



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 or 07517 653370



September 2024

INTERREGNUM Month 51



COMBINE HARVESTING!

This will be a special combined harvest service (9.15 congregation with Connections) at St Luke's on

**Sunday,
29th September**

As usual we shall be collecting items for Leek Food Bank.

It is hoped that the service can be followed by a hotpot lunch in church. Please listen up for more details from Patricia.

Many local churches donate food and other items at their harvest thanksgiving services which boost supplies for the winter months.

See p7 for list of most needed requirements.

Do check 'use by' dates!

Large, sturdy shopping bags are also very welcome if you have any to spare.



SEPTEMBER at ST LUKE'S

1st SUNDAY

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
– Rev Philip

11.00am CONNECTIONS

8th SUNDAY

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP –
Barrie / Roger

11.00am CONNECTIONS

15th SUNDAY

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
– Rev Philip

11.00am CONNECTIONS

22nd SUNDAY

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP –
Barrie / Roger

11.00am CONNECTIONS

29th SUNDAY

10.30am JOINT HARVEST SERVICE
Connections team + Barrie/Roger

ECUMENICAL SERVICES

Wednesdays:

Holy Communion at 9.15am

4th Sept at Methodist Church

11th Sept at St Luke's

18th Sept at Methodist Church

25th Sept at St Luke's



CONNECTIONS

Sundays at 11am

at St Luke's CE Academy,
Leek Road in the school hall
with games for the children and
refreshments.

SEPTEMBER at ST CHAD'S

1st SUNDAY

10.45am FAMILY SERVICE – KH and team

8th SUNDAY

10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE – KH / MF

15th SUNDAY

10.45am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Barry

22nd SUNDAY

10.45am MORNING PRAYER – KH / MF

29th SUNDAY

10.45am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Carrie

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

SATURDAY 7th SEPTEMBER – Beetle Drive
at 7pm. Pie and pea supper at Bagnall village
hall.

SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER - Harvest with Adam
Yates (Hub Foundation) and lunch at Bagnall
village hall at 1.00pm. Food bank collection.

SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER – Community
Christmas Fayre in Bagnall village hall.



KNITTED SQUARES are still appreciated!

Here is the latest blanket made largely from Endon squares! Sue and Norman continue to make trips to the refuge in Calais where the blankets are well received. As always... thank you to all knitters!

Roger Simpson remembers from his boyhood a harvest in Cornwall....

REAPING

Cornwall. Harvest time 1942. I am five years old, and have been told to stay out of the way, so that I don't get my leg cut off. At first, I press close to the high Cornish hedge, but as reaping progresses, and the centre of the field contracts, I get a little bolder.

Real binder-twine is reddish gold, tough and hairy, smelling of jute. New, it comes as a dense cylindrical cylinder with a printed label. The only time I have seen this is at harvest time, in its holder on the binder, and this marks today as special.

However, binder twine gets used and reused, becoming looser, knottier and hairier, changing to brown and then to greyish black. It holds up trousers, mends machinery, keeps gates shut and chickens in their run. It is a part of life.



The outside two yards of the field had been cut by a man with a scythe, to allow space for the binder to begin its work. Drawn by a horse, with a man perched on its seat, it is now clattering round the outer edge of the barley. A long rail sticks out six feet to the right of the machine, supported by a wheel at its outer end; razor sharp triangular blades rattle to and fro, cutting the stems of the barley, which fall onto a moving canvas belt. When enough has been gathered, steel fingers bundle it together, tie the sheaf tightly with twine, and throw it down behind the binder, which carries on round the field. It's a marvellous machine.

The binder is followed by two men, together with my big brother and sister. Their job it is to pick up the sheaves and stand them in stooks of three, to dry in the field before being taken to the farm for threshing.

At two corners of the field stand watchful men with shotguns. As the uncut area contracts, the occasional rabbit panics and makes a bolt for freedom, racing across the stubble to the nearest hedge. Most of them make it, but some end up as rabbit pie, a treat in days of meat rationing.

