



**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



April 2025

INTERREGNUM Month 58

HOLY WEEK & EASTER



An empty cross and an empty tomb...

Hallelujah! He is Risen!

He is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!

EASTER DAY Sunday 20th April 9.15am

Holy Communion at St Luke's

CONNECTIONS at 11.00am

ST CHAD'S EASTER SERVICES on page 6

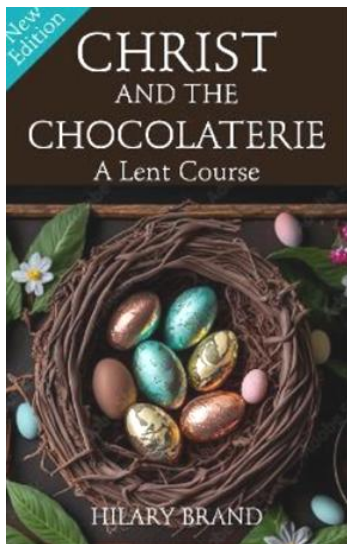
April 2025: ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY (ESL Endon St Luke's; EMC = Endon Methodist Church)		
Tu	1 st	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house
W	2 nd	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC
Th	3 rd	10.30am or 07.00pm LENT GROUP chapter house
F	4 th	
Sa	5 th	8.30am PRAYER BREAKFAST
Su	6 th	PASSION SUNDAY 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION w Rev Philip 11.00am CONNECTIONS FOOD BANK collection
M	7 th	2.30pm ROCK COTTAGE Brown Edge
Tu	8 th	
W	9 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL 1.00pm – 3.00pm FLOWER CLUB
Th	10 th	10.30am or 07.00pm LENT GROUP chapter house
F	11 th	
Sa	12 th	10.30am – 12.30pm ART CLUB chapter house
Su	13 th	HOLY WEEK: PALM SUNDAY 9.15am MORNING WORSHIP 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	14 th	
T	15 th	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house
W	16 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC 11.00am HILLSWOOD LODGE
Th	17 th	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.30pm HOLY COMMUNION w foot-washing
F	18 th	GOOD FRIDAY 2.00 – 3.00pm AN HOUR AT THE CROSS
Sa	19 th	
Su	20 th	EASTER DAY 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION w Fr David 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	21 st	
Tu	22 nd	
W	23 rd	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL
Th	24 th	
F	25 th	
Sa	26 th	
Su	27 th	9.15am MORNING WORSHIP 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	28 th	
T	29 th	
W	30 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC



‘CONNECTIONS’ continues on Sundays
at St Luke's CE Academy, Leek Road, from 10.30 with
service at 11.00 to 12.00noon.

It is run by Deb Podmore (ably supported by Dave), Sue Forrester
and Rev Patricia. This service is for all ages but the format and
content of the service is particularly suitable for those with children.
Toys and refreshments are available.

Join us for the Ecumenical Lent Course 2025...



'CHRIST AND THE CHOCOLATERIE'

by Hilary Brand

We continue with Endon Methodist Church members in St Luke's chapter house at 10.30am or 07.00pm on Thursdays April 3rd and 10th.

All welcome!

This course is inspired by the film 'Chocolat', which was in turn is based on the bestselling novel by Joanne Harris. The film is the starting point to explore issues about God, the world and what it means to be human.

ST LUKE'S APCM and the NEW ELECTORAL ROLL

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 14th.

A NEW electoral roll must be completed at least 15 days before this takes place. The revision will take place between April 6th and April 20th. Even if your name appears on the present roll you will need to complete a new application form before April 6th if you wish your name to be included on the new list.

Application forms may be obtained from church or from me.

Sheila Simpson simpsonsheila2@gmail.com. 01782 502006

PASTORAL TEAM EVENTS...



OUR NEXT COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT MORNINGS will be APRIL 1st & 15th

What a lovely buzz at our last coffee morning! Thank you to all those who work hard to make it happen. If you missed it, make sure you come along to our next one. If you need a lift there is bound to be someone who can help to get you there! The next Coffee Mornings are planned for Tuesdays April 1st & 15th from 10.30 to 12.00.

