

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



July

2010

PARISH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on pages 2 and 3.

Young people's activities take place in the Centre at 9.15 am
(see inside back page for details)

THE PARISH TEAM

Vicar	Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	812669
Assistant Minister For Youth	Adam Rushton, 26 Victoria Street	813654
Electoral Roll Officer	Irene Gassor	814871
Parish Office	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB Email christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com	811990
Deaconess (Retired)	Ann Butler	818160
Readers	Dave Bell John Butterworth David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding	815775 817465 816713 813712 817987
Music Co-ordinators	Peter Mason Jeff Challinor	815854 819665
Wardens	Andy Stone David Rowlands	816713
Deputy Wardens	Phil Tunstall, Arthur Foulkes, Tim Saxton	

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary	Kate or Irene	(Office)	811990
--------------------------	---------------	----------	--------

CHURCH SCHOOLS

Christ Church C.E.(Controlled) First School, Northesk Street. Head: Mrs Lynne Croxall B.Ed.(Hons)	354125
Christ Church C.E.(Aided) Middle School, Old Road Head: C. Waghorn B.Ed(Hons),DPSE,ACP,FRSA	354047

IN THIS ISSUE

Diary for July	2, 3
The World's Cup	4
Thank You! (from Tim)	5
The secular assault on the Church	6, 7
Comings.....and goings in July	7
The Invitation	8, 9
Pastoral Care Day	10
Andrew's South African News	11
Our Trip "Oop North"	12
Trains in the Garden	12
Prayer Answered after 22 years	13, 14
Historic Churches sponsored ride/ walk	14
Musings while in a second-hand bookshop	15, 16
Christian Aid Collection	16
News from the Beesigomwes	16
www.cofe.anglican.org	17
The Church Commissioners	18, 19
Registers, Rotas, Roads for Prayer	20
Groups and Activities	21

Christ Church



and People

Please get your contributions for the August magazine to us by 15th July.

Cover Story:-
Old Road

Subscriptions

If you would like this magazine delivered to you regularly, please contact:
Mrs Marylyn Hillman, Park Lodge, Beech Court, Stone. Tel 815936

July 2010

Thu	1	1:20pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Rock Youth Group years 9-11
Fri	2	10:00am 6:30pm	Friday Fellowship Breathe years 6-8
Sat	3	8:30am 3:00pm	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast (9:00am) Trains in the Garden - Pete and Liz Mason's house, running until 5pm
Sun	4	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Ephesians 6:10-24 "How to be spiritually strong" Evening Prayer at Oulton 1 Samuel 9-10 "The making of a king"
Mon	5	7:00pm	Cornerstone
Tue	6	9:30am 10:00am 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am Lighthouse Club years 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13
Wed	7	7:30pm	PCC Meeting
Thu	8	1:20pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Rock Youth Group years 9-11
Fri	9	10:00am 6:30pm	Friday Fellowship Breathe years 6-8
Sat	10		
Sun	11	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer - Rebecca Williams visit John 4:24 "God is Spirit" Shared Lunch after the service Fete service at Oulton. 1 Sam 12 "A final blast"
Mon	12	7:00pm	Cornerstone
Tue	13	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am Seekers Club Lighthouse Club years 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13
Wed	14		

July 2010

Thu	15	1:20pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Rock Youth Group years 9-11
Fri	16	10:00am 6:30pm	Friday Fellowship Breathe years 6-8
Sat	17		
Sun	18	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion. 1 Jn 1:5 "God is Light" -Stephen Bell visiting Evening Prayer at Oulton 1 Samuel 15:10-31 "A failed king"
Mon	19	7:00pm	Cornerstone
Tue	20	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am Seekers Club Lighthouse Club years 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13
Wed	21		
Thu	22	7:00pm	Rock Youth Group years 9-11
Fri	23	9:30am 10:00am 10:45am 6:30pm	Christ Church First School Leavers' service (at school) Friday Fellowship Christ Church Middle School Leavers' service (church) Breathe years 6-8
Sat	24		
Sun	25	9:15am 4:00pm	Family Service. 1Jn 4:8-16 "God is Love" The Rushtons' Leaving service - Christ Church
Mon	26		
Tue	27	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am
Wed	28		
Thu	29		
Fri	30		
Sat	31		

The World's Cup!

