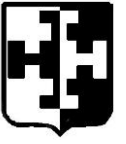




THE BENEFICE of ST LUKE'S, ENDON with ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL and ST MICHAEL'S, HORTON



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

www.endonstlukes.org.uk

Rev Debbie Lovatt 07359 893424

Email: ReverendDebbieLovatt@gmail.com

November 2025

MEMORIAL & REMEMBRANCE



**3.00pm Sunday
2nd November**

OUR ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE



for families who have been bereaved. Please pass the name of your deceased relative to Rev Debbie or Ros if you would like it to be read out during the service. Tea and coffee served afterwards.

If you would like your loved one's name written in the Book of Remembrance please inform Shirley. Contact numbers for Rev Debbie and Shirley are on the back page. Please note change of day and time.



Sunday, 9th November

10.45am

SERVICE of REMEMBRANCE

followed by wreath-laying at the war memorial in the churchyard with bugler Keith Jervis. We welcome all members of our community to this special service.

Tea and coffee will be served afterwards in the chapter house.

November 2025: ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY (ESL Endon St Luke's; EMC = Endon Methodist Church)		
Sa	1 st	<i>All Saints' Day</i> 8.30am PRAYER BREAKFAST
Su	2 nd	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION 11.00am CONNECTIONS 3.00pm MEMORIAL SERVICE FOOD BANK collection
M	3 rd	2.30pm ROCK COTTAGE pastoral team visit
Tu	4 th	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT in chapter house HEARTEDGE course 2.00pm and 7.00pm at the vicarage
W	5 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL 1.00pm FLOWER CLUB
Th	6 th	
F	7 th	
Sa	8 th	10.30am ART CLUB
Su	9 th	10.45am SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
M	10 th	
T	11 th	HEARTEDGE course 2.00pm and 7.00pm at the vicarage
W	12 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC 11.00am HILLSWOOD LODGE visit 7.30pm PCC meet in chapter house
Th	13 th	
F	14 th	
Sa	15 th	
Su	16 th	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	17 th	
T	18 th	10.30am – 12noon COFFEE & CHAT in chapter house HEARTEDGE course 2.00pm and 7.00pm at the vicarage
W	19 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at ESL
Th	20 th	
F	21 st	
Sa	22 nd	
Su	23 rd	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION 11.00am CONNECTIONS
M	24 th	
T	25 th	HEARTEDGE course 2.00pm and 7.00pm at the vicarage
W	26 th	9.15am MIDWEEK HC at EMC
Th	27 th	10.00am Advent Course at EMC
F	28 th	7.30pm S-o-T MV Choir in church
Sa	29 th	
Su	30 th	ADVENT SUNDAY <i>St Andrew's Day</i> 10.30am JOINT BENEFICE HC at St Luke's

Rev Debbie writes...

HEARTEDGE COURSE...this continues on Tuesdays at 2.00pm and 7.00pm at the vicarage.

PASTORAL TEAM EVENTS...



THIS MONTH OUR COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT MORNINGS will be from 10.30 to 12.00 on Tuesdays November 4th and 18th.

Thank you to all 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! Bring a friend or two!

HILLSWOOD LODGE & ROCK COTTAGE CARE HOMES:

Our next visit to Rock Cottage will be on Mon Nov 3rd at 2.30pm and to Hillswood Lodge on Wed Nov 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. Contact Shirley if you know of anyone who would like a visit.

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!

NEXT ST LUKE'S PCC will be held on **Wednesday November 12th** in the chapter house at 7.30pm. PCC members please make every effort to be there.

FUNDRAISING:

Following the Harvest celebration **£130.50** was donated to Leek Food Bank, along with the food donations. £80 was from cash donations in lieu of food and £50.50 was from the Harvest lunch.

It was lovely to welcome 'The Banned' back to St Luke's. **£200** was raised.

