

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



April

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
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
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CHURCH SCHOOLS

Christ Church C.E.(Controlled) First School, Northesk Street.

Head: Mrs Lynne Croxall B.Ed.(Hons)	354125
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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

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Please get your contributions for the May magazine to us by 15th April

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

Cover Story:-
Meaford School

Subscriptions

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

April 2011

Fri	1		
Sat	2	8:30am 10:00am 7:30pm	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast Holiday Club preparation - Craft only Stone Choral Society Concert
Sun	3	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion John 18:28-19:16 "Jesus' civil trial" Evening Prayer at Oulton Psalm 20 "Prayer before the king's battle"
Mon	4	7:30pm	Standing Committee
Tue	5	9:30am 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Lighthouse years 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club years 9-13
Wed	6	6:30pm 7:30pm 7:30pm	Breathe years 6-8 Lent Course (tbc) Staffordshire Performing Arts concert
Thu	7	10:00am 1:20pm	Lent Course - Vicarage Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	8	9:45am ? pm	Christ Church First School Easter service Christ Church Middle School Easter service
Sat	9		
Sun	10	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer John 19:17-30 "Jesus' death" Communion at Oulton Psalm 21 "Thanksgiving for the king after the battle"
Mon	11	All day	Holiday Club set-up
Tue	12	10:00am 1:30pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Holiday Club
Wed	13	1:30pm	Holiday Club
Thu	14	1:30pm	Holiday Club
Fri	15	1:30pm	Holiday Club

Sat	16	9:30am	Diocesan Synod - Longton
Sun	17	9:15am 2:30pm 6:00pm	Holiday Club service, followed by Brunch Matthew 12:38-42 "The sign of Jonah" Autumn House service Evening Prayer at Oulton Psalm 22 "The psalm of the cross"
Mon	18	7:30pm	APCM - Christ Church
Tue	19	10:00am 1:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Fraternal
Wed	20		
Thu	21	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday communion at St John's, Oulton
Fri	22	10:00am 10:00am 10:40am	Good Friday procession from St Michael's to Christ Church Easter craft for children in the Centre Good Friday service followed by hot cross buns (in the Centre)
Sat	23		
Sun	24	9:15am 10:30am 6:00pm	Easter Communion. John 20:1-10 "Resurrection evidence 1" Fairtrade in the Centre Communion at Moddershall Psalm 23 "The psalm of resurrection hope"
Mon	25		
Tue	26	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Lighthouse years 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club years 9-13
Wed	27	6:30pm	Breathe years 6-8
Thu	28	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	29		
Sat	30		

The one book, the one life

Most people love a good story. The story of a person's life of course holds a lot of interest. We can enjoy a good chat over coffee and hear how different life was during the War years. Then there is the cinema which can inspire as it draws our attention to private struggles which have been overcome, as in *The King's Speech*. Others enjoy reading a biography which gives insight into a figure of history or someone in the public eye today.

The four Gospels are like biographies of the life of Jesus, yet they are also records of history which have inspired countless other works of literature, music and art. They all end on a climax as they report his resurrection from the dead.

Yet there is more to discover about him than just reading the Gospels. The risen Lord Jesus reminded his disciples that the Old Testament was about him: *'He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms"'* (Luke 24v44). Here are a few examples:

- God told Adam and Eve that their 'seed' would bruise the head of Satan - the promise was fulfilled in Jesus who has overthrown Satan's power.
- Moses said that a greater Prophet would come - this points to Jesus who gave the Law in his famous Sermon on the Mount.
- King David was told that arising from his family line would be a king over an everlasting Kingdom – Jesus is that King.
- In the Psalms king David's life anticipates the life of Jesus - a descendant of David, the anointed one for God's people.
- Proverbs broadcasts wisdom and appeals for an audience to listen and discover life - this is fulfilled in Jesus' teaching.
- Isaiah spoke of God's servant suffering for the sins of others for their forgiveness – Jesus fulfilled this promise as his resurrection showed that his perfect sacrifice was accepted.

So, the Bible is one book about one life: the life of Jesus Christ. We hope that you can join us this Easter as we once again consider his life, death and resurrection – the source of life now and future hope.

