



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



January 2025

INTERREGNUM Month 55



As we enter another year of uncertainty Barrie gives us these verses from Luke chapter 1. Let us hope that 2025 will be a happier year for the many in our world who have been enduring unimaginable suffering.

"And you, my child will be called a prophet of the Most High. For you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins because of the tender mercy of our God by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven. It will shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

We pray...

Lord, we look toward you, our hope, our peace, and our comfort in this New Year. As we enter into the unknown of the coming year, we ask for your guidance and wisdom. Amen.

January 2025: ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY (ESL Endon St Luke's; EMC = Endon Methodist Church)		
W	1 st	<i>No midweek HC</i>
Th	2 nd	
F	3 rd	
Sa	4 th	8.30am PRAYER BREAKFAST 9.00am COFFEE MORNING at Trinity
Su	5 th	9.15am HC w Rev Philip 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	6 th	
Tu	7 th	
W	8 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC 1.00pm FLOWER CLUB 7.00pm LIFE GROUP
Th	9 th	
F	10 th	
Sa	11 th	
Su	12 th	9.15am HC w Rev Terry Bloor, Asst Archdeacon 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	13 th	
Tu	14 th	10.30am COFFEE MORNING
W	15 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL 11.00am HILLSWOOD LODGE 7.30pm PCC
Th	16 th	
F	17 th	
Sa	18 th	10.30am ART CLUB chapter house
Su	19 th	9.15am HC w Fr David Nicol 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	20 th	
T	21 st	
W	22 nd	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC 7.00pm LIFE GROUP
Th	23 rd	
F	24 th	
Sa	25 th	
Su	26 th	9.15am MORNING WORSHIP w Barry / Roger 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	27 th	
Tu	28 th	
W	29 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL
Th	30 th	
F	31 st	



A DATE FOR YOUR NEW DIARY! *John Bamford writes...*

Many thanks for your amazing support over the years. Our walk around Tittesworth in 2024 raised over £34,000 and next year's 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.**



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for JANUARY

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 NOTE: Shirley is taking dates for 2025. Do get in touch with her on 504089 if you would like a particular date.

Jan	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
5 th	Lyn Pickering for Ronald Pickering. At rest on January 4 th 2013 and lovingly remembered by all his family.	Anon in memory of Emma Williamson, a special lady
12 th	Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the birthday of their daughter in law, Jill	Janet Bowyer and David Moss in loving memory of Nellie Parker (4 th) aunt of Janet, David and Robert. Also, in loving memory of Mary Bowyer (9 th) mother of Janet
19 th	David Moss and Janet Bowyer in loving memory of Robert Moss (22 nd) brother of David and cousin of Janet	Barrie in celebration of Mae's birthday
26 th	Anon in loving memory of Fred and Alice Jones	The candle is kept burning by Sue and Chris Wilson



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

**Dave Podmore (12th he's 80!), Suzy Jordan (20th),
Sheila Simpson (23rd), Rev Philip Robinson (23rd)**

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



HERE'S THE LATEST ENDON BLANKET made in record time!

Sue Millard at Biddulph Methodist Church is immensely grateful to our kind ladies who sewed the latest batch of squares together in sets of six. She said it took next to no time to create this blanket. She and husband Norman will soon be planning their next trip to the refuge at Calais laden with another big batch of vacuumed-packed blankets.

Coffee Morning

**Join us at Trinity Church
Derby Street, Leek, ST13 5JF.**

**Saturday 4th January 2025
9-12.15**

Organised by the 180th Endon Well Dressing Queen, Hope Carter, to raise money for the Endon churches.



HUGE THANK YOUs

We are very grateful for the efforts of our amazing team at St Luke's who made our church a place of warmth and welcome throughout Advent and the Christmas period. The crib scene, the Advent wreath, the many candles, the Christmas tree and all the displays in the windows were a joy and we know the brasses don't clean themselves! Thank you to all involved in the planning, preparation and leading of the services and to Rev Patricia who gallantly led our singing on organ and piano. We mustn't forget those who keep an eye on things the whole year round and get repairs done where necessary and those who clean the church, tidy up after events, count the offertory and take care of the bills! Thank you to all who provided and served refreshments too. What a team!

SERVICES AT ST CHAD'S



5th SUNDAY

10.45am FAMILY SERVICE – KH

12th SUNDAY

10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE – MF / Terry

19th SUNDAY

10.45am HOLY COMMUNION

26th SUNDAY

10.45am MORNING WORSHIP

“AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE!”

Lots of fun was had by all at the Combined Service at St Luke's on 29th December. 'The 12 Days of Christmas' is a very well known song, but did you know the Christian symbolism behind all those birds, rings and people? We managed to do all the actions without falling over - and everyone was smiling. Church can be fun!



ANOTHER VISIT FROM ST LUKE'S ACADEMY

A brilliant performance by Year 2, which was much enjoyed by parents, grandparents and friends.



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 MORNING will be on JAN 14th

What a lovely buzz at our December 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 Tuesday, **January 14th** from **10.30 to 12.30**. Do come along and bring a friend or two!

PASTORAL TEAM (Phone nos on back page)

HILLSWOOD LODGE CARE HOME:

next visit Wed January 15th 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: Listen up for details of the next walk.



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

Weirdly Christian

Twice in the last month I've heard it said that we shouldn't abandon the 'weirdness' of being Christian. If that means not holding an overly rational faith that leaves out the more miraculous and less explicable bits, I'll go with that.

'Mystery' and 'Christian' are words that go together easily and if 'weirdness' is a more modern way of expressing 'mystery' and it connects us with a different group of people, then I'll go with that too. Some elements of the Christian story are easily described as weird. We've just heard the age-old story of Christmas and gone again in our hearts and minds to that hillside in Bethlehem. It's so traditional that we maybe no longer hear the weirdness of it.

