



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

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

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May 2020

**This month would normally have featured the
Well Dressing with pleas for help in both
welcoming and serving teas!
However....**

as this year would have been our Vicar's last well dressing before he retires, members of the Well Dressing Committee asked if we could supply a written tribute to him (with photo) for inclusion in their proposed programme. In accordance with the current pandemic social restrictions, but for the first time since WW1 (1915, 1917 and 1918), the well dressing has been cancelled and so instead of this appearing in the programme I have included it here.

Ros

Rev Alan and Maryanne



As many of you may know we shall be saying farewell to our vicar and his wife this summer. Having been here nineteen years Rev Alan is one of our longest-serving vicars. Arriving in August 2001 from the South Staffs parish of Heath Hayes (he is a firm Wolves supporter) he had already visited our well dressing 'incognito' by the time he was installed as priest-in-

charge of St Luke's. In 2003 St Chad's, Bagnall was added to his responsibilities and he became vicar of the newly formed benefice. In 2015 he took on further responsibility for St Anne's, Brown Edge and was later appointed assistant rural dean involving an increase in PCC and synod meetings and thus a three-fold increase in weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Rev Alan has always seen the Church as a vital part of the community and put much effort into reaching out to our young people, families and children in our schools. He set up "Messy Church" on Sunday afternoons for primary age and parents, appointed a paid youth worker for a number of years and more recently set up our current Connections service in St Luke's school on Sunday mornings. Serving on the board of governors at St Luke's he has regularly taken assembly there on Tuesday mornings while our local care home and Bagnall Heights also have had regular visits. Both St Luke's and St Chad's have been able to develop pastoral visiting teams proving very valuable to those who cannot get to church.

As Alan is clearly unable to preside at all three churches at once on Sunday mornings, he set about training and developing lay worship teams to lead services in his place. During his ministry three members of his congregation have felt called to formal training namely Barrie Jackson, now a licensed reader and Ian Perry and Caryl Siegertsz from St Chad's who will be shortly ordained.

Ecumenically he has maintained a good relationship with our Methodist church especially in sharing ministry at our midweek communion services. Our Memorial Service for bereaved families held each year in November was initiated by Alan and each year on October 31st he and Maryanne lead a group around Endon distributing sweets and a gospel message to "Trick or Treat" participants while inviting them to hot chocolate in the chapter house. Another of Alan's initiatives was the first adult baptism/re-affirmation of faith by total immersion at St Luke's when he borrowed a portable baptistry.

To comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, Alan oversaw the re-ordering of both St Luke's and St Chad's to accommodate new toilet suites, hearing loops and in the case of St Luke's, a lift to enable disabled access to the chapter house.

Always keen to have the latest computer software at the vicarage he has made production of the church newsletter almost automated. From painstakingly photocopying one sheet at a time the editor can now watch while A4 sheets turn into an A5 booklet emerging a few seconds later collated, stapled and with a coloured cover, thus saving hours of time.

Of course throughout his time here Rev Alan has had the unwavering support of a very strong, courageous and energetic lady, his amazing wife Maryanne. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to them both. We shall miss them and pray they will enjoy a long and very happy retirement.

Rev Alan writes....

What's Normal?

I am rapidly coming to the point where I seriously dislike the word 'normal'. It's there in everyday language. As we come to the end of our fourth week in lockdown and social distancing, I've heard the phrase that goes something like 'when we will be back to normal?' Or others say 'when this is over [ie lockdown] we can return to normal'. And then to my dismay, I've seen promotional websites for parents home-schooling their children with the motivational phrase of 'living with the new normal'.

That use of language is now making me want to scream 'So what's normal?' Does 'getting back to normal' mean that we long to be back where we were before this crisis? Lets' think about this.

