



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

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

www.endonstluke.org.uk

Vestry (church office): 01782 502166



March 2021

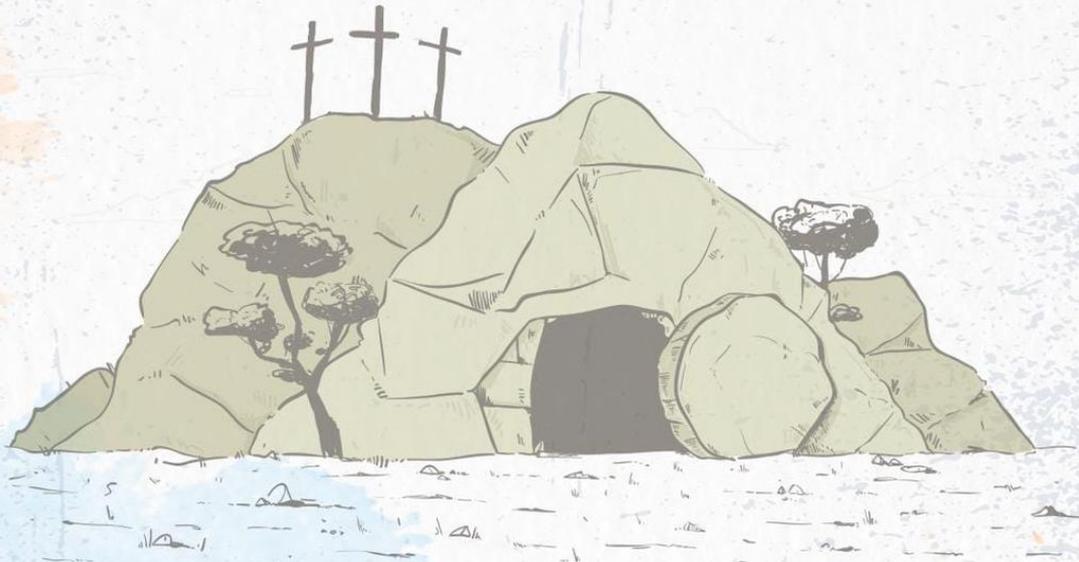
INTERREGNUM Month 9

Family Fun with the

Easter Story

**OUTSIDE AT ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, ENDON
ON SATURDAY APRIL 3RD, 10AM-12NOON**

(children must be accompanied by an adult)



BOOK IN ADVANCE TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

TELEPHONE 01782 504089

SLOTS AVAILABLE -

10AM, 10.30AM, 11AM, 11.30AM, 12NOON

MARCH PLAN

FOR ST LUKE'S...but there may be amendments!

SUNDAY Mar 7th

9.15am HOLY COMUNION led by Rev Terry Bloor

SUNDAY Mar 14th

MOTHERING SUNDAY

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP led by Roger and Barrie

SUNDAY Mar 21st

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP led by Roger and Barrie

SUNDAY Mar 28th

PALM SUNDAY

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP led by Roger and Barrie

NO MIDWEEK SERVICES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

CLOCKS FORWARD Sat 27th March

ST LUKE'S CHURCH OFFICE

Unless involved with funeral duties, Barrie mans the church office in the vestry on Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri from 10.00am to 1.00pm using tel: **01782 502166**. While the office is open the church is open for private prayer. All enquiries relating to baptisms, weddings and funerals should be directed to Barrie. Currently a maximum of 30 (5 for weddings) are allowed in church but be aware that guidelines are subject to change.

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

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.).

We are planning a child friendly, family service via Zoom for **Sunday 7th March at 11am** with games, crafts and songs in a 25 minute package. It is hoped to make it a monthly event. Look out for details. Do spread the word! The Zoom Connections passcode is **743 818 2108**.

MARCH AT ST CHAD'S

7th March MORNING WORSHIP 10:45

14th March FAMILY SERVICE for MOTHERING SUNDAY 10:45

21st March MORNING WORSHIP 10:45

28th MORNING WORSHIP for PALM SUNDAY 10:45

MOTHERING SUNDAY 14th March

This will be an outdoor service in the churchyard and everyone is welcome.

PALM SUNDAY 28th March

We are hoping that St Chad's will be open by Palm Sunday but please watch out for updates.

YOUTUBE

Don't forget all of our services are available to watch on YouTube.

LENT COURSE

This is held on Zoom on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. Please contact me if you would like the link to join.

FOOD BANK

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the food bank. The boxes are in the church porch every weekend.

Kath

2nd February 2021
*The Feast of the Presentation of
Christ in the Temple*



Rt Revd Matthew Parker
Episcopal Vicar in the Stafford Area

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

I had expected to offer these greetings as the new Bishop of Stafford but this was not to be. As with many people, my plans and expectations have been disrupted by Covid19. In my case, the disruption is little more than annoying. I know, for many, the pandemic has wrought havoc with lives and livelihoods, and I am well aware of the ways in which the clergy and people of the churches, chaplaincies, schools and Fresh Expressions of this Area have sought to be carriers of gospel hope in a time of profound anxiety. This service is not without cost and has demanded of us a great deal of emotional and spiritual energy at a time when we too have shared in the general weariness and fear.

