



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



May 2021

INTERREGNUM Month 11

**THANK YOU
LORD FOR OUR
CONTINUING
WATER SUPPLY!**

**OUR WELL DRESSING
126 YEARS AGO...1895
WAS A JUBILEE YEAR!
See pages 10 and 11
for vintage newsletter
account.**



**Our Well Dressing sadly having been cancelled again this year, the well will be dressed with oak branches once more instead of the usual intricate design of flowers, moss and coloured stones set into clay.
Nevertheless we can still give thanks that, despite the pandemic and all the restrictions, the water continues to flow!**

MAY PLAN FOR ST LUKE'S

SUNDAY May 2nd

**9.15am HOLY COMUNION led
by Rev Terry Bloor**

SUNDAY May 9th

**9.15am MORNING WORSHIP
led by Roger and Barrie**

SUNDAY May 16th

**9.15am MORNING WORSHIP
led by Roger and Barrie**

SUNDAY May 23rd

**9.15am MORNING WORSHIP
led by Roger and Barrie**

SUNDAY May 30th (as above)

MIDWEEK SERVICES

**Wednesdays at 9.15am in the
chapter house.**

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: **07517 653370.**

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 can change.

ST LUKE'S ZOOM MEETINGS

11.00am COFFEE & CHAT on Fridays (hosted by Neil Taylor). All welcome. Contact Neil for further details.

11.00am CONNECTIONS on Sundays led by Neil and Deb (phone nos back page.). On the first Sunday of the month we have a child friendly, family service via Zoom with games, crafts and songs in a 25 minute package. Do spread the word!

The Zoom Connections passcode is
743 818 2108.

ST LUKE'S PCC AND APCM

The next meeting of the **PCC** will be to approve the accounts and will take place on Zoom at 7.30pm on **Thursday 20th May.**

Copies of the accounts will be circulated to PCC members prior to the meeting. Sue Forrester will host on Zoom.

Our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held on **Sunday 23rd May** in church at 10.30am immediately following the Service of Morning Worship. It is an important church event so please attend if you can.

Members of the PCC, wardens and deanery synod reps will need to be elected (or re-elected) at this meeting. If you would like to vote at this meeting you must have your name on the church electoral roll. Please contact Sheila Simpson (01782 502006) if you would like to enlist on the electoral roll or check that your name is on it.

Volunteers are always needed to welcome folk into church, to read the lessons and to operate the sound desk. Please contact Barrie or Roger if you can help.



CONNECTIONS

Our Connections team members have been and are still hard at work producing Zoom sessions on Sundays. Here are some notes from Deb's recent talk:

THOUGHTS FROM TOGETHER @ 11

PALM SUNDAY Mark 11: 1-24

This reading has so much imagery and hidden meaning that you could quite easily miss it, simply because of the familiarity of the passage.

Looking at verse 1: "Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage..."

On the surface of it, "Bethphage" just looks like the name of a place near to Jerusalem, but in Aramaic it means "the house of stables." When it is translated into Greek it means, "the house of unripe figs. "

v12-14: On a fig tree the fruit is formed first then the leaves appear, so one would expect to find fruit on a tree in leaf. The first time a fig tree is mentioned in the Bible is Gen.3:7, with its leaves being a 'covering' for the fallen Adam and Eve to hide behind. It also became the hiding place for Zacchaeus, who climbed a sycamore fig tree to see Jesus. The fig tree with its leaves and no fruit can also be seen as a symbol of Israel's religious system of the day, and also the nation of Israel. They had professed righteousness and had maintained all the external forms of ritual and godliness, but although professing faith in God, they rejected the Son of God.

They were not producing any good fruit, only rotten fruit, which is shown by Jesus when he drives out the money changers and the other merchants, who were fraudulent in their transactions and who had commercialised the sacrificial system for their own ends. There is also significant evidence that the priests benefitted financially from these vendors and that dishonest business transactions were commonplace.

By purging the temple Jesus was fulfilling a prophecy found in Mal.3:1-3 and demonstrating His messianic authority. Adding to this, people were also showing disrespect for the temple by using the area as a short cut from the city to the Mount of Olives, v16.

That's why Jesus wouldn't allow anyone to pass through. The area where the money changers were was also known as the court of the Gentiles and it was the only place where non Jews were allowed in the temple complex.

In Aramaic, the tables that Jesus overturned reads, "the tables that had the firstborn ransom payments."

When Jesus drove out the money changers from the temple, He drove out the rotten fruit! The firstfruits of the harvest Jesus was looking for, came on the day of Pentecost, at the end of the Feast of Firstfruits!