The sun is beginning to think about setting when the final tuft in the middle of the field falls to the binder's sharp teeth, its clattering ceases, and the old horse breathes a deep sigh. One of the men picks up stray stalks of the golden straw, twists them together to make a little crown, and places it on my sister's hair.

The three of us travel home on a cart for our tea. The rows of stooks are left on the silent field; everyone hopes it stays dry for the next few days.

THRESHING

Threshing day started early; before I'd had my breakfast. Then I rushed round to the back to see all the excitement. The big open space which was normally a scratching place for the farm hens was now the centre of operations.

At one end of this space, as far as possible from everything else, was the steam traction engine, which had towed the threshing machine to the farm. Painted deep crimson, it was making a contented chuffing noise. A row of water buckets filled from the yard pump stood beside it. A huge flywheel, decorated with black, white and yellow stripes, turned ponderously at one side, and from its tall chimney rose a gentle column of smoke.



Underneath the firebox was a huge steel tray to catch the ashes and the occasional glowing coal. The longest and widest canvas belt I had ever seen connected the traction engine to a large wheel on the side of the thresher.

This was a large wooden box, perhaps six feet wide, nine feet high and nine feet front to back, mounted on four-spoked iron wheels with solid rubber tyres; the front pair of wheels steered the whole contrivance by means of a black iron towbar which fastened onto a hook at the back of the traction engine when the whole show was on the road. There was an iron ladder up one side to take the feeder men up to the top of the machine, which had a low parapet. Threshing machines were often painted pink.

Really the threshing machine consisted of several different machines in one box, with power being distributed between them by canvas belts and pulley wheels. Each belt was fastened together by a row of rivets which clicked when they went over a pulley. The characteristic noise of the thresher was a low hum punctuated by syncopated clicks.

First came the thresher drum itself. Sheaves were lifted up to the top of the machine by pitchfork, where they were taken by two men each with a knife in his hand to cut the strings on the sheaves, and then fed into the gap between a ribbed drum and a curved ribbed guide plate. You could slash your wrists with a knife, fall off the top of the machine, or mash up a leg with the rotating drum and never walk again. All these accidents were described to me with gory detail by several people. Small wonder that I don't know what it all looked like.

What fell from the drum was a mixture of grain, bashed out from the ears, straw, chaff, and assorted seeds. These were winnowed by a huge rotary fan working in conjunction with a wire mesh screen and several reciprocating sieves. There was a change-over valve for the grain outlet to which sacks were fastened, so that when one sack was full, the flow could be diverted to an empty one. The full sacks were hauled away to the barn on a trolley. Straw accumulated in one heap, for use as bedding, while the chaff was bagged up for horse feed. Biblically, the weed seeds were burnt in a small fire which smouldered away in a corner of the yard.

And, yes, I did have a Puffin book on how it all worked, which was one of my favourites. This was the high tech of my day, and I loved it. Crude by today's standards, and blazoned by clouds of dust, smoke, and steam, it helped to keep us fed through the war years, and for a little boy, it was fun, too.

SKYDIVE for Parkinson's

Emma B is planning to complete a sponsored skydive for 'Cure Parkinson's' on September 14th in memory of James. Please sign the sponsorship form at the back of church if you would like to support her or head to www.justgiving.com and search for Emma Bebbington or James Benson.





CANDLE DEDICATIONS for SEPTEMBER

For £2.50 you can keep the Candle of Hope or the Sanctuary Light burning for a week with a dedication. Thank you to all of you who have supported the candle dedications this year.

Please contact Shirley on 504089 if you would like a particular date.

