



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



June 2020



LIFE IN LOCKDOWN: KEEPING IN TOUCH

Many of us in both St Luke's and St Chad's are keeping 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 Tuesday and Friday mornings. Please contact Maryanne or Neil Taylor at St Luke's or Kath Howell at St Chad's for access details. Zoom can also be accessed on your mobile phone. Above are screen shots of those who have been taking part. Each session lasts about 40 minutes and you can bring your coffee!

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 still 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. As was the case last month this edition of the newsletter is mainly available in digital format. A small number were printed last time and posted out for those without internet.

LOCKED DOWN IN LONGSDON

A little less locked down than last month but we are still staying pretty close to home for our daily walks. I have heard so many people say that they have discovered footpaths and routes that they had never walked before. How lucky we are!

I haven't been very far but I have visited St Luke's CE Academy several times. Like most schools, St Luke's has been open throughout this period caring for vulnerable pupils and the children of Key Workers. Members of staff have been working on rota which has meant they have been in school about one week in three. The other weeks, they have been working at home preparing Home Learning packs, writing reports, contacting families and completing assessments. The Academy will reopen on June 1st to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 plus the children who have been attending throughout the Lockdown. A great deal of work has been done to prepare the school building so that staff, pupils and families are kept safe. I would like to place on record my thanks to all at St. Luke's for the positive attitude towards coping with Covid19. If your child or grandchild is returning to school in June I hope you will feel reassured that everything possible is being done to support our children and families.

We have very much missed preparing for our annual Flower Festival and look forward to next year and a bumper event.

Sending best wishes to everyone.

Sue Forrester

(foundation governor for St Luke's CE Academy, among other things)

PRAYERS FOR DAYS OF LOCKDOWN

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

Submitted by Barrie...

Gracious God, in these challenging and difficult times where, in our shared vulnerability, our common humanity is revealed, help us to seek You and to learn from You. Help us to be faithful in our calling to make Your love and justice known.

Almighty God, as we recognise the true fragility of our structures of power and wealth, help us to learn again the priorities and values of Your Kingdom and help us to be faithful in our calling to make Your Kingdom known.

Loving God, in the midst of our own needs and fears, may we not neglect the needs of others. As we build new bonds, shaped by isolation, teach us to learn again Your call, to love our neighbour. Help us to be faithful in our calling to make Your compassion known.

Emmanuel God, as lives lost and human suffering are reduced to models and statistics, may we not forget the true cost that is borne by those who mourn and fear and suffer. Help us to be faithful in our calling to make Your presence known.

Eternal God, though we walk through the Valley of Shadow, we will one day emerge. May we not then forget the One whose presence sustained us or the lessons we learned as You walked at our side. Help us to be faithful in our calling, to make Your Gospel known. Amen.



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

Archdeacon Matthew's pastoral letter June 2020

In May the Government changed its messaging on Coronavirus from 'Stay at home' to 'Stay alert'. This new slogan has received mixed reviews. Some think it is a bracing call to common sense and personal responsibility; others that it is just vague and confusing. Needless to say, *Twitter* had strong views on the matter. I make no judgement here on all that, but I do want to commend the practice of being alert. Throughout the Scriptures, God's people are called to stay alert – not in an exhausting and fearful state of high anxiety but in a posture of prayerful attentiveness to God.

Jesus warns his disciples to be "be alert at all times" to the coming judgement of God. St Paul writes to the Corinthian church and says, "Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." Christians are not only to be alert to potential threats (like a virus) but also to the challenge of faithfully living out the Gospel in the world.

So how might we need to be alert in these times of pandemic?

As those who love God with our heart, soul, strength and mind, we must be, above all, alert to what God is saying to us and to the Church and to the world. Many of us have found ourselves re-evaluating our lives in recent days. Some of us have had our faith in God tested; others have found that we have had more time to reflect on matters of the Spirit. What has God been saying to you in, and through, the challenges of this present time? Perhaps, we will want to live differently as a result of this crisis because we have learnt afresh that our sure hope lies not in our possessions or our job or our health but in the God who is with us even to the end of the age. Perhaps we have rediscovered, in new ways, the value of the God-given gifts of family, friends and community? Is this a "teachable moment" and am I alert to what God wants to say to me? And as those who are commanded to love our neighbours as ourselves, are we alert to the ways in which this crisis is laying bare, in sharp ways, the profound inequalities that scar our society?