Going back to the beginning of Mark 11:

These are the final days of Jesus's ministry and He is openly declaring who He is. The Messiah, the Son of God. In verses 2-10 He fulfills in dramatic style Zechariah 9:9. It would be difficult for the people not to see that the prophecy was being fulfilled right in front of their eyes! His triumphal entry into Jerusalem took place on the Sunday before His crucifixion on the Friday, so these were His very last days.

It would seem that Jesus had either planned ahead for this visit to Jerusalem, or He had supernatural knowledge ahead of time about the colt; where it would be found, and what the bystanders would say. Either way, the fact that the colt hadn't been ridden is of special significance, because objects used for sacred purposes, must never have been used for any other reason, according to the instructions given by God to Moses in the book of Numbers and in Deuteronomy.

Jesus was received like a king as He approached Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks in front of Him and waved palm branches. They shouted, "Hosanna!" which means, "Save us now!" or "Bring victory!" The crowds were recognising Jesus as Yahweh's Messiah, and it is obvious that they were expecting Jesus to overthrow the hated Roman oppression and set the nation free. But Jesus hadn't ridden into Jerusalem on a horse to declare war. He had ridden on a colt, an ass, which was seen as a noble animal, an animal of peace.

Jesus entered into Jerusalem in peace, humility and gentleness. He came not to destroy or condemn, but to set free and encourage. He came to conquer, not by force but with love. Maybe that's why over the coming days the people began to turn against Him. They wanted to be set free from Roman rule and when that didn't happen they were angry and bitterly disappointed, so they began to edge Him out of their lives, out of their city and out of their world. We need to guard against allowing anger and bitterness into our lives, because they can push Jesus out. Instead, we need to let all anger and bitterness go and welcome Jesus into our lives, into our homes and into the world in which we move. Be blessed and be a blessing.



MESSAGE FROM SOPHIE BROUGH

Hello All

As you may know my mum was born with cerebral palsy and walking is hard for her and she is now on crutches.

She will be walking around Milton Park 50 times in 60 days to raise money for St Luke's as a 'Thank You' for help over the years.

The money raised will go towards church running costs and staging events like the outdoor carol service and Easter story as well as local foodbanks.

If you would like to support her please visit the link to the 'Just Giving' page which is below.

Any donation big or small would be massively appreciated..

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jean-brough?utm_id=1&utm_term=wJjN6JJ8E

Many thanks!

MAY AT ST CHAD'S



SERVICES

May 2nd Family Service
KH/CS

9th Praise and Prayer
KH/MF

16th Holy Communion
Rev B Wilson

23rd Morning Prayer
KH/MF

30th Holy Communion
Rev M Tideswell

IMPORTANT EVENT/ DATES

May 23rd APCM straight after Morning Prayer

June 27th NO SERVICE AT ST CHAD'S due to Carrie's Ordination* at Lichfield.

INFORMATION

We are pleased to announce that work has now begun in the tower to fit a new ceiling/loft floor to enable easier access to the loft, create storage space and most of all make the entrance much warmer.

There will be no access to church during the week but service will be held as normal on Sundays.

**Kath Howell can be contacted on 01782 304616 or 07971 887039
or howsie07@btinternet.com**

FOOD BANK

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

****We pray for Our Lord's blessing on Carrie in her new ministry and for St Chad's and especially Kath as Carrie will be working in another parish.***

CARRY ON, ST CHAD'S

When lockdown began over 12 months ago the first reaction of the St Chad's congregation was of loss and sorrow. These two emotions being of little use to anyone it did not take Kath and her team of willing helpers plus the determination of the congregation to find ways to carry on the work regardless.

To those on the outside looking in over the wall of the churchyard the only signs of life would appear to be the overgrown grass and the spring crocus and snowdrops. Indeed, the gradually increasing flowers and the usually tidy grass are themselves a symbol of a congregation that works together for the church though we do admit to the sense of loss over the missing social coffee, cake and chatter which always accompanied our housework and gardening sessions at the church before Covid.

To those within the church community it was an opportunity to show that the Christian life must continue.

Worship and meeting together being at the centre of our faith, like many churches we used technology to ensure that our services could still be seen thanks to the worship team and the technical skills of Gracie and that our weekly news of church and local matters could be read on e-mail thanks to Sheila.

On special occasions such as Mothering Sunday there were windblown services in the churchyard attended by the young and fairly healthy well wrapped in rugs and by four girl riders on horseback!

The Pastoral Care Team, unable to visit the housebound, switched to telephone calls and notes of cheer.

