



# 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 or 07517 653370



## February 2025



Well done to our Endon Well Dressing Queen Hope Carter and everyone involved in the Coffee Morning at Trinity Church in Leek on what was a very cold 4<sup>th</sup> January. Nevertheless **£326** was raised for St Luke's and the Methodist Church in Endon! Thank you Hope!

### **And a "POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT!" to begin our New Year!**

Since Rev Alan retired in July 2020 the question, "When shall we have a new incumbent?" keeps arising. Well there seems to be some news at last! Our Associate Archdeacon Rev Terry Bloor attended our January PCC meeting and announced there had been a "positive development"! The Church Commissioners have now ruled that the original proposal that Horton parish should join with Endon and Bagnall will go ahead and become a new benefice.

This means that the vacancy can now be advertised. However any potential candidate will need to have a clear idea of how each of the three parishes is functioning and be made aware of any particular challenges. St Luke's and St Chad's have already submitted detailed parish profiles to the Archdeacon in preparation for this. Rev Terry will therefore be visiting all three parishes over the next few months taking some services and generally getting to know us so he can give an informed opinion in the decision-making process.

We are also pleased that he has accepted Barrie's invitation to be guest speaker at our Well Dressing service this year. So....watch this space!

## February 2025: ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY

(ESL Endon St Luke's; EMC = Endon Methodist Church)

Sa	1 <sup>st</sup>	8.30am PRAYER BREAKFAST (extended to 12.00)
Su	2 <sup>nd</sup>	CANDLEMAS 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION w Rev Philip 11.00am CONNECTIONS FOOD BANK collection
M	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Tu	4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house
W	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC
Th	6 <sup>th</sup>	
F	7 <sup>th</sup>	
Sa	8 <sup>th</sup>	
Su	9 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MORNING WORSHIP 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	10 <sup>th</sup>	
T	11 <sup>th</sup>	
W	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL 1.00pm FLOWER CLUB 7.00pm LIFE GROUP
Th	13 <sup>th</sup>	
F	14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>St Valentine's Day</i>
Sa	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am ART CLUB
Su	16 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION w Fr David 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	17 <sup>th</sup>	
Tu	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house
W	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC 11.00am HILLSWOOD LODGE
Th	20 <sup>th</sup>	
F	21 <sup>st</sup>	
Sa	22 <sup>nd</sup>	
Su	23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15am MORNING WORSHIP 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	24 <sup>th</sup>	
T	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm DEANERY SYNOD
W	26 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL 7.00pm LIFE GROUP
Th	27 <sup>th</sup>	
F	28 <sup>th</sup>	

## SERVICES AT ST CHAD'S

2<sup>nd</sup> Feb SUNDAY

10.45am FAMILY SERVICE – Kath / Julia / Grace

9<sup>th</sup> Feb SUNDAY

10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE – MF / TB

16<sup>th</sup> Feb SUNDAY

10.45am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Patricia

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb SUNDAY

10.45am LEPROSY MISSION – KH / MF





## CANDLE DEDICATIONS for FEBRUARY

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.**

Feb	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Shirley Brindley in loving memory of a very dear friend, Sue Barber	The candle is kept burning by Lyn Pickering
9 <sup>th</sup>	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant	The candle is kept burning by Lyn Pickering
16 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Boulton to celebrate the birthday of her grandson, Alfie (16 <sup>th</sup> )	Ann Boulton to celebrate the birthday of her daughter-in-law Helen (26 <sup>th</sup> )
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the birthday of their grandson William (March 1 <sup>st</sup> )	Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the birthday of their daughter Clare, (March 4 <sup>th</sup> )



## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

Robert Harrison (2<sup>nd</sup>), Dan Benson (6<sup>th</sup>), Amber Woolliscroft (10<sup>th</sup>),  
Jean Brough (11<sup>th</sup>), Sheila Hurst (17<sup>th</sup>), Bertie Thomlins (21<sup>st</sup>),  
John Bradshaw jr (24<sup>th</sup>), Rev Alan Betts (27<sup>th</sup>), Alan Jones (28<sup>th</sup>)

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

### From the Church of England website:

In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church.

The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In the Eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately:

Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest.

*This article is borrowed from St Chad's newsletter. Thanks Sheila T!*

*(Christopher Wordsworth)*

The arrangement of the Sundays of Epiphany in the Revised Common Lectionary deliberately draws out these aspects.

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.



## EPIPHANY

(from 6<sup>th</sup> Jan)

and

**CANDLEMAS (2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, traditionally 40<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas)**

"Arise shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn."

