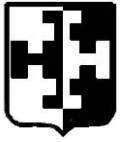




**THE BENEFICE of ST LUKE'S,  
ENDON with ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL and  
ST MICHAEL'S, HORTON**



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

[www.endonstlukes.org.uk](http://www.endonstlukes.org.uk)

Rev Debbie Lovatt 07359 893424

Email: ReverendDebbieLovatt@gmail.com

**April 2026**

**HOLY WEEK and EASTER  
at St Luke's**

**Palm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

9.15am Holy Communion 11.00am Connections

**Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March**

7.00pm Taizé Holy Communion

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

2.00pm and 7.00pm Lent Course

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

9.15am Midweek Holy Communion in chapter house

**Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

7.00pm Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar

**Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

2.00pm – 3.00pm An Hour at the Cross

**Holy Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

NB at St Michael's, Horton

8.00pm Benefice Easter Vigil with Holy Communion

**Easter Day 5<sup>th</sup> April**

6.15am Sunrise Holy Communion

9.15 am Holy Communion

11.00am Connections



*(See p 8 for full list of services at St Chad's, St Michael's and Endon Methodist Churches)*

**Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!  
He is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

# ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY

## APRIL 2026

ESL = Endon St Luke's    EMC= Endon Methodist Church    HC = Holy Communion

<b>W</b>	<b>1</b>	HOLY WEEK 9.15am Midweek HC at ESL
<b>Th</b>	<b>2</b>	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.00pm HC w Stripping of the Altar
<b>F</b>	<b>3</b>	GOOD FRIDAY 2.00pm An Hour at the Cross
<b>Sa</b>	<b>4</b>	HOLY SATURDAY 8.00pm Easter Vigil at St Michael's, Horton
<b>Su</b>	<b>5</b>	EASTER DAY 6.15am Sunrise HC 9.15am HC 11.00am Connections
<b>M</b>	<b>6</b>	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
<b>Tu</b>	<b>7</b>	2.30pm Rock Cottage care home visit
<b>W</b>	<b>8</b>	9.15am Midweek HC at EMC 7.00pm PCC meeting chapter house
<b>Th</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>Sa</b>	<b>11</b>	
<b>Su</b>	<b>12</b>	9.15am HC 11.00am Connections
<b>M</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>Tu</b>	<b>14</b>	
<b>W</b>	<b>15</b>	9.15am Midweek HC at ESL 11.00am Hillswood Lodge care home visit 7.15pm Kintsugi at St Lawrence Church, Biddulph
<b>Th</b>	<b>16</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>17</b>	
<b>Sa</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>Su</b>	<b>19</b>	9.15am HC 11.00am Connections
<b>M</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>Tu</b>	<b>21</b>	
<b>W</b>	<b>22</b>	9.15am Midweek HC at EMC
<b>Th</b>	<b>23</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>24</b>	
<b>Sa</b>	<b>25</b>	7.30pm Stoke-on-Trent MV Choir concert
<b>Su</b>	<b>26</b>	9.15am HC 11.00am Connections
<b>M</b>	<b>27</b>	
<b>Tu</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>W</b>	<b>29</b>	9.15am Midweek HC at ESL
<b>Th</b>	<b>30</b>	



## BAKE-A-CAKE/BUY-A-CAKE

Thank you to all who responded to the call on Mothering Sunday! Thank you to the bakers and those who paid generous amounts to buy the cakes and raise **£170** for church funds. Grants are available but we still need to raise more funds (£70,000) to help pay for all our repairs which were highlighted in our quinquennial inspection. One cake was bought and then kindly given to Ros as it happened to be her birthday. She was delighted to share it with folk in the chapter house with their coffee.

Thank you to those who prepared and distributed the daffodil posies which were much appreciated too.

