

The parish team

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Christ Church website:

www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc or www.christchurchstone.org

Services

9.15am Communion (first and third Sundays),
Morning Prayer (second and fifth Sundays)
and Family Service (fourth Sunday).

6pm In the summer at St John's, Oulton, and
in the winter at Christ Church. Evening Prayer
(first and third Sundays), Communion (second,
fourth and fifth Sundays).

Tuesday 10.30am Communion.

A loop service operates for the hard of hearing
(set to T). Christ Church is also wheelchair
friendly. We invite you to join us at any of
the services or to use the church for prayer,
meditation or simply to be quiet.



Christ Church welcomes you

Whether you are new to the Stone area, or
have been living here some time, you are
welcome to come to this church.

We are part of the Anglican church. We are
an Evangelical church, as we see that the
Bible is God's word for us and so is to
inspire all that we do.

We have children's and youth activities
during the Sunday meetings and also during
the week, such as our Tuesday evening
youth club. Adults may be further involved
through small groups which meet for Bible
study and prayer, a midweek communion
service and a monthly prayer meeting.

Our community involvement includes links
with the local schools: Christ Church First,
Oulton First, Christ Church Middle and
Alleyne's High.

We also have links with the Church in India,
The Philippines, Croatia, Botswana and
Pakistan.

The monthly church magazine and the
church website concern Christ Church in
Stone, but we are also linked with the
churches in Oulton and Moddershall.

CHRIST CHURCH

STONE



The history of our church

There has been a church in Stone for more than 1,400 years. The first church was dedicated about 670AD by Queen Ermenilda to St Mary and St Wulfad, a local saint. This was primarily the monastery church but served as the parish church as well.

By the middle of the 18th century the church had fallen into ruin and in 1758 the old church was replaced by the present St Michael's. During the late 18th century and 19th century the Industrial Revolution caused an enormous increase in England's population, and coupled with an evangelical revival, St Michael's building was not big enough.

In 1836 the Rev. Charles Simeon attended a conference at Meaford Hall with Lord St Vincent and the Rev. Francis Kitchin, a curate at St Michael's, and they decided to form a new parish to serve the north end of the town.

The site was given by Lord Granville and the building money was raised by public subscription. The first stone was laid on June 28, 1838, by the Right Hon Mary Anne, Viscountess St Vincent, the same day Queen Victoria was



crowned. The church took two years to build and was consecrated on April 23, 1840, by the then Bishop of Lichfield.

Francis Kitchin was the first vicar at Christ Church or 'perpetual curate' as he was known and he held the living until he died in 1852. His successor was John Ford who stayed until 1882 and he was responsible for the new Simeon Trust livings of Oulton and Tittensor, which were then daughter churches of Christ Church.

The first Christ Church looked very different from the present one. It was much smaller, the nave being only

70ft in length. Seating capacity was 380, with a centre and two aisles and 12 square 'family' pews at the front. The chancel was short and there were five single lancet windows down each side of the nave and twin square towers at the west end. By 1885 the building was inadequate and in bad condition. The then vicar, W J Thompson, arranged for repairs which included a longer Gothic chancel, the present choir vestry which replaced the original one and an organ chamber was built on the north side of the chancel. In 1896 the present side aisles were added to accommodate 190 more people and the twin towers were taken down and replaced by the present bell turret or fleche. The west end was extended to include the present porch with a gallery with 36 seats built above it. The church was reopened by Bishop Legge of Lichfield on October 13, 1900.

The building, which can now seat 525, has remained substantially the same since then apart from electric lighting installed in 1934 and the side chapel being built in 1956. A new parish centre and office was added in 2000 while a new church entrance was opened in September 2009.