**Isaiah 60 v1 – 3.**



### ***Project Manager Lindsey Stockton writes...***

A very Happy New Year to you all! A bit of a cold start to the year but thankfully the SWEPE (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) has been implemented in Staffordshire Moorlands, meaning that anyone who is sleeping rough is provided with emergency accommodation. The very sad part is that they will be asked to leave this accommodation once the temperatures rise. As many of you know, the lack of homeless provision in Leek is something about which I have huge concerns, and which is particularly hard to see in the winter. We continue to work very closely with other agencies to try to improve the situation.

For those of you who follow football, and are supporters of our local team, you will be only too aware that they seem to have had a big turnaround in form over the last few weeks, with some excellent results. Last time I was writing to you I was about to go out in Storm Darragh to watch them play Hyde United, fully anticipating that the game would be postponed. It wasn't .....! And massive congratulations to both teams, the match officials and the crowd of just over 400 for enduring the very severe conditions. Thankfully, the weather was considerably better when I, along with 10 of our volunteers, attended the home game against Basford United on 21<sup>st</sup> December. This was the fixture at which the club was asking their supporters to donate to the Foodbank, and we were delighted to receive £130 in monetary donations and 87kg of food. The club also provided a mascot experience for four children from families we have helped, and they had an amazing day, one which they will remember for a very long time. Not least because Leek won 4-1.....I would love to think that our support does in some way contribute to their resurgence!

We received some very generous donations in December from a variety of sources, schools, churches and local businesses, but I feel that I must make special mention of Endon High School, who donated a simply amazing 558kg of food. Thankfully we had some very willing pupils, (good excuse to get out of their chemistry lesson!), to help ferry the bags and boxes out to our cars, but it did take three cars to get it all back to the Foodbank!

I would also like to say a huge thank you to the Salvation Army for enabling us to provide toys to some of our families. The work they do at Christmas is so vital in so many ways, and we feel very privileged to be able to benefit from their kindness. When you visit them at Christmas and see the vast number of bags of toys ready to distribute you really do appreciate the huge difference they make to families.

Thanks too to Ash's butchers, who assisted us in providing our clients with meat for Christmas dinner. We arranged for them to stock a number of turkey rolls for our clients, which they were able to collect on presentation of a voucher issued by us. We have had very good feedback regarding the quality of the meat and this is something that we would very much like to repeat next year.

It is such a difficult time to see people in need, when there is so much commercialisation and acquisitiveness, so we are very keen to do absolutely everything in our power to help people to have as good a Christmas as possible. Our volunteers are absolutely amazing in the kindness and compassion they show to our clients – they're great all year round, but at Christmas they're even more amazing! – providing such personal wraparound care to all those who come to us. Suffice it to say, there were a great deal of happy tears from our clients through the month.

Due to the amazing support we had both at harvest and Christmas, I have not had to buy in a great deal of stock over the latter part of 2024, but, traditionally, the first quarter of the year sees an increase in demand and a decrease in donations. Thankfully, monetary donations enable us to purchase stock, something which not all Foodbanks are lucky enough to be able to do, and, yet again, a reflection of the hugely supportive community which we are so fortunate to be a part of.

Now down to the facts and figures for last month (December 2023 in brackets):

<b>Total vouchers fulfilled</b>	<b>= 127</b>	<b>(137)</b>
No. of Adults fed	= 185	(202)
No. of Children fed	= 121	(109)
<b>Total no. fed</b>	<b>= 306</b>	<b>(311)</b>

Early indications for January suggest that demand is going to remain high.

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 n 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



## **OUR NEXT COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT MORNINGS are FEB 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>.**

What a lovely buzz at our last coffee morning! Thank you to all those who worked 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 Morning is planned for Tuesdays, **February 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>** from **10.30 to 12.00**. Do come along and bring a friend or two!

**PASTORAL TEAM** (Phone nos on back page)

**HILLSWOOD LODGE CARE HOME:**

**next visit Wed February 19<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am**

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.

**WALKS followed by refreshments:** Our next walk will be on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. Meet at the Holly Bush, Denford at 10.30am. A 40 min walk led by Carol Mack. All welcome!



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

## A BREWING SENSE OF PURPOSE

I searched the internet for the word 'vocation'. The first result was Vocation Brewery (other breweries are available!) It's a business that I had never heard of but it immediately piqued my interest as I have been known to sample a few real ales in my time: in particular, the company's tag line - *Craftsmanship, Innovation & Patience Combine to Create Masterpieces*. Further intrigued, I then discovered that the brewery came into being when its founder 'left his job to follow his calling – to brew the big, flavourful beers he loves'. Vocation is a word used often to describe a call for those who work in what we might describe as the caring professions – medicine and teaching amongst them, and in the church we use it often for those who follow a call to ordination.

