



THE BENEFICE of BAGNALL, ENDON & HORTON

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

www.endonstlukes.org.uk

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Endon, St Luke's Newsletter October 2026

TABLE TOP SALE

for church roof repairs:

**Saturday,
October 17th**

**10.00am – 1.00pm
in church**

Look out your unwanted presents and anything else you have that is saleable and no longer of use to you. There will be a variety of stalls. Books, jigsaws, plants, cakes and items of bric-à-brac in good



condition are all acceptable! Volunteers will be needed to help please. Contact Sue or Shirley.

‘GREET AND TREAT’

Saturday 31st October



With many youngsters out and about on Hallowe'en Night we will be handing out 'Hope' bags again from UCB and inviting them back to the Chapter House for hot chocolate and marshmallows.

If you are available to tour the streets or to make drinks and welcome folk, please meet at church at 6.00pm. Join the team!



**DON'T FORGET CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY
NIGHT OCTOBER 24th**

...or too early for church you will be!

ST LUKE'S CHURCH DIARY: OCTOBER 2026

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

Th	1	
F	2	7.00pm HC Wine-tasting in chapter house
Sa	3	8.30am – 10.00am Prayer Breakfast chapter house
Su	4	9.15am Holy Communion 11.00am Connections with Youth Alpha course
M	5	11.00pm Memorial Service for Roger Simpson 2.30pm Rock Cottage
T	6	10.30 – 12.00 Coffee & Chat chapter house
W	7	9.15am Midweek HC at ESL
Th	8	
F	9	10 – 12 Fridays Friends at EMC
Sa	10	
Su	11	9.15am Holy Communion 11.00am Connections
M	12	
Tu	13	
W	14	9.15am Midweek HC at EMC 11.00am Hillswood Lodge
Th	15	
F	16	
Sa	17	10 -1 Table Top Sale in church
Su	18	9.15am Holy Communion 11.00am Connections
M	19	
Tu	20	10.30 – 12.00 Coffee & Chat chapter house
W	21	9.15am Midweek HC at ESL 10.45am Dementia Songs of Praise
Th	22	
F	23	10 – 12 Fridays Friends at EMC
Sa	24	From 10.00am Churchyard tidy. All welcome!
Su	25	9.15am Holy Communion 11.00am Connections
M	26	
T	27	
W	28	9.15am Midweek HC at EMC
Th	29	
F	30	
Sa	31	From 6.00pm: Hallowe'en Greet & Treat

YOUTH ALPHA

The Connections team will be running a Youth Alpha course from Sunday, 4th October at 11.00am in the school hall at St Luke's CE Academy. Suitable for all ages.



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ROGER SIMPSON

Monday, 5th October at 11.00am

All who knew Roger are very welcome to attend this special service to remember our much-loved and respected member of St Luke's. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served afterwards.



Roger Simpson's Talks were always memorable. Here's one from 13/10/24 which seems very apt:

Like many of us, I had been told that the “eye of a needle” referred to a narrow gate in the walls of Jerusalem. To pass through it, a Parcellforce camel would have to be unloaded. (Other delivery firms are available.) However, there’s no record of such a gate. Indeed, the three gospels which relate this teaching each use different words to refer to this difficult obstacle. If it were the name given to an actual gate, you would expect all three writers to use exactly the same words, but they don’t. St Luke uses the word for a surgical needle, used to repair wounds, while the other two use a different word, meaning a needle for fabrics. Be that as it may, the unloading and subsequent reloading of the camel is difficult, but not impossible.

What of the central character in this gospel story? Here again, there is divergence. Matthew speaks of a young man, Luke refers to him as a ruler, a man of power and influence, and only Mark describes him as rich. This variation is reassuring; three witnesses to the conversation remember it in slightly different ways, just as we would.

The first response of Jesus is to quote from the Ten Commandments. Five of them are prohibitions; only the last is an obligation. I was by several years the youngest of my family, and when I was a teenager, my brother and sister were young adults. “Honour thy F and thy M”, one or other would say to their little brother, when I was exceptionally rude to my parents. If it was my brother who spoke, there might be a swift kick under the table to underline things.

Are you a young rich ruler? No, no, I hear you cry. Well, I don’t, but never mind. Well. We’ll forget the first bit. You know how old you are, and you also know that physical age and calendar age are increasingly out of step these days. “The days of man are three score and ten, and though some may attain four score, yet are their years but vanity”...Well, that’s me told!

