



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

Vestry (church office): 01782 502166 or 07517 653370



**August 2024**

**INTERREGNUM Month 50**



## **BEACH OR BACK GARDEN.... ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!**

If you're not able to go away for a break then there are activities in Endon for you to enjoy such as...

### **CAFÉ CHURCH**



Every Sunday in August at 11.00am at Connections at St Luke's Academy. You will be served a good cup of coffee with a cake and enjoy fellowship. All welcome!

**LIFE GROUP** continues on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays in the chapter house. Again all are welcome!

**ART CLUB** in the chapter house on Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 10.30am.

## AUGUST at ST LUKE'S

### 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION

– Rev Philip

11.00am CONNECTIONS

### 11<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP –

Barrie / Roger

11.00am CONNECTIONS

### 18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY

9.15am HOLY COMMUNION

– Fr David Nicol

11.00am CONNECTIONS

### 25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY

9.15am MORNING WORSHIP –

Barrie / Roger

11.00am CONNECTIONS



During August  
join us for

## CAFÉ CHURCH

Sundays at 11am

at St Luke's CE Academy,

Leek Road in the school hall

with games for the children and  
refreshments and discussions about faith  
and world problems.

## ECUMENICAL SERVICES

Wednesdays: Holy Communion at  
9.15am

7<sup>th</sup> Aug at St Luke's

14<sup>th</sup> Aug at Methodist Church

21<sup>st</sup> Aug at St Luke's

28<sup>th</sup> Aug at Methodist Church

## AUGUST at ST CHAD'S

### 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY

10.45am FAMILY SERVICE – KH and team

*Barbecue at Julia and Arnie's after the family  
service*

### 11<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY

10.45am PRAYER & PRAISE – MF/Terry

Bagguley

### 18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY

10.45am HOLY COMMUNION – Rev Caryl

### 25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY

10.45am MORNING PRAYER – KH / MF

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – Beetle Drive  
at 7pm. Pie and pea supper at the village  
hall.

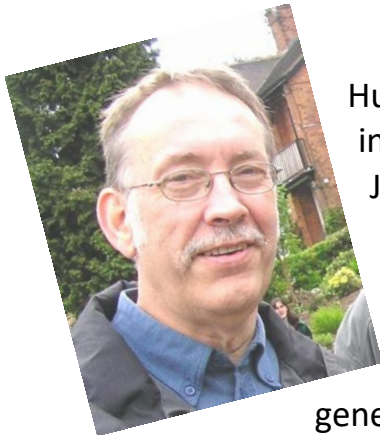
SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER - Harvest and  
afterwards lunch at village hall.

SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER – Community  
Christmas Fayre



**GOLDEN WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS** to  
Dave and Deb Podmore who celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup>  
wedding anniversary this month!

Thank you both for your dedicated Christian  
service especially at Connections over recent  
years. May the Lord continue to bless you and  
your family.



## JAMES

Huge thanks to all those involved in making the Celebration of James' life on Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> such a very special event. Also thank you to all who gave so

generously to St

Luke's Church in memory of James.

The final total will be made known

next month. Thank you for all the cards of

condolence, your prayers and the flowers and finally my enormous thanks to those who

were kind enough to visit James regularly while he was in hospital and then later in

residential care. I won't list your names as I would not want to miss anyone but you know who you are and I and my family are deeply touched by your love. **Ros**



## FAREWELL and THANK YOU!

Rev Eleanor Smith's Farewell Service at Endon Methodist Church took place on Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>. Several folk from St Luke's were there and presented Eleanor with a monetary gift to show our appreciation for all her support during our interregnum.