Funerals are so important to the bereaved and our intrepid Kath and her Covid Support Team carried this unpaid work out with diligence and kindness.

The church web site was kept up to date.

By putting boxes in the church porch at given times we were able to continue our work for the food bank in Leek and we were thanked by them for our outstanding efforts as one of the smallest churches but making the most regular and larger donations.

On Leprosy Sunday we were so glad to be back among a depleted and separated congregation in a severe, undecorated church and unable to sing out our joy although I did hear some music from behind the assorted masks. The donations for the leprosy fund were very generous and will be put to such good use as leprosy is very cheap to cure. The church study group continued to meet with the help of Zoom as did the Church Council.

The PCC meetings must have been more successful than the notorious parish council meeting that went viral on Facebook because they have managed the finances successfully to arrange the long awaited addition of a ceiling in the tower.

This will give safer access to the clock, create some storage and, most important, allow the heat to remain in the church and not escape with the ringing tones of the bells!

Peter Millard is reported to have been imprisoned for weeks as he tapped out yet another application for a faculty!

The congregation has supported all these efforts with continuing to buy the wonderful fresh hen, goose and duck eggs from Julia's rescue "Girls."

We raise very reasonable amounts of money from the continued sale of jam and marmalade, homemade of course and we look forward to being able to add cakes to the list.

The wonderful Easter Service brought some cheer as we took our home produced flower arrangements up to church for Barbara to place inside. Never before do I remember having to book a seat for a service.

We missed the coffee and hot cross buns but were able to shout a greeting to our friends at a regulation distance outside in the sunshine.

For myself I do not think I would have got through the past year without the WhatsApp Social Group to which all are invited.

We exchange not only appropriate prayers and Bible extracts for daily use but the most hilarious jokes which have kept us laughing through our darker moments. It is also a place to pass on bits of news and to tell others about times enjoyed and sometimes to seek a little sympathy for our troubles.

I think we feel that, although there will be a lot to do to get us running smoothly when all regulations are withdrawn, we have had a very successful lockdown.

Perhaps the best evidence for this is that two of our congregation, Ian and Caryl, have continued to study at the worst possible time and been called to ordination. Ian already works as a curate and **Caryl is due to be ordained in June and to begin her curacy.**

We look forward to our return to normal and realise we may have to help some members to emerge from a long isolation of the body, if not the spirit.

I deliberately used the phrase "Carry On" because I found the first two or three of those old Carry On films really cheered me up as have the St. Chad's pandemic activities. Perhaps the Lockdown theme song of our church, led by Kathryn, Muriel, Carrie, Julia, Grace and their families and Technology aided helpers should be, "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

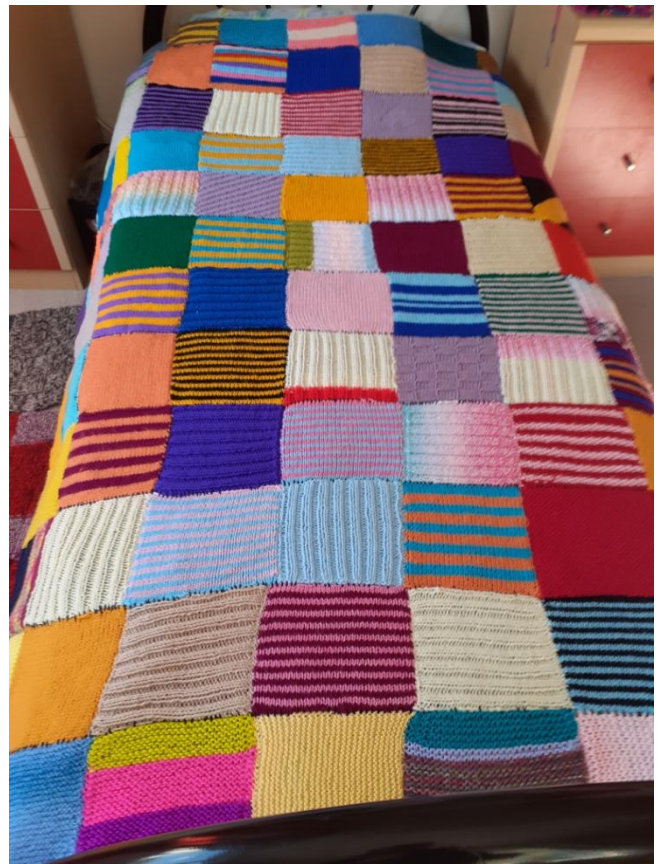
Carry on, everybody, in the Christian Faith.