Thank you, then, for all that you are doing to bear witness to the faithfulness of God in these days. I am glad once again to pay tribute to Preb Terry Bloor and Bishop Alistair Magowan who, ably assisted by Gemma Trueman and Lucinda Wray-Wear, have done remarkable work in the past few months. I look forward to joining them in offering what support I can to the mission and ministry of the Stafford Area, as Episcopal Vicar and then, in God's good time, as Bishop of Stafford.

I write on the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, a story (Luke 2. 22-40) that is rich in meaning and I would like to share three invitations for the coming days that arise for me from this scripture.

I note how important prayerful and Spirit-filled attention is in this story. Anna is in the Temple, worshipping "day and night", her spiritual faculties honed by "fasting and praying". Simeon lives as one who expects the Spirit to reveal to him God's promised Christ and is "moved by the Spirit" to take the child Jesus in his arms. This is prayer as *paying attention* to the prompting of God's Spirit. How easy to miss the moment in a busy temple court; the infant Jesus indistinguishable from any of the other hundreds of children presented in the Temple by grateful parents.

Simeon and Anna were people of prayer who expected to see God "already at work in the world" and, with the eyes of the Spirit, they saw that God was at work in this little baby.

It maybe that your prayer life has blossomed over the past year or it might be you have found yourself restless and distracted in these strange times. More the latter for me, I'm afraid, but can I invite you to **join me in a renewed commitment to pray** for the church of which you are a part and for the communities you serve, asking the Spirit to reveal what God is saying to us in these days of pandemic and for the future? Amidst all the sorrow and confusion what is God doing? What can we see? What are we noticing?

"[Anna] gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all..." That's not a bad way to sum up what we mean by evangelism! Anna saw God in Jesus and was thrilled in her soul and couldn't keep this good news to herself. My second invitation is to **join me in discovering a new confidence in the gospel and a readiness to speak about Jesus "to all"**. The good news is for all people; for Israel, yes, but also a "light for revelation to the Gentiles". It's good news in Burston. It's good news in Burslem. It's good news in Burton. It's good news in prisons, hospitals and universities. It's good news in our schools. I share the reticence and embarrassment of most English Christians when it comes to speaking about my faith and so I am praying for a greater boldness. The events of the past year have taught me that life is too precious and fragile for me to hold back on speaking about Jesus to all.

Finally, can I invite you to **join me in a fresh desire to see God's kingdom come here on earth as it is in heaven?** Both Anna and Simeon are praying and longing for a changed world, a world in which God's people are consoled and where Jerusalem is set free from her captivity. They are praying for the coming of the kingdom of God in their midst, a kingdom of justice and peace where the chains of captivity are broken and the poor and the oppressed of the earth are raised up. We pray for the coming of God's kingdom and, as we do, we choose to live day by day as those who are already citizens of that kingdom.

This imperative to "seek the common good, working for justice as a people of hope" feels even more pressing in the shadow of the coronavirus. Not simply to "build back better" but to share with the Spirit in the building of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

This will require us to think what we can do and what we can do ecumenically *with* Christian brothers and sisters from other churches and what we can do in partnership with all those of good will who want to be part of a better world.

By inviting you to join me in prayer, evangelism and service to the world, I am certainly not implying that you are not already doing these things. Such a suggestion would be presumptuous and absurd and I am encouraged by all the amazing work that is going on in this Area. I sense though that we are, because of this dreadful pandemic, now called to be explorers in new territory.

This can be fearful because we don't know what we are going to find, how we will have to change or what we might lose. It can be exciting too because in exploring uncharted territory we might discover new ways of being the church and being Christian. Perhaps, in this sense we capture for our time the courageous expeditionary spirit of Chad, first bishop of this Diocese.

However unsettled or excited, weary or energised, we feel, two things are true regardless. We do not embark on this journey alone but in company with one another. The *Shaping for Mission* process is designed for us to work together as churches, Fresh Expressions, Schools and Chaplaincy so we can be attentive to the movement of the Spirit of God in our midst. It's a huge challenge but we embrace it together. And, whatever we *feel*, the *facts* are that God is to be trusted and always acts "according to his word". Side by side, in the company of Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we embrace God's invitation and with Simeon and Anna we "look forward" to all God has in store for us.

Yours in Christ



PS I am very happy to be invited to share in worship around the Area in the coming weeks either in person or online. Please get in touch if this would be helpful.



DON'T STOP KNITTING!

We have now donated over 1500 squares to be made into blankets for refugees....and the need is still out there. Another

convoy of blankets and other aid will be going out very soon. Be assured that all your efforts are greatly appreciated. See message from Ann on next page. **THANK YOU!**

CAN YOU SEE YOUR SQUARES HERE?



Ann from Biddulph Methodist Church, is the magician who joins together all our squares to make blankets. She says, "As well as your extensive Endon and District the



and Biddulph Moor (Sylvia who is blind), Kidsgrove, Leek, Rushton Spencer, Northampton, Loughborough, Huddersfield, Market Harborough and Bexleyheath - the lady here a good Muslim mother from Turkey.

Can you see some of the squares with 6 in a row and then the strips are 3ft rectangle. This shape can contain garter stitch squares on the edges to pull the blanket into shape. It should measure about 4ft by 6ft.

Another photo shows work in progress, 6 squares to be sewn together and then the strips crocheted together.



