

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



Encounter, Encourage, Enable ...Committed to Sharing God's Love <u>www.endonstlukes.org.uk</u> Vestry (church office): 01782 502166

October 2020

INTERREGNUM Month 4



HARVEST TIME Service of Thanksgiving at 9.15am on Sunday, October 4th

St Luke's will be celebrating harvest and asking for gifts to Leek Food Bank as in previous years. Donations from the current list below will be very welcome. Barrie will deliver them to the depot in West Street. St Chad's will also be taking donations to the food bank (details from Kath Howell).

- TOMATO KETCHUP
- JAM
- TINNED FRUIT
- CHOCOLATE
- SAVOURY RICE
- PASTA IN SAUCE
- FLAVOURED NOODLES E.G SUPER NOODLES, POT NOODLES
- SHAMPOO
- CONDITIONER
- BROWN SAUCE
- WASHING POWDER / LIQUID (SMALL BOXES / BOTTLES)
- DOG FOOD
- TOOTHBRUSHES SINGLE PACKS
- WASHING UP LIQUID
- BAGS FOR LIFE
- SOAP



THE FOOD BANK HAS PLENTY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- BAKED BEANS
- SOUP
- TEA
- PASTA
- UHT MILK
- TINNED TOMATOES

PLEASE DO NOT DONATE BABY FORMULA MILK

PROGRESS ON A REPLACEMENT FOR ALAN AS AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2020

A number of people have asked "where are we up to in getting a new vicar?" To answer, I'll quote these extracts from the "Vacancy Process" circular issued in July by the Diocesan Archdeacons' Panel, who are overseeing the process. This is what the PCC and Churchwardens are working to.

Vacancies in the Diocese were put on hold at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in March. Given the financial impact of the crisis on the Diocese, we need to ensure that the decisions we make are financially sustainable, and this includes deployment.

For this reason we are monitoring all current vacancies and the Bishop's Staff will be assessing each vacancy on the following 5 criteria before the vacancy process can proceed:-

- 1. Missional Engagement
- 2. Congregational strength
- 3. Viability of church premises
- 4. Financial strength
- 5. Strategic significance

The Panel are collating a standard set of information for each parish.[*This is information from our Parish Returns, which we have already provided*] When we have finished collating this information, we will contact you and share this information and discuss with you how the Covid 19 pandemic has, and will affect your operations. The following 2 questions are ones we offer to help you think through this area:-

- A. How has lockdown affected your engagement with local partners and the local community and what new partnerships or initiatives have begun during this time?
- B. What impact has Covid-19 had on your financial strength and how do you propose to maintain financial viability going forward?

We currently await hearing from the Panel with an appointment date to take it to the next stage. As and when they give us the go ahead, the Profile can be prepared and the position advertised.

Barrie

(on behalf of the Churchwardens and PCC) 24 September 2020

A MILESTONE FOR MABEL

We send our hearty congratulations and love to Mabel McGrath who has been a regular at St Luke's first service for many years. We can hardly believe she will be celebrating her 90th birthday on October 10th. We are sure that family and friends will make it a very happy and memorable occasion for her. The Lord bless you Mabel!





APPOINTMENT OF OUR NEW BISHOP OF STAFFORD

We also send congratulations to our Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent, Ven Matthew Parker who has just been appointed Bishop of Stafford. He is due to take up his new post in January. We have been very grateful for his help over several decades.

As Rural Dean of Leek and also Vicar of St Edward's he was patron of St Luke's Endon and oversaw the appointment of Rev Alan in 2001. Now as Archdeacon he is very still instrumental in the eventual appointment of our next incumbent along with Rev Nigel Irons (the present vicar of St Edward's) our current patron. He kindly came to preside at our first communion service after lockdown and is coming again to baptise a baby as Barrie has been unable to find an ordained priest who is available.

