

THE UNITED BENEFICE of ST LUKE'S, ENDON with ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL and ST MICHAEL'S, HORTON



Encounter, Encourage, Enable ...Committed to Sharing God's Love

www.endonstlukes.org.uk

Rev Debbie Lovatt 07359 893424

August 2025



We welcome Rev Debbie who was instituted, inducted and licensed at St Luke's on Wednesday, July 30th by Bishop Michael assisted by Archdeacon Megan and Rural Dean Nigel. Here she is with her family and friends after the service.

A big thank you to those who helped prepare the church and the service booklets for this special event and to all who provided cakes and served refreshments afterwards. It was a huge effort and good to see so many representatives from our three parishes helping out.

Thank you from Reverend Debbie

I would like to thank all of you who have made my move from Warrington to Endon so smooth and welcoming already.

Those of you who braved a poorly-lit vicarage to clean it the evening before the big move, did an amazing job and it was great to move into such a thoughtfully prepared house. Thank you! Since then, work has continued to make the Vicarage a welcoming place. The shower has been replaced, the internet has arrived, after several days of struggling with it my printer is now connected, and we have a cooker! With the help of The Decorating Ladies and my daughter Farah who's just finished university, we have been removing wallpaper and preparing the walls for the vicarage's next ministry phase. It's a gorgeous house and I feel blessed to be able to call it my home.

	August 2025: ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY					
	(ESL Endon St Luke's; EMC = Endon Methodist Church)					
F	1 st	,				
Sa	2 nd	8.30am PRAYER BREAKFAST				
Su	3 rd	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION w Rev Philip				
		11.00am CONNECTIONS FOOD BANK collection				
M	4 th	2.30pm ROCK COTTAGE visit				
T	5 th	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house				
W	6th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC				
Th	7 th					
F	8 th					
Sa	9 th					
Su	10 th	9.15am MORNING WORSHIP Barrie / Roger				
		11.00am CONNECTIONS				
M	11 th					
Tu	12 th					
W	13 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL				
Th	14 th					
F	15 th					
Sa	16 th					
Su	17 th	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION w Rev Patricia 11.00am CONNECTIONS				
M	18 th					
T	19 th	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house				
W	20 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC 11.00am HILLSWOOD LODGE visit				
Th	21 st					
F	22 nd					
Sa	23 rd					
Su	24 th	9.15am MORNING WORSHIP Safeguarding (Rev Debbie observe)				
		11.00am CONNECTIONS				
М	25 th					
Т	26 th					
W	27 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL				
Th	28 th					
F	29 th					
Sa	30 th					
Su	31 st	10.30am BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION at St Chad's Rev Debbie				
		11.00am CONNECTIONS				

ART CLUB: Please contact Sue Forrester for details of the next meeting.

FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB: Please note that there will be **no meetings** in July and August but they will resume in September.

PASTORAL TEAM EVENTS...



THIS MONTH OUR COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT MORNINGS will be August 5th & 19th

Thank you to all those who work hard to make these events happen. If you missed the last one, 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 Aug 5th & 19th from 10.30 to 12.00.

Do come along and bring a friend or two!

HILLSWOOD LODGE & ROCK COTTAGE CARE HOMES:

Our next visit to Hillswood Lodge will be on Wed Aug 20^{th} at 11.00am and to Rock Cottage on Mon Aug 4^{th} 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. Contact Shirley if you know of anyone who would like a visit.

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST



Joe is fundraising for the Dougie Mac again this year and is embarking on an exciting new challenge to run four half marathons: Carsington Water Half Marathon (21st June), Snowdonia Sea2Sky Half Marathon (6th September), Potters Arf Marathon (28th September) and Alton Towers Half Marathon (16th November). He recently completed the first of these in 28°C on the hottest day of the year. Please consider sponsoring him by following the link below or filling in the sheet at the back of church.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/joe-porter-7

Douglas Macmillan Hospice (Dougle Mac) is the only hospice in Staffordshire supporting children, young adults and adults. Care is given to patients who are living with a life-limiting illness at our two sites and in the community. They also provide support for patients' families and their carers.

NEW CHURCHWARDENS NEEDED...an urgent appeal from Roger!

