the local animals that lost their lives in service of their country. It was a moving tribute to all those who have served or are still serving in the military and to whom we owe so much.

Christmas Flower Arranging Demonstration:

Thursday 12th December at 10.30am in St Chad's

The cost will be £5 per head and there will be a list in church or please contact Muriel Finney in person or on 07739 431494 to book your place.

On arrival everyone will be given a ticket and all the displays will be raffled during the event.

There will be tea/coffee and mince pies to enjoy.

There will also be a chance to buy those last minute Christmas presents from our stall of quality goods at low, low prices.

Community Carol singing by St Chad's Church Members

Friday December 20th at 7pm outside the Stafford Arms.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be provided. All donations are for our chosen charity, the Lou Macari Foundation—supporting the homeless of Stoke on Trent. Come along and swell the singing, or in my case, just come along and enjoy the music, atmosphere and mince pies!

Dates for your Diary:

The church is open on a Wednesday morning. If you can spare any time between 10.45 and 12.15 please pop in and enjoy a drink and a chat.

Communion service - Wednesday 11th Dec at 10.45am. With prayers for the sick. Coffee and biscuits to follow when church is open to the public.

Carol service—Sunday 22nd December at 4.00pm

Tuesday 24th December—**Crib service** at 3pm

Tuesday 24th December—**Midnight Holy communion** at 11.30pm

No service at St Chad's on Christmas Day

Creative Corner craft club meets for the last time this year on Monday December 9th at 1pm to 3pm at The Stafford Arms.

Advance notice for Christmas:

Once again St Chad's has been designated a Christmas card free zone. We want to do our bit for the environment, to donate to charity and save those of us who don't send cards the feelings of guilt! Nearer the time there will be a large card for everyone to sign and a collecting box where you can donate what you would have spent. The proceeds will all go to our chosen charity which this year is the Lou Macari Foundation, helping the homeless of Stoke on Trent.

Starting next week (December 1st) and running all through December, I will be posting your Christmas messages in the newsletter. So please let me know what you'd like to say by email, on a scrap of paper, or even by phone, but please, please don't tell me verbally because my memory is awful and I'd hate to get it wrong!

And finally.....Everyone at St Chad's would like to wish all the readers a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Sheila T



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for DECEMBER

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

Please contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 or fill in a form at the back of church. **NOTE:** Shirley is now taking dedications for 2020 so please contact her as soon as possible if you would like a particular date. Thank you to all who support the candle dedications!

| Dec | CANDLE OF HOPE | SANCTUARY LIGHT |
|------------------|---|---|
| 1 st | Sylvia Bradshaw to celebrate the birthday of grandson Archie (2 nd) | Margaret and Maurice to celebrate Tom's birthday (6 th) |
| 8 th | Sue Forrester to celebrate the birthday of granddaughter Evie | Ann and Les to celebrate Evie's birthday |
| 15 th | John Moss - Birthday memories of Winifred Moss | Maureen and Alan Payne To celebrate Tracy's birthday. Barrie Jackson in celebration of Fay's 9 th birthday |
| 22 nd | Barrie Jackson in loving memory of Mum, Dad and brother Ron | Maureen Foster in loving memory of Malcolm, dearly loved husband, father and granddad |
| 29 th | Ann Boulton to celebrate Les's birthday | Anon in loving memory of Joyce and Graham Forrester |



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to

Peter Betts (2nd), Thomas Morris (6th), Maurice Woolliscroft (10th), Bob Morris, Evie Greatbatch (14th), Tracy Payne (17th), Jonathan Bailey (22nd),
Les Boulton (31st)

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



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, a group at the vicarage on alternate Wednesday evenings and a group at Bagnall Heights on Tuesday mornings.

Both Monday and Wednesday groups are currently studying the **STORYLINES** course using a DVD and books prepared by Mike Pilavachi and Andy Croft. This is proving to be a very interesting and informative type of bible study and one which we would heartily recommend to anyone who wants to go deeper in their faith and understanding of the gospel. We have studied the covenants laid down in the Old Testament and how they lead to the covenant God made with Jesus and thus to salvation for all who receive Him. We cannot earn our way to heaven no matter how hard we may try! This doesn't mean we ditch God's laws of love of course. As Mike puts it...the Ten Commandments are not the Ten Polite Suggestions!! Interested? Join a group!

| Day | Venue | Hosts | Leader | Time |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Monday | Claremont St George's Ave | James & Ros | Barrie | 7.30pm |
| Tuesday | Bagnall Heights Lounge | Barrie | Barrie | 11.00 am |
| Wednesday (fortnightly) | Vicarage | Maryanne | Maryanne | 7.30pm |



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 guarantees small traders are not disadvantaged.*

LEEK FOOD BANK UPDATE



CHRISTMAS FOOD APPEAL

**Please buy an item from
this list for the foodbank**

In the 3 weeks leading up to Christmas the foodbank will provide over 150 Christmas food parcels for local individuals and families in crisis.