The last photo shows a lovely blanket that was donated but needed a 6 inch edge put all round. I am doing the final bit of crochet joining then I hope to edge the whole blanket in blue.

Also here are blankets packed in bundles of 5 ready to go.

squares come from Biddulph

from Endon which are joined crocheted together to make a 5ft by squares of any stitches. Then I finish off with

garter stitch squares on the edges to pull the blanket into shape. It should measure about 4ft by 6ft.



This group went to Greece, last August. **Love from Ann**



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

GETTING IN SHAPE

The last year has seen some dramatic changes in our world and the impact of them will take a while to become really clear. The events of 2020 have also sped up some of the patterns that we were already facing in church and society. The increased reliance on technology for communications, and the changes in belonging and communities were already identifiable trends, as was the decline in church attendance particularly amongst the younger generations.

What this time has given us is the opportunity both to see these patterns clearly, and to do something about them. Shaping for Mission is Lichfield Diocese's response to these opportunities and challenges. How do we respond to the reality of a church that seeks to serve a changing world with smaller numbers of members, fewer clergy and more limited finances than it has been used to in the past? How do we build on the flexibility, creativity and resilience we have shown across our church communities during Covid-19 and the various phases of lockdown? How together, should we shape the church in the present and the future?

These are questions for churches across the country and beyond. In Lichfield Diocese, we are working in deaneries to explore what God is calling us to. Lichfield is divided up into 28 deaneries, geographical areas of groups of parishes. Each deanery has a team of people, supported by a member of diocesan staff, who are doing the work for Shaping for Mission with, and on behalf of, the deanery. You may already have been asked to fill out a questionnaire as part of the review stage. The first piece of work the teams are doing is to take stock of the deanery; of all that it offers to develop discipleship, to encourage vocation and to inspire evangelism. The teams are gathering information from across deaneries to do this, including chaplaincies, schools and fresh expressions as well as parishes. If you haven't heard about the review in your deanery, do speak to your vicar, deanery synod rep, or contact the Rural Dean.

After the team has completed the review, they will move on to some vision setting for the deanery; listening to God and the members of the deanery to imagine the shape of Christian presence in the future. This is a real opportunity to be bold, creative and faithful as we wonder what shape the church will be in years to come and work out ways to make our mission and ministry sustainable. The vision setting process will lead into a phase of working with Archdeacons and Area Bishops to develop a plan for the deanery, based on the vision and identifying the practical steps towards a new shape for the deanery.

Dr Lindsey Hall leads the team of Shaping for Mission facilitators and is herself working with five deaneries.





Spring on the Wing

I always listen as well as look for the first signs of spring and the call



of the Chiffchaff never fails to delight. This small buff and brown bird, sometimes described by bird watchers as one of the Small Brown Jobs or SBJs, is for me the sound of early spring. Chiffchaffs are not true migrants, but they do move south in response to cold weather, often wintering in southern Europe. They have always been one of the first birds to return in spring and now, in response to climate change, more Chiffchaffs are remaining in the UK over winter, moving to warmer places and waiting for spring before starting to sing.

The Chiffchaff is a leaf warbler, restlessly searching for small insects on the undersides of leaves, sometimes hovering and reaching to pick them off or darting out to catch them on the wing when, if you listen carefully, you may hear its bill snap shut on the insect. Its fine, needle-like bill is perfect for picking up its prey.

The Chiffchaff calls its name, an example of onomatopoeia like the Cuckoo. It has a loud, two-tone song and can sing for hours on end. March is a great time to spot as well as hear Chiffchaffs as many of the taller trees that they favour are still without leaves. British warblers tend to have subtle, camouflaged plumage and many look very similar, particularly if you are peering into a tree or shrub catching a glimpse of part of a moving bird! The Chiffchaff is nearly identical to the Willow Warbler for example but has a completely different song and this is the easiest way to identify these birds.

So listen out for your first Chiffchaff and if you hear one in your local churchyard or cemetery then please let Caring for Gods Acre know. You can go straight onto our iRecord system, send it to me by email, post or phone 01588 673041. Just tell us when and where you heard the Chiffchaff and who you are, its as simple as that.

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



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 5TH MARCH 2021

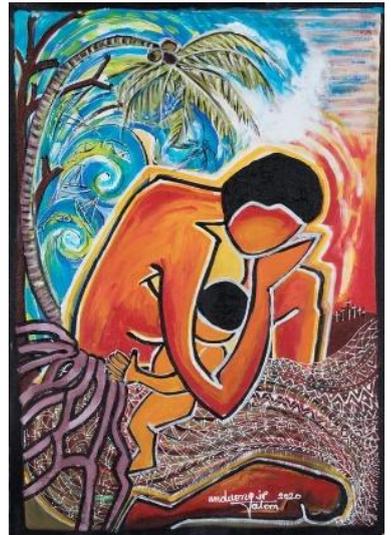
We cannot hold our usual ecumenical service this year, but Rev Eleanor Smith is producing a YouTube service using material from the WDP written by the Christian

Women of Vanuatu in the Pacific; the video features members from St Luke's and Endon Methodist Church. It will be available to view from

Wednesday 3 March – please search for the **Trinity Church Leek YouTube Channel**.

The weekly Sunday services and weekly reflections during Lent are also posted there.

Here is Rev Eleanor preparing to record Sue for the YouTube video.