I believe that I have been a Churchwarden at St Luke's for nineteen years, and my body is not as reliable as it was. It would be good if one or two people would step forward to join Barrie and me in this role. To some extent the job is flexible, and your time and skills would fit into the changing needs of St Luke's. It would be good if the Rev. Debbie could rely on someone who is firing on more cylinders than I am.

To join the Wardens' team at this stage in the story of St Luke's means that you would be able to take a part in moulding the changes which will undoubtedly come in the rhythm of life here under the ministry of our new vicar. Have a word with either of us, please!



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for AUGUST

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 who have supported the candle dedications this year.

Contact Shirley Brindley on 504089 if you would like a particular date.

Aug	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
3 rd	Roger and Shirley Brindley to celebrate the 7 th birthday of their granddaughter Grace.	Chris Morgan in loving memory of her Mum and Dad on their birthdays (5 th and 6 th).
10 th	Anon in memory of Muriel and Graham Salt.	David Moss and Janet Bowyer in loving memory of Ellen Bailey(13 th), grandmother of Janet, David and Robert.
17 th	Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the birthday of their son in law, Phil.	Tony Machin in loving memory of a very special wife and mother.
24 th	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant.	Tony Machin in loving memory of a dear Mum and Dad.
31 st	Maureen and Alan Payne. Always remembered, Chris Maltby, Phil Robb and John Pagan.	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant.



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

Ann Boulton (July 20th), Caroline Bradshaw (Aug 2nd), Rachel Foster (13th), Sylvia Bradshaw (16th).

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

SERVICES AT ST CHAD'S

3rd AUG SUNDAY 10.45am ALL AGE WORSHIP the team

10th AUG SUNDAY (Rev Debbie observe) 10.45am PRAISE & PRAYER Rev C/KH

17th AUG SUNDAY 10.45am HOLY COMMUNION Rev C

24th AUG SUNDAY 10.45am MORNING PRAYER KH/JP 31st AUG 10.30am BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION Rev Debbie

Sun 3rd Aug Annual BBQ at Julia & Arnie's

On the **first Wednesday** of the month there is a service of Holy Communion with Rev Carrie at **10.30am** with prayers for healing followed by coffee and conversation.



Holy Communion usually each Sunday at 11.30am (Aug 3rd & 17th Rev Debbie)

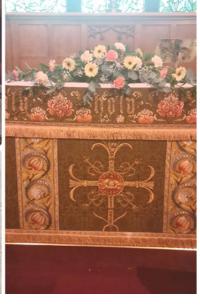


FLOWERS TO WELCOME REV DEBBIE...and a surprise guest!

Members of our Flower & Craft Club spent a whole afternoon preparing these impressive floral displays for the licensing service. Well done folks!







Also arriving for the service was Neil Baldwin ("Nello" in the film *Marvellous* which told his life and employment as kit man by Lou Macari at Stoke City FC). He's in this photo in the wheelchair. No doubt the bishop was another friend of his!







Happy smiles from visitors to the Churches Together marquee at the Leek Show. Some great crafts to try, free refreshments and a goodie bag. Permission was given to share this photo. Thanks to all who organised this event and helped with activities and refreshments.





DONATION OF
PLANTS
Proctor's Nurseries kindly

Proctor's Nurseries kindly donated some of their prize-winning plants to Cllr Joe Porter. Joe planted some in St Luke's churchyard and other local places. Thanks to both Proctor's and Joe.

AFTERNOON TEA with

JAZZ at the village hall on Sunday 27th July. A group representing St Luke's spent a pleasant couple of hours at this event organised by Endon Village Hall Committee.













Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

REDEFINING REST

Apparently, Summer = Rest and relaxation. Two things most of us need more of. As we enjoy the blue skies and sunshine (obviously alongside the very British moaning about the weather, "it's a bit hot isn't it!") many people start thinking about holidays.

My experience is that holidays don't necessarily equate to rest and/or relaxation! Whether it's the anxiety of travelling, the cost, the kids (no we're not nearly there yet!) or simply the fact that even on holiday there's so much to do!

There is a wealth of information 'out there' that stresses the importance of rest and relaxation for our mental and physical wellbeing, and Jesus said we would find rest with him (Mt 11v28). But that's not always the easiest. I believe that Jesus was quite a fan of wellbeing – he wanted us to be ourselves, not strive to be someone we're not and he stressed the importance of resting.