The fact is that God's plan for communicating the story of salvation, the appearance of the angels to shepherds on that hillside is undoubtedly a weird way of announcing the most important event in history: the birth of Jesus in a stable, itself weird.

It's a story that is still being told 2000 years later. As a communications professional, I can't help marvelling at the choice of the shepherds to be the first to hear. Somehow, they made sure that they were not the last!

We know that the Christmas story is one that people react to, get their children involved in and which people are still reasonably familiar with even now, in supposedly secular Britain. In recent years in Britain over 80% of children have taken part in a nativity – even during the pandemic. That's in a country where church attendance is around 5% of the population. That's an effective communications strategy!

In the coming weeks and months, Lichfield Diocese will be rolling its diocesan strategy, including a communications plan. It's my responsibility to formulate it, drawing on wisdom and experience from many quarters and much help from excellent colleagues. If any of it looks odd to you, just comfort yourself that it's just me trying to be true to being weirdly Christian.

Back to the hillside in Bethlehem. At its heart, God was trusting us. Trusting the shepherds, no education, no standing. He was trusting them to report what they saw. They were witnesses. He trusts us with his message too, asking us to be witnesses too of what we know of God's love and salvation.

That's God's communications strategy. How does it work? It's a mystery to me, but it does! Speaking or writing from personal experience always makes for the most powerful, compelling and authentic stories. That is what God asks of us, each of us - to be ready to tell our story of faith, our story of God's goodness, kindness, mercy and forgiveness to us. Make it your new year's resolution to keep telling yours. And remember the shepherds: picking your audience could make all the difference.

*Arun Kataria is Lichfield Diocese's Director of Communications.
Communicate with him via arun.kataria@lichfield.anglican.org.
He loves to hear good news stories from the parishes, chaplaincies,
schools and fresh expressions around the diocese.*





A Song for Winter

January can feel like a cold and grey month so it is very cheering to see a flash of colour and hear a little birdsong. During the winter most birds do not sing, instead making simple calls, one or two syllables which are contact calls, allowing them to keep in touch with others within a flock, whilst they move around, foraging for food. Longer and more melodic songs are generally heard in spring when male birds are using song to communicate that they are present and are holding a breeding territory. These territories will contain nesting places such as trees or shrubs as well as sources of food and male birds proclaim this by song, deterring rivals and attracting females. The Robin however has a proper winter song as it holds a territory over the winter. Robins are not in pairs during the winter so both males and females sing and hold separate territories. These territories are giving them winter shelter and food and they will defend them fiercely, flying at intruders as well as singing.



In winter many Robins migrate from further north into the UK, flying in from Scandinavia, Russia, Poland and elsewhere. This also explains why we seem to see more Robins in the winter as our own summer Robins remain here all year round so numbers increase. The Robin's song is tuneful and a little melancholy but the reality of Robin life is harsher with an average lifespan of only 9 months. Many do not survive the winter so holding and defending a territory containing good sources food and shelter is vital. The combination of a churchyard with mature, sheltering trees, plentiful berries, seeds and insects as well as soil invertebrates such as worms make them attractive to Robins. Churchyards tend to be rich in insect and other invertebrate life as no chemicals are used within them and the soils have been developing over decades or centuries, full of life. Churchyards are also usually surrounded by gardens so natural food may well be being topped up with mealworms, bird seed and fat balls too.



Why not look for Robins in your local churchyard or cemetery and listen for their winter song; you might like to put up some open-fronted nest boxes for them too, on churchyard trees and within gardens as well.

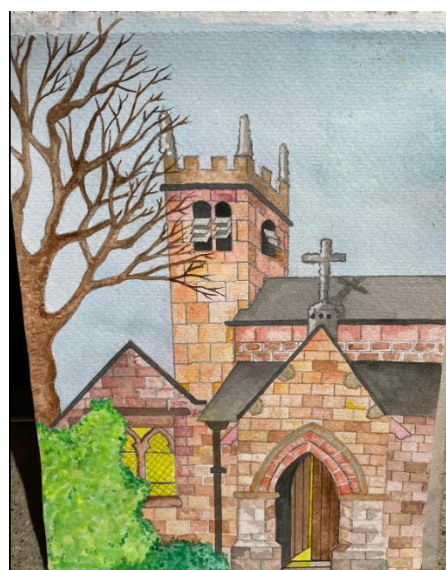
Please let us know if you see or hear a Robin in your churchyard, use the iNaturalist app and photograph it if it will stay still long enough or else record its song, a biological record can be made either way.

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**



THE FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB

Here are some of the wreaths made in December and some of the delightful floral displays made at our last meeting. The next meeting of the Club will be on Wednesday **January 8th** 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

Here is a depiction of our church recently completed by a member of the group. A new display of art group work is now pinned up on the notice boards in the chapter house. Do have a look.



PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next prayer breakfast will be held on Saturday, **January 4th** at 8.30am for breakfast and prayer at 9.00am.

LIFE GROUP MEETINGS

These are planned for Wednesdays **January 8th** and **22nd** at 7.00pm in the chapter house led by Rev Patricia. All are welcome.



CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

A QUIZ FOR JANUARY: Part 1

With long winter evenings ahead you may like to pit your wits in finding these animals of varying sizes!

No prizes. Answers next month along with Part 2.

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

January Prayer Focus

- Those severely affected by the recent storms and floods
- Those tackling climate change
- The new regime in Syria and the future
- The new President of the US and his team and its effect globally
- Our own government
- An end to people-trafficking and the ongoing problem of refugees and asylum seekers crowding into unsafe boats to cross the Channel
- Those severely affected by the severe floods in Valencia and other parts of Spain
- 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 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

Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship / PCC chair	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, 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 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, January 21st 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.