**Joe Porter writes...**

*Eleanor has been an outstanding Methodist Minister and gone above and beyond to help so many families across our community. During the pandemic, Eleanor supported many vulnerable people behind the scenes. On behalf of our whole community, thank you, happy retirement, and best of luck with your next adventure.*

**Rev Eleanor writes...**

*Dear friends at St Luke's*

*Thank you so much for coming to my farewell service; I really appreciated you being with me. And what an unexpected and generous gift;*

*as I said at the service I want to go on a retreat with John Bell*

*'Spiritual mentors in Holy Scripture' at Launde Abbey, and with your*

*gift and that of the circuit, it is paid for. I have already booked it to ensure a place!*

*Every blessing  
Eleanor*





# CANDLE DEDICATIONS

## for AUGUST

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 if you would like a particular date.*

Aug	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ros Benson in loving memory of James on their 50 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, August 8 <sup>th</sup> .	Barbara Brown in loving memory of Harry. Chris Morgan in loving memory of her Mum and Dad on their birthdays (5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> ).
11 <sup>th</sup>	David Moss and Janet Bowyer in loving memory of Ellen Bailey, grandmother of Janet, David and Robert.	Anon in memory of Muriel and Graham Salt.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sheila and Stan to celebrate the birthday of their son-in-law, Phil	Tony Machin in loving memory of a very special wife and mother.
25 <sup>th</sup>	Tony Machin in loving memory of a dear Mum and Dad.	The candle is kept burning by Marilyn Plant.



## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to

**Caroline Bradshaw (2<sup>nd</sup>), Margaret Woolliscroft (11<sup>th</sup>),  
Rachel Foster (13<sup>th</sup>), Sylvia Bradshaw (16<sup>th</sup>)**

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



## MABEL 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 1930 – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024

The thanksgiving service for the life of Mabel McGrath took place in St Luke's on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July and was well attended by her family and friends. As well as being a faithful member of our congregation, Mabel was a long-standing member of the local WI and had received an award for her 50 years' membership. She supported many community and church events, often baking cakes to help with fundraising. Donations were invited for St Luke's in her memory and are much appreciated.

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

## Creating something new...

I wasn't quite sure what to expect in my new role as no one had 'gone before'. I have spent 33 years caring for, educating and sharing the love of Jesus with children, their families and staff. This has been in a variety of places including church, and now I find myself working for the Church of England in this diocese. I began this new role by having to 'create something new', which was a little daunting at first.

One of the things that I have most enjoyed while 'starting something new' is the ability to be creative and let God guide my thinking. Firstly, I didn't realise just how large and diverse the Diocese of Lichfield is, but this adds to the interest and excitement of my role. Being alone in my car most often with only Premier Praise radio and God for company, I realised, as I drove around the diocese, that being in relationship with others is crucial. This was just what Jesus spent a lot of his time doing too. I have spent the last eight months meeting with many colleagues of various ministries. It has been marvellous to meet new people. Hearing about both the challenges and successes of ministry has been a very humbling experience. There is so much to celebrate, despite some of the difficulties that people have shared with me. So many parishes and people both lay and ordained are doing such great things; it is a privilege to serve you all.

For now, God has blessed me with this ministry of helping others to grow in their ministries. What do you feel God is calling you to? Everyone is called by God at different times and for different purposes to minister to others, whether that is in church or out in the world. Ministry is sharing the good news, serving and helping others to be disciples (learners). Ministry is about giving of ourselves and our time, talents, and resources to bless and help others. This will look different for people. Everyone's ministry is important, and I am often reminded of this bible verse... **'There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body' (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)**. Such a powerful piece of scripture that reminds us that without the other we cannot be all that God intends for us to be. This is where my role will continue to take me... helping you to deepen your own faith and explore what God has for you regardless of who you are by providing training that matters to you.

I will be continuing to visit people, listening to what they need so that I can support you in living out the 1 Corinthians scripture. I am putting together training options in a digital brochure which will be launched at the end of August. If you would like to speak to me, I am always happy to come and meet you wherever you are. I will be praying for the life of our diocese over the coming months and for all the wonderful works that are happening because of you. If I haven't met you yet, I hope that I do in the future. Thank you for all you are doing in our diocese.