Pat Adams

**MORE
BLANKETS
MADE
FROM
SQUARES**



**KNITTED BY ENDON
LADIES!**



I am often asked whether more squares are still needed and at the present time the answer is a resounding, "Yes, please!" The need is still out there and your contributions are hugely appreciated. All squares are collected by Sue Millard at regular intervals and made into blankets by her friend Ann at Biddulph Methodist Church. The two blankets above have been made very recently from squares supplied by Endon (and district) ladies.

CHURCH FUNDS

Please continue to bring your gift or envelope to church or issue a cheque and post it to Sheila Hurst or set up a monthly standing order. 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.) THANK YOU to our regular givers!

UCB notes for EASTER



Carolyn Arends writes: 'Easter Sunday is the Christian faith's gold medal victory lap...the Happily Ever After...But here's the rub: I dread Good Friday...images of torture and suffering...sombre music...the terrible recollected cry, "My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Left to my own devices, I'd probably skip Good Friday. But...if I did, Easter morning would become increasingly hollow. I'd forget how much my salvation cost....I'd start to believe that you can have victory without sacrifice...that you don't have to die [to self] to live the resurrection. I'd buy the lie that Christ's...victory over death – and my decision to follow him – means life will be trouble-free...The biblical writers...encourage us to consider suffering...an opportunity to identify with Christ...to take up his cross. Yet...when the job is lost, or the tumour is malignant, or the friendship is betrayed, we grieve not only the wound but also the fact that we can be wounded. We feel...Jesus has let us down. We don't consider it "pure joy"...We consider it failure...So how do we become Easter Sunday Christians? When I'm expecting Easter Sunday and I get Good Friday...[I try] to remember that God's definition of "good"...far exceeds my own...that almost all the new beginnings...have come from what felt...like terrible endings....What seems like a small (but devastating) death is actually a chance at new life....We must be...broken...to grow into what we were made to be.' If you're struggling to see the 'good' in your situation, hear this: 'He was supreme in the beginning and – leading the resurrection parade – he is supreme in the end....Not only that, but all the broken...dislocated pieces...people and things...get properly fixed and fit together...because of his death' (vv. 18-20 MSG).

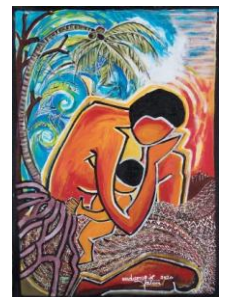
(UNITED CHRISTIAN BROADCASTERS Westport Rd, Burslem. Daily devotional notes available on e-mail or paper copy by post. See UCB website)



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Dear Friends

A very big 'thank you' to those who supported the service and made a donation to this year's World Day of Prayer.



The total you raised was **£240** of which £193 was gift-aided.

A special thank you to Sheila Hurst from St Luke's and Sue Makepeace from the Methodist Church who helped to distribute the service booklets.

God Bless you all and stay safe.

Val Myatt

HERE'S ANOTHER EXTRACT FROM ALAN WILLIAMSON'S VINTAGE NEWSLETTER COLLECTION. This is an account of the Well Dressing of 1895 which was the 'Jubilee Festival' marking 50 yrs since the first one in 1845.

THE ENDON PARISH MAGAZINE.

JUNE, 1895.

Our Jubilee Festival, May 29th and 30th,

From The Staffordshire Post.

In striking contrast to the weather last year was that which greeted the jubilee of this popular village festival celebrated at Endon on Wednesday. In place of the leaden sky and peals of thunder, Old Sol beamed gloriously from a cloudless sky, and the pretty village, now at its best, looked charming. As the Vicar (the Rev. James Badnall) remarked, "The weather might specially have been arranged for the jubilee celebration." The festival has always been noted in the district for its lavish arrangements, but this year far and away caps all previous efforts. The committee had worked untiringly to make this, the 50th celebration, a great success, and had added many attractions to the usual programme. Immediately on entering Endon Station one was made conscious that it was a fête day. Flags were floating gaily from all the waiting rooms and offices, poles had been erected round the boundary which were surmounted by garlands of tastefully-arranged flowers, while all the lamps were mantled with ever-greens and other floral decorations. From there right up to the well-dressing field, in all available situations, the eye is treated to similar decorations. The masterpiece, however, is the decoration of the village well, from a design of Mr. John Thorley, of Hanley. Viewed from all positions, the spring looks exquisite, which is all the more astonishing, owing to the fact that nothing but wild flowers have been used in the beautification. The groundwork consists of silver and green woodland moss, relieved by rhubarb seed and sycamore flowers. On each side of the stream are three storks, composed of red and white daisies, the legs being quaintly formed of Indian corn, which adds greatly to the effect. On the extreme edge are two crosses, decorated with ivy and rhubarb seed, while immediately underneath these, in the groundwork, are two lambs, fashioned skilfully in cotton grass. Entwined round ferns in the recess, directly above the well, are flowers of varied hues, including sweet nancies, while in the centre is a man's head, figured in bronze, through which the water flows, which had been given an extra polish for the occasion. Surmounting the whole was a crown of pansies, sweet nancies, and sycamore flowers, tastefully arranged, while in crescent shape, just underneath, was the inscription, in white and red daisies, "Oh, that one would give me drink from the water of the well," which was the Vicar's text last Sunday at the Church. The little well was decorated similarly, and bore the motto, "The river of God is full of water." All the decorations were carried out under the superintendence of Mr. N. Baddeley, and he deserves every credit for the effect produced. The flowers harmonise to perfection, and the decorations are far better than those of previous years.