23 March 2021

This date will be the anniversary of the start of the first lockdown, and to remember those who have died in the past year, the Staffordshire Moorlands Methodist Circuit are planning to mark it with an event on that day; it will also be on YouTube and on the same Trinity Church Leek YouTube channel.

LENT COURSES NOW RUNNING...

ENDON METHODIST CHURCH has invited us to join their Lent Courses on Zoom "EXPLORING JOHN'S GOSPEL" on Tuesdays between 7.30 and 9.00pm from Feb 23rd to March 23rd.

ID is 960 7655 7778 and passcode 983963. It is being hosted by Rev Julie Hassall.

Julie.hassall@methodist.org.uk

Another course "FINDING A VOICE" is being hosted by Mark Hatcher based on the film "The King's Speech" on Mondays from 2.00 – 3.00pm and Wednesdays from 7.30 - 8.30pm from Feb 24th to Mar 25th. To book a place contact Mark on 07526 215175

SAMARITANS SUNDAY **Roger writes...**

When I could reliably recite my two times table, I was given a little green paper flag with diagonal red stripes, and a figure two in gold, on a stick. I was ever so pleased.

Decades later when we were just a couple of weeks into the first lock-down, it was agreed in Parliament that Samaritan volunteers should be classed as key workers. I felt much the same degree of pride and pleasure. That was a vote of confidence in a group of people who live out the ridiculous idea that, armed with paper, pencil and a phone we can sometimes do some good to some people. Today is the sixty seventh anniversary of the day when the first trained volunteer picked up the phone and said “Hello, Samaritans!” Good job that the unknown caller couldn’t see the frantic paddling of webbed feet below the surface.

But the gold star from teacher got me wondering: what **do** Samaritans have to offer in the struggle against physical and mental pain? Is the tiny part we play worth it? Most of us aren’t medically qualified or legal experts, and often we’ve not encountered anything resembling the challenges our caller is facing. What we do have is a listening ear, a heart that never judges, and lots of time.

One of the fundamentals of Sams training is that we do more listening than talking. There’s a helpful diagram on the mouse-mat beside our computers which sets out the main ingredients of a conversation as segments of a wheel; at the centre is silence. Sometimes it seems that a listening ear achieves nothing; at the end of a call the alcoholic is still an alcoholic, the prisoner is still a prisoner. But it was Jesus himself who blessed prison visiting, not a magic “get out of jail free” card, but visiting “the least of these, my brethren”. We do get calls from actual steel and concrete prisons, but there are prisons of our own minds or circumstances which are just as much destroyers of liberty and life in its abundance. Some of you already know my favourite quote: “if someone is in a dark place, sometimes the most compassionate thing we can do is to sit beside them for a while.” Even truer these days.

Samaritans have for years been papering over the cracks in the mental health provision in this country. We seldom cure, but if we can help someone through the weeks of waiting to see a psychiatrist, without self harm or a suicide attempt, that takes some of the load off the NHS.

What mental anguish drove someone to smash their wrist with a hammer in seeking relief? Forget about the pain for a moment; how much skill and time went into repairing the physical damage? Some time later they smashed the other wrist. All that effort went for nothing because the underlying mental problem had not been resolved. Maybe, just maybe, if they’d called Sams sooner, and as often as needed, we could have eased them past the crisis points

The aftermath of a suicide attempt, too, takes up valuable time and resources which an over-stretched NHS can barely afford. So in a small, remote way we are supporting NHS staff working their thirteen hour shifts in Covid wards.

A heart that never judges is not a soft option. I know that we are all created in God's image, but sometimes that is really hard to believe. At times we hear things which we would far rather not have heard. When I got home in the early morning after with an hour with a gang rapist what I really wanted was not my usual Horlicks but a shower.

“You, Lord, have stamped your image on your creatures, and, though they mar that image, love them still...” So runs Baylis' hymn. Like it or not, my caller was made in the image of God, as am I, and I must regard him with the respect due to a fellow part of God's creation. Not easy!

People often say “there's no time like the present”. It was, I think in the Marigold Hotel film that one of the characters says, “There's no present like time”. When we go on shift, we offer three hours in which our aim is to do a lot of listening and a bit of talking. If I wanted to, I could look on the computer and see how many unanswered calls are in the queue. I never do. If I have a hesitant caller, who is anxious that they're taking too much time, I can truthfully say that if there is a queue I can't see it, so I'm not bothered.

Sometimes a light surprises/ the Christian on the phone. On Friday night I took a call from a gentleman of roughly my age. For the first quarter of an hour or so he wept inconsolably. Then he began to tell me why he was so unhappy. Half an hour in, and he asked if I thought *he* could be a Samaritan. The last half hour was spent in answering his questions about what was involved, and ended with him calling down blessings on my head. He's got the potential to be a very good Samaritan, because he's gone through the vale of misery and discovered that he can use it for a well.

People ask whether we are handling more calls; all I know is that when I switch my phone on the next call is there usually within three seconds. It's been like that for several years. That's probably the time it takes for the system to make the connection between the caller who has been waiting longest and the phone line which has been idle for longest.