I recently read an email that reminded me of the importance of looking after our own wellbeing and a specific line hit me "We are our own responsibility after all". The article continued by suggesting that if we don't look after our own wellbeing then our ability to truly embrace who we are, and to live that out, will reduce.

There is truth in this. Jesus commented that everything rests (excuse the pun!) on two things – Love the Lord your God and love your neighbour as yourself (Mt 22:37-39). If we focus on the last bit of that I believe it means that we need to be able to love ourselves – who we are – and to pay attention to how we look after ourselves; we need holistic rest (mental, physical, emotional, spiritual). Only then are we able to serve and love others.

Rest looks different for everyone, it's not just about stopping and sitting quietly (although that can be good), to me it's something that gives you chance to put aside work/life etc for a few minutes and focus on something that feeds your soul. This could be nature, exercise, art, coffee with friends, dancing, computer games etc etc.

For many of us the summer doesn't automatically equal holiday, rest and relaxation. Life goes on; churches have summer fete's and regular services need to function with various people on holiday; kids are off school and after two days are bored and searching for things to do – often whilst parents and carers are trying to juggle who has the kids whilst they try and juggle work! So yes, rest and relaxation can be a tall order to reach.

Jesus doesn't ask us to be perfect though (phew!) - he simply nudges us to find small nuggets here and there where we can rest – in whatever way helps us.

Helen Scheven works with those at the beginning of their vocational journey and with those interested in lay ministries as part of the diocese's Vocations and Training team. Helen supports those on Reader Training. lichfield.anglican.org/vocations-and-training





UNDER YOUR FEET

By August, areas of long, flowery grassland should have been cut (unless you have late flowering species such as scabious or betony present, in which case these areas can be left a little longer). With the cutting and raking of long grass there is often an opportunity to spy onto the world of small rodents such as mice, shrews and voles who may have made routes through the sward that are revealed by the cut.

Small rodents are short lived and highly reproductive, wood mice for example tend to live for about a year, during which time they may have up to six litters of between four and eight young. In a churchyard you may have several species of mice, shrews and voles, the most likely being wood mice, field vole and common shrew. Wood mice have large ears and eyes, useful for their largely nocturnal life whilst field voles have blunter noses and smaller ears and eyes, they can be active during the day and night. Shrews are distinctive with a long, pointed nose and tiny eyes. All of these animals need to feed frequently and are always on the move seeking food, with shrews eating 80 to 90% of their body weight each day. They feed on insects and other invertebrates but will also tackle quite large earthworms, far bigger than they are! Mice and voles seek out seeds, berries and fruits, some of which they may stash for later. Whilst mice can be agile climbers, voles tend to stick to the ground, following the trails they make through grassland that you can see after a cut.

Unfortunately for voles and mice, they are important prey items for a range of other species. Tawny owls, also often found in churchyards, hunt silently for small rodents as do kestrels, weasels, foxes and of course cats. If you are interested to find out more, look for owl pellets beneath a nest or roosting place, these are regurgitated bundles of the inedible parts of their food and often contain bones which can be teased out of the pellet and then identified, giving information on what they have been eating. Shrews by contrast are not such a staple food item, you may find a bitten and dead shrew lying on a path suggesting that it has been hunted but was not very tasty.

Churchyards and other burial grounds are havens for rodents, containing a mosaic of grassland, shrubs, woodland and lots of places to make burrows or use existing cracks, nooks and crannies. Free of herbicides and pesticides they are full of food, both invertebrates and plant material whilst areas of long meadow and tussocky coarse grass provide perfect cover. See if you can spot their burrows and runways and imagine their busy lives in the fast lane!

Harriet Carty, <u>Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor</u>, <u>harriet@cfga.org.uk</u>, <u>www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk</u> - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials.

Use the discount code diomem22



FAREWELL and THANK YOU to Fr David Nicol...

We have been immensely grateful to Fr David during our interregnum. He has faithfully turned up at St Luke's to take our Communion services on the 3rd Sunday for much of that time accompanied by his wife. We pray the Lord's blessing on them both in what is supposed to be retirement! We hope they will visit us from time to time. (*Thank you Andrew and Sue for the photos when my mobile phone ran out of charge!*) **Ros**



ALICE M THOMPSON

Last month I included a short piece about the small hut in the churchyard which houses a convenient tap for the use of visitors to the graves. In response to my request for further information about the lady in whose memory it was dedicated Vicky Dega decided to carry out some research and discovered the following...