NHS staff, delivery drivers, care home workers, supermarket staff, cleaners - many of whom are paid a pittance and whose work is undervalued - are now revealed as essential life savers. To our shame, we are not surprised to learn

that you are twice as likely to die of Covid19 if you live in an area of high deprivation. This pandemic is bad news for all of us but it is especially so if we are poor, sick, lonely or homeless. Perhaps we were not sufficiently alert to these things. Are we now? Much of what once passed for 'normal' is now exposed as cynical, cruel and unjust. Are we now alert to the possibility of creating a society that more fully anticipates the joy and hope of God's coming Kingdom?

"Stay alert!" There is nothing vague or confusing about the Biblical command to have hearts that are receptive and attentive to the movement of the Spirit. God is passionately, intimately and fully engaged with the world in this time of change and challenge.

So here's the message: Stay alert to God – love your neighbour – change the world.

The Ven Matthew Parker, Archdeacon of Stoke



Toad in a Hole!

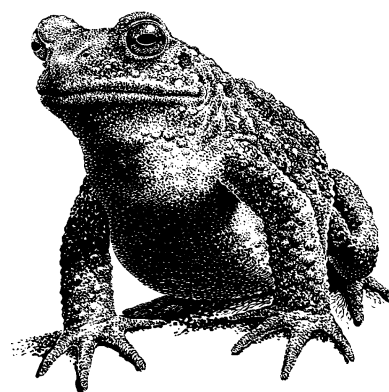
We think of June as the month for flowers and butterflies but spare a thought for the amphibians which may rely on your churchyard.

Wait a minute, amphibians; frogs, toads and newts, don't they live in ponds?

No, they don't, they breed in ponds, laying the distinctive jelly-covered spawn, but actually spend much of the year on land. Unlike reptiles, amphibians need to keep their skin moist so you may find them sheltering in shaded areas, perhaps under deadwood or amongst old leaves. The base of a stone wall is a great place to look for amphibians and also slowworms, hunting in longer vegetation for slugs, snails, beetles, worms and other invertebrates.

Frogs have such a porous skin that they can change colour depending on their surroundings. A frog which has hibernated in an area of clay will emerge in spring coloured quite a bright orange.

Churchyards are brilliant for amphibians as they contain lots of nooks and crannies for them to shelter in and hunt for food. Walls, shaded wooded areas,



rotting leaves and also the gaps that appear beside monuments or the cracks within chest tombs or other larger memorials. In addition, they are free of the burden of garden and farmland chemicals such as slug killers, insecticides and fertilisers that are so commonly used elsewhere. These affect the animals via the food they eat and also get absorbed by their sensitive skin.

To help amphibians, try not to be too tidy! Keep some areas of long and tussocky grassland, pile up dead wood and loose stones into heaps. A compost bay is a great source of food and shelter.

All the best, Harriet Carty,

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfqa.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

Also submitted by Barrie is this extract from an interview recently broadcast by **Premier Christian Radio**. (*Freeview channel 725 or digital radio or on-line.*)

**'I have the eternal security that takes away the fear of death':
- a Christian nurse explains how she's coping on the frontline...**

A Christian nurse working on the frontline of the coronavirus pandemic has said being surrounded by death every day has made her more thankful for salvation. Georgina Coster from Stoke-on-Trent said many healthcare workers are naturally fearful due to the amount of lives coronavirus has taken away. ***"Colleagues in general are just scared, scared for their family, scared for one another. And in the midst of that, they're really trying to do a good job of looking after patients, but just with this lurking fear in the back of their minds all the time, so it's difficult."*** She told Premier Radio as a Christian she's able to go to work unafraid of what could happen if she catches the virus. ***"We're [frontline medics] just living in the fear of death. For me, as a Christian, it's made me more thankful than ever for the Gospel. To know that I'm going into work wearing my PPE, which I'm really thankful for, but if the worst did happen, and I did get the virus and I did actually die, I'd be with Jesus, and I don't have a shadow of doubt in my mind about that. To be able to say that is phenomenal. And I think I've become grateful for the Gospel in a way that I wasn't before."***