Samaritans don't have a monopoly on misery. Covid has brought a strange change in the rules; we're now supposed to arrive late for our shifts and leave early, to minimise the times when there are four people in the building. I think all of us have bent that rule a bit. The caller comes first. That's only one of the ways Covid has altered the way Sams carry on at Alexandra Mill. Unlike our church, one shift follows another with perhaps only a few minutes gap, so industrial quantities of spray, wipes and hand gel are used. We have the advantage of being a small branch, so normally only two people are on duty at any one time, and there's plenty of space. The on-line timetable provides details of who is there when, and that record goes back for ages, so tracing is reliable and easy. It's at least as safe as St Luke's! Some Samaritans who are at high risk quite rightly don't come to the branch any more, but instead provide back-up reassurance and advice to those doing shifts by acting as Leaders. Others have decided that they will continue to come in for as

long as the probability of doing good is greater than the probability of doing harm by passing on the virus.

A couple of years ago I was on night shift and a caller told me a moving story of love and betrayal. The following morning when I woke, my first thought was that if I were to write down that story I could enter it in a competition....but on no account must I do this. Now, perhaps a hundred calls later, I can still remember the overall feel of that encounter, though the details have (quite rightly) faded away. Looking back, I think the story flowed too smoothly. Maybe I was being used as a sounding-board by an aspiring writer, rather than providing support to someone whose wounds were raw. But here's the thing; I would rather risk being taken for a ride by a budding author than fail to help someone who needed it.

For many years the Samaritans have been papering over the cracks in mental health provision. Depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder and paranoia have always been frequent visitors to our phones. People have asked me whether I have noticed an increased number of calls since the start of the pandemic. Well, no, not really. When I switch on my phone, there is a delay of two or three seconds before it rings, but this is not new. It's probably the length of time taken by the central computer to make the connection.

So we'll press on, *doing all the good we can, by all the means we can, to all the people we can, for as long as ever we can. And John Wesley meant all of us! AMEN*

SITUATION VACANT!

WHAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TOWARDS THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR NEXT INCUMBENT?

Shaping For Mission

An Update from Sue Forrester....

It's been eight months since Alan and Maryanne retired and you may be wondering about progress towards finding a new vicar. All parishes and benefices in our deanery which are in interregnum are being asked to complete a thorough review of themselves and their activities which will be forwarded to deanery level. The PCC has been working very hard to complete this task and the finished document is ready to be sent off. However, this is only the beginning of the process. The next step will be to set out our vision for the future, which will be included in the vision for the deanery overall. The third step will be to make decisions regarding the best use of funds and resources and will happen later in the year. At this point we will know what our future will look like. During the process of completing the form it became clear how much the congregations of St. Luke's and Connections are doing in, and with, our community. Thanks are due to everyone for their contributions in keeping our special church alive and working during these difficult times.

Barrie adds...

The process of selection within the Diocese is not as straightforward as it used to be; the “old way” was that the retiring vicar would leave, PCC would then draw up a “Profile” of our church and, subject to its approval by the Diocese, we would then be permitted to advertise that vacancy in the Lichfield Diocese Bulletin.

Now it’s different, not least of all because of the impact of the COVID restrictions on the life of the wider Church.

It’s now called “Shaping for Mission” - a 3-stage process of audit and profiling, to identify where we are going and what we are doing, in the wider context of the Deanery – what, to most people in commerce and marketing is known as a SWOT Analysis – an acronym for “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats”.

The three stages are:-

1. Deanery Review – Autumn 2020-Winter 2021
2. Vision Setting Process – Spring 2021 – Summer 2021
3. Translating the Vision into Reality – Summer 2021 onwards

The PCCs of St Luke’s and St Chad’s have, respectively, prepared and submitted “Stage 1 – Review” documentation, reviewing, evaluating and explaining what we do and how well we do it; also what opportunities we identify.

So now it’s on to Stage 2 and we’ll keep you informed on progress – in the meanwhile, please keep praying for our local church as we go through the process. Any questions, grab a PCC member and ask for an update!

AN INTERREGNUM PRAYER

Lord God, we want to serve you;
show us how to share your love.
We want to grow your kingdom here,
so that more and more people live as followers of Jesus;
show us how to share your love.
When we get stuck in our ways,
and care too much about the building;
show us how to share your love.
When we run short on compassion
and forget that your grace is abundant;
show us how to share your love.
We know that you are with us –
but when it doesn’t feel like it,
pour your Holy Spirit on us;
show us how to share your love.
Help us to use the gifts we have
so that together we can be
your church in this place.
Show us how to share your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who first loved us. Amen.

ST LUKE'S LENT & EASTER

THE STORY OF EASTER FOR FAMILIES....but not an Easter Egg Hunt!! Please spread the word.

See front page of this newsletter for details.

Meetings have now been held to further the proposal that we hold a spaced out outdoor event on **Easter Saturday** in the churchyard for families to take part in with Fairtrade Real Easter Eggs for prizes. The story of Holy Week will be portrayed around the church yard with volunteers dressed up as characters from the story to explain each part of the Holy Week story. There will be an entry fee in aid of church funds. If you would like to help in then please contact Shirley Brindley.

Please note that the Real Easter Egg is no longer on sale in supermarkets but can only be obtained on-line through The Meaningful Chocolate Company, Traidcraft, Tear Fund or The Leprosy Mission.