Chances are, you don’t count yourself as rich. Well, according to the IMF, half the people in the world get by on less than £6 a day. That puts all of us here today squarely in the rich half of the world. Quite possibly in the top 10%.

You don’t think of yourself as a ruler, either. Well, perhaps not in the sense of having power over other people, but there are other forms of power. To boil a kettle for your morning tea would take 15 fit men puffing and panting and raising a sweat for 5 minutes to turn dynamos to generate the electricity needed. A litre of petrol? That amount of energy would take them two and a half hours, not that they could keep up that much effort for that long. In my pocket I have at least 100 times the computer power than I ever had available in my working life. From my sofa at home, I can command someone to deliver a very heavy box to my door. We’ve got all sorts of power. People in Ukraine or the Middle East, waiting for the next explosion and hoping it’s not the last thing they hear, have almost none.

James Jones, former Bishop of Liverpool, writes “I would urge you not to be falsely modest about the powers you possess, and not to pretend that you are one of the powerless, or that you long to be divested of the power you hold. On the contrary, have a sober assessment of the power that is yours, be it position, influence, wealth, health, time, intelligence, energy or simply life itself.” He goes on to encourage us to use this power to help those who need help.

The young man is not blamed by Jesus for his wealth or his position of authority; Jesus loved him, seeing his potential. What is at issue was how he uses his position and his money. Does he use it all for his personal pleasure, or does he direct some of it to “all that builds up the common good”? Jesus puts the emphasis on what he should do, rather than on what he should not do.

That goes for us, too. We ought to know (or find out) what our savings are being used for. It’s often not easy, and I’m certainly not one to preach on the matter. This goes hand in hand with the positive side; where can we donate so as to do the greatest good to the greatest number?

Some people speak of “life’s arc”. The same idea is expressed in Walter Smith’s hymn “We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree / and wither and perish / but naught changes Thee”. The beginning and the end of the quote are evident to us all, but it’s the bit in the middle that makes me think that an essential point has been missed.

Way back, I used to think “next year I’ll be able to ride a real bicycle, or next year I’ll be de-mobbed. These days I often think “maybe we should do this sooner rather than later “or “let’s do it tomorrow!”

I read an account written by a young soldier, who was one of those evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940. They stood up to their chests in the sea for hours, awaiting their rescue in one of the famous little ships. As time passed, he discarded things one by one, unable to hold them any longer. Last to go was a leather map-case, a twenty-first birthday present from his parents. Finally, he was hauled on board a small boat, and carried back across the Channel to safety.

These days, I realise that little by little I am losing some of the things and the abilities, and the people that I value. It’s part of the arc of life. Maybe you find the same. But is it that in order to be rescued from this world, and carried back across the channel to where we truly belong, we need to discard some of the baggage we’ve carried round for so long?

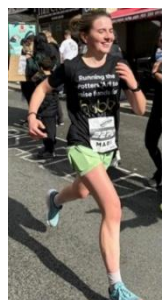
Not that I’m suggesting for a moment that this phase of our lives has to be miserable. I really do count my blessings, starting with the moment when I open my eyes and realise that my heart is still beating resolutely, and building up from there.

Fullness to such a burden is / that go on pilgrimage / here little, and hereafter bliss / is best from age to age.” wrote John Bunyan. 350 years on, his words come down to us, his successors, living in an age and in a society which is more materialistic and in more ways than he could have conceived.

Of one thing I’m sure. There’s a pinch point between this world and the next. One way or other we need to be stripped down in several ways – physically, perhaps mentally – if we’re to get through the needle’s eye gate between this world and the next. It is the sacrifice which Jesus made for us which makes the impossible possible.

“Jerusalem on high / my song and city is / my home when I shall die / the centre of my bliss / O happy place, when shall I be / My God with thee to see thy face.”