She moved out of her home to protect her husband who has a respiratory condition. He also works in a hospital but was told to social shield for 12 weeks. They're at the halfway point so far and it has been difficult. ***"It's very sad. I do his weekly shop and I drop that off at the doorstep and then he comes out to the front patio and we have a socially distanced sit 2m apart. It has been really, really difficult. But God has been really good to us both. So many are praying for us and we feel completely upheld by the prayers of God's people and by God Himself. He's definitely carrying us through."***

She has encouraged people to pray for protection of healthcare workers as it's been reported more than 150 healthcare workers in England have died from coronavirus. ***"Each of those people have husbands, wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, children, mums, dads, sisters and brothers, and they died serving others. It's an absolute tragedy and they have colleagues and wards left devastated by their deaths. Pray for grieving family members and pray for God's supernatural protection over health care workers, those who know him and those who don't, just pray that he protects them supernaturally from the virus."***



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

She was born 200 years ago in 1820 and known as the “Lady of the Lamp”. Did you light a candle and place it in your window on the evening of May 12th?

When Florence Nightingale followed God's calling on her life, it took her to the bedsides of the sick and suffering. There she brought comfort, hope and love and brought in many reforms.

On **International Nurses Day** we

thanked God for her life, and we must continue to pray for nurses here and around the world.

Endon Methodist Church

You are invited to join us for coffee every Monday from 10.30am. Please contact Rev Eleanor Smith for the links to the zoom meeting

Eleanor.smith@methodist.org.uk



Video reflections from Rev Eleanor Smith and Rev Julie Hassall and other contributors are posted every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

Please go to the Staffordshire Moorlands Methodist Circuit website:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT4Mt9OpnC739ipQZqcAAhA>

Rev Eleanor Smith

Christian attitudes to government guidance should be different to those of our friends, says Martin Segal, lead elder at The City Church, Canterbury



Like many others across the UK on Sunday evening May 10th, I watched the ministerial broadcast from our Prime Minister with a hope that we may be hearing some good news for what's next. Before Boris Johnson had even finished speaking social media exploded with a variety of praise and scorn in many forms.

Whatever you think of the new Stay Alert roadmap, I believe that there are some key responses God's people need to have.

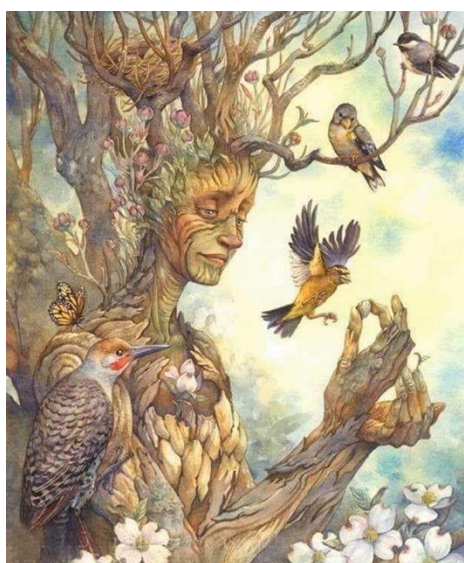
Across the globe fatigue and frustration are growing. It will be increasingly tempting to act like everyone else. Godly wisdom listens not to fear or frustration but to the still small voice of God and his convictions. Wisdom means being slow to speak and slow to anger, it means trusting God's plans and timings and resting in him.

KEEP GOING

In Jesus' letters to the churches in the book of Revelation, a common trait honoured by Christ is patience and endurance. In the midst of hardship, persecution and poverty, a key characteristic of the church has always been perseverance. Jesus helps us carry on, to not grow weary in doing good, to not give up even when troubles come our way.

I know it's hard, I know it's confusing, I know it's frustrating but in Christ keep going. Take each day as it comes, focus on the blessings of God and **make gratitude your attitude**. Daily enjoy the new mercies of God, confess your sins, delight in his love for you. Regularly read his word, keep connecting with your church family, don't just spectate the Sunday service but interact, encourage your pastors, join zoom calls with your small group, family and friends. No matter how the Stay Alert guidance made you feel, rest in the powerful, loving and faithful arms of your saviour who will use this for your good and his glory.

