



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



April 2024

INTERREGNUM Month 46



THE BOYS IN BLUE

'SPRING SERENADE'

Friday 26th April at 7pm in church

A concert given by City of Stoke-on-Trent Male Voice Choir with tickets (which include refreshments) at £7.50 now available from Sue Forrester and Shirley Brindley.

Proceeds will go to the choir and to church funds. This is a first for Endon, St Luke's and the programme will contain many favourite songs including those from musicals.

Please support!

APRIL at ST LUKE'S

7th LOW SUNDAY

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Philip

11.00am CONNECTIONS

14th SUNDAY

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP
Barrie/Roger

11.00am CONNECTIONS

21st SUNDAY

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION – Fr David Nicol

11.00am CONNECTIONS

28th SUNDAY

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP –
Barrie / Roger

11.00am CONNECTIONS



A FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Sundays at 11am

at St Luke's CE Academy,
Leek Road in the school hall.

lasting about 40 minutes followed by
games for the children and refreshments.

THANK YOU

to Sue Forrester for providing the lovely
daffodil arrangements which were
distributed on Mothering Sunday at both
our services.

APRIL at ST CHAD'S

7th LOW SUNDAY

10.45am FAMILY SERVICE - Julia and Claire

14th SUNDAY

10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE – MF

21st SUNDAY

10.45am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Philip

28th SUNDAY

10.45am MORNING WORSHIP – KH / MF
followed by APCM

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Bishop Matthew will
license Rev Caryl Siegertsz as Associate
Minister for the benefice on 7th July.**

ST LUKE'S APCM and ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on
Wed 22nd May at 7.30pm preceded by our usual short
PCC meeting at 7.00pm to approve the accounts. If
you are on the electoral roll you have a vote. The
Electoral Roll revision will take place from April 14th to
April 28th. If you are new to St Luke's, and would like
to be a voting member of our congregation, please ask
for a form. If you are aware of any changes which
should be made to the Roll, please tell me. A copy of
the Roll is on the notice board in Church. After
revision, the new list will be displayed **from Sunday
May 5th until the APCM on May 22nd.**

Contact Sheila Simpson if you would like your name to
be added to the electoral roll.

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.

ECUMENICAL SERVICES

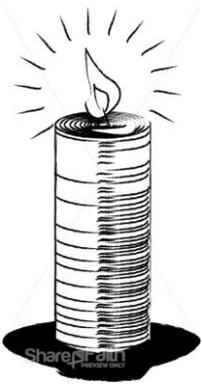
Wednesdays: Holy Communion at 9.15am

Apr 3rd NO MEETING

Apr 10th at St Luke's

Apr 17th Methodist Church

Apr 24th at St Luke's



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 of you who have supported the candle dedications this year.

Please contact Shirley on 504089 as soon as possible if you would like a particular date.

Apr	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
7 th	Geoff and Rosey Smith to celebrate the birthday of their grandson, Chester Geoffrey	Mabel McGrath in loving memory of sister Doreen and brother-in-law, Harry
14 th	Anon remembering the life and witness of Betty Whitmore	Anon remembering the life and witness of Edna Bond
21 st	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant	The candle is kept burning by Avril Weaver
28 th	David Moss in loving memory of Thomas Moss, father of David and Robert	Ann Boulton in loving memory of Les's parents



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

Fiona Morris (8th), Tim Boulton, Lydia Marshall (10th),
Eric Cartlidge (17th), Maryanne Lloyd (28th), Phil Benson (29th),
Georgia & Millie Tellwright (30th)

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

PASTORAL TEAM (Phone nos on back page)

HILLSWOOD LODGE CARE HOME: next visit Wed April 17th 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.

The residents really do enjoy these services and the chats afterwards.

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

WALKS followed by refreshments: Listen up for details of the next walk. Do join us.