Paul Kingman



Sermon series in April

Mornings at Christ Church and Oulton: we continue to look at the end chapters of John's Gospel (John 17-21) which record Jesus' ministry as our great High Priest who alone enables us to have fellowship with God.

Moddershall and evenings: we look at Psalms 20-27 which are written about king David's life, but have many themes that are seen in the life of Christ who was great David's greater son.

Lent Course: *Get more like Jesus* *while watching TV*

Television – what do you make of it? Is it: a vital part of modern life, a factor in our modern decline, or simply chewing gum for the eyes?

The effect that television has on us depends as much on what happens in our heads as what happens on-screen. Whether or not we like it (and plenty of us like it a lot) TV is here to stay. But can watching your favourite programmes help you to become more like Jesus? *Get More Like Jesus While Watching TV* helps you to look at television in the light of Romans 12, and explores what it means to become more like Jesus in a high tech, media-saturated world.

Paul Kingman.

Easter Flowers

The Flower Guild would be most grateful for donations towards the purchase of flowers for Easter. Donations can be left at the Parish Office. On the two Sundays before Easter collection plates will be placed at the church entrances.

If you wish to have a name entered into the Book of Remembrance, please let me know before Sunday 10th April. Thanks, Marylyn.

Daffodils

Our house in Stone is God's precious gift to us. We bought it at Easter Time. The verges of the A34 and the Eccleshall Road were golden with thousands of daffodil blooms. Each year I eagerly look forward to seeing those blossoms, and feeling once again the joy and thanksgiving that they bring.



But I will have to wait a bit!

I am writing this at the end of February. At present the grass verges have untidy clumps of green coming up. Nearer Easter these clumps will reveal their true identity as they burst with glorious golden daffodil flowers.

My botanist wife, Sally, has pointed out to me that you can tell when the explosion of joyful colour is just about to happen. The buds, which, to start with, are stiff pointing upwards like the leaves, suddenly begin to bend down.

This gentle and humble bowing is the sure prelude to the glorious flowering that will take place a few days later. Suddenly all the buds that have bowed under the warmth of the sun, burst into glorious colour, looking outwards to the world around them and reflecting the glory of the sun which has caused this dramatic change..

One daffodil on its own is not very impressive, but when hundreds bow and blossom at almost the same time, everyone who sees this simple Spring phenomenon is impressed.

So as we wait for our roadsides to come into flower, we would do well to ponder the deeper lessons that this wonderful event teaches.

Roger M Vaughan

To mark Saint Chad's Day on 2nd March, this month's Lichfield Diocesan pastoral letter for parish magazines, usually written by one of the four bishops in the diocese, has been written by the Canon Chancellor of Lichfield Cathedral. Picking up the forthcoming arrival of the Staffordshire Hoard to the Cathedral as his theme, the Revd Canon Pete Wilcox, writes...

The experts are saying that Staffordshire Hoard was most probably buried some time around 650-675 AD. If they are right, then they date from just around the time that St Chad arrived in Lichfield. He was bishop here from 669 to 672.

St Chad was the first Bishop of Mercia to make Lichfield the centre of his Diocese, and it was largely through his work that Mercia became a Christian kingdom. Considering he was in Lichfield for such a short time, his impact is amazing. Written sources from the period show that he impressed everyone with his humility, gentleness and courage.

His impact was so great that when he died in 672, people began to flock to his burial place and Lichfield quickly became a pilgrimage centre. It was as a result of this pilgrim traffic that a Cathedral was built to accommodate his shrine.

That Saxon Cathedral was dedicated on New Year's Eve in the year 700. In due course it was replaced by a Norman Cathedral, built around 1085. That Cathedral was itself replaced, from around 1185, by the present, Gothic building, much of which has been standing for 800 years.

The two great artefacts in our Chapter House, the *St Chad Gospels* and the *Lichfield Angel*, were probably created to adorn St Chad's first shrine in that Saxon Cathedral.

