



# 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](http://www.endonstlukes.org.uk)

Vestry (church office): 01782 502166



May 2022

## INTERREGNUM Month 23

**178th**

**ENDON WELL DRESSING**  
**- 2022 -**

**TRADITIONAL VILLAGE CELEBRATION**

Over the last two years the well has been decorated with oak branches as it was at the first well dressing in 1845

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> & Sun 5<sup>th</sup> June**

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**

[www.facebook.com/EndonWellDressing](http://www.facebook.com/EndonWellDressing)

### Our well dressing is back this year

albeit a week later than usual owing to the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and will be held on two days instead of the customary three.

St Luke's church will be open and will host the Service of Thanksgiving with guest speaker Rt Rev Matthew Parker, our new Bishop of Stafford who is no stranger to St Luke's.

Our Flower & Craft Club will be busy creating floral displays and accepting your Coronation memorabilia.

We need volunteers to welcome visitors, serve teas and provide cakes and biscuits. Do sign up if you are willing and available to help. The lists will soon appear on the noticeboard.

## **MAY at ST LUKE'S**

**SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup>**

**9.15am HOLY COMMUNION**

**Rev Barry Wilson**

**11.00am CONNECTIONS**

**SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup>**

**9.15am MORNING WORSHIP**

**Barrie / Roger**

**11.00am CONNECTIONS**

**SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup>**

**9.15am HOLY COMMUNION**

**Rev David Nicol**

**11.00am CONNECTIONS**

**SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**9.15am MORNING WORSHIP**

**Barrie / Roger APCM**

**11.00am CONNECTIONS**

**SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup>**

**9.15am MORNING WORSHIP**

**Barrie / Roger**

**11.00am CONNECTIONS**

### **MIDWEEK SERVICES**

Wednesday Holy Communion

every week at 9.15am

**4<sup>th</sup> May** at St Luke's

**11<sup>th</sup> May** at the Methodist Church

**18<sup>th</sup> May** at St Luke's

**25<sup>th</sup> May** at the Methodist Church

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## **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**

## **MAY at ST CHAD'S**

**SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup>**

**10.45am MORNING WORSHIP – KH and**

**team**

**SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup>**

**10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE - MF**

**SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup>**

**10.45am HOLY COMMUNION - Rev**

**Barry Wilson**

**SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MORNING PRAYER –**

**KH/MF**

**SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> HOLY COMMUNION - Rev**

**Maureen Tideswell**

## **ST LUKE'S ELECTORAL ROLL**

**REVISION** takes place from **Sun April 24<sup>th</sup> to**

**Sat May 7<sup>th</sup>**. If you are new to St Luke's and

would like to be a voting member, 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 8<sup>th</sup> until the**

**APCM on Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. To remain on the

Roll with no change to your entry you don't

have to do anything.

**Sheila Simpson**

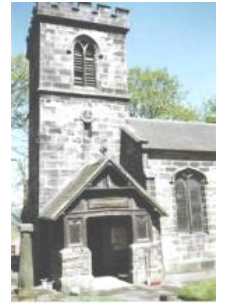
## **ST LUKE'S CHURCH FUNDS**

*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



We had a fabulous Palm Sunday with Gareth the donkey playing a very important part following a churchyard tidy the week before.



# MORE NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S



## St Chad's APCM is on 1st May

in church following the service.

## Ordination

Rev Caryl Siegertsz will be ordained priest in St Giles' Church, Newcastle on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. (Caryl is being kept very busy and led no fewer than 8 services over last Easter weekend.)



## THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND EVENTS IN BAGNALL..

St Chad's will be putting on a display in the church representing the decades of Queen Elizabeth's reign. These will include many things including flower displays, the history of 'The Rose Queen/Chestnut Queen' and memorabilia.

There will also be fresh produce on sale.

There are also various events in the village beginning with the lighting of the beacon on **June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday evening at 7.30** followed by a hog roast, bar and music at the village hall, culminating with a village party on Sunday afternoon.

