

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



October 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
Curate	Andy Cranston 1 Navigation Loop	818983
Youth and Children's Worker	Kieran McKnight 30 Oulton Road	600734 07731984755
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-ordinator	Peter Mason	815854
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) Academy, Old Road
Principal: C. Waghorn B.Ed(Hons),DPSE,ACP,FRSA 354047

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Christ Church



and People

Please get your contributions for the November magazine to us by 15th October

Reminder

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

**Cover Story:-
Oulton Road**

Subscriptions

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

October 2011

Sat	1	8:30am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	2	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Mark 4:35-41 "Who can control the waves?" Christianity Explored - begins with a meal
Mon	3	6:30pm	Breath yrs 5-8
Tue	4	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30 Seekers Club Lighthouse yrs 2-4 Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	5		
Thu	6	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	7		
Sat	8		
Sun	9	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer Mark 5:1-20 "The victorious warrior" Christianity Explored - begins with a meal
Mon	10	6:30pm	Breath yrs 5-8
Tue	11	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30 Seekers Club Lighthouse yrs 2-4 Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	12		
Thu	13	1:20pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Academy assembly Wedding rehearsal
Fri	14		
Sat	15	4:00pm	Marriage of James Nuttall and Katrina Green

October 2011

Sun	16	9:15am 2:30pm 6:00pm	Communion Mark 5:21-43 "The great physician" Service at Autumn House Christianity Explored - begins with a meal
Mon	17	6:30pm	Breath yrs 5-8
Tue	18	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30 Seekers Club Lighthouse yrs 2-4 Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	19	7:30pm	Keele Bible Assembly
Thu	20	1:20pm 2:00pm	Christ Church Academy assembly Deanery Mothers Union at Oulton
Fri	21		
Sat	22		
Sun	23	9:15am 6:00pm	Family service. Cloustone visiting (CMS) Mark 6:30-44 "The great feast" Christianity Explored - begins with a meal
Mon	24		
Tue	25	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30
Wed	26		
Thu	27		
Fri	28		
Sat	29		
Sun	30	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer Mark 7:1-23 "The source of uncleanness" Christianity Explored - begins with a meal
Mon	31	4:15pm 6:30pm	Light Party (First school age) Light Party (years 5-8)

To Autumn

Autumn it brings dazzling morning sunshine, a brilliant array of colours, burgeoning fruit trees and the first flurry of falling leaves. What do you associate with the autumn? Perhaps you are familiar with the memorable line of a poem on the subject which starts: “*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness!*”. So began the poet John Keats in his famous poem ‘To Autumn’ (written on 19th September 1819 and published the following year).

What do we associate with the autumn season in terms of our spiritual health? Is it a **season of mists** when it comes to our devotion and loyalty to the Lord Jesus? Take a moment to consider the words brought by Hosea to the nation of Israel that had lost its way: ‘*What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears*’ (Hosea 6v4). The people were ungrateful and unfaithful and this brought great sorrow to the heart of God. The autumn is a time of change, and so often leads becomes the make or break of discipleship: a change of school, college, work or location can so often lead to a cooling of passion for Christ and a drifting away from His people.

But it doesn’t have to be that way! Autumn can also be the season of **mellow fruitfulness** – the latter part of the year can bring to fruition things that have been developing over time. The Apostle Paul prayed for fruitfulness amongst the people of the Christian church in Philippi, ‘*And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God*’ (Phil 1v9-11). Spiritual growth comes through Jesus Christ. So it is in following Jesus that we will develop a godly character and bring honour and praise to God.

Why don’t you make a positive change this autumn? Join us regularly as we aim to know Christ better and to make him better known.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Kingman



Change

Last month I visited an old university friend. As we were eating he asked how I was getting on. Before I had time to answer and with a wry grin he followed up with “How many Church of England clergy does it take to change a light bulb?”