A MESSAGE FROM GRACE (St Chad’s):



On October 4th, I am running the Potters Arf for the Hubb Foundation. I am now in the last 6 months of my PhD exploring the impact they have on children and families within Stoke-on-Trent. School holidays can be tough for many families, with increased costs and reduced incomes creating a “holiday experience gap” for disadvantaged children. Without support, they are



more likely to face unhealthy breaks in terms of nutrition, physical activity, and social opportunities, and return to school at a disadvantage. Through my studies, it is clear how vital the work they do is for the city during the school holidays. The money raised continues to go towards helping create a happy and safe environment for children and their families. Therefore, it is so important to continue fundraising. All children should have the opportunity to experience a happy and healthy school holiday. That’s what drives me – both in my research and in my running. Please donate if you can by either following the link below, scanning the QR code or by cash.

Please help me support this amazing charity!

https://www.justgiving.com/page/grace-baker-pottersarf-2026?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

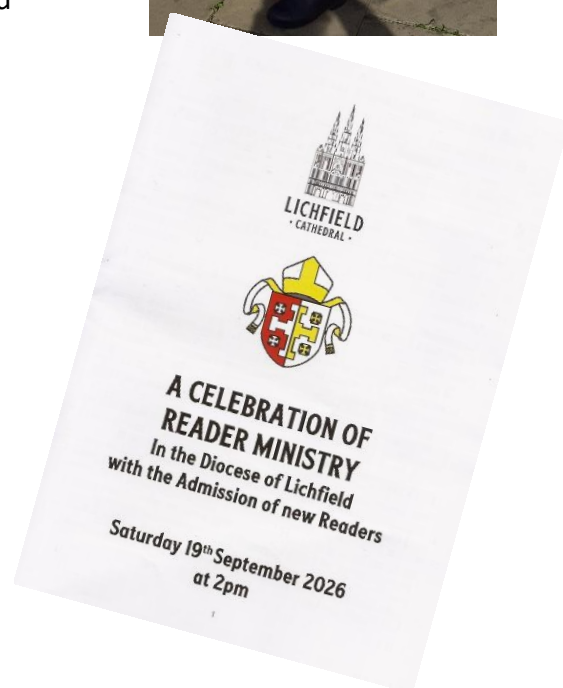
Thank you! Grace



WELCOME JULIA TO THE READERS' TEAM!

Saturday, September 19th
was a very special day for
our benefice when Julia
Podmore was licensed along

with 6 others by Bishop Michael in Lichfield cathedral sponsored by her daughter Grace. She was supported by a good crowd from St Chad's, St Luke's and her family. We look forward to having Julia lead us in our worship. The service was a celebration of the Reader Ministry and licensed readers from around the diocese were invited to attend.



Sheila H writes...

- Harvest gifts to the food bank consisted of 4 boxes and 6 carrier bags packed with food plus a monetary gift of **£244.00**. Thank you for your generosity.
- As we are now in October there will be heat on as necessary. You will all be aware of the huge increases forecast in the price of gas so the heat will be carefully monitored. Anyone organising a meeting or event should note this in the VESTRY DIARY at least a week before the event. Please make sure the time and duration of the event is noted and whether the church and/or chapter house are required.
- Please make sure that bins only contain approved items. The recycling bin in particular is a problem. Please do not put clingfilm, waxed paper (cake cases) or paper towels and tissues (these often contain 'the wrong' plastic).

Thanks Sheila and for taking all the harvest produce across to the Leek food bank.



Thank you.

St Luke's Church Endon August 2026
14 kgs

For your donations in support of Leek & District Foodbank.

Your dedication and support have made a huge difference to the lives of people living in poverty.

Lindsey Stockton
Project Manager

Registered charity number 1153900. Registered in England and Wales.

Dear Friends and Supporters

The rain has come and the grass is green! Amazing how a bit of precipitation can change the colour of the landscape so quickly.

Now we'll all be hoping for an Indian summer!

Here is the latest news from the Foodbank, starting with the figures, with comparison to last year:

Total vouchers fulfilled	=	79	(82)
No. of Adults fed	=	103	(118)
No. of Children fed	=	60	(68)
Total no. fed	=	163	(186)

We are still seeing a steady decrease in numbers, but it will be very interesting to see how things develop as the weather gets colder and people need to put their heating on. I fear that we may have been lulled into a false sense of security by the prolonged spell of good weather.

We have now completed our six weeks of takeaway meals from Trinity Church, over which time we have provided 300 highly nutritious and absolutely delicious meals to those most in need. Thank you so much to the driving force, Maureen Wiskin, and the amazing band of volunteers who have turned out to help to deliver this project. We will be doing this again for the week of half term and on two Tuesday evenings over the Christmas holidays. We are always looking for funding to support this valuable project, so, if anyone knows of any potential sources, please let me know.

