



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

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

www.endonstlukes.org.uk

Vestry (church office): 01782 502166



December 2021

INTERREGNUM Month 18



See next page and pages 3, 5 and 6 for details of services at both our churches and on page 16 for services at Endon Methodist Church.

Throughout Advent and Christmas there will be services on the Church of England 'YouTube' channel (on mobile, tablet or Smart TV) or on Facebook.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

MICAH 5 v2: "But you, **Bethlehem Ephrathah**, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

V4: "He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God.

And they will live securely, for then His greatness will reach the ends of the earth. And He will be their peace."

DECEMBER at ST LUKE'S

SUNDAY Dec 5th ADVENT 2
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
led by Rev Barry Wilson
11.00am CONNECTIONS*

SUNDAY Dec 12th ADVENT 3
9.15am TOY SERVICE
MORNING WORSHIP led by
Barrie / Roger
11.00am CONNECTIONS*

SUNDAY Dec 19th ADVENT 4
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
led by Rev David Nicol
11.00am CONNECTIONS*
6.30pm COMMUNITY CAROLS
at the Methodist Church

FRIDAY Dec 24th
CHRISTMAS EVE
6 – 7.00pm CAROLS BY
CANDLELIGHT

SATURDAY Dec 25th
CHRISTMAS DAY
NO SERVICES

SUNDAY Dec 26th
NO SERVICES

ECUMENICAL MIDWEEK SERVICES

Wednesdays 9.15am
Dec 1st at St Luke's HC
Dec 8th St Luke's MP
Dec 15th St Luke's HC
Jan 5th Meth Ch HC

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST LUKE'S THIS YEAR

Due to staff shortages we are unable to hold services at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, 9.30am on Christmas Day or Sun, 26th Dec.

***CONNECTIONS**

All meetings are held in the main hall in St Luke's CE Academy on Leek Road and not in the church.

NB No Connections on 26th Dec or 2nd Jan. Resumes on 9th Jan.

ST LUKE'S CHURCH OFFICE

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE – Barrie will no longer be manning the office on Tuesdays.

Unless involved with funeral duties, Barrie will man the church office in the vestry on Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri from 10.00am to 1.00pm using tel: **07517 653370**. At these times the church is also open for private prayer. All enquiries relating to baptisms, weddings and funerals should be directed to Barrie.

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

AND NEW YEAR 2022 to everyone at or visiting St Luke's and St Chad's and to those in our wider communities.

CHURCH FUNDS

Please bring your gift or envelope to church or issue a cheque and post it to Sheila Hurst or set up a monthly standing order or use the 'Just Giving' link on St Luke's website. If you bank on-line you could pay directly into the church account by setting up Endon St Luke's PCC as a new recipient. (*Bank details from Steve Dale or Sheila H. Phone nos back page.)*

THANK YOU to all our regular givers!



DECEMBER AT ST CHAD'S

Dec 5th 10.45am Family Service KH and team

12th 4.00pm Carol Service - KH/MF

19th 10.45am Holy Communion - Rev Barry Wilson

24th CHRISTMAS EVE 5.00pm Outdoor Carol Service

11.30pm Midnight Communion

St Chad's & Bagnall Village Christmas Fayre

Saturday 4th December

at 12.00 noon

in Bagnall village hall



KNITTED SQUARES UPDATE

Well over a hundred blankets were displayed and blessed at Biddulph Methodist Church on Oct 31st. I was there to represent our Endon area knitters and to celebrate Sue and Norman's 25th wedding anniversary.

Sue and Norman have now returned from a successful trip to Dunkirk Women's Refuge. Their wonderful seamstress Ann has not been too well lately and would appreciate help in joining squares together say in groups of six as it would save her much time and effort.

THANKS are sent from Sue, Ann and the Biddulph team to all our knitters and please... don't stop knitting! **Ros**



SUE and NORMAN

have just taken a big batch of blankets and knitted dolls to the refuge in Dunkirk.

Sue writes...