Before the lockdown and pandemic crisis, we didn't stand on our doorsteps or hang out our windows clapping the health care workers. We didn't show our appreciation for their work and, for so many of them, putting themselves at huge risk in order to care for the sick. Many care workers in our Residential and Nursing Homes are classed as 'unskilled' and on low pay. Many of our medical professionals, paramedics, doctors and nurses are overworked, underpaid and undervalued. 'Back to normal'? A return to cuts in social care services and cuts in the NHS; as if to say 'thanks for all the hard work and sacrifice but we won't be clapping you any more, we're back to normal now'.

'Back to normal' with the return to our contributions to food banks? There is an opportunity to look nationally at the social reasons why they are there in the first place. That's a different issue but we may celebrate how community has developed during the lockdown. With volunteers taking food parcels to the housebound and those who have to self-isolate or instructed to isolate themselves. There has been a growing awareness of the needs of our neighbour and a willingness to show some care and thoughtfulness to them. Will that slacken when we are 'back to normal'? Our neighbour may remain housebound for reasons other than Covid-19.

During the lockdown, I've noticed in our churches that we have connected with each other much more regularly. Relationships in the wider church family have grown, members from different congregations getting to know one another. We are growing as family. Do we want to 'get back to normal', with a sense of separateness? I've noticed that we have connected with each other at a level much deeper than when we meet on a Sunday morning in gathered worship.

Do we want to 'get back to normal'?... the shallow relationship of 'How are you?', 'I'm fine thanks.'

In this Easter season, let us be reminded that the resurrection of Jesus, his body raised to life and transformed into an eternal body, is **not normal**. It doesn't happen in the normal run of things. It points to a reality that we share in. His resurrection is our resurrection. The new life that he brings to us by His Spirit, that power that raised Jesus from the dead is in you and me. That is the new reality, the new normal for Christians.

This pandemic has been a dreadful, terrifying matter to live through. They are not 'normal' times. But when we have come through, when there is a vaccine and testing is at a level that both will allow us to move freely, life and our relationships could be different for the better. I don't simply want to be 'back to normal'. I want to be back to something that has significantly touched us and enabled us to live more wholesomely as community, as family and to live more fully Christ's risen life in me. I want to be back to a new normal.

KEEPING IN TOUCH...THIS IS VITAL!

Thanks to modern technology many of us have been able to keep in touch by Zoom, WhatsApp and YouTube. If you have internet and a camera on your computer you would be welcome to join our Zoom session at 11.00am on Friday mornings. Please contact Maryanne or Neil Taylor for access details. Zoom can also be accessed on your mobile phone.

However, we must remember those who do not have internet or mobile phones. Rev Alan and Maryanne have made a list of all our church folk and shared out their names between members of the pastoral team and the PCC so hopefully everyone is being contacted. Joe and Barrie are doing a great job taking care of shopping and prescription requirements. We sincerely hope that no-one in our church family is missing out. Please contact Alan, Maryanne or Shirley if you know of anyone in church or the wider community who needs help or is feeling left out. *Phone numbers are on the back page.*

Hand deliveries are now considered to be a risk in spreading the virus. As a result I am afraid that this edition of the newsletter is only available in digital format which again makes it a challenge to reach those without computers.



Ruth Valerio and Gideon Heugh explore questions that Christians might be wrestling with during the coronavirus crisis.

HOW TO BEAT CORONAVIRUS:

Stay at home. Keep your distance. Wash your hands. Have a good theology.

Wait, a good what?

Theology is our understanding of the nature of God. This in turn influences the way we see the world. In times like these, when life as we know it has been turned upside down, it's crucial that we have a good Bible-based theology.

To help, we've put together answers to some of the questions that Christians might be wrestling with at this time:

Will God protect us? Why is this happening? Is the virus God's judgement?

Does sin cause illness? Are these the end times? And, how should the church respond? And the church, of course, means all of us. We are one in Christ, and no amount of social distancing can sever that connection. Speaking of which...

Will God protect us?

Having the right theology can save lives. Literally. Most churches around the world have stopped meeting in person – for obvious, sensible and necessary reasons. Some, however, have not, citing their belief that God will protect them from the virus. This is bad theology, and it might cost lives.