Sep	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
1 st	Anon in memory of Noreen Gould	Ann Boulton to celebrate Emma and Lee's wedding anniversary
8 th	The candle is kept burning by Rosey and Geoff Smith	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant
15 th	Geoff and Rosey Smith to celebrate the birthday of grandson, Cody Lucas	Sylvia Bradshaw to celebrate the 18th birthday of her twin granddaughters, Lily and Emma
22 nd	David Moss in loving memory of Nancy Moss, mother of David and Robert	Shirley Brindley to celebrate the 15 th birthday of Will and Tom
29 th	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant	Maureen and Alan Payne in loving memory of Bill and Bett Payne, parents of Alan Payne



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

Rev Patricia (1st), Laura Morris (13th), Elizabeth McLintock (23rd),
Duncan Woolliscroft, Simon Jackson (26th), Shirley Brindley (27th),
Cat Mellor (30th)

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



PASTORAL TEAM WALK

Thursday August 15th

Nine of us gathered at The Hollybush Inn at Denford for a pleasant canal walk along the Leek and Cheddleton branches of the Caudon Canal led by Carol Mack. The original route was considered to be unwise as it would have taken us through a field of cows with young calves. However the canal alternative proved very acceptable and the rain held off! Of course we gladly convened for a coffee at the Hollybush on our return. Thank you Carol. We look forward to the next walk which may be at Bolton Gate near Weston Coyney. Listen up!

LEEK FOOD BANK REPORT *from Lindsey Stockton, Project Manager*

Thank you so much for all your support over the last year. In July you donated 25kg. We really appreciate everything you continue to do so we can ensure we make the greatest possible difference to people experiencing hardship in Leek and the surrounding villages. Your continued support of our Foodbank, by collecting much needed food items, has ensured we can provide help and support to individuals in our community who are in crisis. We are so grateful for your partnership and continual generosity.

Whilst 2023/24 saw a 10% drop in the number of food parcels we distributed – due largely we think to the support and advice given by our in-house financial advice service – there was also a 19% reduction in the amount of food donations we received. This has resulted in the need to purchase items on a regular basis to maintain our stock levels. We therefore very much rely upon the support and generosity of our wonderful friends and donors at times such as harvest.

We continue to campaign, locally and nationally, to try to improve the lives of those who are on the lowest income and to remove, or at least reduce, their need to rely upon Foodbanks, but this is such a difficult task, and more and more people seem to be “stuck” in negative budgets, despite their best efforts to improve the situation. This is so disheartening for them, but we absolutely pledge to support them while ever they are in need.

We would like to ask, would you be willing to organise a collection to support us this harvest season, to help make a difference to those who come to us for help? We could provide transport if you are unable to deliver the food to us. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for reading this, and a huge thank you to everyone for your generous donations of food and support.

Here are the figures for July:

Total vouchers fulfilled	= 99 (97)
No. of Adults fed	= 128 (144)
No. of Children fed	= 55 (73)
Total no. fed	= 183 (217)

My attendance at the SMDC Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel was very positive, with my presentation being very well received. All Councillors were very receptive and sympathetic to the difficulties we are facing in our attempts to try to help clients who are rough sleeping or sofa surfing. ‘Your Housing’ reps were also at the meeting, presenting their six-monthly report, so their presence led to some very beneficial discussions. I am delighted to report that a further meeting has already taken place between myself, Councillor Charlotte Atkins and ‘Your Housing’ Regional Manager, Dave Lovatt. This is just the beginning of a long road towards hopefully seeing significant improvements in the social housing provision in Staffordshire Moorlands.

We are now into our holiday meal provision in partnership with Trinity Church, and it is certainly being very well received. So far, we have served chicken casserole, beef stew and tuna pasta bake, all of which have smelt absolutely delicious, and, in the words of one of our grateful clients, have been absolutely “banging”! In week one we served 26 clients, week two 33 clients, and week three 24 clients. We have set a maximum of 50 clients per week, and we may well get there by week 6. Any leftover meals are frozen and then distributed to our clients on our operational days. We have donated some of our excess stock to the project – pasta! – and have been supported by a private donation of £50.00 and a donation of £100.00 from Morrisons, so huge thanks to them.