Here are the photos from the latest trip to the Women's refuge centre in Dunkirk. We went last week taking tons of documentation, NHS passes, declarations d'honneur, passenger locator forms, proof of

negative tests and apart from one passport official asking have you been jabbed, nobody took any notice of anything! I was furious! Still, if we hadn't had everything, there would have been trouble I'm sure.

The girls at the centre are from several countries and they all work so hard. The winter is fast approaching, in fact it was very cold and damp on the day we arrived, and they were so grateful for the blankets and the knitted dolls too. Do thank your contributors and



say how much they are appreciated. We already have 20 blankets in storage ready for the next consignment.



TOY SERVICE

Sunday, 12th December
9.15am St Luke's church

Please continue to support 'GLOW' (*formerly 'The Elizabeth Trust'*) which offers accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic violence sometimes arriving with only the clothes they are wearing. Please remember that the children are of all ages so we need to send gifts appropriate for older ones and teenagers as well as for babies and toddlers not forgetting a few treats for the mums too such as toiletries.

These toy services were started over 40 years ago by Rev Tony Alban.
Sadly the need has not diminished.

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

THANK YOU EVERYONE!



COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday, December 19th at 6.30pm
Endon Methodist Church

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

NOTE: The Endonian Society will not be holding
"CAROLS ROUND THE WELL" this year,

CHRISTMAS EVE

at St Luke's

A few weeks ago it was looking as though we should not be able to hold any services over Christmas weekend due to a serious lack of available clergy and lay readers. However, Shirley and Sue got together to see what they could do to address the problem and with much support from the rest of the PCC have now organised...



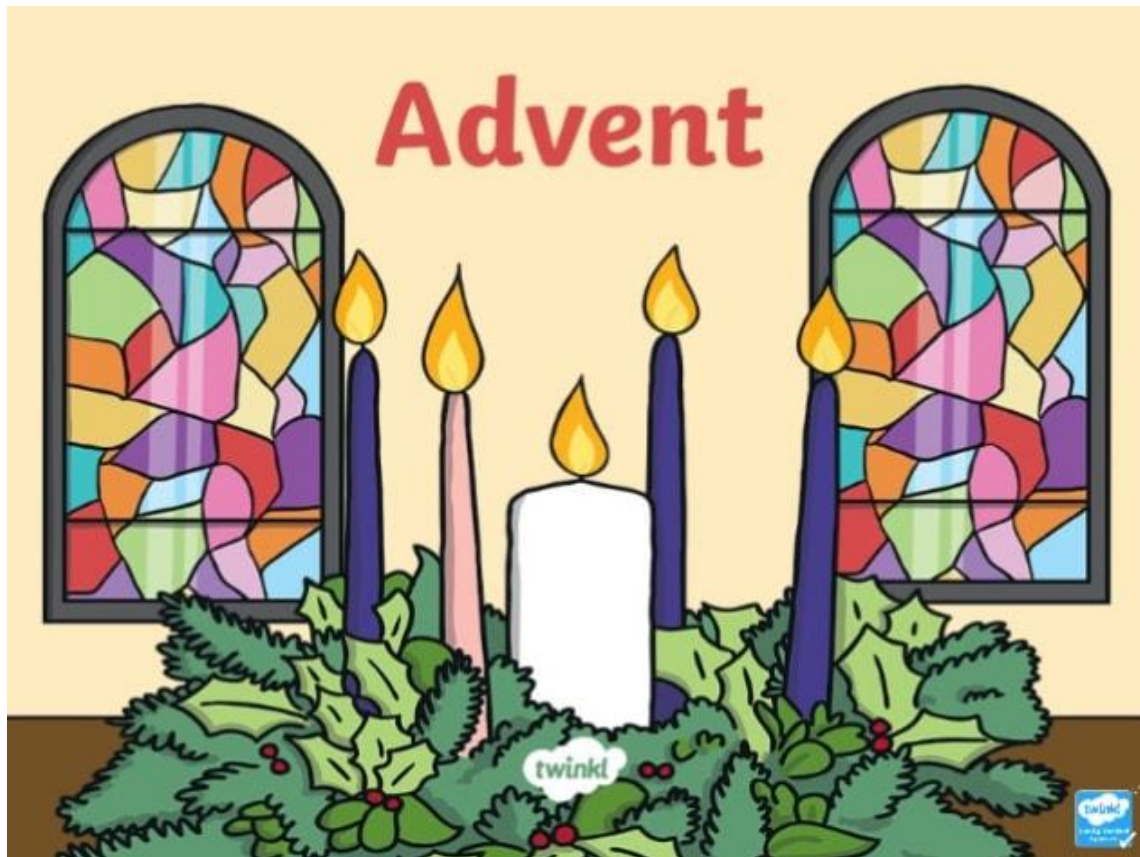
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