THIS YEAR'S LENT APPEAL

In the absence of the Bishop's Lent Appeal, it's been decided that St Luke's will run its own Lent Appeal this year. The beneficiary will be: **TEENAGE CANCER TRUST 2020**. a registered charity: 1062559 (England & Wales), SC039757 (Scotland). Their aim is to provide "world-class cancer services for young people in the UK, providing life-changing care and support so young people don't have to face cancer alone" [Full details are on their website teenage cancer trust.org] Appeal envelopes will be at the back of church, to enable the charity to recover full tax relief on any donations.

LENT COURSES

We are invited to join with Endon Methodist Church in either of two Lent Courses currently running. See page 7 for details.

VINTAGE ENDON NEWSLETTERS

Alan Williamson has kindly loaned us a very old bound book containing copies of some Endon parish newsletters dating from 1895 and which make interesting reading. I have scanned a couple of pages from March 1895 which includes the financial state of St Luke's as well as the result of an inspector's visit to the parochial school. See pages 16 and 17.

CHURCH FUNDS.. a reminder

Thank you also to those who keep up regular giving. Please continue to bring your gift or envelope to church or 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). There is also a 'Just Giving' link on St Luke's website. 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*. (**Bank details from Steve Dale or Sheila Hurst. Phone nos back page.*)



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for MARCH

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.**

Mar	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
7 th	Alan and Maureen Payne to celebrate grandson Olly's birthday	Barrie Jackson to celebrate Chris's birthday
14 th	Mabel McGrath to celebrate the birthdays of son David and great grandson, Ewan	Barrie Jackson in celebration of Emma's birthday
21 st	Roger and Shirley to celebrate the 5 th birthday of their granddaughter, Emma	Ann Boulton in loving memory of her parents
28 th	Alan and Maureen Payne to celebrate Maureen's birthday (28 th)	Lyn Pickering

Happy Birthday!



MARCH BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to

Olly Payne (2nd), Steve Dale (3rd), Claire Salt (4th),
Adrian Davis (5th), John O'rourke (6th),
Ros Benson (15th), Deb Podmore (16th),
Vicky Barlow (17th), Christopher Jackson (20th),
Craig Davis (21st),
Wendy Bardell, Maureen Payne (28th),
Emma Theunissan (29th)

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

WELL DRESSING: It will probably come as no surprise that the Well Dressing has been cancelled once again this year.

C/O Mrs R Benson
Claremont
St Georges Avenue
Endon
Stoke on Trent

Message rec'd from TLM acknowledging receipt of this year's used stamps. Note that TLM is also pleased to receive coins, cigarette cards and medals.

Thank you!

Dear Friends

It's hard to believe that used stamps and collectables can help transform the life of someone affected by leprosy. The fact is they can!

By donating your stamps, you have been part of bringing transformation to the lives of people like Kunam and Yogeswary

Kanum (photo right) has been able to farm Coconut plants, which will provide vital nutrients to feed him and his family, as well as provide a sustainable living by selling the coconuts in markets.



Yogeswary (photo on left), has been able to learn a new skill in dressmaking. This new skill means she can make clothes and sell them for money, which will support her and her family.

Thanks to your kindness, you are enabling people affected by leprosy to access the cure they need and the resources they require to have a fuller life.

Thank you so much for all you do to support people like Kunam and Yogeswary.



Nicky Ward
Supporter Relations Manager

We would be grateful if you could continue to collect any of the following items please:

- Stamps of all descriptions (GB and Foreign)
- Coins & Bank notes - Cigarette Cards
- Postcards - Medals

NEW WEEKLY GIVING ENVELOPES

The weekly giving envelopes for the next financial year will be at the back of church from the beginning of March. The new envelopes begin on Sunday 11th April. Please don't use the old blue ones after that date. If anyone else would like a set of weekly envelopes let me know as I have a few spares.

If you are not currently attending church services let me know and I will deliver your envelopes to you. I would like to remind all those whose donations can be gift aided to let me know if their tax position or address change.

Thanks for your continued support. Gift-aiding your donation increases its value by 25%.

Sheila Hurst (Gift Aid Secretary)

Tel: 503622

March Prayer Focus

- The government's plan for the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions
- UK businesses and trade problems following the Brexit deals
- The new US presidency
- Thankfulness for those who have worked tirelessly to develop the COVID vaccines and those tasked with administering it.
- The success of the vaccines and that they may lead to effectively controlling the virus
- Our NHS staff still working hard in extremely difficult conditions
- A new determination among folk to adhere to government guidelines to stop the spread of infection
- The huge problem of loneliness for so many and made worse by the current situation
- Folk in care homes, the staff and the relatives who may not have seen their loved ones or had any close contact for months
- Schools with their teaching staff and children
- Refugees everywhere
- 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
- Our new bishop and the appointment of our next incumbent
- The dire COVID situation in many poorer countries
- 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
- All children who are in danger of going hungry

DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK! Donations can be left in church and Barrie will ensure they are taken to Leek.

THE ENDON PARISH MAGAZINE.

MARCH, 1895.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

It cannot be generally understood, especially by the parents of our Sunday Scholars, that the offertory at the Children's Service, on the first Sunday in the month, will be devoted to another much needed improvement in our Church, namely, a New Font. We have now in hand about £9, which has taken a long time to get, as our afternoon offertories are so small. If every child belonging to our Sunday School would give only a penny at these services the amount would soon grow considerably. Might not other children of our congregation, not belonging to the Sunday School also contribute to this Fund? Mr. W. Walley has kindly taken charge of these offertories from their commencement.