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>**

**The church will be open at various times for visitors on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.**

*Kathryn*



# CHRISTIAN AID WALK

*Sue writes...*

A big thank you to everyone who supported the walk on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at Tittesworth and

thanks also to those who donated to the wonderful work done by Christian Aid throughout the world. The total of donations was **£250.00** but there will also be some GiftAid for the charity to collect. It was a cold but dry day for the walk and the hot drinks at the end were very welcome indeed.



## PALM SUNDAY JOY!

There was a good response to our special invitation to families for the Palm Sunday service. More tables and chairs had to be put out as more folk arrived.

Do contact Neil Taylor or Deb Podmore for more information.

**Connections meets every Sunday at 11am in the school hall.**

*Sue Forrester*

# FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB



Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May in the Chapter House as usual. There is no model to follow this time but just a challenge to bring a container, flowers and foliage and see what you can produce. We'll need to make definite decisions about which theme people would



like to choose to portray for the Flower Festival over the Platinum Jubilee Weekend. A list of suggestions is on the board at the back of church. The main theme is 'Celebrations' and we hope to provide an interesting and beautiful display for visitors.

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# MAUNDY THURSDAY

We were delighted to welcome back Rev Duncan Leake to St Luke's to lead our Communion Service on Maundy Thursday. Duncan worshipped for several years at St Luke's while living with his family in Stanley before being called into full-time ministry in 1990. He trained at Oakhill College in London, was ordained and served his curacy in Carlisle before moving south to become vicar of St John's Community Church in Chase Terrace, Burntwood. He retired five years ago and moved to Weston near Stafford.



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# ST LUKE'S CE ACADEMY

*Sue writes...*

Rev Eleanor leads the prayers at the end of the Y6 Easter Service.

Well done everyone.

Brilliant speaking and singing.

We hope everyone at St. Luke's CE Academy enjoys a well deserved Easter break.

**ST LUKE'S APCM** will be held on **Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup>** after the 9.15am service. This will be preceded by the PCC vestry meeting to approve the accounts on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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

Listen up for details of our next walk.

## OUR GOLDEN COUPLE



Congratulations to Roger and Shirley Brindley who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you

Shirley for all you do especially in leading the pastoral team and organising the candle dedications and thank you Roger for your unwavering support. May the Lord bless you both with many more happy years together.

*Shirley writes...Thank you from Roger and me for our Golden Wedding flowers. It was a complete but lovely surprise and the bouquet is absolutely beautiful. We were both very touched by the gesture.*



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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

*Rev Eleanor*

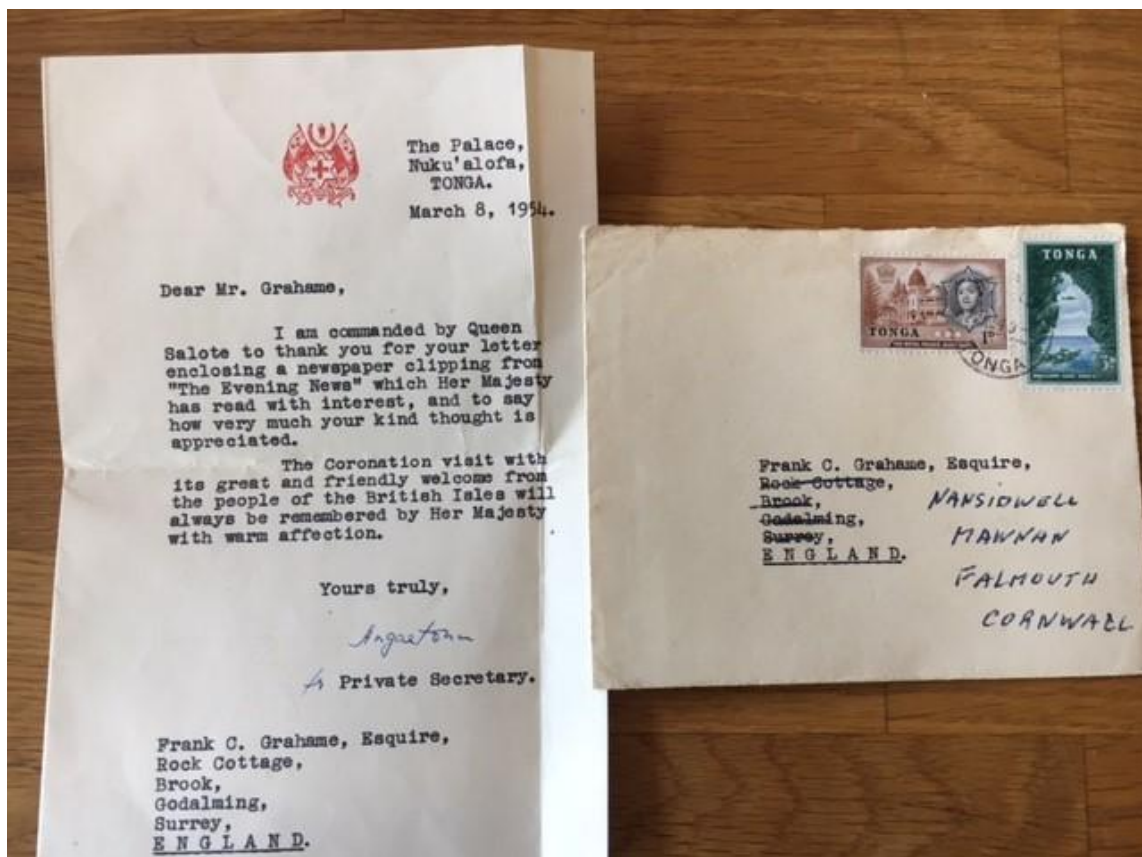
## Liz Bannister recalls....

