



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



April 2022

INTERREGNUM Month 22



**As the world faces an uncertain future we can still rejoice at this
Easter time...Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed!
Hallelujah!
DETAILS OF EASTER SERVICES ARE ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

APRIL at ST LUKE'S

SUNDAY April 3rd

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION

led by Rev Barry Wilson

11.00am CONNECTIONS

10th PALM SUNDAY

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP

led by Barrie / Roger

11.00am CONNECTIONS

14th MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm HC led by Rev Duncan Leake

15th GOOD FRIDAY

2 – 3pm An Hour at the Cross

led by Barrie

SUNDAY 17th

EASTER DAY

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION

led by Rev David Watkin

11.00am CONNECTIONS

SUNDAY 24th

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP

led by Barrie / Roger

11.00am CONNECTIONS

LENT GROUP continues until
7th April on Thursdays at 7.30pm in
the chapter house.

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Wednesday Holy Communion
every week at 9.15am

6th April at the Methodist Church

13th April at St Luke's

20th April at the Methodist Church

27th April at St Luke's

APRIL/MAY at ST CHAD'S

April 3rd 10.45am MORNING WORSHIP

led by KH

10th 10.45am PALM SUNDAY

PRAISE & PRAYER led by KH/MF

15th 11.00am GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

led by KH

17th 10.45am EASTER DAY

HOLY COMMUNION led by Rev Barry Wilson

24th MORNING WORSHIP led by KH

May 1st FAMILY SERVICE led by KH and team

ST LUKE'S ELECTORAL ROLL

REVISION

The Electoral Roll Revision takes place from Sun April 24th to Sat May 7th. If you are new to St Luke's and would like to be a voting member of our congregation, please ask for a form. If you are aware of any changes that should be made to the Roll, please tell me. A copy of the roll is on the notice board in Church. After the revision the new list will be displayed from Sunday May 8th until the APCM on Sunday May 22nd. To remain on the Roll with no change to your entry you don't have to do anything.

Sheila Simpson

ST LUKE'S 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!

NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S

Kath writes...



Mothers' Day Service

St Chad's Church, Bagnall

10.45 am Sunday 27th March

You are invited to a service for all the family to give thanks for mothers everywhere.

Luke 2:51: "And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart."



UKRAINE

Like most churches we have been praying for and helping our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. During the first week of March we collected goods for Ukraine and on the 6th we took four large cars jam packed with goods to Sacred Heart in Hanley which was the collection point. We were overwhelmed by people's generosity and I would like to say a big thank you.

On the 13th March I held a Morning Worship service dedicated to Ukraine and we handed out a prayer card to everyone.

ST CHAD'S APCM

1st May in church following the Family Service at 12.00.

UKRAINIAN APPEAL... a generous response from Endon Methodists, St Chad's, St Luke's, St Luke's CE Academy and Endon Scouts



Thank you to all who contributed items or sent donations to the Ukrainian Appeal.

Thank you also to all who were involved in transporting the many boxes and bags to the appropriate depots. We pray they will soon reach those in need.





Just look at this lot! Thank you to all the photographers whose pictures speak louder than words.

...AND LATEST NEWS ON KNITTED SQUARES from Sue at Biddulph Methodists now back from her latest



trip to the women's refuge near Calais.

This is Josephine, a Dutch worker at the refuge, absolutely delighted with the blankets and sleeping bags that we took on Monday. She asked for more! As many as we can bring, they are so desperately needed.

A huge thank you!

I've emailed Hope and Aid today, we have donations pouring in to

Biddulph, lots of blankets, not hand knitted, sleeping bags and toiletries, all the things on their list of needed items.

FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB



Our last meeting produced some beautiful and informal arrangements of spring flowers. Pauline Shaw, one of our tutors, was delighted with the results and said our meeting makes her happy.

We all enjoyed the demonstration for the next arrangement, which is to be an L-shaped one.

The April meeting will be on Wednesday 6th April from 1pm to 3pm in the Chapter House as usual.

Do come and join us if you would like to know what goes on or bring your knitting and have a cup of tea in good company.

BRASS CLEANING

Tues 5th April 10.00am in church. Volunteers welcome!

ST LUKE'S CE ACADEMY

Unfortunately, the planned Mothering Sunday celebration with the Reception Class has had to be relocated to the school hall. However, the Easter Service with Year 6 will be held in church on **Friday 8th April** at 9.30 am and is open to everyone. I'm sure it will be a very enjoyable occasion.



PALM SUNDAY INVITATION

Individual invitations will be sent out to every family with a child or children attending St Luke's CE Academy to a Palm Sunday service with a very child friendly feel with some creative activities for the children to complete.

Do contact Neil Taylor or Deb Podmore for more information.
Connections meets every Sunday at 11am in the school hall.