We've noticed how local people may check the bottom of their cup. If it's not obvious from just a glance, then the trademark reveals who manufactured the cup.

Some cups are specially made to symbolise a significant event. For example the FIFA world cup is a trophy made of 18 carat gold. It depicts two human figures holding up the Earth. Whoever wins it will raise it to glory in their victory and it will be treasured as a symbol of national pride.

But there is another type of cup, which is far more important. This is not the trophy from The Ashes, Ascot or even Wimbledon. It is the world's cup. This cup is of such importance that only one person in history was able to drink from it. His name is Jesus Christ: he drank from a cup on the night before he died to explain what would happen when he was crucified the next day.

In the Bible, a cup is used figuratively to mean something that contains the share of blessings or disasters allotted to a person or nation. There is, for example, the mention of the cup of God's wrath being passed to the enemies of God's people that will make them stagger (Isaiah 51v17). But it can also be used for the cup of blessing from the Lord who is so generous that the cup overflows (Psalm 23v5b). When Jesus took a cup of wine at the Last Supper, the two ideas were combined. Jesus would drink the cup of God's wrath against sin and evil, while also making available the cup of God's blessing: *'this is a new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you'* (Lk 22v20). We read out these words in church to help us remember the special meal of bread and wine that he shared with his disciples the night before he died.

How can we benefit from this? It would be a tragic mistake to think that merely eating the bread and drinking the wine provides forgiveness - as if it were some sort of 'supernatural antibiotic' or 'divine flu jab' against sin (see 1 Cor 10v1-5). It would also be wrong to forget the true cost of our forgiveness that carries the responsibility to live a new life (1 Cor 11v27-32 warns against neglecting this). The symbolic meal of the Lord's Supper is a vivid reminder of a rich vein of theology of the cup. Jesus has drained the cup of wrath and now pours out His blessings to all who humbly trust in His death for their own forgiveness. His death alone can reconcile us to God. The Bible describe this as His amazing GRACE = God's Riches At Christ's Expense. Jesus has lifted the world's cup, so Christians are to rejoice with songs of praise and thanksgiving until He comes again.



Paul Kingman

Thank You!

As I write this there is a week to go until my Licensing as Vicar of St Bartholomew, Wednesbury. The packing boxes are disappearing, the curtains have been ordered and I'm trying to get a handle on the paperwork that needs organising before I start. Oh, and a fox has just walked past my study window.

Our farewell service in Christ Church is still fresh in our minds. What a wonderful send off! Caroline, Hannah and I are ever so grateful for your love that was so evident. Thank you, and thank you again. The marvellous picture you gave us is hanging proudly in our dining room. Hannah likes the fact that she can eat her food and see a picture of herself at the same time!

Many of you will have contributed to our leaving gift and generous cheque – thank you very much. We are also very blessed by various other gifts and many cards with messages of support. I'm sorry we cannot thank you all personally. But we thank God for you, and trust that your love will continue through praying for us. We do need your prayers for all that we will face in the future. More to the point, the people here in Wednesbury need your prayers with the prospect of me as their Vicar!

Maybe the highlight of that farewell service (for me, at least) was the singing. We lifted our voices to sing praises to the Lord Jesus Christ – and we did so enthusiastically! A curate is nothing; Christ is everything. So keep your eyes fixed firmly on him. Don't settle for reading this magazine with a mild interest in whatever is happening at your local church. Don't settle for giving God a few hours each week. You will find LIFE as you give your whole life to the Saviour. Be a disciple not a bystander.

Thank you again. Caroline and Hannah send their love.