Again before I had time to answer he exclaimed, laughing “Change? – In the Church of England?!!” I chuckled too even though I’d heard it before. We like familiarity. Getting married, moving house and changing jobs are considered to be three of the most stressful things that can happen in life (we did all three in the space of 4 weeks in 2004!) They’re stressful precisely because what we’ve been so familiar with has changed. Four extra shelves are now needed in the bathroom; cornflakes are relocated to where the glasses used to be. A new house means the existing furniture doesn’t quite fit and the list of people who need informing of the new address is endless. A change of job brings new colleagues and a new way of practice to come to terms with. Change brings stress. But while familiarity can help keep our blood pressure down it can also breed contempt. In Mark 6 Jesus returns to his home town. Initially people are amazed at his teaching but it’s not long before they take offence leaving Jesus amazed at their lack of faith. Jesus had grown up amongst them. He’d mended their doors and chairs; fixed their ceilings. Just who did he think he was claiming authority from God to instruct and teach them! Sadly their familiarity with Jesus and his family meant that their hearts were hardened to the blessings that he had to offer them. The result? Two of the saddest verses we read in Scripture:

He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

Their unwillingness to see beyond the carpenter’s son they knew him to be meant that he was prevented from pouring out God’s blessing in their midst.

While Jesus may not have grown up among us, many of us will have a history with him and we must be careful that our history with him doesn’t breed in us the contempt his home town had. Who knows what blessings could be poured out if the odd light bulb was changed from time to time!

Andy Cranston

About Christianity Explored

Christianity Explored is an informal 7-week course for people who'd like to investigate Christianity, or just brush up on the basics. Looking at Mark's gospel, it explores who Jesus is, why he came, and what it means to follow him.

Christianity
EXPLORED

You won't be asked to pray, sing or read aloud, and you can ask any questions you like. Or, if you prefer, you can just come along and listen. *Christianity Explored* has been around for over a decade now, and it's been designed to suit different age ranges and people.

Christianity Explored is primarily for anyone who wants to investigate Christianity informally with a group of other people. Whether you have previous experience of Church, Christians and the Bible, or none at all, this course is for you. Everyone is welcome - from the most sympathetic Sunday schooler to the convinced atheist.

Courses come in various shapes and sizes. The traditional larger courses tend to be run in the evening and a meal is usually provided at the start of the evening. The course may be run in several groups of six to nine people, and after a brief group discussion on the course material from the week before and a new passage from the Bible, there is a talk or DVD on the theme for that week. Then the groups discuss any questions that have arisen. Many people stick around a bit longer possibly for a coffee to discuss any further issues they might have.

Christianity Explored starts at 6 p.m. on Sunday 2nd October in Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, and begins with a light meal. Please notify the vicar Paul Kingman (Tel: 812669) or the curate Andy Cranston (Tel: 818983) if you are coming so that we can cater for you.

Further details are available on the website:

www.christianityexplored.org

Light Party!

Its that time of year again! On the 31st of October we are hosting a safe alternative to Halloween. There will be two events one for those in the First School age bracket from 4.15-6pm and another for those in Middle School running from 6.30-8pm. This will take place in Christ Church centre.

At these events there will be fun and games, a bouncy castle, craft and a bible talk followed by dinner for those in First School and for those in Middle School, cake and other snacks!

We need your help!

Volunteer- It would be great if you would be able to come and help at one (or perhaps both) of these events. We need people who would be willing to help with games, to do registration, to run crafts also those willing to prepare the dinner and snacks!

Food- If you would be willing to bring along some sandwiches, pizza, baking and other snacks, that would be fantastic!

Spread the word- If you could let your children or grandchildren or even your neighbours know about this event that would be great!

Prayer- If you could support us in prayer that would be excellent. Pray for the planning and preparation, that the events run smoothly and safely and most of all that the children would listen and respond to the Good News of Jesus!

If you can help in any way please contact Kieran Mcknight or Sue Kingman.

Kieran Mcknight

Youth and Childrens Worker for Stone, Oulton and Moddershall
07731984755
01785 600734

Hot water bottles for Africa? Shoeboxes for Christmas?

