

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



February 2011

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
Youth and Children's Worker	Kieran McKnight 30 Oulton Road	600734 07814624107
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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
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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

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Christ Church



and People

Please get your contributions for the March magazine to us by 15th February

Reminder
The magazine costs 40p per month or £4 for a whole year

Cover Story:-
Stone Station

Subscriptions

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

February 2011

Tue	1	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am Seekers Club Lighthouse yrs 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	2	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 6-8
Thu	3		
Fri	4		
Sat	5	8:30am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	6	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Hebrews 4:14-5:10 "Jesus our great High Priest" God's big plan - Course by Ben Hardee
Mon	7		
Tue	8	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 1:10pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am Seekers Club Alleyne's assembly Lighthouse yrs 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	9	1:10pm 6:30pm	Alleyne's assembly Breathe yrs 6-8
Thu	10	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	11		
Sat	12	9:00am 7:30pm	Marriage preparation at Christ Church Choir and Band of All Souls Langham Place - St. Andrews Church, The Westlands
Sun	13	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer; Jonah 1 "The reluctance of belief" God's big plan - Course by Ben Hardee
Mon	14		

February 2011

Tue	15	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 1:00pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am Seekers Club Stone Ministers' Fraternal Lighthouse yrs 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	16	12:00pm 6:30pm	Stone Deanery Chapter Meeting - Fulford Breathe yrs 6-8
Thu	17	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	18		
Sat	19		
Sun	20	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Jonah 2 "The miracle of salvation" God's big plan - Course by Ben Hardee
Mon	21		
Tue	22	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am
Wed	23		
Thu	24		
Fri	25		
Sat	26		
Sun	27	9:15am 6:00pm	Family Service Jonah 3 "The grace of the Lord" God's big plan - Course by Ben Hardee
Mon	28		

Cash, camels and certainty

It was described as ‘a googly,’ but it wasn’t a bowler helping us to retain the Ashes. It was a surprise question in Parliament that appeared to hit the mark. It was a great media moment, but it made me think again about Jesus’ solemn teaching.

A question was put by a member of the Parliamentary Committee to the chief executive of Barclays Bank. After a general grilling about city bonuses and his own bonus came the googly question: why did he think it was easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God? The executive fumbled for words and said he didn’t understand the question. There was a gleeful outburst over getting an ‘edge’. Or so it seemed.

One-liners are great entertainers, but the quote from the lips of Jesus made me think about my life choices. The context of the quote was when Jesus was being quizzed by a man who wanted to know for sure about having eternal life. Jesus asked whether he faithfully followed God’s laws. He said yes. But then he was floored when Jesus told him to sell all he had and give to the poor. *‘When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus solemnly told his followers: “I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God”* (Matthew 19v22-24). Jesus warns us not to idolise wealth. His words strike at the core of an exclusively materialistic vision – that this world is all that there is in life, a vision which results in a pursuit of business profit and personal gain that promotes the idolisation of wealth. This worldview undermines our two key relationships: towards God and with others. A material worldview soon becomes the focus of human loyalty and so breaks the primary command to give our loyalty to God. It also fosters selfish accumulation, so that there is the ready acceptance of reward, but without a recognition of any responsibility. Jesus calls us to invest first in his Kingdom, by giving our first loyalty to him and expressing this through a love of others.



(continued on next page)

Cash, camels and certainty *(cont)*

The Kingdom of God is eternal and secure, while the things of this world are temporary and unreliable. All who throw themselves on God's mercy can be sure of being citizens of His Kingdom. We meet as a church to learn about this life changing reality, so join us to discover more about the Kingdom whose architect and builder is God.

Paul Kingman

Sermon series in February

Mornings at Christ Church & Oulton: Jonah – God's International Rescue. We will look at this short book which concerns a rebellious prophet who did not want to preach to the wicked Ninevah. Everything about the project was repulsive. God had to teach Jonah to have compassion – it was a profoundly important lesson if the Gospel was to reach the unreached.

Moddershall mornings: a continuation of Luke 3-6 where we learn more about Jesus' public ministry which changes the way we are to look at the world.

Evening services: *God's Big Picture*.