Tim Vasby-Burnie

The Vicarage, 4 Little Hill, Wednesbury, WS10 9DE

<http://vasbyburnie.net>

0121 556 0378

MY GRANDPARENTS' local paper was called 'The Free Press'. As a child I thought that that meant that it was a free newspaper – not that such things yet existed. One of the privileges – and prices – of a 'free press' is that nothing is sacred, everything can be challenged, attacked, analysed, ridiculed. It is a 'privilege' because it is a mark of a free society: the State does not control what we hear and what we think. It is a 'price' because press campaigns can be conducted mainly to sell newspapers, and how do you best sell newspapers but by confirming people's prejudices? For some time now, respect for institutions has been in decline: the monarchy survives but politicians are generally thought to be 'on the make' ('expenses' scandal, 'sleaze'), hospitals are thought to be dirty, schools are judged to be failing, and the police are 'tied up with paperwork'. After a decade of 'management by objective', people long to see less form filling, less box ticking, and better success rates all round. And some of this might begin to happen if good news sold newspapers

The Church too is under attack as never before. The smart baby boomers, their children brought up on a diet of fashionable agnosticism and scientific fundamentalism, have forsaken the Church but are now attacking Christianity as something they can't quite be rid of. Atheists set up Aunt Sallies of God and then gleefully knock them down. Poor theology is ridiculed as if it's all the theology we've got, and church schools (rather too successful for their own good) are re-branded as 'Faith' schools, as if we were all loonies or Moonies. The latest attack is a very skilful one. Take an odious crime – child abuse – and judge the Church not on its current performance in tackling it (which is second to none) but by how it performed ten, twenty, thirty, forty years ago. In those days abusers were treated as people who had made a tragic mistake, were perhaps unwell, could certainly be given help, and a second chance. We now realise how unjust this was to the victims, and how serious the offences really were. Everyone – the medical profession, schools, social services, voluntary organisations – has learnt hard and painful lessons about the consequences of protecting colleagues and institutions rather than the caring for the really vulnerable, the victims. Meanwhile, what an opportunity to attack the Church!

(continued on next page)

There is some justice in this. Whatever is evil should come to light.

The Church is not, and should not be, protected from the consequences of wrongdoing. So there is something of a cleansing and a purging, making us leaner and fitter for our task of proclaiming the Gospel in a decadent culture. But we need to recognise much of the onslaught for what it is. Where it is seen as a chance to seriously weaken the Church and banish God from our midst, we need to be armed with ‘the whole armour of God’, that we ‘may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places’. (Ephesians 6:11–12).

Andrew Ebbsfleet *(Bishop of Ebbsfleet)*

Comings.....and goings in July

Rebecca Williams is one of our missionary links and will visit Oulton Missionary Fellowship at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 8th July and the morning service at Christ Church on Sunday 11th July (there will be an after coffee opportunity to catch up on her news).

Stephen Bell will be our guest preacher on Sunday 18th July at the morning services for Christ Church and Oulton. Stephen is a missionary in Croatia and we are pleased to have him visit us to renew our fellowship.

We say farewell to Adam Rushton our youth minister and his family Helen-Clare, Eden and Judah who are moving onto a new ministry in Lancashire during the summer. There will be an open-air service at 4 p.m. on Sunday 25th July 2010 on the terrace of Christ Church Centre. This will be followed by some food and drink. We hope that as many as are able will come and celebrate their ministry – both in the past and in the future.

Paul Kingman

8“THE INVITATION”

Imagine that you receive a very special, but puzzling, invitation. It comes from the “King of Kings” and invites you to be the guest of honour at His banquet.

The copper plate hand written envelope, gold lettering on the card, and some instructions for your information make this a very elaborate hoax, if indeed it is one.



Amongst the instructions is a request for you to name twenty people living or departed who you would like to share the meal with you. As you turn the card over and over in your hands what questions come to mind?.....

One sombre question might be “If I post this and it’s not a hoax, will I die immediately?” “What shall I wear” might seem trivial, but if St Matthews Gospel Chapter 22 verses 1-14 are taken seriously it is an important question. (Yes I know its not a wedding banquet, but even so you can’t take chances with any invitation from the “King of Kings” can you?) Than again, who would you want to share the meal with you?

Let’s imagine that you decide to accept. How do you feel as you walk to the post box and put the letter in the slot?.....
Perhaps you think “Now what will happen”?

You don’t have long to wait. As soon as the letter is dispatched you find yourself sitting at the head table of a most sumptuous banquet. Jesus is sitting beside you (you know its *Him* because you caught a glimpse of wound marks on his hand when he squeezed yours to re-assure you) and close to you are all the people you had listed on your information sheet.