I heard a story recently where a young girl prayed for a hot water bottle to save a baby's life as the African hospital didn't have any incubators. She also asked for a doll to comfort that baby who had just lost her mother. The hospital doctor, Helen Roseveare, didn't have the faith to say amen to that prayer. Who would send such a gift to equatorial Africa, she wondered. Besides Helen had been out in the Congo for four years and had yet to receive a parcel from the UK. Later that day a parcel arrived on her doorstep, which had been posted from England five months previously. As the children gathered round there were many items in the parcel – including a hot water bottle and a doll. The young girl's prayer had been answered.

That amazing story ties in with the other story I wanted to tell about Operation Christmas Child, where the preparation to fill shoeboxes with gifts for deprived children from all over the world, also starts months before the arrival of the gift.

Operation Christmas Child is part of a much larger Christian charity, Samaritan's Purse, which provides relief and development in many countries. Last year they provided 1.2 million shoeboxes filled with gifts for children. The scale of the operation is incredible, and yet there are still only enough boxes to allow each chosen child to receive just one shoebox throughout their childhood.

Last year my job was going through a tough phase and it was very easy to work throughout the whole day without a break. I decided to leave the office for 20 minutes at lunchtime at least three times a week to buy small things to fill four shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child,

It is amazing how much you can fit in a shoebox and the project helped me to focus briefly on something else during difficult days, as well as providing presents for children who had so little.

There is a further challenge this year to fill boxes with gifts relating to the Olympics; perhaps including a tennis ball, or Olympic cards and stickers. Completed boxes can be taken to Shoe Zone Stores or Stead and Simpson in Stafford.

Details on ideas on how to get started and stories about the children who have received the gifts, can be found on www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk There are even knitting patterns for puppets, teddy bears and beanie hats.

Will you consider answering a child's prayer this Christmas?

Jan

Changes at Christ Church

It has been all change at Christ Church Middle School this summer, but other than a new badge and signage you would not really see much difference. The changes are hidden and all linked with governance and funding.

The Governors at the beginning of the year decided to accept The Coalition Government's invitation for 'outstanding' schools to convert to Academy status. The order signed by Mr Michael Gove was received at the end of July for the school to convert on 1st August 2011.

The important links with the parish church continue, with the Academy Trust including representatives from The Diocese, The Parish and The Parent Teacher Association. The Governors are now called Directors and The Headteacher is now The Principal! Legally and financially the Academy is registered as a Limited Company. Therefore, Christ Church Academy is now an independent state funded establishment directly accountable to The Department for Education. Although our ties have been severed from Staffordshire Local Authority, there is every intention to continue to liaise with the many departments and still buy in their specialist services. However, the issue is we now have the choice and therefore the freedom to search for good value for money.

It is the desire of everyone connected to the new Academy to ensure that it remains in the heart of the community and that it will take pride in its inclusiveness. There is no intention or desire for the academy to be independent or aloof from all the other schools in the area. The issue really is that Christ Church has become the first of many to convert or be sponsored to academy status.

The main advantage is the slight improvement in funding and the freedom to direct that funding in a manner we think will be of most benefit to the youngsters who attend. We have already appointed an additional member of the teaching staff to support learners experiencing difficulties with reading, writing and mathematical concepts. In addition further support is also planned for the more able to encourage to them to study more independently.

However, at the moment it is early days and our major concern is that the new Year Fives settle down to their new place of learning and that they feel safe and secure. It is an exciting development, which over the next few years will allow Christ Church to develop and provide greater opportunities whilst ensuring high standards and expectations.

Chris Waghorn (Principal)

Horn of Africa: Were you there?

As I write this letter more than 10 million people are still in need of humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa and 25 per cent of Somalia's population of 7.5 million have been displaced. An aid worker in the region has described those affected by the famine as like "desperate animals left in the wilderness without hope".

For those of us of a certain age it might be tempting, remembering all the famines in Africa that we have been aware of through the decades, to think of such events as simply inevitable, part of the scheme of things. If so, then perhaps all we can focus on is the need to respond as generously as we can when humanitarian assistance is required.