Do come along and bring a friend or two!

PASTORAL TEAM WALK

Listen up for details of the next walk so you don't miss it!

HILLSWOOD LODGE & ROCK COTTAGE CARE HOMES:

next visit to Hillswood Lodge will be Wed April 16th at 11.00am and to Rock Cottage on Mon April 7th at 2.30pm

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.

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.



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. Thank you to all of you who have supported the candle dedications this year. **Contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 if you would like a particular date.**

Apr	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
6 th	In loving memory of Kath Williamson on her birthday. A dearly loved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.	Sheila and Stan in loving memory of Stan's parents.
13 th	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant.	Anon remembering the life and witness of Betty Whitmore and Edna Bond.
20 th	The candle is kept burning by Chris and Sue Wilson.	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant.
27 th	Janet Bowyer and David Moss in loving memory of Thomas Moss, father of David and Robert Moss.	Ann Boulton in loving memory of Les's parents.



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

**Fiona Morris (8th), Tim Boulton (10th), Barrie Jackson (14th), Eric Cartlidge (17th),
Marianne Lloyd (28th), Phil Benson (29th), Georgia & Millie Tellwright (30th)**

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

Geoff & Rosey write...

Appeal for sponsorship....raising money for SANDS

On 12/07/25, our daughter-in-law will be doing a tandem skydive to raise money for SANDS. SANDS is a stillbirth and neonatal death charity which operates across the UK: supporting anyone affected by the death of a baby; working in partnership with health professionals to ensure that bereaved parents and families receive the best possible care; and promoting improvements in practice and funding research that could help to reduce the loss of babies' lives.

The link to her Just Giving page is - https://www.justgiving.com/page/chloe-smith-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=WA

Any donation would be greatly appreciated.



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

Stop to Move Forward

The world is a busy place. Whether it's the speed of news flying at you, the amount of things you have to fit into 24 hours (whether you have kids to negotiate or not!) or just the way everyone needs something *now*: it's exhausting.

Our lives at church can be no different and it can be hard to find the time, or the energy to stop and think about anything, let alone our 'calling'. We all have one. Even serving coffee is one.

This Easter we're not only trying to slow down and stop to remember God's amazing love for us but Bishop Michael is also offering us an amazing opportunity to slow down, take stock and join in the adventure, the journey, the strategy of the diocese – to grow our faith and love our communities 'following Christ in the footsteps of St Chad'. For many this may feel like 'yet one more thing' to 'do' or find time for – and that would be an understandable response. In reality however this isn't what the strategy is – it's an amazing opportunity for us to stand together and move forward for a common purpose.

It's one of those 'we're stronger together' moments.

We won't all move forward in the same way – we're all different and unique and can bring amazing talents, opinions and gifts to the diocese.

For some of us this is totally overwhelming – 'I don't have anything special to offer', 'I'm too tired to think about this' or 'I have too much to do'. This is where Chad Foundations can help. Chad Foundations can offer the chance to slow down and have chance to actually think about what we think! To ask ourselves what we believe and why. Chad Foundations can give you the space to reflect on what you are good at, what you are passionate about and maybe how you can use these things to help God and others.

It might sound crazy to take on a nine-month course to find space; and it is a commitment. You will need to find time, and for some that might mean stopping something you currently do, or stepping back from a church position for a little bit. Sometimes though, we have to stop to move forward.

We would love to see you at Chad Foundations.

The next course starts in September and applications are open now. If you want to know more please check out www.lichfield.anglican.org/chad-foundations



Helen Scheven works as part of the diocese's Vocations & Training team, helping those interested in lay ministries including Chad Foundations and Reader Training.

Contact her at helen.scheven@lichfield.anglican.org or visit the team's website at lichfield.anglican.org/vocations-and-training.