## LATEST DEANERY SYNOD REPORT:

- 1) **Retirement mid-2027: The Rural Dean of Leek, Nigel Irons** - the Lichfield Diocese is to appoint his replacement.
- 2) **Current Vacancy: Lay Chair Leek Deanery Synod** - position yet to be filled following Barrie Jackson's resignation. Nigel had previously distributed details of this post to all Synod members for consideration, asking anyone who is interested to contact him direct.
- 3) **Upcoming Course, Kintsugi HOPE Wellbeing Group:** Before I talk about what this wonderful Group does let me tell you what Kintsugi is: - 'Kintsugi is an old Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with seams of gold. When the brokenness is repaired, the object becomes more beautiful and unique than it was before. Instead of hiding the scars, it makes a feature of them.'
  - This group offers a safe, inclusive space where you can find a community that offers support and practical tools that promote emotional and mental wellbeing.
  - Kintsugi HOPE Wellbeing Groups are open to anyone, everyone receives a warm welcome.
  - **No charge.**
  - **Open Evening & Course Details Confirmed by Meg Jones of Kintsugi HOPE Wellbeing Group: Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 starts at 7.30pm until 9pm, held at St. Lawrence's Church, Biddulph ST8 7RG,** is to give a taster of what the course will be like.
  - On arrival there will be someone outside to guide you in, to save you following the Slimming World session which runs at the same time in the hall.
  - Posters and flyers were given to all parishes, however, if you require more details please contact: Gez on 01782 513891, or, Email: kintsugi@biddulphchurch.org.uk
  - The Course comprises of 12 sessions, each lasting approx. 90 minutes.
  - Topics:
    - Honesty, Anxiety, Depressions, Shame, Anger, Disappointment & Loss, Perfectionism, Forgiveness, Self-acceptance, Health & Relationships and Resilience.
  - You can expect group discussions, videos and individual activities that provides you with ideas and tools to help you navigate the ups and downs of life.
- 4) **New Position and Appointment within the Lichfield Diocese:**



### **Helen Emery, Lichfield Diocese Whole Life Discipleship Officer.**

Helen gave an uplifting and insightful presentation into her new role which focuses on equipping Christians to live out their faith in daily life. She is a Mission and Discipleship Enabler and a Spiritual Growth Facilitator providing resources for small groups, helps and supports spiritual growth outside church to encourage discipleship. The presentation invited the Synod Reps to interact and discuss 9

elements of 'discipleship' written on cards and place them into order of what they felt was important to their church. Helen has a true passion for her role and, is more than happy to attend individual parishes if we would like to work with her. Helen emailed Nigel Irons to express her "thanks for the warmest welcome. It was a pure delight to meet everyone and share about my role and, hear about the fabulous work being done in Leek churches."

*Leonie Siegertsz, Deanery Synod Rep for St Chad's Church, Bagnall*

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## **ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION:** *A message from Sheila Simpson...*

*The Electoral Roll Revision will take place from Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> to Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are new to St Luke's and would like to be a voting member of the congregation, please ask for a form. If you are aware of any changes that should be made to the Roll please tell me. A copy of the Roll is on the church noticeboard. After the revision the new list will be displayed from Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> until the APCM on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May. If you wish to remain on the Roll with no change to your entry, then you don't have to do anything.*

## PASTORAL TEAM EVENTS...



**THIS MONTH OUR COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT MORNINGS will be from 10.30 to 12.00 on Tuesdays April 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.**

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 Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm and to Hillswood Lodge on Wed April 15<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. Contact Shirley if you know of anyone who would like a visit.

## OUR RECENT WALK...



Here we are...it's raining at Tittesworth but being British we enjoy ourselves! (As Roger and Sheila Simpson would say, "It's not the wrong weather it's the wrong clothes! Put on your waterproofs!") In actual fact the rain stayed off while the group (plus Stan) had a short walk followed of course by a welcome cup of coffee and a chat at the visitor centre café.

Listen up for details of our next walk and do join this intrepid bunch. Everyone is welcome! If you need a lift to get to the venue please contact Shirley.



Registered Charity No. 1153990 in England and Wales

**NEWSLETTER Project Manager Lindsey writes...**

I'm writing this with the sun shining through the window and I am daring to hope that spring has definitely sprung, although we all know that winter could still come back to bite us! It does make such a difference to see the sunshine, after what seems to have been a very long and gloomy winter.

Before moving onto the usual content of my newsletter, I would like to take the opportunity to give thanks for the life of Lynne Ball, who so sadly passed away last month. Lynne was an absolute stalwart of the Foodbank, and of so many other organisations in the town and the surrounding area. She served on our Board of Trustees for nine years, was our Treasurer and my Line Manager. She gave her time so freely, and nothing was ever too much trouble. She was so supportive to her fellow Trustees, our volunteers and our clients, and she was my absolute rock. She will leave a massive hole in the Foodbank, but we will continue our work in her honour, knowing that she will be with us every step of the way. We are grateful that she was part of our Foodbank family for so long, and we send our deepest condolences to Brian and family.