He stands and a hush falls. He speaks. “This banquet is held in honour of”Gosh he knows your name! Well when you think about Isaiah 43:1 its stands to reason he would know your name...and a lot more besides.

(continued on next page)

Now he is telling everyone about your life, and what is more he is telling them everything about it. This is no airbrushed, sentimental account, it's as if every detail of your life, good, bad and ugly is important and is being relived in front of all these people. There are some things you really dread hearing, and you hope that perhaps because he's kind he'll leave those bits out. But no, its because he is so loving that he makes sure they are in.

But here's the strange thing, he accepts you and everyone else accepts you. They understand, they love, they smile reassuringly, and slowly as the account of your life proceeds you can look up and look them in the face....yes even the people you have hurt most. Suddenly Romans 8:1 flows like a warm river of love through you "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus".

Then comes the most difficult moment, you have to accept yourself. Your good deeds and triumphs, your sins and failures. As Jesus concludes your story you finally look him in the face and see yourself reflected in

his loving eyes. Wounded hands raise a chalice of red wine. "I give you a toast" proclaims the Lord, "Life in all its fullness (John 10:10)



This may be imaginary, but the invitation to all of us is none the less real. As we give our lives to Him he gives HIS LIFE to us – we experience a fulfilment of His toast - "LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS".

Roger M Vaughan

Diocese of Lichfield

Pastoral Care Day

St. Mary's Abbey, Colwich, Nr. Stafford

Led by

Revd. Dr. Jeff Leonardi

Speaker

Revd. Prebendary Roger Vaughan

"This is the way, walk in it"

25TH SEPTEMBER, 2010

9.30AM-3.30PM

Please bring your own packed lunch

Coffee, Tea etc. Provided

Suggested Donation £7.00

Payable by Cheque in advance to P. Shepherd

4 The Haybarn, Sandon Road, Stafford. ST16 3YQ

Tel: 01785 248482

Greetings from the Southern Hemisphere! - GodFirst church

We have been doing a series called 'What would God say to...' and have looked at different celebrities such as Oprah and Bono. It has gone really well and last Sunday we had 'Whackhead' Simpson (the Chris Moyles of South Africa) sit in live as we tackled the topic of what God would say to him. He was quite touched by the evening as previously he had quite bad experiences of church, with the church he grew up in in Durban refusing to do his father's funeral because his family's membership had 'lapsed'. Him and his fiancée grabbed some food after the service with PJ, who leads the church, and asked lots questions about the church and Christianity and asked PJ to do their wedding, so we obviously had an impact. The church has grown quite a bit in size and so we are restructuring our staff set up and I have been asked to start an overhaul of how we do house groups and counselling, along my current involvement with our evening services. I am really looking forward to it. *Oasis* Plans for the 'One Love' campaign keep progressing. The community march that we had planned has not been allowed to go ahead due to police restrictions prior to the World Cup, so we have scaled down to a community dialogue. I am quite intrigued because these have been shown to be effective elsewhere but I have never been part of one. We have an outside agency coming in to run it so it should be good.

Our clinic work, environmental projects and business development continue as normal and have been gaining some traction. The latest group of British Gap--years seem to be settling in well. We were all very chuffed by a friend of mine from Manchester who competed in the London Marathon, raising money for our HIV work. On the 24th April Dave managed to get round in a great time of 4 hours 5 minutes 29 seconds, which in my non--marathon opinion seems excellent, particularly for a first ever attempt. To date he has raised a whopping total of £1,304.80. On behalf of *Oasis*, thanks Dave! And while we are on thanks, thanks to everybody who prays for me and keeps in contact. It is great to know your support in all that goes on out here. Hope to see you all soon!

Andrew Butterworth

Our Trip “Oop North”

Terry and I have now set off in our new narrowboat, ‘Phyllis May II’, to explore the canals of Northern England. We hope to be gone until the autumn if the water holds out. British Waterways are already operating restrictions on some northern canals.

We headed north down ‘heartbreak hill’ and then turned left at Middlewich into deepest Cheshire. The weather was glorious and the scenery rural. Walking with Jim and Jess along the towpath I was suddenly assailed by a vigorous outpouring of song from the hedgerow. I knew it wasn’t the blackbird that sings his song twice over so what could it be? I scanned the hawthorn bushes and there on the topmost branch was a tiny frail-looking brown bird, his whole body consumed with the joy of celebrating the blazing sun, the blue sky, the green fields, the scent of the may. I knew just how he felt.