### THE QUEEN'S ACCESSION TO THE THRONE AND THE CORONATION

In June 1952 my elder sister and I were at boarding school in Kenya – well north of Nairobi. My Father was a coffee farmer and we lived an idyllic life with wall to wall sunshine, a constant warm temperature but very isolated and with the Mau Mau a real threat. Our nearest town was 15 miles away on mud roads which got pretty bad in the wet season. At school I remember we were told that Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, who were on holiday at Tree Tops safari lodge (near Nairobi), she went to bed a Princess and woke up a Queen with her Father having died in London. This meant very little to any of us. (I gather that Tree Tops is now closed since the pandemic.)

A year later my Mother and two younger sisters set off for London for the Coronation. We were left at school – but we did not mind, it was all very relaxed. My Mother's Father worked in an office which overlooked Fleet Street and so my Mother was going to join him for the day to see the procession from the office window – this they duly did and had a very long, exciting and tiring day. My Grandfather must have written to Queen Salote of Tonga (who made a very big impression with the crowds – waving cheerfully despite bad weather), and this is the reply he received.

Months later we had a film of the Coronation at school, but it always broke down at the same spot, so we never saw the end! – but it was all very remote from us. The tangible benefit was a small purple coloured tin with chocolate and some crayons – arriving months and months later, and probably with well-melted chocolate!







*Liz's school in Kenya in 1953.  
Her family returned to Britain soon  
afterwards when the Mau Mau  
were becoming a serious problem.*



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## Roger Simpson recalls...

I was up early on the morning of Coronation Day, and got on the tube train at my local station. Golders Green is on the surface, but after a quarter of a mile, the line goes into the side of a hill and dives underground. As soon as it did so, I was amazed to see, instead of dark and dusty tunnel walls, lights streaking past the windows. It was like being in a space ship whizzing through a galaxy.

Although it was so early, someone in the carriage had managed to buy a paper. "They've climbed Everest!" he shouted, and everybody cheered.

## Shirley Brindley recalls...

I remember my father helping to build a very tall bonfire on a piece of common land just outside the village of Eccleshall. It was so tall that ladders were placed against it as more and more was added to it. On the evening of Coronation day myself, my sister and a number of cousins were all bundled into the back of my dad's work van and were taken to see this huge "beast" burning. Quite a sight!

## James Benson recalls...

On the day the king died I was 4 years and my family was living in Bollington near Macclesfield. Being a lad I was amusing myself in the street outside by kicking ice out of a puddle when a lady opened her window and shouted at me, "Stop doing that! Don't you know the king's dead!"

## Claire Minski (Well Dressing Queen in 1968 and now living in Rabat) recently shared this on Facebook

I came across this with some interesting historical information on the Well Dressing in Endon which might be of interest to some of you if you didn't know all this already...