BAPTISMS.

"I have lent him to the Lord as long as he liveth, he shall be lent to the Lord."

Feb. 15...Margaret, daughter of Albert and Alice Critchlow, Knowles Farm.
17...Ernald, son of John and Louisa Osborne, Dales Cottage, Dunwood.

COMMUNICANTS ROLL.

Week by Week.—"Do this in remembrance of me." Number for the month 37.

THE WEEKLY OFFERTORY.

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him."

	MORNING.			EVENING.		
	Coins.	£	s. d.	Coins.	£	s. d.
<i>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</i>	64	0	19 4½	74	0	9 10½
<i>Septuagesima Sunday</i>	68	0	18 3	77	0	7 11
<i>Sexagesima</i> ,,	66	0	14 8	70	0	9 4½
<i>Quinquagesima</i> ,,	60	0	17 5	81	0	12 5

LENT SERVICES.

"Sanctify a Fast, call a Solemn Assembly."

During this season of Lent there will be daily service at 12-15, and in the afternoon, with Lent readings at 4, except on Friday, when there will be evening service at 7-15.

A Meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society will be held in the Parochial Schoolroom, on Monday evening, March 11th, at 7-30, to which all are earnestly invited. The Rev. J. Malcolm Graham, Vicar of S. Paul's, Burslem, will be the deputation, and several others will address the meeting.

NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES.

Jerusalem and its environs, by means of models, have been very kindly and well described by Mr. Scrivener, to the Young Men's Bible Class, and also to the higher classes in our Sunday School. The lectures were most interesting and very much appreciated. The models were lent by the Sunday School Institute. "Church Bells" refers in loud terms of praise to a similar Exhibition, at Brixton, London, (of course on a much larger scale), and tells of the great good it has done.

VESTRY ENLARGEMENT.

The balance owing to the Contractor for the extension of the Church Vestry has recently been paid off, the last donation received being that of a chorister, £4/10, and a statement of account furnished to each subscriber.

From this it appears that the total outlay has been £112/19/11.

The comfort and convenience afforded by the increased accommodation for clergy and choir far exceeds even the sum expended, whilst the readiness with which the money was subscribed bears testimony to the strong feeling of love and attachment towards the Church existing in the Parish.

Hers's an interesting account of the extension of the vestry and fundraising for the new font plus a full programme for Lent! On the next page there's an account of one of Her Majesty's inspectors on the state of the church school which as you will know used to be just below the church on what is now the car park. Those of us of a certain age may well remember it. I didn't attend the school as a pupil but in the 1950s I did attend the Sunday School which was held there every Sunday afternoon at 2.30pm. (We were asked if we could read and if so, a boy would then throw a hymn book in your direction!) **Ros**

ENDON PAROCHIAL SCHOOL.

We are now enabled to present a complete statement of receipts and expenditure in connection with the recent alteration and enlargement of our School.

It may be remembered that H. M. Inspector's Report of July, 1893, contained the following remarks and requisitions:—"The infants' room is inconvenient, being much too narrow and close, and the ventilation is bad.

My Lords desire to know what steps the Managers will take to provide more suitable accommodation as they cannot continue the recognition of the present room permanently. In any case the vent must be made satisfactory at once."

This then will explain the necessity for the expenditure of so large a sum of money, the Managers having moreover decided to forestall a further impending requirement by providing an adequate-sized Cloak Room and Lavatory for the children.

We trust the improvements thus made will suffice to satisfy "My Lords" demands for some time to come, for it is well known that the pressure now being brought to bear upon the voluntary schools throughout the country, in the matter of expenditure, has seriously threatened their total extinction, and taxed to the utmost the efforts of all those who desire the maintenance of definite religious instruction no less than the avoidance of increased taxation.

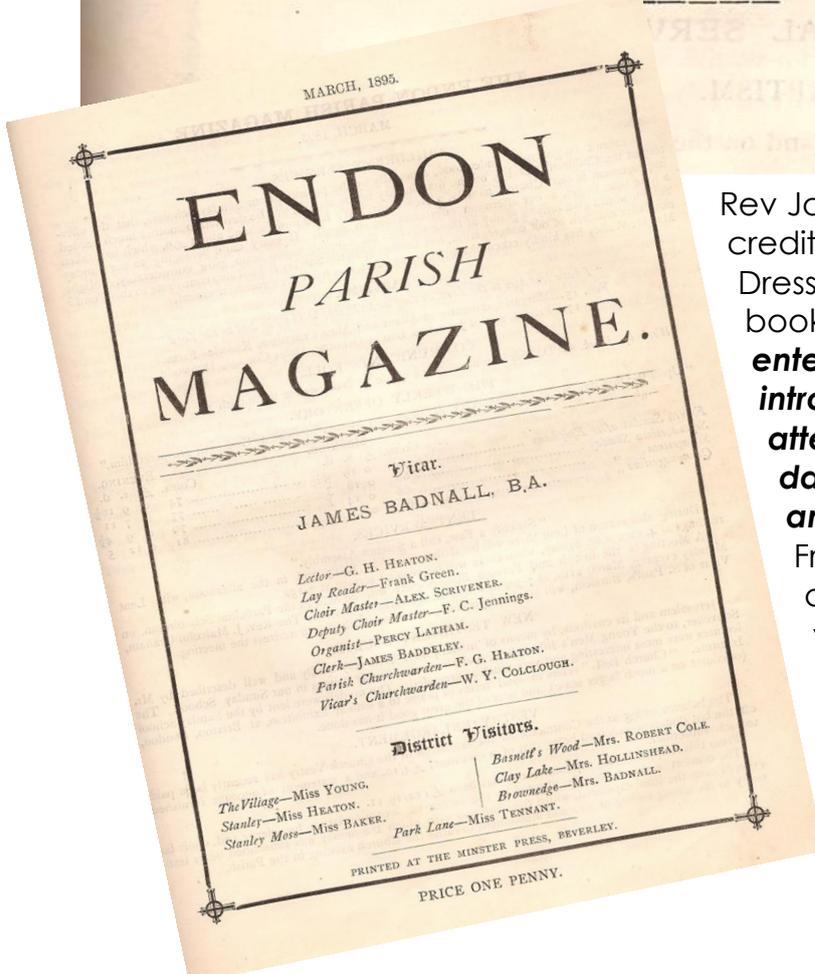
To all those who so generously gave their time and contributions, and assisted in making the Bazaar last summer so great a success, the School Managers tender their most hearty thanks.