A short course will be running on Sunday evenings at 6pm. Our intern Benjamin Hardee will speak on "*God's Big Picture – how to understand the Bible as a whole.*" The Bible consists of sixty-six books, comes from the pens of forty authors, was written over a period of nearly 2,000 years and has many different genres of literature. As a worldwide best-seller it has been published in countless translations and languages. It is a book that has been sworn by in court, fought over, and quoted in arguments. Clearly, the Bible is no ordinary book! So how can we begin to read and understand the Bible as a whole? In *God's Big Picture* we will learn how the different parts of the Bible fit together under the theme of the Kingdom of God. This will enable us to read the Bible with greater confidence, enthusiasm and understanding.

Welcome to Benjamin Hardee: Intern

We welcome to our benefice this month Benjamin Hardee. Benjamin is from Kansas, USA and studied theology at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. He is currently studying for a Masters degree in Ecumenical Studies at the University of Bonn, Germany. As part of this course he has to undertake a six week internship (placement). Benjamin is to be with us from February to mid March and aims to gain experience across the board.

The Next Thing!

Greetings!

I was encouraged today with a very simple word from the Lord:

"Just do the next thing!"

Sometimes the "next thing" is to write a letter, make a phone call, or visit a shut-in. Sometimes, the "next thing" is to stop and pray, read the Word, or write in your journal. Sometimes, the "next thing" is to clean your desk, or the car, or your room (that's usually just for kids, but not always!), or maybe it's to put away the dishes, take out the rubbish or mow the lawn!. You get the idea, the "next thing" is often a simple action that seems so insignificant, that it just doesn't appear to be a "God thing", so we brush it off. When in reality if we will simply just do the "next thing", then the next thing is easier to do, and then it's easier to do the next thing, and the next, and the next. Until all those little "next things" make up your whole day!

I was also reminded that if the church would adopt this "do the next thing" attitude, then it could move from feeling overwhelmed with a daunting task and just focus on the "next thing". Actually, this is what Dr Conrad Lowe taught us in the Church Consultation Seminars he taught. I have taken that phrase and applied it to my own life and we have repeatedly used it when we do church consultations. We have become overwhelmed with the big picture that we have become paralyzed to do the simply, insignificant, "next thing", so we oftentimes just keep doing what we have always done, hoping to get a different result. They say that is the definition of insanity!

(continued on next page)

Oswald Chamber's timeless devotional, *My Utmost For His Highest* has helped me see that this is indeed a spiritual truth that God wants us to learn. Consider these two quotes:

"We look for visions from heaven, for earthquakes and thunders of God's power... and we never dream that all the time God is in the commonplace things and people around us. If we will do the duty that lies nearest, we shall see Him."

"When the Spirit of God comes, He does not give us visions, He tells us to do the most ordinary things conceivable... whenever God comes, the inspiration is to do the most natural, simple things—the things we would never have imagined God was in, and as we do them we find He is there."

Chambers referenced the scene in I Kings where Elijah is running from King Ahab. He is hungry and tired and very depressed. (Ever been there?) In that scene God sends an angel to him who says simply, "Arise and eat" (I Kings 19:5). What was Elijah's "next thing" he needed to do? Get up and eat something! Sometimes just moving forward in the most basic way is all God needs from us. With our obedience comes the solution we are seeking.

I hope this thought will help you or someone else who is feeling overwhelmed and even depressed. What "next thing" is God asking you to do? Get up, do whatever it is, and find Him there.

I am praying for you and keep asking the Lord to give you wisdom in the simple things!

Dayton Birt

Dayton Birt is the Conference Superintendent (Bishop) of Redemption Ministries Conference in Eastern Virginia (International Pentecostal Holiness Church). As in January, he has been quicker to post his message than other bishops!

The Vicar of Baghdad

Recently, a friend loaned me a copy of Canon Andrew White's book "The Vicar of Baghdad". Andrew was born in 1964 and his post as vicar of St George's Church, Baghdad (The only Anglican Church in Iraq) gives the book its title.

However Andrew's story covers a much broader canvas, than simply being Vicar of St Georges.

Did I say simply? In a chapter towards the end of the book entitled "The most wonderful church in the world" Andrew outlines the life of this church. He vividly remembers an early service that he took at St Georges "when the congregation consisted of Bishops, spies and the caretaker".