at 6.00pm

with plenty of congregation participation!
This will be a family-friendly service of just one hour.
Please come along and invite your friends...
everyone will be very welcome.

REQUEST FROM ALAN WILLIAMSON

Does anyone have parish magazines for the years 1919 and 1920 please? These were the post-WW1 years when the flu epidemic was raging and many Endon residents died. Alan would like to learn more about the impact this had on our village.



ADVENT – A TIME OF PREPARATION

(submitted by Barrie)

Advent is traditionally a time of preparation for Christmas. It is said that the door to the stable where Christ was born is very low – and only those who kneel find access. Being ready for Christmas should mean that our thoughts are focused not just on letters, cards and presents, but on repentance, humbling and interior “house-cleaning”. John the Baptist warned his hearers to prepare a way for the Lord – to make a clear and level pathway. This involves removing any boulders that stand in the way, and filling in any potholes. The boulders are the things we have done that we should not have done; the potholes are the things we have failed to do which we obviously should have done. The more, as individuals, family or congregation, we are focused in this way, the less we will be overwhelmed by the commercialisation of Christmas.

In the run up to Christmas we remember especially Zacharias and Elizabeth, and the son John who, still in the womb, leapt in anticipation of the coming of the Lord. Christ has come; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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THANK YOU to everyone who continues working hard to keep our services running throughout the interregnum...a great team!

FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB



A great afternoon was had by everyone at the Christmas Wreath Making workshop on Saturday 13th November.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED TO RAISE £400.00 FOR CHURCH FUNDS.



Flower Club members provided an amazing set of arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. They were much admired by all the visitors.

Our next session is on **Wednesday 8th December** from 1pm to 3pm in the Chapter House, when we'll be taking on the challenge of making a Christmas arrangement without using oasis. All welcome to join the group.



USED STAMPS

Please save your used stamps for *The Leprosy Mission* to enable continued work restoring limbs damaged by leprosy and helping those who are cured to set up businesses

so they can earn a living? The collection box is in its usual place behind the main door at St Luke's. As in previous years St Chad's folk may hand used stamps to Muriel Buckle. Please remember to trim off excess paper. Stamps will be sent off at the end of January. TLM Stamps & Collectables has raised over £1 million to benefit people affected by leprosy. It takes seconds to rescue a used stamp from an envelope destined for the recycling bin but, by doing so, healthcare and opportunities can be provided for people in desperate need. *The Leprosy Mission* Christmas catalogue offers a wide range of Christian books, cards, calendars, diaries, toys, novelties, CDs, DVDs and stationery as well as items made by those who have been treated. You can order any of the products on-line. **Ros**

A FEW NOTES FROM THE LAST ST LUKE'S PCC MEETING:

- Some parishes are currently struggling to pay their parish share in full. In response to this Bishop Michael has announced that the parish share system is to be scrapped in favour of a new "Common Fund" system which will be fairer.
- Bishop Michael has given permission for those churches experiencing an interregnum to waive services for Sunday Dec 26th.
- Our next PCC meeting will be on Zoom at 8pm on Thursday, **January 13th 2022**.



ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT with RAFFLE

This will be a shorter concert than usual and will be held in the Methodist Church on Tuesday, **7th December** at 7.00pm.