FOOD

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Longlife semi-skimmed milk | Fruit squash | |
| Pasta sauce | Longlife sponge puddings | |
| Tinned carrots/corn | Tinned rice pudding | Coffee - 100/200gm |
| Instant mash | Tinned custard | Tinned meat |
| Tinned tuna | Tinned fruit | Tinned rice pudding |
| Rice – 500gm/microwave pouches | | |
| Tomato ketchup | Chocolate biscuits/bars | |

HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS

- Washing up liquid
- Multi surface cleaner
- Cleaning cloths/sponges
- Laundry liquid/capsules/powder

TOILETRIES

- Shampoo and conditioner
- Shower gel
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Razors and shaving foam

If you are a donor, please try to deliver your donations at the Foodbank on Tues and Fri 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. We continue to welcome corporate volunteers, school groups and individual volunteers, and we are always very happy to show people around and share with them the work we are doing.

***NEXT COLLECTION at St Luke’s and Connections:
 Sunday April 7th . Donations for February amounted to 50kg.***

VILLAGE HALL SPRING FAYRE

Thank you to Joe and Ann for manning the cake stall at Endon Village Hall on March 24th (Palm Sunday) and thank you to all those who supplied and bought cakes.

A total of **£65.41** was raised for church funds.



PRINCE CASPIAN

A follow-on from this year’s Lent course on **Thursday, 11th April**. Two sessions to choose from at 10.30 and 19.00. Contact Patricia if you would like to borrow the DVD. Bible studies resume in May.

FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB



Next session: Wednesday, April 10th in the Chapter House from 1pm to 3pm.

Spring flowers and foliage to arrange as you wish. Members are planning their displays for the Well Dressing Weekend on the theme of Children's Books and Rhymes. Bring your own choice of flowers, foliage and container. If you would like to come and watch, have a cuppa and a chat or bring knitting, you would be very welcome too.

Well Dressing Photography Competition

Following the success of last year's competition it has been decided to run another this year. The theme of the competition is 'The Four Seasons'. Each entry costs £2.50 and there will be a cash prize of £10 for the winner of each section. Entry forms are available from Sue and give details of the size and presentation requirements.

and OUR ART CLUB...

Our next meeting will be on a Saturday, date to be confirmed, from 10.00am to 12noon. We plan an exhibition of work for Well Dressing weekend. Pencils, crayons and sketch pads are needed. Nicola demonstrates techniques for drawing still life and is very encouraging to those who feel they have no talent in this area! A £2 donation covers tea, coffee and biscuits. You don't need to come every time and can book on to sessions that interest you.

Further information about the Art and Flower & Craft Clubs
from Sue Forrester on 07854 043187.

The Methodist Church 



- **Every Sunday** 10am Worship
- **Mondays** 10.00 – 1.30 Community Café (not bank holidays).
- **Wednesdays** 9.15 Holy Communion
Alternately with St Luke's Parish Church
- **Thursdays** 10.30 Fit-as-a-fiddle: Exercise, conversation and coffee
- **Thursday** April 11th: 2pm –3.30pm Bereavement Café
- **Fridays** April 12th & 26th: 10 – 12 Friday Friendship. Enjoy conversation over a cuppa!
All welcome.
- **Saturday** April 20th: 10 -12 Coffee Pot Cafe – coffee with Makers' Market (craft stalls)
- **Friday** 6pm 'Blast' – youth club for 7-11 year olds (during term time)

Eleanor.smith@methodist.org.uk
01782 503228



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

SPEAK UP AND BE VOTED

So often diocesan synods are perceived as boring, dry and bureaucratic. This should not be the case! Rather they should exist to serve the mission of the wider Church, to make strategic decisions, and to encourage the growth of mission and ministry in our diocese. So, are you passionate about these things and want to play a more active role in embedding our vision and strategy in the life of all our churches and communities? Then please read on...

What is Diocesan Synod?

Diocesan Synod is our primary elected, representative body and brings people together across the Church of England in Staffordshire, north Shropshire and the Black Country. It holds the diocesan vision, drives mission, sets strategy, elects and appoints a range of positions on boards and committees and shapes priorities.

It may respond to questions put to it by the General Synod and is an advisory and deliberative body. It considers the important topics facing our diverse and unique diocese and the wider Church. It is a statutory institution which serves not only our diocese but influences and helps to direct the national church on matters of church, public and government policy. It also includes some mandatory governance items such as approval of the budget and the annual accounts. The membership consists of three houses: the House of Bishops; the House of Clergy; and the House of Laity.