I have now distributed my harvest communications and have received some heartwarming pledges of support. Notable amongst these is Endon Hall Primary School, who have adopted us as their chosen charity for the whole of the academic year! This is such a great opportunity for us to work together, both to encourage donations, but also to highlight to their pupils the difficulties that some of their contemporaries may face. For anyone who is planning to support us this harvest, but hasn't yet been in touch, it would be enormously helpful for us to know when we might be receiving any donations from you, so that I can ensure that we have enough hands on deck to process the most welcome gifts.

On the 12th of August we took over the Outside Arts stall in the Butter Market to talk about the work that we do. To attract passers-by to the stall we held a tombola, offering various random donations as prizes, eg a hairbrush and some inner soles – alongside some tins of kidney beans and chickpeas! This raised a surprising amount of money – although a few people chose not to accept their prizes and gave us the opportunity to talk about the work that we do.

As many of you will know, our beloved friend and colleague Lynne Ball sadly passed away in February of this year. We were blessed to receive donations in her name following her passing and wanted to ensure that we spent these in a way that would suitably honour Lynne's memory. We have therefore purchased some new furniture to create a second meeting/interview space, in which our clients can speak to the wide variety of support agencies which hold drop-in sessions at the Foodbank. Lynne was passionate about providing holistic support to anyone she met who was in need, so we think this is a very appropriate way in which to mark her continued presence at the Foodbank.

We were delighted to be chosen by Goddard Dunbar Solicitors once again to receive a donation of food, accepting 75kg of our most needed items. They really are incredibly generous benefactors. We are also being supported this month by Connor from PureGym, who is doing 50 pull-ups a day throughout September, the poster for which I circulated to you a little while ago.

Whilst questions may be asked about why we need extra funds or donations of food when we have a reasonably healthy bank balance, the climate is changing and it is important that we take steps to consolidate the future of the Foodbank.

This year, for the second year in a row, we have seen a deficit in our finances. Next year we face a very large deficit, as we have committed to fund 50% of the cost of our in-house Citizens Advice service, to the tune of £22,500.

In our budgetary discussions, the question arises, what is the core work of the Foodbank? We, along with foodbanks right across the country, firmly believe that we should not only be issuing food to those in need, but also taking steps to improve the situation for these people so that they don't need to turn to us in the future, hence our commitment to our financial inclusion service.

Since the beginning of April, we have had to buy 22% of our incoming stock to ensure that we have enough to cope with the demand. In addition, we purchase supermarket vouchers and vouchers for a local butchers to be able to offer our clients the chance to have fresh food, rather than just the tins and packets which make up our standard food parcels. All of this adds up, but it is what we feel we need to do, and we want to try to ensure that we have the necessary funds to continue to do it for as long as we are needed.

During August we carried out our annual stock-take. Thank you to our Team Leaders, Jayne and Sandra, for their sterling work, along with my partner, John, who provided the muscle! We were approximately 10% out between what the system said we have and what is in the warehouse, but we felt that this was acceptable bearing in mind the amount of "stuff" that comes in and out over the course of a year.

Current stock levels show that we have 3200kg, which would actually only last us for 6 weeks if nothing more were to come in. Quite a sobering thought. Finally, here is a list of our current needs:

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
PLEASE NO BAKED BEANS OR TINNED TOMATOES, THANK YOU

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

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

We are happy to receive donations of fresh fruit and vegetables and eggs as these are always a very welcome addition to the store cupboard essentials we give out to our clients. But no refrigerated items thank you.

And if you have any good quality carrier bags we would very much like these please – we are absolutely desperate!!

If any of you would like to discuss anything relating to the Foodbank please contact me at **projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk** or on 07916 005064.

Thank you for all that you do to ensure that we can do all that we do.

Best wishes
Lindsey Stockton, Project Manager

Upcoming Events at St. Michaels Church Horton

FAITH • COMMUNITY • TOGETHER



DISPLAY OF LOCAL AND CHURCH HISTORY

At Horton Church on
Sunday 27th September (Michaelmas Patronal Festival),
Sunday 4th October and Saturday 10th October 1-3pm



HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday 11th October 11.30am



HARVEST PIE SUPPER & SALE OF PRODUCE

Monday 12th October at 7pm Horton Village Hall

Bring your own drinks. Booking essential.
Contact PCC members for tickets.