At its heart though, vocation is doing the thing that God wants us to do, which brings us joy and means that we might have something of life in all its fullness (John 10:10). In my work in supporting lay and ordained vocations I often describe it as the divine niggles, the thing that you just can't let go of, however much you might try.

I don't know if the founder of Vocation Brewery has a faith, but it seems he understands vocation. In the Christian tradition the Craftsmanship that we have is given to us by God as a gift and honed and shaped by learning and practice as we develop. Being open to the ways that God might be working in our lives and the lives of others brings about new ways of seeing the world and new ways of being (innovation), and patience means that we work at God's pace rather than our own, which can at times be hugely frustrating! These things combined mean that we might become or create 'masterpieces' within our own spheres of work, whether within the church or beyond.

Each of us has a vocation, and our vocations are used in God's service and for the good of our communities. Again, perhaps the website sums it up well: in the 'About us' section there is a tale of overcoming obstacles to create the business, and the final sentence reads 'we pride ourselves on working together with shared purpose, on shared triumphs over adversities, born out of a love of what we do'. There is real joy in doing what we love and so often people think that God is going to ask us to do the thing that we really dread or feel totally unqualified to do. It can take a huge leap of faith to follow a call and fulfill our vocation.

One of the great joys of my role is seeing people grow and flourish in their vocations so if you or someone you know has a divine niggles then be encouraged and encourage one another – who knows where it might lead!



*Revd Preb Jeanette Hatwell leads Lichfield Diocese's Vocations & Training Team.  
Contact her at [jeanette.hartwell@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:jeanette.hartwell@lichfield.anglican.org) or visit her team's website at [lichfield.anglican.org/vocations-and-training](http://lichfield.anglican.org/vocations-and-training).*

### ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION 2025

This year we have to make a complete revision of the electoral roll. If you wish your name to appear on the roll, you will need to fill in a form, which will be available in church from Sunday March 2nd.

**Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer**



## THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF LICHENS



Churchyards are the ideal place for a lichen enthusiast to while away many happy hours. Lichens can be found on walls, monuments, trees and, if you have ancient grassland there may be lichens within the sward as well.

To the uninitiated lichens can look broadly similar with subtle mosaics of colour, often greys and yellows forming expanding circles as they increase in size as the years go by. There is more to lichens than meets the eye however. Firstly they are two or more organisms living together as one, usually a fungus and an algae. Fungus forms the visible part of the lichen and within, protected by threads of the fungus, are cells of algae and/or cyanobacteria which photosynthesise. So the fungus provides a home and the algae provides food. Lichens reproduce through microscopic fungal spores which, if they find a suitable partner, can colonise surfaces which are not too shaded or too smooth. These spores are released from structures which look rather like tiny jam tarts, flasks or pimples!

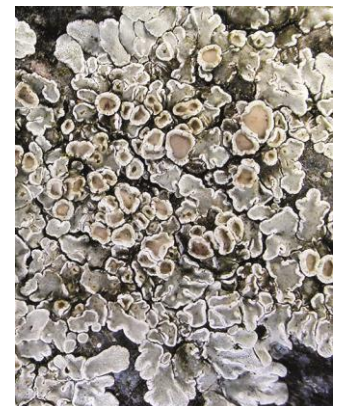
Lichens are fantastic at surviving where other life cannot. Provided there is enough light and moisture lichens are able to grow on bare stone, not needing cracks or soil to root into. Some lichens grow very slowly, perhaps half a millimetre per year whilst others grow more quickly. Many lichens are long-lived so the lichen you see in a churchyard may be almost as old as the wall or gravestone it is growing on. Astonishingly there are over 2,000 different lichen species and it is not unusual for a single churchyard to contain more than 100 different types.

Churchyards are particularly rich in lichens as they contain so many old stones with a variety of types; limestone, sandstone, granite to name a few. Some stones are smoother, others rough and they may have differing amounts of shade, wind and moisture depending on where they are within the churchyard, which side of the monument the lichen is on, whether they are vertical, leaning or flat. The carving of the inscription itself provides microclimates with different amounts of light and moisture within the lettering. All of these changes in conditions will suit different lichen species. They are also found on trees, wooden fences and gates, grassy areas, pathways and even dustbin lids!



Most lichens offer protection to the surface they grow on and it may be easier to read lettering which is lichen-covered rather than bare, eroding stone. They do not need much care but do avoid the use of **any** chemicals near to lichens and definitely don't try and remove them. Lichens can die if shaded out so try and keep ivy or other climbers from encroaching over them too.