The current three-year term is due to end on 31 July. The next synod members will be elected in the summer of 2024 and serve a term of three years. Meetings are held in March, June and November.

The agenda for 2024 – 2027

Themes for the next three years will include embedding our diocesan vision and strategy, taking forward the Growing Faith initiative in relation to schools and families; a continuing focus on growth in numbers and depth of discipleship, including new Christians, and new worshipping communities; actively engaging with our local communities, determination to continue to focus on safeguarding, diversity, racial justice and the environment.

What skills and qualities do representatives need?

- **Vision:** Do you have a vision for a flourishing Church and a passion to work with others to share your Christian faith and deepen the discipleship of those around you?
- **Commitment:** Are you ready to seek God's will through prayer and reflection, with a heart for growth, mission and engagement across boundaries?
- **Openness:** Are you open to trying new approaches while learning from others, embracing change and the bigger picture and to sharing inspiring feedback with your deanery, PCC and wider church family?
- **Enthusiasm:** Members of Synod are encouraged to speak and challenge confidently, enabling change whilst leading and encouraging others.
- **Good communication skills:** Do you have a listening ear? Are you receptive and open-minded and have the ability to share your passion? Do you have — or could you develop — some of these qualities to serve the Diocese of Lichfield? If so, can I encourage everyone reading this who is on the electoral roll of your church, is over 16 years of age and an actual communicant to prayerfully consider whether this is something God is calling you to do? I would be happy to talk to anyone considering this and answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Julie Jones is the Diocesan Secretary/Chief Executive Officer for the Diocese of Lichfield and can be contacted at julie.jones@lichfield.anglican.org or on 01543 306291.

More can be read at lichfield.anglican.org/diocesan-synods/





Wild Daffodils



At this time of year, the yellow trumpets of daffodils brighten up even the dullest spring day. Most of what we see are planted garden varieties, but a real treat is to find wild daffodils (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*). Once widespread, the wild daffodil is now much rarer, having mysteriously declined during the 19th century. It now has a disjointed distribution – for instance it is found mainly in south Devon, pockets of the Black Mountains in Wales, stretches of the Gloucestershire-Herefordshire border country, the Sussex Weald, Farndale in Yorkshire, and the Lake District. Elsewhere, even in suitable habitat, it only occurs in small patches, many miles apart. For example, in churchyards.

The wild daffodil's status as a popular flower was particularly celebrated in the area around Newent, Dymock and Ledbury on the Gloucestershire-Herefordshire border which acquired the nickname of 'The Golden Triangle.' In the 1930s the Great Western Railway ran 'Daffodil Specials', from London for weekend tourists to walk amongst the 'golden tides' and to buy fresh bunches at garden gates. Many farmers and orchard-owners used to have them as a cash-crop, harvested on a 'Pick Your Own' basis. At the end of April, the meadows went back to their function of growing hay or fruit.

A 1930s' guide to a village in the Golden Triangle wrote: They are picked by the local women and children and were sold to an agent, who sends them to South Wales, where they find a ready sale for Mothering Sunday and also for Palm Sunday, for many places the old (Welsh) custom of 'flowering the graves' on that day still persists. The daffodils are also sent to northern industrial towns. (*Information from Flora Britannica by Richard Mabey.*)

How to spot a wild daffodil - The wild daffodil is smaller than horticultural varieties, with paler petals and a deeper yellow trumpet-like tube.

The leaves are grey/green, flattened and around 15mm wide. It is relatively short (30-35cm) and forms clumps which carpet the ground.

A top tip is that unless there are several hundreds of them looking particularly small and washed out, they probably aren't wild! Please help us to map the churchyards containing wild daffodils by taking a photo on the iNaturalist app and posting it on our Beautiful Burial Grounds project within iNaturalist.

All the best, Harriet

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



Thank you to those who took part in the sponsored walk at Tittesworth on Sat March 16th.

If you have sponsored (or would like to) please hand in your contribution to Sue Forrester as soon as possible. Since the walks began in 1991, a grand total of **£1,121,134** has been raised for the work of Christian Aid. In 1991 just £4,600 was raised with

the highest yearly total of £53,386 in 2009 and last year £30,689.

This was the last time John Bamford is organising it. A superb effort! Hopefully the walks will continue as does the need. The total for St Luke's so far is **£200**.