**"SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:** *A well dressing festival was started in 1845. That year Thomas Heaton built a fountain in Endon village, and it was decorated to mark Oak Apple Day (29 May). By 1852 what had become an annual event began with an afternoon procession to the church, where a sermon was preached, followed by a visit to the fountain, which had been decorated with flowers; tea was then served, and there was dancing in Jaw Bone field on the east side of the Methodist chapel in the village. An estimated 300 people attended the event in 1852 and 400 in 1853, some of whom came from the Potteries. An organising committee had evidently been established by 1856, when admission to the grounds at Jaw Bone field was by 1 shilling, ticket only. A quadrille band was engaged in 1861, and for many years from 1864 music was provided by Endon brass band. There was an estimated attendance of 1,200 in 1864 and of over 2,000 in 1872. By then it was normal to keep the well decorated and the field open for a second day, and the festivities included a May queen and maypole dancing. In 1906 it was decided to hold the event over a weekend, beginning on the Saturday nearest 29 May and ending on the Monday. In 1916 there was a further change to Whit weekend. In 1991 the festival was held on the weekend of the spring bank holiday. By 1860 it was the custom to distribute the profits of the festival, by then some £25, among the poor of the area on St. Thomas's day (21 December). The festival's growing popularity created problems for those arranging the event, especially as regards the disposal of the money raised. In 1868 Thomas Heaton, then of Alton, vested the fountain in a body of trustees, whose main function was to administer the funds. They were also to ensure that the festival was conducted in an orderly manner; it was Heaton's wish that the well-dressing should provide 'innocent recreation and enjoyment' for the inhabitants of Endon village and the neighbourhood 'without giving encouragement to any act of intemperance or vice'. The trustees included the recently appointed vicar, James Badnall, who emphasised the church's role in the festival by engaging visiting preachers to deliver sermons. Under the terms of the trust the profits were to be distributed in bread to the poor of Endon village and the immediate neighbourhood on 21 December and were also to be used for the Church of England Sunday school, the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday school, and 'the free grammar school' (Endon parochial school). A Scheme of 1974 reorganised what was by then called the Endon Well Dressing Festival Charity. The beneficiaries in 1991 included both Sunday schools and other youth groups and voluntary organisations in Endon. (<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/.../vol7/pp175-186...>)*

BRITISH-HISTORY.AC.UK

Leek: Endon | British History Online



# 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
1 <sup>st</sup>	Alan and Maureen Payne to celebrate Mark's birthday (5 <sup>th</sup> )	Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Alan's birthday (4 <sup>th</sup> )
8 <sup>th</sup>	Anon in memory of Tom, Emma and Robert Williams	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant
15 <sup>th</sup>	Marilyn Plant in remembrance of a dear father, Edwin Turner	Sue Gibbons to celebrate Nick's birthday
22 <sup>nd</sup>	The candle is kept burning by Avril Weaver	The candle is kept burning by Lyn Pickering
29 <sup>th</sup>	Geoff and Rosie Smith to celebrate the 5 <sup>th</sup> birthday of their granddaughter Hope Rose	The candle is kept burning by June Pope



## MAY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to

Stan Hurst (3<sup>rd</sup>), Alan Payne (4<sup>th</sup>), Mark Payne (5<sup>th</sup>), Matthew Taylor (6<sup>th</sup>), John Moss (7<sup>th</sup>), Joe Porter (8<sup>th</sup>), **Vera Tyson (11<sup>th</sup> - her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday!)**, Rachel Foster (12<sup>th</sup>), James Benson (18<sup>th</sup>), Chris Bardell (23<sup>rd</sup>), Victoria Bunn (29<sup>th</sup>), Dave Moss (31<sup>st</sup>)

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

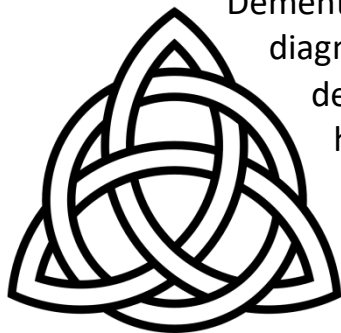
## ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR... new members welcome!

