



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



March 2025

INTERREGNUM Month 57

SHROVE TUESDAY: March 4th - pancakes at the Methodist Church from 3.00pm. All welcome!



LENT beginneth!

ASH WEDNESDAY: March 5th

9.15am Ecumenical Holy Communion at Endon Methodist Church

LENT LUNCH: 12.00noon to 2.00pm in chapter house

This will consist of a choice of homemade soup and a roll followed by cheese and biscuits and fresh fruit. We are charging £7.50 per person in aid of Leek Food Bank. Help with serving and washing up appreciated.



Please inform Shirley if you intend to come.

7.30pm: Do join us for HOLY COMMUNION with ashing led by Rev Philip.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Friday March 7th at 2.00pm at Endon Methodist Church. See p4.

OUR ECUMENICAL LENT COURSE: 'Christ and the Chocolaterie' begins on Thursday, March 13th. See p5.

STAFFORDSHIRE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: 7.30pm Sat 29th March (See p3 for ticket info.)

MOTHERING SUNDAY: 10.30am on 30th March will be a combined service with Connections in church.

REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY NIGHT MARCH 29th or late for church you will be!



March 2025: ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY

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

Sa	1 st	8.30am PRAYER BREAKFAST
Su	2 nd	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION w Rev Philip 11.00am CONNECTIONS FOOD BANK collection ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION from today
M	3 rd	
Tu	4 th	SHROVE TUESDAY Pancakes at EMC from 3.00pm
W	5 th	ASH WEDNESDAY 9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC 12 – 1.30pm LENT LUNCH chapter house 7.30pm HC w ashing
Th	6 th	
F	7 th	2.00pm WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at EMC
Sa	8 th	
Su	9 th	9.15am MORNING WORSHIP 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	10 th	
T	11 th	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house
W	12 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL 1.00pm FLOWER CLUB
Th	13 th	10.30am or 07.00pm LENT COURSE chapter house
F	14 th	
Sa	15 th	10.30am ART CLUB
Su	16 th	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION w Fr David 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	17 th	
Tu	18 th	
W	19 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC 11.00am HILLSWOOD LODGE
Th	20 th	10.30am or 07.00pm LENT COURSE chapter house
F	21 st	
Sa	22 nd	
Su	23 rd	9.15am MORNING WORSHIP 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	24 th	
T	25 th	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT chapter house
W	26 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL
Th	27 th	10.30am or 07.00pm LENT COURSE chapter house
F	28 th	
Sa	29 th	7.30pm STAFFORDSHIRE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA in church <i>Clocks forward one hour tonight!</i>
Su	30 th	MOTHERING SUNDAY 10.30am COMBINED WORSHIP
M	31 st	

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION 2025 (see also p6)

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



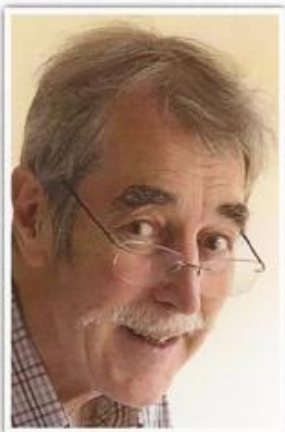
DON'T MISS THIS FUNDRAISER!

STAFFORDSHIRE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

**will perform at St Luke's Church
on Saturday, 29th March at 7.30pm
Tickets £10 each (inc refreshments)
from Sue Forrester**

*As usual your help with setting up and serving refreshments would be appreciated. Please contact Sue if you can help in any way.
We need to sell tickets so please tell your friends and neighbours about this event.*

JOHN FOSTER



We were saddened to hear of the death of John Foster, husband of Linda for over 50 years. Both of them and members of their family have been regulars at St Luke's for a number of years. He and Linda lived in Endon for most of their married life before recently moving to Stockton Brook.

John died on 26th January following a long illness. On Thursday 20th February his family and friends gathered at St Luke's to say their farewells.