God does protect. God does heal. Yet we are his hands and feet, and it's vital that we play our role, listening and acting upon the advice of experts. I trust God with my health – but I also try and make sure that I exercise and eat well. If I break my leg, I'll pray for healing – but I'll also go to the doctor. Trust God, but take action too.

Why is this happening?

To answer this question, we need to go back to the beginning. God created a world that he declared to be very good (Genesis 1:31) – a world in which everything exists in harmony with God. Relationship with God, with others, with ourselves and with the rest of creation is central to God's loving purposes. After those relationships go wrong, the Bible then tells the story of how God works to restore them – a plan that finds its ultimate fulfilment in Jesus. Poverty, conflict, suffering, climate change – all these are the result of those broken relationships. The Bible is clear that God, people and the natural world are deeply interconnected, so if one aspect of that is broken then everything will be impacted. As hard as it is to hear, the outbreak of coronavirus is not a 'natural disaster'. It is a disaster of our own making.

Viruses jump species and get into humans, and environmental destruction makes this more likely to happen as people are brought into closer contact with virus-carrying animals. Deforestation, mining, animal trafficking and unsustainable farming practices are all likely factors at play.¹

As hard as it is to hear, the outbreak of coronavirus is not a 'natural disaster'. Is this God's judgement?

God's original intention was peace between all things – but this is not how we're living. He created a world in which everything is connected, and there are natural consequences when those connections are broken. This doesn't necessarily mean that God 'caused' or 'willed' the pandemic – it is to recognise that the brokenness of creation ultimately causes us harm. In some cultures, misfortune is seen as directly linked to that person's sin. But biblically, these links are rarely as simple as that. For example, in the story of Job, Job's suffering is not a result of his sin, but of the existence and work of Satan.

In Luke 13:1-5, Jesus is told about Pilate's massacre of some Galileans who were in the process of offering sacrifices. He responds by pointing out that those who were killed were not greater sinners than those who were not killed. And he makes the same point about the people who were killed when the tower in Siloam collapsed. Jesus is clear that the existence of disasters doesn't mean that those who are affected by them are worse people than anybody else. Such events should never be an invitation to judge others.

Does sin cause illness?

In John 9:1-5 Jesus meets a man who was blind from birth. The disciples ask about the sins that have caused this blindness – was it his sin or that of his parents? But Jesus tells them that his blindness has nothing to do with sin. Not only that, but it provides an opportunity 'that the works of God might be displayed in him'.

The Bible does present links between sin and suffering in a broader sense. Our physical suffering is part of a chain of brokenness from Genesis 3 onwards. Also, there are lifestyle choices we can make that either promote or neglect our health and wellbeing. However, there are no biblical grounds for directly linking a person's illness with their sin. Even when Jesus heals the paralyzed man in Mark 2 saying 'your sins are forgiven', he did not explicitly say that the sins were the cause of his paralysis. And nowhere else does Jesus heal by saying 'your sins are forgiven'.

Illness must never be used as a basis for stigmatization and rejection. The Pharisees did that – Jesus didn't. His message was one of acceptance, inclusion and compassion for all.

Are these the end times?

Widespread conflict in the Middle East. A plague of locusts spreading across Africa. Flooding around the world. Surely these are signs of the end times? If there's one thing that we can say for certain, it's that no one can know for certain. If Jesus himself did not know when the end times would be (Matthew 24:36), who are we to try and say?

It is important to keep a wider perspective throughout all of this. Christians have been trying (and failing) to predict the end of the world since the early days of the church. Although the word 'unprecedented' keeps being brought up, this is not the first crisis of this scale – indeed, there have been far, far darker times in human history. The great plague of the 14th century is estimated to have wiped out nearly two thirds of Europe's population. I'm sure they were convinced that the end times were upon them too.

War, disease, natural disasters – these are, sadly, nothing new. Jesus said his return would be sudden and unexpected, and said we were to ignore anyone who thought they knew about specific dates and times, likening people who look for scare-mongering stories to vultures (Matthew 24:28). The answer is there is no clear answer and we should ignore those who think they have one.