But all this was to change. Tariq Aziz the Deputy Prime minister under Saddam gave Andrew permission to take services at St Georges whenever he was in Baghdad. Years passed but the church remained in disrepair. Then came the war. Rather like St Paul's during the London Blitz, St Georges remained unscathed in spite of destruction all around from the bombardment.

The first service after the liberation of Iraq was attended mainly by military personal and diplomatic staff. However within weeks the congregation became increasingly Iraqi. More and more people attended worship. But human cost was enormous.

In 2005 Andrew records that "11 of my staff were killed or disappeared that year". For his own safety he was forced to live in a plastic trailer in an underground car park in the "Green Zone" - Andrew humorously gave this cabin the address 27, Foss Way, Ocean Cliffs, Baghdad!

In spite of his sense of humour, his pastor's heart is often broken and he is brought to tears by the horrors he encounters almost daily. What parish Priest could walk to his church past fifty to sixty bodies hanging from trees and lamp posts? In July 2007, he told the US Commission on International Religious Freedom that "in the past month 36 of my own congregation have been kidnapped. To date, only one has been returned"

Although the congregation now numbers well over a thousand the story of St Georges is most certainly not a triumphalist account. Andrew describes worship at St Georges in the following way;

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“In Britain, a vicar would usually impose his or her own style on their church, but in Baghdad my people impose their style on me and it is simply wonderful. It is a mix of Orthodox, Catholic and charismatic (which I suppose is essentially rather Anglican)”

But as I intimated earlier, the story of the Vicar of Baghdad is far wider and more influential than his work with one church. In January 2002 Andrew played a key role in the Alexandria Declaration where Muslim, Christian and Jewish Leaders signed a document which stated amongst other things that “According to our faith traditions, killing innocents in the name of God is a desecration of His Holy Name”

As I write this short review of a challenging, and inspiring book, I am conscious that prayerful and thoughtful Jews, Muslims and Christians around the world are horrified at the news of the terrorist bombing that killed so many recently at Mass in that same city of Alexandria. I am sure Andrew is devastated as well, but his faith, hope and love will carry him through as it has done so many times in the past.

Roger M Vaughan

Why not read “The Vicar of Baghdad”, by Andrew White for yourself?
ISBN 978 85424 876 3

Children’s Society House Boxes

It’s that time of the year again!

If you have a Children’s Society house box could you let me have it, please.

Either bring it to church, give it to me or one of the wardens, please do not leave it in the church.

Alternatively let me know and I will collect it from your home.

Sandra Morray
Children’s Society Secretary

Christingle Service 18th Dec. 2010

About 65 Oranges were made into Christingles by the children and parents, the children finding out what each symbol represented.

There were various crafts for the children, once again thanks to Estella.

It was a very busy time and a great atmosphere, with a few old friends arriving and joining in.

Then into church for a short service , a talk from Kieran , singing, prayers and the lighting of the Christingles. Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments.

This year children from Oulton First school and Christ Church First school took a Christingle collecting candle home and along with children from Christ Church and the Toddler Group a fantastic £212-59p was sent to the Children's Society, helping them to continue their valuable work with young runaway and homeless children in the UK.

On behalf of the Children's Society a big thank you to all who gave so generously.

Sandra Morray

West Midlands Young Refugee Project

(This is the project closest to Stone, that is partly funded by The Church of England Children's Society)

West Midlands Young Refugees Project works to make childhood better by working directly with children, young people and their families who have fled their home countries for reasons of war, persecution and torture. We provide social activities: advice, information and advocacy support on a broad range of issues which impact on their lives. Refugee children are children first and foremost. But all too often children who have already suffered tremendous upheaval in their home country have to cope with the complex asylum process and face bullying and discrimination, isolation and uncertainty as they try to settle into schools and communities. We challenge the injustices that they face, reduce isolation and promote integration with local communities. Our aim is to help them settle and succeed in their lives.