Our bountiful summer has continued with a wonderful donation of £1000 from Fiber-Line International, based in Leek. This is the third consecutive year in which they have made this amazing donation, the money being used to purchase much needed items from our shopping list from Sainsbury’s. A huge thank you goes to Rachel and the team, also to John, our Community Champion at Sainsbury’s, for his swift processing of the order and its delivery to us.

Our current list of needed items:

FOOD:

Longlife semi-skimmed milk

Pasta sauce

Tinned carrots/corn

Instant mash

Tinned custard

Tinned tuna

Tinned fruit

Rice – 500gm/microwave pouches

Fruit squash

Longlife sponge puddings

Coffee - 100/200gm

Tinned meat

Tinned rice pudding

Pasta n sauce / instant noodles

Tomato ketchup

Chocolate biscuits

Dry dog food

Jam

HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS:

Washing up liquid

Multi surface cleaner (no bleach)

Cleaning cloths/sponges

Laundry liquid/capsules/powder

TOILETRIES:

Shampoo and conditioner

Shower gel

Toothpaste and toothbrushes

Deodorant

Razors and shaving foam

Toilet rolls



HELP SUPPORT YOUR FOODBANK WITH FOOD AND FUNDS THIS HARVEST

DONATE FOOD

Help by donating an item or two from our shopping list to ensure we can provide food to help people in crisis.



DONATE MONEY

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



SHOPPING LIST TOP TEN ITEMS

Please see above.

*Don't forget...
You can help transform more lives with a financial donation too.*

