

IN TOUCH



Magazine of the Hanley Team Ministry
AUGUST 2026

AUGUST DIARY

Events in bold take place each week but check with organisers, particularly around school term dates

Mondays	Cobridge Kiddies	Christ Church	10.00
Tuesdays	Lunch Club	Christ Church	12.00
Wednesdays	Places of Welcome	St. Luke's	08.30
	Open Door	St. Mark's	09.30-13.30
	'Drop-In'	Christ Church	10.00
	Baby & Toddler Group	St. Luke's	13.00
	Over 55s	St. Matthew's	13.30
Thursdays	Place of Welcome	St. Mark's	08.30
Fridays	Open Door	St. Mark's	09.30-12.00
Last Sunday	Bubble Church	St. Luke's	15.00
Tuesday 4 th .	Holiday Club	St. Matthew's	12.00 – 14.00
Sunday 9 th .	Evensong	Holy Trinity	16.00
Saturday 15 th .	Coffee Morning	St. Matthew's	10.00
Tuesday 18 th .	Holiday Club	St. Matthew's	12.00 – 14.00
Saturday 22 nd .	QUIZ	Northwood Parish Hall	19.30
Thursday 27 th .	Messy Church	St. Matthew's	11.00 – 13.00
Thursday 27 th .	N/wood Residents' Assoc.	Hope Community Church	19.00

(see p.18)

SOLAR ECLIPSE

On 12th August there will be the first total solar eclipse in mainland Europe since 1999. The Moon will pass between the Earth and the Sun, blocking sunlight for over two minutes. Some areas like northern Spain, Greenland and Iceland will experience a total eclipse, but here in the UK there will still be a partial eclipse. Europe won't see a total eclipse again until 2090 (now, there's a thought!)

SUNDAY READINGS IN AUGUST

2nd. The Ninth Sunday After Trinity (Proper 13)

Isa. 55: 1-5 Rom. 9: 1-5 Matt. 14: 13-21

9th. The Tenth Sunday After Trinity (Proper 14)

1 Kings 19: 9-18 Rom. 10: 5-15 Matt. 14: 22-33

16th. The Eleventh Sunday After Trinity (Proper 15)

Isa. 56: 1, 6-8 Rom. 11: 1-2a, 29-32 Matt. 15: [10-20], 21-28

23rd. The Twelfth Sunday After Trinity (Proper 16)

Isa. 51: 1-6 Rom. 12: 1-8 Matt. 16: 13-20

30th. The Thirteenth Sunday After Trinity (Proper 17)

Jer. 15: 15-21 Rom. 12: 9-21 Matt. 16: 21-28

AUGUST – HOLIDAYS

Porters were hired to carry a group's possessions on a jungle safari. The pace increased until the head porter called a halt:

'We've come so far, so fast we need to take a break and allow our souls to catch up with our bodies!'

How often do we feel like this? August is a month when many of us take time off. Jesus and His disciples often made 'strategic withdrawals' from the crowds: *'because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, "Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest".'* (Mark 6: 31,32).

Jesus saw how tired and stressed His disciples were and wanted to give them a break in their busy lives. He loved them and cared about their wellbeing. He longs to do the same with us, so that we can restore the balance of work, rest and play in our lives. Going on holiday gives us the opportunity to take time off, to let go the burdens that we carry every day and receive again His rest for our souls: *'Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.'* (Matthew 11:28).

The story is told of the aged Apostle John playing with doves. A passing hunter expressed surprise at what a man as pious as John was doing. John pointed to the bow in the hunter's hand and asked him why he carried it with a loosened string. The hunter replied, *'it loses its strength unless it is given the chance to unbend'*. John replied, *'why are you surprised that a servant of Christ should not relax to keep himself stronger for his work?'*

Canon Paul Hardingham

Where Should We Go?...Anywhere ...When Columbus started out, he didn't know where he was going. When he got there, he didn't know where he was. When he got back, he didn't know where he had been. Sometimes, when our friends Bernard and Doreen Perry took a break, they would get into the car and Bernard would ask 'Left or Right?'

Listen to your guide

Rev. Roy Shaw

Techno-dinosaur and curmudgeon that I am, I clung to my old plug-in satnav for far too long, so I have started to use my smartphone, held in place via a holder on the car's dash, to navigate around areas I'm not familiar with. Except of course, this morning, I thought I knew better than the info on the 'phone which advised an unusual route as I set off in the direction of my hydrotherapy session. (Techno-dinosaur, curmudgeon AND falling to bits- what a combination!). I ran into a long traffic queue at the new and extensive road works in the next village. Serves me right.