YOUR assistance would be much appreciated if we could receive donations of these items before the end of November.

Thank you for your support and have a blessed Christmas!

Tinned Ham
Christmas Pudding
Christmas Cake
Box of Biscuits
Children's Selection Box
Box of Chocolates
Large Bar Chocolate
(150/200g)
Snacks & Nibbles
[REDACTED]
Christmas Crackers



**PLEASE NOTE: These need to
be delivered to the food bank
before the end of November.**

Registered Charity Number: 1153990 | Registered in England and Wales



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

Many blessings
Ian Smith - Project Coordinator

December Prayer Focus

- Our UK General Election on the 12th and the future of our country amid unprecedented political wrangling
- Those investigating the apparent murder of 39 people found dead in a refrigerated lorry
- All helping to re-build thousands of shattered lives
- The people of Hong Kong seeking a change in the law from the Chinese government
- Modern day slavery and all striving to end this unjust and often brutal practice. There are more slaves now than ever before.
- Our new Methodist minister Rev Eleanor Smith
- All starting a new job or newly retired
- Yemen – the on-going crisis and those trying hard to get aid into the country and the children coming into the USA from Mexico
- Brexit negotiations especially with regard to the Irish border
- The release of Iranian-British mother Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe serving a 5 year gaol sentence on alleged spying charges
- Our global warming crisis - that world leaders will take appropriate action urgently
- Those affected by the recent upsurge in knife crime
- The problem of social media affecting our young people
- The widespread drug problem especially in Stoke-on-Trent
- Lou Macari's hostel for the homeless in Hanley
- The problem of the millions of plastic bottles afloat in our oceans and the tons of 'space junk' orbiting our planet
- Wisdom for world leaders in making decisions for peace
- Those in our parishes who are ill and those caring for them
- All who have lost loved ones recently
- The Trussell Trust locally
- The unemployed or in work but not earning a living wage
- For all suffering from depression
- For all in care homes or needing care at home and their carers
- For all involved with the Chernobyl Project
- Our Vicar, PCCs and Pastoral Team and visitors to our church
- For Barrie Jackson in his ministry as a lay reader and Ian Perry at St Chad's as he prepares for ordination
- Alan and Maureen Payne in their new house
- Ministry in our benefice after Rev Alan's retirement in 2020

PHIL WOODWARD HANDYMAN

Friendly and reliable service
Gutters/fascias cleared &
cleaned

Jet washing drives/patios etc

Minor brickwork
repairs/pointing

No job too small.

Advice or quotes

**Tel: 01782 767898 or
07769 882973**

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

Curtains, Oriental Rugs,
Leather Cleaning
and Carpet & Fabric Protection

Eradicates Dust Mites and helps improve
the air quality for Asthma sufferers.



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.

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1 page: £20 per month
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advertisement

please contact Ros on 01782
504137 or e-mail:

jandrbenson@btinternet.com

SITUATION WANTED

*Male carer with enhanced
DBS certificate (owns car and
fully insured for business) –
seeks part-time work.*

*Shopping – hospital visits –
personal care – anything
considered. Telephone Chris
07914 385515*

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Rev Alan Betts / Maryanne Lloyd | 502166 |
| Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden | 502006 |
| Ann & Les Boulton, warden's team | 503162 |
| June Pope, warden's team | 503269 |
| 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 |
| Sue Forrester, Flower Club / Foundation gov | 07854 043187 |
| James / Ros Benson, reader emeritus/newsletter | 504137 |
| Maurice Woolliscroft, warden's team | 502390 |
| Barrie Jackson, reader / 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 |

January 2020 newsletter will be in church on
Sunday, January 5th

Please submit notices by **Tuesday, December 31st**
either by e-mail jandrbenson@btinternet.com phone 504137
or a note to Ros Benson.

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

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