But in addition to the imperative of meeting the immediate needs of those rendered starving and destitute by famine, we have a wider and deeper responsibility. This stems from a need to acknowledge that it is we who live in the wealthiest countries of the world who have done the most, through our carbon hungry lifestyles, to bring about the climate change that is disproportionately affecting the poorest societies around the world. That this is the case is unquestioned by Aid agencies who know the realities faced by development partners around the world.

For example, in northern Kenya drought has increased four- fold in the last 25 years. Farmers in West Bengal report that instead of six distinct seasons, they now have three. Winters are getting shorter, spring has 'disappeared' and summers are both hotter and longer. Rain falls less frequently and when it does the monsoons are continuous. While the vagaries of the weather may be an obsessive topic of conversation in the UK, for the vast majority of us what the weather does is hardly a life or death issue. For the poorest communities in the world, their very survival is critically bound up with their local climate.

Christian Aid's Climate Justice Campaign is inspired by a passionate conviction that we must do all we can to alleviate the threat posed by climate change to the poorest communities in the world. The theological motivation stems not only from the right stewardship of this planet's God-given resources but from the New Testament understanding of 'neighbour'. Global media coverage has brought home to us the needs of our neighbour overseas, faced with dramatically changing weather patterns and swiftly rising sea levels. What will be our response?

(continued on next page)

In the Diocese of Lichfield, the Bishops, Dean and Archdeacons have all expressed their full support for and commitment to Christian Aid's Climate Justice Campaign. Christian Aid will be working with the diocese from October 2011, to help churches and individuals to engage with the issue through prayer and action. David Primrose, director of transforming communities, and Philip Swan, director of world mission, are co-ordinating the diocesan response and further details can be accessed through the link on the diocesan website.

To launch this campaign there will be a special service at Lichfield Cathedral on Tuesday October 4th at 7.30pm during which there will be the opportunity to hear more from those experiencing the reality of living with climate change, to reflect and worship, and to receive resources to help us make a difference.

It is my hope and prayer that this campaign is something we can really unite behind as a diocese. What will be our answer to the question posed in Sydney Carter's hymn 'When I needed a neighbour were you there'?

Clive Gregory (Bishop of Wolverhampton)

Good Morning

I am God

Today I will be handling all your problems

Please remember that I do not need any help

If the devil happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle,

DO NOT attempt to resolve it

Kindly put it in the SFJTD (something for Jesus to do) box.

Once this matter is placed into the box, DO NOT hold on to, or attempt to remove it. Holding on or removal will delay the resolution of your problem

Because I do not sleep nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep. Rest my child.

If you need to contact me, I am only a prayer away.

As with all good things, please pass this on.

(seen in St. John's magazine, Keswick, by Sally Vaughan)

Night Winter Shelter

They walk along the lonely street
 Every now and then stop to rest their feet
 Hair all matted and fingernails black
 And carrying their life upon their back
 That shop doorway looks good or that sheltered bench
 To get out of the rain, before they get drenched
 God love them these people have nowhere to go
 Hoping for help, but no-one wants to know
 Poor rejects of life's rich tapestry
 Walk through life without hope, wearily
 What is the purpose, where will it end
 No home, no job, no family or friends

Some of them beg for hot food and tea
 Others will beg for beer or whiskey
 Some of them won't, coz they have too much pride
 And suffer in silence by the roadside
 They were in a dark tunnel, at the end was a light
 It wasn't easy to see, coz it wasn't that bright
 But as they drew nearer, the light became clearer
 The illumination was a place to stay for the night
 Greeted with a smile and a hot cup of tea
 Friendly people said, come with me
 And led them to a place where they could rest
 Just like a bird, keeping young, warm in a nest
 Even though it seemed strange, it was plain to see
 This was a place filled with harmony

Generous, caring, considerate and kind
 A place they could leave their horrid day behind
 And when they finally rest their head
 A chance of comfort on an unconcrete bed
 Given time to reflect on the next coming day
 Secure in the knowledge they'll have somewhere to stay
 So thank you, night shelter, for the service you run
 Helping the homeless, all the good you have done
 Your pure human kindness, is a joy to behold
 For taking less fortunates in from the cold.

