



St. Luke's Newsletter

22nd May 2022

The East window at St. Luke's shows a picture of Christ ascending into heaven with the eleven disciples (without Judas) below, looking upwards. Ascension Day will be celebrated on Thursday 26th May, forty days after Easter Sunday. For 40 days after his resurrection at Easter, the Bible says that Jesus travelled and preached with his apostles. Ascension Day marks the moment Jesus literally ascended into heaven before his disciples, at the village of Bethany, near Jerusalem. It will be ten days before Pentecost, when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Next Thursday (Ascension Day) we shall be giving thanks for the life of a very longstanding member of our village and congregation. Barbara Reader's funeral will be a very sad occasion, of course, not just for her family, but for all of us who have known her, and appreciated her faithfulness and kindness, for many years. She was the wife of John, former church warden and a trainee lay-minister, who died suddenly and prematurely, a good number of years ago. We shall continue to miss them both.

John used to refer to a book he had found very helpful. It had a somewhat strange title - "Building with Bananas." It was a book about God's Church, and the title is pretty self-explanatory. We are all different, like bananas, and - like them - show signs of having been bruised and battered by life and the world around us. Some are more bruised than others, and certainly most of us have been "bent," or moulded, by the circumstances of our lives. No two of us are identical, and yet God takes us and welds us together, by the Holy Spirit, to be the church in our particular setting. The survival of the Church seems to me to be one of the great miracles of all time. It came into being nearly 2,000 years ago, on the Day of Pentecost, sometimes called the Church's birthday. The relatively small number of disciples of Jesus began spreading the Christian message, first in Jerusalem, and then to "the utmost parts of the earth," and that work has never stopped, and in almost every country in the world today, you can find Christians. There have been difficulties, divisions and persecution, but the miracle has continued, despite human failings of every description. God has used the "bent bananas" to achieve His purposes.

It's interesting that Barbara's funeral will be on Ascension Day. That was the day when Jesus, having died and risen from the dead, took his closest followers to a place outside Jerusalem, and blessed them, before returning to his heavenly home (See Luke, chap.24, vv. 45-53). He trusted them enough, with all their human frailty, to be His witnesses to their generation. Life has moved on hugely, but He still trusts us - those who truly follow Him today - to carry on that work of loving, serving, and telling the good news to those around us. May God bless us all in our various works for Him. Noreen.



Christian Aid Week 15th -21st May 2022 - a reminder to bring along your envelopes to church tomorrow to support the work of Christian Aid this year. As well as their ongoing work in the developing world, Christian Aid is also heavily involved in supporting Ukraine and Ukrainians at the present time.

You can also donate through the Christian Aid Group Stone via the following link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/christian-aid-group-stone> or go direct to the Christian Aid website and donate online

This week we say goodbye to one of most loved people of our church family and of the community – **Barbara Reader**

A few words from one of our church family about Barbara: “On a personal level, I would find it hard to think of a more faithful, friendly and kind lady, always raising a smile for another to raise their spirits. She participated fully in the life and work of the church, with many friends and with a fervent belief that brought her to services on Sundays and on Thursday mornings, where she was an absolute stalwart. There have been many mornings when I have seen her bringing a pint of milk down to the church hall, ready for the tea and coffee after the service.



Although suffering with her hearing, Barbara could be seen arriving early on Sundays, gathering herself in prayer before services began and then joining in worship with everyone, before meeting up with friends afterwards for a cuppa. As a non-Stokie, all I can say is that she never addressed me other than with a 'duck'. She was an absolute star and if anyone deserves to be there with the Lord now, happy in his presence after so many years of faithful service, it is Barbara Reader. I and everyone else will miss you, duck.”

Barbara’s funeral will take place at St. Luke’s on Thursday 26th May at 11.30am followed by a burial in the churchyard. The service will be led by Rev Noreen Russell and Rev Barry Brewer.



To complete the Jubilee celebrations there will be an **Afternoon Tea** at the **Church Hall, Sunday 6th June from 3pm**

A wonderful spread is planned – dainty sandwiches, home made scones and cakes, tea and coffee. To help catering supplies please get a ticket beforehand but you are welcome to turn up on the day. Contact Freda 372924 or drop a line to

stlukestittensor@gmail.com

Donations welcomed

Tittensor Gardening Guild Jubilee Show on Friday 3rd June – anyone wishing to donate bottles for the bottle stall please leave at the village shop where they will be collected. Also items for the tombola are required and these can be taken to Ann at 24 Bracken Close or to Heather at Redroofs, Winghouse Lane. Many thanks from the Gardening Guild in anticipation. There will NOT be a Guild meeting in June.

Coming up next week:

- **Sunday 22nd May Morning Service at St. Luke’s 9.30.** We will be streaming the service live on YouTube, Facebook and on our website at www.stlukestittensor.church
- **Monday 23rd May Auction & Social Morning** at the Village Hall 0830-1230
- **Monday 23rd May Tittensor Tots** 9.00-11.15 in the church hall. Contact Freda
- **Wednesday 24th May Bible study** in the church hall. Contact Noreen
- **Thursday 26th May NO Thursday morning** informal prayer this week
- **Thursday 26th May 11.30** The funeral of Barbara Reader 11.30 at St. Luke’s
- **Thursday 26th May 7.30pm at St John the Baptist Church, Barlaston** there will be the Stone Deanery Ascension day service. The preacher will be Revd Preb. Terry Bloor. Everyone is welcome.
- **Sunday 29th May Holy Communion service 9.30** at St. Luke’s

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