16 tickets (free) available, contact Ros Benson (01782 504137)

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2021



Christmas greetings to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's...
from **Stan and Sheila Hurst**"

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

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

Hello all! A Merry Christmas and here's to a great and safe 2022.
Love and God bless. **Sophie and Jean xxx**

Although we live in times of turmoil, we can always rely on the certainty of God's love.
Greetings of the Season to all at St Luke's... **John and Lyn xx**

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

A very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year to all at St Luke's and St Chad's ...
James and Ros

Roger and Sheila send Christmas greetings to all at St Luke's, with thanks for your encouragement and support.

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

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

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

Happy Christmas to everyone at St Luke's and St Chad's and blessings for a happy and prosperous 2022... **Debbie and Dave Podmore**

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

Margaret & Maurice – we wish for a peaceful Christmas and a blessed 2022 to all our friends in St Luke's Church and in the wider community

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

John Moss sends Christmas greetings to all at St Luke's and St Chad's

THANK YOU to all who have sent greetings and supported the Christian Blind Mission with donations.



BISHOP JONATHAN... our former Bishop of Lichfield

Lichfield Diocesan website reports:

Tributes have been paid to the 98th Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Rev'd Jonathan Gledhill, following his death on Monday 1 November. Bishop Jonathan, aged 72, was Bishop of Lichfield from 2003 to until his retirement in 2015, and the Bishop of Southampton prior to that, from 1996 to 2003.

Shortly before his retirement, he announced that he had Parkinson's Disease. Following his retirement, Bishop Jonathan moved to Canterbury with his wife Jane. His successor as Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Ipgrave, said: "Bishop Jonathan was a much loved and fondly remembered Bishop of Lichfield. He was a gentle and kind pastor of his priests and people, a wise teacher of the faith, and a humble and committed disciple of Jesus Christ. "From this diocese, we give thanks for the many ways in which his ministry enriched churches and communities, and we send our condolences to Jane and their family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory."

Born in Windsor and educated at Keele University, which is in the Diocese of Lichfield, and the University of Bristol, Bishop Jonathan served in Chester Diocese as a curate in Marple following his ordination from 1975-78. He then served in various roles in Canterbury Diocese between 1978 and 1996, including as Vicar of St Mary Bredin from 1983-96, as Rural Dean of Canterbury from 1988-94 and as an Honorary Canon at Canterbury Cathedral from 1992-96. He then moved to Winchester Diocese to become the Suffragan (Area) Bishop of Southampton before he was enthroned as the Diocesan Bishop of Lichfield at Lichfield Cathedral in 2003. Following his retirement, after 40 years of ordained ministry, he returned to Canterbury Diocese where he retained Permission to Officiate. The Dean of Lichfield, the Very Rev'd Adrian Dorber, said: "The Cathedral Chapter and the Cathedral community extends its sympathy and condolences to Jane Gledhill and the whole Gledhill family. Bishop Jonathan will be remembered for his pastoral heart, his personal kindness to so many across the Diocese and the warm and generous hospitality he and Jane extended. He was determined to help us all face the imperative of mission whilst encouraging us all to work and learn together. He loved his diocese and his prayer for all its people and communities was systematic and steadfast. May he rest in peace and rise in glory." In a video to announce his retirement released on St Chad's Day in 2015, Bishop Jonathan said: **"All our strength and powers are temporary and we all depend upon God whose faithfulness is great. I've found myself singing quietly the hymn quite often, that goes: 'Let all thy days 'till life shall end what'er he send, be filled with praise.' Thank you all so much for your fellowship and companionship in the Gospel. Thank you brother Chad. Thank you Lord, for your love."**

Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

A GENEROUS HOPE

I can't believe it's almost been four years since I travelled to South Africa with a small group led by Bishop Michael to spend time with people and churches in our companion diocese of Matlosane.

Matlosane, which borders the neighbouring Johannesburg Diocese, is a mostly black diocese, home to several townships and believed to be the only one to have a township-based cathedral.

While there, we took part in various services, visited a drug rehabilitation centre and hospice and witnessed the joyous unveiling of the new diocesan centre in Klerksdorp, bought from the Dutch Reformed Church, an historic supporter of the former Apartheid regime.