SING YOUR HEART OUT AT HORTON !!!!

Horton Church Saturday 24th October 7pm.
An Evening of joy and reminiscence singing
along to all the old school assembly hymns.
Free Admission and refreshments will be served.
Donations welcome



QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 4th December at Horton Village Hall.
Details to Follow.



HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 11.30AM.

Contact Details: The Reverend Debbie Lovatt,
Vicar of the Benefice of Bagnall with Endon and Horton.

Tel: 07359893424

Email: reverenddebbielovatt@gmail.com



Melanie Myatt
melanie.closegate@gmail.com

PASTORAL TEAM EVENTS...



THIS MONTH OUR COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT MORNINGS will be from 10.30 to 12.00 on Tuesdays October 6th and 20th.

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 October 5th at 2.15pm and to Hillswood Lodge on Wed October 21st 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.

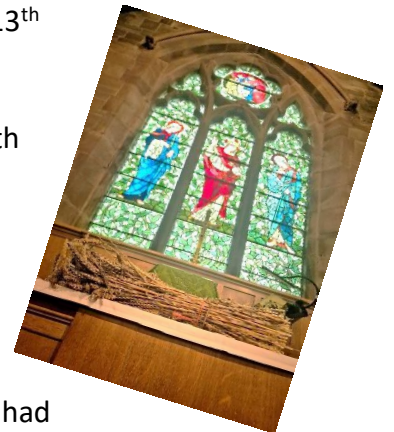
HOME and CARE HOME VISITS: Pastoral team members regularly visit folk who are no longer able to attend church. Contact Shirley if you know of anyone who would like a visit.



ST LUKE'S HARVEST...a big thank you to Rev Patricia and her team!

On the morning of September 13th our churchwarden informed us that Rev Debbie was unable to preside as she was in A & E with a broken wrist!

Rev Patricia sprang into the breach managing to play the piano, the organ and lead the service with a bit of help from Stan at the sound desk. Thankfully Rev Debbie had prepared her sermon and this was read out.



Under Patricia's further directorship the harvest lunch followed at 1.00pm and a delicious beef casserole was served to around 24 folk in the chapter house and topped off with a choice of sumptuous desserts! Thank you to everyone in the team for setting the tables, providing plates, casseroles and desserts and for serving them out and clearing up afterwards. Casserole and dessert were taken to the vicarage and we pray that Rev Debbie will get better quickly and be back with us shortly.

After expenses **£164** was raised for Leek Food Bank in addition to the many donations of tins, packets and bottles brought in by members of the congregation. Thank you also to **Graham Myatt** of Woodcock Hurst Farm who provided us with the sheaf of corn (via Alan Williamson) which reminds us that all year round our farmers work in often challenging and changeable circumstances to supply us with food. Mention must also be made of the harvest loaf which amazingly Rev Patricia had managed to produce and which was duly shared out.

As if this wasn't enough.. the chapter house lift suddenly stopped working! We are very grateful to Emma who with the clever use of technology succeeded in getting it going again in time for our visitors, aided by Shirley. Thank you and well done to you both.





CANDLE DEDICATIONS for OCTOBER

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 contact Shirley if you would like to have your loved one's name written in the Book of Remembrance.

Oct	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
4 th	The candle is kept burning by Alan Williamson	Ann Boulton to celebrate Emma's birthday, (6 th)
11 th	Maureen Foster to celebrate the birthdays of her grandchildren, Joe (5 th) and Emily (13 th)	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant
18 th	Linda Foster in loving memory of her brother Roland, who died one year ago on October 22nd	Sheila and Stan to celebrate the birthday of their granddaughter Bethany (20 th)
25 th	Sheila and Stan to celebrate the birthday of their granddaughter Anne(26 th)	Sheila and Stan to celebrate the birthday of their son Paul (31 st)



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

George Rigby (2nd), James Porter (4th), Emma Greatbatch (6th), Rob Brindley (13th), Bethany Salt (20th), Rev Debbie (20th), Chris Sproston (30th), Paul Hurst (31st)

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

ART CLUB:

Next meeting will be on a Saturday in October at 10.30am in the chapter house. Please contact Sue for the date.