Nature's Calendar for Easter

In the past, plants were more important for people in charting the passing year than they are now. Many flowers have names that link their flowering time to that of the church calendar with several associated with Eastertide.

Greater stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) was also known as Easter Bell and Good

Friday Grass is still a commonly used name for Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*). Good Friday Grass is a frequent component of churchyard grassland, particularly in places with either acid or lime-



rich soils. It's brush-like flowers are quite subtle but always appear in time for Easter. Another name for it is Sweep's Broom due to the shape of the flowers.

Another small but beautiful plant to look out for at this time of year is Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) which

has several names including Cuckoo's Bread and Cheese, Granny's Sour Grass and Alleluia as its delicate white flowers appear between Easter and Whitsun, and its trefoil, shamrock-shaped leaves bring associations with the Holy Trinity.



Pasqueflower (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*) also blooms at Easter time, the name Pasque meaning 'of Easter'. It is now rare in the wild, found in a few places where there is ancient, undisturbed grassland on limestone. It is often associated with old earthworks such as barrows, hillforts and boundary banks and there was a legend that it grew where the blood of Danes or Romans had been spilt. *

It's not only flowers that chart the passing months and

the Christian calendar. St Mark's Fly (*Bibio marci*) is a long, black, shiny fly which hatches around St Mark's Day, April 25th. Large numbers of flies can be found in woodland edges, hedgerows and fields often mating in mid-air giving then the alternate name of Love Bug! They fly rather aimlessly with dangling legs, usually surviving as adults for about one week and getting eaten in large numbers, providing a ready food source. They are also an important pollinator of early flowering trees such as many fruit trees.



As you watch the spring unfurling, spare a thought for our ancestors who used nature as a calendar and lived much closer to a profusion of plants and animals than we do now. Perhaps this could be an inspiration to get involved in nature recovery in our much depleted land.

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
 *Flora Britannica, Richard Mabey

SERVICES AT ST CHAD'S

6th April PASSION SUNDAY

10.45am FAMILY SERVICE JP/KH/GB

13th April PALM SUNDAY (with Gareth see p10)

10.45am PRAISE & PRAYER MF/KH

18th April GOOD FRIDAY

11.00am AN HOUR AT THE CROSS Rev C/KH

20th April EASTER SUNDAY

10.45am HOLY COMMUNION Rev C

27th April LOW SUNDAY

10.45am MORNING PRAYER MF/KH





Project Manager Lindsey Stockton writes...

Thank you for your donation of 12kg for February.

I know that February is a short month, but where did it go?!
Here are the numbers of people we have helped during the month:

Total vouchers fulfilled	= 82	(81)
No. of Adults fed	= 122	(122)
No. of Children fed	= 62	(74)
Total no. fed	= 184	(196)

As you can see from the figures in brackets for February 2024, the level of need is very similar. We can feel grateful that the figures are not higher, but really we would have hoped to see a bigger reduction in the 12 month period.

Highlights of the month:

A very beneficial meeting with the Manager of our McDonald's restaurant, confirming the ongoing support that the company will provide and arranging a fundraising drive in the week leading up to Easter. So watch out if you are going out for a burger treat, we may grab you!!

A meeting with the Manager from NatWest, which was nowhere near as positive, as it was prompted by the announcement of the branch closure. To give NatWest their due, the Regional Manager did email out to groups who support vulnerable clients to invite them to meet with the Branch Manager. They do seem to be doing as much as they can to prepare their customers for the loss of the branch, and the inevitability of switching to online banking, but it is still going to be so difficult for so many people. They are very much hoping to preserve some sort of human NatWest representation in the town, although it is likely to just be a drop-in as Barclays currently has at the Council offices. I'll keep you updated.

I was invited to hold a coffee morning for parents of Leek High School pupils organised by a member of the Pastoral Care team. This is a regular event, at which different agencies give information regarding the services they provide. It was a really useful morning and I picked up a lot of referrals through my discussions with the parents, so it's something I'll be keen to do again.