ST LUKE'S HOMEMADE

We are having another stall in the village hall on **Saturday 29th November**. *(There is a concert in church that weekend and we will have to ask for cakes for that too.)* We have decided to call this stall '**St Luke's Homemade**'. We will welcome jars of jam, chutney, mincemeat and anything else that is homemade and can be sold. We can start collecting immediately. If you are able to donate anything, please let Shirley have it at your earliest convenience and she will keep everything until the day.

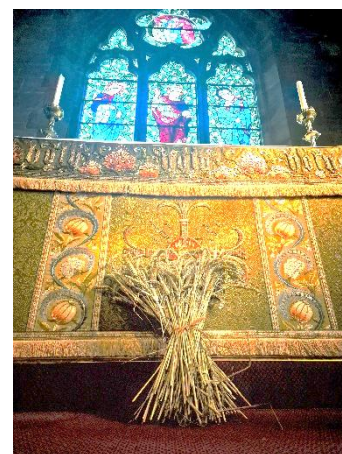
HARVEST ACTIVITIES

VILLAGE HALL AUCTION: The harvest service and auction raised £600 for the village hall which will go towards providing a new roof. (Estimates for this work are in the region of £70,000!!) Thank you to all who supported this event. Do try to support the village hall fundraisers if you can, after all the hall exists for the benefit of everyone in our community.



THANKSGIVING SERVICE and LUNCH

St Luke's harvest lunch was much enjoyed by about 20 of us in the chapter house following our harvest thanksgiving service. We were pleased to welcome Lindsey Stockton from Leek Food Bank who gave us an update during the service. Huge thanks to Rev Patricia and her team for the supreme effort in providing a



hot chicken casserole and hot fruit crumble desserts! Also thank you Patricia for the lovely harvest loaf and thank you to Alan Williamson who supplied a wheatsheaf for the church. The sheaf was donated by local farmer Graham Myatt who also provided a sheaf for Horton church.

THE BRILLIANT "BANNED"!



It was with great pleasure that we welcomed back our worship "Banned" to St Luke's on Oct 3rd. Matt Bailey on guitar and Sarah Bailey on keyboard with singer Sue Briand and bass guitar Steve backed by drummer Matt gave us a selection of inspirational Christian songs. A night to remember..we do hope they can come again soon. £200 was raised for church funds. Thank you to ticket sellers and the refreshment team.

NEWSLETTER September 2025

Dear Friends and Supporters

Welcome to the latest copy of our newsletter.

As usual, I will start with the figures for last month with a comparison to the same month in 2024:

Total vouchers fulfilled	= 106	(86)
No. of Adults fed	= 158	(118)
No. of Children fed	= 92	(71)
Total no. fed	= 250	(189)

So, as you can see, a much busier month than September last year, and I think that this is going to be the way things are from now through the winter. We are seeing a greater number of people who are having to use the Foodbank on a regular basis, and we have 30 clients who have had more than 3 vouchers in 6 months. Although some of these clients are sadly substance dependent, more than 50% of them are not, but just struggling with the cost of day to day living. We continue to support all our clients with as many different agencies as we can persuade to come to the Foodbank and chat to them about their issues, but for some there are few if any answers.

I am fully in the midst of my harvest tour, and absolutely loving it, not least because it gives me the chance to appreciate the beautiful countryside we have, as I am travelling around! Who knew that Rushton Spencer has such a beautiful church, even though it is in the middle of nowhere and down a road unsuitable for motor vehicles! The donations we are receiving are just so generous in light of the continuing uncertainty in the world, and again shows just what a beautiful community we live in. So, thank you to everyone for your amazing generosity.

Our thoughts, inevitably, are starting to turn towards Christmas, and the extra support our clients may need over the festive period. We are beginning to source presents for the children of families in particular need, and will again be working with the Salvation Army who do such a fantastic job with this. We are also going to be offering Christmas meat to those who would otherwise be unable to afford a proper dinner, through our voucher scheme with Meakins Butchers. We have just been awarded £2000.00 from the Leek Building Society Charitable Foundation, which will be so invaluable in assisting to purchase these additional items. Thank you so much to them for this gift to support our work.