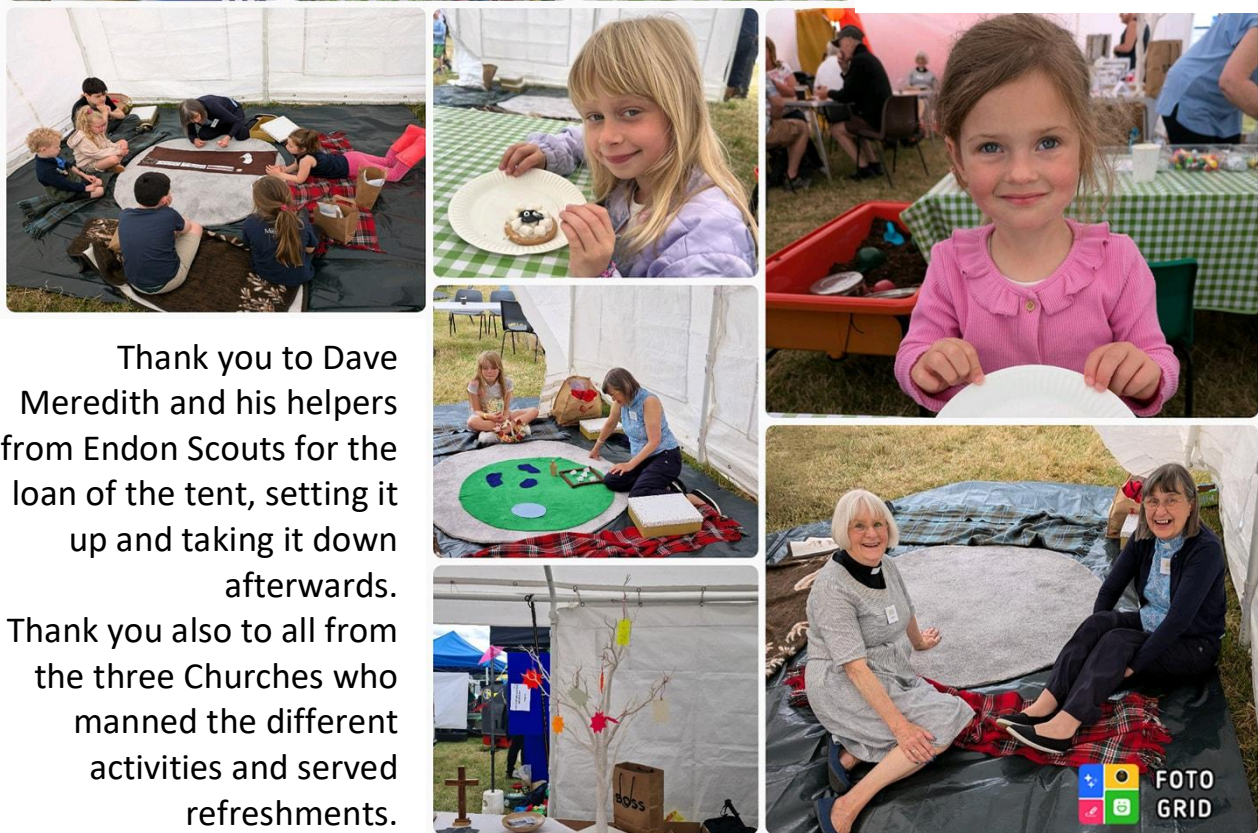


LEEK SHOW Sat July 27th 2024

'CHURCHES TOGETHER' TENT



St Luke's Church, Endon Methodist and Rudyard Methodist Churches staged a welcome for visitors for a great day out at the Leek Show. Lots of folk visited the tent and children enjoyed the various crafts and story-telling.



Thank you to Dave Meredith and his helpers from Endon Scouts for the loan of the tent, setting it up and taking it down afterwards. Thank you also to all from the three Churches who manned the different activities and served refreshments.



NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S



The hosts of the barbecue. Arni, Fred, Grace and Julia.



Longshutts Barbecue - Sunday, 4th August 2024.

Leonie writes...

WOW have Arnie and Co been busy on the Longshutts' grounds since last year's barbecue - wooden shelters and storage areas have shot up everywhere, they've extended the parking and



Arni's family. His grandson, Rowan was the star of a thanksgiving service held in church at the family service.



drive through area creating a personal parking area for themselves, easier access for the farm vehicles, plus ample car parking spaces for special guests like us. The outside eating area is just fabulous with a large cantilever patio parasol providing cover to the large table, there's very social benched area too all in such a lovely setting.

Arnie the Grill Chef, as always, churned out a lovely selection of meats... pulled pork with apple sauce and stuffing, big juicy beef burgers (both were wrapped in Brioche buns no less, Ooh!) Also, the BBQ special onion clad hotdog with mustard and tomato sauce please, mmm mm. There was a lovely choice of desserts as Grace had baked her deliciously light cupcakes, a slice of caramel cheesecake or, fresh cream Black Forest gâteau for those with room in their tums, or in my case those with no room in their tums but still managed to squeeze in a slice of cheesecake!

It was so nice to see Ros, Sheila and Roger Simpson as well as young families who attended our Family Service. I didn't count how many people turned up but I'm guessing around 25 - 30; of all ages starting from just a few months to...well...much, much, much older. It was excellent table service with drinks being replenished. We didn't have to move an inch. It was a great atmosphere as everyone chatted and laughed and enjoyed being waited on.

Of course, I had to spend a little time with the other family members who looked on at all these strange people in their home: the geese and ducks who roamed freely, and the hens in their pens. A short stroll down the field with Carrie and Spring (a beautiful black and white whippet cross) brought us to Gareth the donkey, the two little Shetlands and two sheep with huge horns (I told Carrie they were goats...well...they looked very much like goats to me!).

After everyone departed, I was the only guest left. I was in for a treat as the feline fur babies appeared from their hiding places; Marley, who is a very handsome Maine Coon cross cat, wow he does look well; always fearful of me in previous visits but on this occasion he actually came up to me for a fuss. Milkshake came over a few times, she's such an affectionate little girl and then finally Oatcake, who sauntered up the driveway then dived into the hedgerow to avoid me. What a beautiful trio they are. Just one last thing to say...a huge thank you to our hosts and to everyone who turned up. It was a truly wonderful afternoon.