He will be greatly missed and our love and prayers extend to Linda, Eloise, Claire and all the family.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

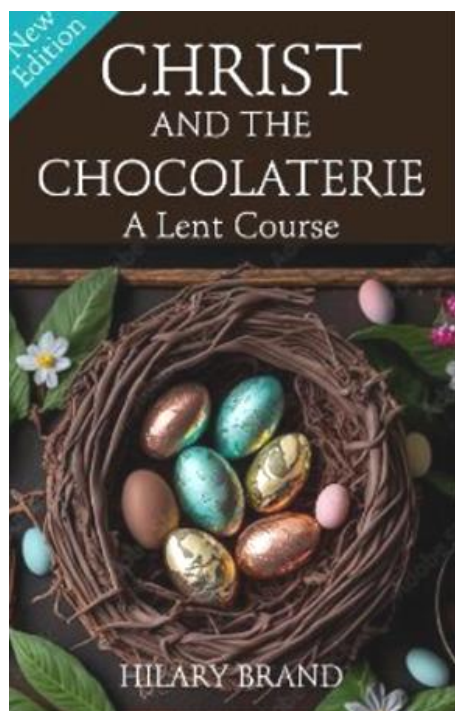
**Friday, March 7th at 2.00pm
at Endon Methodist Church
All are welcome to take part
in this worldwide service.**

This year the service has been prepared by the women of the Cook Islands, a group of 15 islands in the southern Pacific Ocean.

**On the first Friday
in March the Day of Prayer begins
on the international dateline, in Samoa.
Early in the morning, Christian women begin
praying for our world. As the earth rotates, a
great wave of prayer begins to build. It sweeps
across the Pacific, touching Fiji and New Zealand,
rolling on through Asia: Japan, the Philippines, Korea,
and Bangladesh. The countries of Africa, and the
Middle East are next. The wave reaches the shores of
Europe as the day dawns there. Across the Atlantic,
it moves onwards, the Caribbean, the Americas,
and on to the Pacific again until the sun finally
sets over American Samoa where the final
service takes place. A worldwide
circle of prayer is complete.**

Cook Islands 2025 - I made you wonderful

Join us for the Ecumenical Lent Course 2025...



'CHRIST AND THE CHOCOLATERIE' by Hilary Brand

We join with Endon Methodist Church members in St Luke's chapter house at 10.30am or 07.00pm on Thursdays March 13th, 20th, 27th and 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.

There are five weekly sessions on the themes of:

- Giving Up: The prelude to change
- Giving Out: The power of a gift
- Getting Wise: The possibility of change
- Getting Real: The power of acceptance
- Growing Up: The process of change.

The sessions include extracts from the film, discussion questions, exercises and meditations with suggestions for individual reading and related Bible passages.

In preparation for this course we will be showing the film 'Chocolat'. Watch out for details of date and venue for this. You are welcome to join us for this whether or not you plan to attend the course.

We have ordered the books that will be needed for those taking part.

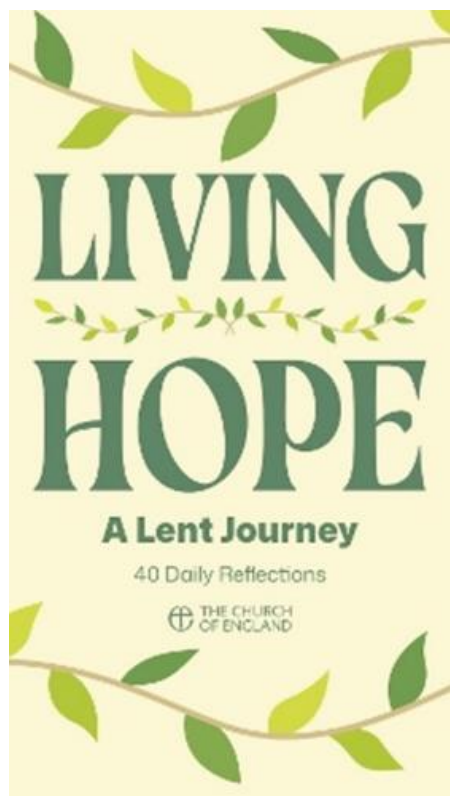
The cost is around **£6.00**.

If you intend joining us for the course, please speak to **Revd Patricia** as soon as possible to secure your copy.

CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION

*Thank you to all who gave donations for Christmas greetings in our December newsletter. A total of **£100** was raised for CBM and has been sent off.*

Reflections for Lent...the Church of England's Theme for 2025



Living Hope

There are 40 daily reflections in a small booklet.

One for adults and another for children/families.

The adult booklet costs £2.50 but Patricia has some subsidised copies at £1.50.

You can sign up for online reflections on the Church of England website if you prefer. These come by email each day except Sundays.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/living-hope-lent-reflections>

There is also a Church of England App for mobile 'phones. The link is on the Living Hope section of the website.

Rev Patricia

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

GIVING UP (submitted by Barrie)

Jonathan Hill, Lichfield Diocese's Director of Finance contemplates an alternative understanding of 'giving up for Lent'.