God bless,  
Jules

*Jules Smith is the diocese's Strategic Ministerial Development Officer, which means she works closely with both the Mission and Vocation & Training teams. You can contact her by email ([jules.smith@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:jules.smith@lichfield.anglican.org)) or phone: 07498 192669. Or explore some of our advice and information about vocation and*

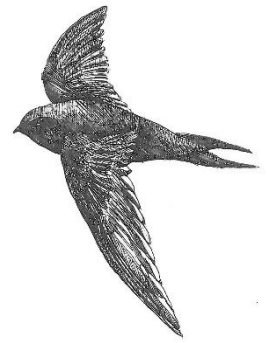
*ministry at [www.lichfield.anglican.org/exploring-vocation/](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/exploring-vocation/)*





## Goodbye to the Swifts

Swifts are one of our most enigmatic birds, and if you live in an area where they are still nesting then the last three or four months may have been characterised by their breathtaking aerodynamics and their shrill screams.



Cuckoos and swifts are the earliest of our migrants to leave the UK but whilst cuckoos do not rear their young, swifts do so quickly, starting to breed in May, feeding young until they fledge in July or August, at which time adults and young head south!

By August most are en route for the warm south stopping to refuel in southern Europe and they will travel about 7,000 miles to Equatorial or even Southern Africa. Swifts are fantastic fliers, living entirely on the wing apart from when nesting. Swifts feed on tiny flying insects and spiders, often going to great heights to find them and bringing back a ball or *bolus* of food in a throat pouch for their young. They have been known to fly high and fast, travelling up to 70 mph and soaring over the Himalayas in Ladakh when on migration. They eat, sleep, bathe and mate on the wing and cannot take off from the ground as their legs are small and set far back on their bodies. Instead, they launch from a high-up hole or ledge, swooping straight into flight. In nature they nest in holes in tall trees or cliffs and our buildings make a good alternative with churches and chapels particularly good for swifts as they are tall and have space around the building for the swift to launch in to. Swifts can nest on the top of the wall under the eaves or within the tower or spire, perhaps in a swift box behind the louvres of the tower windows or in a small hole or crevasse.

It is quite possible that swifts nest on your nearest church without anybody knowing, as unlike swallows and martins (with which they are often confused), they rarely visit their nests and leave no droppings below. Swifts will fly around screaming as the evening draws in and then quickly swoop into their nests in a split second and so sharp eyes and patience is required to spot them.

Swifts need our help. They have reduced in number by over 60% since 1995, in part due to improvements in our buildings, making them more weather-tight and better insulated. This good work can have the unfortunate effect of removing swift nesting sites so installing nest boxes is a great idea. If your church does not have swift boxes in the tower and you know that there are swifts in the area then perhaps you might try and arrange for a box to be installed over the autumn and winter, in time for next year's epic migration. You'll find information on swift boxes on the Caring for God's Acre website and take a look at the website of Swift Conservation to learn more.

All the best, Harriet

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

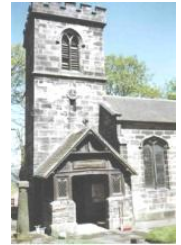
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## FOOD BANK

The next collection will be on Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup> at St Luke's and Connections services. Please see last month's newsletter for list of items required.



# NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S



Rev Caryl Siegertsz was licensed by Bishop Matthew as Associate Minister to the Benefice on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> July at St Chad's after completing her curacy in the Cheadle deanery. She will be non-stipendary and not working full-time but I'm sure Kath and Muriel will be greatly relieved to have her on board. We look forward to welcoming her to St Luke's too when she is able to visit us.



A few chuckles from St Chad's...