There's value in listening to someone who knows. The data on the 'phone had already taken into account the fact that the traffic queue would make me late, and had re-routed me away from the bottleneck. But curmudgeonly dinosaurs often think they know better, to their cost. The art is, of course, in knowing who knows best.

There are many false guides in this world, but it is the witness of Christians throughout time and throughout the world that listening to God, in prayer or through his word, is a trusted way of navigating our way through today's world where many voices clamour for our attention, not all of which are trustworthy.

That great Welsh hymn '*Guide me O thou great Jehovah*' is one of many which sings of our trust in God to guide us. It talks of being pilgrims through a land without waymarks, and it asks God to '*hold me with Thy powerful hand*'.

Here is someone who knows and who is worth listening to. God himself has said '*I will never leave you nor forsake you*' (Hebrews 13:5); we can trust the one who will not leave us to guide us down good paths.

May God guide us on all our journeys, and be a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path.

The scariest thing you can see on a motorway

Someone driving TOWARDS you, at speed.

Recent National Highways figures reveal that last year 947 drivers managed to drive the wrong way down the motorway, straight into the path of oncoming vehicles. That is an average of 18 a week.

It's better by train ... when they arrive

Trains are soaring in popularity. We are taking more railway journeys now than we have for 100 years. In just April and May last year alone, we made 1.83 billion journeys by rail, according to the Office of Rail and Road (ORR). That is the highest level of train usage since 1920, when in a two-month period, our grandparents made 2.18 billion journeys. But there is bad news: train punctuality is woeful. Last year, more trains missed their scheduled arrival times than at any time since Covid.

Parish Pump

Whistle-stop tour...

We think of this as the briefest of visits to a number of places, but originally it meant a place, perhaps a small town, where the train wouldn't stop unless requested to do so by a whistle

Caroline Taggart, from 'Humble Pie and Cold Turkey'

'God is in. We are out. God is at home. We are abroad'

Meister Eckhart

It's good to be back

Malcolm Guite, poet, academic and priest, returned home recently after a tour of the north of England. He wrote: *'perhaps one of the reasons we leave the familiar for a holiday is for the pleasure of return: old routines resumed like a comfort blanket; old walks recognised like old friends... we notice new things, see new possibilities, find new perspectives on old problems.'*

Church Times 17 July: Poet's Corner

ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

Uncle Eustace is incumbent in the small parish of St James-the-Least-of All, somewhere in Very Rural England. Eustace despairs of his nephew, Darren, who has become an evangelical curate in a busy urban parish... and so he writes letters, to try and properly 'educate' Darren in how to run a parish. The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

On how to baffle the church committee

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

I was delighted to hear that you have been made chairman of the Missionary Sub-committee; it should help you to hone your skills in appearing to encourage committee members to contribute while ensuring that they only say the things you want to hear. It is a skill that needs not a little practice; democracy only works if all the important decisions have been made beforehand.

However, do remember that sub-committees are only formed in order either to kill an idea stone dead, or to give the chairman of the main committee some time to decide what he wants, since he isn't sure how to handle the issue at that moment. I formed a sub-committee in 1999 to discuss Miss Fothergill's suggestion of creating a 'water feature' on the Rector's Glebe land, as a way of celebrating the Millennium. More than 25 years later, we are still actively discussing the idea.

I noted at the time that no one wanted the thing on their *own* land. It's significant that whenever people suggest some imposing edifice, they always think it will be most appropriate either in the Rector's garden, or in some public place, well out of sight of their own homes.

While the Water Feature Group has been working away tirelessly, and endless masons and architects have been approached, a suitable design has yet to be presented. That is the customary rate of progress for St James the Least, which I find entirely satisfactory.

The procedure for decision-making is always the same: after enormous effort, the sub-committee will produce a carefully worded report, which will be circulated round all members of the church council. At the next meeting, they will be thanked profusely for all their hard work, and the matter will be discussed at great length. It will then be proposed that the final decision will be taken at the next meeting, after everyone has had time to consider the matter more thoroughly. Come the next meeting, the item will somehow fail to appear on the agenda, and when it is raised in Any Other Business, it will be pointed out that it is now far too late in the evening to tackle such an important issue. From then on, you can be assured, it will sink without trace.

Always remember the golden rule: a church committee meeting consists of a body of people waiting to go home.