We so easily misrepresent Lent as a miserable time of depriving ourselves – of giving up sweet treats or alcohol, other nice things and even joy. But it is really about reflecting Jesus' time in the desert in contemplation and resisting temptation, preparing himself for the years of his public ministry that were about to start. It is a great time for each of us to reflect on our own ministries – we all have them, to family, friends and communities around us: some are very public as clergy and lay ministers, others very quiet through supporting neighbours or words of encouragement or praying for others. It

is often said that the last part of a person to be converted when they come to faith is their wallet, yet tales of generosity and advice on using whatever little wealth we have are the most common topics in the Bible. Some preachers vehemently call for each of us to give exactly ten percent of our income to support the local or global church; a number that comes from the Old Testament: others simply urge considered generosity, following the instruction of St Paul to the Corinthians – “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). The Church of England recommends giving 5% to the local parish and 5% to other Christian mission. What we each actually give is up to us, unknown to the vicar or PCC or anyone else. What we do know is that our churches, despite the challenges of a secularising nation and reduced voluntary activity across the country, remain key to many communities providing practical and spiritual services. Many people who rarely enter the church value the presence of our buildings at various points in life. And keeping them open relies on the tithes of the faithful and the generosity of visitors. There is good news here – the average regular giver in the Church of England contributes about £15 each week. In Lichfield Diocese the figure is £11.15, not terrible in a diocese with significant pockets of deprivation and amazingly 7% up on pre-pandemic, pre-cost-of-living-crisis levels. And to those who remain faithful givers, both diocese and parishes are very grateful. However, the number of regular givers has fallen, meaning budgets in parishes generally are squeezed. I find it hard to process the numbers and detailed spreadsheets without a cup of coffee in my hand, and enjoy buying from a well-known retailer on my way to work. But after a few scribbles on the back of a coffee cup, I realised that if I gave up one cup per week and gave its cost to my parish and every other giver did the same, we’d solve the cash-flow issues in our parishes at a stroke. I have resolved to do that with a direct debit through the Giving Direct scheme which sends funds directly to your chosen parish. 11 So my challenge to you this lent is to review your generosity – to your parish church and elsewhere, and do as I have.

DEMENTIA - FRIENDLY CHURCHES

The Diocese of Lichfield has been working to take action on dementia through their Dementia – Friendly Churches network. The focus is on improving inclusion and quality of life for people with dementia and staying in step as patterns change.

The majority of us will know someone in our church, our family or our community affected by dementia. St Luke’s Pastoral Team members visit a number of people who have this disease and we would like to know more about it, so that we are better able to understand ways of keeping in step as dementia progresses. Perhaps you too would welcome the opportunity to understand more and so we invite you to journey with us as we aim to increase awareness through sharing information from books, articles, films and other material from the Lichfield Diocese website.

We hope to welcome, understand, respect and support, listen to and learn from people affected by dementia and give space for everyone to participate and contribute.

‘Contented Dementia’

By Oliver James: THREE RULES

There are three rules from a book called “Contented Dementia” by Oliver James, which may be really helpful to share in this first article about dementia. They can help us to tune in to the adjustments that we need to make if we are going to keep connections, as dementia progresses.

First, don’t contradict: For any of us, if someone is telling us the whole time, “That’s not right”, our confidence will diminish. Try to be less rigidly attached to facts and to focus on the feelings instead.

Secondly, don’t ask questions: A question puts someone in the spotlight. Will I be able to give the right answer? Do I know the factual information I am being asked? Even a straightforward question can have this impact. Sometimes it’s a case of reframing a question, so that it doesn’t put the other

person on the spot. Instead of saying, "Would you like a cup of tea?"_we might say" I'm going to **have** a cup of tea. Let's have one together."

Thirdly, learn from the expert: The expert is the person with dementia. Try to see where connections are flowing, notice what increases wellbeing and notice anything that may increase anxiety. It can also be helpful to watch for eye contact; it can quickly show when you have lost someone. The person with dementia is the expert in their own dementia and if you learn from them, you'll learn a lot.

We have a copy of this book, along with a number of others that you are welcome to borrow and read, if you so wish. *Rev Patricia and Shirley*

PASTORAL TEAM EVENTS...



OUR NEXT COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT MORNINGS will be MARCH 11th & 25th

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 Mornings are planned for Tuesdays **March 11th & 25th** from **10.30 to 12.00**.

Do come along and bring a friend or two!

PASTORAL TEAM WALK

Thank you to Carol Mack who led our recent walk through the fields near to the canal at Denford. About 16 of us turned up and enjoyed a welcome cuppa afterwards at the Holly Bush.

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



HILLSWOOD LODGE CARE HOME:

next visit Wed March 19th 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.