Here are the figures for Foodbank usage during February, with a comparison to the previous year:

<b>Total vouchers fulfilled</b>	=	<b>72 (82)</b>
No. of Adults fed	=	95 (122)
No. of Children fed	=	44 (62)
<b>Total no. fed</b>	=	<b>139 (184)</b>

Again, a quieter month, and hopefully this trend will continue.

Reporting back on our plans to recruit an Operations Co-ordinator, we received some excellent applications but could not find a perfect fit for the role, and so we decided not to appoint on this occasion. We intend to work with our excellent team of volunteers to review the tasks that need to be done, and we hope some may be covered in existing volunteer hours or, as new volunteers apply, they may be assigned a particular role. We intend to review the situation in six months' time.

We remain hopeful that we will receive future funding for our Financial Inclusion project, and Citizens Advice have confirmed that they are able to continue to fund the project for another three months after the grant funding ends, so this will take us up to August.

Some highlights from February include:

- 'Stop Loan Sharks' training session delivered at the Foodbank for volunteers by 'The England Illegal Money Lending Team'. This was incredibly enlightening, with some astonishing statistics – 23% of victims borrowed money just to cover their basic living costs and food, 49% of victims believed that the person lending them money was their "friend", and 25% of victims had used a Foodbank during the previous 12 months. So very much a topic that we need to be aware of.
- A very fruitful day spent on the Outside Arts stall in the indoor market, rehoming some preloved treasures rescued by Gemma and her team from Waste Savvy Staffordshire. These are items which have been thrown away at recycling plants across Staffordshire but are then rescued, refurbished and sold to benefit local charities. We raised an amazing £210.00 and made a lot of shoppers very happy with their purchases. Thank you Gemma and Outside Arts.
- Providing a home cooked takeaway meal to 50 of our clients, thanks to Maureen and her team at Trinity Church. As ever the compliments poured in for its deliciousness!
- Formalising our joint working with a new local business – Goddard Dunbar Solicitors who have opened an office on Derby Street. We have been very fortunate to receive food donations previously from the firm who donate to foodbanks and other charities on a rota basis, but now that they have an office in the town, they are keen to support us on a regular basis, as well as hosting a donation basket in their office. We are so grateful to them for this.
- A Fraud Awareness drop-in session for our clients, delivered by Citizens Advice. Alongside the general advice, CA are producing some specific resources relating to friendship/romance fraud for our clients, something which vulnerable people can be so susceptible to, often not knowing it's even happening, because it's being done by a "friend".

We have just been working on our annual return for the Charity Commission, which involves some statistics and some narrative regarding our work. Whilst it is a legal requirement that we do this, it is also good for reflecting on what has happened over the year. One statistic which I just wanted to mention was the amount of stock which we had at year end – 2825kg – which may sound a lot, but when you think how much was distributed over the year – 33199kg – you realise it is only just over one month's stock, a stark indication of how we would struggle if donations stopped for any reason. Not that I can foresee this happening but it does emphasise the need for us to actively work with the local community to ensure continued support.

I list below those items which we remain grateful to receive if you feel able to give:

Longlife semi-skimmed milk

Fruit squash

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

Tinned rice pudding Coffee-100/200gm

Longlife sponge puddings 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 you have any good quality carrier bags to spare they would be very gratefully received.*



DIOCESE OF  
LICHFIELD



**Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad**

### **BISHOP MICHAEL TO RETIRE:**

After ten years as Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Ipgrave chose St Chad's Day, 2 March, to announce his intention to retire. HM the King has graciously given his permission for him to resign the See of Lichfield at the end of September 2026 when he will have been ordained for 44 years. Bishop Michael shared the news with clergy and lay ministers gathered to celebrate St Chad's Day in Lichfield Cathedral late on Monday afternoon, 2 March. It was ten years exactly since his nomination as 99th Bishop of Lichfield. Announcing his retirement plans, Bishop Michael referred to the constant inspiration of St Chad over his ten years, describing himself as "humbled to be amongst one of the successors of St Chad, our first and greatest bishop." He continued, "Chad was the first to bring to Mercia the life-giving, peace-making, soul-restoring gospel of Jesus Christ. As we face the challenge of re-evangelising our contemporary Mercia, I am convinced that we can only do that by walking in his steps of kindness, friendliness and humility in the service of others." In these last months of his ministry, it will be both business as usual and continuing to lay the foundations of the diocesan strategy for the coming few years. It will also include many opportunities for people across Lichfield Diocese to meet Bishop Michael before he leaves.