A QUIZ FOR SPRING...Answers!

How did you get on with last month's quiz? Here are the answers. Well done if you managed to work out all or most of them. Did you get No 21? The snowdrops in the churchyard this year were abundant and provided a cheery sight for those walking up to the church door from the lych-gate and daffodils are now out all over the place.

1	Well dressed large cat	DANDELION
2	Accessory for a sly animal	FOXGLOVE
3	Two girls make a herb	ROSEMARY
4	They surround the mouth	TULIPS
5	Spread the drinking vessel	BUTTERCUP
6	A shy lady	VIOLET
7	Farm worker's money holder	SHEPHERD'S PURSE
8	Photograph a mythical beast	SNAPDRAGON
9	Bovine slide	COWSLIP
10	Very wise plant	SAGE
11	Not the macho type	PANSY
12	Pussy flavouring for the lamb	CATMINT
13	Lamp from the Far East	CHINESE LANTERN
14	For a clean sweep	BROOM
15	Occurs on a cold winter's day	SNOWDROP
16	Demure English emblem	PRIMROSE
17	Sounds like herds of sheep	PHLOX
18	Noisy frogs and toads	CROCUS
19	Foggy amour	LOVE-IN-A-MIST
20	Sugary vegetable	SWEET PEA
21	Carried at a wedding	BRIDAL WREATH
22	High temperature scarcity	FEVERFEW
23	Waits for no man we hear	THYME
24	Wise king's fastener	SOLOMON'S SEAL
25	Very sad Big Ben	BLUEBELL
26	Shellfish in a wheat field	CORNSPOCKLE
27	Christmas bush with a pig's leg	HOLLYHOCK
28	Not grown on an elderly lady	OLD MAN'S BEARD
29	On the rear of tandem	DAISY
30	Riding equipment for a bird	COCKSPUR

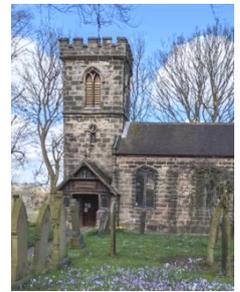


ST LUKE'S CHURCH PATH BORDER

A big "thank you" goes to Joe Porter for all his efforts in improving the border from the lych-gate to the church door with new plants and gravel. Thank you also to those who made monetary donations and to Joe for using some of his special SMDC grant allocation for this.

The border is looking very cheerful and welcoming. Well done Joe!

ST CHAD'S NEWS



A Palm Sunday procession led by Gareth the donkey arrived at St Chad's church to a very tidy churchyard!

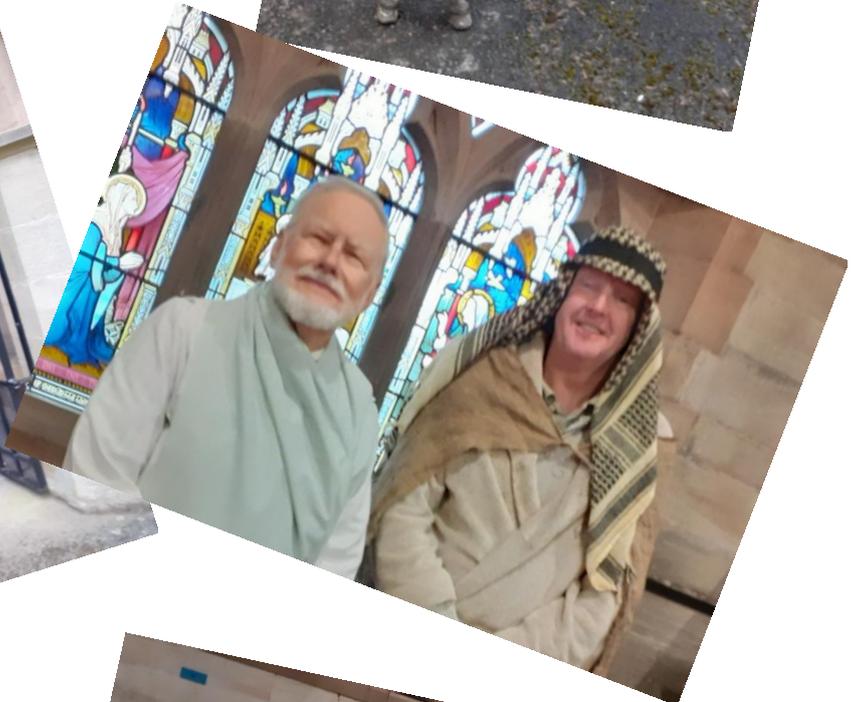
Gareth was very busy this year as he also visited St Luke's church to take part in the Easter Experience later in Holy Week. See next page. More photos on St Chad's Facebook page.