The proceedings commenced with Divine Service in the village Church. The Service was conducted by the Rev. James Badnall, and the preacher was the Rev. J. Pauli (Vicar of Audley), who took for his text Colossians iv. 11, "Fellow-workers." The preacher said that they were all helpers together for promoting each other's goodness and joys. They were not sent into the world without aim or object. Young people had not only to gratify their own pleasures, but also to help in making the lives of others happy. All had a responsibility in life. Parents had to use their influence in making the home happy, and sisters to exert themselves to influence their brothers for good. All were sent into the world to help each other, and, as it said in the Psalms, "Oh, how joyful and pleasant a thing it is to dwell together in unity." Were they certain they were making manifest their mission on earth? Those in sorrow they must help, and those in trouble wanted their sympathy. Let them show forth their Christianity that others could see their good works. They must not put on a good face on a Sunday, and be nasty and disagreeable for the rest of the week. They must work with the help of Christ, but, while remembering heaven, they must not separate themselves from earth; but like the Lord Master, help to make it happy and peaceful, as a part of Paradise. They could make the world as God did—a place of happiness and joy; and what misery there was on account of the sins of those around. They were not to shut out such a gathering as that at Endon that day because they were Christians. Nor were they to stop going to the theatre and music hall because wicked people went. Life was given to them to enjoy, and they were to try and make that of the young and old as jolly as possible. They must not shut their eyes to the fact that God wanted them to be happy, to be fellow-workers together for everything good, and when they saw evil to stamp it out. All the pleasure they could take they must

if they would help to make others happy.—A procession was then formed to the well, where the hymn “Rock of Ages” was sung: All then made their way into the field, which became quite an animated scene. In the centre were the adults, dancing to the strains of the Brown Edge Band, while surrounding them the juveniles frisked about, and with merry laughter indulged in “fly,” “tick,” “tutball,” and other popular pastimes for the young. On the outskirts of the field were shooting galleries, “Aunt Sallies,” and other amusements calculated to draw the pence from the pockets of the unwary rustic. Later in the afternoon what was, perhaps, the prettiest sight of the whole festival took place, that is, the May Queen procession, which was composed entirely of small girls. All the children, who were prettily costumed, assembled at the Vicarage, where they were put into form by the Vicar, who had taken sole control of this part of the proceedings. Headed by the Brown Edge Band playing a lively air, they made way along Leek Road, past the Plough Hotel, to the well-dressing field. Immediately behind the instrumentalists walked nine maids of honour, Elsie Gregg Croggon, Alice Pickford, Violet Harvey, Beatrice Lowe, Susannah Stevenson, Alice Sutton, Lily Goodwin, Hilda Hargreaves, Florence Goodwin, Mary Gratten, and Edith Clowes. Each wore a white dress, circled with a violet sash, white sailor hats, and carried a sceptre of flowers. Next came the Queen of May, Miss Annie Muriel Croggon, who, from her elevated position on the back of a white pony, looked prettily conscious of being the central figure in the show. She, too, was arrayed very tastefully. Her dress was of cream China silk, which was set off by a crown of lilies and narcissus, while in her hand was a sceptre of the same flowers. In the rear came 50 dancers, also wearing white dresses, and sailor hats, some wearing blue sashes, others red, yellow and green, which colours were so admirably arranged as to form quite a pretty picture. To make the show complete each of the dancers carried a garland of green and silver moss and wild flowers of varied hues. Arriving at their destination the ceremony of crowning the May Queen was performed by Alice Pickford, the “Vicar’s Maiden,” during which songs were nicely sung by the children in her honour. This being finished, an intricate Maypole dance was skilfully given by the children. In another part of the field sports of various kinds were held for prizes. Before the night was very far advanced the field was crowded, and financially the festival must have been a great success. Balloons were sent up with fireworks at intervals, and the village well was prettily illuminated with fairy lamps.