*One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. "Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."*

*"Please Sir" announced little Joey, "There's something that I'd like to know" "What's that Joey?" asked the vicar. "Well according to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?" "Right." "And the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?" "Err-right," "And the Children of Israel built the temple, right?" "Again you're right." "And the Children of Israel fought the Egyptians, and the Children of Israel fought the Romans and the Children of Israel were always doing something important, right?" "All that is right too," agreed the vicar. "So what is your question?" "What I want to know is this," demanded Joey, "What were all the grown ups doing?"*

*A young man had just got his driving licence and he asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study the Bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it." After about a month the young man came back and again asked his father if they could discuss the use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been very proud of you. You've brought your grades up, you've studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut." The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair....," To which his father replied, "Yes, and they WALKED everywhere they went!"*

**THE FLOWER & CRAFT CLUB** is taking a summer break but will be back in September; the date has yet to be confirmed.

**THE ART GROUP** is meeting on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the chapter house following the prayer breakfast.

## PRAYER BREAKFAST

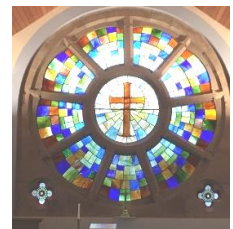
The next prayer breakfast will be held on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8.30am for breakfast and prayer at 9.00am.

## LIFE GROUP MEETINGS

These will continue in August on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 7.00pm in the chapter house led by Rev Patricia. These will be on August 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.

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The **Methodist Church**



- **Every Sunday** 10.00 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
- **Friday Friends** 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> August 10.00am – 12.00noon
- **Saturday August ?** 0 -12 Coffee Pot Cafe (see noticeboard outside church for date)
- **Friday** 6pm 'Blast' – youth club for 7-11 year olds (during term time)

## **ENDON FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

***Coach trip to Llandudno on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> August***

*Pick up from The Black Horse, The Plough and the Village Hall at 9.00am.*

*Return at 5pm. Members £14.50. Non-members £15.50*

*To book a place please phone Eileen on 01782 76446*



# **August Prayer Focus**

- **Our new government**
- **The US presidential election and the current problems**
- **Rev Eleanor in her retirement and for Rev Denise Williamson as she becomes the new Methodist minister based in Endon**
- **An end to people trafficking and the ongoing problem of boats of refugees and asylum seekers crowding into unsafe boats to cross the Channel**
- **The families and friends of Squadron Leader Mark Long who died in an accident with his Spitfire as part of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight display team**
- **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**
- **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**
- **The current threat from China, Iran 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**
- **Those able to go on holiday for a peaceful and refreshing time**
- **All hostages in Iran awaiting release especially Morad Tahbaz and Mehran Raoff**
- **The huge problem of loneliness**
- **Loved ones and all in our parish who are currently unwell**
- **Improvements in the treatment of cancer, heart disease and neurological conditions**
- **Our church wardens and worship leaders during the interregnum**
- **The future of our benefice following over 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 / Administrator (* tel no for church enquiries)	07510 074097 07517 653370*
Rev Philip Robinson (minister w Permission to Officiate)	07983 863372
Rev Patricia Robinson (organist, also minister w PtO)	07854 418488
Sue Forrester, Flower & Craft Club / Foundation gov / Safeguarding Officer / St Luke's Facebook / Art Club	07854 043187
Deb Podmore, Connections / school chaplain	01782 773383
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	01782 502006
Shirley Brindley, candle dedications / pastoral tm	01782 504089
Steve Dale, St Luke's treasurer	07894 098011
Sheila Hurst, St Luke's Gift Aid Sec / MU rep	01782 503622
Ros Benson, newsletter / St Luke's website / PCC Secretary	01782 504137
Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / warden / worship leader	01782 304616
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, August 20<sup>th</sup> 2024**

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

### ST LUKE'S CHURCH OFFICE

Unless involved with funeral duties Barrie mans the office on Mon, Wed, and Fri from 10.30am to 1.00pm using **07517 653370**. During these times the church is open for private prayer.

## PASTORAL TEAM (Phone nos above)

### HILLSWOOD LODGE CARE HOME: next visit Wed August 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. 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.