FLOWER CLUB:



The Flower Club meetings will resume on Wednesday October 7th at 1.00pm in the chapter house.

These arrangements were created last month using environmentally friendly means of support and not the "oasis" foam which is non-biodegradable.



Please contact Sue Forrester for further information about the Art Club or the Flower Club.



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

Seeking the Kingdom: Listen, Run, Wait

*I will stand at my watch
and station myself on the ramparts;*

*I will look to see what he will say to me,
and what answer I am to give to this complaint.*

Then the LORD replied:

*"Write down the revelation
and make it plain on tablets
so that a herald may run with it.*

*For the revelation awaits an appointed time;
it speaks of the end
and will not prove false
Though it linger, wait for it;
it will certainly come
and will not delay."*

Habakkuk 2:1-3

As we continue our journey together across the diocese, I have been reflecting on these remarkable words from the prophet Habakkuk. They were spoken in a time of uncertainty and change. Habakkuk looked around and saw a world that seemed troubled and unstable. His response was not complacency, but urgency. He longed to see God's purposes fulfilled and repeatedly cried out, "How long?" God's answer offers a pattern that feels particularly relevant for us today: listen, run, wait. First, Habakkuk listens.

Before action comes attention. Before planning comes prayer. Habakkuk takes his place on the watchtower and waits to hear what God will say. As a Diocese, that commitment to listening has been at the heart of our journey through Shaping for Mission and now Seeking the Kingdom. We have sought not simply to make plans, but to discern where God is at work and how we are being called to join in. But listening is only the beginning.

God tells Habakkuk to write the vision down clearly, "so that a herald may run with it". The vision is not given to be admired, discussed endlessly or filed away on a shelf. It is given so that people can act. There is movement in this image. There is purpose. There is urgency.

That challenges us today. We know that we are called to make disciples, grow younger, serve our communities and become financially sustainable for the future. These are not aspirations for some distant generation. They require action now. A clear and compelling vision should encourage prayer, shape decisions and inspire momentum. God's mission calls us not simply to think differently, but to live differently, serve differently and invite others into the life of Christ.

Yet Habakkuk's message does not end with running.

God also says, "Though it linger, wait for it".

At first glance, that seems the opposite of urgency. In reality, it is a reminder that God's timing and God's purposes are not always the same as our own. We are called to act with energy and

determination, but we cannot manufacture spiritual growth. We cannot force faith, renewal or transformation. Those gifts ultimately come from God.

The challenge is to hold these truths together. We must resist the temptation either to rush ahead in our own strength or to become passive while waiting for God to act. Habakkuk calls us to a better way: to listen carefully, run courageously and wait trustingly.

As we continue Seeking the Kingdom together, Habakkuk offers a helpful pattern for the road ahead. Let us listen for God's voice, run with the vision he has given us, and trust that he will accomplish his purposes in his time. We need the urgency to act, the courage to change and the patience to persevere. Strategies matter because they help us focus our efforts on God's mission, but it is God who gives the growth. And because he is faithful, we can move forward with both urgency and hope.

*The Revd Canon Nick Smeeton
Strategy Programme Director*

*Read more about the diocesan vision and plans to enable us realise it together at
lichfield.anglican.org/our-vision/*



Oct 2026: Why Waxcaps?

Imagine yourself in a gorgeous churchyard on the turn of summer into autumn. The days shorten, the air chills, the leaves crunch underfoot. Taking a deep breath, you smell the damp earth and rich soil beneath your feet. You walk through the grass and stumble across something small yet mighty, a sign that the meadow you're in is doing wonderful things to help safeguard species-rich grasslands for the future. You're looking at a Waxcap and we need your help to find them and record them!

Our friends at Plantlife are running their annual Waxcap Watch, a citizen science programme asking you to record what fungi you see in grasslands this autumn. Among lots of other wondrous flora, waxcaps are often found in churchyards and burial grounds. They favour low nutrient soils that are regularly managed for species rich grassland. The loss of traditional management elsewhere has meant that these pockets in managed churchyards are even more important for the survival of waxcaps.

Many of our grassland fungi species are common in the UK but are highly threatened globally. Some are even classed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List; the same threat level as Giant Pandas and Snow leopards. There are around 50 species of waxcap, and the majority are recognisable for their bright colours, but are often small and can get lost in the sward.