As the shadow of coronavirus falls across the land, the church's mission is to shine as brightly as it can.

How should the church respond?

The church should be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). As the shadow of coronavirus falls across the land, the church's mission is to shine as brightly as it can. We must follow Jesus in showing God's love, bringing healing to a broken world and responding to people's needs: economic and emotional, spiritual and physical, both locally and globally.

We can and we must act!

When Ebola ravaged West Africa in 2014, it was local churches that helped lead the fightback. In Sierra Leone, Christians used video and radio broadcasts to spread vital health messages. Tearfund trained pastors and gave them phones so they could call people suffering with Ebola and pray with them. Churches

gave practical help to people in quarantine and church members provided food, water and toiletries. We are already seeing the church rising to the challenge of coronavirus. In many communities around the world, it is Christians who are coordinating local care, creating neighbourhood WhatsApp groups, dropping off food and toiletries to those who are self-isolating, and being there to provide emotional response. In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh – the largest refugee camp in the world – life is becoming even more miserable. Sanitation and hygiene facilities are already inadequate, and the streets are narrow and crowded. But Tearfund's church partners are distributing hygiene kits and leaflets to educate people about handwashing, social distancing and recognising the symptoms.

Creating a better world

If we lean deeper into God's love, choosing faith instead of fear, we may find that new opportunities emerge. There is the potential for communities to come together more than ever before; for families to re-discover themselves; for busy people to slow down and build a rhythm of rest into their lives; for people to reconnect with God and his world; for nations to re-tune into God's word; for churches to learn how to use digital technology to enhance ministry; and for us to develop more local, environmentally-friendly economies. One day, we will make it out of this crisis. But what sort of world do we want there to be on the other side? Can we repent of the world we have created, and instead look to build one without such a huge gap between rich and poor – a world where we live in harmony with creation, in which we understand that the well-being of one is bound up with the well-being of all? In Christ, there is always hope. We can let that hope motivate how we live our lives today as we hold on to God our rock. And, with the love of Christ in our hearts, let us continue to reach out with compassion and determination.

God of love and light,

In this time of fear, give us your peace.

In this time of isolation, give us your presence.

In this time of sickness, give us your healing.

In this time of uncertainty, give us your wisdom.

In this time of darkness, shine your light upon us all.

In Jesus' name, amen

Reference 1: 'Tip of the iceberg: is our destruction of nature responsible for Covid-19?' The Guardian, 18 March 2020

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Dr Ruth Valerio a theologian, environmentalist and author, and leads Tearfund's global advocacy and influencing work. Gideon Heugh is a poet and naturalist and is the Senior Copywriter in Tearfund's communications team.



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

Annual Parish Meetings

In the light of restrictions placed upon parishes by the current COVID-19 epidemic, Bishop Michael has signed an Instrument that extends the time for choosing churchwardens at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners to the 31 October 2020 and PCC and Deanery Synod members at the APCM to the same date.

All those currently in these posts will continue until then. If you have already held an Annual Meeting of Parishioners and APCM for 2020, the new wardens begin only when admitted which may be as late as 31 January 2021 and the churchwardens elected in 2019 remain in office. Newly elected Deanery Synod representatives take up their post on 1 December and existing members stay in post until then. If PCC members already have been elected they begin straightaway. Any further questions please liaise with one of our Archdeacons in the first instance.

FOOD FOR ENDON

JOE PORTER writes....

I have launched a project 'Food for Endon' to provide fresh and locally grown fruit & veg to elderly and vulnerable people in our area. Every Tuesday morning I collect the bags from Haregate Community Centre's Community Hub who kindly provide them through local farmers and producers. They are sold for £3 each as the Council and local councillors have helped to subsidise the cost of the bags each week. The bags contain eight types of fruit & veg, depending on what is in season and I can deliver one to you should you be interested. Please contact me if you or anyone you know in Endon, Bagnall, Stanley or Stockton Brook is interested. Our network also offers weekly shopping and pharmacy prescription collections and our church pastoral teams can provide a weekly chat to support people too. Best wishes, Joe

NEWS FROM SOME OF THE OTHERS!