The *St Chad Gospels* are older than the *Book of Kells* and only a little younger than the *Lindisfarne Gospels*. They date from about the year 730. They contain the Gospels of Matthew and Mark in full and the beginning of the Gospel of Luke. There are 236 text pages and 8 illuminated pages. You can explore the book via our 'Turning the Pages' application either on the Cathedral website or on the computer console in the North Quire Aisle. *(continued on next page)*

The *Lichfield Angel* dates from some time around 800. It was discovered in 2003, during some excavations in the Nave. It had been ritually buried, face down, suspended on pillars of rubble in a dry void – which is why the carved detail and even painted pigments have survived so well. It almost certainly formed part of the tomb-chest of St Chad's shrine. It depicts the Archangel Gabriel – and we think a figure of the Virgin Mary would have made up the right hand side of the panel, in an illustration of 'the Annunciation', when it was announced to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus.

So the *St Chad Gospels* and the *Lichfield Angel* belong to the same world as the *Staffordshire Hoard*. Like items of the Hoard, the Gospels and the Angel are works of exquisite craftsmanship. They show what an important cultural centre Mercia was in the 7th to 9th centuries.

And while there is absolutely no evidence of any direct connection between St Chad and the Staffordshire Hoard, the ecclesiastic items in the Hoard, like the crosses and the inscription do show the kind of treasures which would have been used by Chad and his colleagues in that first Christian community in Lichfield.

- The Staffordshire Hoard on Tour will be at Lichfield Cathedral from Saturday 30th July until Sunday 21st August.

Free timed tickets for the exhibition and tickets for exclusive tours (£5 and £15 depending upon the type of tour) will be available from 14th March from the Lichfield Garrick Box Office.

Tickets can be obtained in person from the Lichfield Garrick foyer box office Monday to Saturday between 11am and 6pm; or by phone: 01543 412121. Bookings for the paid-for tours can also be made online at:-

<http://www.lichfieldgarrick.com>

Christ Church Stone invites you to

MAN OVERBOARD!

a Holiday Club for children in Reception to Year 6

Games, songs, Bible stories, craft, drama, refreshments

**Christ Church Centre, Stone
12th - 15th April 2011**

1.30 - 3.30 pm

Holiday Club Service: Sunday 17th April 9.15 am

For booking forms contact the Church Office on
01785 811990

Favourite Hymns (?)

“We plough the fields and scatter...” is not my favourite hymn, but one I remember with nostalgia. In the fifties when the summer holidays came around I went with my friend and our mothers to a farm near Carlisle for a week. We thought - good food! -but alas it was not to be. One day after a dire high tea we decided to seek something more to eat. Walking up a country lane, it started to thunder and lightning, that’s when we began to sing “We plough the fields and scatter”. The trek up the lane was rewarded because we were fed and watered at the inn and that helped us face another day of the farmer’s wife’s cooking!

Camilla

We’d be interested to hear from readers about hymns or songs that mean a lot to them.

Stone Choral Society

Sat. 2nd April, 7:30pm in Christ Church

Stone Choral Society presents:

Mozart Requiem

Mozart Kyrie

Schubert Mass in G

Tickets £10 (£8 concs., children free) from Wikijum,
Peter Plant Jewellers or ring 01785 817754

Thank You

A big thank you to Arthur and Tricia for all the hard work that must have gone into the preparations for the quiz and plant sale evening on 5th. March. I'm sure I speak for all who went when I say that once again we enjoyed a fun evening with some delicious refreshments which were provided by Tricia. Sadly the team of which I was a member didn't win the quiz (on reflection that may have been a contributory factor) but we didn't disgrace ourselves !! Anyway, thanks again to you both for a good time. We look forward to next year's evening.

Diana Tunstall

Fire in Manila

Kate Lee sent this email on 16th March

Terrible news I am afraid - there has been a huge fire in the Visayas slum area that Jigsaw works in and where the main office is located. Fortunately our office was spared although the staff did frantically empty it at one point as it seemed like the fire was not going to stop. Now hundreds of people are without homes, are distressed and bewildered. Tim tells me that our centre is now full to the brim of adults and children needing shelter and food and emotional support. We desperately need money to send to the Philippines. Even before news of the fire I was going to send an email today requesting for prayer and funds as Jigsaw's bank account in the UK is down to just 130 pounds and we need to send 1300 for this coming week alone!! And now that the fire has happened and Jigsaw has people sheltering and needing food and help - funding is even more of an issue. If I am honest I don't know what to do? I know there are many needs in this world particularly thinking of the victims in Japan but God gave us this responsibility of Jigsaw and so we need all of your help to keep it going for the sake of the children who come and now the families who are sheltering with no place to go. It can seem like an overwhelming situation and I feel like crying but I know that the God we serve is so huge - much bigger than any disaster and He will hear our cry. I urge you all to pray and if you can to give. Bank details are below. We don't yet know the full impact of this fire - I do know that 2 members of our staff have houses there and most likely their homes have been destroyed - I will update you as soon as I hear. Tim is safe by the way - he had left the area a few hours before the fire started. He is though obviously deeply distressed by what has happened - hundreds of the children that live in the fire-struck area come to Jigsaw and as of yet we don't know whether they are safe.