Distance: 30 miles

Best Wishes for 2011

Dear Partners in Missionary work through Family Connections. We feel privileged to have you on the same team. Greeting and love from the Beesigomwes. How are you and how would you describe 2010? If we were to summarize this year, we would call it the year of favour. It was the first time our organization appeared unclear to some so that more leaders can hear about it. For this reason we had to wait for 12 months to be licensed in writing. It however meant most of the outside work was done by my wife who holds SDAC passport which was a blessing. The work started with Community Leaders and elder's introductory seminar in March that led them to send 60 resource persons for an orientation workshop in July. These would be trained to train parents and teachers and children in 12 Primary and 5 Community Junior schools. They were introduced to the Programme we have coded "Why Wait Programme" and made a commitment to do the job. It has four main components; Parenting in the Era of HIV/AIDS, Youth Empowerment, Marriage Enrichment and Parent-Teacher Connection. All these have very spiced topics that would leave even those who never want to learn in doubt of their roles. The Ministry of Health Department of Prevention and Care sponsored the workshops.

In September the District Health Management Team Kweneng East funded the next Life at the CrossRoads teachers' workshop for the 60 resource persons. To Crown this activity, the Deputy Minister came to officiate at the commissioning of the teachers. He so encouraged all of us and the teachers and assured us that with programmes like this one the battle is not lost. He challenged us to work beyond human expectations to see results sooner. His ministry, he assured the participants would take care of the material resources needed by the participants. This was a great help for "Family Connections Bows and Arrows" which was yet to receive a donor with much needed financial energy.

To follow this workshop would be five-day workshops and teachers' seminars on 37 pressure reasons for pre- and post-marital sex and multiple concurrent and sexual partnerships and 27 mandatory reasons to wait for sex until marriage. Then marriage and family enrichment training workshops and fatherwise and motherwise series, parenting workshops for couples and single parents would follow. FCBA also offers on-going premarital and post marital counseling to make sure no one says I do knowing not what to do.

In the community teachers would teach relationship building skills, character development skills for behaviour change, HIV and AIDS and the proper perspective of sex, life skills for behaviour change and modification, application of acquired knowledge as they navigate the future. This would take 30 weeks or a school year. This helps youth and their significant other maintain a Christ-Centered Lifestyle needed for abstinence and faithfulness in marriage.

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We were all geared up to start the New Year with much momentum when God came up with another plan. The donor, who picked interest in our programme, changed the target audience for the same programme. They challenged us to use it on 1300 students in senior schools and those waiting to go to university, 100 couples and 200 parents. All these should be between 18 – 35 years old. In addition the programme will be open to the general community to involve 1000 people in debates on reason for and against Multiple Concurrent partnerships (MCP), Intergeneration Sex (IGS), and Transactional Sex (TS). This is the reason BOWS AND ARROWS Newsletter is late this year. We wanted to sign a contract and give details to you for prayer since both programmes have to run concurrently involving over 15,000 people. This is a God-sized task indeed.

To make this happen, we will need a minimum of eight staff in God's hand through FCBA as clay in His hand ready to be molded and used to accomplish what He started doing in this beautiful country many years ago. We are yet to find another county that has a national month of prayer on a government calendar with a budget. This has been so since September 1996 when the then President Sir K. Masire declared September the National Month of Prayer and Mobilization against HIV and AIDS and other social ills. When God comes through for Botswana, the world may be surprised but not those who have been praying and waiting for the Lord for 15 years.

Family News: We all miss Elijah who finished school in Uganda and started working and Computer studies there. We pray that we get to stay with him before he 'leaves' father and mother. Timothy works hard as a peer educator talking to whoever he meets about God. Recently he was prompted to talk to a man in a combi-line and discovered he used to be a pastor but now sells and repairs fridges. He confessed his Christianity was ice-cold. Nicholas is working really hard to go into his final year. He had hoped to drop Physics but it follows on. Hannah enjoys Mathematics and Physics just like her father did at her age. She passed first year with a lot of ease. Joel now is sure he wants to be an accountant. He seems ready to leave Business administration if his results come out good. Martha worked hard this year as a form four student. It would be great if she studied diplomatic and conflict resolution sciences. Jonathan Jr. continued as a straight A student except in swimming lessons. We are all well by grace.

Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe, Botswana

Puzzles of the Christian Faith

Christianity presents many puzzles- but some can be solved by writing letters of the alphabet in little boxes. This one is a “Codeword” from biblewordgames.com. Aficionados please note that not all letters are used. There are some names that you won’t find in a dictionary- if you get stuck, look in Joshua 15:24 and 1 Chronicles 15:20.