One of the things I am highlighting in my harvest talks is that the need for Foodbanks is a year round thing, not just at harvest and Christmas when we get our most generous donations. So, I am, even in the midst of this season of giving, still attaching our regular shopping list.

Longlife semi-skimmed milk Fruit squash
Pasta sauce
Tinned carrots/corn/peas
Instant mash(single/family) Noodle snacks
Tinned custard
Rice – 500gm/microwave pouches
Tomato ketchup
Tinned soup
Dog and cat food – wet and dry

Jam
Longlife sponge puddings
Tinned rice pudding Coffee-100/200gm
Pasta
Tinned meat Tinned fruit
Pasta n sauce / instant noodles
Chocolate – single bars and multipacks
Tinned potatoes

PLEASE NO BAKED BEANS OR TINNED TOMATOES, THANK YOU

Household cleaning products:
 Washing up liquid
 Multi surface cleaner (no bleach)
 Cleaning cloths/sponges
 Laundry liquid/capsules/powder

Toiletries:
 Shampoo and conditioner
 Toothpaste and toothbrushes
 Razors and shaving foam
 Toilet rolls
 Soap
 Deodorant (male and female)
 Nappies

And please, if any of you have any good quality carrier bags, these would be very gratefully received.

If you are a donor, please try to deliver your donations at the Foodbank on Tuesday and Friday between 10.00 am and 12 noon – as it gets very busy with clients after this time. Alternatively, you may use any of our Permanent Collection Points which are still available at various locations listed on our website <https://leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>. We are also able to collect any large donations - please contact the Foodbank to arrange this. If any of you would like to discuss anything relating to the Foodbank or arrange a visit, please contact me at projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk or on 07916 005064. Thank you all for your ongoing support for all that we do.

Best wishes, Lindsey Stockton, Project Manager

PLEASE NOTE: We only have one Food Bank collection per month so the Christmas items should be in by the first Sunday in December making sure that the 'best before' dates are after Christmas.

LEEK FOOD BANK is also supporting the Ukrainian Shoebox Appeal 2025:





**One Project
Ukraine**

**Christmas
Ukrainian Shoebox
Appeal 2025**



Boy
Girl
Age 2 - 4
Age 5-9
Age 10-14



Closing date 11.12.25

What to do...

- Tick Boy or Girl and age category on this leaflet
- Fill a shoebox with Christmas gifts
- Wrap the shoebox in Christmas wrapping, with the lid wrapped separately.
- Remove all packaging from the gifts
- Attach this leaflet on top of the box
- We'll be sending the boxes over to Ukraine from October to December.
- Contact Val or Ray to arrange your shoebox collection.

Gift suggestions

- Cuddly toys
- Small toys/cars
- Socks/Gloves
- Sweets/Chocolates
- Skipping rope
- Hair Accessories
- Craft Items
- Slippers
- Small Games/Lego
- Toiletries/make-up
- School stationery
- Puzzles, card games

If you would like to help with transport costs,
 please tape £1 to the box or donate via our QR code to the
JustGiving page

Jeanette - mobile: 0777 597 1921
 Email: oneprojectukraine@gmail.com
 One Project Ukraine 



HERE AGAIN!



THE BOYS IN BLUE

'The Holly and the Ivy'

The City of Stoke-on-Trent Male Voice Choir will be entertaining us once more at St Luke's following their very popular visits last year.

This will be a Christmas Concert on **Friday 28th November** at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10.00 from Sue Forrester and include refreshments. The great Christmas Raffle will be part of this occasion. Don't miss it! If you can help out on the night please see Sue.



TOY SERVICES with FOOD BANK COLLECTIONS: Sunday, 7th December

Food bank items for Leek Food Bank and toys for Leek Salvation Army are invited again this year. Gifts appropriate for teenagers, babies and toddlers as well as toiletries are welcome. Christmas food items are welcome for the food bank. PLEASE DO NOT WRAP YOUR GIFTS but donations of wrapping paper are appreciated. See pages 5 and 6 for list of suggested food bank items.



CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

Saturday, 6th December

2.00 - 4.00pm in the chapter house.