So, how do you get involved in this year's Waxcap Watch survey?

The survey season takes place between Sept and Nov, when all the fungi should be out and easily visible. You don't need any fungi ID skills or specialism to take part in these surveys. All you need is a smartphone or access to a computer. Find out more on the Plantlife website with full instructions.

You can survey any grassy area open to the public (or site you have gained permission to access). The best way to start is by walking over an area in a slow zig-zag pattern so you give yourself time to spot the fungi. Some species can be small and elusive, so it might take you a while to get your eye in!

It's vital we protect these important species and their delicate but beautiful habitat. Where waxcaps live, continued traditional management will help conserve them. Things like scything and removing the grass cuttings are fantastic methods of keeping grasslands fungi friendly. Feeds and fertilisers should be avoided at all cost!

If you visit a local churchyard to complete your Waxcap Watch, we'd love to hear from you. Please take lots of photos of what you find. We'd love to see what's being found and hear how you've got on in your local burial ground.





ROGER SIMPSON... more tributes

So many Sunday mornings, in all weathers, Roger stood outside the church porch to welcome people to the service with a friendly word for all and, as a Warden, he had a deep fund of knowledge about St Luke's but it is as a writer and deliverer of talks that I will remember him best. Whenever Roger's turn to speak came around everyone was delighted. Roger had the ability to get right to the heart of his subject and deliver his message in a way that was engaging and easy to understand. His presence will be very sadly missed. How lucky we were to have him for so long.

Sue Forrester

What a treat it has been to have Roger at my side throughout my first year in The Benefice. So many treasured conversations and expressions of wisdom. Before each service Roger would be in the vestry and would pray for the service and for the congregation, often including a prayer that touched something going on in my own life. What a beautifully eloquent man, what a shining example Roger was. It seems too little to say that I miss him.

Rev Debbie

NB If you would like to add your own tribute to Roger please submit it in time for our next newsletter by Tues October 20th.

ST LUKE'S CHURCHYARD TIDY

We need a working party to clear weeds and moss from the paths and car park. This is planned for Saturday, 24th October from about 10.00am or earlier if you're keen to get on with the job! Volunteers please contact Rev Patricia.

A BIG LOOK AHEAD...

2030 will mark the 300th anniversary of St Luke's Church in Endon! Our tercentenary!

Rev Patricia would like us all to start thinking how we can celebrate.

Our last celebration was in 1980 when we celebrated our 250th anniversary while Rev Tony Alban was our vicar. It was then when we had the blue ceramic plates made featuring a drawing of our church by Bill Burgess, a member of the Methodist Church who lived in The Meadows. One of these is mounted on the chapter house wall but the original drawing was framed and is currently hanging in our lounge as Bill and his wife Joan kindly donated it to us when they left Endon.

Our church began as a "chapel of ease" to make services such as funerals much easier. Prior to this coffins had to be transported to a church in Leek along a winding unmade road! Apart from the tower which dates from 1730 our present building is quite different to the original nave and chancel. Some pictures in the chapter house show how it used to look including one showing the double pulpit, pews and one central aisle.

Ros

Rev Debbie Lovatt, vicar	07359 893424
Emma Ashworth, St Luke's warden	07861 730806
Rev Philip Robinson (minister w Permission to Officiate)	07983 863372
Rev Patricia Robinson (organist, also minister w PtO)	07854 418488
Sue Forrester, Flower 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 leader	01782 504089
Steve Dale, St Luke's treasurer	07894 098011
Sheila Hurst, St Luke's Gift Aid Sec	01782 503622
Ros Benson, newsletter / St Luke's website / PCC Secretary	01782 504137
Kath Howell, St Chad's warden / worship leader	01782 304616
Rev Caryl Siegertsz, St Chad's Asst Minister	07973 513128
Claire Houston-Brown, St Chad's warden / Safeguarding Officer	07779 667470
Julia Podmore, treasurer / licensed reader to the benefice	07980 802121
Pat Saul, St Chad's PCC secretary	07973 863930
Peter Millard, St Chad's buildings / warden's team	01782 505338
Sheila Tipper, St Chad's news contact	01782 534647
St Michael's Horton: Main contact Rev Debbie Lovatt	07359 893424

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, October 20th 2026**
either by e-mail jandrbenson@btinternet.com or phone 01782 504137.

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