Last month I asked for contributions from folk so we can stay in touch with each other during this unprecedented period in which we find ourselves. As we sometimes find ourselves wondering how everyone else is coping, here are a few contributions...

LOCKED DOWN IN LONGSDON

Hello to everyone. I hope you are all Staying In and Staying Safe as far as possible. I feel rather far away on a daily basis but really appreciate the 'phone, email and online contact with so many friends.

So many plans have had to be cancelled and my packed diary is now nearly empty. However, Roger and I have evolved a routine that involves a long walk every day and we have been stunned by the beauty of this Spring; the lovely birdsong, celandines and wood anemones under the trees which themselves are bursting into leaf and the sunshine to make all of this even more beautiful. The garden is getting more attention than usual but I'm afraid that no cupboards have been emptied and tidied!

St Luke's Academy, while closed to most pupils, has remained open to care for the children of Key Workers, of whom, there are many in Endon. The Acting Head, Anna Elkin, and the Office Manager, Paula Elliott, have been in school every day to ensure the safety of both children and staff. Please pray for their safety as they put their pupils first. I look forward very much to being together again. Until then, take care of yourselves and enjoy this beautiful Spring.

Sue Forrester

PAT FROM ST CHAD'S...

St Chad's is uniting in a Zoom meeting to continue our Tuesday afternoon discussion group. We also have a chat group on Whatsapp which is a source of prayer and fun. We also try to keep up with those without technology by phone and card. In Bagnall we all went out to clap and shout on Thursday evening. Good weather means we can sit out and shout to neighbours and passers by. A volunteer group is there for people without family to go shopping. We are so lucky here in plenty of space.

We do remember in our prayers and giving those in poor accommodation or homeless and we continue to pass on prayer requests for the sick. Life must go on and we give thanks for all those who are helping the country return to normal living.

Pat Adams

FROM KATH HOWELL...

Well life is certainly very different for all of us at the moment and for me it's very different because on our last day in France I managed to trip over a raised paving stone and break both wrists!!!! Most people at St Chad's were not really surprised because I have a bit of a reputation for breaking bones and not doing things by halves. I'm happy to say the left one is out of plaster and on the mend so it's one fingered typing with my left hand!

Thanks to one of our younger members, Grace, we have very much become an online church. Grace set up WhatsApp group in which about 12 of us, age 21-80+, share prayers, pictures, videos, jokes and much more throughout the day. This keeps us happy and connected. She also decided that we needed to see each other so she introduced us to Zoom!!! After a few hiccups we seem to have got to grips with it so a couple of times a week we join together. We organised an Easter afternoon service which we finished with a 'lovefeast' meaning we all had a drink and cake at hand. Once a week I organise a Bible Study and we are looking at the Psalms.

Our pastoral team is doing a wonderful job by phoning people and checking that everyone has all they need and using 'snail mail's to send cards etc. Those people who are allowed out for essentials are making sure that those who are classed as 'shielded' (of which I am one) are well looked after by offering to shop, go to the chemist and so on.

Of course this is a very difficult time but the love of Jesus is definitely shining through. Everyone at St Chad's sends love and blessings to our brothers and sisters at St Luke.

Stay safe and God bless, Kathryn xx

AND FROM SHEILA TIPPER...*How are you all coping with 3 more weeks of lockdown? I have my good days and my not so good days. I have a history of anxiety and I worry about things that may (or may not) happen. It's quite hard to find things that take your mind off your worries when you're confined to quarters so to speak. I find that meditation helps and I try to sit down a couple of times a day to clear my mind and relax. I'm in the process of re-reading all my Dick Francis novels (all 52 of them!) which are my favourite books and which I can almost quote by heart. I have my "crafty" things; pretty soon I'll have enough cross stitch birthday cards to last for at least the next seven years!*



Barbara Millard sent me a pattern of nurse mates which I've made and, I think you'll agree, is very topical. That will be another one for the Christmas Fayre (assuming we're let out by then!!) I've also been trying to crochet a blanket for the neo natal unit at the hospital via Creative corner craft club but I've now run out of suitable colours and there must've been a run on wool because my usual suppliers are out of stock of all the colours I want!