Speaking about his time in Lichfield Diocese and thanking those who share the task of ministry across the 1800 square miles of the diocese in 423 parishes and over 500 churches, in every community of Staffordshire, North Shropshire and the Black Country, Bishop Michael observes: "I know that I have been blessed over the last ten years to work in one of the friendliest, most down to earth and least pretentious parts of the Church of England; thank you from my heart." Responding to the announcement, the Rt Rev'd Jan McFarlane, Dean of Lichfield, said: "The time for farewells is, thankfully, some months' away but as Bishop Michael prepares to retire we know already just how very much he will be missed. In the leading of our Diocese our Bishop has modelled true servant leadership, as a prayerful, wise and learned teacher and pastor. We will always remember his openness and honesty following the death of his son, Frank, when even in the very depths of his bereavement he courageously shared with us what he'd learned of God. A prayerful Bishop who loves God and loves his flock is a true gift. We will be Holding Bishop Michael and Julia in our prayers as they prepare to say their farewells to a diocese they've served with distinction."



## Early Butterflies

April is a lovely month to start searching for butterflies as quite a few of those which are often seen in churchyards or cemeteries are on the wing by now. Some species emerge from overwintering as adults, often looking a bit faded and battered, you'll need to wait until summer to see the newly emerged, resplendent adults. You may find Peacocks and Red Admirals feeding on flowers prior to egg-laying. Both of these spectacular butterflies lay eggs on nettles. Look for the Comma, with its distinctive wing shape, its upper wings coloured orange with black markings whilst its underwings, visible when closed, are well camouflaged to disappear amongst dead leaves. Comma caterpillars also feed on nettles. Another butterfly that overwinters is the Brimstone, the male showing a characteristic yellow colour, the female a pale greenish yellow. It is thought the name butterfly comes from this species – a butter-coloured fly! Other butterflies start emerging from pupation in April. These will look smart compared to those that have over-wintered, with bright colours and their wings unbattered at least at first. Have a look for the Holly Blue, known as the churchyard butterfly. This delicate blue butterfly will be seen in tree canopies, so you'll need to look up! Four species from the same family, the Whites and Yellows can be seen, green-veined white, large white, small white and orange tip. Both small and large whites are nicknamed 'cabbage whites' by gardeners as their caterpillars can devour both brassicas and nasturtiums. The green-veined white is less of a villain for gardeners, its caterpillars, like the Orange Tip, feed on a variety of wild plants including cuckoo-flower, hedge mustard and garlic mustard.

Burial grounds are usually a mix of shady woodland areas and sunny grassland, and the butterflies found reflect both habitats and in particular, the scrubby edges between them containing coarse grasses, shrubs, nettles and brambles. Look for Speckled Wood emerging in April, its caterpillars feed on coarse grasses. If you'd like to encourage butterflies then leave some nettles in full sun, whilst you may not wish to encourage nettles is there a place where they already occur? When planting trees, shrubs or flowers please use native species and include buckthorn or alder buckthorn, both food plants of the Brimstone. Perhaps most importantly, allow some areas to be a little bit scruffy particularly over winter. Leave some rough vegetation and dead stems as well as piles of autumn leaves, until all creatures that have been sheltering, hibernating and pupating have emerged into the spring sunshine.

All the best, Harriet

Harriet Carty, *Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*, [harriet@cfa.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cfa.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

## **An Important Message from Sheila H...**

Our new account with **NatWest Bank** is now open.

If you make your regular donations to church by a Standing Order to the TSB bank please **LEAVE THIS AS IT IS FOR NOW**. The TSB bank account will be left open for a while. We will transfer your regular donations to the NatWest account regularly. However Rev Debbie is looking into a different way of making these regular payments which will require a different way of setting them up.

If you write a CHEQUE it should now be payable to **Endon St Luke's**, not 'Endon St Luke's PCC' as before.