If you have never taken a closer look at a lichen then why not take a hand-lens or magnifying glass and give it a go. Lichen colonies have been described as minute, self-maintaining gardens, providing a natural cladding for the stone. They are beautiful and endlessly fascinating and if you like a challenge, why not look up the British Lichen Society website and find out more about how to identify them.



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

*Photos by Frank Dobson, Hope Bagot in Shropshire.*



## THE FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB

Here is Pauline with her latest demo of a looser winter arrangement in a large shallow dish. We were delighted to place it on the altar! The next meeting of the Club will be on Wednesday **February 12<sup>th</sup>** at 1.00pm in the chapter house. As usual all are welcome even if you don't want to arrange flowers and just come for a chat and a cuppa!

## THE ART GROUP

On the right are some very seasonal scenes from our talented artists! The next is meeting on Saturday **February 15<sup>th</sup>** from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the chapter house following the prayer breakfast.



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## PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next prayer breakfast will be an extended one on Saturday, **February 1<sup>st</sup>**. It will run from 08.30 until 12.00 with a coffee break from 10.00 until 10.30 and people are welcome to come from the start or from 10.30 and stay as suits them.

## LIFE GROUP MEETINGS

These are planned for Wednesdays **February 12<sup>th</sup>** and **26<sup>th</sup>** at 7.00pm in the chapter house led by Rev Patricia. All are welcome.



**We believe in life before death**

**NORTH STAFFS CHRISTIAN AID  
SPONSORED WALK**

*To be held at*  
**TITTESWORTH WATER**  
*(Three miles north of Leek, just off the A53)*

**SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025**  
REGISTRATION FROM 9.15am

**WALK STARTS AT 10.00am**  
The walk will be launched by

The Bishop of Stafford  
and the  
Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent  
Special Guest the Lord Lieutenant of  
Staffordshire

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## REMEMBER THIS DATE!

*John Bamford writes...*

Many thanks for your amazing support over the years. Our walk around Tittesworth in 2024 raised over £34,000 and our next event will be the 35th we have organised. Most of the arrangements are in place and the walk is booked for **Saturday, 29th March 2025 commencing at 10am.**

*If you can take part and/or sponsor someone please sign the list on the noticeboard at the back of church.*





# CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

## A QUIZ FOR JANUARY: ANSWERS

How did you do? Top marks if you got them all!

Well done if you managed to get most of them.

Apologies if you had trouble with No 40. There was a typo in the clue.

Now you may like to try Part 2 on the next page!

1	Did it jump over the Moon?	COW
2	Its starts in anticipation	ANT
3	Well known for eating eucalyptus	KOALA
4	Turn the toast round	STOAT
5	It's Mrs Tiggywinkle	HEDGEHOG
6	Well I only have to look to see this one	LION
7	He works hard at dam building	BEAVER
8	Never smile at him!	CROCODILE
9	He's not honest we hear	CHEETAH
10	A ship in the desert	CAMEL
11	A short day with a way of unlocking it	MONKEY
12	I hear he may be unclothed	BEAR
13	Nero's a choir gets confused	RHINOCERUS
14	You must flow back to get this one	WOLF
15	The Prison Co enjoy doing the twist	SCORPION
16	This striped one may cross the road	ZEBRA
17	Hidden in the classroom	ASS
18	A long scarf of feathers	BOA
19	He used to enjoy tea parties on TV ads	CHIMPANZEE
20	A subtle murmur may give it away	LEMUR
21	Does the raucous noise depart?	DINGO
22	Turn the gun	GNU
23	A small rodent in the entrance?	DORMOUSE
24	Gaffer and I are really confused	GIRAFFE
25	Is he good at sume?	ADDER
26	The only mammal to lay eggs	PLATYPUS
27	He might jump well over the lawn	GRASSHOPPER
28	They say he can't change his spots	LEOPARD
29	A riverside plant bends back to find it	DEER
30	Take the anorak and go in leaps and bounds	KANGAROO
31	The bib was tossed around in the tar	RABBIT
32	It could be grey or red and cute	SQUIRREL
33	A game for six-legged creature on the green	CRICKET
34	A short laugh about a foreign coin	HYENA
35	Sob in confusion	BISON
36	Combine gel and zeal for one with a fast sprint	GAZELLE
37	Have a go at finding this one	GOAT
38	Slow and steady he wins the race	TORTOISE
39	This one had a head start and lost	HARE
40	Is he eaten in a hole?	TOAD
41	When he appeared the hen leapt out	ELEPHANT
42	Is this the youngster's shrub?	BUSHBABY