Now is a good time to join! We are rehearsing new songs for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and for Endon Well Dressing (singing in church Sat June 4<sup>th</sup> at 4.00pm). We should be happy to welcome new members. ECC is a friendly group and no-one has to audition or sing solos unless they volunteer. 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

### WELCOME HOME



Dementia Action Week runs from 16-22 May this year. It is focusing on diagnosis, encouraging people who might be living with undiagnosed dementia to seek guidance and support. Someone living with dementia has said to me, “Diagnosis is like a bereavement”. He went on to explain, however, “It’s not an end. There’s a life to live.” Both statements are true – and they don’t cancel each other out. These comments about a diagnosis of dementia hold together both the loss and the life, the lamenting and the celebrating.

As we name and face dementia and memory loss in our churches, we can open up important conversations and connections. A good starting point could be our Diocese of Lichfield Dementia Action Week Prayer:

*In moments of confusion, God keep us safe.*

*In moments of clarity, God grant us joy.*

*In moments of frustration, God give us peace.*

*In moments of sorrow, God bring us comfort.*

*May God who sees into the secret places of our mind,  
beyond anything which limits us,  
to the person that is us,  
has always been and will always be us,  
encircle us in his arms,  
until that day when all is made new  
in his eternal home.*

**Amen**

This prayer holds together both the reality of current challenges and the persistent hope that leads us forwards. So it goes to the heart of our faith, recognising that the cross and resurrection of Jesus shows us a path through death to life: the toughest place is real, but it does not have the last word.

It may be a helpful prayer to include at the funeral of someone who has lived with dementia. In preparing for a funeral, a family may be keen to focus on the whole lifespan, not just the final chapter with dementia – and this might suggest that dementia shouldn’t be mentioned. Nevertheless, it is strong to acknowledge the reality of the path, without giving dementia the final word. So this may be helpful prayer to pray, perhaps introduced like this: “Remembering the last chapter of [the person]’s life and all who are affected by dementia, we pray...”.

It's also a prayer we can use in Dementia Action Week across our churches, as we pray for people affected by dementia. And it's a prayer we can pray at home, day by day, alongside all who are affected by dementia. We recognise the challenge and the loss – and we still have the courage to trust in the life and love that is deeper.

**Sarah Thorpe**

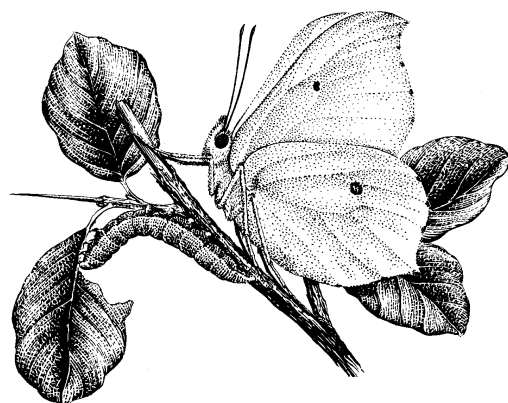


*For more stories and information on how churches are supporting families living with dementia, visit [www.lichfield.anglican.org/dementia-friendly-church/](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/dementia-friendly-church/) or contact Sarah Thorpe, the Dementia-friendly Church Enabler for Lichfield Diocese on 07982 248949 or [sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org)*



## BRIMSTONE, THE ORIGINAL BUTTERFLY

May is a lovely month to look for butterflies, several of our native species are on the wing at this time of year including the striking yellow Brimstone. It is thought that the name butterfly comes from this large, yellow beauty, literally Butter Fly! When you see one flying it is highly visible but actually it can be well camouflaged too; have a look at the shape of the brimstone's wing and you will see that it closely resembles a leaf. When at rest they can disappear amongst foliage.



Brimstones can be seen early in the year as they overwinter as adults, emerging from hibernation to lay eggs in April or May, ready to hatch as green caterpillars in July. Following pupation in August, adults are back in early autumn, feeding and finding sites to overwinter. The other spring butterflies that you see will have either overwintered as adults, such as the red admiral or small tortoiseshells, or as a chrysalis or pupa – orange tips do this as do holly blues. Some butterflies overwinter as caterpillars, the meadow brown for example.