From the above extract Alan picked out this rather wry observation: ***“On the outskirts of the field were shooting galleries, ‘Aunt Sallies’ and other amusements calculated to draw the pence from the pockets from the unwary rustic.”*** Some things don’t change!

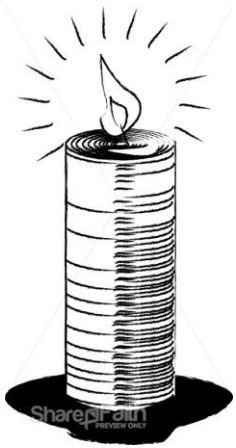
Among the maids of honour listed is Violet Harvey who was my mother’s very dear aunt, being sister to my grandfather. Violet lived at Hill Top Mission Cottage at the top of Broad Lane (the Mission was attached to St Luke’s and her parents were the caretakers). She married but her husband was killed in WW1. His body was never found. Violet was great aunt to myself and to Joan Lawley and continued living at Mission Cottage until her death in the 1960s. No doubt other names will trigger memories for any descendants still living in Endon today. Do tell me if you have any memories you would like to share. **Ros**

BARRIE writes...

Now the Government's restrictions are being lifted we have some "green shoots" appearing in the form of a number of applications for baptisms and 4 confirmed wedding bookings:

- 26th June - Callum Hann and Denise Lovatt
- 24th July - Leo Smith and Chloe Hamilton
- 14th August - Tom Bagnall and Libnah Oakes
- 2nd October - Matthew Hill and Andrea Platt

Let's pray that this marks the beginning of a fresh start in the life of St Luke's.



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for MAY

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

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

May	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
2 nd	Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Alan's birthday (4 th)	Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Mark's birthday (5 th)
9 th	In loving memory of Tom ,Emma and Robert Williams	Marilyn Plant in remembrance of a dear father, Edwin Turner
16 th	Sue Forrester to celebrate the birthday of son Nick	Sylvia Bradshaw remembering John, a loving and caring husband, dad and granddad
23 rd	Rosie and Geoff Smith to celebrate their granddaughter Hope's 4 th birthday	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant
30 th	Sylvia Bradshaw to celebrate the birthday of granddaughter Evie (30 th)	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant

Happy Birthday!



MAY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to

**Stan Hurst (3rd), Alan Payne (4th), Mark Payne (5th),
Matthew Taylor (5th), John Moss (7th),
Joseph Porter (8th), Vera Tyson (11th she's 104!!),
Rachel Foster (12th), James Benson (18th),
Chris Bardell (23rd), Victoria Bunn (29th),
David Moss (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



On Wednesday 14th April 2021 Matthew Parker was consecrated as the 12th Bishop of Stafford at Lambeth Palace. Bishop Matthew admitted his journey to episcopal ordination had been "a long and winding road" after his initial consecration date in January was postponed due to the

pandemic. Friday's ceremony was limited to a handful of guests - including the Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave and chief consecrating bishop Anthony Poggo (pictured above).

"It has felt to be something of a long and winding road towards episcopal ordination but I got there in the end and I am grateful for the prayers, support and best wishes that Sarah and I have received since the announcement back in September," said Bishop Matthew.

"On the day of the consecration, whilst necessarily reduced in scale and numbers, I nonetheless had six close family members with me in the chapel at Lambeth Palace and the service was powerful and meaningful.

"It was a particular joy and privilege that Bishop Anthony Poggo was the chief consecrating bishop. Bishop Anthony is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisor on Anglican Communion Affairs, having been Bishop of Kajo-Keji in South Sudan. I felt very strongly my connection with sisters and brothers across the world, many of whom minister in deeply challenging situations.

"Whilst it was wonderful to bear the resonant but hard-to-explain title of Episcopal Vicar for the Stafford Episcopal for two months, it is a relief now to actually be the Bishop of Stafford! I am excited about where the Spirit is leading the church in these uncertain times. I am daunted by the task ahead, but I am encouraged by the fellowship of God's people and the eternal faithfulness of God.