The ticket price of **£25** includes all you need to make a wreath with the exception of your individual decorations e.g., lights, baubles and bows.

Please see Sue for tickets. Only 20 places. All profits to church funds.



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

LIGHT AND TRUTH

Much as I'd prefer not to think about Christmas presents and cards until the week before Christmas, the reality is that as soon as Bonfire Night and Remembrance Sunday are over, I must procrastinate no longer! Poor Advent. It's lost in the mists of time, its season of spiritual preparation for Christmas overtaken by ever exotic Advent Calendars, their numbered windows promising expensive 'treats' to help us to get through the stress of Christmas preparations. I've even seen a cheese-a-day Advent calendar. Seriously, who thought of that one?

Instead of moaning about the commercialism of Christmas, here at Lichfield Cathedral we do all we can to keep the Sundays of Advent special, beginning with the hauntingly beautiful Advent Carol Service. But then we go 'full bling' with the Christmas Light Show and the Christmas Tree Festival. They're ever popular, a seasonal 'must' in many people's diaries. And at the heart of both, is a search for the light in



the midst of the darkness. Physical light in the long nights of winter. And spiritual light in a world which feels chaotic and dark.

One of my favourite worship songs is 'Christ be our Light' by the Roman Catholic songwriter Bernadette Farrell. It's beautiful. If you don't know it and have access to the internet, do search for it. You'll soon be singing along to its gentle tune and meaningful lyrics.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

This is why, I think, so many people turn to the Church at Christmas, on the shortest days of the year. Our ancestors prayed that the sun would return. We search for the Son – the one who is the Light of the World. Even those who don't yet know him for themselves. But light and truth are in short supply at the moment – and in the Church we know both.

Many the hearts that yearn to belong.

*Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.*

So many people are lonely at Christmas. So many are searching for somewhere to belong. As Christians we belong to one big family, made brothers and sisters through our baptism. Who might we 'serve' this Christmas by simply inviting them to 'come and see'? Invite them to a carol service, or a social event at church, or bring them to their cathedral to see the Christmas Trees or Christmas Light Show. You might make someone's Christmas, and it might be for them the first step to joining the church and finding faith. The worst that can happen is that they say no, so what's to lose?

A blessed Advent from us all at Lichfield Cathedral. Your Cathedral.

*The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane
Dean of Lichfield*

*The Advent season begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day
- in 2025, that is November 30.
Lichfield Cathedral's programme of worship and events for Advent and Christmas*



OVERWINTERING REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries are great places to find both amphibians and reptiles. These two groups include frogs, toads, newts, lizards and snakes. The first three can come as a surprise as burial grounds rarely have ponds in them but actually, frogs, toads and newts all spend much of their time on land and really use ponds mainly for breeding and laying spawn. Amphibians (frogs, toads and newts) and reptiles (lizards and snakes) all hibernate, except for

some individuals in particularly mild winters, and whilst some amphibians may overwinter within ponds, most find a suitable spot on land.

Both amphibians and reptiles need to overwinter in places that are frost-free and unlikely to flood. They need to be protected from predators and from disturbance. This might be within the soil, perhaps using a crack caused by grave subsidence or beneath tree roots, under stones and grave kerbs, inside a chest tomb with a suitable hole or wide crack to clamber in, between the stones of a wall, under a pile of leaves or in a pile of deadwood. Woodland soil, with shade and leaves can be particularly good.

One of the differences between amphibians and reptiles is in their skin. Amphibians have smooth skin which can look velvety or have a bumpy, warty texture. Their skin is permeable which means they can dry out. When on land, they need to keep moist, so will overwinter in a damp and shady spot, often under leaves or deadwood. Reptiles have scales and impermeable skin so don't need a damp spot and may use compost heaps as well as cracks in walls and monuments. Amphibian skin can also pick up chemicals easily, herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers can be fatal, again making burial grounds, with their lack of chemicals, particularly suitable. N.B. you may see coloured frogs that have picked up the colour of the soil where they overwinter, these can be quite brightly coloured red, orange or yellow.