CYRIL MOSS



It was sad to hear of Cyril's death on September 9th after a long illness. He was a well known member of our Endon community having lived in Orford Road all his married life from where he farmed and bought and sold cattle locally. I don't think many know that he often came up to the church in the early morning to do a few tidying-up jobs around the churchyard for which we owe him our gratitude. Our thoughts and prayers are with his son John, daughter Elizabeth and other members of his family.

CURRENT SERVICES

ST LUKE'S

9.15am MORNING PRAYER

every Sunday led by Barrie and Roger

9.15am MIDWEEK ECUMENICAL MORNING

PRAYER led by Barrie every Wednesday in the chapter house Now once a fortnight we also have **MIDWEEK COMMUNION** led by Rev Eleanor from our Methodist Church also in the chapter house at **9.15am**

ST CHAD'S 10.45am MORNING WORSHIP

every Sunday led by Kath and Muriel F and on the 3rd Sunday Rev Barrie Wilson will lead a service of **HOLY COMMUNION**.

ST LUKE'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This has been postponed from March this year and will now take place on Thursday 15th October at 7.30pm in the chapter house. As usual this will be preceded by a short PCC meeting at 7.00pm to approve the accounts. New PCC members are required as well as three new deanery synod reps. Please volunteer if you can. See church noticeboard or speak to Barrie Jackson or Sue Forrester as soon as possible.

ST LUKE'S ZOOM MEETINGS

11.00am COFFEE & CHAT on Fridays **11.00am CONNECTIONS** on Sundays led by Neil and Deb (phone nos back page)

ST CHAD'S ZOOM and YOUTUBE

Please contact Kath Howell for details (phone no on back page)..All are welcome to join these if you have internet at home.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020 8th NOVEMBER

There will be no commemorative service in church or churchyard this year.

Suzanne Sillitoe (Chair of Endon w Stanley Parish Council) writes...

At our recent parish council meeting it was agreed to mark Remembrance Sunday (socially distanced and outdoors) on the Station Road Memorial Park, government guidelines permitting. A Drum Head will be erected draped in the Union Flag and we will have a PA system as we did for the WW1 Commemoration.

More details to follow.

ST CHAD'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This is planned for Monday 11th October. Please consult Kath Howell for details.



KNITTING SQUARES...a reminder!

You have probably seen the TV reports of the devastating fire in the refugee camp in Lesbos. These folk will need our help more than ever now.

In case you missed the appeal in last month's newsletter...with winter fast approaching blankets are urgently required for refugees in the Greek island of Lesbos and in Calais. If you can knit or crochet 6" squares to be sewn to make blankets we'd love to hear from you. Each blanket should measure 6' x 3'6" which by my reckoning equates to 84 squares. If you are short of wool I have a few spare balls. Ideally use double-knitting wool with size 6 or 7 needles and any colour will do. I only have a pair of size 5 so I'm using those. You can use the diamond shape by increasing one stitch at the beginning of each row or simply knit rows of 32 or so stitches until it measures 6". You may prefer to crochet but it doesn't really matter. For more details about the project and HOPE & AID please refer to pages 4 and 5 of our September newsletter and most of all **THANK YOU**!! (A lady at Biddulph Methodist Church is an expert at piecing together all manner of varying sizes.)

Completed squares can be brought to our house or handed to me. **Ros**

OUR CONTINUED GIVING

Thank you to all who are keeping up regular giving. You can of course now bring your gift or envelope to church but if you are unable to come you 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). Remember there is a 'Just Giving' link on our website which you could use instead of a standing order. 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*. (*Details from Steve Dale or Sheila Hurst. Phone nos on back page.)

ST LUKE'S CHURCH OFFICE

Barrie is now manning the church office in the vestry on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10.00am to 1.00pm using telephone number **01782 502166**. While the church office is open the church will be open for private prayer. The church is also open on Wednesday mornings at 9.15 for a short mid-week service in the chapter house (see notice below).