7	10	20	23	10		11	2	13	3	21		18	20	5
13		6			22		14			13	3	10		10
12	10	14	24	2	11		22	23	20	18		11	20	7
10		10			20	22	22		21		23			13
3	10	26	14	10	16			10	21	11	3	4		22
	21		1		16	10	10	5			10			10
26	13	13	1	22				10	22	23	20	7	10	5
	23		13			16	17	21			11		19	
11	2	10	3	10	11	13				7	14	21	23	2
14			11			20	18	18	20		13		10	
1		18	20	18	10	26			24	10	21	11	26	10
13			26		26		2	10	3			10		24
11	17	18		12	14	21	10		10	1	7	26	13	4
2		20	5	13			20		10			10		7
4	10	20		21	20	14	26	22		11	10	1	7	11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		R							E			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
						A				G		

Saturday 5th March at 7pm in the Centre
 Something for Everyone
 Sale of plants and pots of spring bulbs
 Have a guess at some games – 50p a go
 with great prizes to be won

Be part of a team in a lighthearted team
 quiz

Refreshments
 Proceeds to the Church general fund

Tickets £2 from Phil or Arthur, or from Irene and Kate in the office

400th Anniversary of the Authorised Version

The Authorised Version of the bible was published on May 2, 1611 by the Church of England. Extracts were broadcast on Radio 4 last month and there will be a set of British stamps later this year to commemorate the event. Older members of the church will be able to quote verses from this version, as the prose sticks more easily in the mind than many of the modern versions. Some people say that the AV is the Authentic Version, all the rest are inferior. Here are some other acronyms for bible versions.

RSV	Rather special version
NIV	Nearly infallible version
NLB	New liberal bible
DBV	Denominational bias version
BBE	Best bible ever
The Message	Most erroneous slaughter (of) scripture available- gets everywhere
NASB	North American (Southern-californian) Bible

ROADS FOR PRAYER

6th February

Alma Street
Bromfield Court
Dominic Court
Granville Terrace
King's Avenue

13th February

Longton Road
Margaret Street
Newcastle Road
Newcastle Street

20th February

Northesk Street
Radford Close
Radford Street
Station Road

27th February

The Avenue
Trent Road
Tunley Street
Trinity Drive



Miracles at Christmas (Jigsaw Ministries)

God has yet again proved his faithfulness and wonderful provision this Christmas for Jigsaw. Recently we wrote an email appeal for prayer, for God to provide the funds that were needed for Jigsaw to operate this December and provide Christmas parties for over 1300 children in some of the most deprived areas of Manila. In December Jigsaw had next to nothing in the account and needed to send £7000 within three weeks to the Philippines to fund the parties and staff wages.

Tim and I knew that God would provide but the amount seemed so huge, the time short and if we are honest we felt overwhelmed by it all. Our faith was there but only just. God has provided through you his people every single penny that was needed to get Jigsaw through December. The money that was needed didn't arrive in one big sum; it was made up from lots of different people, churches and groups from all over the UK and it was wonderful and humbling to see how God touches people to give and pray.

All of the parties are finished now and the staff are enjoying a well-earned rest. This year the staff put on an amazing nativity play for all the children, cooked a much-loved meal of chicken and rice, and organised games and prizes. Each child also received a toy. Thank you to each and every one of you and to our wonderful God.

John Price

Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website	www.christchurchstone.org
Parish office email	christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com
Magazine contributions	christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

FROM THE REGISTERS

DEDICATION OF MARRIAGE

18th Dec Andrew and Michelle Butterworth

FUNERAL

18th Nov Christine Jacques Age 89

Stafford Crematorium

16th Dec Anthony Derrick Chidlow Age 84

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

AM

PM

6th Feb	D. Davies	T. MacFarlane	P. Tunstall
	J. Abrahams	J. Rowlands	

13th Feb	C. Wilding	B. Hutchinson	D. Shemilt
	V. Ledward	M. Hutchinson	

20th Feb	G. Holden	D. Pickles	P. Tunstall
	A. West	K. Thompson	

27th Feb	P. Hipkiss	T. MacFarlane	D. Shemilt
	D. Wilson	J. Abrahams	

FLOWER ROTA

6th Feb Mrs J. Booth

13th Feb Mrs Buckley

20th Feb Mrs M. Hillman

27th Feb Mrs W. Carroll

Wanted!

**A guitar suitable for a beginner
If you can help, please contact Dilys 815799**

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 Richard Latos

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