Brimstone caterpillars feed on buckthorn and alder buckthorn so if you are planting a hedge try and include these, buckthorn favours calcareous soil and alder buckthorn more acidic conditions. Churchyards are great for butterflies as they contain such a rich array of plants. If you have an area which is managed as a meadow you may have many species of caterpillar chomping away at the plants within it. Look out for orange tips laying eggs on cuckoo flower, garlic and hedge mustard, or the Speckled Wood, also flying in May, which lays eggs on native grasses such as Yorkshire fog and couch grass. This butterfly prefers

long grass so may use a tussocky area at the back of your churchyard, perhaps near to shade trees.

We'd love to know what butterflies you see as well as any other wildlife that you spot. Why not while away a sunny hour or two looking for butterflies in this beautiful place.

All the best, Harriet Carty

*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, [harriet@cfga.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cfga.org.uk),*

[www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk) - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**

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## **Barrie submits....these thoughts from Mark Greene (former Head of LICC)**

# **PUTIN AND UKRAINE**

### **Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5 v43 -45**

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.'

<sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

<sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

**PSALM 5:9 'Not a word from their mouth can be trusted;**

**Their heart is filled with malice.**

**Their throat is an open grave;**

**with their tongues they tell lies.'**

Remind you of anyone?

There's nothing like a real-life dictator who's indifferent to the misery and mayhem he wreaks to bring David's conflict psalms to life. Indeed, whilst it is deeply unwise to suppose that God is on any particular side in a war, there are times when, despite our own sinfulness and rebellion, the evil of one side is so clear that we can be as sure as any human can that God stands against it. **'The bloodthirsty and the deceitful you, Lord, detest.'** (Psalm 5:6)

How we then pray for Putin is another question. In the weeks before the war, I prayed that God might raise up an Esther to whisper restraint into his life. I prayed that God might humble him as he humbled Nebuchadnezzar. And I hoped that the Lord in his mercy was not using him like the King of Assyria to discipline us for our rebellion (**Isaiah 7:17**).

As ever, the psalms help us pray.

First, we must be honest, as David is – calling out the actions and attitudes of his enemies as he sees them. Putin is a self-absorbed, conscience-less, cunning despot and many of us have no doubt felt, as Bonhoeffer did in relation to Hitler, that his death would be the swiftest way to reduce the suffering of literally tens of millions of people. I find no contradiction in praying for his salvation and his removal from power, though I find myself unable to ask for his death.

Second, the psalmists are honest with God about their vengeful, murderous feelings towards their enemies. We may well have similar feelings. And whilst it is right to repent

of them swiftly, it is also right to express them to God – he knows anyway. And when we don't process such feelings about our enemies, it only gets harder to genuinely want God's best for them.

**Third, David reminds us that we are not in control. God is. And justice will indeed one day be done. In the meantime, we pray for a swift resolution to the war, the protection of the innocent, wisdom and courage for our leaders, homes for the refugees, and healing for all from the sulphuric ravages of this diabolic tyranny.**



## **Our Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter Sermon:**

*On 3 March this year President Zelensky gave a speech in which he declared, 'The end of the world has arrived.' It wasn't just the bombs, the air strikes, the 40 mile long convoy of Russian troops advancing towards the capital. It wasn't just the need for millions to flee for their lives, or the evident impotence of the nations of the world to do anything to stop the destruction; it was the fact that this threat came from their neighbours, their brothers, those who they shared a common history and purpose. All that they knew was not only under threat. It was being obliterated; 'the end of the world had arrived.'*

*And we know what they are experiencing has been experienced in even great magnitude by Syrians and South Sudanese, by Afghanis and those having to flee from Myanmar – those for whom the end of the world has arrived.*

*In the dark of that first Easter Sunday morning Mary's world had already ended. Jesus had been crucified – and in the death of Jesus everything seemed lost. The disciples were scattered and fearful, only Mary and some other women had gone to the tomb. The greatest event ever in the world's history was to be revealed to those that society counted for little. The new world, where justice reigns and hope lives, was to be experienced first by a woman in tears of despair who had seen the greatest injustice. Not just for her personally. In his death, violence seemingly triumphed, physical force won, hatred and fear overcame love and hope. It seemed there was no justice.*