All enquiries relating to baptisms, weddings and funerals should be directed to Barrie please. Currently a maximum of 30 attendees are allowed in church for these services but be aware that guidelines are subject to change.

Barrie can also be contacted on his new church mobile number 07517 653370.

PASTORAL TEAM WALKS

Shirley Brindley kindly organised a social walk in the first week of September. It was well supported with 14 taking part. We met on the canal towpath near the white bridge and walked along to Stockton Brook where we had a coffee at Ego's before walking back.

As we all enjoyed it so much Shirley is planning a few more. Unfortunately the latest government guidelines on social gatherings means we can only meet in groups of six or fewer. This won't stop us! Listen out for details.

MIDWEEK MORNING PRAYER and COMMUNION

Now that the Methodist Church has re-opened, Rev Eleanor has re-joined us on Wednesday mornings and is willing to give us a Communion service once a fortnight. As it is a church service we are not restricted to six attendees so do join us if you can. Masks are worn of course and hand sanitiser is available.



CLOCKS BACK on OCTOBER 24th

Make sure you get to church on time on the 25th! Remember to put your clocks and watches back one hour on Saturday night October 24th. (If you have a radiocontrolled clock then of course you will not need to bother.)

The Methodist Church



Eleanor.smith@methodist.org.uk

We are delighted that the Methodist Church is now open for worship every Sunday at 10am.

The first service was held on 6th September and we have been encouraged by those able to come to worship and see friends for the first time. We are fortunate to have an excellent audio-visual system so we can enjoy watching and listening to groups singing even when we cannot sing ourselves At the moment we do not need people to 'book a chair' before the service. Please contact Rev Eleanor Smith if you need any more information.

Tel. 01782 503228

BAGS OF FRESH FRUIT & VEG FOR THE COMMUNITY

Over the last 25 weeks I've been running 'Food for Endon' to deliver bags of fresh fruit & veg to residents in need across Endon, Brown Edge, Bagnall, Stanley and Stockton Brook. Our project has delivered nearly 500 bags, including to many elderly and vulnerable people. As a volunteer, I deliver them every Tuesday morning and



lunchtime.

We were very humbled to recently receive a



'Points of Light' award from the Prime Minister for our project in recognition of community leadership and voluntary efforts during the coronavirus pandemic. Rev Eleanor Smith and I intend to carry on running the project going into winter and beyond. The bags are a suggested donation of £3 (people are welcome to donate more) and contain 8 different types of fruit & veg, depending on what's in season. They're sourced from Haregate Community Centre who kindly supply them and Endon St Luke's Church and Endon Methodist Church help me to run the scheme with pray cards every week.

The income from the bags is used by Haregate to supply food to low income families so those who have the bags not only support local suppliers, but support others in need too.

Please email <u>joe.porter@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk</u> or ring 07415 560944 to find out more details. Please note that you must live in the Staffordshire Moorlands in Endon, Brown Edge, Bagnall, Stanley or Stockton Brook to participate.

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VISIT

A big thank you to Mrs Danylyk, the new Headteacher at St Luke's CE Academy, for showing me around the school and witness first-hand the Covid secure measures put in place to protect staff, students and the wider Endon community. It was great to see pupils so happy to be back in school. Teachers and school staff across the country have done an incredible job of adapting to the challenging circumstances and deserve our thanks.



ENDON LITTER PICKING ARMY



Earlier in the year I assembled a new team of volunteer litter pickers to cover every part of Endon to help make our community more clean and tidy. So far around 15 local residents have been on the frontline regularly litter picking our village every month, including an amazing six year old called Nunu.

During the last six months, we have witnessed a surge

in fly tipping and littering locally and I hope that we helps to address the issue. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been involved to date and to others who quietly go out and do their bit.

If you are passionate about the local community and protecting the environment, then please join us and play your part in helping to keep our community clean and tidy for everyone to enjoy. Please email <u>joe.porter@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk</u> or ring 07415 560944 to get involved.