SERVICES AT ST CHAD'S

2nd March SUNDAY

10.45am FAMILY SERVICE JP/KH/GB

5th March ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion with ashing led by Rev Carrie

9th March SUNDAY

10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE KH/MF

16th March SUNDAY

10.45am HOLY COMMUNION Rev Carrie

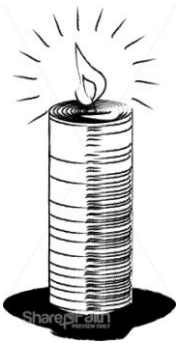
23rd March SUNDAY

10.45am MORNING PRAYER KH/MF

30th March MOTHERING SUNDAY

10.45am FAMILY COMMUNION Rev Carrie + team





CANDLE DEDICATIONS for MARCH

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.**

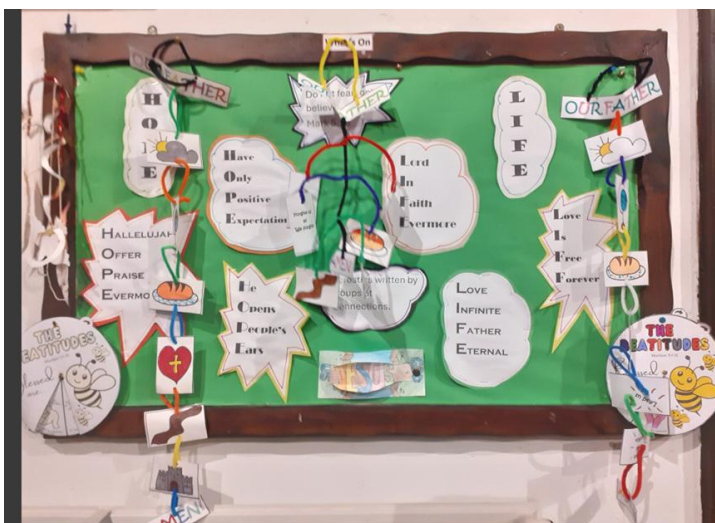
Mar	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
2 nd	Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate the birthday of their grandson, Olly (2 nd)	Barrie in celebration of son Chris's birthday
9 th	Maureen Foster in loving memory of my parents George and Catherine Davenport	Barrie In celebration of Emma's birthday
16 th	Shirley and Roger to celebrate the 9 th birthday of their granddaughter, Emma	Ann Boulton in loving memory of her parents.
23 rd	Maureen and Alan Payne to celebrate Maureen's birthday (28th)	The candle is kept burning by Chris and Sue Wilson
30 th	Rosey and Geoff Smith in celebration of the birth of their grandson, Chester	Maureen and Alan Payne in loving memory of Joe and Lil Brierley, parents of Maureen



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

Olly Payne (2nd), Steve Dale (3rd), Claire Salt (4th), John O'rourke (6th), Emily Hurst (14th), Ros Benson (15th), Deb Podmore (16th), Vicky Barlow (17th), Christopher Jackson (20th), Wendy Bardell (28th), Maureen Payne (28th)

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



'Connections' continues to run on Sundays down at St Luke's CE Academy from 10.30 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. Our Connections group recently created this very attractive display for the church noticeboard which includes a 3-D model of the Lord's Prayer.



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

On the Way to Paradise

My daughter is a huge fan of the TV show 'Death in Paradise' – which means that I end up watching an awful lot of episodes. The plot doesn't change a lot – each one boiling down to the detective having to work out 'The How? The Why? And the Who?' That is: How the murder was committed, why the victim was killed and, of course, who did it.

I've been reflecting over the last few months, since arriving in Lichfield Diocese, on how this formula applies equally well to the process of developing a diocesan strategy – although the ordering is different.

We know the 'Who' from the outset: Jesus Christ; and we know the 'Why', too. At baptism we promise, amongst other things, to 'Come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life'. Coming to Christ means following Him as a disciple, critically bringing other people into relationship with Him, serving those around us. Our diocesan strategy simply helps us to answer the 'How'. How are we, together as a diocesan family, going to be best able to fulfil our calling as disciples, best able to follow Jesus Christ, best able to bring other people into relationship with Him, and best able to serve those around us in this season.

And the emphasis on this season, is important. Our strategy is not something that has been written in the last six months. It is the next stage of a process. Making our priorities Developing Discipleship, Encouraging Vocation and Inspiring Evangelism, we embarked on Shaping for Mission from which emerged the principles and goals of our Strategic Framework. The 'How' that we are now answering is about achieving these goals, overcoming the challenges that we learnt about from parish responses to the framework, and realising our vision of a diocese that is purposeful about evangelism, engaging creatively with local communities, becoming more diverse and growing younger.