# MORE CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Part 2 of the quiz!

1	Pinky or Perky could be one	
2	Could you glue this to a branch?	
3	Stop and admire how it cleverly it hides itself	
4	Go round the East market and it will turn up	
5	Look along the wall a bystander is hiding	
6	Watch this slot how slowly it moves	
7	Not a creature was stirring, not even this one!	
8	Does this hearing organ wear a toupee?	
9	It is useful in several sports with a ball	
10	A feline at the end of a rod	
11	Al and Jack often go about together	
12	See how our hero rang out angrily	
13	Do a swap but be careful it doesn't get you!	
14	The early bird catches it	
15	A little uranium in copper could make it prickly	
16	Surprisingly found in a whelk shell	
17	When scared at the altar, Aunt turned and ran!	
18	At the marker tab, mow in reverse	
19	Along with the carpenter he talked of many things	
20	The red bag got twisted out of shape	
21	Male bird and a fish together make a pest	
22	See that to start I germinate a wild one	
23	Put the radio ham stereos in a neat row	
24	Man's best friend	
25	The rep's ID spun a web of intrigue for them	
26	Does the AOL girl get her wires crossed?	
27	Can you see how easel stands straight?	
28	The good looking native keeps it hidden	
29	They say the Flo Faub does a good turn	
30	The imp gets into a chunk of trouble	
31	Wrapped in paper with chips	
32	I am up looking back	
33	If you mop patio push it around!	
34	He loses his head when he's hotter	
35	A posh fast car	
36	The chef mixed up a lovely dill aroma!	
37	You could be as busy as this one	
38	The Cheshire one was famous for his smile	
39	A parable or story told another way	
40	Sounds as though an insect runs off to get married!	
41	Look at his scalp a cap is concealing it well	
42	There's no dyke here	

# **February Prayer Focus**

- The new President of the US and his team and its effect globally
- Our own government
- 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
- A ceasefire and lasting peace between Israel and Gaza.
- Non-escalation of war as Hezbollah and Lebanon are now involved
- Those affected by M-Pox and those trying to stop its spread
- Rev Denise Williamson our new Methodist minister based in Endon
- The desperate plight of the people of Afghanistan under harsh Taliban 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
- The families of all those whose loved ones have been murdered
- The truly horrendous situation in Israel and Gaza and especially for the release of all 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
- 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 during the interregnum
- The future of our benefice in 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

<b>Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship / PCC chair</b>	<b>01782 502006</b>
<b>Barrie Jackson, reader / Administrator</b> <b>(* tel no for church enquiries)</b>	<b>07510 074097</b> <b>07517 653370*</b>
<b>Rev Philip Robinson (minister w Permission to Officiate)</b>	<b>07983 863372</b>
<b>Rev Patricia Robinson (organist, also minister w PtO)</b>	<b>07854 418488</b>
<b>Sue Forrester, Flower &amp; Craft Club / Foundation gov / Safeguarding Officer / St Luke's Facebook / Art Club</b>	<b>07854 043187</b>
<b>Deb Podmore, Connections / school chaplain</b>	<b>01782 773383</b>
<b>Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer</b>	<b>01782 502006</b>
<b>Shirley Brindley, candle dedications / pastoral tm</b>	<b>01782 504089</b>
<b>Steve Dale, St Luke's treasurer</b>	<b>07894 098011</b>
<b>Sheila Hurst, St Luke's Gift Aid Sec / MU rep</b>	<b>01782 503622</b>
<b>Ros Benson, newsletter / St Luke's website / PCC Secretary</b>	<b>01782 504137</b>
<b>Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / warden / worship leader</b>	<b>01782 304616</b>
<b>Rev Caryl Siegertsz, St Chad's Asst Minister</b>	<b>07973 513128</b>
<b>Julia Podmore, St Chad's warden / treasurer</b>	<b>07980 802121</b>
<b>Pat Saul, St Chad's PCC vice-chair / secretary</b>	<b>07973 863930</b>
<b>Muriel Finney, St Chad's worship leader</b>	<b>01782 302229</b>
<b>Peter Millard, St Chad's buildings / warden's team</b>	<b>01782 505338</b>
<b>Emma Ashworth, St Chad's warden's team</b>	<b>07861 730806</b>
<b>Claire Houston-Brown, St Chad's Safeguarding Officer</b>	<b>07779 667470</b>
<b>Sheila Tipper, St Chad's news contact</b>	<b>01782 534647</b>

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, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2025**

either by e-mail [jandrbenson@btinternet.com](mailto: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.