July Wasn't Half Hot, Mum

- The French onion crop failed. Cartoon cyclists may well be wearing the striped shirt and beret but will have just string around their necks.
- The organ at the Royal Albert Hall was piping hot and required cooling daily during The Proms. Heat can lead to 'cyphers', a term organists use to describe stuck keys or notes that create a loud, unwanted drone (nothing to do with them, they say).
- In the depths of Winter, many churches opened up to provide places of warmth for people who could not afford to heat their homes properly; last month, churches opened up to allow people to find spaces where they could cool down. It's a funny old world.

Ed.

JOIN THE JOURNEY OF GROWTH

Helen Emery, Whole Life Discipleship Officer, Lichfield Diocese

Someone once said “Not everything that counts can be counted” – and when it comes to our faith it is hard to see a way of ‘measuring’ where we are at with God. Indeed, do we need to?

Whilst the national church demands our attendance and finance figures (both essential to track), we might see our spiritual growth and deepening of our discipleship as equally – or if not more - important to consider.

The Church Development Tool is a refreshed online survey tool which can help whole congregations better understand themselves and how they feel about their faith. Launched on 1 June, it is free, anonymous and now housed on the Online Parish Returns platform. It can enable congregations to have their voice heard about the life and ministry of the church and includes modules on diversity, children & young people, lay ministry, giving and discipleship. With only 22 questions in total, even a church conducting all six modules will find it quick and easy to administer and gather the results from. You can then run it twelve months later, for example, and compare the results to monitor your journey.

In my role as Whole Life Discipleship Officer, I was particularly interested in the discipleship module – thought-provoking questions such as ‘How often do you pray?’ and ‘to what extent you feel you have someone you trust to share questions about God?’ prompted me to reflect personally - irrespective of any wider results. So as a diocese we offered to help pilot the ‘CDT’ with a few churches to gather feedback on the process and the questions – then suggest tweaks – to help those at Church House developing this nationally.

If you are interested in running the survey at your church, see the link below for more information.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/church-near-you/church-development-tool>

HOLIDAY REPORT - A TRIP TO KRAKOW

Winnie Wilshaw of St. Matthew's Church, Birches Head, visited Poland recently. Winnie's holiday memories will be published in three parts over the next months, beginning with an account of her trip to Krakow

Krakow is a city based in the southern region of Poland, a two-hour flight away with a good tail wind. Krakow is split into three distinct areas, the Old Town, Jewish Quarter and Jewish Ghetto. Krakow Old Town contains one of the largest squares in the world, around the edges of which are many restaurants, bars, night clubs etc. with many places available to taste the local foods.

Perogies are a must, a type of dumpling that can be either savoury or sweet. Hunter's Stew is served up in a massive bread bowl.

It is very much a Catholic city, with numerous churches and exceptionally beautiful basilicas, including that of Corpus Cristi and its adjoining monastery.

The town itself is very colourful, vibrant, and clean. There is an enormous market, selling everything from souvenirs and jewellery to cakes to sweets and ice cream and, to my granddaughter's great amusement, cannabis.

Winnie's holiday trip will be continued in September's magazine, which will also see the beginning of a series of articles from Anne Warrillow of Holy Trinity Church. Avoid disappointment. Order your copy now.

Local magazine, local writers, just the ticket.

Spare a thought for those who cannot take a holiday due to illness or because they care for people who are ill. For these individuals, travelling can be a challenge. Pray for the chronically ill or disabled who often face additional barriers, such as specialized medical equipment, accessible accommodation, or costly travel insurance.

Ed.



Flower-Pot Women?
It must be Summer!
Mary Chanot and
Beryl Bennett
arrive for the
Sunday morning
service at Holy
Trinity during the
July heatwave.



At Christ Church, Cobridge, Peter Shore, John Bennion and Jenny Otter had a sort out, ready for the skip. The out-of-date sign named Rev. Sally Smith as Vicar; it was reprieved by Jenny who took it home as a keepsake.



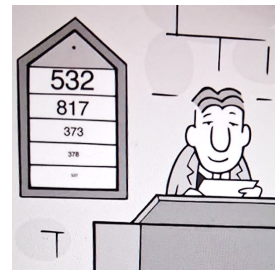
In the final School Newsletter of the term, Principal Zoe Cooper paid tribute to Jenny McNulty *'who retires this Summer after an incredible 32 years of dedicated service at Hanley St. Luke's during which time she has supported, nurtured and inspired generations of children and families.'* Jenny is now eligible to join Mike Hampton's former St. Lukeians group that meets for coffee and fellowship.