James Lamb (homeless)

(Seen in The Big Issue by Kath and reprinted with permission)

A Special Bible

One day when visiting my sister Beryl, we were looking at the Bible together. I noticed that it was rather an old, well used Bible, and when I pointed this out, Beryl laughed and said “Ah yes, but this is a very special Bible.” This is the story Beryl told me in her own words. *Diana Tunstall.*

Beryl’s Story

In the early 60’s my husband Chas gave me a brand new King James Bible. I have read this Bible every day since then, and needless to say it has become ‘tatty’. For example, no spine, pages falling out, cracked cover and underlined in many places. But I love this Bible, for it contains so much of my life, and reminders of the things the Lord has done for me.

After having refused a new Bible for many years, my husband gave one of our grandchildren a new King James Bible to give me, saying “Tell Nana she doesn’t want this but she needs it”. Of course I do use my newer Bible but my special one is still the ‘tatty’ one because of all it means to me, and this is the one I read every night before bed.

We speak to God through prayer and He speaks to us through His Word.

God understands what I think and why, and knows me better than I know myself (Ps 139 vs.1-4). God knew all about me before my birth, (Ps 139 vs. 13 to 16). This gives me great comfort. Psalm 139 contains many wonderful verses applicable to my life, Praise God. In fact in the book of Psalms alone I have underlined 24 precious verses. At night try reading Ps 3 vs 3 and 5 and Ps 4 vs. 8, or Proverbs 3 vs.24 and 26.

Chas and I read Ps 91 every day, especially when travelling overland to Belarus in connection with the charity Chas had set up,(and we did this fourteen times), and also when Chas was so ill. I found it a difficult psalm to understand after Chas died. But God knows and understands all things. Only this week when I was feeling low I was blessed by Ps 68 vs.19 for God knows our needs.

I have underlined verses that God has given me on so many occasions, about salvation, forgiveness, trust, understanding, protection and peace. I wonder whether anyone reading this has a Bible that is special to them, or verses that have helped or inspired them. Underline some of those verses....it’s a great blessing. I thank God for Jesus and God’s word. I don’t know what I would do without them. Should there be anyone reading this and thinking “I don’t want this “ please take another look at your Bible. We all need Jesus in our lives. John 3 v 16.

Beryl Baker

A Harvest Tale

When I was a younger woman I used to visit some of the older residents of the parish in which we then lived. One such elderly lady lived in a remote cottage in the heart of the countryside. It was impossible to take a car all the way to the cottage; one could only drive so far, and then would have to walk the rest of the way. And so it was that I was often the one who would visit this particular lady because I didn't mind the walk.

Now this elderly lady was quite a character and wore the same black blouse every time I called. The blouse had many holes in it, and the solution to this problem appeared to be to cover each hole with a brooch. There would always be at least six brooches!

I also happened to be a member of the group of church people who helped sort and distribute the harvest gifts. One Harvest time I called on this particular lady with a Harvest gift. I explained that it was a gift from the church Harvest Festival. She looked at me warily. "How much is it?" she asked. "Nothing", I replied, "these gifts were given freely by the parishioners and now we are bringing them round and sharing them with people like you, who for one reason or another are unable to come to church themselves." There was a pause while she thought about this, and then she looked at me and said, "Well tell Vicar come and see me his self and I'll give him a tip."

Audrey Hayward

Summer Social – Walking Quiz Amateur Sleuths in Stone

The last of this year's summer socials needed some detective work as 38 Sherlock Holmes' combed the High Street working out the obscure clues set before them. The first team returned after only 40 minutes with the rest taking about an hour, then into the Centre for a welcome drink and cake and "what did you get for...?" And the winners were... "The Cranston Pickles" – very well done.

A taster for those who weren't able to attend;
'Who, besides the Bishop, welcomes you into Church?'
Answers to Jeanette Rowlands asap!

Thank you to all who took part – you seemed to enjoy it! – and to those who helped with the clearing up.