1894.	RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	1894-5.	PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
June,	Proceeds of Bazaar at Bank House (including sundry subscriptions) as per statement in Parish Magazine for September, 1894 ..	147	7	6	James Heath, for providing and fixing ventilators in roof and walls of Infants' Room, &c	16	3	6	
1895, Jan.,	Ditto of Entertainment and Sale of Work, on Jan. 9th	15	1	1	Thomas Godwin, amount of his contract for enlarging Infants' Room and building new Cloak Room and Lavatory	170	13	0	
	Grant from Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education.....	12	10	0	R. Scrivener & Sons (Architects) for making Plans and Specifications, and superintending the above work	10	0	0	
	Drawn from a former Reserve Fund in the Leek and Moorlands Building Society	21	10	0	Bank Commission.....	0	2	6	
	Bank Interest.....	0	10	5					
		£196	19	0		£196	19	0	

Ellen Badnall, }
G. H. Heaton, } Treasurers.
Wm. Walley, Auditor.

Rev James Badnall, who became vicar in 1865, is credited with being the founder of the Well Dressing in its present form. Frank Stubbs, in his book about Endon, recounts, **"he quickly entered into the well-dressing activities and introduced the notion of a May Queen and attendants....entertained by twelve girls who dance around a maypole wearing white hats and white frocks with frills and sashes."**

Frank tells us that the idea of a floral decoration for the well came from the village policeman, William Hand, who was probably inspired by the well dressings of Derbyshire. The well dressing has maintained close associations with the church and celebrations have always begun with a service of thanksgiving at St Luke's.



Ann Boulton has sent in a few more smiles...

*An explorer in the jungle saw a monkey with a tin opener.
He called out to the monkey,
"You don't need a tin opener to peel a banana!"
"I know," replied the monkey. "I'm not stupid.
This is for the custard."*

*The zoo owner told the new keeper,
"You idiot! You left the door of
the lions' cage open all night!!"
"What's the problem?" said the keeper.
"Who's going to steal a lion?"*

*The sergeant major growled at the young soldier,
"Jenkins, I didn't see you at camouflage training this morning!"
The soldier replied, "Thank you very much, sir"*

*Did you hear about the man who read a book about anti-gravity?
It was impossible to put down.*

*A snake slithered into a bar and asked the barman for a beer.
"Sorry," said the barman, "I'm afraid I can't serve you."
"Why not?" asked the snake,
"Because you can't hold your drink".*

*A man walked into a bar carrying three wooden panels and
two wooden posts. "You can't bring those in here."
said the barman." Why not?" asked the man.
"They may cause a fence."*

*A boy was doing his geography homework one evening.
He turned to his dad and asked "Dad, where are the Andes?"
"Don't ask me," replied his dad,
"Ask your mum, she puts everything
away in this house!"*

*Have you heard the Elvis Presley "Knock knock" joke?
It goes like this: "Knock, knock." "Who's there?"
"Wurlitzer". "Wurlitzer who?"
"Wurlitzer one for the money,
two for the show !!*

Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship leader / PCC chair	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, reader / St Luke's PCC Sec / Administrator (*for church enquiries)	07517 653370* 07510 074097
Sue Forrester, Flower & Craft Club / Foundation gov / Safeguarding Officer / St Luke's Facebook	07854 043187
Deb Podmore, worship leader / Connections	01782 773383
Neil Taylor, worship leader / Connections	07961 652104
Suzy Jordan, music leader / Connections	01782 504589
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
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 / 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
Caryl Siegertsz, St Chad's warden's team / worship team	01782 304616
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 will be 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 one or know someone who would. Please submit notices for our next newsletter to Ros Benson

by **Tuesday, March 23rd**.

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



CHRISTIAN AID

The annual sponsored walk around Tittesworth reservoir will not be taking place this year but Christian Aid is encouraging folk to take part in a virtual walk in May to raise much needed funds. More details next

month or consult the Christian Aid website.