Try to imagine that you are an amphibian or reptile and take a good look around your local churchyard or cemetery and you'll probably see that it's full of good spots to hibernate. You can increase these however. How about making a dead hedge or pile of deadwood in a shady spot? Do you have a compost heap? Try not to empty it after the end of October in case it's in use for overwintering. Tussocks of coarse grass and grassland plants like hogweed, particularly when next to a wall are favoured by slow worms, probably the most common reptile found in burial grounds. Shrubs and scrub often offer suitable nooks and crannies at their base. By November it's likely that amphibians and reptiles will be tucked safely away, although the timing does depend on the temperature in a particular year, but it's nice to know that they might be there awaiting the warmer weather of spring.

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

'THEY SANG' –

An Advent course based on the four songs in the Christmas story

In 'They Sang', Amy Scott Robinson uses four Advent studies to guide small groups to explore the ancient poems of praise and prophecy: Zechariah's song (the Benedictus) Mary's song (Magnificat) the song of the angels (Gloria in Excelsis) and Simeon's song (Nunc Dimittis). Pub. Kevin Mathew.

The course books can be ordered through the Christian Bookshop in Hanley. The price isn't confirmed but is either £6.99 or £7.99. This is cheaper than the internet as there is no charge for postage. Please let Patricia know as soon as possible if you would like one ordering as they will need to order more stocks. Otherwise buy your own copy of the book. Price £6.99 from Amazon and Eden. Postage will be extra.

Thursdays at 10.00 at Endon Methodist Church (Lounge) on 27th November and 4th, 11th and 18th December.



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for NOVEMBER

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.

Nov	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
2 nd	Alan Jones in loving memory of his wife, Joan, on the anniversary of her death (Nov 4 th 2023)	Maureen Foster in loving memory of her parents, George and Catherine Davenport
9 th	The candle is kept burning in memory of Ken Davis, who died on Remembrance Day	The candle is kept burning by Avril Weaver
16 th	Lyn Pickering in loving memory of Ronald Pickering on his birthday (Nov 15) from all the family	The candle is kept burning by Maureen Foster for her grandchildren Emily and Joe
23 rd	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant	Ann Boulton to celebrate George's birthday (23 rd)
30 th	<i>No dedication</i>	The candle is kept burning in loving memory of June and Peter Pope.



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

Ivy Faulkner (4th), George Greatbach (23rd)

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

ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This will be held in the Methodist Church on Tuesday, **16th December** at 7.00pm. **Please contact Ros or Ann if you would like tickets at £7 each.**



BRASS CLEANING: Sheila H writes...

It's brass cleaning time again in preparation for our Christmas activities. We will be doing this on **Monday 24th November** before the Advent season gets into full swing. Church will be open from 9.00am. We have usually finished in time for me to go to my Pilates class at 11.00 am, but that depends on the number of volunteers. It's fine if you can only come for part of the time. You will be very welcome. Please bring along brass cleaner and dusters.

November Prayer Focus

- Rev Debbie
- For the ceasefire to hold and for a lasting peace between Israel and Gaza and an end to the war between Ukraine and Russia and for restoration of war-damaged cities and people
- The released hostages and their mental and physical health after traumatic experiences in captivity
- Restoration of sufficient aid convoys of food and medical supplies in Gaza
- All journalists, warzone correspondents and cameramen who daily risk their lives in bringing news to the rest of us
- The serious nature of climate change and its consequences
- Water shortages following our very dry summer
- The desperate humanitarian crisis in Sudan due to the civil war
- The world's response to the new US tariffs
- 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
- 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
- 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

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As usual I will be happy to include greetings in our December newsletter with donations to the Christian Blind Mission. Please let me have your wording and donation by **November 25th**. This is important so that a cheque can be sent off before Christmas. (Sometimes Sheila receives late donations in mid-Jan when the cheque has already been dispatched!) **Ros**



Rev Debbie Lovatt	07359 893424
Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, St Luke's warden	07510 074097
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 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 Siegerts, 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

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, November 25th 2025**

either by e-mail jandrbenson@btinternet.com or phone 504137.

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