Several things linger long in my memory. One was to have the pleasure of staying with Father Sam, his wife Lisa and son Biseptho in their modest rectory adjoining the church in the middle of Khuma township. Khuma was a mix of colour, life, vibrancy and desperation. I was warned not to walk out alone, and the roads were not a safe place to be after dark. But the warmth and welcome and joy I encountered in Father Sam's church was unlike any I had ever experienced before. And the singing – the exuberant, lilting, banging worship that felt like it would lift the roof – was literally out of this world.

These were people with little in terms of physical possession who poured their souls out on a Sunday morning and emptied their pockets – often time and time again – during lengthy and celebratory offerings.

Lichfield Diocese's two-way relationship with Matlosane has been mutually beneficial for many years, with churches in the Midlands being enriched by visitors from South Africa and vice versa.

We all know the affect COVID has had on our churches, and the future challenges it poses. Suffice to say, the impact of the pandemic on our brothers and sisters in South Africa has been severe. Clergy have taken a 30% pay cut – if they've been paid at all – and their medical aid has been downgraded.

As a diocese, our Advent focus for 2021 is Generous Hope, reflecting on the God of abundance who supplies all we need, and so much more. During this period we're raising money for the Church in Matlosane. If you can, please give generously to bless them this Christmas at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/matlosane>.

Pete Bate, Diocesan Director of Communications



CARBON AND CHURCHYARDS

Now that the COP26 conference is finished I thought it might be useful to think about churchyards in terms of the carbon that they store and the carbon that we use in managing them.

The main ways that churchyards store carbon is through the trees and the grassland that they contain. The trees, particularly large old trees, have been locking away carbon for many years, in the case of ancient yews, perhaps for millennia.

Whilst there is a laudable focus on trees and tree planting at the moment, don't forget that grassland is a fantastic carbon store too, with approximately 30% of global carbon stored within grasslands and their soils *. Interestingly grasslands which have a wide variety of plant, animal and fungi species store more carbon less diverse ones so churchyard soils may be really important for this as they are teeming with life.



To increase churchyard carbon storage and reduce carbon being used, why not:

- Use larger pieces of wood from trees needing felling or pruning for furniture making or wood turning. This locks the carbon away beyond the life of the tree.
- Compost grass cuttings or prunings and create deadwood piles. These all produce humous which improves the capacity of soils to hold carbon.
- Consider replacing petrol mowers and strimmers with battery operated ones, charged with a green electricity supply using wind or solar power.
- How about scything long grass? Faster than a strimmer and excellent exercise!
- Reduce the amount of short grass to where you really need it such as recent graves, war graves and memorials and against paths and the church entrance.
- Consider having medium length grass in some areas - this is mown monthly in the growing season with the mower bar set at its highest. This reduces the number of cuts and allows low-flowering plants such as clovers, speedwells and selfheal to thrive.

* Take a look at www.grasslandsplus.org.uk

All the best, Harriet Carty

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

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

New



Choir Members
Welcome!

Singing in a choir is a fantastic way to relax, have fun, relieve stress and improve your confidence – all at the same time !

Endon Community Choir

We welcome anyone aged 13+ and the great news is you don't need to have sung before, or even know how to read music. There are no auditions, no solos – we all learn together and sing together.

Interested?

Just turn up at **Endon Village Hall,**
Station Road ST9 9DR
Tuesday evenings (term time only)
from 7- 9pm *

For more information
call Teresa on 07919 437276

* First two sessions are free !





The
PHOENIX SINGERS
Leek

Tidings of
Joy

A feast of Christmas music

with Young Phoenix

Saturday 11th Dec 2021
2:30pm & 7:30pm

St Luke's Church

Fountain Street, Leek ST13 6JS

NB LEEK not ENDON!
See Sue Wilson for tickets.

Tickets:

£10 (£2 u18s)

Available from:

High Street Post Office

Leek Tourist Office

Picture Book, Stanley Stre

Choir Members

01538 388900



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for DECEMBER

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

Please contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 as soon as possible if you would like a particular date.

