

St Luke's News 4th July 2021



Do you see Britain as a Christian country? That's really a much more complicated question than it appears to be. From our history, yes, we are, and it is a fascinating story to read about how that came to be. Alongside this, we have our Queen, who, in her Christmas broadcast and on many other occasions, makes her own faith position as a Christian very clear. I, for one, am very thankful for that. We are also free to worship in our churches, chapels, and anywhere else we choose, and to practise our faith in charitable work, evangelism, Christian schools, chaplains in various organisations, etc.

Yet we also - rightly - allow freedom to other faiths, as well as to those of no faith. It is interesting, in my contact with bereaved families, when preparing for a funeral, to hear so often, "He/she didn't go to church, but had a real faith, and said prayers every night." So many have heard the Christian message in childhood, perhaps at school, and retained something of it. They go to the "rites of passage" services in church, but often stop short of taking their faith any further. It worries me that we seem to have missed opportunities for encouraging people to a real commitment to the Lord Jesus.

Will it be different after lockdown ends, when folk have recognised their own mortality? Will a new vicar (we hope!) help us to move forward in sharing our faith with others? Let us to continue to pray that the Christian message, with its hope and high moral standards, will become once more the backbone of our national life. Every blessing, Noreen.

Morning Prayer Service at St. Luke's Church on Sunday 4th July 10.00

The service will be streamed on our new website at www.stluketittensor.church and also, for the moment, on YouTube and on Facebook from 9.45 onwards. The recorded service will be available for 24 hours afterwards on YouTube and Facebook and for about a week afterwards on our website. We hope that you will find it easier to use the new website at <http://www.stluketittensor.church/>. You can go there, click 'Watch' at the top, then the 'play' arrow and away you go.

You may have been surprised, as I was, to hear the church bells ringing last Saturday. I thought it may have been to inform people of the Summer Concert. But it turns out that **Saturday 26th June marked the 200th Anniversary** of a unique bell ringing invention which allows just one person to ring all the bells in a tower. The chiming system was designed by curate the Rev Henry Thomas Ellacombe, who created the 'Ellacombe Chimes' as an alternative to having to use local bell ringers so that he did not have to tolerate their wayward behaviour. The chimes were installed at St Mary's in Bitton in 1821 and churches in other countries subsequently adopted his invention, including St. Luke's here at Tittensor.

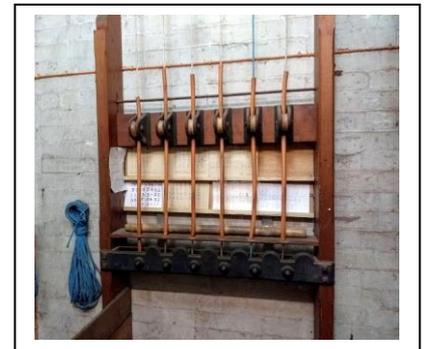
Churches all around the world took part in the bicentennial celebrations in June involving churches that have an installed and working chiming device and were joined by other churches and towers with normal bell ringing.

Rev Henry Thomas Ellacombe had a natural talent for mechanical and technical workings and had previously worked for the great engineer Marc Brunel, the inventor of machinery to make pulleys, at his engineering works at Chatham Dockyard in Kent.

On Saturday 26th the bells at St. Luke's were rung by Graham Sherratt at noon, and at All Saints' Standon by Paul Graetz.

We have six bells at St. Luke's. Unlike the traditional method, where the bells are rotated over 360 degrees, by one person per bell hauling

on a rope, Ellacombe's method sees the bells remain static and a hammer is struck against the bell's inside. Each hammer is connected by a rope to a fixed frame in the bell-ringing room, permitting one person to ring all six bells.





What a lovely treat we had on Saturday afternoon when we were entertained by Marjorie and her music group to a musical extravaganza. It was the first live performance that most of us had attended since lockdown began and apart from social distancing and wearing face masks gave us back a feeling of normality.

The four singers (without accompaniment), entertained us with madrigals and songs, some many centuries old, and included in their selection that beautiful piece from John Stainer's Crucifixion "God so Loved the World". Apart from the enjoyment we had, over £300 was raised for the Church.

Many thanks to Marjorie for organising this special event and we look forward to seeing and hearing this very talented group again in the future.



IT COULD BE YOU.....

What have you done that's special enough to deserve the blessings that we possess? Why were we born and raised in such a comfortable, privileged existence? What would it be like if we could 'climb into the skin' of a child living in Chirpan, the ghetto in Bulgaria supported by Door of Hope? Is it just a tragic sense of inevitability?



You would certainly smell awful because poverty has a smell of its own - the aroma of a bitter, sour smell coming from the awful, bleak circumstances of existing. What could there be to smile about? Many of these street children are ordered out each morning with an obligation to return with money by late afternoon. They do this by begging and stealing.

Door of Hope uses the money sent by supporters to:-

- Provide food and clothing to children living in derelict homes
- Give aid and security to physically and sexually assaulted children
- Support orphanages
- Teach skills to young people with little hope of employment
- Provide dental care to children who barely know what a toothbrush is

and the greatest news is that every family given assistance receives the message of God's love for them.

Jesus intimated, "In giving to the least and the little, you have given to me "

Door of Hope is one of the charities St. Luke's supports.

ZWITT Thursday morning worship 10.00 and Friday evening Bible Study on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3558390555?pwd=ZlNvRVcxbHZlVWRaUzhGS1Vqcy9QZz09>

Meeting ID: 355 839 0555 Passcode: 758581

Church email: stlukestittensor@gmail.com

Church Wardens: Pam Lowe 01785 819244

Ministry team: Rev Noreen Russell 01782 372992
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A Church Near You <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4551/>