Sue Forrester

THE LAST TWO YEARS IN THE LIFE OF ST LUKE'S

Barrie writes.....

Two years ago in March 2020, Covid restrictions began in UK – lockdown, social distancing, masks, hand- sanitiser, PPE, testing, and all the other adjustments we had to make to our lives. At the same time, the Church of England fell in line with the Government's rulings on social gatherings and our churches were closed – not only for worship but, at least initially, even for maintenance. Not only was worship affected, but also funerals (which became graveside, for immediate family only), baptisms were cancelled altogether, and likewise weddings. All those arrangements cancelled, at heaven only knows what cost, not least the emotional cost for all involved. Holy Communion became a thing of the past. In the outside world, doctors became “incommunicado” and GPs surgeries might as well have been surrounded by barbed wire. Watching TV and reading the newspapers became an emotional roller coaster, with nightly broadcasts, the latest figures and predictions, and video footage and photographs of the myriad coffins lined up in Italy. When we were allowed out to shop (for essentials only) we were assailed by loudspeaker announcements in the supermarkets, reinforcing the Government's message on social distancing, etc. Cash transactions became almost overnight a forgotten memory – “CARD ONLY HERE”. And St Luke's response? We couldn't meet to worship, so we became “Zoom” and YouTube worshippers, with a Sunday Reflection and Connections, and Zoom Coffee meetings; we formed What's App and phone linked contact groups and Ros took our Newsletter “on-line”. Inevitably, there were no services in church during Easter. However, to maintain as much personal contact as possible with our local community, in conjunction with Endon Methodists we formed the “Help & Hope” network of shoppers for those elderly who were housebound. This was reinforced by the partnership with Haregate Community Centre, in distributing bags of locally produced produce to needy households. Regrettably, Endon Well Dressing had to be cancelled, and with it, our own Flower Festival. Just to add to the difficulties of Covid, on 5th July, following a much constrained “Farewell Service” Rev Alan and Maryanne retired and moved to Stone. The Vicarage was cleared to allow it to be let and the Church Office was moved into the Vestry in church. This did have an indirect benefit, in that, as restrictions eased, we could at least open the church 4 mornings a week, for private prayer. Bit by bit, we were allowed to resume worship in church and we held our first Sunday Morning Worship in church on 26th July, albeit that we had to monitor our numbers and comply with “Track & Trace”. Persuading previously retired clergy out to take HC services was not easy but the “soon-to-be appointed” Bishop of Stafford, Matthew Parker, kindly took our first one on 2nd August. It was a little different, in that only the wafers were distributed to the Communicants – no wine. Morning Worship Services were resumed and our midweek ecumenical services with Endon Methodists started again. We also carried out our first baptism – again, the now newly “preferred” Bishop of Stafford, Matthew Parker, took the service. At Christmas we held a “Carols by Candlelight” Service outside in the churchyard, which was enthusiastically attended by many local families, desperate to get back to some sort of normality. We were able to celebrate Christmas with a service in St Luke's. 2021 arrived, with the progressive return of baptisms, funerals, and weddings in the church. We resumed our Celebration of Easter with services on Maundy Thursday, the Hour at the Cross and Holy Communion on Easter Sunday. In addition we had our own

version of “Stages of the Cross” in the churchyard, with families walking between costumed groups of members of the church, who portrayed and explained different parts of the Easter Story – culminating in “The Empty Tomb”. We had our first Pastoral Team Walk in April and in August, North Staffs Organ Society came along to put our Binns organ through its paces! We were “back in business”!

And now, after two “challenging” years, during which we have sadly lost some very dear members of our Church, God has blessed us with more new faces in our congregation, a thriving Flower and Craft Club, a very active Pastoral Team, well attended Sunday Worship with regular Holy Communions, and, with the resumption of Endon Well Dressing, the joy of our own Flower Festival. “Connections” has been able to resume in the school hall and is actively canvassing to attract new families.

A big pat on the back for everybody concerned – at a time when some churches have struggled to reopen their doors, St Luke’s is very much “on the up”. So, to everybody concerned – whatever role you play in “keeping the wheels on the bus” – THANK YOU. And for every member of our church who has faithfully continued to worship throughout, many, many thanks.

PS Put the Word out - bring a friend along to join and worship with us in fellowship at St Luke’s as we pray for continued growth in the Church and the appointment of a new Incumbent.

“To God be the Glory!”

A Prayer from the Church of England’s “Life Events” publication – March 2022

*Loving God,
Give us the strength and courage we need
to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those whom we meet
through our services and events,
and especially at the important moments in their lives.
Help us to share the joy of new life
as we baptise a child.
Help us to celebrate new beginnings
as we take wedding services.
Help us to stand alongside those who face endings
as we lead funerals and meet those who are bereaved.
May we reflect your love and know your peace
In the busyness of these days.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.*

And THANK YOU Barrie, Roger and our dedicated support team for all your hard work without whom we should have no services!