There's good news for St Chad's as Rev Carrie Siegertsz will be licensed by Bishop Matthew as Associate Minister for the benefice on July 7th.

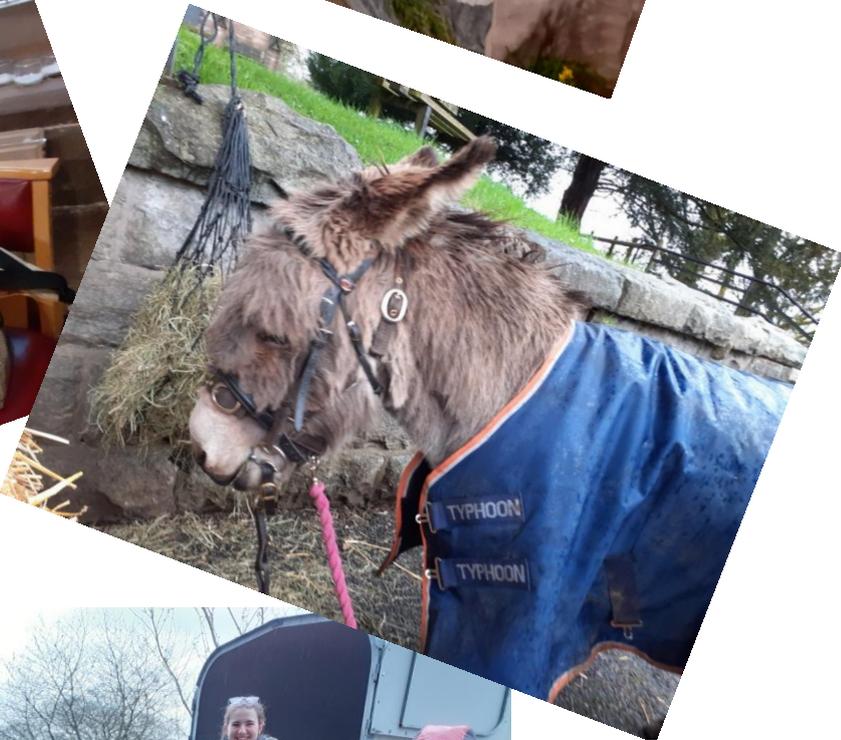
AN EASTER EXPERIENCE at St Luke's

Despite the showery weather we had a good turn-out for our Holy Week event. Children and adults were told the Easter Story as they moved around the church and then shown to the chapter house for refreshments and a table of activities. Each child received a goody bag as they left.

Huge thanks to Shirley and her wonderful team who created all the various scenes and dressed up appropriately. Of course the star of the event had to be Gareth the donkey, kindly loaned by Julia and Arnie from Bagnall. Gareth had a busy week!



Here are just a few more shots.
More can be viewed on St Luke's
Facebook page.



COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

Barrie writes...

As we gather this Easter to remember the suffering but to celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Saviour, we need to reflect on the blessings which have flowed from that, as we celebrate more than 1500 years of Christianity within these islands. This is a thought provoking message received by a priest in Stafford from a fellow minister.

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness – you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation – you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death – you are more blessed than three million people in the world

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep – you are richer than 75% of the world

If you have money in the bank and in your wallet and some spare change in a bowl somewhere – you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy

If you can hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful – you are blessed because the majority can, but must not

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder – you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch

If you can read this message , you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you and, furthermore , you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all"

Food for thought?

LATEST BLANKET DELIVERY...



appreciation by the volunteer workers who come from a variety of countries.