There must have also been a demand for jigsaws. We've had one on the go for most of lockdown and, like my Dick Francis books, they've now been done many times, but I can't find any nice ones to buy. The only ones in stock seem to be Christmas ones or rubbish pictures! Don't I seem to be complaining!

Brian has been busy decorating. We'd (luckily) bought paint to do the living/dining room, kitchen and downstairs toilet and planned to complete before autumn this year. Apart from finishing of the gloss paint in the kitchen it's now all complete. So my house has never looked better. The beautiful weather that we've had has meant that we've also spent loads of time in the garden, and I have to admit, I've never seen it looking so good. So there we have it. What on earth are we going to do for the next 3 (or more) weeks!!!!

We are sticking as much as we can to the lockdown. I'm lucky that daughter, Jo-Anne is shopping for me once a week – this is a good excuse to see her and in exchange for the shopping I do a load of her washing – gives me something to do! She got stopped by the police at Festival Park last week to find out if her trip was essential. Luckily she could honestly say that she'd been delivering to the old folks! She's working full time from home at the moment which puts all the child care for my two 4 year old granddaughters on my son-in-law's shoulders with no grandparents to help. My grandson, very nearly 15, according to my stepdaughter, only ventures out of his room for drinks, food or the bathroom. His sister who is just 12 loves baking but the trouble is buying the ingredients and, for her mum, the cleaning up afterwards. She thinks that if she does the hard work of baking it's only fair that someone else washes and tidies every cooking utensil in the house.

One of my technological high spots is getting together via zoom with a dozen or so other members of St Chad's. I have no camera or microphone on my computer but I can see and hear everyone else and I can join in by text. It's perhaps as well that I can't be seen as my hair desperately needs a cut and I'm usually dressed in my old, tatty clothes! People have also kept in contact by phone, email and I've even written a couple of letters to old friends. I can't pretend that I'm coping well with this situation but I'm getting through it and the support of my family and friends has been crucial. My thoughts have to go to my poor husband who is on the front line, so to speak, of my moods and as long as I continue to feed him and let him watch rubbish cowboy films on TV we'll be fine!!!!

Sheila

GOD BLESS OUR NHS...

Some folk will go to any extremes to have a break from lockdown! Out of the blue last weekend James collapsed at the dining table with a severe episode of low blood pressure. Instead of keeping well away from the RSUH A & E like everyone else James found himself heading straight there and I was not allowed to accompany him but was required to collect him a few hours later. With little traffic on the roads I flew through Cobridge lights, Etruria roundabout and down Victoria Street on what must have been my quickest ever journey to the RSUH. The A & E looked like a fortress with a strict red area for virus patients and a green area for non-virus with green footsteps and arrows leading to a temporary entrance at the usual ambulance drop-off. No parking fee and all doors unlocked so no touching keypads. Having had a bath in hand sanitiser at every opportunity I still felt extremely vulnerable as I waited for the attention of a very busy nurse especially as all staff were wearing aprons, masks and visors and I had none of those. Despite their busyness, James and I were treated with utmost courtesy and care and even managed a laugh as the nurse dusted him back home. Needless to say we departed with massive thanks to them all and to the paramedics who had attended him earlier in the day. Sadly it has taken a pandemic for many of us to appreciate the dedication (and sacrifice) of hard-working healthcare workers, delivery/bus/train drivers, bin men, teachers, postmen, cleaners, supermarket staff, food producers and countless "invisible" others (often low paid) who have long formed the backbone of our lives and without whom life as we know it would grind to a halt.

Ros

PS James and I are also immensely grateful for the prayer support (and phone calls and messages) from friends and family especially St Luke's prayer chain. (He is still not "out of the woods" but our Parkinson's nurses are on the case!)