Martin Segal is lead elder at The City Church. He lives in Canterbury with his wife Kathryn and kids Annabeth and Millie. He loves football, reading and movies. This article first appeared at thecitychurch.org.uk



Sheila Tipper has submitted...

CORONA'S LETTER TO HUMANITY

by Bobby Nand

*The earth whispered but you did not hear.
The earth spoke but you did not listen
The earth screamed but you turned her off.
And so I was born...
I was not born to punish you..
I was born to awaken you..
The earth cried out for help...
Massive flooding. But you didn't listen.
Burning fires. But you didn't listen.*

Strong hurricanes. But you didn't listen.

Terrifying Tornadoes. But you didn't listen.

You still don't listen to the earth when....

Ocean animals are dying due to pollutants in the waters.

*Glaciers melting at an alarming rate.
Severe drought.
You didn't listen to how much negativity the earth is receiving.
Non-stop wars.
Non-stop greed.
You just kept going on with your life..
No matter how much hate there was..
No matter how many killings daily..
It was more important to get that latest iPhone than worry about what the earth was trying to tell you..
But now I am here.
And I've made the world stop on its tracks.
I've made YOU finally listen.
I've made you take refuge.
I've made you stop thinking about materialistic things..*

*Now you are like the earth...
You are only worried about YOUR survival.
How does that feel?
I give you fever.. as the fires burn on earth.
I give you respiratory issues.. as your pollution filled the earth air.
I gave you weakness as the earth weakens every day.
I took away your comforts..
Your outings.
The things you would use to forget about the planet and its pain.
And I made the world stop...
And now...
China has better air quality..
Skies are clear blue because factories are not spewing pollution unto the earth's air.
The water in Venice is clean and dolphins are being seen because the gondola boats that pollute the water are not being used.
YOU are having to take time to reflect on what is important in your life.
Again I am not here to punish you.. I am here to Awaken you...
When all this is over and I am gone... Please remember these moments..
Listen to the earth.
Listen to your soul.
Stop Polluting the earth.
Stop Fighting among each other.
Stop caring about materialistic things.
And start loving your neighbors.
Start caring about the earth and all its creatures.
Start believing in a Creator.
Because next time, I may come back even stronger....*

**Signed,
CORONA - THE VIRUS**

FOOD FOR ENDON and BAGNALL

A reminder from JOE PORTER

I have launched 'Food for Endon' to provide fresh and locally grown fruit & veg to elderly and vulnerable people in our area. Every Tuesday morning I collect 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 subsidise the cost. The bags contain eight types of fruit & veg, depending on what is in season and I can deliver one to you. 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 (07415 560944)

REV ALAN & MARYANNE'S RETIREMENT UPDATE...

It is with much regret and heartbreak that in the present circumstances this special event scheduled for Sunday 5th July has had to be cancelled. It is always difficult to say farewell to long-standing friends and so I hope that as many of us as possible will contact Rev Alan and Maryanne to express appreciation for their nineteen years of service to us in our churches. (In any case we hope it's not so much a 'Goodbye' as an 'Au Revoir'!)

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

Please keep up your regular giving if you can. Those who pay by weekly envelopes may issue a cheque and post it to Sheila Hurst 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 prefer to pay directly into the church account by setting up **Endon St Luke's PCC** as a new recipient*. Maryanne has now set up a 'Just Giving' link on our website which you may like to use instead of a standing order.

THE INTERREGNUM and OPENING of the CHURCH as LOCKDOWN is EASED

Members of the PCC have met with Rev Alan on Zoom in order to address various issues that need to be dealt with once he and Maryanne leave Endon as well as how we should go about opening the church again.

In compliance with the latest government guidelines it may be possible to open the church for short services in July but with due regard to social distancing. This will mean that only about 20 folk can be accommodated although couples and families could sit together. Hand sanitiser will need to be used by every person on entering and on leaving the building. No books or printed material must be handed out other than any which may be used once and taken away. Sadly we are not permitted to sing but it may be possible to listen to some music. There will be more news of this soon. In the meantime please continue to view Rev Alan's weekly YouTube service and the new special Connections service on Zoom at 11.00am on Sundays.