Cllr Joe Porter, District Councillor for Brown Edge & Endon

Sue Forrester writes...



ST LUKE'S CE ACADEMY NEWS

We welcomed Mrs Nicky Danylyk as our new head teacher at the beginning of term. She has lots of good ideas for moving the school towards gaining an Outstanding grade from Ofsted and she is very keen to grow the relationship between church and school. We will be

welcoming Year 2 on Friday October 2nd as they film their Harvest Festival celebration in church. The resulting video will be sent out to parents. Mrs Danylyk is also going to institute an annual celebration of St. Luke's day. All being well, two year groups will visit the church to hear the story of St Luke. The Christingle service will also be held in church in December and, possibly, the youngest children will be able to come and sing carols in church before Christmas. The school would like all the children to make a Christingle but the ingredients are expensive. Perhaps we could think about making a collection to help with the cost? I am often in school and Joe Porter also visits regularly as part of his role in promoting care for the environment. If anyone has any further ideas that might help enhance the links between church and school, please let me know.

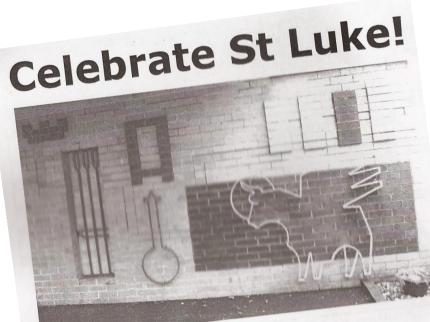
KNIT AND NATTER

Several people have volunteered to knit squares for blankets which is great. Depending on future Covid restrictions, I hope to hold fortnightly small groups to knit together in the Chapter House. Places would have to be booked so please see me if you are interested.

We have been given quite a few embroidery frames so, if you would like one, again, please let me know.

FLOWER ROTA

Sadly, we can't run our Flower Club at the moment, but if you would like to provide flowers for church, please sign the list at the back of the church. We have containers and oasis in the vestry but the flowers don't have to be made into an arrangement; a vase would be just as beautiful!



October 18th is our patronal festival, St Luke's Day! In our church St Luke has a small window but nowhere in our parish is he celebrated more openly and descriptively than at the old entrance to the Endon C E Primary School to which he gives his name. If you have ever visited the school you can't miss 'St Luke's Wall',

quite visible from the road to anyone walking past. The crown on the top left denotes his status as a 'Saint', the pen and brushes next in line indicate he was not only a writer but also a painter. The large 'A' reminds us that in addition to his gospel he was also author of the Book of Acts and the symbolic medicine bottle tells us that he was a doctor. On the top right the four blocks represent the four gospels, the third, which he wrote of course, clearly marked out in black. Finally the large 'winged beast' is traditionally the symbol of St Luke from the Book of Revelation.

How many folk have walked into St Luke's church and never noticed St Have a closer look next time you're passing. Luke's window? Next time you enter the church, cast your eyes up left, high above the hymn books and spot 'Sanctus Lucas' in the centre pane.

Where is St Luke's Window?

I have discovered that there are people who attend our church regularly and don't know where St Luke's Window is even though they walk right past it every time they enter and leave the building. Next time you are handed a service booklet as you enter, just look up to your left to the top panel in the window connecting to the vestry. St Luke will be looking at you!

If you have been attending St Luke's for a while you may remember this article from the October 2013 newsletter. It shows St Luke's wall which adorned the old entrance to St Luke's CE Academy. Sadly the winged beast has recently disappeared. The new headteacher Mrs Danylyk is keen to maintain links with us and to celebrate St Luke's Day by bringing some of the children up to the church. She is also planning to involve the children in a harvest thanksgiving this month and a Christingle service later in the year.

Please refer to Sue's report on page 9.

MESSAGE FROM ANN BOULTON....