Alice Morley Skerrett was born in 1882 in Pool Dam, Newcastle-under-Lyme, the daughter of Leonard and Theresa Skerrett. She qualified as a schoolteacher, as did her brother Henry, and they both taught in Newcastle. In 1912 Alice married Herbert Edward Thompson at Higherland Methodist

Church, Newcastle. At that time she would have had to give up her teaching post. The "Marriage Bar" against women teachers continuing in the profession after marriage wasn't actually completely lifted until 1944.

By 1921 Herbert and Alice and their two sons, Albert George and Leonard Skerrett were living in Hanley (aged 7 and 5 respectively). Her occupation is listed as "housewife".

They moved to Endon, probably around 1928. The 1932 Kelly's Directory lists Herbert Edward Thompson as "Grocer, off licence, filling station and garage proprietor" in Endon.

Alice died on June 16th 1935 at the age of 53 and her husband dedicated the building and water supply which stands in the churchyard in her memory. The dedication ceremony took place in November of that

ENDON DEDICATION SERVICE

The Rev. A. E. Pavey dedicated a building erected in the new churchyard, Endon, to house the The structure water supply. together with the necessary appliances for a water supply, is the gift of Mr. Thompson, of Endon, in memory of his late wife. Over the oak door is a marble slab bearing the inscription "Erected in memory of Alice M. Thompson, 'She loved 17.6.35.

At the conclusion of the service, the supply was formally turned on by Mr. Leonard Thompson, youngest son of Mr. H. E. and the late Mrs. Thompson.



Project Manager Lindsey Stockton writes...

vear.

Thank you St Luke's for your donation of 33kg in June. With regard to our needs this month, it might be easier to say what we don't need, but let's stick to the established formula of what we do need:

Longlife semi-skimmed milk Fruit squash **Tinned soup**

Longlife sponge puddings Pasta sauce

Tinned carrots/corn Coffee-100/200gm Tinned rice pudding

Instant mash Tinned custard Tinned meat

Noodle snacks

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

Toiletries: Household cleaning products:

Washing up liquid

Multi surface cleaner (no bleach)

Cleaning cloths/sponges

Laundry liquid/capsules/powder

Shampoo and conditioner

Shower gel

Toothpaste and toothbrushes Deodorant (male and female)

Razors and shaving foam

Toilet rolls Nappies

August Prayer Focus

- Rev Debbie Lovatt, our new incumbent
- The desperate situation in Gaza
- The families of those injured in the coach crash in Minehead and especially for the family of the little boy who died
- The serious global implications as a result of the escalation of hostilities in the Middle East
- All affected by the incident of a vehicle in Liverpool injuring many people during the FA victory parade
- The serious nature of climate change and its consequences
- Ceasefire and a lasting peace between Israel and Gaza and between Ukraine and Russia and for restoration of war-damaged cities and people
- Restoration of sufficient aid convoys of food and medical supplies in Gaza
- The desperate humanitarian crisis in Sudan due to the civil war
- Non-escalation of the current conflict between India and Pakistan
- The world's response to the new US tariffs
- The environmental damage to coast and wildlife following the collision of the two tankers off the Norfolk coast
- 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
- 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 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

Rev Debbie Lovatt	07359 893424
Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship leader	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, warden / reader / administrator	07510 074097
(* tel no for church enquiries)	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	07854 043187
Officer / St Luke's Facebook / Art Club	
Deb Podmore, Connections / school chaplain	01782 773383
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	01782 502006
Shirley Brindley, candle dedications / pastoral team	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
Jim Hudson, St Michael's warden	07871 958886

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, August 26th 2025

either by e-mail <u>jandrbenson@btinternet.com</u> or phone 504137.

THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION (AND THE FIVE 'T's) from Rev Philip....

TELL -- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
TEACH -- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
TEND -- To respond to human need by loving service

TRANSFORM -- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of

any kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

TREASURE -- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of

the earth



ENDON METHODIST CHURCH

In addition to St Luke's 'Coffee & Chat' on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, the Methodist Church has 'Friday Friends' on the 2nd and 4th Fridays from 10.00 – 12.00 as well as 'Saturday Coffee Pot' once a month. All are welcome!