The late spring flowers always remind me of a time over thirty years ago, soon after we moved to our present side of town. I had become clinically depressed and our then vicar Brian Reeve and his wife Cath were a great help and support to me and Terry. One day in May I was walking along the Scotch Brook, head down, feeling very low, when I looked up and there in front of me was a grassy bank completely covered with germander speedwell, ‘bird’s eye’, their little blue flowers the colour of heaven all blazing away at me. I knew it was a sign of what Cath had told me, that Jesus loved me no matter what, just as I was. Those tiny blue flowers were His promise to me.

And so was the glorious song of that insignificant brown bird, a gift and a promise.

Monica Darlington

Trains in the Garden

Steam will be raised on July 3rd when Pete and Liz Mason will be inviting us all for rides on trains in the garden between 3 and 5pm. Funds will also be raised in aid of Jigsaw Ministries, working for street children in Manila, so please come prepared to make a donation.

Prayer answered – after 22 years

It takes great faith to continue broadcasting a Christian programme into a closed country for 22 years despite never having received a letter to prove anyone was listening.

In July 1968, European Christian Mission through Trans World Radio began beaming the Way of Peace programme from Monte Carlo into Albania, after the Stalinist dictator, Enver Hoxha, declared that his nation had ‘abolished God’ and it was the world’s ‘first atheistic state’.

The radio station continued to send in its message to the most isolated country in the world, even though anyone caught listening to foreign radio programmes risked imprisonment or death.

However, when the Communist regime was overthrown and the borders were opened in 1990, ECM workers were amazed how many Albanians had been tuning in secretly to their programme, including a top government official.

One of those was Captain Berti Dosti, who had been awarded the third highest military medal in Albania. His job as a signals and radio expert was to listen in for the West’s invasion plans. While he was scanning the airwaves he didn’t discover an enemy, but he did find God through becoming a regular secret listener. Berti later left the army and is now the pastor of a thriving church and the principal of a successful school in Lushnje, an hour’s drive south of the capital Tirana.

John Butterworth, who is also the ECM rep for the Midlands, tells the exciting story of Berti’s journey to faith, and the many people who helped him, in *God’s Secret Listener*, which is being published by Lion/Hudson on October 1 in the UK and in Spring 2011 in the USA. It has forewords and recommendations by Stephen Gaukroger, Rico Tice, the Bishop of St Albans, the recently retired Bishop of Stafford and Peter Meadows.

Included in the book are the stories of many people who helped Berti, including David Bell’s brother, Stephen Bell. Stephen went to Kosovo University to learn Albanian while waiting for Albania to open its borders. The Yugoslavian secret police couldn’t understand why this Lancashire lad, the son of a vicar and a big Manchester City fan, had come to Kosovo and quizzed his friends why he was there.

(continued on next page)

When he eventually went into Albania Stephen said it was like going back to Biblical times as he preached to crowds hungry to learn about Christianity, and where one believer said: “God has been stolen from us for 47 years.”

Berti’s own journey to faith is an exciting one as he describes being brought up in Enver Hoxha’s Albania, what life was like in the army and what happened the day the Stalinist dictator died.

This amazing tale shows that that the Book of Acts can come to life 2,000 years later and that Christianity is a message of hope. As Stephen Gaukroger says in his foreword to the book: “Even the ‘gates of hell’ will not prevail against the Body of Christ!”

John Butterworth

Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust

Sponsored Cycle Ride and Walk

Saturday 11th September 2010

Saturday 11th September is not so far away - so make a note of the date now!

How about cycling or walking round our area visiting churches? Collect sponsorship for the number of churches you visit. There are churches involved all over the county. The sponsor money is equally divided between the Historic Churches Trust and our own church.

Will you walk or cycle or stay at Christ Church to welcome visitors to our church?

Nearer the time Sponsor forms will be available from Dorothy who also knows a walking route round Stafford taking in ten churches.

Go now and put the date on your calendar!