The organising team, Pam Roberts, Phil and Diana, Dave and Jeanette.

TEARFUND

Tearfund is a Christian international and development agency, working in over 50 countries around the world (including UK). It is present in disaster situations and recovery via response teams. It speaks out on behalf of poor people nationally and internationally, by petitioning governments, campaigning for justice and highlighting key poverty issues wherever possible.

On development issues, Tearfund works through local churches and church based partner organisations. Their 10 year vision is to see 50 million people released from spiritual and material poverty through a worldwide network of 100,000 local churches.

At Christ Church, we donate to the general work of Tearfund at Harvest. We also donate via Tearfund in disaster situations e.g. the Haiti earthquake, the Pakistan floods and the E Africa food crisis. We can be sure our donations go to where there is greatest need as Tearfund usually have partners already working there. In situations of greatest need Disaster Management teams will be sent out; on some occasions to support partners who are unable to cope with the scale of the emergency, on other occasions where there is no local partner.

Christ Church First School chose Tearfund for their Lent project this year. Having chosen Haiti for their 2010 project, the children were able to see a DVD about the recovery programme. The money raised could be targeted to support school rebuilding projects. These were temporary buildings at first and now permanent buildings resistant to earthquakes and hurricanes are being built. One of Tearfund's partners is providing school fees and money for books to children from poor families who otherwise wouldn't be able to send their children to school.

Earlier this year, Tearfund introduced a new prayer initiative - One Voice 'praying about global poverty together week by week'. After the recent riots, Tearfund's overseas partners have been sending messages of support to head office saying that they are praying for peace in the UK. There are UK partners running vital projects offering hope to young people and other disenfranchised groups in those areas affected by looting and destruction, including S London and Birmingham.

The leading prayer concern is on the Mission Notice Board each week and also in the Mission News and Prayer Diary section of the magazine each month. You can receive these prayers yourself if you wish by registering on the website www.tearfund.org/praying.

Sheila

You are warmly invited to
a Red Tent Day

"Beyond the pail"- strength for the
now and hope for the future

-

- a day retreat for women
of all ages, led by Pam Pott
With Di Saxton

When: Saturday October 15th

Place: Croft Meadows Farm,
near Leek

Time: 10am till 5pm

Cost: £30 including lunch and all
art materials

Contact: Pam on email -
pam.pott@gmail.com or phone

01785286474

Places limited to 12 people

1. Dear Lord

Every single morning
 As I'm lying here in bed,
 This tiny little prayer
 Keeps running through my head:
 God bless all my family
 Wherever they may be
 Keep them warm
 And safe from harm
 For they're so close to me

2. And God, there is one more thing

I wish that you would do
 Hope you don't mind me asking
 Please bless my computer too
 Now I know that it's unusual
 To bless a motherboard
 But listen just a second
 While I explain to you, Lord
 You see, that little metal box
 Holds more than odds and ends
 Inside those small compartments
 Rest so many of my friends
 I know so much about them
 By the kindness that they give
 And this little scrap of metal
 Takes me to where they live

3. By faith is how I know them

Much the same as you
 We share in what life brings us
 And from that our friendships grew
 Please take an extra minute
 From your duties up above
 To bless those in my address book
 That's filled with so much love
 Wherever else this prayer may reach
 To each and every friend
 Bless each email inbox
 And each person who hits "send"
 When you update your heavenly list
 On your own great CD-ROM
 Bless everyone who says this prayer
 Sent up to GOD.com. Amen

From Dave Rowlands

(news from the Beesigomwes in Gabarone)

We are well by God's grace. As you may be aware I had an opportunity to spend a while in Uganda. I was able to reconnect with my mother who is getting old and my siblings. I also connected with some old partners just to remind them we were still missionaries. The church leadership asked me to write asking them to support us but it's a long process. Pray they do. When we left Uganda they were not ready to send missionaries but hopefully they are now.