Morrisons held the first of three food drives for us in February, and a small group of us went down to try to encourage more donations, which was a very successful venture with 190kg of food. There are further food drives in July and September. Sadly, alongside this support, Morrisons have decided to reduce the number of hours worked by the Community Champions, who act as the liaison between the store and local charities. As a result of this, their pick up a bag scheme will be ending. They do plan to replace it with an alternative scheme but we have yet to see the details.

We are changing our butchers voucher scheme and will now be using Meakins on Derby Street. We have had excellent service from Ash's but felt that we would like to support another local business, hence the change which became effective at the beginning of March. Much to our delight we have just heard that we have been granted £500.00 through the Lidl Community Fund, so this has been assigned directly to this project, as we feel it is so important to be able to give our clients the chance to have fresh produce.

Moving onto a less healthy food option, one of our more unusual donations arrived during the month in the shape of a large quantity of sugar dummies and similar fairground sweet treat items! These were from a lady whose friend had sadly died and she was tasked with distributing the contents of his travelling sweet stall. She is still trying to persuade me to buy a doughnut maker! As I've said numerous times before, it's not just about providing people with food, we also try to put a smile on their faces, and believe me, there have been a lot of very smiley children since this particular donation arrived!

Although we are still blessed with very generous donations, last week did see the need for an order from Asda which cost nearly £600 and by the end of the day we wondered where it had all gone.

When I am doing our shopping list I am only too aware of just how much everything has increased in price, and how difficult people who are trying to manage on a very limited budget are finding it to afford even the basics. There just don't seem to be any cheaper options any more. Our current list of most needed items remains much the same:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Longlife semi-skimmed milk | Fruit squash | Tinned soup |
| Pasta sauce | Longlife sponge puddings | |
| Tinned carrots/corn | Tinned rice pudding | Coffee-100/200gm |
| Instant mash | Tinned custard | Tinned meat |
| Tinned tuna | Tinned fruit | |
| Rice – 500gm/microwave pouches | | Pasta in sauce / instant noodles |
| Tomato ketchup | Chocolate biscuits/bars of chocolate | |
| Dry dog food | Jam | |

PLEASE NO PASTA, BAKED BEANS, TINNED TOMATOES OR TEA, THANK YOU

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**

THE FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB

This is a first time effort by a new member. Very impressive! We'll be learning how to wire flowers for wedding buttonholes and corsages at our next meeting on Wednesday April 9th at 1.00pm in the chapter house. As usual all are welcome even if you don't want to arrange flowers but just come for a chat and a cuppa! The theme for our Well Dressing floral displays will be 'Weddings.'



THE ART GROUP

Here we have spring flowers drawn and painted by Art Group members at our March meeting.

We meet once a month in St Luke's Church and we now have a couple of spaces.

Please contact Sue on 07854 043187 if you would like more information.

Our next meeting will be on

Saturday, 12th April from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the chapter house.



OUR MARGARET

On March 14th we were all very sorry to be informed of the death of a very lovely lady and one of St Luke’s stalwarts. Margaret Woolliscroft (along with husband Maurice) had been a very “hands on” member of our church for countless years. She was a very active member and chair of our Mothers’ Union leading the monthly meetings in the chapter house.

A nurse by profession, whenever help was required with just about anything Margaret was among the first to offer her assistance. She could always to be found serving teas at Well Dressing and at other

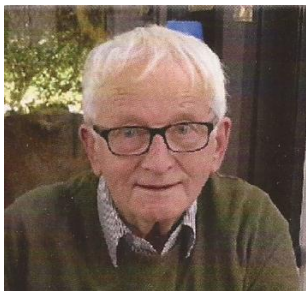
times helping look after children at holiday clubs and similar events.

Sadly Margaret was unable to attend church during the last few years of her life but she had regular visits from our pastoral team and often received communion.

She has been much missed here and will continue to be. Our hearts go out to Maurice, daughter Fiona, son Duncan and all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Thank you Lord for Margaret!