In 'Death in Paradise' the puzzle is finally solved by some wildly improbable coincidence – perhaps a throwaway remark that suddenly allows the penny to drop. Fortunately, we don't need to rely on such wild improbabilities, so long as our strategy is underpinned and sustained by prayer (of course, they still may happen, such is the adventure on which we are embarking...).

As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find you, O God already at work in your world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope.

Revd Canon Nick Smeeton (nick.smeeton@lichfield.anglican.org) joined Lichfield Diocese last September with instructions to play a pivotal role in developing our strategy around the goals set out in the Strategic Framework and achieving our vision.





Time for Frogs!

March is the month for frog hunting, they can be seen and heard in ponds around the country with the male frogs the first to move to ponds to wait for the females to arrive. The males call to attract them and



once the females have arrived the male will cling onto the female, wrapping around her with his fore limbs, using special 'nuptial pads' for extra grip. The female lays her spawn into the pond, the eggs of which are then immediately fertilised by the male. In March a glance into a pond may reward you with views of male and female frogs as well as developing frogspawn. What has this got to do with churchyards and cemeteries? Very few burial grounds have ponds and they are rarely suitable places to install one, apart perhaps from a mini-pond in a Belfast sink or similar. They are however important places for amphibians generally, including frogs. Frogs move to ponds to spawn in the spring but spend much of the rest of their time on land and burial grounds provide excellent habitat for them. They can travel up to 500m away from a pond and will live terrestrially, feeding on slugs, snails and worms as well as catching flies or small moths with their sticky tongues. Frogs will hunt for food in grassland, garden areas, woodland and amongst grass tussocks and scrub. Many burial grounds contain some or all of these habitats in close proximity to each other, a mosaic of different places providing food and shelter depending on the time of year and the weather. Frogs have damp permeable skin and so cannot tolerate many of the chemicals that are used in gardens and farmland. Churchyards and cemeteries tend to be chemical free which also means they can be full of delicious invertebrates. The colour of frogs can be affected by their surroundings and you



might find red or even yellow frogs in some places.

So, you will not find frogs in your local churchyard or cemetery in March, but look in garden ponds surrounding a burial ground and you may find a great many who come to the pond to breed then return for most of the year. Churchyards and cemeteries contain lots of frog-sized spaces, cracks and crevices in the ground, monuments such as chest tombs with gaps and holes or spaces beneath the roots of old trees. Many of these will be used by frogs for overwintering as are churchyard walls, particularly drystone ones. You can help frogs, as well as other amphibians, by making more habitat for them. How about having some areas of summer meadow or tussocky, rough places round the back and out of sight. Could you pile up some deadwood in a shaded area. A compost heap is also a favourite. Both of these will gently rot down providing excellent shelter with a larder attached!

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



CANDLEMAS - Feb 2nd

Candlemas Day is 40 days after Christmas. This year we were pleased to welcome Associate Archdeacon Rev Terry Bloor who partnered our own Rev Philip in leading our Candlemas service. Candlemas celebrates the 'Presentation of Christ in the Temple' which took place 40 days after Christ's birth.

Thank you to those who supplied flowers and candles and displayed them artistically in the nave and the chancel area.

*Project Manager Lindsey Stockton writes...
Thank you for all your recent donations!
Please continue to use this list as a guide.*

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

THE FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB

Below are some of the arrangements created at the February meeting and on the right a “pew-end” arrangement created by Jeanette. This was an example of what could be used in our Well Dressing displays in May when the theme will be Weddings.



The next meeting of the Club will be on Wednesday **March 12th** 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 ART GROUP

The February meeting of the Art Group concentrated on drawing and painting fruit from life inspired by the Impressionist Paul Cézanne (left).

If you'd like to join the group give Sue a call on 07854 043187. The next meeting will be on Saturday **March 15th** from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the chapter house .

PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next prayer breakfast will be on Saturday, **March 1st**. It will run from 08.30am until 10.00am.

LIFE GROUP MEETINGS

These are postponed until after Easter. You are invited to attend the ecumenical Lent groups. See p5 for details.



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 29th 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

CHRISTIAN AID FUNDRAISER

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.



MORE CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL...

ANSWERS TO PART 2 of the quiz

Well done if you got all or most of these.

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

March Prayer Focus

- **Victims of the civil war in Sudan and an end to the fighting**
- **Lasting peace for Ukraine and Russia and restoration of war-damaged cities and people**
- **The current breakdown of relations between the European nations and the US**
- **The fragile cease-fire between Israel and Gaza and 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**
- **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 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**
- **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 during the interregnum**
- **The future of our benefice in our fifth year of interregnum and positive steps now being taken towards appointing a new incumbent**
- **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
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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, March 25th 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.