Dorothy Wilson

Books--I love them. Well perhaps not 'love' them (since I was once told as a child that you could not love inanimate objects), but I certainly like them very much. I like the look of them, the feel of them and of course reading them. I'm one of those people who cannot go past a bookshop without popping in to have a browse, and more often than not come out clutching yet another treasure (or perhaps two if there is an offer on the paperbacks). And then there are the charity shops with their nearly new books.....Having said all that, ours is not a house with a room with one wall completely filled with books, so I suppose compared with some readers of this article we don't own a huge number of books, but the delight in them is still there.

When we were on holiday in Northumbria recently, we went to Alnwick and as is our custom made a beeline for Barter's Secondhand Bookshop. Phil enjoys browsing in here just as much as I do. Many of you may be familiar with it. It's a huge secondhand bookshop, one of the largest in Europe, situated in what used to be the railway station. They have everything there from current paperbacks to some very rare copies of old books, these housed in locked glass fronted cases and with prices in the hundreds and in one or two cases, thousands of pounds. There is a cafe for snacks, a coffee machine and comfortable armchairs in which to sit. There are also computers on which to work if so required, and in this room there is an electric model train travelling around an overhead track. In all, it's a fantastic place to while away an hour or two.

While we were in this bookshop, I happened to stand in the large back room just taking in the large number of shelves of books and breathing in that slightly musty smell associated with old books and papers. And while I looked, this verse came to me from St John's gospel, right at the end, chapter 21, verse 25.

'Jesus did many other things as well. If everyone of them were written down,,I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.'

I realise that books then were not as we know them now, and of course I understand that the then known world was so much smaller than we know it to be. But still that verse made me think. I thought about the years of Jesus's life before His ministry began, and how very little we know about them. I thought about what John was saying in this verse, about the 'many other things Jesus did' that we don't know about.

(continued on next page)

And I looked at all those books and thought 'Wow'. But to be honest we don't need to know more than we do. Yes it would be wonderfully interesting, but we don't need to know, because everything we do need to know about Jesus, His person, His mission, and His ultimate sacrifice on the cross for our redemption is there, in the writings that we have about Him in our Bibles.

What we need to do is to read the Gospels for ourselves prayerfully, learn more about Him, and make our own response to His call. *Diana Tunstall*

Christian Aid Collection

A big Thank You to everyone who took part in this years Christian Aid street collection. Thanks to the generosity of collectors and givers alike £1237.60p was the amount from the streets covered, to which was added an anonymous donation of £10, and £14.31p from youngsters at Alleynes making a final total of £1261.91p. I know the collecting is hard work but there are people who will be very grateful for the time and effort put in. Thank You.

Phil Tunstall.

News from the Beesigomwes (Botswana)

We are well by God's grace. The three children are still in university and we are learning to believe the Lord will help them to finish. We have nearly finished paying tuition for one, 60% for the other two is paid. Its a miracle. Their living conditions are still bearable one has moved once to reduce cost and will be moving again next semester.

Ministry as I had shared before is exciting. We had the privilege of overseeing 20 of university students being trained for Faith the Nation programme from Zambia, Botswana and Namibia. They are going to work in senior secondary schools for five weeks.

The government has given us permission to teach family connections Character development and faith programmes in primary and secondary schools. We had a successful seminar with community leaders and head teachers of eleven schools that we could mobilize with limited means. They all approved our training. We are now preparing to train 3 teachers and the Parent teachers association chairperson to work as resource persons in their schools. The beautiful thing is that government will pay the training costs.

Its now getting cold but we will survive it. We miss Uganda a lot because this is the longest I have stayed without going. The children do not talk about going because they have not been for over 12 years. Thank you again for your love and the funds you keep us blessed with.

Jonathan and Robinah.

Where is my nearest church?
 How do I plan a wedding?
 Which hymns are suitable for a wedding?
 What do I have to do to arrange a funeral?

If you are a regular churchgoer, you probably can answer these questions easily enough. People unfamiliar with church sometimes struggle to cope with church events, however. The Church of England has done a good job of dealing with these (and several other) questions in their website.