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**



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.

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

Supporting Children of Belarus since 1995

Charity No 1059832 www.chernobyl-children.org.uk

A Message from Julie Gater...

Although the annual summer recuperative holiday for Belarusian teenagers has been cancelled for this year, there are various on-going projects in Belarus which still need financial support. Helena, coordinator for Glossop and New Mills, is organising an online charity auction for CCP. An online auction works in a similar way to a physical one except people bid on the website.

Do you have an item which you would be happy to offer for auction, and willing to post out in mid-June? We are looking for new or as-new items, under 2kg, which can be easily wiped down or washed by both you and the buyer, in order to minimise risk. Minimum worth should be £5 – but we can set a reserve if it's an item which shouldn't be sold too cheaply.

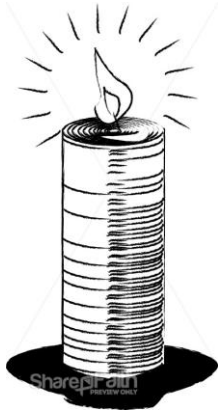
Vouchers would also be great, but we're reluctant to ask local businesses who are likely to be struggling at this time. If, however, you have a contact who you think may donate a voucher (which would be good promotion for them), please do ask them.

If you have anything to donate, **please email photos and brief descriptions** of the item/s to us at glossopauction@gmail.com and we will put them on the auction site. Buyers will pay through our PayPal account and we will let you know when payment is received so you can package the item and post it. You will be able to claim back postage if you wish.

The auction will run from **9am June 1st - 9pm June 15th.**

If you have any questions, please email or call Helena on 07547 191 980.

Julie can be contacted on 01782 535000.



CANDLE DEDICATIONS

for JUNE

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.

Jun	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
7 th	Sylvia Bradshaw to celebrate the birthday of grandson George (11 th)	Mabel McGrath in loving memory of a dear and loving husband, Don
14 th	Rosie and Geoff Smith in memory of their granddaughter, Naomi Rose	Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the 20 th birthday of granddaughter, Lauren (17 th)
21 st	Linda Foster in loving memory of her father on his birthday	Marilyn Plant to celebrate the birthday of her son, Nicholas James
28 th	Shirley Brindley in loving memory of a very dear Mum and Dad	Barrie Jackson in celebration of Kai's birthday



JUNE BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to

June Pope (2nd), Margaret Barlow (3rd), Fran Dale (4th), Rachel Betts (8th), Gail Stone (9th), Mary Goodson (12th), Sophie Brough (16th), Chris Boulton (17th), Sarah Horton (19th)

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

June Prayer Focus

- The easing of lockdown... that it may be carefully managed and not lead to an increase in infections
- Racial tensions in the USA following the murder in Minneapolis.
- Those in Bangladesh and parts of India now having to cope with flooding as well as everything else
- The dire situation in Peru and all trying to deal with the problem
- The gradual move back to church buildings scheduled for July
- All residents and staff in care homes especially Hillswood Lodge in Endon and Rock Cottage in Brown Edge
- Those suffering from the coronavirus and/or in social isolation those seeking to stop its spread including all of us as individuals
- Our NHS, care workers, politicians and those working hard 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
- Many poor folk in Uganda who could die of starvation rather than coronavirus in their lockdown situations
- Many workers in Bangladesh who have lost jobs and vital income because UK clothing retailers have cancelled orders
- All those whose livelihoods are adversely affected
- 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
- Those affected by the recent upsurge in knife crime
- The widespread drug problem especially in Stoke-on-Trent
- Lou Macari's hostel for the homeless in 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
- Our Vicar, PCCs and Pastoral Team and visitors to our church
- For Barrie Jackson as lay reader and Ian Perry and Caryl Siegerts at St Chad's as they prepare for ordination and all who lead worship in our churches each Sunday
- Ministry in our benefice after Rev Alan's retirement

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

From July 2020 the newsletter will probably take on a different format and be a much shorter and concise version and available only on-line as photo-copying will not be readily accessible. It is likely to be a single or double-sided A4 sheet similar to that which I produced back in 2000 when our last interregnum began.

Please submit short notices by **Tuesday, July 21st** 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)