*Yet our world – for all its injustices – is not left to its own devices, as if all we could ever look forward to was the things we could bring about ourselves. If it is we would simply acknowledge on repeat, 'the end of the world has arrived' – for which of us doesn't recognise the powerlessness of individuals and nations in front of destructive evil?*

*But the Easter message is that what we cannot do has been brought into the world by God. For Christ Jesus is alive with the life of the world to come. A life where every tear is wiped away, every injustice righted, every evil exposed and judged and banished. And through Jesus a new future is set for the whole world. The resurrection promises each nation, and every victim and survivor, that the injustices, cruelties, evil deeds and soulless institutions of this world do not have the last word.*

*Not only his blood stained grave clothes are left behind in the tomb but all of our grave clothes. This is what we proclaim at Easter. It is a season of life and hope, of repentance and renewal. This week in the Eastern Orthodox world it is Holy Week, the greatest time for repentance. Muslims are in Ramadan, a time for purification and change, coming to Eid. Jews celebrate the Passover and liberation. Let this be a time for Russian ceasefire, withdrawal and a commitment to talks.*

*This is a time for resetting the ways of peace, not for what Bismarck called blood and iron. Let Christ prevail! Let the darkness of war be banished.*

*And this season is also why there are such serious ethical questions about sending asylum seekers overseas. The details are for politics. The principle must stand the judgement of God and it cannot. It cannot carry the weight of resurrection justice, of life conquering death. It cannot carry the weight of the resurrection that was first to the least valued, for it privileges the rich and strong. And it cannot carry the weight of our national responsibility as a country formed by Christian values, because sub-contracting out our responsibilities, even to a country that seeks to do well like Rwanda, is the opposite of the nature of God who himself took responsibility for our failures.*

*Suppose this is so. Suppose the evil and injustice which is so dark, so deceitful, so disgraceful has been defeated. Because Jesus is alive the promise is that the world of darkness is not ultimately triumphant. This causes us to say to all who perpetuate evil – You will not win. Your hatred will not triumph. Your lies will be exposed. Your power will be broken and you will categorically fail. You will face justice. Forever.*

*Dictators who rule by fear, violence and cruelty – you will lose. Despite nuclear weapons, armies which number in the tens of thousands, superior fire power or the ability and will to raze cities to the ground. Christ Jesus who was crucified has been raised to life by God the Father in the power of the Spirit.*

*The victory of goodness and love has been guaranteed.  
The defeat of evil is assured.  
Injustice is defeated.  
The end of the old world has arrived.*

*Our greatest challenge is to live in a world where this new reality is our central most determining reality. To live in a way that seeks justice, that values the vulnerable, that struggles for justice.*

*Easter makes another future not just a dream, but an achievable reality. The world characterised by sin, evil and injustice will not always be the case. In the middle of human history God raised his Son Jesus – therefore promising a future we could not make possible.*

*Even in the middle of the darkness of these times we see glimmers and threads of this gold. Maybe there can be an ending of a world where we turn away from the refugee, the end of a world where we don't care, the end of the world where propaganda wins, where dictators can assume that everyone will simply be kept in check by the threat of arrest and violence.*

*Hope gives an eternal purpose to each human being because hope is sown by God and its harvest is a life of living in the power of the resurrection.*

***May the power of the Holy Spirit by which God raised his crucified son strengthen our hearts to witness to his Easter hope across the world – that we may leave behind the bloodied graveclothes of the world that has ended – and live out of the hope of a world renewed and healed which only God can make possible.***



**Justin Welby**



# May 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**
- **An 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

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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, May 24<sup>th</sup>**.

either by e-mail [jandrbenson@btinternet.com](mailto:jandrbenson@btinternet.com) or phone 504137.

## **MORE MEMORIES OF OUR QUEEN'S CORONATION PLEASE!**

I should like to include more of your memories of this significant occasion in our June newsletter. 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](mailto:jandrbenson@btinternet.com)

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