Regular churchgoers may find other parts of the website useful, however. There are prayers for many occasions and an order of service for Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Holy Communion. Readings and Collects are listed. And, you will find information about nearly every C of E church in the country, including a map showing parish boundaries. The next couple of pages includes some information from the website.

Mission and Evangelism

God's mission

"Mission goes out from God. Mission is God's way of loving and saving the world..."

(Lambeth Conference 1998, Section II p121).

As Christians we follow Jesus who said "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (*John 20.21*). We are called to serve God's mission by living and proclaiming the good news.

"It's not the church of God that has a mission, but the God of mission who has a church".

What it means to be a Christian

Christian life is lived in relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and in common with other Christians in the church seeking to deepen that relationship and to follow the way that Jesus taught.

For Christians God is understood and known as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Questions of life and death

Funeral services always raise profound questions about the meaning of life and death. Jesus himself believed in a life-giving God: 'the God of the living, not of the dead.' Christians believe that Christ's resurrection is the triumph of good over evil and of life over death and has made eternal life available to us.

Learn to Pray

Much of the prayer of the Church of England is corporate, that is to say we do it together and this is reflected in much of what you will say when you recite Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer. Yet there is another side to our prayer life, our own individual prayers, as we try to share in Christ's prayer to his Father, that his will be done, his kingdom come.

Millions of people of every age pray every day.

You don't have to know any prayers if you want to pray - in fact, words can often get in the way. Picture Jesus, and then say what is in your heart, what you feel.

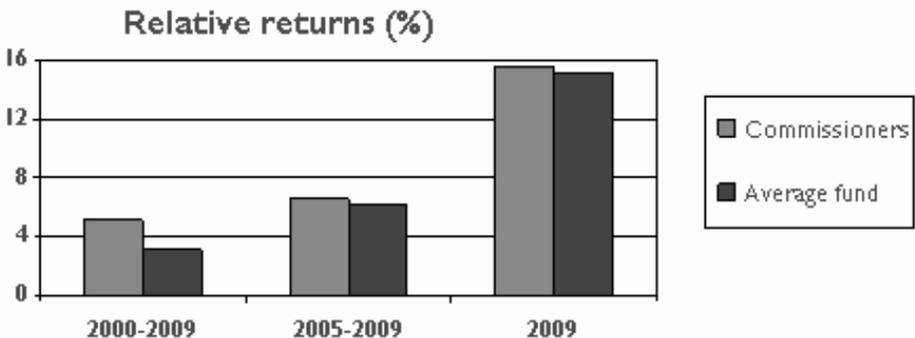
Remember!

God hears every prayer - but not all prayers are answered in the way we might expect or desire: we don't always pray for his will to be done!

The Church Commissioners

The Church Commissioners have reported their work in 2009 on the Church of England website www.cofe.anglican.org.

Below is a chart showing investment profits made during recent years, and on page 19 is a very brief summary of what is done with the money.



supporting the Church's ministry

The Church Commissioners manage £4.8 billion of investments held in UK and global company shares and property. They contribute around 16p in the pound - £193 million in 2009 - towards the Church's running costs of £1.2 billion per year. More than three-quarters of the Church's income comes from parishes and dioceses, largely from parishioners' giving.

Supporting the Church's mission

The Commissioners' mission is '*to support the Church of England's ministry, particularly in areas of need and opportunity*'. Their spending in 2009 includes:

- all clergy pensions earned before 1998: £111.0 million in 2009
- supporting ministry in areas of need and opportunity: £42.0 million in 2009, mostly targeted on the neediest dioceses and representing a steady real-terms increase in the last 10 years
- this includes £34 million since 2002 specifically to support parishes' imaginative mission work and tying in with the church's *fresh expression* agenda.
- serving the church's leaders in mission by funding bishops' stipends, working costs and (for diocesan bishops) houses: £26.6 million.
- supporting the work and ministry of cathedrals: £7.4 million, targeted on those most in need.
- handling the legal side of pastoral re-organisation: reshaping parish boundaries, and settling the future of closed churches with a view to returning them to other community use.
- administrative costs including support for church buildings and other church bodies: £5.6 million.

Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website	www.christchurchstone.org
Parish office email	christchurch.centrel@btinternet.com
Magazine contributions	christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS

16th April	Minnie Daniels	Age 97
21st April	Priscilla Frances Flower	Age 90

SIDESPERSIONS ROTÆ

AM

4th July	D. Davies	B. Hutchinson
	V. Ledward	M. Hutchinson
11th July	A. West	G. Holden
	K. Thompson	T. MacFarlane
18th July	D. Wilson	J. Abrahams
	A. Lloyd	D. Pickles
25th July	P. Hipkiss	B. Hutchinson
	J. Rowlands	M. Hutchinson



FLOWER ROTÆ

4th July	Mrs J. Rowlands
11th July	Mrs J. Butterworth
18th July	Miss C. Wilding
25th July	Mrs K. Thompson



ROADS FOR PRAYER

4th July
The Avenue
Trent Road
Tunley Street
Trinity Drive

11th July
Airdale Grove
Airdale Road
Airdale Spinney
Cross Street

18th July
Nicholls Lane
Old Road
Old Road Close
Oulton Cross
Lotus Court

25th July
Oulton Road
Oulton Mews
Princes Street
Queens Square
York Street



Deanery Synod Reps Mrs S Hallam, Mr D. Rowlands, Mr R. Brandon
P.C.C. Members Mrs D. Davies, Mrs I. Gassor, Mrs L. Mason
 Mr M. Thompson, Mrs D. Wilson, Mrs J. Abrahams
 Mrs K. Latham, Mr P. Mason, Mr A. Rushton
 Mr T. Woodhead, Mrs A. Burton, Mrs M. Hillman
 Mrs L. Kelly, Mr K. Reynolds, Mrs E. Woodhead

Secretary Jacqueline Abrahams 817020
Treasurer Kevin Reynolds.....851595
Envelopes, Gift Aid Nesta Challinor

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Climbers 3-7 years Sandra Morray.....286093
Explorers 7-11 years Estella Woodhead.....761659
Pathfinders 11-14 years Enid Bell.....815775
Banner Group Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
Church Missionary Boxes Cecilia Wilding.....817987
Flower Guild Marylyn Hillman.....815936
Men's Fellowship Mike Thompson.....813712
Missions Secretary Cecilia Wilding.....817987
Prayer Group Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
Parents & Toddlers Sandra Morray.....286093
 (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)
3rd Stone Brownies Janet Smith.....815939
 (Mo 6:00-7:30pm, First School)

Young People's Activities take place in the Centre during the Sunday morning service except on the fourth Sunday in the month, which is the family service.

Climbers 3-7 years *Explorers* 7-11 years *Pathfinders* 11-14 years

The following activities take place every week week in the Centre during term time.

Monday Toddlers 9.30 am

THE MAGAZINE TEAM

Mission News& Prayer Diary Cecilia Wilding 817987

Please send material for the magazine to

Dave Bell, c/o Christ Church Parish Office, Christ Church Way,
 Staffs ST15 8ZB or by email to christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

Christ Church welcomes you!

Whether you are new to the Stone area or have been living here for some time you are welcome to come to this church. The church is made up of adults and children who want to know more about the living God, who has supremely revealed Himself in Jesus Christ and continues to speak to us through His Spirit-inspired word, the Holy Bible (which can be read online at www.biblegateway.com and we recommend a modern translation e.g. the New International Version or English Standard Version).

We are a Christian church, because at the heart of what we believe is the fact that to know God personally we must put our trust in Jesus' death for our forgiveness so that we can be reconciled to God. We are part of the Anglican church, the basis of its Trinitarian belief is summarised in the Book of Common Prayer with its 39 articles, though we unite in Christ irrespective of denomination. 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. This church was established with the help of the renowned Charles Simeon.

Our church meetings help us to grow in our understanding of what the Bible tells us about God, and this is something that we encourage others to investigate especially through our *Christianity Explored* course (see details on the national website www.christianityexplored.com). If you would like details of when the next local course is starting then please contact the church office.

We have children's and youth activities running 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.

This magazine and the church website concern Christ Church in Stone, but we are linked with the churches in Oulton and Moddershall (see separate magazine and website).

Subscriptions

If you would like this magazine delivered to you regularly, please contact: Mrs Marylyn Hillman, Park Lodge, Beech Court, Stone. Tel 815936