God Bless, Kate

If you want to give direct cheques should be made payable to 'Jigsaw Kids Ministries and the Jigsaw UK address is 'Chapel House, Chapel Lane, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5DX, and Tim & Kate's home address is '21 Tamar Close, St Ives, Cambs PE27 3JD'

Bank account number and sort code are available from Cecilia

The Reason for belief



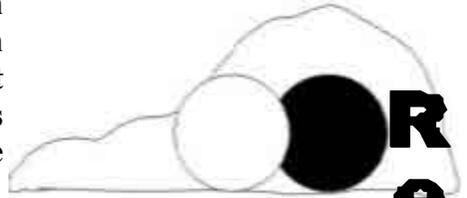
A chance to reflect on what you have done and what you should be doing

More work since I work in the catering industry

The Price is Paid!

Chance to make a new start

I once saw these words written on a banner which was displayed in church on Good Friday. It reminded me of the utter darkness our sin-bearer faced before the transforming light of Easter Day.



A rest from work

New life

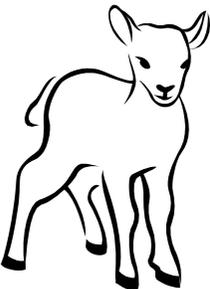
Easter eggs

Jesus dying on the cross for our sins

Time when we can remember what every Sunday is really about

Springtime and daffodils; childhood memories of helping make the Easter Garden in church; Dawn Services and the Lighting of the Pascal Candle; darkness and death defeated; THE LORD IS RISEN - we are an Easter People - Alleluia!

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***There is a life beyond this one
I am the resurrection and the life
Christ is risen***

A week in France!

(some extracts from the bishop's appeal- full text is on the diocese's website)

Dear Friends, We live in uncertain times; times when many of us – and our neighbours – are concerned about the state of the economy, the fragility of our job security, rising taxes and government cuts. Yet through the doom and gloom of the current economic situation there are signs of hope. One of these is that the churches of our diocese have kept steady and paid over 96% of last year's parish share.

Another of these signs is the Big Society – the coalition's vision of everybody pulling together to do their bit to serve their neighbour. Christians have believed in the Big Society for two millennia. But rather than "Big Society" we know it better by the phrase "the Kingdom of God". In God's Kingdom the Good Samaritan is the model for all Christians, doing acts of mercy across all the usual barriers.

STREET PASTORS

One new and exciting way this care for others is being provided right here in the streets of our diocese is through the Street Pastors scheme which is rapidly. Ordinary Christians are putting denominational differences aside to work together from late at night to the early hours of the morning to provide a caring presence on the streets of our towns and cities. Street Pastors are operating or being planned in areas as diverse as Walsall, Stoke on Trent, Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury, Leek and Lichfield.

Street Pastors are a visible and accessible Christian pastoral presence, ministering mainly to young people who are vulnerable, lonely and, quite often, frightened. The work of Street Pastors is welcomed by our local police. Assistant Chief Constable Jane Sawyers of Staffordshire Police says: "We thoroughly endorse Street Pastors in Staffordshire. They add an extra dimension to ensuring our town and city centres are safe places to visit and socialise in. The volunteers are local people who offer a friendly, approachable presence and can give practical advice or a listening ear."

Street Pastors is a church response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care and listen. The scheme has seen some remarkable results since it was pioneered on the streets of London in 2003, including drops in crime in areas where teams have been working. There are now over 100 teams around the United Kingdom and increasing numbers here in the area covered by our diocese.