Ann and her family say a big **THANK YOU** for all the cards and kind messages of support and the generous donations received in recognition of Les's work and service to St Luke's Church.



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for OCTOBER

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.

Oct	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT	
4 th	Maureen Foster to celebrate the birthdays of grandchildren Emily (5 th) and Joe (13 th)	Ann Boulton to celebrate Emma's birthday (6 th)	
11 th	Marilyn Plant to celebrate the 7 th birthday of granddaughter, Phoebe Samantha	Barrie Jackson to celebrate Amy's birthday	
18 th	Sheila and Stan to celebrate the 24 th birthday of granddaughter Bethany (20 th)		
25 th	Marilyn Plant to celebrate the birthday of son Andrew Edwin	Sheila and Stan to celebrate the 12 th birthday of granddaughter, Anne (26 th)	
		Sheila and Stan to celebrate the birthday of son Paul (31 st)	



OCTOBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to

George Rigby (2nd), James Porter (4th), Emma Greatbatch (6th), Neil Taylor (9th), Mabel McGrath (10th her 90th!), Rob Brindley (13th), Bethany Salt (20th), Paul Hurst (31st)

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



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

You may be wondering why we have no pastoral letter this month, although it may be on its way.

I thought you would be interested to read the message from Simon Jones, the diocesan Creative Media Producer, which he sent out to all church newsletter editors last week especially as our archdeacon of Stoke turned out to be the new bishop of Stafford!

Dear Editor

My apologies that you don't already have a pastoral letter to hand. We'd been quietly led to believe a new bishop of Stafford would be announced earlier this month and thought they would relish an early opportunity to 'speak' to the diocese but we're still in the hands of Downing Street's timetable. Meanwhile, I've persuaded the see's #2, the archdeacon of Stoke to pen something but he's now unable to do anything before the end of next week – I realise that's possibly too late for some of you for which I apologise. Meanwhile, we DO have a churchyard piece that has migrated from Harriet's pen and is attached.

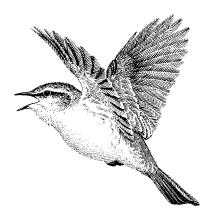


Charity no. 1155536

On the Wing

October is changeover month. The last of our summer visitors leave, (although occasionally

house martins may still be feeding young); and by the end of October our winter visitors are here. Look out for Redwing and Fieldfare feeding on yew berries in your churchyard. If you see several Mistle thrushes amongst them they may have arrived from northern



Europe and Russia, adding to the numbers of resident thrushes found over the summer, some of whom in turn may have migrated south.

We think of robins as a permanent feature of our gardens and churchyards, often believing we have got to know a particular individual. Actually, many winter robins have migrated here from colder climes and the average life span of a robin is only 9 months, so this is unlikely to be true.

Some birds are 'true migrants', swallow for example always travels to Africa regardless of weather. Other birds such as chiffchaffs and blackcaps will respond to the weather, going south ahead of cold spells. As a result of climate change, these less programmed migrants may stay with us all winter now. Whilst migrating, birds need places to rest and feed and churchyards can be excellent for this, providing a refuge for the travellers.

Many bird species are in trouble with populations declining steeply. Providing food and shelter for birds on the move and those wintering here can make all the difference. Bird boxes are used for sheltering as well as nesting, so why not erect a few. Dense ivy and hedges give shelter from the weather and berrybearing shrubs provide a rich food source. Consider pruning hedges and shrubs late in the winter so that birds can feed on any berries present, also making the most of the shelter offered. Could you provide water in a simple bird bath?

Try to view the churchyard from a bird's perspective, does it offer a warm welcome to hungry, tired birds? Think of it as a transport café or cosy pub for birds.

All the best Harriet Carty,

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, <u>harriet@cfga.org.uk</u>, <u>www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk</u> - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code Lich19

NO HALLOWE'EN GREET & TREAT on OCT 31st this year

In previous years St Luke's has sent out a team to greet and hand out goody bags (with a gospel message) to groups of children dressed up and walking around the village knocking on doors. As it is unlikely that this will happen in our current COVID situation we shall not be needing volunteers. However, if things change, please listen out!