ENDON METHODIST CHURCH



Endon Methodist Church has two **FaceBook** pages.

The one for the **church** can be found at

https://www.facebook.com/pg/EndonChurch/posts/?ref=page_internal

(If you use a search engine for Endon Methodist Church you may link to our old FaceBook page)

You will find video reflections from Rev Eleanor Smith and Rev Julie Hassall, as well as other posts.

And we have a Facebook page for young people

Endon Methodist Youth

This can be found by searching for Endon Methodist Youth.

It has reflections and ideas for activities for children.

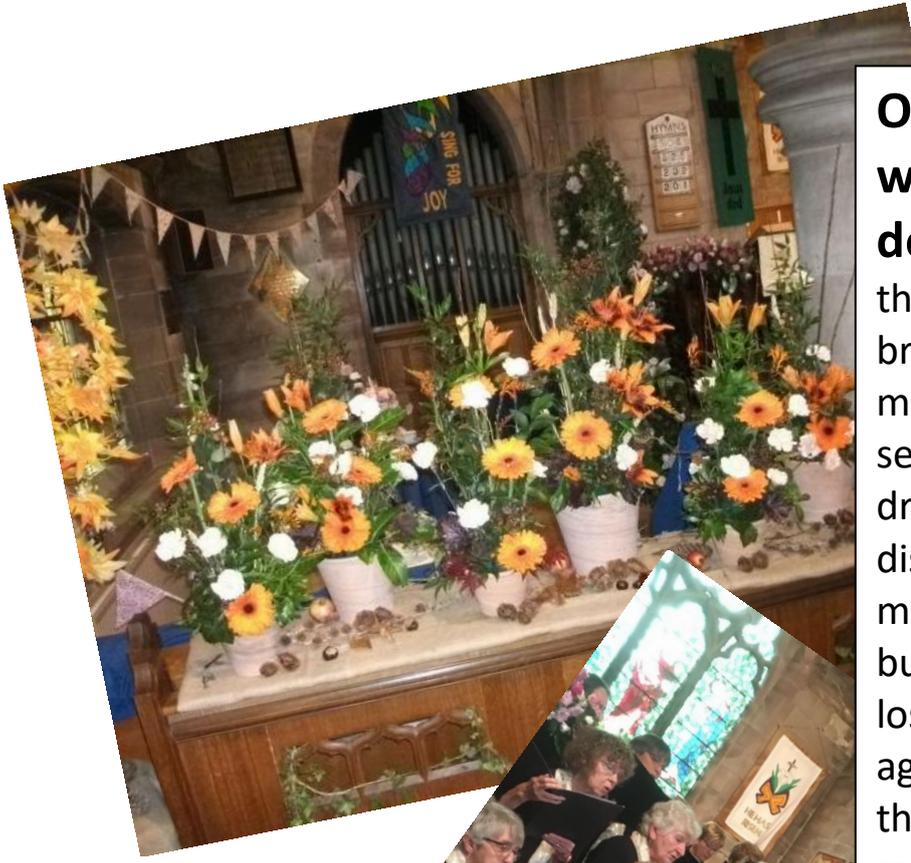
Rev Eleanor Smith

REV ALAN & MARYANNE'S RETIREMENT

As you know **July 5th 2020** will be Rev Alan and Maryanne's last Sunday with us and it is hoped that a service of farewell can be held at St Luke's at 6.30pm to which we are all invited along with members of our wider community. **We are not sure yet whether this will go ahead but we'll keep you posted.**

OUR GIVING (*details from Steve Dale or Sheila Hurst)

Be reminded that our Church still has bills to pay during this time of social restriction. Please keep up your regular giving if you possibly can. Those who pay by weekly envelopes may issue a cheque and post it to Sheila Hurst or to the vicarage or set up a monthly standing order (not a direct debit as this creates more work for our treasurer). Those who bank on-line may pay directly into the church account by setting up **Endon St Luke's PCC** as a new recipient*.