The Street Pastors scheme is one way that churches are working to transform communities; and for my Lent Appeal this year I want to provide the funds to help create and sustain teams working in this vitally important area. *(cont-->)*

It's not just here in our country that churches are working to transform communities. Being a 'Good Samaritan', is a vision for Christians all across the world. But many schemes delivering real community transformation are at risk from lack of funds.

Our companion diocese of Matlosane in South Africa trained three young people as peer educators to teach young people about sexual behaviour and how to minimise the spread of HIV/Aids. The initiative, Siyafundisa, was a very powerful and meaningful ministry to the young people of Matlosane. Bishop Steve Diseko told me recently that a lack of funds forced the initiative to close. Through this year's Lent Appeal I hope we can raise the necessary funds to restart this exciting work. Just £5,000 would be enough to re-start the programme for one year; and if we could raise double that amount we could keep it running for a second year too.

TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Our partners in the Province of South East Asia are committed to "Growing the Kingdom" in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam. Our companion diocese of Singapore has already planted mission deaneries to serve these countries and their work continues to develop six new dioceses.

Archbishop John Chew tells me the Province needs teachers of English who can use their skills to play a key role in helping to fulfil their vision and be engaged in this deeply transformative programme.

RECONCILIATION IN CANADA

And in Canada, our partners in the diocese of Qu'Appelle are working on community transformation with First Nations ("Cree Indian") Canadians. The relationship between Western Canadians and the indigenous First Nations people hasn't always been good – and the church has played its part in this darker side of Canada's history.

In Saskatchewan, the residential schools set up by the Anglican Church caused huge heartache as children as young as eight were taken from families in order to "Westernise them."

Those dark days are now past and the elders of the Daystar First Nation Reserve have invited the Revd Vicky Young of the Diocese of Qu'Appelle to run a full time Christian ministry and programme of reconciliation. Her work is limited by a lack of financial resources to repair the existing church building and provide teaching materials for young and old alike.

All around the world Christians are working to transform communities and I pray that you will give generously this Lent to help this vitally important work.

Jonathan Lichfield

ROADS FOR PRAYER

3rd April

Bentley Close
Rendel Grove
Brindley Close
Rudyard Close

10th April

Cressey Close
Joules Drive
Cauldon Way
Harecastle Bank

17th April

Saltersford Rise
End of Granville Terrace
Millenium Way
Cameron Wharf

24th April

The Crescent
Rolt Close
Millers Gate
Hartley Drive



Trains for Jigsaw Kids

Monday 2nd May, 2pm - 5pm

Jigsaw Ministries does great work in Manila, helping street children. They provide meals, schooling and where possible, shelter.

*Come and ride on a train and support this work financially.
Speak to Pete or Liz Mason for further details.*

Church Magazine Misprints

Misprints are not unknown in this publication, but here are some seen elsewhere:-

A Baptist church in Ambleside announced a Prayer Meeting, adding
“The meeting will be gin with prayer”.

A favourite of mine is this, seen on our own giving envelopes about 20
 years ago:-

“God loves a cheerful fiver”

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

FUNERALS

25 th Jan	Gaynor Reynolds	Age 63
29 th Jan	Paula Ellerton (memorial service)	Age 48
1 st Feb	Sir Richard Bailey	Age 87

Stafford Crematorium

24 th Jan	Vera Smallwood	Age 78
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SIDESPERSIONS ROTÆ

AM

3rd Apr	V. Ledward	B. Hutchinson
	C. Wilding	M. Hutchinson
10th Apr	G. Holden	D. Wilson
	D. Pickles	T. MacFarlane
17th Apr	J. Rowlands	D. Davies
	A. West	K. Thompson
24th Apr	C. Wilding	J. Rowlands
	D. Davies	V. Ledward

FLOWER ROTÆ

3rd Apr	Mothering Sunday	10th Apr	Lent
17th Apr	Lent	24th Apr	Easter

Seen on the Web!

I recently received an email from someone who had found our magazine on the internet. Andy has been loading copies of the magazine into our church website for a while, but I didn't know that they could be seen from outside the website, and therefore searched via Google, Ask, Bing and the others. Google can only find May 2010, September 2010 and October 2010, but here's how you do it. In our website, click on "Archive", then look for the Archive list on bottom right. Click the month, then Paul's magazine leader will come up. Above or below his signature you'll see a blue link to the full magazine.

Dave Bell

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