If you are sending a one-off direct transfer to our new account the details are as follows.

<b>Account name</b>	<b>Endon St Luke's</b>
<b>Account type</b>	<b>Business account</b>
<b>Account number</b>	<b>25523082</b>
<b>Sort Code</b>	<b>01-01-38</b>

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## **CAR PARK FENCE**

Users of our church car park will be pleased to know that the fence has now been repaired and bushes cut back and tidied up. The overall cost came to £345. Hopefully it should now last for a good few years! Thank you Rev Debbie for seeing to this.

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## **EASTER SERVICES at St Chad's:**

**Palm Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March:** Holy Communion preceded by a walk through Bagnall village with Gareth the donkey

**Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** 7.00pm Holy Communion

**Good Friday Service 3<sup>rd</sup> April** at 11.00am

**Easter Day 5<sup>th</sup> April:** Holy Communion at 10.45am

## **EASTER SERVICES at St Michael's:**

**Palm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March:** Holy Communion at 11.30am

**Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** Holy Communion w Stripping of the Altar at **St Chad's, Longsdon** at 7.30pm

**Holy Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April:** Easter Vigil w Holy Communion at 8.00pm

**Easter Day 5<sup>th</sup> April:** Holy Communion at 11.30am

## **EASTER SERVICES at Endon Methodist Church**

**Palm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March:** Morning Worship at 10.00am

**Wednesday in Holy Week 1<sup>st</sup> April:** Reflective Service at 7.30pm

**Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** 7.00pm Holy Communion joint service w Leek Trinity and Rudyard

**Holy Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April:** 2.00pm – 4.00pm Add a flower to the Cross

**Easter Day 5<sup>th</sup> April:** 10.00am Holy Communion

Shirley shares...



## MAGAZINE ARTICLE SERIES –

### What not to say to somebody with dementia

This is the fifth of a series of articles where we are sharing some words and questions to try to avoid when talking to a person with dementia. This material is based on and taken from an Alzheimer's Society blog, <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/blog/language-dementia-what-not-to-say>

**What not to say to somebody with dementia...**


Don't say....

What did you do this morning?

Do ...

Speak briefly about your day. And focus on the present.

Why? Asking questions about the past can be stressful for someone with dementia if they can't remember the answer. It's better to focus on what's happening in the present.



### The Alzheimer's Society blog explains...

#### “Open questions can be hard: 'What did you do this morning?’

Avoid asking too many open-ended questions about the past, as it could be stressful for a person with dementia if they can't remember the answer. While it might seem polite to ask somebody about their day, it's better to focus on what's happening in the present.

#### Try this instead:

Instead of asking them about their day, speak briefly about your day and give them time to ask you questions about it. They might then offer information about what they have done. Talk to them about the present and use items in the environment such as photos or ornaments to stimulate conversation.”

*For a conversation about dementia or memory loss, or for more information about dementia and dementia-friendly church, you are welcome to contact Shirley Brindley or Rev Patricia Robinson.*

## ART CLUB:



Members of the Community Art Club were delighted to be presented with a cheque for £75 from our local parish council. Thank you Joe and Keith for arranging this. Please contact Sue Forrester for the April meeting date.

## FLOWER CLUB NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, **April 15<sup>th</sup>** in the chapter house from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. On the right is Pauline's March demonstration arrangement using a Gothic arch accessory. Wow!

The theme chosen for our well dressing displays this year is 'Wedding Anniversaries'.





# CANDLE DEDICATIONS for APRIL

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 on 01782 504089 if you would like a particular date. Also if you would like to have your loved one's name written in the Book of Remembrance.

Apr	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
5 <sup>th</sup>	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant	Rosey and Geoff Smith to celebrate the birthday of their grandson, Chester
12 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Boulton to celebrate Tim's birthday (12 <sup>th</sup> )	Shirley Brindley in loving memory of Sue Barber on her birthday
19 <sup>th</sup>	The candle is kept burning by Alan Williamson and family	Ann Boulton in loving memory of Les's parents
26 <sup>th</sup>	David Moss and Janet Bowyer in loving memory of Thomas Moss, father of David and Robert Moss	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant



## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

Fiona Morris (8<sup>th</sup>), Tim Boulton (10<sup>th</sup>), Barrie Jackson (14<sup>th</sup>), Hannah Podmore (16<sup>th</sup>), Maryanne Lloyd (28<sup>th</sup>), Phil Benson (29<sup>th</sup>), Georgia and Millie Tellwright (30<sup>th</sup>)

*If you would like your own or a family birthday included here please contact Ros 01782 504137*



**DON'T MISS THIS!**

Stoke-on-

Trent Male Voice Choir is coming to St Luke's again on **Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.** Get your tickets (£10 pp) from Sue.