A Wall Butterfly (see page 14)
and one of the beautiful
butterflies of our Summer,
spotted by Winnie Wilshaw
behind the parish hall at
Northwood.



The annual Opticians' Service is
always a favourite

*'... and once you've done the
flower arrangements, polished
the pews, scrubbed the floor,
shined the silver and taken a
look at the problem with the
boiler, we wondered, well, you
have to laugh, but all six bell-ringers are on holiday
at the same time and ...'*





‘POTTERIES MEN SING’ IS SUPPORTING DEMENTIA STOKE

Stoke-on-Trent is believed to have the highest dementia diagnosis rate in England.

Potteries Men Sing is a free community singing project for men in Stoke-on-Trent that brings people together to learn music, build friendships, and raise funds for local dementia support. The initiative features a 10-week programme and a Six Towns Tour performing across Burslem, Tunstall, Fenton, Longton, Hanley, and Stoke.

- **Goal:** Raise awareness and funds for the Lord Mayor's chosen charity for the civic year (Dementia Support across Stoke-on-Trent).
- **Practice Location:** Longton Central Methodist Hall ST3 2JH
- **Cost:** Free
- **Partners:** Supported and sponsored by the City of Stoke-on-Trent Male Voice Choir.



This singing project will give 40+ local men of all ages the opportunity to become involved, learn to sing, meet new people and perform live on stage to raise money for an important charity.

Tuition is completely free and no previous singing experience is necessary. Numbers may be limited, so sign up now.

The concerts around the area will be run in conjunction with the Lord Mayor's 2025/2026 charity.

For more information contact Shauneey Connor on 07562 670 430

To book your place visit www.potteriesmensing.co.uk

THE STRENGTH OF A SEED

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

At this time of year, we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leafed campion, buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth. What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment connecting with something divine, a scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimal, but it's not zero.

The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of a stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower to include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Christian Aid launches Ebola Emergency Appeal

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has called the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. There is no vaccine or specific treatment for the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola, which has a fatality rate of up to 50%. The DRC shares borders with nine countries, and the region has high cross-border population movement. Christian Aid's Ebola Emergency Appeal can be found at: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ebola-emergency-appeal>

Support for Ordinands as the numbers in training rise

Around £2 million extra per year is to be invested in a redesigned and more generous grant scheme for people training for ordained ministry in the Church of England. The number of people entering training has risen, after four years of decline. 442 entered training in September last year, compared to 329 the year before.

The Church of England Pensions Board is 100 years old

This means it is still younger than the oldest living members of the scheme, while the newest members will be receiving their pensions into the 22nd century.

The Pensions Board was created in 1926. By the 1930s, provision was being made for widows and dependants as well. By 1947 the Pensions Board was working on providing housing for those clergy in need, and by 1953 began to offer pensions to lay staff. The Pension Fund now totals £3.5 billion. Today, it supports more than 43,000 members across its pension schemes, including clergy, youth workers and diocesan staff. It also provides retirement housing to about 2,500 clergy.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 7 – 31 August

The largest arts festival in the world is made up of thousands of arts and cultural events which together attract the same number of people as a World Cup. This year, it will feature a total of 3,649 distinct shows and 53,884 individual performances across 258 venues. It would take months to see everything. The influx of performers, crew members, and attendees roughly doubles the city's population to about a million. Almost anywhere becomes a venue; traditional theatres, concert halls, pubs, churches, shipping containers and even moving buses. The Festival began in 1947, in the wake of WW2, to celebrate European cultural life and to heal divisions. Nowadays, it serves as a launchpad for global stars – including Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Emma Thompson, and Rowan Atkinson. There is not just one summer festival in Edinburgh: as well as the International and Fringe Festival, Edinburgh also hosts the Edinburgh Art Festival, Edinburgh International Book Festival, and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Parish Pump

Caring for God's Acre Just another butterfly on the Wall

Creative Media Producer for the Lichfield Diocese, Simon Jones, says a huge Thank You to Harriet Carty for all her articles over the years as she hands the churchyard articles baton to Kaitlyn Elverson

As August rolls in, you might start to see some new wings fluttering in your local churchyard. The Wall Brown or Wall butterfly is named after its habit of basking casually on walls or rocky places.

This behaviour allows the butterfly to raise its temperature enough to fly around comfortably. Perfectly camouflaged against stones, the best way to identify the species is by checking the eyespots on its wings. One large eyespot on the forewing and four smaller ones on the hindwing is a dead giveaway that you have a Wall on your hands.