Dec	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
5 th	Sylvia Bradshaw to celebrate the birthday of her grandson, Archie (2 nd)	Barrie in celebration of Fay's 11 th birthday
12 th	Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Tracy's birthday (17 th)	Ann Boulton to celebrate Evie's birthday
19 th	Barrie in loving memory of Mum, Dad, brother Ron and grandson, Tom	Maureen Foster in loving memory of Malcolm, a dearly loved husband, father and grandfather
26 th	Ann Boulton in loving memory of Les on his birthday	Anon in loving memory of Joyce and Graham Forrester

Happy Birthday!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to

Thomas Morris (6th), Maurice Woolliscroft (10th),
Tracy Payne (17th),
Bob Morris, Evie Greatbatch (14th)

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

ENDON METHODIST CHURCH

24th December 4.00pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

11.00pm MIDNIGHT SERVICE with coffee and mince pies

25th December 10.00am CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

December Prayer Focus

- COP26 to result in the immediate co-operation of worldwide governments to combat climate change
- The plight of the many refugees making the dangerous Channel crossing in flimsy boats
- The plight of refugees on the Belarusian border with Poland
- The release of Iranian-British mother Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe who has lost her appeal against a further 5 yr sentence and her husband Richard who is now on hunger strike
- A peaceful resolution to the current dispute between France and the UK over fishing rights
- The prospect of rocketing energy prices and those fearful of being unable to pay their bills this winter
- Those areas in danger of severe flooding
- The challenge of those unwilling to be vaccinated against COVID
- Thankfulness for the lorry drivers who keep our supermarkets stocked
- What we can all do as individuals to combat climate change
- **AFGHANISTAN...** those left behind in fear of their lives after the take-over of their country by the Taliban
- Those countries accepting refugees
- Citizens of poorer countries who have not yet had a COVID vaccine
- Responsible behaviour following the removal of COVID restrictions
- The release of Roman Protasevich in police detention in Minsk
- All medical staff worldwide battling COVID
- Our politicians as they make decisions which affect us all
- Improved safety for women on our streets
- Our police force and the challenges they face
- UK businesses and trade problems following the Brexit deals esp in N Ireland
- Thankfulness for those who have worked tirelessly to develop the COVID vaccines and those administering them
- A determination among folk to continue to adhere to government guidelines to stop the spread of infection
- The huge problem of loneliness
- Refugees everywhere especially in Yemen and the US border with Mexico
- All suffering at the hands of deeply corrupt governments
- Loved ones in our parish who are currently unwell
- Our church wardens and worship leaders during the interregnum
- Bishop Matthew and the appointment of our next incumbent
- Archdeacon Megan who took up her post in October
- The Church of England dealing with a shortage of clergy and funds
- Yemen – the on-going crisis and those trying hard to get aid into the country
- 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 still needed as much as ever
- All children in danger of going hungry

Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship leader / PCC chair	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, reader / St Luke's PCC Sec / Administrator (* tel no for church enquiries)	07517 653370* 07510 074097
Sue Forrester, Flower & Craft Club / Foundation gov / Safeguarding Officer / St Luke's Facebook/sound desk	07854 043187
Deb Podmore, worship leader / Connections	01782 773383
Neil Taylor, worship leader / Connections	07961 652104
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	01782 502006
June Pope, St Luke's warden's team	01782 503269
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
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 / worship leader / safeguarding officer	01782 304616
Julia Podmore, St Chad's warden / treasurer	07980 802121
Pat Saul, St Chad's PCC vice-chair / secretary	07973 863930
Muriel Finney, St Chad's worship leader	01782 302229
Peter Millard, St Chad's buildings / warden's team	01782 505338
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 is available on-line as a PDF attachment and on the church website.

Paper copies are available for those without internet access.

Please contact Barrie if you would like a paper copy or know someone who would. Please submit notices for our next newsletter to Ros Benson

by **Tuesday, January 4th**

either by e-mail jandrbenson@btinternet.com or phone 504137.