THE FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB resumes on Wednesday 11th

September from 1.00 – 3.00pm in the chapter house. Bring a kitchen container as the basis for your arrangement. New members always welcome!

THE ART GROUP is meeting on a Saturday 7th September from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the chapter house following the prayer breakfast.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

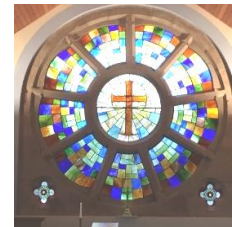
The next prayer breakfast will be held on Saturday, 7th September at 8.30am for breakfast and prayer at 9.00am.

LIFE GROUP MEETINGS

These will continue in August on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7.00pm in the chapter house led by Rev Patricia. These will be on September 11th & 25th. All are welcome.

The **Methodist Church**

- **Every Sunday** 10.00 Worship
- **Mondays** 10.00 – 1.30 Community Café (not bank holidays).
- **Wednesdays** 9.15 Holy Communion
Alternately with St Luke's Parish Church
- **Thursdays** 10.30 Fit-as-a-fiddle: Exercise, conversation and coffee
- **Friday Friends** 13th & 27th September 10.00am – 12.00noon
- **Saturday, August 31st** 0-12 Coffee Pot Cafe (see noticeboard outside church for September date)
- **Friday** 6pm 'Blast' – youth club for 7-11 year olds (during term time)



DOREEN POINTON 26th March 1936 – 10th July 2024

Long-serving members of St Luke's congregation will have fond memories of Doreen who died recently having been in residential care at Rock Cottage, Brown Edge for a number of years. Members of our pastoral team visited her regularly. She had been an active member of St Luke's Mothers' Union alongside Margaret Woolliscroft and Cicely Jennings. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

Could you be a School Governor?

In the Diocese of Lichfield we have 206 Church of England schools. These are made up of primary and secondary schools and in some areas we have First and Middle Schools. Approximately half of the schools are in academy trusts and half are still local authority schools. All local authority schools and most academy schools need individuals who will act as local governors. Could you help us by becoming a local governor in a school or an academy? Those people who are appointed to represent the interests of the Church of England are known as foundation governors, because they are there to ensure the Christian foundation of the school is upheld.

What do Governors do?

Governors take strategic decisions about the school and oversee that its statutory duties are met. They support the leadership team of the school but also hold them to account. Governors need to ask difficult questions, ask leaders to explain certain situations and decisions and to scrutinise a range of information from different sources to ensure what they are being told is accurate. There are plenty of resources, training and support available to help governors fulfill their role.

You will be expected to sometimes visit school, so that you are aware what is happening in classrooms and to talk to a range of different people.

Governors are not there for the day to day running of the school. That is the role of the headteacher. Sometimes, governors may be called upon to sit on committees around complaints or pupil suspension and exclusion panels or staff disciplinary panels.

Who can be a local Governor?

You need to be over the age of 18 and have a skill set that would support the group. Skills in finance, education, HR, law and local community to name a few are all helpful.

You do not need to have a background in education. Whilst it is always useful to have someone who does understand education it is also helpful to have someone with a variety of backgrounds so that the group has skills from a wide range of areas.

You do not have to be a member of the Church of England to be a Foundation Governor for a Church of England school. Although the first preference may be someone from the Parish Church, we are grateful for the support of those who may be outside the parish and from other Christian denominations.

If you are interested in becoming a Foundation Governor, please get in touch with us at education@lichfield.anglican.org



Mark Davis has completed his first year as Lichfield Diocese's Director of Education.

Before that he's taught in primary schools, provided support and training to schools on health and PSHE and spent ten years as a headteacher.



LADYBIRDS: TINY HEROES IN POLKA-DOT ARMOUR



The ladybird, with its stylish and cheerful polka dot outfit, holds a special place in our hearts. Few other insects, apart from perhaps the butterfly, evoke as many positive emotions and superstitions as the ladybird. Many cultures believe that ladybirds are a symbol of good luck and new beginnings. In fact, the belief that ladybirds are associated with positive qualities is nearly universal – from Slavic, European, and Asian cultures to Native Americans.