The Wall's habitat is diverse across England and Wales, spanning coastal zones, open grassland, disused quarries, railway edges, gardens, field edges and even churchyards and cemeteries. They may be found in sunny spots, basking on warm stone monuments, walls surrounding the churchyard, or the gravel of kerbed graves. Walls lay their eggs on grass tussocks and the broader leaves of coarse grasses such as Yorkshire Fog. Larvae and caterpillars will munch away on the grasses, while the butterflies rely on a variety of grassland wildflowers for nectar.

Inland Wall populations saw dramatic decreases in the 1980s, but not for the reasons you might expect. Habitat loss and degradation or abandonment of traditional farming or forestry practices didn't fit the bill for the Wall, so researchers instead had to come up with other theories. Belgium researchers discovered they were witnessing similar decline with their Wall populations, so decided to do some digging. They proposed that warming climates were causing the species to have a third brood late in the year, leaving little time for the caterpillars to develop before winter. This brood was then unfortunately lost, causing the downward spiral.

Though, this might not be the end for the inland populations. Many butterfly species can change their voltinism (the number of generations produced per year). This flexibility allows species to respond quickly and often unexpectedly to years with favourable conditions, producing more broods than would be typical.

Based on this principle, we can expect inland Wall populations to experience strong natural selection as climates warm, eventually recovering and becoming as resilient as their coastal relatives, where temperatures are more consistent.

It's a waiting game for the Wall, but in the meantime, we can be doing our part to support the species. Leaving coarse, grassy and sunny patches in your churchyard or garden gives them places to do their sunbathing. Creating gorgeous wildflower meadow areas gives the Wall, as well as many other pollinators and invertebrates, lots of variety for food.

Kaitlyn Elverson

HYMN: ‘Jesus calls us: o’er the tumult of our life’s wild restless sea’. Cecil Frances Alexander

The author was born Cecil Frances Humphries in 1818, at Redcross, County Wicklow, Ireland. Interested in poetry from an early age, throughout her life she published a number of Christian books, one of which was *‘Hymns for Little Children’* in 1848. She travelled many miles each day to visit the ill and the poor, providing food, warm clothes, and medical supplies. She and her sister also founded a school for the deaf. *‘Hymns for Little Children’* included *‘All Things Bright and Beautiful’* and the Christmas carol *‘Once in Royal David’s City’*; it ran to 69 editions, with the profits helping to fund the school.

‘Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult’ is the exception in that it was not written as a children’s hymn and was composed after her marriage. In 1850 she married Rev. William Alexander, who later became the Anglican Primate of Ireland.

The hymn first appeared in a collection called *Hymns for Public Worship* (1852), published by the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge as a hymn for St. Andrew’s Day, November 30. However, the image of ‘life’s wild, restless sea’, an allusion to Matthew 14:24, is a metaphor drawn from the apostles’ experience who, as fishermen, were always subject to the peril of sudden storms. So we may be singing this hymn sometime in August.

The tune most commonly associated with the hymn is GALILEE, written by English organist William H. Jude (1851–1922). Other well-known tunes include *Merton*, a tune we sing to *‘Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding.’*

Mrs. Alexander died in Derry in 1895. In 1913, a stained glass window in her memory was installed in the north vestibule of St. Columb’s Cathedral in Derry. The three lights of the windows refer to three of her hymns and show corresponding scenes: *‘Once in Royal David’s City’*, *‘There Is a Green Hill Far Away’*, and *‘The Golden Gates Are Lifted Up’*.

From Dictionary of Hymnology and Discipleship Ministries

BACK PEW Holidays are for life, not just for August

You may have gathered by this point that the theme of this issue of the magazine is recreation. If you find it difficult to get away for some reason, you may wish to consider the possibility of allowing your mind to take a break without actually travelling far away from home.

You may feel your mind is like a motorway where you dare not lift your gaze above the immediate background and you are being carried along and jostled by the constant pressure and speed of life, the hard shoulder having been removed. Some people have given up listening to the news because it emphasises sad and negative aspects of life or because, worryingly, they feel they can no longer trust it. Others feel lost in a constant, over-stimulating diet of social media from which, like Hotel California, they cannot escape. Fear not. There are ways out of this that can provide a mental break.