October Prayer Focus

- Family, friends and colleagues of the police officer Matiu Ratana murdered in the line of duty at Croydon police station
- All young people at colleges and universities this autumn
- Refugees everywhere
- Those suffering in unimaginable ways as a result of the catastrophic explosion in Beirut and for all involved in their rescue and recovery
- The people of Belarus in protest as what they see as an unfair election result and for an end to corruption in government
- All suffering at the hands of deeply corrupt governments
- Rev Alan and Maryanne that they may have a happy retirement
- Ian and Karen embarking on a new ministry in Stafford
- Loved ones in our parish who are currently very unwell
- Our church wardens and worship leaders during the interregnum
- Our new bishop and the appointment of our next incumbent
- The easing of lockdown... that it may not lead to an increase in infections
- The situation in Victoria state in Australia and in our UK cities where new outbreaks of COVID-19 have occurred
- The dire COVID situation in South American countries and all trying to deal with the problem especially medical staff
- The gradual and safe re-opening of church buildings
- All residents and staff in care homes
- Those suffering from the coronavirus and/or in social isolation
- Scientists working round the clock to produce a vaccine and the volunteers brave enough to take part in trials
- Many poor folk in poorer countries who could die of starvation rather than coronavirus in their lockdown situations
- All those whose livelihoods are adversely affected especially those coming off furlough and facing unemployment
- Our government struggling to balance limiting the spread of infection with the need to rescue the economy and get folk back to work
- 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
- All who have lost loved ones recently
- The Trussell Trust food banks especially during this time of crisis



Thanks to Sue Millard from Biddulph Methodist Church for passing this on.

	01700 50000/		
Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship	01782 502006		
leader / PCC chair			
Barrie Jackson, reader / St Luke's PCC Sec /	07517 653370*		
Administrator (*for church enquiries)	07510 074097		
Sue Forrester, Flower & Craft Club / Foundation	07854 043187		
gov / Safeguarding Officer / St Luke's Facebook			
Deb Podmore, worship leader / Connections	01782 773383		
team			
Neil Taylor, worship leader / Connections team	07961 652104		
Suzy Jordan, music leader / Connections team	01782 504589		
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	01782 502006		
Ann Boulton, St Luke's warden's team	01782 503162		
June Pope, St Luke's warden's team	01782 503269		
Lyn Pickering, St Luke's warden's team	07891 213284		
Shirley Brindley, candle dedications / pastoral tm	01782 504089		
Steve Dale, St Luke's treasurer	07894 098011		
Sheila Hurst, St Luke's Gift Aid Sec / MU rep	01782 503622		
Linda Foster, Safeguarding Officer			
John & Julie Gater, Chernobyl Children's Project	01782 535000		
James Benson, reader emeritus	01782 504137		
Ros Benson, newsletter / St Luke's website	01782 504137		
St Luke's vestry (church office)	01782 502166		
Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / warden /	01782 304616		
worship leader / safeguarding officer			
Julia Podmore, St Chad's warden / treasurer	07980 802121		
Pat Saul, St Chad's PCC vice-chair / secretary	07973 863930		
Caryl Siegertsz, St Chad's warden's team /	01782 304616		
worship team			
Muriel Finney, St Chad's worship leader	01782 302229		
Peter Millard, St Chad's buildings / warden's	01782 505338		
team			
Emma Ashworth, St Chad's warden's team	07861 730806		
Sheila Tipper, St Chad's news contact	01782 534647		

For the duration of the interregnum the newsletter will be shorter and available on-line as a PDF attachment and on the church website. Please submit notices to Ros Benson by **Tuesday**, **October 20th** either by e-mail jandrbenson@btinternet.com or phone 504137.