"At my consecration, the Archbishop of Canterbury preached on Colossians 1.15-29 in which Paul sets out a charge - not just for a bishop but every Christian person. We are made "servants of the gospel" and it is Christ "we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ". Please pray for me, that I will be true to this calling and that we will all be faithful in proclaiming Christ, "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation". To him be the glory."

Pictured above (from left): Bishop of Croydon Jonathan Clarke, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, Bishop Matthew, Bishop Anthony Poggo, Bishop Michael and Bishop of London Sarah Mullaly.

Synods and Saints – could it be you?

THE PARLIAMENT AND COUNCILS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ARE UP FOR ELECTION THIS YEAR –

Julie Jones explains:

There can be no better time of the year to begin our journey on the government's path out of Covid restrictions. After celebrating the resurrection of Jesus at Easter, the greatest possible sign of hope and purpose for us all, this month we celebrate Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, God's constant presence with each believer.

As we read the story of Pentecost in the book of Acts, we quickly find those first believers organising themselves for the various tasks that were needed and issues that arose. Questions arise of donations, preaching, evangelising, social care and decision-making. For me Pentecost is therefore a time to consider God's call on my life and to try and discern what He might be asking of me in the coming year.

This is a pivotal time in the life of the national church as we begin to gather again but also continue to reflect on the new things we have learnt recently. Lichfield Diocese has responded to the challenges facing us by launching [Shaping for Mission](#), a complete review of our work and mission, seeking God's guidance for the next phase of our life together. Just like our civil government by parish, county and national councils, the Church of England is managed through its organisation of parochial church councils, diocesan and general synods.

In the diocesan office we have embarked upon the whole process of elections, for both General Synod and Diocesan Synod. Could membership of either of these two bodies be something God might be calling you to? We need people of vision, hope and energy to work with us at this vital time.

Both Diocesan and General Synod are split into Houses of clergy and laity. Any clerk in Holy Orders who is a member of the deanery synod can stand for election to the House of Clergy. Any lay person who is an actual communicant member of the Church of England of 16 years or upwards and whose name is entered on the roll of any parish in the deanery or who is a lay person declared by the dean to be an habitual worshipper at the cathedral church of the diocese, is qualified for election. Candidates must be nominated and seconded by a qualified elector and must indicate their willingness to serve. Please note you do not need to be a member of Deanery Synod to stand as a lay member in either election.

Our diocesan vision prayer says this:

"As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those

communities. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope."

In that context please prayerfully consider whether you might stand for election this summer. Do feel free to call us on 01543 306067 or email julie.jones@lichfield.anglican.org if you have any questions.

Julie Jones is the Chief Executive Officer for Lichfield Diocese

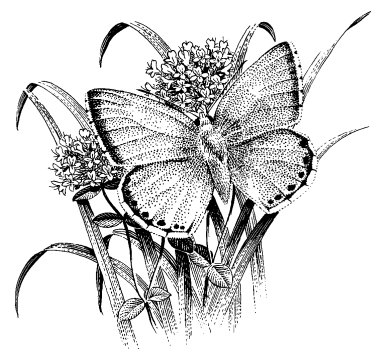
Read more about the election process and structure of the diocese at www.lichfield.anglican.org/synod-committee-info.php



The Churchyard Butterfly

Holly Blue can be thought of as a butterfly of churchyards as the larva (or caterpillar) has two food plants, holly and ivy, both of which are common in churchyards. Holly Blues have two broods per year, the first eggs hatch in May and the larvae feed mainly on flower buds and leaves of holly. They then pupate and emerge as butterflies in late summer ready to lay eggs. This second batch of eggs then hatches in August and the caterpillars feed on ivy. Look for holes where they have munched through holly and ivy flower buds! These caterpillars form chrysalises and overwinter like that, they then hatch out in April and May when the butterfly can first be seen, ready to lay those first eggs in May. The adults have different eating habits than the caterpillars, feeding on flower nectar, oozing plant and tree sap, aphid honeydew and juice from rotting fruit and carrion. They take trace elements and minerals they need from bird and animal droppings.

Blue butterflies can be quite a difficult group to identify, but Holly Blues are much easier than other blues as they fly high around trees rather than staying close to the ground. They are a lovely pale silvery blue colour with a wingspan of about 3cm and can be seen between late March and mid-June and then again from late July through to September. The males are territorial, if you see a butterfly flying around the top of a holly or ivy-covered tree or wall, they may be driving off other males and attracting females to come and lay eggs, which they will fertilise.