There are 46 different species of ladybirds in the UK and about 5,000 species worldwide. While some sport the classic red with black spots look, others come in shades of yellow, orange, or even black with red spots. All ladybirds are beetles and have a larval and adult form with the classic round and colourful ladybird being the adult whilst the larvae tend to be thin and black.

Many species of ladybird hatch from pupae in August or September so look out for a new generation of adults feeding up ready to overwinter. Ladybirds are voracious predators of aphids and other garden pests, serving as natural pest-control agents and helping to keep plants healthy. In fact, a single ladybird can devour up to 5,000 aphids and other plant-eating pests in its lifetime, making them invaluable allies to gardeners and farmers alike.

Despite their diminutive size, ladybirds are not without their challenges. Predators, parasites, and even rival ladybirds pose threats to their survival. Birds, spiders, and other insects prey on them. They do have defences against predators however, their bright red colour is a warning that they don't taste nice and when attacked they give off a yellow liquid which is rich in toxic alkaloids.

Churchyards and cemeteries can be great for ladybirds as they tend to be free of insecticides and full of food. There are lots of places where ladybirds can find a safe place to spend the winter, often in large clusters where they remain inactive until about March when they emerge to feed and breed. Monuments including chest tombs, gaps made by tree roots, wood piles and spaces beneath flaking bark, leaf litter, tussocky grass and drystone walls are full of potential places to overwinter.



With their rounded bodies and distinctive markings, ladybirds are easily recognisable. If you see a ladybird, take a photo, count its spots and make a note of both spot and background colours. The spot number indicates which species it is, not some people believe, how old it is. Please let us know what you find in your local churchyard or cemetery and enjoy hunting for these iconic creatures.

Photos by Andrew Mason.

All the best, Harriet

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**

September Prayer Focus

- A ceasefire and lasting peace between Israel and Gaza.
- Those affected by the waterspout disaster in Sicily
- For peace amid the current unrest following the murder of the three children in Southport
- Those affected by M-Pox and those trying to stop its spread
- Our new government
- The US presidential election
- Rev Eleanor in her retirement and for Rev Denise Williamson as she becomes the new Methodist minister based in Endon
- An end to people-trafficking and the ongoing problem of refugees and asylum seekers crowding into unsafe boats to cross the Channel
- The desperate plight of the people of Haiti suffering violence and anarchy brought about by gang rule
- The people of South Sudan enduring great hardship and near famine conditions
- The wife and family of opposition leader Alexei Navalny and the repercussions of his death in Russia and around the world
- Ukraine and the urgent need for arms and an end to the war
- Safety for shipping in the Red Sea and the financial consequences of longer journeys around the Cape
- Our king and the Princess of Wales as they undergo cancer treatment
- Those adversely affected by the recent storms, floods, doctors' strikes and rail strikes
- The families of all those whose loved ones have been murdered
- The truly horrendous situation in Israel and Gaza and especially the hostages
- A permanent cease-fire and the release of all hostages and for desperately needed aid getting into Gaza
- Climate change and the urgent need to combat its effects
- Those taken prisoner
- The current threat from China, Iran and N Korea supporting Russia in the war in Ukraine
- All aid agencies and volunteer recovery teams
- The problems of AI and managing them
- Those seeking justice for women in Iran and regime change
- Those able to go on holiday for a peaceful and refreshing time
- All hostages in Iran awaiting release especially Morad Tahbaz and Mehran Raoff
- The huge problem of loneliness
- Loved ones and all in our parish who are currently unwell
- Improvements in the treatment of cancer, heart disease and neurological conditions
- Our church wardens and worship leaders during the interregnum
- The future of our benefice as we enter our fifth year of interregnum
- 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
- The problem of the millions of plastic bottles afloat in our oceans and the tons of 'space junk' orbiting our planet
- The problem of river pollution brought about by discharge of sewage
- All who have lost loved ones recently
- The Trussell Trust food banks still needed as much as ever

LICHFIELD AND STAFFORDSHIRE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

In this very troubled world Stuart Draper invites us to pray...