ST LUKE’S CHURCH OFFICE

Unless involved with funeral duties Barrie mans the office on Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri from 10.00am to 1.00pm using **07517 653370.**

STEVE CLEWLOW

Our hearts go out to the family of Steve Clewlow who died on March 6th. We had been delighted to welcome Steve and Emily who were married at St Luke's and continued to attend our weekly services and Connections whenever they could. Steve was a lovely chap and much loved by all his family and friends. He will be greatly missed by Emily, his children Emma, Rachael, Elijah and Elliot as well as the rest of the family and all who knew him. Barrie will lead a celebration of his life on March 31st at St Luke's at 11.00am.

ST LUKE'S APCM will be held on **Sunday May 22nd** after the 9.15am service. This will be preceded by the PCC vestry meeting to approve the accounts on Thursday 19th May. The APCM is open to all church members and members of our parish. It is your opportunity to have your say. If your name is on the church electoral roll and you would like to join the PCC please have a word with Barrie.

VICARAGE

St Luke's vicarage has been re-decorated and now has new tenants on a short term lease.

CHRISTIAN AID



The usual fundraising walk around Tittesworth Reservoir will take place on **Sat April 2nd**. If you are willing to take part details are on St Luke's noticeboard. As we no longer have a house-to-house collection in Endon you may like to make a direct donation to Christian Aid or sponsor someone.

FUNDRAISING

With energy prices rising for all of us we need to find some ways of increasing our church income to cover costs. If you have any ideas please have a word with Sylvia, Sue or Shirley.



PASTORAL TEAM WALKS

Thank you Shirley for organising another lovely walk last Thursday, 24th March starting at Ford Green Hall car park and then around the old Chatterley Whitfield colliery site. Thank you also to Roger B and Barrie who helped to steer James around the course in his electric wheelchair. It was good to meet up afterwards with Jean and Sue for a coffee and light lunch at Stockton Brook Golf Club. Listen up for details of our next walk.



CANDLE DEDICATIONS

for APRIL

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.

Apr	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
6 th	Mabel McGrath in loving memory of sister Doreen and brother-in-law, Harry	Anon remembering the life and witness of Edna Bond
13 th	June and Peter Pope to celebrate the birthday of their granddaughter Lydia (10 th)	Barbara Brown with treasured memories of Harry Brown
20 th	Marilyn Plant to celebrate the 7 th birthday of our grandson Jack Edwin	Anon remembering the life and witness of Betty Whitmore
27 th	David Moss in loving memory of Thomas Moss, father of David and Robert (27 th)	Ann Boulton on loving memory of Les's parents



APRIL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to

Fiona Morris (8th), Tim Boulton, Lydia Marshall (10th),
Pauline Hart (12th), Barrie Jackson (14th), Eric Cartlidge (17th),
Maryanne Lloyd (28th)

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

ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR... new members welcome!

Now is a good time to join! After a very successful concert with other choirs in Lichfield cathedral last weekend we are starting to rehearse new songs for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and for Endon Well Dressing (in church Sat June 4th at 4.00pm). Although there are still enough of us to make a joyful sound we should be very happy to welcome new members. ECC is a friendly group and no-one has to audition or sing solos unless they volunteer. Do give us a try...Tuesdays 7 – 9 in the village hall (except school holidays). First two sessions free. **Ros**



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

SIMEON AND ANNA

I was recently invited to speak at a local church about Luke's account of when Mary and Joseph presented the baby Jesus at the temple. (Luke 2:21-40)

Luke's account begins as an ordinary event that many Jewish families would have gone through. It is something that would have happened to Joseph at the same age, the same as his father and his father before him. Although the visit starts off as an ordinary family event things soon become extraordinary, simply because Jesus was no ordinary Jewish child. The baby that Mary and Joseph were taking to be blessed is God incarnate – the saviour that the Jews have been waiting for. There were two amazing people in the temple who recognised this - Simeon and Anna. First of all, Simeon comes forward. Luke tells us that Simeon was righteous and devout, and the Holy Spirit was on him. God had promised Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. On that particular day Simeon had been prompted by the Spirit to go to the temple and there he met face to face the one that he had been waiting for. Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God. Then Anna steps forward – Luke tells us that she was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to the young couple Anna gave thanks to God for all that Jesus would go on to do.