A key conservation principle is that an animal has different needs at different times, all of which must be met if the population can survive and thrive. In the case of the Holly Blue, the adult needs somewhere to lay eggs, the caterpillars and then the adults both need food. A churchyard with holly and ivy growing, as well as wildflowers, insects such as aphids and plenty of other life providing both droppings and then carrion is ideal. Please look out for Holly Blues flying and also the holes made by hungry caterpillars!

All the best, Harriet Carty

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

Supporting Children of Belarus since 1995

Charity No 1059832

www.chernobyl-children.org.uk



Thank You John and Julie!

John and Julie Gater have just retired from our Management Team after over 20 years of being immersed in the charity's planning, decision making and fundraising. John was Chair of Trustees and Julie spent many years as Groups Co-ordinator.

They have also led our most active group, Endon and Stoke, throughout this time and will continue to co-ordinate the group.

Endon & Stoke have hosted a group of 16 - 18 teenagers in remission from cancer every summer. Julie has always organised the young people's stay at Cicely Haughton School except for the one year the whole group stayed in John and Julie's House!

They are seen here in Minsk with some of the young people who had stayed with them in previous years.

DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK!

Donations can be left in church and Barrie will ensure they are taken to the Leek depot.

Urgently required items:

- pasta sauce jars
- coffee
- shaving foam and razors



Please do not donate :

- baby formula milk powder
- baked beans
- pasta
- tinned tomatoes

DO YOU MEASURE RAINFALL?

Alan Williamson has been measuring rainfall in this area for many years. He would welcome contact with anyone else who is also doing this so he can compare notes. If you or someone you know measures rainfall please phone Alan on 01782 503870.



EASTER: REFLECTIONS on Sat April 3rd



This was a unique outdoor event for St Luke's and of course followed current government guidelines! (Yes, the police were informed.) Spear-headed by Shirley Brindley her team produced a truly meaningful Easter experience for the families who took part in our Easter Family Trail on Saturday April 3rd. Four stations were set up in the churchyard taking us through Holy Week.

We began with **'Palm Sunday'** where the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was recounted with appropriate props...palm leaves, garments strewn on the path and even a small toy donkey with sound effects!



Next came **'The Last Supper'** manned by Barrie and Roger S who represented Judas with his 30 pieces of silver.





Then we moved on to **'The Crucifixion'** manned by Neil and Rev Eleanor (kindly on loan from Endon Methodists) with Neil resplendent as a Roman soldier.

Finally **'The Resurrection'** with Sue giving a very convincing account of the first Easter morning as Mary Magdalene at the tomb.

Each child received a paper plate divided into 4 sections where they were given stickers for each station as they passed round, along with colouring sheets to take home.



Finally outside the lych-gate Deb presented each family with a Fairtrade Easter Egg containing a copy of the Easter story. It was a cold day but at least it stayed dry for which we were all thankful.

Shirley Brindley adds...

THANK YOU to everyone who was involved in any way at all, with The Easter Fun Activity on Easter Saturday morning.....

- To everyone who ran the stations and the entrance and exit points (including the car park).
- The people who donated eggs, or money for eggs, that we gave to the children as they left.



- Morrison's (Leek), who provided us with 30 free eggs.
- To those who funded the art and craft materials and chocolate treats that were on each station.
- To Alan who set up the Empty Tomb and the two Rogers who made and erected the three crosses.
- To Sheila who did a huge amount of work behind the scenes, sorting out the money for the charities which we were supporting.
- And, of course, to everyone who came and took part. Twenty families were represented and thirty- three children attended.

We have sent £450 to Birmingham Children's Hospital (this included donations on the day and the tax refund through Gift Aid). The Lent appeal for The Teenage Cancer Trust raised over £700 in total. This was made up of contributions throughout Lent and the tax refund through Gift Aid.

May Prayer Focus

- HM The Queen and her family after the death of HRH Prince Philip
- The COVID crisis in India and Brazil especially the oxygen shortage
- All medical staff worldwide battling the effects of COVID
- Our politicians as they make very important decisions which affect us all
- Improved safety for women on our streets
- Our police force and the challenges they face
- Teachers and children now schools have re-opened
- UK businesses and trade problems following the Brexit deals
- The fresh wave of violence in Northern Ireland
- Thankfulness for those who have worked tirelessly to develop the COVID vaccines and those tasked with administering them
- The success of the vaccines that they may lead to effectively controlling the virus
- 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
- Our new bishop Matthew and the appointment of our next incumbent
- 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
- 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 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 (*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
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
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 a paper copy or know someone who would.

Please submit notices for our next newsletter to Ros Benson

by **Tuesday, May 25th.**

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



CHRISTIAN AID

A reminder that 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. For more details consult the Christian Aid website.