For a World Torn Apart

In this broken world,
where shadows of hate are cast upon the streets,
and race becomes a reason for fear and division,
we cry out to You, O God.
Gather the scattered, mend the fractures,
and let love be the golden thread that weaves us together once more.
May we see the image of Your creation
in every face, every colour, every story,
and know that we are bound by more than skin—
we are united by the breath of Your Spirit.
Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For Leaders Burdened with Choices

In the halls of power, where choices weigh heavy,
give wisdom to those who lead.
In times where decisions seem impossible,
and the right path is hidden beneath layers of complexity,
may truth and justice rise to the surface.
Let them choose the way that heals, not harms;
that unites, not divides.
Give them courage to stand against the tides of popular opinion
when it is not Your will that they should follow.
Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For a World Wrapped in the Web of Lies

In the tangled web of words online,
where truth is often lost in the clamour,
where lies spread quicker than the dawn,
we ask for Your light to shine.
Expose the darkness that seeks to deceive,
and let integrity be the voice we hear.
Teach us to speak with kindness,
to share with honesty,
to engage with grace,
and to be Your presence in a virtual world
that often forgets You.
Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For the Wounded and Weary

For those who feel the weight of the world
pressing down upon their shoulders,
for those burdened by the pain of prejudice,
the cruelty of injustice, the silence of despair,
we pray for Your healing touch.

Breathe new life into weary souls,
and let Your peace,
which passes all understanding,
guard their hearts and minds.
Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For Ourselves

As we step into the world once more,
help us to carry the light of Your love
into every conversation, every action, every thought.
Let us be bearers of hope,
even when the night seems endless;
bearers of faith,
even when doubts crowd in;
and bearers of love,
even when it is the hardest choice.
Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We gather all these prayers,
spoken and unspoken,
and offer them in the name of Jesus Christ,
who taught us to pray with boldness and trust.
Amen.

PASTORAL TEAM (Phone nos on back page)

HILLSWOOD LODGE CARE HOME:

next visit Wed September 18th at 11.00am (TBC)

Volunteers are welcome to help boost the singing. There is room for 6 or 7 of us. Please inform Shirley or Rev Patricia if you are able to come. The residents really do enjoy these services and the chats afterwards.

HOME and CARE HOME VISITS: Pastoral team members regularly visit folk who are no longer able to attend church. Do get in touch with Shirley if you know of anyone who would like a visit.

WALKS followed by refreshments: Listen up for details of the next walk. Do join us.

Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship / PCC chair	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, reader / Administrator (* tel no for church enquiries)	07510 074097 07517 653370*
Rev Philip Robinson (minister w Permission to Officiate)	07983 863372
Rev Patricia Robinson (organist, also minister w PtO)	07854 418488
Sue Forrester, Flower & Craft Club / Foundation gov / Safeguarding Officer / St Luke's Facebook / Art Club	07854 043187
Deb Podmore, Connections / school chaplain	01782 773383
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	01782 502006
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
Ros Benson, newsletter / St Luke's website / PCC Secretary	01782 504137
Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / warden / worship leader	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
Claire Houston-Brown, St Chad's Safeguarding Officer	07779 667470
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 submit notices for our next newsletter to Ros Benson

by **Tuesday, September 24th 2024**

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

ST LUKE'S CHURCH OFFICE

Unless involved with funeral duties Barrie mans the office on Mon, Wed, and Fri from 10.30am to 1.00pm using **07517 653370**. During these times the church is open for private prayer.



TO BE ANNOUNCED...

Rev Patricia is planning to hold a coffee morning in the chapter house to raise funds for the MacMillan Cancer Support charity.

Listen up for the date and further details!