Luke finishes this amazing account with the simple line, 'And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.' If I could have any prayer for the children and young people within our local schools and communities that would be it. Wouldn't it be amazing if we could say that of everyone of our young people - that they were healthy, wise, and they knew God's grace? The challenge for us as Church and Community is simply what part are we willing to play in helping that to be the case. There are many ways that we can do this. First and foremost is by committing to pray for the young people regularly – organisations such as Pray for Schools can help you do this. Secondly by showing you care for them – this could be by making them feel welcome in church or by volunteering in schools. And finally speaking truth and hope into their lives. A great way to do this is through leading school worship (for Primary Schools, 'Open the Book' is a great organisation to get involved) or even to explore the possibility of chaplaincy. Are we willing to be faithful, as was Simeon and Anna, and to join in raising up each new generation?

Alex Wolvers is Lichfield Diocese's Schools Mission Enabler which means she is both part of the team of advisers and also encourages our schools and churches to work together especially around chaplaincy and community projects.





Churches Count on Nature 2022

In 2021 we started Churches Count on Nature, working in partnership with the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha who run Ecochurch. The idea behind Churches Count on Nature is to encourage as many people as possible to visit, explore and enjoy their local churchyard, spotting wildlife and recording what they see. These records are then sent to Caring for God's Acre; via an online system such as iNaturalist or iRecord, by emailing us the list or by popping it in the post. These records then go to build up a picture of just how important churchyards are for biodiversity, information which we can then share more widely.

We decided to launch Churches Count on Nature during Love Your Burial Ground week, a celebratory week which has been running for many years now involving burial grounds of all types and denominations. Many of you have taken part over the years and even more then joined in with Churches Count on Nature last year.

The good news is that we are running it all again, so please join in!

To give you a taster from 2021:

540 churches took part, running a range of wildlife spotting activities in their churchyards involving schools, congregations, families, drop-ins and much more. With over 4,300 people taking part, we sent out 320 free packs containing copies of our Starter Guide to help people make their first wildlife record.

Over 17,000 biological records were submitted with 1696 different species. The Top Ten species were:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Daisy - 256 records | 6 Herb Robert - 202 |
| 2 Ivy - 234 | 7 Cow parsley - 194 |
| 3 Nettle - 231 | 8 Holly - 192 |
| 4 Yew - 213 | 9 Blackbird - 184 |
| 5 Cleavers - 213 | 10 Creeping Buttercup - 177 |



To take part, have a look on our website for inspiration, plan your activity then register it with us and request your free Starter Guides plus a Field Studies Council fold-out chart. Visit our website and click on **Get Involved**.

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 **diomem22**



The Methodist Church in Endon

- **The Community Café is open on Mondays from mid-morning to 1.30pm.**
- **Every Thursday at 10.30am 'Fit-as-a-Fiddle' gentle exercise group**

HOLY WEEK

10th April PALM SUNDAY 10.00am Worship

Tues 12th April 7-7.30pm Devotional Service

Wed 13th April 7-7.30pm Devotional Service

MAUNDY THURS 14th April Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY 15th April 7.00pm Reflective Worship

Sat 16th April outside the Methodist Church - decorate the cross with a flower

EASTER SUNDAY

17th April 8.30am Easter Breakfast

10.00am Worship with Holy Communion

Rev Eleanor

April Prayer Focus

- **The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the threat to world peace**
- **The plight of the millions of Ukrainian refugees**
- **Those trapped in the seaport of Mariupol**
- **Those taking refugees into their homes in the UK and Europe**
- **A peaceful end to this war**
- Thankfulness for the joyful release of Iranian-British mother Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe now re-united with her family
- All hostages still in Iran awaiting release especially Morad Tahbaz and Mehran Raoff
- The release of Roman Protasevich in police detention in Minsk, Belarus
- Those adversely affected by recent storms
- The adults and children in Afghanistan who are starving and penniless after the Taliban take-over of their country
- Those without homes after the devastating typhoon in the Philippines and those in the Pacific islands of Tonga after the devastating tsunamis
- Those severely affected by the tornados which caused immense damage in the US state of Kentucky in December
- Co-operation of worldwide governments to combat climate change
- The plight of the many refugees making the dangerous Channel crossing in flimsy boats and what happens to them when they land on our shores
- The prospect of rocketing energy prices and those fearful of being unable to pay their bills this winter
- The challenge of those unwilling to be vaccinated against COVID
- Thankfulness for the lorry drivers who keep our supermarkets stocked
- Those countries accepting refugees
- Citizens of poorer countries who have not yet had a COVID vaccine
- 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
- 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)	07510 074097 07517 653370*
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, April 19th**

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

MEMORIES OF OUR QUEEN'S CORONATION

I should like to include some of your memories of this significant occasion in our May and June newsletters. Did you go to London to see the procession in person or join family and friends around a neighbour's telly?

Please let me have any stories you would like to share as soon as possible either on paper or sent to my e-address: jandrbenson@btinternet.com

I look forward to hearing from you! **Ros**