TERRY WEAVER



Folk in Endon were also sorry to hear of the death of Terry Weaver last month. He was a very well known figure in our community and for many years known to nearly everyone in Endon as the milkman! Before milk was sold in supermarkets we all had milk



delivered to our door daily by a reliable and cheerful Terry driving his milk float around the village. Being also a keen gardener and vegetable grower he often won first prize with his giant onions at the Endonian Society Garden Show which used to be held annually in the village hall. He will be greatly missed by his friends and family who provided this very fitting floral tribute at his funeral at St Luke’s. Thank you Lord for Terry!

LATEST BLANKETS

Sue and Norman Millard have delivered yet another consignment of knitted blankets in the last month. The folk at the refuge in Calais remain very appreciative.

Thank you again to all of you who continue to supply squares and especially when they are sewn together in groups of six as this speeds up the blanket-making process considerably.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Shirley writes....

This is an excerpt from the book **'Dancing with Dementia'** by Christine Bryden. The book is a vivid account of the author's experiences of living with dementia. She describes how, with the support of her husband, she continues to lead an active life and explains how professionals and carers can help. We have a copy of this book in the basket at the entrance to the chapter house. You are welcome to borrow it.

*"As we become more emotional and less cognitive,
it's the way you talk to us, not what you say,
that we will remember.
We know the feeling, but we don't know the plot.
Your smile, your laugh and your touch
Are what we will connect with.
Empathy heals. Just love us as we are.
We're still here, in emotion and spirit,
If only you could find us."*

PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next prayer breakfast will be on Saturday, April 5th from 08.30am until 10.00am.



If you took part in the Christian Aid sponsored walk this year and/or wish to make a donation please hand it to Sue Forrester as soon as possible. Thank you!

PALM SUNDAY AT ST CHAD'S with their regular special guest...

If you are in Gareth's Fan Club (and I'm sure we all are after his visit to St Luke's last year) then you may like to join him as once more he leads the Palm Sunday procession through Bagnall village on Palm Sunday!

For a full list of St Chad's April services see page 6.



April Prayer Focus

- The appointment of our new incumbent as the interview stage approaches.
- Sue and Barrie (reserve Debbie) who will represent St Luke's on the interview panel as well as reps from St Chad's and St Michael's
- The future of our benefice
- Lasting peace for Ukraine and Russia and restoration of war-damaged cities and people
- Victims of the civil war in Sudan and an end to the fighting
- The return of all hostages
- The released hostages and their mental and physical health after traumatic experiences in captivity
- Our own government and Prime Minister in talks with other leaders
- Those severely affected by the recent storms and floods
- Those tackling climate change
- The new regime in Syria and the future
- An end to people-trafficking and the ongoing problem of refugees and asylum seekers crowding into unsafe boats to cross the Channel
- Rev Denise Williamson our new Methodist minister based in Endon
- The desperate plight of the people of Afghanistan under harsh Taliban rule
- The wife and family of opposition leader Alexei Navalny and the repercussions of his death in Russia and around the world
- Safety for shipping in the Red Sea and the financial consequences of longer journeys around the Cape
- The families of all those whose loved ones have been murdered
- Climate change and the urgent need to combat its effects
- Those taken prisoner
- All aid agencies and volunteer recovery teams
- Those seeking justice for women in Iran and regime change
- 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
- 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
- Our Lent groups

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
Rev Caryl Siegertsz, St Chad's Asst Minister	07973 513128
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, April 22nd 2025**

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.

LENT LUNCH

The Lent lunch on Ash Wednesday was well attended and raised **£205** for Leek Food Bank. Thank you to all who organised it, set out the tables, made soup and bread rolls and assisted with serving and clearing up. Well done folks!

HORTON PARISH

As you may know already, the parish of Horton is shortly to become part of our benefice. Our Associate Archdeacon Rev Preb Terry is currently leading a Lent group at Horton on Tuesday evenings to which representatives of St Luke's and St Chad's are also invited.