I recently went around the world in just over two hours, thanks to a wonderful production at the New Victoria Theatre. If you fancy a short retreat, lose yourself in a visit to this superb venue with its brilliant writers, directors and multi-talented actors. This world of imagination is on our doorstep and in our heads; there's no need for passports, suitcases or insurance. Reading can have the same effect. Jigsaws, too, I'm told, can help find the missing peace. Or simply spend some time on your own in prayer. Jesus taught us to go into our inner room, to close the door and find our inner selves (see Matthew, chapter six).

Silence is something I value. An indication of a friend is someone with whom I can sit in a room in companionable silence. If you fear silence, try to overcome this by not immediately switching on a radio or TV when you enter the house. Enjoy the sounds that sift through, such as birdsong, a gentle breeze, or even the distant rhythm of traffic. This is not to shut yourself away from the world, reality and responsibility, but it can afford temporary respite.

If ever you feel an impulse to write, I know a church magazine editor who would love to hear from you.

Residents' Associations

Residents' Associations provide an opportunity to have your say about community matters, and to talk to local councillors and police.

The Northwood Resident Association meets on the last Thursdays of the months of February, May, August and November. Meetings take place at the Hope Community Church in Upper Huntbach Street, Hanley ST1 2BX and begin at 7.00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Birches Head Residents' Association (including their AGM) is to take place at St. Matthew's Church, Birches Head, on Monday, 7 September, beginning at 7.15 p.m.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Emergency Services	999
(police, fire, ambulance)	
Non-Emergency Police Line	101
NHS direct	111
Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
Gas Leak	0800 111 999
Power cut emergency line	0800 678 3105
Water Leak (Severn Trent)	0800 783 4444
Rough Sleeper Team	0800 970 2304
Mental Health Access Team	0300 123 0907 Ext1
Samaritans	116 123
Safe and Well Visit (Staffs. Fire Service)	0800 0241 999
Foodbank	01782 317 942
RSPCA (report animal in distress)	0300 1234 999
Domestic Violence help (for women)	0808 2000 247
Domestic Violence help (for men)	0808 8010 327

Anti-social behaviour (in emergency 'phone police), child protection, planning, fly-tipping, council tax etc. For any of these issues use the council number (01782 234234)

Northwood Residents' Association Leaflet

For the 100th Bishop of Lichfield

Eternal Father,
you have provided faithful pastors in every age
to watch over your people and lead them in your ways:
as you chose your servant Chad
to be the first bishop of your church in Lichfield,
so raise up for us, who follow Christ in his footsteps today,
a shepherd to lead your people
in the joy and steadfastness of the Holy Spirit,
that all may know the abundant life
which you give us in Jesus Christ your Son.
Amen.

For the mission and ministry of the church in this City

Lord of the Church, thank you for your presence in the centre of Stoke-on-Trent. We acknowledge the fragility of our current situation. We open ourselves to the new thing you would do in us and through us. We seek your guidance and way forward. Deliver us from evil. Bless this region, our structures and networks, that alongside all people of good will we may play our part in your kingdom in the name of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

For a new Rector for the Hanley Team Ministry

God our Father,
you are all knowing.
God of all creation and life,
you know the needs of your Church in the Hanley Team.
In this time of seeking and praying for a new Rector, we pray for you to place this calling within the heart of the servant you have chosen.
You alone know the plans you have for your Church in Hanley.
We ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and give us discernment to know the person you have chosen.
We ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.



CONTACTS

Rector – Vacancy currently advertised

Assistant Minister

for St. Mark's Church

and **Strategic Missioner**

for St. Matthew's Church and St. Luke's Church

07488233118

revmikebridgewater@gmail.com

Rev. Mike Bridgewater



Assistant Minister Rev. Gill Shilkoff 07525668262

gillshilkoff@btinternet.com

SERVICES

Holy Communion Sundays:	09.30 Christ Church, Cobridge
	11.00 Holy Trinity Church, Northwood
	10.00 St. Mark's Church, Shelton
	(First & Fifth Sundays, other Sundays Morning Worship)
Evensong	16.00 Holy Trinity (monthly)
Bubble Church	15.00 St. Luke's Church
	(Last Sunday of the month)
Tuesdays	10.00 St. Matthew's, Birches Head
Wednesdays	11.00 St. Luke's, Wellington
Thursdays:	
Service of The Word	10.00 Christ Church, Cobridge

Whilst the Rectorship is 'in vacancy', services will be co-ordinated by members of the laity in conjunction with available clergy.

For general enquiries, banns, baptisms and weddings, the contact is

Winnie Wilshaw 07731829785

winnie_184@msn.com

For funerals, contact a funeral director in the first instance, then

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