Sue is very keen for you to know that your squares are greatly valued and she is especially grateful to those of you who manage to sew them together in strips of six. This saves a great deal of time and effort for the ladies at Biddulph Methodist Church who make them into blankets.

I'm often asked if these squares are still needed. The answer is a resounding YES! So please keep knitting folks!

Sue and Norman Millard made yet another trip to the Calais refuge at the end of March. Although they go regularly it is not always an easy journey often with travel delays. However, they are always met with smiles and much



April Prayer Focus

- The families of those who died when the container ship collided with the bridge in Baltimore and those dealing with the consequences
- The desperate plight of the people of Haiti suffering violence and anarchy brought about by gang rule
- The people of South Sudan enduring great hardship and near famine conditions
- The wife and family of opposition leader Alexei Navalny and the repercussions of his death in Russia and around the world
- Ukraine and the urgent need for arms and an end to the war now entering its third year
- Safety for shipping in the Red Sea and the financial consequences of longer journeys around the Cape
- Our king and the Princess of Wales as they undergo cancer treatment
- Those adversely affected by the recent storms, floods doctors' strikes and rail strikes
- The families of all those whose loved ones have been murdered
- The truly horrendous situation in Israel and Gaza and especially the hostages
- A permanent cease-fire and the release of all hostages and for desperately needed aid getting into Gaza
- Climate change and the urgent need to combat its effects
- The serious consequences of shipments of grain being prevented from reaching their destinations, especially the African countries
- Those taken prisoner by the Russians
- Serious concerns about the growth of Artificial Intelligence and its influence on all our lives
- The current threat from China and N Korea supporting Russia in the war in Ukraine
- All aid agencies and volunteer recovery teams
- The problems of AI and managing them
- Those seeking justice for women in Iran and regime change
- The problem of people-trafficking across the Channel and those seeking asylum
- Our local elections that the most suitable candidates will be elected
- All hostages in Iran awaiting release especially Morad Tahbaz and Mehran Raoff
- The huge problem of loneliness
- Refugees in Yemen and the US border with Mexico
- 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 following nearly 4 years of interregnum
- Those affected by the recent upsurge in knife crime
- The widespread drug problem especially in Stoke-on-Trent
- Lou Macari's hostel for the homeless
- The problem of the millions of plastic bottles afloat in our oceans and the tons of 'space junk' orbiting our planet
- The problem of river pollution brought about by discharge of sewage
- All who have lost loved ones recently
- The Trussell Trust food banks still needed as much as ever

Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship / PCC chair	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, reader / St Luke's PCC Sec / 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
Revs Philip & Patricia Robinson (landline)	01782 502448
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	01782 504137
Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / warden / worship leader	01782 304616
Julia Podmore, St Chad's warden / treasurer	07980 802121
Pat Saul, St Chad's PCC vice-chair / secretary	07973 863930
Muriel Finney, St Chad's worship leader	01782 302229
Peter Millard, St Chad's buildings / warden's team	01782 505338
Emma Ashworth, St Chad's warden's team	07861 730806
Claire Houston-Brown, St Chad's Safeguarding Officer	07779 667470
Sheila Tipper, St Chad's news contact	01782 534647

For the duration of the interregnum the newsletter is available on-line as a PDF attachment and on the church website.

Paper copies are available for those without internet access.

Please submit notices for our next newsletter to Ros Benson

by **Tuesday, April 23rd 2024**

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

A FEW SMILES BORROWED FROM ST CHAD'S NEWSLETTER

How do we know that Moses wore a wig? Because sometimes he came with Aaron and sometimes he didn't.

Essay from young student: "Vesuvius is a volcano. You can climb to the top, look over the rim and see the Creator smoking."

School matron to recalcitrant boarder?: "You must make your bed properly in future, Brown, or you and I will fall out!"

Old lady to Vicar, who was leaving the parish: "I am so sorry you are going. I have enjoyed your sermons so much. We never knew what sin was until you came."

Nervous Head Boy reading a Lesson in school assembly: "Here beginneth the first Actor of the Chaps."

During a rather dramatic sermon, with much gesticulating in the pulpit, a small boy whispered to his mother: "Mummy, What shall we do if he gets out?"

"I have lost my briefcase." "I pity your grief."

"It contained all my sermons." "I pity the thief."