We have seen God's hand take us each day at a time. Its not been easy to do as much as we would have done with the teachers because of the teachers strike April to June 2011. The work still continues with Ministry of Health helping with conference facilities and paying for meals for participants. We have workshops lined up for this month and October. One for Community leaders and school heads and the other for parents. The teachers training too the MOH has funding but we shall plan it after proper feedback from trained teachers. The children who are being taught are enjoying the programme. Pray that more teachers start sooner.

Hannah is settled back in Uganda and threatens not to come for Christmas because she has not been able to meet many of her relatives and wants to do it then. Joel who is supposed to be with her has not been able to go for lack of funds but we are praying he starts in January. He has been encouraged to go to Uganda by Hannah and also Uganda seems to be the only affordable option for now. Martha is ready for final exams and will be going to Uganda next year as well. Her broken leg has healed well. Thanks for praying. Jonathan Junior is in Primary three but cannot stop talking about going to Uganda. Elijah is well and now engaged to a former classmate at the university. Wedding may be in June 2012. Timothy is working with Evangelical Fellowship of Botswana as a volunteer. Nicholas still has one year to finish university.

The work is a lot in Botswana with more opportunities coming up but without enough financial backing. After mortgaging the house we feel the burden too much to bear with so much needed for school fees. A funded project would be great.

(continued on next page)

ROADS FOR PRAYER

2nd October

Alma Street
Bromfield Court
Dominic Court
Granville Terrace

9th October

Longton Road
Margaret Street
Newcastle Road
Newcastle Street

**16th October**

Northesk Street
Radford Close
Radford Street
Station Road

23rd October

The Avenue
Trent Road
Tunley Street
Trinity Drive

30th October

King's Avenue
York Street
Whitebridge Estate
Whitebridge Lane

Youth Work in Botswana *(cont)*

We keep wondering whether the Lord wants to give the house to someone else for money so our kids can finish school. But that would mean the end of our missionary work in Botswana for some reason.

The Lord has used you, friends and your church to make us feel really special. Our church here and the school where our children go have continued to encourage us too. So we shall not give up. There are lots the Lord has done that we cannot explain without him. So we will keep keeping on. Our children too are patient but we do not want to take this for granted.

Thank you again for your love and for your support. May the Lord continue to bless Christ Church and Andy the new curate.

God bless you

Jonathan and Robinah

FROM THE REGISTERS

WEDDING

13th August Emma Hagger and Jonathan Latham

FUNERALS

18th July William Hockley Sivell Age 83
 2nd August Lawrence Geoffrey Colgate Novell Age 79

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

AM

2nd Oct	D. Pickles	C. Wilding
	D. Davies	A. West
9th Oct	V. Ledward	T. MacFarlane
	J. Abrahams	K. Thompson
16th Oct	J. Rowlands	D. Pickles
	D. Wilson	G. Holden
23rd Oct	P. Hipkiss	C. Wilding
	D. Davies	A. West
30th Oct	V. Ledward	T. MacFarlane
	J. Abrahams	K. Thompson

FLOWER ROTA

2nd Oct	Mrs A. West
9th Oct	Mrs E. Leese
16th Oct	Mrs D. Wilson
23rd Oct	Mrs D. Pickles
30th Oct	Mrs L. Boston

PRAYER REQUESTS A prayer circle of individuals (in touch by telephone) is ready to respond to requests for prayer, in confidence, at any time; please ask or ring Ann Butler 818160 or Jeanette Rowlands 816713.

Christ Church on the Internet

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

Deanery Synod Reps	Mrs S Hallam, Mr D. Rowlands, Mr R. Brandon
P.C.C. Members	Mrs I. Gassor, Mr D. Beauchamp, Mr G. Donaldson Mrs S. Sanders, Mrs D. Wilson, Mrs J. Abrahams Mrs K. Latham, Mr P. Mason, Mrs D. Hazlehurst Mrs A. Burton, Mrs M. Hillman, Mrs C. Snaith Mrs L. Kelly, Mr K. Reynolds, Mrs E. Woodhead
Secretary	Shelagh Sanders
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 Requests	Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
Parents & Toddlers (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....286093
3rd Stone Brownies (Mo 6:00-7:30pm, First School)	Janet Smith.....815939

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