Courtesy of Leek Camera Club

# THE BOYS IN BLUE

# BLANKETS!

Latest news from Sue Millard at Biddulph Methodist Church...  
Hello wonderful knitters and stitchers!



A huge thank you for all your knitting and stitching. We braved the Channel last month to take another carload of blankets and necessities. Above is the display of



blankets at the blessing as well as the set of sensory dolls made by one of our ladies for traumatised children. They were very well received.



These are the volunteers at the Project Play centre receiving the sensory dolls, all smiles! Interesting to read the notices on the wall, all in English and what a wonderful mission statement! Lovely Lila and half asleep Norman unloading everything. Lila was overwhelmed and ecstatic at the number and colours of the blankets, also the many boxes of personal wipes and the 150 pairs of underwear that we took. The weather forecast in the UK was dire on so we took an earlier ferry back which meant I didn't get to visit the camps and talk with the migrants as I usually do. Next time I hope. Again a big thank you for your work and support in this long ongoing project for the women's refuge at Calais. Please keep knitting and stitching!



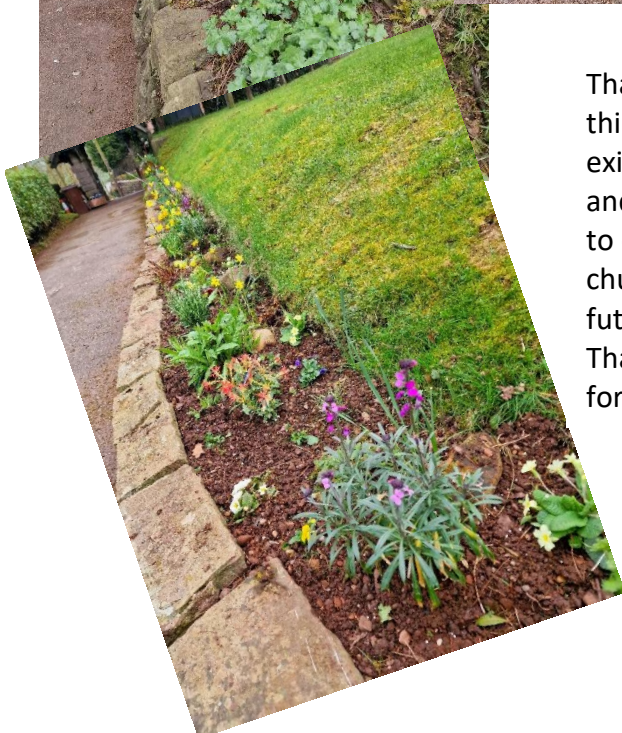
# PASSION SUNDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> March was a busy day at St Luke's and Connections...



Huge thanks to Joe Porter and his team (which included Lily and Alice our well dressing queens) for all their work and enthusiasm in weeding and replanting the border from our lych-gate to the church door which had been looking very untidy and neglected. It now looks amazing and a very welcoming sight to anyone visiting our church. Thank you also to Proctor's Nurseries and all others who donated plants.



Thanks to Joe for thinning out our existing snowdrops and replanting them to enhance our churchyard display in future years. Thank you also Joe for the photos!



## And MESSY EASTER at the school....



A lovely time was had by all at the special Connections Easter craft afternoon. Thank you to all who spent time organising it and to everyone who took part. Thanks Sue and Gemma for the photos.

**A HAPPY  
EASTER TO  
EVERYONE!**

Rev Debbie Lovatt, vicar	07359 893424
Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden	01782 502006
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	07508 959637
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
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Julia Podmore, St Chad's warden / treasurer	07980 802121
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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, April 21<sup>st</sup> 2026**

either by e-mail [jandrbenson@btinternet.com](mailto:jandrbenson@btinternet.com) or phone 01782 504137.

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