On January 1st this is what we thought we'd be doing in May! We shall miss the floral displays, the teas, the bric-a-brac table, the choir and meeting folk that we haven't seen since last year's well dressing (who often come from a distance). Most of all we shall miss the sheer fun of it ...the buzz and bunting in the village, losing people and finding them again and wondering whether the rain will hold off for the crownings and Songs of Praise!





We WILL meet again!



NB CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT
John and Julie have informed us that no teenagers will be coming from Belarus this year but they are still supporting on-going projects there and would welcome donations.



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for MAY

For £2.50 you can keep the Candle of Hope or the Sanctuary Light burning for a week with a dedication. Please contact **Shirley Brindley** on **504089** if you would like a particular date.

| May | CANDLE OF HOPE | SANCTUARY LIGHT |
|-------------|--|---|
| 3rd | Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Alan's birthday (4 th) Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Mark's birthday (5 th) | Maureen Foster to celebrate the birthdays of her granddaughters Charlotte and Sophie |
| 10th | In loving memory of Tom, Emma and Robert Williams from The Family | John Moss Cherished memories of Winifred Moss Marilyn Plant in remembrance of a dear father, Edwin Turner |
| 17th | Sue Forrester to celebrate the birthday of her son, Nick | Anon |
| 24th | | Rosie and Geoff Smith to celebrate the birthday of their granddaughter Hope Rose |
| 31st | Sylvia Bradshaw to celebrate the birthday of her granddaughter Evie (30 th) | |



MAY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to

Stan Hurst (3rd), Alan Payne (4th), Mark Payne (5th), Matthew Taylor (6th), John Moss (7th), Joe Porter (8th), Vera Tyson (11th she's 103!!), Rachel Foster (12th), James Benson (18th), Chris Bardell (23rd), Victoria Bunn (29th), Dave Moss (31st)

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

May Prayer Focus

- Our pandemic..those suffering from the coronavirus and/or in social isolation as well as those seeking ways to stop its spread including all of us as individuals
- Our NHS, care workers, politicians and those working hard in difficult circumstances to make sure we are all fed and have access to essential services
- Scientists working round the clock to produce a vaccine and the volunteers brave enough to take part in trials
- The situation in parts of the USA where folk are openly rebelling against a lockdown
- **Many poor folk in Uganda who could die of starvation rather than coronavirus in their lockdown situations**
- All those whose livelihoods are adversely affected
- Syrian refugees (especially children) in camps in freezing conditions and under constant threat of bombs
- Those whose properties have been damaged in recent storms
- Yemen – the on-going crisis and those trying hard to get aid into the country and the children coming into the USA from Mexico
- The release of Iranian-British mother Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe serving a 5 year gaol sentence on alleged spying charges
- 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
- Those in our parishes who are ill and those caring for them
- All who have lost loved ones recently
- The Trussell Trust especially during this time of crisis
- Those in financial difficulty as a result of the losing their jobs
- For all suffering from depression
- For all in care homes or needing care at home and their carers
- Our Vicar, PCCs and Pastoral Team and visitors to our church
- For Barrie Jackson as lay reader and Ian Perry and Caryl Siegertsz at St Chad's as they prepare for ordination and all who lead worship in our churches each Sunday
- For Kath Howell who has recently broken both wrists
- Ministry in our benefice after Rev Alan's retirement

PHIL WOODWARD HANDYMAN

Friendly and reliable service
Gutters/fascias cleared &
cleaned

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Minor brickwork
repairs/pointing

No job too small.

Advice or quotes

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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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If you would like to place an
advertisement

please contact Ros on 01782

504137 or e-mail:

jandrbenson@btinternet.com



***DON'T FORGET those families
struggling more than ever at the
moment. While we are not
visiting church to drop off
donations, remember you can
still donate tins etc in Morrisons
and Sainsbury's.***

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 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 & Craft Club / Foundation gov/Safeguarding Officer | 07854 043187 |
| Linda Foster, Safeguarding Officer | |
| 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 |

June 2020 newsletter will be available on
Sunday, May 31st

Please submit notices by **Tuesday, May 26th**
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.**